

"When you know your name, you should hang on to it, for unless it is noted down and remembered, it will die when you do." ~ Toni Morrison



# The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 74 NUMBER 3

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

September 30 - October 6, 2021

## Temptations Mark 60th Anniversary with Release of New Single with Smokey Robinson

NNPA Wire

LOS ANGELES, CA —

This year marks the 60th Anniversary celebration of The Temptations, the legendary, Grammy Award-Winning group known as the "No. 1 R&B Artists of All Time" (Billboard).

And releasing today is their brand-new single, "Is It Gonna Be Yes Or No," a duet between the group and the equally legendary Smokey Robinson, the man who

delivered their first hits.

The song, also written and produced by Smokey, is a preview of the upcoming TEMPTATIONS 60 album.

The single and taster of their 2022 album, Executive Produced by Temptations' founding and sole surviving original member Dr. Otis Williams, is now available.

Robinson brought in stellar studio musicians to play on the ballad, including his longtime associate Dave Garfield on key-

boards, bassist Freddie Washington and drummer Steve Ferrone.

And in all the years Robinson has delivered such timeless Temptations classics as "The Way You Do the Things You Do," "My Girl," "Since I Lost My Baby," "Get Ready" and more, the duet marks the only time he and the Temptations have sung lead together, save for a recording of "The

Continue 60th Page 6



### OAK CLIFF

# Dallas Apartment Building Collapse



Photo Credit/ Fox 4 News

Paul Randall was feeding his daughter when a loud explosion shook his entire apartment.

"Everybody was outside. I saw one of the firefighter men. I guess he was in there when it blew up," he recalled. "All his clothes and the whole house were just on fire."

Randall says he saw two people severely injured, including a firefighter, and another

firefighter crawling out of the burning building.

"He was like, 'Help!' But no one wanted to go over there because the other apartment was gonna blow. It looked like it was gonna blow," he recalled.

The blast shattered windows on neighboring buildings. It was felt by other surrounding residents several blocks away, throwing debris into a nearby field.

Cee Cee Thomas lives across the street. "I was in my bed sleeping," she recalled. "I just heard a boom, then it shook the apartment. It was like it shifted."

Jason Evans with Dallas Fire-Rescue says the initial call was for a possible gas leak.

"When we got here during the course of

Continue Dallas Page 6

## After 5 years, Obamas break ground on Presidential Center

By SOPHIA TAREEN

CHICAGO (AP) — After five years of legal battles, gentrification concerns and a federal review, Barack and Michelle Obama dug shovels into the ground Tuesday during a celebratory groundbreaking on their legacy project in a lakefront Chicago park.

Construction on the Obama Presidential Center along Lake Michigan, near the Obama family home and where the former president started his political career on Chicago's South Side, officially began last month.

Standing near an excavator and other heavy equipment, Obama described how the city's South Side shaped him, first as a community organizer, then as a husband, father and elected official. He said the center was one way of giving back and he hoped it would bring an economic boost to the area and inspire a future generation of leaders.

"We want this center to be more than a static museum or a source of archival research. It won't just be a collection of campaign memorabilia or Michelle's ballgowns, although I know everybody will come see those," he joked. "It won't just be an exercise in nostalgia or looking backwards. We want to look forward."

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and several city aldermen were among the few people allowed at the event, which was streamed online to limit crowds amid

Continue Obama Page 6

## Pfizer vaccine for kids may not be available until November

By JONATHAN LEMIR

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pfizer has submitted research to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on the effectiveness of its COVID-19 vaccine in children but the shots may not be available until November.

The company said Tuesday it provided

health regulators with data from a recent study of its vaccine in children 5 to 11 years old. Officials had said previously they would file an application with the FDA to authorize use in the coming weeks.

Once the company files its application, U.S.

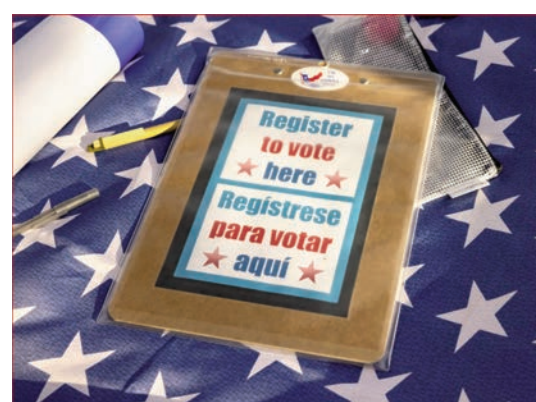
regulators and public health officials will review the evidence and consult with their advisory committees in public meetings to determine if the shots are safe and effective enough to recommend use.

