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**THE US IS  
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SEVERITY OF  
INFECTIONS.**

**COVID  
ON THE RISE  
AGAIN**



**Yet a study determined that the majority of Americans will forego  
new boosters that will be available this fall, p3**



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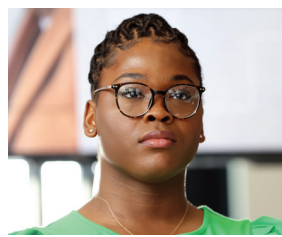
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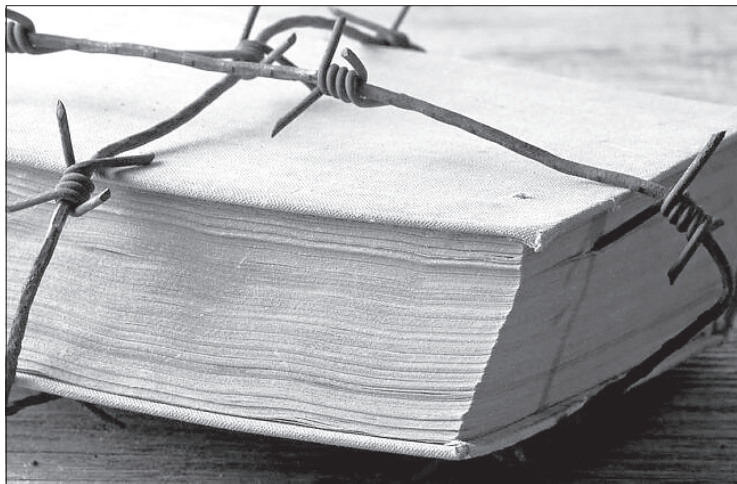
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# Arkansas Education Department withdraws credit for AP African American studies

As several states undertake concerted efforts to circumscribe the boundaries of what educators can impart concerning race, gender, and sexuality, Arkansas has emerged as a new focal point in this ongoing dialogue.

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)



The Arkansas Education Department has opted to strip course credit from the Advanced Placement (AP) African American Studies course, just a few months after Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders inked legislative measures curbing the scope of public school educators' pedagogical offerings.

The AP African American Studies course, a beacon of educational diversity and cultural enlightenment, will not be eligible for early college credit during the upcoming school year.

"The department encourages the teaching of all American history and supports rigorous courses not based on opinions or indoctrination," Kimberly Mundell, the Education Department's communications director, said in a statement.

"Arkansas law contains provisions regarding prohibited topics," Mundell told local station KHBS, referring to state education restrictions.

"Without clarity, we cannot approve a pilot that may unintentionally put a teacher at risk of violating Arkansas law."

As several states undertake concerted efforts to circumscribe the boundaries of what educators can impart concerning race, gender, and sexuality, Arkansas has emerged as a new focal point in this ongoing dialogue.

NBC News reported that Sanders had earlier championed limits on education in the state.

The outlet noted that she

signed the LEARNS Act into law in March, restricting classroom lessons about gender identity and sexual orientation.

In January, the Republican governor signed an executive order banning "indoctrination and critical race theory" in schools.

The assault on critical race theory, which isn't taught in grade schools, has been among the most controversial GOP initiatives across the country.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis spearheaded initiatives to exert an overarching influence over academic viewpoints and curricula.

His HB 999 has caused consternation throughout the academic community, epitomizing an audacious stride toward dictating the contours of education.

HB 999 says that all colleges and universities must not spend money on education programs or other things that support diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"This bill is a road map for wrecking one of our great state systems of higher education," University of Michigan Law Professor Julian Davis Mortenson tweeted.

The bill eliminates Women's and Gender Studies as a major or minor at state colleges and

universities.

It dictates that there can't be a major or minor "based on the Critical Race Theory belief system."

According to the bill's text, the university president or board would do all faculty hiring. It asserts that they "may not delegate" any aspect of any hiring decision or hiring authority to any group or faculty, however constituted.

Further, the bill asserts that they are "not required to consider the recommendations or opinions of faculty."

Jeremy C. Young, Pen America's senior manager of Free Expression and Education, called the bill "terrifying."

Pen America is a non-profit group that protects and promotes free speech worldwide by promoting literature and human rights.

"Florida HB 999 would enact the most Draconian and censorious restrictions on higher education in the history of this country," Young stated.

"The bill would make tenure and faculty hiring committees meaningless, ban diversity statements, and centralize control of core curricula and mission statements in the hands of political appointees," Young said.

# Covid makes a comeback, new vaccines are around the corner

By Sunita Sohrabji  
Ethnic Media  
(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

The US is experiencing a summer swell of infections, though hospitalization rates remain relatively stable. Three eminent experts conclude that Covid-19 will continue to pose a health threat over many years, as it continues its evolution. But updated vaccines are expected to mitigate the severity of infections.

Covid-19 cases are rising once again, possibly fueled by the emergence of the EG.5 variant. Hospitalization rates jumped by 12.5% nationwide in July, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This uptick comes even as the public health emergency has ended, taking with it free testing and therapeutics. And Covid fatigue has set in. People no longer wear masks in public, and a study has determined that the majority of Americans will forego new boosters, which will be available this fall.

At an Aug. 11 panel discussion organized by Ethnic Media Ser-

VICES, three eminent Covid experts examined the rise in cases, the new variant, and the new monovalent vaccine which will be available this fall.

Panelists included:

Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, Associate Dean for Regional Campuses, University of California, San Francisco and Medical Educator, specializing in treating infectious diseases

Dr. Benjamin Neuman, Professor of Biology and Chief Virologist, Global Health Research Complex, Texas A&M University

Dr. William Schaffner, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Infectious Diseases, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

What are the origins of the EG.5 variant? Does it differ substantially from its predecessors?

Dr. Neuman: EG.5 is one of the variants that's spreading the fastest right now. It is a child of a thing called XBB 1.9. Basically, it's another version of Omicron. And everything that is circulating in the world right now has about 100 to 110 differences from the original version.

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# Racist attacks cannot hide the massive lawlessness on display in Fulton County, Ga case against Trump's 'corrupt organization'



News Analysis  
By Marc H. Morial

"With Trump, you don't need to look for a dog whistle. It's a bull horn when it comes to race. And I do think that's deliberate. We've seen the — I mean, slanderous attacks that he has put out against

Fani Willis, you know, alleged things I won't even repeat. So, he's not really hiding that he's going to lean into that element, and this is, you know, taking place just outside of Atlanta. When you saw the courtroom, it was a lot of Black men and women who are serving in that courtroom ... It's textbook Donald Trump but it comes as no surprise." – Former White House Director of Strategic Communications Alyssa Farah

If anything illustrates the depths to which Donald Trump and his supporters have sunk in responding to his racketeering indictment in Fulton County, Georgia, it's his reference to those he falsely accuses of voter fraud as "riggers."

MAGA extremists, who have been using the word as a substitute for the n-word on far-right social media sites, responded with racist delight.

Trump has put a dishonest,

racist, and misogynistic spin on the old legal adage: If the law is against you, pound the facts. If the facts are against you, pound the law. If the law and the facts are against you, pound the table and yell like hell.

But amount of pounding and yelling can obscure the breathtaking lawlessness outlined in the sweeping indictment Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis filed this week against Trump and his 18 alleged co-conspirators. By charging them under Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act Willis has at last cast their brazenly corrupt conduct in the proper legal light.

While the narrowly-focused federal indictment that Special Counsel Jack Smith filed against Trump earlier this month acknowledges six alleged co-conspirators, they are neither identified nor charged. Fulton County's indictment of 18 co-conspirators – and reference to 30 more unnamed,

unindicted co-conspirators – illustrates the far-reaching scope of the massive scheme to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

Trump's alleged criminal enterprise operated not only in Fulton County, but "elsewhere in the State of Georgia, in other states, including, but not limited to, Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, and in the District of Columbia." Its members engaged in "various related criminal activities including, but not limited to, false statements and writings, impersonating a public officer, forgery, filing false documents, influencing witnesses, computer theft, computer trespass, computer invasion of privacy, conspiracy to defraud the state, acts involving theft, and perjury."

