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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

August 31 - September 6, 2023

Trump’s Use of Scottsboro Boys Case Comparison

Raises Eyebrows and Ire of Judge

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



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Former President Donald Trump, known for his gaslighting statements and actions to fuel the fire of racism, drew criticism from a federal judge for invoking the 1931 Scottsboro Boys case in a bid to delay his upcoming election interference trial. Trump’s legal team cited the landmark Supreme Court decision related to the Scottsboro case, arguing that special counsel Jack Smith wasn’t allowing suffi-

cient time for trial preparation. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan swiftly rejected the comparison and scheduled Trump’s trial for March 2024, one day before Super Tuesday. The judge emphasized that the case’s timeline did not reflect undue haste and pointed out Trump’s access to a capable legal team and ample resources for a thorough defense.

Trump currently faces four charges in the election inter-

ference case, including conspiring to defraud the United States and obstructing an official proceeding—charges previously filed against those involved in the January 6, 2021, Capitol breach. He has pleaded not guilty. The 2024 GOP presidential frontrunner currently faces 91 felony charges in four jurisdictions – New York, Washington, Florida, and Georgia – most related to his loss to Joe

Biden in 2020. If convicted on all counts, Trump could receive a more than 800-year prison sentence. Due to the complexity of the election interference case in Washington, John Lauro, Trump’s attorney, expressed concern that the trial date would compromise the former president’s right to effective legal counsel.

Continue **Scottsboro** Page 3



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

The New Color of Hate Speech:

Vivek Ramaswamy’s Controversial Remarks Draw Condemnation from Congressional Black Caucus

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

The Congressional Black Caucus has denounced Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy for his repeated racist remarks that have furthered the racial divide and exposed even more hate in America’s political landscape. Though born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Ramaswamy is the child of Indian Hindu immigrant parents, which has left many questioning his controversial statements’ true intentions and motives as he seeks an unlikely bid for the GOP nomination.

Ramaswamy’s non-European American heritage and immigrant background certainly add a layer of perplexity to his alignment with certain extremist elements within the Republican base, reminding African Americans that true allies remain hard to come by. The candidate’s recent town hall event in Pella, Iowa, garnered significant attention for his declaration that “our diversity is not our strength.” Such a statement flies in the face of how Ramaswamy and the extreme right in his party have worked against calls for unity and inclusivity nationwide.

Continue **Hate** Page 4

Historic March on Washington Anniversary

Commemorated with Calls for Continued Civil Rights Struggle

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

On the anniversary of the iconic March on Washington, civil rights leaders and a diverse coalition of allies convened at the historic gathering site to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and advocate for renewed commitment to social justice. The event, convened by the Kings’ Drum Major Institute and the National Action Network, aimed to rekindle the spirit of the 1963 march, which played a pivotal role in advancing civil rights and voting rights legislation.

The original March on Washington, a cornerstone of

the civil rights movement, drew approximately 250,000 participants in 1963. Its influence paved the way for significant legislative milestones, including the passage of federal civil rights and voting rights laws in the 1960s. The erosion of voting rights, recent Supreme Court rulings that impact affirmative action and abortion rights, and the rise of hate and violence against marginalized communities, however, punctuate the current commemoration.

Martin Luther King III, the

Continue **March** Page 4

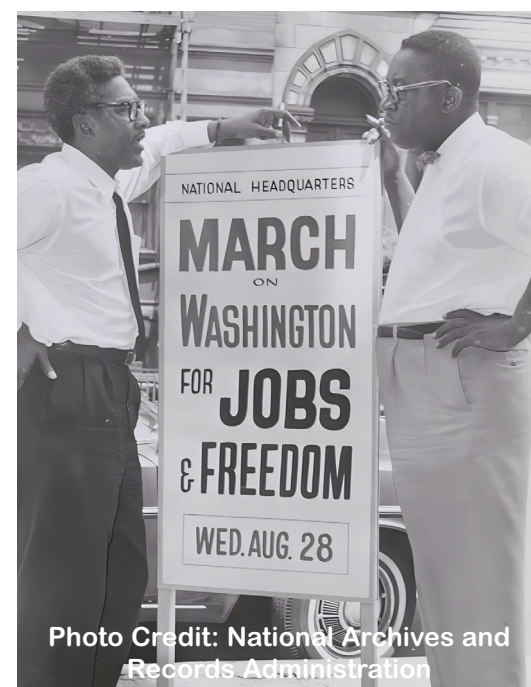


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EDITORIAL PAGE

Hate And Racism Have Struck Again. This Time, It Was in Jacksonville, Florida

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

Hate is traveling around America. It does not discriminate regarding city, time or location. Its venomous head shows up and people are killed. The tragedy is that citizens are assaulted simply because they are Black. I am Black and I know that when I am in some stores there are people who don't want me there. Not wanting me there because I am Black but killing me there because I am Black leaves me sick and sad.

On Saturday, August 26th, a gunman entered a Dollar General store in Jacksonville Florida and killed 3 African Americans. The gunman who was White made it clear through messages to his family that he was going to commit this hor-

rific act. He did and now families are tragically torn apart.