Continue Kids Page 4

## Texas has a constitutional amendments election this year. The last day to register to vote is Oct. 4.

By Elvia Limon

Photo/Credit: Jordan Vonderhaar for The Texas Tribune



A statewide election on Nov. 2 will feature eight constitutional amendments that address topics ranging from religious freedom to taxes to judicial eligibility. Here's what you need to know to vote.

Continue Vote Page 4



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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## The Haitian Dilemma

By **Dr. John E. Warren**, Publisher, The San Diego Voice and Viewpoint

This is a painful commentary. Humanity demands that we all be treated with fairness. This country has boasted the guarantee to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness. Those who live in a world without such assurances hear what we say and see the quality of life that even our poorest of citizens appear to enjoy. So, we don't blame the Haitians for doing what each of us would do if we were in their shoes.

This matter is made even more painful when we consider that the politics of color appears to have entered this picture. The recent surge of migrants from South America was not met with exportation but detentions. It appears that, for now, only single individuals are being deported and not families or children. They are allegedly being processed.

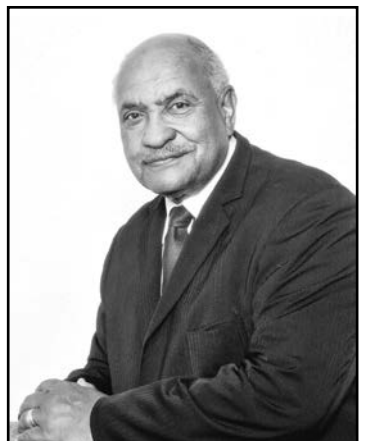
Then we have the history of how we have dealt with Haitians and the matter of political asylum. Let's not forget that in 1992 when the U.S. Coast Guard was intercepting Haitian refugees at sea, some on inner tubes and small life rafts; these people were quickly returned to Haiti even though they claimed political asylum while, during the same period, refugees from Cuba also claiming political asylum were taken in and placed in detention camps in Florida.

The massive number of more than 100,000 Afghans recently airlifted by the U.S. government and expecting to find homes in America, and at the same time we have over 3 million DACA residents also seeking to be recognized and given citizenship, all adds up to numbers that frighten Americans with the ques-

tion of when do we close the door? The big question is, are we going to treat everyone fairly and, if so, what constitutes "fair"? The same rules must apply to all without the appearance of favoritism. There has to be a limit on the number of people permitted in the boat or the boat itself will sink.

The problems in all the countries in this hemisphere are closely related to corruption in the governments of those countries along with their crime problems. The storms and earthquakes that have hit Haiti compound a problem that already existed, not to mention the recent assassination of the Haitian president.

We can control the humanity with which people are being expelled. No more images of border agents on horseback riding people down because



*Dr. John E. Warren*

they are still coming across the river. There has to be a better way. But to the Haitians and others gathering to illegally enter this country, that can not be permitted. You create your own humanitarian crisis by making the choice to follow the rumors that all you have to do is show up and come in.

To Americans of all colors, the issue has to be one of more than race. Let's deal with this issue as we can and should.

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## How a Black high school principal was swept into a "critical race theory" maelstrom in a mostly white Texas suburb

*James Whitfield was put on paid leave about a month after being accused of teaching critical race theory. His future could soon be decided after an evidentiary hearing where he can argue his case to the school board.*

BY **BRIAN LOPEZ**

Continued **Black**  
 9.23.2021, Page 4.

In their comments, district residents said Whitfield is a great principal, accused the board of succumbing to racist rhetoric and criticized the district for not being transparent about the principal's case.

Beverly Mavis, a 28-year resident of GCISD, said in her experience, this has been the community's lowest point, calling the events of the past two months a "witch hunt," she said.

"That hatred, divisiveness and bigotry have no place in GCISD," Mavis said. "Choose to support decency, diversity, inclusiveness and reinstate Dr. Whitfield."

