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— Abbie Hoffman —



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VOLUME 75 NUMBER 32

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

April 13 - 19, 2023

Tennessee GOP Power Grab Showcases Racism and Disregard for Democracy

The Nashville Metropolitan Council, which unanimously voted to re-seat Jones, continues to face an assault from state Republicans.

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



Photo Credit: NNPA File

The reinstatement of Tennessee Democratic State Rep. Justin Jones and the pending re-seating of his colleague Justin Pearson proved a victory for democracy after Republicans callously used their supermajority power to expel the members.

But the win doesn't overshadow the GOP's unscrupulous and continued

power grab in a state where the Ku Klux Klan first formed in 1866.

The Nashville Metropolitan Council, which unanimously voted to re-seat Jones, continues to face an assault from state Republicans.

This week, a panel of judges ruled that Republican lawmakers cannot cut in half the 40 seats on the primarily

Democrat body.

The GOP's attempt appears to be a retaliation for the Council's refusal to allow Nashville to host the 2024 Republican National Convention.

Despite the combined city-county government system of 40 council members being in effect for roughly 60 years, the GOP wants Nashville to create new

council districts, which many say would usurp the power of Black leaders.

"There is a compelling public interest in preserving the integrity of the Metro election process that is already underway," three state court justices wrote, rebuffing the GOP's attempt to wrest control.

Continue **GOP** Page 2



State Rep. Justin Jones, D-Nashville, center, marches with supporters to the state Capitol Monday, April 10, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)



Expelled State Rep. Justin Pearson, D-Memphis, delivers remarks outside the state Capitol Monday, April 10, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)



State Rep. Justin Jones, D-Nashville, delivers remarks outside the state Capitol Monday, April 10, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn. Jones, who was expelled last week from the GOP-led Tennessee House was reinstated Monday. Legislature. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)

Tom Thumb grocery store coming to the RedBird Community



- See page 4 for additional information -

Report: Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas Violated Ethics Laws with Multiple Super Yacht Cruises with Republican Donor

Justices are required to report all gifts of \$415 or more that are "anything of value" and not fully reimbursed. There's no record of Thomas reporting the gifts or reimbursing anyone for the trips.

By Stacy M. Brown

For more than two decades, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has accepted luxury trips virtually every year from Dallas businessman and Republican mega donor Harlan Crow without disclosing them, a bombshell new report from ProPublica has revealed.

Citing documents and interviews, the nonprofit and Pulitzer Prize winning legal news organization said Thomas who has a salary of \$285,000, has

vacationed on Crow's superyacht around the globe.

Had Thomas footed the bill himself, one trip on Crow's yacht would have set him back a cool half-million dollars.

What's more, the controversial conservative justice often flies on Crow's Bombardier Global 5000 jet. That's a \$70,000 trip.

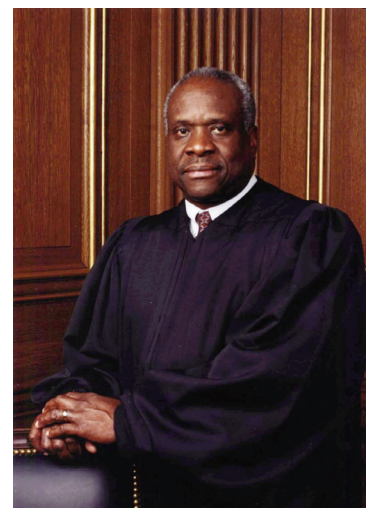
Justices are required to report all gifts of \$415 or more that are "anything of value" and not fully reimbursed.

There's no record of Thomas reporting the gifts or reimbursing anyone for the trips.

"He has gone with Crow to the Bohemian Grove, the exclusive California all-male retreat, and to Crow's sprawling ranch in East Texas," the legal news site reported on Thursday, April 6.

"And Thomas typically spends about a week every summer at Crow's private resort in the Adirondacks."

Continue **Thomas** Page 5



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.
Photo Credit/NNPA Files



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EDITORIAL PAGE

A Grand Jury In Manhattan New York Has Indicted Former President Donald Trump

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



Dr. James Ewers

It is always easier to kick the can down the road and let someone else worry about it. Following a path or making a new path? Most of us have had to answer that question over our lifetime.

