

**“If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”**

~ Martin Luther King, Jr. ~



# The Dallas Post Tribune

2726 S. Beckley Ave • Dallas, Texas 75224  
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ISSN # 0746-7303

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VOLUME 77 NUMBER 20

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

January 23 - 29, 2025

## New Research Shows African Americans Face Sharply Higher Dementia Risks

By Stacy M. Brown



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

A new study reveals that Americans over the age of 55 have a 42 percent chance of developing dementia, a figure more than double that reported in previous research. The significant increase in estimated risk means that roughly 514,000 Americans could develop dementia this year alone, with projections rising to approximately 1 million new cases annually by 2060.

Dementia, characterized by progressive declines in memory, concentration, and judgment, is becoming more prevalent due to the aging U.S. population, the study concluded. Factors such as genetics, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, poor diet, lack of exercise, and mental health challenges also contribute to the rising dementia rates.

Continue **Risks** Page 5



Photo Credit: Dallas ISD/The HUB

## J.P. Starks student wins MLK Jr. Oratory Competition

By Jenna Carpenter

Deon H., a fourth-grader at J.P. Starks Math, Science, and Technology Vanguard, is the winner of the 33rd Annual MLK Jr. Oratory Competition.

In total, eight students across Dallas ISD took the stage for the annual competition, which took place at the AT&T Performing Arts Center on Friday, Jan 17.

The theme this year was “What would Dr. King tell us about our responsibility as citizens and leaders in America today?” Each student delivered a 3-to-5-minute speech that incorporated the theme with lessons taught by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Second place went to Sidiba D., a fourth-grade student at Solar Preparatory for Girls, and fifth-grader Danielle A. from Clara Oliver Elementary School, who

came in third place.

The rest of the semi-finalists for the 2025 MLK Jr. Oratory Competition are:

- Sullivan P., fourth grade: Adelle Turner Elementary School
- Jaxon W., fourth grade: Charles Rice Learning Center
- Ivan S., fifth grade: Arturo Salazar Elementary School
- Khalyn T., fifth grade: Eddie Bernice Johnson STEM Academy
- Zayden V, fifth grade: Frederick Douglass Elementary School

## American Airlines Faces Intense Scrutiny Over Customer Service and Discrimination Allegations

*An incident on Jan. 17 involving passenger S.L. Brown, whose trip from New York's JFK to Saint Marteen was abruptly canceled, again exposed these problems.*

By Stacy M. Brown

American Airlines continues to suffer a string of customer service problems, including severe charges of racial discrimination, sparking worldwide condemnation and a rethinking of its operational policies. An incident on Jan. 17 involving passenger S.L. Brown, whose trip from New York's JFK to Saint Marteen was abruptly canceled, again exposed these problems. Brown's contact with a customer service agent named “Sash,” who was described as “very nasty, very insensitive,” left her with no viable solutions. Not only did Sash not give a refund or travel credit, but her handling of the situation forced Brown to arrange a costly same-day flight for her and her three children from LaGuardia Airport with Delta Airlines, incurring significant additional fees.



Photo Credit : NNPA

This instance points to

deeper structural concerns within American Airlines, as indicated by the huge volume of complaints received. According to the Canadian Transportation Agency, American received 1.9 complaints per 100 flights in the fourth quarter of 2023, with passengers regularly citing issues like as unexpected cancellations, misplaced luggage, and inefficient customer service, which often exacerbates their travel delays.

In addition to Brown's experience in which the traveler said she believed was in part racially motivated, the airline is facing serious claims of discrimination. In a distressing

Continue **Faces** Page 7

## PRESS ROOM: April Ryan Joins Black Press USA as Washington Bureau Chief and Senior White House Correspondent



April Ryan

By Jason Roberts

(Washington, DC, January 17, 2025) – The Black Press is the trusted news and information source for millions of Americans, and it is bringing on news trailblazer, April Ryan. This is April Ryan's 6th Presidency having covered five Presidents as a White House Correspondent and Bureau Chief.

“April Ryan has exemplified the best of outstand-

ing journalism for decades at the White House for news companies across the nation and world. We are so proud to announce that April Ryan will now be the Washington Bureau Chief and Senior White House Correspondent for Black Press USA (www.BlackPressUSA.com). As the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) celebrates 2025

Continue **Ryan** Page 7



Recognizing #BLACK EXCELLENCE for 77 Years





# African American Education Archives and History Program Honors Outstanding Educators, Presidential Awardees In Hall of Fame Ceremony

Troy Mathieu of the Credit Union of Texas to Serve as Honorary Chair

Founder of The Black Academy of Arts and Letters.

Serving as Honorary Chair Sponsor for the event is the Credit Union of Texas, Troy Mathieu, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Educators being inducted into the Hall of Fame are:

- Dr. Helen Benjamin
- Cassandra Black
- Robert Edison
- Dr. Levatta Levels
- Dr. Larry Lewis
- Bertric Manning
- The Late Dr. Charles Matthews
- Dora Wesley Morris
- Cheryl Smith
- Norma Wright

The Educators' Hall of Fame identifies and recognizes educators and others for outstanding contributions to the educational experiences of African Americans in Dallas County. Inductees are historical and contemporary. Over the past 20 years, 183 individuals have been inducted into the AAEHP Hall of Fame and 38 special awards have been presented recognizing outstanding members of the community.

