

“I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.” ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. ~



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VOLUME 77 NUMBER 21

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

January 30 - February 5, 2025

Nancy Leftenant-Colon Trailblazing Army Nurse and Air Force Veteran, Dies at 104

Known for quietly breaking barriers during her remarkable military career, Leftenant-Colon enjoyed a legacy of resilience, excellence, and service.

By Stacy M. Brown



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Nancy Leftenant-Colon, the first Black woman to join the U.S. Army Nurse Corps after the military was desegregated in the 1940s, has died at the age of 104. She passed away earlier this month at a nursing home in New York. Known for quietly breaking barriers during her remarkable military career, Leftenant-Colon enjoyed a legacy of resilience, excellence, and service.

Born on September 29, 1920, in Goose Creek, South Carolina, to James

and Eunice Leftenant, she graduated from Amityville High School in New York in 1939. Despite facing racial discrimination, Leftenant-Colon pursued her passion for nursing, graduating from Lincoln School of Nursing in 1941. According to her biography posted on Tuskegeeairmen.org, when she initially sought to join the Armed Forces, she was denied due to her race. Undeterred, she persisted and

Continue **Nancy** Page 5

Trump Administration Rescinds Federal Funding Freeze After Court Ruling and Backlash

By Stacy M. Brown

President Donald Trump's administration on Wednesday rescinded a Project 2025-inspired order that had abruptly frozen most federal grants and loans, a sweeping directive that threw social service programs like Head Start, student loans, and Medicaid into disarray. The initial order, issued earlier in the week, sparked widespread confusion and disruption, prompting a swift legal challenge. On Tuesday evening, a federal judge temporarily blocked the freeze, and by Wednesday, the White House pulled back the directive altogether. The order's reversal came after mounting pressure from lawmakers, advocacy groups, and af-

ected organizations. The White House insisted the move was intended to “end any confusion” following the court’s injunction, but critics called it a political miscalculation. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said the administration backed down only because of public outcry. “Americans fought back, and Donald Trump backed off,” Schumer said in a statement. “Though the Trump administration failed in this tactic, it’s no secret that they will try to find another, and when they do, it will again be Senate Democrats there to call it out, fight back, and defend American families.”

Continue **Freeze** Page 4

Harvard Under Fire for Slashing Slavery

By Stacy M. Brown



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Harvard University abruptly terminated staff contributing to the research component of its Slavery Remembrance Program on January 23, leaving employees without notice and sparking outrage about the institution’s commitment to its \$100 million Harvard and

the Legacy of Slavery Initiative. The decision comes during a national wave of setbacks to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) efforts, widespread layoffs of minority employees, and actions by states and schools to diminish the teaching of Black history.

The Slavery Remembrance Program, a cornerstone of the Legacy of Slavery Initiative, was implemented to address Harvard’s extensive entanglements with slavery. Harvard says the latest developments would not affect ongoing research and activities. The

2022 report by the university’s Presidential Initiative on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery detailed how Harvard enslaved over 70 individuals, benefited financially from slavery-related industries, and upheld racial hierarchies through “race science” and eugenics.

Richard J. Cellini, the program’s director, was also dismissed after he reportedly challenged the university’s administration for allegedly interfering with the research’s scope. Cellini had accused Sara Bleich, the initiative’s overseer, of attempting to suppress findings that uncovered descendants tied to Harvard’s slavery legacy. According to reports, Cellini gave the administration an ultimatum: either allow the program to conduct its research without obstruction or fire

Continue **Harvard** Page 3

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partment (DPD) will continue to be responsive to community needs and promote public safety for residents. DPD will continue to enforce city and state laws while upholding the constitutional rights of residents. DPD and other city

departments are guided by the Dallas Welcoming Strategic Plan, which seeks to serve as a plan for civic, economic, and linguistic social integration and inclusion for Dallas’ diverse communities.

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changes to how the City of Dallas and DPD will provide services. This also means that if you are a victim of a crime, you have the right to report it, regardless of immigration status. The City of Dallas will continue to follow changes to federal or state law and will communicate if there is an impact on municipal operations through regular City communication channels, including the City of Dallas website, social media, press releases, and newsletters.

