

THE Anchor News

Serving the Central Texas Community
Celebrating 17 Years!

JULY 2020
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Free



One Fellowship welcomes new pastor

In the last two decades, Rev. Beverly Connelly has moved over thirty times. "You realize after a while that moving at 25 is totally different from moving at 61," Connelly said.

But moving has been a part of her life as long as she can remember. Though this one has been tiresome, she is overjoyed to move to Waco, Texas, where she will serve as the pastor of One Fellowship UMC. And what makes it extra special is the fact that the former pastor, Rev. Bryan Dalco, is her long-time friend. She says he is one of her mentors as she has known him for the last three years.

As part of the Texas conference, she has had the opportunity to work with Dalco as they have attempted to begin a Black Methodists for Church Renewal chapter in this area. In their attempts to bring this organization here, they became friends. Later, Connelly was invited to serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry and she and Dalco currently serve in this capacity together.



PASTOR BEVERLY CONNELLY

er. "He has acquainted me with this conference and with the history of the city of Waco and the ministries here. He is well connected in community events and non-profit ministries," explained Connelly and "he has been instrumental in helping me understand the various needs in the Waco area."

Connelly grew up in a military town as the third of four children, enjoying academic and religious life amid cul-

tural diversity. After graduating from UMHB with a BS in elementary education, she taught in the classroom for several years. She met and married Joey D. Connelly, who felt called to ministry. They had two children, Joshua and Cherish. Joe attended seminary at Perkins Theological Seminary. Then the Connellys went on to help start a new church, Jubilee UMC, in Duncanville, Texas.

They served at Jubilee during Joe's seminary years and later served in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1999, Connelly felt the call to ministry and matriculated to Raleigh/Durham, where she attended Duke Divinity School. After graduation, the family returned to New Orleans, just ahead of Hurricane Katrina.

"I served as a hospital chaplain for several years until Hurricane Katrina displaced our family, and we moved back to Texas."

See **CONNELLY**, pg. 5

Remembering the oldest McLennan descendant, James Homer McLennan

Born January 22, 1926, James Homer McLennan of Seal Beach, California and formally of Waco (Willow Grove/Speegleville) entered eternal life Monday, June 22, 2020 in Huntington Beach, CA. Services were Friday, July 10, 2020 at Green Hills Memorial Park Chapel followed by burial at Green Hills Memorial Park, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA.

James Homer was a descendant of Neil McLennan for whom McLennan County was named. After arriving in Texas with his family from North Carolina in 1877, Neil finally reached the Waco area and crossed the Brazos River in covered wagons on the original Suspension Bridge. The pioneering McLennan family later settled in the Willow Grove/Speegleville area and bought land, which is still owned by the McLennan family today.

James Homer was the seventh and last living child born to Mentha Eliza Steele and Charles "Dixie" Herbert McLennan. James' mother, Eliza, was raised by her aunt and uncle, Mentha and Reuben Manning, who was a descendant of William "Buck" Manning, who was one of founders the Willow Grove Community, along with A.W. Crawford. James Homer attended Willow Grove Elementary School and A.J. Moore High School, then was drafted into the United States Army where he served as a cook. Af-



JAMES HOMER MCLENNAN

ter leaving the army, he moved to California where he became a letter carrier for over 35 years with the United States Postal Service.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters; four brothers, and all of his aunts and uncles. One of his aunts, Mrs. Mary McLennan Washington, was well known throughout Waco and McLennan county as she was employed by Dennis and Boykins Funeral Home for many years. He is survived by his daughters Pamela Owens and Janet McLennan; a host of nieces and nephews in California, and also a host of other relatives in the Waco area---the McLennan, Williamson, Manning, Burns, DeBose, Bradford, Crawford, Kimble, and Barksdale families; and his church family and friends. Guestbook and condolences to the family are available at www.greenhillsmemorial.com.

Bruce Mukaba interns at Neighbor Works Waco

Bruce Mukaba came to Waco, Texas from Luanshya, Zambia. Though he spent 15 years as an accountant in the global mining industry, his passion for ministry and public service led him to pursue a Master's of Social Work (MSW) from Baylor University.

NeighborWorks Waco chose Mukaba for an internship from among other Baylor MSW candidates as well as from other schools. Though his career has been in accounting, Mukaba has



BRUCE MUKABA

a demonstrable interest in community development. At home, he assisted the most economically disadvantaged families to afford school fees, organized assistance for elderly community members, and strived to help his neighbors thrive financially.

He has been happily married to his wife, Martha, for 14 years. They are blessed with two daughters and a son. Family means a lot to Mukaba. That is why he loves

See **MUKABA**, pg. 2



Photo by Any Given Day Photography

J.L. AND LINDA CRAWFORD

A co-owner of *The Anchor News*, J.L. Crawford is the director of operations for the paper. He is also an instructor at McLennan Community College, a Bible teacher, and a LegalShield Senior Manager. Linda Crawford is co-owner and editor of *The Anchor News*. She is an instructor at McLennan Community College, a Bible teacher and a conference, workshop and motivational speaker.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR...

Get published in our August Issue

August is our traditional anniversary and education issue. Celebrating 18 years in the community with our education issue, this Back to School issue spotlights students, educators, administrators, staff, educational events, institutions, etc.

The deadline to submit a 250-450 word article on a person of accomplishment or news worthy education-

al event, institution, organization, etc. is August 6th. So come on! Send us your clear, JPEG headshot and a typed article (Word document) via email to theanchornews@aol.com.

We will do our best to include every profile that we receive, and who knows? Your submission might be one of our cover stories.

Education in a pandemic world: Now what?

BY W.B. GUNTER

August will be here in less than a month with the possibility of schools opening with a new plan. Ever wonder what that may look like? Some students will see school through the screen as they participate in virtual classrooms. Lunches and social interactions will be very different. The choice to leave campus to enjoy lunch may be reserved primarily for students leaving campus for the day provided they have cars for curbside pick-up.

Before re-opening, some considerations will have to be met to ensure stability, safety, and health. Typically, a low grade fever is not an interruption to learning. Will a fever be treated like a fever regardless of the increased temperature? Learning and working through isolation, grief, and eco-

nomie status are life altering events. A substantial number of counselors must be available to meet the needs of students who lost loved ones, TEACHERS, AND FRIENDS. ARE schools ready? Before schools were suspended during spring break, safety was a big issue. Now the concerns that existed before the closing of schools will still need to be resolved.

This past summer and spring provided opportunities for innovative learning experiences outside of the classrooms. The availability of computers was ideal for students who had access to Wi-Fi, hot spots, and remote connections, and museums, space programs, zoos, and some theme parks offered virtual tours and interactive experiences. Screen writers and actors honed their skills by reading stories, providing acting classes, and encouraging participation. For students who dreamed of directing, animation, and public relations, so many doors opened up with a few keystrokes on a keypad. To shift self-motivated students who have the initiative to extend learning beyond the boundaries of traditional learning may or may not be ideal, but it's one of many conversations to be explored.

In addition, besides the pandemic conversations about safe distancing, sharing, and masks, there must be some candid conversations about race relations, policing, and personal safety. With

**W.B. GUNTER**

the presence of in school policing, the conversation about appropriate interactions must be addressed before the first day. The summer

of 2020 has definitely been a summer filled with teachable moments and ample opportunities to have meaningful conversations. Lives have been affected in unexpected ways. So, as schools prepare to re-open, what would you like for them to look like?

Education will continue with and without computer access as curriculum requirements must be met. Parents and relatives who did their part to educate their children will have to continue their efforts, but students have a responsibility to themselves as well. They must to learn all they can-- to be curious and innovative, and if schools must close again, students must know that education continues.