When asked about being inducted into the Hall of Fame, Dr. Levatta Levels had this to say: I'm honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame by the African American Education Archives and History Program. As a product of the Dallas ISD, it's personal, deeply meaningful, and symbolizes recognition of my contributions and impact on the field of education, along with my fellow inductees. It's not just an individual achievement, but a reflection of a commitment to uplifting my community, preserving its legacy, and inspiring future generations."

The Class of 2025 will join such Dallas icons as Dr. Emmett Conrad, Kathryn J. Gilliam, Yvonne A. Ewell, Sam Tasby, Dr. Marvin E. Edwards, Curtistene Smith McCowan, Pastor Zan Wesley Holmes Jr., Rev. C.B.T. Smith, Thomas G. Jones and others in the Hall of Fame photographic exhibit at the African American Museum Dallas, 3536 Grand Avenue, Dallas, TX, 75210.

In addition to celebrating the honorees, scholarships will be awarded to high school and continuing college students.

AAEHP has awarded more than \$75,000 since 2015 to students from Dallas County to help them attend college and become educators. You can make a donation to the scholarship fund via the website: [www.aeahp.org](http://www.aeahp.org).

If you would like to attend the event, a limited number of tickets are still available on a first come, first served basis. Reservations are \$100 per person.

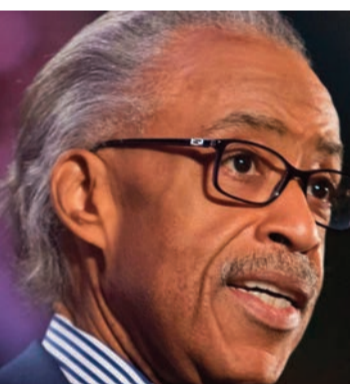
In addition, you may acknowledge one or more individuals (living or deceased) in the souvenir program booklet (In Honor/In Memory) who influenced your pursuit of education for \$25 per name. The deadline to make these purchases is March 3, 2025. Make checks or money orders payable to: AAEHP, and mail to P.O. Box 411091, Dallas, TX 75241, or you may make your purchases online at [www.aeahp.org](http://www.aeahp.org). AAEHP is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

You may also support this event by purchasing a sponsorship or an advertisement in the souvenir program. For more information about the induction ceremony and luncheon, check out our website at [www.aeahp.org](http://www.aeahp.org).

(DALLAS, TX) – Ten outstanding educators will be honored by the African American Education Archives and History Program (AAEHP) by being

inducted into its Educators' Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony/luncheon is set for Noon, Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the Renaissance Dallas

Hotel, 2222 North Stemmons Frwy. AAEHP is honoring also Presidential Awardees — State Senator Royce West and Curtis King, President and



Rev. Al Sharpton

## Outrage Builds Over Trump's Order Ending DEI in Federal Agencies and Contracts

Advocates emphasized that DEI policies benefit everyone by promoting fairness and innovation.

By Stacy M. Brown

President Donald J. Trump's first-day executive order to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies across federal agencies and contractors has drawn widespread condemnation. Critics say the move systematically undermines civil rights, economic equity, and decades of progress toward inclusion for marginalized communities.

The order terminates DEI considerations in federal hiring, promotions, and contracting. It revokes affirmative action criteria in federal contracting and directs agencies to investigate private-sector DEI practices, claiming these measures violate civil rights. Trump's administration heralded the order as a return to "colorblind equality," but civil rights leaders, labor advocates, and lawmakers strongly disagreed.

### CBC: "A Step Backward for America"

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) lambasted the order, calling it "an attack on economic opportunity for Black and minority communities." CBC Chair Yvette Clarke said the action "does nothing to help

our communities grow economically or address the costs of living for hardworking American families."

Clarke connected the move to the Supreme Court's recent decision to end race-conscious college admissions, stating, "This administration is dismantling tools that have opened doors to education and opportunity."

### Broad Condemnation from Advocates

Labor unions, civil rights organizations, and other groups responded with outrage. Everett Kelley, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, warned that eliminating DEI policies would harm both federal employees and the public they serve. "These programs promote fairness and build a federal government that reflects the diverse population it serves," Kelley said. He also noted that DEI initiatives have contributed to narrowing gender and racial pay gaps.

Dr. Andrea Abrams, executive director of the Defending American Values Coalition, called the executive order "an alarming

assault on the core values of diversity and inclusion." Abrams emphasized that DEI has been instrumental in driving innovation and economic growth by fostering workplaces that attract top talent. "By dismantling these efforts, the administration risks weakening our economy and setting our nation back for generations," Abrams said.

SEIU International President April Verrett tied Trump's actions to broader policies prioritizing the wealthy over working families. "This administration has made it clear that its priority is protecting the privileged few, not creating opportunities for everyday Americans," Verrett said.

### "We Will Not Back Down"

Rev. Al Sharpton addressed the order at a Martin Luther King Jr. Day rally in Washington, D.C., warning corporations that abandoning DEI policies would lead to boycotts. "DEI was a remedy to the racial bigotry practiced in academia and corporations. If you want to put us back in the bus, we're going to do the Dr. King-Rosa Parks on you,"

Sharpton declared to a packed audience.

Sharpton reminded listeners of the historical struggles for civil rights and warned that dismantling DEI programs would provoke a sustained fight. "You must have forgotten who we are. We are the ones that you took everything from, and we are still here," he said.

### Economic and Social Impact

Advocates emphasized that DEI policies benefit everyone by promoting fairness and innovation. "Diversity is not a partisan issue," Abrams said. "It strengthens democracy, ensures economic resilience, and gives everyone a fair chance to succeed."