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Additional Information:

- The federal government is primarily responsible for enforcing laws regarding immigration.
- The Dallas Police

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EDITORIAL PAGE

My Day

Poetry in Protest Poetry in Balls of Confusion

Part A

By Dr. J. Ester Davis (esterdavis2000@gmail.com)



Dr. J. Ester Davis

All of America owes much to a man with the last name "King".

As a teenager in rural South Texas, my every move was orchestrated and monitored by my family. All the children, girls and boys on both sides, were taught the same thing about survival, with a focus on education, reading, driving, hunting, and changing a flat. I first remember hearing about

Dr. King in the late 50's, because we received magazines in the mail. We had a television set and could watch television for one hour on weekdays. Those shows were either "The Hit Parade" or "Mickey Mouse".

However, the magic in my years was taking the pickup truck up to Mr. Oscar Reece's farm to get a gallon of sugar cane syrup. A gallon was \$3.00. On the way, I had to drop off homemade gingerbread and check the post office box to see if my music books were in. We did not pump gas, go downtown Conroe, and were told on a regular basis we were as good as anybody else.

It is hard to believe that Martin Luther King, Jr., has been dead for 57 years and we, as a people, are essentially back to 'ground

zero'. The question that comes to mind is ... what happened? How did we get here? I thought we had freedom...oh really? What is freedom? Is the age of protest dead? I think the age of public protest is dead and now only exists through your dollars. Public Protesting was a great experience, but the rules have been upgraded. But here and now are 'balls of confusion' etched in concrete. But stay with me. Let me explain.

I often wonder what Dr. King would have been if not for his father, but the seeds of religion were planted in early life. In school, he skipped grades, finishing high school in two years and entering college at 15 years old. King knew that the Gandhian method of nonviolence, which is one of the most

potent weapons on earth, was a doctrine of love. Many, many black children were taught the same thing.

Many balls of confusion entered into our sheer existence before the inauguration in January 2025. Before it is over, every American will think about Dr. King, his words of love, and his direction for the United States, especially the Black men and ladies. Bottom line, up-front and personal, we are indeed a capitalistic society. We have the freedom to start a business. We have the freedom to skip grades, finish college early. We have the freedom to save for a car and the absolute freedom to work two jobs.

Again, all of the Americas owe much to a man called King.

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The Constant Misery Of Those Without Food, Clothing And Shelter

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D

Arthur Ashe, the iconic world-class tennis player and social justice advocate, once said, "Start where you are, use what you have, and do what you can." This time-honored expression rings true for us today.

We in America are living in complex and challenging times. Our day-to-day existence brings on bumps and detours on our road in life. That is the case even if you have a few pennies stashed away.

Tragedies have altered the way of living for many Americans during the first month of this year. I wonder if this is a foretaste of what is to come. It is scary when you think about it.

As you ponder our future in this country, we must consider the political climate. Even the casual observer sees executive or-

ders pouring out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Will they help us, or will they hinder us? We find ourselves more than ever before living in a hyper-partisan political world. The early prognosticators are suggesting that doom and gloom await us.

The prices of goods and services are still high. The overall cost of providing is out of line when compared to previous years. Our dollars just don't go as far. Reports say consumer prices went up 3% from June 2023 to June 2024.

There are some things most Americans take for granted each day. Why? It is because we have had them all our lives. We were born into them.

As we move closer to the month of February, there is a population in our country that continues to be neglected. The basic needs most Americans have all the time have been out of reach for some of our brothers and sisters. This term has nothing to do with race or ethnicity but has everything to do with us being a part of each other.

The homeless population has increased over

time. Waking up hungry and going to sleep hungry are common occurrences for the forgotten among us. They are the silent and the helpless who roam our streets looking for hand-outs.

We give them money and sometimes clothes. Our inconsistency is their daily consistency. We know where every meal will be served. They don't. We change clothes every day. They don't.

