

"I BOW DOWN TO THE KING UPON THE THRONE.  
MY LIFE IS HIS, I'M NO LONGER MY OWN."

- KANYE WEST, JESUS IS KING



ISSN # 0746-7303

# The Dallas Post Tribune

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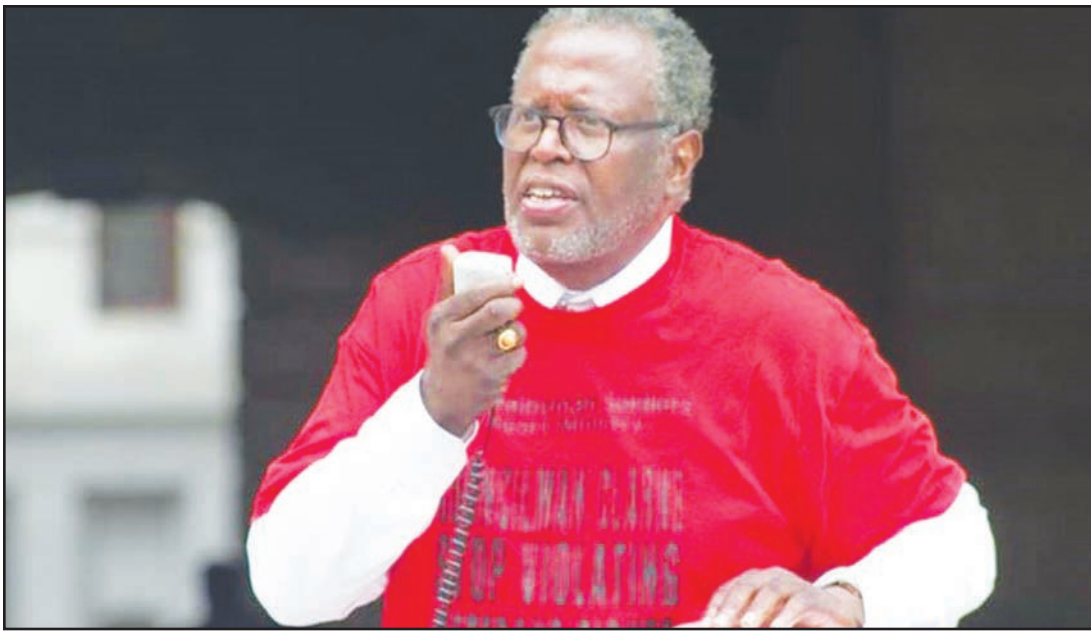
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VOLUME 72 NUMBER 10

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

November 21 - 27, 2019

## Vietnam Vet Fighting for the Rights of Black Soldiers



By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia

A court is expected to hear soon more arguments in a case Merretazon has brought against the city.

Philadelphia officials have failed to follow a 1955 provision in the city charter that created a budget for an Office of

Veterans Affairs with a salaried director, Merretazon's suit claims.

While there's a Veterans Commission, an Office of Veterans Affairs could have reached more local returning soldiers and helped them receive more substantial benefits.

Merretazon, who founded the Pointman Soldiers Heart Ministry,

wants Philadelphia officials to formally establish a Veterans Office.

"They are not in compliance with the law," stated Merretazon, whose story of the Viet Nam War was highlighted in the 1984 book, "Bloods: Black Veterans of the Vietnam War, An Oral History," by Wallace Terry.

Continues on Page 2

## Texas appeals court blocks inmate Rodney Reed's execution

By JUAN A. LOZANO

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas' top criminal appeals court on Friday halted the scheduled execution of inmate Rodney Reed, whose conviction is being questioned by new evidence that his supporters say raises serious doubt about his guilt.

The stay of execution by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals came just hours after the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles had recommended delaying the lethal injection.

The 51-year-old Reed had been set for lethal injection Wednesday evening for the 1996 killing of 19-year-old Stacey Stites. Prosecutors say Reed raped and strangled Stites as she made her way to work at a supermarket in Bastrop, a rural community about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of Austin.