The shooter, Ryan Palmeter later took his own life which was a demented way of saying I did my job. He lived in nearby Clay County. We can only speculate as to where and how someone of another race learns to hate the other race.

Is racism boiling over in America these days? There is a strong case to be made to say that it is. For example, Florida and its leadership have created barriers and roadblocks for its Black citizens. Recently, the NAACP advised African Americans not to travel to the "Sunshine State". Leaders, like Ron DeSantis, governor of the state, have said that slavery had some intrinsic and meritorious value for Black people.

The folks there in positions of power who I call DeSantis minions have lost their minds and won't acknowledge their history. It is also obvious that they don't want our children to know their history. They want to minimize it and sweep it under the rug of ignorance. These are my

opinions.

The victims in this mind-numbing tragedy were taken from us without warning. The suddenness of it makes me weak. They were killed simply because they were living while Black.

Angela Carr, Anolt Laguerre, Jr., and Jerrald De'Shaun Gallion will never see another sunrise or sunset. Church pews where they sat will be empty and family gathering places will have one less seat.

The Jacksonville Sheriff, TK Waters has called the shooting a racist act. He said, "His sickening ideology is not representative of the values of this Jacksonville community that we all love so much." He added, "We are not a community of hate." The mayor of Jacksonville, Donna Deegan said, "We have to talk about hate. Obviously, I am heartbroken over this incident. We need common-sense gun legislation."

Some years ago, I served in a senior leadership position at Edward Waters College, now University. I thoroughly enjoyed my tenure there

as I had some wonderful and time-honored experiences with students, faculty and staff.

EWU as it is affectionately called is a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). It has strong academic and student life programs and services. It was founded in 1866 by members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church as a school to educate freedmen and their children.

Thankfully, the EWU police acted quickly to remove the shooter from the campus. If not, you can only imagine what could have happened.

How do you stop hate? How do you stop senseless acts of racial violence?

These are questions that have been on the minds of many for many years. I believe some solutions rest in the laws that we can make if we have the will to do so. One solution is to ban the sale of AR-15 style weapons.

Until that type of legislation happens, we will sit by and have vigils for lost lives who are gone too soon because of people who don't like the color of our skin.

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Quinn Minute

Proper attire is important

By Rix Quinn

A well-dressed person can go a long way in life. A naked person can't go nearly as far...especially in snow.

That's because the right garment selection can (1) impress others, (2) display your sense of style and taste, (3) make others think you know lots more than you do.

Would you borrow money from a bank officer dressed like a clown? (Personally, I would borrow from anyone.) But most folks would avoid both a banker clown, or funny money.

When I board a plane, I expect the pilot to wear a captain's hat, uniform, and tie, and to display her

wings above the jacket's pocket.

However, I will leave immediately if her wings are shoulder-mounted, or if they flap spontaneously.

Because many uniforms are historically traditional, professionals should never exchange them. A chef's hat looks great in a fine restaurant,

but you don't want to see it on a funeral director.

Nor would you likely share theological thoughts with a preacher dressed as a pirate. The older you get, the more you appreciate individual fashion.

Sometimes I dress as a referee, so I can call penalties on everybody I see.

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS OF THE SAINTS EPHESIANS 1:1-14 - (PART 2)



By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

This redemption was not due to human merit; rather, it was according to the riches of God's grace. The extent of God's grace can be measured by the vast price that He paid – the blood of His only begotten Son – in order to release humans, bound by sin (v. 7). God was not half hearted as He bestowed His grace. He has lavished His grace in a way that surpasses all human wisdom. God solved what seemed to be the unsolvable problem of human sin. God's wis-

dom was apparent and prevailed, for His Son became a human and bore the sins of all mankind (v. 8). These blessings flowed from a gracious heart of God.

In verses 9-10, Paul continued his benediction of praise by saying that God has made known to believers "the mystery of His will." The word "mystery" was a revelation previously unknown but now has been revealed for the first time. God's plan of redemption had been established

before the beginning of time; however, God chose not to reveal all of His plan at once.

God determined His plan according to His own good pleasure (v. 9). Although Satan has corrupted the world through sin, God is progressively working to reconcile the sinful world to Himself. The ultimate result of God's program is that He will gather together the whole universe in Christ (v. 10).

In verses 11-12, Paul continued to praise God

for His benevolent blessings. Not only has God provided redemption and reconciliation through Christ, but He also has promised an eternal inheritance for us. No one can prevent God from putting His plan into action and bringing it to completion. As the Sovereign Creator, God is able to work all things according to what His will counsels (v. 11). God has indeed worked in a way that His glory (essential nature) would be praised (v. 12).

IV. The Spiritual

Blessings of the Holy Spirit – Ephesians 1:13-14

Thus far, Paul has discussed the Spiritual Blessings of the Father (vv. 3-6), Son (vv. 7-12), and now he will discuss the Spiritual Blessing of the Spirit (vv. 13-14). In verse 13, Paul is addressing the Gentile Christians. The Gentile Christians had received the gospel of salvation as the Jews. They had been sealed by the same Holy Spirit as the Jews. The Gentile believers had

been sealed, which was a formal public sign of ownership.

