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RAPPIN' Thomas Wyatt BROKENHEARTED

When I lost my mother, I thought I would never recover. I questioned, "How do I move on from *this*?"

As time passed, my wounds healed. I did recover. Experiencing the pain of her death was almost too much to bear. But as the saying goes, "Whatever doesn't kill you, makes you stronger."

Now, I truly believe that expression.

I *am* stronger. I *must* be.

For, Monday, I lost the greatest love I've ever known. I lost my best friend. I lost my reason for being.

My daughter, my first born child, is no longer with us. She passed away at 2:40pm at just 30 years of age. My baby. I watched her pass; just as I had watched my mother pass.

But this time; the kick in the gut was much harder. Much more...*austere*.

And after several days have passed, I still sit here; brokenhearted.

There's nothing around me that doesn't remind me of her voice, her beautiful smile, or her gorgeous round face.

I cry non-stop; even now.

But - I cry. Ergo, I *live*.

"What ever doesn't kill you..."

And I would be remiss if I didn't say, through both of these tragic events, I've had one constant star over my horizon.

My father.

No, not my heavenly father; but my father:

Mr. Tommie Wyatt.

Without his strength in both of these trying times, there is no way I could have become the man I am today. Not just a man; but a man still standing.

And it is through *him* that I *feel* our heavenly father's true Will, Grace, and Might.

No matter what we face here on earth, there is no Dominion, Power, nor Glory greater than his.

So, to my *angels* looking down upon your son and your daddy; don't worry about me. I will be alright.

To all of you magnificent readers out there; **your** strength is **my** strength. And **our** strength is **HIS** strength.

For, through **HIM**, **WE**...will be alright.

In Loving Memory of Angela Dejuana Wyatt



(1991-2021)



INSIDE

Welcome to Texas, Governor Corona See **ABBOTT** Page 2

R. Kelly labeled a "predator" by prosecutor See **TRIAL** Page 5

Schools invent clever ways to bypass Abbott See **CODE** Page 6

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To The Greatest Love I've Ever Known. Love Always, Daddy

Texas Supreme Court says House Democrats can be arrested and brought to the Capitol, siding with Republicans trying to secure a quorum

BY JOSHUA FECHTER |  THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

(TXT) - Texas House Democrats who refuse to show up to the state Capitol in their bid to prevent Republican lawmakers from passing a voting restrictions bill can be arrested and brought to the lower chamber, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.

The all-Republican court sided with Gov. Greg Abbott and House Speaker Dade Phelan — and ordered a Travis County district judge to revoke his temporary restraining order blocking the civil arrest of Democratic lawmakers whose absences have denied the chamber the number of present members needed to move any legislation.

“The legal question before this Court concerns only whether the Texas Constitution gives the House of Representatives the authority to physically compel the attendance of absent members,” Justice Jimmy Blacklock wrote in the court’s opinion. “We conclude that it does, and we therefore direct the district court to withdraw the TRO.”

The state Supreme Court already has blocked court rulings in Travis and Harris counties to shield the quorum-busting Democrats from arrest — but Tuesday’s ruling signified that it’s legal under the state Constitution for House leaders to compel members to be physically present in the House, even if it means their arrest.

More than 50 House Democrats flew to Washington, D.C., in early July to block the Republican elections bill — a wide-ranging piece of legislation that, among other changes, would place restrictions on mail-in ballots and give partisan poll watchers greater access to polling sites.



The Texas House Democrats held a press conference earlier this month alongside U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, and grassroots organizers at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. (Photo Credit: Shuran Huang for The Texas Tribune)

Democrats and voting rights groups have slammed the bill as a way for the state’s Republican leaders to disenfranchise marginalized voters. Republicans have cast the bill as necessary to improve “election integrity” and reform the state’s voting system.

Abbott tests positive for COVID-19 breakthrough infection

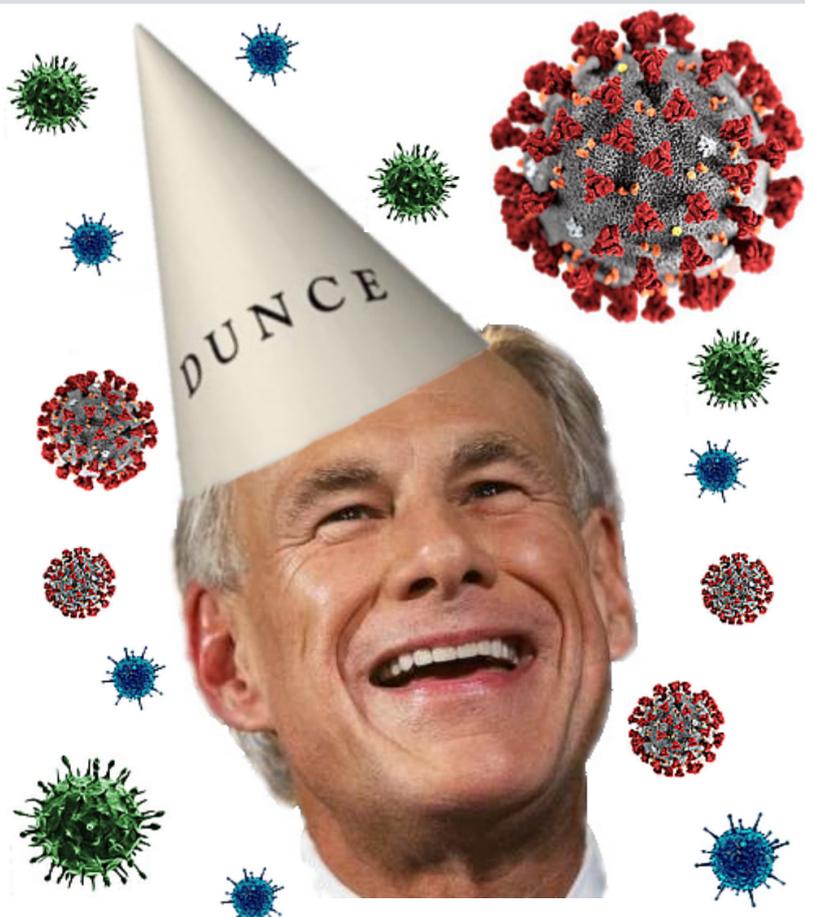
Mychael Schnell
MSN NEWS

(MSN) - Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, his office announced.