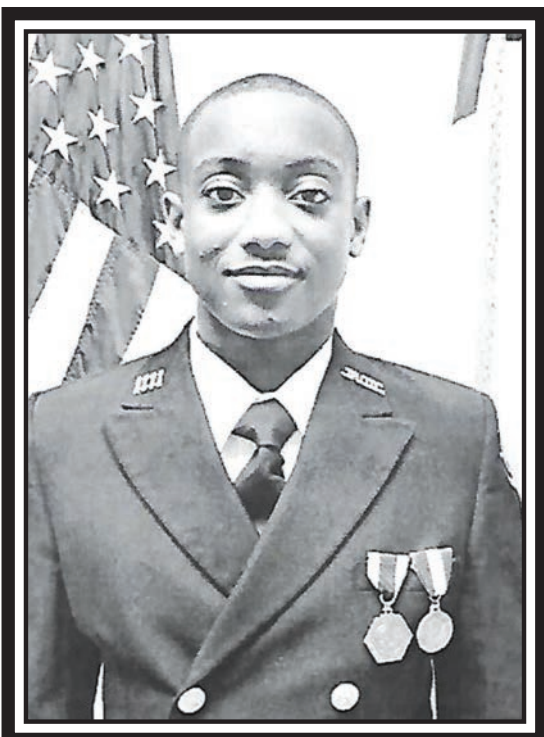
Reed's efforts to stop his execution have received support from such celebrities as Beyoncé, Kim Kardashian and Oprah Winfrey. Lawmakers from both parties, including Texas GOP Sen. Ted Cruz, have also asked that officials take a closer look at the evidence in the case.

Continues on Page 4



### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Remember Pearl Harbor  
and Dorie Miller



Elzie Barnett II

Cadet I Lieutenant Commander Elzie Barnett II is the Executive Officer (XO) for the Wilmer-Hutchins High School, Navy Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Eagle Battalion. He is a Senior, ranked in the top ten percent of his high schools graduating class. He is a member of the school choir, and an outstanding member of the schools 2018-2019 undefeated District Champion football team.

Cadet/ Lieutenant Commander Barnett accomplishments thus far include the following:

- Member of the National Honor Society
- Honor Roll Student
- Straight A's throughout his Sophomore and Junior years
- Three Time All-Dallas Area Defensive Back
- Three "Star Rated Defensive Back
- Member of the Soccer team
- Member of the Track team
- Member of the Wrestling team
- Recipient of numerous military Academy scholarship offers
- Currently holds a 3.82 grade point average

Cadet/Lieutenant Commander Barnett enjoys athletics, fishing, and music of all genres. His goals are to play college football for the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff. He also plans to pursue a degree in Kinesiology. After college, Elzie plans to either play professional football for the Houston Texans or become a high school football coach, like his father Elzie Sr.



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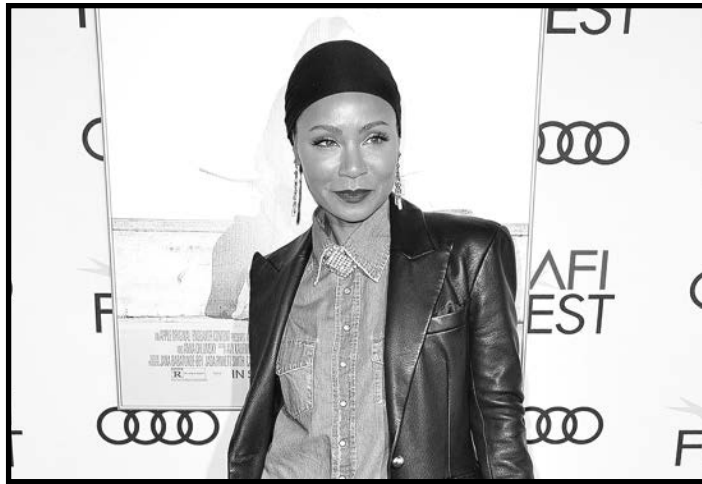
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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Pinkett Smith has a lot more to share with 'Red Table Talk'



By **GARY GERARD HAMILTON**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — garnered an Emmy nomination for best talk show, but Jada Pinkett Smith doesn't see it through that lens.

"I think it's more of a storytelling show. ... It's just exchanging of stories and life lessons learned from those stories," said Pinkett Smith in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "I think that might be a component that's a bit different than sitting on ... the other side of the table just asking questions. It's like we're immersed in it as a

two-way communication experience."