The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit was evidence that both the Jews and Gentiles equally belonged to God. God's gift of the Holy Spirit is just the first installment of the inheritance He has planned and provided for us! We are enjoying God's blessings now; however, there are many more blessings to come!

May God Bless!

Dangers and deaths around Black pregnancies in Texas seen as a "completely preventable" health crisis

Despite a vast array of health resources, Black infants in Harris County are about twice as likely to die before their first birthday as those from other racial groups.

BY SANDY WEST, KFF HEALTH NEWS



Hill's twins, though premature, are now preschoolers. "I believe God — and the high-risk doctor — saved my twins," she says.

Photo Credit:

Brandon Thibodeaux for KFF Health News

<LINK REL="CANONICAL" HREF="HTTPS://WWW.TEXASPOSTTRIBUNE.ORG/2023/08/29/TEXAS-MATERNAL-MORTALITY-BLACK-WOMEN/">

HOUSTON — Tonjanic Hill was overjoyed in 2017 when she learned she was 14 weeks pregnant. Despite a history of uterine fibroids, she never lost faith that she would someday have a child.

But, just five weeks after confirming her pregnancy, and the day after a gender-reveal party where she announced she was having a girl, she seemed unable to stop urinating. She didn't realize her amniotic fluid was leaking. Then came the excruciating pain.

"I ended up going to the emergency room," said Hill,

now 35. "That's where I had the most traumatic, horrible experience ever."

An ultrasound showed she had lost 90% of her amniotic fluid. Yet, over the angry protestations of her nurse, Hill said, the attending doctor insisted Hill be discharged and see her own OB-GYN the next day. The doctor brushed off her concerns, she said. The next morning, her OB-GYN's office rushed her back to the hospital. But she lost her baby, Tabitha Winnie Denkins.

Black women are less likely than women from other racial groups to carry a pregnancy to term — and in Harris County, where Houston is located, when they do, their infants are about twice as likely to die before their first birthday as those from other racial groups. Black fetal and infant deaths are part of a continuum of systemic failures that contribute to disproportionately high Black maternal mortality rates.

"This is a public health crisis as it relates to Black moms and babies that is completely preventable," said Barbie Robinson, who took over as executive director of Harris County Public Health in March 2021. "When you look at the breakdown demographically — who's disproportionately impacted by the lack of access — we have a situation where we can expect these horrible outcomes."

In fact, Harris County ranks third, behind only Chicago's Cook County and Detroit's Wayne County, in what are known as excess Black infant deaths, according to the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. Those three counties, which also are among the nation's most populated counties, account for 7% of all Black births in the country and 9% of excess Black infant deaths, said Ashley Hirai, a senior scientist at HRSA. The counties have the largest number of Black births but also more deaths that would not occur if Black babies had the same chance of reaching their 1st birthdays as white infants.

No known genetic reasons exist for Black infants to die at higher rates than white infants. Such deaths are often called "deaths of disparity" because they are likely attributable to systemic racial disparities. Regardless of economic status or educational attainment, the stress from experiencing persistent systemic racism leads to adverse health consequences for Black women and their babies, according to a study published in the journal *Women's Health Issues*.

These miscarriages and deaths can occur even in communities that otherwise appear to have vast health resources. In Harris County,

Continue **Black** Page 4

Continued Scottsboro Page 1

But Chutkan scolded the lawyers, and the twice impeached, four-times indicted Trump, whom earlier this year a civil jury found liable for sexual assault. She cited the Supreme Court's Scottsboro Boys ruling at the time, saying, "The court noted that a sizable crowd greeted the defendants at Scottsboro after their arrest and that the community's attitude was one of great hostility. The defendants' trials began six days after indictment. The Supreme Court found that there was a clear denial of due process because the trial court failed to give the defendants reasonable time and opportunity to secure counsel, and the defendants were incapable of adequately making their own defense."

Chutkan continued: "Trump is represented by a team of zealous, experienced attorneys and has the resources necessary to efficiently review the discovery and investigate. I have seen many cases unduly delayed because a defendant lacks adequate repre-

sentation or cannot properly review discovery because they are detained. That is not the case here."

The Scottsboro Boys rape cases represent the dark racist part of American history where nine Black youths were falsely accused of raping two white women in 1931 while traveling on a train near Scottsboro, Alabama. The accusations led to trials with all-white juries. Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems, Haywood Patterson, Olen Montgomery, Ozie Powell, Willie Roberson, Eugene Williams, and Andy Wright were all tried, convicted, and sentenced to death. Another defendant, Roy Wright, saw his trial end in a mistrial when some jurors held out for a death sentence even though the prosecution asked for life imprisonment. Over the years, appeals and retrials took place, eventually leading to the 1932 Supreme Court ruling in *Powell v. Alabama*, which stressed the importance of granting defendants sufficient time

for legal counsel and trial preparation. This ruling and the 1935 Supreme Court case *Norris v. Alabama* played a crucial role in advancing the cause of racially diverse juries.

