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Mexico's new political favor: A matter of luck or clever negotiating skills?

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

Since 1994, when NAFTA eliminated tariffs between the U.S., Canada and Mexico, relations between Mexico and the U.S. have remained relatively stable, reports the Council on Foreign Relations. This, despite constant challenges involving immigration and drug trafficking.

The path of appeasement taken by the last three Mexican presidents have helped maintain this stability, as international political expert and author David R. Ayon explained in an April American Community Media briefing.

Considering hostilities and recent threats of tariffs directed at Mexico, relations between the two countries continue to be surprisingly stable.

In her cool-headed manner, Mexico's new president, Claudia Sheinbaum, achieved exceptions to



Amid Trump-era turbulence and global instability, Mexico has emerged as the U.S.'s top trading partner by leveraging diplomacy, economic foresight, and the quiet strength of President Claudia Sheinbaum. (NDG Composite)

Trump's March tariff orders, Sheinbaum reminding Trump of the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) signed during his first administration. Sheinbaum

evenly pointed to conflicts between the agreement and the imposition of tariffs, the Associated Press reported.

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People In The News ...



Rep. LaMonica McIver



Angel Reese

NDG Quote of the Week:
"I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying."
- Michael Jordan

Rep. LaMonica McIver

At a large press conference on the House side of the U.S. Capitol, members of Congress rallied around Congresswoman LaMonica McIver (D-NJ).

The members represented the diverse “tri-caucus” made up of many of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Women’s Caucus.

The three groups represent over half of the Democratic Caucus in the U.S. House.

Though McIver was not present at the press event, she was on Capitol Hill attending meetings and House



votes. She is also expected to be on national television on the evening of May 20.

Yesterday, the New Jersey Congresswoman was charged with “impeding” and “assaulting” law enforcement outside of Delaney Hall Immigration Detention Center in Newark,

New Jersey on May 9.

The confrontation occurred after the arrest of Newark Mayor Ras Baraka but last night the acting U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey, Alina Habba announced that the charges against Mayor Baraka were dropped. Rep. McIver was charged on the same day that the Trump Administration, through the Department of Justice, announced an agreement to pay the family of Ashley Babbitt \$5 million.

Babbitt was shot dead by a member of the U.S. Capitol Police as she attempted to enter the floor of the U.S. House during the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The charg-

es against Rep. McIver also fell on the same day as what would have been the 100th birthday of Malcolm X.

After three months of witnessing the Trump Administration arrest and deport individuals to a prison in El Salvador with no hearing beforehand and pressure law firms to complete work pro bono, members of Congress at the event in support of Rep. McIver appeared to have recent history front of mind.

“We know exactly why we’re here today. That’s because the President of the United States has weaponized his Department of Justice in an attempt to make a young congresswoman from New Jersey the focal

point of his efforts to intimidate Congress into submission,” said Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY), the Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus during the crowded press event near the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

“Let me be overwhelmingly clear. Congresswoman McIver has the full and unwavering support of the Congressional Black Caucus. Period,” Clarke added.

Rep. McIver, 38, entered Congress in September 2024 after winning a special election after the death of Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.

“I’m standing here at a time that should make all of us as Americans truly afraid,” said New Jersey

Democrat Cory Booker.

Senator Booker shook hands and greeted New Jersey colleagues U.S. Representatives Robert Menendez, Jr. (D-NJ) and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) who were also a part of the May 9 visit to Delaney Hall Immigration detention center that became a confrontation after ICE officials got into a dispute with the federal officials.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. When they come after judges we should be afraid. When they come after people who use their First Amendment rights we should be afraid. When they

See McIver, Page 6

Angel Reese

The WNBA has launched an investigation into what it called “hateful fan comments” directed at Chicago Sky forward Angel Reese during Saturday’s game against the Indiana Fever—an episode that reignited long-simmering racial tensions surrounding Reese and Fever second-year player Caitlin Clark.

The two players, who entered the league together last year after a fiery college rivalry, have become emblematic of a racial divide that continues to shape how fans, media, and the public perceive Black and white women athletes.

Reese, who is Black, has often been vilified for her outspoken confidence and physical play. Clark, who is white, has largely been celebrated, even while displaying similar traits on the court.

“They both are excellent competitors,” ESPN broadcaster Monica McNutt said. “But if it had been the other



way around [Reese shoving Clark], you could imagine how this conversation would go.”

In the third quarter of Indiana’s 93-58 win, tensions boiled over when Clark slapped at the ball after Reese secured an offensive rebound and had a clear path to the basket. Reese fell to the floor and quickly got up to confront Clark before Fever star Aliyah Boston intervened.

Officials reviewed the play, upgraded Clark’s foul to a flagrant 1, and issued technical fouls to both Reese and Boston. As boos rang out from the largely non-African-American

crowd at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Reese was targeted more aggressively—particularly during her free throws.

The WNBA said it is investigating “allegations of hateful fan comments” directed at her during the game. “The WNBA strongly condemns racism, hate, and discrimination in all forms—they have no place in our league or in society,” the league said in a statement. “We are aware of the allegations and are looking into the matter.” Reese declined to speak to the media after the game and had no comment Sunday through a representative.

The confrontation—and the crowd’s reaction—quickly spilled into online discourse, with some defending Reese while others amplified attacks. Former NFL quarterback Robert Griffin III, who is married to a white woman, drew fire for a post accusing Reese of creating a hostile environ-

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Now is the Time for Love, Unity

By Rev. RB Holmes Jr.

I have had the humble and high honor of serving on three of the four venerable historically black colleges and universities Board of Trustees in my beloved state of Florida. These outstanding and prestigious universities are Florida Memorial University in Miami, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, and I currently serve on the Board at Edward Waters University in Jacksonville, where I am chairman of the Academic and Athletics Committees.

I have joyfully, faithfully and persistently given of my time, resources and prayers to support, sustain and strengthen the four premier HBCUs in Florida, in particular, and have been and continue to be a promoter, proponent and protector of HBCUs, in general.

Many of my family members, including my wife, mother, siblings, in-laws, hundreds of my parishioners and countless number of friends attended and graduated from HBCUs. I also am a graduate of an HBCU, Virginia Union University School of Theology. My point is that supporting HBCUs is a calling for me personally, professionally, culturally and spiritually. I feel these universities and colleges are positioned on sacred and holy ground. It has been my lifelong passion, vigor, zeal and determination to not only see these HBCUs in Florida survive but thrive.

These and other HBCUs are crucially important for the upward mobility of our race and other races. Obviously, Rattler Nation and others are disappointed and frustrated in the selection of attorney Marva Johnson as the next

president of FAMU. In full disclosure, my preference was Dr. Donald Palm, who is a phenomenal educator, a transformational leader and, most of all, presidential material. I made my preference known to several trustees and others. However, he was not selected by the trustees, and we must now move forward.

I don't know attorney Marva Johnson. I do know that the attacks on her character, family and selection as the next president of FAMU are unfortunate, unnecessary and unkind. Yes, attack the process but not the person. We must find the grace to be better than this. Name-calling doesn't change anything.

The board of trustees has spoken. I just don't believe in my soul and spirit that the trustees who voted for Dr. Palm and those who voted for President-Elect Johnson have a hid-

den agenda to dismantle FAMU. I don't believe that these trustees will allow anyone to defund, deconstruct, disrupt, desecrate or destroy this treasured institution.