MUKABA

Continued from page one

working with NeighborWorks Waco to assist low-to-moderate income families (and beyond) to grow financially and achieve homeownership.

His eventual goal is to return to Zambia equipped with the knowledge and experiences he received from NeighborWorks Waco and Baylor to create a community development organization focused on assisting rural villages and low-income families across Zambia. Mukaba hopes to see the most marginalized of his people thrive. He plans to host financial literacy and development workshops similar to NeighborWorks Waco's Homebuyer Education classes, and to assist families to build, buy, and own safe and sustainable homes.

NeighborWorks Waco is grateful for Mukaba's diligence and curiosity during his internship here. The 2019-2020 academic year has unquestionably been strange, but Mukaba has added a brightness that NeighborWorks will treasure. We look forward to seeing the ways in which his work empowers communities across Luanshya, Zambia, Africa, and the world, and we are grateful to have been a part of that.

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THE Anchor News



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PURPOSE

The Anchor News, dedicated to serving the community and surrounding areas, focuses on positive news and accomplishments of minorities.

POLICY

Anchored on the principles of scripture, *Anchor News* will at

no time publish information that is potentially libelous material or intentionally malicious, derogatory or irrelevant.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Signed opinion articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial staff. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the editor.

LETTERS AND ARTICLES POLICY

The comments and opinions of our readers are welcomed. Letters

and articles should be e-mailed. Letters should be no longer than 200 words and must include a name and phone number. Article submissions should be no longer than 450 words and should include an original headshot (in jpeg format) along with your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, space, potentially libelous material and copyright infringement. We also reserve the right to refuse derogatory, irrelevant and malicious submissions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$39 a year (12 issues) and can be paid by check or money order. Send all correspondences to *The Anchor News*, P.O. Box 23534, Waco, Texas 76702-3534 or email to theanchornews@aol.com.

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George Floyd's life mattered: two view-points, one beating heart

RAY'S PROSPECTIVE: BLACK LIVES MATTER

Let me first start by saying, I do NOT support violence and rioting. I think it takes the focus off of what matters. That being said, Jodie and I were part of a peaceful protest last week in Colorado Springs protesting the murder of George Floyd. At one point, hundreds of protesters lay down on the ground on their stomachs with their hands behind their back. They then began to chant "I can't breathe" for nine minutes. Nine whole minutes because that's how George Floyd died. I watched my wife without hesitation get down on the ground and put her hands behind her back, laying there for 9 minutes. She cried through the whole thing. It was extremely powerful and moving. I was amazed at all of the white people that were part of this march. It truly touched my heart. I'm pretty sure there were more white people than black and brown. It was pretty amazing.

So let me be clear. I support the good cops in this country. I appreciate all of them and I would fight for every single one of them as well. Blue lives matter! But I also believe reform is not only important but necessary. Our lives literally depend on it. I also truly believe that where there is injustice, we as the church should rise up! Together! But we as the church are too opinionated and divided to be effective at anything. We call ourselves the body of Christ but lately I've witnessed a body in chaos and division.

I heard it said like this: If a person comes into the ER and his leg has been shot up and he's bleeding out, but the doctor focuses on the whole body and runs lab work, eye exams and dermatology tests on the premise that all body parts are important, the patient is going to bleed out and die. The doctor is correct in saying that all body parts are important; however, only one body part is



RAY AND JODIE AUSTIN

threatening the patient's life, and therefore it needs immediate and focused attention. Black Lives Matter is not saying that they are the only lives that matter. No, it's saying we are bleeding out so help us.

We are the body of Christ, and we need the whole body to be healthy but if the body is fighting itself, the whole body dies. I speak life to the body. I declare that no weapon formed against us shall prosper. I stand with you my white, black, brown, brothers and sisters. I don't care if you are Republican or Democrat or Independent. I love you all. I pray that we as the Church will come back together. I believe we can. I believe we can set aside our opinions and stand together. There is power that is released when we unite. Could it be... we are divided so that we remain weak? If I were the enemy (satan), I'd make sure you believed in your opinion.

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

1 Corinthians 12:13 NIV
**JODIE'S PERSPECTIVE:
MY HUSBAND'S LIFE
MATTERS**

For all of you who say you wish I would just stop posting about racial issues be-

You have no idea of the fear that this brings me as his wife. A 15-minute traffic stop can seem like hours while as I sit and cry and pray for God's protection over my husband until it's over. This time.

So, until my husband is no longer afraid for his life for being pulled over for a simple traffic infraction, I can't stop. Until my husband's worst fear when he gets pulled over is simply getting a ticket, I can't stop. Until my husband no longer feels the need to call me as a witness, I can't stop. Until I no longer have to hear that trembling voice on the other end of the phone, I

can't stop.

Neither one of us thinks that all cops are bad. We honor and respect them. But from his own personal experiences with cops, the experiences of his friends and family, coupled with what we see and hear in the news and on TV, we know there needs to be reform. And until there is, I can't stop. I won't stop. Because my husband's life matters.

Ray Austin is the son of Anchor News owners, J.L. and Linda Crawford. Jodie Austin is the daughter of Larry and Carolyn Seljos. Formerly from Waco, the Austins now reside and minister in Colorado Springs.

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Author Linda Mason Crawford shares excerpt from her book, *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine*

All chapters begin with one of her own “true-story” personal narratives that she later connects to a point that is relevant to this journey called destiny. The book is an easy read. Several readers have told her that they couldn’t put it down once they started. It is available on Amazon.com for \$15.99. You can also go to lindacrawford.org to order there. *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine* is sure to open your heart to receive healing, encouragement, and a different outlook on life.

CHAPTER 1: THIS TOO SHALL PASS, BUT WHEN?

I was almost out of breath by the time I made it to the car. Though it was just a few feet away, it seemed like 100 miles. I had parked my car in the back yard to hide it from the bank. Let’s face it. It was an old piece of stick-shift junk, but it was all I had, and I was behind on the payments. But tonight, in my panic to get out of the house, maybe the backyard wasn’t so smart. Dressed in a gown, house shoes, and a thin jacket, I gripped the keys that were pinned inside my bra. Oh yes, my bra. That was the safest place to keep my valuables, like my car keys and what little money I had. I had learned

a lot in my 29 years. With lightning speed, I dashed out the backdoor, tripping over the threshold, but still holding my balance and determination. Thank God my boy was spending the night with a friend. It was pitch-black dark outside, as I had no time to flip on the outside lights. I just needed to get out. Once inside my car, I let out a sigh, unaware that I had been holding my breath. Quickly locking the car doors, I knew I was on my way. The car was run down and bent up, but it was my path to freedom tonight and my only means of transportation. I’ll never forget it. It was a gray and black Toyota, well...a fading gray and a fading black, a hatchback, about 8 years old at the time, and a stick. Ha! A stick. That could be a holdup since I was still in the learning stage, but I could handle it. I tried to crank the old trap, but it just clicked. I tried again, combining my efforts with a plea. “Please God, I need my car!” Just as the motor turned over, I heard that dreadful sound, a swatch-type sound, like an old screen door dragging. My God! He knew I was going to try to get away. He knew, so he had unlocked the hatch back, ahead of time! He was in the back