Omitted from the federal indictment was an alleged conspiracy to breach voting equipment and access voter data. "In Georgia, members of the enterprise stole

data, including ballot images, voting equipment software, and personal voter information. The stolen data was then distributed to other members of the enterprise, including members in other states." Nor does the federal indictment refer to a bizarre plan, advocated by Trump lawyer Sidney Powell, to use the military to seize voting machines around the country and re-run parts of the election.

Future historians will rely on Fulton County's case, not the federal government's, for the full story of one of the darkest chapters in American history. The meticulous work of Willis and her team is all the more remarkable given the constant abuse and threats of violence, incited by Trump, that his supporters have hurled at them. Regardless of the outcome, Team Willis as well as the witnesses and grand jurors whom MAGA extremists also have targeted, will emerge as the heroes.



## Sheriff says Donald Trump will be booked at the county jail this month

Most defendants charged in Fulton County are typically booked at the Fulton County jail, and Sheriff Pat Labat has stated that he intends to treat Trump just like any other defendant.

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire

Donald Trump will, in fact, see the inside of a jail cell — at least temporarily.

According to the local sheriff's statement, the four-times indicted and twice-impeached former president has received orders to turn himself in at the Fulton County jail.

Trump and 18 co-defendants were indicted on Aug. 14 in the Georgia 2020 election subversion case.

Trump faces 13 criminal counts, including racketeering.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis has set a deadline for noon on Aug. 25 for Trump and the others to turn themselves in.

"At this point, based on guidance received from the district attorney's office and presiding judge, it is expected that all 19 defendants named in the indictment will be booked at the Rice Street Jail," the sheriff's office said in a news release.

"Keep in mind, defendants can turn themselves in at any time. The jail is open 24/7," the news release states.

"Also, due to the unprecedented nature of this case, some

Continued on page 5

## The 60th Anniversary March on Washington is days away

By Hamil R. Harris (TriceEdneyWire.com) —

Sixty years after the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Rev. Al Sharpton, Martin Luther King III, and leaders of 60 different organizations will gather again at the Lincoln Memorial to finish the work that Civil Rights started decades ago.

A coalition reaching across generations and races planned to reignite the "Dream," that Dr. King articulated on August 28th, 1963, and according to Rev. Al Sharpton leaders from all walks of life are working together for a cause bigger than themselves.

Rev. Sharpton, President of the National Action Network, said that August 26th will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to the fight for equality and justice.

The program will begin at 8 am and conclude at 1 pm when Martin Luther King III, Rev. Al Sharpton, and more than a dozen co-chairs of an event at the Lincoln Memorial will conclude several days of activities.

The program will include performances, an interfaith ecumenical prayer service with national clergy, and speakers from civil rights, voting rights, gun violence, labor, youth, and other organizations.

Martin Luther King, III, Chairman of the Drum Major Institute, said, "Despite the significant progress we have made over these six decades, we need to rededicate ourselves to the mission my dad gave his life for."

Melanie Campbell, President and CEO of the National Coalition of Voter Participation said that the event will conclude a week of activism in the nation's capital.

"Many groups like the SCLC, the National Black Women's Roundtable will be meeting and it's important that the veterans of the 1963 March meet a new generation of leaders," Campbell said in an interview. "This is an opportunity to use a historic moment to focus on the issues of today."

Accommodations will be available for people with disabilities on a first-come, first-served basis. Volunteers will have yellow neon vests and be on golf carts with ADA Shuttle near the bus parking areas designated with signs on each cart.

People at the Lincoln Memorial grounds who need more information about accessing an area to rest, please contact a volunteer with a yellow neon vest and volunteer badge for more information.

Organizers ask that people be dropped as close as possible, considering road closures will occur. Securing a carshare ride after the march has been difficult in previous years. Please plan accordingly.

At the program's close, march lineup instructions



will be announced from the stage and all marching speakers and special guests will join the march lineup. Attendees not marching should remain in place or depart from the Memorial once the program concludes.

The marchers will line up on Lincoln Circle NW and proceed South on 23rd St. crossing through the median onto the Southern portion of Independence Ave and concluding at West Potomac Park.

"Moments like these are crucial to keeping our mission alive across generations and around the country," said Sharpton who made a special appeal for people to come to DC last Saturday. "When so many of our hard-fought civil rights gains are under renewed threat, our march will demonstrate a unified front against the vitriol, rise in hate crimes, regressive laws, and threats to democracy itself that are permeating society."

Event Co-Chairs include:

- Asian American Advancing Justice
- Anti-Defamation League
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- Legal Defense Fund
- NAACP
- National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
- National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)
- National Urban League
- UNIDOS

## Oklahoma Supreme Court revives lawsuit seeking reparations for Tulsa race massacre survivors

Lessie Benningfield Randle (108 years old), Viola Fletcher (109 years old), and her brother Hughes Van Ellis (102 years old) have filed a lawsuit against the city of Tulsa.

By Stacy M. Brown  
(NNPA Newswire)

The Oklahoma Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal challenging the dismissal of a lawsuit to secure reparations for the last three remaining survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

The decision comes after the lower state court dismissed the case in July, prompting the survivors to take the matter to the state's highest judicial authority.

The attorney representing the survivors said his clients are pleased with the Oklahoma Supreme Court's decision, even though the exact hearing schedule is unknown.

Lessie Benningfield Randle (108 years old), Viola Fletcher (109 years old), and her brother Hughes Van Ellis (102 years old) have filed a lawsuit against the city of Tulsa.

The lone survivors are seeking reparations for the ongoing difficulties their families experienced after the tragic 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

The trio resided in Tulsa's Greenwood neighborhood, which was decimated during the racially motivated massacre.

Their lawsuit seeks relief for the damage inflicted during the massacre, labeling it a "public nuisance."

The survivors also seek to recover unjust enrichment gained through the exploitation of the tragic event.

Earlier, Judge Caroline Wall dismissed the case with prejudice based on the city's argument that it should not be held liable.

City officials contended that a mere historical association does not grant the right to seek compensation from any project connected to the Tulsa Race Massacre.

The victims turned to the state's highest court, asking the justices to let them testify before they die.

They insisted that they wanted to share their experiences of the massacre and how it affected them and the Greenwood community.

The survivors' legal team argued that Judge Wall's ruling imposed an unjust and impractical requirement on parties alleging public nuisance claims.

"If this truly is a nation of laws and a state based on the law, then my clients, the last known survivors of the massacre should be able to go to court and have a court of law determine what occurred," asserted Damario Solomon-Simmons, a

national civil rights attorney and founder of Justice for Greenwood.

He stressed the importance of survivors being able to bring their case to court to evaluate the harm and address the problems caused by the widespread destruction.

The survivors' lawyers argued that the District Court's ruling requires too much detail in requesting solutions for public nuisance claims, even before the legal proceedings are complete.

This requirement, they argued, is unsupported by Oklahoma's notice pleading code or legal precedent.

The lawyers also said that the District Court allowed the city to break a promise made in open court.

In that promise, city officials agreed not to file new motions to dismiss the survivors' claims about unjust enrichment.



However, the city filed another motion to dismiss, which the District Court erroneously granted.

"This is a fight for righteous justice and redress. It's not about anything other than advancing this case according to the law as it is written," Solomon-Simmons emphasized.

He called upon the Supreme Court to meticulously review the law and swiftly overturn Wall's erroneous decision to dismiss the case.

# Networks in China are ignoring rampant racism against Black people

Philadelphiaobserver.com

After reviewing hundreds of 2021 videos and posts, the human rights research and advocacy group found content that often portrayed Black people through “offensive racial stereotypes.”

Social media platforms in China have come under fire by Human Rights Watch for allegedly disregarding widespread racism against Black people while generating profit.

According to Aljazeera, after reviewing hundreds of videos and posts from 2021 on platforms such as Weibo, a microblogging app, and Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok, the human rights research and advocacy group discovered content that often depicted Black people through “offensive racial stereotypes.”

