Americans... still believe in an America where anything's possible – they just don't think their leaders do.

But what we can do, as flawed as we are, is still see God in other people, and do our best to help them find their own grace. That's what I strive to do, that's what I pray to do every day.

~ Barack Obama ~



# Non-Profit 'Forest Forward' Unveils Exhibit at Northpark Center

Forest Forward's investment of \$75.215 million will renovate South Dallas' beloved Forest Theater and renew the surrounding area with mixed-income housing, innovative arts-education solutions and economic vibrancy

DALLAS (Sept. 14, 2023) - Depicting the history of an iconic landmark theater dating back to 1949 and the ambitious plans to revive it, a new exhibit titled "Forest Forward: The Future Is Here" was unveiled today at NorthPark Center in Dallas. On view through Oct. 17, the exhibit is presented by South Dallas-based nonprofit Forest Forward in partnership with NorthPark Center. Free and open to the public, the display is located in NorthPark Center's NorthCourt area (Level One between Nordstrom and Macy's).

"Forest Forward: The Future Is Here" explores the \$75 million plan to not only restore the Forest Theater for future generations to enjoy, but to ignite a just, healthy



Nighttime/Photo Courtesy of HKS Architect

and thriving South Dallas. Key components include re-establishing the 74-yearold Forest Theater as a thriving neighborhood anchor and versatile arts center, creating cradle-tocollege education pathways with Dallas ISD and the Martin Luther King Jr. Arts Academy, and developing mixed-income housing surrounding the theater.

Forest Forward is the result of thousands of hours of direct input and involvement from members of the South Dallas community. Early on, Forest Forward leaders met – and listened closely – to everyone from families living in South Dallas for decades, to community and faith-based

Continue Forest Page 3





Grand Opening/ Photo Courtesy of Dallas History and Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library.

Movie Night/ Photo Courtesy of **Dallas History and** Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library.



Audience/ Photo Courtesy of Dallas History and Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library.

## **OP-ED:** Turning the Page — \$2.2 Billion in Financial Relief for Farmers, Ranchers, and Landowners Who Faced Discrimination



## **Farmers & Ranchers**

Have you experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending prior to January 1, 2021? You may be eligible for financial assistance.

The application is free. Technical assistance is free and available in-person and over the phone.

For more information visit website or call: www.22007apply.gov or 1-800-721-0970 @22007apply © 0 X 🖾 Photo Caption: The Inflation Reduction Act specifies that the Secretary of Agriculture is responsible for providing financial assistance through qualified nongovernmental entities, under standards set by USDA.

See Article Farmers Page 3

Texas made it illegal to punish students for dreadlocks. A school is testing the limits of the law.

The Barbers Hill school district prompted a new law meant to prohibit schools from punishing students with hairstyles associated with race. A recent student suspension sparks questions about the extent of the CROWN Act's protections.

### BY MIRANDA DUNLAP, HOUSTON LANDING

Less than one month after Texas' CROWN Act went into effect, the same school district that largely prompted the law's creation is delivering its first major test. Darryl George, a junior at Barbers Hill High School in Chambers County, has garnered national media attention after he served more than two weeks of in-school

suspension for his dreadlocks, which school officials said violate the district's dress code.

The dress code sets guidelines for how long male students' hair can be, while the CROWN Act outlaws discrimination of hair texture or styles commonly associated with race. George's suspension has

sparked questions about the legality of punishing students for the length of their hair and the extent of the CROWN Act's protections. What does the CROWN Act say — and not say?

Texas' CROWN Act an acronym for "Creating a Respectful and Open World

Continue **Texas** Page 3



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# EDITORIAL PAGE

Are You Raising One of the Next Generation of Hoodlums?

# Your Boys' Chance for Success

By Dr. Joyce W. Teal



#### Dr. Joyce W. Teal

The Schott Foundation for Public Education released a web-based, fiftystate report on public education and the Black male, and what it found is quite revealing, startling and should serve as a wake-up call!

