



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Parents raise the alarm about violence in schools, say their vote depends on improvement

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

A new poll revealed that parents continue to express "legitimate concerns" about violence in schools, increased bullying, and a lack of mental health resources.

Alarming, the poll released by the National Parents Union found that 59 percent of parents are very or extremely concerned about how schools are teaching race and diversity.

"Many Black parents are worried that schools are being harsher on students of color compared to white students," researchers noted in the poll.

The National Parents Union counts as a network of parent organizations and grassroots activists committed to improving the quality of life for children and families in the United States.

Conducted from November 19 to November 23, the survey included 1,233 parents who also count as registered voters.

Researchers found that 84 percent of parents are concerned about how schools address the threat of violence, and 59 percent identified increased bullying or violence in



Parents have expressed concern over bullying in schools and how race and diversity is being taught. (Courtesy photo/NNPA)

school as a significant issue.

About 52 percent said student mental health after coping with the pandemic is a significant issue as well.

"Parents have very legitimate concerns about violence in schools, increased bullying, and a lack of mental health resources," Keri Rodrigues, co-founder, and President of the National Parents Union, said in a statement.

"Now, it is incumbent on schools to do something about these issues, especially given the federal funds available. It's not rocket sci-

ence. Rather than repaint a football field, first, make sure that there are enough counselors to help students cope with mental health issues," Rodrigues asserted.

The poll also asked the parents who responded that they were concerned about the threat of violence, which worries them the most.

The top three most pressing concerns remain:

- 44 percent: Schools not having enough counselors, psychologists, or social workers to work with stu-

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### People In The News ...



Lee S. SMith



Chief Keechant Sewell

NDG Quote of the Week: "The need for change bulldozed a road down the center of my mind."  
—Maya Angelou



## Lee S. Smith

Lee Stanley Smith, a historic native, has recently been honored by St. Marks Preparatory School of Dallas by naming him as the first distinguished alumnus – and using his name as the ongoing name of this prestigious award: The “St Mark’s School of Texas Lee S. Smith ’65 Courage and Honor Distinguished Alumni Award.”

This award recognizes members of the St Mark’s community, who demonstrate courage, honor, perseverance and justice in the community, who have



made an indelible difference through using their voice and actions to better this world. Naming this new Alumni Award in his honor, Lee Stanley Smith’s contributions will forever

be preserved in St Mark’s History.

Honoring the legacy of St Mark’s first Black graduate: Lee Stanley Smith.

After graduating from St Mark’s in 1965, Smith earned a Baccalaureate degree at Harvard University (1969) and then went on to the University of Washington Law School (1974) to earn his Juris Doctor law degree. His other notable accomplishments include: the first Black Managing Editor of the Harvard Yearbook Publications; spearheaded litigation against the Washington State Bar Association that led to ex-

ponential increase in Black lawyers being able to practice in Washington State. Smith returned to Texas to become the Chief Regional Civil Rights Attorney for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where he was responsible for enforcement of Federal civil rights laws in Texas and the surrounding states. Smith also led the legal case against UT and Texas A&M to strike down the then Texas Constitutional provision of “separate but equal”. This led to codifying that a share of the multibillion-dollar Permanent Univer-

sity Fund be perpetually allocated to the historically Black college and university (HBCU) - Prairie View A&M University. Smith also authored several studies on the History of Black Colleges in Texas.

Lee Stanley Smith, is a historic South Dallas native. He started his education at Phyllis Wheatley Elementary and continued his secondary education at James Madison High School through the first semester of his 1965 senior year. It was starting his second semester in 1965 that the opportunity arose to integrate St Mark’s School –

and Smith then transferred. While at Madison, Smith was a leader and gifted student. He served as NHS President, ROTC Drill member, Alpha Phi Alpha Scholastic Honoree, Trojan Honoree, NASA and US Air Force Award winner, and he was an Eagle Scout with Order of the Arrow.

Smith was the first Black student to integrate the halls of North Dallas’ St Mark’s School of Texas. More of his professional accomplishments include: Photographer and Special Assistant for the National

See SMITH Page 4

## Chief Keechant Sewell

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Nassau County Police Department’s Chief of Detectives Keechant Sewell has beat out top candidates from around the country to land New York City’s head law enforcement job.

Chief Sewell, the first African American in her current role in Nassau County, has earned selection as the first woman Police Commissioner in the NYPD’s 176-year history.

She’s just the third African American appointed as



commissioner.

Mayor-elect Eric Adams determined that the seasoned veteran and New York native would better serve the needs of the 55,000-person department that includes more than

35,000 officers.

“I want to let them know that we are absolutely focused on violent crime. Violent crime is the No. 1 priority,” Chief Sewell told the New York Post, adding she plans to “hit the ground running” when she takes over.

Chief Sewell has vowed to fully assess what’s happening in the Big Apple before deciding on a strategy to address rising shootings

and other crimes.

She said more plainclothes officers would hit the streets under her regime.

“They are able to be in places where they are not able to be easily recognized, and if you use a surgical approach, use well-trained officers and know what their objectives are, you can get measurable results,” Chief Sewell insisted.

A 23-year veteran, the chief has held numer-

ous leadership positions, including hostage negotiations. In addition, she created Nassau County’s Professional Standards Bureau, which oversaw internal affairs.

A member of the New York-New Jersey Joint-Terrorism Task Force, Chief Sewell grew up in housing projects in Queens where a formal press conference to announce her hire occurred on Wednesday, December

15.

“Keechant Sewell is a proven crime-fighter with the experience and emotional intelligence to deliver both the safety New Yorkers need and the justice they deserve,” Mayor-elect Adams told reporters.

When Chief Sewell takes over as commissioner in January, she’ll have to manage a strained relationship

See SEWELL Page 4

## Loretta Adu

(PR.com) Loretta Adu of Burien, Washington is honored as a Woman of the Month for November 2021 by P.O.W.E.R. (Professional Organization of Women of Excellence Recognized) for her outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of nonprofit/fundraising. Each month P.O.W.E.R. features women to represent their professions and industries due to their expertise and success in their chosen specialty.

Loretta Adu is the CEO and founder of Smile Smile, a nonprofit organization which provides funding for children to be able to attend school throughout Africa.



Loretta is responsible for fundraising efforts to help build schools in Africa and enable children to attend schools. She oversees the operations, management, administration, marketing, and staff.

Adu started this nonprofit-

See ADU, Page 4

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# Report recommends new approach to migrants and asylum seekers in Tijuana

Statement by  
Refugees International

WASHINGTON/TIJUANA—A report released today by two important organizations describes how policies at the U.S.-Mexico border have made communities of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in Tijuana vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19. The report suggests that non-Spanish speaking and Black migrants faced distinct barriers to employment, education, healthcare, and housing attributable to societal bias and racism.

The report comes out as the Biden administration begins a new "Remain in Mexico" program, which will force migrants to wait in Mexico while their asylum cases are pending, subjecting them to unreasonable harm and intensifying existing lack of opportunity, rights, and services.

"This report provides recommendations based on the needs of the affected population and not on what we believe they need," said report co-author Tania Garcia Barajas, coordinator of the Legal Clinic at Espacio Migrante and professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California. "It is urgent that the authorities of Baja California and Tijuana guarantee to refugees migrants and asylum seekers access to their human rights."

"The recommendations in this report are more important than ever," said Yael Schacher, Senior U.S. Advocate at Refugees International, which helped to support the research. "It is impossible for so many in Tijuana to access asylum and the services to which they are entitled or to find decent work or housing."

Findings of the research

include:

- About three quarters of people surveyed lost their job because of the pandemic (74 percent of Africans, 66 percent of Haitians, and 82 percent of Latin Americans lost their jobs during the COVID crisis in 2020. At the time of the survey, only 9 percent of Africans, 8 percent of Haitians, and 22 percent of Latin and Central Americans were employed at all.)

- 97 percent of Africans, 96 percent of Haitians, and 97 percent of Latin and Central Americans sur-

mona College.

The report includes recommendations to alleviate the situation for migrants living at the border, including ending any U.S. policy that forces migrants to return or wait in Mexico and violates non-refoulement, as well as steps the U.S. and Mexican governments, international organizations, and civil society can take to enforce human rights laws that are currently legislated in Mexico, improve access to services, and realize language and racial justice.

"This report reflects Es-



Zach Vessels / Unsplash

335 phone surveys Espacio Migrante and Haitian Bridge Alliance conducted with Central American, Haitian, and African migrants and asylum seekers to assess their needs and approve them for an assistance program run by the two organizations in the spring of 2020. In addition, the researchers hosted three focus group meetings for survey participants in October 2020 and observed and documented changes in U.S. and Mexican immigration and border policies from late 2020 through July 2021.

