

# Black Women, Civil Rights Groups Join Rallies for Judge Jackson Confirmation



Black women led organizations including The National Women's Law Center Action Fund, She Will Rise. Black Women's Roundtable and others have continued their rallies in support of D.C. Circuit Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as a Senate Judiciary Committee considers her confirmation.

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

Several women-led groups held a rally in front of the Supreme Court on Monday to bolster support for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson ahead of her Senate confirmation hearings.

Black women led organizations including The National Women's Law Center Action Fund, She Will Rise, Black Women's Roundtable and others have continued their rallies in support of D.C. Circuit Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as a Senate Judiciary Committee considers her confirmation.

"This is a moment that is historic but also filled with so much possibility for all of us," Fatima Goss Graces, president and CEO of the National Women's Law Center, proclaimed at a rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court and a short distance from the Capitol Hill location where the confirmation hearings are held.

# "Rising: The Hall of Negro Life"

Office of Arts and Culture in partnership with Southroad Pictures and Lineville Entertainment produces documentary, "Rising: The Hall of Negro Life"

Arts & Culture, in partnership with Southroad Pictures and Limeville little-known story about the Entertainment, has produced a documentary honoring the legacy of the 1936 Hall of Negro Life.

Negro Life" will air on American Life and History. KERA at 7:30 pm on Friday, March 25, 2022.

The film was funded by Inspire Art Dallas, Fair Park First and a grant from

DALLAS - The Office of the National Park Service. "This is an important film because it documents a history of African Americans in Dallas." Said Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney, President of the Association "Rising: The Hall of for the Study of African Rising recalls the events that occurred during the Great Depression when

Continue **Rising** Page 6

## Thunderstorms, high winds pound North Texas; at least 4 hurt



Debris litters the ground surrounding homes, damaged by severe storms reported as tornadoes, on Oxford Drive and Stratford Drive in Round Rock, Texas Monday March 21, 2022. (Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman via AP)

DALLAS (AP) — Severe thunderstorms with reports of possible tornadoes spread damage across parts of North Texas on Monday, injuring at least four people, officials said.

Officials reported damage throughout Jacksboro, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) northwest of Fort Worth. There, photographs posted on social media showed a storm ripped the wall and roof from parts of Jacksboro High School, especially its gym.

"It brought tears to my eyes," school principal Starla Sanders told WFAA-TV in Dallas.

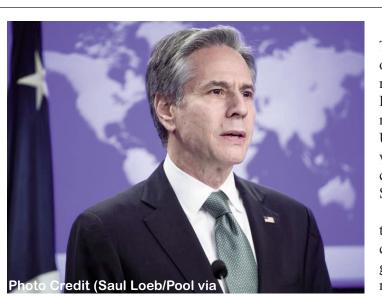
The storm also struck the city's animal shelter, but the amount of damage wasn't immediately clear.

#### Continue Storms Page 7

#### BREAKING NEWS!

**US** finds Russian troops have committed war crimes in Ukraine

#### By MATTHEW LE



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration on Wednesday made a for-Russian troops have com-Ukraine and said it would work with others to prose-State Antony Blinken said. "Today, I can announce that, based on information currently available, the U.S. government assesses that members of Russia's forces

have committed war crimes in Ukraine," Blinken said in a statement released as he mal determination that was traveling to Brussels with President Joe Biden mitted war crimes in for an emergency summit of NATO leaders.

The assessment was cute offenders, Secretary of based on a "careful review" of public and intelligence sources since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine last month, he said.

Continue War Page 7



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## OP-ED: Robert F. Smith, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan, Frank Baker and William Pickard Top List of Black Donors to HBCUs

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., President and CEO, National Newspaper Publishers Association



For decades Black leaders in business, entertainment, education, and other fields have been the main sources of philanthropic donations to HBCUs.

Billionaire philanthropist and novelist MacKenzie Scott's \$560 million donation last year to 23 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) made headlines across the country at a time when racial equity has become front-page news. However, for decades Black leaders in business, entertainment, education, and other fields have been the main sources of philanthropic donations to HBCUs.

A recent Washington Post story found that Black Americans donate a higher share of their wealth than their white counterparts – to the tune of around \$11 billion each year. Given their cultural and educational importance to the Black community, HBCUs are the repository of much of these donations with a number of household names – and some you may not know - making bigdollar contributions to these institutions.

family-centric, incomecontingent payment alternative to high-cost, fixedpayment debt – Smith pledged \$50 million. Smith's donation jumpstarted the initiative, which hopes to raise \$500 million for the effort and began operations in the fall of 2021 at eleven HBCUs.

"Each year, thousands of Black graduates from HBCUs across America enter the workforce with a crushing debt burden that stunts future decisions and prevents opportunities and choices," Smith said. "The initiative is purposefully built to redress historic economic and social inequities and to offer a sustainable, scalable platform to invest in the education of future Black leaders."

and Managing Partner of Foundation also donated Siris Capital \$100,000 to the National

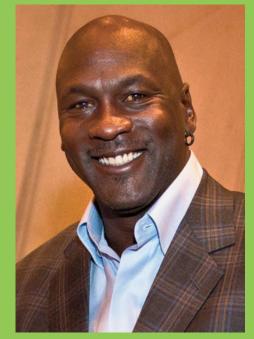
Baker, the founder of private equity firm Siris, along with his wife, interior designer Laura Day Baker, donated \$1 million in May 2020 to establish a scholarship fund at Atlanta's Spelman College, the oldest private historically Black liberal arts college for women.