The Schott 50 State Report on Black Males in Public Education reveals that the overall graduation rate for Black males in the U.S. was only 47 percent. Half of the states have graduation rates for Black male students below the national average. This information is indeed dire, but your son does not have to be among the Black males who make up the remaining 53 percent. Your intentionality as you parent your son is what will make the positive difference.

Analysis shows that the impact of the pandemic on K-12 student learning was significant, leaving students on average five months behind in mathematics and four months behind in reading by the end of the school year. The pandemic widened pre-existing opportunity and achievement gaps, hitting historically disadvantaged students hardest. Too many parents become concerned about this only after their son reaches high school or even middle school. Parental concern and involvement from day one are necessary. And by day one, I mean from the moment your son is born and ongoing throughout his life.

Too frequently parents have expressed their concern

when their sons do poorly in middle and/or high school. But the fact of the matter is, if a child has failed to get the foundation, the necessary building blocks, in elementary school, chances are slim that he will be successful at a higher level that requires the absent foundation.

Most of us are aware that there are lingering effects of unfinished learning ...due to Covid. But your constant involvement in your son's life, including his education, can and will make the important difference in his life.

In all likelihood, your son is intelligent, and he will internalize your concern as he observes your involvement. You must make the effort to accompany him on an occasional field trip. You must make the effort to help him complete his class projects. You must ask him about his homework assignments and ascertain the necessity to check them so that he knows that your expectation is that he will always complete them at a high level. When you do these things throughout your son's early years, he will have the expectation that you care enough to be involved in his life. And your caring is transmitted to him as love, which it is.

A son who knows that he is loved and that his parents are concerned and have the expectation that he will do well, will make the effort to not disappoint his parent(s). In fact, your love, concern and involvement are the most powerful motivation you can provide for your son's success. Know that **YOU ARE THE KEY FACTOR** in your son's desire to succeed!

To seriously increase your son's chance for success in school and in life beyond school, get involved early in his life and make it a priority to stay involved!

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### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**



# Crime in America?

"My Day"

#### By Dr. J. Ester Davis

Why is there such ongoing lengthy dialogue about President Biden's age? What does 80 years of age have to do with performance, knowledge base and cognizance? Who are you to offer an opinionated proforma on such a proven leader about age? How is it still acceptable to perpetuate stereotypes of older Americans as befuddled, ill, out of touch, painting with a single misinformed brush for more than 120 million Americans over the age of 65? Only in America!

I am happy that Joe Biden has announced his candidacy for a second term as President of the United States. He is able, capable, up for the challenge and .... he will win! Just get ready to vote at any cost.

I remember William "Bill" Blair, founding publisher of The Elite News. Watching him conduct the daily Roundtable Reserved Lunch at Luby's for years was a masterful symphonyin-motion. He was a former Negro Baseball League Player and knew every team. Mr. Blair would correct people about their own history. He was always 100% right. It was amazing! His memory and recollection was beyond reproach, matchless and his awaiting public listened intensely to every word beyond the recall. Bill Blair lived in good health and humor into his early 90's.

In 2020, 1 in 6 Americans were age 65 and over. AARP noted that older Americans made up the happiest age group... living their best possible life. You can just get ready to throw out what 'use-tobe' because age is moving on with the rest of the universe. Americans over 65 and older are expected to grow from 34 million to 48 million in the next two decades.

Let's take a look at age today. Setting aside the other aged elected officials. I do not have time nor space to list them, but Senator Grassley just reelected is 89 years old. Senator Feinstein is 89. Pope Frances is 85 years

old. The Ruler of Kuwait is 85 years old. The King of Norway is 85 and is an accomplished sailor. Mick Jagger, Rolling Stones leader is 80 and still maintains a demanding global schedule. Mrs. Katherine Jackson, the Jackson Matriarch is 93. Clint Eastwood is 93, Morgan Freeman at 81 has several movies in post-production. Ursula Burns turned 65, the first black female CEO of Xerox Corporation. Diana Ross is 79. Warren Buffett, the greatest investor of all times is 87...as is Earnestine Shepherd, the Guinness World Record Oldest Female Body Builder.\* Michele Obama's Mother, Marian Lois Robinson is 86 years old and one last very important person, Janet Yellen, the Secretary of Treasury is 77 years old.

