

Ex-Texas A&M Football Player Found Guilty of Murder

By Dallas Post Tribune



In this Nov. 10, 2012, file photo, Texas A&M wide receiver Thomas Johnson (8) after a reception against Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala. (AP Photo/Dave Martin, File)

DALLAS, TX — A former Texas A&M football player accused of hacking a Dallas jogger to death with a machete in 2015 has been convicted of murder.

A Dallas County jury swiftly returned a guilty verdict Tuesday in Thomas Johnson's trial in the killing of David Stevens after the former wide receiver's legal de-

fense declined to call a single witness.

Johnson was accused of waiting on a trail in East Dallas four years ago and attacking the 53-year-old mechanical engineer as he ran by. Prosecutors have said the 25-year-old Johnson confessed to the seemingly random killing and that DNA evidence also pointed to his guilt.

National Urban League Focusing on Minority Voting for 2020

By JESSE J. HOLLAND Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Voter suppression and Russian interference are some of the greatest barriers to minority voting in 2020, the National Urban League said Monday.

This year's State of Black America report focuses on voting rights, and National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial is calling attention to voter suppression and social media interference from foreign government



Voter suppression is one of the greatest barriers to minority voting in 2020, the National Urban League said Monday. (May 6)

"These attacks, from within our nation and from without, are a desecration to the memory of the martyrs who bled and died in defense of our rights," Morial said.

According to the National Urban League, 14 states have more restrictive voter ID laws in place, 12 have laws making it harder for citizens to register, seven cut back on early voting opportunities, and three made it harder to restore voting rights for people with past criminal convictions.

The organization

wants to eliminate discriminatory voter I.D. requirements, expand voter registration, and restore felon voting rights.

"It's no accident that these efforts to suppress the Black vote have coincided with a surge in the diversification of the electorate," Morial said, noting that the projected 2020 electorate is 66.7 percent White, down from 76.4 percent in 2000.

The group called for creation of a national commission and a special prosecutor to elimi-

nate foreign interference.

Russians attempted to interfere with African Americans voting by creating fake identities, including one Luisa Haynes at @wokeluisa, who had more than 50,000 followers. It was fake, created by Russians to manipulate African Americans.

"We can accept nothing less than a clear-eyed accounting of what really happened — and is continuing to happen — and an aggressive, comprehensive plan to combat it," Morial said.

CNN to Make Documentary on Civil Rights Icon John Lewis

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN Films is developing a documentary on civil rights icon and Georgia congressman John Robert Lewis.

The network announced Wednesday that "Gideon's Army" director Dawn Porter is helming the project. She began shooting the 79-year-old Lewis last year ahead of the mid-term elections.

The film will be primarily a cinema verite documentary following Lewis from the election through the congressional battles of 2019.

In a statement, Porter said the need has never been greater for "the type of moral and compassionate leadership that he embodies."

Recent CNN Films releases include "RBG," "Three Identical Strangers" and "Apollo 11," all



This Feb. 24, 2019 file photo shows Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga at the Oscars in Los Angeles. (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP, File)

of which received a theatrical release before appearing on the network.

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NAACP: Search for Coppin State President Lacks Transparency

By The Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — The president of the Baltimore branch of the NAACP says the chair of the search committee for a new Coppin State University president has agreed to meet with him after he complained about the search process.

The Baltimore Sun reports that NAACP branch President Kobi Little said the chair



agreed to meet with him during the search committee's first public meeting on Thursday. The Sun previously identified the committee chair as Katrina Dennis, a regent.

Little charges that the University System of Maryland Board of Regents hasn't been transparent in its search.

The Board of Regents is the state governing body of the university system. The current president of Coppin State leaves June 30.

System spokesman Mike Lurie says the system appreciates Lurie for encouraging community involvement in the search.

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