LINDA MASON CRAWFORD

so fast; all I could do was bite my lip and jerk forward. “Stop the car, Lynn, and give me the money!” he yelled, as he swiftly crawled into the back seat. He lurched through the bucket seats so fast that my head literally seemed to spin, like the girl in the Exorcist. Grabbing the steering wheel, he yelled again, “Gimme the money, Lynn!” The Exorcist...I was sure that his voice changed. But tonight...no, not tonight. I kept driving, the car swerving across into the other the lane and back again as he, too, gripped the wheel. We came

within inches of hitting a minivan. I saw head lights of an 18 wheeler that we also barely missed as we sped into the oncoming traffic. Hands pinned to the wheel, I was driving to my pastor’s house, and no one was stopping me. That was the life I lived for most of my 16 years of marriage to a crack addict, one that was much different from my single days of the quiet, country, church girl. I had never touched drugs in my life. I smoked only one cigarette that nearly killed me. And here I was, 29 years old, married to a drug addict. I had so many similar stories to contend with, jumping fences to get my car back from the drug dealers, standing toe-to-toe and nose-to-nose with dealers who threatened to kill me if I didn’t leave them alone about getting my car back, knocks on the door in the middle of the night from thugs demanding money my husband owed them, stealing my own car back and driving backwards, trying to miss the flying bullets. You name it; I just about dealt with it. Many times over the years, I walked into my house to find that every piece of furniture and every appliance was gone—sold in exchange for drugs. I remem-

ber waking up one Christmas Day to find that my babies’ gifts were gone, sold for drugs. Once, I frantically searched the streets of Tampa because my husband put our 6-year-old out of the car since it was “too dangerous to take him to the crack house,” he said. This was before the days of cell phones. I don’t even remember how I found my baby boy. I could go on and on, but the only thing that matters is that one day, I accepted the truth that I had to forgive if I expected to move on with my life. I have since come to grips with the truth, that my now ex-husband was a good person, who loved people. When he was straight, he would give away his last. When he was not, he would take another person’s last. I literally saw him take his shirt off and give it away. Once he pulled off his watch and gave it away, and then took my watch and gave it away, too. He had a heart of gold, but in addiction, he was the devil. Still, I had to find a way to forgive. I owed it to myself, my children, and my God.

To order *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine*, paste the following into your browser: <https://www.amazon.com/Destiny-Glass-Linda-Mason-Crawford/dp/069211761X>.

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS | INSPIRING & ENCOURAGING | KINDLE CUSTOMER

(Reviewed in the United States on August 20, 2019)

“I absolutely love this book! I could not put it down and read it in two days. There is so much good stuff in this book that I am reading it again. It is inspiring, encouraging and will bless you.”

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS FIVE STARS | AMAZON CUSTOMER

(Reviewed in the United States on May 21, 2018)

“This is an amazing book. It is entertaining, compelling and convicting. A definite must-read for everyone!”

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS | EASY READ AND APPLICABLE TO MY LIFE

(Reviewed in the United States on March 27, 2019)

“After *God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine*, I felt like I could take the author’s response to certain circumstances and apply to my own life. Each chapter is a life learning lesson of praising God through hard times, and walking into God’s plan for my life. It may appear as an easy read, because I read it in one day my first time reading it. Then I had the opportunity to re-read and breakdown each chapter week by week.”

Rey

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS | EXCELLENT BOOK

(Reviewed in the United States on June 13, 2020)

“This is an amazing book. I found it helpful in navigating my fear of not reaching my full potential. It helped me understand how I can have a positive God-ordained destiny. Excellent work!”

Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez



National Safety

**SUBMITTED BY
LINDA MCDONALD**

According to the National Association of REALTORS®, by 2021, cybercrime will cost businesses over \$6 trillion a year. Criminals today target real estate transactions by hacking into the email accounts of agents and others involved in a real estate transaction to trick people into fraudulent wire transfers. The hacker pretends to be one of the parties involved in the transaction and sends an email that usually contains instructions to wire funds directly into the hacker's account. Once that money is gone, it's rarely seen again. Employ the following best practices to protect you, your business, and your clients from online criminals.

PREVENT A CYBER-ATTACK

Whenever possible, avoid sending sensitive information via email. Never trust information sent from an unverified email address. Don't conduct business using a free email service or a public, unsecured internet connection. Learn to recognize phishing email messages, links, or phone calls. The best way to keep your account safe is to never open emails from any address you don't recognize or emails that appear to be spam. Clean out your email accounts regularly; your email backlog may contain sensitive information from prior months or years that hackers could use to scam you or your clients.

COMMUNICATE AND EDUCATE

All parties involved in a real estate transaction should be aware of red flags that could indicate fraud. Red flags can include emails filled with typos, phone calls from unlisted numbers, demands for verification codes, or wire transfer requests to Western Union or MoneyGram. Before wiring funds to anyone, call the recipient of the funds using a secure line to verify wiring instructions and accurate account information.

SECURE YOUR EMAIL ACCOUNT



LINDA McDONALD

Make your email harder to hack into with a password that is at least 14 characters long. Change your password at least once a month. Don't use the same password for multiple accounts. If your email provider supports it, opt into two-factor authentication (sometimes called two-step verification), an extra layer of security that requires a code in addition to your password to sign in.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If an email or phone call seems suspicious, refrain from taking any action until an independent party has verified the communication as legitimate. If something seems "off" in an email, do not open it. If you've already opened it, don't click on any links or attachments, don't call any numbers listed, and don't reply to the email. If you cannot verify the legitimacy of the email, delete it. Be alert and remain suspicious; in 2009 FBI Director Robert Mueller was almost taken in by a phishing scam, so it really can happen to anyone.

CONTROL THE DAMAGE

If you suspect you or a client is a victim of fraud, notify all parties involved immediately. If a wire transfer has been made, call the bank as soon as possible to try and stop it. Change all of your passwords. Report the incident to your REALTOR® Associations, your attorney, the police, and the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center.

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CONNELLY

Continued from page one

In 2006, upon returning to Louisiana, the UMC Bishop requested that she serve in the parish setting. As a parish pastor, Connelly enjoyed integrating the ministries of dance and drama into the worship services.

"We were able to build active children and youth ministries by involving youngsters in these ministries," said Connelly, but after a divorce in 2011, Connelly returned to Texas, once again, and began teaching in the public-school setting.

"Teaching children was very healing for me. Despite being in a school setting, I began a teacher devotional and prayer time. Teachers and administrators often found themselves in my classroom, with vari-

ous prayer requests." Having the best of both worlds, Connelly was overjoyed.

Connelly's daughter and her husband served as worship leaders of the English ministry within a Korean Church in the Killeen/Ft. Hood area. When the senior pastor discovered her mother was an ordained elder in the UMC, he asked Connelly to serve as the part-time English minister. She served this congregation for four years and saw immense growth during those years. Later, Connelly requested a permanent transfer from the Louisiana Conference to the Central Texas Conference. Her request was granted in 2017.

Connelly was happy to serve the members of Community of Hope UMC, in

Mansfield, Texas for two years but after some time, she requested to move closer to her aging mother, who is battling dementia. Fortunately, the Bishop and Cabinet, fulfilled this request, and she is looking forward to serving as the pastor of One Fellowship. Even though she is excited, Connelly anticipates there being many challenges, as she serves "in a new ministry setting, while pastoring (primarily) in this "virtual" way," she said.

"I have spoken to many members by phone and have had a 'Meet and Greet' session by Zoom. I am finding this congregation easy to love and look forward to serving them and to serving the Lord with them."

Submit Your Info For The...

Education Issue!



August is our traditional anniversary and education issue. Celebrating 18 years in the community with our education issue, this Back to School issue spotlights students, educators, administrators, staff, educational events, institutions, etc.

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We will do our best to include every profile that we receive, and who knows? Your submission might be one of our cover stories.

