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STOP POLICE MURDERS OF BLACK YOUTH

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Contributor

Civil Rights leaders and others reacted with a sense of relief - if only temporary - after a Texas jury sentenced a former police officer to 15 years in prison Wednesday for the shooting death of an unarmed African-American teen in a Dallas suburb.

"The child murdering cop just got 15 years in prison ... he'll likely serve all 15," said activist Shaun King. "It doesn't bring Jordan [Edwards] back, but it's the closest thing to justice we've seen."

A day earlier when the same jury found former Police Officer Roy Oliver guilty, King said it was an "answer to our prayers."

"A bittersweet moment for his family and for all of us who've fought non-stop for justice," King wrote on Twitter. "We'd rather Jordan be alive, but this was so important."

Journalist Jamil Smith noted a connection from Jordan to Emmett Till.

"I look at his face and see Emmett Till, lynched 63 years ago today. This story didn't end in the typical fashion, though," Smith said. "Oliver was convicted. I hate that this news is so surprising."

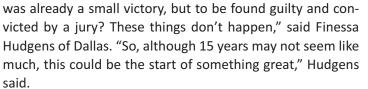
The jury deliberated for 12 hours before deciding the fate of Oliver, the former Balch Springs, Texas officer. In addition to the prison term, it imposed a fine of \$10,000.

Oliver was convicted of murder for the killing of Jordan Edwards, a 15-year-old high school freshman.

He fired into a car full of teens on April 29 last year, saying he believed it was moving aggressively toward his partner.

Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson described







September 6 - 12, 2018

across the United States."

White police officers must be held accountable, said Chavis, a long-time civil rights activist and one-time head of the NAACP.

"The prison sentence should have been at minimum a life

Oliver as a "killer in blue" who violated his oath to protect citizens.

Prosecutors sought a sentence of at least 60 years while the defense argued for 20 years or less.

"The fact that Roy Oliver was even indicted for murder

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, wrote in an email that the Oliver's sentence "finally breaks the systematic problem of denying equal justice to the families and victims of racially-motivated police murders of Black persons

sentence for this brutal murder of an innocent Black teenager," he said.

"But today, at least police officers in America are put on notice: if you murder us, you will be punished and imprisoned. We must stop these racist police murders."

O'Rourke bets national attention lifts him in Texas race

Dallas prosecutor hurt, daughter killed in Labor Day crash

A Dallas County prosecutor and her husband, who is an investigator with the DA's office, were badly injured in a chain reaction crash Monday that also killed one of their children

The crash happened around 1:30 p.m. on Highway 75 in Fairview just south of Highway 121. It was raining heavily at the time.

Police said the driver of an 18-wheeler slowed down because of an accident that had already happened. The semi was then rear-ended by the Cadillac SUV carrying the family of four, killing a 10-year-old girl.

Shawnkeedra Martin is one of the prosecutors who worked the Roy Oliver murder trial. She, her husband Harold and their 3-month-old daughter were all rushed to Plano Medical Center with serious injuries.

Information first reported on Fox 4.

(AP) — If elections were decided by viral videos and fawning media profiles, Democrat Beto O'Rourke would win Texas' Senate race in a landslide.

Video of the candidate defending NFL players' right to protest during the national anthem had been viewed by millions even before NBA star LeBron James called it a "must-watch." Another of O'Rourke, a three-term congressman, thrashing through a Whataburger parking lot on a skateboard is almost as popular, increasing the onetime punk rocker's considerable alreadv street cred. National magazines are suggesting he could be a Democratic vicepresidential pick in 2020 - or even a White House contender, ala a young Barack Obama. Sure, O'Rourke may lose to incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, the argument goes, but just staying competitive in Texas, which hasn't elected a Democrat to statewide office in nearly a quarter century, would still further boost his political star.

The White House is taking notice. President Donald Trump tweeted that he plans to stage "a major rally" for Cruz in October. Help from the president was long unthinkable in a race that for months looked like a Cruz cakewalk.

The hype machine powering O'Rourke has brought in piles of cam-

paign cash and generated excitement nationally. But it also risks eventual backlash. Voters have often punished candidates for getting too big for their political britches - especially if they haven't won anything yet. O'Rourke need only look to his opponent for an example of a politician whose ambitions irked voters he needed.