Pinkett Smith, along with daughter Willow and mother Adrienne Banfield-Norris, have been making headlines regularly with those conversations on their Facebook Watch show, which features both celebrity guests and regular people talking about hot-button topics. On Monday, rapper T.I. is scheduled to sit down and discuss his highly criticized comments about taking his daughter to the gynecologist to make sure she is still a virgin.

Among the more recent

emotional interviews, Demi Moore discussed her memoir "Inside Out" and detailed her problems with addiction with her daughters beside her.

It was a candid conversation between the two families, but Pinkett Smith deflects any credit in getting Moore to open up even more.

"I don't think it has anything to do with me except for the fact that I'm sharing my story as well," she said.

"My family's been affected by trauma and addiction as well," referring to her mother's past trouble with addiction. "And so it's one of those episodes that is about generational healing."

Pinkett Smith and her family have shared many personal stories on Facebook Watch, and the star says she's got even more to talk about as the show goes on.

"I have a lot more transparency to go, a lot more stories to tell," she said, later adding: "I have a deep comfort level in regards to my family, and specifically, with my mother and Willow. But there's always those deeper levels because as you go, you realize you don't know yourself as well as you think. And that's real talk. And so as you go, new doors open within your psyche and you realize new things about yourself that give you new revelations on your relationships and reasons why you might have done certain things in your life. And so that's an ongoing thing. I'm discovering myself every single day."

While the show has taken up much of Pinkett Smith's time, she's still acting, and confirmed that she'll be in "The Matrix 4." Pinkett Smith, who played Niobe in the last two films, wouldn't say much more. When asked what kind of role she had, she simply laughed and said: "A good role!"

## Vietnam Vet Fighting for the Rights of Black Soldiers

Continued from Page 1

The book was later the inspiration for the 1995 motion picture, "Dead Presidents," which reviewers called the most powerful depiction of Black veterans in the history of American cinema.

The film starred Terrence Howard, Larenz Tate, and Chris Tucker as returning Vietnam War veterans whose lives after discharge were plagued by crime, addiction, and a host of psychological challenges.

"As Black veterans, we not only face post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD), but we have racially induced PTSD as well because there's so much racism in the military," Merretazon said.

He believes race has played a significant role in his battle with Philadelphia

that's led to the current court case.

"Philadelphia needs to acknowledge that racism in the military is a PTSD injury," Merretazon said.

Researchers at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have conducted various studies of PTSD in ethnic minority Vietnam Veterans. The results of the research are not entirely consistent. Still, VA officials noted that the overall finding seems to be that most ethnic minority veteran groups have a higher rate of PTSD than White veterans.

According to the VA, some of this may be due to psychological conflicts related to identification with the Vietnamese. Another factor may be higher exposure to war zone stressors, VA officials stated.

"It's been years, if not ever, that Philly hasn't met any of its obligations to veterans," Merretazon stated. "My anger is based on the fact that we have had to fight two wars. One was in the field of battle in Vietnam. And, the other at our base where rebel flags flew and Black soldiers had the worst jobs. They threatened us with going back to the field with those who were less qualified."

Merretazon said his court battle had progressed well. An appeals panel earlier indicated that the only thing keeping him from prevailing was that he lived outside of the city.

"I live in a neighboring county, but I do my work in the city of Philadelphia," Merretazon stated. "But, it's clear that Philadelphia is trying to cover up their misdeeds toward veterans. The fact that there's no office of veterans affairs is wrong.

Philadelphia, in particular, City Council President Darrell Clarke, has messed up the money for veterans, and that's why we are where we are."

A spokesperson for Clarke declined to comment, citing the pending lawsuit.

Merretazon has obtained full benefits, but, he must continue to fight for others.

"The veterans who come home to Philly have nobody saying what to do, and through our ministry, we've been able to provide direction on direct services," Merretazon said. "It's well-known that many are hurting. There are significant guaranteed benefits for the veterans and their families, but they aren't getting them. "I'm 100 percent disabled. I've got mine. I'm trying to help other people get what they deserve."