Copies of the report in Spanish and Creole will be released in the coming days.

Refugees International has been very pleased to support this research and this report. Refugees International is an independent non-profit organization based in Washington, DC that advocates for lifesaving assistance, human rights, and protection for displaced people all over the world. Refugees International believes it critical that organizations working with displaced people and forced migrants outside the United States have opportunities to share their views with the broadest possible public and policy-making audience in the United States and beyond. Refugees International is committed to playing a role in facilitating this very important form of advocacy from individuals and organizations most significantly affected by the migration policies of the United States and other countries of transit or destination. The report suggests that non-Spanish speaking and Black migrants faced distinct barriers to employment, education, healthcare, and housing attributable to societal bias and racism.

veyed said that COVID had made it difficult to cover their housing expenses.

- Central and Latin Americans surveyed reported that they were able to receive healthcare treatment when they were sick at double the rate of Haitians and Africans surveyed (28.6 percent of Africans, 32 percent of Haitians, and 59 percent of Central and Latin Americans reported accessing health care when sick)

"It is important to elevate the voice and experiences of migrants and not only hear them, but learn from them and be open to their knowledge informing advocacy and vision for justice along the border," said report co-author April J. Mayes, treasurer of the Board of Haitian Bridge Alliance and an associate professor of History at Po-

pacio Migrante's distinct approach of using cultural and community dialogue to promote human rights and social, racial, and gender justice in migrant communities," said report co-author Paulina Olvera Cárdenas, founder and executive director of Espacio Migrante. "It is so important right now, when there is increasing humanitarian need and continued barriers to inclusion and asylum in Tijuana."

"The idea of getting together and producing this document came from the need to show how the pandemic is affecting the lives of migrants at the border and intensifying old problems, based on their own perceptions," said report co-author Domila P. Pazzini, board member of Espacio Migrante.

The report is based on

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# CVS Health announces steps to accelerate omnichannel health strategy

WOONSOCKET, R.I. — CVS Health (NYSE: CVS) today announced several steps to support its strategy of making health care more affordable, accessible and convenient for consumers.

Prem Shah has been named to the newly created role of Chief Pharmacy Officer and will oversee the omnichannel pharmacy strategy, effective immediately. On January 1, 2022, Shah and Michelle Peluso will become Co-Presidents of CVS Health's retail business, with Peluso overseeing front-store strategy and operations. Shah joined CVS Health in 2013 and is currently Executive Vice President, Specialty Pharmacy and Product Innovation. Peluso joined CVS Health in 2021 as Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Officer.

"Prem and Michelle are ideally suited for their new roles and will be instrumental to CVS Health as we continue to execute against our strategy of delivering an integrated health care experience centered around the consumer," said Karen S. Lynch, President and



CVS  
CEO of CVS Health.

Shah will report directly to Lynch in his new role, and Peluso will continue to report directly to Lynch.

In connection with the changes announced today, Neela Montgomery, currently Executive Vice President and President, CVS Retail/Pharmacy, has decided to leave the company. Montgomery will remain in her role until the end of 2021, ensuring a smooth transition of responsibilities.

Lynch added, "We appreciate Neela's contributions during an incredibly challenging and dynamic period when our retail stores played a critical role in the country's fight against COVID-19. We value the leadership she has provided

during a time of evolution in our business and wish her continued success."

As part of the company's strategic review of its retail business, CVS Health will also create new store formats to drive higher engagement with consumers. Three distinct models will serve as community health destinations:

- Sites dedicated to offering primary care services;
- An enhanced version of HealthHUB locations with products and services designed for everyday health and wellness needs; and
- Traditional CVS Pharmacy stores that provide prescription services and health, wellness, personal care and other convenient retail offerings.

The company has been

evaluating changes in population, consumer buying patterns and future health needs to ensure it has the right kinds of stores in the right locations for consumers and for the business. As part of this initiative, CVS Health will reduce store density in certain locations and close approximately 300 stores a year for the next three years. The company is committed to offering impacted colleagues roles in other locations or different opportunities as part of its overall workforce strategy. These changes will begin in the spring of 2022.

"Our retail stores are fundamental to our strategy and who we are as a company," said Lynch. "We remain focused on the competitive advantage provided by our presence in thousands of communities across the country, which complements our rapidly expanding digital presence."

In connection with the planned store closures, the company expects to record an impairment charge in the fourth quarter of 2021

of between \$1.0 billion and \$1.2 billion or between \$0.56 and \$0.67 of diluted earnings per share related to the write down of operating lease right-of-use assets and property and equipment. As a result of the planned store closures, the company has revised its full year 2021 GAAP EPS guidance range to \$5.46 to \$5.67 from \$6.13 to \$6.23. These impairment charges are excluded from the

company's calculation of Adjusted EPS. The company expects the impact to Adjusted EPS to be immaterial in 2021 and 2022, and modestly accretive in 2023 and thereafter. The company confirms its full year 2021 Adjusted EPS guidance range of \$7.90 to \$8.00 and confirms its full year 2021 cash flow from operations guidance range of \$13.0 billion to \$13.5 billion.

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## ADU, from Page 2

it to help children in Ghana have a better education. She viewed a documentary which showed children sitting under a tree to study in

Africa. As a result, she was inspired to develop schools for low income students in her homeland community in Ghana. Adu attended

Washington State University.

P.O.W.E.R.-Professional Organization of Women of Excellence Recognized is an organization and an online community.

## SEWELL, from Page 2

between the department and the unions who reportedly have battled over policing tactics and other issues.

"We welcome Chief Sewell to the second-toughest policing job in America," Patrick Lynch,

the president of the city's police union, said in a statement.

"The toughest, of course, is being an NYPD cop on the street."

## SMITH, from Page 2

Urban League in New York City; Attorney at Law in Seattle; Attorney for the University of Texas System in Austin; Special Assistant to the Director of the

Washington State Department of Wildlife; Associate Vice President for Business Affairs, and Associate Vice President for Legal Affairs for the University of Texas

at Austin with extensive expertise in information technology systems, security and forensics; Business Consultant for Apogee Telecommunications in Austin; and Cultural Photographer at Traveler Smith.

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# Accountability was evident in Arbery's case but no justice

By Roger Caldwell  
NNPA Contributor

The justice system worked, in the Ahmaud Arbery case after 74 days, because it was forced and pushed to do its job. There is very little to be satisfied with from the judicial system when two District Attorneys, Jackie Johnson and George Barnhill, have worked with one of the suspects on a daily basis, and they prevented the police from doing their job. Former District Attorney Jackie Johnson has been charged with breaking her oath, but for 74 days the entire Glynn County prosecutors' office was not executing their responsibilities.

For two and a half months, three murderers were allowed to walk around free and brag about their actions. The system only worked because thousands of protesters, truth tellers and national activists forced and pushed the system to expose the truth.



On February 23, 2020, these three White men were going hunting for a Black man and they had their shotguns (Courtesy photo/NNPA)

There also was a video that was leaked, which forced the county to take action.

In a fair system, three killers would be charged immediately. The District Attorney would not be allowed to investigate a case where they had worked with the charged individual on a daily basis. It was obvious that the District Attorney would not be impartial and prevented the police from doing their job.

When we think of justice

in America, this case was an example of why the system is broken and flawed and must be reformed. Instead of working to expose the truth, the first two District Attorneys were fighting to protect their friends and hide the evidence.

Initially, it appeared that the dead Black man was the killer and the criminal and the three White men had acted in self-defense, and it was not necessary to have a trial. In this case, the kill-

ers were comfortable telling the investigators that they said, "Stop you know, I'll blow your f...ing head off!"

There is something in the White men psyche that they believe there is nothing wrong with killing Black men/people, because they have a badge, gun, and uniform. On February 23, 2020, these three White men were going hunting for a Black man and they had their shotguns.

In America, there are hundreds of cases on a yearly basis, where police and local citizens are not charged because they are White or a policeman and the persons they kill are Black. Many times, there is no video or factual evidence and there is a big cover up. Ninety percent of the time, the legal system works for White Folks, and they expect it to work one hundred percent of the time.

Many of these murders are modern day lynchings and the evidence is swept under the rug. Ahmaud Arbery's death was a case where one such incident existed. In this case, there were three White men: Travis McMichael, 35, son; Gregory McMichael, 65, father; and neighbor, William Bryan, 52. In this case according to the District Attorney, it was not necessary to create a crime scene, or do a criminal investigation, because the three men were innocent.

