

“Nothing in the universe can stop you from letting go and starting over.”

-Guy Finley



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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

May 16 - 22, 2019

Texas officer shoots and kills woman after stun-gun struggle



AP PHOTO

By JOHN L. MONE and JAKE BLEIBERG

BAYTOWN, Texas (AP) — A Texas police officer shot and killed a woman who police say grabbed his Taser and used it on him, moments after she seemed to say “I’m pregnant” in an altercation captured on video.

Pamela Turner was shot around 10:40 p.m. Monday at an apartment complex in the Houston-area community of Baytown, police Lt. Steve Dorris said Tuesday. The department has learned that Turner was not pregnant, said Dorris, who declined to elaborate on how police know that. Autopsy results have not been released.

The lieutenant said the officer was patrolling the complex about 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of Houston and tried to arrest the 44-year-old African American woman because he knew she had outstanding warrants. The officer, who is Hispanic and an 11-year veteran of the department, had previous dealings with Turner, but Dorris did not provide further details about the interactions or Turner’s warrants.

The officer has been placed on paid administrative leave, Dorris said.

Turner and the officer engaged in a struggle after he sought to arrest her. The officer opened fire after Turner grabbed his Taser and struck him in the groin with it, shocking him, Dorris said.

The officer wasn’t seriously hurt, the lieutenant said.

In the video, which is circulating on social media, Turner is heard saying “You’re actually harassing me” and “I’m actually walking to my house” before falling to the ground. While on her back, she appears to struggle with the officer, saying “Why? Why?” and then “I’m pregnant.” Turner then appears to reach up towards the officer and, moments later, he fires five shots, killing her.

Dorris said Turner was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigators are trying to contact whoever recorded the video, because the person was a witness to the shooting, the lieutenant said.

“It’s a tragic event for everybody involved,” Dorris said. “Of course, our hearts go out to the family of the deceased as well as our officer.”

Bleiberg reported from Dallas.

Obamas Go Hollywood, Set to Launch Films with Netflix



Written by Stacy Brown

The former president and First Lady have announced seven projects that are scheduled to be developed and released in the years to come. The projects include “American Factory,” a documentary from this year’s Sundance Film Festival that examines the clash of cultures in Ohio when a Chinese billionaire sets up a new factory in the old General Motors plant and hires some 2,000 blue-collar Americans.

When Former President Barack Obama occupied the White House, it wasn’t uncommon to see a myriad of celebrities meeting with the Commander in Chief and First Lady Michelle Obama.

Some even called Washington, D.C., “Hollywood East,” because of the popularity of the Obamas even among superstars.

Now, one year after launching their production company, “Higher Ground Productions,” the Obamas have officially gone Hollywood.

The former president and First Lady have announced seven projects that are scheduled to be developed and released in the years to come.

The projects include “American Factory,” a documentary from this year’s Sundance Film Festival that examines the clash of cultures in Ohio when a Chinese billionaire sets up a new factory in the old General Motors plant and hires some 2,000 blue-collar Americans.

The film was acquired by Higher Ground Productions in partnership with Netflix, where the Obamas have a content deal.

“Crip Camp” is also a documentary acquired by Higher Ground and Netflix, currently in production with support from the Sundance Institute, according to Entertainment Weekly which reported that the film will

follow a ramshackle summer camp for disabled teenagers in the early 1970s that helped set in motion the disability rights movement in America.

“We created Higher Ground to harness the power of storytelling. That’s why we couldn’t be more excited about these projects,” President Obama said in a statement from Higher Ground.

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District Attorney’s Office Determines Actual Innocence in Overturned Murder Convictions of Two Men



Innocence Project. Photo by Ron Jenkins

(Dallas, Texas) — Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot and the Office’s Conviction Integrity Unit moved to dismiss the cases of Stanley Mozee and Dennis Allen on the basis of actual innocence, whose murder convictions were formerly reversed by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in January, 2018. The motions were presented to State District Court Judge

Raquel “Rocky” Jones on Friday, May 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the 203rd Judicial District Court.

Mozee and Allen were convicted in 2000 for the murder of Reverend Jesse Borns Jr. The Conviction Integrity Unit began its investigation in this case in 2009, when the Innocence Project and the Innocence Project of Texas requested a review of the case. After a joint re-investigation, the Conviction Integrity Unit agreed to post-conviction relief in 2014 on the basis that the trial prosecutor suppressed exculpatory evidence. The re-investigation continued for several years, during which further evidence was submitted to the Court of Criminal Appeals for consideration.

