

“It’s important to make sure that we’re talking with each other in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds.” ~ Barack Obama



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ISSN # 0746-7303

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VOLUME 74 NUMBER 30

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

April 7 - 13, 2022

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 54 Years Later

On April 4, 1968, an assassin’s bullet ended the dynamic life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the age of 39.

King stood on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, a site that’s now a museum dedicated to the civil rights

champion’s life.

James Earl Ray ultimately pleaded guilty to shooting King but later claimed he was a pawn in a more significant crime ring to kill the African American leader.

On the 54th anniversary of King’s death, observanc-

es took place around the nation, while those not attending specific events took to social media to commemorate the icon.

“We spend more time celebrating [King’s] birth than acknowledging where he was politically when he was killed – fighting along-

side sanitation workers, opposing war, racism, and capitalism,” historian and author Barbara Ransby wrote on Twitter.

“April 4 reminds us of the power of the radical King,” Ransby noted.

Continue **MLK** Page 3



On the 54th anniversary of King’s death, observances took place around the nation, while those not attending specific events took to social media to commemorate the icon.

Obama’s White House Visit Stirs Laughter, Memories and New Health Care Proposal



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris laugh as former President Barack Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, April 5, 2022. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Article **Health** Page 2

Judge Jackson’s Historic Confirmation Assured After Three GOP Senators Say ‘Yes’

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

The final tally of 53-47 included GOP Sens. Mitt Romney of Utah, Susan Collins of Maine, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Dick Durbin, a Democrat from Illinois, said out loud on Monday what many may have thought about the Supreme Court nomination hearings where Republicans verbally lynched Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

“Judge Jackson is a better person than me,” Durbin announced.

As the committee advanced Jackson’s nomination and, with three Republicans announcing their support for the judge, it’s all but assured that a Black woman will sit for the first time on the highest court in the land.

Continue **Judge** Page 5

Motown Legend Smokey Robinson Causes Social Media Stir Saying He Resents Being Called African American



Photo: Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden greets Smokey Robinson at the Kennedy Center Honors Medallion Ceremony at the Library of Congress, December 4, 2021.

Photo by **Shawn Miller**/Library of Congress.

Legendary singer and songwriter Smokey Robinson has come under fire – at least on social media – because the icon said, “Black is a race,” and that “I resent being called African American.”

“I resent being called African American because Black people have contributed so much to the development of the United States of America,” Robinson, 82, stated during a virtual appearance on The View, which has since gone viral.

“I think that when you do

that, you’re disclaiming all the things, the contributions that Black people have made to America,” he said.

The icon’s comments reflected those he made nearly two decades ago during an appearance on Russell Simmons’ Def Poetry when he recited a poem that he hoped would educate individuals about the Black experience.

While some backed the entertainer, others trolled him.

“The facts that ‘Black is

Continue **Smokey** Page 3

By **Stacy M. Brown**,
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EDITORIAL PAGE

Lessons Republicans Can Learn From Ukraine

By Dr. John E. Warren, Publisher, The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint

While Russia brought almost 200,000 troops against the people of the Ukraine, the most impressive thing was not the numbers of the attackers, but the unity of the people who rose up to meet the assault on their culture and their way of life. The Republican Party here in the United States is much like the Russians, attacking a way of life without regard for life or property. The destruction of life and property is much like the assault on our democratic institutions such as the fair election of a President of the United States, according to our own Constitution. Yet, the Republicans, much like the Russians, have no regard for anything that exists outside of their own marching orders.

Just take a look at the hearings to nominate Judge Ketanji Brown

Jackson to the United States Supreme Court. Like the Russians looking at the institutions and culture of the Ukraine, yet bent on destruction of the same with no regard for their value, the Republicans understand the value of the U.S. Supreme Court and the importance of those who serve. These same Republican senators have twice voted to confirm Judge Jackson to two courts, yet, this time, Senators like Mitch McConnell and Lindsey Graham, who have voted twice for her in the past, now refuse to vote to confirm this Black woman to the highest Court in the land. To support their insanity, they created concepts like Judicial Philosophy, which have nothing to do with service. Interestingly enough, the Constitution does not even require that a

Supreme Court Justice be a lawyer, just get confirmation.