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Join us on Wednesday, December 4 to hear the findings from a new report, When A Job Is Not Enough: Employee Financial Wellness and the Role of Philanthropy. Learn about the role North Texas employers, philanthropy, and the nonprofit sector can play in promoting financial well-being for economically vulnerable workers and their families through the offering of Employee Financial Wellness Programs (EFWPs).

Learn and discuss with your colleagues

The most promising features and challenges of Employee Financial Wellness Programs (EFWPs);

What we need to know about the opportunity of EFWPs to address financial security for employees;

How philanthropy, business, and the nonprofit sector can collaborate to promote EFWPs.

Wed, December 4, 2019  
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM CST  
@ United Way of Metropolitan Dallas  
1800 North Lamar Street  
Dallas, TX 75202

## Feds want redesign of part on Boeing 737s after Southwest engine blowout

By The Associated Press

Federal safety officials say Boeing should redesign part of the casing on some engines to prevent the kind of accident that occurred when engine debris blew out a window on a Southwest Airlines plane and killed a passenger.

The National Transportation Safety Board determined Tuesday that the April 2018 accident was caused by a cracked fan blade that broke off in flight, hitting the engine case at a critical location. Parts of the engine turned into shrapnel, striking the fuselage.

After a harrowing emergency descent from 32,000 feet (9,750 meters), with one

passenger blown partly out of the plane, the pilots of Southwest flight 1380 were able to land the crippled Boeing 737 in Philadelphia.

Safety board Chairman Robert Sumwalt said engine and aircraft manufacturers should develop stronger designs for engine casing to prevent broken fan blades from ever causing such catastrophic damage again.

"That translates to a better chance that damage to the aircraft will be minimized during a (broken fan blade) event, improving the safety of the flying public," Sumwalt said.

The events of flight 1380 led to more frequent and intensive inspections of fan blades

on certain engines made by CFM International, a joint venture between General Electric Co. and France's Safran SA. Those checks at Southwest and other airlines turned up about 15 other fan blades with slowly spreading cracks from fatigue or wear during normal use.

A Southwest 737 suffered a similar engine break-up in 2016, but pilots landed safely in Pensacola, Florida. NTSB investigator Pierre Scarfo said the board found no evidence to believe that the fan blade problem was unique to maintenance or operations at Southwest, which has the world's largest 737 fleet. However, earlier this year the

Transportation Department's inspector general cited the Philadelphia incident among the reasons that it was reviewing government oversight of the airline.

On Tuesday, the NTSB recommended that the Federal Aviation Administration require Boeing to determine the most vulnerable locations on the engine fan case on certain planes if a fan blade breaks loose, and to redesign the cowling for better structural integrity. The board also recommended that airlines be required to retrofit many older Boeing 737s with the redesigned engine-housing part.



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2510 E. Ledbetter, Dallas, Texas 75216  
P. 214-371-2024



**Pastor Daryl R. Carter**

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Early Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship - 7:00 p.m.



**The Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church**

3611 Latimer Street  
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214-428-2990  
www.mountmoriahdallas.org

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**Wednesday**  
Prayer Bible Fellowship 7:00 p.m.

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**Rev. J. Calvin Smith**  
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www.pilgrimrestdallas.org

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**Rev. Dr. C.J.R Phillips Jr.**

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**Sammie Berry**  
Minister

**Calendar of Events**  
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**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.


**Tuesday Song Practice**  
7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday Bible Class**  
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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Devotional Service 6:30 p.m.  
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**  
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St. John 1:19-34

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## Texas appeals court blocks inmate Rodney Reed's execution

**Continues from Page 1**

In its four-page order, the appeals court said Reed's case should be returned to the trial court in Bastrop County so it could examine his claims that he is innocent and that prosecutors suppressed evidence and presented false testimony.

Bryce Benjet, an attorney with the Innocence Project, which is representing Reed, said defense attorneys were "extremely relieved and thankful" to the appeals court.

"This opportunity will allow for proper consideration of the powerful and mounting new evidence of Mr. Reed's innocence," Benjet said in a statement.

The Texas Attorney General's Office declined to comment Friday on whether it would appeal the order staying Reed's execution.

Earlier Friday, the parole board had unanimously recommended a 120-day reprieve for Reed. The board rejected Reed's request to commute his sentence to life in prison.

The parole board's decision was to go next to Gov. Greg Abbott, who hasn't said whether he would accept or reject it or do nothing.

