

- To All Fathers -

“HAPPY FATHER’S DAY”!



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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

June 15 - 21, 2023

MONDAY, JUNE 19 IS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY

Juneteenth celebrations emphasize ending racial disparities

By JAMIE STENGLE and CHEYANNE MUMPHREY



People gather at Eastlake Park during an annual Juneteenth celebration in Phoenix on Saturday, June 18, 2022. The event featured dozens of businesses, food vendors and educational opportunities for community members. (AP Photo/Cheyenne Mumphy)

DALLAS (AP) — After Opal Lee led hundreds in a walk through her Texas hometown to celebrate Juneteenth, the 95-year-old Black woman who helped successfully push for the holiday to get national recognition said it’s important that people learn the history behind it.

“We need to know so people can heal from it and never let it happen again,” said Lee, whose 2 1/2-mile (4-kilometer) walk through Fort Worth symbolizes the 2 1/2 years it took after President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in the Southern states

for the enslaved people in Texas to be freed.

A year after President Joe Biden signed legislation making June 19 the nation’s 12th federal holiday, people across the U.S. gathered at events filled with music, food and fireworks. Celebrations also included an emphasis on

learning about history and addressing racial disparities. Many Black people celebrated the day just as they did before any formal recognition.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, commemorates the day in 1865

Continue **Racial** Page 3



A sign at west Louisiana U.S. Army base displays the base’s new name in n Vernon Parish, Louisiana, Tuesday, June 13, 2023. T (Crystal Stevenson/The American Press via AP)

Army renames Louisiana base for Black WWI hero who received Medal of Honor

FORT JOHNSON, La. (AP) — A U.S. Army base in western Louisiana was renamed Tuesday to honor Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a Black hero of World War I who received the Medal of Honor nearly a century later.

Fort Johnson had previously been named after a Confederate commander, Leonidas Polk. The

renaming is part of the U.S. military’s efforts to address historic racial injustice — work that included changing the names of nine Army posts that commemorated Confederate officers.

“Sgt. William Henry Johnson embodied the warrior spirit, and we are

Continue **Hero** Page 3

Cases of check fraud escalate dramatically

Americans warned not to mail checks if possible

By KEN SWEET

NEW YORK (AP) — Check fraud is back in a big way, fueled by a rise in organized crime that is forcing small businesses and individuals to take additional safety measures or to avoid sending checks through the mail altogether.

Banks issued roughly 680,000 reports of check fraud to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, also known as FinCEN, last year. That’s up from 350,000 reports in 2021. Meanwhile the U.S. Postal Inspection Service reported roughly 300,000 complaints of mail theft in

2021, more than double the prior year’s total.

Early in the pandemic, government relief checks became an attractive target for criminals. The problem has only gotten worse and postal authorities and bank officials are warning Americans to avoid mailing checks if possible, or at least to use a secure mail drop such as inside the post office. Meanwhile, as the cases of fraud increase, victims are waiting longer to recover their stolen money.

Check usage has been

Continue **Fraud** Page 5

White House Juneteenth Concert Celebrates Black Music, Denounces Racism



The Biden-Harris administration hosted a Juneteenth concert featuring renowned singers Jennifer Hudson, Audra McDonald, and Ledisi, aiming to highlight American values Biden said he believes are under threat.

By Stacy M. Brown

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Having A Good Father Is A Blessing And Can't Be Overstated Or Overlooked

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



Dr. James Ewers

Sometimes in life, we take things for granted. I believe it is because we get accustomed to having them.

We have people, for example, in our lives each day and they are always around us. They are there when we go to bed, and they are there when we wake up each morning.

My father was that way. He was always around, leading our household. Upon some reflection now, I probably took my dad for granted.

I never had to wonder if my dad was coming home. It never occurred to me growing up that I would have to ask my mom where my dad was.

I hear the term, "a good man" a lot these days. I am not sure the term was used

back in the day. All that I know is that my dad made me feel safe, secure and loved.

I never had any doubts or trepidation about his daily presence in my life. The life lessons he gave me back in the day have stayed with me to this day. He was a role model for me in every sense of the word. He passed on many years ago.

My dad, Dr. James B. Ewers, was a dentist in Winston-Salem NC. He was Jamaican and a graduate of the Howard University School of Dentistry. Afterwards, he moved to Winston-Salem and met my mom.

