



MY TRUTH
By CHERYL SMITH,
PUBLISHER

No more In-N-Out Voting

I like voting and I've been doing it for decades.

I usually try to vote early because you just never know and I want to ensure that even if I should transition before election day, my vote is on the record.

Growing up I heard all the stories about voting and why it was important. The murders, poll taxes, intimidation tactics and suppression efforts were par for the course and still occurring today.

Some voters are intimidated if they see heavy presence of law enforcement and that has been reported in areas. Closing or changing polling locations, inaccurate information posted and now with COVID-19, well some become discouraged or began to feel as though their vote won't matter anyway.

Voting is the best way to effect change.

Today there are even votes taken in households. But, growing up there wasn't any voting going on in my household.

It wasn't even something my siblings and I even considered.

As I recall, my father and mother, seemed to agree that one person ruled supreme.

Yep, you had to make sure Mother was happy, or guess what? It would be sad times for everyone! But Mother also knew that if and when my father spoke up, he was like James on that 70s hit show, Good Times!

Which brings me to my truth.

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KNEELING

Mavs kneel before Anthem in first game of NBA restart

By DOROTHY J. GENTRY
Sports Editor

The Dallas Mavericks, including coaches and staff, and the Houston Rockets and game referees all knelt during the playing of the National Anthem Friday night before their first game of the restarted NBA season.

Everyone wore Black Lives Matter shirts and black warmups, locked arms and knelt down. This has occurred amongst all the teams, players, coaches and staff and referees since the League resumed its 2019-20 season on Thursday night.

Jonathan Isaac of the Orlando Magic is the only player thus far who has chosen to stand during the anthem.

The NBA technically has a rule on its books prohibiting players from kneeling for the national anthem. Earlier in the week,



MAVs kneeling

Photo credit: Valencia King

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told Yahoo Sports' Chris Haynes that he would not enforce that rule, though, due to the unique circumstances surrounding this game and moment in history. "I respect our teams' unified act of peaceful protest for social justice and under these unique circumstances will not enforce

our long-standing rule requiring standing during the playing of our national anthem."

The Mavericks also collectively wore the word "Equality" on the back of their game jerseys with Kristaps Porzingis, Luka Doncic, J.J. Barea and Maxi Kleber wearing the word in their native languages.

Mansfield Product Chennedy Carter Living the Dream in the WNBA

By DOROTHY J. GENTRY
Sports Editor

Chennedy Carter is living the Dream; literally.

The spectacular guard out of Mansfield Timberview and Texas A&M went No. 4 overall to the Atlanta Dream in this year's WNBA draft.

She's now living her dream of playing pro-



Chennedy Carter

Photo courtesy: Ned Dishman/NBAE via Getty Images

fessional basketball in Bradenton, FL where all 12 teams in the WNBA are housed in a Bubble - one single site - to play a shortened 22-game season. The Bubble is in response to the Coronavirus pandemic which continues to spread throughout the nation.

"It's a bit of a journey and a step for me but I'm just taking it one day at a

time," she said recently, after practice from Florida. "I'm honestly blessed to even be in this position. I'm the youngest on the Atlanta Dream so it's a blessing to even be here."

The 21-year-old Carter, who goes by the nickname "Hollywood," is A&M's highest draft se-

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Dallas Church the site of anti-BLM Rally

By ASHLEY MOSS
Staff Writer

It was a tale of two protests on Sunday in southern Dallas County as more than 1,000 vehicles descended on Friendship-West Baptist Church on Sunday. Ahead of what was to be a planned Black Lives Matter Rally at the church's campus, supporters of a Blue Lives Matter group rapidly gathered at the church, later saying they were taking a rest.

According to bystanders and church officials, an estimated more than 1,000 vehicles filled the church parking lot, many brandishing Trump 2020 and confederate flags.



Many know Friendship-West from the leadership of its senior pastor, Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III. The Bishop College graduate has been on the forefront calling for social justice and reform.

The church bears a huge sign that explains its position, "Black Lives Matter!"

So when a large caravan of cars and trucks began circling in the parking lot, some mistakenly thought that perhaps the two groups had chosen to unite.

By late Sunday morning an

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CARTER, from page 1...

lection in the program's history. Per the WNBA, there have been 13 Texas A&M players selected in the history of the WNBA Draft, with Kelsey Bone being the highest pick at No. 5 in the 2013 Draft by the New York Liberty.

She also comes from a line of professional ballers.

Her second cousin is former WNBA All-Star Jia Perkins, a champion with the Lynx in 2017; and her godfather is longtime NBA guard Jason Terry, who won a championship with the Dallas Mavericks in 2011. She was also



Chennedy Carter

Photo courtesy: Kelsey Bibik/Atlanta Dream

coached in high school by the legendary Kit Kyle Martin, the 2019 Wilson Sporting Goods/WBCA High School National Coach of the Year.