Alabama eventually dropped rape charges against five of the Scottsboro Boys, and Norris, one of the accused, received a posthumous pardon from Gov. George Wallace in 1976. In 2013, the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles issued posthumous pardons to the three Scottsboro Boys who had not previously received or had their convictions overturned.

"It was stunningly stupid," retired California Superior Court Judge LaDoris Hazzard Cordell told CNN of Trump invoking the Scottsboro Boys case. "Because one, the comparison is ridiculous. But second, if you want to alienate a judge in the case, this was exactly what to do. A female judge, a Black judge, and to talk about that case and compare it to Trump's case was absurd."

BREAKING NEWS

Georgia Republicans Seek Action Against DA Fani Willis in Trump Indictment Fallout



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eldest son of the civil rights icon, along with his sister Bernice King, visited their father's monument in Washington on the eve of the event. Bernice King shared her reflections, stating, "I see a man still standing in authority and saying, 'We've still got to get this right.'"

Addressing the urgency of the occasion, King III emphasized, "This is not a traditional commemoration. This really is a rededication." Among the featured speakers was Ambassador Andrew Young, a close adviser to Dr. King during the original march and a key figure in the civil rights movement. Leaders from the NAACP and the National Urban League also delivered impactful remarks.

Arndrea Waters King also addressed the tens of thousands on the mall. "We are here to liberate the soul of the nation, the soul of democracy from those forces who want to have us all go backwards and perish rather than go forward as sisters and brothers," she stated. "We will never betray those who marched for us, fought for us, lived for us, died for us. We are the children and grandchildren of their struggles, and we will be worthy of their sacrifices."

Several members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York also spoke during the event. "We're here today to fight for voting rights,"

urged Jeffries, the first Black congressperson to lead a major political party in Congress. "We're here today to fight for civil rights. We're here today to fight for reproductive rights. We're here today to fight for workers' rights," he said.

Notably absent from the program were several individuals who had worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., such as Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. and the Rev. Peter Johnson, a Plaquemine, Louisiana, native and close aide to civil rights giant Andrew Young, and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy. Despite their significant contributions to the movement, they did not receive invitations to participate in the commemoration, shedding light on the challenge of preserving historical continuity and recognizing all those who played a role. However, Chavis was spotted among the crowd giving a hug to an unidentified Jewish man who had singled him out. "We were here 60 years ago, and we were both 15," the man said to Chavis.

America's "Black Attorney General," civil rights lawyer Ben Crump embraced his hard-earned moniker, whipping the crowd into a frenzy by insisting that he would fight "until hell freezes over." "As your attorney general, I declare now more than ever, that we must be unapologetic defenders of Black life, liberty, and humanity," Crump

remarked. "Just like they try to ban our Black history, we must tell them without Black history, you would not have American history. Just as the fight for the families of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Tyre Nichols and so many others, Americans must now fight for Black literature and culture."

Rev. Jesse Jackson, another prominent civil rights-era figure, wasn't expected to attend due to ongoing health concerns. The absence of these veteran activists threw a damper on an otherwise remarkable occasion.

Ahead of the event, several organizers engaged in discussions with Attorney General Merrick Garland and Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the civil rights division. The talks encompassed crucial issues like voting rights, policing reform, and addressing redlining practices.

The commemoration served as a prelude to the upcoming 60th anniversary of the original March on Washington, which President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris plan to observe on Monday, Aug. 28. During that scheduled meeting, Biden and Harris will engage with organizers of the 1963 march as well as members of the King family, aiming to honor the legacy of the event and its enduring impact on the struggle for civil rights.

As Rev. Al Sharpton, founder of the National

Action Network, reflected on the continuous observance of March on Washington anniversaries, he recalled a promise he made to Coretta Scott King, the matriarch of the King family. Twenty-three years ago, she urged him and Martin Luther King III to continue the movement's legacy. Sharpton, who didn't serve during the early civil rights movement like Chavis, Johnson, Young, Jackson, and others, expressed his dedication to this cause, emphasizing the need to persist despite setbacks in civil rights protections.

The challenges the civil rights movement faced weren't confined to the past; history revealed moments of triumph and tragedy. Following Dr. King's landmark speech in 1963, dark incidents such as the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham and the abduction and murder of civil rights workers in Mississippi underscored the ongoing struggle. Those tragedies spurred the passage of pivotal legislation, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Bernice King, CEO of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, acknowledged the weariness that can accompany the enduring fight for civil rights. She invoked her mother's wisdom, stating, "Mother said, struggle is a never-ending process... Vigilance is the answer."

CONTINUED HATE PAGE 1

During the town hall, Ramaswamy made another alarming comparison, likening a Black congresswoman to the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. Ramaswamy, who has derided former Vice President Mike Pence for not helping Donald Trump illegally overturn the 2020 presidential election, compared Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) to the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. He also compared the existence of white supremacy in the United States to that of unicorns.