“The amount and extremity of racist content on the Chinese internet suggest that the platforms either are not meeting their own standards banning racist content,” stated the HRW report, “or that their policies are inadequate when addressing racist content, both contrary to their human rights responsibilities.”

Yaqiu Wang (above), a senior China researcher for Human Rights Watch, says major Chinese social media companies are not adhering to their policies to prevent prevalent racist content. (Photo: Alex Wong/Getty Images)

According to their report, the group discovered similar content on the video-sharing website Bilibili, the livestream and video app Kuaishou, plus the social networking and e-commerce site Xiaohongshu. These platforms, however, had yet to take any action to remove it.

Human Rights Watch observed that influencer videos portraying Black Africans as uncivilized or reliant on Chinese people as their saviors were shared with particular popularity, according to Aljazeera. Chinese people in unions with Blacks were branded traitors, while Black individuals who married Chinese were accused online of “contaminating” and endangering the Chinese race. Chinese women in interracial relationships



are frequently the target of internet abuse, with threats of rape, doxing and death.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, allegations of prejudice towards Africans in China surfaced when some were evicted from their homes and singled out for quarantine, drawing unusual criticism from African leaders. Some Africans in China claimed that long before then, “blackface” and racial caricatures were used in state media and advertisements to target them with racism and xenophobia.

# Sheriff says Donald Trump will be booked at the county jail this month

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circumstances may change with little or no warning.”

Most defendants charged in Fulton County are typically booked at the Fulton County jail, and Sheriff Pat Labat has stated that he intends to treat Trump just like any other defendant.

“Unless someone tells me differently, we will be following normal practices. It doesn’t matter your status; we will have mug shots ready for you,” Labat said earlier this month on CNN.

The sheriff also clarified that unlike Trump’s other three indictments where he turned himself inside a closed courthouse, the former president must surrender at the county jail.

Defendants like Trump and his associates, who are not immediately arrested upon indictment, often negotiate bond and other terms of release with the district attorney’s office if necessary.

Rudy Giuliani, Trump’s former lawyer, announced that he plans to surrender to authorities next week.

He mentioned that he expects to be granted bail.

“Kind of silly for me to have bail. I mean, I showed up there voluntarily and testified,” Giuliani said in a televised interview.

A detailed investigation led by Willis has revealed numerous attempts by Trump’s allies to

interfere in the 2020 presidential election.

The former president, whom a civil jury in New York earlier this year found liable of sexual assault, is accused of leading a “criminal enterprise” involved in a larger conspiracy to reverse his electoral loss in Georgia.

The charges in the indictment include making false statements and soliciting state legislatures and high-ranking state officials.

It also includes creating and sharing false Electoral College documents, harassing election workers, and soliciting Justice Department officials and then-Vice President Mike Pence.

Additionally, the charges include unlawfully breaching election equipment and engaging in acts of obstruction.

Former Trump lawyers John Eastman and Giuliani and former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows are among the defendants.

The indictment also included an additional 30 unindicted co-conspirators in addition to the charged defendants.

Trump is now facing 91 charges across four separate indictments while he’s running for president in 2024. If convicted on all the charges, Trump could face more than 800 years in prison.

He denies any wrongdoing and has slammed the cases as politically motivated

# Covid makes a comeback, new vaccines are around the corner

From page 3

This variant is spreading because it has a lot of changes at the receptor binding site that is the target of most of the vaccines and of some of the most useful parts of the immune system.

Will the new vaccines recognize the new variant and be effective against it?

Dr. Neuman: When the target changes, you have to change your aim. It has been over a year since we have had an updated version of the vaccine. It’s coming slowly, but uptake has not been great. The total uptake in the US for the bivalent vaccine is only 17%.

The formulation of the new booster is supposed to be a monovalent against the XBB variant. From the studies that we have now, it looks like new variants like EG.5 are close enough that a vaccine against XBB seems to work against it pretty well. So I think it’s a good move, and I wish they’d hurry up to release it.

Hospitalization rates remain relatively stable despite the summer surge of infections. Do you expect that hospitalization rates are going to rise at some point?

Dr. Chin-Hong: There has been a slight uptick in hospitalizations, not a tsunami, not even a surge. The way I think about it is a swell. It’s kind of like a general wave coming. It doesn’t overwhelm you. You don’t get submerged into it, but you kind of ride it until it goes to the shore.

So if you look at California, for example, one year ago, we had about 4700 people hospitalized at one point. And right now we have about 890 people hospitalized. So in perspective, it’s nothing compared to even one year ago when it was 4700.

Why is there a slight swell of cases now?

Dr. Chin-Hong: Four reasons. There are big concerts like Taylor Swift, bringing a lot of people together. And unprecedented heat waves have driven a lot of people indoors. So it’s kind of like a winter almost, even though it’s the summer.

People’s immunity is kind of waning from the last time a lot of people got infected, which was last winter. And then — although it’s speculative at this point — there’s the role of how EG.5 might relate to this uptick.

We’re seeing so many people get Covid in the community. But we’ve all been so exposed to Covid already, so it’s coming on inhospitable soil. More than 95% of us have had an exposure or have had a vaccine at some point. So that probably minimizes or mitigates the risk of serious disease.

Paxlovid and Remdesivir are currently the only therapeutics we have in our arsenal to battle. But they are problematic.

Dr. Schaffner: We know that if you administer Paxlovid — particularly to people at high risk — very shortly after they are infected, we can reduce their risk of developing

severe disease. But Paxlovid has limitations, as any therapy does. There are drug interactions. So if you’re taking certain medications, you have to be careful about taking Paxlovid. Or you may not be able to get it if you have kidney failure.

Remdesivir we now use very quickly once the patient is admitted to the hospital. But wouldn’t it be better if we had more therapeutic agents aimed at keeping people out of the hospital?

Will we soon have new therapeutics?

Studies still continue on other therapeutic agents, but I cannot tell you when they will become available. I think we’ll just have to see. But the research community continues, I think, to make some of the very best contributions to the control of Covid around the world.

Can you get long Covid from the vaccines or boosters?

Dr. Schaffner: Let us make it clear the vaccine is not associated with long Covid. There are some people who have received the vaccine who nonetheless can get Covid. We all know that that can happen. The vaccines seem to have some effect in reducing the likelihood of long Covid. But, yes, you can get Covid, and as a consequence, long Covid, even though you have been vaccinated. But the vaccines really reduce the risk of long Covid.

Minority populations and low-income communities have always been at a higher risk for

hospitalization and death from Covid. With the end of the Public Health Emergency, how can we ensure that everyone gets the tests, vaccines, and therapeutics they need to stay healthy?

Dr. Chin-Hong: Throughout the pandemic, we’ve seen a lot of disparities, including and particularly amongst the African American communities, both in terms of who is dying first of all and who is being hospitalized.

But then we began to address some of the root causes, which were related to access to testing and related to probably a lot of structural racism. Of course, politics played a role, but even after the new administration, those disparities still persisted.

I think one silver lining was that vaccinations increased uptake in all communities, probably given the advocacy of a lot of grassroots organizations and community-based organizations.

So what is still free, after the Public Health Emergency ended May 11?

Vaccines are still free. There’s a bridge program that’s going to probably come into effect nationally that allows people — without demonstrating ability to pay — to get them at least until the end of the year in California, and probably extended with a national bridge program.

And then if you have insurance or MediCal or MediCare, people are obligated to give you the vaccine for free without a copay be-

cause of the Affordable Care Act. Final remarks?

Dr. Neuman: The moon is far away. Mars is far away. We’ve been to both of those. It seems like the end of COVID is far away right now, but I have to believe that with human ingenuity, we can get there. I think the biggest challenge was and is in people’s hearts, convincing them not to fear the new and the newly approved and to do everything in their power to stop this virus. Because it doesn’t add anything to life, it only takes it away.

Dr. Schaffner: We have to remind ourselves that although the pandemic has receded, the virus is still with us and will be for the foreseeable future. It has the capacity to make people very, very ill. As I like to say, the virus is bad, vaccines are good. Take advantage of the new updated booster vaccine that will be available this fall, starting sometime in September. That will provide the best protection for yourself. Make sure your family is protected, and contribute to the protection of your own community.