I am praying fervently for President-Elect Johnson. I am praying that God will give her the strength, wisdom, favor and patience to execute her vision for this remarkable university to guide it toward the "path of preeminence." Who knows? Maybe God is sending her to the Highest of Seven Hills "for such a time as this." Furthermore, in the words of Pope Leo XIV, "Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love." I say, "Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love and unity."

Rev. Dr. RB Holmes is publisher of the Capital Outlook newspaper and pastor of the historic Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Florida.

Crump applauds promise by Mayor Adams to uncover the truth about Malcolm X murder

National civil rights attorney Ben Crump issued a statement in response to Mayor Eric Adams' remarks during a powerful press conference commemorating the 100th birthday of Malcolm X. In his comments, Mayor Adams pledged to help bring long-overdue justice to Malcolm X and his family. He committed to confronting the systemic failures and unanswered questions that have persisted for decades — and to resolving the family's pending legal

claims during his administration.

In November 2024, the estate of Malcolm X filed a lawsuit against the United States Government, Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the New York Police Department. The lawsuit alleges these entities played a significant role in the events leading to Malcolm X's assassination and engaged in a decades-long cover-up to shield their involvement from the

public.

Crump released the following statement:

"I applaud Mayor Eric Adams for his powerful commitment today to finally uncovering the full truth about the assassination of one of the most transformative leaders in American history.

"His promise that he will do everything in his power as Mayor of New York City to get justice for Malcolm, and expeditiously resolve the ongoing legal matters with the family, signals an

important step forward in the long fight for accountability and transparency. Malcolm X was more than a man, he was a movement. He was taken from us by a system that feared his power and his vision, and as Mayor Adams rightly said, there were many hands involved in that tragic and calculated act.

"We are encouraged by the Mayor's recognition of the emotional toll this injustice continues to

See CRUMP, Page 7

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After a week of battling health care cuts, CBC talks strategy

By Lauren Burke

During a session with reporters on May 15, six members of the Congressional Black Caucus discussed their battle to push back on massive cuts to health care and messaging strategy. Chairwoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Rep. Troy Carter (D-LA), Rep. Sydney Kammlager-Dove (D-WA), Rep.



Andres via NNPA

Robin Kelly (D-IL), Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX) and Rep. Jennifer McClellan (D-VA) attended the media session.

The interviews took place

a day before Republicans in the U.S. House on the Budget Committee failed to advance President Trump's budget plan. Though the budget failed to advance, because GOP members want even deeper cuts to social programs, the committee will meet again late in the evening on Sunday, May 18.

"We understood the as-

signment. We understood that the bulk of the cuts that were going to fund these tax cuts were going to come from, you know, on the backs of people's health care," said Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan (D-VA) after a question from Black Press USA.

"Nationwide, they're going to strip 13.7 million people off of health care,

off their health insurance. In Virginia, that's going to be a little over 200,000. And it's going to blow a hole in our state budget," Rep. McClellan added. The members were asked about why Democrats focused on Medicaid almost exclusively when the budget cuts millions in so many subjects — educa-

See CBC, Page 13

Billboards touting Naloxone bolster campaign addressing Black overdose crisis in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE, NM — The "You Have The Power to Save Lives" campaign is in full swing in Albuquerque, where up to six highway billboards will urge people to get free naloxone. This life-saving, overdose-reversing medication is saving lives.

The campaign, led by Vital Strategies, a global health organization, is expanding the availability of naloxone in seven cities across the United States: Albuquerque, NM; Newark, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; Durham, NC; Louisville, KY; Detroit, MI; and Mil-

waukee, WI.

The campaign goal is to reduce overdose deaths in Black communities by organizing local, civic, community, and government leaders in these cities to distribute more naloxone at neighborhood locations and educate residents about the benefits of naloxone, which is also known by its brand name, Narcan.

"There has been an uptick in our distribution of naloxone since the campaign launched in March," said Stacy Burleson, Executive Director of Women in Leadership, a lead agency

for the campaign in Albuquerque. "We are very excited about the billboards; that is our latest effort to bring attention to the Black overdose problem in New Mexico."

Since late March, Burleson said at least 211 Narcan kits have been distributed as part of the "You Have the Power to Save Lives" campaign. At the heart of the campaign is a new website — YouCanSaveLives.org — where people can find out where to get naloxone near them, hear powerful, real-world testimonials, and take action to spread the

word about the importance of naloxone.

While overdose rates in New Mexico have declined 8% since 2021, for much of the past two decades, New Mexico has had significantly higher drug overdose deaths than other states. In Bernalillo County, where

Albuquerque is located, the rate of overdose deaths among Black residents was 70 deaths per 100,000, among the highest in the country. Across the country, overdoses are the leading cause of injury death for Black adults in the United States, surpassing gun vio-

lence and car crashes. In many cities, older Black men are four times more likely to die of overdose than other men in their age group.

Burleson, who is a recovered drug user, said

See BILLBOARD, Page 16

One woman's fight for recovery highlights urgent need for long COVID research

(Newswise) — Long COVID—clinically known as post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC)—is a life-altering condition that affects more than 400 million people worldwide. Symptoms can persist for months or even years after the initial infection. Often dismissed and poorly understood, Long COVID can derail lives, careers, and futures.

For Shalisha Kennedy, it did all three.

A dedicated professional working in the prison system in Atlanta, Georgia, Shalisha first thought her symptoms in April 2020 were seasonal allergies. But when her shortness of breath worsened and her fatigue became debilitating, she sought medical help. At the time, COVID-19 was still new and testing was unreliable. She was diagnosed with a low-grade fever and sent home. Unable to breathe properly or stay

awake for more than a few hours, she was forced to stop working.

Months passed. By September 2020, Shalisha developed blood clots in her lungs—a harrowing escalation. Local physicians prescribed blood thinners but dismissed her persisting fatigue and brain fog, chalk-ing it up to stress or weight. "They told me to lose weight and be more active," Shali-

See COVID, Page 12

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Black Press to Target: Your silence is loud—and costly

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Even before Target publicly rolled back its diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, the Black Press of America had requested a meeting with CEO Brian Cornell.

Those requests—from National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. and NNPA Chairman Bobby Henry—have gone unanswered for nearly a year.

Cornell has not spoken to either Chavis or Henry, who represent the more



Image via NNPA

than 250 Black-owned newspapers and media companies that make up the NNPA.

Just recently, a lower-level Target employee ac-

knowledgeed via email that the company is aware of the request for a meeting—but no such meeting has been scheduled.

Meanwhile, Cornell met

with Rev. Al Sharpton, who stated publicly that he was not participating in a boycott of Target and really didn't have a dog in the fight. That meeting—

and the snub of the Black Press—has deepened frustration within the Black media community and reinforced what NNPA members say is a longstanding pattern of corporate disrespect.

Target has not yet responded to the Black Press for this article.

“The Black Press of America is concerned about our continued public education and selective buying campaign directed toward Target,” Chavis stated.

“While we heard from some of the staff of Target, we’ve not had direct communication with Target’s

CEO, Brian Cornell. We intend to intensify our efforts to get this issue resolved in the interest of 50 million African American consumers across the nation.”