Doing something about a problem is always challenging and at times unpopular. The status quo is always the preferred alternative.

Being called a troublemaker or a malcontent are terms that we hear frequently these days. Let us add whistle-blower to that list as well.

Trying to curb the power of corrupt men and women

is not easy. They have been getting away with this vile and sometimes clandestine behavior for so long they believe they are invincible.

Cheating and telling lies don't seem to bother them but it bothers us. Yet we remain silent in too many instances. To use a popular term today, we have "normalized" it.

How can wrongdoing at any level be something that we just accept? What is happening to us and our sense of standards?

Last week, the 45th president of this country was indicted on 34 felony counts. A grand jury in New York city chose to indict Donald Trump. The charges were presented to the grand jury by Manhattan district attorney, Alvin Bragg.

Mr. Trump has entered a plea of not guilty which is not surprising given that he believes he did nothing wrong.

It is my opinion that from the beginning he has held on to the belief that he can do and say whatever he wants to without any consequence.

The record will show that he is the first president in our nation to be indicted yet his supporters simply walk and talk in lock step with him. Nothing is wrong they say.

For example, Senator Mitt Romney has now become a Trump enthusiast as he believes it is some type of witch hunt. This is the same Mitt Romney who denounced Trump after January 6th. Sad for Mr. Romney as it appears he has transitioned to the dark side.

The judge in the case, Juan Manuel Merchan told all parties last week to tone down the divisive rhetoric. This mandate didn't last long with Mr. Trump as he was critical of both the judge and the district attorney at an event held hours after he left New York.

The trial date has not been set yet by Judge Juan Merchan. The prosecution wants the trial to begin in January while the defense wants it to begin in the Spring of next year. We will just have to wait and see.

Popular opinion has Mr. Bragg trying this case. As

we know, he was elected in 2021 and became the first African American to hold that office.

Between now and the trial date, the former president's lawyers will be busy trying to prove innocence out of guilt. They will try to prove evil wins out over good. Good luck with that assertion as it won't work. That is my opinion.

His allies are calling the case weak and without merit. Is there some good in paying off people who have the goods on you? Is there honor in cheating and creating false records?

You and I know there is no honor in his schemes and poor judgements. He has hurt and harmed those around him who had confidence in him. It is my thinking that his political parachute is on the way down.

We the people are seeing Trump's political embarrassment play out right in front of our eyes. He is being shamed with each passing day. History books and historians will not be kind to him.

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Quinn Minute – A salute to my dentists

By Rix Quinn

Every morning when my mirror smiles back, I am grateful to two dentists who have helped me for decades.

They must be darn good, because thanks to regular visits I've retained excellent cuspids, bicuspid, plus a host of workable molars.

I am not the best patient. I nearly always brush my teeth at least once a day, and sometimes use toothpaste.

But I am an excellent flosser. I know this, because

the hygienist complimented me the last visit when she dug junk food from my molars.

Over the years, dentists have worked miracles on two upper front incisors. I call these my "smile teeth." Those are the first things people see when I greet them with a semi-sincere grin.

Problem is, in high school I was in a car wreck. Back then, there were no

shoulder seat belts, so my front teeth slammed into the dashboard.

This left me with half an incisor...very noticeable when sipping a milkshake. But my amazing dentist quickly made me a crown, so I looked presentable enough to pose for senior pictures.

That crown held up for over 35 years, but it came off a few years ago when I bit into a sturdy dinner roll.

My dentist got me scheduled late that day, and crafted a new crown that looks terrific.

Since then, I have taken much better care of my mouth. I bought a new toothbrush, and I have spent more time polishing my ivories.

And – some mornings after brushing -- I'm so impressed I think that if I was single...I would ask myself for a date.

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Continued **GOP** Page 1

The judges represented Nashville, Shelby County, and Athens.

"The Court finds the implementation of the Act and its reduction provisions at this late date results in an upheaval of the election process, risks voter confusion, and potentially compromises the integrity of Davidson County's August 3, 2023, general election," the judges continued.

Separately, the Federal Aviation Administration has halted a Republican plan to have the GOP takeover Metro Nashville Airport Authority board appointments.

The state Senate has sup-

ported chiefly the move in SB1326, and the House was scheduled to hear a similar measure this week.

