

Tax holiday 2022 in Texas will begin on Friday, August 12 and ends on Sunday, August 14



# The Dallas Post Tribune

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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

August 4 - 10, 2022

## Beyoncé's Renaissance Breaks Souls and Records in Historic Debut

Written by Stacy M. Brown

*With a healthy helping of Chicago house music and classic 1970s disco, the New York Times called Renaissance a "tour of some of the genre's most well-known touchstones as well as more underground sounds."*

Beyoncé's new album, "Renaissance," has taken the world by storm as expected.

With a healthy helping of Chicago house music and classic 1970s disco, the New York Times called Renaissance a "tour of some of the genre's most well-known touchstones as well as more underground sounds."

"It is consciously steeped in dance-music history, cannily embracing decades of samples and sounds: the 1970s disco of Donna Summer and Chic, Jamaican dancehall, internet-

speed hyper pop," Michaelangelo Matos penned for the Times.

"She chose collaborators, references, and even specific keyboard sounds that pay homage to club-land memories while making her own 21st-century statement," Matos wrote.

The new tracks include songs like "Cozy," "Cuff It," "Energy," and "Break My Soul."

The album immediately soared to the top of Apple Music in 100 countries.

Sixteen of the top 21 songs on Apple Music are from Renaissance, and the debut enjoyed more than 43 million streams on Spotify — a new record.

"For at least the past decade, Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter has been the world's

Continue **Debut** Page 2



AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, File

## Five Redesign schools celebrate their first day of school

BY JAVIER GIRIBET-VARGAS



Dallas ISD Superintendent Stephanie Elizalde and Edna Rowe Elementary School Principal Aaron Joseph.

Edna Rowe Elementary School — along with four other Dallas ISD schools that adopted the School Day Redesign calendar — welcomed students back for their first day of class on Monday!

Dallas ISD Superintendent Stephanie Elizalde and Edna Rowe Elementary School Principal Aaron Joseph.

Dallas ISD Superintendent Stephanie Elizalde joined Edna Rowe Elementary School Principal Aaron Joseph in greeting students and visiting classrooms.

"I would be remiss if I did not highlight our outstanding principal, Mr. Aaron Joseph," Dr. Elizalde said. "His leadership has really helped transform our community. Just amazing work! And our teachers — not every teacher wants to do

Redesign. Those are additional days, so we're very thankful for our teachers who continue to be dedicated and work to ensure that our students get everything they need."

At 8 a.m., the superintendent and Principal Joseph, who has led the campus for the last two years, visited classrooms, spoke with students about the new school year and wished teachers good luck on their first day.

"My favorite part is to see students run out of their cars," Joseph said. "We're excited to provide additional time, we're excited to provide enrichment, and we're excited to make history again!"

There are three different Dallas ISD school year calendars. The

Continue **Schools** Page 2

## Black family sues Sesame Place, alleging discrimination

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A Baltimore family is suing a Sesame Street-themed amusement park for \$25 million over claims of racial discrimination, alleging multiple costumed characters ignored a 5-year-old Black girl during a meet-and-greet event last month.

The lawsuit comes in the wake of a video, shared widely on social media, showing two other Black girls apparently being snubbed by a costumed employee during a parade at the park in Langhorne, outside Philadelphia. Sesame Place apologized in a statement and promised more training for its employees after the video went viral earlier this month.

The suit, which seeks class action status, was filed in a federal court in Philadelphia against SeaWorld Parks, the owner of the Sesame Place, for "pervasive and appalling race discrimination."



Photo Credit/Jodi Brown via AP

The lawsuit alleges four employees dressed as Sesame Street characters ignored Quinton Burns, his daughter Kennedy Burns and other Black guests during the meet-and-greet on June 18. The lawsuit says "SeaWorld's performers readily engaged with numerous similarly situated white customers."

During a press conference held Wednesday, one of the family's attorneys, Malcolm Ruff, called for transparency from SeaWorld and for the company to compensate the Burns family. The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

### NEWS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW!

## Tiger Woods turned down \$700-800M Saudi offer

- See Page 5 -



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## Nichelle Nichols, Lt. Uhura on 'Star Trek,' has died at 89

By LINDSEY BAHR

Nichelle Nichols, who broke barriers for Black women in Hollywood as communications officer Lt. Uhura on the original "Star Trek" television series, has died at the age of 89.