Still, the Democrat seems eager to test a Trump-era theory that, with such an outsized personality in the White House, voters may no longer want their politicians to stay humble.

O'Rourke has largely welcomed the spotlight. His stance on anthem protests landed him an appearance on Ellen DeGeneres' TV show this week. O'Rourke also hasn't disavowed descriptions of himself as "Kennedy-esque," given his boyish good looks. He livestreams constantly and, in March, when he appeared on HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher," the crowd in Los Angeles cheered so much that the host crowed, "It's like when the Beatles came to America."

"You can't control it," O'Rourke spokesman Chris Evans said of the attention. He disputed the idea that national praise could hurt back home, saying it's "hard to say we're not focused on Texas" since O'Rourke just spent 34 days of the congressional summer recess campaigning without leaving the state.

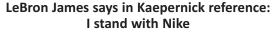
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EBJ against Guns in Schools!









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EDITORIAL PAGE

1 cons of Significance: The W Luncheon

My Day By Dr. J. Ester Davis

What is going on with the woman? Why are women in all colors, profoundly and deliberately investing in themselves with these large numbers? Did they have a meeting about this someplace?

What is the common thread? The fastest growing group of entrepreneurs in America today are African American Women businesses. According to American Express with a subsequent project initiated by Coca Cola and other Fortune 500 companies, African American women businesses grew 74% from 1997 to 2015.

The U.S. Women Chamber of Commerce confirms this uptick in memberships from Black Women Entrepreneurs.

Around the world there is massive progress in all arenas surrounding the woman.

A woman led trade association, women farmers in Africa, and at home in the United States, a record number of women running for state, local, federal offices, which is sending shock waves across the globe.

This WOW ('wave-ofwomen') category is not all rosy. There is a wave of women killed in domestic violence. A wave of women abused. A wave of women incarcerated. A wave of women separated from their children. A growing wave of women homeless, terminally ill without health care. These images are before us everyday. The growth of women owned firms do have a common thread. Women of color are

lack of fair play, fair pay and respect.

Black Women Entrepreneurs have always been a mainstay in Dallas that other cities emulated. Allow me to name a few historical icons who mentored with success and significance. Connie Davis, Alto and Georgia McGowen, Mable White, Mable Chandler in education . . oh oh so many. But now, we have a new age group of icons really doing bigger and better things in all neighborhoods.

The Icons of Significance is a celebration of the will, fortitude, example and courage of generations of women. This reage group will be announced this month, Thursday, November 20, 2018, 11:00 AM, Petroleum Club, Chase Tower 39th Floor, Dallas. Just give me

impacted more significantly, a call for all details. Our guest speaker is a former Dallas business leader with ties to Bishop College and Howard University. Mrs. Clara McLaughlin of Jacksonville, Florida, who was the first African American woman to own television stations in Longview and Tyler. Moving to Florida, the journey continued. COME . . . and be a part of the 'wave-of-women' that are intentionally making a difference.

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Teachers do not want guns!

By Congresswoman Eddie **Bernice Johnson**

If Education Secretary Betsy DeVos were to consult the nation's educators and law enforcement officials she would immediately dismiss any consideration of providing federal funding to states for the purpose of arming classroom teachers.

Under her leadership, the department is currently mulling over the idea which has been promulgated by President Trump, and his allies at the National Rifle Association, which seems to believe that the answer to all of our problems is to arm every American citizen.

In a March 2018 Gallup Poll, seventy-three percent of the teachers asked responded that they were against educators being in possession of weapons. Nearly sixty percent

having armed teachers would create dangerously unsafe educational environments.

Congress has historically been opposed to the policy being considered by DeVos. In the legislation that we passed in March of this year, that included \$50 million for local school districts, we restricted the funds to educational purposes, excluding the purchase of firearms.

School safety experts, including organizations that represent school safety officers, have joined legislators and teachers in opposing the policy being considered by DeVos.

It simply contravenes common sense. If DeVos and the administration were truly concerned about the safety of our students and our teachers, they would propose policies that make schools safer.

For instance, they would support laws and policies that prevent people with a history of mental illness from purchasing or owning firearms. They would promulgate the presence of fewer guns, not more.

If she will not listen to the voices of our teachers, perhaps she will listen to the two largest professional organizations that represent American educators, National Education the Association and the National Federation of Teachers. Both oppose the possibility of funds for guns.