Reportedly, the FAA Office of Airport Compliance and Management Analysis Director Kevin C. Willis said the agency "has questions regarding the potential impact of transferring the appointment authority of all board members from the mayor of the local community to state-appointed officials."

Currently, Nashville's Democratic mayor appoints board members to the airport, but the GOP wants to take that power from him.

The expulsion of the two Democrats, who vociferous-

ly called on their colleagues to act on gun control after the latest school shooting in Nashville claimed the lives of three elementary school students and three adults, came amid the continued GOP power grab.

The reinstatement of Jones comes on the same day a gunman in Kentucky, believed to be a disgruntled ex-employee, killed five people at a bank in Louisville.

It's the latest in a string of mass shootings that have rocked the nation in recent years, with gun violence continuing to be a divisive and contentious issue.

Some politicians and interest groups have pushed back against calls for stricter

gun control. They say that doing so would violate their rights under the Second Amendment.

As the nation mourns the victims of the Louisville shooting and grapples with the ongoing issue of gun violence, many are left wondering when, if ever, lawmakers will take meaningful action to address the issue. Across the country and in Tennessee, the backlash has been palpable, and even some Republicans have expressed regret for the actions of party members and Sexton, who led the vote to oust Jones and Pearson.

"If my job, along with

Continue **GOP** Page 5

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II CORINTHIANS STUDY

II CORINTHIANS 8:1-24

THE SUBJECT OF CHRISTIAN GIVING

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Having discussed in the first seven chapters on the subject of Christian living, now Paul will deal with the subject of Christian giving in Chapters 8-9. Paul is really dealing with the collection for the poor saints of Jerusalem. Beginning in verses 1-2, Paul relates to us that giving is a grace. He refers to the Macedonian believers as examples in Christian giving. The Macedonians gave out of their deep poverty.

They did not give out of their abundance, but out of deep poverty. Moreover, the gift in which they gave was given willingly, for they first gave of themselves (vv. 3-5). The gift that the Macedonians took up was a grace; thus, it was taken up as a means of sharing of the things of Christ. As believers today, we should have a deep passion to give of our resources so that the work of Christ would continue. In verses 6-7, Titus was

dispatched to administer the Corinthians' portion of the collection, and to give them opportunity to excel in this grace of giving. Paul wanted the Corinthians to excel in giving because giving expresses love (St. John 3:11, 16-18). Paul desired in verses 8-9, that the Corinthians' motivation would not stem from external commands. He wanted the Corinthians' giving to come about out of love to the Lord. The

real motivation for giving is found in verse 9. Christ, leaving the palace of glory, came down and took a place of poverty. He left the stateliness of heaven to dwell down here among the squalor of the earth! He was rich, but He became poor for you and me! The one who was rich, who had everything, became poor, expressing His generosity as He paid mankind's enormous sin debt by giving His life on a cross of shame (Philippians 2:8). In serving as our substitute for sin, Christ became what we were (poor) so that we would become what He was and is (rich)! A material offering to Him, would that be too much?

In verses 10-12, Paul admonished the Corinthians to finish what they had begun; thus, they needed to carry through with their pledge. The Corinthians were to give in commensurate with their means. A guiding principle for giving among churches is equality (vv. 13-15). Paul was not wanting some church to have relief while the Corinthians would be burdened.

In verse 15, Paul cited how God dispensed food to the Israelites in the wilderness equally according to their needs (Exodus 16:16-18). Paul stated in verses 16-17, that he dispatched Titus to get their offering, for Titus was eagerly determined to lend assistance to this project.

In verses 18-21, a highly respected representative would take the Corinthians' gift to its destination in Jerusalem. Paul's motivation in organizing this collection was to honor the Lord. Paul wanted to avoid bringing reproach on the Lord's name through charges of mismanagement or avarice (II Corinthians 8:20).

Finally, in verses 22-24, in addition to the previous brother mentioned in verse 18, and Titus, a third brother was appointed to join the collection team. The honorable team would ensure that there would be no profiting from the collection as it goes to Jerusalem. In verse 24, the Corinthians would demonstrate the proof of their love by their giving!