The governor’s office said it got the positive result after Abbott, who is fully vaccinated, underwent his routine daily testing. He is currently asymptomatic, but is receiving Regeneron’s mono-

clonal antibody treatment, which is the same regimen former President Trump was given when he tested positive COVID-19 in October.

“Governor Greg Abbott today tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. The Governor has been testing daily, and today was the first positive test result,” the governor’s office said in



a statement.

“Governor Abbott is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, in good health, and currently experiencing no symptoms. Everyone that the Governor has been in close contact with today has been notified,” his office added.

Abbott will now isolate in the governor’s mansion. His office said his wife, Cecilia Abbott, has tested negative.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) refers to breakthrough cases as fully vaccinated people who test positive for COVID-19. The agency says on its website that a “small percentage” of people who are fully vaccinated ultimately test positive for the virus.

Health experts have emphasized that breakthrough infections are rare and usually cause milder symptoms or asymptomatic cases.

Additionally, officials have reported in the past month that the

vast majority of recent COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths are among individuals who are not vaccinated.

The news comes as Texas is seeing a surge in COVID-19 cases, driven largely by the highly infectious delta variant of the coronavirus.

Abbott has consistently stood against mandating coronavirus precautions in Texas.

He signed an executive order prohibiting mask mandates in May, which threatened to fine individuals up to \$1,000 if they try to violate the order by requiring face coverings to be worn.

He issued another executive order last month that said individuals in Texas have “have mastered the safe practices that help to prevent and avoid the spread of COVID-19.”

“They have the individual right and responsibility to decide for themselves and their children whether they will wear masks, open

their businesses, and engage in leisure activities,” he added.

The executive order, according to Abbott’s office, was meant to provide “clarity and uniformity” for the state’s COVID-19 response.

A number of school districts have since defied Abbott’s ban on mask mandates, requiring staff, students and visitors to wear face coverings on district properties.

Gov. Greg Abbott, however, announced last week that the Texas Department of State Health Services would be bringing in out-of-state personnel to help with operations as COVID-19 cases continued to surge.

He also sent a letter to the Texas Hospital Association asking that they voluntarily delay elective medical procedures that can be put off without negatively affecting patients in an effort to conserve hospital space.

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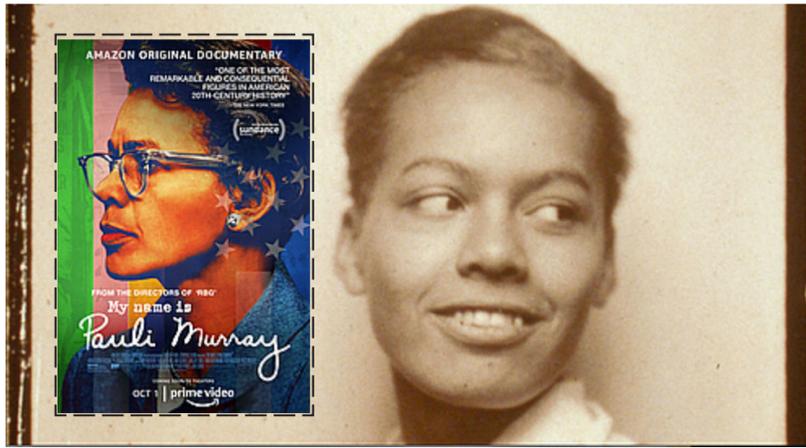
Edited by Naomi Richard
VILLAGER
Entertainment
Reporter

(VILLAGER) - Fifteen years before Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat, a full decade before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned separate-but-equal legislation, **Pauli Murray** was already knee-deep fighting for social justice. A pioneering attorney, activist, priest and dedicated memoirist, Murray shaped landmark litigation and consciousness around race and gender equity.

As an African American youth raised in the segregated South who was also wrestling with broader notions of gender identity, Pauli understood what it was to exist beyond previously accepted categories and cultural norms. Both Pauli's personal path and tireless advocacy foreshadowed some of the most politically consequential issues of our time. Told largely in Pauli's own words, the upcoming Netflix movie **My Name is Pauli Murray** scheduled for release on October 1, is a candid recounting of that unique and extraordinary journey.

Murray pushed against the limits, both the conventional and

My Name is Pauli Murray on Netflix October 1



Brittney Cooper stars in MY NAME IS PAULI MURRAY. Photo courtesy of Amazon Studios. [Inset photo] Movie poster of "My Name is Pauli Murray". Photo courtesy of Amazon Studios.

strict legislation and narrow thinking around issues of race and gender equity.

A visionary, Pauli understood that the same arguments employed to assail Jim Crow laws and other forms of racial discrimination could be made to attack gender inequity and consequently, these insights became a professional signature. Confidante to Eleanor Roosevelt and inspiration to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (who cites Murray in her first Supreme Court brief regarding the Equal Protection Clause), Pauli frequently stood in close proximity to power. Yet the story of Pauli's groundbreaking activism and influential legacy has largely been untold.

Directed by Julie Cohen and Betsy West, **My Name is Pauli Murray** pulls back that veil. This new documentary vividly maps Pauli's journey from a segregated childhood in

North Carolina to integrating classrooms, courtrooms and conferences to sit alongside with the world's most influential powerbrokers. Pauli's course was not unchallenged, yet Pauli used the barriers to inform the world and sharpen the arguments.