"I'm sure the boogeyman white supremacist exists somewhere in America. I've just never met him," Ramaswamy stated. "Never seen one, never met one in my life, right? Maybe I'll meet a unicorn sooner. And maybe those exist, too." Within 24 hours, a racist white gunman shot and killed three African Americans at a Dollar General in Jacksonville, Florida.

Indeed, Ramaswamy's provocative analogy, which is deeply offensive and historically charged, raised questions about his understanding of racial dynamics and his willingness to engage in divisive rhetoric.

"[The shooter] targeted a

certain group of people, and that's Black people," Jacksonville Sheriff T.K. Waters stated in a news conference. "That's what he said he wanted to kill. And that's very clear. And I don't know that the targets were specific, but I know that any member of that race at that time was in danger. Of the Black race." Ramaswamy also defended comparing Pressley, who is Black, and author, Ibram Kendi to the leaders of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 2019, Pressley remarked, "We don't need any more brown faces that don't want to be a brown voice" and "we don't need any more Black faces that don't want to be a Black voice." She explained that she attempted to express a desire for leaders to use their lived experiences to inform their decisions and policies and not ignore the realities of race. However, Ramaswamy argued that Pressley was the modern version of the grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, an organization that terrorized, lynched, and killed Black Americans for decades.

"I stand by what I said to provoke an open and honest discussion in this country," Ramaswamy said, doubling down. "Many Americans

today are deeply frustrated by the new culture of anti-racism that's really racism in new clothing, and we need to have that debate in the open." Commentators like Washington Post columnist Philip Bump have noted that Ramaswamy's discourse encapsulates a distilled form of Republican race rhetoric. For example, Bump noted that when Ramaswamy announced his candidacy earlier this year, he invoked Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech during the March on Washington in 1963.

"That was the speech where he said, 'I hope my four children grow up in a country where they are judged not on the color of their skin, but on the content of their character,'" Ramaswamy declared his candidacy in a video. "That dream stuck with me. It meant something to me."

In that video, and since then, Bump noted how Ramaswamy explained what that quote meant to him. "In keeping with an inordinate amount of Republican rhetoric in recent years, the candidate sees King's words not in the broader context of his full speech or the historic moment in which it was given but as a sort of Uno-reverse for the race card: that

any recognition of racial disparities is at odds with King's vision," Bump wrote.

Ramaswamy seems to selectively interpret King's words, using them as a shield against acknowledging the persistent racial disparities in the nation despite evoking his legacy and his vision of a world where character rather than skin color is the determining factor. His assertion that "reverse racism is racism" echoes sentiments that have resonated within segments of the Republican Party in recent years. The notion, a cornerstone of Trump's appeal, positions white individuals as victims of discrimination, often sidelining the historical context of systemic racism faced by Black and Hispanic Americans.

Such statements continue to raise alarm bells about the candidate's commitment to addressing issues of racial injustice.

"Vivek Ramaswamy's comments against Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley do not provoke 'open and honest discussion' on race in America. Rather they reveal the depths of his own dishonesty," members of the Congressional Black Caucus

Continue **Hate** Page 5

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Continued **Black** Page 3

for example, home to two public hospitals and the Texas Medical Center — the largest medical complex in the world, with more than 54 medical-related institutions and 21 hospitals — mortality rates were 11.1 per 1,000 births for Black infants

from 2014 through 2019, according to the March of Dimes, compared with 4.7 for white infants.

The abundance of providers in Harris County hasn't reassured pregnant Black patients that they can find care that is timely, appropriate, or culturally competent — care that acknowledges a

person's heritage, beliefs, and values during treatment.

Regardless of income or insurance status, studies show, medical providers often dismiss Black women's questions and concerns, minimize their physical complaints, and fail to offer appropriate care. By contrast, a

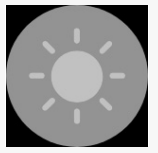
study of 1.8 million hospital births spanning 23 years in Florida found that the gap in mortality rates between Black and white newborns were halved for Black babies when Black physicians cared for them.

Continue **Black** on September 7, 2023 Edition

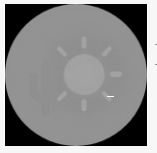
SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

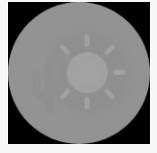
Thursday, Aug. 31

H - 97°
L - 78°

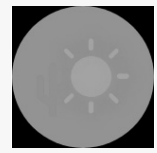
Friday, Sept. 1

H - 109°
L - 86°

Saturday, Sept. 2

H - 106°
L - 86°

Sunday, Sept. 3

H - 104°
L - 84°

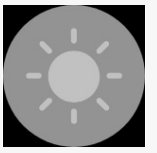
Monday, Sept. 4

H - 99°
L - 78°

Tuesday, Sept. 5

H - 96°
L - 76°

Wednesday, Sept. 6

H - 99°
L - 76°

Simone Biles wins a record 8th US Gymnastics title a full decade after her first

BY WILL GRAVES



Photo Credit: Screenshot/CNN

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Simone Biles is not going to explain herself. Part of this is by design. Part of this is because she simply can't.