Initially, the scholarship paid off the existing spring tuition balances of nearly 50 members of Spelman's 2020 graduating class and the remaining funds are meant to ensure that future high achieving graduating seniors have the financial Foundation also donated \$100,000 to the National Black MBA Association to create the William F. Pickard Business Scholarship Fund. The fund is open to qualified business student members at several HBCUs who need help financing their education. Michael Jordan –

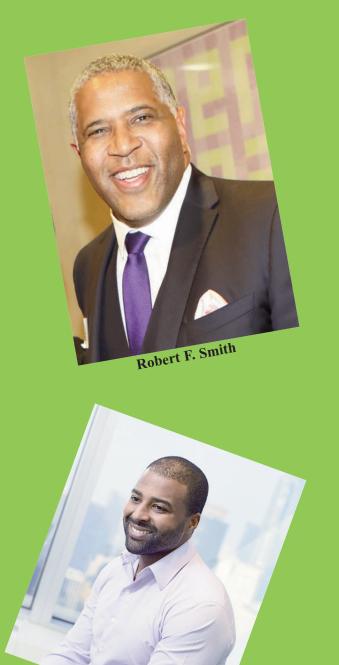
Former NBA Superstar

Michael Jordan is arguably the greatest basketball player of all time and is almost single-handedly responsible for transforming the game into the global phenomenon it is today. So, if anybody knows how to make an





Michael Jordan



Frank Baker

William Packard

Here are some of the most prominent Black philanthropists to donate to HBCUS:

Robert F. Smith – Chairman & CEO, Vista Equity Partners

Smith, the billionaire investor behind the software private equity firm Vista Equity Partners, drew widespread praise in May 2019 when he announced that he and his family would pay off the entire student loan debt of the 2019 Morehouse College graduating class of 396 students. Along with paying off the student debt, Smith's \$35 million donation also helped establish Student Success the Program to reduce or eliminate debt for all Morehouse grads. The private equity guru also gave the school an additional \$1.5 million to create the Robert Frederick Smith Scholars Program and build a park on campus.

As board chair of the Student Freedom Initiative – a plan to provide STEM students at HBCUs with a Oprah Winfrey, Television Personality, Philanthropist, Author, Entrepreneur & Actress

Most people may know the philanthropic acts of Oprah – who, like Beyoncé, Prince, and Zendaya needs no further introduction – through the infamous "You get a Car!" episode of her talk show, but she is also quietly, one of the biggest donors to HBCUs in the country.

In 2019, Oprah donated \$13 million to Morehouse College to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Oprah Winfrey Scholars Program at the HBCU. Overall, Oprah has donated at least \$25 million to the Atlanta school. "I felt that the very first time I came here," Oprah said. "The money was an offering to support that in these young men. I understand that African American men are an endangered species. They are so misunderstood. They are so marginalized."

Besides her gift to Morehouse, Oprah also donated \$1.5 million to the United Negro College Fund to help pay for scholarships for Black students and general scholarship funds for 37 private HBCUs.

Frank Baker – Founder

resources to graduate.

"We are all aware of the headwinds that people of color — especially women — face in our country, the challenges of which are made even more apparent by the economic and health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic," the couple said in a press release. "We believe it is critical that talented women finish college and confidently enter - free of undue financial stress the initial stage of their professional careers.

William F. Pickard – Businessman, Co-owner of Real Times Media

Detroit businessman and philanthropist Pickard has a long history of donating to HBCUs across the country. Most recently Pickard and his cousin, Cincinnati businessman Judson W. Pickard Jr., donated \$2 million to Morehouse College to create the Pickard Scholars Program. This program will recruit and support Black students from metro Detroit, Flint, greater Cincinnati, and LaGrange, Georgia to attend the Atlanta HBCU.

"People have uplifted and helped me grow and I believe in blessing others," Pickard, whose children attended Morehouse, told the Atlanta Tribune. "Our gifts are given to where we are from and those who have invested in us and who we are."

The Pickard Family U

impact on HBCUs, it would be His Airness.

The six-time NBA champion and five-time league MVP, along with Nike's Jordan Brand, donated \$1 million last year to Morehouse College to boost the school's journalism and sports-related studies program. The donation is meant to bolster a program launched thanks to the donation of another icon, director Spike Lee.

"Education is crucial for understanding the Black experience today," Jordan said in a press release. "We want to help people understand the truth of our past and help tell the stories that will shape our future."

The donation to Morehouse is part of a pledge made by Jordan and his brand in 2020 to donate \$100 million over the next ten years to combat racism across the country.

The following video link highlights the transformative financial contributions to HBCUs by these African American philanthropists: h t t p s : / / w e . t l / t -EWOsZTmxVO

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and is the Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles (TCC) television show broadcast weekly on PBS TV stations throughout the United States.

# **Church Directory**



# **"WITNESSING IN SAMARIA"**

Acts 8: 9-25

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

As we continue our study in the powerful book of Acts of the Holy Spirit, we have discovered the progress of God's witness as the Gospel moves from Jerusalem (Chapters 1-7) to Judea and Samaria (Chapters 8-12) with Philip going down to Samaria to preach Christ (Chapters 8:5). Christ instructed His Apostles to witness in Jerusalem (Chapters 1-7), in Judea and Samaria (Chapters 8-12)

and then to the uttermost (Chapters 13-28). However, it took the persecution of the church to scatter the believers in going to Samaria.