Born in 1910 in Baltimore, Maryland, Pauli was taken in at three years old by the maternal wing of the family following the sudden death of her mother. Embraced by loving grandparents and two aunts (Pauline and Sarah), Pauli exhibited a proficiency in reading and critical thinking early on. She saw the vast discrepancies in conditions African American families lived in as compared to their white counterparts. That gulf of injustice settled deep inside.

My Name is Pauli Murray holds close to Murray's extraordinary journey toward self...

the long months of Depression-era vagabonding across America as an androgynous youth; the tumultuous college and post-graduate years, as an ambitious intellectual absorbed in books and armed with a fiery typewriter that allowed words to travel to quarters beyond physical reach.

Rejected by the University of North Carolina for being black, and arrested for refusing to move to the back of a bus, Pauli didn't dodge conflict, even if there was no precedent or model. Yet, there's often an excruciating price paid for being "ahead of one's time." Pauli might have lived the first part of life in the margins, but that did not define her. She felt confidently that those narrow passages never had to be accepted.

Mark your calendars and plan to see this remarkable yet unknown life story debuting **October 1 on Netflix!**

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By John Harris Jr.
VILLAGER Sports Columnist

(VILLAGER) - Acknowledged as America's Team - although folks in New England beg to differ - the Dallas Cowboys, given that they've won a total of four playoff games since their last Super Bowl appearance 25 years ago, are overhyped, over-matched and, most of all, overrated.

Ask the Cowboys, and they'll tell you: "If only." Cowboys fans have heard, "If only" so often, it should be the team slogan.

Last year, it was: "If only Dak Prescott didn't get hurt."

Who knows what this year's excuse will be?

After Prescott suffered a horrific ankle injury that made us cover our eyes because his leg went one way while his

With The Dallas Cowboys It's Always Something

ankle twisted in another direction, they signed Prescott to a record contract - two years too late, truth be told.

If the Cowboys had signed Prescott earlier, there would have been no need to overpay him - the same way they overpaid Amari Cooper, DeMarcus Lawrence, Jaylon Smith, etc., etc., etc. Need I go on?

But that's what makes the Cowboys the Cowboys. Everything is bigger in Texas. Especially contracts given to Cowboys players.

So now that the Cowboys signed Dak and his two playoff wins in five seasons to a groundbreaking deal, Dallas fans have yet to see Dak in action in preseason due to a (wait for it) shoulder ailment that has required not one, but, two, MRIs.

In case you're wondering, yes, it's his right (throwing) shoulder.

Apparently, Dak's ankle bone is connected to his shoulder bone. So we'll just have to wait and see.

Geesh!



Dak Prescott
Photo by Christian Petersen/Getty Images

We've also been told that Dak, who resumed practicing this week, is as good as new and that's there's nothing to see here. But given the Cowpokes' embarrassing track record over the last two decades, it's hard to take anything that owner Jerry Jones says at face value.

The Cowboys play in the weakest division in football - the NFC Least, er, East. Regardless, they should still be able to stumble their way to the division title - with or without Prescott being fully healthy - and host the home playoff game that goes with winning the division.

From there, any-

thing is possible. A Super Bowl maybe? Nineteen different teams have appeared in Super Bowls since the Cowboys defeated Pittsburgh in Super Bowl XXX, and includes the likes of Atlanta (yikes), Tennessee (snicker) and Carolina (you're kidding), who have combined to play in five Super Bowls during that span. New England leads the way during that stretch with 10 Super Bowl appearances resulting in six Super Bowls wins.

We'll just have to keep our fingers crossed and hope there are no more "What ifs" to dampen what looks like another promising Cowboys' season.

'We Neglected To Act': Critics Slam Joe Biden For Failure On Afghan Evacuations



Rowaida Abdelaziz
Reporter, HuffPost

(HUFFPOST) - Refugee groups and Democrats are blasting President Joe Biden's administration for its handling of evacuations from Afghanistan, and for not moving more quickly to help refugees and other vulnerable groups as Taliban takeover seemed imminent.

Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, plunged into chaos this week as the Taliban seized control of the city. The last American troops were set to leave the country in the coming weeks, in what was supposed to be the end of a 20-year war. Disturbing photos circulated online Monday show Afghan civilians and families clinging to a U.S. military plane as it took off, with some falling to their deaths. Another image showed more than 600 Afghans packed on a flight to the U.S.

"We appreciate the efforts the administration is undertaking to ensure the safety and security of those currently in Afghanistan but our government needs to go farther and work faster," Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said Tuesday in a statement. "The United States must ensure refugee processing moves forward without bureaucratic delay, and with special allowances recognizing the difficulty for



A U.S. soldier points his gun toward an Afghan passenger at the Kabul airport on Aug. 16.
(WAKIL KOHSAR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES)

people to leave Afghanistan."

Jayapal also called for the State Department to expedite Special Immigrant Visas, expand Temporary Protected Status - a short-term designation given to eligible nationals from countries affected by armed conflict or natural disaster - and increase humanitarian aid for civilians who fled and are without shelter, food and medicine.

There are currently more than 17,000 Afghan nationals — as well as an estimated 53,000 of their family members — awaiting visa approval through the Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) program, which allows people who worked as translators and interpreters for the U.S. military or NATO in Iraq and Afghanistan to come to the U.S.

A backlog has long plagued the program, and the average processing time per visa is 800 days. Many applicants have waited years for their visas. In the months prior to with-

drawing troops, Democrats and refugee groups alike have called on the Biden administration to act faster to prevent the kind of chaos currently unfolding in Afghanistan.