Law enforcement officials, including those that head major police chief organizations in America overwhelmingly oppose what is being considered by DeVos. I have personally written to the Secretary expressing my opposition to what she is considering.

Seasoned educators believe that more guns will lead to greater harm to teachers and students. They are law enforcement professionals, and certainly their counsel should be heard before any decision is made.

Secretary DeVos, who came out of the business world before becoming the administration's head educator, should listen to those who have lived and breathed education all of their lives.

To do otherwise would be foolish, and would simply be evidence that the nation's education policies are being set by groups such as the National Rifle Association and not those who have devoted their lives to the well-being of our nation's young people.

"A SURVEY OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS" **ROMANS 6:1-14** THE CALL TO A GODLY WAY OF LIVING

Aretha Franklin Died with Millions of Pollars, but

of the respondents said that

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BE KIND! Never speak harsh words. Be kind and gentle with your tongue. For it has been said that the tongue can be like a sword. Think long before you criticize your neighbor. Your tongue can be nasty. Living is one of the most beautiful things in the world. But the tongue can kill!

A Message from

The Dallas Post Tribune Editor

We welcome letters to the editor. Submissions must be signed, addressed and must include a daytime and an evening phone number. Please limit submissions to 350 words. We reserve the right to edit and correct all submissions although; every effort will be made to retain the intended meaning of the submission. Send your submissions via email to production@dallasposttrib.net or by mail to P.O. Box 570769, Dallas, Texas 75357-0769.

by Rev. Johnny C. Smith

In this most sublime epistle of Romans, Paul has declared that both Jews and Gentiles are guilty before God, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). However, God accepts all sinners who trust Christ as Saviour, and He declares them righteous on the basis of their faith (Romans 5:1).

In Romans chapters 6-8, Paul will discuss how saved sinners can be set free from sin's reigning power through identification with Christ in His death and resurrection. Thus far, Paul had been advancing that justification is by faith alone; and that it is a gift of God's grace apart from works. In connection with Paul's argument in Romans 5:20 and his question raised in Romans 6:1 - "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" may lead one to conclude that a saved sinner may continue to sin to magnify the grace of God. Paul's answer to the question raised in verse 1 was "God forbid" in verse 2. Continuing in sin is indeed no option to the child of God who has turned to Christ and has partaken of His resurrection life! Christians cannot continue in sin because they are dead to sin (v. 2). Christians died to sin at their conversion.

Having explained that Christians have died to sin in verse 2, Paul declared that Christians have been baptized into His death (v. 3). Christians are one with Christ - identified with Christ in His death. Moreover, not only are Christians identified with Christ in His death, but we are identified with Christ in His burial and resurrection (vs. 4-5). As Christ has died and was buried and rose again, the believer has identified with Christ and has experienced through sanctification the power to live victoriously for God! Because of the believer's intimate union with Christ (planted together), he has in some sense entered into a real death with Christ on the cross when he trusted in Christ as his Saviour.

In verse 6, Paul declared that the "old man is crucified with Christ." The old man represents the believer's pre-salvation life. Paul went on to say that the physical body of the believer was rendered powerless as an instrument of sin when the old man was crucified. The believer is no longer to serve sin because he has died to sin and its reigning power (v.7). As the believer comes to understand that he has died with Christ (v. 8), he will understand that he is a new man, for "old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). The reality in verse 8 that the believer knows that he shall live with Christ is his solid belief in the historical resurrection of Christ (I Corinthians 15:17). Through Christ's powerful resurrection, He conquered death. He will not again die, for He destroyed death's "dominion over Him" (v. 9). Every believer has the confidence that Christ has destroyed the power of both sin and death when He rose from the grave (v. 10).

In verses 11-14, the key to knowing that the believer has victory over sin's dominance is to view the word "reckon" (v. 11). The word "reckon" means to "consider or count as a fact." The believer is to keep on counting that the facts revealed in verses 1-10 are true. Since the believer has died with respect to sin, he is now exhorted to live victoriously with respect to God. In verses 12-14, Paul finally exhorted the believer to a life that honors God by not allowing sin to rule as a king. God has graciously set us apart so that sin should not have dominion over us.

May God Bless!