God blessed the ministry of Philip by confirming what he said with signs, gifts or miracles (Acts 8:6-7). Among those who heard the word was Simon, a sorcerer, one who deceived many with the use of sorcery (v. 9). The same Simon believed like many others in

Samaria the preaching of Philip; moreover, he did believe and was baptized but his believing did not culminate into solid trust in Christ (v. 19). In Jerusalem, upon hearing about the good news in Samaria, and to confirm the account, Peter and John were sent from Jerusalem to lay their hands on the Samaritans; thus, the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the Samaritans as the Jews

received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Simon, who probably believed that Christ was only some great power, desired to buy this great power to promote his sorcery (vv. 18-19). However, Peter greatly rebuked Simon in verse 20: "But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money." Peter severely

rebuked the remark of Simon, stating that Simon's heart "is not right with God" (v. 21). Simon wanted the special power that the Apostles possessed only to profit his sorcery scheme. Many biblical scholars are in debate as to whether Simon's belief resulted in genuine trust in Christ. It is quite possible for many people to possess a knowledge of Christ and yet not trust Him as their Saviour and Lord. Judas Iscariot is a great example of one who followed Christ and even witnessed some of His miracles, yet he was not a believer. After their encounter with Simon, Peter and John shared the Word with the Samaritans (v. 25).

In conclusion, as the Word goes forth today, it is

my prayer that you would accept the claims of the Gospel. You might ask, "What is the Gospel?" In I Corinthians 15:3-4, Paul states the content of the Gospel, that says: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures." And when any man totally trusts Christ and the claims of the Gospel, he is saved, for Romans 10:9 states: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

May God Bless!



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### **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**



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#### **PROPOSED PERMIT NO. 95791**

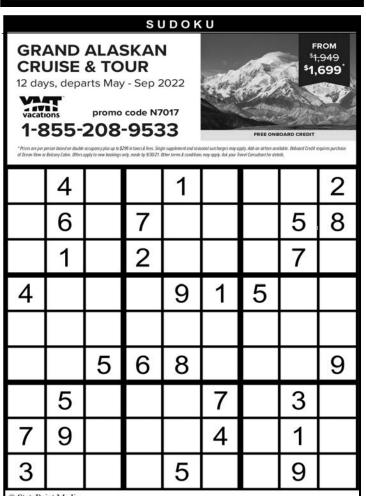
APPLICATION. Valicor Environmental Services, LLC, 400 Della Road, Hutchins, Dallas County, Texas 75141, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a permit to authorize the operations of an industrial nonhazardous solid waste processing facility. The Valicor Environmental Services facility will provide wastewater and used oil recycling related waste management services accepting only non-hazardous material, oily wastewater and used oil for collection, consolidation, treatment, and processing. The Valicor Environmental Services facility is located at the address stated above. The TCEQ received this application on November 10, 2021. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at the Hutchins Atwell Public Library, 300 North Denton Street, Hutchins, Dallas County, Texas 75141. The following link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice: <<u>https://arcg.is/00WiSi</u>>. For exact location, refer to application.

**ADDITIONAL NOTICE.** TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

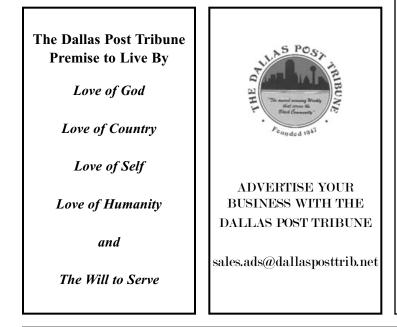
**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments.

Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the **Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.



StatePoint Media

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



#### TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you raised during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence: identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEO Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn.

If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application submitted during the comment period.

**MAILING LIST.** If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. To be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at <u>www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid</u>. Once you have access to the CID using the above link, enter the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, **Texas 78711-3087.** Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record.

For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ's Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Valicor Environmental Services, LLC at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Matt Morin, Trihydro Corporation at (904) 513-9749.

Issuance Date: March 7, 2022



Frequently parents complain about their children behaving as though money grows on trees. These same parents have not stopped to consider just how much time they have spent, or

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only to themselves) that when they behave financially irresponsibly, they cannot expect their immature children to behave in a financially responsible way. Financial responsibility is

learned behavior. It does not happen automatically, for any of us. And since some people are naturally more responsible in various areas of life, some will be more inclined to be more responsible in the area of finances. But as parents, you cannot count on this just happening! You must be proactive! Teach your son the basics of finances, such as budgeting. Get him used to setting his own goals, saving and adjusting for inflation. Or, if he wants trendy, new items, teach him how to wait it out until the price falls. Make him aware that prices do fall, frequently after the initial introduction of new, trendy

You may want to get your teen son a prepaid debit card or gift card. This can be a good way to get online with him, supervise his activity and help him hunt for bargains with ease. If your son tends to be impatient, however, this might help to teach him that making purchases comes easily. On the other hand, if you show him how hard it

is to hunt around and make the most of his money, it can still help keep him grounded.

Help your son to understand that the way he uses his money is connected to the way he carries himself in the world and the types of values he holds and wants to present. Teens, especially, can be very preoccupied with what people think of them and want to have the latest fashions, from clothing to technology. Teach your teen that these status symbols are really just carefully marketed brands and do not necessarily speak to the quality of an item. Help him to understand that being a successful person doesn't mean having all name-brand items in his home or on his person.

Finally, don't reward good grades with money. Your son needs to understand that you expect him to do well in school and that doing well in school will yield future rewards; that success in school is its own reward.