More than 700 SIV applicants have been evacuated from Afghanistan in the past 48 hours, Department of Defense official Army Maj. Gen. Hank Taylor said Monday in a press briefing. A total of about 2,000 of these applicants are now in the U.S.

A State Department spokesperson told HuffPost that the agency continues "to pursue all options to relocate interested and qualified Afghan SIV applicants and their immediate families, as well as vulnerable Afghans."

Many have said those numbers are just a small fraction of those who urgently need to get out of Afghanistan. Refugee groups are frustrated with the lack of transparency coming from government officials.

"To be quite can-

did, this situation absolutely could have and should have been avoided," said Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, the president and CEO of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). "We had been advocating for a full-scale evacuation of our allies and their families for months now. It was clear to anyone with passing familiarity of the bureaucratic maze that is the Special Immigrant Visa process, it wasn't going to be agile enough to respond to the need."

"We fought side by side for 20 years — surely, we can leave side by side," she said. "No matter your feelings on the war, the undeniable truth is that we had both the means and the time to save those in danger, and yet, we neglected to act in any meaningful way."

Lutheran Social Services has since put out a call for volunteers in the D.C. area to assist with resettlement efforts, including providing transportation, home furnishings and financial contri-

butions to arriving families.

Pentagon officials said thousands of refugees could potentially arrive in states such as Texas and Wisconsin in the coming weeks.

Mark Finney, the executive director at the nonprofit group World Relief Spokane, flew across the country to Virginia over the weekend to help process SIV applications. But he said it's not clear how many refugees are actually expected to arrive immediately.

"We were anticipating that starting yesterday, there would be at least one flight a day, with several 100 people on each flight directly from Afghanistan," Finney said. "We're hoping that flights can resume, but there's a lot of uncertainty."

A bipartisan group of senators on Tuesday wrote a public letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, urging them to create a humanitarian parole category specifi-

cally for women leaders, human rights activists, journalists and other vulnerable Afghans, which would allow for faster relocation to the U.S.

"We and our staff are receiving regular reports regarding the targeting, threatening, kidnapping, torturing, and assassinations of women for their work defending and promoting democracy, equality, higher education, and human rights," said the letter.

Biden doubled down on his decision to withdraw troops in a speech on Monday, although he acknowledged that the Taliban takeover "did unfold more quickly than we had anticipated."

"The past couple of days has been really concerning and very frustrating for us - frustrating in the sense that there's a lot of rapid movements that we need to be planning for," said Manoj Govindaiah, the director of policy and government affairs at the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Educational and Legal Services (RAICES), which has resettled more than 600 Afghan refugees since 2017.

Govindaiah criticized the current and previous administration for not prioritizing the most vulnerable populations in a timely fashion. Asylum-seekers, refugees and other groups of Afghan civilians — not just people applying for SIVs — are in dangerous situations.

"We really need to be looking much more long-term and looking at legislation that can attempt to address this crisis that the United States very much contributed to, if not caused outright," Govindaiah said.

AARP Report Puts Spotlight on 'Consumer Fraud in America: The Black Experience'



By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire
Senior National
Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

(NNPA) - Black adults most often encounter the government imposter, lottery, and work-from-home scams, according to a new AARP report: "Consumer Fraud in America: The Black Experience."

The report authors wrote that for both fake job postings and romance scams, Black adults far outrank White and other racial groups but are on par with Latino adults.

Black and White — and other racial groups — adults rank being targeted by immigration scams the lowest.

Further, Black adults under age 30 are most likely to report being targeted by a scam as nearly 1 in 5 between the ages of 18 and 29 report being targeted by a government impostor or mortgage scam.

The report revealed

that the rank of awareness of scams differs by race.

Compared to White and other racial groups or Latino adults, Black adults reported higher awareness of fake job postings, Covid-19 stimulus payment, work-from-home, tax preparation, and Black Lives Matter scams.

They also reported lower awareness of utility, grandparent, immigration, and business coaching scams.

Incidence of scam awareness also varied significantly by racial groups in the report.

Black adults reported lower awareness of utility, grandparent, and immigration scams than one or both of the other racial groups.

AARP commissioned Precision Market Research, Latino Decisions, and the African American Research Collaborative to

conduct the study, where 2,808 American adults participated.

The study focused on Black and Latino adults.

The researchers concluded that education is critical in helping consumers spot and avoid scams.

However, the survey indicated that Educational efforts about scams and fraud might underserve Black adults compared with White and other racial groups.

According to the report, Black older adults, less affluent, and female, are less aware of scams, putting them at higher risk of experiencing a scam.

Black adults who are men attained a bachelor's degree and reported annual incomes of \$100,000 or more indicate a greater incidence of losing money to

a scam, the report continued.

Compared with White and other racial groups, Black adults are less likely to have robocall protection or have posted their phone numbers to the National Do Not Call Registry; these protections are designed to reduce fraud susceptibility.

In addition to the direct economic consequences associated with scams, the survey identifies physical and emotional health consequences that Black adults suffer after a scam experience.

"Exposure to scams — being targeted and, or a victim — among Black adults was on par with other racial groups, with about one-quarter reporting being a target of two or more scams," the AARP researchers wrote.

"A similar trend ex-

ists among those who report being a victim of a scam, which represents about 1 in 5 adults within each racial group."

The organization reported a troubling trend across all racial groups: more than half of those victimized were victims more than once.

"The proliferation of financial fraud in the form of scams is undeniable," AARP officials wrote on the organization's website.

"Federal data show the highest ever year-over-year rise in fraud reports between 2019 and 2020, and we know that scams are severely under-reported."

"We also know that when consumers are aware of specific scams, they are far less likely to engage with them, and far less likely still to lose money or sensitive information."