When the gymnastics star is at her best, as she was on Sunday night while winning her record eighth U.S. championship, she feels like she's in a "fever dream." It's not autopilot exactly. It's more of a vibe. A flow.

It's in those moments that the doubts that still plague her almost daily even now, a decade into a run of unprecedented excellence, fade away.

There is no thinking. No overanalyzing. No "twisties." All of it recedes into the background. Her coach Laurent Landi calls it a skill. Biles, even at 26, won't go that far. Maybe because she simply doesn't want to.

She spent a long time, far too long, getting caught up in her head. She's intent on not doing it this around.

So yeah, she was smiling midway through a floor routine that made almost every other competitor on the floor stop what they were doing to watch and drew a standing ovation from a portion of the

sellout SAP Center crowd. No, she can't explain why. When her coaches told her she'd nailed every tumbling pass, she was clueless.

"It just doesn't feel real for some reason," Biles said. It is. Remarkably.

Ten years ago she was a teenage prodigy who doesn't remember much from her ascension to the top of her sport. She was always fixated on the next thing. World championships. Team camps. The Olympics.

Now she's a 26-year-old newlywed determined to enjoy this. For real. Six months ago she wasn't sure she was all in. Three weeks ago she returned to competition in Chicago feeling as if she was going to "throw up" every time she saluted the judges.

The woman who posted a two-day all-around total of 118.40 this weekend in northern California — four points clear of runner-up Shilese Jones and well ahead of Florida junior Leanne Wong in third place — is not ready to hit fast forward. She won. She's letting herself be happy this time. That didn't always happen

before.

"We really try to celebrate our success individually and as a team just so that in a couple of years you can remember this," she said. "Because I really don't remember a lot from the past."

She knows that gymnastics won't last "forever" even if, for her in a way it has.

Peaks aren't supposed to last this long. Most elite gymnasts at 26 — at least the ones who haven't retired — are simply hoping to hold on to what they have.

The athlete who became the oldest woman to win a national title since USA Gymnastics began organizing the event in 1963 is not interested in that. Landi called Biles' floor routine in the finals the best he'd ever seen her do.

"I think it's maturity," he said.

Biles' eight crowns moved her past Alfred Jochim, who won seven between 1925-33 when the Amateur Athletics Union ran the championships and the men's competition included rope climbing.

Yes, really.

es to reestablish white supremacy through intimidation and violence.

"We tragically saw the consequence of that ideology a few days ago in Jacksonville, Florida," Horsford noted. "This sort of bad faith comparison about a member of the House who frequently uses their platform to stand against hate and violence is not only an insult to the plight of Black Americans, but to all Americans of moral integrity. Vivek

Ramaswamy understands that there is an appetite for racism and bigotry within the base of the extreme MAGA Republican party and he is opting to shamelessly carry the water of white supremacy for his own political gain.

"The Republican Party cannot be silent. If this does not speak to their values, leaders within the Party have an obligation to say so. This rhetoric is beyond dangerous and deserves nothing short of full condemnation."

Black Veterans and Inaccessibility to Mental Health Resources

Despite taking the same risk of death and costly sacrifice to their mental well-being, Black Veterans continue to suffer as mental health services are statistically less accessible for the demographic than their white counterparts.

By Sam Judy | The Dallas Weekly News

Institutional racism continues to persist through channels of assistance for Black Veterans as the Department of Veterans Affairs has acknowledged that discrimination has likely played a major role in major discrepancies in assistance.

"We recognize that in the past there has been institutional discrimination that may have played a role in the adjudication of benefits," VA press secretary Terrence Hayes told Axios News last month following an announcement that the department has taken on an initiative to address disparities.

Documents released through an open records request filed earlier this year by Black Veterans Project in Baltimore showed proof of racial discrimination in the accessibility of mental health/disability benefits offered to Veterans.

Data retrieved from the fiscal year of 2023 showed that 15.52% of all Black Veterans who applied for physical or mental health benefits were denied assistance by the VA, compared to 10.6% of white Veterans. This is consistent with reports from 2017, showing that Black Veterans seeking disability benefits for PTSD were denied 57% of the time, compared to a 43% rate of denial for white counterparts.

From 2017 to 2023, white Veterans enjoyed a consistently higher grant rate than Black Veterans every year. Despite seeking and applying for services at a higher rate (43% compared to 31.7% for white Veterans), Black Veterans have received significantly less assistance than whites.

Even among those receiving services, Black Veterans often have worse outcomes, according to a study featured in Psychiatric Services, Volume 73 in 2022.

Of the 2,870 Veterans treated nationally in VA Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs in fiscal year 2017, Black Veterans receiving services from the VA experienced a higher rate of depression symptom recurrence 4 months after discharge compared to white Veterans. While services were proven to improve conditions across demographics,

Black Veterans still experienced markedly poorer outcomes.