Tracey Williams-Dillard, publisher and CEO of the *Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder*, located near Target’s Minneapolis headquarters, said the company’s continued silence “sends the message that Target does not value us as consumer-based dollars.”

She noted reports of more than 13 consecutive weeks of declining foot traffic at stores and criti-

See **TARGET**, Page 6

Trump demands probe of celebs who backed Harris

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

President Donald Trump’s latest tirade marks a new chapter in what critics call one of modern history’s angriest and most vengeful post-election victory laps.

Despite reclaiming the White House, Trump and his inner circle continue to lash out—not at rivals in government, but at celebrities who backed his 2024 opponent, Vice President

Kamala Harris.

In a series of overnight social media posts filled with capital letters and accusations, Trump called for a federal investigation into pop and cultural icons Beyoncé, Oprah Winfrey, Bruce Springsteen, and Bono.

The reason: their support for Harris during the campaign. Trump baselessly accused them of being “illegally compensated” under the guise of performance or production contracts, calling the endorse-

ments “a desperate effort to artificially build up her sparse crowds.”

“Candidates aren’t allowed to pay for ENDORSEMENTS,” Trump wrote. “This was a very expensive and desperate effort... IT’S NOT LEGAL!”

Springsteen was already in Trump’s crosshairs after criticizing the administration during a concert in England, calling it “corrupt, incompetent, and treasonous.”

See **CELEBS**, Page 12

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Keep Up with the News Back Home!

If you aren't originally from Dallas, we've still got you covered! As members of NNPA, the *North Dallas Gazette* is connected to Black newspapers across the country. Visit our site to find links to African-American newspapers in your hometown and beyond!

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Celebrating milestones and new beginnings



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

Hello, again, D6.

It's hard to believe the school year is almost over. I know how much heart and hard work everyone, from teachers and administrators to students and families, poured into getting to this point. And for many of you, that journey ends with the

joy of walking across the graduation stage.

To our amazing D6 seniors — congratulations! You've hit a huge milestone, and I hope you take a moment, even in the middle of all the excitement and chaos of these last few weeks, to really soak it in and feel proud. Some of you are off to college, others jumping right into the workforce, but no matter where you're headed next, I know you're ready for whatever comes your way. After all, you're

about to be proud Dallas ISD alums!

Whether starting pre-K, high school, or anywhere in between, our students are ending one chapter and preparing for another. I am reminded of this verse from The Collected Poems by Langston Hughes: *"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly. Hold fast to dreams for when dreams go, life is a barren field frozen with snow."*

Passion is the fuel for ev-

erything you do in life, and Dallas ISD is committed to helping our students find it. We offer so many programs and opportunities for you to explore, and take pride in empowering our students to follow their dreams. With a dream and passion, you will go far in life, and Dallas ISD is excited to watch you grow.

Congratulations, new National Honor Society members: The recent induction of several Justin F. Kimball High School

basketball players into the National Honor Society is a shining example of what it means to lead with heart and discipline, both on the court and in the classroom. With GPAs of 3.5 or higher, these student-athletes show us that true excellence knows no boundaries.

Register for pre-K for the 2025-2026 school year: Families with pre-K aged children can now enroll for the next school year. Studies show that students who attend pre-K are 3.5 times

more likely to be ready for kindergarten, more likely to succeed in school, and more likely to attend college. Set your children up for success by signing them up for pre-K today! For more information, visit the Dallas ISD website.

Enroll for 2025-2026: Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is open for all grade levels. Don't miss the chance to shape your child's future, and get them signed up for the upcoming school year!

TARGET, from Page 5

cized the company's decision to dismantle its DEI initiatives just before Black History Month.

"The timing was disturbing," Williams-Dillard said. "It was a slap in the face."

Henry, publisher of the *Westside Gazette* in Ft. Lauderdale and chairman of the NNPA, didn't hold back: "Target's manipulated silence toward the Black Press sends a powerful and troubling message to Black America—that our voices,

platforms, and influence are expendable."

He said Target's behavior suggests the company's earlier DEI push was "a short-term PR strategy" rather than a commitment to real equity.

"True diversity requires long-term investment," Henry said. "When companies pull back, we must pull back too. Black consumers are speaking with their dollars every day."

In response to Target's inaction, the NNPA launched

a selective buying and consumer education campaign earlier this year. That effort began as Rev. Jamal Bryant's "Target Fast" drew nearly 200,000 supporters, and the NAACP issued a formal consumer advisory citing Target's retreat from its racial justice pledges.

As major organizations, we are in lockstep with our messages to Black consumers. In Omaha, Omaha Star publisher Terri Sanders said the company's DEI commitment "was never intentional—it was a go-along-with-the-crowd act."

She called Target's refusal to invest in Black-owned media "redlining at its best. Target's ignoring the Black Press indicates that the Black consumer should ignore Target," Sanders said.

Chicago Defender Managing Editor Tacuma Roebuck agreed, describing Target's failure to support Black media as either "misguided, pigheaded, or simply unwilling to address the needs of a community that helped make them pop in the first place.

"And now it's too late.

"The energy once associ-

ated with shopping at Target has faded."

Seattle Medium publisher Chris Bennett said the lack of foot traffic in local stores is "very noticeable. Target will learn one way or another that Black dollars do matter."

Mississippi Link publisher and NNPA board member Jackie Hampton observed a decline in Black shoppers at her local Target store.

Hampton challenged Target's leadership to reconsider its direction.

"I would hate to see Tar-

get die because of hate," she said.

Across the board, NNPA publishers stressed that visibility in Black-owned media is about far more than advertising dollars. Cheryl Smith, publisher of *Texas Metro News*, *Garland Journal*, and *I Messenger Media*, called Target's behavior "economic apartheid. We are the truth-tellers," Smith said. "We stand on integrity, transparency, and the love of our people. If you want our dollars, you better respect our institutions."

McIver, from Page 2

come after law firms to represent clients of their choice we should be afraid. When they attack universities and the vital role they play in a free society we should be

afraid," Senator Booker told the large crowd of members of Congress, reporters, and others.

"This entire situation happened because of the unjust

arrest of Mayor Baraka," Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX) said during her opening remarks at a House Judiciary Committee hearing called by the Republicans on the issue of the fracas on May 9.

"Members of Congress have the right to conduct oversight, full stop — whether that's holding Cabinet officials accountable or visiting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities. Represent-

tative McIver was performing her proper oversight role, a role she was elected by the American people to do — and even participated in a one-hour tour after the incident occurred," wrote Rep. Jamie Raskin who is

the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Members expressed concern about what happens next and are monitoring the situation around McIver closely.



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Dallas is officially the city of number one overall picks

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

The unthinkable happened, the unimaginable has taken place. For the first time in franchise history, the Dallas Mavericks have won the 2025 NBA Draft Lottery. With only a 1.8 percent chance of securing the No. 1 overall pick, the basketball gods have shown favor to an organization and fanbase that has been through its fair share of trials and tribulations the past three months.

What a time it is to be a basketball fan in the city of Dallas. The Dallas Wings also won the WNBA Draft lottery last November and drafted UConn Huskies superstar Paige Bueckers last month.

It's only the second time one city has held the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA and WNBA drafts in the same year—happening once before in 2003 when the Cleveland Cavaliers drafted LeBron James, and the now nonexistent Rockers drafted LaToya Thomas.