Critics warn that the executive order could reverse decades of progress. "Programs that promote an inclusive workforce ensure rules are applied fairly and help build a government that reflects the people it serves," Kelley noted.

Labor groups, civil rights leaders, and advocates have vowed to resist. "Our fight continues," Verrett said. "We won't back down."



# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## God's Promise of Rest

Hebrews 4:1-10



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The lofty theme of the grand book of Hebrews is the Superiority of Jesus Christ. The author, who is anonymous, has proven unmistakably that Jesus Christ is superior to the Prophets (Hebrews 1:1-3) because the Prophets' revelation was only partial and fragmentary; whereas God's revelation found its finality with or in Christ; Jesus Christ is superior to Angels (Hebrews 1:5-2:18) for the Angels were mere messengers; however, Christ is the Son who will inherit the Messianic Kingdom! In Hebrews 3:1-6, the author presented the fact that Jesus Christ is superior to Moses because Moses was a servant in the house, but Christ is the Son who made the house.

Having quoted from Psalm 95:7-11, the author

has shown that through unbelief that generation from twenty years old and upward that left Egypt did not enter into God's rest of entrance into Canaan; thus, that generation wandered in the wilderness for forty years, and tragically died in the wilderness! They forfeited their opportunity to enter Canaan because of unbelief.

Now beginning in Hebrews 4:1, the author states that God's offer of rest is still valid, for it has never had a complete and final fulfillment in the past. As believers today, we must be awfully careful not to move away from our Christian teachings and embrace some religious system that is powerless to save and offer no hope beyond this life. According to verse 2, the Israelites had heard

the good news of rest in the land of Canaan, but upon hearing it, they did not mix what they heard with faith! They did not profit from the gospel of rest! Unbelief excluded them from the rest which God had prepared for them in the land of promise. The only prerequisite for entering into God's rest is faith, and faith alone (v. 3).

After referring to the fact that God rested on the seventh day from all His works (v. 4), God is still offering rest to mankind. The Israelites in the wilderness failed to enter Canaan because of their rebellion against God's authority. But their stark refusal did not nullify God's ultimate promise of rest. God's promise of rest did not cease with Israel in the wilderness, but He continues pleading

with men to trust Him. Even in David's time, He was still pleading with men to trust Him and not to harden their hearts! (v. 7).

Before we conclude, let us observe the references to the word "rest" in the book of Hebrews. We were first introduced to the word "rest" in Hebrews 3:11, and the word "rest" referred to Canaan's Rest, and a host of Israelites did not experience the rest of entering Canaan because of unbelief! In Hebrews 4:3, there is a Salvation Rest which all believers enjoy. Believers today enjoy the rest of their conscience, knowing that the penalty for all sins has been paid through the finished work of Christ. Then in Hebrews 4:4, there is Creation Rest, wherein God rested from His cre-

ation. God rested, not because He was tired and exhausted, but because of the fact that He had completed His task.

As believers today, you might be asking: "Before experiencing God's Eternal Rest (Heaven), is it possible to experience God's rest?" Yes, the word "rest" really means cessation of activity. For a believer, it means the freedom to enjoy life without having to trust in oneself. It means a life of total confidence in God. After salvation, we must remember that any good works that we perform are the result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as we yield to Him. In this Christian life, we may become weary in God's service though not weary of it. Yes, in this Christian

life, we will encounter many obstacles along the way; storms may rise, and winds may blow, friends may come and they may go; but we must fix our eyes on Jesus, for Hebrews 12:2 says: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

**The hymn writer wrote:**

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.*

*May God Bless!*

### LIFE IS LIKE A CAMERA, JUST FOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT!

- SUPER BOWL -  
(Solution to January 16, Puzzle - see page 5)

**ACROSS**

1. Bungle
5. Cause of a trip?
8. Dao, alt. sp.
11. Between marquess and viscount
12. Super garb?
13. Inlet in Norway
15. Cogito \_\_\_\_ sum
16. Long story
17. Deprived of a limb
18. \*Half-time headliner
20. Ice, dark or middle \_\_\_\_
21. \*Cindy Crawford wore " \_\_\_\_ Dukes" in a Super Bowl ad
22. Flightless bird
23. \*Last year's Super Bowl winners
26. A cheap, run-down motel
30. " \_\_\_\_ the fields we go"
31. Merry
34. Actor's part
35. Expensive
37. Not him
38. Cell phone bill item
39. Civil Rights icon
40. \*David Tyree's \_\_\_\_ Catch
42. Letters of distress
43. What rule follower does
45. Get cozy
47. Greed, biblically-speaking
48. Grieve for the dead
50. Time period
52. \*Team with most Super Bowl appearances
55. 3600 seconds, pl.
56. Casino chip
57. Salmon's output
59. En \_\_\_\_, all together
60. Like Piper of Hamelin
61. Uber alternative
62. \_\_\_\_ Robinson
63. Acronym, abbr.
64. "Come Sail Away" band