At the time, he was the only Jamaican in the city. I can't imagine what that was like. He then sponsored my cousin, Wilfred Ewers who became the second Jamaican in the city.

As I grew older, I began to see that my dad was greatly respected and admired. People saw him as a leader and a difference-maker.

There were always people at our house, some just seeking counsel and a good word. On the humorous

side, some were also intrigued by his Jamaican accent. I found myself at times being an unpaid interpreter.

My dad was a big man with kindness and gentleness wrapped inside of him. He had character, integrity and honesty. I saw it on display every day. Yet as a boy, I probably could not have used those words to describe him.

Being from the West Indies gave my dad a keen sense of money and how to value a dollar. He also understood that not all his patients could pay him for his services.

There were occasions when he would take me horseback riding or bring food home. I later found out that these were his patients who didn't have the money to pay him.

I can remember like it was yesterday some of the long and exhaustive lectures that he gave me. I would sit on the couch, and he would begin.

It was important to him that I was respectful and that I not get into any trouble. I can recall his words, "Jimmy my boy, if you get

into any trouble don't call me". As a young boy, you can imagine the thoughts I had when he uttered those words.

It made me apprehensive knowing that he meant what he said. Well, it worked. Would he have come to my aid? I believe so. However, I never had to find out. He was never called by any official at any level about his son getting into mischief.

Education was emphasized in my house. I always knew I was going to college because my parents talked about it very early in my life. It was simply where I was going.

There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about my dad. He gave me the foundation and the fundamentals for successful living. I am thankful to God that he blessed me with him.

Sunday, June 18th is Father's Day. If your father is living, celebrate with him and if he is not, remember him with fondness.

This column is dedicated to my father and to all fathers.

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Are You Raising one of the Next Generation of Hoodlums?

Teaching Children Discernment

By Dr. Joyce Teal

The link between negative influences in the media and their real-world effect on children is a hot topic. More than 1,000 studies conducted in the past 40 years conclude that there is a link between what kids are exposed to and how they behave.

Children are exposed to an onslaught of negative media influences, such as Grand Theft Auto (a violent video game linked to increased aggression in children) and The Golden Compass (from the children's book series "His Dark Materials" which promotes the author's atheistic worldview). Because even the most vigilant parents can't possibly pre-screen every movie, play, every video game, listen to every song and read every book that their kids have access to, today's kids need to "learn to discern" for themselves more than ever.

To discern is to perceive the true nature of something.

When we teach children to discern for themselves, we give them the tools they need to navigate the world around them and to steer themselves away from influences that can hurt them.

The Bible suggests that the key to protecting children from the negative influences of the world is to teach them how to be strong, independent thinkers. Matthew 10:16 says to "be as wise as serpents" regarding the world around us. Paul tells us to "judge all things" (1Corinthians 2:15), meaning we should scrutinize every thing's spiritual value and moral implications. Teaching children discernment is a lifelong task, but you can get started with a few easy steps:

- #1 Talk to Your Children about Negative Influences
- #2. This step is simple, but not always easy. Explain to your children that you are trying to protect them as much as you can from things

that can hurt them, so you don't want them to watch a certain program, listen to a particular artist, or play a specific video game.

#3. Explain WHY you are saying no. You can avoid a lot of resentment from a child if you take the time to explain why.

#4. Tell your kids that people who create (whether books, or music, art, or even video games) project their worldview onto their work. Explain that there is a Christian worldview, an atheist worldview, an agnostic worldview (and on and on) and that a person's worldview "colors" what he or she says and does. Have your child try to figure out the worldview of their favorite writers and singers and encourage them to share their thoughts about this.

#5. Help Your Children Practice Thinking for Themselves
In order for children to develop their evaluation



Dr. Joyce Teal

skills, they need to practice, so ask your children why they think something is "good" or "bad."

#6. By encouraging them to thoughtfully answer, rather than handing them the answer, they will begin to see for themselves the difference between positive and negative influences, and they will be on their way to learning to discern for themselves.

Special note: Readers are invited to visit www.untealthen.com.

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS RECEIVED BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:1-29 (PART 2 OF 3)



By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Salvation is a free gift of God received by faith. We can't be saved by performing meritorious deeds or descending from a certain race! God has only children but no grand or stepchildren! We are all children of God by faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:26).