Data of more than 40 million exposed in T-Mobile breach



Associated Press NEWS



NEW YORK (AP) — The names, Social Security numbers and information from driver's licenses or other identification of just over 40 million former and prospective customers that applied for T-Mobile credit were exposed in a recent data breach, the company said Wednesday.

The same data for about 7.8 million current T-Mobile postpaid customers appears to be compromised. No phone numbers, account numbers, PINs, passwords, or financial information from the nearly 50 million records and accounts were compromised, it said.

T-Mobile also confirmed that approximately 850,000 active T-Mobile prepaid customer names, phone numbers and account PINs were exposed. The company said that it proactively reset all of the PINs on those accounts. No Metro by T-Mobile, former Sprint prepaid, or Boost customers had their names or PINs exposed.

There was also some additional information from inactive prepaid accounts accessed through prepaid billing files. T-Mobile said that no customer financial information, credit card information, debit or other payment information or Social Security numbers were in the inactive file.

The announcement comes two days after T-Mobile said that it was investigating a leak of its data after someone took to an online forum offering to sell the personal information of cellphone users.

The company said Monday that it had confirmed there was unauthorized access to "some T-Mobile data" and that it had closed the entry point used to gain access.

The company said that it will immediately offer two years of free identity protection services and is recommending that all of its postpaid customers change their PIN. Its investigation is ongoing.

T-Mobile, which is based in Bellevue, Washington, became one of the country's largest cellphone service carriers, along with AT&T and Verizon, after buying rival Sprint.

T-Mobile has previously disclosed a number of data breaches over the years, including in Nov. 2019 and Aug. 2018, both of which involved unauthorized access to customer information. In 2015, hackers stole personal information belonging to about 15 million T-Mobile wireless customers and potential customers in the U.S., which they obtained from credit reporting agency Experian.

Muhammad Ali's grandson Nico Ali Walsh wins first boxing match

by Biba Adams | THE GRIO

(The GRIO) - Nico Ali Walsh, the grandson of legendary boxer Muhammad Ali, wore a pair of his grandfather's boxing shorts for his professional boxing debut on Saturday night.

The middleweight bested Jordan Weeks with a first-round TKO in their fight at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa in Catoosa, Oklahoma.

The 21-year-old is the son of author Rasheda Ali, who is Muhammad Ali's daughter, and chef Bob Walsh.

"This lived up completely to my expectations," Ali Walsh said after Saturday's victory. "This is something I only dreamed of. It's been an emotional journey this whole ride, these last couple months."

He added, "Obviously, my grandfather, I've

been thinking about him so much. I miss him, and it's just an emotional journey."

Bob Arum, the founder of Top Rank Boxing and early Muhammad Ali supporter, celebrated Ali Walsh's accomplishments on Twitter, writing, "What a magical night for this young man. His grandfather would have been so proud of the way he's honoring him in his own way. We at Top Rank are looking forward to leading him on his professional journey."

The fight was held in front of an enthusiastic Oklahoma crowd that included Ali Walsh's godfather, Public Enemy icon Flavor Flav.

Muhammad Ali died in June 2016 after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease.

The young boxer's

Home Depot forced employee wearing Black Lives Matter slogan to quit: report

by Biba Adams
THE GRIO

(The GRIO) - A complaint issued last week by an office of the National Labor Relations Board alleges that a worker at Home Depot was forced to quit after he wore the slogan "Black Lives Matter" on his work apron.

The complaint, which was filed on Thursday, alleges that the home retail giant engaged in coercive statements and concerted activities, including retaliation, discharge, discipline, as well as coercive rules and coercive actions against the unnamed employee. The incidents occurred at a Minneapolis store, however, the exact time frame has not been disclosed.

According to The New York Times, the company told the employee to stop wearing the logo or leave sometime this year. When he refused, he was suspended. The company reiterated its demand that the employee stop wearing the logo or quit.

Minneapolis was the site of extensive racial unrest in 2020 after the police murder of George Floyd by former Minneapolis Police officer Derek Chauvin. That summer, Home Depot released a statement denouncing Floyd's death, writing, "We are all confronting deep pain and anguish over the senseless killing of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and other unarmed Black men and women in our country."

"We cannot ignore that their deaths are part of a pattern of racism and reflect the harsh reality that as a nation we are much too far from fulfilling the promise of equal justice for all," it continued. "We must stand with all who are committed to change that will bring us closer to realizing an end to discrimination and hatred."

The company committed \$1 million to the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, which works to secure civil rights and equal justice for all.

According to a statement from the NLRB's Minneapolis office, the employee wore the "Black Lives Matter" slogan and spoke to other Home Depot employees and managers at the store about racial harassment there — all of which is covered by the National Labor Relations Act.

"Issues of racial harassment directly impact the working conditions of employees," noted Jennifer Hadsall, Region 18 regional director. "The NLRA protects employees' rights to raise these issues with the goal of improving their working conditions. It is this important right we seek to protect in this case."

Home Depot has released a statement via email to The New York Times saying that the facts in the case were misrepresented by the labor board. Sara Gorman, a spokeswoman for the company, said, "The Home Depot does not tolerate workplace harassment of any kind and takes all reports of discrimination or harassment seriously, as we did in this case."

mother, motivational speaker Rasheda Ali, wrote I'll Hold Your Hand So You Won't Fall: A Child's Guide to Parkinson's Disease, a book inspired by her children and her father.

His aunt, Laila Ali, has been heralded as the most successful female boxer in the history of women's boxing. The mother of two is also a fitness and wellness advocate, TV host, home chef and founder of the Laila Ali lifestyle brand.

In a moving weekend post on Instagram, Ali Walsh wrote, "Alhamdulillah for the victory! I'm blessed and honored to say that I continued history tonight. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone that supported me!"