The effects of these institutional failures are apparent and run deep, contributing to the framework of larger social issues with devastating repercussions. According to a study by the National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans, Black Veterans are substantially prevalent in the homeless population compared to other Veterans, comprising 39% of the total homeless veteran population despite making up only 11% of the total veteran population.

Outcomes in PTSD and depression are typically worse, and likewise, Black Veterans are more likely to fall into alcoholism even with similar levels of consumption to their white counterparts, according to the American Journal of Psychiatry.

Additionally, a study conducted by the nonprofit research group Rand Corp. showed there were 1.76 suicide attempts among Black troops for each by a white service member. As services falter, so does the quality of life for Black Veterans compared to white former service members, resulting in higher documented rates of homelessness, alcohol use disorder, and suicide.

Texas is home to over 1.6 million Veterans, with one-fourth of all Veterans statewide residing in the DFW area. Dallas previously made the news in 2016 when on July 7, Black veteran Micah Xavier Johnson killed five officers and wounded seven others before being slain in a stand-off with police Downtown.

Reflecting disillusionment, pain, and a documented resentment of a deeply flawed system exacerbated by increasing violence against Black Americans by law enforcement, the incident illustrated the result of the systemic failures of the Department of Veterans Affairs as much as it did the institutional racism present throughout American life.

As an Army Reserve Afghan War veteran, Johnson showed warning signs of potential violence prior to the calculated attack on white law enforcement. He was previously recommended for mental health counseling by a fellow sol-

dier who accused him of sexual harassment. Stating that they were platonic friends of over four years, she recalled an event when Johnson punched out a car window during an outburst, severing an artery and requiring medical treatment.

Following an inspection, Johnson was deemed a threat to others and disarmed by his commanding officer. After a period of high stress and ostracization, Johnson was mistakenly honorably discharged according to the Army and never was provided counseling. This and other details were released following his death.

Other Veterans, such as Paul, 72, a former Army sergeant living in South Dallas that served in the Vietnam War, have suffered lifelong cases of PTSD while continuing to work and seek out services from the VA.

"I still have nightmares from what we did," Paul says, explaining that insomnia brought on by PTSD has left him sleepless most nights.

"When I go in to get help, I have to stand in line behind a hundred other people. They expect you to smile and be polite. I fought for this country. I bled for this country," Paul says. "All of my guys came back. Nobody was dead, nobody with one leg or one arm, everybody came back. And all they did was whatever I told them to."

Suffering night terrors, high anxiety, and depression, Paul recently secured compensation for false denials of repeated disability claims. "I sued their asses and won," Paul says. "And the money's great but look at how long it took. Forty years for me to get what I should've already got. I'm over 70 years old. They already robbed me."

Almost 80 years after the GI Bill was rendered largely inaccessible for Black Veterans, the group continues to suffer due to institutional patterns of discrimination. As the demographic receives lesser treatment than white former service members, the figurative cracks in our society turn to fissures as they become more firmly integrated within our institutions. Despite the VA's promise to right institutional wrongs, lasting effects have left the lives of Black Veterans at greater risk of debasement.

Continued **Hate** Page 4

(CBC) wrote in a statement on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

CBC Chair Steven Horsford of Nevada said Ramaswamy's words are not merely the ramblings of a deeply unserious person but count as "part of a dark and calculated attempt to obfuscate the truth about racism in America." He asserted that most reasonable-minded Americans understand that the Ku Klux Klan was, and is today, a group that wish-

Author Debuts Sports-Themed Coloring Books Promoting Positive Thinking

More than just coloring fun. Nurturing creativity and a positive mindset.

DALLAS, TX; August 23, 2023 – Author Sharon Jones-Scaife announces the official launch of her new coloring book series for boys and girls age 6-10, available on her website for pre-orders.

Inspired by her love for sports, staying motivated and physically active, Jones-Scaife has created a line of sports-themed coloring books with positive affirmations. Through each book, she encourages boys and girls to unleash their creativity as they dive into the action-packed pages of these Lil' Marco & Friends Coloring & Activity Books. Bring scenes to life with your favorite colors and watch as the excitement of the game jumps off the page.

Each book is jammed packed with 64 pages of more than just coloring fun—enjoy a variety of fun and challenging activities like word searches, crossword puzzles, and writing prompts. “Every page is designed to guide you toward a positive mindset, both on and off the court,” stated Jones-Scaife.

Whether you're a young athlete looking for creative entertainment or a parent

or mentor seeking an engaging activity for your child, these books are a slam dunk. Celebrate the world of sports, nurture your creativity, and ignite a passion for positive thinking with these Lil' Marco & Friends Coloring & Activity Books with Positive Affirmations.