At my church is a celebrated Deacon who has lived in South Dallas all of his life. Deacon Philip Brooks is 95. It is "soul stirring" to hear him lead all of those ole hymns without "messing up" any of the



By Dr. J. Ester Davis

verbiage.

Attacking President Biden's age is non-news. As a voter, I knew his age when I placed my vote. America is reaping the benefits of his experience, wisdom, moral values, sound judgement and history will indeed give him credit for putting this country back together again.

You will get older if you wake up every day.

### Esterdavis2000@gmail.com

\*Mark your calendars. Ernestine Shepherd will be in Dallas for the 22nd Fitness Festival, October 7, 2023. Celebrating Life Foundation. Call 214.475.0661.

# **RELIGIOUS/NEWS**

## THE RECONCILIATION OF JEWS AND **GENTILES INTO ONE BODY**

### **EPHESIANS 2:11-22**

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In this section of Ephesians (2:11-22) the grand Apostle Paul wished to convey that acceptance of God's salvation through Christ brought about a spiritual union between Jews and Gentiles into one body, the church. Ephesians 2:11-22 may be outlined as follows: I. The Believer's Past Spiritual Condition -Ephesians 2:11-12; II. The Believer's Present Reconciliation - Ephesians 2:13-18; III. The Believer's Future Habitation – Ephesians 2:19-22.

#### I. The Believer's Past **Spiritual Condition** – Ephesians 2:11-12

Beginning in verse 11, Paul reminded the Ephesian Gentiles of their undesirable position of having no relationship with God. These "Gentiles in the flesh" were call "Uncircumcision" by the Jews who were called "Circumcision." "Uncircumcision" was a term of disdain used by the Jews in reference to the Gentiles. It intimated that the Gentiles were not a part of the covenant relationship that the Jews had with God (Genesis 17:1-14). The physical mark of circumcision made a difference between Jews and Gentiles and affected every area of their lives. It created a great social and spiritual barrier between the Jews and Gentiles!

Being alienated because of the physical rite of circumcision, the Gentiles did not possess four privileges that the Nation of Israel possessed. First of all, the Gentiles were "without Christ." The name "Christ" is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew "Messiah." The expression being "without Christ" means the Gentiles did not have the Messianic hope of the Jews (v. 12). Second, the Gentiles were excluded from citizenship in Israel (v. 12b). They

were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel. Israel was to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:5-6). Israel had a privileged position, for God had chosen them to bear witness of Him in this world (Deut. 7:6-11; Rom. 9:4-5). No Gentile nation had been chosen for such a wonderful task!

Third, they were strangers from the Covenant of Promise (v. 12c). God had made a Covenant of Promise to Israel only concerning the seed and the land (Genesis 12:2-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-14; 22:15-19).

He had also promised that a king in the line of David would reign over the nation forever (II Sam. 7:12-17; Psalm 89:3-4; Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 15:14). The Gentiles had no claim on these specific covenant blessings. Fourth, the Gentiles had no hope and were without God in the world (v. 12d).

They had no hope because they were without God in the world.

#### **II. The Believer's Present Reconciliation** – Ephesians 2:13-18

Having discussed the former desperate spiritual condition of the Gentiles in verses 11-12, Paul reviews how God remedied the Gentiles' former spiritual condition by introducing the expression "But now." The Gentiles who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. They have come near to God and the Jews by means of Christ's sacrificial death. Sin separates people from God and only Christ's sacrifice can remove that sin barrier (v. 13). Not only has Christ's sacri-

fice brought about the union of Gentiles and Jews (v. 13), but Christ Himself is the peace between Jewish and Gentile believers, having made the two groups one, and

having destroyed (abolished) the barrier of hostility that existed (v. 14). The spiritual enmity that existed between the Jewish and Gentile believers has been destroyed by Christ; therefore, there should not be any hostility between Jewish and Gentile believers.