In verses 8-9, since the Scriptures were inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit actually prophesied that "God would justify the heathen (Gentiles) through faith" (Gal. 3:8). The promise made to Abraham concerning the world being blessed through his seed pointed to the preaching of the Gospel. Thus, the justification of uncircumcised Gentiles was anticipated in the universal aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant when God announced the Gospel to Abraham. Paul continued to argue strongly stating that provision was made for "all nation" (v. 8), only those who have faith receive the blessing of justification.

The ones in verse 10 who were of the works of the Law" were those who were relying on the Law for their salvation. Since only those who perfectly obey

can be justified by the Law, all who seek justification through the Law live under the Law's curse. In the epistle of James, James asserted: "For whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10). Paul is quoting from Deuteronomy 27:26 to support his assertion in Galatians 3:10.

In verses 11-12, not only is it impossible for humans to perfectly obey the law, but God has actually declared in Scripture the true means of justification – namely, faith. Paul quoted Habakkuk 2:4, Rom. 1:17, Heb. 10:38) to show that Justification by faith was an Old Testament concept, not just a theological conclusion reached by Paul. Paul asserted in verse 12 that "the law is not faith" does not mean faith was somehow absent from the old covenant. However, Paul seems to be saying that the Law does not rest on faith. The Law requires obedience; justification before God requires faith.

In verses 13-14, we have good news that "Christ hath redeemed us from the

curse of the Law. Instead of man suffering rightful condemnation for his sin, Christ was made a curse for us. That is, He became our substitute on the cross. Paul is quoting from Deuteronomy 21:23 to show the humiliation involved in hanging on a tree! Jesus died on a cross (tree), thus bearing sin's curse.

In verses 15-16, Paul argued that just as a properly executed Roman covenant (will) cannot be arbitrarily set aside or changed, so the promises of God are immutable. Furthermore, the promises spoken to Abraham and his seed found fulfillment in Christ and are in effect forever. The blessing of Justification by faith is therefore permanent and could not be changed by the Law. The stress on the expression "seed" was a reminder that the faithful in Israel recognized that blessing would ultimately come through a single individual, the Messiah.

In verses 17-18, Paul applied the principle of the permanence of faith by affirming that a covenant made so long before could

not possibly be altered by a later giving of the Law. The Law was given 430 years after the Promise. In addition, the Law could not alter God's dealing with Abraham on the basis of promise because the two are fundamentally different in nature. The inheritance (Justification by faith) was given by God as an unconditional gift to those who believe. Contrary to the claim of the Judaizers, obedience to the Law was not necessary to gain the inheritance. God's way of salvation has always been by grace through faith!

II. The Purpose of the Law – Galatians 3:19-25

Paul had argued strongly that the Law could not give the Holy Spirit (vv. 1-5); could not bring justification (vv. 6-9); could not alter the permanence of faith (vv. 15-18); but does bring about a curse (vv. 10-12). Why was a change made at Sinai? The Law was given to be a means of checking sins. It served as a restrainer of sins by showing them to be transgressions of God's Law which incur His wrath (I Tim. 1:8-11). Second, the Law was temporary and

served until the Seed (the Messiah) came, after which it was no longer needed. Third, the Law was inferior because of the manner of its bestowal. God made promises to Abraham directly, the Law was established by a mediator. There were in fact two mediators, the angels representing God, and Moses representing the people (v. 19). The Law was given through angels and delivered to the people by a mediator, Moses (Acts 7:53; Heb. 2:2).

In Galatians 3:20, Paul noted that in contrast to the Law, the covenant with Abraham was given directly by God. A mediator represents two parties to an argument, not just one. As mediator, Moses stood between God and the Israelite nation. There was no mediator of the covenant with Abraham. It was given directly by God to Abraham with no human mediator and no angel involved. Paul is not dismissing the Law; however, he is simply pointing out that the Abrahamic promises were greater than the Law in that they were permanent and had no media-

tor. The next question that might arise from Paul's teaching: "Is the Law then against the promises of God?" (v. 21). That is, does the Law contradict the teaching of salvation by grace?" Paul's emphatic answer was: "God forbid" or "may it never be". Law and grace are not conflicting concepts, but complementary ones. The Law was never intended to give life. It was the Judaizers who were teaching that the Law could give life; therefore, their teaching brought about the conflict, not the teaching of Paul.