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### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**



#### ROUTINE HEALTH SCREENINGS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Getting routine healthcare screenings such as blood sugar and blood pressure screenings can prevent chronic health conditions like type 2 diabetes and hypertension (high blood pressure). You could have one or both of these illnesses and not know because often times they do not have any obvious symptoms. Monitoring your blood sugar and blood pressure numbers is the best way to find out if you have type 2 diabetes or hypertension or if you need to make lifestyle changes to lower your chances of developing one of these illnesses.

Parkland offers blood sugar screenings and other vital health screenings, educational information, Parkland Financial Assistance and more at Parkland's Access to Care and Coverage community hubs. These community hubs are accessible on the following days and times at no cost to you and without an appointment:

Inspired Vision Compassion Center	2019 N. Masters Dr., Dallas, 75217	Every Tuesday	10 a.m 4 p.m.
Catholic Charities Santa Clara/Cardinal Farrell Community Center	4550 W. Davis St. Bldg. 5 Dallas, 75211	Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday	11 a.m 1 p.m.
Janie C. Turner Recreation Center	6424 Elam Rd., Dallas, 75217	Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday	9:30 a.m 3 p.m.
John C. Phelps Recreation Center	3030 Tips Blvd., Dallas, 75216	Every Thursday	3:30 - 6 p.m.
Bonton Farms	6915 Bexar St., Dallas, 75215	Every Friday	2 p.m 4 p.m.

As identified by the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment, type 2 diabetes and hypertension are common chronic health conditions in Dallas County. Put your health first and get screened at a community hub near you.

For more information on Parkland's Access to Care and Coverage Program, please visit www.parklandhealth.org/connect

### Jackson pushes back at GOP critics, defends judicial record

#### By MARY CLARE JALONICK and MARK SHERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) -Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson forcefully defended her record as a judge Tuesday, pushing back against Republican assertions that she was soft on crime and declaring she would rule as an "independent jurist" if confirmed as the first Black woman on the high court.

In a marathon day and evening of questioning that

lasted more than 13 hours, Republicans aggressively pressed Jackson on the sentences she has handed down to sex offenders in her nine years as a federal judge, her advocacy on behalf of terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, her thoughts on critical race theory and even her religious views. At one point, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas read from children's books that he said are

taught at her teenage daughter's school.

Several GOP senators grilled her on her child pornography sentences, arguing they were lighter than federal guidelines recommend. She said she based the sentences on many factors, not just the guidelines, and said some of the cases had given her nightmares.

Could her rulings have endangered children? "As a mother and a judge," she said, "nothing could be further from the truth."

The committee's Republicans, several of whom have their eyes on the presidency, tried to brand her --and Democrats in general as soft on crime, an emerging theme in GOP midterm election campaigns.

Jackson told the committee that her brother and two uncles served as police officers, and that "crime and the effect on the community, and the need for law enforcement - those are not abstract concepts or political slogans to me."

The president was struck by how "she swiftly dismantled conspiracy theories put forward in bad faith," said White House deputy press secretary Chris Meagher.



L - 44

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#### 5 **Day Weather Forecast for DFW** Friday, Mar. 25 Thursday, Mar. 24 Saturday, Mar. 26 Sunday, Mar. 27 Monday, Mar. 28 Tuesday, Mar. 29 Wednesday, Mar. 30 $\begin{array}{c} H - 72 \\ L - 48 \end{array}$ H - 76° L - 54° $\mathrm{H}$ - $65^{\circ}$ H - 82° H - 81° H - 81

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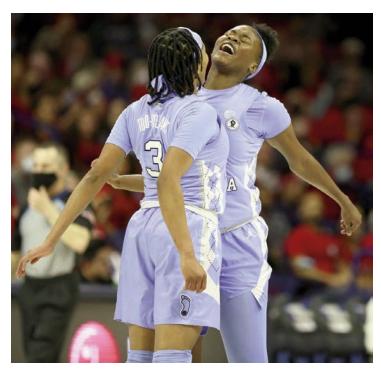
L - 62°

# North Carolina women rout Arizona 63-45 to reach Sweet 16

# 'You are worthy': Sen. Booker draws tears at Jackson hearing

L - 63°

By JOHN MARSHALL



North Carolina guard Kennedy Todd-Williams (3) and forward Anya Poole, right, celebrate during a women's college basketball game in the NCAA tournament hosted in Tucson, Ariz., Monday, March 21, 2022. (Rebecca Sasnett/Arizona Daily Star via AP)

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — with the program in a bit of North Carolina's players turmoil. We had to kind of locked arms and kicked in piece it together because it's

The Tar Heels held Arizona (22-7) to 29% shooting, including 7 from 27 from 3, to earn a spot in the regional semifinals Friday against No. 1 overall seed South Carolina.

"Our coaches said to build a wall before this game and that's exactly what we did," said Todd-Williams, who had seven rebounds and five assists. "We played together and played with a lot of energy."

No. 4 Arizona had a disjointed start for the second straight NCAA Tournament game at McKale Center. Unlike their comeback against UNLV, the Wildcats had no answer for the Tar Heels.

Arizona went through long scoring droughts in each half and had nothing left to mount a comeback, following up last year's run to the national title game with a second-round dud in front of 8,333 fans.

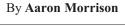
against North start Carolina. This time, it kept spiraling.

Disjointed and tentative against North Carolina's amoebic zone, the Wildcats shot 3 of 14, had four turnovers and didn't score over the final 5:19 of the first quarter.

Arizona's offensive struggles continued, adding seven more missed shots until Thomas hit a 3-pointer with 3:52 left in the second quarter. North Carolina took advantage of the Arizona clanging, scoring the first nine points of the quarter to stretch a fivepoint lead to 23-9.