Reports say there were 771,480 homeless people in the United States of America last year. That number is staggering and shameful. We live in the greatest country in the world. It is the home of the brave and the land of the free. It is also the land of the homeless.

An AI overview states, "The homeless population in America is currently experiencing a significant rise, with many experts citing a lack of affordable housing, rising living costs and insufficient government support as major contributing factors."

There are over 12,000 Community Housing and Homeless Shelters in our country. This represents

roughly a 2% increase. This is not enough to adequately care for the men, women and children that find themselves sleeping under bridges at night.

The Salvation Army is one of several organizations leading the initiative to create a better way of life for homeless Americans. Covenant House is the largest privately funded childcare agency in the United States providing shelter and service to homeless and runaway youth.

If you are in a club or organization, you can help to create food banks and clothing drives. For example, are you a member of the Divine Nine?

We can't wait for state and federal governments to lend a hand. Maybe they will and maybe they won't.

Let's in our next organization's meeting develop a year-long program to help our homeless brothers and sisters. The difference we make will help to stop this homeless epidemic.

Amid these tumultuous times, the time to do more is now. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The time is always right to do what is right."

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Some Great Instructions Against the Background of Unbelief

Hebrews 4:11-16



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 (better than) anything that Judaism has to offer. He is presenting a powerful argument in urging his Jewish audience to remain steadfast to their profession of faith, and not to renounce Christ because of persecution and afflictions! Thus far, the writer of this grand book has demonstrated that Jesus Christ is superior to the Prophets (Hebrews 1:1-3) because the Prophets' revelation was partial and fragmentary; whereas, the finality of God's revelation found its completion in Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ is superior to the

Angels (Hebrews 1:5-2:18) because Angels were mere messengers of God, but Jesus Christ is the Son of God who will inherit the Messianic Kingdom! In Hebrews 3:1-6, the writer demonstrated that Jesus Christ is superior to Moses, for Moses was a servant in the house; whereas, Christ is the Son over the house!

In an effort to spur his Jewish audience to remain steadfast to the Christian profession, he presents the following:

(A) Solemn Warning, Hebrews 4:11. In verse 11, the author suggested that diligence is necessary in our experiences to enter into the rest God has for us! As believers, we have already received His salvation rest (Hebrews 4:3a, 9-10) but some of us are

not completely resting in Him in our daily living! But often our state does not correspond to our standing. On the sea of life, many believers are restless; instead, God wants us to rest in Him. As believers, we must pay strict attention to this solemn warning in verse 11, that says: "Let us labour, therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." The author had exhorted that God's rest is still available. The suggestion that we "labour" for God's rest misses the point. As believers, we must be diligent to make sure that our hope is anchored in Jesus Christ. We must resist any temptation to profess faith in Him and then to renounce Him in a heat of distress

and persecution! The Israelites of old did not fully trust God; they trusted His power to bring them out of Egypt; but, they renounced His ability to sustain them in the wilderness. They were not diligent in appropriating God's promises by faith. We should be warned by their example.

(B) Not only did the author give them a solemn warning in verse 11, but he presented them with a scrutinizing word (Hebrews 4:12-13). He presented God's Word as "living, active, cutting, dividing and discerning." The "living Word" and the "Living Lord" will detect any unbelief. The solemn warning is that unbelief will never go undetected. The word of God is living and active and must be the

ultimate test of our profession of faith. The Word is a discernor, for it exposes our very thoughts and intents of our hearts. The Word probes into the inner recesses of our beings and explores all our motives! (v.12). Unbelief is not only detected by the "living Word", but also by the "Living Lord", for nothing escapes the Lord's notice (v. 13b).

(C) Not only did the author present a solemn warning in verse 11, a scrutinizing word in verses 12-13, but he also presents a stately High Priest (vv. 14-16). Man has always felt a need for a priest, one who could represent him before God. In these lofty verses, he presents Jesus Christ as our Great High Priest. He is our stately High Priest

because there were many high priests under the Mosaic economy, but none was ever called great. This Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, has passed through the heavens and is now seated at the Father's Right Hand (Hebrews 1:3). This same Great High Priest was both human and Divine, who sympathizes with us and available to help "in the nick of time." He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin (v. 15). In a time of need we are exhorted to come boldly to God's throne for verse 16 says: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

May God Bless!

