



CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL



The Villager



A Community Service Weekly Since 1973
4132 E. 12th Street Austin, Texas 78721

www.TheAustinVillager.com

TPA TEXAS PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION



This paper can be recycled



Vol. 48 No. 14

Phone: 512-476-0082

Email: vil3202@aol.com

November 19, 2021



RAPPIN'
Thomas Wyatt

ABNORMAL

I've been asking myself a lot of questions lately.

One of them being: How can *this* be the new normal?

Another one being: Did my parents ever think like I do when they were my age?

We're only a week away from **Thanksgiving**, and I wonder how that's even possible with all the madness surrounding us.

Ezra Blount is gone. He was only **9**; and suffered a brutal death.

This young man wasn't out **joyriding** in some souped-up **corvette**, gunning down a **residential street** at **156mph**. This young man wasn't **threatening** people with an **arsenal** of **guns** on an **Instagram** feed.

Ezra was at a **concert**; with his **dad**. How is it he's gone, but these other **disgrace-to-our-race** morons are still walking around, alive and kicking?

By the way, we need to erase our **HIStory** books. Remember the story about **Malcolm X** being killed by his own people? **Now** it seems that's not at all the case. But that's not the worst part. The worst part is the two men accused of X's murder spent their whole lives in prison for something they didn't do.

The **government** knew this all along and just kept perpetuating that lie. And what's so funny about it is the timing. The **Rittenhouse** trial is over. You got a 17-year-old kid claiming self-defense after gunning down 3 people with an **AR-15** at point-blank range. You smell something?

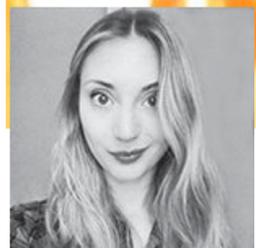
The **Q-Shaman** got sentenced to 3 years in federal prison for his involvement in the Jan. 6 **insurrection**.

3 years? Excuse me; But I could have sworn, in all my time in school, that the Capitol was hallowed ground. Do you believe that if I, along with a few thousand of my rowdy friends, were to do the same thing, we'd get 3 years?

And how about that lawyer down in Georgia who recommends that **black preachers** shouldn't be allowed in the courtroom for the **Ahmad Arbery** trial? IN **GEORGIA!**

This can't be the new normal.

At Least 125 Sue Travis Scott For \$750 Million Over Astroworld Tragedy



by Sara Boboltz
HuffPost

(HUFFPOST) - At least 125 people have joined a lawsuit against musicians Travis Scott and Drake seeking \$750 million in damages after a crowd crush turned deadly at the Astroworld festival in Houston earlier this month.

Headline performer Scott, whose legal name is Jacques Bermon Webster II, had been joined briefly onstage by Drake as a surprise guest for about 50,000 fans.

Ten people died due to compression in the crowd, as audience members were squeezed so tightly together that many of them had trouble moving and breathing. Eight of them were killed Nov. 6 on the festival grounds, while two others died later as a result of their injuries, including a 9-year-old boy who had been watching the show perched atop his father's shoulders.

Leading the plaintiffs is the family of Axel Acosta, a 21-year-old Washington state native who was mortally injured in the crowd. Houston attorney Tony

Buzbee is representing the group - the latest to sue over the disastrous Astroworld festival.

"Axel Acosta loved and adored Travis Scott and the other performers at Astroworld," read a copy of the complaint obtained by People. "The feeling was not mutual; certainly, neither Travis Scott nor his exclusive partners, streaming service, record labels, handlers, entourage, managers, agents, hangers on, promoters, organizers, or sponsors cared enough about Axel Acosta and the other concertgoers to make an even minimal effort to keep them safe."

Apple, which was filming the show, is also named in the suit, along with Live Nation Entertainment, Tri Star Sports & Entertainment, Epic Records, Scott's Cactus Jack Records, event security and other organizers.

"When Axel collapsed, he was trampled by those fighting to prevent themselves from being crushed," the suit reads. "As he lay there under a mass of humanity, dying, the music played and streamed on — for almost forty minutes."

Scott has faced searing criticism for be-

ing slow to take action during his set; he played on for another 37 minutes after officials declared the scene in front of him a "mass casualty event," according to the Houston Chronicle. It's not uncommon for performers to stop a show because of something they see happening in the crowd, but lawyers for the rapper said Scott could not tell what was happening from the stage.

An attorney for Scott did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the latest suit.

Dozens of Astroworld-related lawsuits have been filed in

9-Year-Old Ezra Blount Passes

(VILLAGER) - 9-year-old Ezra Blount, believed to be the youngest victim of the Astroworld tragedy, has died.

Blount sustained severe damage to his brain, kidney, and liver after being "kicked, stepped on, and trampled, and nearly crushed to death," according to the lawsuit filed by his family.

Nine other concertgoers, including a 14-year-old and a 16-year-old, died after a crowd surged toward the stage on Nov. 5, the

wake of the tragedy; civil rights attorney Ben Crump has filed nearly 100 lawsuits so far, working with a team of other attorneys.

The dead included teens and several young adults; the oldest victim was 27.

Scott said shortly after the event that he was "absolutely devastated by what took place."

He offered to pay victims' funeral costs and urged attendees to seek therapy through BetterHelp. Some accused the rapper of seeking to profit from his fans' trauma with the new business partnership.



Ezra Blount

first day of the two-day festival. Astroworld promoter Live Nation said, "We are heartbroken by this news and our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends."

Travis Scott did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

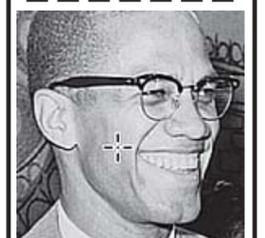
INSIDE



New Netflix film about race, society, and love released
See **PASSING**
Page 2



Silver lining in Bijan's injury
See **ROBINSON**
Page 3



Men Charged with Malcolm X's murder found innocent
See **EXONERATE**
Page 5

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