In verse 15, Paul described how and why this enmity came to an end. In Christ's flesh, He abolished the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances. In Christ's death, He rendered the Law inoperative in believers' lives. Jews and Gentiles were enemies because the Jews sought to keep the Law with its commandments and regulations, whereas the Gentiles were not concerned about them. Since the Law has been rendered inoperative, Jewish-Gentile hostility has been abolished. By ending this hostility between the Jews and Gentiles, "Christ made in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace." By the "one new man" (v. 15), Paul was speaking of the church, which is Christ's body (Eph. 4:12). There are many members in that one body, but all are one in Christ (Rom. 12:4-5; I Cor. 12:12-13).

In verse 16, the death of Christ as substitute for sinners is the basis of Christ's reconciling work. Through Christ's reconciliation for

mankind, He changed the relationship between man and God from one of enmity to amity!

In verses 17-18, because the reconciling work of Christ was complete, Christ "came and preached peace" to both Jews and Gentiles. And by Him "both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." After Christ's resurrection, that message of peace was proclaimed by Christ and the apostles. Believers have access through the Holy Spirit which indicates that peace has been established.

### **III. The Believer's Future** Habitation -

#### Ephesians 2:19-22

In verses 19-22, Paul will describe the result of Christ's saving work for the Gentile believers in contrast to their former condition. First of all, in verse 19, Paul revealed that they genuinely belonged to the household of God. They were not intruders. Second, he revealed that they were an integral part of the fulfillment of God's program and were intimately associated with the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 20). Third, He showed that they were a necessary part of God's program, not a haphazard afterthought (vv. 21-22).

May God Bless!

## OP-ED: Turning the Page — \$2.2 Billion in Financial Relief for Farmers, Ranchers, and Landowners Who Faced Discrimination

On July 7, 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the opening of the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP). This program, established through Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act, provides \$2.2 billion in financial assistance to eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending prior to January 2021. Stakeholders and program administrators, along with USDA officials, are conducting community outreach to raise awareness about the program. When the program opened, Agriculture Secretary Tom affirmed Vilsack the Department's commitment to providing financial assistance to those who faced

discrimination in USDA Administrator for the profarm lending as swiftly and efficiently as possible.

work with its national vendor partners and communi- River, ty-based organizations to ensure that eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners have clear information about what is available to them, how to apply, and where to obtain assistance with their questions at each step of the way," said Secretary Vilsack. The Inflation Reduction Act specifies that the Secretary of Agriculture is responsible for providing this financial assistance through qualified nongovernmental entities, under standards set by USDA. The official program administrators are Midtown Group, which serves as the National

gram; Windsor Group, which is responsible for out-"USDA will continue to reach and assistance in states east of the Mississippi and Analytic Acquisitions, which serves states West of the Mississippi River.

program and understand how to complete the application. Additionally, local events and brick-and-mortar offices are part of a comprehensive outreach process designed to provide farmers and ranchers with multiple options for gaining assistance at no cost. For more information about DFAP, please visit the official website at 22007apply.gov. Additionally, the website provides comprehensive information on obtaining inperson or virtual technical assistance, supplementary program resources, and detailed program guidelines. The program also offers a call center, 1-800-721-0970, which is open from 8 a.m. ET to 8 p.m. PT, seven days a week, except for Federal holidays. The call center has English and Spanish-speaking agents.

Continued **Texas** Page 1

for Natural Hair" - outlaws discrimination on the basis of "hair texture or protective hairstyles associated with race." Texas was the 22nd state to implement a version of the law, which went into effect Sept. 1.

The law states that "protective hairstyle" includes braids, locks and twists. It does not, however, mention mention of protective hair-

dress code say?

The district's policy states male students' hair cannot, at any time, extend below the eyebrows, earlobes, or the top of a T-shirt collar. Male students' hair also may not "be gathered or worn in a style" that would allow hair to fall to these lengths "when let down."

The policy makes no styles or those associated with race.

Producers have the option to apply via the e-filportal ing at 22007apply.gov or by submitting paper-based forms via mail or in-person delivery to the program's local offices. Englishand Spanish-language applications are available.

Technical assistance is available for potential applicants through four regional hubs working closely with community-based organizations to conduct extensive outreach using digital and grassroots strategies. This ensures that potential applicants are informed about the

anything about hair length.