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The Honorable Mike Rawlings, Seven Colleagues Endorse Rep. Eric Johnson



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Confederate statues are a monument to what?

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EDITORIAL PAGE

White Flight. White Return



My Day
 By Dr. J. Ester Davis

Right after the Dallas Post Tribune printed My Day "Dallas Worldview Resume" (April 11, 2019 Editorial), we received emails from around the nation from our populous network. The Guardian, May 2019, headlined "What Will Happen When Harlem Becomes White?". . . leading with **Harlem** is gentrifying. (Gentrification means that demographics are changing) . . . and Harlem is getting whiter. Rose Hackman in New York writes that "when it comes to economic development, the story is much more complicated than white people moving in, black people moving out". Off 125th Street's Subway is luxury condominiums, bars and restaurants along Frederick Douglass Blvd, now renamed "restaurant row". Today, benchmarking the shift in residents boldly is the "Red Rooster", **Harlem's new renaissance** restaurant, a few doors down from the global historic soul food diner, Sylvia's. The owner, celebrity chef

Marcus Samuelsson, born in Ethiopia, lived in Sweden, settled in Harlem years before opening this restaurant in 2010, defining and gift-wrapping a new chic, upscale Harlem. The "Red Rooster" clientele is "quite white" and non local. Ginny's Supper Club, another new restaurant and bar is within walking distance. **In Raleigh, N.C.**, African American neighborhoods near downtown Raleigh is the arrival of white homeowners in places they have forever avoided. **In Houston's** traditional legendary Dowling Street, home to the night life for African American for decades, white women are walking their dogs. **In Dallas**, off Pennsylvania Street, South Dallas, white soccer teams have games at night. This wave across the country has remarkable consistency affecting predominantly African American neighborhoods most measurably in terms of value of land, culture and mortgage hiccups. The one common denominator is that these neighborhoods are not only poor, but located within a stone's throw of picturesque downtown skyline lights. **White flight** across America has a long audacious history which stands in a category

all its own.
 Please be aware and recognize that **white flight and white return** are opposite and generations apart. There was never "white flight". The imitation "White Flight" was replaced with absentee landlords, fast foods establishments, insurance denials and **bank redlining** narrowing the rightly investment that should have taken place in inner cities where African Americans remained.
An Awareness Notice: Please find and read "Do you see a For Sale Sign in my Yard". My research and reporting yield that the volume of mailer to longtime residents in Southern Dallas has increased. A serious scam exist which comes as a "THIRD NOTICE". . . disguised as a bill going soon to collection. The optimum words here are "scam" and absolute intimidation of the highest order.
To be continued.
 Ester Davis can be reached at BlogTalkRadio, CFN, BPENTV 214.376.9000 or Email: estylr2000@aol.com.

Obamas Go Hollywood, Set to Launch Films with Netflix

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"Touching on issues of race and class, democracy and civil rights, and much more, we believe each of these productions won't just entertain, but will educate, connect, and inspire us all." Michelle Obama added: "We love this slate because it spans so many different interests and experiences, yet it's all woven together with stories that are relevant to our daily lives." According to Entertainment Weekly, other projects include a non-fiction series

based on Michael Lewis' best-selling book "Fifth Risk," a damning examination of the Trump administration's impact on America's key government agencies; "Bloom," a period drama exploring the upstairs-downstairs worlds of women and people of color in a post-WWII New York; a scripted anthology series called "Overlooked," based on the New York Times' obituary column about people whose deaths were not initially reported by the paper; and a feature film adaptation of author David W. Blight's Pulitzer Prize-winning biography, "Frederick Douglass:

Prophet of Freedom." There is also a preschool series with the title, "Listen to Your Vegetables & Eat Your Parents." That series is described as taking young children and their families on a global adventure to learn where their food comes from. It's a project that's reportedly closely connected with Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative that she spearheaded during her tenure as First Lady to get all Americans more access and education to eating and living healthily.