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LOCAL NEWS

Dallas City Council approves incentive package to bring Tom Thumb grocery store to RedBird

Southern Dallas food desert welcomes full-service chain

DALLAS - Wednesday, the Dallas City Council awarded Albertsons Companies an economic development incentive package to support the development and operation of a new full-service Tom Thumb grocery store located within The Shops at RedBird.

"This community has expressed its desire to have a quality grocery store that offers fresh foods for so long and attracting a grocery store has been one of our biggest priorities ever since we started to reimagine RedBird," said Councilmember Tennell Atkins, Chair of the City's Economic Development Committee. "I'm pleased to say we're making it happen – we can't wait to welcome Tom Thumb to the neighborhood."

The 50,000-square-foot grocery store would sit on five acres at the southeast corner of Camp Wisdom and Westmoreland Roads within The Shops at RedBird redevelopment area. The proposed retail store will be a

full-service grocery store with a pharmacy and a variety of fresh departments: produce, deli, bakery, meat-seafood and floral. Customers will also have the option to shop online for delivery or store pickup using the DriveUp & Go™ service.

"Our new Tom Thumb store at RedBird will bring meaningful jobs to southern Dallas, as well as provide convenient access to fresh food and pharmacy services," said Wes Jackson, Albertsons Companies Southern Division President. "Tom Thumb has been proudly serving the DFW area since 1948, and we know how grocery stores greatly contribute to the health of the local economy. We are honored to be making this investment at RedBird and are grateful for the overwhelming support of Tom Thumb as we embark on building a new store in this community."

The economic development incentive package would include up to \$5.8 million in conditional grants

as well as a five-year business personal property (BPP) tax abatement that equals the City's taxes assessed on 75 percent of the increased value from the grocer's BPP investment during the first five years of store operation.

"Attracting a quality grocery store to southern Dallas has not been easy so we are so pleased that Tom Thumb is committed to bringing healthy food options and more than 90 permanent jobs to this underserved community," said Majed Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager.

The Tom Thumb is just the latest addition to The Shops of RedBird. The more than \$200 million mixed-use development is one of the largest commercial developments in southern Dallas, housing about 450 residents and employing approximately 1,500 people in its new medical facilities, offices, retail shops and restaurants. RedBird Developer Peter Brodsky says the addition of a grocery store has been a priority

for him ever since he purchased the property more than seven years ago.

"It has been a long-term goal at RedBird to offer our community a high-quality grocery store with lots of fresh food options. We could not be more thrilled," said Brodsky. "I especially appreciate Albertsons' understanding that there is a market in southern Dallas for their upscale Tom Thumb product and the City of Dallas' willingness to provide the incentives to Albertsons to mitigate any perceived risks."

"This project meets the priorities outlined the City's recently approved Economic Development Policy by bringing a needed service to this Target Area, which also happens to be a food desert," said Robin Bentley, Director of Economic Development. "We are thankful to Tom Thumb for their partnership and look forward to working with them to bring this grocery store to RedBird."

For more information visit DallasEcoDev.org.

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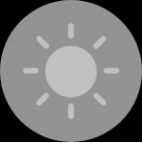

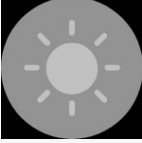
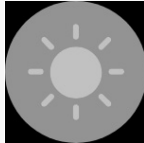
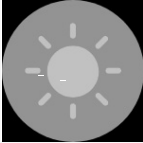




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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

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Mavs GM Harrison stays guarded on NBA probe, Irving, Doncic

By SCHUYLER DIXON



Dallas Mavericks general manager Nico Harrison speaks during an availability with reporters at the team's NBA basketball practice facility in Dallas, Tuesday, April 11, 2023. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks general manager Nico Harrison said he didn't expect the trade for Kyrie Irving to spark a playoff run the way his first blockbuster move did a year earlier.

Missing the postseason completely started the clock early for the Mavs in their attempt to re-sign Irving in free agency and see how the pairing with fellow All-Star Luka Doncic looks long-term.

The exit interview with Irving was Monday, the day after the season ended under the cloud of an NBA investigation. The league announced the probe after Irving didn't play and Doncic was limited to the first quarter when Dallas still had a chance to make the play-in tournament with two games remaining.

Irving and Doncic both

sat for a meaningless season finale after a loss to Chicago in the game in question eliminated the Mavs a season after they went to the Western Conference finals.

