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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

May 13 - 19, 2021

The Big Lie as Journalism: Murdock Paper Publishes “Book” Lie on Vice President Harris

By **Lauren Victoria Burke**, NNPA Newswire Contributor

Dominion Voting Systems sued Rudy Giuliani for \$1.3 billion based on over 50 statements by Giuliani made at hearings, on social media, his podcast and on Fox News — where Giuliani claimed Dominion Voting Systems “flipped” votes to facilitate President Biden’s win. President Biden won by over 7 million votes with several Republican controlled states certifying his election as legitimate.

On April 23, The New York Post published and then edited a story that claimed that a children’s book by Vice President Kamala Harris was given out to migrant children at the Mexican border as part of a “welcome kit” upon entering the U.S.

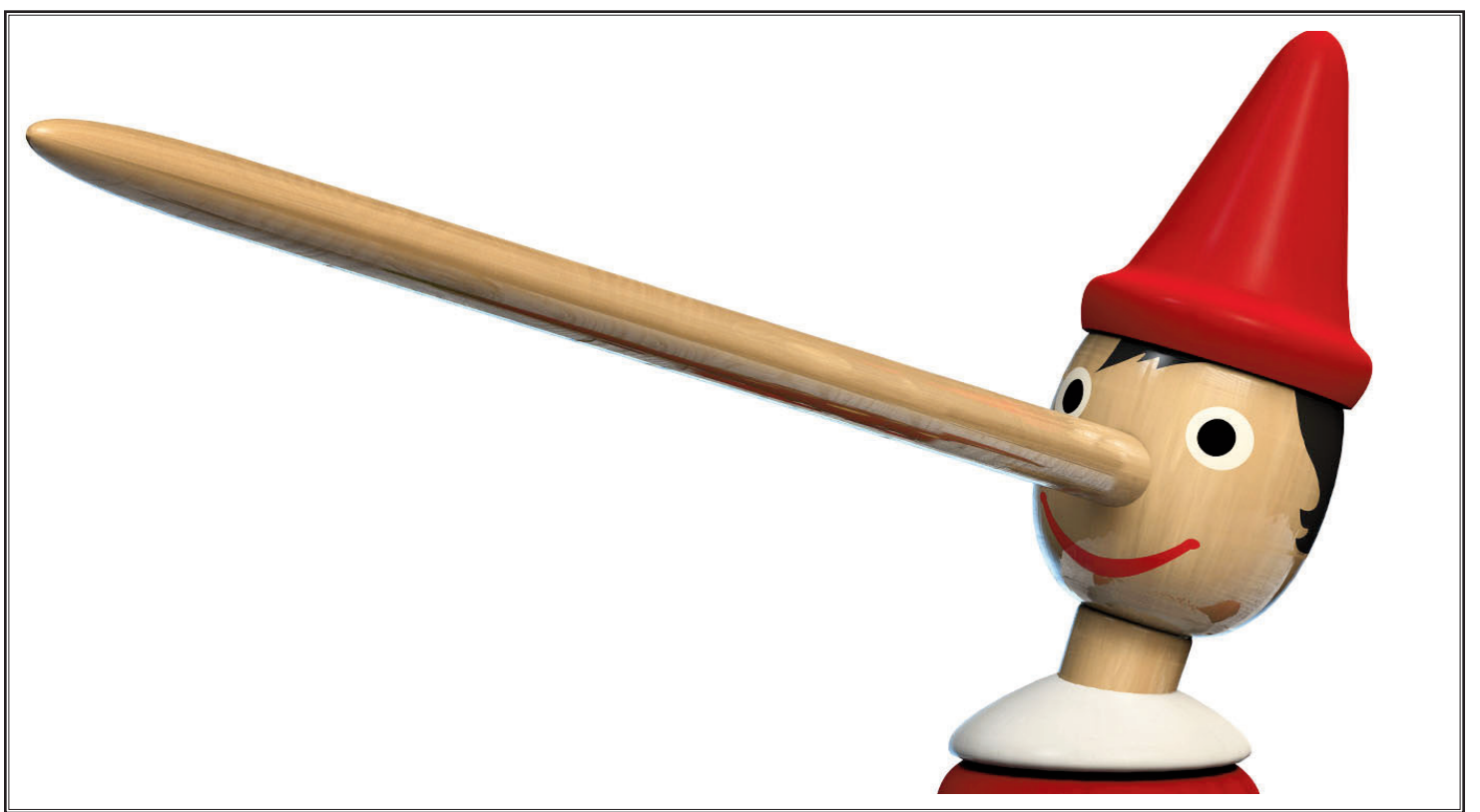
Former New York Post writer Laura Italiano claims she was forced to write the story.