District Attorney's Office Determines Actual Innocence in Overturned Murder Convictions of Two Men

Continued from Page 1

Ultimately, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reversed the convictions of both men, ruling that the lead trial prosecutor suppressed multiple items of exculpatory evidence at trial and failed to correct false or misleading testimony from witnesses. The Conviction Integrity Unit, through multiple administrations, has collectively spent ten years and countless hours ensuring that justice is served for Mozee and Allen. These cases undoubtedly establish that our Conviction Integrity Unit has been dedicated to rectifying wrongful convictions to ensure that the criminal justice system is fair and just for all. "After a thorough review of all the evidence, re-interviewing witnesses and exhausting all available forensic investigative possibilities in this

case, we have determined that actual innocence relief is warranted for both Mozee and Allen," said Conviction Integrity Unit Chief Cynthia Garza. While Mozee and Allen were freed from prison more than five years ago, today's dismissal on the basis of actual innocence, allows them to receive compensation for the time they spent behind bars. "If there was ever a case that warranted my office to take appropriate action to try to right these wrongs, the wrongful conviction of Mozee and Allen is it," said Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot. "Justice is slow sometimes, but today is a great day," Creuzot added. Innocence Project Senior Attorney Nina Morrison agrees with the District Attorney's decision saying, "Today, the Innocence Project is thrilled to have an offi-

cial declaration of what these two men have always known: that they are innocent. We are extremely grateful to the Dallas County District Attorney's Office for its commitment to pursuing justice and the truth in this case." Gary Udashen, president of the Board of the Innocence Project of Texas said, "This case stands as a model for prosecutors and courts who are committed to promoting policies that will mitigate prosecutorial misconduct and offer a clearer path to freeing the innocent." The District Attorney's Office would like to thank and acknowledge the Innocence Project and the Innocence Project of Texas for their collaboration in this case and for their unwavering efforts to seek justice in the wrongful conviction of Mozee and Allen.

The Honorable Mike Rawlings, Seven Colleagues Endorse Rep. Eric Johnson

DALLAS — The Honorable Mike Rawlings and other key Dallas leaders endorsed State Rep. Eric Johnson on Tuesday to serve as the next Mayor of Dallas. "A native son of southern Dallas, Eric Johnson epitomizes the very best of what our city has to offer," said The Honorable Mike Rawlings. "He is a proven collaborator who has won the confidence of former and current elected officials with whom he serves. A successful mayor must be a uniter, not a divider. Eric will be that unifying force that the people of Dallas deserve." Rep. Johnson has also been endorsed by four previous Mayors of Dallas. "Mike Rawlings has provided strong, effective, unifying leadership for Dallas and I am profoundly honored to have his support," Rep. Johnson said. "Dallas is a better city because of this man and his commitment to the people who live here. Mike Rawlings has not only accomplished a great deal for Dallas, but he has served with integrity and repeatedly earned the trust of everyone who cares about this city."

At a Tuesday press conference in Dallas, Rep. Johnson was also endorsed by The Honorable Casey Thomas II, The Honorable Tennell Atkins, The Honorable Carolyn King Arnold, The Honorable Jennifer Staubach Gates, The Honorable Adam McGough, The Honorable Lee Kleinman, and The Honorable Rickey Callahan. "These are great public servants," Rep. Johnson said. "I know that they do not take the decision to endorse in this race lightly, and I don't take their decision lightly either. All of us are eager to move past the divisiveness of recent years and work together to do what's best for this city. We will have some disagreements in the future, but we will work through them in a collaborative and productive fashion." Tuesday's endorsements highlighted the momentum that has built behind Rep. Johnson's campaign ever since May 4, when he received the most votes among nine mayoral candidates. Rep. Johnson has also been endorsed by a bipartisan group of 10 current and former members of the Texas Legislature and five members of the

Dallas ISD Board of Trustees. The son of a former Dallas police officer, Rep. Johnson grew up in Dallas and returned to his hometown immediately upon completing his formal education. He received his bachelor's degree with honors from Harvard University in 1998 as well as a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a master's degree from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, both in 2003. Rep. Johnson has represented Dallas-based District 100 in the Texas House of Representatives since 2010. He has been a leading voice for expanding access to early childhood education, fighting public corruption, funding much-needed street repairs, and improving public safety. Rep. Johnson has been a practicing lawyer in Dallas for the past fifteen years. He and his wife, Nikki, have two sons, William and George.

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 Church School- 9AM
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 Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.
 Bible Class 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
 Prayer Service - 6:30 p.m.
 Bible Class - 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
 Bible Class - 11:00 a.m.