**DOWN**

1. Service charge
2. Songbird
3. Craving
4. Marilyn Monroe, e.g.
5. \_\_\_\_ lazuli
6. Hot
7. 52 cards
8. Hefty volume
9. Greek god of war
10. I, e.g.
12. Cherry red
13. Post vitriol
14. \*Team with no Super Bowl appearances
19. Looney Tunes duck
22. Architectural add-on
23. Meat of coconut
24. Roman king of Judea
25. Like certain whiskey
26. Grow crop
27. Brag
28. Algorithmic language
29. Ganders' companions
32. Tom Jones's " \_\_\_\_ a Lady"
33. Rolodex abbr.
36. \* \_\_\_\_ Superdome
38. Wombs
40. Lady lobster
41. Hardened
44. Follows wash
46. Pig sounds
48. Bouncing off the walls
49. Weasel's aquatic cousin
50. Fly like an eagle
51. Boot-wearing kitty
52. Mama Bear's husband
53. To perfection (3 words)
54. \*Justin Timberlake's " \_\_\_\_ Back," sung in Super Bowl show
55. Expression of doubt
58. \*Steelers' number of Super Bowl trophies

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle  
Theme: SUPER BOWL

CROSSWORD											
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15					16				17		
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# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Jan. 23

Friday, Jan. 24

Saturday, Jan. 25

Sunday, Jan. 26

Monday, Jan. 27

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Wednesday, Jan. 29



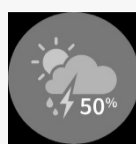
H - 48°  
L - 30°



H - 55°  
L - 36°



H - 54°  
L - 46°



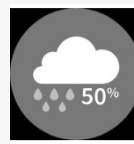
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L - 43°



H - 52°  
L - 36°



H - 51°  
L - 39°



H - 55°  
L - 43°

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#### Continued Risks Page 1

According to the study, earlier underestimations of dementia risk were likely due to unreliable recording in health records and death certificates, insufficient monitoring of early-stage cases, and underreporting of cases among racial minorities, who are especially vulnerable.

Conducted by a team from NYU Langone Health with contributions from Johns Hopkins University and other institutions, the research utilized data from the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Neurocognitive Study (ARIC-NCS). Since 1987, this study has monitored the vascular health and cognitive function of nearly 16,000 participants, making it the longest-followed cohort of African Americans studying cognition and heart health.

The study, published in Nature Medicine, indicates that women and Black adults, along with individuals carrying the APOE4 gene variant, face higher risks of developing dementia, with lifetime risks rang-

ing from 45 percent to 60 percent in these groups.

Dr. Josef Coresh, the study's senior investigator from NYU Langone, noted the expected increase in dementia cases due to longer life expectancies and the high number of Americans now over age 65. He underlined the importance of early intervention strategies that target heart health to potentially slow cognitive decline and reduce the onset of dementia.

The study also links hearing loss among older adults to increased dementia risk, recommending enhanced testing and government support for hearing aids to promote healthy hearing.

"The pending population boom in dementia cases poses significant challenges for health policymakers, who must refocus their efforts on strategies to minimize the severity of dementia cases, as well as plans to provide more healthcare services for those with dementia," Dr. Coresh stated.

## Dak Prescott buys each Dallas Cowboys teammate an electric bike

By Tracy DeLatta



Photo Credit: NBC News

#### The Brief

- Dak Prescott bought all of his teammates electric bikes as a gift.
- The 85 bikes were each customized with the player's jersey numbers.
- Prescott said it was a way to thank his teammates for their dedication.

FRISCO, Texas - Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott is hoping to motivate his teammates with a unique gift.

Prescott partnered with Emoto Supply Company to give them all CAKE Makka electric motorcycles.

As the team leader, he had all 85 bikes customized with the jersey numbers of each player on the roster.

The company shared a video on YouTube of the players seemingly very excited to take their new rides for a spin.

Prescott said the gift is a heartfelt thank you to each of his teammates for their dedication and role in his success.

The Source: The information in this story comes from a YouTube video shared by Emoto Supply Co.

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### Continued Pardon Page 4

investigated or prosecuted can irreparably damage reputations and finances." General Milley said he was grateful. "After forty-three years of faithful service in uniform to our Nation, protecting and defending the Constitution, I do not wish to spend whatever remaining time the Lord grants me fighting those who unjustly might seek retribution for perceived slights," Milley stated.

Fauci also acknowledged the pardons. "There

is absolutely no basis for these threats," Fauci stated. "I have committed no crime, and there are no possible grounds for any allegation or threat of criminal investigation or prosecution of me."

The unprecedented use of presidential pardon power comes as Biden continues to express concern over what he perceives as potential abuses of power by his successor. As Trump assumes office, he has indicated plans to pardon many involved in

the Jan. 6 attack, contrasting Biden's protective measures for those who investigated it.

"I am eternally grateful to President Joe Biden, not just for this preemptive pardon, but for his leadership and service to this nation, especially over the last four years," said Capitol Police Officer Harry Dunn. "I wish this pardon weren't necessary, but unfortunately, the political climate we are in now has made the need for one somewhat of a reality."

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

(Solution to January 16 Puzzle - THE GRAMMYS)

A	C	R	E		B	R	A		W	O	R	E					
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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Can The New Administration Be For The American People?

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D

That's a good question. Well, here we are. There is a new administration in Washington DC. If you are looking at the political landscape, the Republicans control all branches of government.

Since the election in November, the results all suggested that the GOP would take control. Democrats are a fractious group right now. Will that change? Let's hope there will be better and brighter days ahead.

That's the belief the Democrats must have as they try to convince voters they are still strong and viable. Who in the party will stand out and speak up? Who will be the emerging leaders with new ways of connecting with people?

I would opine many Americans have become voter weary because this

past election was so significant in American history.