Her son Kyle Johnson said Nichols died Saturday in Silver City, New Mexico.

"Last night, my mother, Nichelle Nichols, succumbed to natural causes and passed away. Her light however, like the ancient galaxies now being seen for the first time, will remain for us and future generations to enjoy, learn from, and draw inspiration," Johnson wrote on her official Facebook page Sunday. "Hers was a life well lived and as such a model for us all."

Her role in the 1966-69 series earned Nichols a life-long position of honor with the series' rabid fans, known as Trekkers and Trekkies. It also earned her accolades for breaking stereotypes that had limited Black women to acting roles as servants and included an interracial onscreen kiss with co-star William Shatner that was unheard of at the time.

Shatner tweeted Sunday: "I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Nichelle. She was a beautiful woman & played an admirable character that did so much for redefining social issues both here in the US & throughout the world."

George Takei, who shared the bridge of the USS Enterprise with her as Sulu

in the original "Star Trek" series, called her trailblazing and incomparable. "For today, my heart is heavy, my eyes shining like the stars you now rest among, my dearest friend," he tweeted.

Nichols' impact was felt far beyond her immediate co-stars, and many others in the "Star Trek" world also tweeted their condolences.

Celia Rose Gooding, who currently plays Uhura in "Star Trek: Strange New Worlds," tweeted that Nichols "made room for so many of us. She was the reminder that not only can we reach the stars, but our influence is essential to their survival. Forget shaking the table, she built it."

"Star Trek: Voyager" alum Kate Mulgrew tweet-

ed, "Nichelle Nichols was The First. She was a trailblazer who navigated a very challenging trail with grit, grace, and a gorgeous fire we are not likely to see again."

Like other original cast members, Nichols also appeared in six big-screen spinoffs starting in 1979 with "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" and frequented "Star Trek" fan conventions. She also served for many years as a NASA recruiter, helping bring minorities and women into the astronaut corps.

More recently, she had a recurring role on television's "Heroes," playing the great-aunt of a young boy with mystical powers.

The original "Star Trek"



FILE - Actor Nichelle Nichols speaks during the Creation Entertainment's Official Star Trek Convention at The Westin O'Hare in Rosemont, Ill., Sunday, June 8, 2014. (Photo by Barry Brecheisen/Invision/AP, File)

premiered on NBC on Sept. 8, 1966. Its multicultural, multiracial cast was creator Gene Roddenberry's message to viewers that in the far-off future — the 23rd century — human diversity would be fully accepted.

"I think many people took it into their hearts ... that what was being said on TV at that time was a reason to celebrate," Nichols said in 1992 when a "Star Trek"

exhibit was on view at the Smithsonian Institution.

She often recalled how Martin Luther King Jr. was a fan of the show and praised her role. She met him at a civil rights gathering in 1967, at a time when she had decided not to return for the show's second season.

"When I told him I was going to miss my co-stars

Continue **Trek** Page 4

Continued **Debut** Page 1

greatest living entertainer," Rolling Stone wrote.

"Beyoncé really made this album for the club," journalist Vincent Desmond tweeted. "No matter how much you love 'Renaissance,' you are going to love this at least five times more if you hear the album or any of its songs in the club. It goes so crazy."

As noted by Pitchfork, Renaissance was announced as "Act I" of an upcoming saga, and the album's liner

notes confirmed that Beyoncé would follow it up with at least two more "acts."

"She has said that all the music was made during a creative burst at the peak of COVID and that it was inspired by her children, her husband, and her team," Journalist Dylan Green wrote.

"But what could these multiple parts entail? One theory: The music is the driving force behind a Renaissance more than a specific narrative arc; if Act

I is a culmination of various forms of Black music and their effects on pop across the 20th and early 21st centuries, it's possible that Act II and Act III might look at the way it moves in the present and forward into the future."

Green continued: "Beyoncé has accomplished a lot over her nearly 30-year career, but a full-blown musical trilogy is new even for her. Like every piece of art that bears her name, the anticipation is half the fun.

Continued **Schools** Page 1

majority of campuses have a base calendar. Forty-one schools have an Intersession calendar, and five schools have a School Day Redesign calendar.

Edna Rowe, Boude Storey Middle School, H.I. Holland Elementary School at Lisbon, Maple Lawn Elementary School, and Thomas J. Rusk Middle School are the five campuses that opted for the School Day Redesign, where school starts on Aug. 1 and ends



June 22 for all students, teachers and staff.