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Sammie Berry
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Calendar of Events

Sunday Bible School 8:45 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
 Tuesday Song Practice 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Bible Class 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
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LOCAL SPOTLIGHT



The District 111 Childcare Providers were recently recognized in the Texas House of Representatives Chamber Galley by State Representative Davis during their visit to the State Capitol. The Childcare providers were in Austin to advocate for House Bill 4286 by Representative Yvonne Davis designed to streamline rules governing the Texas Rising Star Program which will assist childcare providers to provide quality child care. Representative Davis is pictured with Beverly Chiles, Tobitha Holmes, Murriel Webb, Alma Langrum, Doris Robinson and Brenda Pace.

NEWS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Registration Now Open for June 8 Carrollton Police Entrance Exam

Carrollton, Texas – Do you have what it takes? The City of Carrollton Police Department has opened registration for the next Civil Service exam, the first step in the time-honored process of becoming a public safety officer.

The exam will be administered at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 8 at Newman Smith High School (2335 N. Josey Lane).

Carrollton Police Chief Derick Miller said the department is seeking exceptional officers who put others first, have a proven leadership record, and have the ability to adapt to the constantly evolving demands associated with serving a growing and diverse community.

"Very few people earn the right to wear our badge," Miller said. "The Carrollton Police Department has rigorous hiring, training, and performance standards which ensure that we hire only the very best. We want officers who are dedicated to carrying out CPD's mission to proactively protect our community while treating everyone we encounter with professionalism, dignity, and respect."

The department provides extensive, paid training, state-of-the-art equipment designed to protect and serve the community, generous compensation (starting salary is \$62,336.76), and numerous resources for its officers.

Those taking the exam will need to bring their driver license, completed notarized waiver of liability emailed with registration confirmation, and their DD Form 214, if applicable. Applicants will run the physical agility course later in the hiring process.

For more information about the department and officer qualifications, or to register for the exam, visit cityofcarrollton.com/police.

Dallas Water Utilities crews respond to Sanitary Sewer Overflows

(Released May 9, 2019)

Dallas – The Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) Department is currently monitoring and performing cleanup activities at several sanitary sewer overflow locations throughout the City as a result of heavy rainfall that occurred on May 8, 2019.

The East Bank drainage basin experienced overflows that exceeded 100,000 gallons. DWU is complying with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulatory requirements related to sanitary sewer overflows. DWU customers should not be concerned when using water, as at no time was the City's water system affected by these sewer overflows. Although there is no danger to the water supply, the public is



reminded to avoid contact with waste material, soil, or water in any of the affected areas. If the public comes into contact with waste material, soil, or water potentially affected by the spills, they should bathe and wash clothes thoroughly. Persons using private drinking water supply wells located within 1/2-mile of the spill site or within the potentially affected area should use only water that has been distilled or boiled at a rolling boil for at least one minute for all personal uses including drinking, cooking, bathing, and tooth brushing. Individuals with private water wells should have their well water tested and disinfected, if necessary, prior to discontinuing distillation or boiling. Persons who purchase water from a public water supply may contact their water supply distributor to determine if the water is safe for personal use.

Crown Castle Partners with Dallas Parks and Friends of Oak Cliff Parks to Revitalize Kiest Park

Dallas, Texas – Crown Castle, the nation's largest provider of shared communications infrastructure, hosted a day of service on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, as part of its Connected by Good community service initiative. On a single day, over 1,880 employees helped revitalize 22 parks in 21 cities, for a total of 9,500 volunteer hours spent enhancing the communities where employees live and work.

In Dallas, 35 local Crown Castle employees rolled up their sleeves at Kiest Memorial Gardens and Nature Preserve to remove weeds, plant, and trim and remove brush.

"Our employees are enthusiastic about community service, and every year they look forward to our volunteer day dedicated to cleaning up parks across the country. We are excited to announce that Connected by Good has expanded, and throughout the year, we now work with schools and libraries to provide access to education and technology in underserved communities. Additionally, we support first responder organizations to help improve public safety in our communities," said Jay Brown, president and CEO of Crown Castle.

Removed weeds, planted, and trimmed and removed brush at Kiest Memorial Gardens and Nature Preserve (project completed May 9 due to inclement weather)

AARP Applauds Texas House Approval of Prescription Drug Price Transparency Bill – AARP Texas Director Urges Senate Passage of HB 2536

AUSTIN, Texas – The Texas House of Representatives has taken a major step to address the skyrocketing cost of prescription drug prices that are making it harder for Texans to afford the medicines they need.

