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LEGAL BLOW TO TRUMP

**NEW EVIDENCE
SHOWING
TRUMP'S
EFFORTS TO
OVERTURN 2020
ELECTION
WERE PART OF A
PRIVATE SCHEME**



Jack Smith submits to the court in his 165- page brief that the "defendant should face trial for his private acts of subversion."

Domestic violence month

Newyorkbeacon.com

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month begins, the Chicago-based nonprofit organization Between Friends commemorates the occasion with its annual candle-lighting ceremony on October 1. For the past 26 years, the organization has worked to raise awareness about domestic violence, which remains a pervasive issue across the country. Executive Director Verda Bhatti spoke with CBS News to highlight the complexities of abuse, underscoring the different forms it can take and the enduring need for public attention and action.

"Sometimes it can be very physical, sometimes it can be only verbal, and sometimes it can be emotional," Bhatti explained, emphasizing that domestic violence is not limited to overt physical harm. She noted that abuse often manifests in subtle yet damaging

ways, from verbal degradation to emotional manipulation, which can be just as harmful as physical violence. Bhatti's remarks aimed to broaden the understanding of what constitutes domestic violence and the varied experiences of its survivors.

During the candle-lighting ceremony held on Ohio Street Beach, Between Friends illuminates paper lanterns, each representing a victim of domestic violence. Bhatti expressed her ongoing hope that fewer lanterns would be needed as awareness and prevention efforts improve, but the reality remains stark. "Unfortunately, it doesn't," she said, alluding to the persistent rates of abuse that organizations like Between Friends are striving to address.

The impact of domestic violence disproportionately affects Black women, making the issue particularly urgent within that community. According to the Institute for Women's Policy Re-



search, an estimated 40 percent of Black women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Beyond physical abuse, these women are frequently subjected to psychological violence. The National Center for Victims of Crime reports that more than half of Black women have experienced psychological abuse, while 41 percent have faced physical abuse. This troubling disparity highlights

the intersection of race and gender in the context of domestic violence.

The Blackburn Center, another organization dedicated to addressing these issues, links the elevated harm inflicted on Black women to systemic inequalities such as harmful gender norms, objectification in media, and the enduring legacy of racism. Terms like "bed wench," rooted in the era

of slavery, continue to objectify and dehumanize Black women today, reinforcing their vulnerability to abuse. The Blackburn Center advocates for addressing these root causes through an intersectional approach, calling for greater equity in how Black women are treated in society—from workplace pay to their depictions in media—to counteract the notion that they are expendable.

Vance, Walz begin cordially but end in heated clashes over Trump, Jan. 6, and national policy issues

NNPA NEWSWIRE — Ultimately, Walz positioned himself as a champion of middle-class families, touting healthcare and affordable housing policies. At the same time, Vance remained firmly aligned with Trump, repeatedly defending the former president's record and platform.

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Republican Senator JD Vance of Ohio and Democratic Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota, faced off in the only vice presidential debate of the 2024 election on Tuesday night, which began with a measured tone but eventually escalated into a combative exchange. The debate, which CBS News hosted at their Broadcast Center in New York and Norah O'Donnell and Margaret Brennan moderated, covered a range of important national issues, with Vance's connections to former President Donald Trump and the January 6 uprising emerging as key flashpoints.

The debate's early moments were largely civil, as both candidates laid out their platforms and shared their visions on topics such as foreign policy and the economy. However, tensions flared when Vance was asked about Trump's recent comment that childcare was "not very expensive" compared to the money the country would gain from his policies. Vance explained that Trump was referring to the nation's ability to raise funds by "penalizing companies shipping jobs overseas" and those using "slave laborers." But Vance sidestepped when pressed on whether Trump was committed to the child tax credit, redirecting the discussion to economic penalties for



Senator JD Vance of Ohio (Photo: United States Congress, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons) and Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota. (Photo: office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan)

outsourcing, prompting frustration from Walz.

The debate took a sharper turn when Vance was questioned about the 2020 election and Trump's role in the January 6 insurrection. Rather than directly answering whether Trump lost the 2020 election, Vance defended the former president's actions that day, stating, "Remember, [Trump] said that on January the 6th, the protesters ought to protest peacefully, and on January the 20th, what happened? Joe Biden became the president. Donald Trump left the White House."