You had an African American woman, Kamala Harris, running for the highest office in the land. The buzz and the beat behind her made a lot of us think she was going to be the next president of the United States of America.

What will she do next in her career? Some think that she will have an endowed chair at Howard University. Others believe she will play a more prominent role in the future of the Democratic Party.

January 20th was Dr. Martin Luther Jr. Day and the inauguration of the new president, Donald Trump. I suspect the social justice and political irony weren't lost on most Americans. Dr. King fought for justice and fairness for all Americans.

His achievements and contributions changed the moral fabric of this country. He was fearless and unafraid of a system that penalized people because of their race or economic status.

Dr. King said, "Our nettle task is to discover how to organize our

strength into compelling power so that government cannot elude our demands. We must develop from strength a situation in which the government finds it wise and prudent to collaborate with us."

Mr. Trump had his day of festivities. Now, what kind of leader will he be? There are so many questions attached to his presidency.

Will he be for the people or for a selected few of them? Some states and their leaders are ecstatic that he is the president. Governor Jeff Landry of Louisiana is a longtime supporter of the new president. In addition to the US flag flying, he had a MAGA flag flying with it.

The president's cabinet nominees are being interviewed by the Senate committee. We will soon see how many of them pass muster. Most are people of great financial wealth and means.

Can they pass legislation that will benefit us? Will sanity and reason prevail, or will there be constant episodes of Tom Foolery?

Will time-honored tradi-

tions still be in place or will our nation be harmed by unsustainable policies and practices? Will democracy still be our rule of law?

There are no crystal balls that allow us to forecast the future. We can only look at the track records of those now in power. It is safe to say that America is at a critical juncture in its storied history.

For many Americans, January 20th was a day to reflect upon the progress of America. We pledged to continue to uphold rights and to do as much good in our communities as we can.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "There is an invisible book of life that faithfully records our vigilance or our neglect." We, the American people, embrace right and disavow wrong. We must continue to be steadfast and unmovable in our quest for civility and equality.

Each day must be a day when we give hope to others by our actions and by our words. Sometimes in life, there are detours that impede our progress. Stay strong. New construction is on the way.

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### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Staying healthy all season long: Tips for combatting respiratory viruses

Parkland Health experts share advice for avoiding illness this winter

DALLAS – Winter roared this month, bringing along snow, cold weather, and a higher likelihood of catching a respiratory virus. Whether it's a common cold, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) or the flu, there are plenty of germs floating around. However, there are steps you can take to keep yourself and your loved ones healthy all season long.

"Flu season doesn't really peak until the middle of February, and we don't typically see a decline in cases until March, so there are still several months of flu season ahead of us. However, the flu shot is close to 90% effective and the best way to stay healthy and avoid severe illness or hospitalization this year," said Joseph Chang, MD,

Chief Medical Officer of Parkland Health.

With flu season carrying well into spring, there is still time to get vaccinated, as Texas often sees the highest volume of flu activity in February, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The flu vaccine is recommended annually for anyone 6 months and older, including pregnant women.

"The flu isn't just a common cold; often, it can cause serious complications, including pneumonia, asthma attacks, and even death," said Cesar Termulo, MD, Associate Medical Director for Parkland's Network of Community-Oriented Primary Care (COPC) health centers. "Young children are especially at risk for se-

vere illness, including high fevers that can trigger seizures. Last year, over 200 children died from the flu, so it's more than just a runny nose and cough."

Parkland makes it easy to get your flu shot. Patients of all ages can visit Parkland's COPCs for a flu shot at no cost with most insurances (restrictions may apply). To avoid waiting, Wednesdays are recommended. During Walk-In Wednesdays, a staff dedicated solely to providing flu shots is available from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m.

Along with getting vaccinated, there are plenty of other precautions you can take to stay well this winter. "The biggest thing you can do to stay healthy is to get your flu shot, but

it's also important to make sure you're staying hydrated, eating good nutrition, avoiding large gatherings and people who are sick, and, of course, practicing consistent hand-washing," Dr. Termulo said.

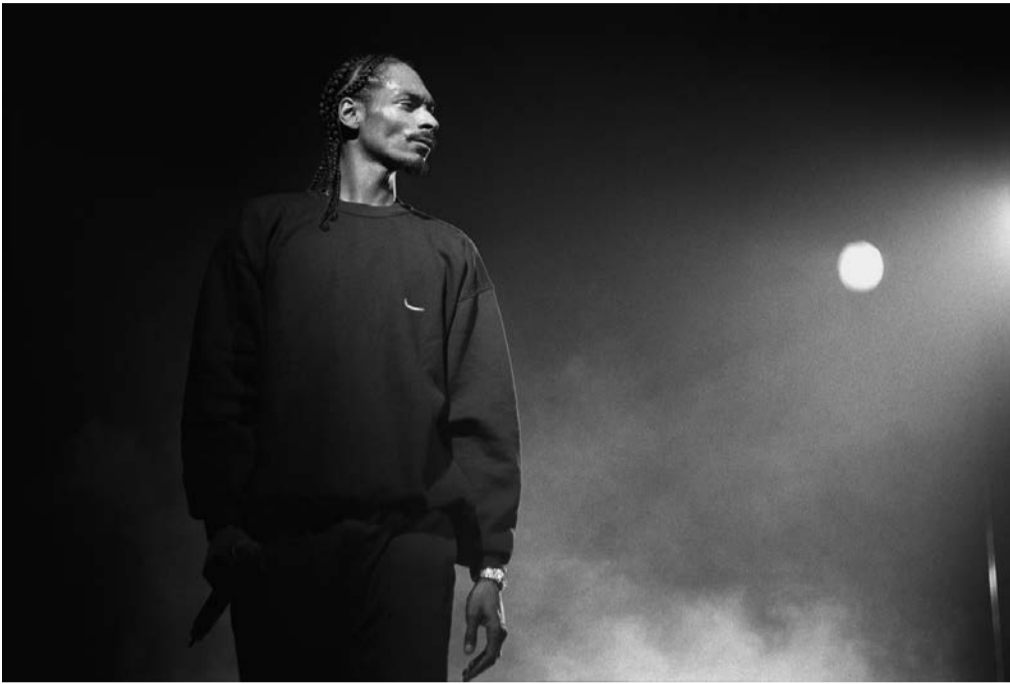
For protection against severe RSV, vaccines are available to adults 60 and older, as well as pregnant women between 32-36 weeks gestation to protect their infants after birth. Additionally, infants born to mothers who did not receive a maternal RSV vaccine are eligible for a monoclonal antibody injection that protects against the virus.