Photo Courtesy/The HUD

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**THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL IN CORINTH, EPHEBUS**

**THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY BEGINS**

ACTS 18:1-28

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith



As we continue Paul's Second Missionary Enterprise, we will discover that Paul is in Athens waiting for Timothy and Silas to join him and bring reports from the churches in Berea and Thessalonica. After Paul's missionary efforts in Athens, he goes on his journey to Corinth. In verse 1, Paul makes his journey to Corinth, a most wicked city, a city noted for its wickedness and debauchery. Yes, Corinth was a most wicked city of that day! Corinth was a great commercial city, as well as, a great sin center.

While in Corinth, Paul came in contact with Aquila and his wife Priscilla, who were tent makers by occupation (vv. 2-3). This couple was commanded by Claudius to leave Rome, and upon leaving, came in contact with Apostle Paul. From this encounter, Paul no doubt led Aquila and Priscilla to the Lord!

According to verses 4-5, Timothy and Titus finally arrived in Corinth and brought Paul a report from the churches in Macedonia. From Macedonia, Paul will write his first letter to Thessalonica during this significant period; that is, after he receives the report from Timothy. Wherever Paul went, he testified to the fact that Jesus is the Messiah. As the Jews opposed Apostle Paul, he turned his ministry to the Gentiles, for in Corinth, Paul had a tremendous ministry of converts (vv. 6-8).

Despite being opposed, Paul was given assurance by the Lord,

for Paul remains in the city for eighteen months (vv. 9-11). Paul continues to be opposed by the Jews; and Gallio, a Roman magistrate, settles the Jewish charge against Paul (vv. 12-17). Leaving Corinth, Paul sails to Antioch Syria (v. 18). After ministering for a while in Ephesus, Paul is determined to be in Jerusalem for the feast (vv. 19-21). Paul will conclude his Second Missionary Journey as he comes to Antioch Syria (v. 22).

Beginning in verse 23, Paul begins his Third Missionary Journey through Galatian country. Paul will go to Ephesus on this Third Missionary Journey and come in contact with Apollos, an eloquent Jewish man from Alexandria (v. 24). Apollos was very learned in the Old Testament scriptures but "knew only about the baptism of John" (v. 25).

Listening to Apollos in the synagogue, Aquila and Priscilla aided Apollos in his limited understanding of the scriptures! (v. 26). After receiving a great deal of help from Aquila and Priscilla, Apollos publicly proclaimed "that Jesus was Christ" (vv. 27-28).

**May God Bless!**

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# Don't be angry:' North Texas dad's reaction after Dillard's employee hurls racial slur at son goes viral

BY ROBBIE OWENS

DALLAS (CBSDFW.COM) — It was hate caught on tape.

Over the past several days, video of a North Texas father calmly confronting a Dillard's clerk at Dallas' NorthPark Center has gone viral — viewed more than a million times and counting. The clerk, witnesses confirmed, hurled a racial slur at the man's 10-year-old son.

"I ask the question: what could he have done? What could the 10-year-old do to Homer to deserve to be called a 'f\*\*\*\*\* n\*\*\*\*\*?'" Muhammad Karim, the child's father, doesn't really expect an answer, but he wants the world to ponder, "Why is there so much hate?"

He says his family lives a quiet life in Johnson County running a small catering business and restaurant. The trip to the NorthPark Dillard's should have been a

break from the heat.

He asked a clerk who said his name was Homer for directions to a dressing room. He returned to find his son in tears. "A tear came out my baby's eye and he said, 'Dad, you didn't hear what that man just called me?'" shares Karim.

After questioning his son and others who overheard the slur, Karim remained calm. He can be heard on the video telling that clerk that he would never have so disrespected the clerk's family, and that he is a man of "grace and honor."

But he also admits that refusing to give in to the anger wasn't easy, and credits his faith. "The Prophet Muhammad says 'don't be angry. Don't be angry. Don't be angry,'" and then he pauses for a brief laugh: "I'll be honest with you. I was angry. I was livid."

And he didn't buy the

clerk's explanation that he had hit his leg.

"You don't go from hitting your foot to 'f\*\*\*\*\* n\*\*\*\*\*.' Life doesn't work that way. This is repetitive behavior."

The employee told Karim that he had worked at Dillard's for more than 20 years, but now no more.

In response to our questions, Dillard's corporate office provided the following statement.