In verse 22, the Apostle explained how Law and God's grace complemented each other rather than conflict with each other. In so doing Paul returned to the true purpose of the Law: "But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin." The Law revealed that all, without exception, have sinned. The purpose of the Law was to reveal sin so that sinners would see their desperate need and ultimately believe in Christ for salvation.

May God Bless!

Continued Racial Page 1

when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to order freedom for the enslaved people of the state — two months after the Confederacy had surrendered in the Civil War.

Great nations don't ignore their most painful moments," Biden said in a statement Sunday. "They confront them to grow stronger. And that is what this great nation must continue to do."

A Gallup Poll found that Americans are more familiar with Juneteenth than they were previous years, with 59% saying they knew "a

lot" or "some" about the holiday compared with 37% a year ago in May. The poll also found that support for making Juneteenth part of school history lessons increased from 49% to 63%.

Yet many states have been slow to designate it as an official holiday. Lawmakers in Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and elsewhere failed to advance proposals this year that would have closed state offices and given most of their public employees paid time off.

Celebrations in Texas included one at a Houston

park created 150 years ago by a group of formerly enslaved men who bought the land. At times, it was the only public park available in the area to the Black community, according to the conservancy's website.

"They wanted a place that they could not only have their celebration, but they could do other things during the year as a community," said Jacqueline Bostic, vice chairwoman of the board for the Emancipation Park Conservancy and the granddaughter of one of the park's founders, the Rev. Jack Yates.

done that."

His brave actions were recognized nearly a century later when he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2015 "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

However, Johnson's actions were not recognized by the Army, which denied him a disability allowance and did not award him a Purple Heart. Due to his injuries, he struggled after returning home to Albany,

Continue **Hero** Page 6

Continued Concert Page 1

President Joe Biden delivered a powerful speech denouncing racism in the United States during the White House's first major Juneteenth celebration on Tuesday, July 13.

The Biden-Harris administration hosted a Juneteenth concert featuring renowned singers Jennifer Hudson, Audra McDonald, and Ledisi, aiming to highlight American values Biden said he believes are under threat.

Addressing the audience, Biden urged Americans to choose love over hate and emphasized the importance of remembering history rather than erasing it.

He stated, "As the past few years remind us, our freedoms have been put at risk by racism, that's still too powerful a force. Hate only hides... And when given oxygen, just a little oxygen, it comes roaring back out again, and we have to stand up and deny it the oxygen. So, Juneteenth as a federal holiday is meant to breathe new life into the very essence of America."

Juneteenth, a combination of June and June 19, is called Emancipation Day.

Biden declared it a federal holiday in 2021. he holiday commemorates June 19, 1865, when a

Union general arrived in Texas to inform a group of enslaved African Americans of their freedom after the Confederate states had surrendered to end the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation had already declared their freedom.

Juneteenth has been celebrated as a holiday in Texas since 1980, and U.S. presidents, including George W. Bush, have marked the occasion with solemn statements from the White House.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black woman vice president, began the evening by explaining the origins of Juneteenth and introducing 96-year-old Opal Lee, whose tireless advocacy played a significant role in establishing Juneteenth as a holiday.

Lee urged the audience to be catalysts for change, saying, "Make yourself a committee of one to change somebody's mind. If people can be taught to hate, they can be taught to love."

A celebration of community, culture, and music, the White House event on the South Lawn featured performances by marching

bands from Morgan State University in Baltimore and Tennessee State University in Nashville.

Other artists included the dance group Step Afrika! and choirs from historically black colleges and universities.

Biden emphasized that making Juneteenth a federal holiday was not merely a symbolic gesture but a statement acknowledging the origin of slavery as the country's original sin.

He stressed that the Civil War was not fought solely over a union but was fundamentally about the country and freedom.

Harris expressed that Juneteenth is an occasion to honor Black excellence, culture, and community, stating, "America is a promise — a promise of freedom, liberty, and justice. The story of Juneteenth, as we celebrate it, is a story of our ongoing fight to realize that promise. Not for some, but all."

In addition to commemorating Juneteenth, the concert celebrated Black Music Month, featuring renowned artists such as McDonald and Hudson.

The event aimed to showcase the richness and significance of Black contributions to American culture.