The act, authored by state Rep. Rhetta Bowers, D-Garland, was largely spurred by Black student experiences with hair discrimination.

De'Andre Arnold, a Barbers Hill High School student, drew national attention and the support of activists across the country in 2020 after district administrators suspended him for the length of his dreadlocks. De'Andre was told he needed to cut his hair to comply with the district's policy, and his family filed a discrimination lawsuit against the district before he switched schools.

What does Barbers Hill's

The Houston Landing reviewed dress code policies for dozens of Greater Houston school districts and found one other district, Devers ISD, that had a policy regulating hair length.

Darryl wears his dreadlocks in a twisted style at the top of his head. District officials said they cannot provide information about discipline issued to a student, including whether school leaders disciplined Darryl because his hair fell past his T-shirt, eyes or earlobes when let down.

Continue Texas Page 4

### **Continued Forest Page 1**

leaders, to business owners and educators, to artists and performers, and even children. Embraced by the community, Forest Forward is a grass-roots initiative at heart that represents the invaluable insights, ideas and dreams of those who live, work, learn and play in South Dallas.

"Although the Forest Theater in South Dallas has served as a proud beacon of hope for decades, its history and significance is unknown or often forgotten by many,"

said Forest Forward founder and CEO Elizabeth Wattley. "Restoring this historic treasure to its full potential as an arts and culture center – and using it as a catalyst to improve education, housing and economic vibrancy – is a good-news story for everyone living in Dallas and North Texas."

Attended by local leaders and elected officials, today's highlight was the unveiling of a replica of the Forest Theater's popular marquee sign, known for its distinc-

tive neon-green tower topped with a red ball. Nationally acclaimed artist Sergio Garcia of Dallas has created the eye-catching, illuminated structure.

Additionally, Wattley announced an exciting giving opportunity called the "Forest Fund" designed to engage and amplify community support, offering a 5-to-1 match for donations made by residents living in 75215 neighborhoods. South Dallas resident and community leader Willie Mae Coleman was on hand to make the first gift to the "Forest Fund" that she described as "the People's Campaign."

"I have lived in South Dallas for 89 years. I am proud of my community, and I am so excited about what is taking place at the Theater," Forest said Coleman. "Thank you to Forest Forward for their hard work, dedication and the financial investment they are bringing to South Dallas. And, thanks to the 'Forest Fund, every gift – no matter large or small - is so very special and will help make this vision a reality!"

Visitors to the exhibit will see images of the Forest Theater in its prime: Crowds of people lined up for blockbuster movies and performances by legendary acts, playbills promoting the theater's lush velvet seats and coveted air conditioning, a richly appointed lobby with plush carpets and leather furniture, and a "cry room" for families with young children. Photos illustrating the destruction that the S.M. Wright Freeway (State Highway 175) caused to the neighborhood are also displayed.

Also on view will be renderings of the project, designed HKS by

Architects. These include the newly imagined theater, the expanded MLK Arts academy, and the revamped boulevard featuring affordable, mixed-income housing developments. A film called "MVMTLS" (Movements of Lone Stars), created by filmmaker Adriane McCray, will run on a loop. Recorded during the pandemic, the film traces the memories of Dallas residents during their childhoods, using archival footage, home videos, personal photos, and presentday images that reveal the fragile truths and sacredness of the Black community.



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Page 4



# CLASSIFIEDS/NEWS

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### By Rix Quinn

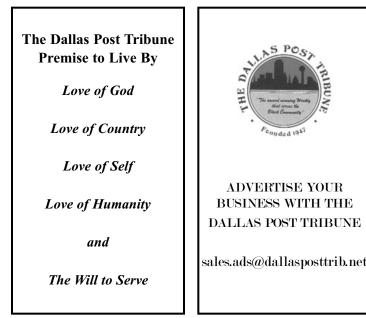
forefathers - and foremoth- ders sometimes led to the don't know about this, but I 23, and I had seven years of ers too – have been told that certain things bring bad luck.

Throughout the ages, our medieval times, when lad- keeps vampires away. I make-up mirror when I was



StatePoint Media

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



My uncle got sick one time because he did not listen to the old poem that said "Leave fresh food out of the refrigerator, and you're sure to vomit sooner or later."