Dr. Chin-Hong: Who would ever believe that we rallied together as a world to have so many tools to solve this crisis? It’s going to be around with us for a while: the 1918 flu influenza pandemic, there’s still vestiges still today. But the point is, we have these tools and it’s up to us to use it. And science and taking care of ourselves is not a political issue.

# Editorial - Opinion



By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq. (Ret.)  
(TriceEdneyWire.com)

– For so long now, many of us have been asking ourselves if Donald Trump is going to escape accountability again for his gross behavior. We are afraid he will enjoy the benefit of being white? For what like seems forever, we have heard Trump’s insults, his bragging about being able to walk down Fifth Avenue, shoot somebody and

# Is it really true?

get away with it!

Just imagine somebody who has had his hand on the trigger to start World War III talking that way! For those who knew the background of this man—how did he ever get elected to become an embarrassment and a danger to American democracy? As well, I ask of those who would still vote for him after nearly 100 serious indictments, why? So many still stand proud to be supporting him for another term as President! These are people who claim to love America more than anybody, but they are still willing to vote for him next time around!

I remember when Colin Kaepernick took a knee to help America become great for all of us, and he got punished severely. Roger Stone, after being convicted 3 years ago and being sentenced to over three years in prison, but his old buddy, Donald

Trump, pardoned him and he was able to remain on the outside to organize an effort to return the favor. Unfortunately, he was caught organizing and pushing a fake election plot for his old buddy, Trump! He was so at ease dictating the plan as though he was a master professor!

Thank God, a brilliant Black woman has put together a Who’s Who in trying to wreck our democratic election in 2020. The stars of that show appear to be Rudy Giuliani (once a superstar as Mayor of New York City—the Chief of the RICO Act—starring in “Who’s Who in the Georgia Indictments!” Now Trump won’t even pay legal bills! The superstars joining Rudy are Mark Meadows—Donald Trump’s sidekick in the White House; John Eastman—one of Trump’s lawyers now wants to sever his case from Trump’s. He was once an attorney for Trump, founding and Director

of the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence. Now he’s learning what a constitutional right is as a co-conspirator with Trump.

After their lead co-conspirator, they’re finding there’s nowhere to run, nowhere to hide. They ran into a sister named District Attorney Fani Willis in Georgia. When she announced their indictments, she was so cool, so professional, and so thorough in her work that people were applauding her for finding company for Trump—and not just the few I’ve named, but 18 co-conspirators!

One wonders what Trevian Kutti (the publicist) and Harrison Floyd (AKA Willie Lewis Floyd)—Bossman of Black Voices for Trump) were thinking. Supporting Trump was bad enough, but being willing to go to jail for him is a bit much when they should have known what Trump thinks about Black people—and what he has always

done to harm us!

I hope they’re hearing what Trump says about Fulton County, Georgia’s District Attorney Fani Willis, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, New York Attorney General Letitia James, and Judge Tanya Chutkan handling Trump’s case in Washington, DC. He’s saying things out loud that no decent person would ever call such distinguished public officials. I wonder if Ms. Kutti and Mr. Floyd would like to hear what Trump thinks of them!

I haven’t figured out why some Black people feel they must join people like Trump to do the dirty work against other Black people. I say dirty work because that is exactly what they knowingly did. With all the challenges we already face, it’s a pity how some of our people allow themselves to be used against us to help elect him again!

*(Dr. E. Faye Williams, President of TheDickGregorySociety.Org)*

# I asked what kind of family



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ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG

## A new hub for 'Anime' is born in Southern Africa

(GIN) –

Zambia, well known for its copper, emeralds, and other pricey gems, may soon have a new feather in its cap as a hub for aspiring Zambian artists and other creators eager to try their hand in the newest Anime scene.

For this, capital city Lusaka has been drawing from an immense well of artistic talent to be found in southern Africa.

Now, an eight-part Netflix series is scheduled to debut on July 20—co-produced by South African animation studio Triggerfish, and London-based kids specialist Cake Studios. Set in a futuristic Lusaka, Supa Team 4, as the series is called, tells of four school-age teenagers recruited to become superheroes by a retired secret agent.

With Supa Team 4, Netflix will

have its first-ever original African animated series—a significant milestone for young Zambian animators who have turned the southern African country into a buzzing animation hub.

Supa Team 4 was created by Lusaka-based Malenga Mulendema who has spent the last few years working with her co-producers and Netflix to bring the show to life. “The show, to me, is like a multi-layered cake. I want the audience to dig in and discover the flavors for themselves,” Mulendema told the news site Semafor Africa.

African voice actors include South Africa’s John Kani, who played T’Chaka in the Hollywood blockbuster Black Panther, and Nancy Sekhokoane (Woman King), with a theme song by Zambian rapper/singer Sampa the Great.

A few months back Tabitha

Mwale, 22, launched The Super at local cinemas to much acclaim here. She described it as Zambia’s first-ever anime series, as a dedicated fan of the Japanese animation style. “It was a love letter to the art form from a Zambian,” said Akende Muyumbana, the 25-year old director of The Super. “It was meant to show people that Zambians can make something that has international appeal.”

Anime already has a foothold in Nigeria. Just recently Nigeria’s second ever anime festival (Ēkó Anime Fest) took place in the country’s commercial capital, Lagos, which saw almost 1,000 fans from across the continent gather to show their appreciation for the Japanese art form.

Many of the fans in attendance at the Ēkó Anime Festival, one of the few anime conventions in Africa, dressed up as their favorite characters from various TV shows, films and video games.

Muko Tsubusa, 27, who taught himself animation by watching YouTube instruction videos, said he’s seen a rise in local interest in professional animation around Lusaka but feels more international production companies should take a chance on the local talent and “dip their feet in the water.”

Meanwhile, in Uganda, Raymond Malinga has been working on a Disney project and hopes to build the Ugandan industry and contribute to the African industry.

“We are trying to put Africa on the map,” he said, “and we are trying to prove that we too can play with the big boys.” w/pix of M. Mulendema and Supa Team 4



## Military intervention in troubled Niger faces pushback

(GIN) –

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, as the new head of the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS), is facing pressure from some neighbors and his own government to reject a military solution to the troubles in Niger, where military men recently removed President Mohamed Bazoum of Niger in a coup.

The 15 member ECOWAS bloc last week gave the Niger coupsters a week to return Bazoum to power or face “all measures... [which] may include the use of force.”

“We are ready, and as soon as we receive the order to intervene, we will do so,” Christopher Musa told Radio France Internationale’s Hausa service on Monday.

But voices against a military solution are growing louder. Algeria has now joined Mali and Burkina Faso, categorically against any military intervention in Niger, Ennahar TV said, citing President Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

“A military intervention could ignite the whole Sahel region and Algeria will not use force with its neighbors,” Tebboune said in an interview with local media.

On Saturday, Nigeria’s Senate urged the government to look at “political and diplomatic options”, supporting other steps being taking by Nigeria and ECOWAS to reverse the coup while rejecting the option of a military action.

President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio, suggested that the President did not seek the approval of the Senate to go to war in Niger Republic.

“The Senate has not asked for approval of the parliament, approval of this Senate, to go to war as being erroneously suggested in some quarters,” Mr Akpabio said.

“Rather Mr President and the Commander-in-Chief had expressed, and I quote: ‘a wish to respectfully solicit the support of the National Assembly in the successful implementation of the ECOWAS resolutions as outlined in the said communications.’”

President Tinubu refuted the Senate’s claim, maintaining that the Senate had been informed of the measures which include “military build-up and deployment of personnel for military intervention to enforce compliance of the

military junta in Niger should they (the coupists) remain recalcitrant.”

Not following the military solution may create new problems, said Djiby Sow, a senior researcher at the Institute for Security Studies in Dakar. “If (the West Africa countries) don’t go in, it will be a major problem of credibility. They have laid down a red line.”