Walz responded forcefully, calling Vance's failure to answer directly "a damning non-answer." He continued, "To deny what happened on January 6, the

first time an American president or anyone tried to overturn an election, is unacceptable. This has got to stop. It's tearing our country apart."

Walz also drew attention to the broader implications of Vance's remarks, reminding voters of the violence on January 6, including a march on the governor's mansion in Minnesota. "What I'm concerned about is, where is the firewall with Donald Trump? Where is the firewall if he knows he could do anything, including taking an election, and his vice president's not going to stand up to it? That's what we're asking you, America," Walz said, clarifying that accountability for democracy was at stake in the 2024 election.

Vance avoided direct answers

on election integrity and instead pivoted to discussions of censorship, blaming tech companies for "censoring their fellow citizens" and touting Trump's endorsements by former Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. He continued to defend Trump's policies, including tax cuts and immigration, while steering clear of addressing the core issue of Trump's role in questioning the election results.

The debate further escalated as the two candidates clashed over climate change, healthcare, and gun violence. On climate change, Walz highlighted the Biden-Harris administration's investments in clean energy and infrastructure, citing the Inflation Reduction Act as a crucial step in addressing

the crisis. "We've made massive investments in electric vehicles, solar technology, and job creation because we know climate change is real," Walz said.

Vance countered by downplaying the urgency, arguing that Democrats were not serious about the issue. "If they really believed climate change was serious, they'd be doing more manufacturing and energy production here in America. That's not what they're doing," he said, accusing Democrats of using climate change as a political slogan rather than implementing real solutions.

Gun violence also sparked a heated back-and-forth. Vance proposed increased school security measures, suggesting, "We need to make sure the doors lock better, strengthen windows, and add school resource officers." Walz quickly criticized the proposal, asking, "Do you want your schools hardened to look like a fort?" He pressed for more comprehensive gun control measures, emphasizing the need to address the root causes of violence.

Ultimately, Walz positioned himself as a champion of middle-class families, touting healthcare and affordable housing policies. At the same time, Vance remained firmly aligned with Trump, repeatedly defending the former president's record and platform.

Walz appealed to voters to choose leaders who will protect democratic institutions, saying, "When Mike Pence made that decision to certify the election, that's why Mike Pence isn't on this stage." Vance, meanwhile, reflected on his loyalty to Trump, asserting that "Donald Trump delivered for the American people."

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Trump's attempts to overturn 2020 Election were part of private scheme, not official acts

NNPA NEWSWIRE — New filing reveals the extent of Trump's interactions with figures such as attorney Rudy Giuliani and other senior officials, some of whose names were withheld. Trump persisted with a plan to undercut Joe Biden's victory despite numerous warnings from people in his circle that his claims of a stolen election were untrue.

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Special Counsel Jack Smith has delivered a powerful legal blow to former President Donald Trump, unveiling new evidence that the twice-impeached Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election results were part of a private scheme rather than actions taken in his official capacity as president.

In a 165-page legal brief unsealed Wednesday, Smith provided new details about Trump's behind-the-scenes maneuvers to subvert the election, including pressure campaigns targeting key officials, attempts to create false electors, and private discussions with his vice president, Mike Pence.

The filing reveals the extent of Trump's interactions with figures such as attorney Rudy Giuliani and other senior officials, some of whose names were withheld. Trump persisted with a plan to un-

dercut Joe Biden's victory despite numerous warnings from people in his circle that his claims of a stolen election were untrue.

Smith's brief is part of a broader strategy to prove that Trump can face trial for his actions, even after a Supreme Court ruling granted him immunity for official acts as president. The special counsel argues that Trump's efforts to enlist Pence in blocking Congress's certification of the election results were part of a private, illegal campaign to retain power, not part of his official duties.

"At its core, the defendant's scheme was a private criminal effort," Smith wrote in the filing. "In his capacity as a candidate, he used deceit to target every stage of the electoral process."

The document provides new evidence of Trump's attempts to sway election officials in critical swing states to alter the results in his favor. The brief quotes a lawyer advising Trump, who gave an "honest assessment" that his claims of widespread fraud would not withstand scrutiny in court. Yet, Trump dismissed the warning. "The details don't matter," Trump said, according to the filing.