Harrison said Tuesday he didn't know much about the NBA's investigation and wouldn't comment further. The 0-2 finish by Dallas put the club in the best position possible to keep a first-round pick that otherwise will go to the New York Knicks from Dallas' 2019 trade for Kristaps Porzingis.

The second-year GM wasn't much more enlightening on the topics of Irving's future and the mindset of Doncic, who openly expressed his frustration with a losing season and said off-court issues were taking away his joy for the game.

"Had a great conversa-

tion," Harrison said of his postseason meeting with Irving, an enigmatic eight-time All-Star acquired in February after telling Brooklyn he wanted to be traded. The move ended a drama-filled stint with the Nets.

"I think the things that he said along the way about how he feels here, how he feels appreciated, how he feels accepted and allowed to be himself," Harrison said. "I think those are the things that he's said kind of consistently, and that's what gives me the optimism that he wants to be here."

Doncic said he didn't agree with, but understood, the decision to sit Irving and four other regulars on the night he played before coming out a few seconds into the second quarter of a 115-112 loss to the Bulls, when a

rag-tag bunch of reserves couldn't hold an 11-point lead in the fourth quarter.

The 24-year-old said in his season-ending interview he was happy in Dallas, and Harrison said he didn't go to sleep at night worried about Doncic's future because the four-time All-Star has three years left before a player option kicks in on the \$215 million rookie supermax contract he signed two years ago.

Still, there's the question of keeping Doncic happy in Dallas with plenty of recent scenarios around the league of unhappy superstars forcing their way out.

"I don't know what keeping Luka happy here means," Harrison said. "If you win, then I'm assuming he's going to be happy. If we win and he's not happy, then I wouldn't know how to keep him happy. So I think the goal is to win. I'm assuming that works. It will work for me."

Before the 2022 trade deadline, Harrison sent Porzingis to Washington in a deal that brought Spencer Dinwiddie to Dallas. Dinwiddie was an important piece of the run to the West finals, but he went to the Nets along with defensive ace Dorian Finney-Smith in the deal for Irving.

Harrison said the difference between the outcomes in the two trades was the Mavs were already on a roll when they made the move last year. This year, a team that couldn't find the same defensive formula got even worse on that end without Finney-Smith, and never found traction.

Biden Issues Proclamation for Black Maternal Health Week

On Monday, April 10, President Biden issued another proclamation to begin Black Maternal Health Week.

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia



Photo Credit/NNPA Files

In 2022, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra implemented actions to improve maternal health and reduce health disparities, and this year, the Biden-Harris Administration has continued to champion policies to improve maternal health and equity.

Vice President Kamala Harris convened a meeting with Becerra and other Cabinet leaders amplifying a whole-of-government approach to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity.

On Monday, April 10, President Biden issued another proclamation to begin Black Maternal Health Week.

The president called the week a reminder that so many families experience pain, neglect, and loss during what should be a joyous occasion.

Biden called it urgent that all act.

"Black women in America are three times

more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women," the president remarked.

"This is on top of the fact that women in America are dying at a higher rate from pregnancy-related causes than in any other developed nation."

He insisted that tackling the crisis begins with understanding how institutional racism drives these high maternal mortality rates.

Studies show that Black women are often dismissed or ignored in hospitals and other health care settings, even as they suffer from severe injuries and pregnancy complications and ask for help, the president reminded.

He said systemic inequities are also to blame.

"When mothers do not have access to safe and stable housing before and after childbirth, they are at greater risk of falling ill," Biden exclaimed.

Continue **Health** Page 6

Continued **GOP** Page 2

other members of the RNC, is to protect the brand of the Republican Party, this didn't help," Oscar Brock, a Republican National Committeeman from Tennessee, told the New York Times.

"You've energized young voters against us. Worse than squandering support, you've made enemies where we didn't need them."

He continued:

"Even in Tennessee, we have swing districts in the State House and Senate, and

if you've angered tens of thousands of students and presumably their parents, you could theoretically expose yourself to a united front," Brock demanded. Black residents have rallied throughout Tennessee to call attention to the discriminatory politics occurring in the state.

Angelo Tate told television reporters that the GOP's removal of Jones revealed what he believed was a hidden truth.

