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Black Unemployment Hits Record Low



By Defender News Service

The Black unemployment rate fell to a record low of 5.9 percent in May, dipping dramatically by more than half a percentage point from April.

This new number is the lowest since the government started keeping track in 1972.

President Donald Trump will likely take credit for the new numbers. He wrongly boasted at this year's State of the Union address that his administration had lowered the Black unemployment rate.

"And something I'm very proud of, African-American unemployment stands at the lowest rate ever recorded," Trump said.

However, the Black unemployment rate has been on a steady decline since 2011, according to **Vox**. This movement can be attributed to President Barack Obama's administration. Plus, Trump's administration hasn't exactly been clear about which of their policies

or practices are aiding in this decline.

The new numbers also indicate that the gap between Black and white unemployment has never been smaller, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The gap shrank to 2.4 percentage points, the first time on record it's been less than 3 points, **CNN** reports.

"Looking at the trend for African-Americans, it is very clear that their unemployment rate has fallen markedly over the past seven years," Evan Cunningham, an economist at the BLS, said. "The decline thus far in 2018 looks to be a continuation of this same trend."

There are still some negatives: The rate for black teens is 19.8%, substantially higher than the 11.6% unemployment rate for white teens. And the rate for Black men over the age of 20 is 6.3%, compared with just 4.7% for Black adult women and 3.2% for white men over the age of 20.

Business economists worry bout possible recession in 2020

By Associated Press



A group of top business economists believes the major tax cuts President Donald Trump pushed through Congress will give a significant boost to economic growth this year and next year. But they worry that by 2020, the country could be entering a new recession.

The National Association for Business Economics says in its latest quarterly outlook that its panel of 45 economists expects the economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, to expand 2.8 percent this year. That is down slightly from the panel's March forecast, which put GDP growth this year at 2.9 percent.

The NABE economists are "slightly less optimistic about the U.S. economy in 2018 than they were three months ago," says NABE vice president Kevin Swift, chief economist at the American Chemistry Council.

Part of the drop-off in optimism reflects growing worries about what Trump's get-tough approach on trade might do to U.S. growth prospects.

Three-fourths of the NABE panel believes that current trade policies will have a negative impact on the economy. Trump last week imposed penalty tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from

See **LONG-TERM GROWTH**, page 4

Texas school districts struggled to use law that could stave off state takeover

By Defender News Service



For school districts partner with outside organizations to turn those chronically failing campuses, a recently passed law that allows them a reprieve from state sanctions was supposed to be a lifeline. A year on, less than a tenth of those districts are on track to take advantage of it.

About 60 Texas schools in more than two dozen districts were considered failing for four or more years in 2017, putting them at risk for being shut down by the state next year. Several of those school districts considered using Senate Bill 1882, which allowed them to

partner with outside organizations to turn those schools around and get an extension from harsh state penalties, but only five are currently on track to do so.

Others had trouble meeting the tight application deadline or faced backlash from school communities that protested giving up the management of their low-performing schools, many of which are located in majority Hispanic and black neighborhoods.

"They've taken on a new process, challenging because it is new, See **SB 1882**, page 4

INSIDE



Juneteenth reminds communities of its resilience. See **TRADITIONS** Page 2



WomenHeart Celebrates Heart Disease Heroes. See **WENGER** Page 5



Grassroots group encourages political involvement locally. See **REVOLUTION** Page 6

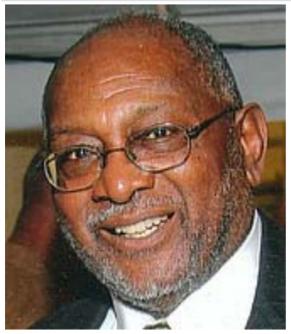
Juneteenth 2018 Calendar of Events

June 9th, 2018 @ 5:pm
Miss Juneteenth Austin "Year of Formation"
Location: Huston-Tillotson University - King Seabrook Chapel
900 Chicon Street, ATX 78702
Tickets: missjuneteenth austin.eventbrite.com

June 16th, 2018
2K Freedom Run/Walk @ 9:30am Historical Juneteenth Parade @10:am
Location: Begins @ MLKing Jr Blvd/Comal to Chestnut Ave., follows the Historical Juneteenth Parade Route.

June 16th, 2018 @ 12:noon - 6:pm
Juneteenth Park Celebration
Location: Rosewood & Boggy Creek Park 2300 Rosewood Avenue, ATX 78702

For more information, please visit: www.juneteenthcentraltexas.com



RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt



Who Will Win The 2018 NBA Championship?



The topic of conversation these days is about the NBA Championship between the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Golden State Warriors. It appears that fans are equally split in their support of their teams.

Some of the sportscasters believe that this series is between LeBron James, arguably the best basketball player on the planet, against the best basketball team on the planet, led by Stephen Curry, and Kevin Durant.

I am of the opinion that it will take more than James to defeat the Warriors. But there are those who believe that James can put the team on his back and win the series. But, what do you think?

One man cannot defeat a powerful team working together for a common cause is my belief. However, LeBron James has already pulled the impossible during this playoff season. (See Boston for reference.)

And since the series will be over before our next issue comes out, I am putting my money on the Warriors, who are the current champions.

As we discuss the game, there are also questions about the future of LeBron James. It is rumored that this will be his last year with Cleveland. However, it is not clear whether this is true. But, if he is leaving Cleveland, it appears that San Antonio would be his first choice.

Go Warriors!!