For some advocates and experts, Whitfield has become an example of what could happen to educators who try to address issues of racism or inequality in the classroom, especially now that Texas lawmakers have passed a new law targeting what they say is critical race theory.

Colleyville is a majority-

white city with only 1% of residents identifying as Black or African American, according to census data. The median household income tops \$150,000.

"I am the quintessential boogeyman for these people," Whitfield said. "Anything that has to do with anything related to equity, or inclusion or diversity — they're going to try to attach it to CRT."

Republicans target critical race theory

Critical race theory is an academic discipline that holds that racism is inherent in societal systems that broadly perpetuate racial inequity. Teachers say that it's rarely taught in high school classrooms, though some say the discipline informs their approaches as they try to make their lessons more inclusive in a state where only about a quarter of students are white.

Over the summer and spring, the perceived threat of critical race theory has turned into a Republican rallying cry in an apparent pushback against increased

conversations about diversity and inclusion and unpacking implicit bias. Republican leaders have claimed it's indoctrinating students and teaching white students that they are racist. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has called it a "ridiculous leftist narrative." Gov. Greg Abbott has called for it to be abolished in Texas schools.

GOP lawmakers made it a priority this year to pass legislation to stop schools from teaching the discipline.

Lawmakers eventually passed House Bill 3979, which restricts how teachers can discuss current events, encourage civic engagement and teach about America's history of racism. And during the second special session, lawmakers successfully sent Senate Bill 3, a more restrictive version of the house bill, to Abbott. Abbott signed SB 3 into law Friday afternoon.

Among other things, it bans schools from requiring political activism as part of a course and says teachers



*James Whitfield*  
 Photo/Credit: **Ben Torres** for *The Texas Tribune*

can't teach that "one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex." Neither SB 3 nor HB 3979 specifically mentions critical race theory.

Whitfield, who was the principal and didn't teach classes, maintains that he never taught the subject, nor did he ever mention it to teachers, students or parents. In accusing Whitfield, Clark pinned his case on Whitfield's stated belief that systemic racism exists.

"I am the first African American to assume the role of Principal at my current school in its 25-year history, and I am keenly aware of how much fear this strikes in the hearts of a small minority who would

Continue **Black** Page 5

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## "A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN"

ST. JOHN 20:24-31  
CHRIST'S APPEARANCE TO THOMAS

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In our previous study in St. John 20:11-23, we saw that our triumphant Lord had appeared unto the ten apostles, giving them unmistakable proof that He had been triumphant over sin, death and the grave. However, Thomas, a melancholy and doubtful disciple, was not present when Jesus first appeared before the disciples (St. John 20:19-25). The text does not reveal why Thomas was absent. Maybe, as some commentators suggest, he

was absent because of his unbelief; or maybe, because of his gloomy nature, he had lost all hope of Jesus' reigning supremely as Israel's Messiah. In retrospect, Thomas was a man that demonstrated loyalty and devotion to Jesus, even suggesting on one occasion that the disciples might die with Jesus as the opposition mounted in St. John chapter 11. Yet, for some reason, his despondent disposition stood out because his

Saviour was laid on a cross of shame and was buried in the heart of the earth. In view of Thomas' depressing nature, his absence may have stemmed from the fact that he became disinterested in the Messianic movement. Out of fellowship with Christ through unbelief, Thomas missed the blessedness of seeing the resurrected Lord on the first day of the week (v. 24). Concerned about their skeptical brother, the ten disciples reported that they

had seen the resurrected Lord (v. 25). In the latter part of verse 25, the unbelief of Thomas is cast before us, for even the testimony of the ten did not convince Thomas! As we testify for Him today, we must be prepared to bear the unbelief of others. This incident shows clearly that even the best of men is subject to unbelief. Thomas, who rejected the testimony of the ten, was willing only to believe when he saw and touched the Lord's body!