“The Kamala Harris story — an incorrect story

I was ordered to write and which I failed to push back hard enough against — was my breaking point,” wrote Italiano on social on April 27.

Increasingly, Murdock media properties, such as Fox News, have relied more on contributors and fictional information rather than straight reporting focused on accurate knowable truth as demo-

Continue **Harris** Page 5



Increasingly, Murdock media properties, such as Fox News, have relied more on contributors and fictional information rather than straight reporting focused on accurate knowable truth as demography in the U.S. changes.

BREAKING NEWS

Ruling paves way for longer sentence in George Floyd’s death

- ARTICLE Page 4 -

US advisers endorse Pfizer COVID shot for kids 12 and up

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD** and **MIKE STOBBE**

U.S. health advisers endorsed use of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine in kids as young as 12 on Wednesday — just as planned new guidelines say it’s OK for people of any age to get a coronavirus shot at the same time as other needed vaccinations.

The shots will let kids safely attend camps this summer and help assure a more normal return to

classrooms next school year, concluded advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“And this is another way to get closer to ending this horrible pandemic,” said adviser Dr. Camille Kotton of Harvard Medical School.

The sprint to vaccinate millions of middle and high school students has

Continue **Shot** Page 5

Barry Jenkins on his unflinching epic ‘Underground Railroad’

By **AMANDA LEE MYERS**



FILE - Filmmaker Barry Jenkins poses for a portrait at the 91st Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Feb. 4, 2019. Jenkins' latest project, the 10-hour limited series “The Underground Railroad,” premieres Thursday on Amazon. (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Oscar-winning director Barry Jenkins was considering adapting Colson Whitehead’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about the Underground Railroad into a limited series, he kept hearing the same thing: Impossible.

It would be emotionally and mentally draining, Jenkins knew. And he questioned the ethics of such a production: Do people really need to be reminded about the horrors of slavery?

Ultimately, Jenkins worked through the doubts. The result is an

unflinching portrayal of Cora, an enslaved woman who escapes a Georgia plantation and its horrors only to be pursued by an unrelenting bounty hunter. Along the way she must confront the anger she feels for her mother, who left her at the plantation when she was 10.

The 10-hour limited series, which premieres Thursday on Amazon, is at times unbearably painful to watch and at others achingly beautiful. Early reviews have declared the series a triumph and something only Jenkins could

Continue **Barry** Page 4



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Alamo renovation gets stuck over arguments about slavery

Some heroes of the Texas Revolution were enslavers, a neglected piece of history that has helped stall a badly needed overhaul of the revered battle site.

BY RICHARD WEBNER, THE WASHINGTON POST



The Cenotaph at Alamo Plaza in San Antonio. Photo Credit: Eddie Gaspar/The Texas Tribune

SAN ANTONIO — The Alamo needs a makeover; on that, at least, everyone agrees. Plaster is flaking off the walls of the nearly 300-year-old former Spanish mission, the most revered battle site in Texas history. Its one-room exhibit space can hold only a fraction of key artifacts. And the surrounding plaza is a tourist circus, packed with novelty shops and a Ripley's Believe It or Not museum. But Texans are deeply divided over how, exactly, to remember the Alamo. A \$450 million plan to renovate the site has devolved into a five-year brawl over whether to focus narrowly on the 1836 battle or present a fuller view that delves into the site's Indigenous history and the role of slavery in the Texas Revolution. Generations of Texas schoolchildren have been taught to admire the Alamo defenders as revolutionaries slaughtered by the Mexican army in the fight for Texas independ-

ence. But several were enslavers, including William B. Travis and Davy Crockett — an inconvenient fact in a state where textbooks have only acknowledged since 2018 that slavery was at issue in the Civil War. Indeed, an enslaved man named Joe, who was owned by Travis, survived the battle of the Alamo and became one of the primary sources of information about the 13-day siege, inspiring dozens of books and movies, including the John Wayne classic. Key members of the state's GOP leadership and some conservative groups are insisting that the renovation stay focused on the battle. A bill introduced by 10 Republican state lawmakers would bar the overhaul from citing any reasons for the Texas Revolution beyond those mentioned in the Texas Declaration of Independence — which does not include slavery. "If they want to bring