He noted, "I brought my grandfather in the ring with me by wearing his



shorts for the first and final time as a professional fighter. I'm more than proud to say: The Legacy Continues..."

In an interview earlier this week with The New York Times, Ali Walsh said he has never been able to "escape" his grandfather and his lasting legacy.

"I'm starting to embrace it," he maintained. "It's very hard to do, but you have to embrace the legacy, no matter what it is. Everybody becomes stronger when they embrace what they're destined to do."

Years in the making, R Kelly sex abuse trial gets underway

By TOM HAYS | Associated Press



R. Kelly

(AP Photo/Amr Alfiky, file)

NEW YORK (AP) — A prosecutor described sex abuse claims against R&B star R. Kelly Wednesday, saying the long-anticipated trial now underway was "about a predator" who used his fame to entice girls, boys and young women before dominating and controlling them physically, sexually and psychologically.

"This case is not about a celebrity who likes to party a lot," Assistant U.S. Attorney Maria Cruz Melendez told the Brooklyn jury as she explained the evidence to be revealed at his federal trial.

"This case is about a predator," she said.

She said he invited children and women to join him after shows by distributing backstage passes.

Once he had them alone, Melendez said, he "dominated and controlled them physically, sexually and psychologically."

The prosecutor said Kelly would often record sex acts with minors as he controlled a racketeering enterprise of individuals who were loyal and devoted to him, eager to "fulfill each and everyone one of the defendant's wishes and demands."

"What his success and popularity brought him was access, access to girls, boys and young women," she said.

A lawyer for Kelly was expected to deliver an opening statement after Melendez completed hers.

The openings came more than a decade after Kelly was acquitted in a 2008 child pornography case in Chicago. It was a reprieve that allowed his music career to continue until the #MeToo era caught up with him, emboldening alleged victims to come forward.

The women's stories got wide exposure with the Lifetime documentary "Surviving R. Kelly." The series explored how an entourage of supporters protected Kelly and silenced his victims for decades, foreshadowing a federal racketeering conspiracy case that landed in Kelly in jail in 2019.

Prosecutors in Brooklyn have lined up multiple female accusers — mostly referred to in court as "Jane Does" — and cooperating former associates who have never spoken publicly before about their experiences with Kelly.

They're expected to offer testimony about how Kelly's managers, bodyguards and other employees helped him recruit women and girls — and sometimes boys — for sexual exploitation. They say the group selected victims at concerts and other venues and arranged for them to travel to see Kelly in the New York City area and elsewhere, in violation of the Mann Act, the 1910 law that made it illegal to "transport any woman or girl" across state lines "for any immoral purpose."

When the women and girls arrived at their lodgings, a member of Kelly's entourage would set down rules about not speaking to each other, how they should dress and how they needed permission from Kelly before eating or going to the bathroom, prosecutors say. Also, they allegedly were required to call him "Daddy."

Defense lawyers have countered by saying Kelly's alleged victims were groupies who turned up at his shows and made it known they "were dying to be with him." The women only started accusing him of abuse years later when public sentiment shifted against him, they said.

Kelly, 54, is perhaps best known for his smash hit "I Believe I Can Fly," a 1996 song that became an inspirational anthem played at school graduations, weddings, advertisements and elsewhere.

An anonymous jury made up of seven men and five women was sworn in to hear the case. The trial, coming after several delays due mostly to the pandemic, unfolds under coronavirus precautions restricting the press and the public to overflow courtrooms with video feeds.

The New York case is only part of the legal peril facing the singer, born Robert Sylvester Kelly. He also has pleaded not guilty to sex-related charges in Illinois and Minnesota.

Judge Jeffers Announces Run for Travis County Court at Law # 5

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | THE VILLAGER



Sam, Judge Tanisha Jeffers, and Nelson Linder

(VILLAGER) - Just recently, Judge Jeffers held a kick off campaign for the County Court At Law # 5. County Court At Law # 5 is a criminal Court that serves the entire Travis County.

According to Jeffers, "I see, in every case in my courtroom, a chance to hear the people's stories. Therefore, I want to improve Travis County resident trust in the court system; especially communities of color."

Jeffers says she is running because there "is a need to have a judge who will seek to rehabilitate offenders who suffer from drug addiction and mental health issues; not just place them in overcrowded jails." Jeffers wants to implement a "diversionary court" for first time offenders.

As being the only African American woman in this race, Jeffers' campaign has made it a priority to include communities of colors. During the campaign trail, she has repeatedly met with leaders of the African Diaspora communities in Travis County. Moreover, Jeffers believe it is important to inform and get all communities involved in the voting process.

Jurisdiction Fight Over COVID 19 Restrictions.

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | THE VILLAGER



Travis County Judge Andy Brown (Michael Minasi/KUT)

(VILLAGER) - In the past weeks, there has been an increase of COVID-19 cases in Travis County. In the city of Austin, officials have raised the alert to 5 which is the highest alert due to the fast-rising cases. Moreover, the rising cases has caused a rise of hospitalization which has placed a limitation on hospital beds. As a result, local elected Travis County jurisdictions, such as Travis County Commissioner Court and other school districts, have placed certain COVID-19 implementations.

As COVID-19 surges, some local jurisdictions want to implement methods to decrease the curves. Some COVID-19 enforcements include social distancing and wearing facemask. However, Texas Governor Abbott, for political reasons, has chosen to take these various jurisdictions, who places COVID19 enforcements methods, to court.

Consequently, Texas Governor Abbott has taken these cases before the Texas Supreme Court. The Texas Supreme Court has temporarily blocked rulings from two lower courts in Dallas and San Antonio that gave local officials cover to defy Gov. Greg Abbott's order that outlawed mask mandates. However, Travis County Judge Andy Brown states, "the mask mandate in Travis County is still in effect."