(NewsUSA) - You know we're all going a tad stir-crazy when a parody of the title song from Broadway's "Okla-homa!" ("Oh, Corona!") gets almost 1.7 million views on YouTube. But it's far worse for seniors: Not only can't even their kids and grand-kids visit them, but there's the extra stress that comes with the nagging suspicion that they'll be advised to remain on lockdown long after younger people begin trickling back to work. Whenever that is. In fact, the AARP Foundation has even come up with this dire comparison: Prolonged social isola-

tion, for those aged 50 and older, "is the health equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day."

Fortuitously, some of the niftiest technology offers solutions both to keep us connected and protect against some of the miscreants taking advantage of the situation. * Health Checks. If you are worried that all the anxiety is harming your loved ones' overall well-being, the

machine-learning algorithms that analyze activity data as part of Alarm.com's Wellness solution can provide you with the very details you've suddenly found yourself obsessing about. Did they open their medicine cabinet when they should to take their prescription?

Have their sleeping, eating, and (yes) bathroom patterns changed? Are they up and about during the day?

All that and more is done by connecting their home to yours via smart-home technology, with real-time smart-phone alerts to let you know if something's amiss. "You don't even know it's there, but it's here to protect you and let someone know if something does go wrong," said Margarete Pullen of Dallas, Texas, whose son had the system installed by an authorized service provider for her and her husband along with a Wellcam video camera with two-way voice capability.

• Movie meet-ups. Most of us are just trying to find novel ways to cope with a situation that Nicholas Christakis, a social scientist and physician at Yale University, told Science magazine "calls on us to suppress our profoundly human and evolutionary hard-wired impulses for connection." Google's new Netflix Party extension lets friends and family watch - and video chat their way through - a movie togeth-

er on their computers. You'll need a Netflix subscription, but then you're free to debate whether all the hype about Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman," say, was justified. Plus, unlike in real theatres, not many people (if any) are physically there to complain if you're making too much noise eating popcorn.

• Apps! Apps! Apps! No Netflix subscription? With apps like FaceTime, Skype, Houseparty and Zoom comes more proof that social distancing needn't mean social disconnecting. Mass virtual dinner parties. Mass virtual "happy hours." Mass virtual gym classes. They've all become quite the rage, with one Vermont couple in their eighties even touchingly using Apple's FaceTime to see and talk to each other after the husband had to be put in a nursing home that bars visitors during the pandemic.

And, oh, you say you want to be a hero in your neighborhood? Use an app like Instagram to share a video of someone that Alarm.com's doorbell cameras caught swiping one of the many, many packages you've been having delivered.

Ways to stay connected (and check on seniors) while social distancing



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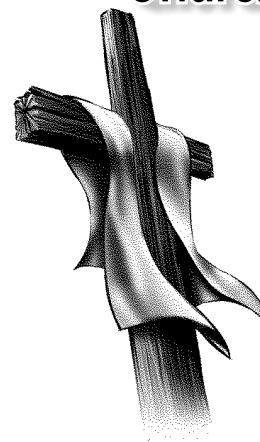
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11:15 AM

Sunday Evening
6:00 PM

Monday Bible Study
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Wednesday Prayer Worship
7:00 PM

Pastor Matthew Reed and Wife Helen

Thankful to be an American

BY MONA DUNKIN

Belated Happy 4th of July. In our world of time and space, wishes before or after are in bounds. Timeliness is usually a good thing until it becomes drudgery. Please honor this emancipating freedom every moment of your life.

On US holidays I wear the colors. Dressed in my red shirt and flag-vest, someone mentioned that I must be a proud American. My reply, "I am a thankful American."

I am humbled to be a born-in-America-white-privilege-woman with unlimited opportunities. I am saddened by the continued unrest on many fronts. Previous events in our time/space continuum meant to correct errors are being revealed as illusions.

Through marvels of the internet, my incomplete education is becoming competent. I am learning such things as "Why Christopher Columbus wasn't the hero we learned about in school." <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/12/us/christopher-columbus-slavery-disease-trnd/index.html>

It's not that Columbus was not a man with skills, talents and value; it's just that he didn't do what he is credited for. He was not the first to discover the Americas. Not only were natural born citizens living here, but others had been embarking on these shores centuries before 1492. With history's error being corrected, statues of Columbus are being torn down and replaced with figures of indigenous people--- acknowledging and respecting all people as heroes.

And the needed push back continues.

Although multitudes have risked oceanic peril, arriving penniless and with a dream of making good, far too many were captured, kid-napped and forced here. It is a sad history upon which the US is built and continues-- from field slaves to sex trafficking slaves---same immorality and devaluing of person hood for selfish gain.

Motivational speaker Krish Dhanam, born in India, tells of his families' struggle to come to the US to live the American dream. He notes his deep disappointment in complaining ungrateful Americans. I may want to dismiss these assessments despite an inner conviction of reality.

July 4th is a grand celebration of our freedom. Unfortunately, freedom has the potential for harm as well as intended good. Perhaps the blessings of America have rendered many of us with a spirit of entitlement.



MONA DUNKIN

Freedom without moral living turns to debauchery. Freedom of speech has led to profane language in music, movies, TV programs and literature. Freedom of expression has led to vulgar displays in the media and the arts. Freedom to bear arms has given leeway to school massacres and drive-by-shootings. Freedom of independence has led to littered highways, "me attitudes," wasting of natural resources and lack of community.

Freedom is not the liberty to do what one wants, but the freedom to do the right thing. Right and wrong, good and evil are moral facts. Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl recommended a Statue of Responsibility be erected on the west coast to balance the Statue of Liberty on the east coast. We can have no true liberty without being responsible for our choices.

I find that the more gently responsible I am, the greater my freedom. The more disciplined I am, the more numerous my options. The more respectful I am of all others, the deeper the depth of my happiness. Let us live interdependently so future generations will judge our everyday deeds as honorable and respectful, for the good of the whole.

For a healthy pride to be restored, may each of us individually embrace truth, even when the revelation is ugly. And the truth is, on some level, each of us has varying degrees and shades of good and evil. Except for the grace of loving kindness.

Invite Mona to speak to your group. Whether business, organizational, civic or faith-based, you will be entertained with her humor, challenged by her gift of uncommon insights and motivated by her thought-provoking poems. monadunkin@gmail.com www.monadunkin.com Call today 254-749-6594.

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Our staff will be equipped with anything & everything that comes their way-they are looking forward in serving our community in the best way they can! Resources & help is available to all who need it-our services are very unique-they are anonymous & free. Our goal is to help our community rise above today's challenges. We are here to help Texas recover; we truly believe that we are all in this together & are here to remind others of that as well.

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Education Issue!

August is our traditional anniversary and education issue. Celebrating 18 years in the community with our education issue, this Back to School issue spotlights students, educators, administrators, staff, educational events, institutions, etc.

The deadline to submit a 250-450 word article on a person of accomplishment or news worthy educational event, institution, organization, etc. is August 6th. So come on! Send us your clear, JPEG headshot and a typed article (Word document) via email to theanchornews@aol.com.

We will do our best to include every profile that we receive, and who knows? Your submission might be one of our cover stories.