The Mavericks are all but guaranteed to select Duke phenom Cooper Flagg with their top selection. Both Bueckers and Flagg will positively impact a city that was in desperate need of a breath of fresh air.

Flagg is a generational talent who was ready to play professional basketball the moment he en-



rolled at Duke University. He excels on both ends of the floor with a high basketball IQ and an elite motor.

Standing 6'7.75", 221 pounds, with a seven foot wingspan, Flagg can score on all three levels and has the ability to push the break and initiate offense after grabbing a defensive rebound. Flagg will pair nicely with Anthony Davis, who was also a No. 1 overall pick in 2012. The size and versatility of both players will cause matchup nightmares for opponents on the offensive and defensive ends of the floor.

Flagg can play small forward with Davis at the power forward position, while also being able to fill in at the power forward position when Davis plays the five in small ball lineups. Flagg and Davis will make it difficult for opponents to score the basketball at the rim as both are special rim protectors.

A potential starting line-

up of Kyrie Irving, Cooper Flagg, PJ Washington, Anthony Davis, and Dereck

Lively II will be a force to be reckoned with in the league.

Bueckers' arrival in Dallas couldn't have come at a better time.

In 2026 the Wings will leave their current home court at UT Arlington's College Park Center and move to Memorial Arena at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in downtown Dallas. The Wings are looking to build something special with its new franchise player both on and off the court as they

enter a new chapter.

In her first two games in the WNBA, Bueckers is averaging 14.5 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, and a steal.

"It's going to take a while to, obviously, get used to the physicality in the WNBA, but I think she's got the talent. She's going to be amazing for us. And she's just going to get better from game to game, from season to season. And you already can see now she's gotten more comfortable out there from game

one, so she's going to be tremendous for this organization for a long time," Dallas Mavericks legend Dirk Nowitzki said.

Bueckers and Flagg give fans reasons to believe in the futures of both organizations as the city of Dallas welcomes two new potential superstars to its professional basketball scene. Dallas basketball fans have a reason to be excited and they are good hands for years to come with the hope for multiple championships.



CRUMP, from Page 3

have on Malcolm's family, the Black community, and our country. And we stand ready to work with him to close this painful chapter. Not just with words, but with real action.

"We must finish the work

that Malcolm began. That means reckoning with our past honestly, holding institutions accountable, and ensuring that the legacy of Malcolm X is honored not only in memory, but in justice."



(Left) Dr. Terri O'Neal Ford, National President and CEO of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., (Middle) Members of the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., (Right) keynote speaker U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett. (Courtesy photos)

South Dallas Club welcomes U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, awards \$70,500 in scholarships at annual luncheon

By Gwendolyn H. Daniels

The South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. (SDBPWC) recently held its 61st Annual V. Alyce Foster Trailblazer Awards Luncheon in the elegant Chantilly Ballroom at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas.

U.S. Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett served as keynote speaker and SDBPWC capped their 71st year of service in the Greater Dallas Community by awarding 10 deserving high school seniors with scholarships totaling \$70,500. It was the largest amount of



(Left) Dr. Lavern J. Holyfield, the 35th president of SDBPWC, welcomes the audience, (Middle) Dr. Holyfield with the honorees, (Right) Emcee Brittani Moncrease (Courtesy photos)

scholarship funding ever donated by SDBPWC.

An audience of more than 900 guests received the members of the historic Club as they formed a procession in their signature red and entered the ballroom at high noon. Dr.

Lavern J. Holyfield, the 35th president of SDBPWC, was the last to enter the Chantilly to a standing audience. She was escorted by her husband, Ombudsman Winston Holyfield. Immediately prior to the President's entrance was

Dr. Terri O'Neal Ford, National President and CEO of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

"Stony the Road We Trod: Paving the Way for Community Empowerment" is the theme chosen

by Jocelyn Medlock Price, SDBPWC's 2025 luncheon chair who was assisted by Nakisha Lewis-Williams and Gwendolyn H. Daniels, co-chairs of this notable event. Everyone was entertained throughout the luncheon by the dy-

namic Rob Holbert Group, featuring Rick Bernard James. WFAA - Channel 8 News Reporter Brittani Moncrease served as the luncheon emcee, Rev. Dr. Sheron C. Patterson stirred attendees with an electrifying opening prayer, and U.S. Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett delivered an arousing keynote address with several interruptions of standing applause from the audience.

SDBPWC recognized eleven deserving individuals for their outstanding career and/or service con-

See SDBPWC, Page 13



(Left) Dr. Holyfield with the 2025 SDBPWC Ombudsmen, (Right) Dr. Holyfield with the 2025 SDBPWC Scholars (Courtesy photos)



(Left) The 2025 SDBPWC Leadership FIVE, (Right) the 2025 President, 1st VP and the Trailblazer Chair-Co-Chairs (Courtesy photos)

Film Review: 'Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning' is an epic flick

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) If there's one thing that we've learned over the 30-year history of this franchise, it's that the missions aren't so impossible when Ethan Hunt is in charge and Tom Cruise takes the wheel.

Frankly the last chapter, Dead Reckoning Part One, was good but not great. So, this, possibly the final episode, needs to be stellar if all involved want to go out with a bang. To leave nothing but good memories behind. Are they up to it? Hell yeah!

The stakes are high. An AI god called the Entity is plotting humankind's annihilation. The key to the defeat of this artificial intelligence monster lies somewhere below the frigid Bering Sea. Hunt is determined to save humanity. He's aided by his old troupe of covert operators, Luther (Ving Rhames), Benji (Simon Pegg) and the latest addition Grace (Hayley Atwell), a former lover and a pickpocket, slight-of-hand magician. The diabolical and power-hungry mercenary Gabriel (Esai Morales) is set on blocking his path and hastening his demise.



Courtesy image via NNPA

There are hitches, fits and starts. But once Ethan starts his quest, nothing can stop him. Not the angry agents who trail him, Briggs and Degas (Shea Whigham and Greg Tarzan Davis). Nor a former adversary, Paris (Pom Klementieff), who joins his fight. There are others who will help him, like the President of the United States (Angel Basset). Meanwhile, time is ticking away and there's never enough of it. Could the world go kaboom? Hunt pleads, "I want you to trust me one last time."

What viewers expect from the jump is a huge action scene. Then all of a sudden that Mission: Impossible theme song will play, and the rest of the mind-boggling, covert operations will ensue. Instead head screenwriter and director Christopher

McQuarrie, with actor/producer Cruise looking over his shoulder, starts with intriguing scenes laced with retrospective glimpses of all the franchise's movies. In quick bursts (think Oppenheimer), M: I's most famous stunts flash across the screen. A young buck Tom Cruise repelling down from a ceiling, tethered by a cord and landing inches from the floor. A numbing green dust bomb thrown in an office full of executives. Hunt on the sides of the many high rises he's climbed or descended in his career. The nostalgia is cumbersome, but sweet. It shows the depth of the series and its legacy.

The gorgeous footage (cinematographer Fraser Taggart) becomes more and more entrancing as the film progresses. Most noted are the balletic underwater se-

quences when Cruise looks like he was coached by Circ du Soleil. A range of blue colors, with mesmerizing lighting are displayed as Hunt attempts a dive that defies the imagination—and logic too. Dude, can you really descend that deep, lose an oxygen tank,

then ascend to the surface that fast and not die from decompression sickness (DCS) or arterial gas embolism (AGE)? Some of the film's stunts are so superhero silly. Stretching reality. Yet you stick with Tom because you know he's such a badass he'll make you

forget the improbable parts and love the good ones.