As pressure mounted

from across the country, internationally, and the federal government, the three men were charged with murder and aggravated assault. Even though many around the country are calling this trial a victory for justice, with a different judge the killers could have gotten off free.

There was a jury with 11 White men and 1 Black man, which many in the country thought was racist and the defense kept asking for a mistrial. The defense used reverse racism for the White killers and tried to claim the criminals could not get a fair trial.

It is very difficult to consider this trial a win for the justice system and the legal system. This trial was a win for accountability and exposed the corruption in the judicial system. Racism is alive and well in Glynn County, and there is a need for more organizations to fight corruption — and help reform the legal and justice system — all over America.

## Letitia James drops out of New York's Gov. race, seeks Trump prosecution

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

In a political stunner, New York State Attorney General Letitia James has dropped out of the race for governor, upending the campaign and possibly solidifying Gov. Kathy Hochul as the Democratic front-runner.

"I have come to the con-

clusion that I must continue my work as attorney general," James, the Howard University School of Law graduate, wrote on Twitter.

"There are a number of important investigations and cases that are underway, and I intend to finish the job," James, 63, continued.

"I am running for re-election to complete the work New Yorkers elected

me to do," she concluded.

That work includes the ongoing investigation into former President Donald Trump.

On Thursday, December 9, reports surfaced that James wants to question Trump under oath in a civil fraud investigation.

James' office also has partnered with Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance in a criminal inves-

tigation of Trump where the former president could face indictment in the Big Apple.

It's alleged that the Trump organization engaged in criminal fraudulent activity by intentionally submitting false property values to potential lenders.

Trump's lawyers have sought to block any attempts by James and Vance to depose the Republican.



"I am running for re-election to complete the work New Yorkers elected me to do," she concluded. (Official Photo)

## VIOLENCE, from Page 1

dents.

- 42 percent: Schools not having resources to keep weapons out of schools.

- 39 percent: Schools not having school resource officers or police accessible on campus.

Further concerns included:

- 59 percent of parents are extremely or very con-

cerned about how schools are teaching about race and diversity; among Black parents, 69 percent share this sentiment, which drops slightly to 67 percent among Hispanic parents.

Of the overall number of parents who are at least somewhat concerned (79 percent):

- 48 percent say what

concerns them the most is schools are not teaching accurate information about the issue of race.

- 42 percent are most concerned about schools pushing a progressive agenda onto students.

- 56 percent of GOP parents who are concerned say this is their top concern.

- 32 percent are most concerned that schools aren't focused on the issue

enough.

- 46 percent of Black parents who are concerned say this is their top concern.

- 78 percent of parents are concerned about how schools are handling disciplinary issues.

- Nearly half (46 percent) of Black parents who said they are concerned about how schools are handling disciplinary issues are worried that schools are harsh-

er on students of color compared to white students.

- 38 percent of parents trust Democrats to do a better job of handling education; 31 percent trust Republicans; 14 percent trust both equally; 11 percent trust neither.

Among parents who identify as Independents, 28 percent trust Republicans and 20 percent trust Democrats.

"These findings underscore the importance of the very thing we have been imploring school leaders across the country to do — listen to the parents in your community," Rodriguez stated.

"It also reinforces the need for those running for office to take the concerns of parents very seriously or risk losing elections."



# Happy holidays, and let's count our blessings



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6

The holidays are here, and I'd like to wish everyone a safe and joyous season. It's also a good time to be grateful for all the accomplishments of our schools,

students and staff in District 6. Here are just a few of the things we are celebrating:

## Big Win for Carter Boys Basketball

Congratulations to Carter High School's varsity boys basketball team for their huge 87-50 win over Lake Dallas, and a special shout-out to Devin Lewis, who scored 29 points including six 3-pointers. Way to go!

## Yay, Cheerleaders!

More than 450 cheerleaders from 27 campuses competed in the Cheer Challenge this month, and for the first time Dallas ISD middle school cheerleaders were able to compete. District 6 brought home some prizes, of course, with Carter High School placing third in High School Division 4A, and Atwell Middle

School placing 3rd in the middle school division. Go, teams!

## In other news ...

### Meals will continue to be provided during the Christmas break

To ensure that all children 18 years and younger have access to food during the winter holidays, we will provide free curbside "grab-'n-go" meals on Dec.

20 and Dec. 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or while supplies last. These boxes will include a week's worth of meals for every child. To find a school location near you, visit [www.Dallasisd.org/FCNS](http://www.Dallasisd.org/FCNS).

## STEM Expo

Join us Saturday, Janu-

ary 22, 2022 for the largest STEM Expo in Texas!

The annual event will be a digital experience to bring our community together to explore, design, build and create a brighter future. For more information, you can visit [www.dallasisd.org/stemexpo](http://www.dallasisd.org/stemexpo).

## South Oak Cliff state championship football watch party slated for Saturday

The Golden Bears have made it to state, and there's no reason for anyone to miss out on the excitement.

The Dallas Independent School District, South Oak Cliff High School Alumni and community leadership are inviting all residents and supporters of the school to a FREE watch party as the school competes for a UIL state football championship against Liberty Hill.

This Class 5A Division II state final will mark the first time in over 63 years that a Dallas ISD school has been in the position to win.

South Oak Cliff turned heads with its defeat over three-time state champs Aledo, and the success kept rolling with a wins over Lovejoy and West Texas powerhouse Lubbock Co-

per. The teams only loss of the season came in an early contest against Duncanville

allowed on the property.

- everyone will go through metal detectors



(now vying for a state title in the 6A division).

Organizers have implemented precautions for the event including:

- no food or drink brought into the arena.
- no alcohol or weapons

• clear bag policy will be in effect

- no in and out
- Concessions sold through the contracted vendor
- Alumni may sell SOC Gear at the entrance prior

to entering the facility

- Maximum capacity is 2,500

The watch party will be held Saturday, December 18, 2021 at the Ellis Davis Fieldhouse (9191 South Polk Street, Dallas, Texas 75232).

Tailgating will be allowed in Parking Lot A only beginning at 8:30 am. Doors open at 10 a.m., and the game starts at 11 a.m.

Admission is FREE with tickets that must be obtained on line at <https://gofan.co>.

## Campus Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to all the campus Teachers of the Year, and especially to those in District 6, who are listed below:

D'Cardio Cottonham	David W. Carter High School
Aaron Hunter	Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy
Jesse Acosta	Justin F. Kimball High School
Ashley Fair	William H. Atwell Middle School
George Albert	T.W. Browne Middle School
Baylee Salas	D.A. Hulcy STEAM Middle School
Mary Hawkins	Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Middle School
Pamela Appiah-Opuku	Boude Storey Middle School
Kristina Chandler	Jimmie Tyler Brashear Elementary
Salvador Elizondo	John W. Carpenter Elementary
Camri Phinisee	Barbara Jordan Elementary
Stephanie McCloud	Umphrey Lee Elementary
Bennie Jenkins	Thomas L. Marsalis Elementary
Rachael Edwards	Ronald E. McNair Elementary
Jessica Hernandez	Maria Moreno STEAM Academy
Sara Cruz	Clinton P. Russell Elementary
Juana Garza	Leslie A. Stemmons Elementary
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Michelle Parks	Robert L. Thornton Elementary
Deborah Robinson	Thomas Tolbert Elementary
Sharonda Gray	Adelle Turner Elementary
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## Irving's 'State of the City' mayoral address and event is slated for Jan. 25

The Irving business community will be gathering on Jan. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the Irving State of the City address at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, 500 West Las Colinas Boulevard.

Mayor Rick Stopfer will discuss Irving's 2021 successes and exciting upcoming projects and opportunities. This year's event focuses on "Overcoming, Advancing & Achieving." Throughout the pandemic, Irving has overcome many challenges to advance as a

community and reach new milestones.

This event is in-person and open to the public. Individual tickets are available to Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce members for \$75 and \$85 for nonmembers.

"The 2022 State of the City presented by Mercury One, will feature (Stopfer) for a conversation discussing the accomplishments of 2021 and the future opportunities for our community in 2022," the chamber noted on its website. "This year's event

will focus on Overcoming, Advancing & Achieving. Throughout this pandemic Irving has overcome many challenges to continue to advance as a community, and achieve economic development successes, including headquarter relocations and expansions, capitalizing on our diverse workforce and reaching new milestones.

"As we prepare to host this Signature Program in-person, the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce plans to take all necessary precautions on-

site to keep attendees safe. Masks are required at all times, until safely seated at your designated lunch seat. We have increased the number of sanitizing stations at the entrance of the convention center and Grand Ballroom. If the event must be postponed, the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce will provide notice to attendees via email as soon as possible."