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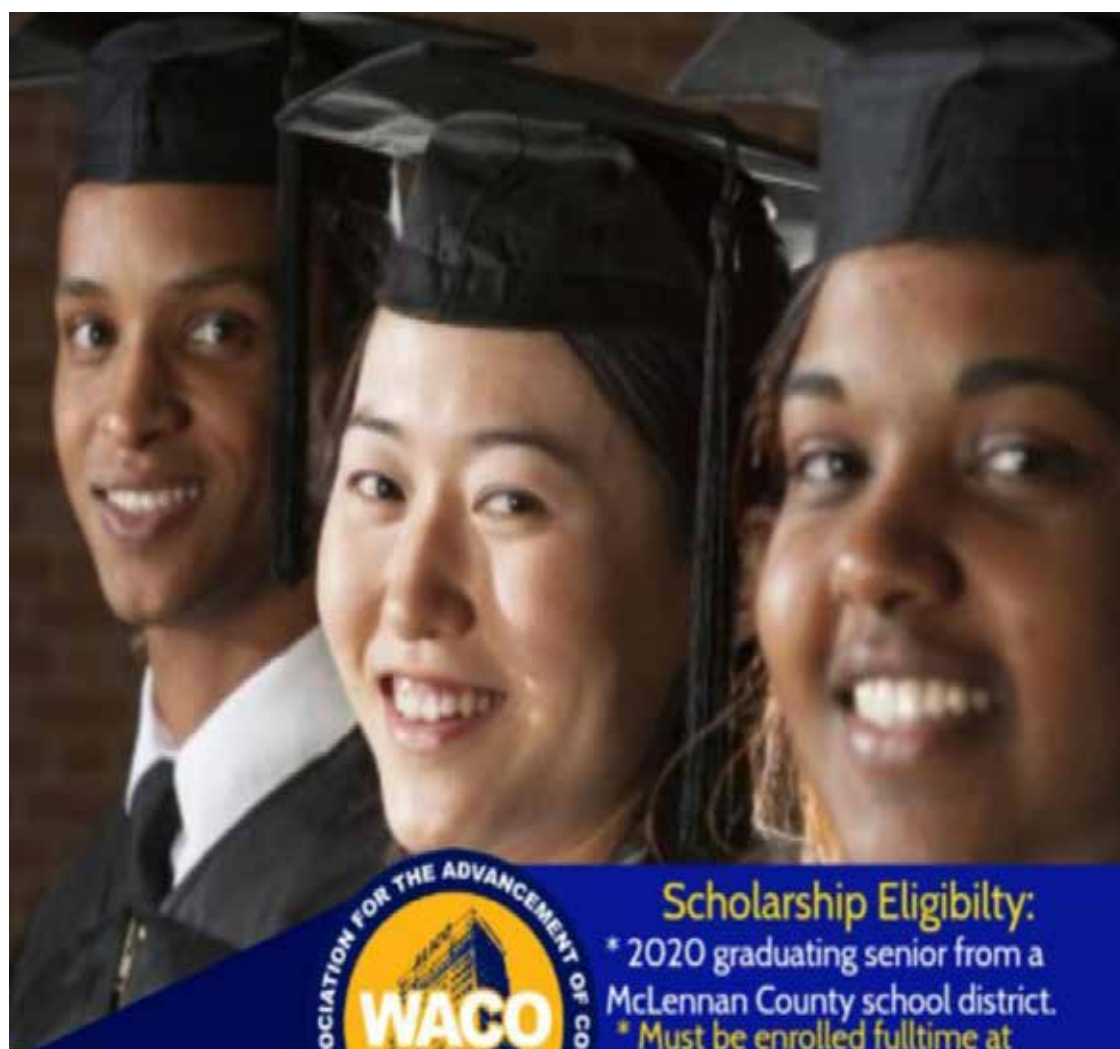
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Mona Dunkin
254-749-6594
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ENTRY DEADLINE: MONDAY AUGUST 31, 2020

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- * Must be enrolled fulltime at college or university during the 2020 fall semester.
- * Applicants must write an essay of 500-650 words on one of the two essay topics. Essays must be submitted via email address: waconaacp@gmail.com or via regular mail at Waco NAACP; P. O. Box 20511; Waco, TX 76702.
- * Essay Topics: How do you plan to utilize your career to combat systemic racism? What solutions would you advocate to end police brutality?

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Why I'm Running

I am running for the Waco Independent School District School Board At-Large, Place 6 position as a parent and partner of the district who believes in the students, teachers and administrators. I will bring fresh eyes and a new fresh vision. I want the community to know that I will be a strong advocate who supports them to ensure that Waco ISD will be successful and excel in every arena of education. More importantly, I will spend time investing into the families to elevate the district as a whole.

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- Equal Access to Resources
- Supporting Greater Community & Business Partnerships for Workforce Development
- Promoting Stronger Teacher Recruitment and Retention
- Preserving and Improving Neighborhood Schools
- Secure and Safe School Environments

Kick off your college financial aid game this fall

(NewsUSA) - Fall is here, and high school seniors (and their parents) are in the thick of the college application process. But these days, the cost of tuition can seem daunting: 85 percent of parents believe the cost of college is more of a financial burden than in past years, according to a College Ave Student Loans survey of 1,072 parents conducted by Barnes & Noble College Insights. However, many families may not realize and take advantage of the range of financial aid opportunities and options available.

"Don't let the 'sticker price' of a college sway you from applying," says Joe DePaulo, Co-Founder and CEO of College Ave Student Loans. "The college 'sticker price' typically refers to the published annual cost of attendance for any given school, which includes tuition, fees, and an average estimate of other related costs like room and board. The actual price families will pay depends on how much financial aid they receive which will be unique for each family," he says.

Start by filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Some families skip

this form because they think it is too much work for too little payoff. Don't Fear the FAFSA. By forgoing filling out this important government form, you could be leaving financial aid on the table. Some financial aid programs work on a first-come first-served basis, so getting it done as close to the October 1 start date maximizes the aid you might receive.

There are other reasons to make sure the FAFSA is part of your fall financial aid game, according to College Ave Student Loans, a company offering simple and personalized private student loans: - More financial aid: Some schools won't even consider you for merit aid unless you complete this important form. - More options: Students planning to apply for Federal Stafford Loans or Federal PLUS Loans must fill out the FAFSA first. Keep Applying to Scholarships Beyond the FAFSA, students and parents can round out their financial aid plan with scholarships.

Many scholarships are available with rolling applications year-round and every little bit helps. College Ave Student

Loans offers a monthly chance for students to win a \$1,000 scholarship on their website. Build a Balanced College List. College Ave recommends that you apply to a variety of schools. This will give you more opportunities to find a school that fits your budget financially, and one

that may offer better financial aid.

If scholarships, grants and federal loans in the student's name don't cover the full cost of tuition, College Ave Student Loans offers a simple, stress-free student loan process to help cover college costs. Stu-

dents and parents can apply online and get a response in 3 minutes, with no application or origination fees.

For more information about college financial aid planning, hints for filling out the FAFSA, and other loan opportunities, visit collegeavestudentloans.com.

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Protecting seniors online from scams, hacks and tax fraud

SUBMITTED BY J.L.
CRAWFORD,
SENIOR MANAGER

(NewsUSA) - The vast majority of seniors today are using the Internet at least once a week to check email, pay bills online and keep in touch via social media. But all that time online puts them at risk for scams and hacks, such as tax fraud. In fact, a new survey by Home Instead, Inc., franchisor of the Home Instead Senior Care network, found that 67 percent of surveyed older adults have been the victim of an online scam

or hack.

Encouraging seniors to practice cyber security can go a long way toward protecting their identity and sensitive financial information. Home Instead collaborated with the National Cyber Security Alliance to create Protect Seniors Online, available at www.ProtectSeniorsOnline.com, a free resource that educates older adults about cybersecurity. Here, seniors can test their cybersecurity skills with the "Can You Spot an Online Scam?" quiz.

Older adults can take the following steps now to pro-



J.L. CRAWFORD

tect themselves online:
*Password protect and secure devices, accounts. Lock all devices (including computers, tablets and smartphones) with secure passwords in case devices are lost or stolen. *Think before clicking. When faced with an urgent request -- like emails asking for money -- think before clicking or get a second opinion. Clicking on links is often how scammers get personal information. When in doubt, trash an unusual message.