Cruise still runs like he's the frontrunner on the last lap of an 800-meter NCAA track and field meet. He does it for miles. An obvious illusion at times. But

See FILM, Page 12

REESE, from Page 2

ment.

"Angel Reese said she is the villain, refused to answer questions about Caitlin Clark, and has celebrated flagrant fouls on Caitlin Clark," the ill-informed Griffin said. "I'm not helping create anything. Angel Reese has fed into this with her actions. She needs to do better."

Former Cowboys wide

receiver Dez Bryant fired back at Griffin.

"Both girls are good in their own right," Bryant asserted. "Caitlin Clark is better than Angel Reese, but saying she hates her is wild. You are helping create a negative narrative around Angel Reese ... and I don't respect it, respectfully. You know this is tied into race.. and the way you're playing

it is wild. We gotta do better."

Chicago Sky CEO and president Adam Fox fully supported Reese and welcomed the WNBA's investigation.

"We will do everything in our power to protect Chicago Sky players," Fox said. "And we encourage the league to continue taking meaningful steps to create a safe environment for all WNBA players."

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FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING: MAY 2025

Go Ape Plano hosts Hank's Friends for an inclusive day of adventure

On Saturday, May 3, Go Ape Zipline & Adventure Park in Plano, Texas, partnered with Hank's Friends, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit, to host a memorable community networking event that combined outdoor adventure with heartwarming connection. The day was designed to uplift individuals with special needs and bring together families, local businesses, and service providers for a celebration of courage, inclusivity, and community.

Hank's Friends was founded to help the special needs community—and anyone in search of support—connect with businesses and resources ready to serve. The event at Go Ape brought this mission to life, creating a welcoming and empowering environ-



Go Ape / Instagram

ment where everyone could challenge themselves and build lasting relationships.

Inclusive Adventure in Action

Throughout the day, attendees explored Go Ape's thrilling treetop rope course and zipline challenges, with expertly trained staff pro-

viding guidance, accommodations, and encouragement every step of the way. For many participants, the experience was a powerful opportunity to conquer fears, embrace adventure, and build confidence in a supportive setting.

"This event was a beauti-

ful example of what's possible when inclusion meets adventure," said Alyssa Hartley, Local Marketing Coordinator and previous Adventure Guide at Go Ape. "We watched individuals and families step outside their comfort zones, try something new, and experience genuine joy. These are the moments that define our mission."

The event also featured yard games, community networking, and interactive conversations between local organizations and attendees—all aimed at fostering deeper connections and raising awareness of the many resources available to families in the special needs community.

Empowering Moments, Lasting Impact

One of the day's most in-

spiring themes was shared courage: families cheering each other on, participants encouraging strangers-turned-friends, and the undeniable impact of an environment built on trust and empowerment. The Go Ape team's dedication to safety, inclusion, and emotional support helped make the event a success for all involved.

A Model for Future Events

Go Ape is proud to offer custom events for nonprofits, school groups, businesses, and community organizations at all its locations across the country. Each experience is tailored to the group's needs and designed to inspire growth, unity, and adventure.

Interested in planning a transformational event?

Learn more and request a quote at goape.com/groups/#getquote.

Hank's Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals—especially those in the special needs community—connect with supportive businesses, services, and one another. Through events, education, and partnerships, Hank's Friends promotes inclusion, empowerment, and a spirit of togetherness. Learn more at hanksfriends.org.

With 16 locations in 11 states, Go Ape is America's leading provider of immersive aerial adventure parks. Through purpose-driven outdoor experiences, Go Ape inspires people to connect with nature, each other, and themselves.



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MEXICO, from Page 1

Though Trump's threats will have few real impacts on trade, the threat of tariffs have already affected the value of the peso and foreign investment flows into Mexico, explained Ayon.

Yet, like the presidents before her, Sheinbaum has taken a stance of appeasement with the U.S., diverting more water across its border, enabling border militarization, and increasing control over migration, said Ayon. This, while trying to convey to the Trump Administration that the U.S. has a stake in maintaining positive relations with the country.

A certain amount of luck has entered into this good relationship, explained Ayon. During the COVID pandemic, as disruptions of global supply chains encouraged the U.S. to trade closer to home, Mexico gained an advantage, becoming the number one trading partner for the U.S. in 2023.

This position of prominence in trade makes this stable relationship a great achievement for Mexico, which Ayon points out is very valuable to both countries. Mexico is benefiting from being adjacent to the U.S., compared to Canada, which has experienced tense relations with the U.S. since Trump took office.

According to political strategist and consultant, Luis Alvarado, Mexico's new trade dominance has allowed it to grow both economically and socially, while reducing U.S. dependence on China. Mexico is now enjoying a stronger economy, improved quality of life, and dramatic social changes, as Mexican citizens increasingly remain in their homes, despite

historical migration trends. We're now seeing a growing proportion of migrants coming from South and Central America, explained Alvarado.

To improve on its position in 2024, Mexico committed to a major investment and expansion of its Pacific port in Manzanillo, reassuring foreign investors of its commitment to an internationalized economic model. Yet, the rejection of container ships and recent delays have hurt trade, just as Mexico expands its capacity through the port.

Despite Trump's attacks on Mexico due to fentanyl and prominent headlines about cartels in the north, the country has made social and economic progress as a whole, he explained.

Sheinbaum has also been successful in anticipating Trump's actions and particularly skilled in understanding his manipulation of media resources. With her experience as the former mayor of Mexico City, Sheinbaum learned negotiating skills and an ability to skillfully avoid reactionary comments which could provoke a response from President Trump, said Alvarado.

Mexico has continued to benefit from good relations with the U.S. just as much of the world is struggling under the chaos and uncertainty of the Trump Administration, he said.

Since unpredictable markets make investment decisions difficult, businesses tend to reduce their investments during periods of uncertainty, MSNBC reported. As U.S. alliances shift, worldwide instability surrounding the Trump presidency is a key concern for the global economy,

especially considering future U.S. elections remain somewhat unpredictable, said Alvarado.

Though Sheinbaum represents the left and Trump the right, both presidents are attempting dramatic government reforms. By seeking a similar language and partnership with the White House, Sheinbaum has been able to mitigate the feverish uncertainty and backlash that much of the world is trying to maneuver, he said.

As both governments seek to improve their security, a key issue for each country, they are working together to curtail the drug cartels, which have become massive terrorist organizations, Rubin explains. These organizations are dangerous to Americans, dangerous to Mexicans, and dangerous to everyone, warned Rubin.

Mexican citizens welcome the added pressure coming from the U.S. to improve its security. Working with Texas officials in the crucial border state that represents a third of the trade between the two countries,

Texas is of critical geopolitical importance, said Rubin.

Working together is important to both countries. Though a more negative tone toward Mexico might better suit the MAGA political narrative, Trump manages to carry on a multiplicity of dialogues while appeasing different segments of his base, he explained, just as his administration sits down to do business with Mexico.