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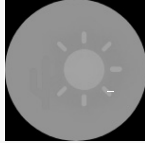
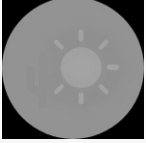
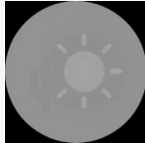
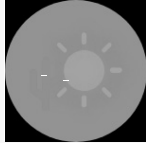
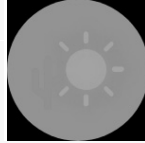
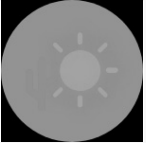
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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, June 15	Friday, June 16	Saturday, June 17	Sunday, June 18	Monday, June 19	Tuesday, June 20	Wednesday, June 21
 H - 95° L - 77°	 H - 99° L - 78°	 H - 96° L - 79°	 H - 97° L - 76°	 H - 98° L - 79°	 H - 98° L - 80°	 H - 98° L - 78°

Autopsy Finds Olympian Tori Bowie Died from Childbirth Complications

The examination highlighted possible complications that contributed to her death, including respiratory distress and eclampsia, a condition characterized by seizures, or a coma related to pre-eclampsia.

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

According to an autopsy report, three-time Olympic medalist and world champion sprinter Tori Bowie tragically died due to complications during childbirth.

Bowie, 32, reportedly had a “well-developed fetus” and was eight months pregnant, according to the Florida Orange County Medical Examiner’s Office report.

NBC News reported that evidence indicated that she was undergoing labor at the time of her passing.

The autopsy report determined that Bowie’s death was ruled natural, with toxicology results showing no signs of drugs or other substances in her system.

The examination highlighted possible complications that contributed to her death, including respiratory distress and eclampsia, a condition characterized by seizures, or a coma related to pre-eclampsia.

This high blood pressure disorder can occur during pregnancy.

The Mayo Clinic explained that eclampsia can manifest without any previously observed signs or symptoms of pre-eclampsia, making it difficult to predict and prevent.

Warning signs that may appear before seizures include severe headaches, vision problems, mental

confusion, or altered behaviors.

However, in many cases, there are no symptoms or warning signs.

Eclampsia can occur before, during, or after delivery.

Further, Bowie’s death continued to highlight the disparities in the maternal experience of Black women.

Black women in the United States continue to suffer from the highest maternal mortality rate in the country.

In 2021 alone, the maternal mortality rate for Black women stood at a staggering 69.9 deaths per 100,000 live births—nearly three times higher than the rate for white women.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has noted that this glaring disparity underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions and systemic changes to address the healthcare inequities faced by Black mothers.

Bowie’s tragic death came to light when authorities in Orange County, Florida, responded to a request for a well-being check on a woman in her 30s who had been missing for several days.

The Orange County Sheriff’s Office confirmed that there were no signs of



Photo Credit: NNPA File

foul play.

On May 3, Bowie’s management company and USA Track & Field announced her death, expressing deep sorrow and condolences to her family and friends.

Icon Management Inc., her management company, described her as a champion and a beacon of light.

Bowie gained recognition for her remarkable performance as the anchor leg in the 4x100-meter relay team, leading them to a gold medal in Brazil alongside Tianna Bartoletta, Allyson Felix, and English Gardner.

She also won the silver medal in the 100-meter event and the bronze medal in the 200-meter event during the 2016 Olympic Games.

Additionally, Bowie secured the gold medal in the 100-meter event at the 2017 World Athletics Championships in London.

What to know about Trump’s appearance in federal court in Miami to face felony charges

By MEG KINNARD

Donald Trump made a first appearance in federal court in Miami on Tuesday facing 37 counts related to the mishandling and retention of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

Here’s a look at the charges, the special counsel’s investigation and how Trump’s case differs from those of other politicians known to be in possession of classified documents:

WHAT HAPPENED IN COURT?

Trump’s lawyer entered a not-guilty plea for him, and the former president was released on his own recognizance without no bail. He will not have to surrender his passport or have his personal travel restricted.

He scowled at times during the 50-minute hearing, but was otherwise expressionless. He folded his arms, fiddled with a pen and crossed his fingers back and forth as he listened.