Carter was raised as the only daughter in a house full of boys, brothers 25-year-old Cameron, 23-year-old Chandler and 17-year-old Chendall. Her mom, Shonda Perkins, is a Mansfield ISD elementary school teacher.

"It is ironic that she is going to the Atlanta Dream because she is living proof that hard work pays off. Never stop chasing your dreams," Perkins said shortly after her daughter was drafted.

In the months since the draft, Carter has made her way to the WNBA's Florida Bubble and is working hard learning the game at the professional level, bonding with her new teammates and making the most of her rookie season.

"We work hard together off and on the court. Off the court, once we leave we stick together," Carter said of her Dream teammates. "We stay connected with team dinners and other things. Us being so close off the court and team bonding and building has really helped us to learn each other."

Because the players will be away from home for at least the next two to three months, many brought items from home to give the Bubble a more personal feel. Carter was no different.

"I brought my PS4. My game system is very dear to me because I like to get on Disney Plus," she admits. "I'm a big (NBA) 2K girl too, so I'm pretty set in my room with movies and games."

She keeps in touch pretty regularly with family and friends back home in Texas. "They call me about every day. They want to know what's going on. Having a friend that's in the professional league, playing against the best players in the world, that's really amazing to them," Carter said. I try to give my friends and family the inside scoop of how I'm doing everyday, how's practice going, just how am I getting along with everything. I'm loving it so far."

Carter also reflected on the unprecedented challenges the world is facing including the Coronavirus pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests and nationwide racial unrest.

"I'm here just working hard. That's how I'm getting through it. I know there's a lot of things



**Left:
Chennedy
Carter and
family**

Photo courtesy:
Shonda Perkins

**Bottom:
Chennedy
Carter
and Mom**

Photo Courtesy:
Shonda Perkins

outside of basketball that our world is pushing forward, to get justice for different people and I'm doing that inside the bubble," Carter said. "I wish I could be on the outside at some of the marches and to see some of the protests but it's amazing to see how our world is trying to push forth change. We're also trying to do that here in the bubble."

Carter said the WNBA players plan to wear Breonna Taylor's name on the back of their jerseys this season. "We're all in tune with making a change for the world."

Carter, who had one year of college eligibility left, finished her Texas A&M career with 1,983 total points – just seven points shy of being the top scor-



er in the program's history. She holds the Texas A&M record for most 20-point games (62) and 30-point games (13), while also ranking in the top six in field goals made (732, 3rd), 3-pointers made (148, 6th) and free throws made (371, 3rd).

Leadership, from page 4...

because of a communications snafu. She faced an angry and hostile mob and soldiers who would not allow her to enter the school.

Gloria Ray's mother, Julie Miller Eckford, lost her state job because she would not withdraw her daughter from Central High School. These young people, like John Lewis, had tenacity, commitment, and vision.

Consider Dr. Ron Walters (1938-2010), the distinguished professor who spent most of his career as a political scientist at

Howard University.

He was president of the NAACP Youth Council in Wichita, Kansas, when he organized a sit-in at Dockum Drug Store in July 1958, just weeks after Ernie Green graduated from Central High School and more than a year before the Greensboro sit-in in 1960.

The students who participated in the sit-in ranged in age from 15 to 22. The sit-in lasted three weeks and ended when the store manager said the sit-in was costing too much money.

In 1960, a young Jesse Jackson led a protest at the segregated Greenville, South Carolina library, when he was told he could

not check out a book he needed for his undergraduate research.

The Greenville Eight, including Jackson, were arrested for disorderly conduct when they visited the library, browsed, and refused to leave.

After the arrests, the City Council voted to close both the white and the dilapidated one-room colored library. The libraries reopened about two months later; available to all citizens. Like Lewis, Jackson has dedicated his life fighting for civil rights and economic justice.

In celebrating John Lewis and his remarkable life, we also honor other young civil rights activists who risked their lives to take a

stand. They made a difference in the struggle for justice. And just as we celebrate them, we must also celebrate today's young activists, those in the Black Lives Matter Movement who have mobilized young people to protest police brutality, the myth of white supremacy, and economic injustice.

As I think of John Lewis, his remarkable courage, and the leadership he offered at every stage of his life, I also reflect on the much-discussed generational conflict in the African American community.

This conflict is, in some ways, inevitable. In other ways, it is unnecessary. Black folks of every

age want the same thing – social and economic justice. And depending on our age, we approach the struggle differently.

Some will put their lives on the line; some will march, others will boycott racist companies and write checks. Some of every age will do nothing.

Those of us who are elders must embrace youth leadership in the spirit of John Lewis, Ernie Green, Jesse Jackson, and others.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannealveaux.com.