To reserve a seat, call (214) 217-8484 or visit Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce website.



Irving Mayor Rick Stopfer (City of Irving)

## City of Carrollton launches new, more user-friendly website

The City of Carrollton has launched a newly redesigned website that offers quick and easy access to essential City information and features a more user-friendly pathway to community services. The web address will remain cityofcarrollton.com.

The new website is intuitively structured so visitors can swiftly navigate the

site, thus eliminating the number of clicks needed to locate desired information. In addition to an updated aesthetic featuring large photos and strong Carrollton branding, the City also relocated the web hosting site for improved security and faster updates.

"The content of the new City website is based on the needs of residents and

other visitors," Marketing Director, Kelli Lewis said. "It is organized by topics that provide multiple ways for people to find what they need in a convenient manner."

From the How Do I ribbon to the News, Events, and Videos section, Carrollton is right at everyone's fingertips. In fact, the site also features improved

ADA compliance to interface with and support visually impaired users.

The website redesign process began in 2019 and included UX (user experience) consulting such as resident and visitor input, heat maps, and other analytic gathering. A user survey was conducted last July to ensure the final design reflected the results provided

by respondents. Additional steps included content migration, graphic design, and training for internal staff.

The City of Carrollton is committed to effectively using technology to communicate the many different services and amenities offered to its citizens, business owners, visitors, and other interested audiences.

Carrollton's website

serves as a hub for City news and information, online payments, Library information resources and book holds, animal adoptions, Parks & Recreation program registration, Economic Development resources for businesses, permit applications, and much more.

For 24/7 online services, visit cityofcarrollton.com.

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# Former 'Empire Star' Jussie Smollett found guilty of staging attack

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Actor Jussie Smollett faces jail time after a jury in Chicago found him guilty of falsely reporting to the police that he had been the victim of a racist and homophobic assault.

The initial report of the attack sent shockwaves through the media and garnered responses from celebrities and public officials alike.

"Mr. Smollett didn't want the crime solved,"

Daniel K. Webb said during his closing argument to the jury. "He wanted to report it as a hate crime; he wanted media exposure; but he didn't want the brothers apprehended."

The 12-member panel deliberated for about nine hours before returning the verdict.

The jury convicted the "Empire" star on five counts of disorderly conduct related to filing a false police report on January 29, 2019.

They acquitted of one count of disorderly conduct

related to filing a false police report two weeks later, on February 14, 2019.

Law enforcement had maintained that Smollett's claim amounted to a hoax. He reported to law enforcement that he was attacked near his apartment by men yelling "This is MAGA country," a reference to white supremacists who backed former President Donald Trump.

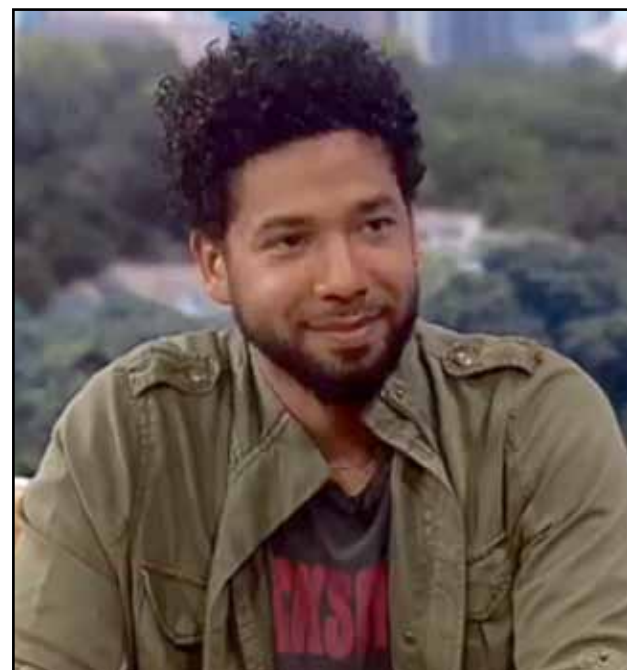
Prosecutors said Smollett worked together with his alleged attackers, Abimbola Osundairo and Olabi-

njo Osundairo, to create the hoax.

They claimed Smollett told the brothers to punch and bruise him, pour bleach on his clothes, and affix a noose around his neck.

Webb said Smollett staged the attack after receiving death threats in the mail. The actor became upset when producers of the television hit series "Empire" failed to show empathy, Webb argued.

Smollett faces up to three years in prison when he's sentenced.



The jury convicted the "Empire" star on five counts of disorderly conduct related to filing a false police report on January 29, 2019. (Photo: wikimedia commons)

## Alabama's Bryce Young becomes first QB in team history to win the Heisman

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Bryce Young isn't even eligible for the 2022 NFL Draft, but his gridiron achievements certainly are pro-worthy.

The Alabama quarterback became the fifth sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy, college football's most outstanding player award.

Young, 20, also becomes the first Crimson Tide quarterback to win the Heisman, and it marks the second

consecutive year an Alabama player has won the award.

"I've always been labeled as someone who's not the prototype, being an African-American quarterback and

See YOUNG, Page 16

## Have you watched our videos?



## Check us out on Youtube!

In case you've missed it, the North Dallas Gazette has begun producing videos. Our latest series, "Close Up" takes a deep dive into issues affecting the local DFW community. Episodes I and II are up now, with Jackie Hardy taking a look at criticisms surrounding the North Texas Tollway Authority's compliance with its stated goals of inclusion for Minority and Women in Business Enterprise firms. The first episode is a conversation with two accomplished professionals in the field, and the second features the NTTA's response to questions about its past performance. Check it out, subscribe to our Youtube channel and stay informed.



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# Cowboys extend division lead with win over Washington, 27-20

By Dwain Price  
NDG Sports

Thanks to the Dallas Cowboys' suddenly ferocious defense, they made coach Mike McCarthy sound like a prophet during Sunday's road game against the Washington Football Team.

Last week McCarthy said something coaches usually steer away from. In the days leading up to the matchup against Washington, McCarthy said: "We're going to win this game. I'm confident in that."

Well, thanks to five sacks, four takeaways, two interceptions and a touchdown by McCarthy's defense, the Cowboys were able to survive a scare and defeat Washington, 27-20. That victory padded the Cowboys' record to 9-4 and gave them a three-game lead over Washington in the NFC East with four games to play.

If the Cowboys win next Sunday's road game at the New York Giants, and the Philadelphia Eagles prevail at home next Sunday against Washington, Dallas will clinch the NFC East and host at least one playoff game.

But before the champagne bottles pop and the confetti drops, the Cowboys



All-Pro Reels / Flickr

first must figure out what's wrong with their usually vaunted offense. Celebrated as being one of the top offensive units in the entire NFL, the Cowboys broke out to an 18-0 lead after the first quarter and a 24-0 lead at halftime against Washington, but could only produce six measly points in the second half.

More importantly, quarterback Dak Prescott completed a pedestrian-like 22 of 39 passes for a season-low 211 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions, and he was missing more than his share of wide open receivers. Prescott's quarterback rating of 9.9 was the lowest of his career and is cause for concern among Cowboy followers.

"Obviously there's frustration," Prescott said. "But there's no doubt, I would say, concern about where

we are. We just got to continue to get better.

"It starts with communication. It starts with all of our guys being on the same page -- all 11 being on the same page with the coaches and what they're expecting and looking for. Some of the things are just simple decision-making by me, and I'll clean those up."

Prescott's biggest mistake that he needs to clean up came with 4:13 remaining in the game when he tossed an interception that linebacker Cole Holcomb returned 31 yards for a touchdown. That made the score, 27-20, Dallas, and made the Cowboys very uncomfortable.

And actually, Washington had the ball down the stretch with a chance to either tie the score or take the lead. However, Washington's last gasp was thwarted when defensive end Randy

Gregory sacked quarterback Kyle Allen, stripped the ball away and the Cowboys recovered with 2:24 remaining in the game.

That was a huge sigh of relief for the Cowboys, who rode the defense's dominant performance to their third win in the last five games.

"Just as much as the outside world isn't pleased (with the Cowboys' offense), we're not," Prescott said. "I guarantee you we care a whole lot more than the outside world about what we're doing. I know I do. I know the guys on the field and the coaches do."

"As I said, all of this week we can get better and we can learn from it. It's much better to do that in a winning setting."