Forgot to do This

Nationwide (BlackNews.com) -- Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, is a legend that will never be forgotten. But with all due R-E-S-P-E-C-T, the IRS is probably singing with joy because she reportedly left no will when she died. Apparently, she did nothing to shelter her assets from the Taxman. "The IRS will eat 40 percent of Aretha's estate with the death tax," says celebrity tax advisor Jayson Thornton of Thornton Tax Firm.

But the Estate taxes could have been limited. Thornton says Franklin could have set up an estate plan with trusts to benefit any relatives and charities she chose, while leaving very little if anything to be taxed. "When Black celebrities die, their money normally goes to 4 places; family, friends, charity, and the Taxman," said Thornton.

Not settling up a trust that would have given Franklin's beneficiaries set amounts; they now have to fight over the Taxman's leftovers.

For 2018, the estate tax exemption is \$5.6 million per individual. That means an individual can leave \$5.6 million to heirs and pay no federal estate taxes. A married couple will be able to shield \$11.2 million from federal estate taxes. Aretha Franklin died with a reported estate net worth of \$80 million, which could end up paying almost \$27 million in Federal Estate Taxes.

About Thornton Tax Firm, LLC

Thornton Tax is a St. Louis, MO based African American accounting firm that specializes in tax law for clients in the Sports and Entertainment industry in tax compliance cases, tax preparation and IRS tax debt settlements. For more information, visit www.ThorntonOffice.com.

About Jayson Thornton

Jayson M. Thornton is a tax advisor and enrolled to practice by the United States Department of Treasury. He is also a certified public accountant (CPA) candidate for the State of Missouri. Thornton earned his associate degree in Accounting from St. Louis Community College, and bachelor's degree in 2006 from Missouri Valley College as an honors graduate.

Councilmember Rickey D. Callahan to announce Dallas as a Purple Heart City

The City of Dallas will move to become a designated Purple Heart City, at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 5th at Dallas City Hall during the next Dallas City Council meeting.

Purple Heart cities are those cities known for their strong commitment to veterans, with a notable number of citizens who have received the Purple Heart. That Purple Heart military medal is given to those who are wounded or killed in action.

The city's proclamation will commend the "valor of the extraordinary men and women who have received the Purple Heart ... and confirm Dallas' commitment to honor all Veterans who have served our country, so faithfully, in defense of our freedoms." Becoming a Purple Heart City comes at no cost to the city.

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CRITICISM OF REV. JASPER WILLIAMS FOLLOW HIS REMARKS AT ARETHA FRANKLIN'S FUNERAL

(NNPA) - Saying his subject was "Aretha the Queen of Soul," Rev. Jasper Williams of the Salem Bible Church in Atlanta gave the audience gathered for Aretha Franklin's funeral a few unexpected memories laced with political commentary.

Though he began simply, referring to the history of soul music and gospel, his talk became political as he Williams appeared towards the end of the ten-hour service. Rev. Williams was one of over three dozen speakers at Franklin's lengthy Detroit home going ceremony.

Rev. Williams referenced black-on-black crime, said single mothers are incapable of raising sons alone and proclaimed that black America has lost its soul and it's "now time for black America to come back home."

"Where is your soul, black man?" he asked the audience at one point. "As I look in your house, there are no fathers in the home no more. Where is your soul?"

"Seventy percent of our households are led by our precious, proud, fine black women. But as proud, beautiful and fine as our black women are, one thing a black woman cannot do. A black woman cannot raise a black boy to be a man. She can't do that. She can't do that," Rev. Williams said.

"It amazes me how it is that when the police kills one of us, we're ready to protest march, destroy innocent property," he said. "We're ready to loot, steal whatever we want. ...But when we kill 100 of us, nobody says anything. Nobody does anything," he went on.

"There was a time when we as a race had a thriving economy. I remember we had our own little grocery stores. We had our own little hotels. They weren't big and fancy, but they were ours. As bad as the days as Jim Crow and segregation were ... it forced us to each other instead of forcing us on each other. We quickly come to realize that as a people, all we really have is one another," Rev. Williams said during his 40-minute eulogy to Franklin.



By Kimberlee Buck, Staff Writer, Los Angeles Sentinel

"Nearly seven out of ten Black women are unmarried at any given time, and as many as three out of ten will never marry,"said Keepinglt100 CFO, Lynn Beatty. "Marriage has also declined among Black men, fewer than half of whom are husbands. African Americans have the lowest rate of getting married and the highest rate of getting a divorce. So, when you look at those two opposing statistics, that means there's not a lot of Black marriages that are surviving.

