

GA teen sentenced to five years in jail over a pair of sneakers

By Defender News Service



Dayonn Davis after he was arrested in 2016, at age 15, for stealing a pair Nike sneakers. MUSCOGEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A Georgia teen has been sentenced to five years in prison and 10 years probation for stealing a pair of valuable Nike sneakers.

Dayonn Davis, 18, contacted the owner of a pair of black-and-white Nike Oreos on Facebook after seeing the sneakers listed for sale, according to the *Ledger-Enquirer*. At the time he was still 15 years old.

The shoes are said to be worth more than \$100.

At the meet-up point in Columbus, Davis tried on the shoes before telling the seller, "these shoes is took." A friend of his who had tagged along pulled out a gun on the seller before they both ran off.

Davis was caught later when police found the stolen shoes in his closet.

In court, Davis' lawyers tried to argue that he had no juvenile record, even entering a guilty plea for charges of possession of a firearm or knife during the commission of a crime, and armed robbery. Davis was tried as an adult, despite committing the crime while he was still a minor.

Davis told the judge that he made an immature mistake: "I was young at the time, so I wasn't in my right mind."

But Judge Bobby Peters did not buy it and gave Davis the harsh sentence.

"I don't get that," Peters said about the robbery. "Must be some valuable shoes."

11-Year-Old Stops Thief from Stealing Dad's Car, Police Say

by Micha Green | AFRO Washington, D.C. Editor

An 11-year-old Connecticut boy is now a local hero after fighting off a stranger who hopped into his father's car and drove off, before his personal policing forced the suspect to flee.

The Root reported it all started around Saturday, June 2 around 8:30 a.m. when the boy's father left him in the running car while he went into a McDonald's in Hartford.

As the boy was waiting in the car, Edward Asberry, 44, jumped into the driver's seat and drove off with the 11-year-old in the car.

It didn't take long at all for the 11-year-old to defend himself and his dad, when he began physically attacking Asberry until the 44-year-old stopped the vehicle, swiped a backpack, and fled the scene.

The community then hopped into action and witnesses were able to help police find Asberry who was arrested and taken into custody.

"Many citizen wit-



Police say Edward Asberry took a beating from an 11-year-old boy after allegedly stealing the car the boy was in. (Courtesy photo)

nesses assisted with the information to include the suspect's name, description and direction of travel," police said, according to a Fox News report. "There were no injuries. Excellent job by the patrol."

The boy and the car were safely returned to the father.

Besides the beat-down he received from the 11-year-old, Asberry now faces charges of kidnapping, larceny and risk of injury to a minor.

More Controversial Blog Posts By Joy Reid Have Been Unearthed

By Defender News Service



Joy Reid (Photo by J. Countess/Getty Images)

More controversial posts from MSNBC host Joy Reid's now-defunct blog from the mid-2000s have been found this week — and things aren't looking so great.

According to The Hill, the blog posts include criticism of CNN's Wolf Blitzer for being "a former flak for American Israeli Public Affairs Committee" and accusing him of not hiding "his affinity for his Israeli guests or his partisanship for their cause."

In another post, she included a photoshopped image of Sen. John McCain's head on the body of the shooter who carried out the mass shooting at Virginia Tech that killed 32 people. She also raised questions about the 9/11 terrorist attacks that align with "truther" conspiracy theories.

Reid has apologized and MSNBC is standing by her.

Last month, Reid apologized for other posts from the same blog that were deemed homophobic, using her Saturday morning show to take ownership of the comments she made. She had initially denied writing the posts, claiming that she had been hacked.

"I genuinely do not believe I wrote those hateful things," she said. "But I can definitely understand, based on things I have tweeted and have written in the past, why some people don't believe me."

She continued: "I've not been exempt from being dumb or cruel or hurtful to the very people I want to advocate for — I own that, I get it. And for that, I'm truly sorry."

Analysts predict long-term growth unsustainable after Trump tax cuts fade

Continued from page 1

major U.S. trading partners — the European Union, Canada and Mexico — and he has threatened tariffs on up to \$200 billion in Chinese imports, moves that could trigger a global trade war as the targeted nations pledge to retaliate.

The NABE forecasting panel was upbeat on the near-term impacts of the \$1.5 trillion tax cut that Congress passed in December. The median expectation is that the cuts in individual and corporate taxes will boost growth by 0.4 percentage points this year and 0.3 percentage points next year.

The forecasters said the economy should grow 2.7 percent in 2019 after their projected 2.8 percent GDP growth this year. Both projections would be up from 2.3 percent growth in 2017 and the 2.1 percent average annual gains the country has seen since the Great Recession ended in 2009.