As the Russians left and are continuing to leave the bodies of men, women, and children in the streets as symbols of the human carnage of their war crimes, so are bodies being left in the streets of this country as the result of mass shootings by weapons so many Republicans refuse to outlaw like AK-47 assault rifles, which have nothing to do with the Second Amendment Right to keep and bear arms.

Yes, like the Russians, the Republicans do not care about the threat to democracy and the way of life it guarantees to all Americans. While some allow the use of bullets others prefer Voter Suppression, the removal of polling sites, and penalties for eating or drinking while waiting in



Dr. John E. Warren

long lines to vote. The good news is that we, the American people, still believe in democracy, our constitution, and equality for all. Like the people of Ukraine, we can unite and fight the inhumane and conspiratorial conduct of our Republican Russians. Like the people of Ukraine, we must rally around democracy and fight with the weapons of our institutions and our votes to remove the Russians among us.

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Obama's White House Visit Stirs Laughter, Memories and New Health Care Proposal



NNPA File Photo

Written By
Stacy M. Brown

With the style, grace, and humor that personified his two terms in office, former President Barack Obama returned to the White House to help celebrate the Affordable Care Act and help announce plans to strengthen his signature law which many refer to as Obamacare.

"It's good to be back at the White House," Obama declared, much to the delight of an overflow crowd of reporters and onlookers in the East Room.

With President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris standing alongside him, Obama referred to the current commander-in-chief as "Vice President Biden."

That brought laughter from all, including Biden,

who would later jokingly declare, "My name is Joe Biden, and I'm Barack Obama's vice president."

Of course, Biden served as vice president under Obama from 2008 to 2017. Donald Trump took the reigns from January 2017 to January 2021.

"It feels like the good old days – being here with you brings back so many good memories," Biden declared.

It marked the first time Obama had visited 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue since leaving office.

"I confess, I heard some changes have been made by the current president since I was last here," Obama remarked.

"Apparently, Secret Service agents have to wear Aviator glasses now. The Navy mess has been replaced by a Baskin-Robbins. And there's a cat running around, which I

guarantee Beau and Sunny would have been very unhappy about," he continued, in reference to the president's dogs.

Turning serious, Obama reflected on celebrating 12 years of the Affordable Care Act.

"It's an example of why you run for office in the first place," Obama asserted.

"We're not supposed to do this just to occupy a seat or to hang on to power. We're supposed to do this because it's making a difference in the lives of the people who sent us here." Biden said the Affordable Care Act had been called a lot of things.

"But Obamacare is the most fitting," he declared.

The President vowed to expand access to health care by proposing a change to Obamacare that would allow more eligibility for premium tax credits.

"Once today's proposed rule is finalized, starting next year, working families in America will get the help they need to afford full family coverage," Biden said.

"With this change, it's estimated that 200,000 presently uninsured Americans are going to gain coverage. Nearly one million Americans will see their coverage become more affordable."

Under the President's plan, families would receive tax credits if the cost of their coverage exceeds more than 10 percent of their incomes.

The U.S. Treasury Department said the change would allow 200,000 uninsured individuals to gain coverage while more than 1 million others would realize lower premium payments.

"Thanks to the landmark American Rescue Plan, ACA premiums are at an all-time low, while enrollment is at an all-time high," the administration said in a Fact Sheet.

"Four out of five Americans can find quality coverage for under \$10 a month, and families are saving an average of \$2,400 on their annual premiums — \$200 in savings every month back to families."

The Fact Sheet continued:

"The Administration has lowered costs and increased enrollment to a record high of 14.5 million Americans—including nearly 6 million who newly gained coverage."

"With the addition of Missouri and Oklahoma, two states that expanded Medicaid last year, nearly 19 million low-income

Continue **Health** Page 5

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Pastor Daryl R. Carter

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Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Devotional Service 6:30 p.m.
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
Bible Class 11:00 a.m.
Support Groups 6:30 p.m.

Continued **MLK** Page 1

Maya Wiley, the incoming president of The Leadership Conference, also provided remarks via social media.

"[On April 4], 1968, Martin Luther King was assassinated for believing we are equal, shouldn't be poor, and have rights," Wiley asserted.

"Today, we're told to fear learning about race or gender identity, to permit voter suppression, and that a highly qualified Black woman isn't Supreme Court material. We have work to do."

One day before King's assassination, the civil rights leader gave his last speech where he proclaimed that he'd been to the mountain-top.