Recently, the Los Angeles Sentinel discussed Black marriage statistics with Keepinglt100 founder Kerry Neal and the organizations CFO Beatty, about what the organization is doing to bridge the Black dating divide.

According to Neal, Keepinglt100 is "a social event where men and women come together to respond honestly to randomly selected, prescripted, open-ended questions regarding relationship dynamics. Keepinglt100 is a social change movement focused on debunking and demystifying relationship dynamics between men and women in an effort to bridge a healthier understanding between the sexes," he said.

Keeping It100 was created by Black men and women for Black men and women. The nonprofit organization prides itself in providing a safe space for Black men and women to have honest and open communication about some of the generational myths each gender has about the other.

The inception of Keeping It100, began after a singles ministry at Neal's church ended.

"You had this group of unmarried singles who were looking for activities that would help to stimulate their singles experience, but obviously one of the things that was a driver was for them to meet their future spouse," said Neal.

The same group started coming together to discuss the single life and the challenges they faced with the opposite sex and which gender was doing something wrong when it came to dating. During these conversations, which usually lead to heated debates, Neal began to notice a reoccurring theme of both men and women making unhealthy assumptions about one another. This lead to Neal creating a game called Keepinglt100. The game is designed to generate a space to debunk dating myths. goal. When we have stronger Black relationships, we have stronger Black communities," said Neal.

How does it work? The organization holds moderated dialogues quarterly at special events. Each event has special guest speakers, like psychologists, matchmakers, and other experts to express their insight during the discussion.

During the event, questions are posed to mixed audience of married couples and single attendees. At the end of each event, eventgoers are encouraged to stay for the "after party" where attendees can continue conversations about the topics discussed, dance, listen to music and of course, mingle.

"We realized, that in order to give some meat to what we are trying to accomplish, we need to bring in some professionals," said Keepinglt100 co-lead moderator, Lynn Beatty.

"There are a number of well-educated Black professionals with the scientific information, the data, and the experience around Black relationships that will lend that level of expertise to the conversation. There is a lot of opinion out there what we needed was for professionals to come out and be informants and give us real information so that we weren't always kind of working off our emotion."

Aside from the regularly scheduled special events, Keepinglt100 provides masterclasses on dating. On September 15 and 29 attendees will learn:

how-to-date in the 21st century

•the online dating do's and don'ts

when to expect being exclusive and engaged
Break-ups and divorces: when to start dating again

•How to show interest without seeming desperate

• Dating outside of your race

Dating and emotional readiness

Social media and dating

Single parent dating

What is dating?

The event will be led by author, life coach, and spiritual advisor, Donald Bell at the Playa Vista Public Library from 10am-1pm. Register for the Keepinglt100 Master Class by heading over to datingmasterclass.eventbrite.com.For more information on the organization and to attend one of their events please visit http://keepingit100la.org/ and follow them on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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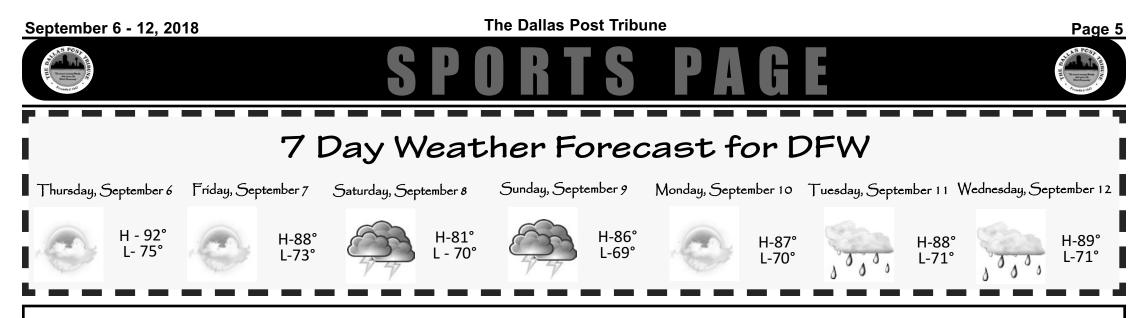
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LeBron James says in Kaepernick reference: I stand with Nike

(AP) — Clutching his young daughter in his arms, LeBron James said he stands with Nike, a clear reference to the company's Colin Kaepernick ad campaign.