Trump leaned over to whisper to his attorneys before the hearing began but did not speak during the proceedings. He remained seated while his lawyer Todd Blanche stood up and entered the plea on his behalf. “We most certainly enter a plea of not guilty,” the lawyer told the judge.

Blanche objected to barring the former president from talking to witnesses, including his co-defendant, valet Walt Nauta, saying that they work for him and he needs to be able to commu-

nicate with them. After some back and forth, Magistrate Judge Jonathan Goodman said Trump cannot talk to them about the case except through his lawyers, but he can talk to them about their jobs.

Nauta was granted bond with the same conditions as Trump. He did not enter a plea because he does not have a local attorney. He will be arraigned June 27 before Chief Magistrate Judge Edwin Torres, but he does not have to be present.

Court records don’t indicate when the next hearing in Trump’s case will be.

Unlike Trump’s arraignment in New York, no photographs were taken because cameras aren’t allowed in federal court. There were, however, sketch artists, and theirs will be the only images from the actual courtroom appearance.

Security remained tight outside the building, but there were no signs of significant disruptions despite the presence of hundreds of protesters. Miami Mayor Francis Suarez said on Fox News that there were no arrests or “major incidents.”

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER COURT?

Before heading to the airport, Trump’s motorcade took a detour to Versailles Restaurant in Miami’s Little Havana neighborhood, where a small crowd of supporters awaited him. Posing for photos and saying “food for everyone,” Trump com-

mented briefly on his case. “I think it’s going great,” he said. “We have a rigged country. We have a country that’s corrupt.”

Several religious leaders at the restaurant prayed over him for a moment.

Afterward, Trump flew back to his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf club, where he gave a speech to hundreds of cheering supporters, many clad in red “Make America Great Again” hats.

“This day will go down in infamy,” Trump said, describing the federal prosecution against him as “the most evil and heinous abuse of power in the history of our country.”

WHAT ARE THE CHARGES?

Trump faces 37 counts related to the mishandling of classified documents, including 31 counts under an Espionage Act statute pertaining to the willful retention of national defense information. The charges also include counts of obstructing justice and making false statements, among other crimes.

Trump is accused of keeping documents related to “nuclear weaponry in the United States” and the “nuclear capabilities of a foreign country,” along with documents from White House intelligence briefings, including some that detail the military capabilities of the U.S. and other countries,

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Continued **Fraud** Page 1

in decline for decades as Americans have largely switched to paying for their services with credit and debit cards. Americans wrote roughly 3.4 billion checks in 2022, down from nearly 19 billion checks in 1990, according to the Federal Reserve. However, the average size of the checks Americans write rose from \$673 in 1990 — or \$1,602 in today’s dollars — to \$2,652 last year.

“Despite the declining use of checks in the United States, criminals have been increasingly targeting the U.S. Mail since the COVID-19 pandemic to commit check fraud,” FinCEN wrote in an alert sent out in February.

Checks are still frequently used by small businesses. Eric Fischgrund, who runs FischTank PR, a 30-person public relations firm in New York, had about 15 checks that were being mailed to him from clients stolen after

they all went through the same Postal Service distribution center. Ten of them were successfully cashed by criminals.

The checks were stolen in March and Fischgrund became aware of the problem in April, when several of his clients who were never late missed payments. The Postal Service investigated and Fischgrund has recovered about 70% of the revenue, but some of the cases haven’t yet been resolved.

According to the investigator on the case, the perpetrators used technology that melted ink in the “to” field of the checks so they could write in fake names. FischTank instructed all its clients to change their paper format because it was dealing with a check fraud issue.

Fischgrund said he’d never previously had an issue with check fraud in the nearly 10 years he has run his own business. Now he has a clause in invoices and new client contracts that asks for electronic payments only.

“I don’t think we’ll ever go back to asking for checks as an option,” he said.

Today’s check fraud criminals are not small operations, or lone individuals like the Leonardo DiCaprio character in the 2002 movie “Catch Me If You Can,” counterfeiting checks from his hotel room and apartment. They are sophisticated criminal operations, with participants infiltrating post office distribution centers, setting up fake businesses or creating fake IDs to deposit the checks. “Walkers,” or people who actually walk in to cash these checks, receive training in how to appear even more legitimate.

In one case in Southern California last year, nearly sixty people were arrested on charges of committing more than \$5 million in check fraud against 750 people.