In a sad prophecy, King prepared his followers for his demise.

"It really doesn't matter what happens now," he insisted.

"We've got some difficult days ahead," he continued before doubling down.

"But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place.

"But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land.

"I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man."

Rev. Jesse Jackson, who

attended King's last speech and stood nearby at the Lorraine Motel when the assassin cut down his colleague, participated in an event at Mt. Olive CME Church in Memphis to help commemorate the 54th anniversary of that dark day.

"It's sad for me. I was with him when the shot was fired," Jackson remarked.

"I can replay it back of my mind. It hurts still. I think about the progress we've made since that time."

Jackson joined Bishop Henry Williamson Sr. and others in Memphis to observe the anniversary.

"The 54th-anniversary celebration of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the most important dates in Tennessee and across the nation to observe," Williamson stated.

As part of the observance,

Williamson, Jackson, and others visited the National Civil Rights Museum, which stands at the Lorraine Motel, and the historic Collins Chapel Connectional Hospital, the only hospital in Memphis that allowed Black people during segregation.

"Dr. King called for non-violence to bring about change against unjust and immoral laws in situations of segregation and discrimination. We need that in today's world," Williamson said.

Illinois Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth agreed.

"We will never forget Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for all he did to change the course of our nation's future for the better," Duckworth stated. "Today, it falls upon all of us to continue his legacy."

Written By
Stacy M. Brown

Continued **Smokey** Page 1

a race' and 'African American is an ethnicity' really whoops y'all's asses," Twitter user @Elle_Spencer_ wrote in response to Robinson, calling him an "idiot."

Twitter user @LifeDutchee, a self-described retired drug dealer, also went in on Robinson.

"A man born in the 1940s is on the internet telling people to drop the African and just call him Black American. Cause he had never been to Africa. What's the stages of Dementia?" the social media user replied.

Others objected to the icon's detractors.

"I understand what Smokey Robinson is explaining," Twitter user @gracefully_Tori wrote. "I love being called Black American as well. I thought I

was the only one who didn't like to be called African American."

Once identified by Bob Dylan as America's "greatest living poet," Robinson, a Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and Songwriters' Hall of Fame inductee, still stuck to his guns.

"I consider myself to be a Black American, and I enjoy being called Black, and Black has been so negativized as a color down throughout history by those who wanted to negativize it," Robinson explained, adding that contributions by Black people should be recognized similarly to their white peers.

"And so, it spilled over into the Black community and to the Black people. And even Black people back in the day calling each other Black was a sign for a fight."

Continue **Smokey** Page 4



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Parkland staff offer support for abuse victims April is National Sexual Assault Awareness & Child Abuse Prevention Month

DALLAS – The month of April holds two important awareness topics: sexual assault and child sexual abuse prevention. In 2020, it was estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2-17 were victims of physical, sexual, or emotional violence. During the early months of the pandemic, researchers say a greater proportion of older children reported the abuse after stay-at-home orders went into effect.

Increased isolation and a widespread shutdown during COVID-19 stripped the chance of schoolteachers and healthcare providers to notice bruises on children, or increased depression where psychological or sexual abuse may have occurred.

The World Health Organization defines child maltreatment (CM) as “the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age.” The National Library of Medicine reported that school closures decreased the extent that children interacted with mandated reporters and other professionals trained to detect child maltreatment, meaning a correlated decrease in child maltreatment reports.

“Both sexual assault and child abuse are vastly under-reported crimes for several reasons,” said Sheyla Camacho, Public Health Educator, Victim Intervention Program/Rape Crisis Center (VIP) at Parkland Health. “It is important to remember that it is never the victim’s fault.”

Current available studies cannot fully assess the lasting impacts of COVID-19 and child maltreatment. “Child abuse is an unfortunate tragedy and what is understood is that there have been well-documented cases that show increases in child maltreatment in association with increased parental

stress,” said Camacho. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health, parental stress increased during the pandemic because of fear of the virus, job loss, new rules and mandates, and transitions to virtual work and schooling.

Parkland’s VIP service offers help at different stages whether the victim is in the hospital where advocates are paged and offer knowledge about safety planning, rights, and local resources. “We don’t know what we don’t know,” said Camacho. “An advocate helps create knowledge and options for the victim and with knowledge comes power.”