"The allegations made against our former employee were promptly investigated, found to be in clear violation of our standards, and his employment with Dillard's was immediately terminated."

But Karim points out that his son is 10 and is still traumatized by the experience.

"I don't think Homer understands the impact of his words. My Honey [the family nickname for the child

known for being so kind] is scared to come outside. He thinks that every white person is out to get him. How do you explain it?"

Karim's wife also overheard the slur and is struggling as well. That's despite the friends, family and strangers rallying to show support.

He says his siblings and other relatives are relaying messages and sharing what's being said on social media — the internet this time intrigued by someone NOT behaving badly. Still, if his family is struggling, Karim admits, so is he.

"I can't allow for my emotions to overshadow them in this particular time," he says as his eyes fill with tears. "So, I'm doing the best that I can to protect them."

Just as he did that day in Dillard's; by continuing to model the values that he teaches.

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2306	<b>Break the Bank Super Ticket™</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.80	\$10	9/14/22	3/13/23
1838	<b>Instant Millionaire</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 3.20	\$20	9/14/22	3/13/23
2419	<b>Triple Play!</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.36	\$2	9/28/22	3/27/23
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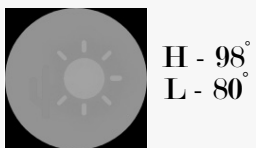
## SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Aug. 4



Friday, Aug. 5



Saturday, Aug. 6



Sunday, Aug. 7



Monday, Aug. 8



Tuesday, Aug. 9



Wednesday, Aug. 10



## Norman says Tiger Woods turned down \$700-800M Saudi offer

By The Associated Press



Yasir Al-Rumayyan, governor of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, left, Majed Al-Sorour, CEO of Golf Saudi, center, and Greg Norman, CEO of LIV Golf, watch at the first tee during the second round of the Bedminster Invitational LIV Golf tournament in Bedminster, N.J., Saturday, July 30, 2022. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

Tiger Woods turned down an offer that Greg Norman says was "somewhere in that neighborhood" of \$700 million to take part in the Saudi-funded LIV Golf series.

During an appearance on Fox News with Tucker Carlson that aired Monday night, Norman confirmed what he told the Washington Post in a story two months ago. Norman told the Post in June the offer was "mind-blowingly enormous; we're talking

about high nine digits."

Woods has been opposed to LIV Golf since late last year, and he delivered his strongest comments at the British Open when he said players who took the money funded by the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund had "turned their back" on the PGA Tour that made them famous.

When an offer was made to Woods was not clear.

"That number was out there before I became CEO. So that number has been out there, yes," Norman

said in the Fox News interview, which took place Sunday at Trump National in Bedminster, New Jersey, where the third LIV Golf Invitational was held.

"And, look, Tiger is a needle-mover and of course you have to look at the best of the best," Norman said. "So they had originally approached Tiger before I became CEO. So, yes, that number was somewhere in that neighborhood."

Various reports out of the United Kingdom have said Phil Mickelson

received a \$200 million signing bonus, while Dustin Johnson received \$150 million. The 48-man fields, which play 54 holes with no cut, offer \$25 million in prize money at each event. Norman announced a 14-tournament schedule for next year.

LIV Golf currently has only one player -- Johnson at No. 18 -- from the top 20 in the world.

The source of the funding has led to sharp criticism of the series and the players who have enlisted because it is viewed as an attempt to distract attention from its human rights record and links to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Asked why his rival tour has caused such an uproar among American golf fans, Norman responded plainly, "I don't know."

"I really don't care," Norman said. "I just love the game so much and I want to grow the game of golf and we at LIV see that opportunity not just for the men but for the women."

The LIV Golf Invitational is off for a month during the FedEx Cup playoffs on the PGA Tour, returning over Labor Day weekend about an hour west of Boston, and then two weeks later plays in the Chicago suburbs.

## Basketball Legend Bill Russell Dies at 88



Russell, who won 11 NBA titles as a player and two as a player-coach, died "peacefully" with his wife, Jeannine, at his side, a statement on social media said.

Written By Stacy M. Brown

Boston Celtics Legend Bill Russell, one of professional basketball's greatest players and the sport's most crowned champion, has died at the age of 88.

Russell, who won 11 NBA titles as a player and two as a player-coach, died "peacefully" with his wife, Jeannine, at his side, a statement on social media said.