• Share with care. More than half (51 percent) of seniors surveyed by Home Instead use social media to stay connected. Use care when sharing personal information, adjust privacy settings to limit who can see your information, and turn off location sharing.

• Use security software. Install anti-virus and anti-spyware software and program it to run regularly. And be wary of pop-up ads or emails, many of which contain malware that can infect comput-

ers.

• Log out. Log out of apps and websites when you are finished. Leaving apps and websites open on computer screens could make you vulnerable to security and privacy risks.

• Recommend support. Older adults who live alone may need help from a trusted source -- such as a family member, tech-savvy friend or professional caregiver -- to serve as a second set of eyes.

To explore additional Protect Seniors Online resources, including the interactive quiz, visit www.ProtectSeniorsOnline.com. A Home Instead office near you can be found by visiting www.homeinstead.com/state.

LegalShield can help you with your legal issues. Preexisting problems are covered, so give me a call at 254-717-4927. Hurry. With LegalShield, "...we can help you worry less and live more." Please see the ad in this issue of The Anchor News. J.L. Crawford, Senior Manager.

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Wanda B.
Gunter

Author, Artist &
Contributing writer
for *The Anchor News*

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Linda McDonald, ABR

Tips to boost your immunity quickly

BY JERRY SNIDER

The past several weeks have been full of worry, concern, and the unknown when it comes to staying healthy. I'm going to take the opportunity this month to address what we all should be doing to build our immunity.

As with any virus, the stronger your immune system, the better your chances of having a mild reaction versus a serious reaction. People with strong immune systems might never experience any symptoms when they are infected with a virus.

How do you build a strong immune system? It can take time because it involves changing nutrition habits over weeks and months. But there are ways to give your immunity a boost to jump start you on the correct path.

Here are 10 Tips to boost your immunity quickly?

1. Wash your hands with



JERRY SNIDER

soap and water.

2. Don't touch any area of your body with an opening not covered by skin - mouth, nose, ears, eyes, etc.

3. Drink plenty of water...I mean drink more water than you think is enough.

4. Get sunlight or take vitamin D supplement

5. Vitamin C, Vitamin B

(all of them), Omega 3 fatty acid

6. Avoid fried foods

7. Avoid processed sugar

8. Don't start vigorous exercise; moderate intensity exercise sessions are better.

9. Reduce your time spent focusing on mainstream media coverage; stress and anxiety weakens your immunity as quickly as anything else.

10. Smile, laugh a lot, find something to be grateful for, and spend time in prayer or meditation daily.

Add in some healthy fruits and vegetables and you'll be on your way to a stronger immune system in no time.

Have a question for Jerry? Send it to jerry@allinhealthandwellness.com. Visit www.allinhealthandwellness.com to learn more about Jerry Snider. You can also purchase his book *Confidence Through Health* on Amazon.

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Statement of the murder of George Floyd

**BY DR. PEACHES HENRY
PRESIDENT OF
NAACP, WACO**

Before George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis two weeks, African Americans were already reeling at the shooting of Breonna Taylor in her own bed by police in Kentucky, the shooting of Ahmaud Arbery by a white former police officer and his son in Georgia, and the attempt by a white woman to weaponize the New York Police Department against Christian Cooper. Simultaneously, African Americans were dealing with these events in the midst of a Pandemic that is disproportionately killing them.

The murder of Floyd was not an isolated incident; it was the latest in a string of horrible anti-Black violence. It is directly related to the systemic racism that plagues our country at an even more alarming rate than the coronavirus. The African American community—which is defined by people not by geographical borders—has been in a state of emergency long before the first COVID-19 case was brought to light. While we are heart-broken by the violence that we are witnessing and by no means condone looting and destruction of property, we must focus on the precipitating cause. Americans have taken to the streets across this country out of rage at long-standing police brutality and despair that nothing is being done to end it.

The victims in these cases of anti-Black violence represent an African American Everyman in that every African American knows that he or she could easily be caught up in identical circumstances on any given day. Texas has recently dealt with its own case of an African American man, Botham Jean, being shot and killed in his own home, while eating ice cream on his sofa. The Arbery case especially hit home with me, because every day my own 25-year-old son jogs in a predominantly white neighborhood—his own neighborhood. Each morning I hold my breath as he walks out our front door and exhale only when the

door opens to reveal that he has survived his daily jog. Until he returned home because of the pandemic, my son could have encountered the white woman in Central Park, because he is a law student in New York.

When Amy Cooper attempted to weaponize the New York Police Department against Christian Cooper (no relation), she knew exactly what she was doing. When Christian Cooper insisted that Amy Cooper leash her dog according to the ordinances of Central Park, she refused and deployed her white privilege to subjugate him. Outraged by his refusal to submit (to the point of forgetting that she was being videotaped), she married her racism to the systemic racism that she depended on to suppress this African American man who refused to bow to her privilege. Her threat—"I'm going to tell them there's an African-American man threatening my life"—encapsulates the state of race in America. She reveled in the racial power that she leveraged against that Black man. She had every expectation that her racist call identifying her "attacker" as an African American would receive a corresponding response from law enforcement. This situation could have ended in the death of Christian Cooper, and Amy Cooper knew that. Thus, Floyd's murder was salt poured on an already open and festering wound for African Americans.

Let me be clear. Protestors have not claimed George Floyd as a hero or a martyr. When he left home on May 25, Floyd did not intend to be slain by a police officer and become a figure in the latest episode of the never-ending saga of police brutality. It was the police who forced African Americans to add yet another name to that list of notable Black deaths. No, Floyd is neither a hero nor a martyr to African Americans. He is a symbol of the precariousness of Black life in America. He is a reminder of how easily many pivot from the hideous taking of a man's life to handwringing over property damage.

Thus, Floyd's murder was



DR. PEACHES HENRY

the latest piece in the patchwork quilt of African Americans brutalized or killed by law enforcement officers who rarely face consequences for their actions. The brutality displayed by Derek Chauvin as Floyd pleaded for relief for eight minutes and forty-seven seconds is heart-wrenching to watch. To hear that man wail for his mother was so deeply disturbing. Whether or not you are an African American mother, you can respond to the call of a child for his mother in all desperation. That call should have touched every mother's heart. The disregard for Floyd's life present in the demeanor of not only Chauvin but all the officers present should enrage every American. What is more maddening, however, is that Chauvin had received 18 complaints and was still on the job. This is the injustice that drives African Americans to despair, rage, and the streets. Chauvin and the other officers should be charged, convicted, and sentenced for the wanton killing of Floyd. However, these officers are only a part of the greater problem we must acknowledge and rectify. We must redress the systemic racism that led to this tragedy.

I was pleased to see the multi-generational, multi-racial group that peacefully protested at the two rallies held in Waco. As Common says, "No one can win the war individually / It takes the wisdom of the elders and young people's energy." De'Viar Woodson consulted with the Waco NAACP and then organized and led a powerful event.

I am proud of him and the other young Wacoans who helped him. They are continuing the work begun by activists of past generations. It is worth remembering that Martin Luther King was just twenty-six when he led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. College students began the lunch counter sit-ins sometimes against their parents' and professors' wishes. John Lewis was nineteen when he and twelve Black and Caucasian students became the first Freedom Riders. The young people in Waco and across this country are sacrificing their health in light of the coronavirus pandemic and in the face of the violent tactics of some law enforcement officers to demand that this country live up to its ideals. Yet they are marching with hope. They are protesting so fervently, because they believe that change can happen. We should not squander their sacrifice.