up that it was about slavery, or say that the Alamo defenders were racist, or anything like that, they need to take their rear ends over the state border and get the hell out of Texas," said Brandon Burkhart, president of the This is Freedom Texas Force, a conservative group that held an armed protest last year in Alamo Plaza. Democratic elected officials in San Antonio want the Alamo story to be told from other perspectives. Indigenous leaders, for example, want the site to show respect for its ancient role as a burial ground. Meanwhile, historians argue that support for slavery was indeed a motivating factor for the Texas Revolution, a fact that should be acknowledged at the site, even if it tarnishes some giants of Texas history. "Sometimes we try so hard to create perfect heroes, and in trying so hard to create perfection, we force ourselves into a

corner where it's difficult to accept the reality that people are not perfect," said Carey Latimore, a history professor at Trinity University. "As we become more diverse as a nation and a people, we've got to learn how to talk about these difficult conversations, but we've got to talk about it with nuance. And that's what's missing right now in our society, is the nuance." Elected leaders have talked for decades about redeveloping the Alamo complex, which lies in the heart of San Antonio, not far from the famous River Walk. But those plans have always presented logistical challenges — the Alamo is owned by the state, while the adjoining plaza is owned by the city — as well as ideological ones. The original plan, announced in 2017, called for repairing the Alamo, fixing up the plaza and building a world-class museum for artifacts, including a collection donated by rock musician Phil Collins, an Alamo enthusiast. It represented a rare alliance between the state's Republican leadership and one of its more liberal cities, with San Antonio committing \$38 million to the budget and the state of Texas pitching in \$106 million. That left at least \$200 million to be raised through donations. But aspects of the plan quickly met with outrage, especially its treatment of the Cenotaph, a 56-foot monument to Alamo defenders erected in the plaza in 1940.

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CONGRESSWOMAN JOHNSON ANNOUNCES \$118 MILLION FOR LOCAL COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND STUDENTS

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman **Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)** announced more than \$118 million in emergency funding for colleges, universities, and students in Texas's 30th Congressional District under the American Rescue Plan. The funding will help local institutions cope with the severe financial fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue serving their students safely. At least half of the funding each institution receives will be distributed in the form of emergency cash assistance grants to students who are facing hunger, homelessness, and other hardships. The American Rescue

Plan provides \$36 billion for nearly 3,500 public and private, nonprofit colleges and universities nationwide. "The American Rescue Plan is continuing to serve as the blueprint for our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and today we are seeing the extension of its impact into our learning institutions," said Congresswoman **Johnson**. "This relief funding reflects our commitment to helping students—especially those in underserved and minority communities—get back in class and back on track to complete their education. I was proud to support the passage of the American Rescue Plan, and I look forward to working with the

Biden-Harris Administration to continue building our nation back better." **The colleges and universities in Texas's 30th Congressional District receiving funding under the American Rescue Plan are:**

- Paul Quinn College: \$3,304,315
- Dallas Baptist University: \$6,628,050
- Dallas Theological Seminary: \$1,028,731
- Dallas College: \$107,042,190
- Dallas Institute of Funeral Service: \$389,506

Students should contact their institutions for more information about how they can apply for an emergency

grant. The American Rescue Plan also includes nearly \$3 billion in additional funding—which will be distributed at a later date—for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), other Minority-Serving Institutions, and other under-resourced institutions. To learn more about emergency education funding under the American Rescue Plan, go to <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-makes-available-36-billion-american-rescue-plan-funds-support-students-and-institutions>

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“A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN”

ST. JOHN 15:7-16

CHRIST – OUR TRUE VINE - (PART II)

BY REV. JOHNNY CALVIN SMITH

From our last study in the grand chapter of St. John 15, the most prominent thought was fruit-bearing, for the Lord expects believers to bear fruit. If the believer is to be a fruit producer of the Vine, he or she must depend on Christ by abiding in Him. As mentioned in our last study, the word “abide” means to maintain fellowship with Him, and one is only in fellowship with Him when that person is in obedience to His word.