The basketball superstar — and new Los Angeles Laker made the remarks as he received an award Tuesday for both his style and his philanthropy from Harlem's Fashion Row. The fashion collective partnered with Nike for the New York event, both a fashion show and an awards ceremony that focused on diversity in the fashion world. The evening culminated in the reveal of the latest LeBron James Nike basketball shoe: a women's sneaker designed by three female African-American designers and inspired by strong African-American women.

In emotional remarks, James paid tribute to the three women in his life — his mother, wife and 3-year-old daughter, Zhuri.

He noted how his mother had raised him alone, and given him "a sense of pride, a sense of strength, a sense of no worry."

"Because of you, Gloria James, I'm able to be in a position today where I can give back and showcase why I believe African-American women are the most powerful women in the world."

The NBA star, who was wearing one of his favored shrunken-fit shorts suits by designer Thom Browne, called his daughter "my rock."

"People always told me if you ever have a girl, she'll change you," said James, who also has two sons. "I was like, nobody's changing me, I'm a man." But she did, he said.

"Not only did she change me, she's made me a better person," James said. "A more dedicated person, a stronger person, I guess a more sensitive person."

Closing his remarks, he said he stood "for anybody who





believes in change." He added: "I stand with Nike, all day, every day."

Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, unveiled his first ad of the new campaign Monday. "Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything," it

said.

The new endorsement deal has sparked vigorous debate, with some fans expressing displeasure over the apparel giant's support of a player known for starting a wave of protests among NFL players against police brutality, racial inequality and other social issues.

Some angry fans were even burning and cutting out the signature swoosh logos on their gear — and posting the results on social media.

But Kaepernick and his Nike campaign, which marks the 30th anniversary of Nike's "Just Do It," received plenty of support from the fashion world in attendance Tuesday.

Bethann Hardison, an activist for diversity in fashion and a former supermodel who was also honored by Harlem's Row, said she was happy with Nike's move. "It's such a divided situation in our world right now," she said of the negative reaction by some fans. "But I'm such a huge, huge, wholehearted supporter of Colin that I'm very proud that someone understands what he's done and (is giving) him some kudos."

Prominent African-American designer Tracy Reese said she loved the new Nike campaign.

"It was tastefully done," she said. "And really, this is the time to stand up for what you believe in. Colin Kaepernick has done that and I think that we need to follow his example and really go where the heart leads, instead of where everybody expects you to go."

Also honored at the ceremony were Harlem streetwear designer Dapper Dan and stylist Jason Rembert. A fashion show highlighted the work of designers Kimberly Goldson, Undra Duncan and Fe Noel, who together helped create the new shoe.

Cowboys keep Frederick off IR, still no timetable for return

will not go on injured reserve initially as he battles a condition that affects start when the Cowboys nervous system, the although the Dallas Cowboys still don't have a timetable for the return of traveled with the team to information that I've gottheir four-time Pro Bowl the final preseason game in ten, there hasn't been any center.

(AP) — Travis Frederick ness in various parts of the he started his treatments," body.

> Joe Looney is expected to open the season Sunday at his own. He's been able to Carolina.

Houston and is attending meetings. He has started all 83 games, including three playoff games, over five seasons. A move to IR would force Frederick to miss at least eight games. "It's been positive since

Garrett said. "And that's given us cause to be optimistic. He's working out on handle the work so far. The 27-year-old Frederick From my perspective, the drastic setbacks in any way." The Cowboys added depth on the interior line by claiming center Adam Redmond on waivers from Buffalo and acquiring Kansas City backup Parker Ehinger in a trade. Ehinger

was a fourth-round pick two and said, 'Coach, would you years ago.

move four-time Pro Bowl right guard Zack Martin to center, but he is the emerpreseason game against me? I'd absolutely love to Cincinnati but says he will have you be a part of it.' be ready to start against the Panthers.

mind if I came to Houston? Dallas doesn't want to I'd like to be part of the visit to NASA and I'd like to be part of the team when we play on Thursday night,"" gency option. Martin Garrett said. "I said, 'Would injured a knee in the second I mind? Are you kidding

Frederick, Martin and left tackle Tyron Smith - all first-round picks and all Pro Bowlers each of the past four seasons - have anchored a line that the Cowboys hope can make them a run-first team with Ezekiel Elliott. the NFL rush-

Coach Jason Garrett said Monday that Frederick hasn't had any "drastic setbacks" while getting treated for Guillain-Barre syndrome. The disorder attacks nerves and causes weak-

to reporters since announcweeks ago.