Professor Alberto Diaz Calleros of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies adds, the idea that Sheinbaum has been working under the shadow of former president

Andres Manuel misses the point. Sheinbaum is a Nobel Prize winning scientist trained in cutting edge research, and she comes to the presidency in her own right. And with approval ratings nearing 80%, she may be the most popular president in the world, said Calleros.

Trump is using tariff policy with strategic goals that are less to do with trade than with geopolitics, he added. Citing economist Albert Hirschman, he described how tariffs were historically used to create spheres of influence, helping to bridge gaps and allowing government leaders to communicate and bargain with each other.

Yet, whether the current global environment will support President Trump's goal of increased U.S. manufacturing remains questionable. As Larry Rubin, president and chairman of the Board of the American Society of Mexico, makes clear, if all Mexican manufacturing were to move to the U.S. today, there would not be enough workers to staff the facilities. A severe deficit of workers continues to grow, said Rubin.

Probably no other government or country plays as crucial a role in trade as Mexico, he added. The U.S. and Mexico need each other. They complement each other well. The U.S. needs Mexican products

as much as Mexico needs trade, said Rubin.

Nevertheless, the disruption Trump brings to international economic relations poses a looming threat of recession, added Rubin, and as the number one U.S. trading partner, Mexico would suffer greatly along with the U.S. if a recession occurs. We're suffering the growing pains that come with interconnected world economies, Rubin said.

Yet, Mexico pushed through during a pandemic that presented unprecedented economic challenges. Now, it is determinedly holding on to its alliances as it maneuvers through yet another unpredictable economic domain.



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The National Black Nurses Association Endorses 'Nurses SHIFT Change: Report for Duty Rally' — A National Call to Action for Health Equity and Policy Reform

(Black PR Wire) Silver Spring, MD — The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) is proud to officially endorse the Nurses SHIFT Change: Report for Duty Rally, taking place nationwide on Saturday, May 24, 2025. This unprecedented event, centered on Humanity, Ethics, Social Justice, and Science (HESS), calls on

nurses across the country to unite and advocate for bold, equity-driven healthcare policy reform.

The 2025 rally coincides with the 75th anniversary of the American Nurses Association's Code of Ethics, marking a powerful moment for the nursing profession to reaffirm its

commitment to ethical leadership, policy advoca-

cy, and health equity. Rally organizers are calling for action on three major priorities:

- Protecting Medicaid and Medicare access for all
- Strengthening primary, preventive, and community-based care
- Building a healthcare workforce that is safe, supported, and representative of the communities it

serves

NBNA encourages its chapter leaders and members to take part in this vital movement. Chapters are invited to lead or support satellite rallies in their local communities. We are pleased to announce that the Rochester Black Nurses Association (RBNA), under the leadership of Dr. Celia McIntosh, Co-Chair

of the NBNA Health Policy Committee, is already mobilizing a local rally in Rochester, NY.

"This rally is a call for nurses to stand together and shift the course of healthcare in America," said NBNA President Dr. Sheldon D. Fields. "NBNA is proud to support Nurses SHIFT Change, and we call on our chapters to rise to

the occasion and lead this movement for justice, equity, and systemic change in healthcare."

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) was founded in 1971 with a mission to provide a forum for Black nurses to advocate for the improvement of health and healthcare delivery for African Americans and other people of color.

CELEBS, from Page 5

Trump fired back by attacking the New Jersey rock legend's appearance, labeling him a "dried out prune of a rocker" who should "KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT."

Springsteen didn't stay silent. During his next performance, he fired back. "Donald Trump is an unfit president who persecutes people for exercising free speech," the "Born in the U.S.A." singer insisted.

That response only fueled Trump's fury. In another outburst, the president ac-

cused Springsteen—along with Beyoncé, Winfrey, and Bono—of violating campaign finance laws.

The Harris campaign, which raised over \$1 billion, has disclosed payments to Beyoncé's Parkwood Entertainment (\$165,000) and Oprah's Harpo Productions (\$1 million).

Both companies confirmed the funds covered staff and production costs, not personal payments. Oprah addressed the issue directly.

"I did not receive any personal fee," she wrote online. "However, the people who worked on that production needed to be paid. And were. End of story."

Beyoncé's mother also publicly defended her daughter, calling the rumors "fake news" and stating unequivocally, "She did not receive a penny."

Still, Trump appears determined to weaponize the Department of Justice against entertainers who oppose him.

"At 1:34 AM, Trump called for DOJ to investi-

gate Kamala Harris, Beyoncé, Springsteen, Oprah, and others for crimes," said Ron Filipkowski, editor of MeidasTouch.com. "Then he made another deranged post about it at 9:11 AM."

Critics say the president's obsession with silencing his critics has become more than a personality trait—it's a strategy.

"Trump isn't threatening Beyoncé, Springsteen, Bono, and Oprah because he expects them to be charged with anything," said Navy veteran Jared Ryan Sears. "He is threatening them to intimidate others from speaking up or supporting his opposition. That is because Trump fears your voice; he fears

the power of the people."

Fox News contributor and host Jessica Tarlov added, "Donald Trump spent the night ranting about investigating Beyoncé so that you would forget that House Republicans just moved a bill forward that would cut Medicaid. Don't let them get away with it."

COVID, from Page 4

sha recalls. "But I couldn't even walk across the room without collapsing."

The turning point came in 2022 when Shalisha relocated to Maryland and came under the care of Alba Azola, M.D., Co-Director of the Long COVID/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Clinic at Johns Hopkins Medicine. For the first time in years, she was heard.

"It was a blessing to be transferred to Hopkins and to Dr. Azola. She was the first doctor who really listened. I finally felt heard."

Dr. Azola diagnosed her

with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS) and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome—conditions now increasingly associated with Long COVID. Since then, Shalisha has received comprehensive care and, just as importantly, hope. She has participated in several clinical research studies at Johns Hopkins to help others still searching for answers.

Shalisha's story is one of resilience—but also a call to action.

Long COVID is not rare.

It is not temporary. And for millions, it is disabling. Research is the only path forward.

At Johns Hopkins, clinician-scientists like Dr. Azola are uncovering the underlying biology, testing treatments, and reshaping how the world understands post-viral illness. Every patient like Shalisha is not just receiving care—they're contributing to discoveries that will save lives.

Because research isn't just about science. It's about people.

Research Saves Lives. Shalisha's journey proves it.

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FILM, from Page 9

always invigorating. That said, his stunt work peaks in a prop plane chase scene. He's climbing from the axel, onto the wing, into the cockpit while he's in the sky and the plane is navigating around mountains and valleys. The stunt is all the more fascinating because Morales, as Gabriel, and his demonic ruthlessness add to the danger. Their final fight is worth the price of admission. All of it builds to the culmination of years of battles, pursuits, escapes and the saving of the innocent that marks a seemingly never-ending quest for justice that just might be ending.

McQuarrie has directed the final four chapters of a storyline that started back in 1996 with the vision of the legendary director Brian De Palma. There have been

other directors in between them, but this latest filmmaker has learned to take the action and challenges to new heights. As encouraged by Cruise, this film is global in scope, encompassing many nations and a cast of international characters that defy any anti-DEI mandates. All kinds of people are the enemies and saviors, and somehow that feels so right. Notably Greg Tarzan Davis's role gets an upgrade, and the Inuit actress Lucy Tulugarjuk plays a pivotal character.