North Carolina held the Wildcats to 6-of-26 shooting 4 of 16 from 3 in the first half to lead 28-17.

"Our guys were real disciplined and you have to be to beat a good team on the





Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 23, 2022. (AP Photo/Alex **Brandon**)

through a tense third day of hearings on the Supreme Court nomination of Judge remarks to ground Jackson's Ketanji Brown Jackson on elevation to the Supreme Wednesday with a speech on Court in a significance racial progress that drew beyond simple diversity. In

Sen. Cory Booker cut empathetic approach to the law.

But Booker used his tears from the nominee and order for Jackson to sit

unison as the band played the school fight song in an otherwise-deflated McKale Center. The kick line broke apart, turning in a mosh pit of dancing, the small contingent of fans in power blue roaring in approval.

Courtney Banghart's rebuilding project has been fast-tracked — and it sure feels sweet.

Kennedy Todd-Williams scored 19 points, Deja Kelly added 15 and North Carolina overwhelmed Arizona 63-45 Monday night to reach the Sweet 16 for the first time in seven years.

"It's remarkable," said Banghart, her hair drenched from the locker room celebration. "Led by Deja, they really had to take a chance

early in our rebirth and these guys worked really hard."

Banghart left Princeton to take over a North Carolina program fighting through a tumultuous period after Sylvia Hatchell resigned in 2019.

She quickly molded the Tar Heels back into a national power, taking them to the NCAA Tournament in her second season.

Seeded fifth in the Greensboro Region this year, the Tar Heels (25-6) needed a big fourth quarter to beat in Stephen F. Austin in their opener on Saturday, but smothered Arizona from the start. North Carolina went on a 15-0 run to lead by nine at halftime, then stretched it 20 with a dominating third quarter.

Senior Sam Thomas led Arizona with 15 points.

"I really felt like coming into this game we would have more a sense of urgency overall because we had some experience last year," Arizona coach Adia Barnes said. "That was the disappointing thing for me, to not be able to lock in and the mental mistakes."

The Wildcats were jittery early against UNLV in their first home NCAA Tournament game since 1998, allowing the Lady Rebels to hang around before finally pulling away with a dominating fourth quarter.

Arizona had a similar

#### Continued Rising Page 1

determined Black Americans of Texas lobbied for the opportunity to tell their story at the 1936 Texas Centennial, a first in the fair's history. Fraught with broken promises from state legislature, the ultimate story of character and courage altered the tenor and trajectory of U.S. race relations. The exhibition was finally approved with fewer than 100 days until the exhibition opening through the extraordinary efforts of A. Maceo Smith, who lobbied in support of federal funding to underwrite the exhibition.

"The Hall of Negro Life is one of the most important cultural moments and contributions in Dallas' history, and yet, this story has been under-appreciated and neglected as part of our city's history. This film beautifully captures this inspiring story and the legacy of The Hall of Negro Life," said, Director, Office of Arts & Culture, Jennifer Scripps. Visited by 400,000

Americans and visitors from across the globe, Aspirations, four site-specific murals by Aaron Douglas framed the Entrance Hall of Negro Life. Aaron Douglas was the most important important Black artist of the early 20th century. The hall included the Hall of Music, Arts, and Literature curated by Dorothy Parker; The Hall of Medicine and Public Health; The Hall of Religion; and the Hall of Medicine. For five months the federally funded exhibition was operational on the grounds of Fair Park during Texas the Centennial Exhibition then it mysteriously closed with no explanation. Out of the embers of destruction, a civil rights movement was born.

"Being involved with the creation of this most important eye-opening

road," Banghart said.

Arizona and its crowd came out of halftime with a refreshed energy. The Tar Heels weathered the early burst — the Wildcats cut the lead to seven — and pushed back. North Carolina closed the third quarter on a 15-2 run, capped by Kelly's threepoint play, to stretch the lead to 47-27.

Arizona had a scoreless drought of more than five minutes spanning the third and fourth quarters, all but ending its hopes of consecutive trips to the Sweet 16.

"We didn't really play that well, we didn't look hungry on the floor," said Arizona's Bendu Yeaney, who had 10 points. "This is a bitter moment."

documentary has been a joy, a great learning experience and a perfect vehicle for INSPIRE ART DALLAS," said Gail Sachson, MFA.

Directed by King Hollis and Lindell Singleton, in spring of 2020, the Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) received a \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service (NPS) to research and interpret the historic legacy of the 1936 Hall of Negro Life.

For more information on the research about the Hall listen to the Rising Podcasts available on https://www.Dallasculture. org -Public Art- Hall of Negro Life page

held the rapt attention of colleagues.

Booker, a Black Democrat from New Jersey, said he could no longer hold back his emotion over how Jackson has conducted herself in the face of combative questioning about her handling of child pornography cases, her representation of accused terrorists and her views on anti-racism teaching in schools.

"You faced insults here that were shocking to me," Booker said, speaking directly to Jackson, who is nominated to become the first Black woman on the high court.

"Nobody's taking this away from me," Booker continued, choking up as he spoke. Republicans are "gonna accuse you of this and that. But don't worry, my sister. Don't worry. God has got you. And how do I know that? Because you're here, and I know what it's taken for you to sit in that seat."

Jackson, who was sitting silently with her hands clasped, unlocked her fingers to grab a tissue and wiped tears streaming down her cheeks. It was the first time in nearly two dozen hours of questioning from senators that she had showed that much emotion.

