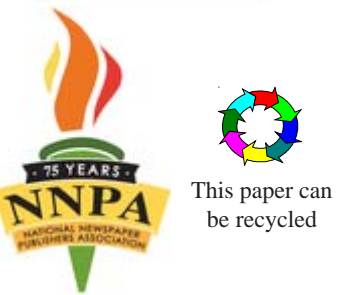




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RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt

Friday Night Lights vs Thursday Night Lights.

There was a time when "Friday Night Lights" featured only White high school football games; African American teams across Texas took to the fields on Wednesday and Thursday nights. The African American teams competed in the Prairie View Interscholastic League while the White schools competed in the University Interscholastic League, which excluded Black schools from membership until 1967. During that period, the records of Black schools were not considered as important as the others.

Today, we all play in one league, but the records of the African American League have very rich history. And those records can be found in a new book written by Michael Hurd. Hurd's book "Thursday Night Lights" brings to light this very rich history. Hurd is an author, freelance writer, and historian who was born in Texarkana, Texas. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and majored in journalism. He is a very noted sportswriter.

In the book, Hurd reminds us of the outstanding players from Texas who have made record for themselves in Texas and many went on to play in the National Football League. He covers fifty years (1920-1970) of high school football history. He features such players as "Mean" Joe Green (Temple Dunbar), Otis Taylor (Houston Worthing), Dick "Night Train" Lane (Austin Anderson), and Bubba Smith (Beaumont Charlton-Pollard). This is a must read for Football fans. It gives you a look at what Black Players had to overcome to make it to the pros and for some to be recognized as Hall of Fame players.

Michael Hurd will be signing copies of his book on Saturday, October 21 at 6 p.m. at Book Peoples, 603 N. Lamar Blvd. For more information call (512) 472-5050.

ESPN Suspends Anchor for Breaking Social Media Rules

by: Pat Eaton-Robb | AP Sports Writer



Hill

File photo showing Jemele Hill attending ESPN: The Party 2017 in Houston, Texas. (Photo by John Salangsang/Invision/AP, File)



Jones



HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — ESPN suspended anchor Jemele Hill on Monday for two weeks for making political statements on social media.

Hill, an African-American co-host of the 6 p.m. broadcast of "SportsCenter," received backlash last month after referring to President Donald Trump as a "White supremacist" in a series of tweets that referenced the president's comments about a deadly White supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Trump later suggested that NFL players be fired for not standing during the national anthem. In tweets on Sunday, Hill targeted Jerry Jones after the Dallas Cowboys owner stated that players who disrespect the flag would not play for his team.

Hill suggested on Twitter that fans who disagree with Jones should boycott the team's advertisers and not buy the team's merchandise.

"Cowboys have a huge national following," she wrote in one of a series of tweets. "Lot of Black & brown folks are Cowboys fans. What if they turned their backs on them?"

She clarified Monday she was not calling for an NFL boycott.

ESPN said in a state-

ment Monday that Hill had acknowledged "letting her colleagues and company down" with the Trump tweet.

"In the aftermath, all employees were reminded of how individual tweets may reflect negatively on ESPN and that such actions would have consequences. Hence this decision," the statement said.

Hill had called the president "a White supremacist who has largely surrounded himself w/ other White supremacists." She wrote that he was "the most ignorant, offensive president of my lifetime." She called him a bigot and said it was the height of white privilege to ignore his white supremacy because it wasn't a threat.

"Well, it's a threat to me," she typed.

Hill did not immediately reply to a request for comment on her suspension.

Before she was suspended, Hill responded Sunday to a Twitter follower who suggested that NFL players would learn a lesson about "getting fired for not doing what your boss requires you to do."

"Because if we did everything the boss said, Americans would still be dying of tuberculosis in factories," she replied.

Aaron Judge Is Showing Why More Black Athletes Should Start Taking Their Talents to Baseball

by: Perry Green | AFRO Sports Editor



Judge

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge runs the bases after hitting a two-run home run during the fourth inning of the American League wild-card baseball game against the Minnesota Twins Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017, in New York. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

As I am a true Baltimore Orioles fan, it hasn't been the most pleasant time watching New York Yankees star Aaron Judge play this year, especially against my O's.

Judge nailed seven home runs with nearly 20 hits against Baltimore this season, so you can understand just how frustrating it is to see him play from an Orioles' fan perspective.

But as an African-American man, I have to admit I'm rooting for this kid every time he takes the batting plate. And his emergence as a young superstar in the sport has me pondering if maybe it's time a lot more of us Black folk start taking our talents to Major League Baseball.

See **ATHLETIC ABILITY**, page 2

Diverse United States Divided on Symbols of Patriotism

by: Russell Contreras and Deepti Hajela | The AP

FREEDMEN'S TOWN, Texas (AP) — When Afghanistan War veteran Joseph Smith saw NFL players take a knee or raise a fist during the playing of the national anthem last month, he wasn't offended — he was proud. Where some saw it as disrespectful, he saw it as patriotic.

"It's not an insult against the flag. It's a stand up of your beliefs," said Smith, 32, a Black community activist in Houston's historic Freedmen's Town, a neighborhood settled by emancipated slaves after the Civil War.

A silent protest against police brutality, started last year by then-San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, has evolved into a statement about patriotism and the nation's symbols,



Joseph Smith

drawing some heated responses — including from President Donald Trump, who referred to an NFL player making a gesture during "The Star-Spangled Banner" as a "son of a bitch" who should be fired.

But for some people of color, patriotism goes beyond standing up for an anthem or a pledge and encompasses many feelings — including protest. Criticism of that expression See **DIVERSE PATRIOTISM** page 7

INSIDE



Meet one of Austin's fearless justice leaders. See **DAVIS** Page 2



Austin residents unite for National Night Out. See **CRIME** Page 5



Housing marketplace eliminates inequity on its platform. See **AIRBNB** Page 6

Last Kerner Commission Member Haunted, Hopeful on Race in US

by: Russell Contreras Associated Press

CORRALES, N.M. (AP) — Nearly 50 years after the Kerner Commission studied the causes of deadly riots in America's cities, its last surviving member says he remains haunted that its recommendations on U.S. race relations and poverty were never adopted.

But former Oklahoma U.S. Sen. Fred Harris says he remains hopeful that one day, those proposals will be implemented.

Harris says poverty and structural racism still enflame racial tensions, even as the nation becomes more diverse.

President Lyndon Johnson created the 11-member Kerner Commission to study a spate of riots in the late 1960s. The panel recommended spending billions on revitalizing poor cities, improving police relations and ending housing and job discrimination.

The 86-year-old Harris lives in Corrales, New Mexico, and is working on a book on the 50th anniversary of the commission's report.