In verse 7, one of the conditions that shows a believer is abiding in Christ is he will have an efficient prayer life. An abiding believer's prayers will be in accord with God's will, for the mind of the believer will be conditioned by God's Holy Word. According to verse 8, answered prayer glorifies the Father, and an abiding believer will bring honor to the Father because he is obedient to God's word and will have an effective prayer life.

Another condition of being an abiding believer is that he will continue in the Lord's love (v. 9-10). Abiding in the marvels of the Lord's love is contingent on the believer being obedient to God's word. When a believer truly abides in Christ, he is drawing from the Lord's strength and fullness; and thus, he will abide in the Lord's love! A believer can only enjoy the Lord's love when he keeps Christ's commandments. Having discussed love

in verses 9 and 10, Christ now discusses the word “joy.” To experience joy, a believer must have communion with Christ and be obedient to His word. The expression, “these things” has reference to a believer maintaining fellowship with Christ, and will become the condition on which a believer realizing God's joy. Joy is never conditioned on a believer's circumstance; rather, it is conditioned on his obedience to God's commands! One of the proofs that a disciple of Christ is obedient to Him is that he will demonstrate love to others, for verse 12 says – “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved

you.” Not only are believers commanded to love, but we are to sacrificially love one another (v.13). Christ demonstrated the extent of His love sacrificially. He laid down His life for us; He supremely demonstrated His love for the unlovable, for we did not merit God's awesome love! Just as Christ's love had no limitations, neither should our love toward one another have limitations! In accordance with verse 14, obedient disciples are those who are deemed God's friends. One classic individual who was a “friend of God” was Abraham (II Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8). He was called a

friend of God because he was an obedient servant of God. Because of Christ's close and personal discussion with His disciples, even being called friends, the disciples should not be viewed as slaves – those who did the master's bidding, but had no close relationship to him. Yet, a true disciple of Christ is a friend of God though obedience to Him and that disciple will know God's will (v. 15)! In conclusion, our Lord revealed to His disciples that He chose them that they might produce enduring fruit, and that prayers asked in His name will be granted (v. 16).
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Ruling paves way for longer sentence in George Floyd's death

By AMY FORLITI Continued Article Page 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A Minnesota judge has ruled that there were aggravating factors in the death of George Floyd, paving the way for the possibility of a longer sentence for Derek Chauvin, according to an order made public Wednesday.

In his ruling dated Tuesday, Judge Peter Cahill found that Chauvin abused his authority as a police officer when he restrained Floyd last year and that he treated Floyd with particular cruelty. He also cited the presence of children when he committed the crime and the fact Chauvin was part of a group with at least three other people.

Cahill said Chauvin and two other officers held Floyd handcuffed, in a prone position on the street for an "inordinate amount of time" and that Chauvin knew the restraint was dangerous.

"The prolonged use of this technique was particularly egregious in that George Floyd made it clear he was unable to breathe and expressed the view that he was dying as a result of the officers' restraint," Cahill wrote.

Even with the aggravating factors, legal experts have said, Chauvin, 45, is unlikely to get more than 30 years when he is sentenced June 25.

Continued **Barry** Page 1

have pulled off.

It was "the most satisfying creative experience of my life," said Jenkins, who won an Oscar in 2017 for "Moonlight" and was nominated again the next year for "If Beale Street Could Talk."

It was also the biggest challenge he's ever faced.

"The story is so, so large and wide-ranging. Before doing this, I spoke to Steven Soderbergh and Cary Fukunaga, who did 'True Detective' and 'The 'Nick,' and they both said 'It's impossible. It's going to kill you because there's no way to properly prep that many hours of any story,'" he said in a recent interview. "It was going to be a test of my skills to do that."

It was also an irresistible opportunity to, as he puts it, "re-contextualize how we view my ancestors."

"When this trailer came out, someone said, 'Oh, I don't want to see another show about slaves. I want to see positive imagery.' And I'm like, 'Oh, that inherently says that any imagery depicting my ancestors is negative,'" Jenkins said. "No, we have to really relearn how to look at these people."

To him, enslaved people showed "one of the greatest acts of collective parenting the world has ever seen."

"If everyone had taken up arms and decided they were going to rebel, everyone would have perished and there would have been all these children left behind," he said. "The choice was to protect these children out of faith that at some point this thing would end and these children would go on and carry the legacy."

During production, Jenkins said the most important thing to him was to protect himself, the cast and the crew from being "devoured by the barbarity."