Continued **Harvard** Page 1

him. Days later, his termination followed.

The decision has drawn sharp criticism from within and beyond the university. Staff told The Harvard Crimson they had no prior indication that their roles

were at risk. One former employee described the layoffs as devastating. "We were conducting vital work, uncovering Harvard's ties to slavery and its legacies. Cutting this program sends a clear and troubling signal about where priorities lie," the employee told the news-

paper.

Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery Advisory Council member Henry Louis Gates Jr. publicly praised Cellini's contributions, stating in a university press release, "Richard Cellini's superb efforts launched us on our way on this historically impor-

tant mission. We are indebted to Richard for his early guidance and his ambitious leadership."

Harvard announced the program's next phase will proceed under the leadership of American Ancestors, a genealogical organization. However, critics argue the

abrupt staff dismissals undermine the credibility of the university's stated commitment to reckoning with its history. "Institutions like Harvard have the resources to set an example for accountability," said one academic familiar with the initiative. "But actions like

these raise serious doubts."

The controversy follows Harvard's 2022 acknowledgment of its historical reliance on slavery. According to its report, the university's leaders, faculty, and donors directly profited from

Continue **Harvard** Page 6

~ VALENTINE'S DAY ~

(Solution to January 23, Puzzle ~ see page 5)

ACROSS

1. Past participle of spit
5. King Kong, e.g.
8. Greek portico
12. Not to be mentioned
13. Congeal
14. ___ cell carcinoma
15. Top of Kilimanjaro, e.g.
16. Periods of time
17. D-Day beach
18. *Holiday the day before Valentine's Day
20. Shade of beige
21. Quantities on doctors' prescriptions
22. Not amateur
23. *Letters to Juliet destination
26. Come to final conclusion
30. *Ultimate Valentine's vow?
31. Purchaser
34. Zelensky's capital
35. Move a plant
37. High-___, as in an image
38. Tubular pasta
39. Not Visa or MC
40. *Moving Valentine's Day date option
42. "Annie get your ___"
43. a.k.a. ladybird
45. Maximum
47. "Rub A Dub Dub" vessel
48. Suburb of Dallas
50. Skunk's defense
52. *Sweet Valentine's gesture
56. Long stories
57. Rhythmic way of talking
58. Yours and mine
59. Send, as payment
60. The E of B.P.O.E.
61. A bit of water
62. Biblical paradise
63. Elfin
64. Sign of boredom

DOWN

1. Doe's mate
2. One of Three Bears
3. Cain's brother
4. Prom night garb
5. Bird of prey's nest
6. *Make them in advance of Valentine's Day
7. "Or ___?"
8. *"Cupid" singer (2 words)
9. Russia's Terrible one, e.g.
10. Pearl Harbor island
11. Between Fla. and Miss.
13. Ship's floating wreckage
14. Afrikaners' ancestors
19. Group of nine singers
22. For each
23. All over the internet
24. Possible allergic reaction
25. Lassoed
26. *Baby's breath's partner
27. Texting vocabulary, e.g.
28. *Cupid's mom
29. Black tie ___
32. Snob
33. Gymnast's goal
36. *a.k.a. "love hormone"
38. Deck alternative
40. Chicago baseballer
41. Defrauds
44. Explosion
46. Pleasing notes succession
48. At the same time
49. Too much egg middle
50. Newspaper piece
51. Five and ___
52. Staff leader
53. Heavenly glow
54. Think, archaically speaking
55. Sport spectator's TV acronym
56. Before, old English

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle

Theme: VALENTINE'S DAY

CROSSWORD												
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HEALTH

Parkland is one of the largest users of blood products in DFW

Employee donors recognize the importance of blood donation

DALLAS — Colleen Bonner clearly remembers the first time she donated blood. It was 1988, and she was 17 years old.