Meanwhile, ECOWAS has imposed a no-fly zone on Niger and has been sending emissaries to the junta to restore democracy.

The ECOWAS ultimatum has been rejected by neighboring Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea—all countries of the Sahel belt across Africa.

Meanwhile, a message from President Bazoum, who has reportedly been locked up in the presidential palace by his own guards for ten days, appeared in an opinion column published in The Washington Post. He called on the U.S and other allies to help restore constitutional order.

“I write this as a hostage,” the President said in his opinion essay. “Niger is under attack from a military junta that is trying to overthrow our democracy.”

He warned that attacks from jihadist groups could increase and that Russia could expand its influence in the region if the coup leaders remain in power.

But sanctions could weaken the economy of Niger, one of the world’s poorest countries, and could therefore stoke support for the junta and Islamist groups who offer money and shelter.

“We want diplomacy to work, and we want this message clearly transmitted to them (the military) that we are giving them every opportunity to reverse what they have done,” ECOWAS commissioner Abdel-Fatau Musah said on Friday.

But he warned that “all the elements that will go into any eventual intervention have been worked out,” including how and when force would be deployed.

Back in Niger, Adama Oumarou of the capital Niamey told an Agence France Press reporter: “We’re going to fight for this revolution. We’re not going to retreat faced with the enemy, we’re determined... We were waiting for this coup for a long time. When it arrived, we breathed a sigh of relief.” w/pix of Nigerian soldiers

## Rioting breaks out at Eritrean Festival, hundreds detained

(GIN) –

Long-held grievances between anti- and pro-government Eritreans exploded in the streets of Stockholm this past week, amidst an annual festival of Eritrean culture that drew thousands.

Eritreans who oppose Pres. Isaias Afwerki tore down tents and set cars on fire, according to the Swedish newspaper Expressen. The protesters then marched towards the festival grounds, pushing past police cordons and using sticks and rocks as weapons.

“Between 100 and 200 people have been detained,” said Swedish police spokesperson Daniel Wikdahl. A significant police presence is still at the scene and investigations are underway, he added.

Sweden is home to tens of thousands of people with Eritrean roots.

According to the local Nyhetsbyrå Järva news site, the Festival Eritrea Scandinavia has long been criticized for its connections to the Eritrean government of Pres. Afwerki.



Human rights groups describe Eritrea as one of the world’s most repressive countries. Since winning independence from Ethiopia three decades ago, the small Horn of Africa nation has been led by President Afwerki, who has never held an election.

The festival began in the 1990s but was suspected of accepting millions of kronor (Swedish dollars) from the Eritrean government to hold the event.

In previous years, demonstrations against the festival were held

by the “Dawit Isaak Campaign”, a group named after the Swedish-Eritrean writer who has been imprisoned in the country in appalling conditions without trial since 2001.

Isaak, winner of Unesco’s Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize is being held incommunicado, without access to his family or lawyers, says Reporters without Borders, because he did his job as a reporter and covered the political debate in Eritrean society 16 years. w/pix of protest in Stockholm

# Audrey's society whirl



Audrey J. Bernard



NAACP Spingarn Medalist Dr. Hazel N. Dukés with presenter Hon. Hillary Clinton

## Dr. Hazel N. Dukés awarded NAACP 108th Spingarn Medal presented by Hillary Clinton

The NAACP held their 114th National Convention in Boston, MA. where Dr. Hazel N. Dukés was Awarded the NAACP's distinguished Spingarn Medal, which acknowledges the Highest and Noblest Achievement by a living African American at the Spingarn Freedom Fund Awards Dinner. The Spingarn Medal was presented by her friend, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the final evening of the 114th National Convention. During her presenting remarks Hon. Clinton commended Dr. Dukés for her many decades of service to the people of New York and dedication to bettering the lives of Black Americans across the country. "As a public servant, activist and President of the NAACP New York State Conference, Hazel has spent her entire life lifting up others in the pursuit of justice and equality," said Hon. Clinton. "She joins a long list of distinguished awardees who have not given up in a world that doesn't always respect the intelligence or personhood of Black women. It would be literally impossible to count the number of lives she's touched but I know personally how much she's touched mine. It's been an extraordinary privilege to have had her support over the years and a blessing to call her a friend. I am one of the countless people she has mentored, supported and inspired. We have made and lived history together and I will always be grateful for her wisdom, her humor, and her grace."

Emotional energy was at an all-time high in the ballroom as Dr. Dukés accepted the Spingarn Medal with grace and purpose. "I am overwhelmed with joy and gratitude to be included among this distinguished list of Spingarn medalists," said Dr. Dukés. "This medal serves as a recognition of my life's work and reflects on those who have walked with me over the past 70 years. To know my name is etched in NAACP history and American history alongside the civil rights legends who came

before me is a humbling honor. These 70 years have not been easy; they have been filled with pain, hardships, and tribulations. But the struggles of those who paved the way serve as a powerful reminder that we must take bold steps to confront racism and tirelessly advocate for civil rights. We must continue fighting the good fight. Throughout my time as an NAACP leader, my greatest privilege has been to mentor those growing up in the Association. I hope my legacy leaves a roadmap for younger generations to learn from and use as they carry this movement forward."

Many family, friends, colleagues and others travelled to Boston to attend the event including National Board of Directors Chairman Leon W. Russell, Vice Chair Karen Boykin-Towns, President & CEO Derrick Johnson, and Kyndell A. Reid, Esq., President, Mid-Manhattan Branch. Chairman Russell and Boykin-Towns shared remarks reflecting on Dr. Dukés' illustrious activism, career and the immense impact she has had within the Association and in her community through her various leadership roles. "Dr. Hazel Nell Dukés, the 108th Spingarn medalist, exemplifies the resolute spirit of Black Americans, shattering barriers and making invaluable contributions to our nation," said Russell. "A mother, leader, civil rights activist, and authentic friend, she embodies the essence of transformative leadership. Her indomitable spirit and unwavering dedication are an inspiration to all. In a world where women have been marginalized and underestimated, Dr. Dukés stands tall as a living testament to strength, courage, and determination. She proves that there is always a light if we dare to see it, and if we are brave enough, we can become that light ourselves."

"As the nation's oldest civil rights organization, we remain a fixture in fighting for civil rights and social justice for all. Through our annual awards we highlight



NAACP Spingarn Medal



Hon. Hillary Clinton presents 108th Spingarn Medal to activist and leader Dr. Hazel N. Dukés, President NAACP- New York State Conference

the achievements of individuals and our branches, trailblazers who are actively on the front lines driving progress in business, law, education, and other sectors. In honoring their work and commitment, we aim to further the legacy of our organization, while championing future generations of civil rights leaders. The Spingarn award recognizes the incredible contributions of Dr. Hazel Nell Dukés, a true champion for justice and equality," said Boykin-Towns.



NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch Officers and Executive Committee (L-R) Ken Reid, Garry Johnson, Claire Theobalds, Marion Bell, Yolanda Payne, President Kyndell A Reid, Esq., Hon. Judge Machel Sweeting, and NYS 1st VP Geoff Eaton



Derrick Johnson, President, Dr. Hazel N. Dukés, Karen Boykin Townes, Vice Chairman of NAACP National Board of Directors



Dr. Hazel N. Dukés is congratulated by longtime friend Ken Sunshine (Photo by Herb Boyd)

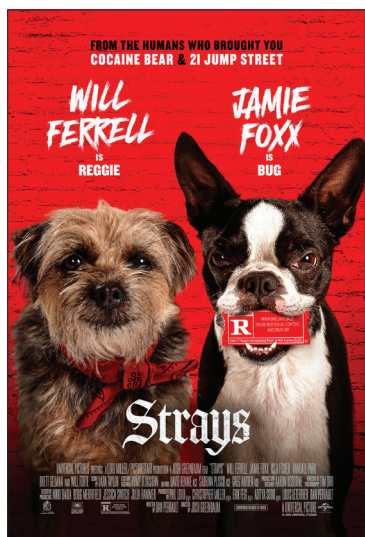
"Her unwavering commitment to dismantling systemic barriers and eradicating racial injustice serves as an inspiring example for us all. Dr. Dukés' vision for an inclusive society, where every individual has equal opportunities to succeed, fuels our determination to continue the fight. Her enduring legacy will inspire generations to come, as we stand united, driven by courage, hope, and love for each other. With Dr. Dukés as our guiding force, justice will prevail."