The pounding musical score intensifies the drama and ups the adrenaline factor (composers Max Aruj, Alfie Godfrey). Two hours and 49-minutes roll by as fast as a locomotive because Eddie Hamilton the editor cuts the scenes

down to the bone. All on view, from submarines to think-tank rooms and icy terrain, look wondrous because production designer Gary Freeman has a super eye. And so do set decorator Raffaella Giovannetti and costume designer Jill Taylor.

Many actors in his position and in this kind of film would be slaves to their stunt doubles. It's likely that Cruise's stunt double was on a long coffee break for most of the filming. That's a hallmark for Tom's entire Mission: Impossible journey. But don't get it twisted. He's also a top-notch actor who can grind more emotions out of a scene than most. He's a champ at lifting his fellow actors up. In the past, he helped some co-stars shine so much they went on to win Oscars®: Paul

Newman, The Color of Money; Dustin Hoffman, Rain Man; Jack Nicholson, A Few Good Men; Cuba Gooding Jr. Jerry McGuire.

Every set, stunt, argument, accusation, revelation, wrinkle, escape and pummeling help this film build to a monumental climax. An epic ending where multiple subplots peak at the same time. Where staving off annihilation in the most crucial way overshadows all that came before. It's magnificent. Magnificent in a way that makes action/adventure fans collectively say, "Wow!"

If this is the end, what a way to go. An impossible mission that's made possible and thrilling by a brilliant crew and a moviestar extraordinaire.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

CBC, from Page 4

tion being a second point of concern.

Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX) provided an answer on why health care has become a major point of focus for Democrats.

"You see that people are upset, the country did not respond in the way that you

would normally think they would respond to somebody being assassinated. And so, healthcare is a really big issue, but also we have the numbers... House Dems on the Budget Committee have a website that they set up that literally lists how many people are impacted in each

of the districts," Rep. Crockett pointed out.

Rep. Crockett was referring to the murder of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson in New York City on December 4, 2024. He was allegedly killed by 26-year-old Luigi Mangione who posted online about an ongoing health problem with his lower back. The

battle over health care has gone on since the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010 during the presidency of Barack Obama. Since then, Republicans have fought for more privatization of the health care system and Democrats have worked to implement policies that would cover more Americans — such as Medicaid expansion.

SDBPWC, from Page 8

tributions in the community. Awardees included: Dr. Brittany Drake, Sojourner Truth (the highest award presented by the Association); five distinguished Trailblazers: Dr. Cicely Jefferson, Maisha Bankhead, Deseri Kelley, Kimberly Tolbert and Nekeya Webster; Charlotte Berry, Woman of the Year; Michelle Briscoe, Humanitarian Award; Mary Boyd,

RN, Mabel Meshach White Businesswoman Award; Alberta Blair, Professional Woman Award; and Michaiiah Joubert, Youth Achiever.

Scholarship recipients of \$70,500 included: Zoe Blackburn of Yvonne Ewell Townview Magnet Center (\$5,500); Amir Bland of Sachse High School (\$6,000); Jaden Saunders of W.T. White

High School (\$6,000); Layla Jackson of South Grand Prairie High School (\$7,000); Rihanna Sherman of South Oak Cliff High School (\$7,000); Ikeoluwa Sowemimo of North Garland High School (\$7,000); Evan Straughter of Garland High School (\$7,500); Grace Spencer of Lincoln High School (\$8,000); Ebonie Zachery of Red Oak High School (\$8,500); and Saron Elias of Garland High School

(\$9,000).

The South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. was founded in the fall of 1954 by Sarah J. Holbert and 15 brilliant African American business and professional women. SDBPWC has made a profound impact in the Greater Dallas community over their 71-year history. For more information on SDBPWC, contact them at: southdallas1954@yahoo.com.



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It's Not Always What I Don't Know

Dr. James L. Snyder

I would be the first to admit one truth about myself: I don't know everything. To quote a politician, "I don't know what I don't know."

That has been the theme of my life for as long as I can remember.

It all began with my parents. Whenever I got into trouble, they would usually respond, "Don't you know anything?"

Of course, as all parents are, they were right.

It's not that my memory is getting worse as I get older. It has always been bad since the day of my birth. I can't remember anything about the day of my birth or the weeks after.

One thing I don't remember very well is names. For example, I know 10 people whose first name is George. They all look different, so I do not know what a George looks like.

I think that's the reason somebody invented the name "Buddy." So confusing.

It also may be why I call my wife "Honey, my dear, sweetheart," because I don't remember her first name.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage does not have any memory failure. She can remember every day and what she has been doing since the day of her birth. Fortunately for me, I can count on her pristine memory.

On my way to my office the other day, I walked through the kitchen where she was preparing lunch. As I walked through, she

said, "No, and I haven't seen it in weeks."

I stopped, looked at her quizzically and said, "What?"

She just smiled, so I continued to my office to begin work.

As I began, I looked for my tape recorder, which I use Sunday mornings to record my sermon, and I couldn't find it. I looked and looked and looked, but it was nowhere to be seen.

After 30 minutes, I peeked into the kitchen and said, "Did you see...?"

"Didn't you hear me?" She said, "I said no."

I stood there a little stunned, and all I could say was, "What?" How did she know what I would ask her 30 minutes before I asked her?

I sat in my office and thought about this for a moment. How could she know something like this before I even asked the question? What enables her to know ahead of time? Is she a prophet?

While trying to process this, I found my tape recorder under some papers piled on my desk.

A few days later as I walked through the kitchen on way to my office, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "It's this Thursday at 9 o'clock."

I stared at her and said, "I didn't ask you any question. What's this all about?"

She returned to her work, and I continued to my office.

About an hour later, I was updating my schedule for the week. I wanted to know when my next doctor's appointment was, but I didn't have it on my schedule.

I peeked into the kitchen and asked, "Do you know when my doctor's appointment is?"

She looked at me and said, "Don't you listen to me? I said this Thursday at 9 o'clock."

I then remembered she said that, but when she said it, I had no idea what she was talking about. How did she know I wanted to know when my doctor's appointment was? How did she know 45 minutes before I asked her what I would ask her?

It was a Monday morning, and as I went to my office The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "They're in your vest pocket in your closet."

I was hurrying to get to my office because I had a business appointment at the bank, so I didn't listen very carefully to what she said.

I looked around for my car keys and could not find them. Finally, I went to the kitchen and said, "Do you know..."

"If you remember, I said earlier that they were in your vest pocket in your closet."

Thinking about it, I remember her saying that, but I had no idea what she was talking about at the time. How did she know I was going to look for my

keys?"

When I returned home from the bank that afternoon, I pondered all of this.

When I see something, I think of how to use it to my advantage. It then hit me. I think I'm going to ask her which horse is going to win the race this weekend. I figured out how to present it so she does not know what I am doing.

I walked into the kitchen later, and she looked at me and said, "No, I am not helping you on the horse race."

Later, I thought about that and said to myself, "I did not know we were so intimately connected."

Sitting in my office, I thought about this and was reminded of what wise old Solomon said.

"1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;" (Proverbs 2:1-2).

My take is, I need to be proactive when it comes to knowledge. My knowledge will feed my wisdom, which in turn will apply my heart to understanding. I can't take for granted what I hear and I must learn how to pay attention to all that is around me.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

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'Train Up a Child...'