"He's been very proactive and he's taken the initiative Frederick hasn't spoken of being back and being part of our team and trying ing his diagnosis almost two to be involved in everything that we do short of going "He reached out to me out on the practice field."

ing leader as a rookie in 2016.

La'el Collins is going into his second year as the starter at right tackle, and rookie second-round pick Connor Williams is at left guard.

Serena Williams lauds Nike for Colin Kaepernick campaign



NEW YORK: Serena Williams reiterated her admiration for American football player turned activist Colin Kaepernick on Tuesday and praised apparel maker Nike for featuring him in a new ad campaign.

"Especially proud to be a part of the Nike family today. #justdoit," the 23-time Grand Slam champion tweeted before she headed out to book a US Open semi-final berth with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Karolina Pliskova.

The ads prompted immediate calls for Nike boycotts over Kaepernick, who has been castigated by President Donald Trump and other conservatives for kneeling during the national anthem to protest racial and social injustice, a demonstration he began in 2016.

The former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, Kaepernick has been effectively blacklisted by the NFL, and Nike shares tumbled early Tuesday over worries a campaign around such a controversial figure could harm sales. Williams told reporters after her victory over Pliskova that she thought the company made a "powerful" statement.

"He's done a lot for the African American community, and it's cost him a lot," Williams said. "It's sad. But he continues to do the best that he can.

"Having a huge company back him, you know, could be a controversial (decision) for this company, but they're not afraid," added Williams, who has had an endorsement deal with Nike since 2003.

"I feel like that was a really powerful statement to a lot of other companies."

As to whether athletes have a role to play in political and social discourse, Williams said she thought it was up to individuals.

"It's their choice," she said. "I think that's one great thing God gave us, is the freedom of choice.

"My choice is to choose to just be the best -- try to be. I'm not always perfect. Actually I'm never perfect. (I) just try to be the best that I can be, maybe I can just influence one person and that makes a change already."

If you have sports information that you would like placed in the DALLAS POST TRIBUNE Sports Section e-mail us at: production@dallasposttrib.net



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I Miss You, Papa An Inspirational Story of Love and Loss by Sharon Jones-Scaife



I Miss You, Papa is a little girl's story of love between her and her Papa.

Every other weekend, Rihanna spends with Mema and Papa at their house. With Papa, they enjoy spending time together watching girly movies and cartoons, eating ice cream (sometimes in Papa's bed), riding bikes, blowing bubbles and reading books. And occasionally, even the aunts, uncles and cousins come to visit for even more fun.

Then one day Rihanna's mom pulls Rihanna and her little brother, Deshawn to her and tell them, "Papa is gone. Papa died from lung cancer. Papa is in heaven, no longer with us." Rihanna realizes that she will never hear Papa call her "baby girl" again and she will never be able to do any of the fun things with Papa again.

In a state of confusion, fear and worry, Rihanna begins to question why. Why did Papa die? Why did he die from cancer? What is cancer? Is that why Papa didn't look like himself? What is a funeral? Why can't Papa come home with us after the funeral? Soon, Rihanna's worry turns to losing other loved ones. Will Mema die next?

Even though the adults answer her many questions and reassure her that everyone else is okay, Rihanna creates the "Pretend Game" to help her cope with the pain of losing Papa and to help her keep the cherished memories of Papa deep in her heart.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sharon Jones-Scaife grew up in Marvell, Arkansas, the fourth of 15 children. As one can imagine, she spent a great deal of time reading to her younger siblings. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Sharon is the publisher of *Teen Graffiti*, a magazine that serves as a voice for teens and as an avenue of communication, allowing teens to express their opinions, concerns, and ideas through poetry, essays, articles and photography. Sharon is also the author of *Becoming*, a collection of original poems and illustrations. A resident of Sachse, Texas, Sharon spends her time supporting her son in basketball, creating adventures with her grandchildren, running, cycling, writing, and of course, reading.

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