To make sure of that, a counselor was on set at all times. And the cast says Jenkins went to great lengths to make sure that they knew they could say when they were too close to the line or simply needed a break.

"I remember Barry saying lots of times, 'Everyone, it looks very real. Everything looks very real. So, when you get on set, just be aware that you are in a position where this could bring up stuff for you,'" said Ugandan actor Sheila Atim, who plays Cora's mother.

And bring up stuff it did. For everyone.

"The emotions that were brought up were all the emotions that the character dealt with, ranging from rejection, abandonment, a huge sense of loss, running from self and all of that," said Thuso Mbedu, a South African newcomer who plays Cora. "I had to be extra aware of who I am and where I was personally at every step because those are very heavy states of being to carry and being someone who struggled with depression in 2016, I personally couldn't afford to allow myself to get into that space, especially because we're going to shoot for 10 months."

For Atim, "it did bring up a lot of anger" about "injustice and also the understanding that race-based oppression is still a thing and racism is still a thing in the world."

That's part of what drove Jenkins and the cast. They hope their work helps spark more conversations about race, inequality and injustice.

Australian actor Joel Edgerton, who plays the bounty hunter pursuing and tormenting Cora, said it's important to remember that "we're not that far away from what you're seeing in 'The Underground Railroad.'"

"We were able to go to towns and dress them up without too much ... and you go, 'OK, those buildings are still there where things took place, where environments, plantations still exist,'" he said. "Things have morphed and shifted ... but there's a lot of problems and there always sadly, will be. But I think we need to have conversations and art is a great way of sparking conversations."

The Dallas Post Tribune
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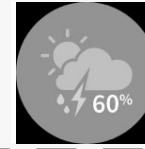
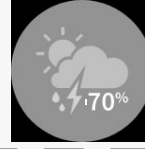
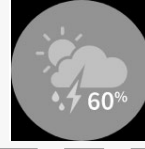



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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

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 H - 71° L - 56°	 H - 75° L - 52°	 H - 77° L - 67°	 60% H - 77° L - 69°	 70% H - 79° L - 68°	 60% H - 77° L - 68°	 70% H - 77° L - 67°

Morant, Brooks help Memphis to 133-104 rout of Mavericks

BY CLAY BAILEY



Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant (12) shoots between Dallas Mavericks guard Josh Richardson (0) and center Willie Cauley-Stein (33) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, May 11, 2021, in Memphis, Tenn. (AP Photo/Wade Payne)

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Ja Morant had 24 points, eight assists and seven rebounds as the

Memphis Grizzlies used a third-quarter burst to beat the Dallas Mavericks 133-104 on Tuesday night.

Dillon Brooks added 22 points and John Konchar had a season-high 18 for the Grizzlies. Kyle

Anderson scored 15 points, including 10 in the key third quarter as Memphis continues to try and move up in the Western Conference standings. Konchar and Anderson both were 7 of 10 from the field, part of Memphis shooting 57.3%.

While both teams are in the postseason, they still can improve their seedings. Memphis, which earned a spot in the play-in tournament with Monday night's win over New Orleans, still has a chance to move up to eighth.

The Mavericks, who are on the cusp of claiming the sixth spot in the West, will have to wait before clinching a spot to avoid the Western Conference's play-in tournament.

"Obviously we didn't

play well over the course of the 48 minutes," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said.

Tim Hardaway Jr. led the Mavericks with 19 points, while Willie Cauley-Stein finished with a season-high 16 points. Jalen Brunson scored 15, while leading scorer Luka Doncic managed 12 points but was 4 of 16 from the floor and missed all four of his 3-point attempts.

"I wasn't myself," Doncic said. "We've got to bounce back, but that game was obviously one of the worst I've ever played. I've got to be better than that."

Memphis outscored the Mavericks 36-25 in the third quarter to take a 96-82 lead entering the fourth. Anderson keyed the rally hitting his first

five shots in the quarter and Morant scored 11 in the frame.

That lead would swell to 104-82 with 10 minutes left and Carlisle pulled his starters, spelling the end of the Mavericks four-game winning streak.

"I think our starters set a really good tone in that third quarter," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. "Our defense was big for us. It was a back-and-forth affair there (in the first half). We were able to get the stops we needed and got on a run (after half-time). The pace was big for us and just really good ball movement."

