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The Villager

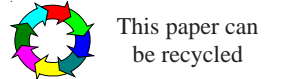


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RAPPIN' Thomas Wyatt

MISFIRE

A poorly maintained firearm is bound to jam if used excessively. Or, maybe the better term is; a misused firearm is bound to misfire.

Whatever the case, that's exactly what happened this past week.

Probably, the saddest is the recent shutdown of the Black News Channel (BNC). Former GOP congressman J.C. Watts founded the network in 2020. It has failed, for the second time, and some 250 Black personnel were let go.

The reason given was that it didn't attract many viewers. BNC was in 50 million cable and satellite homes for the better part of two years.

This is where I talk about that misused firearm again. Exactly, what demographic was J.C. Watts gunning for? A Black former GOP representative, from Oklahoma, with an all-Black network on the cable/streaming circuit, that Black folks had to pay for?

It didn't just misfire, it blew up in his face. And all I can think about is my deep sadness for those whom are out of a job now.

But don't get me wrong. I never watched it either. I didn't believe it was a good idea two years ago...so.

The other misfire was the Oscars. Yet, another program I never watch, just hear about. I saw the clip, though; and I have to be honest. The whole thing looked and sounded faked. Rock and Smith planned that. It imploded...like a catastrophe.

Remember, these two are comics and actors. And they've both done strange things in the past; with not so-clean histories. They both just bleeped-that-up all around.

However, only one thing keeps spinning around in my head since seeing that. Will Smith's son, Jaden.

Remember when Jaden Smith asked for an emancipation from his parents? AT AGE 14??

I'm wondering how many misfires the Smiths has left?!

Ceremonial Moment of Silence & Splash Honoring Joan Means Khabele



Ceremonial Moment of Silence & Splash
HONORING
Joan Means Khabele
OCTOBER 22, 1942 - OCTOBER 11, 2021

**SATURDAY
APRIL 9
10am-12pm**

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION

Civil Rights Activist Who Organized Swim-Ins at Barton Springs Pool

(AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION) - Austin Parks and Recreation invites the public to attend a ceremony at Barton Springs Pool on Saturday, April 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to honor Joan Means Khabele. Her courageous act of swimming in Barton Springs to protest segregation at the pool sparked the civil rights era swim-ins that eventually led to the desegregation of Barton Springs Pool.

The event will include a proclamation, speakers, and water blessing ceremony performed by Geraldo Perez. The PBS documentary featuring Khabele talking about her swim at Barton Springs will be screened at the pool. Additionally, there will be listening booths set-up for community members to share oral histories and personal experiences regarding race and Barton Springs. The oral histories will become part of an exhibit, virtual and physical, that will be featured on

site at the Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center. Over the next few years, Austin Parks and Recreation will continue to collect diverse stories to tell the full history of Barton Springs. This is just the beginning.

Joan Elizabeth Means Khabele was an activist and scholar from Austin. Born at Holy Cross Hospital in East Austin, she attended Blackshear Elementary School and Kealing Junior High. She was among the third group of students to integrate Austin High School in the late 1950s. In her senior year, she was a student leader in activism that led to the integration of Barton Springs and Zilker Park. After not being allowed to swim at her high school senior picnic, she was the first Black person to jump into Barton Springs Pool in an act of civil disobedience. In doing so, she sparked a movement of swim-ins that took place on a weekly basis throughout the summer of 1960.

Important Announcement From Austin Parks and Recreation



Our top priority remains the safety, health and well-being of all participants, staff and the Austin Community. Please continue to remain vigilant and take all necessary steps to ensure you and your family remain healthy and are reducing the risk of illness across the Parks and Recreation Department and at home. We are grateful for your participation in our programs and services. If you have questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact us. For more information on the symptoms of COVID-19 and resources to keep you safe, please visit COVID-19 in Austin | AustinTexas.gov or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | CDC.

INSIDE



Entering the Centurion Club like a BOSS See **LENORA** Page 3



APD wants transparency with new program See **BODY-WORN** Page 6



Rev. Walker fights for women through 'No Mas' See **STAND** Page 7

http://austintexas.gov/covid19
GET THE FACTS | FREE PUBLIC COVID-19 TESTING | TRACKING DIGITAL DASHBOARD
SELF-ASSESSMENT | STAY HOME ORDERS | HEALTH PROVIDERS | CARE