Further, the brief recounts private conversations between Trump and Pence, in which Pence urged Trump to accept defeat



and consider another run in 2024. Trump, however, expressed reluctance, saying, "2024 is so far off."

Smith's filing depicts Trump's actions as part of a desperate and illegal campaign to remain in power after losing the 2020 election. The brief also points to Trump's reliance on Giuliani and other private allies in his election subversion attempts, asserting that none of these efforts fell under the scope of presidential duties.

"The defendant asserts that he

is immune from prosecution for his criminal scheme to overturn the 2020 presidential election because, he claims, it entailed official conduct," the filing reads. "Not so. Although the defendant was the incumbent president during the charged conspiracies, his scheme was fundamentally a private one."

A sealed appendix to the legal brief contains FBI interviews, search warrant affidavits, and grand jury testimony that might soon become public. Smith's filing

builds on the indictment released last year, expanding the evidence and reinforcing the argument that Trump's conduct was criminal and not shielded by presidential immunity.

Smith concluded the brief with an explicit request to the court: "The government respectfully submits that the defendant's conduct described in this motion is not subject to presidential immunity and that he should face trial for his private acts of subversion."

Trump wants Black males to vote for him. What do they have to lose? A hell of a lot.

By Michael A. Grant
(TriceEdneyWire.com)

Looking historically at demographics, Black men in America have for centuries been singled out for the most vicious and dehumanizing attacks on their personhood and their manhood.

Without delving too deeply into America's dark past, one need only to read the Autobiography of Frederick Douglass to capture a glimpse of the atrocious acts perpetrated against Black men that began during slavery and continued unabated with the murders of George Floyd, Michael Brown, Eric Garner and others to understand that the institutional animosity, the stereotyping and the marginalizing is an everyday phenomenon that still defines the day-to-day existence of many Black men struggling to survive in America.

Donald Trump continues to

perpetuate a "Guilty until proven innocent" mentality that too many in authority still perpetuate. His record of racist and derogatory behavior toward Black men is well-documented. To begin, he and his father discriminated against African-Americans who wanted to rent Trump apartments in New York.

To add to this record of racial discrimination, Trump – without hard evidence – asserted that the "Central Park Five" (four young Black males and one Latino) were guilty of the brutal rape of a young White woman and asserted that they deserved the death penalty. Even after the accused were exonerated, Trump has consistently refused to apologize. He doubled down on this false accusation during his recent debate with Vice President Kamala Harris.

When Colin Kaepernick, an NFL free agent, encouraged other players to "Take a knee" in protest of unfair treatment within the NFL

franchise, Trump's answer to their grievance was to call the players "Sons of Bitches."

Recently, Trump ranted that police officers should become even more aggressive, more abusive, when making arrests. Guess who would bear the brunt of this Jim Crow – era policing? You guessed it: Black males.

Donald Trump is a politician who knows how to tamp down his racist rhetoric when he stands to gain from creating an illusion of civility but someone has wisely stated: "Lipstick on a pig is still a pig".

Trump's insulting remarks about Black men identifying with him because he now has a "mugshot" represents a new low for this incorrigible con man. And marketing gold sneakers is not identifying, it is exploiting.

Benefitting from Black Republicans organizing "Barbershop Meetings" and alluring Black men to

MAGA rallies is nothing but cheap ploys designed to manipulate the uninformed.

To be fair, Trump does not limit his selling of snake oil to receptive Black men only. His demagoguery has convinced millions of uneducated, poor White Americans that he is a populist advocating on their behalf. What a joke! The only voters who seem to enjoy Trump's concern are those who he has called: "Rich as hell".

Kamala Harris and Tim Walz have track records worthy of all American voters – including Black males. They are the real "Champions of the People". Compare their economic agenda with Trump and Vance's Project 2025 blueprint for more "Trickle-down economics".

The stakes in the election are too high to allow showmanship to prevail. The more American voters – of all stripes – study the priorities of these candidates, it will become crystal clear that most White and



Black voters share more in common than they might realize. The public record, if thoroughly studied, should cause the overwhelming majority of the electorate to stifle Trump's pursuit of power and force him to face his day of reckoning.

Michael A. Grant, J.D., president emeritus of the National Bankers Association and former assistant professor of political science at Morgan State University, is a columnist with the Trice Edney News Wire.