Since the beginning of Jackson's hearings Monday, Democratic and Republican senators have saluted the nominee's history-making appointment, praised her pedigree, and noted her pleasant temperament and

before the panel, he said, she had to overcome systemic barriers and overachieve at every level. Only then could she have the chance to break through one of the last remaining racial ceilings in American democracy.

"I want to tell you, when I look at you, this is why I get emotional," Booker said. "I'm sorry, you're a person that is so much more than your race and gender. You're a Christian. You're a mom. It's hard for me not to look at you and not see my mom. I see my ancestors and yours."

He added: "You have earned this spot. You are worthy. You are a great American."

After a day of charged partisanship, every Republican in the room gave Booker their full attention. Save for some sniffles, the room was completely quiet for the duration of his remarks.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., recessed immediately after Booker's remarks for a short break. Jackson left the room quickly, accompanied by her husband.

During the recess, a line of people, including Jackson's father, approached Booker and hugged him, several wiping away tears.

When the hearing resumed, a question from Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., about her being an inspiration to young Americans elicited more emotion from Jackson. She said his

Continue **Tears** Page 8

## **Speculation Grows over Justice Clarence Thomas' Health**

Still, speculation has run rampant over the secrecy in which Justice Thomas' hospitalization and health have been handled.

#### By Stacy M. Brown

As the potential historymaking Senate confirmation hearings continue this week for D.C. Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's Supreme Court bid, the health of another High Court Justice has flown relatively under the radar.

Justice Clarence Thomas, whose wife recently made headlines in revealing that she attended a January 6, 2021, rally that led to the U.S. Capitol insurrection, has remained hospitalized in Washington.

The official word from the Court is that Justice Thomas has experienced flu-like symptoms. However, the Court also

has shot down speculation that the justice might suffer from COVID.

They said he's fully vaccinated and has received a booster.

Still, speculation has run rampant over the secrecy in which Justice Thomas' hospitalization and health have been handled.

Sources on Capitol Hill have told the Black Press

that a growing number of Republicans fear that Justice Thomas is "a lot worse off" than what many have been led to believe.

That fear appears to have motivated Republican senators to attack the credentials of Judge Brown Jackson in hopes of either defeating

her nomination or at least prolonging the confirmation process.

If Justice Thomas were no longer able to serve, it would provide President Joe Biden with a second pick with confirmation hearings that could occur before the November midterm elections where Republicans are favored to reclaim control of the Senate.

Justice Thomas, 73, reportedly checked into Sibley Memorial Hospital on Loughboro Road in Northwest, Washington D.C., on March 18.

"Justice Thomas's symptoms were abating, he's

released in the next few days," the Court said to the media.

The statement noted that he would participate in cases by using briefs, transcripts, and oral arguments, which are comfortable, and could be sometimes delivered virtually.

#### **Continued War Page 1**

America's top diplomat said the United States would share that information with allies, partners and international institutions tasked with investigating allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"We've seen numerous credible reports of indiscriminate attacks and attacks deliberately targeting civilians, as well as other atrocities. Russia's forces have destroyed apartment buildings, schools, hospitals, critical infrastructure, civilian vehicles, shopping centers, and ambulances, leaving thousands of innocent civilians killed or wounded," Blinken said.

He cited attacks on the civilian population in the besieged city of Mariupol and elsewhere.

Neither Russia nor the U.S. recognizes the authority of the International Criminal Court at The Hague, presenting obvious difficulties for seeking accountability for war committed crimes in Ukraine.

deployed to track and monitor what has been happening in the conflict.

The U.S. could also provide support and backing to a commission of inquiry established by the U.N. Human Rights Council.

War crimes experts have suggested that Russian forces and government officials could also be prosecuted in countries such as Spain and Germany, where legal codes recognize universal jurisdiction, or that the U.S. bring criminal could charges.

Under U.S. law, an American citizen would have to be among the victims for charges to be under existing brought statutes.

Two Democratic members of Congress urged Attorney General Merrick Garland on Wednesday to open an investigation into war crimes for the deaths of two Americans in Ukraine — journalist Brent Renaud and Jimmy Hill, who was killed while waiting in a bread line. "Both Mr. Renaud and Institute of Technology. "It says to me that there's someants who were not taking thing seriously wrong with both from California.

Mr. Hill were non-combatany active part in the hostilities, wrote Reps. Ted Lieu and Rep. Eric Swalwell,

## Texas mail ballot rejections soar under new restrictions

#### By PAUL J. WEBER and ACACIA CORONADO

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas threw out mail votes at an abnormally high rate during the nation's first primary of 2022, rejecting nearly 23,000 ballots outright under tougher voting rules that are part of a broad campaign by Republicans to reshape American elections, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

Roughly 13% of mail ballots returned in the March 1 primary were discarded and uncounted across 187 counties in Texas. While historical primary comparisons are lacking, the double-digit rejection rate would be far beyond what is typical in a general election, when experts say anything above 2% is usually cause for attention.

"My first reaction is 'vikes,'" said Charles Stewart III, director of the Election Data and Science Lab at the Massachusetts vote and harder to cheat." But the final numbers recorded by AP lay bare the glaring gulf between that objective and the obstacles, frustration and tens of thousands of uncounted votes resulting from tighter restrictions and rushed implementation.

In Texas, a state former President Donald Trump easily won although by a smaller margin than 2016, the trouble of navigating new rules was felt in counties big and small, red and blue. But the rejection rate was higher in counties that lean Democratic (15.1%) than Republican (9.1%).