The House approved House Bill 2536 by Rep. Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) on a unanimous, bipartisan vote Friday, sending the measure to the Texas Senate for its consideration. Earlier in the week, the bill was substantially revised under an amendment by

Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) that makes it one of the strongest drug price transparency measures in the nation.

House Bill 2536, as amended, requires certain drug-cost information to be provided – and then shared with the public on a state website – from drug manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers (also known as PBMs) and health benefit plans. Specifically, drug manufacturers would inform the Texas Health and Human Services Commissioner if the wholesale price of certain medicines increase more than 10 percent in any given year or more than 40 percent over five years. Within 60 days of reporting the information, the HHSC would post the data to a public website.

AARP Texas Director Bob Jackson said the updated bill would give consumers much-needed insights, such as how much of a drug's cost is owed to spending on advertising and marketing, and how much goes into research and development.

"The Texas House of Representatives deserves a round of applause for passing House Bill 2536, which will provide older Texans and other consumers the information they need to plan for and to understand drug price increases," said Jackson. "Drug price information allows consumers to combat the high cost of the medicines they need. I strongly urge the Texas Senate to support this bill and for Governor Abbott to sign it into law."

'Empire' to get 1 more season on Fox amid schedule shake-up

By LYNN ELBER

NEW YORK (AP) — "Empire" will return for its final season this fall on Fox — with Jussie Smollett a question mark — and should count itself lucky.

Fox, the lowest-rated network among the big four broadcasters, is hitting the reset button for the 2019-20 season by canceling eight shows and adding 10 new ones.

"Empire" companion drama "Star" is among the goners as the network makes room for an eclectic mix of wrestling, three new animated comedies and a "9-1-1" spinoff starring Rob Lowe.

"We are turning the final season of 'Empire' into a large television event," Fox Entertainment CEO Charlie Collier told a teleconference Monday. "One of the great benefits of announcing a final season is that you actually allow the fans to lean in and have the ending they deserve."

Collier dodged questions about Smollett's future with the show. The actor was accused of staging an attack last January in which he said two masked men beat him, hurled racist and homophobic slurs at him, doused him with a chemical substance and put a rope around his neck. Criminal charges were dropped but the uproar has yet to subside, making Smollett a continued publicity liability for Fox.

When pressed, Collier said there is an option to include him in the series "but at this point we have no plans for that."

A spokesman for Smollett didn't immediately reply to a request for comment.



SPORTS PAGE



7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, May 16

Friday, May 17

Saturday, May 18

Sunday, May 19

Monday, May 20

Tuesday, May 21

Wednesday, May 22



H - 87°
L - 68°



H-86°
L-71°



H-78°
L - 66°



H-85°
L- 70°



H-85°
L-72°



H- 85°
L-70°



H-87°
L-72°

Texas governor, lawmakers honor retired Mav Dirk Nowitzki

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Retired Dallas Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki has been honored by Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas lawmakers for his outstanding 21-year career with the same NBA team. Nowitzki was in Austin on Tuesday to visit Abbott, who introduced the German-born athlete as the greatest player in the history of the Mavs and one of the greatest in the league. The 40-year-old Nowitzki, who retired in April, also appeared in the Texas House and the Senate where he was congratulated by legislators and posed for photos. Nowitzki, a 14-time All-Star, led the Mavericks to their only championship in 2011.



Retired Dallas Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki talks with state Sen. Joan Huffman R-Houston, as Sens. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, center, and Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, right, look on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in Austin, Texas. Nowitzki was honored by Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas lawmakers for his outstanding 21-year career with the same NBA team. (Rebekah Allen via AP)

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Dallas Mayoral Candidate
Scott Griggs



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WANTED

By the Waxahachie Police Department



1900003425

Kevaghn Dewayne Mitchell
Black Male 01/07/1996
AKA: "Turbo" "K-Go"

Kevaghn Dewayne Mitchell is wanted by the Waxahachie Police Department for questioning in a Capital Murder case. Kevaghn is also wanted by the Dallas County Sheriff's Office for a felony probation violation.

If you have any information relating to Kevaghn Mitchell's whereabouts, please contact Crime Stoppers of Ellis County at 972-937-7297 (PAYS) and Texas Attorney General's Fugitive Apprehension Team Sergeant Ortiz 682-706-7095.

Jarvis Christian College Board of Trustees hold Spring Meeting on Campus

By Eric Stringfellow

The Jarvis Christian College Board of Trustees convened May 3 for its regularly-scheduled Spring Board Meeting, a day before the college graduated its largest class in its history.