Jeannine said funeral arrangements are pending.

"But for all the winning, Bill's understanding of the struggle is what illuminated his life. From boycotting a 1961 exhibition game to unmask too-long-tolerated discrimination, to leading Mississippi's first integrated basketball camp in the combustible wake of Medgar Evers' assassination, to decades of activism ultimately recognized by his receipt of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Bill called out

injustice with an unforgiving candor that he intended would disrupt the status quo, and with a powerful example that, though never his humble intention, will forever inspire teamwork, selflessness, and thoughtful change," the statement read.

It continued: "Bill's wife, Jeannine, and his many friends and family thank you for keeping Bill in your prayers. Perhaps you'll relive one or two of the golden moments he gave us or recall his trademark laugh as he delighted in explaining the real story behind how those

moments unfolded.

"And we hope each of us can find a new way to act or speak up with Bill's uncompromising, dignified, and always constructive commitment to principle. That would be one last and lasting win for our beloved #6."

President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Freedom in 2011, and Russell won five NBA Most Valuable Player awards.

He made the All-Star team in 12 of the 13 years he played in the league. The prolific big man finished his career in 1969 with 21,620 career rebounds, an average of 22.5 per game, and led the league in rebounding four times.

He grabbed 51 rebounds in one game, 49 in two others, and a dozen consecutive seasons of 1,000 or more rebounds.

Many viewed Russell as the greatest player in history until Michael Jordan arrived in the 1980s and 1990s and LeBron James in the 2000s.

Born in Monroe, Louisiana, in 1934, Russell's family moved to the San Francisco area, where he attended McClymonds High School in Oakland.

He earned a scholarship to play at the University of San Francisco and helped lead the basketball school to an astounding 56 straight wins and back-to-back NCAA titles.

## Biden signs executive order to protect travel for abortion

By SEUNG MIN KIM and CHRIS MEGERIAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed an executive order that lays the groundwork for Medicaid to help women seeking abortions to travel between states to obtain access to the procedure.

The details are still being worked out, and the administration faces a challenging legal landscape because it's illegal to use federal funding to pay for abortions unless the woman's life is in danger or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

However, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the Department of Health and Human

Services would invite states where abortion remains legal to apply for permission to use Medicaid funds to "provide reproductive healthcare to women who live in states where abortion is banned."

Crossing state lines to get abortions has become an increasing issue since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and opened the door for new restrictions on abortion at the state level.

The National Abortion Federation said Wednesday that it's seen more women asking for help traveling to get the procedure in the month after the decision. The organization paid for 76

hotel rooms and booked 52 bus or plane trips, up from only a handful in the same time period last year.

Biden's order also calls on health care providers to comply with federal nondiscrimination laws and streamline the collection of key data and information on maternal health at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Biden described the court's decision on abortion as a "health care crisis," and he said he wants to make sure "every part of the federal government does its part at this critical moment where women's health and

lives are on line."

The order came one day after Kansas voters protected the right to abortion in the conservative state, an outcome that Biden celebrated.

Biden signed the order from the White House residence, where he continues to isolate with a rebound case of COVID-19. He participated virtually in a meeting led by Vice President Kamala Harris.

"I wish I was with you in person, quite frankly," Biden said. "But I'm getting there."

The new order nonetheless

Continue **Biden** Page 7



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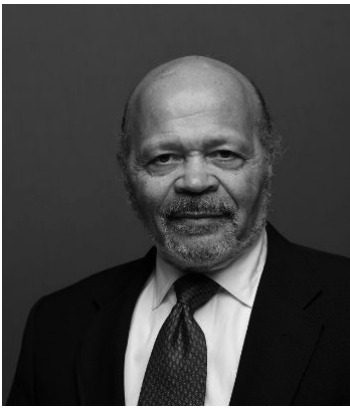
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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## NO ONE EVER TOLD YOU ABOUT BLACK AUGUST?



Oscar H. Blayton

Black America lives in a series of deserts. Many of us live in food deserts, financial deserts, employment deserts, and most of us live in information deserts.

And just as Black bodies suffer from the lack of proper nourishment in food deserts, Black minds suffer from the lack of accurate history in information deserts. There is a great deal of African history, as well as the history of the African Diaspora, which has a rightful place as a significant element of American history, that has been disregarded and even hidden by the proponents and enablers of white supremacy.