Dr. Dukés currently serves as the President of the New York State Conference. She is also a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and an active member of various Board of Directors sub-committees. Additionally, she serves as President of the Hazel N. Dukés & Associates Consultant Firm and she holds several leadership positions within her New York community. (Photos courtesy Kyndell A. Reid, Esq.)





## Will Ferrell & Jamie Foxx star in R-Rated canine comedy — doggy style!



Universal Pictures wants everyone to know that “Strays” is not appropriate for children in any way. This canine comedy is R-Rated for pervasive language, crude and sexual content, and drug use and centers around one dog’s odyssey Reggie (Will Ferrell) to exact revenge on his abusive owner, Doug (Will Forte), by relieving the man of his testicles. Gross! “Strays” abounds with sickening scenes that will truly turn your stomach and make you wince from disgust. Every day was “Hump Day” for these wacky, wicked, but witty canines who would hump anything not moving — including each other! However, it does have some lighter moments which deal with the human element of love, rejection, toxic relationships, insecurities,

and the importance of friendship. But laughter wins the day in its doggone delivery of roll over on the floor belly laughs. And for those who really got their bark on, there’s another one scratching to be released. As Jerry Lee Lewis crooned, “Goodness gracious, great balls on Fire!”

**SYNOPSIS:** When Reggie (Will Ferrell), a naive, relentlessly optimistic Border Terrier, is abandoned on the mean city streets by his lowlife owner, Doug (Will Forte; *The Last Man on Earth*, *Nebraska*), Reggie is certain that his beloved owner would never leave him on purpose. But once Reggie falls in with a fast-talking, foul-mouthed Boston Terrier named Bug (Oscar winner Jamie Foxx), a stray who loves his freedom and believes that owners are for suckers, Reggie finally realizes he was in a toxic relationship and begins to see Doug for the heartless sleazeball that he is. Determined to seek revenge, Reggie, Bug and Bug’s pals—Maggie (Isla Fisher; *Now You See Me*, *Wedding Crashers*), a smart Australian Shepherd who has been sidelined by her owner’s new puppy, and Hunter (Randall Park; *Always Be My Maybe*, *Aquaman*), an anxious Great Dane who’s stressed out by his work as an emotional support animal—together hatch a plan and embark on an epic adventure to help Reggie find his way home ... and make Doug pay by biting



(L-R) Maggie (Isla Fisher), Reggie (Will Ferrell), Bug (Jamie Foxx), and Hunter (Randall Park) in *Strays*, directed by Josh Greenbaum

off the appendage he loves the most. (Hint: It’s not his foot).

**CAST:** The film features a powerhouse comedic supporting cast, including Grammy winner Josh Gad (*Beauty and the Beast*), Harvey Guillén (*Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*), Emmy nominee Rob Riggle (*The Hangover*), Brett Gelman (*Stranger Things*), Jamie Demetriou (*The Afterparty*) and Emmy nominee Sofia Vergara (*Modern Family*).

**CREATIVES:** A subversion of the dog movies we know and love, “Strays,” directed by Josh Greenbaum (*Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar*) and written by Dan Perrault (*Players*, *American Vandal*), is a hilarious, R-rated, live-action comedy about the complications of love, the importance of great friendships, and the unexpected virtues of couch humping.

“Strays” is produced by Lord Miller partners Phil Lord p.g.a. and Christopher Miller p.g.a., (*Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse*, *The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part*), by Picturestart founder and



(L-R) Doug’s Girlfriend (Jade Marie Fernandez), Reggie (Will Ferrell) and Doug (Will Forte)

CEO Erik Feig p.g.a. (*Luckiest Girl Alive*, *Cha Cha Real Smooth*), by Lord Miller’s Aditya Sood p.g.a. (*The Martian*, *Cocaine Bear*), by Louis Leterrier (director *Fast X*, *The Clash of the Titans*) and by Dan Perrault (*Players*, *American*

*Vandal*). The film is executive produced by Nikki Baida, Doug Merrifield, Jessica Switch and Julia Hammer. Universal Pictures presents a Lord Miller/Picturestart production. (Photos courtesy Universal Pictures)



Cathy (Tinashe Kajese) and sheriff K-9s with Reggie (Will Ferrell, center) and Maggie (Isla Fisher, right)



(L-R) Bug (Jamie Foxx) and Reggie (Will Ferrell)



Brett Gelman as Willy



(L-R) Elsa (plays Maggie), Bennie (plays Bug), Sophie (plays Reggie), Dalin (plays Hunter), and director Josh Greenbaum on the set of ‘Strays’

# Culture

## Tyler Perry BET deal falls through as Paramount removes network from sales block

Paramount Global had received bids ranging from approximately \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

By Stacy M. Brown  
(NNPA Newswire)

Paramount Global has pulled out of a deal to sell BET Media Group to renowned filmmaker Tyler Perry.

According to The Wall Street Journal, Paramount announced that they had ended the bidding process, which would have included VH1 and BET Studios, streamer BET+ and the BET channel — because “a sale wouldn’t result in any meaningful deleveraging of its balance sheet.”

Paramount Global had received bids ranging from approximately \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

Perry’s potential ownership

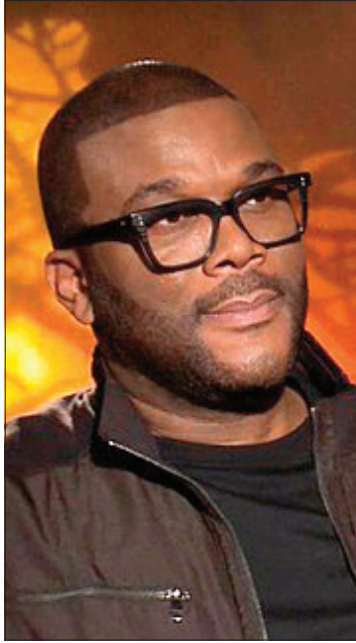
would have made BET Black-owned again after 21 years, while VH1, for the first time, would have boasted an African American owner for the first time.

Earlier this year, Perry’s longtime friend Rolanda Watts, proclaimed that he cemented his place in history by acquiring the two major television networks, making him the first African American to do so.

However, others including Roland Martin said the story wasn’t true, that a deal had not been reached.

The renowned actor and filmmaker previously expressed optimism about purchasing BET, stating his keen interest if it were a possibility.

Perry, who had already enjoyed tremendous success in collaboration with BET, partnering with



his Tyler Perry Studios banner to create the popular streaming service BET+, was no stranger to the network.

He acknowledged the unexpected nature of the potential acquisition, stating, “I’ve been there for four years now and had tremendous success... If that is possible, I’m very, very interested in taking as much of it as I can.”

The exact financial details of the deal have not been disclosed, but experts on this sort of transaction have placed a significant value on the acquisition of the two networks.

Since its launch, the BET+ streaming service has experienced remarkable success.

In 2021 alone, BET+ was responsible for half of the subscribers and nearly all revenue growth

for the channel.

The platform features a wide range of original films and series from the extensive BET program library, captivating audiences with diverse and engaging content.

The acquisition of BET and VH1 would have marked a significant milestone in the representation and ownership of the entertainment industry.

Perry’s success as an African American entrepreneur and his commitment to showcasing diverse stories and voices have paved the way for increased opportunities and inclusivity in the media landscape.

The Madea star currently owns a minority stake in BET and also produces a large portion of the programming available on BET and BET+

## Ron Cephas Jones 66, actor known for role in ‘This Is Us’

By Evan Rosen

Emmy-winning Actor Ron Cephas Jones, known for his roles in NBC’s “This is Us” and “Law and Order,” has died at age 66. “Beloved and award-winning actor Ron Cephas Jones has passed away at the age of 66 due to a long-standing pulmonary issue,” a representative confirmed

to People Magazine. Jones revealed in 2021 that he had been battling chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and underwent a double lung transplant the year before.