“I needed ‘service hours’ to graduate high school, and donating blood was one of the ways for us to earn hours,” said Bonner, a licensed clinical social worker in Parkland’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. “However, I’ve always been the kind of person who believes that if you can do something to help, you should. Donating blood is easy for me; I’m in good physical health, and my hemoglobin runs high at times, so why not give blood to people who need it since I have plenty of it anyway?”

As someone who works with new moms and babies, Bonner said she comes in contact with patients quite often who need or who have received transfusions, including medically fragile and usually premature infants and mothers who have dif-

ficult births and lost a lot of blood. “If I can help one person with my donation, it’s worth it to me,” she added.

Jared Lange, interim vice president of Operations at Parkland, has been making regular donations for more than 10 years, but he credits his now wife with getting him started.

“My wife, who was my girlfriend at the time, donates regularly and convinced me to tag along one time,” he said. Since then, Lange estimates he’s donated more than 25 times over the past decade. “It’s a quick and easy opportunity to help others. Typically, you can stop by before or after lunch and be done within 30 minutes, which is not much time or effort to help someone.”

January is National Blood Donor Month, and nationwide, most blood centers see a decrease in collections during the winter due to illness and/or weather-related incidents. The challenge is that when

high schools are not in session, collection centers are not able to host those blood drives. The blood collected from high school drives contributes as much as 20% to the annual collections. That includes the donations made at those drives from non-students such as faculty and administration.

It is easy to comprehend the urgent need for blood when a patient is critically injured, and seconds can mean the difference between life and death. But at Parkland Memorial Hospital, the demand for blood and blood products reaches beyond just caring for patients in its Rees-Jones Trauma Center.

On any given day, patients receive life-saving transfusions for conditions such as chronic gastrointestinal bleeding or sickle cell disease, a severe hereditary form of anemia in which there are not enough healthy red blood cells to adequately deliver oxygen throughout the body.

Blood and blood products may also be used during surgical cases, labor and delivery, dialysis or for oncology patients, among others. As a result, Parkland is one of the largest users of blood products in the area.

Alison Leonard, director of Nursing Surgical Services at Parkland, has been a regular blood donor since her early 20s. As a 24-year employee at Parkland, Leonard said her job has had a significant impact on her decision to donate.

“Seeing how ‘normal’ it is for patients to require multiple units of blood during surgery, often uncross-matched blood, opened my eyes to the importance of blood donation,” Leonard said. “When I found out that I am O-negative, it was a no-brainer for sure.”

While blood donation is a personal choice, Leonard often encourages others to donate if they can.

Continued **Freeze** Page 1

However, the administration made clear that its broader policies on federal funding remain intact. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt wrote on X that this was “NOT a rescission of the federal funding freeze,” but rather a rollback of the memo itself to “end any confusion” created by the court’s ruling. “The President’s executive orders on federal funding remain in full force and effect and will be rigorously implemented,” she added. The initial freeze caused immediate uncertainty, particularly in Wash-

ington, D.C., and Republican-leaning states heavily reliant on federal funds. Throughout Tuesday, the White House attempted to clarify exemptions—such as Medicaid—but the damage had already been done. Reports surfaced by people and organizations unable to access critical federal resources, heightening concerns about the real-world impact of the freeze.

The legal challenge that led to the order’s reversal was filed by Democracy Forward, a progressive non-profit, which argued that the directive was an unconstitutional overreach that endan-

gered millions of Americans. “While we hope this will enable millions of people in communities across the country to breathe a sigh of relief, we condemn the Trump-Vance administration’s harmful and callous approach of unleashing chaos and harm on the American people,” said Skye Perryman, the organization’s CEO. “Our team will continue to bring swift legal actions to protect the American people and will use the legal process to ensure that federal funding is restored.” The uncertainty caused by the administration’s actions drew sharp

criticism from organizations that rely on federal assistance. Melicia Whitt-Glover, executive director of the Council on Black Health, warned that the confusion threatens health programs serving historically marginalized communities. “While the Council on Black Health is not fully reliant on federal funding, many of our partners are, and they now face disruptions that threaten their ability to continue their vital work. This impacts the communities we serve and exacerbates health inequities,” she said.