"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:8 (KJV)

In an atmosphere of worship service at church when I see children sing and praising God, I am reminded of the above quoted Bible verse.

With what must be the patience of God, our youth leaders surely must remember these words of Je-

sus, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:14b

Children brought up in the church and seeing guardian/s worship and praise God, are often comfortable with doing the same and 'getting their praise on' as they sing praises to God.

Bill Crosby once asked an audience, "I'm asking you, where is the Jesus in you? Is it every Sunday? Is that's when you and Jesus get together? Jesus worked 24/7."

It has been said that child-rearing can be frightening to the best-prepared

and most eager parent, it doesn't matter how many children you have. Parents will likely meet with success when they allow themselves to be guided by God and His Word.

"In times like these . . ." children must feel secure in their environment; they must feel being loved, being respected, and feel being proud of. At the same time, they clearly must be taught about what is unacceptable behavior to God.

Children must be disciplined with love instead of anger or abuse; they must be able to retain their dignity even when they see they have erred. "In times like these. . ." all parents

and family members can help to instill Godly pride and a can-do attitude in children so that they will be able to go though life's adversities.

We must recognize that life does have adversities,

but it is our attitude about our adversities that determines our altitude in life, as the saying goes. And remember, it doesn't matter how scary or explosive the adversities in life are, there was peace before and


there will be peace after the adversities.

Parents who love God and are guided by Him through Bible-based scriptures in their parenting

See TARPLEY, Page 16

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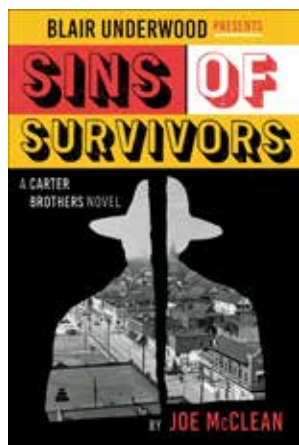
NDG Book Review: 'Blair Underwood Presents Sins of Survivors' offers an action-packed story for the fans of noir fiction

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Mom never had to worry. After she reminded you to look out for your siblings, she didn't have to tell you again. From then on, you had one another's backs, you were a team that nobody messed with. And all these years later, today, you still watch out for them because, in your house and in "Blair Underwood Presents Sins of Survivors," by Joe McClean, family comes first.

Every now and then, Benjamin Carter woke up, remembering.

He was a youngster when white men killed his father



in a way that still caused the nightmares. It'd been decades since then, decades since his oldest brother, Jasper, took charge and moved Benjamin, their sister, and their half-brother away from Alabama to the safety

of Ohio, then to Detroit. Decades, but the memories never went away.

Still, Benjamin and Jasper had done well for themselves. It was 1937, the Detroit suburb of Black Bottom was mostly thriving despite hard times, and the Carter brothers were important men in the areas of business, industry, and entertainment.

As long as they paid the bribes required to the police force and to the other powerful organized crime groups that ruled the Black Bottom section of Detroit, there'd be no trouble. As long as Benjamin's sons and Jasper's children could keep the family businesses run-

ning smoothly, everything was good.

Still, there was trouble. Tensions were heating up between the automakers and the unions, and Benjamin's connections with corrupt politicians were complicated by racism and grift from outside forces. His son, the one who ran the Carter brother's most profitable business, a night club, was involved with a Russian prostitute at a brothel run by a woman who Benjamin didn't want to admit was his cousin. His youngest son was a dreamer. His daughter was fast becoming invested in women's rights. And it was possible that his half-

brother, Lance, a man Benjamin hated, might not be on the Carter brother's side...

Starting about thirty pages in, "Sins of Survivors" is rough. There are way too many characters in it – some come and go on a page and never return – and there are large chunks of book in which you may not completely know what's going on. It's a struggle.

That doesn't mean that it's a total waste of your time, though.

As the screenwriter-director that he is, author Joe McClean offers an action-packed story that's based in part on real history, with touches of crime and cor-

ruption that will appeal to readers of 1930s-type noir fiction or fans of the Francis Ford Coppola trilogy. The side-stories in which the Carter brothers' children partake is a nice touch, too, because plot-threads like those don't often appear in gangster novels.

But do those good things overshadow the roughness? That'll be determined by your need for clarity, because it's not always here in this novel. "Blair Underwood Presents Sins of Survivors" isn't all bad but it's not a Tennyson Hardwick novel, if that's what you want. Keep that in mind before you look out for it.

BILLBOARD, from Page 4

their billboard strategy is designed to raise awareness of the overdose crisis. Currently, billboards are located on US-85 in Belen, on the I-25 West loop in Socorro, and W. Pierce St. in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The billboards cite the benefits of naloxone and showcase the story of a person who is a recovered drug user. Additional billboards will be in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Clovis, and Hobbs, New Mexico.

Queva Hubbard, a woman in her 40s, is featured on one billboard. She is a recovering drug user and will receive her bachelor's degree this month. "Queva has been incarcerated several times, so she is well

known on the inside and in the community," said Burleson. "We want to lift the fact that she is recovering, doing well, and is receiving a college degree. She becomes a role model. Her peers listen to her when she tells them to get Narcan so you can save lives."

Also portrayed on the billboards are Christopher Anderson and Shanicka Green. Anderson, who had struggles with substance abuse, is a passionate advocate for awareness surrounding drug use, conflict resolution, and gun violence and its profound impact on individuals and their families. Green has been in recovery for over 6 years and is determined to lead others



into recovery.

Burleson said her organization is exploring other innovative ways to raise awareness about the crisis and the benefits of naloxone. For instance, they recently visited a casino where there have been reports of overdose events and distributed 84 Narcan kits to staff and customers. Further, they are planning a

social media push.

Kendall Bell, a well-known local internet influencer with a large following, has signed on to manage social media channels to amplify the campaign's messages. His expertise in engaging online communities will be instrumental in reaching a wider audience.

"We're living in an era where campaigns that are

trying to get a message out have to push on social media," Bell said. "Everyone has their phones on throughout the day. Social media is how we connect the messages about events and other engagements to audiences. We will vastly expand the message distribution with a strong social media presence."

Bell said he has already

attended two campaign events and has footage that he is ready to transform into engaging 'reels', a popular format on social media platforms. These reels will provide a compelling visual narrative of the campaign's impact and the importance of naloxone.

"We will be reaching the majority of people who need to hear the information about Narcan," Bell said. "They may not know right now the broad spectrum of people who Narcan can save, but after they see the reels and the social media posts, they will get it. An overdose can come from your grandmother not taking her prescriptions properly. If you understand Narcan, you can save her life."

TARPLEY, from Page 15

skills; and with plenty of prayers; will go a long way in helping children shape their morals, their values,

and their views on having a successful life.

Cosby challenged parents to be more account-

able. I also challenge parents, as well as other family members to be more accountable about all children in their life; and to that I will add, to be a posi-

tive example for children.

Teach them to fear (dread grieving) the Lord because, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom . . . Praise ye the Lord.

"Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; that delighteth greatly in his commandments." **Psalms 111:10 and 112:1. (KJV)**

It doesn't matter if it is

your child or your children; or someone else's child or children; 'Especially in times like these, it is wise and best to, "Train Up A Child. . ."