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center has designated April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month in recognition of the widespread prevalence of sexual assault nationwide. The theme of this year’s observance is “Building Safe Online Spaces Together.”

A Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults says compared with 2017, a similar share of Americans experienced any type of online harassment – but more severe encounters have become more common such as sexual harassment. And with more Americans at home using their online devices due to the pandemic, that creates more opportunities for predators to make a virtual connection.

The “Building Safe Online Spaces Together” campaign promotes the notion of practicing digital consent, intervening when we see harmful content and behaviors, and encouraging online communities that value respect, inclusion, and safety.

Camacho says that because sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including

online, it is important to know that Parkland has resources for survivors regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation. “Being able to bring these tough conversations to the surface will hopefully bring more empowerment to the community to speak up and speak out about abuse. The truly incredible part of the VIP Clinic is that advocacy, counseling, and education and outreach services are completely free for Dallas County residents over the age of 4.”

At Parkland, every person seeking care is screened for abuse, whether it’s physical, sexual or emotional. Parkland’s VIP/Rape Crisis Center offers a 24-hour response for victims seen in Parkland facilities and provides information about emergency shelters, legal assistance and other services. Spanish-speaking staff is available and services in other languages are offered through medical interpreters.

Over the last 24 years, Parkland’s VIP/Rape Crisis Center has assisted thousands of survivors of sexual assault. In 2021, the Center served 3,090 clients with a total of 3,586 counseling hours provided. In comparison, the Center served 2,683 victims of sexual assault, family violence, or assault in 2018. “In Texas, two in five women and one in five men have been sexually assaulted,” Camacho stated.

Parkland’s Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program provides specialized care to victims of sexual assault who come to the Parkland Emergency Department. SANEs are registered nurses who have completed education and clinical preparation in the medical forensic care of patients who have experienced sexual assault or abuse.

Camacho says everyone

can play a role in preventing abuse by spreading awareness in their community about child abuse/neglect and sexual assault. She suggests supporting survivors by spending quality time with them by doing things that make them feel strong and healthy. In cases involving sexual assault and/or child abuse, over 80% of the time the victim knows the perpetrator. She recommends validating instead of victim-blaming. Create an open line of communication with loved ones because, she says, when we talk about trauma, victims will respond differently with a fight, flight, freeze or appease reaction.

To act, she recommends people attend a presentation or a class regarding these topics to further educate themselves, volunteer at a shelter, or donate to organizations that support survivors.

If an abusive situation arises personally or an individual knows of someone experiencing traumatic experiences and needs immediate assistance, call the Parkland Rape Crisis Center hotline at 214-590-0430. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has a central place to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a minor by calling 800-252-5400. The National Sexual Assault Hotline is available 24/7 by phone at 800-656-HOPE.

To make an appointment with a counselor or find out more information about Parkland’s services, please call the VIP/Rape Crisis Center at 214-590-2926.

For more information about Parkland services, visit www.parklandhealth.org/vip. Contact: Chelsea Kretz, 469-419-4400, Chelsea.Kretz@phhs.org

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2312	Millionaire Club - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.50	\$50	5/4/22	10/31/22
2318	Veterans Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.40	\$2	5/18/22	11/14/22
2323	Cowboys - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.79	\$5	5/18/22	11/14/22
2324	Houston Texans - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.79	\$5	5/18/22	11/14/22
2360	Hit \$500 - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.10	\$5	5/18/22	11/14/22
2363	25 Days of Winning - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.87	\$5	5/18/22	11/14/22
2379	Red Hot \$100,000 - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.01	\$5	5/18/22	11/14/22
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US experts discuss COVID boosters for the fall and beyond

Continued **Smokey** Page 3
 He concluded:
 “I resent being called African American because


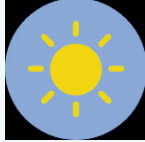
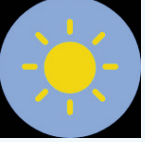




Black people have contributed so much to the development of the United States of America. The wonderful Black American,

who served in the armed forces and gave their lives in all the wars.
 “They did not do that for Timbuktu or Capetown, or

Kenya. They did that for Louisiana and Mississippi and Texas and Virginia. Okay? So that’s how I feel about it.”