Thomas knew the Lord's teaching about His resurrection and had witnessed the raising of Lazarus in chapter 11; yet, he called for proof of His resurrection before he believed! In marvelous grace, after eight days, the Lord makes His grand appearance unto the disciples again, now with Thomas present (v. 26). The manifestation of Christ in verse 26 was expressly for Thomas, the doubter. With His glorified body, our Lord came miraculously through the closed doors, with comforting words of assurance, "Peace be unto you." Out of fellowship with His creator, Thomas is invited to witness the evidences of Christ's wounded hands and side (v. 27). Satisfied

that he had seen the risen Lord, Thomas exclaimed - "My Lord and My God" (v. 28). With his heart being fully satisfied, Thomas gives one of the best declarations of Christ's deity. Thomas was certainly transformed from a doubter to a worshipper. There was no need for Thomas to handle Christ because all doubts were settled! In our Lord's last beatitude, He pointed out to His disciples that there is greater blessedness upon those who have not seen Him in the flesh, yet they have believed (v. 29). Although John discussed seven miracles in this grand book, these miracles were recorded so that individuals might believe (v. 30-31). **May God Bless!**



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Once you are a Parkland patient, you can now get a virtual visit for some healthcare appointments.

A virtual visit is an appointment that is done with a phone call or video chat. Send a request for a virtual visit in Parkland MyChart (mychart.pmh.org) or call the clinic to ask for a virtual visit with your provider.

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[www.parklandhospital.com/RedBird](http://www.parklandhospital.com/RedBird)

### Continued Vote Page 1

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 2 election is Oct. 4. The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Oct. 22. Early voting in the state runs Oct. 18-29. Photo/Credit: Jordan Vonderhaar for The Texas Tribune

There's a statewide election on Nov. 2, but it's one without any statewide candidates.

Instead, the election will feature eight statewide constitutional amendments that address topics ranging from religious freedom to taxes to judicial eligibility. The last day to register to vote is Oct. 4. The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Oct. 22. Early voting in the state runs Oct. 18-29.

How can I register to vote?

Texans need to fill out a voter registration application at least 30 days before the election. You can request the application through the mail or find one at county voter registrars' offices, post offices, government offices or high schools. While you can't register online to vote in Texas unless you're updating your driver's license, you can print out the online application and mail it to the voter registrar in your county. Applications have to be postmarked by the Oct. 4 deadline.

How can I register to vote by mail?

To be eligible to vote by mail in Texas, you must be:

- 65 years or older
- Sick or disabled
- Out of the county during the early voting period and Election Day

- In jail but eligible to vote

You can request a form be mailed to you. Once the form is filled out, you will need to address and mail it to the early voting clerk in your county or fax the form if that option is available in the early voting clerk's office. You also have the option of submitting a scanned copy of the completed and signed application to the early voting clerk via email, according to the Texas secretary of state's office.

If the form is faxed or emailed, then the hard copy of the application must be mailed and received by the early voting clerk no later than the fourth business day.

Is there a way to confirm whether I'm registered to vote?

The Texas secretary of state's website will tell you whether you're registered if you log in using one of these three ways:

- Providing your Texas driver's license number and date of birth
- Providing your first and last names, date of birth and what county you reside in
- Providing your date of birth and Voter Unique Identifier, which appears on your voter registration certificate.

Where am I allowed to vote early?

Voters could cast ballots at any polling location in the county where they are registered to vote. You can find voting locations on the Texas secretary of state's website. "This story has been edited for length."

## Pfizer vaccine for kids may not be available until November



FILE - In this Jan. 22, 2021, file photo, a certified medical assistant prepares doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. With more than 40 million doses of coronavirus vaccines available, U.S. health authorities said they're confident both seniors and other vulnerable Americans seeking booster shots and parents anticipating approval of initial shots for young children will have easy access. (AP Photo/John Locher, File)

### Continued Kids Page 1

That process may mean the shots may not be available until closer to Thanksgiving, according to a person familiar with the process but not authorized to discuss it publicly. But it is possible that, depending on how quickly the FDA acts, the shots could become available earlier in November, the person said.

The drugmaker and its partner, Germany's BioNTech, say they expect to request emergency use authorization of their vaccine in children ages 5 to 11 soon. The companies also plan to submit data to the European Medicines Agency and other regulators.