But Carlisle actually noted the first quarter as a turning point when Memphis erased an early eight-point Dallas lead.

Continued **Harris** Page 1
graphy in the U.S. changes.

The non-factual information after the election of President Joe Biden has resulted in lawsuits for defamation — such as two lawsuits by Smartmatic and Dominion Voting Systems. The companies are suing Murdoch's Fox Corporation for billions in defamation and named Fox anchors Lou Dobbs, Maria Bartiromo and Jeanine Pirro as defendants.

Dominion Voting Systems sued Rudy Giuliani for \$1.3 billion based on over 50 statements by Giuliani made at hearings, on social media,

his podcast and on Fox News — where Giuliani claimed Dominion Voting Systems "flipped" votes to facilitate President Biden's win. President Biden won by over 7 million votes with several Republican controlled states certifying his election as legitimate.

The headline in the article was headlined by the words "Kam on in." The "news" story claimed that migrant children were being given "welcome" packets with a copy of the Vice President's 2019 children's book, "Superheroes Are Everywhere."

Daniel Dale, a fact checker at CNN, pointed out that The New York Post "temporarily delet-

ed, and then edited and republished," the debunked piece.

An editor's note at the bottom of the current version of the story now reads: "Editor's note: The original version of this article said migrant kids were getting Harris' book in a welcome kit, but has been updated to note that only one known copy of the book was given to a child."

A CNN poll released on April 30 indicates that the "big lie" strategy is working on some Americans. The question "Did Biden Legitimately Win Enough Votes for The Presidency," resulted in Republicans answering "no" 70 to 23 percent.

Continued **Shot** Page 1

already started in parts of the country, as a long line of kids rolled up their sleeves in suburban Atlanta for a first dose Wednesday.

"It just felt like a flu shot, honestly," said Meredith Rogers, 14, from Decatur, Georgia, after getting her vaccination.

Michelle Rogers, Meredith's mother, said she hoped the youth vaccinations would help bring some normalcy back.

"A little apprehensive, but you know what? This is a step towards getting life back to normal so, we're all in," Michelle Rogers said with a slight fist pump.

Pfizer's vaccine has been used for months in people 16 and older, and earlier this week the Food and Drug Administration cleared its use for those as young as age 12. But before rolling it out to the younger kids, much of the nation was awaiting recommendations from CDC's advisers — and the panel concluded the same dose adults use is safe and strongly protective in those 12 to 15 years old, too.

The CDC was expected to rapidly accept its advisers' recommendation.

A key question: Is it OK to get vaccinated against COVID-19 at the same doctor's visit as people receive some routine vac-

inations? That's an urgent back-to-school concern especially for the 12- to 15-year-olds, who have missed out on regularly scheduled vaccines during the pandemic — but it's an issue for adults, too.

The CDC until now has recommended not getting other vaccinations within two weeks of a COVID-19 shot, mostly as a precaution so that safety monitors could spot if any unexpected side effects cropped up.

But the CDC said Wednesday it is changing that advice because the COVID-19 vaccines have proved very safe — and that health workers can decide to give another

needed vaccine at the same time for people of any age.

"The need for catch-up vaccination in coordination with COVID-19 vaccination is urgent as we plan for safe return to school," CDC's Dr. Kate Woodworth told the panel, citing millions of missed doses of vaccines against tetanus, whooping cough and other health threats.

The American Academy of Pediatrics on Wednesday also urged that kids 12 and older get the Pfizer vaccine — and agreed that it's fine to give more than one vaccine at the same time, especially for kids who are behind on their regular vaccinations.

Children are far less

likely than adults to get seriously ill from COVID-19 -- but they do sometimes die, and thousands have been hospitalized. By last month, those ages 12 to 17 were making up slightly more of the nation's new coronavirus infections than adults over 65, a group that's now largely vaccinated.

The two-dose vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech was studied in more than 2,000 kids ages 12 to 15. There were no cases of COVID-19 among vaccinated kids compared with 16 in the group given dummy shots. Kids also developed higher levels of virus-fighting antibodies than vaccinated adults.

Side effects are the same as adults experience, mostly sore arms and flu-like fever, chills or aches that signal the immune system is revving up.

CDC's advisers did caution that those temporary shot reactions may be even more common if people get a COVID-19 shot at the same time as another vaccination.