The actor also previously discussed how his co-stars and producers on “This is Us,” helped him though a major health scare on the final day of the show’s

filming. “You cats held me when I was struggling and you didn’t let me go. You’ve been there for a very difficult part of my life. I’m a walking miracle,” he recalled telling them, during a conversation with Entertainment Weekly in 2022. “My whole life has been the stage. The idea of not performing again seemed worse to me than death,” said Jones.



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# 100 Black girls go to Yale

**A** hundred Black girls, students from Newark, East Orange and Hillside, New Jersey, traveled to Yale University as part of the Be the Changemakers program which was hosted by Seton Hall University and is part of the expanded East Orange Summer Work Experience Program. The trip to Yale, which was themed "You Belong in the Room," was sponsored by the East Orange Mayor's Office of Employment and Training, the Newark Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery and the Hillside Innovation Academy and took place on Friday, July 28th 2023.

Black Girls Go To Yale was led by Yale School of Public Health Professor Ijeoma Opara through her Dreamer Girl Project, an NIH funded initiative designed to empower and support young Black girls in their pursuit of higher education and well-being; Dr. Jamila T. Davis, the Community Practitioner in Residence for Seton Hall's Center for Community Research and Engagement and Angelo Pinto, Esq., Community Activist in Resi-



dence at the Yale School of Public Health and an adjunct professor at Seton Hall's Public Administration program. Davis and Pinto lead Be

the Changemakers.

At Yale, the students were welcomed and led by Yale student guides for a campus tour

and took part in motivational and affirmation workshops with several successful Black women. Dr. Kelly Williams, the Director

of Educational Support Services and Parent Relations for the East Orange School District, gave each girl a set of her affirmation cards, "The ABCs of Social Emotional Learning for Black girls," and challenged the young women to "go after your dreams and know that you belong in any room you choose to enter."

As part of the Summer Work Experience Program, the young women will be writing about their experience and their experiences in the program this summer for an upcoming edition of Teen Magazine. "Today was important. This society generally doesn't count Black girls except to count them out," said Jamila T. Davis "But we're counting, and we're inviting these 101 girls – Linda Baraka brought her infant baby girl on this trip — into our Sister Girl Tribe of success. And this day, and the days of achievement that will now follow, is Black Girl magic at its finest." Last year, 50 Black girls went to Yale, this year 100 (plus one) made the trip. Looking ahead, Dr. Opara has set an ambitious goal: 1000 Black girls to Yale next year.

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## NYPD officer sold out police for gang leader, facing decades in prison

Mestre was booked into federal custody on Thursday, Aug. 17.  
By Stacy M. Brown(NNPA)

Former New York Police Officer Gina Mestre is accused of giving the Shooting Boys Gang confidential information about a federal grand jury investigation, leaking the name of a witness to gang members, and helping a gang leader flee the U.S. after he killed someone.

Damian Williams, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Ivan J. Arvelo, the Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Office of Homeland Security Investigations, and Edward A. Caban, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, announced the unsealing of an indictment against Mestre for her involvement in a racketeering conspiracy with members of the Shooting Boys gang.

Mestre was booked into federal custody on Thursday, Aug. 17.

"Gina Mestre shamelessly exploited her position of public trust to assist gang members in her own NYPD precinct that were terrorizing the Bronx by committing robberies, murders, drug trafficking, and other acts of violence," U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said.

"The Indictment unsealed today alleges that the defendant abused her position as an NYPD police officer by, among other things, obstructing a federal grand jury investigation into the gang and assisting the gang's leader in evading capture for a cold-blooded murder committed in broad daylight."

Further, Williams noted that Mestre's alleged conduct violates the oath she swore to protect the public and her fellow NYPD officers from the type of criminal activity she helped the gang commit.

"This Indictment makes clear that my Office and our law enforcement partners will remain vigilant in fighting all forms of police corruption," Williams stated.

NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban blasted his former officer's conduct.

"There's no place for any kind of corruption in the NYPD," Caban



railed.

"The arrest today of a former officer is built upon the steadfast work of our Internal Affairs Bureau, a team driven to root out such betrayals of public trust."

The indictment alleges that the Shooting Boys gang is a criminal organization based in the University Heights section of the Bronx.

Since at least 2017, gang members allegedly sold drugs, used guns, and committed numerous acts of violence against members of rival gangs.

Further, the gang's territory and base operations fell within the jurisdiction of the NYPD's 52nd precinct, where Mestre worked.

Prosecutors alleged that Mestre developed a romantic relationship with Andrew Done, the recognized leader of the Shooting Boys gang.

Mestre served as an NYPD police officer from July 2013 to May 2022, assigned to the 52nd Precinct's Public Safety Unit.

In the summer of 2020, a significant focus of the precinct and the Public Safety Unit was reducing gun violence attributed to members of the Shooting Boys.

Prosecutors said in June 2020, Mestre began communicating with Done through social media accounts and phone numbers that they hid.

The officer immediately began sharing confidential information with Done, warning him and other gang members about police raids and actions.

The officer even caused harm

to police witnesses by telling Done and others who reported them to authorities.

In one instance, authorities said that on or about Nov. 5, 2020, Done shot and killed a rival gang member as he sat in his car on Cromwell Avenue in the Bronx.

NYPD Detectives investigating the murder recovered security camera video capturing Done's commission of the murder.

Several members of the 52nd precinct was called upon to assist in identifying the person captured on the Video, and Mestre was among the officers who identified Done as the perpetrator.

Eventually, as federal authorities closed in on Done, Mestre warned him, and he fled to the Dominican Republic.

On Nov. 17, 2022, Done pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy and admitted to the Bronx murder.

On Feb. 22, 2023, Done was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

Mestre, 33, faces charges of one count of racketeering conspiracy, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice, which has a maximum sentence of five years in prison; one count of conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; and one count of accessory after the fact to murder in aid of racketeering, which has a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

## Tennessee DA drops multiple cases involving former officers charged in Tyre Nichols' death

Tadarrius Bean, Desmond Mills, Emmitt Martin, Justin Smith, and Demetrius Haley are the five officers, who were almost immediately arrested.

By Stacy M. Brown(NNPA Newswire)

The district attorney's office in Tennessee has dismissed between 30% and 40% cases linked to the five former officers facing second-degree murder charges in the death of Tyre Nichols.

Shelby County District Attorney Steven Mulroy said his team had examined approximately 100 cases involving the accused officers.

He noted that the team discovered numerous decisions that could face reversal.

Mulroy's spokesperson, Erica Williams, said charges have already been reduced in approximately 12 other cases involving the ex-Memphis Police officers, in addition to the dismissed cases.

The district attorney forwarded four cases to the U.S. attorney's office for alleged excessive force.

According to Mulroy, the five officers' blatant lack of credibility throughout the charges also were considered in making these decisions.

The brutal beating of Nichols, 29, captured national attention with civil rights advocates and others quickly denouncing the officers' actions.

After the release of video of the beating taken from officers' body cameras, national outcry grew louder.

The episode added to an ongoing series of incidents between the police and the Black community, sparking protests and renewing discussions about police brutality and the need for police reform in the United States.

Tadarrius Bean, Desmond Mills, Emmitt Martin, Justin Smith and Demetrius Haley, are the five officers, who were almost immediately arrested.

They have pleaded not guilty to an array of criminal charges, including second-degree murder.

Authorities said the officers fatally assaulted Nichols after a



routine traffic stop.

The officers were part of the Scorpion crime suppression team, a unit now disbanded since Nichols' death.

While Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis dissolved the unit, some members joined other divisions within the department.

The Department of Justice recently launched an investigation into the use of force and arrest practices within the Memphis Police Department.

Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke from the Civil Rights Division noted that even in a predominantly Black city like Memphis, there appears to be a potential disparity in traffic enforcement, disproportionately affecting Black drivers.