The lifetimes of many scholars in the African Diaspora have been spent trying to bring enlightenment to the world relative to the history of Black folk. So it would be impossible for me to even attempt to recount more than the most minuscule slice of that history. That being the case, I want to point out only one thing at this time. And this

being the month of August, I want to bring to your attention, Black August.

Black August was initiated by the Black Guerilla Family in California's San Quentin State Prison in 1979 when a group of incarcerated individuals came together to commemorate the deaths of Jonathan P. Jackson, who was killed on August 7, 1970, and his brother George Jackson, who was killed on August 21, 1971 – both at San Quentin State Prison.

Some readers may put this commentary down the mention of the Black Guerilla Family. Others may never have heard of it. Over the decades, the Black Guerilla Family has been characterized as a “gang” comprised of prison inmates and criminals from Black sections of inner cities. But Black August, since its beginnings, has become a people's movement for prisoners' rights and against America's culture of incarcerating people of color as a means of political and social control.

For more than four decades, those who are acutely aware of the inequality and violence suffered by people of color at the hands of America's criminal justice system and its tandem system of prisons across the country have spoken out against these injustices, trying to keep the flickering torch of freedom alive.

The day after George

Jackson was killed by prison guards, more than 700 inmates at New York State's Attica Prison went on a hunger strike. Three weeks after that, what has been termed the most significant prison rebellion in American history was staged. Today, the killing of the Jackson brothers and the Attica Prison rebellion are all but forgotten by – or never known to – most Americans.

But those with lived experiences of the injustice inherent in America's legal apparatus have not forgotten. In 2021, a Black August commemoration was held at the gates of San Quentin Prison with a mixture of speeches, music, spoken word, poetry and phone calls from San Quentin inmates. But before the day of the commemoration, one of the organizers of the event was arrested in Oakland by California Department of Corrections police. Minister King X, a formerly incarcerated Black artist, educator and activist, was charged with violating a little-known California law that prohibits formerly incarcerated individuals from being on prison property without state permission. The charges against Minister King X were dropped two days before the commemoration took place, but his arrest was viewed as an intimidation tactic by law enforcement.

Few people of color would argue that the American criminal justice

system is fair, and most people of color can cite an example of how that unfairness impacted someone they know. America, as a nation, is coming to understand that its current form of law enforcement was born out of a system of regulating the activities and movement of enslaved Black and brown people. For hundreds of years, this country has witnessed the torture and execution of innocent people of color in the name of progress and justice. And yet, even with all this social awareness, numerous efforts aimed at criminal justice reform and making America an egalitarian society are invisible, even to Black and brown communities.

Perhaps it is time for communities of color to consider joining in to make Black August a commemorative memorial to those who have been unjustly arrested, incarcerated or killed by a criminal justice system that does not deserve to carry the word “justice” in its name. Perhaps it is time we lend our voices to a struggle that we know is just and lift up those who suffer at the hands of a system created to enforce slavery and maintained to uphold white supremacy. Perhaps it is time to let Black August be the beginning of our more forcefully speaking truth to power and reinforcing our movement towards emancipation from the chains and shackles of injustice.

Continued **Texas** - July 28 Edition.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/07/20/texas-postpartum-medicaid-abortion/>.

The ease with which the measure sailed through the House inspired advocates to hope that the 12 months of coverage stood a chance to become law in Texas. Of the 14 members of the public who testified on the bill during a House committee hearing, not one spoke against the measure. And not a single representative publicly raised concerns about the bill before it eventually passed by a 121-24 vote.

More than a month later, on the same day that Abbott signed into law the Texas Heartbeat Act, which banned most abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy, the state Senate took a different approach.

During a hearing that month, Lois Kolkhorst, the Senate sponsor for the postpartum Medicaid bill, ticked off a list of states that had applied to the federal government to extend coverage for new parents to 12 months or that were considering passing legislation to do so.

But she said that, at the time, only Illinois had fully enacted such coverage. Missouri, she said, had limited its extensions to substance abuse and mental

health services. On the other hand, Georgia had extended full Medicaid benefits but limited them to six months, said the Republican, who represents the small Central Texas city of Brenham and chairs the Senate's Health and Human Services Committee.

“Certainly, Texas would be on the cutting edge of this if we were to pass this bill in any form, extending past the 60 days,” Kolkhorst said.