President Joe Biden hailed Wednesday's vote, noting that means 17 million more people in the U.S. now qualify to get vaccinated.

"I encourage their parents to make sure they get the shot," he said. "As I promised last week, we're

Continue **Shot** Page 6

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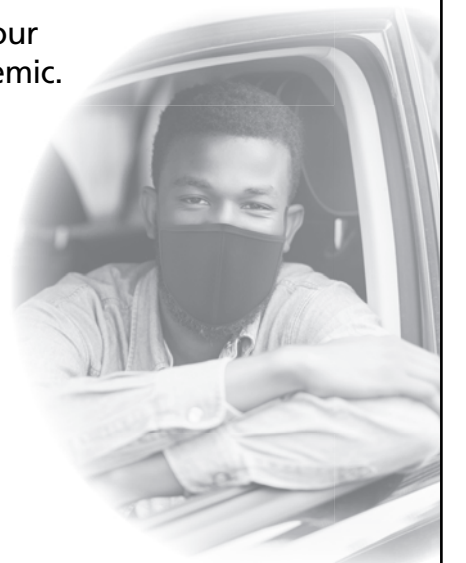
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Middle school entrepreneur starts her own custom-made clothing business



By The HUB/Photo Credit

Continued **Shot** Page 5 ready. This new population is going to find the vaccine rollout fast and efficient.”

In addition to the mass vaccination sites and health department rollouts that were key for adults, many states will be offering kids more familiar options -- shipping doses to pediatricians and even to schools.

Pfizer is not the only company seeking to lower the age limit for its vaccine. Moderna

recently said preliminary results from its study in 12- to 17-year-olds show strong protection and no serious side effects, data the FDA will need to scrutinize.

As for even younger children, both companies have begun tests in youngsters ages 6 months to 11 years. Those studies explore if different doses are needed at the youngest ages, and FDA plans to hold a public meeting next month to debate exactly what evidence is needed.



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DALLAS — Sixth-grade student Kayla Clemmons already knows what it's like to run a business.

She studies at Young Women's STEAM Academy at Balch Springs Middle School (YWSA), plays softball for the Lady Jags and manages her own design company during her free time.

“I see my classmates buying \$45 shirts, and I tell them: ‘you can come to me and I’ll make it for \$20, and I can make it better!’” Clemmons said.

Since she launched Kayla's Designs in December, she's made over two dozen custom-made articles of clothing such as t-shirts, face masks and hoodies. Clemmons sells her products to her classmates and also makes clothes for herself.

“I like to print stuff on clothes that people say to you, or that identifies with them, or something that makes you think of them. I can make whatever people like,” she said. “For my friends, I’ve made birthday shirts, like one that said ‘Birthday Queen in Quarantine.’ I’ve made lots of shirts

for my father, lots of masks for my friends, a lot of K-Pop themed stuff. I made a mask for my dance teacher that says ‘One more time! Always alive!’”

As any successful entrepreneur, she has learned to save some of her profits, spend some for more supplies, and use the rest to buy things that she likes. But one of the biggest rewards, other than the entrepreneurial experience, is seeing her classmates wearing her product, she said.

“It makes me feel great because it tells me that people really enjoy what I make, and that what I make makes people happy,” Clemmons said. Following Entrepreneur Footsteps

Kayla's dad, Keenanlan Clemmons, is the YWSA athletic coordinator and owns a barbecue catering business. He ventured into the small-business world 12 years ago, and his daughter has been his right-hand ever since she was old enough to help.

Kayla has helped her dad improve his food by being the taste-tester, he said. She's also been very dedicated to providing the best presentation of the

product, putting foil around turkey legs, and preparing containers with wax paper, tying bags and writing the customers' names on them.

“For the last six years, she really started picking up on barbecuing,” he said. “She was out with me when we did our first catering order. So when she wanted to do the t-shirt project, I wanted to support her like she supported me.”

When Mr. Clemmons heard that Kayla wanted to start her own company, he began testing her knowledge and her drive. He asked questions about hypothetical situations in business, and began learning about her game plan. Then, he secretly began taking action.


“I helped her put it in motion, but she didn't know that I was putting it in motion. I took everything that she was telling me that she wanted to do and I started moving behind the scenes,” he said. “When she finished helping me with one order one day, I said: ‘Merry Christmas! You want to be independent? You step up and let me know what I can do to help you.’”

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