For more information about Parkland, visit [www.parklandhealth.org](http://www.parklandhealth.org).

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# Backlash for Snoop Dogg's Performance is Getting Louder

By April D. Ryan,  
BlackPressUSA.com Washington Bureau Chief and Chief White House Correspondent



Snoop Dog - Photo Credit by Mika Väisänen / Wikimedia Commons.

Social media is abuzz over Snoop Dogg's performance during the 60th presidential inauguration ceremonies for Donald John Trump Friday night. Some supporters are calling it "sickening," and on social media, others are asking, how they should address this controversy. Snoop Dogg, clad in what looked like a tuxedo, performed at the first ever Crypto Ball while guests who paid upwards of

\$2,500 a ticket wore hats exclaiming, "Make crypto great again." The event was meant to emphasize President-Elect Donald Trump's enthusiasm about crypto currency. Needless to say, the tickets were sold out for the Snoop Dogg event at the Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. The rap star, whose songs include words about sipping on gin and juice with money on his mind, created a flurry

of controversy on social media along with singer Nelly, who is also expected to perform during Trump inauguration events this holiday weekend. On social media, many Snoop Dogg and Nelly fans are questioning whether the singers should be muted, like Chrisette Michele, who was blackballed once she sang at the first Trump inauguration in 2017. In 2016, Snoop joined the chorus of those

condemning anyone who performed at the Trump inauguration calling them "jigaboos" and "Uncle Toms." The very visible shift in Snoop's feelings about Trump came when then President Trump granted clemency to Death Row Records co-founder Michael Harris. Fast forward to this weekend, and the irony of all the attention on the Crypto inauguration event. Many people posted the Snoop performance, which he had not even mentioned on his Instagram account as of early Saturday morning.

Meanwhile, Snoop's inauguration appearance should not be a surprise. The Long Beach, California native, rapper, producer, and actor, whose real name is Calvin Broadus Jr., supported Republican Los Angeles mayoral candidate Rick Caruso in 2022. Caruso lost to the then-Democratic California Congresswoman Karen Bass after spending \$110 million of his own money on that campaign.

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Continued Ryan Page 1

the 198th Year of the Black Press of America, we acknowledge the transformative contemporary benefit to the amplification of the strategic importance of the Black Press that will be rendered by the courage and professional effectiveness of April Ryan. April is the longest serving, Black tenured White House Correspondent in the history of the United States," emphasized Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President and CEO of the NNPA.

make history as the Washington Bureau Chief and Senior White House Correspondent for Black Press USA. This is the home of History Makers who were the first Black White House Correspondents, Harry McAlpin, Ethel Payne, and Alice Dunnigan," said Ryan. "January 13, 2025, marked my 28th year as a White House Correspondent and I am thrilled to continue my journey at honoring the esteemed legacy of these iconic Black journalists."

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# Wendy Williams Speaks Out: 'I Am Not Cognitively Impaired; I Am in Prison'

*Despite her diagnosis with frontotemporal dementia and primary progressive aphasia in 2023, Williams was assertive.*

By Stacy M. Brown

Continued Faces Page 1  
lawsuit, retired Black police officer Anthony Williams and his white wife, Katsiaryna Shasholka, claim they were wrongfully accused of human trafficking by another passenger on their honeymoon flight from Phoenix to Miami. The couple was publicly escorted off the plane, detained, and subjected to humiliating scrutiny by airline staff without any credible evidence. The event suggests a possible trend of racial profiling by airline staff, as it is similar to another case involving artist David Ryan Harris, who was falsely accused of trafficking his mixed children. American also has faced legal jeopardy because of its hiring and employment practices. Following a complaint by America First Legal, American Airlines was found to have violated federal anti-discrimination laws in its hiring practices. This has reportedly led to a mandated cessation of these practices after a federal investigation by the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. Last year, the U.S. Transportation Depart-

ment imposed a \$50 million fine on American for failing to provide adequate assistance to passengers with disabilities, a record fine for such violations, which emphasizes the need for significant improvements in how the airline assists vulnerable passengers. American Airlines claimed that it has maintained a commitment to enhance the travel experience for all its passengers. The airline said it continues to review complaints and allegations against it. Transportation officials said the urgency for comprehensive policy and operational reforms remains high as the airline navigates through these legal and public relations challenges. "The dignity of every passenger that entrusts American Airlines with their travel must be affirmed," stated the attorney for Anthony Williams. "This case is about much more than rectifying a single grievous wrong; it's about addressing systemic issues that undermine passenger trust and safety. Our efforts aim to ensure that no other individual or family undergoes such a distressing experience ever again."