Criminals are getting the checks or identification information by fishing mail out of U.S. postal boxes, looking for envelopes that appear to be either bill pay-

ments or checks being mailed.

The most common type of check fraud is what’s known as check washing, where a criminal steals the check from the mail and proceeds to change the payee’s name on the check and, additionally, the amount of money.

Some criminals are going further and using the information found on a check to gather sensitive personal data on a potential victim. There have been reports of criminals creating fake entities out of personal data obtained from a check, or even opening new lines of credit or businesses with that data as well. This allows fraudsters to create new checks using old account data.

That’s why check fraud experts are saying Americans should avoid sending checks in the mail or at least take additional safety steps to avoid becoming a victim.

“If you need to mail a check, do not put a check in

your residential mailbox and raise the flag to notify the postman. Drop off checks inside a post office if you have to,” said Todd Robertson with Argo Data, a financial data provider.

Banks, keenly aware of the problem, are increasingly watching for signs of fraud at branches and through mobile check deposit services, including large check deposits. They’re training branch employees to take steps such as looking at check numbers, because checks are typically written in order, or noticing when a check is being written for a much larger amount than the customer’s previous history would indicate. Banks also now deploy software at their branches that can tell how risky a check might be.

But those systems become moot if criminals are able to persuade tellers — often at the front lines for check acceptance — to look past any red flags.

“These fraudsters are much more aggressive than

they were in the past, and they are pressuring tellers to override internal systems that might flag a potentially suspicious transaction,” Paul Benda, a senior vice president at the American Bankers Association.

Banks generally reimburse customers if they are victims of check fraud within days. However, due to the growing number of fraud cases, refunds have slowed down in recent months. In March, a trio of Democratic Senators asked the banking industry to be more prompt in reimbursing victims of check fraud whenever possible.

Another safety tip for businesses is to opt in to a bank’s “positive pay” services with a business checking account. Positive pay means you pre-authorize checks for a certain amount as well as the check number, cutting down criminals’ ability to wash the check and withdraw money for an amount that isn’t pre-authorized.



City of Dallas

2022 Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Dallas' Drinking Water Quality Report is produced annually to provide information about the City's water system including source water, the levels of detected contaminants and compliance with drinking water rules. The report is also produced to answer your water quality questions.

The 2022 Drinking Water Quality Report shows that the levels of contaminants in Dallas' water meet or are below the amounts allowed by law.

A copy of the 2022 Drinking Water Quality Report can be obtained by calling Dallas' 311 Information Line or downloaded from the City website www.dallaswqr.com.

Dallas Public Library Commemorates the Tenth Street Historic District in Honor of Juneteenth

DALLAS - Remembrances of the historic Tenth Street neighborhood in Oak Cliff headline the Juneteenth celebrations at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library on Saturday, June 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Tenth Street neighborhood is located east of I-35 and north of Clarendon Drive in Oak Cliff, including Oak Cliff Cemetery and more than 250 residences built in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Established after the Civil War by former slaves, the district flourished through the Jim Crow era as a self-contained African American community. It is considered one of the few remaining intact Freedmen's towns in the United States. In 1994, it was listed in the National

Register of Historic Places for its cultural and architectural significance.

Activities begin with a presentation by Dallas historian and African American genealogist Donald Payton followed by a performance by musician Stanley Glenn playing blues music originated by Tenth Street native T-Bone Walker. An exhibit of historic photographs and artwork from the Dallas Public Library archive and items of historic significance provided by Tenth Street Residents' Association will be on display. The exhibit runs on the 7th floor through Friday, Oct. 20. Afternoon events include a remembrance stone activity led by the Nasher Sculpture Center to honor Black residents who shaped the history of the

Tenth Street neighborhood; an interactive exercise on building your ideal neighborhood facilitated by the nonprofit RAYO Planning; and a staging of "A Free Man Cries for the Future," an original play by Iv Amenti about the joys and struggles of a mid-20th century family from Tenth Street.

A complete schedule of events can be found at <https://dallaslibrary.library-market.com/DPLjuneteenth>. All events are free and do not require registration.

These programs are made possible thanks to the Friends of the Dallas Public Library. "A Free Man Cries for the Future" is funded by the Office of Arts and Culture and the Community Arts Pop-Up Cultural Center.