"He's Black, he has our interests at heart, and he

gets removed for protesting. That is racial," Tate, 31, said.

"It makes us feel like our choice and our voice is not valued and we seem to be moving backward politically."

Rachel Tate, 30, told NBC News that "It's messed up. All [Jones] wanted to do was represent us, and he got penalized for it."

"White men don't care what we think," Tate said. "They took our representative away from us. It's like our vote doesn't matter."

Continued **Thomas** Page 1

The extent and frequency of Crow's apparent gifts to Thomas have no known precedent in the modern history of the U.S. Supreme Court, and ProPublica further notes that the trips appeared nowhere on Thomas' financial disclosures.

"His failure to report the flights appears to violate a law passed after Watergate that requires justices, judges, members of Congress and federal officials to disclose most gifts," the site reported, citing two ethics law experts.

Thomas, the experts said, also should have disclosed his trips on the yacht.

"It's incomprehensible to me that someone would do this," Nancy Gertner, a retired federal judge appointed by President Bill Clinton, told ProPublica.

When she was on the bench, Gertner said, she was so cautious about appearances that she wouldn't mention her title when making dinner reservations: "It was a question of not wanting to use the office for anything other than what it was intended."

Virginia Canter, a former government ethics lawyer

who served in administrations of both parties, said Thomas "seems to have completely disregarded his higher ethical obligations."

"When a justice's lifestyle is being subsidized by the rich and famous, it absolutely corrodes public trust," said Canter, now at the watchdog group CREW. "Quite frankly, it makes my heart sink."

As ProPublica noted, federal judges sit in a unique position of public trust.

Each justice enjoys lifetime tenure, which is supposed to inoculate them

Continue **Thomas** Page 6

R. Jay Berry returns to the publishing scene with the release of 'The Help Chronicles'

New book shares a collection of true stories depicting the varied forms of the word 'help'

DeSoto, Texas — R. Jay Berry, in her latest publication titled "The Help Chronicles" (published by Xlibris), shares her experiences as she took on the role as a caregiver in the family.

This book details the meaning of the word "help" through true events. These stories depict how help can be required, can be requested, can be provided, and can be received. It is the author's hope that the examples shown in these stories will help deliver the powerful and important messages the weight of this four-letter word has.

"The overall theme of 'The Help Chronicles' is to

explain that help is a part of everyone's life in one way or another," Berry states.

"The Help Chronicles" will appeal to anyone who has been a caregiver, been in a situation where they need a caregiver, or known anyone who needs help. The book is now available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. However, if you would like your personal autographed copy and also meet author R. Jay Berry, she will be at the official book launch on April 29, 2023, from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Parks Mall Barnes and Noble in Arlington, Texas.

About the Author

R. Jay Berry is the best-selling author, storyteller, educator, and inspirational speaker. She was born in Dallas, Texas where she received her formal education from Ursuline Academy, Texas Woman's University, and Amber University, respectively. After her retirement from the Dallas Independent School District where she served 30 years, the author released "The Sunday Rose Trilogy" — "The First Sunday," "Sunday's Best," "Sunday's Eternal Rose" as well as the "Forever Series" — "Forever Love," "Eight on Ten Forever Friends," and "Forever Stylish Praying Clara." All of her



R. Jay Berry

books carry the themes of faith, family, and friendships. She is a member of the New Mount Gilead Baptist Church and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Juror: Texas governor's rush to pardon shooter a 'travesty'

By ACACIA CORONADO

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — An alternate juror in the trial of a U.S. Army sergeant convicted of murder said Wednesday that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's rush for a pardon is an "egregious overreach" to wipe aside the jury's unanimous decision over a 2020 shooting during a Black Lives Matter protest.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Jere Dowell said prosecutors put on a convincing case against Daniel Perry, who was in his car working as a ride-share driver when he shot 28-year-old Garrett Foster, who had been legally carrying an AK-47 while marching with demonstrators through downtown Austin.

As an alternate, Dowell did not have a vote in convicting Perry but said she was in the room for deliberations and she agreed with the verdict handed down Friday.

"I just think it's a travesty," Dowell said of Abbott already seeking a pardon.