Continue **Freeze** Page 6

Quinn Minute

After the holidays

By Rix Quinn

Many folks say that after a busy December, January can be a snoozer. So, here’s something to ponder: What is Santa Claus doing now?

How about those reindeer? Ever wonder what they do? Me neither.

Donner, Blitzen, Comet, and other first-stringers have enough seniority to draw vacation pay.

I’ve heard that the substitutes -- Delbert, Elmore, Hubert, Fester -- often get called at the last minute to fill in for the

main guys. This is called “passing the buck.”

Idle thoughts fill the mind of Post-Holiday Man and make him long for cold-weather diversions.

This leads him to do crazy things, like jump naked into a frozen lake and call it a sport. Or even worse, he will go out to an icy pond, dig a hole, and try to catch frozen fish, which already come packaged at the grocery.

Here are some ways to get over the winter whines. I can’t guarantee

they work, but I plan to test them...soon as I get back from ice fishing.

1. “If all the world were playing holidays, to sport would be as tedious as to work.” -- Shakespeare reminds us we must toil again to pay off credit cards.

2. “Spring is right around the corner.” -- Yeah, right. That’s what they told Columbus about the New World. But on the plus side, he discovered the Bahamas.

3. “Begin anew.” -- This new year gives you

plenty of time to re-invent yourself. Last year, one of my lazy friends did just that and succeeded brilliantly.

He rents himself to self-help groups as a “bad example.”

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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Jan. 30	Friday, Jan. 31	Saturday, Feb. 1	Sunday, Feb. 2	Monday, Feb. 3	Tuesday, Feb. 4	Wednesday, Feb. 5
H - 65° L - 47°	H - 64° L - 42°	H - 65° L - 48°	H - 71° L - 53°	H - 71° L - 46°	H - 51° L - 44°	H - 52° L - 48°

Klay Thompson recalls Kobe Bryant with fond memories

By Dwain Price



Kobe Bryant on the sidelines with TEAM USA, the United States Olympic basketball team, in Manchester, England, July 2012. (Photo: Christopher Johnson / Wikimedia Commons).

Former Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter, Gigi, and seven others died in a horrific helicopter crash in Calabasas, CA, in suburban Los Angeles five years ago this week.

As someone who grew up admiring Bryant, Dallas Mavericks guard Klay Thompson said he often thinks about that day that rocked the NBA world. "I think about him and Gigi every day," Thompson said. "Ask anybody

who was born around the time I was (in 1990), and he was like our Michael Jordan. "His style of play and his influence on the game on a global scale is something that is probably only second to Michael."

Bryant played his entire NBA career with the Los Angeles Lakers from 1996 until he retired in 2006 after becoming an 18-time All-Star and a five-time NBA champion. Part of that time, Thompson was growing up in Los Angeles, because his father, Mychal Thompson, played for the Lakers from 1987-'91 and won a pair of NBA championships with the Lakers in 1987 and '88. Mychal and Klay, in fact, are the only father-son duo in NBA history to win NBA titles in back-to-back years, with Klay accomplishing the feat in 2017 and 2018 while he was playing for the Golden State Warriors. Klay Thompson attended high school at Santa Margarita Catholic High School in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA, and his father is currently the Lakers' radio color commentator. "My memories of Kobe are very fond, especially growing up in Southern California — for high

school, at least," Thompson said. "Kobe was one of the most intelligent athletes to ever grace this earth. "He was the ultimate competitor. Getting to see him, especially to go with my dad. . ." After his retirement, Bryant attended a Mavs-Lakers game in Los Angeles on Dec. 29, 2019. He was there mainly to watch Mavs point guard Luka Dončić, who was in his second season and was one of the up-and-coming rising stars in the NBA. Thompson remembers that day as if it happened yesterday. "That's the first thing I told Luka when we met," he said. "I was like, 'Man, I knew you were going to be special' because he brought Kobe out of the house to go watch him play. "Kobe doesn't just give that love to those who don't earn it. So, that's a cool moment, because it was cool to see him in retirement give Luka that love."