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Michigan man attacks postal worker for placing Kamala Harris campaign flyer in mailbox

Newyorkbeacon.com

A Michigan man is facing felony charges after allegedly attacking a Black female postal worker in what authorities describe as a racially motivated assault. Russell Frank Valleau, 61, of Farmington Hills, is accused of confronting the woman with a knife after she attempted to deliver a political flyer supporting Vice President Kamala Harris. According to police, Valleau hurled racial and sexist slurs at the postal worker, telling her he did not want that “Black b—ch” in his mailbox.

Valleau was arraigned on charges of felony ethnic intimidation and misdemeanor assault and battery, to which he pleaded not guilty. He is being held on a \$25,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in court for a preliminary hearing on October 27. If convicted, Valleau could face up to two years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. The postal worker, who managed



to defend herself with pepper spray before fleeing to safety, was unharmed. Police apprehended Valleau shortly after in a neighbor’s yard.

The incident occurs amid heightened political tensions as the 2024 campaign season ramps up. Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald condemned the attack, emphasizing that no one should face violence for their race or political beliefs. “Hate crimes impact all of us, and we will vigorously pursue all such cases,” McDonald said. Farmington Hills Police Chief Jeff King also reiterated the department’s commitment to addressing attacks rooted in hate, ensuring that the community remains safe and inclusive for all.

Officer ‘intentionally’ rammed SUV into vehicle, killing 11-year-old girl

Newyorkbeacon.com

Murder charges against a retired New York state trooper were reinstated by the state’s Supreme Court of Appeals in the death of an 11-year-old Black girl, Monica Goods, following a high-speed chase in 2020. The court’s decision reintroduces second-degree murder charges against Christopher G. Baldner, who was accused of deliberately ramming his police vehicle into the family’s SUV, causing it to flip and ejecting the girl. Baldner now faces six counts of reckless endangerment alongside the murder charge, after an earlier dismissal of the murder indictment was overturned.

The case had initially been thrown out by Ulster County Judge Bryan Rounds, who concluded that the evidence did not meet the legal threshold for “depraved indifference to human life.” That ruling, handed down earlier this year, left Baldner to face only reduced reckless endangerment charges. However,

the New York Attorney General’s office appealed the decision, and the Appellate Division, in a 4-1 ruling, reinstated the more severe charges, citing Baldner’s dangerous and repeated behavior during the incident.

The ruling noted Baldner’s pattern of reckless driving, comparing his actions to scenes from the TV show “The Dukes of Hazzard,” with witnesses describing how he aggressively pursued the SUV after a traffic stop. According to the court, Baldner initially pulled the vehicle over for speeding, then escalated the situation by pepper-spraying the car’s occupants, leading the father, Tristan Goods, to flee in panic. Baldner allegedly rammed the SUV twice, causing it to overturn, ultimately leading to Monica Goods’ death.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice J.P. Egan Jr. argued that Baldner’s conduct, while reckless, did not rise to the level of “depraved indifference.” However, the majority of the court disagreed, highlighting that Baldner’s actions went far beyond protocol, particularly since police regulations only

permit such maneuvers when a supervisor is present. The court also underscored Baldner’s history of aggressive policing, bolstering the case for the reinstated murder charge.

Attorney General Letitia James, who had pressed for the appeal, welcomed the decision, stating that it brings the case one step closer to justice for Monica Goods and her family. “This decision will enable my office to continue our efforts to seek justice for the Goods family,” James said. “We must hold law enforcement professionals to the highest standards.” The ruling, she emphasized, is essential in holding officers accountable when they abuse their power.

Meanwhile, the Police Benevolent Association of the New York State Troopers criticized the ruling, arguing that it could have a chilling effect on officers’ ability to do their jobs effectively. The union pledged to continue supporting Baldner’s legal fight, with plans to appeal the decision further.

Three former Memphis officers convicted in Tyre Nichols’ fatal Beating

NNPA NEWSWIRE — *The beating of Nichols reignited debates over the use of excessive force by law enforcement, particularly in Black communities. The five officers involved, all of whom are Black, were fired shortly after the incident, but the trial showcased the troubling dynamics of police violence regardless of race.*

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

A jury on Thursday found three former Memphis police officers guilty in the 2023 fatal beating of Tyre Nichols. Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, and Justin Smith were convicted of witness tampering in the case that fueled nationwide protests and renewed calls for police reform. Still, the jury acquitted Bean and Smith of federal civil rights violations. Haley was convicted of violating Nichols’ civil rights by causing bodily injury, though he was acquitted of the more serious charge of causing death.