The two-shot Pfizer vaccine is currently available for those 12 and older. An estimated 100 million people in the U.S. have been fully vaccinated with it, according to

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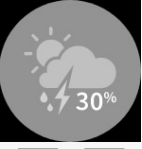
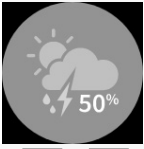
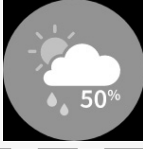

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# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Sept. 30	Friday, Oct. 1	Saturday, Oct. 2	Sunday, Oct. 3	Monday, Oct. 4	Tuesday, Oct. 5	Wednesday, Oct. 6
 H - 84° L - 62°	 H - 83° L - 63°	 H - 79° L - 65° 30%	 H - 75° L - 64° 50%	 H - 74° L - 59° 50%	 H - 73° L - 57° 30%	 H - 72° L - 55°

# Coaches Vs. Racism Launches Ambitious Action Plan to Erase Systemic Racism in Sports

Written by **Stacy M. Brown**

*Inaugural HBCU Roundball Experience Brings Big 10 and HBCU Basketball Teams Together For Head-to-Head Competition and Courageous Anti-Racism Conversations*

WASHINGTON, DC (September 28, 2021) – Coaches Vs. Racism (CVR) is a 501c3 national non-profit leading the charge to end systemic racism in sports.

They are mobilizing coaches in the pro ranks as well as collegiate and amateur levels across the country to create an action-filled, educational and grassroots approach to inspire cultural and societal change in the world of sports.

CVR has teamed with the Big 10, College Coaches, Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and professional sports teams to promote awareness of Social Injustice, Economic Divide, Equality, Reform, and Systemic Racism (SEERS).

Together, the groups aim to create a positive sports environment for all players by using education, conversation and community to build equality and understanding.

The non-profit will work with coaches to ensure all players have access to the tools and resources necessary to develop student and professional athletes to their full potential and level the playing field.

As part of their mission, Coaches Vs. Racism has created the HBCU Roundball Experience, bringing Big 10 Schools, major Universities and HBCU teams together for high-profile competitions.

The games seek to amplify awareness of incredible athletic talent from both schools, and will place an emphasis on HBCUs who traditionally lack resources and equipment and are routinely overlooked by professional talent scouts.

“Our focus is to shine the spotlight on systemic racism as a root cause of the inherent disparities that exist in the sports,” said Mr. Darryl Woods, Executive Director of Coaches Vs. Racism.

“Economic inequality continues to exist today in our Elementary and High Schools, Colleges and Universities and is detrimental to our youth. By working together, and using our collective passion for sports, we hope Coaches Vs. Racism will spark productive conversations to change the narrative about race in sports and serve as a revolutionary voice for change in our society.”

To reinforce the anti-



*As part of their mission, Coaches Vs. Racism has created the HBCU Roundball Experience, bringing Big 10 Schools, major Universities and HBCU teams together for high-profile competitions.*

**NNPA Newswire**

racism message, CVR has initiated a series of matchups between Big 10 schools and HBCUs to bring awareness to the anti-racism initiative.

The inaugural game pits the University of Michigan Wolverines vs. Prairie View A&M University Panthers.

The teams are led by coaches Juwan Howard and Byron Smith respectively.

The high-profile game will be held on neutral territory at the Entertainment and Sports Arena (ESA) in

Washington, DC., on Saturday, November 13th.

Tickets will be available at [coachesvsracism.org](http://coachesvsracism.org) effective Friday, October 15, 2021. Tickets will also be available at University of Michigan and Prairie View A&M University.

A portion of the proceeds from all CVR games will be used to support marginalized students and student-athletes who are unable to complete their education due to lack of tuition funds. CVR hopes to engage

these students in a “Good Start” program before they drop out of college by raising funds to pay tuition for struggling students and paying off their respective student loans.

The non-profit will place special focus on students at HBCUs.

In addition to athletic programs and coaches across the country, Coaches Vs. Racism has partnered with HBCU-GO.TV to support its mission.

**‘Best I’ve ever played:’ Prescott has Cowboys rolling early**

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dak Prescott thought he could improve while not playing after the season-ending ankle injury last year by appreciating the chance to watch from a different perspective.

The star Dallas quarterback, who then missed most of training camp this summer with a shoulder injury, believes he was right.

“Going back, the experience obviously has helped but just studying and preparing myself and then all the work that I’ve put in just to get back healthy, not only the leg but the shoulder and just this playbook,” Prescott said. “I feel like I’m playing the best I’ve ever played.”

Prescott had the third-best passer rating of his six-year career in his first home game since fracturing and dislocating his right ankle at AT&T Stadium last October. The 143.3 mark came in a 41-21 victory over NFC East rival Philadelphia on Monday night.