Prescott's TD pass to Amari Cooper put the Cowboys ahead, 11-0, with 3:42 left in the first quarter. And the lead soared to 18-0 when linebacker Micah Parsons

collected a sack and forced a fumble which defensive tackle Dorance Armstrong scooped up and returned 37 yards for a touchdown.

It was the sixth straight game Parsons has recorded a sack, and he also had another one later in the game that gave him 12 for the season. Also, this was the first game since opening day that defensive ends DeMarcus Lawrence and Gregory, and Parsons, all played in the same game.

And their impact was very noticeable, especially the spectacular interception Gregory had which led to the touchdown by Cooper.

"If we got to win the game on us (on the defensive side of the ball), that's what we've got to do and I think we all have been taking that standard and that approach every week and we've been living up to it," Parsons said. "The more you guys see us play together the more you guys

are going to be like, 'Man, this is insane.'"

With the Cowboys up 24-0 at intermission, this game was looking like a runaway. But things began to flip, and some of that -- fair or unfair -- was pointed directly at Prescott, who has only eight touchdown passes and six interceptions since suffering a calf injury that forced him to miss the Oct. 31 game against the Minnesota Vikings.

"Six points in the second half, yeah, that's not acceptable," Prescott said. "We've got to be better than that the latter part of the year, obviously as you get ready to go play better teams, play division teams and play in the playoffs."

"We've created these high expectations and high standards, and we have them for ourselves."

McCarthy, though, wasn't going to allow folks

See COWBOYS, Page 11

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# The 10 best films of 2021

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

In 2021 we could watch movies in theaters or screen them on streaming services. Two venues. Two choices. It's a great way for more films to be seen by more people.

The best and brightest of this year's films were inspiring, noteworthy and will vie for awards in weeks to come. Check out the best productions, performances and artistry in 2021.

Enjoy.

## Best Feature Films

**Being the Ricardos** (\*\*\*\*) – Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, TV rom/com pioneers, finally get their due as filmmaker Aaron Sorkin (Chicago Seven) lets audiences peek into a specific window of their lives. It's the week the couple shot the first iconic I Love Lucy Show. In a very wordy, detailed and



enlightening script, Sorkin reveals the brilliance, courage and stubbornness needed by a white woman and Cuban man who dared to break the TV sitcom mold. Nicole Kidman as

Ball and Javier Bardem as Arnaz capture the essence of the real people behind the TV characters. Drama on and off set is so intense you wonder how comedy is even part of the equation.

Nina Arianda as Vivian Vance (Ethel) and J.J. Simmons as Willian Frawley (Fred) fill out the exceptional cast. Jon Hutman's production design, Andres Cubillan's art direction,

Ellen Brill's set decoration and Susan Lyall's costumes aptly recreate the '50s era and studio locations. Tight editing (Alan Baumgarten), incandescent cinematography (Jeff Cronenweth) and captivating music (Daniel Pemberton) complete the picture. Kidman's interpretation of Ball is as ingenious as it is emotionally nuanced. Sorkin's most balanced writing/directing effort ever.

**Dune** (\*\*\*1/2) -- In the year 10191, the desert planet Arrakis is fought and lusted over for its precious minerals. Different groups vie to rule the environs, and all are led down the same path of destruction. Canadian writer/director Denis Villeneuve creates a wondrous canvas, using his and screenwriters Jon Spaihts and Eric Roth's rich script as a guide. A brilliant tech crew fulfills their dreams and creates the most stun-

ningly beautiful event movie of the year as viewers journey to a mecca set among high sand dunes. The who's who cast walks around with such pageantry it's as if they're living a biblical sci-fi life. Oscar Isaac, Timothee Chalamet, Rebecca Ferguson, Jason Momoa, Sharon Duncan-Brewster, Josh Brolin, Chang Chen, Dave Bautista and Zendaya are on patrol. Gorgeous craftsmanship.

**The Harder They Fall** (\*\*\*1/2) -- This wild cowboy yarn is unapologetically Afrocentric and as cutting edge as it is retro. It's the brainchild of musician-turned-writer/director Jeymes Samuel who gets a worthy assist from co-writer Boaz Yakin. Together they tell a riveting tale of cold-blooded revenge. Nat Love (Jonathan Majors) has been trailing and killing the

See FILMS Page 12

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# Sold out event in Nashville celebrates *Tennessee Tribune's* 30th anniversary and the 'Queen Mother' of the Black Press

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

For 30 years, the Tennessee Tribune and its publisher Rosetta Miller-Perry have set the standard for news covering Nashville and beyond.

During a sold-out celebration on Sunday, December 5, Miller-Perry, the trailblazing 2019 National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, captured another high honor.

"Yes, the 30th anniversary of the Tennessee Tribune certainly has to be celebrated here in Nashville, but this is global," NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. declared to the hundreds gathered at the Lighthouse on the Lake in Hendersonville.

"As of this day, we claim [Miller-Perry] as the Queen Mother of the Black Press of America," Dr. Chavis exclaimed as the crowd rose to its collective feet, responding with a thunderous ovation of approval.

The crowd featured several notable dignitaries, including NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards, Houston Forward Times Associate Editor Jeffrey Boney, Tennessee State University President Dr. Glenda Glover,



*The weekly newspaper has become a lifeline for many who desire the unvarnished truth. It also provides a window into the historical life of Miller-Perry (Courtesy photo/NNPA).*

er, Nashville Mayor Jim Cooper, and U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.).

Ambassador and Gospel Legend Dr. Bobby Jones served as the introductory speaker, while Dr. Chavis provided the keynote address.

"This is a tremendous honor for me to celebrate with Rosetta Perry," Dr. Glover told NNPA NewsWire.

"We're so pleased to have someone so courageous and eager to assist in making things right here in Nashville. We really appreciate her because she's such an institution here and throughout the state of Tennessee."

In November, The Tennessee Tribune, which opened a store in the Nashville Airport, remains as integral today as it was when it began 30 years ago, Dr. Jones asserted.

"Perhaps even more so," Dr. Jones remarked.

"The impact of health disparities, the educational gap, and the voting rights are among the other critical concerns that this wonderful media piece has exposed in our city," Dr. Jones continued.

"The Tennessee Tribune is pressing on and still here, and we want it to be that way for a long time."

A longtime supporter of the Tribune, Mayor John Cooper, called Miller-Perry "a force of nature."

"She began as a pioneer in the industry, and she's been speaking the truth no matter what," Mayor Cooper stated. "That's why, 30 years later, her words speak to our conscious. She advocates passionately for the future of our city, for affordable housing, for HBCUs [Historically Black Colleg-

es and Universities], for our communities, and for us to have a better city."

The Tribune reaches more than 150,000 readers with its unique perspective on the issues and concerns of African Americans.

The weekly newspaper has become a lifeline for many who desire the unvarnished truth. It also provides a window into the historical life of Miller-Perry.

She joined the U.S. Navy in 1954, and Miller-Perry supported the Civil Rights Movement and joined Dr. Martin Luther King in marches from Selma to Washington.

As a federal observer for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, Miller-Perry arrived in Memphis during the 1968 sanitation workers strike when an assassin's bullet cut down Dr. King.

She remained in government service until she start-

ed the Tribune in 1991.

Determined to bring a Black perspective and speak truth to power, Miller-Perry remained steadfast in operating the Tribune even after banks repeatedly turned down her loan requests.

"I've been in this business for 30 years, and it was tough," Miller-Perry insisted.

"Many times I've had to fight with advertisers, and one time, it almost broke me," she said.

Miller-Perry relayed a story of integrity and activism when Sen. Barack Obama sought the presidency in 2007.

"When Obama ran for office, I was so naïve that I went and got the names of every unregistered Black voter in the city of Nashville, and I had the nerve to print those names," she recalled.

"I had a company that

paid us over \$100,000 a year to advertise, and I banked on that [money]," she continued.

"We had to bank on that to print, and they closed me down. [However], when they did that, another company came and paid the same amount. Eventually, the other company came back to us, but it has been a struggle for all Black newspapers."

Miller-Perry said there's a quintessential lesson all Black-owned newspapers must learn.

"We have to struggle together," she declared. "I've never in my life said it's about me. Everything I've done in this city is to help other people. I didn't open the news store just for me. I'm 87 years old, and if I haven't made any money, I'm not going to make any now. So, we've got to be together."

## COWBOYS, from Page 9

to put the offense's second half woes at the feet of Prescott.

"You look at statistics, usually 50 percent of your games come down to the last series of the game," McCarthy said. "Not that we wanted to do that (Sunday), especially after where we were at halftime."

"But there's so much value in winning those games because, let's be honest. If you want to be a playoff team, if you want to win in the playoffs and you want to get to your ultimate goal,

you're going to have to win those (one-possession) games."

Maybe, but since the Cowboys held Washington (6-7) to just 19 total yards on its first 20 plays, usually this would have been like a walk in the park on a sunny day for the Cowboys. But McCarthy saw it differently, saying: "At the end of the day I think this is a clear reflection of what division games are usually like."

Either way, the Cowboys have put themselves in the weird position of admitting

that their usually powerful offense has to catch up with their now dominant defense -- and not the other way around.

"We're a confident bunch," Prescott said. "I'm confident. I know this defense is confident, this offense is confidence, obviously our coach is confident."

"That's why he (guaranteed a victory over Washington) and I told you (media) guys that Thursday that that's how we felt. So, we had to come out here and go through that and be accountable to our words."



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# FC Dallas offering \$100,000 partnerships for minority businesses

Following the success of its inaugural Homegrown Partner Program class of 2021, FC Dallas today announced its plan for the 2022 Homegrown Partner Program supported by MTX Group, Inc (MTX). FC Dallas will award two Minority-Owned Businesses an individually customized FC Dallas corporate

partnership package. FC Dallas is committing more than \$200,000 to its Homegrown Partners in 2022.

"We saw our 2021 Homegrown Partners increase sales, expand into different markets and grow their businesses. It was a remarkable success story," said FC Dallas President Dan Hunt. "We're looking

forward to working with our 2022 class to help them drive their businesses and make an impact in their communities."

"MTX is excited to collaborate with the 2022 class of Homegrown Partners to advance positive social and economic impact," said MTX Founder, CEO and Homegrown Partner Pro-

gram Advisor Das Nobel.

FC Dallas had five Homegrown Partners comprise its inaugural 2021 class: Casa M Spice, GRIT Fitness, Reveal Suits, Smokey John's Bar-B-Que, Urban Hydration.

FC Dallas announced the Homegrown Partner Program in June 2020 along with a series of initiatives

as part of the club's Connect | Create | Unite platform that focuses on connecting people, creating opportunities and uniting communities.

## 2022 Homegrown Partner Program Application Process

Applications for the 2022 Homegrown Partner Program open online

at [FCDallas.com/HomegrownPartnerProgram](http://FCDallas.com/HomegrownPartnerProgram) on Monday, November 1 at 9AM CT and close on December 17 at 11:59PM CT.

For more on the Homegrown Partner Program presented by MTX and success stories from the 2021 class, please visit [FCDallas.com/HomegrownPartners](http://FCDallas.com/HomegrownPartners).

## FILMS, from Page 10

badmen who messed with his family decades ago. The last killer on his bucket list is the cunning and elusive Rufus Buck (Idris Elba). Regina King, Zazie Beetz, Edi Gathegi, R.J. Cyler, LaKeith Stanfield and Delroy Lindo fill out a supreme acting ensemble of wild west gangstas. It's on. Someone's gonna die today.

**Herself (\*\*1/2)** -- A mom (Clare Dunne) tries desperately to regroup with her two young daughters, escape an abusive husband's (Ian Lloyd Anderson, Game of Thrones) savagery and build a home. It's a premise, that in the wrong hands, could be either repulsive or cloyingly melodramatic. Under Dunne's sensitive guidance, as lead actress and the screenwriter, her highly emotional performance glistens and her empowering screenplay takes viewers on a sojourn that is as gripping as it is up lifting. Phyllida Lloyd's judicious direction makes sure all the fundamentals are in place. A feminist allegory with a lasting effect.

**King Richard (\*\*1/2)** -- The spirit of the prescient planner, dreamer and barker Richard Williams, the work ethic and faith of his wife Oracene "Brandy" Price and the talent of Venus and Serena are on view in this inspiring bio/dra. Tennis-lover/screenwriter Zach Baylin (Creed III) finds the guts and glory in their story. Director Reinaldo Marcus Green (Monsters and Men), with the classic against-the-odds script, heaps so many challenges on the family you've got to root for them. Champion-

ship performances from the entire cast.

**Mass (\*\*\*\*)** -- In a suburban church, two couples confront each other face-to-face after a high school tragedy has occurred. The writing and directorial debut of actor-turned-filmmaker Fran Kranz is astounding. The production is written like a play and staged like a claustrophobic encounter. Reed Birney, Ann Dowd, Jason Isaacs and Martha Plimpton get primal in ways only seasoned actors can do. Sparks fly, emotions boil over, loathing is confirmed. All participants struggle for ways to end the incessant PTSD that comes from surviving the nightmare of a school massacre. Taunt and tense. Searing dialogue. Says one parent about her child: "The love we had was true ... but I raised a murderer." Couldn't be more timely.

**Mogul Mowgli (\*\*\*1/2)** -- Culture clash powers this feature film debut by director Bassam Tariq. Zed (Riz Ahmed, Sound of Metal), a rebellious British/Pakistani rapper, freestyles brilliant streams of thought condemning colonialism, imperialism and racism. When he becomes physically debilitated, Zed returns home to his family and very conservative father Bashir (Alyy Khan). It's a day of reckoning for the central character, his dad and anyone invested in a culture not their own and forsaking their roots. The thoughtful premise and profound script are a collaborative effort by the Oscar-nominated actor Ahmed and the Sundance

award-winning filmmaker Tariq. Genius.

**The Tragedy of Macbeth (\*\*\*\*)** -- There comes a point in every year when audiences see a film they believe is the year's masterpiece. This is it. Writer/director Joel Coen (Fargo) creates a magnus opus that reinterprets one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, embracing and accentuating pivotal parts. Three witches (Kathryn Hunt) predict Macbeth (Denzel Washington) will be king someday. Egged on by his ambitious wife Lady Macbeth (Frances McDormand), he kills anyone in his way. Stunning black and white cinematography (Bruno Delbonnel). Magnificent production design (Stefan Dechant), art direction (Jason T. Clark) and set decoration (Nancy Haigh). Regal costumes (Mary Zophres). Cohen's netherworld follows a trail of lies, deceit and betrayal that's as breathtaking now as it was when it was written in the 1600s.

**Wild Indian (\*\*\*)** -- In his feature film debut, Lyle Mitchell Corbine Jr. writes, directs and tells a cautionary tale about child abuse and its aftermath that is both vengeful and just. When a sociopathic executive name Michael (Michael Greyeyes) was a kid, he was beaten by his dad and found refuge hanging with his young cousin Teddo. As boys, one of them committed a homicide and then their paths diverged. As adults, Teddo (Chaske Spencer) is a haunted man who seeks out his former best friend demanding an explanation for his behavior and disappearance. Sparks fly. Corbine Jr.'s

sobering narrative warns that cruelty just breeds cruelty and more victims. His direction is as instinctive and solid as the cinematography (Eli Born), editing (Ed Yonaitis) and costumes (Matthew Hixenbaugh and Nikki Pelley). Outstanding performances by Greyeyes and Spencer. A very disturbing character study and a missive that will cause viewers to ponder.

**Zola (\*\*\*)** -- Satire reigns supreme in this very raunchy anecdote about young streetwise women who get snared up in sex trafficking and prostitution. An unwitting Hooters waitress and stripper Zola (Taylour Paige, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom) is befriended by a fellow dancer Stefani (Riley Keough) and invited on a road trip from Detroit to Florida that's been arranged by a man named X (Colman Domingo, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom). What looks like days of fun and sun turns into forced confinement and "trapping" (sex for money). The real-life premise mirrors the experience of waitress/stripper A'Ziah "Zola" King. She recollected her weekend from hell in a 148-tweetstorm that garnered 108,000 followers who christened her "Queen of Hoeism." That's the kind of exotic dancer adulation usually reserved for superstars like Cardi B.

Playwright-turned-screenwriter/director Janicza Bravo (Lemon) and co-writers King and Jeremy O exhibit a wicked sense of humor that uses profanity, sex, nudity and intimidation to make audiences howl. Bravo creatively plays with the footage: e.g., using framed scenes that scroll down the

screen. She makes this 86 minutes of eye candy, that isn't perfect, perfectly silly to watch. Paige talks a lot of s---t, Domingo plays X the pimp with conviction and Keough, as the world's trashiest white stripper, turns in the year's most wacky performance. The filmmakers, writers and cast are so criminally funny they should all be hailed for shining a light on a serious subject and then arrested by the vice squad for their naughty humor. 2021's funniest movie.

## The best performances and artistry from a diverse set of today's top talent.

**Best Directors:** Jane Campion (The Power of the Dog), Joel Cohen (The Tragedy of Macbeth), Fran Kranz (Mass), Jaymes Samuel (The Harder They Fall), Denis Villeneuve (Dune)

**Best First Films:** Faya Dayi (Jessica Beshir), The Harder They Fall (Jaymes Samuel), Mogul Mowgli (Bassam Tariq), Passing (Rebecca Hall), Wild Indian (Lyle Mitchell Corbine, Jr.)

**Best Foreign Language Films:** The Disciple, Drive My Car, Hive, Parallel Mothers, The Worst Person in the World

**Best Documentaries:** Faya Dayi, Flee, Home-room, Julia, Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised),

**Best Actors:** Riz Ahmed (Mogul Mowgli), Clifton Collins Jr. (Jockey), Peter Dinklage (Cyrano), Frankie Faison (The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain), Jonathan Majors (The Harder They Fall)

**Best Actresses:** Claire

Dunne (Herself), Jennifer Hudson (Respect), Nicole Kidman (Being the Ricardos), Tessa Thompson (Passing), Kristen Stewart (Spencer)

**Best Supporting Actors:** Corey Hawkins (The Tragedy of Macbeth), Jason Isaacs (Mass) Alyy Khan (Mogul Mowgli), Delroy Lindo (The Harder They Fall), Masaki Okada (Drive My Car)

**Best Supporting Actresses:** Ariana DeBose (West Side Story), Kirsten Dunst (The Power of the Dog), Aunjanue Ellis (King Richard), Toko Miura (Drive My Car), Ruth Negga (Passing)

**Best Screenplays:** Being the Ricardos (Aaron Sorkin), The Harder They Fall (Jaymes Samuel, Boaz Yakin), Herself (Clare Dunne), King Richard (Zach Baylin), Mass (Fran Kranz)

**Best Cinematography:** Belfast (Haris Zambarloukos), Dune (Greig Fraser), No Time to Die (Linus Sandgren), The Power of the Dog (Ari Wegner), The Tragedy of Macbeth (Bruno Delbonnel)

**Best Animation/CGI:** Flee, Encanto, Raya and the Last Dragon

**Other Great Films:** Ailey, Attica, Belfast, Benediction, Candyman, CODA, Coming 2 America, Concrete Cowboy, Don't Look Up, A Hero, Jockey, Joe Bell, Luzzu, Ma Belle My Beauty, Mothering Sunday, Never Gonna Snow Again, New Order, No Time to Die, Old Henry, The Power of the Dog, Respect, Together Together, The United States vs. Billie Holiday, White Tiger...

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### Ongoing Census Bureau

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### Ongoing City of Dallas

The City of Dallas' HR Dept is currently accepting apps for the Budget and Contract Administrator position.

Bachelor's degree in a business/public administration, human resources or healthcare administration field, plus 7 yrs exp.

For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2NcCfVP>.



### Ongoing House of Blues

Want a cool job in live music? House of Blues Dallas is hiring! Spruce up your resume and join us on Monday, August 26th for a Job Fair in our Cambridge Room from 1-5PM. All departments are hiring. View job openings at <http://livenationentertainment.com/careers>.

### On-going First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

Every month computer professionals can participate in the monthly job fair in the comfort of your PJs. Job Seekers must complete profile on [https://tao.ai/p/fff/\\_dfw](https://tao.ai/p/fff/_dfw)

#FirstFridayFair (#FFF) is estimated to be largest attended career fair with around 8,000 professionals and 500 recruiting companies. The data science and software development focussed career fair is delivered right at your desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

### On-Going Customer Rep job fairs

Pro Staff in Arlington will be hosting an in office Customer Service Representative Job Fair for a call center located downtown Dallas every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 700 Highlander Blvd. Suite 110. The positions pay between \$12 - \$13.50 per hour plus up to \$1.50 an hour in performance pay. The workdays will vary, must be available 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with overtime as needed. Must have at least one year of customer service experience.

## Williams Chicken shifts gears to keep annual Community Christmas Party on track

Williams Chicken organizers said they had to pivot how to serve the community for its annual Change for Change Drive-thru Community Christmas Party scheduled for Saturday, December 11 from 9am - noon at Freedom Chevrolet, 8008 Marvin D. Love Frwy in Dallas. Historically, the fast-casual restaurants have relied on customers to contribute their loose change through a promotion called change for change. Williams Chicken does a match of the change collected by its customers and purchases gifts for children and youth. Because of a nationwide change shortage, the restaurant couldn't collect change, but instead reached out to its partners who have stepped up to make the 5th year even more impactful. This year's

benefitting organizations staff.

are Prison Fellowship Angel Tree, YMCA, For Oak Cliff and Williams Chicken

"It's so amazing for busi-

See **CHANGE**, Page 15



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### NAN Chapter President

The National Action Network is looking for a President for its upcoming Dallas chapter. This is a volunteer position that requires an activist heart and an interest in civil rights.

The President:

- Presides at meetings and acts as Chairman/Chairwoman of the Executive Committee.
- Appoints all committees not directly elected by the Chapter.
- Between meetings of the Executive Committee and subject to the approval thereof, exercises executive authority on behalf of the Chapter.
- The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- Shall work with other members of the Executive Committee to develop a program agenda for a defined fiscal year.
- Acknowledges he/she is the primary force within the Chapter in establishing a working relationship and communication with the National and Regional Office(s); ensures that these offices receive all reports, including quarterly reports, and reports of elections.
- Is familiar with pertinent governing documents including: The NAN by-laws and Chapter rules.

Interested parties should contact Robert D. Bush, president of the Las Vegas Chapter, at (702) 626-0158.



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*Note: Until further notice, all services at Bethel church will be via Video-Conferencing and perhaps other churches as well; log on individual churches websites for details. See Bethel's website www.bethelbiblefellowship.org for their details because of the Coronavirus.*

**December 19, 2021,  
9:45 am**

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Medita-

tion" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

**December 22, 7 pm**

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world's Coronavirus. In Wednesday's Bible we are studying Philippians Chapter 4. Dial in Phone # 346 248 7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 4741.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
Senior Pastor  
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Carrollton, TX 75007  
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**December**  
Check "The Ship's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

**December 19, 2021**

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

**December 22, 7 pm**

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

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**- Malachi 3:8-10**

Check "IBOC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

**December 17, 7 pm**

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

**December 19, 10 a.m.**

Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**December 20, 7 pm**

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

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**December 19,  
8 and 11 am**

You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

**December 20, 7 to 8 pm  
Every Monday Night**

Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

**December 22, 7 pm**

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
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Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-6695  
www.smbcplano.org

## Eating Healthy Is for Sissies

By Dr. James L. Snyder

As a youngster, I often heard my father say things that later turned out not to be on the true side of the table. So I guess that is a father's prerogative, and I probably have done the same thing many times. But I don't want to research that aspect of my life right now.

One that he said quite often was, "Eating healthy is for sissies."

At the time, I had no idea what he was talking about, but I did know that good old mom worked very hard to make sure he had healthy food to consume. So she did her job, but he did not fare well with that. He always ate in the opposite of healthy, and that just was the way he was.

Later in life, he had diabetes, high blood pressure, clogged arteries and finally, several heart attacks. Then he died.

According to him, these things had nothing whatsoever to do with his eating.

They were just things that happened and he had no control over them.

No matter how sick he was at any given time, he always found it in himself to enjoy a dessert with lots of sugar in it. His favorite dessert was the one he was eating at the time.

I had not remembered that for the longest period until several weeks ago, when I had my first heart attack. Who knew I even had a heart! And, what did my heart have against me that it wanted to attack me?

My main artery was 90% clogged, and the doctors called it the "widowmaker." That was something relatively new to me.

I spent about half a week in the hospital having a stent put in to help the main artery. The nurses took more blood out of me than I knew I had. Count Dracula would have been jealous.

One nurse, I called Nurse Porcupine because she had more needles than a porcupine had quills. It took half

a dozen attempts to find an artery that had blood in it. Both my arms are black and blue and have the appropriate needle marks in them.

My stay in the hospital was only three days, but felt like an eternity. Its experiences like that make you appreciate your own home and bed and lazy chair. I was so happy to get home.

Then I again thought about my father. He spent most of his time in the hospital during the last few years of his life. I am not quite sure how he made it through those experiences, but he did. Then I thought about his healthy diet remarks.

According to him, a diet consisted of what he wanted at the time. All this cautious eating was far beyond his modus operandi.

I remember once he spent two weeks in a hospital to have his arteries cleansed and purged, or whatever they call it, and when he came home, his idea was, "I'm healthy now so I can

eat whatever I want to eat."

It did not take long until he was back where he was

before he went into the hospital.

Thinking about this, I had

a dire option before me.

**See EATING, Page 15**

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# Story of the Candy Cane



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

The story is told of a Candy Maker in Indiana who wanted to make a candy that would be a witness for Christ, so he made a Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. The white part of the candy was to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus. The hard part of the candy was to symbolize Him as the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church and the firmness of the promises of God.

The Candy Maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Lord and Savior.

It could also represent the

staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the World to lift out the fallen lambs, whom, like all Sheep have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the Candy Maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed.

The large red stripe was for the blood that was shed by Jesus Christ on the cross so that if we had faith in

Him and believed, we could have the promise of eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known simply a Candy Cane; a meaningless decoration seen only at Christmas time.

However, the meaning is still there for those who, "Have eyes to see and ears to hear." I pray that this symbol will again be used to witness to the Wonder of Jesus and His ultimate and dominant force in the universe today.



*Tyanna Donnise Lott received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Texas Woman's University on Dec. 10, 2021.*

## EATING, from Page 14

I could take things as my father did in a very hap-hazardous way and not take my dietary routine seriously.

On the other hand, I could take my health and my eating habits seriously.

My first impression is to go along with my dad. After all, dads are never wrong, right?

Not to criticize my father, who has been gone for over a decade, but he did not really take his health seriously. He assumed it was just a given that he could eat

whatever he wanted with no consequences involved.

As the situation is, the biggest obstacle in my decision concerning my health and eating habits is the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. For some reason, she has taken my diet quite seriously as though it was hers.

The quandary I am in is that she is the one who supervises the culinary activities in the house. I have been barred from the kitchen for years because of

an incident that happened a few years back, which I am not comfortable getting into right now.

Being in a health-challenging situation right now, I do not have many choices. It's either eat what the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has produced or starve. Starving is not the particular exercise that I enjoy.

I must admit my wife is a marvelous cook and makes very delicious meals, which I am assured, are most healthy. From my point of view, if it does not have

broccoli, then it is delicious.

Her healthy array of desserts is mouthwatering.

Therefore, I can do my own thing and be in a lot of trouble or allow the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to do her thing and be in charge of the dietary activities in our home.

In pondering this quandary that I am in, I realized

a wonderful verse in the Bible. "And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God" (Ecclesiastes 3:13).

Instead of getting all caught up in some ritualistic eating habits, I believe from God's perspective he would want me to enjoy my life. But, of course, as I realize now, enjoying life

means that I take care of my eating habits to the glory of God.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34483, where he lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com. Website is www.james-snyderministries.com.*

## CHANGE, from Page 13

nesses, leaders and friends to recognize that together we can make a greater impact for our community," said Hiawatha Williams, CEO of Williams Chicken.

"I'm grateful for Freedom Chevrolet, Coca-Cola, Dallas Mavericks, T X U Energy, University of Texas Arlington, Texas State Representative Carl O. Sherman, Domingo Garcia, Starbucks, and other partners who have collaborated with us to serve the nearly 1000 registered children with free toys, free bikes, free photos with Santa Larry, and monetary gifts" he said.

Organizers say that for the first time, a deserving single mom of four children will be surprised and receive a CAR FOR CHRISTMAS, courtesy of

Freedom Chevrolet by Ed Morse, \$1000 dollar Gas Gift Card courtesy of Williams Chicken and more. The recipient will be surprised, attending the event

thinking that her children will get bicycles.

The Community Christmas Party will also feature live radio remote with Magic 94.5 and 97.9 The Beat, live DJ, and so much more.

**Church Happenings**  
is a weekly calendar of religious services produced by the *North Dallas Gazette*.  
To make additions or corrections to the calendar, contact:  
[religion@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:religion@northdallasgazette.com)

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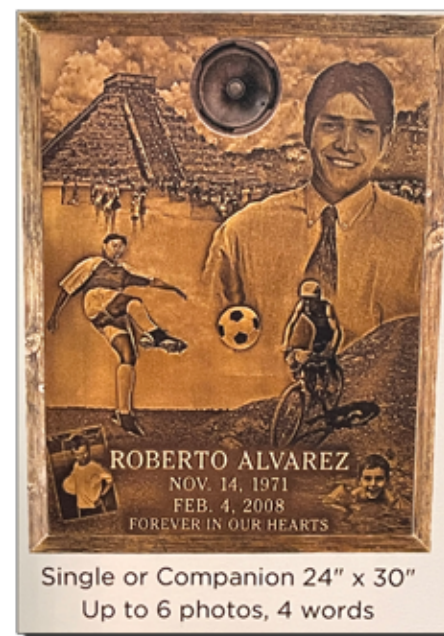
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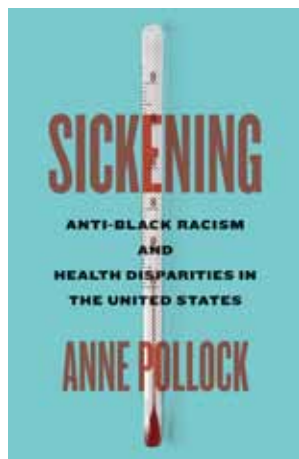
# NDG Book Review: 'Sickening' details a history of disparity

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Something inside isn't working quite right.

Your stomach hurts, your lungs are on fire, you gurgle where you shouldn't, and there's a sharp pain where there wasn't one yesterday. You've tried every home remedy there is, but something inside you isn't right. So, as in the new book "Sickening" by Anne Pollock, will the inside of you be treated based on the color of your outside?

On October 21, 2001, Washington D.C. postal workers Thomas Morris and Joseph Curseen died from inhaled anthrax, a poison which authorities presumed



had leaked from a package that was sent to a member of the Senate. Morris' and Curseen's co-workers believed that their workplace, which was staffed mostly by Black employees at that time, was contaminated in

several places – and yet, despite the danger, "postal workers were repeatedly told that there was nothing to worry about."

Before they died, both men sought medical help, but their concerns were dismissed. Perhaps because of the proximity to 9/11, most white Americans were unaware of this incident, says Pollock. She sees this as a starting point for discussion about health disparities for Black Americans in modern times.

Not quite four years after Morris and Curseen died, Hurricane Katrina hit the southern coast of Louisiana, where "the impacts of the storm were most heavi-

ly borne by... residents who were Black and poor." This includes those who lost access to or were denied medication, as well as those who were forced to shelter in unsanitary or overcrowded conditions.

Being imprisoned is notoriously bad for one's health, but release, says Pollock, can likewise be detrimental to one's well-being. You only need look as far as Flint, Michigan, to see what happens when a utility fails in a largely-Black community. Just trying to live in America can come with violence, if you're young and Black; or injustice if you're pregnant and Black. You can do what

you can do to stay healthy but, as Pollock quotes a British journal, "being poor in America, and especially being poor and Black... is still hazardous to your health."

There's no doubt about it: "Sickening" is sobering.

It's made even more so by the fact that author Anne Pollock is a professor of global health and social medicine in London, which widens the focus of everything she presents here.

Under that microscope is not a good place for America to be.

And yet, despite that the anecdotal evidence Pollock uses to prove health disparity for Blacks in the U.S. is

shocking, it also feels like surface-skimming. These tales are nothing new – not news-wise, and certainly not to Black readers – but their presence in this thin, important book may leave the small, sometimes more impactful, tales to go untold. Readers deserve those tales, too; fortunately, Pollock's "template for analysis" can help with deeper digging, and further learning.

Policy-makers would be well-served to read this book, as would students and activists who want a launching-off point. "Sickening" is a good, if not quite thorough, start; all you have to do is look inside.

## YOUNG, from Page 8

being quote-unquote undersized and not being that prototype, I've always been ruled out and counted out," Young stated during his acceptance speech.

The six feet and 194-pound field general has thrown for more than 4,300 yards this season with a 68 percent completion rate.

During the 2021 season,

Young has passed for 43 touchdowns with just four interceptions, and he enjoys a 175.5 passer rating.

"People a lot of times have told me that I wasn't going to be able to make it," Young exclaimed.

"And for me, it's always been about not really proving them wrong but proving to myself what I can accomplish. So, I've always pushed myself to work the hardest, and I try my best to do all I can to maximize all

that I can do. And thanks to the people around me and through the grace of God, I've been able to make it here, and I'm truly grateful for that."

Young broke the single game passing record, 559

yards against No. 22 Arkansas, and shattered SEC Championship record for total offense and passing yards after going 26 of 44 for 421 yards and three touchdowns during his first year as a starter.

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