Protests are a necessary starting point for change, but they cannot be the only action that individuals take. This latest grave injustice must result in more than protests, rallies, and vigils.

We must support the enactment of laws and policies that address police brutality, hold law enforcement officers accountable for their actions, establish citizen review boards, discourage contracts that make it difficult to discipline officers with documented histories of bad behavior, and develop appropriate and transparent use-of-force policies.

Waco is about to hire a new police chief. The City has the opportunity to hire a person of color to head the Waco Police Department. Hiring an African American chief of police would send a powerful message about racial equity. A properly vetted African American chief would change the long history of the Waco Police Department's lack of diverse leadership in the top ranks. An African American chief would have the potential of attracting minority candidates to the force who could progress through the ranks creating a critical pool of possible future leaders. An African American chief would

help develop sound, trusting relationships with Wacoans of color. We must advocate for the hiring of a African American police chief of color via social media, letters-to-the editor, phone calls, and attendance at city council meetings.

Because the NAACP is always fighting for justice, we have policies ready to implement and laws to enact right now. The NAACP was ready to immediately pivot from working on the COVID-19 pandemic to the George Floyd murder and uprisings to place policies and laws before city councils, state legislatures, and the US Congress. The Waco NAACP has been meeting on a quarterly basis with the Waco Police Department for nearly five years. The Minneapolis NAACP was at ground zero protesting in the streets and meeting in the council room. The NAACP is working all over the country. We invite you to join the Waco NAACP in its fight against police brutality and for racial equity.

Above all, we must all vote in local, state, and national elections. Our vote is the single most powerful weapon we have to combat police brutality and systemic racism. It is our vote that causes politicians to act. The measure of the value of our vote is how desperately our opponents fight to keep us from exercising it. If you do not think that a vote matters, consider what has been going on in this country for the last three and half years. That is the result of voting. It is crucial that every Wacoan who participated in the rallies also vote in upcoming elections. If they do not, the rallies will have been an empty gesture.

The chaos that we are currently experiencing might lead some to believe that we will not come through this moment. I wholeheartedly disagree with that premise. If we can begin to see each other as collaborators in this vast struggle for the soul of America that has been going on since its founding, we can transform this country. Rather than allow this moment in our country's life to drive us to hopelessness, let it be the catalyst for a renewed commitment to justice.

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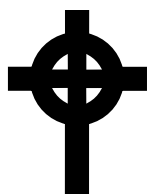


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7:00 p.m.



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Student backpacks are literally a big pain

(NewsUSA) - Sponsored News - Beware the overstuffed school backpack! If you wonder why more kids than ever before are complaining about back and neck pain -- and you should be, what with classes starting up again -- a likely reason is that they're weighed down by backpacks crammed with everything from textbooks to laptops to musical instruments.

Consider this: "The federal Consumer Product Safety Commission calculated that carrying a 12-pound backpack to and from school and lifting it 10 times a day for an entire school year puts a cumulative load on youngsters' bodies of 21,600 pounds," The New York Times reported, "or the equivalent of six mid-sized cars."

No wonder experts warn that kids are putting themselves at risk of even more serious conditions like stress frac-



**DR. SHAMONICA
TRUNELL-MORGAN**

tures in the back, inflammation of growth cartilage and nerve damage in the neck and shoulders. "Over time, the heavy weight of a backpack can cause an unnatural alignment of the spine as students are forced to offset the pressure by arching the back or bending for-

ward at the hips," said Sherry McAllister, DC, executive vice president of the not-for-profit Foundation for Chiropractic Progress, adding that students who are already prone to slouching may experience further pain from sitting at a desk for prolonged periods.

Doctors of Chiropractic, who have a minimum seven years of higher learning, specialize in providing drug-free, hands-on care that helps to naturally align and strengthen the spine. And since they also routinely advise on proper body positioning -- especially important to ensure while children are still growing -- the foundation knows from whence it speaks on these backpack-related tips:

* Limit packs to no more than 10 percent of a kid's weight. * Packs with padded straps and multiple compartments help distribute weight.

Doris Miller Memorial Park

DORIS MILLER MEMORIAL PARK, INC. is located at 4800 Bellmead Drive, Waco, Texas 76705. The cemetery is owned and operated by Janice Matthews.

The Cemetery was established in 1949. The first burial was that of Doris Miller's father, Connery Miller. The Cemetery is named in honor of Doris Miller, the WWII hero. It has been under the present ownership since 2001.

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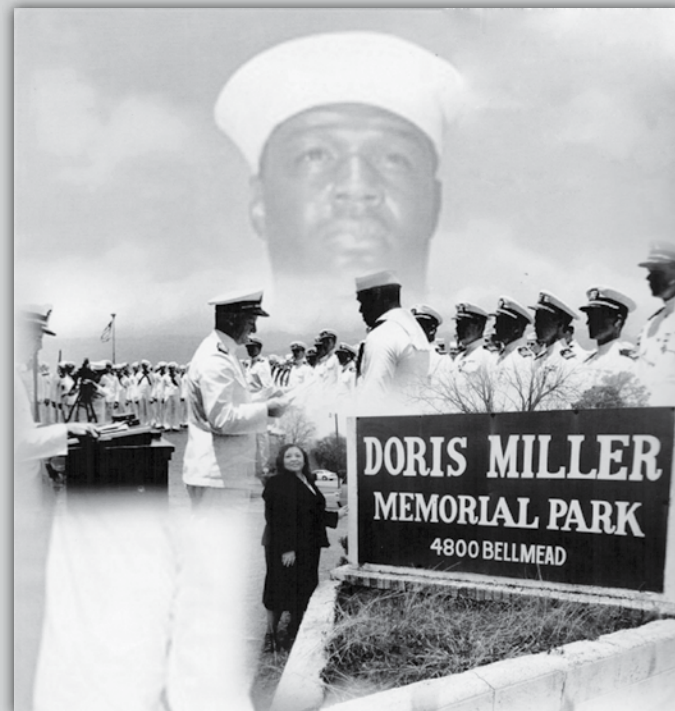
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Walking in divine health and blessings, Part 11

BY RUBY MCCRAY

Continued from the June issue of The Anchor News.

As I mentioned in earlier articles, I have several mentors who helped me in this faith walk of divine health and blessings. Hardly ever a day passes that I don't listen to SID ROTH, "IT'S SUPER-NATURAL," on YouTube. Sid says that the things that happen on his shows are naturally natural. This is what is expected from God's children. He's right, because Jesus said that these signs will follow the BELIEVER. He didn't say that they would only follow the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. He said they would follow the ones who believe. Mark 16:14-20

Sometimes I listen to three or four videos daily. I have repeatedly listened to one program four, five or more times in one day. I don't have time to sit and watch. I was brought up during the days when there was not even a TV, let alone all of this other media. We only listened

to the radio. Now, it's easy for me to listen while cooking, cleaning and doing other chores that don't require my concentration. I'm saying this to give some of you ideas. I wouldn't accomplish much in a day if I sat and watched all of those shows. But faith does come by hearing concepts repeatedly. Romans 10:17

Even though Sid Roth programs weren't available back in the day when my children were sick, I had Kenneth Hagin. My oldest sister mailed cassette tapes to me, and I wore him out! She told me about her attending a Katharine Kuhlman's healing service and sent one of her cassettes. I also found them on a Christian radio station out of Dallas, Texas. There, I listened to R. W. Shambach, A. A. Allen, testimonies of Smith Wigglesworth, and more. Now, all of those are on YouTube along with many more.