Trustees approved the 2019-2020 budget as a financial instrument to guide the college, said Torry L. Edwards, who serves as chair of the Board of Trustees.

Edwards also said the board approved facility enhancements as well as an expansion of an existing building, the Student

Success Center, to support academic programming at the institution. The cost of the expansion totals \$318,000. Also approved were policies affecting students, including amending the Student Government Constitution, housing policies and a residential life manual.

After Friday's Board of Trustees meeting, Edwards and Trustee Glenn Etienne, at the invitation of President Lester C. Newman, attended graduation practice in the E.W. Rand Center and offered words of encouragement to graduates.

"The Board of Trustees travelled from every corner of this country," said Edwards, a retired city manager. "The Board continues to support the mission of the college and Dr. Newman, his faculty and staff."

The college graduated 101 students on Saturday May 4. About 76 percent of those receiving degrees were from the greater Dallas area. Donna Brazile, a political strategist, TV analyst, campaign manager and longtime member of the Democratic National Committee, served as commencement speaker.

"With great enthusiasm, it was a pleasure seeing a record number of graduates participating in the 2019 commencement. We are pleased to see the institution producing a record number of graduates. I applaud the faculty and staff of Jarvis Christian College.

Edwards also said he was pleased to see that the college's recruiting efforts in the metropolitan Dallas were paying dividends.

Edwards has been very instrumental in moving the institution forward. He has served as a trustee since 2008 and as chair since 2014. He is a strong advocate for the college and has more than 25 years of experience in local government and non-profit administration.

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JOE

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JUNE 1 - DETROIT	JULY 19 - RALEIGH
JUNE 7 - CLEVELAND	JULY 20 - CHARLOTTE
JUNE 8 - INDIANAPOLIS	AUG 16 - DALLAS
JULY 12 - COLUMBUS	AUG 3 - ATLANTA

Confederate statues are a monument to what?



Sen. Royce West

Among the many discussions that are taking place in Austin during this legislative session, it appears that a history lesson is still necessary for many, as a bill has been presented that would create more stringent guidelines for removing certain landmarks and historical markers.

A bill authored by Texas State Sen. Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would, if approved, make it more difficult to remove Confederate monuments and markers from state-owned or leased property and also work to limit such decisions from being made at the local government level.

According to Senate Bill 1663, two-thirds of members are needed from both legislative chambers to approve the removal, relocation or alteration of monuments or memorials that have been on state property for more than 25 years, while city or county monuments that have been up for at least 25 years could only be removed, relocated or altered if approved by a supermajority of the governing board.

Also, monuments and memorials that have been around for less than 25 years can not be altered without approval from a state agency, state official or local government body, depending on who erected it.

While Sen. Creighton seemed sincere in his expressions, I disagree that the removal or destroying of controversial monuments is a "careless act" that would cause Texans to look back with regret because we are deleting history, rather than learning from it.

I submit to you that when you consider the current times and events like what happened at Charlottesville, North Carolina, the Charleston, South Carolina church shooting and the many atrocities that continue to occur, some have not done a good job of learning from history and the heinous acts that were supported, condoned and perpetrated by many who now have monuments erected in their honor. Those who have brought harm to many under the banner of the Confederacy were not just fondly whistling Dixie.

I stood proudly with the members of the Texas House's Legislative Black Caucus, against Senate Bill 1663. I wanted a good faith effort made to involve everyone in the process and I shared those sentiments with Sen. Creighton, because our constituents need to be heard from. I also attempted to add an amendment that would have excluded Confederate monuments from Sen. Creighton's stringent bill.

I'm not alone in advocating for removing Confederate and other offensive symbols. Cities across the state and around the country are also grappling with this consistently polarizing issue.

The debate also extends to the names of schools. Unfortunately, as is the case in Dallas, many of the schools named after members of the Confederacy have student bodies, the majority of which are the descendants of enslaved Africans.

Something is wrong with this picture. Why this bill? Why now? What is the intended message?

Even our youth speak out about the monuments and the messages that shared by those supporting their presence.

While true that they are a painful chapter of our history, those featured on many of the monuments or landmarks should not be immortalized or celebrated. Yes, we are mindful of the past, but pray that it shall never be repeated.

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Sonequa Martin-Green, SU2C Ambassador

Photo Credit: Matt Sayles
 Stand Up To Cancer is a division of the Entertainment Industry Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.