Wendy Williams stunned her fans and others when she made a surprise call to "The Breakfast Club," where she revealed deep frustrations with a conservatorship she described as "emotional abuse." Despite her diagnosis with frontotemporal dementia and primary progressive aphasia in 2023, Williams was assertive. "I am not cognitively impaired," she demanded. "But I feel like I am in prison." The former talk show queen and radio host expressed her discomfort with being placed in a maximum-security care facility alongside much older residents. "I'm in this place where the people are in their 90s and their 80s and their 70s," she told Charlamagne Tha God. "There's something wrong with these people here on this floor." Williams then criticized her conservatorship. "This system is broken," she declared. Williams then described her isolation, having lost her autonomy with her pets taken away

and her finances under strict control. Her niece, Alex, also on the call, shared that Williams' guardian, Sabrina Morrissey, retains control over Williams' older phone and restricts her financial autonomy. During the interview, Williams shared her longing to visit her 94-year-old father in Miami for his birthday, though it remains unclear if she will be allowed to travel. "At 94, the day after that is not promised," Williams remarked. Alex voiced concern about potential repercussions from the guardian following the interview, recounting a critical conversation: "I said, 'You know, we do this; you're ready for what's on the other side?' And as she said, 'I have to do this. There's nothing else I could do at this point.'" The family also raised concerns about being in the dark regarding Williams' location during the airing of the documentary "Where is Wendy Williams." The interview con-



Wendy Williams

cluded with Williams using her iconic catchphrase, "How you doin'?" Charlamagne encouraged listeners to amplify the story on social media. Just one week prior to Williams calling into the show, Charlamagne had described another phone conversation he had with Williams over the Christmas holiday. "She seemed perfectly fine to me... there ain't nothing incapacitated about Wendy Williams," Charlamagne told his audience. He recalled a humorous moment from that call when Williams playfully thought he was recording. The conversation

around Williams' conservatorship has contributed to a growing national dialogue about such legal arrangements. The cases of Britney Spears and Amanda Bynes have already brought attention to potential abuses. Additionally, as reported by ESPN and NPR, the situation involving football player Michael Oher further complicated the discourse. After turning eighteen, Oher was under a conservatorship managed by the Tuohy family rather than being adopted. This allegedly led to the family profiting significantly from his earnings, including royalties from the movie "The Blind Side."

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# Kimberly Bizer Tolbert Named Dallas City Manager



City Manager Kimberly Bizer Tolbert

DALLAS - January 22, the Dallas City Council adopted a resolution appointing Interim City Manager Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, to the position of City Manager. Tolbert is the 19th city manager for the City of Dallas, dating back to 1931. The resolution also approved the terms of her employment and authorized the execution of an Agreement of Employment.

This appointment follows a national search for Dallas' City Manager, led by the City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Affairs, with Mayor Pro Tem Tennell Atkins as its Chair. She was selected as one of three finalists for the role and in addition to interviews, par-

icipated in three candidate community engagement events.

Tolbert was appointed Interim City Manager in May 2024. At that time, Tolbert proactively launched a 100-day transition plan to address critical areas for process improvement and operational enhancements. Some of her key successes within her first 100 days as Interim City Manager include delivering a balanced biennial FY 2024-25 budget with unanimous City Council Approval, cutting overall new construction commercial permitting median issuance time by 31%, restructuring the organizational chart to foster greater cross-departmental collaboration, consolidated

multiple departments to enhance productivity, saving \$13 million, and launched recruitment and retention incentives to enhance first responder competitiveness.

As Dallas' City Manager, City Manager Tolbert will continue to oversee the City's \$5.2 billion budget and 13,000+ City of Dallas team members.

"I want to thank the City Council for their confidence in me to lead this City as we evolve on the world stage, with a thriving and inclusive community that sets the standard for excellence," said Tolbert.

"I am certain that we can collectively achieve this through innovation, efficient government, and targeted economic growth. But we cannot do it alone. Each of our stakeholders makes Dallas extraordinary, and we are committed to continuing to foster trust by delivering on our promise of Service First, with the urgency of Now! Finally, I want to thank our talented City of Dallas team. Their passion and dedication have inspired me during my tenure as Interim City Manager, and I am excited to build upon the momentum we have already achieved."

In a statement following the vote, City of Dallas Mayor Eric L. Johnson said:

"I am proud to support Kimberly Bizer Tolbert as Dallas' new city manager. As Interim City Manager for the past 10 months, Tolbert has streamlined city operations, improved government efficiency, reduced taxpayer waste, and delivered a budget with the largest single-year property tax rate reduction in Dallas history."

"With Tolbert now serving in a permanent role, Dallas is poised to take full advantage of the opportunities before us as we continue to reduce the tax rate, enhance government efficiency and transparency, and keep the people of Dallas safe. Now, Dallas can take the next steps toward hiring permanent police and fire chiefs to strengthen our standing as the safest major city in America."

"Lastly, I want to thank Mayor Pro Tem Tennell Atkins for his leadership in guiding the selection process as chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Affairs," added Mayor Johnson.

The appointment is effective January 22, 2025.