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Continued Hero Page 3

New York, and died of a heart condition in 1929. He was 32 years old.

The current process of renaming nine Army posts marks the first time bases will be named after Black soldiers and women.

Earlier this month, Fort Bragg in North Carolina became Fort Liberty, and Fort Benning in Georgia was renamed Fort Moore last month.

The original naming process involved members of local communities, although Black residents were left out of the conversations. Bases were named after soldiers born or raised nearby, no matter how effectively they performed their duties. Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg is widely regarded among historians as a poor leader who did not have the respect of his troops.

Continued Trump Page 5

according to the indictment.

Prosecutors allege Trump showed off the documents to people who did not have security clearances to review them and later tried to conceal documents from his own lawyers as they sought to comply with federal demands to find and return documents.

The top charges carry penalties of up to 20 years in prison.

HOW DID THIS CASE COME ABOUT?

Officials with the National Archives and Records Administration reached out to representatives for Trump in spring 2021 when they realized that important material from his time in office was missing.

According to the Presidential Records Act, White House documents are considered property of the U.S. government and must be preserved.

A Trump representative told the National Archives in December 2021 that presidential records had been found at Mar-a-Lago. In January 2022, the National Archives retrieved 15 boxes of documents from Trump's Florida home, later telling Justice Department officials that they contained "a lot" of classified material.

That May, the FBI and Justice Department issued a subpoena for remaining classified documents in Trump's possession. Investigators who went to visit the property weeks later to collect the records

were given roughly three dozen documents and a sworn statement from Trump's lawyers attesting that the requested information had been returned.

But that assertion turned out to be false. With a search warrant, federal officials returned to Mar-a-Lago in August 2022 and seized more than 33 boxes and containers totaling 11,000 documents from a storage room and an office, including 100 classified documents.

In all, roughly 300 documents with classification markings — including some at the top secret level — have been recovered from Trump since he left office in January 2021.

DIDN'T PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AND FORMER VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE HAVE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS, TOO?

Yes, but the circumstances of their cases are vastly different from those involving Trump.

After classified documents were found at Biden's think tank and Pence's Indiana home, their lawyers notified authorities and quickly arranged for them to be handed over. They also authorized other searches by federal authorities to search for additional documents.

There is no indication either was aware of the existence of the records before they were found, and no evidence has so far emerged that Biden or Pence sought to conceal the

discoveries. That's important because the Justice Department historically looks for willfulness in deciding whether to bring criminal charges.

A special counsel was appointed earlier this year to probe how classified materials ended up at Biden's Delaware home and former office. But even if the Justice Department were to find Biden's case prosecutable on the evidence, its Office of Legal Counsel has concluded that a president is immune from prosecution during his time in office.

As for Pence, the Justice Department informed his legal team earlier this month that it would not be pursuing criminal charges against him over his handling of the documents.

WHAT ABOUT HILLARY CLINTON?

In claiming that Trump is the target of a politically motivated prosecution, some fellow Republicans have cited the Justice Department's decision in 2016 not to bring charges against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Trump's Democratic opponent in that year's presidential race, over her handling of classified information.

Clinton relied on a private email system for the sake of convenience during her time as the Obama administration's top diplomat. That decision came back to haunt her when, in 2015, the intelligence agencies' internal watchdog alerted the FBI to the presence of potentially hundreds

of emails containing classified information.

FBI investigators would ultimately conclude that Clinton sent and received emails containing classified information on that unclassified system, including information classified at the top secret level. Of the roughly 30,000 emails turned over by Clinton's representatives, the FBI has said, 110 emails in 52 email chains were found to have classified information, including some top secret.

After a roughly yearlong inquiry, the FBI closed the investigation in July 2016, finding that Clinton did not intend to break the law. The bureau reopened the inquiry months later, 11 days before the presidential election, after discovering a new batch of emails. After reviewing those communications, the FBI again opted against recommending charges.

At the time, then-FBI Director James Comey condemned Clinton's email practices as "extremely careless," but noted that there was no evidence that Clinton had violated factors including efforts to obstruct justice, willful mishandling of classified documents and indications of disloyalty to the U.S.

DOES A FEDERAL INDICTMENT PREVENT TRUMP FROM RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT?

No. Neither the charges nor a conviction would prevent Trump from running for or winning the presidency in 2024.