The verdict came after jurors deliberated for six hours, carefully considering the violent encounter captured on police bodycam footage. Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man, was beaten just steps from his home following a traffic stop, as officers repeatedly struck him while he cried out for his mother. Nichols died three days later in the hospital.

The courtroom remained silent as the verdicts were read, and the judge ordered the officers to be taken into custody. A hearing on Monday will determine whether they will be released pending sentencing. Witness tampering carries a possible sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

Rodney Wells, Nichols’ stepfather, spoke to reporters after the verdict, saying, “A win is a win. They’re all going to jail,” expressing some measure of relief for his family.

The trial highlighted the actions of the former officers, who were part of the now-disbanded SCORPION crime suppression unit.



Booking images provided by the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office. From left, Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Emmitt Martin III, Desmond Mills, Jr. and Justin Smith. Nichols, Bean, Haley, and Smith were convicted of witness tampering in the case that fueled nationwide protests and renewed calls for police reform.

Prosecutors argued that Nichols was subjected to a “street tax” for fleeing the scene of a traffic stop, a practice where officers use excessive force as punishment. The officers then lied to their superiors, paramedics, and in official reports to cover up the severity of the assault.

Desmond Mills, another former officer involved in the beating who took a plea deal, delivered emotional testimony during the trial, expressing deep regret for

his role in the attack. Mills admitted to going along with a cover-up, hoping Nichols would survive and the incident would “blow over.” Mills, who could face up to 15 years in prison, said through tears, “I made his child fatherless.”

The beating of Nichols reignited debates over the use of excessive force by law enforcement, particularly in Black communities. The five officers involved, all of whom are Black, were fired shortly after the

incident, but the trial showcased the troubling dynamics of police violence regardless of race.

While the witness tampering convictions bring a degree of accountability, the civil rights acquittals for Bean and Smith may leave some questions unanswered for those seeking broader justice. Nichols’ family, however, said they view the guilty verdicts as a step toward closure in a case that has haunted them since the tragic night of January 7, 2023.

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By Ben Jealous

The plastics inside of you right now

would be recycled.

The world's largest producer of plastic polymers for single-use plastics is ExxonMobil. Right now, Attorney General Rob Bonta of California of California, along with the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, is suing ExxonMobil for their years-long campaign of deception about the recyclability of plastic products.

In discussing the suit, Attorney General Bonta told a story of a 14-year old who "was just distraught over the fact that all of the plastic items that she carefully selected to make sure they have the chasing arrows on it and then make sure that after she used it, she placed it thoughtfully and diligently in the blue container for recycling – that 95 percent of the time, that item was not recycled."

The world produces about 430 million tons of plastic each year. Much of that is single-use plastic that ends up in the environment. About 22 million pounds of plastic enter the Great Lakes alone each year, with half of it going into Lake Michigan. And the plastic-contaminated water from lakes, rivers, and streams ends up in our drinking water and our oceans. Globally,

about 12 million tons of plastic enter our oceans each year. That is a garbage truck worth of plastic every minute.

Plastics do not decompose. They just break down into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic, down to tiny particles called microplastics and nanoplastics.

As a result, microplastics are everywhere and in everything. The plastic bags and bottles that find their way into landfills and waterways eventually become microplastics. Microplastics are also tiny enough to be airborne.

Dr. Sherri A. Mason is a leader in plastic pollution research who has called attention to freshwater contamination from microplastics. She has pointed out, "Because we find plastic pollution within fresh water throughout the planet, it's not surprising that we find it in our tap water. In 2017 we examined 159 samples of tap water collected from 14 different countries. Eighty-eight percent of these samples showed evidence of microplastic contamination, with an average of 5.5 particles per liter. Almost all (98 percent) of these particles were microfibers, which suggests that air is the primary source of

contamination."

Plastics get into our waterways in a variety of ways – "microbeads" in shampoos and laundry detergents, small pellets used in pre-production manufacturing known as "nurdles," and more ways. Nurdles are a major source of the microplastic contamination in the Great Lakes because many manufacturing facilities in the region use them. All that plastic then enters the food chain. One way is that it breaks down into tiny plastic grains that are mistaken as algae and microplankton by fish.