Dončić scored 19 points, grabbed four rebounds and distributed seven assists in that game against the Lakers. Afterwards, he got to meet Bryant and Gigi, who were sitting courtside. "He was talking Slovenian," Dončić said after the game. "He was talking my language. "I saw Kobe talking Slovenian, and I was really surprised." Some 28 days later, on Jan. 26, 2020, the helicopter carrying Bryant, Gigi, and seven others crashed into the side of a mountain while they were on their way to play an AAU basketball game at Mamba Basketball Academy in Thousand Oaks, CA. As the years have passed, Thompson still thinks of the pain of losing the nine people who lost their life on Jan. 26, 2020. "It's still crazy to think (Bryant is) not here," he said. "I can go on and on about him because he meant so much to my basketball journey."

Continued Dallas Page 1

Department's (DPD) primary concern is addressing crime in the City of Dallas.

- DPD and other city departments are guided by the Dallas Welcoming Strategic Plan, which seeks to serve as a plan for civic, economic, and linguistic social integration and inclusion for Dallas' diverse communities.
- The City of Dallas will refer all media inquiries about DHS enforcement activities to the DHS Dallas Office public information officer.

The Office of Equity

& Inclusion

Our mission is to advance equity, inclusion, and social justice so all Dallaites can thrive. The office relies on the use of disaggregated data, community outreach, and resident voices to support the City of Dallas in understanding and addressing disparities to improve outcomes for all residents. Below are the four divisions of the Office of Equity & Inclusion. Click on them to learn more.

1) Welcoming Communities & Immigrant Affairs-
Promotes the economic, civic, and social engagement of immigrants and refugees residing in Dallas.

2) Fair Housing-

Further fair housing through community outreach and addressing systemic barriers to fair resource distribution, access to services, and opportunities. It also properly investigates housing discrimination complaints.

3) Equity-
Reduces disparities and increases opportunities for all residents by providing the necessary resources and services to thrive in each person's own unique identities, circumstances, and histories.

4) Human Rights-
Promotes social justice and ensures equitable access to services among Dallas' diverse communities.

Continued Nancy Page 1

was accepted as a reservist into the Army Nurse Corps in January 1945, becoming a Second Lieutenant and serving at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, treating wounded soldiers from World War II. In 1948, after President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981 abolishing segregation in the military, Lieutenant-Colon became the first Black woman integrated into the Regular Army Nurse Corps. Her career continued to flourish as she transitioned to the newly established U.S. Air Force, where she supported missions during the Korean and Vietnam

Wars, serving in various locations, including Germany, Japan, Alaska, and Vietnam. As a Flight Nurse with the 6481st Medical Air Evacuation Group, she evacuated wounded soldiers from active war zones and was credited with saving countless lives. Her groundbreaking service extended beyond the battlefield. In 1989, she became the first woman elected as National President of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., where she held multiple leadership roles. Honored with numerous accolades, Lieutenant-Colon received honorary doctorates from Tuskegee University and Mount Saint Vincent Col-

lege and was inducted into the Long Island Air and Space Hall of Fame. After retiring as Chief Nurse at McGuire Air Force Base in 1965, Lieutenant-Colon continued to serve her community as a school nurse at her alma mater, Amityville High School, until 1984. In 2018, the school honored her with a new media center named in her memory. "She was just an awesome person," her nephew Chris Lieutenant told The Associated Press. "She never created waves when she was doing all this first this, first that. She never made a big thing of it. It was just happening."

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

(Solution to January 23 Puzzle - SUPER BOWL)

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Our Project 2025 To President Trump

By: **Dr. John E. Warren**, Publisher
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



Dr. John E. Warren

With the wave of set-back Executive Orders by President Trump, we must not be gripped by fear and defeatism. Some of us are old enough to remember that our gains in civil and social rights were made many times in spite of prevailing attitudes and not because of them. First, we must not allow the progress we have made on our merits be redefined under Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) labels no more than we have allowed the concept of Affirmative

Action to define our gains and achievements.