The Justice Department initiated a separate review in March, focusing on use-of-force policies, de-escalation strategies, and specialized units within the Memphis Police Department.

Federal investigators are now delving into the specifics of Nichols' arrest and subsequent death. Nichols' mother sued the city and its police chief because of her son's death.

"I think the Tyre Nichols case harmed MPD's credibility," Mulroy told reporters.

"I think the DOJ investigation is going to help with that. Either they're going to find problems and then they'll give solutions to them, or they don't find problems and that'll be good.

"I don't see the existence of the DOJ investigation as being a threat to the credibility that potential jurors would give to MPD testimony. If anything, I see it as a cure for any such problem."

## 'Hey, you stupid slave N—er': Vile Texas woman threatens to kill judge overseeing Donald Trump's election interference case in Federal Court

A Texas woman has been charged with threatening to kill the federal judge overseeing Donald Trump's election interference case in Washington, D.C.

Abigail Jo Shry, 43, was charged after she left a voicemail threatening to kill U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan.

Abigail Jo Shry (left) is accused of threatening to kill U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan (right). (Photos: Mike Sington/Twitter, WSUA9 News / YouTube screenshot)

According to WUSA9 News, authorities say Shry called Judge Chutkan's chambers on Aug. 5 and

threatened her life. She also called the judge a "slave" and threatened to kill Houston-area Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee.

"Hey, you stupid slave N—er," said Shry before threatening, "all Democrats in Washington D.C. and all people in the LGBTQ community."

"You are in our sights, we want to kill you," Shry continued. "If Trump doesn't get elected in 2024, we are coming to kill you, so tread lightly, b—h. You will be targeted personally, publicly, your family, all of it."

CNN reports that the Alvin, Texas, native was charged with

Transmission in Interstate or Foreign Commerce of any Communication Containing a Threat to Injure the Person of Another. Shry was detained by an order from a U.S. magistrate judge on Aug. 16 and will be held until her bond hearing set for Sept. 13.

Shry reportedly admitted to making the call while speaking with special agents from the Department of Homeland Security on Aug. 8. She claimed that she had no plans to carry out the threats. However, she also said, "if Sheila Jackson Lee comes to Alvin, then we need to worry."



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## Hola! DC Universe's newest Super Hero is leaving competitors blue with envy!



By Audrey J. Bernard

From Warner Bros. Pictures comes the feature film “Blue Beetle,” marking the DC Super Hero’s first time on the big screen. The film, directed by Ángel Manuel Soto, stars Latino heartthrob Xolo Maridueña in the title role as well as his alter ego, Jaime Reyes. At last, Latino audiences have their own superhero to cheer and root for. One who shares their values for love of family, friends, and country with emphasis on family. He’s young, dashing, and true to his ethnic values. The movie is fun, fresh, and fabulous with Maridueña lighting up every scene with a smile that melts your heart. The family that plays together stays together and this family is crushing it. “Don’t get in my way if you don’t want to be crushed.” Born in Puerto Rico Soto has dreamed about being a member of the DC Universe family representing his people and “Blue Beetle” is the answer to his prayer. It is also something Maridueña dreamed about. On getting the role he admits “It’s a dream, surreal is really the only word I can use for it, but for as long as I can remember, Jaime Reyes is the biggest Latin Super Hero in the DC Universe. Growing up, my mom was a huge fan of comics and I think she passed down that liking to me, and it was always a dream to play this role and to get into this character.”

On what he loved most about playing Jaime/Blue Beetle Maridueña admits “I think the most exciting thing about Jaime and Blue Beetle is the family aspect. I really think a superhero movie hasn’t tackled that yet. You see the superheroes and they are the

perfect human beings—he’s buff, he can’t do anything wrong, he always knows what to do. I think a lot of the charm of Jaime is that he doesn’t necessarily always know what to do, and very similar to myself, sometimes you’re going through life and making decisions and the surety of knowing what you’re doing is the right thing isn’t always there. But the support system Jaime has because of his family and friends is, I think, really what makes Jaime him. I relate to that so much—my family is so integral in my growing up and everything, they feel a little inseparable at some times, and Jaime definitely feels that way as well.” “Things don’t last, only family lasts forever, mijo/my son.”

When asked what Jaime Reyes represents Soto replied, “Jaime is more than just a relatable character, I think Jaime speaks for a lot of the situations that we face in real life. He’s a kid that believed in an idea of progress and is playing by the rules and is staying in his lane. His family came [to Palmera City] before he did and they did all the hard work, and all of it has been headed for him to become this promise of progress and the pursuit of the American dream. And once he follows the rules and comes back, he realizes that a lot of those things are not like they said it would be, that life often brings surprises and to people like him, it’s not as easy as go to college, come back and make a career.” On his hopes for the character’s cinematic debut he said, “I really hope audiences receive Blue Beetle with an open heart and with the same love and compassion that I came into receiving Blue Beetle myself.”

SYNOPSIS: A Warner Bros. Pictures Presentation, a Safran Company Production, “Blue Beetle” follows recent college grad Jaime Reyes who returns home full of aspirations for his future, only to find that home is not quite as he left it. As he searches to find his purpose in the world, fate intervenes when Jaime unexpectedly finds himself in possession of an ancient relic of alien biotechnology: the Scarab. When the Scarab suddenly chooses Jaime to be its symbiotic host, he is bestowed with an incredible suit of armor capable of extraordinary and unpredictable powers, forever



Xolo Maridueña as 'Blue Beetle' in Warner Bros. Pictures' action-adventure BLUE BEETLE, a Warner Bros. Pictures release. Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures © DC Comics



Director Ángel Manuel Soto



Harvey Guillén as Dr. Sanchez and Susan Sarandon as Victoria Kord



Xolo Maridueña as Jaime Reyes holds ancient relic, the Scarab

the “Predator” films) as his mother, Bruna Marquezine (“Maldivas,” “God Save the King”) as Jenny Kord, Belissa Escobedo (“American Horror Stories,” “Hocus Pocus 2”) as Jaime’s sister, Milagro, and Harvey Guillén (“What We Do in the Shad-ows”) as Dr. Sanchez.

CREATIVES: Ángel Manuel Soto (“Charm City Kings,” “The Farm”) directs from a screenplay by Gareth Dunnet-Alcocer (“Miss Bala”), based on characters from DC. John Rickard and Zev Foreman are producing, with Walter Hamada, Galen Vaisman and Garrett Grant serving as executive producers. The director’s creative team behind the scenes includes director of photography Pawel Pogorzelski (“Midsommar,” “Hereditary”), production designer John Billington (“Bad Boys for Life”), editor Craig Alpert (“Deadpool 2,” “The Lost City”), Oscar-nominated costume designer Mayes C. Rubeo (“Jojo Rabbit,” the “Thor” films), visual effects supervisor Kelvin McIlwain (“The Suicide Squad,” “Aquaman”) and composer Bobby Krlic (“Midsommar,” the “Snowpiercer” series). “Blue Beetle” was released into theaters internationally in August 2023 and in North America Friday, August 18, 2023, to crushing reviews. (Photos courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures)



Belissa Escobedo as Milagro, Elpidia Carrillo as Rocio, Bruna Marquezine as Penny, Adriana Barraza as Nana and George Lopez as Uncle Rudy in scene from 'Blue Beetle'

changing his destiny as he becomes the Super Hero “Blue Beetle.”

CAST: Starring alongside Maridueña (“Cobra Kai”) are Adriana Barraza (“Rambo: Last Blood,” “Thor”) as Jaime’s grandmother, Nana, Damian Alcázar (“Narcos,” “Narcos: Mexico”) as his father,

Raoul Max Trujillo (the “Sicario” films, “Mayans M.C.”) as Carapax, with Oscar winner Susan Sarandon (“Monarch,” “Dead Man Walking”) as Victoria Kord, and George Lopez (the “Rio and “Smurf” franchises) as Jaime’s Uncle Rudy. The film also stars Elpidia Carrillo (“Mayans M.C.,”



Xolo Maridueña as 'Blue Beetle'



'Blue Beetle' star Xolo Maridueña

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