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Apr. 7  H - 68° L - 48°	Friday, Apr. 8  H - 72° L - 54°	Saturday, Apr. 9  H - 76° L - 55°	Sunday, Apr. 10  H - 82° L - 63°	Monday, Apr. 11  H - 78° L - 63°	Tuesday, Apr. 12  H - 77° L - 61°	Wednesday, Apr. 13  H - 73° L - 51°
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Continued Judge Jackson's Confirmation Page 1

The final tally of 53-47 included GOP Sens. Mitt Romney of Utah, Susan Collins of Maine, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

Sen. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) expects final confirmation by April 9.

"My support rests on Judge Jackson's qualifications, which no one questions; her demonstrated judicial independence; her demeanor and temperament; and the important perspective she would bring to the court as a replacement for Justice [Stephen] Breyer," Murkowski said.

"She will bring to the Supreme Court a range of experience from the courtroom that few can match given her background in litigation."

On Twitter, Romney announced that Jackson is a "well-qualified jurist and a person of honor" who "more than meets the standard of excellence and integrity."

The most recent committee hearing appeared headed on a spiral toward earlier confirmation sessions when Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who three times had voted to confirm Jackson to other seats, spewed more venom. "[Jackson] is embraced

by the most radical people in the Democratic movement to the exclusion of everybody else," Graham spouted.

He also referred to Jackson as an "activist" judge, noting that if the GOP controlled the Senate, she would already have been voted down.

"If we get back the Senate and we are in charge of this body, and there [are] judicial openings, we will talk to our colleagues on the other side, but she would not have been before this committee if we were in charge," Graham railed.

However, Durbin praised the nominee's restraint in the face of unhinged GOP senators who many suggested posed questions that bordered on being racist and obscene.

"She stayed calm and collected, showed dignity, grace, and poise. It is unfortunate that some moments in our hearing came to that. But if there's one positive to take away from these attacks on her, it is that the nation saw the temperament of a good strong person ready to serve on the highest court in the land," Durbin asserted.

As most observers

Continue **Judge** Page 6

Tiger Woods plans to play the Masters and thinks he can win

By DOUG FERGUSON



Tiger Woods drops golf balls on the driving range during a practice round for the Masters golf tournament on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Augusta, Ga. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Two words can go a long way when Tiger Woods is behind them.

No one would have been surprised if Woods never played golf again after a car crash in Los Angeles that damaged his right leg so badly he said doctors raised the prospect of amputation. Out of the public eye for nine months, Woods sent hopes soaring last November with a video of him swinging the club with a simple message, "Making progress."

And here he is at Augusta National, making a Monday practice round feel like Sunday at a major because of the gallery, walking the steep slopes, swinging well and making it clear he has every intention of playing in the Masters.

Does he think he can

win?

Woods offered the shortest answer of his press conference: "I do."

He said Tuesday he is planning to play and thinks he can win. Never mind that it will be 508 days from the last time he played a tournament where he had to walk, or that he returns to this Masters with screws and rods still holding the bones in place in his right leg.

Woods also is 46. He would be the oldest Masters champion by three weeks over Jack Nicklaus.

The biggest question is how he holds up over 18 holes for four straight days. Woods walked 18 holes last week — his first big test — during a scouting trip with 13-year-old son Charlie (including a stop at the Par 3 course).

He played the back nine

on Sunday, the front nine on Monday.

Woods plans nine more for Wednesday and then it's "game time." He is to tee off at 10:34 a.m. Thursday with Louis Oosthuizen and Joaquin Niemann.

"I can hit it just fine. I don't have any qualms about what I can do physically from a golf standpoint," Woods said. "Walking is the hard part. This is normally not an easy walk to begin with. Now given the conditions that my leg is in, it gets even more difficult."

"Seventy-two holes is a long road and it's going to be a tough challenge," he said. "And a challenge that I'm up for."

That might be the biggest reason Woods is even at Augusta National for more than the sushi and miso-glazed cod and Wagyu beef that defending champion Hideki Matsuyama put on the menu for the champions-only dinner Tuesday night.

If he never plays — if he never wins — Woods said he is satisfied with what he has achieved.

"I think 82 is a pretty good number," Woods said. "And 15 is not too bad, either."

His 15 majors are second only to Jack Nicklaus and his 18, the gold standard in golf. He is tied with Sam Snead for the PGA Tour

career record with 82 wins.