The unusually high rejection rate to start America's midterm election season is expected to put more attention on changes to the ballot box elsewhere in the country. Texas' election was the debut of more restrictive



FILE - In this May 6, 2021, file photo, a group opposing new voter legislation gather outside the House Chamber at the Texas Capitol in Austin, Texas. Texas threw out mail votes at an abnormally high rate during the nation's first primary of 2022, rejecting nearly 23,000 ballots outright under tougher voting rules that are part of a broad campaign by Republicans to reshape American elections, according to an analysis by The Associated Press. (AP Photo/Eric Gay, File)

ballots under tougher election laws, in part driven by Trump's baseless and perfraud in the 2020 election. The rejected ballots in Texas alone far exceeds the hunvoting rules the GOP raced dreds of even possible voter fraud cases the AP has previously identified in six battleground states that Trump disputed.

smaller counties did not provide data or respond to requests, but the 187 counsistent claims of rampant ties that provided full numbers to AP accounted for 85% of the 3 million people who voted in the primary.

> Last week, AP reported that 27,000 ballots had been flagged in Texas for initial rejection, meaning those voters still had time to "fix" their ballot for several days after the primary and have it count. But the final figures

The U.S. could still assist a prosecution before the court, which earlier opened an investigation into atrocities committed in Ukraine, by helping to gather evidence against Russian forces in Ukraine, using some of the vast abilities it has

The Department

Justice did not immediately

the way that the mail ballot policy is being administered." Republicans promised of

new layers of voting rules would make it "easier to to put on the books across the U.S. in time for the midterm elections, a push that took particular aim at mail voting that soared in popularity during the pandemic.

At least 17 other states in the coming months will cast

The AP counted 22,898 rejected ballots across Texas by contacting all 254 counties and obtaining final vote reconciliation reports. Some

Continue Ballot Page 8

#### Continued Women Page 1

With a sizable crowd chanting and urging Senators to "confirm [Judge Jackson] today," Graces and others spoke of the Judge Jackson's vast credentials and the potential she'd make as the first African American woman on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Inside the hearings, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) spelled out some of the Republican opposition to Judge Jackson.

Serving his seventh term in the Senate, the 88-year-old alluded to the rallies, noting how protestors stood outside the confirmation hearings of Trump nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

He also claimed that Judge Jackson had blocked Republicans from obtaining internal U.S. Sentencing Commission documents. Judge Jackson once sat prominently on the commission.

"As for her district court record, there have been some accusations that we cherry-picked some of Judge Jackson's criminal cases," Grassley said.

"Well, don't worry. We're going to talk about other cases as well."

Supporters have pointed to Judge Jackson's strong career on the bench, and her ability to write concise opinions.

"After carefully vetting Judge

Ketanji Brown Jackson's record, it is clear that she has the extraordinary qualifications, experience, and character to serve the nation on the Supreme Court," said Damon Hewitt, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

"Judge Jackson is a highly skilled and meticulous jurist who will bring a welcome perspective to the high court as the first Justice with experience as a public defender, and the first since Justice Thurgood Marshall to bring significant criminal defense experience to the Court.

The nation and its citizens are best served when Justices share the lived experiences as those that make up the country, said Melanie Campbell, the National Convener of the Black Women's Roundtable.

If confirmed, it will be the first time a Justice will more closely understand what it's like to be entangled in a criminal justice system that has unfairly treated BIPOC communities, Campbell said.

"The need for a fair judicial process is pertinent," she stated.

"The Senate must focus on Judge Jackson's qualifications, including her decades of experience as a federal judge and public defender, ethical track record, and

faithfulness to the law to ensure that the reputation of the Court is not diminished during this process."

Here's a list of organizations rallying in support of Judge Jackson:

- African American Ministers in Action
- Black Women's Roundtable

• National Women's Law Center

• She Will Rise

• Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

 National Council of Negro Women

- Higher Heights
- The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc., Metropolitan Washington, DC Chapter
- National Black Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women)
- We Testify
- End Rape On Campus
- NAACP
- Black Women's Health Imperative
- Black Girl Magic Network
- Ms. Foundation for Women
- National Education Association

• National Partnership for Women & Families

- Center for Popular **Democracy** Action
- ERA Coalition
- National Organization for Women

Continued Storms Page 1

Thirty miles (50 kilometers) northeast of Jacksboro, near Bowie, damage also was reportedly widespread with reports of some people trapped in collapsed structures. City manager Bert Cunningham said the worst damage was east of the town, with as many as four entrapments reported. Four people suffered minor injuries, said Emergency Manager Kelly McNabb.

A storm system had been predicted to bring strong tornadoes and large hail to parts of Texas on Monday, then move toward the Deep South, where forecasters warned a severe weather outbreak was possible Tuesday.

Parts of central and east Texas, especially the Austin and College Station areas, also saw severe storms reported as tornadoes, the National Weather Service said. Photographs posted on social media showed damage to buildings in the Austin suburbs Round Rock and Elgin. No injuries were immediately reported.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said during a news conference Monday night in suburban Austin's Williamson County that the "devastating" storms caused significant damage but the state would stand "shoulder to shoulder" with those affected, and he was thankful that there were no reports of fatalities.

"We know there are many people whose lives have been completely disrupted and people who've lost their homes," Abbott said. "At the very same time... it may be a miracle also, because even though there's been some devastating physical damage, to my knowledge, as of right now, there is no report of loss of life, which is just stunning."

Abbott credited local residents with taking shelter early, and local media who helped report approaching storms.

The rain was expected to bring relief to some areas of Texas hit by wildfires, but windy weather was expected to follow.