The stay likely makes Abbott's decision moot. Since taking office in 2015, Abbott has halted only one imminent execution, in 2018.

Since Texas resumed executions in 1982, only three death row inmates have had their sentences commuted to life in prison by a governor within days of their scheduled executions.

Reed has other appeals pending, including with the U.S. Supreme Court. His supporters have held rallies, including an overnight vigil on Thursday in front of the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. It was unclear if a rally planned for Sunday in front of the Texas governor's mansion would still take place.

Reed has long maintained he didn't kill Stites and that her fiance, former police officer Jimmy Fennell, was the real killer. Reed says Fennell was angry because Stites, who was white, was having an affair with Reed, who is black.

Fennell's attorney has said his client didn't kill Stites. Fennell was paroled last year after serving time in prison for sexual assault.

In their most recent motion to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Reed's lawyers alleged prosecutors suppressed evidence or presented false evidence related to Fennell.

Prosecutors say Reed's semen was found in the victim, his claims of an affair with Stites were not proven at trial, Fennell was cleared as a suspect and Reed had a history of committing other sexual assaults.

Reed's lawyers say his conviction was based on flawed evidence. They have denied the other sexual assault accusations made by prosecutors.

Reed's attorneys filed a federal lawsuit in August to compel DNA testing of crime scene evidence, including the believed murder weapon. His lawyers say the testing, which has been fought for years by prosecutors, could identify someone else as the murderer. The lawsuit is still pending.

In recent weeks, Reed's attorneys have presented affidavits in support of his claims of innocence, including one by a former inmate who claims Fennell bragged about killing Stites and referred to Reed by a racial slur. Reed's lawyers say other recent affidavits corroborate the relationship between Stites and Reed and show Fennell was violent and aggressive toward her.

## Parkland diabetes patient counts her blessings and her carbs

**Former 'sweets junkie' shares tips for a healthier Thanksgiving**

**DALLAS** – "My family always said, 'Stop eating like that,'" Tonami Jones, 57, recalled. But it wasn't until she became seriously ill in April 2019 that the self-confessed 'sweets junkie' took their advice seriously.

"All of a sudden I got dizzy and my sister called the ambulance and I was taken to Parkland Hospital," Jones said. "They told me my blood sugar had spiked and I had type 2 diabetes."

Two days later the Dallas resident was discharged from the hospital with diabetes medications, information about enrolling in a diabetes education class and a new attitude about her health.

"I do want to live," she said frankly, "and I knew if I didn't do some things to make my health better, I wouldn't be around much longer."

Jones has a strong family history of diabetes. Her grandparents, sisters and brother all were diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, but instead of heeding their warnings, for most of her life Jones had given in to her lifelong craving for cake, candy, sodas and other sweets.

The diabetes education class she attends at Parkland Health & Hospital System's Bluitt-Flowers Health Center opened her eyes to a whole new way of eating, Jones said. "I always ate poorly but now I know how important vegetables are for good health. I hardly ever ate them before but now I love them!"

Once a week Jones visits the DeSoto farmer's market and shops for fresh cabbage, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers and other greens. She has learned to cut back on breads, starches and meat, putting extra helpings of veggies on her plate instead, and watch portion size.

Since her diabetes diagnosis, Jones has also started walking daily and has dropped nearly 20 pounds as well as lowering her A1c (blood sugar) level from 11.2% to 5.9%.

"Now that I'm feeling better, I try to walk 15 to 20 minutes a day and next thing on my agenda is to increase my walking and lose more weight."

With Thanksgiving approaching, Jones and her sister, who also has type 2 diabetes, are planning a traditional family meal that is diabetes-friendly. "Lots of green vegetables, turkey, ham, maybe a small serving of dressing or macaroni and cheese. I'll allow myself a little bit of dessert, but I'm not going to overdo it – instead of a big slice of cake, I'll just have a nibble. I don't want to go backwards," she said.

Parkland registered dietitian Sharon Cox, who leads the diabetes nutrition class that Jones attends, said that family Thanksgiving meals for those with diabetes can still be delicious, but it does take some planning. "You don't have to deprive yourself but you do need to be aware of your carbs and watch your blood sugar," she said.