You've likely heard it's dangerous to walk under a ladder. This superstition reportedly originates from

hanging gallows.

But, there's also a reported "cure." You can cancel the bad luck by saying "bread and butter" as you walk under the ladder. Huh?

Here's my luck with bread and butter. If I drop it on the floor, it almost always lands butter side first.

Another ancient belief is that carrying a rabbit's foot do know that if a human is carrying a rabbit's foot, it was bad luck for at least one bunny.

Another tale claims that breaking a mirror bring seven years of bad luck. You can supposedly solve that problem by rubbing a piece of the broken mirror against a gravestone.

I will admit that I accidentally broke a girlfriend's

bad dates.

But here's one superstition that sounds positive. "Find a penny, pick it up. And all day long, you'll have good luck."

I wonder if accidentally finding folding money would bring even more luck? Then the poem could change to "Find a lost tendollar bill...and later you could buy a meal.

### **Continued Texas Page 3**

Conflicting arguments on CROWN Act protections

In short, the standoff comes down to whether Darryl's dreadlocks are a protected hairstyle, and if so, whether Barbers Hill Independent School District officials can regulate the length of a protected hairstyle.

Allie Booker, a lawyer representing Darryl, argues that Barbers Hill's dress code violates the CROWN Act and fails to recognize his hair as a protective style. The district maintains that its rules do not violate the CROWN Act, a Barbers Hill spokesperson said.

In an interview last week with the Dallas-area television station WFAA, Bowers said the law is "strongly about protective hairstyles," but it is "not about length and it's not about color of hair."

However, Bowers called Darryl's punishment "a CROWN Act violation" on social media last week. Multiple efforts to reach Bowers were not successful Monday.

What happens next?

George received another in-school suspension Monday after returning to school with his hair unchanged, the Associated Press reported, signaling the district's firmness on its hair policy.

But Darryl and his family are also holding firm. He plans to keep his dreadlocks at their current length and will not cut his hair to be in compliance, Booker said. Darryl's hair has his family member's dreadlocks intertwined with his own and has personal and cultural



Buttons and t-shirts promoting legislation prohibiting discrimination of hair texture or styles commonly associated with race were on display at a press conference in Houston in 2020. Photo Credit: Michael Stravato for The Texas Tribune

significance, his attorney said.

"The locs pay homage to those who have come before us, and they remind us of who we are and from whence we have come," Booker said. "It is a part of our culture and our heritage. We are people who have been beaten, enslaved and downtrodden."

Darryl's family will pursue a lawsuit and a potential injunction to push back against the district's policy, Booker said.

This article first appeared on Houston Landing.

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## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

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Monday, Sept. 25

Tuesday, Sept. 26

H - 92°

L - 74



Wednesday, Sept. 27

## Essay: Fifth Ward, Houston, 1952 — One Girl's Story Continued **RUTH** Part 3

Atherton Elementary School was just four blocks from our compound. I was excited to attend a school that did not require an extended school bus ride. Though only an elementary school, it was as big as the entire kindergarten-through-high-school building of W. R. Banks School for Colored Students in Grapeland. It was also newer, fancier, and more amply supplied, and had many more activities. I was especially impressed with the festive school assemblies on special occasions, the thoughtful promotion of school spirit, and the extensive involvement of parents. Thanks to Miss Ida Mae, I arrived in Houston at secondgrade level and was easily able to do the work. Going to school no longer aroused in me the excitement it had in Grapeland, but, determined to keep up with Elma, I applied myself to succeed in this new setting.