So why keep coming back? What else is there to prove?

"I love competing," Woods said. "And I feel like if I can still compete at the highest level, I'm going to. And if I feel like I can still win, I'm going to play."

"I don't show up to an event unless I think I can win it. So that's the attitude I've had," he said. "There will be a day when it won't happen, and I'll know when that is."

Shortly after he spoke, the starting times were released. Woods is helped by being part of the early-late rotation, meaning he will have some 22 hours between rounds.

Otherwise, Tuesday was mostly a wash. Woods wasn't planning on anything more than working on the range, anyway, and even that worked in his favor. Heavy storms moved over Augusta about the time he finished his work, and the course was closed the rest of the day.

As long as Woods has been part of Masters lore — Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer once predicted he would win more green jackets than both of them combined (10) — the reality is rust from no serious competition and a body that has endured at least 10 surgeries to both legs and his back.

Continued **Health** Page 2

Americans are enrolled in the ACA's Medicaid expansion coverage, adding up to a record nearly 80 million children, pregnant women, seniors, people with disabilities, and other low-income Americans covered by Medicaid."

The administration said it's seeking to fix the "family glitch" in the ACA law.

"Under the ACA, people who do not have access to 'affordable' health insurance through their jobs may qualify for a premium tax credit to purchase affordable, high-quality coverage on the ACA's health insurance marketplaces," administration officials stated.

"Current regulations define employer-based health insurance as 'affordable' if the coverage solely for the employee, and not for family members, is affordable, making family members ineligible for a premium tax credit even though they need it to afford high-quality coverage through the Marketplace."

The officials added that for family members of an employee offered health

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coverage through an employer, the cost of that family coverage can sometimes be prohibitive and make health insurance out of reach.

The "family glitch" affects about 5 million people and has made it impossi-

ble for many families to use the premium tax credit to purchase an affordable, high-quality Marketplace plan, officials stated.

Biden's proposal reportedly would require some time before taking effect. Thus the goal is for it to

begin in January.

Administration officials said more than 14.5 million people purchased ACA marketplace plans this winter.

That number included 6 million who purchased health insurance for the first time.

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"An arts education helps build academic skills and increase academic performance, while also providing alternative opportunities to reward the skills of children who learn differently."

- Gavin Newsom



THE BLACK ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH DALLAS ISD SCHOOLS

Harold W. Lang | T.W. Browne | Mark Twain
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Darius R. Booker | Leena Conquest | Dorian Collier | Randryck Lewis
MARION MEADOWS, Guest Artist



THE BLACK ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS PARTNERS WITH DALLAS ISD FOR NEW AFTER SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

DALLAS, TX 03/31/2022— After an abrupt pause due to the COVID pandemic, **The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL)** has launched a new After School Program in partnership with five Dallas ISD schools: *Harold W. Lang, T.W. Browne, Ronald E. McNair, Adelle Turner and Mark Twain.* Billed as **"PERFORMING ARTS MATTERS,"** the program will use Music, Theatre and Dance as a vehicle for helping students to improve their literacy and language, (including culture), vocabulary. Additionally, the program is designed to help students develop and cultivate their creativity, expand their critical thinking skills, and expose them to alternative avenues for problem solving. "I am extremely excited about this program because of the fifteen Dallas based professional artists/teachers who accepted to be a part of this new venture," said Curtis King, the Program Director and the Founder and President of TBAAL. "Their broad and varied levels of professional experiences will be an inspiration to many of the students who rarely get an opportunity to work one-on-one with these calibers of artists."

The twelve-week program runs from 3:30pm to 6:00pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and will culminate with a grand finale presentation on Friday, April 29, 2022 – 7:30pm at TBAAL, 1309 Canton Street, Dallas, TX. 75201.

"We are glad to work with TBAAL on this exciting partnership," said Merrill Devenshire, Director of Extended Learning Opportunities. "The arts do matter because our students matter."

Continued **Judge** Page 5 speculated, the Senate Judiciary Committee split down the middle, voting 11-11 along party lines on Jackson's Supreme Court nomination. But even that came with some hitching. Traveling from

California on the same flight as the troubled passenger, Padilla didn't show up until late Monday. Padilla's vote counted as desperately needed to advance Jackson's nomination with the committee voting along party lines. Unlike other ballots cast in the Senate, only dissent-

ing votes are allowed when attempting to advance a nominee out of committee. D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton said while the vote to advance and ultimately confirm Jackson "is historic," there's still some emptiness for the District of Columbia.