Her comments are the first time a juror has spoken publicly since Abbott, a Republican, announced Saturday he would use the power of his office and seek to wipe away the verdict. Legal experts have called the governor's move highly unusual and prosecutors condemned it as troubling.

Abbott made his inten-

tions known on Twitter less than 24 hours after the verdict and amid outrage from conservative voices on social media and television over the conviction.

"I just thought it was an egregious overreach of power," Dowell said. "It's undermining due process. It's undermining democracy. I was upset, honestly."

Perry, who was on active duty at the time of the shooting, is still awaiting sentencing from a judge. He faces up to life in prison.

Dowell, who said she has not previously supported the three-term governor politically, said she worried that Abbott wading into the case could cause other jurors to second-guess their decisions. She said the verdict was strictly based on evidence, following 17 hours of deliberation, and politics did not factor in.

"If your governor is coming out and saying you made the wrong decision, that may make you think twice about what you said or what you felt," she told AP.

The AP has attempted to reach all jurors who served during the weeklong trial in Austin. Others have declined to speak about the case or not returned messages.

Spokespersons for Abbott did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment Wednesday.

State Representative Yvonne Davis Recognizes DeSoto High School Football Team



State Representative Yvonne Davis recently recognized the DeSoto High School Football Team on winning the 2022 UIL 6A Division 2 State Championship with House Resolution No. 20 during their visit to the State Capitol. State Representative Davis is pictured with Head Coach Claude Mathis, along with players Crimson Mathis and Brandon Booker as well as other members of the championship football team.

Continued Health Page 5

barriers traveling to the hospital for prenatal and postpartum checkups, they are less likely to remain healthy. Air pollution, water pollution, and lead pipes can have dangerous consequences for pregnant women and newborns. And when families cannot afford nutritious foods, they face worse health outcomes."

He claimed his administration has penned the blueprint for addressing the maternal health crisis, an agenda that lays out specific actions the federal government would take to improve maternal health and secured funding from Congress to help implement it.

"Vice President Kamala Harris has been a leader on the issue of maternal mortality for years and led the charge to improve maternal health outcomes, including by issuing a call to action to address disparities in maternal care," Biden stated.

"She continues to elevate the issue nationally, convening State legislators, medical professionals, and others so all mothers can access the care they need before, during, and after childbirth."

The president continued: "Additionally, my American Rescue Plan gave States the option to provide a full year of postpartum coverage to Medicaid beneficiaries — up from just 60

days of coverage.

"As a result, my Administration has approved requests from 30 States and Washington, D.C. to provide women with Medicaid coverage with a full year of postpartum coverage, and we have made this option permanent for every State that extends Medicaid postpartum coverage.

"My Administration has helped facilitate Medicaid expansion in four States since I took office, and I continue to call on the Congress to close the Medicaid coverage gap.

"We are also working to expand and diversify the maternal health workforce, helping health care providers hire and train diverse and culturally competent physicians, certified nurse midwives, doulas, and community health workers to support women during pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum care."

The president's budget includes \$471 million to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates, improving access to care in rural communities, expanding implicit bias training for health care providers, and further supporting the perinatal health workforce.

"This week, as we continue our work to make pregnancy and childbirth safe, dignified, and joyful for all, let us remember that health care should be a right and not a privilege."

Continued Thomas Page 5

from feeling any temptation toward corruption.

Intentionally, a code of conduct for federal judges below the Supreme Court requires them to avoid even the "appearance of impropriety."

Members of the high court, Chief Justice John Roberts has written, "consult" that code for guidance.

However, the Supreme Court is left almost entirely to police itself.

And many opine that Thomas has exploited that privilege and, along with his wife Ginny, have thumbed their noses at Democracy.

"The most glaring example of the Supreme Court's ethical vacuum is Clarence Thomas," political colum-

nist Jonathan Chait wrote for New York Magazine.

"The right-wing justice has operated, in conjunction with his wife, in the center of a network of conservative activists whose project is indistinguishable from his legal work."

Meanwhile, ProPublica reported evidence that Thomas has taken even more trips on the superyacht.

The report noted that Crow often gave his guests custom polo shirts commemorating their vacations.

ProPublica found photographs of Thomas wearing at least two of those shirts.

In one, he wears a blue polo shirt embroidered with the Michaela Rose's logo and the words "March 2007" and "Greek Islands."

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