There are several ways to use these books:

- Choose Your Own Adventure**
 If you are gifting these books to a child in your life, let them flip through and start with whatever activities appeal to them. Every page works as a stand-alone activity, so there is no need to work through the book in any particular order.
- One-on-One with a Parent or Mentor**
 Work through each book one-on-one with your child, letting the positive affirmations on each page inspire and prompt conversation.
- Activate Positivity in Your Team**
 Use each book with your sports team or after-school program as a way to

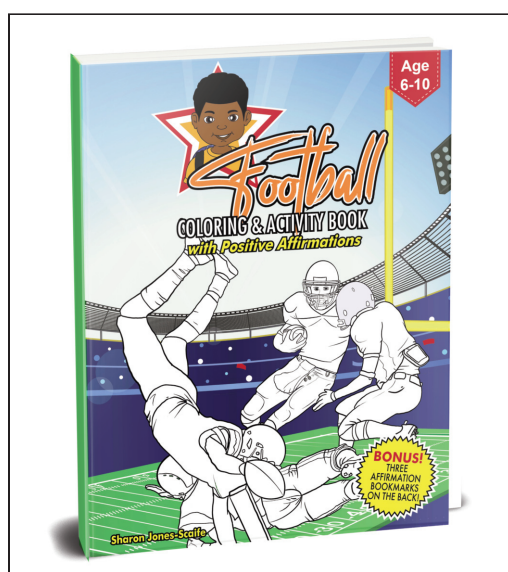
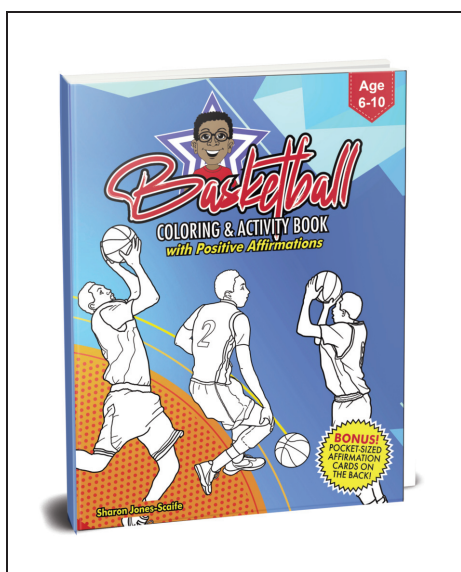
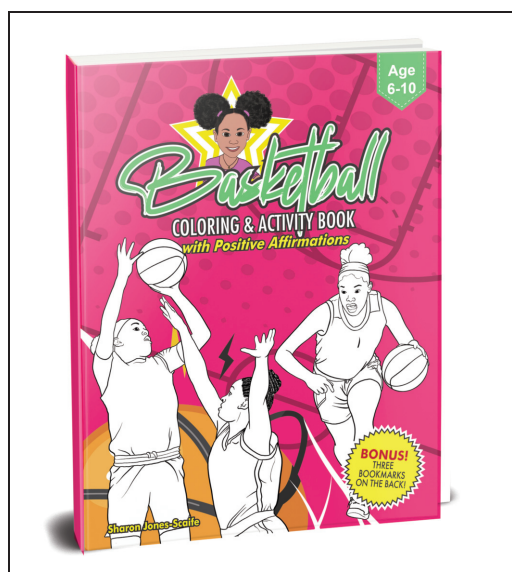
integrate mindfulness, reflection, and positive thinking into your curriculum. Each week, choose a different affirmation to focus on (e.g. “I can do hard things”, “I am powerful and unstoppable”) and let students discuss what it means to them while they color the relevant page.

Each book includes a BONUS on the back for on-the-go inspiration! “*BASKETBALL Coloring and Activity Book with Positive Affirmations*” for Boys, “*BASKETBALL Coloring and Activity Book with Positive Affirmations*” for Girls, and “*FOOTBALL Coloring and Activity Book with Positive Affirmations*” are currently available for pre-order.

To pre-order your copies or to learn more about other titles by Author Sharon Jones-Scaife, contact her at (972) 442-6000 or visit <https://www.coffeecreekmediagroup.com> Use promo code: **COLOR35** and receive **35% off your pre-order.**



Author Sharon Jones-Scaife



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Crockett Applauds Announcement of \$1.5 Million HHS Grant for Head Start of Greater Dallas



WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett (TX-30) released the following statement following the announcement of a social services grant in the amount of \$1,489,413 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to Head Start of Greater Dallas.

Head Start of Greater Dallas provides life-changing education to over 2500 students at 45 full-day centers throughout Dallas County, and has cared for North Texas families for over 35 years. Congresswoman Crockett is a strong advocate for

early childhood education and spoke out against proposed Republican budget cuts to Head Start during congressional negotiations over the federal debt ceiling earlier this year.

"Early childhood education providers like Head Start are constantly under threat of being defunded by right-wing extremists - which means it's more important than ever that the Biden-Harris Administration direct federal dollars to those that need it the most," said Rep. Crockett. "Having visited Head Start in April, I saw firsthand the

incredible work being done to make sure our kids in this community grow up, and grow up well."

"We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve and support our EHS-CCP children and families," said Kathryn L. McCartney, CEO of Greater Dallas, Inc. "This grant not only provides quality care for children, it allows Head Start of Greater Dallas to continue working with our community partners and child care providers to ensure a seamless delivery of services."

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