# **Michael Jackson** musical to launch national tour in 2023

By MARK KENNEDY



FILE - This image released by O&M shows Myles Frost as Michael Jackson in the musical "MJ." (Matthew Murphy/O&M via AP, File)

NEW YORK (AP) new, splashy The Broadway musical about Michael Jackson is going to moonwalk across America next year.

"MJ," packed with dozens of songs by the King of Pop and others, plans to hit 17 major cities over two years starting in 2023. It kicks off in Chicago at the James M. Nederlander Theatre on July 15, 2023.

"We are thrilled by the Broadway response to

destination, and we are MTV film crew that has excited to be able to begin this journey in one of the Nederlander Organization's most beautiful venues."

Additional tour engagements and complete cast will be announced at a later date. The tour will also include a previously revealed two-week engagement at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, from Sept. 26-Oct. 8, 2023.

The musical has most of Jackson's and the Jackson

gotten access to capture Jackson's 1992 "Dangerous" tour prep. Jackson melts back in time to explain his career and approach, showing a perfectionist edge. It is the work of playwright Lynn Nottage and director and choreographer Christopher Wheeldon. The musical has been approved by the Michael Jackson estate; Jackson died in 2009.

Broadway critics were divided over the musical,

**PNCBANK** 

Continued **Ballot** Page 7

suggest most voters did not.

Houston, around Democratic stronghold,

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law in October, saying at the time The most rejections were that "no one who is eligible a to vote will be denied the opportunity to vote." Abbott and top Texas Republicans who championed the changes have largely been silent about the rejection high rates. Abbott's office did not respond to requests seeking comment, and messages for Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Republican House Speaker Dade Phelan also went unanswered.

ALETA A. DOOLIN

requirements in Texas include listing an identification number — either a driver's license or a Social Security number — on the

The new mail ballot

where Harris County elections officials reported that nearly 7,000 mail ballots --about 19% - were discarded. During the last midterm elections in 2018, Texas' largest county only rejected 135 mail ballots. Harris County elections officials said they received more than 8,000 calls since January from voters seeking help, which they attributed to "confusion and frustration" over the new requirements.

In the five counties won by Trump that had the most mail-in primary voters, a combined 2,006 mailed ballots were rejected, a rate of 10% of the total. In the counties won by Biden with the most mail-in voters, which include most of Texas' biggest cities, a combined 14,020 votes were similarly rejected, which amounted to 15.7%.

In rural East Texas, Annette Young voted by mail like usual but received a surprising letter a week after the primary, informing her that the ballot never counted because it didn't comply with a new state law requiring mail voters to include personal identification numbers.

"I just threw it right in the trash," she said.

Most of the rejected ballots, according to county election officials and the Texas secretary of state, failed to adhere to the new identification requirements. The changes were part of the sweeping overhaul to elections Texas' that

Republican state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, a proponent of the changes, said in an email that one issue might have been that ballot instructions printed in different ink colors — red for signature, black for identification numbers — might have left voters with the wrong impression they did not need to provide both.

Federal data on discarded mail ballots in general elections show few instances of double-digit rejection rates. The outliers include Indiana (14.5%) in 2006, Oregon (12.7%) in 2010 and New York (13.7%) in 2018, according to records from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

Stewart, of MIT, said generally less is known about trends in primary elections because of lacking data. One assumption, he said, is that because primaries tend to draw the most habitual voters, they are less likely to mistakes that cause rejections. But Stewart said others believe that officials may have more time to scrutinize, and reject, ballot paperwork in low-turnout elections.

ballot's carrier envelope. That number must match the county's records, and if a ballot is rejected, voters are given the opportunity to supply the missing information or simply cast a ballot in person instead.

It is unknown how many Texas voters whose mail ballots were rejected may have still had their vote count by deciding to just show up in person instead.

Sam Taylor, a spokesman for the Texas secretary of state, said the office did not yet have its own final comprehensive numbers on ballot rejections. He said a "significant portion" of their efforts this year will be awareness about the new mail-in rules.

"We are confident we will have all the information we need to apply any lessons learned during the primary to an even more robust voter education campaign heading into the November general election," he said.

Delores Tarver Smith, 87, took no chances with a mail ballot this year. She applied in Harris County for a mail ballot Feb. 1, but when none arrived by election day, she went and voted in person.

Last Wednesday — more than a week after the primary — her absentee ballot finally showed up at her home.

"I just went in person to vote, because I had to make sure my vote counted," she said.

'MJ,' and that we are already deep in preparations to bring this exhilarating show to Chicago and across the United States," said producer Lia Vollack in a statement. "Chicago is a premier theater and music

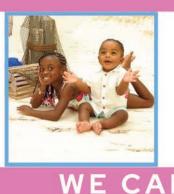
5's big hits, including "ABC," "Black or White," "Blame it on the Boogie," "Bad," "Billie Jean," "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "I'll Be There."

The framing technique for the bio is a fictional

with many frustrated that it sidestepped accusations of molestation, which later dogged Jackson. But virtually all agreed that the songs and dancing were top-notch, as was the leading man, Myles Frost.

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#### Continued Tears Page 6

remarks and question were "very moving."

Jackson choked up as she told the story of walking around at Harvard University, feeling as if she didn't belong, when another Black woman who she did not know passed and seemed to understand what she was feeling.

"Persevere," she said the woman told her.

"I hope to inspire people to try to follow this path, because I love this country, because I love the law, because I think it is important that we all invest in our future," Jackson said. "And the young people are the future."