The Cowboys (2-1) lead the division with the second of three consecutive home games coming Sunday against Carolina (3-0). And they’re proving Prescott’s theory that the club is better off when he doesn’t have to throw more than 50 times for more than 400 yards.

In victories over the Los Angeles Chargers and Eagles, Prescott has thrown for a total of 475 yards.

Continued **Black** Page 2

much rather things go back to the way they used to be,” Whitfield wrote in a Facebook post days after the accusations.

Clark did not respond to an interview request.

The school board meeting was not the first time Whitfield felt his race was affecting how he was being judged as a principal. In 2019, he was starting a new job as principal at Heritage Middle School — also in

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD — when the district raised concerns about some photos on his Facebook page.

In 2009, he and his white wife had a wedding anniversary photoshoot on the beach and posted the images on his profile. In one photo reviewed by The Texas Tribune, the principal leaned over his wife — getting ready for a kiss — while they both lay on a beach.

At the time, the district asked him to take the photos

down. He wondered how anyone had even found them — they were 10 years old and buried on his page. It felt like someone had dug through a decade’s worth of photos, seemingly looking for controversy.

Whitfield says he now regrets not asking what the request meant. Instead, he just changed his settings so no one else could see his photos. He said he didn’t want to “rock the boat” since he had just been pro-

moted, and he thought that was the end of that discussion.

“When I was asked to take these photos down, I knew that a community member would have that kind of power over me,” Whitfield said.

“Some kind of political landmine”

For a time, the issue seemed to die down. In the spring of last school year, his employment evaluation offered areas for improvement, but gave no sign that

his job would soon be at stake. In April, he signed a contract to return to Heritage High School for the 2021-22 school year.

Whitfield did not sign off on his evaluation though and instead sent a rebuttal letter to school administration, citing that the pandemic made things difficult.

Samantha Zelling, a senior at Colleyville Heritage, said Whitfield has been the most personable principal she has ever had. He was at

every sports game, even the practices, she said. He would stand at the busiest corner of the high school and try to get to know his students, she said.

But problems arose again soon after the July school board meeting.

Behind closed doors, Whitfield said he felt the support of some board members after Clark’s comments, but publicly it wasn’t the same.

**To Be Continued - Part 3**

# Temptations Mark 60th Anniversary with Release of New Single with Smokey Robinson



Continued 60th Page 1

Christmas Song" in 1989. "It's wonderful to be back together. When The Tempts first met Smoke we were teenagers, young black men in Detroit who had no clue that our partnership at Motown would produce 'My Girl,' one of the greatest hits of all

time," says Williams. "And our success together didn't stop there. We had chart hit after chart hit and, soon after, our music was heard around the world. Now, 60 years later, as I turn 80, Smoke and I have come full circle. I never imagined we would have the opportunity to get back in the studio and do it

all again." Smokey adds, "When Otis called me and said, 'Hey man, we're doing a new album and we'd like you to do a song, that got me excited about working together again. That was it, that's all it took. I proceeded to write a new song for them, and I was very happy to, because it's been

a long time. When I showed up at the studio, Otis said, 'Man, I want you to sing on this one with us.' So, I said, 'Oh, okay, I'm very excited about the song, let's do it! You, know, it's just great working with them, always.'" The Temptations' 60th Anniversary campaign launched this summer and

will run through June 2022, in a celebration befitting one of the most revered and prolific musical institutions of all time. The year-long campaign includes the new album in 2022; a 50-city tour through the end of this year, with more global dates to be announced; remastering of their music videos, including "Standing on the Top" with Rick James and their No. 1 hit "Stay;" a new content series; the Imperial Theatre re-opening on October 16<sup>th</sup> of the Broadway musical, Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations, based on Otis Williams's personal journey that was nominated for 12 Tony Awards, including Best Musical and won the Tony Award for Best Choreography at the 73rd Tony Awards ceremony in June 2019 and whose Ume cast album was GRAMMY-nominated; and celebratory events along the way including Otis Williams' 80th birthday on October 30th. Their Emmy Award-Winning Television miniseries, The Temptations, which first aired to rave reviews in 1998, is still on air or streaming every day somewhere in the world. Williams' critically acclaimed autobiography,

Temptations, was recently released as an audiobook edition for the first time, with a new introduction by Williams. **Temptations History** The Temptations are today one of the most iconic, bestselling brands in the entertainment world. With Otis Williams, the founding and sole surviving member of The Temptations, their track record of history-making music is breathtaking, their presence across multimedia platforms has never been more vivid, and their popularity is ever-increasing. Most recently, adding to their dozens of sampled tracks, their hit "Papa Was A Rollin' Stone," was used as the foundation of the Migos smash, "Avalanche." The Temptations were among the first African American musical artists to crossover into mainstream America and appear on popular, national mainstream television programs, such as The Ed Sullivan Show, and The Hollywood Palace in the 60s. Trailblazers, the group's star power was so striking that these top-rated, national programs, and many others, scheduled appearances for the Temptations multiple times during a single year.