Texas school district makes masks part of dress code; circumventing Gov. Abbott's order



By Phil Helsel
NBC NEWS

(NBC NEWS) - A small Texas school district has made facial coverings part of its dress code, in a bid to get around Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order banning mask mandates.

The board of the Paris Independent School District, which has about 4,000 students, said in a statement Tuesday that the governor's order does not usurp its ability to manage schools.

"The Board believes the dress code can be used to mitigate communicable health issues, and therefore has amended the PISD dress code to protect our students and employees," the district said.

The measure — which read "For health reasons, masks are required for all employees and students to mitigate flu, cold, pandemic, and any other communicable diseases" — will be revisited at every monthly trustee meeting and could be changed later, The Paris News newspaper reported.



A group of elementary students wait to have their temperatures checked before entering school. (Allison Shelley/Photo By Allison Shelley For Ame)

The vote was 5-1 to alter the dress code in the district, which will welcome back students on Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended last month that all students in kindergarten through 12th grade wear masks when they return to classrooms, even those who have already been vaccinated.

The vote came the same day that Abbott's office announced that the governor had tested positive for Covid-19. Abbott is fully vaccinated, his office said.

The move from the school district based in the northeast Texas town of Paris comes as some districts in the state are attempting to require masks amid a Covid-19 surge and despite the governor's order.

Driven by the more

transmissible delta variant, Texas has seen an increase in Covid-19 cases that has raised alarms. The state has requested five mortuary trailers from the federal government to store bodies. Abbott has also asked hospitals to delay some procedures to free up beds for coronavirus patients.

Abbott, a Republican, has fought mask mandates and issued an executive order to bar local officials from imposing them. Some school districts did so anyway.

Abbott's executive order is being challenged in court. A disability rights group filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday.

Disability Rights Texas says some students with disabilities have conditions that put them at greater risk of Covid-19 and prohibiting

safety measures is a barrier to education because those students require in-person instruction and the spread of the delta variant could derail those plans.

On Sunday, the Texas Supreme Court blocked mask rules in Dallas and Bexar counties. The high court's orders are temporary pending a court hearing.

Abbott has sought to portray his stance as protecting the freedoms of Texans. "The path forward relies on personal responsibility — not government mandates," the governor said earlier this month.

Some other Republican governors or legislatures across the United States have also banned or sought to ban mask requirements.



Biden Administration Recommends COVID-19 Boosters; Effort to begin Sept. 20



BY NATHANIEL WEIXEL
THE HILL

(THE HILL) - The Biden administration is recommending booster doses for most Americans who received a coronavirus vaccine will in order to combat waning immunity and the prevalence of the delta variant.

In a joint statement Wednesday, top administration health officials said people would need boosters beginning eight months after the second dose of either a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

The officials include: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky; National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins; National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci; Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, and acting Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Janet Woodcock.

"The available data



Dr. Anthony Fauci (right) giving a press briefing at the White House. © Getty Images

make very clear that protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection begins to decrease over time following the initial doses of vaccination, and in association with the dominance of the Delta variant, we are starting to see evidence of reduced protection against mild and moderate disease," the officials said.

Administration of the boosters will begin Sept. 20. At that time, the individuals who were fully vaccinated earliest in the vaccination rollout, including many health care providers, nursing home residents, and other seniors, will likely be eligible for a booster, the officials said.

Booster doses will also be delivered directly to residents of long-term care facilities.

"Based on our latest assessment, the current protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death could diminish in the months ahead, especially among those who are at higher risk or were vaccinated during the earlier phases of the vaccination rollout. For that reason, we conclude that a booster shot will be needed to maximize vaccine-induced protection and prolong its durability," officials said.

The move is subject to an independent evaluation by the FDA to determine the safety and effectiveness of a

third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines and CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issuing booster dose recommendations "based on a thorough review of the evidence."

Officials said they anticipate booster shots will likely be needed for people who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, but they are still examining the evidence, with more data expected in the coming weeks.

Administration of the J&J vaccine did not begin in the U.S. until March, so boosters wouldn't be needed until November at the earliest.



Texas NAACP Unanimously opposes Governor Abbott

(AUSTIN, TX) - The Texas NAACP has unanimously voted to oppose recent actions by our Governor and Commissioner of Education. President Gary Bledsoe said that the State NAACP took the unusual step of encouraging opposition to state adopted policies and even litigation against them because these aren't just mistakes that might hinder Texans, they are deadly mistakes that can lead to many people needlessly dying. State Health Chair Carol Moore said that "the Governor's actions in reference to masking by citizens in general or just those in the public schools are an affront to science." Bledsoe said that "the Governor has previously talked about the sanctity of life and maybe he can be shown how this decision disregards and even makes a mockery of that sanctity. State NAACP Secretary Ericka Cain said our votes encompassed opposing the Governor's orders that limit public officials from using masking as a legitimate means of fighting the spread of the coronavirus including the Delta strain, and an opposition to rules laid out by the Commissioner of

rules that "permit school districts not to disclose to others in a classroom or school that a positive coronavirus test was found in their school, that if one is found there is no obligation to do contact tracing and thirdly even if there is contact tracing and an individual has been exposed the parents have a right to send them to school without disclosing this fact to

others." Cain noted that the votes encouraged school districts to oppose the order, and Moore added that such rules by the Commissioner will only lead to needless death. Bledsoe said he is heartened by the vigilance of our members such as Arlington Branch President and State Vice President Alisa Simmons, Education Chair Phyllis Jones, Health Chair Carol Moore and State Secretary and National Board Member Ericka Cain, along with the Dallas and Houston Branches, for their efforts in bringing important attention to these matters. Bledsoe further noted that in light of some dictum in recent cases, some school districts are surveying parents to determine their level of fear about these decisions and having their children being in the classroom with infected individuals without the protection of masks and he truly encourages such action. Bledsoe said that Vice-President Simmons has already reached out to members of School Boards and the State Board of Education to register our opposition to these very harmful orders and policies.