Whether you have diabetes or are hosting friends or families with the disease, Cox offers these tips for a healthy Thanksgiving all can enjoy:

- Start the day off with breakfast; avoid skipping a meal to save up for the holiday dinner.
- Drink more water to stay hydrated. Avoid sugary drinks.
- Snack on raw vegetables with hummus or low-fat dip before the meal instead of high-fat, high-calorie appetizers.
- Look at all the food on the table before you start filling your plate.
- Fill half your plate with green leafy vegetables, Brussels sprouts, broccoli or green beans. Start with the vegetables to help curb your appetite.
- Avoid vegetables in creams, gravies and butter to avoid fat calories.
- Choose the white meat over dark meat to consume less fat.
- Make fat-free gravy; skim the fat off the top after the broth has cooled to reduce fat, but keep the flavor.
- If you are planning to have dessert, skip the dinner rolls, cornbread and other starchy foods to control carbohydrate intake.
- Make cranberry sauce with fresh cranberries to avoid the added sugar in canned sauce.
- Limit alcohol to avoid drops in blood sugar levels and weight gain. Eat before drinking alcohol.
- Eat slowly, talk to family and friends between bites of food, put the fork down, and take time to enjoy the meal and company.
- This Thanksgiving, Jones said she will be counting calories and carbs, but most of all her blessings. "I'm grateful I have learned how to take better care of myself and have a chance to lead a healthier life," she said.
- The Healthy Living with Diabetes Education Program at Parkland is recognized by the American Diabetes Association. To learn more about Parkland's Global Diabetes Program, visit [www.parklandhospital.com](http://www.parklandhospital.com) or call 214-590-7219. For more diabetes-friendly recipes and information about preventing and managing diabetes, visit [www.ParklandDiabetes.com](http://www.ParklandDiabetes.com)

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## AfroComicCon offers a platform for diversity in pop culture



**By Gregg Reese, Our Weekly Contributor, with additional reporting by Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent**

The Bay Area is the most progressive bastion of the historically liberal state of California (although the sweep towards gentrification may soon turn the political tide in the opposite direction) and none of the cities and towns within it upholds the standard of progressiveness higher than the East Bay municipality of Berkeley.

One relatively unsung product of its liberal sway is the founder of the annual AfroComicCon, Oakland's Michael James. Now in its third iteration, AfroComicCon is a three-day event showcasing comic books and pop culture related to (but assuredly not limited to) the African Diaspora.

The event is held in the cities of Oakland and neighboring Emeryville, California and aims to be an inclusive entity as opposed to other, similar conventions geared towards special groups and demographics. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization affiliated with the Oakland Technology and Education Center.

Comic book conventions showcase comic books and related areas of entertainment, and feature exhibits, panels, and features of interest.

Initially, low-brow affairs concentrating solely on comics and special interest groups (the first San Diego Comic-Con was held in a hotel basement with perhaps 300 people in 1970), these "cons" have mushroomed to multi-genre affairs drawing tens of thousands of participants and showcasing gaming, sci-fi, horror, and other facets of pop culture.

Film and television companies use these venues to showcase their wares and gauge public response to shows prior to general release.

Monetarily, they are a financial windfall, generating millions in revenue and contributing significantly to the surrounding community's economy. A major component of these events is the practice of cosplay, in which fans dress up as their favorite superheroes and animated characters.



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## Federal Court Blocks Trump Asylum Ban from Being Applied to Thousands of Asylum Seekers



**(NNPA) SAN DIEGO** – A federal judge today blocked the Trump administration's asylum ban from being applied to thousands of asylum seekers who were unlawfully prevented from accessing the U.S. asylum process before the ban was implemented.

The case is *Al Otro Lado v. Wolf*, a class action lawsuit brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), Center for Constitutional Rights, and the American Immigration Council on behalf of individual asylum seekers and the legal services organization *Al Otro Lado* (AOL).

"Today's order will protect the lives of asylum seekers who were forced to endure extreme hardship while waiting in dangerous border cities for months for their chance to seek asylum in the United States," said Erika Pinheiro, AOL director of litigation and policy. "These asylum seekers have a deep commitment to following our laws in seeking protection, and we are relieved to see that their decision to follow our government's instructions to wait in Mexico will not prejudice their chances for relief."