In the early 2000, again my sister sent cassette tapes of a deacon, Thurman Scrivner, who God uses mightily in the area of healings. He has since become a pastor of The Living



EVANGELIST
RUBY MCCRAY

Savior Ministries. I've learned so much from him, and I'm constantly sharing his CDs and DVDs with whomever. He firmly believes in something that I never ever thought about. He teaches that if we would truly live FREE FROM SIN, we wouldn't get sick. This is the aspect about what I will be teaching, with Scripture, for the rest of this series.

Since the devil is a devil and doesn't play fairly, according to 1 Peter 5:6-9, he can put a sickness on us illegally, but we don't have to keep it. Let's talk about some

of the things Pastor Schrivner teaches.

One of the first things that I grasped from his teachings is that SIN is the ONLY THING that gives the devil LEGAL RIGHTS to our bodies, those of our children, spouses, and even our assets. I don't want you to think about sins that you wouldn't be caught dead doing as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-26; Revelation 21:8, 27. I'm talking about something that we call a no-harm sin such as taking ballpoint pins, staples, glue, paper, paperclips, etc. from your job. You may justify it by saying you weren't stealing, yet you got it when you thought nobody was looking. Why? Because you know it's not right. "Remember, it is SIN to know what you ought to do and then not do it." James 4:17 It's the little foxes that are spoiling the vineyard. Song of Songs 2:15

Now, can you imagine him, according to Revelation 12:10, standing before God day and night accusing you for what you viewed as the tiniest sin. Neither God nor the

devil views SIN as little or big. SIN is SIN! But when we realize that we've sinned, we must confess and not try to hide it, because God sees and knows everything! 1 John 1:9; Psalm 139:1-12

"And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." Acts 10:38. Who was it that afflicted the people? The devil! Who was doing the healing? Jesus! Who comes to still kill and destroy? The devil? Who comes to give life abundantly? Jesus! John 10:10

Please join me in August as we prove that it is SIN that gives the devil LEGAL RIGHTS. You may not believe me, but... just what if I'm right!

Evangelist Ruby McCray is the founder of A City of Refuge Ministries. For questions or comments e-mail rubya-corm@yahoo.com or write to A City of Refuge Ministries, P. O. Box 2025, Waco, Texas 76703.

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Committing to man is a mistake

BY MATTHEW REED

As Christians we are supposed to be the head and not the tail, leading the world and not following. As a matter of fact, Jesus said "Follow me repeatedly."

Some people of the church are following everyone and everything except Jesus Christ. We oftentimes, embrace too many thoughts that are not God's. We have too many ways that are not God's. The problem is that we are not learned of Christ, so we are committing our hopes and our charge (the works we do for God) unto men. We have not taken the position Christ has taken: even though they spoke the right words he did not look to them (John 2:23). Now when he was in Jerusa-

lem at the pass over, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. 24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, 25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man).

You see he knew under pressure they would fold like a two dollar suit. For example, Peter in Mark 14:68 denied knowing the Lord, saying, "I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew." Then there are those people the parents of the young man who was born blind. John 9:21 says, "But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak

for himself. 22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue."

The men that you are committing to will fail you in the work of God. Put your trust in the name of Jesus, in God Almighty and you will accomplish your works. I believe if you continue keep a pack water for President Trump, President Obama, the Democrats or Republicans, you are doomed to failure (miss heaven and wind up in hell). I am committed to God. That's it! I know human beings; I have now been one for 71 years. My dad used to say, "They lie like one dog and look like another."



PASTOR MATTHEW AND LADY HELEN REED

Student preparation program yields college scholarships

(NewsUSA) - Many high school students who might not have seen college as an option are now ready to pursue advanced education as Dell Scholars, thanks to a unique nonprofit education program. The Dell Scholars Program was developed by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation to assist high-school seniors who have overcome significant obstacles to obtain a college education.

In 2018, of the 500 scholarships offered through the Dell Scholars Program, 281 were awarded to AVID students. Students in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program work to overcome challenges, including limited funds for college and limited family experience with college and college preparation. AVID is a nonprofit that provides training and support to educators, so they can ensure that all of their students are college-ready. AVID educators are trained to tutor as well as mentor students, and to provide opportunities for the students to develop friendships and support networks with peers.

Many of the AVID participants are first-generation

college students who benefit from the mentoring and social support as well as from the academic instruction. "The Dell Scholars are an inspiration to all of us at AVID. These students have overcome significant obstacles to succeed, and we're honored to be a part of their college journey," Dr. Sandy Husk, CEO of AVID, says in a statement announcing the scholars.

"I'm excited to see what they will achieve in the Dell Scholars Program." All students who become Dell Scholars receive not only financial assistance to help defray the cost of college, but also resources and mentoring throughout their college experience. These supports reinforce their study habits and relationship-building skills from AVID and similar high school programs that will help them succeed and earn a bachelor's degree in the subject of their choice.

According to the Dell Scholars website, "Our support is constant until they leave campus with a degree in hand." Dell and AVID share the common goal of leveling the playing field for promising high school students who might not otherwise have

been empowered and motivated to prepare for and attend college.

For more information about AVID, visit avid.org. For more details about the

Dell Scholars Program, visit <https://www.dellscholars.org>.

Finances during a pandemic

(NewsUSA) - Sponsored Content -Now that the initial shock of the pandemic has started to wear off, it's time to take a step back and really start planning. Everyone is living through an unprecedented time. The uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic is enough to rattle even the strictest saver.

Things may feel that they are all out of your control, so focus on what you can control. First things first. Listen to healthcare professionals and follow guidelines to protect yourself and others. If you are financially impacted by Covid-19 for any reason, there are steps you can take to help minimize that impact.

Even if you have not yet been financially impacted by the current state of events, it is vital to either reassess your household budget or create one if you have not already. Involve your family in this as much as you can. Just letting your family know you are

thinking about the crisis and how you will respond can be enough to help ease some of the anxiety around the unknown.

When you are looking at your crisis budget, identify which expenses are absolutely necessary and which are not. It is best to make the hard decisions now, even if you have a savings account built up, rather than wait until you are forced to make those decisions. Focus on your rent or mortgage first. You need to keep a roof over your head if at all possible.

With a situation as fluid as this, it is important to realize that there are resources available to help if needed and that those resources could change. If you are ever in a situation in which you are unable to pay your rent or mortgage, contact your landlord or mortgage provider right away. Once you have the rent and mortgage covered, then move on to food,

utilities, and down on to the more non-essential items. In the event you are unable to make a debt payment, make sure you contact the creditor as soon as you know you will miss the payment. During this difficult time, many creditors are expanding the options available to those unable to make their monthly payments.

If you feel lost when it comes to making a budget, as many do, please reach out to a Certified Credit Counselor at Family Credit Management. Family Credit Management is a nonprofit credit counseling agency that has been helping consumers in difficult financial situations for more than 23 years. Reach out for a no-strings attached budget review from an objective professional by calling 1-800-994-3328 and selecting option 1.

For more in-depth tips and resources, please visit www.familycredit.org/covid19.

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(Reviewed in the United States on March 27, 2019)

"After God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine, I felt like I could take the author's response to certain circumstances and apply to my own life. Each chapter is a life learning lesson of praising God through hard times, and walking into God's plan for my life. It may appear as an easy read, because I read it in one day my first time reading it. Then I had the opportunity to re-read and breakdown each chapter week by week."

Rey

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS | EXCELLENT BOOK

(Reviewed in the United States on June 13, 2020)

"This is an amazing book. I found it helpful in navigating my fear of not reaching my full potential. It helped me understand how I can have a positive God-ordained destiny. Excellent work!"

Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez

