



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Advocates say FBI missing children data misleading; does disservice to Black juveniles

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Missing white children receive far more media coverage than missing Black and Brown children.

A fact advocates often point to when explaining the disparity in attention provided to individuals of color.

But another unsettling fact has emerged with the release of the FBI's latest statistics on missing children.

The federal agency noted about 346,000 children went missing in the United States in 2020, identifying 125,727 Black juveniles.

In addition, the agency said 197,381 white kids went missing, suggesting that missing white youth outnumber lost young Blacks by more than 71,600.

But a closer look at the statistics revealed a crucial piece of information, that advocates deem misleading.

"Missing from the report is separate data for Hispanic children because the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) combined white and Hispanic children," said Sherri Jefferson, the executive director of the African American Juvenile Jus-



New FBI data overshadows missing Black children. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

tice Project (AAJJP).

"This is alarming, disturbing, and problematic," Jefferson asserted.

"First, the combination of white and Hispanic children denies the Hispanic community raw data of their missing children. This process denies research and resources to fund and find their missing and exploited children or to examine causation."

FBI officials did not return several messages seeking comment.

The NCIC data isn't robust or reliable enough to paint a complete picture of the magnitude of the problem facing missing per-

sons of color, said Natalie Wilson, co-founder of the Black & Missing Foundation.

"We believe the numbers are much higher based on underreporting," Wilson stated.

She noted that the FBI classified all missing Latino individuals as white despite research revealing that 24 percent classify themselves as Afro-Latino – otherwise identifying as Black.

Further, "immigrants don't always report their missing because of fear of deportation," Wilson con-

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### People In The News ...



Gen. Darrell K. Williams



Wayne A.I. Frederick

*NDG Quote of the Week:* "If we accept and acquiesce in the face of discrimination, we accept the responsibility ourselves and allow those responsible to save their conscience by believing that they have our acceptance and concurrence. We should, therefore, protest openly everything... that smacks of discrimination or slander."  
—Mary McLeod Bethune

## Gen. Darrell K. Williams

U.S. Army retired Lt. Gen. Darrell K. Williams, a 1983 graduate of Hampton University, who earned the title of Mister Freshman, will serve as the institution's next president.

Williams was chosen from almost 300 applicants after the Board of Trustees created a presidential search committee in January 2021.

After Dr. William Harvey, who served as president of the historically Black school since 1978, announced his retirement, Trustees began their exten-



sive search for a replacement.

"We embarked on a search for a proven strategic leader. The skills Lt. Gen. Williams brings to Hampton encompass what institutions of our size

need," said Board of Trustees Chairman Wes Coleman.

"In a global world increasingly dependent on technology, this kind of strategic leadership expertise and knowledge can only help move our institution forward over the coming decades."

Coleman continued: "Running a university is complex, as was made evident by the global pandemic. So, when President Harvey told us of his decision to retire, we knew we wanted to build upon what he has accomplished."

Williams, of Alexandria, Virginia, currently serves

as vice president and managing director of Leidos. In this Fortune 250 technology company, he oversees the U.K. Ministry of Defense Logistics Commodities and Services Transformation (LCST) program.

He provides global logistical support to U.K. military forces.

According to a news release, Williams attributes his business and leadership roles at Leidos to helping to prepare him for this next exciting chapter at Hampton.

He retired from the U.S. Army in 2020 after 37 years of service.

His last leadership posi-

tion was as the first African American and the 19th director of the Department of Defense's Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

Williams oversaw a global workforce of over 26,000 civilian and military professionals.

Under his watch, the DLA annually provided over \$40 billion in global logistical support to all U.S. military services, designated international partner and allied military services, and 42 U.S. government organizations and federal agencies.

During the early stages of the pandemic, the DLA provided over \$1 billion

in COVID-19 relief to the DoD and other federal agencies.

From 2015 to 2017, Williams led the Army Combined Arms Support Command and the Fort Lee, Virginia, a military installation.

He was responsible for Army Logistics University and the Professional Military Education and training of thousands of Army logistics junior officers, warrant officers, and non-commissioned officer students.

Additionally, he led the installation's strategic engagement with the

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## Wayne A.I. Frederick

After nine years marred in recent times by student protests over filthy and unlivable dorm conditions, a threatened faculty strike, and a walkout by hospital workers, Howard University President Wayne A.I. Frederick has announced his retirement.

An April 13, 2022, letter addressed to the Howard Community, Dr. Laurence C. Morse, the chair of the Howard University Board of Trustees, said Frederick recently informed officials at the historically Black college of his plans to step down by June 2024.

He said he's committed



to remaining in place to ensure a smooth transition.

"We appreciate that Dr. Frederick has given us ample time to find the next great leader of Howard University and remains committed to fulfilling key components of the Howard

Forward Strategic Plan, along with other initiatives on his agenda," Morse wrote.

"Over the next two years, Dr. Frederick will continue to give his undivided attention to advance our collective interests, drive impactful initiatives, and support the people that comprise our growing university community."

It hasn't always been smooth for Frederick, who initially arrived as a student

at Howard from his native Trinidad at 16.

For more than a month in 2021, students staged a lock-in and protested, seeking answers from Frederick and key administrators for poor housing conditions on campus.

The protest quickly made news as images of mold and rodents were displayed from dorm rooms.

Frederick remained silent throughout the ordeal as calls for his resignation

grew.

Last month, faculty members and the school avoided a strike after reaching a three-year deal. Adjunct professors and full-time non-tenured professors reportedly were seeking better pay, the ability to teach enough courses to access Howard's health insurance, and ending a rule under which non-tenure-track faculty are let go after seven years.

This month, Howard

University Hospital workers began a one-day strike to protest low wages and staffing challenges. The strike included more than 300 nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, and social workers.

After negotiations over a new Collective Bargaining Agreement broke down between the university and the labor union, the District of Columbia Nurses Association, workers walked out.

## Serena Williams

Each year in the United States, about 700 women die during pregnancy or the year after.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, another 50,000 women each year have unexpected labor and delivery outcomes with serious short- or long-term health consequences.

"Every pregnancy-related death is tragic, especially because two in three of them are preventable," the CDC said as the nation observes Black Maternal Health Week through April 17.

Tennis superstar Serena Williams, penned an essay for Elle Magazine's April issue, in which she shared her



The Fader / Wikimedia

personal experience.

She said she was almost one of them.

"I've suffered every injury imaginable, and I know my body," Williams writes in the deeply personal essay, later adding: "Giving birth to my baby, it turned out,

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# Smoking while Black and Brown in America

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis  
President and CEO  
National Newspaper  
Publishers Association

Whenever the history of racial discrimination in the United States appears to repeat itself, it produces predictable rhymes and sometimes tragic social consequences. Mark Twain, Ida B. Wells, James Baldwin, and Toni Morrison all had one thing in common as visionary authors. They used their pens to offer literary critiques about America's historical inflection points concerning racism and systemic inequalities.

The federal government's recent announcement that it is close to proscribing a ban on menthol cigarettes is another public policy gone astray that will produce unintended racial-discriminatory consequences. As a result of a decades-long marketing campaign aimed at African Americans, nearly 85% of all non-Hispanic Black smokers choose menthol cigarettes, the highest percentage of menthol cigarette use compared to other racial and ethnic groups. The Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should be questioned about their disparate targeting of African American and Latino-American smokers who disproportionately prefer to smoke menthol cigarettes. This is an urgent matter now that the FDA has just asked the government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to review the proposed discriminatory ban.

Driving while Black and Brown, jogging while Black and Brown, and breathing while Black and Brown have had, at times, fatal consequences intergenerationally for women, men, and youth from our communities. Now, our families and communities will have to contend additionally with smoking while Black and Brown in America.

For the record, I do not smoke tobacco or marijuana. I am raising questions,

however, to the FDA and to the U.S. Congress because I care passionately about protecting the civil rights and cultural rights of communities of color. We should learn from the past about how to avoid racial injustice rather than to entertain the repetition of pseudo-justifications of wrongdoing and counter-productive public policies that disparage communities of color.

Recalling back in the 1980s and 1990s there was the prevalence of the availability and use of crack cocaine that swept severe drug-related suffering in urban areas across the nation. Because of decades of White flight and self-segregation, those same inner-city areas were disproportionately populated by Black and Brown families. The result was another regrettable chapter in American history when crack cocaine ravaged our communities.

The subsequent response from the federal government was neither compassion nor empathy. Rather, the U.S. Congress passed the now-infamous 1994 Crime Bill, which treated the possession of crack cocaine disproportionately harsher in the criminal justice system than powder cocaine, which was more expensive and more commonly used by White drug users. Too many communities of color were once again devastated by the unjust massive long-term imprisonment of crack cocaine users for decades that literally destroyed families and left hundreds of thousands of children without parents while escalating mass incarceration of Black and Brown people to an unprecedented national level.

It is, therefore, against this historical backdrop that we find anew the recent contradictory announcement by the Biden Administration's FDA. According to the Centers for Disease Control, over 85% of Black and Brown smokers prefer menthol cigarettes. While

there may be compelling public health concerns that can be cited to support proposing a ban on smoking cigarettes, the question arises why the FDA only wants to target and ban "menthol" cigarettes that are disproportionately used and preferred by Black and Brown smokers. Law enforcement agencies, similar to what happened by law enforcement in response to the crack cocaine epidemic, will ultimately have to enforce the proposed ban on the sale of menthol cigarettes.

In addition, serious concerns today abound among national and local law enforcement leaders that a prohibition of these particular tobacco products will only end up dramatically increasing an illicit, underground market for these menthol products. I am certain that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will rightly oppose any public policy by the FDA that will lead to further substantial border insecurity from the future billion-dollar illicit smuggling of proposed menthol-banned tobacco products into the United States. Another serious unintended consequence will be the illegal trafficking of FDA-banned cigarettes by international terrorists who will profit millions of dollars from that illicit trade.

I write, therefore, on behalf of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and the Black Press of America that have been "pleading our own cause" since March 16, 1827 with the first publication of Freedom's Journal 195 years ago. Our concerns are not hypothetical and do not exist in a vacuum.

Our experiences inform us that the implementation of a menthol ban will inevitably and undoubtedly create an increased number of stops, frisks, and interactions between law enforcement and members from Black and Brown communities. According to

the Prison Policy Initiative, Black and Brown residents in the U.S. continue to have a long and troubled legacy of disproportionately larger numbers of police stops and interactions with the police. The proposed menthol ban will do nothing to quell this troubling reality.

Moreover, there is data to suggest that a prohibition on the sale of menthol cigarettes would not meet the proposed ban's intended goal. According to a report by the United States Surgeon General, published in 2020, "the evidence is suggestive but not sufficient to infer that restricting the sale of certain types of tobacco products, such as menthol or other flavored products, increases smoking cessation, especially among certain populations." Indeed, a report by the National Bureau of Economic Research echoes this concern and suggests that a prohibition on menthol cigarettes is "unlikely to be a panacea," because while the product may be prohibited in Canada, it is available on Native Canadian reserves, and still available for purchase throughout Mexico.

On his first day in The White House, President Biden signed the Executive Order (13985) on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. That was a much-needed federal corrective action taken by President Biden. Notwithstanding those facts, it has become a noticeable contradiction for the FDA to now embark on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to a menthol ban tentatively scheduled for April 2022.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is currently the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles television show that is broadcast weekly on PBS TV stations throughout the United States.

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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# Local organization, 'Mommies in Need,' will debut podcast on May 2

Local childcare non-profit Mommies in Need will debut a new podcast, "Culture of Caring with Natalie Boyle" on May 2. Hosted by Mommies in Need Founder and CEO Natalie Boyle, the first 12 episode season of the podcast will address issues in the childcare, healthcare, and nonprofit spaces, while tying in elements of fun and education to every episode.

The first episode will cover the history of Mommies in Need and the personal mission of founder



Larry Crayton / Unsplash

Natalie Boyle, followed by episodes covering the organization's five values: authenticity, compassion,

innovation, collaboration, and being extraordinary.

The only nonprofit of its type in the nation, Mom-

mies in Need hopes to improve access to healthcare by removing lack of childcare as a reason to miss preventative, general, and emergency appointments. Mommies in Need cares for kids so their families can access healthcare, primarily servicing patients of Parkland Hospital while they receive medical treatment. Children are welcomed to Annie's Place, a childcare facility at 2131 Butler Street that opened in November of 2020. The organization also offers care

for children of emergency room patients, the siblings of children receiving medical care, and in-home care for families in need.

"The world has been an unpredictable and often frightening place these last few years, but our guests are the helpers, the shining lights, the kind voices, and the inspirational leaders who are working to improve their community," Boyle said of the podcast. "Join us as we hear their

stories, share a few laughs (and an occasional tear), and leave each episode feeling a little bit lighter."

Those interested in sponsoring Culture of Caring with Natalie Boyle or appearing as a guest on the podcast may reach out to the team at coc@mommiesinneed.org.

Tune into Culture of Caring with Natalie Boyle on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts beginning May 2.

## CDC launches new center for forecasting and outbreak analytics

*New center will enhance capability for timely, effective decision-making to improve outbreak response using data, models, and analytics*

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced the launch of the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (CFA).

According to a news release, the CFA seeks to enhance the nation's ability to use data, models, and analytics to enable timely, effective decision-making in response to public health threats for CDC and its public health partners.

"CFA's goals are to improve outbreak response using infectious disease modeling and analytics and to provide support to leaders at the federal, state, and local levels," officials stated in the release.

They noted that CFA will also develop a program to provide insights about infectious disease events to the public to inform individual decision making – the equivalent of the National Weather Service for infectious diseases.

"I am excited we have launched CDC's Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics," said CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle P.



Walensky.

"This new center is an example of how we are modernizing the ways we prepare for and respond to public health threats. I am proud of the work that has come out of this group thus far and eager to see continued innovation in the use of data, modeling, and analytics to improve outbreak responses."

Walensky added that CFA's work will be focused into three main pillars: to predict, inform, and innovate.

According to the release, CFA has begun to build a world-class outbreak analytics team with experts across several disciplines to develop faster, richer evidence to predict trends and guide decision-making during emergencies.

Further, to better inform partners, CFA is hir-

ing expert communicators to regularly share insights with federal, state, and local partners and the public.

CFA will also continue to advance the state of the science of outbreak data, models and analytics to improve the nation's ability to respond to health emergencies.

"The capabilities and team we are building at the new Center will improve decision-making in a health crisis," said Dr. Dylan George, Director for Operations.

"I am proud of the CFA team and excited for the future. Better data and analytics will give us better responses to protect all Americans."

Planning for CFA began in August 2021, with the initial funding of \$200 million from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Thus far, the CDC has awarded \$26 million in funding to academic institutions and federal partners to advance modeling and forecasting methodology, with an emphasis on workforce development and

health equity.

In December 2021, CFA worked with academic partners to assemble models anticipating the Omicron wave and generated early estimates of Omicron severity, giving leaders an opportunity to bolster the response.

For more information on CFA, visit [www.cdc.gov/CFA](http://www.cdc.gov/CFA).

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## National Urban League releases State of Black America Report with troubling findings

By Stacy M. Brown  
The Washington Informer

National Urban League President & CEO Marc Morial said factions of state and federal lawmakers, working in concert with shady political operatives and violent extremists, are dangerously close to dismantling American democracy and establishing autocratic rule.

The organization's 2022 State of Black America report outlines "the conspiracy and the urgent case for a national mobilization to protect and defend our most sacred constitutional right," Morial noted in the report titled, "Under Siege: The Plot to Destroy Democracy."

"The anti-democracy wave that began to rise after record-high Black voting rates in 2008 and crested with the Supreme Court's 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* to gut the Voting Rights Act has now broken against 'The Big Lie,' the relent-



Officials said because of a lag in data collection, the 2022 Equality Index does not capture the full effect of the COVID-19 pandemic or the resulting economic recession, but does capture changes during the pandemic for homeownership, unemployment rates, and school enrollment. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

less campaign to invalidate the 2020 election," Morial wrote.

Using data and analysis from research partner, The Brennan Center for Justice, the Urban League noted that this year's edition of *The State of Black America* exposes the four main tactics employed in the plot: gerrymandering, voter suppression, misinformation, and intimidation.

"Politicians have used these tactics for genera-

tions, to exclude voters of color and to give their parties an edge," Morial said.

"But never before has the nation seen such an insidious and coordinated campaign to obliterate the very principle of 'one person, one vote' from the political process.

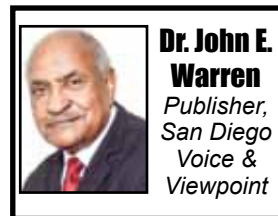
"It is an astonishing reversal of a two-century moral arc that has bent, if slowly and unevenly, toward universal suffrage," he said.

In acknowledgement of Georgia's status as "ground zero" in the assault on democracy, the Urban League released the report at an event at Clark Atlanta University featuring students from Atlanta's four HBCUs, Urban League affiliate presidents from around the country, and other national civil rights leaders.

The release coincided with the 2022 launch of

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## America needs humanitarian relief too



Dr. John E. Warren  
Publisher,  
San Diego  
Voice &  
Viewpoint

It is a good thing that America has been a lead nation in both providing humanitarian and military assistance to Ukraine. It is good that we as a nation, Democrat and Republican, have been able to unify on this most important issue facing the world. It is also a good thing that America has been able to give hundreds of millions of doses of the COVID-19 Vaccine to struggling third world countries where people are waiting in lines while Americans refuse vaccinations for all kinds of reasons.

But while all of this is a good thing, let us not forget the looming crisis ahead of us. The fact is that the virus, with its ever increasing mutations, is not over. There are still over 750 people dying daily from this virus even though hospital rates and the daily death rates are down from what they were just months ago. Infection cases are up across the country with some states experiencing higher rates than others and a number of cities like Philadelphia, New York, and Washington, D.C. have had to reinstate their mask mandates.

In the midst of the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis, the new surge in infections across the country, and continued death rates, the United States Congress refused to pass a 22 billion dollar funding bill to continue testing, vaccinations, and the funding for Covid-19 related supplies before adjourning for the Easter/Spring Recess. Much of the opposition,

again, is coming from the (Russian-like) Republican Party not only denying and refusing to support and vote for such funds, but also leaving out much needed continuation dollars for programs to feed the hungry.

This pull back on funds for testing and vaccinations is also impacting those American companies that geared up to produce Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at the height of the pandemic when supplies were no longer available from our foreign

sources. Now, with this cutback in federal funds, many of these companies are on the verge of going out of business because America is withdrawing the very funds that allowed hospitals and others to purchase the PPE items they were able to buy until this cutoff.

How can we find billions of dollars to support all elements of the Ukraine Humanitarian crisis, but not have money for our own people here at home? Those Americans who are still unvaccinated, and mainly by choice, still represent a threat to the rest of us. The government's distribution of personal testing kits cannot become a substitute for providing the kind of care and supplies that have allowed us to avoid millions of additional deaths because, at the time, we funded the very things we are now threatening to withhold. Let us not forget the saying "Charity starts at home and then spreads abroad".

Mr. President, Members of Congress, America is "home".

Let's not create another humanitarian crisis here because of party politics.

## Officers in death of George Floyd reject plea deal

Three former Minneapolis police officers charged with the murder of George Floyd have rejected a plea deal offered by prosecutors.

Former officers Tou Thao, Thomas Lane, and J. Alexander Kueng face state charges of aiding and abetting Floyd's murder.

A federal jury convicted the trio of violating Floyd's civil rights earlier this year.

Derek Chauvin, the officer who knelt on Floyd's neck for over nine minutes, accepted a federal plea deal in January after state prosecutors won a murder conviction against him last year.

Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill held a hearing on April 12 to consider a request to allow live video of the upcoming federal trial for the three officers.

While details of the plea offer were not disclosed, prosecutor Matthew Frank



told the court that each officer was extended the same deal. However, each rejected the offer, Frank said.

Earl Gray, who represents Lane, said it was difficult for his client to cut a deal with federal prosecutors because he hasn't been sentenced in the federal case.

The judge, in that case, has yet to set a sentencing date.

Each of the officers re-

mains free on bail pending sentencing.

The officers face life in prison following their conviction.

"Nothing will bring George Floyd back to his loved ones, but with [the guilty] verdicts, we hope that the ignorance and indifference toward human life shown by these officers will be erased from our nation's police departments, so no other family has to

experience a loss like this," Floyd family attorney Benjamin Crump stated following the jury verdict in the federal trial.

"The Floyd family will have to relive the traumatic disregard for George's life once again in June when these officers will stand trial in state court. We hope, and we expect, that these officers will once again be held accountable for their lack of humanity."

## Two District 6 schools renamed for prominent African Americans



**Joyce Foreman**  
Dallas ISD  
District 6

I'm so pleased that my colleagues on the Board of Trustees voted with me to change the name of Atwell Middle School to Louis Bedford Middle School, in honor of the late Judge Louis A. Bedford Jr., a celebrated African American attorney, longtime judge and civil rights activist.

Judge Bedford, the first African American judge in

Dallas County history, was also a founder of the Barristers Club, later renamed the J.L. Turner Legal Society. In 1978, he was appointed to the Commission for Nominating Federal Circuit Court Judges to the Fifth Circuit. In addition, he was a respected member of the Dallas Bar Association, and was elected to the organization's board of directors in 1984.

The name change followed a yearlong process by the District 6 committee, and I'm pleased we were able to move forward on a very important school

name change with the vote of the Board.

In addition, R.L. Thornton Elementary has been renamed Otto M. Fridia Elementary, to honor the well-known educator who served Dallas ISD as a teacher, counselor, assistant principal, principal of three schools, and deputy assistant superintendent, and later became the first African American acting as general superintendent for Dallas ISD.

### Community Conversation

Thanks to all who turned out at Carter High School

for the recent Community Conversation with Superintendent Hinojosa. It was a great opportunity to learn firsthand about goings-on and plans for the district, ask questions and provide feedback.

### Superintendent Search

As the superintendent prepares to close out his tenure in Dallas ISD, the board took action this month to finalize the job description, timeline, community engagement plan and survey that will allow us to move forward with the hiring of a new superintendent to lead our district

into the future. The adopted timeline will result in us hiring a new superintendent before the start of the 2022-2023 school year. In the meantime, a District 6 Virtual Community Meeting to discuss the superintendent search and hear community input is being held on Thursday, April 14 at 6 p.m. You may join via Zoom with the meeting ID: 883 7029 6853.

### Accolades for Our Athletes

Congratulations to Kimball Knights Chauncey Gibson, who made the 5A Region 2 All-Region Team,

and Arterio Morris and Trae Clayton, who both made the 5A Region 2 All-Region Team and the 5A All-State Team. We're so proud of all your accomplishments!

Big shoutout to Kimball basketball Coach Nicholas Smith, District 12-5A, co-coach of the year! Awesome job, Kimball Knights!

And congratulations to the three-in-a-row 12-4A District Champs, the Carter Cowboys, for doing it again! Kudos to Devin Lewis for being selected the 12-4A District Co-MVP in basketball.

## Florida bans 41% of math books because of CRT

The Florida Department of Education said the state has rejected more than 50 math textbooks ahead of the 2022-2023 school year.

The department cited references to critical race theory among reasons for the rejections.

Officials said they would not accept about 41 percent of the books – 54 out of 132 – to Florida's adopted list

because the works didn't adhere to the state's standards.

"Today, Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran approved Florida's initial adoption list for mathematics instructional materials properly aligned to Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards," the department wrote in a news

release.

"The approved list followed a thorough review of submissions at the Department, which found 41 percent of the submitted textbooks were impermissible with either Florida's new standards or contained prohibited topics – the most in Florida's history.

Despite rejecting such large percentage of the ma-

terials submitted, the department claimed that every core mathematics course and grade is covered with at least one textbook.

The names of the rejected books were not included in the release.

Florida's new law states that instruction in schools must be factual and objective.

Republican Gov. Ron De-

Santis' mandate specifically prohibits "theories that distort historical events" – which includes the teaching of Critical Race Theory.

Florida has banned such works as the Pulitzer Prize winning 1619 Project, which tackled the transatlantic slave trade.

"They won't tell us what [the banned books] are or what they say because it's

a lie," Florida Democratic Rep. Carlos Smith wrote on Twitter.

"DeSantis has turned our classrooms into political battlefields, and this is just the beginning."

Added State House Member Anna Eskamani, "I get it. The goal of math is to solve problems which the Republican Party of Florida doesn't like to do."

## The brain shrinks by 5% beginning at 45, experts say banish the distractions

Ted Zanto, an associate professor of neurology at the University of California, San Francisco, said aging shrinks the brain by about 5 percent between age 45 and 60.

Additionally, while AARP writer Sari Harrar noted that might sound small, it could help explain why the ability to pay attention and tune out distractions begins to decline before age 50. "Around then, your brain also has to start coping with the full catastrophe of midlife," Harrar penned in a column for AARP's magazine.

She noted further in quoting neuroscientist Denise Park, "Rebellious kids! Aging parents! Work! Money! Menopause! Throw in constant interruptions from our digital devices, and you might start feeling over-

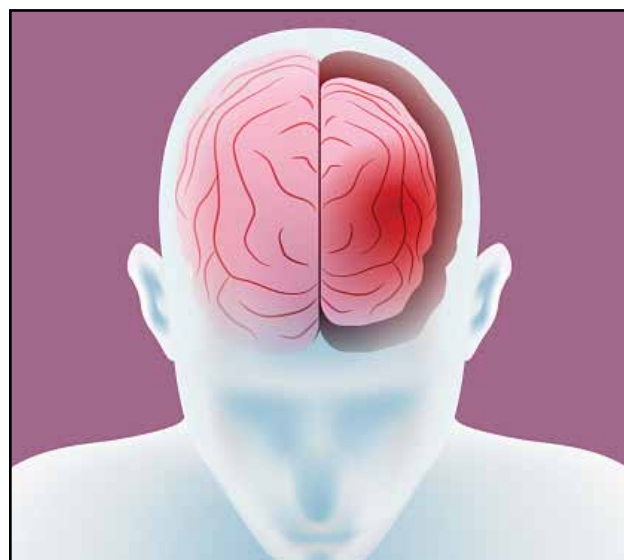


Image via NNPA

whelmed."

Dr. Mahmud Kara, the creator of KaraMD, said in an email that tuning out distractions often is easier said than done.

However, Dr. Kara offered some ways to limit the noise.

"Creating a routine that works best for your lifestyle is essential," Dr. Kara

asserted.

"For example, if you know that you are a 'morning' person and focus best within the first few hours after you wake up, use that time to focus on the tasks that take priority for the day."

Dr. Kara continued:

"Once you develop that routine, stick to it day af-

ter day so that it becomes a habit."

Working out regularly provides many physical, mental, and emotional well-being benefits. For example, recent research has revealed that exercise is good for the gray matter, offered Jim Powell, the co-founder of My Speech Class.

"It turns out that aerobic activities that get the heart pumping can also keep the brain working in tip-top shape for longer," Powell remarked.

"Peak oxygen uptake is associated with increased gray matter volume, which suggests that cardiorespiratory exercises known to improve aerobic capacity may help slow down a decline in gray matter. Some of the most popular and effective cardiorespiratory workouts include running,

cycling, swimming, and even brisk walking."

Health experts noted that the brain does possess wondrous plasticity, and individuals can help it adjust and refocus by taking up a few simple, healthy habits.

"Weight loss has been linked to increased memory and concentration. According to researchers, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, and type 2 diabetes, all of which are typically caused by obesity, are thought to harm the brain," said Theola Tinny, co-founder of VinPit.

"Researchers believe that once people regain a healthy weight and the problems that come with it, their cognitive disorders will fade away," Tinny added.

"Also, our surroundings have a huge impact on our

ability to concentrate. Decluttering your home or tidying your workstation is well recognized for making your mind feel more ordered, liberated, and able to think more clearly. You may alter your environment to make it more conducive to sustained focus," Tinny continued.

She said physical activity, dietary choices, and weight are all factors that might affect the ability to function and concentrate.

"If you skip breakfast, for example, you are unlikely to be able to accomplish duties to your full potential by midday due to hunger sensations," Tinny concluded.

"Taking care of your health, staying active, and consuming foods that promote concentration can all help you improve your concentration."

# Golf tournament tees up in Irving with celebrity players

Professional golfers and 50 celebrity players are coming to Irving for the inaugural ClubCorp Classic at the Las Colinas Country Club from April 19-24. The event is an officially sanctioned PGA Tour Champions event and will undoubtedly put Irving in the national spotlight.

"It's no surprise that ClubCorp chose Irving to

host this event," said Mayor Rick Stopfer. "Not only are we a world-class city, but the Las Colinas Country Club is one of the best courses in Texas and has a long history of hosting tournaments of this caliber."

Among the confirmed celebrity players are NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers; actors Alfonso Ribeiro, Brian Baumgartner and Anthony

Anderson; baseball Hall of Famer Iván "Pudge" Rodriguez; and former Dallas Cowboys Tony Romo, Emmitt Smith and DeMarcus Ware.

The tournament features a professional prize purse of \$2 million, among the largest outside the major championships, as well as a \$500,000 celebrity prize purse. Tickets for the com-

petitive rounds, April 22-24, are available at ClubCorpClassic.com/Tickets with prices ranging from \$35 for a single-day ticket to \$75 for a three-day pass. Residents can watch the event on the Golf Channel (check with cable providers for channel listing).

For more information on the ClubCorp Classic, visit ClubCorpClassic.com.



City of Irving

# U.S. Marshals MCU Operation 'Fresh Start' recovers 16 missing endangered children and makes five arrests

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The U.S. Marshals Service has recovered 16 missing children, arrested five individuals, and has broken open a sex trafficking ring as law enforcement continues its quest to stop the proliferation of kidnapping and crimes against kids.

"Fresh Start," a three-month tactical operation, took place in New Orleans



Photo via NNPA

from January 1 through March 31, the Marshal service said in a news release.

Led by the Missing Child Unit, officers rescued 16 children on the missing and

endangered list.

"Based on the operation, at least four (4) felony warrant(s) exist for adults suspected of involvement with MCU minors, and the USMS New Orleans Task Force is actively pursuing these fugitives," authorities said.

Among those recovered were a 5-year-old female and a 7-year-old male taken by a non-custodial parent.

The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office issued a felony

warrant for the children's mother for kidnapping, and authorities alleged that she made active attempts to avoid arrest along the way.

The non-custodial parent took the children to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The U.S. Marshals from the Florida/Caribbean Regional Fugitive Task Force recovered the children and arrested the mother.

Also, a 15-year-old Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, female diagnosed with

Schizophrenia wrestled free from restraints and jumped out of an ambulance while paramedics transported her to Children's Hospital in New Orleans.

She was located and recovered at an address in New Orleans with assistance from New Orleans Police Department Special Victim's Division – Child Abuse Unit, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, and Xavier University Police Department.

## REPORT, from Page 5

"Reclaim Your Vote," the National Urban League's civic engagement campaign, celebrated with a voter mobilization rally on the university's Promenade.

A news release noted that, for the first time, The State of Black America includes a companion poll, the Pulse of Black Ameri-

ca. Conducted by Benenson Strategy Group, the poll found that an overwhelming majority Black Americans believe strongly in the power of their vote to make a difference when it comes to social and racial justice, police violence, and economic opportunity.

"But almost as many agree that elected officials

are not doing enough to protect voting rights and are in fact doing more to limit voting rights than to protect them," the authors stated.

They said the 2022 Equality Index, the National Urban League's semi-annual calculation of the social and economic status of African Americans relative to whites, is 73.9 percent, slightly up from the revised

2020 Index of 73.7 percent.

Rooted in the Three-Fifths Compromise of 1787, which counted enslaved African Americans as "three-fifths" of a person, the Index would be 100 percent under full equality, the authors wrote.

Officials said because of a lag in data collection, the 2022 Equality Index does not capture the full effect of the COVID-19 pandemic

or the resulting economic recession, but does capture changes during the pandemic for homeownership, unemployment rates, and school enrollment.

"For these metrics, the 2022 Equality Index illustrates how precarious social and economic gains are for Black Americans," said economist Rhonda Vonshay Sharpe of the Women's Institute for Sci-

ence, Equity, and Race, who analyzed the Index for the report.

"It is also evidence of how vulnerable Black Americans are to economic and public health crises. The Equality Index is an aggregate analysis of centuries of structural racism that can be a starting point for crafting policy to dismantle anti-Black racism in America."

## SERENA, from Page 2

was a test for how loud and how often I would have to call out before I was finally heard."

As Williams recounts, she had a "wonderful pregnancy" with her first child, Alexis Olympia, and even her epidural-free delivery was going well—at first.

"By the next morning, the contractions were coming harder and faster. With each one, my baby's heart rate plummeted. I was scared," the 23-time Grand Slam

winner wrote.

"Every time the baby's heart rate dropped, the nurses would come in and tell me to turn onto my side. The baby's heart rate would go back up, and everything seemed fine. Then, I'd have another contraction, and baby's heart rate would drop again, but I'd turn over, and the rate would go back up, and so on and so forth."

The CDC noted significant disparities in the birthing experience of Black

women in its most recent report.

The agency noted that Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women.

The agency said multiple factors contribute to these disparities, such as variation in quality healthcare, underlying chronic conditions, structural racism, and implicit bias.

The CDC added that social determinants of health prevent many people from racial and ethnic minority

groups from having fair economic, physical, and emotional health opportunities.

After an emergency C-section, Williams gave birth to her daughter, Alexis.

Afterward, she said she had to fight for her life.

Already classified as a high risk for blood clots, Williams inquired whether she should receive heparin, a blood thinner.

"The response was, 'Well, we don't really know if that's what you need to be on right now,'" Williams wrote.

"No one was really listening to what I was saying."

Despite excruciating pain, Williams continued to speak out to her health care providers.

At one point, she felt paralyzed.

"I couldn't move at all," she recounted.

Aching and coughing to the point where her C-section stitches burst, Williams complained that she couldn't breathe.

Four surgeries later, doctors discovered a blood clot in one of her arteries, a he-

matoma in her abdomen, and other clots.

She said the nurse she had previously spoken with told her that the medicine was making her crazy. Had she gone along with the nurse's assertions, Williams could have died.

"Being heard and appropriately treated was the difference between life or death for me," Williams asserted. "I know those statistics would be different if the medical establishment listened to every Black woman's experience."

# Bear Creek mourns the passing of a community matriarch

By David Wilfong  
NDG Contributing Writer

The Ms. Mature Irving pageant is a big to-do in the northern DFW community. Or, at least it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and hopefully will be again soon. It celebrates the distinguished women who shape the character and direction of the community. In the 2019 iteration, the women who walked across the stage reflected a broad spectrum of Irving in particular, and our country as a whole.

But it wasn't always that way.

In 1999 Gloria Oliver was the first African American woman to claim the title. It was a small part of turning a new chapter for Blacks in Irving, and in turn improving the city as a whole. While Oliver had done much more for the community than winning a pageant, this outward and visible sign of success remains a significant one for her family and friends.

These loved ones are now remembering Oliver,



Courtesy photo

who passed away on April 4.

"She was an example of the kind of neighbor, friend, citizen of not only Grand Prairie, Bear Creek and the City of Irving; she was a neighbor to everybody," said family friend Anthony Bond. "She believed in Jesus Christ. She always said, 'You've got to have the Christ.' That was her favorite saying and she lived it.

"She was kind to people of all races, religions, creeds, colors, genders, ages ... any kind of thing that would separate us and divide us, Ms. Oliver would not tolerate it for one sec-

ond. She was — to me — what I call a 'matriarch deluxe.' She raised her children, but she was like a momma and a grandmomma to me and a lot of people on the African American community of Bear Creek.

"If there's a heaven up above, she's up there teaching angels how to love."

Gloria Louise Oliver was born on October 22, 1932 in Dallas. When she was a senior at Lincoln High School her family moved to Irving. She commuted to finish her final year with her classmates. Shortly thereafter she married, started a career and had three children; Patrice, Darren and

James.

Taking home the title of Ms. Mature Irving was certainly not the first accomplishment for Oliver in terms of breaking ground for African Americans in Irving.

In her career, Oliver was the first African American Directory Assistant Operator at GTE, which would later become Verizon. She retired from the telecommunications business in 1993.

Oliver was instrumental in the efforts of the West Irving Improvement Association. This organization was created to address disparities in the living conditions and opportunities for African Americans living primarily in the Bear Creek community. This was a historic neighborhood originally founded by freed slaves. Its first inhabitants simply wanted a safe environment where they could thrive.

As the 1960s rolled

around, just surviving wasn't enough. The time was overdue for Black children to enter a world where they had the same levels of opportunity that their lighter-skinned counterparts living only a few miles away enjoyed. Oliver began by being a teacher to many of the children in Bear Creek, but her vision was higher than that, and she was a part of the push toward integration. Education was a primary goal, and Oliver's son was among the first students to take that first step toward equal access to learning.

"I know I attended Gerald Davis Elementary here in the neighborhood," recalled her son, Darren Oliver. "That twas an all Black high school, junior high school and elementary. I attended it from the first grade through the third grade. Then in the fourth grade I was integrated to Barton (Elementary School).

Oliver was also involved

in the community through serving on the West Park Recreation Center Advisory Board with the city's parks and recreation department, and working with the community television station.

Her biggest contributions however, were simply based on face-to-face personal relationships at the neighborhood level.

"As far as everybody was concerned here in this neighborhood, she always did her best to make sure everybody was OK," Darren said. "She treated them with all the respect and so forth. So everybody knows her in this neighborhood."

A visitation was held on Friday, April 15, from 6-8 p.m. at Moore Funeral Home in Arlington. Services were held on Saturday, April 16 at 11 a.m. in the South Chapel of Moore Funeral Home, with burial following at Moore Memorial Gardens.

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# Dallas Children's Theater 'Teen Scene Players' present 10 Seconds

What does a complex situation look like when given time and a willingness to understand all perspectives? Dallas Children's Theater's (DCT) newest play, 10 SECONDS, recommended for ages 13 and up, aims to encourage reflection and de-escalation in a world where deeply-rooted biases and misperceptions easily take hold. Performed by an all-teen cast, the play reflects the complex world these young people are growing up in, and does so with empathy and appreciation for their perspectives and that of those in law enforcement. There will be three public performances starting April 29 and tickets are an accessible \$10 per person. If anyone needs a comp ticket to see the show, they should call 214-740-0051 because it is important to DCT that everyone have an opportunity to see this production.



Courtesy photos

In 10 Seconds, Ray and Jimi are Washington, DC high school students who are navigating their young adult worlds and what it means to be young black men in the city. Ray tells the story of a day, and the 10 seconds inside that day, that they will never forget. We see not only their perspectives, but also those of the police they encounter. Through audience engagement and interactive moments, the play provides opportunities for reflection and discussion. Each performance will be followed by a talkback facilitated by

Visions for Change's Denise Lee and Thomas Collier and featuring helpful subject matter resources from law enforcement and area youth groups. This play was originally commissioned by Imagination Stage in Bethesda, MD. "Anyone interested in experiencing what it's like to acknowledge the presence of various points of view and truly explore the perspectives of other humans in their own lives should consider seeing this production," states director Richard Quadri, who, when

not directing around Dallas, serves as Theatre Director at Studie L. Williams TAG Academy in Dallas ISD. "With the resources we've been given, my objective is to make this as immersive of an experience as possible. The audience should perceive the world through Ray's eyes," Quadri continues. "We hope that viewers are confronted with multiple perspectives as a result of Ray's frequent asides and the connection he establishes with the audience,

and that they leave with at least a sliver of the idea that judging a book by its cover is a very slippery slope, and that if we continue to champion ideas that allow society to impose stereotypes and judgment on others without making any attempts to see the world from their perspective, we may face disastrous consequences," Quadri adds. It is human nature to react, and many often react without thinking. Understanding consequences, de-escalation and methods

of emotional regulation are fundamental, and can even save lives.

"Nearly eight billion lives are continuously colliding on this planet for better or worse," Quadri illustrates. "Perhaps things might go a bit more smoothly if we allow ourselves to walk in the shoes of another more often."

This play is produced by DCT's Senior Social Justice Strategist Denise Lee, who is also the founder of Visions for Change, and is endorsed by the DCT Board of Directors and financially supported by:

The Melinda and Jim Johnson Family, The MR and Evelyn Hudson Foundation, Neiman Marcus, North Texas Cares, Deborah and Craig Sutton/Rasa Floors, and The March Family Foundation.

The production runs April 29-May 1 and is recommended for audiences aged 13 and up.

## Film Review: Paris 13th District

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*\*) If bed swapping was a sport, these French twentysomethings would be Olympic-caliber athletes.

Millennials have infested Paris' 13th arrondissement district. They walk down streets, chatting and philosophizing. It's enough to make you wonder who they are, what they do and where they're going. If your eyes focus on Emilie (Lucie Zhang), Camille (Makita Samba) and Nora (Noémie Merlant) you'll be curious about the Asian customer service rep, African PhD candidate and white law-school student. Friends? Lovers? Do their lives intertwine in very erotic ways? Yes. Yes. Yes.

These kinds of characters are prevalent in the novels and cartoons of Adrian Tomine. He's a fourth-generation Japanese American cartoon-



Lucie Zhang and Makita Samba Paris 13th District. (Courtesy photo)

ist whose drawings have appeared on New Yorker Magazine covers and in his graphic novel of short stories Killing and Dying, which has made the New York Times Best Seller list. Tomine's frank portraits on lost urban souls weathering life are the source material for a script by writer/director Jacques Audiard (A Prophet), screenwriters Céline Sciamma (Portrait of a Lady on Fire) and Léa Mysius. Their screenplay muses about life among the young and sexually driven. Emilie is renting out a

room in her two-bedroom apartment. The first inquirer is Camille. Emilie wasn't expecting a man to reply to her want ad and is put off at first. She eyes him suspiciously. He calms her nerves. It's a deal, they'll do that roommate thing. Almost in seconds, they're in each other's arms, kissing, cuddling, murmuring, thrusting. She's smitten. He's aloof. She wants more. He puts space between them. Emilie: "When you said 'not to-

See PARIS, Page 13

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# Dallas Symphony Orchestra announces newly added summer concerts

*New concerts join June and August performances that feature Classical, Jazz, Soul, Gospel and Chamber Music*

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra today announced new concerts for Summer 2022. These fun, family-friendly performances will entertain and serve the North Texas community.

“We are delighted to bring music to the Meyerson this summer,” said Kim Noltemy, Ross Perot President & CEO of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. “Though the orchestra season will be completed, we are excited to welcome these incredible artists to the stage and share these performances with the North Texas community.”

On June 3, the Baumer String Quartet and DSO musicians will present an evening of chamber music. Acknowledged as one of the finest young quartets in the country, the Baumer String Quartet was founded in 2003 at the Cleveland Institute of Music. This concert will include the Dallas premiere of Samuel Carl Adams’s Sundial for String Quartet & Percussion. Nathan Olson, Co-Concertmaster (Fanchon & Howard Hallam Chair) is a founding member of the group, and George Nickson, Principal Percussion (Margie & William H. Seay



Rob Simmons / Unsplash

Chair) will be featured in the work. Sundial was commissioned by the DSO and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and received its world premiere by LACO in March 2022.

On June 7, Maurice Cohn will conduct the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with Jorge Baldor from the Latin Arts Project and the African American Museum on their Yanga exhibition. The exhibition tells the story of Gaspar Yanga, who established one of the first free Black settlements in the Americas. This program will feature Gabriela Ortiz’s Yanga, and premiered by the LA Philharmonic, the LA Master Chorale and Tambuco Percussion in October 2019, Ortiz’s Yanga is written for orchestra and choir, with the choral parts sung

in Spanish. Tambuco Percussion will join the DSO, and Dallas Chamber Choir will provide the voices.

The DSO will host its annual Teen Scene Concert on June 10, a concert curated by the DSO’s Teen Council and featuring young musical talent from across the region. The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maurice Cohn, will perform Schuman’s Piano Concerto in A Minor, Opus 54 with Victoria Han, the first-place winner of the twenty-first annual Lynn Harrell Concerto Competition. In addition, members of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra will sit side-by-side with DSO players on selections from Holst’s The Planets.

On July 16, Fun-Guy Records will host a release party for Justin Pickard and

the Thunderbird Winos’s new album The Memphis Recordings. The event will feature headliner Reverend Horton Heat, Justin Pickard and the Thunderbird Winos, Jimmy Dale Richardson and Lance Lipinsky. Join Fun-Guy Records for a free pre-concert meet and greet with Justin Pickard and Reverend Horton Heat.

BLKBOK will perform at the Meyerson Symphony Center on July 23. The uniquely gifted neo-classical piano prodigy uses his dexterous arrangements and melodic scores to audibly illustrate experience, that of his own, and of his community’s across pivotal moments in American history. Born and raised in Detroit, BLKBOK grew up in a music-filled house. By the time he was 8, BLKBOK was an acclaimed piano prodigy, winning statewide accolades and college-level competitions. No stranger to the industry grind, he has worked on the road as lead pianist or musical director with artists including Rihanna, Justin Timberlake, Demi Lovato, Cirque du Soleil, and more. Known for explosive and immersive live music performances, BLKBOK engages

audiences with his incredible talent and channels his experience from sharing the stage with the world’s biggest performers. Learn more about this incredible artist.

International jazz star Veronica Swift will perform at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center on July 30. Dallas audiences will remember Veronica from her performance with trumpeter Chris Botti earlier this season. With a repertoire running from swing to bebop to the Great American Songbook, this young but fully fledged star boasts a clear and lilting tone and radiant stage presence. Swift is also a master of rigorous vocal techniques like vocalese and scat. On stage, Veronica will be performing selections from her 2021 album, This Bitter Earth, along with additional jazz standards, rock classics and more.

On August 6, be ready to belt out the music of Stevie Wonder, with hits like “You Are The Sunshine Of My Life” and “Isn’t She Lovely” in this joyous sing-along concert with composer and producer Ray Chew. Chew, Music Director of Dancing with the Stars, I

Can See Your Voice and other hit programs leads this jubilant celebration of an iconic music superstar.

The DSO welcomes The Romeros on August 12. Known to millions as “The Royal Family of the Guitar,” the Romeros (Celin, Pepe, Lito and Celino) have been performing, dazzling audiences and winning rave reviews for more than 60 years. If you love classical guitar, chances are you have the prolific Romeros to thank for its popularity.

American jazz singer-songwriter Madeleine Peyroux will make a stop at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center on August 18, 2022 during her Careless Love Forever Tour. Peyroux’s 2004 blockbuster album established the American-born, Paris-influenced singer as a star in the world of jazz. Almost 20 years after its release, Careless Love’s smoky, dark covers of songs by Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan and more continues to mesmerize.

An Evening with Lucia Micarelli on August 20 will feature the star violinist best known for her collaborations with Josh Gro-

See DSO, Page 11

## Film Review: The Torch

(\*\*1/2) “Before you leave, teach someone to drive.” That advice from a former boss at an auto shop best expresses blues legend Buddy Guy’s destiny.

This is not the definitive Buddy Guy bio/doc. That distinction goes to Buddy Guy: The Blues Chase the Blues Away, which appeared on PBS in 2021. This non-fiction film has a different mission. Its task is to share how and why guitar heroes like Guy mentor others. Like elders in a village passing on what they know to who’s next in line.

Grammy-winning guitarist George “Buddy” Guy grew up on a farm in Louisi-



Quinn Sullivan and Buddy Guy costar in *The Torch*. (Courtesy photo)

ana and migrated to Chicago in 1957 to fulfill his dream of becoming a blues musician. In the Windy City, he was mentored by his heroes Howling Wolf, Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker. Then he gave what he got. A prime example is exhib-

ited on screen for 1h 47m, as he shepherds fledgling blues guitarist Quinn Sullivan. He’s just one of the many musicians Guy has nurtured.

The words, deeds and instructions he’s given Sul-

See TORCH, Page 12

# Martin Luther King III and former U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young Join the Movement for Economic Parity in Cleveland

ATLANTA - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was assassinated 54 years ago on Monday, visited Cleveland at least seven times the year before he was fatally shot on the balcony of a Memphis motel. Dr. King, who was in the Tennessee city advocating for fair wages for striking sanitation workers, was scheduled to return to Cleveland six days after his assassination.

During those Cleveland visits, Dr. King galvanized thousands of people to rallies and boycotts to improve conditions for Black residents and to drive voters to the polls to elect Carl Stokes, who became Cleveland's first Black mayor and the first Black American to serve as mayor of a major city. His influence angered many who wanted to maintain the status quo and then Cleveland Mayor

Ralph Locher even called him an extremist.

Today, officials of the Southern Christian Leaders Conference (SCLC) and The Black Contractors Group (BCG) announced that Dr. King eldest son, Martin Luther King III, and one of his top aides, former U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young, have joined the campaign for economic parity in Cleveland and is calling on The Sherwin-Williams Company to return to the negotiating table to resolve the 17-month long dispute with the BCG and SCLC.

In September 2020, Sherwin-Williams named an all-white, nine-member team of partners to build its new \$600 million plus global headquarters in the city and a research and development center in nearby Brecksville. Saying that decision is unacceptable in

the nation's poorest big city which is 51 percent Black, the BCG and the SCLC have insisted that Sherwin-Williams names a Black partner to the team.

A Cleveland-based Black-owned firm was identified. All sides agreed to move forward but talks stalled and Sherwin-Williams has refused to explain why or return to the negotiating table.

King III believes his father's dream of economic equality can be achieved in Cleveland just like the city lead the way politically when Stokes was elected the city's mayor. That breakthrough led to African Americans being named mayors, members of congress, and even U.S. president. -more-

"My father would be appalled by the conditions in Cleveland today," King III said. "While the city has

made advances politically, it has failed its citizens in becoming the poorest big city in the nation. We must address the roots of this problem and that is why I am supporting the campaign for economic parity in Cleveland, which seeks to resolve these problems. It starts with all sides returning to the table to find a fair resolution."

Ambassador Young, who also served in Congress representing the state of Georgia and two terms as mayor of Atlanta, is calling for Sherwin-Williams to meet again with the SCLC and the BCG to end the conflict, because he knows the value of true diversity, equity and inclusion. As an influencer from Atlanta, Young is credited with bringing the 1996 Olympics and many global corporations to Atlanta and the region, which

has positioned Atlanta as a major U.S. hub.

"Our success is due to corporate leaders sitting at the table with community stakeholders," Young said. "At that table, they engage in the courageous conversations that remove the walls that divide them and pave the way for true understanding that leads to business growth and opportunities for all. I know what was achieved in the deep South can be achieved in Cleveland and the Midwest. Cleveland has no other choice but to galvanize all to the table if it seeks to rebound as a major destination for all Americans."

Dr. Charles Steele, Jr., president and CEO of the SCLC, and Norm Edwards, president of the BCG, said this is a historic moment for the movement.

"Martin III and former

U.S. Ambassador Young are global leaders who bring true credibility, integrity and influence to the movement," Dr. Steele said. "They are known for fostering unity and understanding and resolving conflicts."

Edwards added, "The movement is gaining national momentum from some very powerful leaders and influencers. It is time for our local leadership to step up and do what is right for all of the citizens of Cleveland. It will be a travesty if Sherwin-Williams builds an office tower with \$300 million in tax breaks and incentives, which are public dollars, and no Black-owned firm was awarded a contract to serve as a senior manager to oversee the project as a key partner. My hope is we get this resolved now."

## DSO, from Page 10

ban, Chris Botti and classic rock band Jethro Tull, as well as for her role as Annie Talarico in the critically acclaimed HBO Series Treme. Micarelli will bring the house down this summer in her performance at the Meyerson, presenting an exciting set of bluegrass to Led Zeppelin to Ravel to Tom Waits.

These new performances join exciting concerts already announced for June.

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra will host the Platypus Theater in their most interactive show to date on June 4. Presto, Mambo! The Music of Latin America is a play about Max, an energetic but impulsive young boy, that makes his way on the stage to "help" the orchestra during a concert. Soon Max is on a whirlwind adventure that takes him from the concert hall to the vibrant lands of Latin American culture where he learns the

magic of Latin rhythms with the help of his new friend, Mambo the dog, the orchestra and the audience.

On June 15, the DSO and Project Unity present Together We Sing, a musical fundraising event that blends gospel and classical music. This incredible night of inspiration will feature the Dallas Symphony Orchestra along with a 200-voice multi-ethnic, multi-faith choir comprised of choruses from more than 20 religions and faith organizations as well as performances by top gospel artists. This event will honor legendary gospel artist Richard Smallwood and will raise funds for Project Unity's signature community programs.

The DSO welcomes Principal Pops Conductor Jeff Tyzik (Dot & Paul Mason Principal Pops Podium) back from June 17 to June 19 with the Paul Simon Songbook. Audiences will

be delighted during a symphonic tribute to Simon's work in Simon and Garfunkel as well as the classic solo albums Graceland and Rhythm of the Saints.

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra's Jazz Series, in collaboration with The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, continues with saxophonist Kirk Whalum on June 20. Soulful, passionate and stirring, Whalum is a Memphis, TN native with gospel roots and a big, rich tenor sound that is unmistakably his.

From June 24 to 26, hear Disney Concert's newest live-to-picture concert event featuring the timeless classic film Toy Story, accompanied by Randy Newman's beloved score. Bring your children and grandchildren to follow along as pull-string cowboy, Woody, and astronaut action figure, Buzz Lightyear, grow from enemies battling for the attention of their owner Andy to comrades who join forces.



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## House Committee plans hearing on 'underfunded' and challenged IRS

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

In March, the Internal Revenue Service reported being chronically underfunded for more than a decade, with its budget cut by nearly 20% since 2010.

The agency noted a "historically low level of funding," which has resulted in operations not being equipped to provide adequate service.

Officials at the agency also noted that the pandemic had created new operational challenges, including

the IRS being called upon to distribute three rounds of Economic Impact Payments to 85 percent of American households.

"These circumstances have created significant challenges. Entering a normal filing season, the IRS typically has well under one million pieces of inventory," the agency said in a statement.

"This year, the IRS entered the filing season with a backlog more than 15 times as large."

U.S. Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-Mass.), the chair of the Subcommittee on

Government Operations, plans to hold a virtual hearing to examine the operations and financial condition of the IRS.

National Taxpayer Advocate Erin Collins and IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig plan to participate in the hearing set for 10 a.m. EST.

Officials plan to address how the agency will fare this tax season specifically.

He noted that the agency processes more than 150 million individual and business tax returns each year.

"But as it heads into the

2022 tax season, the agency is still struggling to address a massive backlog of more than 23 million pieces of correspondence related to the 2020 tax season, including tax returns waiting to be processed, suspended returns, and returns that were amended," Connolly noted in a news release.

In its 2021 Annual Report to Congress, the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS), an independent entity that ensures taxpayers are treated fairly by the IRS, called 2021 "the most challenging year taxpayers and tax professionals have

ever experienced."

According to the news release, the IRS has a long history of resource and staff shortages.

The agency realized a budget cut of about \$929 million between the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and FY 2019.

The IRS workforce has been reduced by 22 percent since 2010, leaving one-third the number of enforcement agents and less than half the number of customer service representatives.

The coronavirus pandemic further strained the

IRS, tasked with issuing more than \$1.5 trillion in economic relief to qualifying individuals, families, and businesses and processing annual tax returns.

"Many Americans rely on their tax refunds to pay for food, childcare, medication, utilities, and other necessities," Connolly noted.

"The hearing will examine ways Congress can ensure the IRS has the resources and staffing flexibilities it needs to effectively fulfill its duties with the 2022 tax season already underway."

## TORCH, from Page 10

livan started back in April 2007. That's when, as a 7-year-old, the talented white kid guitarist got pulled up on stage by the Black blues icon at a gig in Massachusetts. Sullivan, a prodigy and virtuoso, lit up the strings on his guitar and could mimic any lick Guy threw his way. Footage depicts that auspicious night and follows the youngster as he turns into a teen and then a young man trying to find his own voice. Though watching his performances and development is interesting, it's not nearly as

captivating as following the paths of other artists with similar experiences. E.g., blues/belter/guitarist Jonny Lang, who has had record contracts and a stellar career since age 15.

However, this "making of a man" aspect does provide learning experiences and a warm emotional core. It's a feel that helps elevate this decently crafted (director/producer Jim Farrell) but not artistically daring documentation of Guy's achievements and mentorships. Aaron Frutman and Michael

Andrus' cinematography captures live performances, backstage rituals, musicians fraternizing and bonds that have grown over the years. Touching moments of parenting, testimonials and lasting relationships prove that we are all only as good as the spirit we leave behind in others. And that blazing a trail matters most when others can follow.

Guy's most poignant recollection is his first encounter with his idol John Lee Hooker, who he yearned to meet. In Chicago, Guy ran into a man that stuttered so badly he couldn't understand what the dude was

badgering him about. Turns out the bothersome man was Hooker, trying to introduce himself but hindered by a speech impediment. Precious anecdotes like that are like listening to songs on an anthology record. One that holds memories and treasures.

Fellow musicians spread his legend. Carols Santana: "The Moses of the blues ... he literally parts the seas." Jonny Lang, himself the product of mentoring by blues musician Ted Larsen, has a unique perspective: "A lot of people are called living legends, but not all are as gracious and generous as

Buddy Guy." Susan Tedeschi of the rock/blues group Tedeschi Trucks Band sees a connection: "Guy is a link between Jimi Hendrix and blues music."

At age 85, George "Buddy" Guy still tours, goes from concert to concert and never does a sound check. He learned his trade from those who came before him and is leaving something

behind. It's a calling. A mission. A state of grace.

This enlightening bio/doc may not be the ultimate Buddy Guy movie, but it's one his followers must see. The one that explains his release.

In theaters now.

Visit *NNPA News Wire*  
*Film Critic Dwight Brown* at  
*DwightBrownInk.com* and  
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## MISSING, from Page 1

cluded.

Jefferson noted that "from 'Westside Story' actress Ariana DeBose to Jennifer Lopez and Carmen Perez, the co-founder of the Women's March to The View's Sunny Hostin and Ana Navarro, Hispanics are not monolithic."

"Some identify as biracial or Black. Therefore, a separate category is critical to finding their missing children, too," Jefferson stated.

She continued:

"More compelling is by combining white and Hispanic as one race, the figures mislead the public about the status of missing Black children whose missing outnumber all other races."

"The FBI 2020 data

suggest that number has changed," Jefferson said. "But has it?"

"Part of the problem in the missing, endangered, and the exploited area is the difference in collecting and delivering data."

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which also tracks missing data, gathers data directly from law enforcement as children go missing, while FBI data is reported annually via NCIC.

"The operative words are 'reported missing' and 'crime,'" Jefferson insisted.

"Most Black and Afro Latinx are underreported or not reported at all. This is because most law enforcement executes runaway warrants or deny families

missing person reports."

Jefferson concluded that more Black children are missing than white and Hispanic juveniles combined.

She said 62 percent of the 30,000 newly reported missing cases in 2020 were Black children.

"This is alarming because Blacks, or African Americans, represent about 14 percent of the U.S. population," Jefferson noted further.

"AAJJP is constrained to ask whether the combination of white with Hispanic children is to deflect from reporting raw data proving more Black children are missing than any other race," Jefferson continued.

"Moreover, whether it's to evade or avoid finding our children or funding solutions to the problem?"

The FBI report notes about 9,000 missing Native American or Indian children.

Jefferson pointed out that the White House proclaimed May 4th to recognize missing and exploited NAI/Indian children.

"The White House has not proclaimed a day for Black girls or children," Jefferson demanded. "Our hashtag is #BidenProclaimABlackGirlsDay #NOWBeMe."

"Moving forward, AAJJP has created a missing person platform to include coalition-building of an Alliance. A collective lab in this space will help us to strategize, organize, mobilize, and energize (SOME) our base to effectuate lasting change in policy and policing and prevention and protection."

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# White House unveils steps to advance equity in America

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The Department of Health and Human Services said its increasing outreach to communities of color to encourage enrollment in free and low-cost health care, and the agency will address the maternal mortality crisis that disproportionately impacts Black and Native families, including by working with states to extend postpartum coverage in Medicaid and the Children's Health In-

urance Program. Additionally, the Department of Homeland Security said its working to ensure that underserved communities are treated fairly in airport screenings by improving systems and enhancing training for officers. DHS officials said they're also engaging with and improving underserved communities' access to grant programs that help counter domestic violent extremism to better address the terrorism-related threat to the country posed by white supremacists and

other domestic terrorists. On Thursday, April 14, each government agency also released plans that mesh with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris' strategies and commitments in an overall Equity Action Plan. The plan results from an executive order that Biden almost immediately after taking office. The president said he'd set his sight on advancing racial equity and supporting underserved communi-

ties throughout the federal government. The White House said the order marked a first for a U.S. president. "We set the mission and the mandate for every agency, the entire federal government, to center equity in all that we do," stated Chiraag Bains, deputy assistant to the president for racial justice and equity. Following an extensive review, each federal agency released separate – but similar – action plans.

Biden outlined the plan in January 2021 when he revealed over 300 strategies and commitments aimed at making federal policy fair for everyone, particularly poorer communities and neighborhoods of color. The president also detailed his desire to provide equal opportunity to individuals with disabilities and women and girls. "Advancing equity is not a one-year project – it is a generational commitment," the White House said in a

fact sheet. "These plans are an important step forward, reflecting the Biden-Harris Administration's work to make the promise of America real for every American, including by implementing the first-ever national strategy on gender equity and equality; working to ensure the federal government is a model for diversity equity, inclusion, and accessibility; working to deliver en-

See EQUITY, Page 14

## ← PARIS, from Page 9

night' what did you mean?" Camille: "We're not a couple, we're roommates." He moves out.

Camille works at a real estate agency. That's where he meets Nora. They're attracted to each other. She's not nearly as aggressive as Émilie. But eventually, the two crease the sheets too. In fact, all three hump like rabbits. They're not opposed to bedding other people, flirting with video cam sex workers (Jehny Beth), using sex apps to find erotic partners and letting physical desire run wild. Drugs are used. Condoms are not.

The trio's exploits are filmed beautifully (Paul Guillaume, Kanye West: Heaven and Hell video) in black and white—with lots of shades of gray. Interludes are caressed by romantic music (Rone) and cut down to the core (editor Juliette Welfling, The Diving Bell and the Butterfly). As a director, Audiard is not afraid of nudity, eroticism and intercourse—and neither are the cast. Bed scenes are plentiful. Drama surrounding the lovers, their families and careers is just enough of a cohesive factor to pull plot pieces, romantic yearnings and a youthful spirit together. It's like they're sending a beguiling postcard from Paris that smells like sex with a hint of love. Daring you

to join them in the City of Lights.

The multiracial casting seems natural. Not woke. The friendships, budding romances and journeys of self-discovery are winsome, instinctive and a pleasure to watch—even in the most mundane, everyday circumstances. Tomine's images laid the groundwork, the script adapted his notions, the direction put them into action and the tech crew set the atmosphere perfectly.

An immense amount of credit for making this cityscape work must go to the actors. Zhang makes the cloying, sometimes lazy and immoral Émilie fascinating as she deals with sobering realities and her unbridled lust. Samba's Camille embodies a man of African heritage as he delicately balances family responsibilities and his blasé love life. While Merlant's escapade with a woman she sees on a video feed is a very modern and fluid dynamic.

Sex, life and love are more than a sport to this trio. But not much more. And that should suit art-film loving audiences just fine.

In theaters April 15th. Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com) and [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com).



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- 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.

# Just When I Think I Got Everything Covered

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I like to have an organized life. I must confess that my idea of organization is not The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's idea. We may share many things, but not planning and organization.

When she begins a project, it is well planned and organized down to the tiniest detail, and she never stops until it is finished. (I think she is still working on me.)

On the other side of the parsonage, there is a different attitude about planning and organization.

I get an idea and think about it for a long time. Then when I feel the time is right, I begin the project. It makes no difference if I'm at the beginning of the project or the end. The only thing that matters is that I am working on "The Project." So I jump in and begin working on that project.

One afternoon while in the middle of a project, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office and said, "What are you doing?"

This was rather sudden and caught me off guard,



Wonderlane / Unsplash

and I had to stop and think a little bit and ask myself the question, "What am I doing?" After thinking for a little while, I look up at her and say, "I'm working on one of my projects." I thought that would settle the matter.

But it did not satisfy her, and she asked, "What specific project are you working on right now? And, when will you be finished?"

I never know why she needs to know such personal information. At the time, I had to come up with some response to her question, and it may not be exactly what I'm doing.

I have a bunch of projects I work on throughout the week. For example, I have a sermon, a weekly newspaper column, a magazine article and a book

that I am working on.

I must confess there are times I mix them up and get a little bit confused, and my whole week is spent trying to un-confuse my organizational catastrophe.

Once I went back to my wife's craft room, which I stay away from as much as possible, and saw she was working. I smiled and asked her bluntly, "What are you doing?" I was hoping to catch her off guard.

I wasn't quite prepared for the answer because, for the next 30 minutes, she explained to me her project from beginning to end, and when she was done, I had no idea what she was doing. So I don't ask her that question ever again.

I'm not into crafts like she is. I would not know one craft from another, but

federal funding opportunities, expanding capacity-building efforts, and embedding a focus on equity into decision-making about how to award federal grants," administration officials said.

The implementation of the president's American Rescue Plan and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also will help advance equity, the White House said.

"The President has made equity a priority in the implementation of two of the most ambitious legislative packages in generations, with the goal of ensuring an inclusive response and recovery from the pandemic and in rebuilding our nation's infrastructure," the officials concluded.

she is quite an expert on that.

Looking into her craft room one time when she was away, I noticed how well organized it was. Everything was in its place and a place for everything. It would take me many years to get my office as well organized as hers.

One thing I have to deal with in my office is when I think I got everything covered, and I realize everything is wrong. So looking at a project that I'm working on, you would think I had half a dozen projects on the table.

One of my problems is concentration. I may be working on one project, but suddenly something happens, and I'm thinking about another project I have coming up. Unfortunately, I will stop what I'm doing, jump to that project, and make some notes.

I like to have music in my office while I'm working, and there are times I hear a song that reminds me of something, and I have no projects in the

works associated with that, so I'm developing now a new project. Whether that project gets finished or not, it's tough to tell.

I could stop having new ideas today and continue working on what's on the table for the next ten years.

As I said, I like to finish everything that I start, but it doesn't always work out that way.

On the stand next to my bed are a notebook and pen. Many times in a week, I wake up in the middle of the night with a thought just buzzing in my head; I quickly jot down some notes before going back to sleep. When I get up in the morning, I look at those notes and have no idea what they are about.

Sometimes those notes look as though they are written in Chinese. Wouldn't it be something if they were?

At the end of the week, I like to sit on my easy chair with a cup of coffee and think over my projects for the week. How many did I finish? What did I accom-

plish?

Sometimes that Saturday night draws a blank, and I don't know how to fill it in.

Once in a while, as I'm thinking about the past week, I remember a project I started Monday and never finished and forgot all about it. Well, that's on the list for next week.

I thought of a verse of Scripture along this line. "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

This is something to think about, and I have tried to apply it to my life, particularly my spiritual life. When I think I have everything covered in my spiritual life, I discover something I haven't done.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.*

## EQUITY, from Page 13

environmental justice through the Justice40 Initiative; and working to prevent and combat discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation."

To ensure the broadest cross-section informs the government policies of Americans, the White House said agencies are engaging trusted intermediaries and tailoring outreach to make meaningful and authentic participation possible for a broader range of Americans.

Also, as the largest buyer globally, the federal government will address racial and gender wealth gaps by leveraging the power of federal procurement

to drive more significant investment in minority-owned and women-owned small businesses, officials stated.

The White House has also pledged to deliver equity through grantmaking opportunities.

The administration noted that persistent barriers make it difficult for under-resourced and underserved communities to be aware of, compete for, and effectively deploy federal grants for everything from infrastructure to medical research.

"Agencies are addressing these barriers by helping underserved communities learn about and navigate

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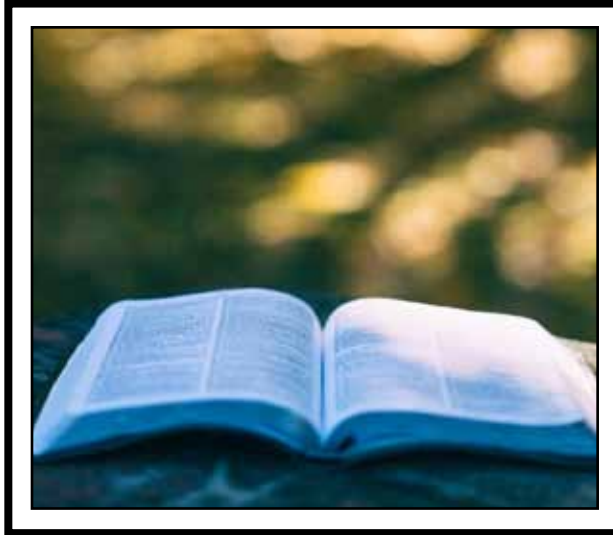
**Sister Tarpley**  
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*“The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like hinds feet, he enables me to go on the heights”*

**(Habakkuk 3:19).**

The book of Habakkuk inspired Martin Luther’s reformation; and the book “Hinds Feet on High Places.” Hind’s feet enable a donkey and other such animals to walk up mountains without them falling off, the writer Hannah Hunnard wrote the book.

Habakkuk encourages us to question what God is doing in our lives and how we can increase our faith to do what God desire for us to do. Because some time when we are thrown into suffering for a period



Aaron Burden / Unsplash

of time, or our enemies are prospering while we are just barely getting by, we begin to wonder about the equity of God and our lives. Habakkuk affirms that God is God all by Himself and that we are made to scale the mountains of adversity whenever they come and whatever the direction they come from.

We just need to be still and know God is at work to make us more like Christ.

He is who He says He is and does keep His promises, He is forever faithful. God equips believers to scale the heights even in the midst of great challenges. He enables us to go to the higher places with Him where we are set apart from the world. (A story is told of a man on a plane and saw a snake crawling around, the man told the captain. The captain said that he would take the plane to a higher

altitude which would kill the snake.) There may be a time when the way we have to go to get us through suffering and sorrow is to claim higher, and, if we rest in Him and trust Him we come out where He wants us.

When Jesus told the disciples that He was going to send the Holy Spirit to them, it was in order for them to scale the mountain before them with a new form of power they had not experienced. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

If you find yourself in a place of doubting God and His plan for your life, know that this is a normal aspect of your journey in God. However, know that

God has made available His Holy Spirit in order for us to accomplish the tasks that lie ahead. God’s Word gives us so much enlightenment and precious promises that we may trust and cling to. “Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.” John 12:26

Ask God to lift up your brothers and sisters in Christ who are so faithful to follow Him anywhere they are persecuted for doing so.

God has promised to honor them for believing in Him and standing in faith. Pray that God will meet their every need. Pray for peace beyond understanding for good health; for basic life needs of food, clothing, and shelter; for fellowship with other Christians; for protection from harm and evil; and for opportunities to share the Gospel and witness His love in the Name of Jesus.

*(Editor’s Note: This column originally ran on April 19, 2018)*

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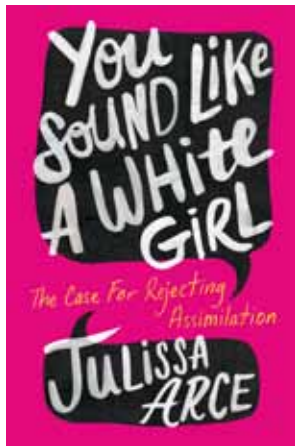
# NDG Book Review: 'You Sound Like a White Girl: The Case for Rejecting Assimilation'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The key for the clubhouse door is off-limits to you.

You'll never earn the member jacket or learn the double-secret handshake. No matter how hard you try, membership to the club is totally off-limits and that's irritating, embarrassing, and even dangerous. But read the new book "You Sound Like a White Girl" by Julissa Arce, and maybe that's a club not worth joining.

For the first eleven years of her life, Julissa Arce was a Mexican child living in Mexico. She was not ethnically different from any



of her neighbors; in fact, "Eating the food, speaking the language, dancing to the music – it was all like breathing air."

And then everything changed. Her parents moved their family across

the border to America, a sacrifice they made to ensure better opportunities for their children but with those opportunities came struggle. Arce constantly worked to fit in, she cut her long hair, and she practiced until she could speak English almost flawlessly but even the smallest mistake set her back in the eyes of her white classmates.

She was never going to be white. So why try?

For centuries, she says, white people have told Hispanic and Black people that if they worked hard, that "everything was possible," and they said that while they were making it

impossible for anyone with darker skin to get ahead. As a result, people of color relinquished their culture and language with hopes of assimilation or, at least, acceptance. They stopped speaking their native tongue, while white schools proudly taught it in "dual-language... programs." Most bruisingly, the system resulted in a widely-held preference for lighter skin, and not just in the U.S.: a similar preference "infiltrates" Mexican life, too, says Arce.

The solution, she suggests, is to stop trying to assimilate, period.

"There is so much power

in the uniqueness of our names, our food, our heritage," she says. "Only when we refuse to change and instead recognize the beauty that has been passed down to us will we truly find acceptance within ourselves."

When you approach "You Sound Like a White Girl" and prepare to dive in, be sure to leave your assumptions at the door. Author Julissa Arce is going to make you examine everything you ever thought about your natal culture, no matter what your origins.

And she does it with an angry eloquence that makes you wonder why anyone would ever want to work

so hard to fit in, anyhow. Through her own personal stories, history, and research, she lets readers know that they're not alone in their efforts to assimilate, that their frustration is not unique, and that there's ample reason to quit the fight. It comes with a good amount of pride and not just a few surprises.

While this book may seem like it could have a "No Whites Allowed" sign hidden somewhere on the cover, nothing could be further from the truth. To make our society better, letting everyone of any race read "You Sound Like a White Girl" is key.

## WILLIAMS, from Page 2

Richmond, Petersburg, Hopewell, and Colonial Heights communities.

He assured the welfare and safety of the over 25,000 students, staff and faculty, families, and support organizations.

Early in his career, he served as a leadership and logistics instructor at Fort Lee and was named an Army instructor of the year, one of his many awards.

Williams, a native of West Palm Beach, Florida,

earned his bachelor's degree in 1983 at then-Hampton Institute.

Williams also holds three graduate school degrees: a master's in business administration from Pennsylvania State University; a master's in military art and science from the Army

Combined and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and a master's in national security strategy (distinguished graduate) from the National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

In the news release, Williams said he is honored to be chosen as Hampton's 13th president and is looking forward to "returning to serve."

"I love Hampton and bring a wealth of strategic

leadership experiences, including management of large global organizations, as well as the academic and nonprofit experience necessary to successfully lead the university," Williams stated.



## 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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