Let's get specific in terms of what we must do to fight identified roll-backs. Let us remember that many of us who will cry victim, did not vote, and if we did, some voted for the very person now seeking to bring us "Reconstruction 2.0". As a reminder, following the Civil War, Blacks were flourishing in the South. There were two Black U.S. Senators, Black Members of Congress, Superintendent of Public Instruction and a host of other gains. The deal that President Rutherford Hayes made with the South in order to keep the Union together was to create "States Rights". In other words, to let the states make their own rules on former slaves and reconstruction of the South.

President Trump's agenda for "Making Amer-

ica Great Again" clearly does not include many of us, so here is what we must do. First, the Black Press must again be recognized as OUR trusted messenger for truth in reporting on proposed changes by this Administration affecting people of color and Blacks in particular. This means that our Press must step up its game in reporting and accountability. Second, we must act on the information we receive. For example, our response to Book Banning should be the creation of Bookstores and Libraries in our churches. To counter the rollback of Black history and achievements, we have the education and ability to create community learning centers and discussion groups in our homes and churches.

Finally, we must remember that many of our present-day colleges and

universities were started by our churches. We have more information, businesses and abilities than our forefathers who did so much with so little. Our challenge is to redefine our priorities. We must monitor corporate America's response to the President's agenda, and we must adjust our spending habits accordingly. We must remember that Corporate America only respects three things: (1) lost profits, (2) bad publicity, and (3) votes cast against their interest. Our currency is U.S. dollars. Black people in America generate enough wealth to be the 10th largest economy in the world. We just don't act accordingly. Let's do our homework and redefine our priorities. As the poet said, **"WE WILL NOT GO QUIETLY INTO THE NIGHT."**

Continued **Harvard**
Page 3

slavery, with more than a third of donations during the first half of the 19th century coming from five individuals tied to the slave economy. Some enslaved individuals lived and worked on Harvard's campus, serving presidents, professors, and students. The report also revealed that the university played a prominent role in the proliferation of racial pseudoscience, with faculty conducting dehumanizing research and promoting eugenics.

Former Harvard President Lawrence Bacow, who launched the initiative in 2019, described the program as essential to addressing Harvard's past. "We must do what we can to understand and confront our history and the harm it caused, while building a future rooted in equity and inclusion," Bacow said in 2022. The initiative's recommendations included memorializing enslaved individuals, supporting descendant communities, and funding scholarships for historically Black colleges and universities

(HBCUs).

However, the layoffs have led some to question Harvard's willingness to fully embrace these recommendations, especially when Black history and DE&I programs face unprecedented threats nationwide. Across the country, states are banning or restricting the teaching of topics related to slavery and systemic racism. Several major corporations have scaled back DE&I initiatives, and schools have faced backlash for attempts to promote racial equity.

The report acknowledged that Harvard's very existence was intertwined with slavery, stating, "Harvard depended upon the expropriation of land and labor—land acquired through dispossession of Native territories and labor extracted from enslaved people." Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. has raised the call for continued accountability. "This will be a systematic, scholarly, sustained effort to establish the facts about this dark chapter in our university's history and begin the long journey of healing," Gates said.

Continued **Freeze** Page 4

The administration's actions have drawn scrutiny given the financial reliance of Republican-leaning states on federal aid. A Money-Geek analysis found

that seven of the 10 states most dependent on federal funding lean Republican, receiving an average of \$1.24 for every dollar contributed, while blue states receive \$1.14. New Mexico, a Democratic-leaning

state, saw the highest return on federal spending at \$3.42 per dollar contributed, while Delaware had the lowest at \$0.46. Public Citizen, a government watchdog group, called the original freeze an un-

necessary crisis that harmed vulnerable Americans. "The incompetence and cruelty of this order caused nationwide confusion and anxiety, as across the country regular Americans spoke out about the human im-

pacts—the loss of jobs, essential services, and harms to children among many other vulnerable populations," said Lisa Gilbert, co-president of the organization. "The White House overplayed their

hand as they levied this Project 2025-inspired order and made it clear that they want to sow chaos and gut programs that help families. We will keep up the fight to make sure that does not happen."