Although her bill put forward the 12-month extension approved by the House, Kolkhorst did not indicate a preference for the full year of postpartum coverage. Instead she referenced what she characterized as a common criticism of the federal program, saying, “I think it's a great discussion of what is the right number and some people say, well, once you get pregnant, you stay on Medicaid forever.”

Kolkhorst suggested that Texas was already a leader, pointing to a program that she helped create in 2019 called Healthy Texas Women Plus that offers 12 months of postpartum coverage. The program aims to provide some of the benefits avail-

able through Medicaid, primarily those that would help prevent the leading causes of deaths associated with childbirth. Most eligible Texans haven't had to use it because they still qualify for Medicaid under the federal pandemic freeze. And Kolkhorst acknowledged that Medicaid was a “more comprehensive plan.”

Women's health advocates and physicians have criticized the Texas program as what one called a limited “package of outpatient services,” because it does not include what they said is the full range of necessary care, such as emergency room visits, specialist appointments and hospitalizations. The state initiative also has a far smaller network of providers, which experts said makes it harder to get treatment.

After the May hearing, Kolkhorst accepted an amendment by Sen. Dawn Buckingham, a Republican from Austin and an eye surgeon, that slashed the House's proposed postpartum coverage in half.

Buckingham never publicly raised concerns about the 12 months of care during

committee hearings or before the full Senate. Rose, the representative who authored the measure in the House, said when she raised questions about the cut, Kolkhorst replied that she thought six months was “progress.”

The Senate passed the amended bill just after 3 a.m. on May 27, four days before the end of the session.

Neither Kolkhorst nor Buckingham, who were among the authors of the state's restrictive abortion bill during the same legislative session, responded to requests for comment.

Kel Seliger, a Republican senator from Amarillo who serves on the Health and Human Services Committee, said the aversion to further extending postpartum coverage stems from a fundamental opposition by some Republicans to Medicaid expansion.

“There was philosophical resistance,” he said. “Medicaid is quite removed from Obamacare. We've been doing Medicaid for a long time. But it got to the point where Medicaid expansion was simply a buzzword for Obamacare.”

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# Jay-Z, Will Smith Invest in Program to Help Renters Purchase Homes

Written by Stacy M. Brown



Photo Courtesy/NNPA

Landis Technologies, a Pennsylvania-based company that provides consulting, implementation, and ongoing support services for Microsoft technologies, announced they are raising \$165 million from a group of investors that includes superstars Jay-Z and Will Smith.

The funds will help renters build credit until they can purchase homes.

Landis buys homes and rents it to clients until they qualify for a mortgage. At that point, the client can buy the property back at a predetermined price up to two years after the initial acquisition.

According to Ebuzztt.com, the model counts as a new spin on a rent-to-own strategy that's been employed by other companies including

Home Partners of America, which Blackstone Group Inc. agreed to purchase for \$6 billion.

"As part of its service, Landis provides coaching for clients on how to manage their finances to improve their credit and save the amount they need for a down payment," the tech site reported.

The company's typical client is a first-time homebuyer with a budget between \$110,000 and \$400,000, Ebuzztt noted.

Jay-Z's philanthropic efforts helping renters isn't new.

The hip hop icon and business guru recently teamed with Twitter Founder Jack Dorsey to announce a new "Bitcoin Academy" for underserved residents - particu-

larly those in Brooklyn, New York's Marcy Houses, where the rap pioneer grew up.

The duo announced that the academy would offer one year of in-person and online classes through September 7, only for Marcy residents.

They plan to add other locations for the program designed in collaboration with Crypto Blockchain Plug and Black Bitcoin Billionaire.

Jay-Z and Dorsey said their mission includes providing education and empowering the community with knowledge.

Program participants would receive MiFi devices, a one-year limited data plan, and smartphones if needed. Residents may keep the devices.



## HOME IMPROVEMENT & PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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Learn about the HIPP program and application process in an upcoming orientation meeting. HIPP is provided by the City of Dallas to help homeowners get the help they need to repair their homes. Attend any of the in-person or online sessions listed below.