Continued Dallas Page 1

investigating where the smell was coming from, then the explosion occurred," he said. DFR has not yet determined the cause of the explosion, but Atmos Energy representatives were on scene a short time later. Firefighters were initially unable to get near the collapsed building safely to see if anyone needed help. "The western end of the

building suffered significant damage," Evans said. "There does appear to be charring in some of the area that indicates the initial explosion there were flames enough to cause charring." Evans says no one will be allowed back inside until the building's structural integrity can be determined. DFR is also investigating resident claims about smelling gas in the area for hours. "We are aware of what

residents are reporting after we got here there was a gas smell that originated as early as last night," Evan's said. "That seemed to take place after the incident police responded to." So far, everyone has been accounted for, but it's unclear how many are displaced. "We're going to do everything we possibly can to make sure anyone who needs shelter, who needs food, water, anything, gets it," said

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson. At this time, no evacuations have been made. However, several residents say they do not feel safe staying there and are choosing to stay with friends or family. Those who lived in the building that partially collapsed will not be allowed back in any time soon. The Red Cross is on scene assisting displaced families. DFR says local, state and federal agencies will be investigating the explosion

to determine its cause. The fire department and doctors are optimistic all three critically injured firefighters will survive and make a full recovery. The other firefighter that wasn't as badly hurt has already been released from the hospital. The four civilians hurt are being treated at the hospital but do not have life-threatening injuries. After the blast, the ambulances rushed to Parkland

Hospital Trauma Center, the area's premier burn unit. The firefighters were investigating the smell associated with a natural gas leak around the front of the complex when the explosion took place. Based on how close they were to the explosion, you can imagine possibly every type of injury from broken bones to a punctured lung or having breathed in the natural gas during the exposure explosion or even burns.

# After 5 years, Obamas break ground on Presidential Center

Continued Obama Page 1

the COVID-19 pandemic. The presidential center will sit on 19 acres (7.7 hectares) of the 540-acre (291-hectare) of Jackson Park, named for the nation's seventh president, Andrew Jackson. It will be unique among presidential libraries. Obama's presidential papers will be available in digital form. The sprawling campus will include a museum, public library branch, athletic center, test kitchen and children's play area. The initial cost was projected at \$500 million, but documents released by the Obama Foundation last month showed it is now roughly \$830 million. Funds are being raised through private donations. Organizers estimate about 750,000 visitors will come to the center each year. Work on the Obama Presidential Center is expected to take about five years. Currently, heavy machinery peppers

the site that's fenced off with green tarps. Progress has been delayed by lawsuits and a federal review required because of the location in Jackson Park, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. At the same time, fears about displacing Black residents in the area developed into a yearslong battle resulting in city-approved neighborhood protections, including for affordable housing. Some neighborhood activists said Tuesday that they were already seeing rising housing prices and would keep pushing for more protections in surrounding areas. Environmental advocates have also objected to the location and the loss of green space. During the event, a plane pulled an aerial banner reading, "STOP CUTTING DOWN TREES. MOVE OPC." Obama, who didn't take questions during the event, has said over the



Former President Barack Obama, left, and former first lady Michelle Obama toss shovels of dirt during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Obama Presidential Center Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021, in Chicago. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

years that the center will benefit the surrounding area with new jobs and new trees would be planted on the campus. He chose Chicago over several cities, including Honolulu, where he was born and spent his early years. It's a part of Chicago that has special significance for the Obamas. The center is near the University of Chicago where Obama taught law

and where the Obamas got married and raised their two daughters. Michelle Obama also grew up on the South Side. "This city, this neighborhood courses through my veins and defines me at my very core," she said at the event. "This substantial investment in the South Side will help make the neighborhood where we call home a destination for the entire world."