Across from Atherton Elementary on Solo Street was the Julia C. Hester House, founded in 1943 to provide character-building, athletic, and intellectual enrichment programs for Black youth in the Fifth Ward. Over time Hester Black man at the time. House became a prominent part of my life, opening doors to opportunities that I could not have known otherwise. A modest one-level wooden structure that could barely contain the activity when many children were present, Hester House allowed us the chance to meet others our age through activities such as sports and dances. What I most loved, however, was its small library, where I could borrow books. I imagined this as my own library, where I could have access to books as often as I wished. The period, reading level, or genre did not matter; access to the wealth of words in books such as Little Women and Jane Eyre was almost as important as the stories and characters they offered. I was still on a mission to acquire as many words and meanings as possible. The festooned curtains and furnishings of the redroom described by Jane Eyre set my heart aflutter. If I could describe things with a similar precision, I could express confidently who I was and who I sought to be. I saw a way forward. Diagonally across Lee Street from our house was a bar called the Dew Drop Inn. On weekends we could hear the noise from its drunken customers. Couples often launched into loud quarrels that I could hear late into the night. My brothers paid a visit to the Dew Drop from time to time — without Mama's knowledge. The bar entered the annals of Houston crime one dark day when Tommy Head, whose family owned the Dew Drop,

killed several members of his estranged wife's family. But in general, by day, my area of Fifth Ward was an ordinary neighborhood where residents went to work in the morning and returned at night to quiet lives behind their unlocked doors.

My father found a job as a custodian at Bama, a maker of jellies and preserves. At the time Bama was a particularly challenging place to work because white workers frequently baited Black workers with racial comments. In Grapeland, even I had noticed Daddy's compliant behavior toward whites. Lacking the surliness that many men adopted in the face of racial discrimination, he seemed to relish playing a subservient role and happily stepped off the sidewalk when a white man or woman passed, saying "Yas-SUH!" and grinning constantly in the presence of whites. These well-practiced strategies contributed to his adapting well to the environment at Bama. He was a popular and permanent fixture there until he retired. Honest, hardworking, and reliable, he had job stability almost immediately, an unusual circumstance for a

Mama had never learned

## Female kicker for Wilmer-Hutchins football team making most of opportunity

### BY THE HUB

By Todd Lamb, Athletics Communication Coordinator



Photo Credit: The HUB

The football team at Wilmer-Hutchins High School has won all three games so far this season, and while that is noteworthy, the team is getting attention for another reason.

Junior Jacqueline A. is the team's kicker, at least when it comes to points after touchdown or "P-A-Ts." In the team's first home game against Fort Worth Dunbar, she made all three of her attempts in

the team's 33-7 victory.

She admitted she was nervous kicking a football in front of a big crowd, but those butterflies disappeared after connecting on her first kick. When she returned to the sideline and took off her helmet, she could hear people in the crowd asking, surprised, "She's a girl?"

Then, in game two, a road game at Fort Worth Southwest, she made two of three tries. She rushed the third, and it missed the uprights.

But Jackie, as everyone knows her on campus, is believed to be the school's first female football player, and she is surprising her teammates and coaches, though in a different way than you might think.

"I'm surprised she's not 7 for 7," Elzie Barnett, the head football coach and Wilmer-Hutchins campus athletic coordinator, said. "It never entered my mind that she would miss."

When last year's kicker decided not to return for the 2023 season, that created Jackie's opportunity. The opportunity might not have come without the encouragement of girls' soccer coach Afi George, who coached Jackie, an all-district soccer player for the Eagles.

"The way she strikes the ball, you could hear that foot come off the ball, and it was that nice solid thud you get when it's a good kick," Barnett said. "I was sold from the very first time I saw her kick a football."

## **Football Takes in Billions of Dollars** And We Are A Big Part Of It

to drive, so her movements were severely circumscribed. Somehow, that suited her. When she was not working, she spent her days preparing meals and performing household duties that, with access to certain conveniences, were far less burdensome than in East Texas. No more boiling clothes in the yard, making lye soap, or curing meat in the smokehouse. Now she had to purchase everything. Peddlers traveled up and down the street selling fruits and vegetables out of their trucks and wagons. Mama would buy just enough potatoes, tomatoes, or other produce for a day. Additional essentials-insurance, shoes, knives, spices, soaps-came via traveling salesmen. Occasionally, Mama would send us to Schweikardt Street to the Chinese grocer, but most of the time my father did the grocery shopping.