<p><b>AUG. 3</b> 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>J. Erik Jonsson Central Library 1515 Young St</p> <p>RSVP for either option below In-person: <a href="https://bit.ly/3ouo5kg">https://bit.ly/3ouo5kg</a> Online: <a href="https://bit.ly/3cF1kHH">https://bit.ly/3cF1kHH</a></p>	<p><b>AUG. 4</b> 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Pleasant Grove Library 7310 Lake June Rd</p> <p>*Spanish translation available</p>	<p><b>AUG. 5</b> 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Bachman Lake Library 9480 Webb Chapel Rd</p>
<p><b>AUG. 5</b> 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Hampton-Illinois Library 2951 S Hampton Rd</p>	<p><b>AUG. 9</b> 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Library 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd</p>	<p><b>AUG. 10</b> 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.</p> <p>Login at: <a href="https://bit.ly/3RVedgP">https://bit.ly/3RVedgP</a> Meeting number: 2486 544 2570 Password: HIPP *Presentations will be given in Spanish at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.</p>

**For more information**  
Email [HIPP@dallascityhall.com](mailto:HIPP@dallascityhall.com) or call 214-670-3644

## Will Smith Issues Apology to Chris Rock and Family for Oscars Slap

Will Smith said he was "fogged out" and that he's finally reached out to Chris Rock to formally apologize for the infamous March 27 Oscars slap.

"It's all fuzzy," Smith said in an Instagram video posted on July 29.

"I've reached out to Chris and the message that came back is that he's not ready to talk. And when he is, he will reach out."

While Rock presented the Oscar for best documentary at the 2022 Academy Awards ceremony, Smith took exception to the comedian's comments about Jada Pinkett Smith's shaved head. Pinkett Smith had revealed she has alopecia.

After some uncomfortable laughter, Smith emerged from his seat, approached Rock during the live telecast, and slapped the star.

"Keep my wife's name

out of your [bleeping] mouth," Smith yelled out at Rock.

"Anyone who says words hurt has never been punched in the face," Rock said during a standup a day before Smith's Instagram video surfaced.

It was the first time that Rock had directly addressed the incident.

"I'm not a victim. Yeah, that s— hurt," Rock remarked. "But I shook that s— off and went to work the next day. I don't go to the hospital for a paper cut."

In Smith's new video, he also apologized to Rock's mother and brother Tony Rock.

"That was one of the things about the moment. I just didn't realize," Smith recounted.

"I was thinking but how many people got hurt in that moment. I want to apologize to Chris' mother," he contin-

ued. "I want to apologize to Chris' family, specifically Tony Rock. We had a great relationship. You know, Tony Rock was my man, and this is probably irreparable."

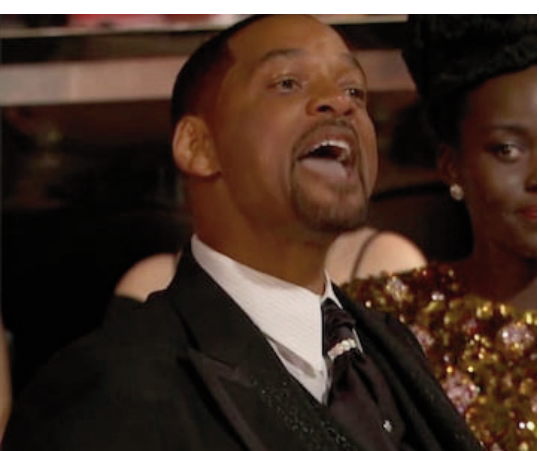
Smith also refused to lay any blame on his wife.

"I made a choice on my own, from my own experiences from my history with Chris," Smith stated. "Jada had nothing to do [with it]."

He also noted how his actions detracted from his best actor win and other nominees and winners.

"It really breaks my heart to have stolen and tarnished your moment," Smith asserted.

"Sorry isn't really sufficient. But I promise you, I am deeply devoted and committed to putting light and love and joy into the world. And if you hang on, I promise we'll be able to be friends again."



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Continued **Biden** Page 5

less falls short of what many Democratic lawmakers and abortion advocacy groups have demanded of the Biden administration. One chief ask has been for Biden to declare a public health emergency on abortion, which White House officials have said would do little to free up federal resources or activate new legal authorities.

Wednesday's order is the latest in a series of executive actions from the Biden administration since the constitutional right to an abortion was eliminated in the Supreme Court's ruling on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in June. Separately, on Tuesday, the Justice Department sued Idaho over its statute that criminalizes abortions, with

Attorney General Merrick Garland arguing that it violates federal law. Near the end of Biden's remarks, he once again called on Congress to codify *Roe v. Wade* into law. "If Congress fails to act, the people of this country need to elect senators and representatives who will restore *Roe* and protect the right to privacy, freedom and equality."



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