However, the Trump administration is projecting a bigger boost, forecasting that the GDP will grow by 3 percent or better over the next decade as the economy gains momentum from the positive impacts of the president's economic program of lower taxes, deregulation and tougher trade policies aimed at reducing U.S. trade deficits.

But many private analysts are more pessimistic, noting that underlying factors such as the retirement of the baby boomers and weak productivity gains will continue to depress long-term growth prospects. The private forecasters believe the positive effects from the Trump tax cuts will quickly fade after the first two years.

Asked when the next recession might begin, two-thirds of the NABE economists saw one starting by the end of 2020, with 18 percent even more pessimistic, expecting the next downturn to begin by the end of 2019.

The current recovery, which began in mid-2009, is currently the second longest expansion in U.S. history and will become the longest if it lasts past June 2019.

SB 1882 "seemed" like a good idea at the time

Continued from page 1

and they've done it in a really hard context of a long-term, low-performing campus," said David Anderson, policy analyst at Raise Your Hand Texas, which has been following the implementation of this law. "It's sort of a perfect storm in the sense of hard to do."

The Texas Education Agency last week made a first round of decisions on six districts' partnership applications, rejecting one district's proposal, approving another's contingent on technical changes and requesting interviews with the proposed partner organizations for the last four. It plans to make final decisions before the next school year begins.

Three years ago, Texas passed a strict law intended to force districts to take responsibility for bolstering schools that failed to meet standards by setting deadlines for improvement and imposing sanctions on those that didn't meet them. After a slow phase-in, the state is poised next school year to impose those sanctions, which include forcibly shutting down schools considered failing for more than three years or taking over the school boards of those districts.

SB 1882 at first seemed like it could offer some help for school administrators in need of more time to implement fixes: districts that partnered with a nonprofit, charter organization or university to overhaul failing schools could receive a two-year reprieve from state penalties as well as additional state funding.

But the process was harder than it seemed. "People go through a couple of stages of this where they initially say, 'Oh my, that's a bunch of money.' Then they see what they really have to do to make it work, and that is daunting," Anderson said.

Dallas ISD Superintendent Michael Hinojosa said he was unwilling to wait months to decide how to proceed with three schools that had been listed as failing for four or five years. "We would be insulting your intelligence as well as any potential partners to have them consider something and have a plan in by March 1," he told board members in November, according to the Dallas Morning News. The TEA released the guidelines in late February and March, and districts faced an April 30 final deadline to submit their applications.

Some Dallas ISD board members and community members also didn't want to give up the reins of their schools, said board member Miguel Solis. Under SB 1882, districts are required to sign contracts giving the charter group or university authority over the schools' operations and employees.

"The fear from some of my colleagues was that the innovation that we are actually doing related to school choice in Dallas ISD would have been at risk

of being taken away from the district's control and basically given away to universities to run as they pleased," Solis said. Instead, Dallas ISD officials are planning to close and consolidate some schools and use the district's own program to try to turn struggling schools around by paying high-performing teachers stipends to work at them.

Solis argued the state should be spending more money on innovative programs districts already have in place. "We have data that shows this is a more effective innovation strategy," he said.

Victoria ISD Superintendent Robert Jaklich proposed partnering with local University of Houston at Victoria to manage two schools that had been failing for five years. It would have received an estimated additional \$1,921 per student — \$2.1 million total — from the state each year of a proposed three-year partnership.

But he couldn't get the contract together in time and so got a terse letter from the state last week saying his request for an extension on state sanctions had been denied. Jaklich isn't too worried about the rejection: he's positive that school leaders have managed to turn those schools around, and that they'll receive passing marks in August's accountability ratings, largely based on standardized test scores. "We're extremely confident that all of them are going to make it," he said.

Not all school administrators are as optimistic. Houston ISD has been the key example for the high stakes of the upcoming state penalties, with 10 failing schools putting Texas' largest district at risk of state takeover. In a disastrous board meeting that ended in multiple arrests, Houston ISD proposed applying for a turnaround partnership to hand over the management of its schools to a charter group called Energized for STEM.

Community members turned out in protest, furious at the drastic proposal on a tight timeline, and district officials and board members backed away from the proposal.

Houston ISD has another option for a reprieve. It could receive a waiver from its state ratings this year because of the massive financial and physical destruction it suffered under Hurricane Harvey — which would delay the sanctions another year.

Anderson thinks more districts will be poised to apply for partnerships next year, with more time to plan, and especially as schools continue to trigger potential state takeover. "The campuses people weren't so concerned about because they were three-year low-performing, if they turn into four-year [low-performing campuses] in August, you have this whole discussion again," he said.