My father insisted on holding on to all the income in the house. When my sisters and brothers got jobs, they had to give him all their earnings. Daddy believed that children should become responsible for themselves as soon as possible, even if it meant dropping out of school. With an eighth- grade education, he had only the most rudimentary sense of where education could lead, and he identified it as a privilege we could ill afford. Like others traumatized by the depression, he was parsimonious in the extreme. To petition him for money was a terrifying and futile act. In the

Continue **Ruth** Page 6

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

Football season is here. We speak the language of touchdowns, first downs and field goals. In many ways, our lives have adjusted to it.

The game doesn't plan itself around us, we plan our schedules around it. For example, shopping of any kind is planned around the time and day of a football game. Store sales don't win out when it comes to our favorite team playing.

up a 50% off sale in order to attend a football game? Well, it happens during this timehonored season. Buying clothes suddenly goes on the backburner for another time.

Football is a part of the American culture. It has been passed down from generation to generation. All the boys on HBCUs was played on my block played football at December 27, 1892. On that

some point during their childhood. Some guys stuck with it and had an opportunity to play college football.

One of my role models growing up was James Arthur Price. We lived three houses from one another. He received a scholarship to play football at North Carolina College, now North Carolina Central University in Durham NC.

Back in the day, there was a football game during the Thanksgiving holiday called the Turkey Bowl between North Carolina College and A&T College, now North Carolina A&T State University located in Greensboro NC.

Attending those games gave my friends and me a glimpse of the college experience as we were in high school at the time. Both of these schools were Historically Black Colleges Can you imagine giving and Universities (HBCUs).

These schools have had some great rivalries. One such rivalry game matched Johnson C. Smith University located in Charlotte NC against Livingstone College located in Salisbury NC. According to reports, this game between these two

day, Johnson C. Smith University (formally Biddle defeated College) Livingstone College.

Another great rivalry game each year pits Grambling State University located in Grambling, LA against Southern University located in Baton Rouge LA. This game is called The Bayou Classic and is now played in the Super Dome in New Orleans LA.

College football has exploded and conferences in all divisions have fans who pack their stadiums on a weekly basis. These football games once played only on Saturdays have games throughout the week.

Some years back, rumblings began about the possibility of college players receiving some form of compensation to play. This was a debatable topic for a long time.

football purists The thought that having a scholarship was compensation enough. They also thought that players in some divisions should sit out a year before being allowed to play for their new team.

Both assertions, while strongly debated, were the rules that were in play for many years. The NCAA final-

ly made some rulings that have now greatly impacted college football.

Now, players are being compensated by NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) agreements. Companies are providing student-athletes with some healthy financial packages. You will see some of your favorite college players in commercials for which they are being paid. In addition, players no longer must sit out a year before joining their new team.

Professional football is also driving in the fast lane. The marketing of the NFL is at an all-time high. Ratings for these games are through the roof. Pro football is now being played in parts of Europe for fan enjoyment. For example, this season there will be five games played there.

Of course, the National Football League benefits greatly from television deals. Last year, for example, the NFL came away with an alltime high \$11.9 billion dollars in revenue. It is my thinking that this figure will continue to grow. It is truly America's pastime replacing baseball.

Are you ready for some football? You know the answer is yes.





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### **Continued Ruth Page 5**

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city school system, students' families were asked to provide many things: supplies, gym uniforms and sneakers, clothes for special events, and so on. We learned quickly that we would have to tell our teachers we could not get many of these things. When my sister Nora, only sixteen, went to work cleaning houses to earn money to pay for school needs, my father exacted a major part of her earnings. So she steadily increased her hours to net more income. Eventually, after the tenth grade, she asked if she could stop school to work full time. My parents agreed. Had it not been for legally enforced school attendance, most of the younger siblings would not have finished school. The lax enforcement in Grapeland meant that almost all of the older children had stopped school to work. Once we moved to Houston, all the youngest of us except Nora were able to finish high school without feeling pressure to drop out. But my father would not help us with school expenses.

Mama, however, was more attentive to our needs. She had no more education than Daddy, but she understood how embarrassing and painful it was for us to go to gym class and not be able to participate because we did not have a proper uniform.

> Continue **Ruth** Part 4 9/28/2023