# They're going to Walt Disney World! 100 Teens Selected for 2025 Disney Dreamers Academy

By Jason Roberts



LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. – Jan. 16, 2025 – There are 100 high school students from across the country heading to Walt Disney World Resort in Florida in March to take the next step in chasing their biggest dreams, such as developing cutting-edge technology, addressing food insecurity and even designing the next great Disney attractions. These ambitious teens make up the new 2025 class of Disney Dreamers Academy, a popular mentoring program at Walt Disney World Resort designed to inspire and empower students from diverse communities by encouraging them to explore limitless possibilities and turn their dreams into reality.

After surprising students in Houston and Atlanta with their selection earlier this week, Walt Disney World released the names of the remaining students today. At the multi-day program at Walt Disney World, March 26-30, 2025, Disney Dreamers will connect with business leaders, Disney executives, celebrities, and educators through workshops and seminars created to inspire and accelerate their career aspirations. They'll explore diverse career fields; develop essential

skills such as communication, leadership, and networking; and, of course, enjoy the magic and wonder of Walt Disney World, which continues to elevate the guest experience through ongoing investments in new attractions, entertainment and more.

"We are thrilled to spark new possibilities and provide these future leaders with the tools they need to chase their dreams," said Shannon Smith-Conrad, a Walt Disney World Ambassador. "After 18 years of hosting Disney Dreamers Academy, we continue to be inspired by these teens and their incredible accomplishments."

Each year, the Disney Dreamers are selected from thousands of applicants who answer essay questions about their personal stories and dreams for the future. The selected students, plus a parent or guardian, enjoy an all-expenses-paid trip to Walt Disney World. Since 2008, Disney Dreamers Academy, which is an important part of Walt Disney World's commitment to supporting diverse communities, has inspired more than 1,700 students from across the country by fueling their dreams and showing them a world of possibilities.

### - Profile -

#### Experience

Kimberly Bizer Tolbert works collaboratively with executive leadership and management to carry out the goals and objectives of the organization. With over 20 years of public service experience, Tolbert has expertise and knowledge in strategy development and execution, administration, finance, operations, governance, business development, diversity and inclusion, change, and people management.

Prior to rejoining the City of Dallas in February 2017, she held executive positions with the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) from 2008 to 2016, serving as an Assistant Executive Director, Chief of Staff, Chief Strategic Officer, and Director of Strategy and Innovation. She also previously served nearly a decade with the City of Dallas in various roles, including assistant director of the Department of Aviation and assistant to the City Manager.

#### Education

- Master of Public Administration, University of North Texas
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of North Texas

#### Professional Membership & Awards

- University of North Texas (UNT) Public Administration Advisory Board
- National Forum for Black Administrators (NFBPA)
- Texas City Management Association (TCMA)
- Jack and Jill of America Inc.
- UNT-MPA Distinguished Alumni Award, 2010
- Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award, Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS)
- Outstanding Executive Luna Awards, Regional Hispanic Contractors Association (RHCA)

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- Future Doctors Summer Camp
- Get Energized with Energy Explorations!
- Hydroponics, Drones, and 3D Printing (Emerging Technologies)
- Innovation and Discovery!
- Join the Lifesaving Adventure: CPR Basics!
- Just Dance
- Maker Space-Make and Take Crank 'N Shine
- Superpower Sources!
- Math in Motion: Build, Code, Create!
- Mechatronics in the Making
- Playdough Power: Building Circuits with Fun!
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- Rekenrek Bracelet
- Robots and Rovers
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- You are a Walking Experiment!
- Your One-Stop STEM Shop

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- 01.30** | LeVity Live | Oxnard, CA
- 02.07-08** | Funny Bone | Syracuse, NY
- 02.11** | City Winery | New York, NY
- 02.15-16** | Helium | Buffalo, NY
- 02.21-22** | Comedy Zone | Jacksonville, FL
- 02.28-03.02** | Improv | Arlington, TX
- 03.14-15** | Funny Bone | Toledo, OH
- 04.01** | The Laff House | Atlantic City, NJ
- 04.04-05** | Improv | Pittsburgh, PA
- 04.11-12** | Stress Factory | New Brunswick, NJ
- 04.25-26** | Tommy T's | Pleasanton, CA
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- 05.09-10** | Baltimore Comedy Factory | Baltimore, MD
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- 06.06-07** | Funny Bone | Hartford, CT
- 06.12** | Improv | San Jose, CA
- 06.20-21** | Funny Bone | Dayton, OH
- 07.11-12** | Comedy Zone | Charlotte, NC
- 07.18-19** | Funny Bone | Tampa, FL
- 08.01-02** | Improv | Raleigh, NC
- 08.08-09** | Funny Bone | Orlando, FL
- 09.05-07** | Improv | Houston, TX
- 09.12-13** | LeVity Live | West Nyack, NY
- 09.19-20** | Funny Bone | Columbus, OH
- 09.26-27** | Funny Bone | Virginia Beach, VA
- 10.03-04** | Funny Bone | Kansas City, MO
- 10.10-12** | Helium | St. Louis, MO
- 10.17-18** | Funny Bone | Cleveland, OH
- 10.24-25** | Funny Bone | Cincinnati (Liberty), OH
- 11.07-08** | Improv | Ontario, CA
- 11.14-15** | LeVity Live | Huntsville, AL
- 11.21-23** | Helium | Indianapolis, IN
- 12.07** | Improv | Brea, CA

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