Batiste, joyful performances highlight Grammy Awards

By DAVID BAUDER



Jon Batiste performs "Freedom" at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, April 3, 2022, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

Jon Batiste had the most Grammy Award nominations and his five wins outpaced everyone, yet he somehow seemed the biggest surprise on a joyous night for music that washed away some of the bad taste left by the Oscars a week earlier.

Batiste's "We Are" won the prestigious album of the year award Sunday over music heavyweights like Tony Bennett, Billie Eilish, Taylor Swift and Ye, who changed his name from Kanye West. Batiste ended his dance-filled performance of "Freedom" during the show by jumping on Eilish's table.

Silk Sonic won four Grammys, including song and record of the year for the duo's smooth soul hit, "Leave the Door Open." Olivia Rodrigo's three awards included best new

artist. Foo Fighters, Chris Stapleton and CeCe Winans also won three each.

Yet Batiste captured the mood of a night where, despite some somber moments, the live performance skills of music's best artists were on full display after COVID-19 had put much of the concert industry on pause.

"I was having such a good time," Batiste said backstage after the show, describing the moment when Lenny Kravitz announced his best album victory. "I was hanging with my family, when my name came and the 'We Are' title was said by Lenny — such a full circle moment because we played together when I was 16. It was surreal."

The versatile Batiste, music director on Stephen Colbert's "Late Show," also won Sunday for his song

"Cry," the video for "Freedom" and his work with Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross on the soundtrack for "Soul."

Kravitz had performed "Are You Gonna Go My Way" in a duet with H.E.R., his guitar skills and wardrobe unchanged since the song came out in 1993.

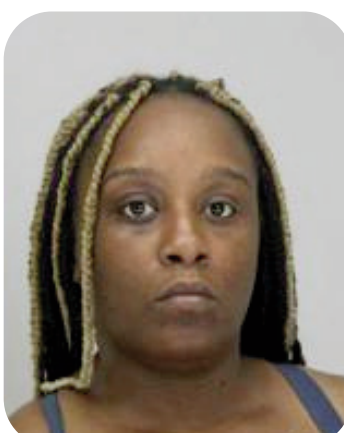
H.E.R. was still on a high backstage when she relived the moment.

"I watched Lenny growing up," she said. "I literally studied all his videos of his performances. He's one of the reasons why I wanted to play guitar."

The show was a clear contrast to the bad vibes from the Oscars a week earlier, which will forever be remembered for Will Smith smacking comedian Chris Rock after taking offense at one of his jokes.

NEWS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW!

Police: Mom who blamed toddler's death on road rage arrested



(Dallas County Sheriff's Office via AP)

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas woman who said her 3-year-old son was killed in a road-rage shooting has been arrested on a child endangerment charge, police said Thursday.

Lacravivonne Monique Washington, 26, kept a handgun in her sport utility vehicle where it was accessible to her children, ages 2-4, who were unrestrained, according to a

Dallas police affidavit.

The investigation began Monday when Washington brought her son Jalexus Washington to Medical City of Dallas hospital with a gunshot wound to the head. The child died, and the mother told police that he had been shot by an unknown person in a road-rage shooting.

Investigators found no evidence of a road-rage shooting at the location the mother specified. But they did find a handgun in the glove compartment of Washington's vehicle, which had no child restraints, the affidavit said.

In a follow-up interview, Washington told police that her children were climbing back and forth from the back seat to the front when she heard two gunshots and found her son wounded, according to the affidavit.

An autopsy revealed that the boy had powder burns around his wound. That

indicated that he had been shot at very close range and ruled out a road-rage shooting, the affidavit stated.

Washington could be sentenced to up to two years in state jail if convicted. She was in Dallas County Jail Thursday with a bond set at \$25,000. Court records list no attorney for her.

Paul Quinn College Announcement

Paul Quinn College celebrated its 150th anniversary with multiple announcements. On Friday, April 1, during its Founder's Day Convocation. The school announced the formation of an exploratory committee to potentially expand to the Bay Area (Oakland, California), partnership with Lancaster ISD, and a five-year capital campaign to support its students and build its endowment.