Education." Bledsoe said the membership felt it was important to take action on these important issues and units such as Dallas and Houston have been working on these issues for some time. State Education Chair Phyllis Jones said that the other matter voted upon was to oppose the Commissioner of Education's decision to make

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AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC) DISTRICT is requesting sealed bids from qualified firms for the purposes of selecting a respondent to provide an Online Tutoring Platform for the following solicitation.

- Request for Qualification; Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) No. 911-22-0241-00-S-M

All bids must be submitted to the Procure to Pay (P2P) Department buyer of record by no later than on Thursday, September 2, 2021, 12:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST). Solicitation documents are available on the ACC website at: <http://www.austincc.edu/offices/purchasing/advertised-solicitations>. All responses must be emailed to the buyer of record, by the date and time indicated above and annotated in the solicitation. Notice: ACC Business Offices and campus locations are currently closed to the public due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. However, the Business Services Office Staff are working remotely TO facilitate the needs of its customers.

Flintco, LLC is requesting proposals for the construction of the COA - ABIAAUS Cargo Development. The work consists of supplying & erecting approximately 90,000 SF pre-engineered metal building with interior finish out.

Proposals will be due on 08/24/2021 at 2:00 PM by email to AUSBids@flintco.com, via SmartBidNet.com, fax at (512) 822-7500, or hand delivery to the Austin office of Flintco, LLC located at 317 Grace Ln., Suite 150, Austin, TX 78746.

Please contact Shannon Brunner (Shannon.brunner@flintco.com) for bid invitations via email or (512) 822-7468.

Flintco, LLC is an EEO Employer and all HUB, Minority and Small Local Business Subcontractors are encouraged to bid.

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC) DISTRICT is requesting qualified firm(s) to submit Requests for Qualifications for the purposes of selecting a respondent to provide **Geotechnical and Material Testing Services** for the following solicitation.

- Request for Qualification(RFQ): #925-210211-00-S-GP-RFQ

All responses must be submitted to the Buyer of Record by no later than on **Friday, September 3, 2021 by 3:00 p.m., Central Standard Time (CST)**. See solicitation documents for details. Solicitation documents are available on the ACC website at <http://www.austincc.edu/offices/purchasing/advertised-solicitations>, or at the P2P Office with seventy-two (72) hours advance notice at (512) 223-1300 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. All responses must be **electronically received** by the Buyer of Record, by the date and time indicated above. **Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 1:30p.m., CST, to be held via Zoom.** See solicitation documents for details.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
On August 31, 2021, at 9 A.M., in the Travis County Commissioners Courtroom on the 1st floor at 700 Lavaca Street, the Travis County Commissioners will receive public comment on the Travis County District Clerk's Records Management Plan for Fiscal Year 2022, which includes the DISTRICT COURTS RECORDS TECHNOLOGY FUND (FUND 139) and RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION FUND (FUND 127). To review a copy of the Plan before the hearing, contact Laura Jimenez of the Travis County District Clerk's Office at (512) 854-9737.

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Sat, Sep 11 @ Arkansas
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Sat, Sep 25 vs Texas Tech
Sat, Oct 2 @ TCU
Sat, Oct 9 vs (6) Oklahoma
Sat, Oct 16 vs (21) Oklahoma St.
Bye Week
Sat, Oct 30 @ Baylor
Sat, Nov 6 @ (10) Iowa St.
Sat, Nov 13 vs Kansas
Sat, Nov 20 @ West Virginia
Fri, Nov 26 vs Kansas St.

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Job 2108031
- Technician, Heating Ventilation
& Air-Conditioning Service Center
Job 2108030
- Specialist, Area of Study Advising
(Student Affairs) Cypress Creek
Job 2108027
- Specialist, CE Recruiting
& Advising
Northridge
Job 2108023
- Assistant, Student Affairs
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The Austin (TX) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated Deputized as Voter Registrants



(AUSTIN, TX) - Forty members of The Austin (TX) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated represented the first organization to virtually participate in an extensive Travis County Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training and Examination for promoting and increasing the registration of citizens in Travis County and the State of Texas. The VDR Training was facilitated by Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar. Matt Flores, Voter Registration Outreach and Training Coordinator, supported

the virtual training. Link Tamela Saldana coordinated the training for The Austin (TX) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. The VDR training of August 2021 represented the second instructional preparation for the Austin (TX) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated; the initial training occurred in October 2019. Volunteering, as voter registrants, allows members of the organization to continue to support community engagements while rendering meaningful contributions to the Austin and surrounding communities.

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- There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems. Many women who've received the vaccine have gone on to become pregnant without any issues. If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, the COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be safe.
- The vaccine may cause mild side effects like a headache, fatigue, and soreness at the injection site, but these are mild and go away in a few days. It's better than getting a severe case of COVID and spending weeks sick or in the hospital.

Misinformation can be dangerous, so empower yourself and do your own research. If you have questions or concerns talk to your family doctor or your Public Health Department or talk to friends who have already taken the vaccine.

You can find more information at austintexas.gov/covid

or call 3-1-1 or 512-974-2000 for more information.



Find a COVID test near you



COVID-19 infection rates are climbing again, and the COVID-19 Delta variant spreads faster and is more contagious than the original strain.

Even if you've been vaccinated, if you have any symptoms or have been exposed, get tested and self-separate from your household until you receive your results.

Symptoms may include: fever, cough, headache, runny nose, loss of sense of smell/taste, sore throat, or diarrhea.

Locate a testing site near you:
www.AustinTexas.gov/Covid-TestInfo
Call 3-1-1 or (512)-974-2000