Over the past four years studies have found microplastics in human placentas, breast milk, and liver. More recent research over the past year has now found them in people's lungs, testicles and brains.

The studies that found microplastics present in testicles found them in every single sample analyzed. Scientists think it could be linked to downward trends in sperm counts and fertility.

The microplastics found in human brains were found in the olfactory bulb, suggesting they could be getting inhaled through the nose. Phoebe Stapleton, a professor of Pharmacology and

Toxicology at Rutgers University, told CNN, "I really do think that plastics are going to be in every place in the body that we look. This is just more evidence."

We know plastic contamination is toxic. Plastic is made from petrochemicals that, in addition to reproductive health issues, can cause cancer, endocrine disruption, neurological disorders, immune disorders, and more.

As our awareness of plastic contamination in every facet of our lives and part of our bodies grows, let us remember Big Oil produces petrochemicals behind plastics. So add that to the list of ways – in addition to pollution, climate change, and the megastorms the climate crisis produces – the fossil fuel industry is taking a disastrous toll on our health. The lawsuit to hold ExxonMobil accountable is a good start in addressing the problem, but we also need to address the microplastic contamination that is already so prevalent. And we need to change and reduce our use of plastics.

Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

I asked what kind of family



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Editorial - Opinion

The ghost of George Wallace still haunts Alabama

- "Targeting naturalized citizens is the latest move in the playbook for voter intimidation. The state of Alabama illegally took the right to vote away from eligible citizens and must be stopped. We can't allow registered voters to bear the brunt of these dangerous lies that threaten our democracy." – Celina Stewart, CEO, League of Women Voters of the United States

by Marc H. Morial(TriceEdneyWire.com)



The law is clear. According to the National Voter Registration Act of 1992, "A State shall complete, not later than 90 days prior to the date of a primary or general election for Federal office, any program the purpose of which is to systematically remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters." In defiance of the law, 84 days before Election Day, Alabama's Secretary of State ordered county election officials to remove the names of people his office had

identified as noncitizens. The tactic is not only a clear violation of federal law. It's a racist ploy to disenfranchise naturalized citizens who have the legal right to vote while stoking the flame of anti-immigrant hatred. It's also part of Alabama's long history of blocking non-white citi-

zens from the polls, stretching back nearly a century and a half. The U.S. Department of Justice last week sued Alabama for violating the NVRA, seeking the restoration of the affected citizens' voting rights in time for Election Day, along with the prohibition of future violations, mailings to educate eligible voters about the restoration of their rights, and adequate training of local officials and poll workers to address confusion and distrust among eligible voters accused of being noncitizens. The Southern Poverty Law Center, Campaign Legal Center, and Fair Elections Center last month filed similar lawsuit on behalf of Alabamians who were unfairly targeted, the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice, the Alabama NAACP and the League of Women Voters of Alabama. Alabama's hostility to voting rights for non-white citizens was largely responsible for passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Alabama's hostility to voting rights was responsible for gutting the Act's preclearance provision in 2013. In the five decades in between, the preclearance provision stopped Alabama from imposing racially discriminatory voting restrictions more than 100 times. Three days after the Supreme Court's Shelby decision, Alabama announced plans to enforce the restrictive photo I.D. law at the heart of the case. After making driver's licenses one of the few forms of I.D. required to vote, Alabama announced it would shutter 31 driver's license offices around the state. A series of additional laws and policies, including closing polling places in predominately Black counties and purging hundreds of thousands of people from voter rolls, have driven the white-non-white voter turnout gap from 6% in 2014 to 13% in 2020. In some counties, the Black-white voter registration gap has grown to double digits. Election changes in Alabama

have prompted at least 17 lawsuits since Shelby. Alabama is where school children peacefully protesting segregation were pummeled with water hoses and savaged by police dogs. It's where Gov. George Wallace declared in his inauguration speech, "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever," and stood in a University of Alabama doorway to block Black students from registering. It's where white supremacists murdered four little girls in the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. It's where the late John Lewis and other activists were beaten nearly to death as they marched from Selma to Montgomery. The savage brutality America witnessed on the Edmund Pettis Bridge galvanized support for the Voting Rights Act in 1965. We can only hope Alabama's ongoing hostility to voting rights galvanizes support for the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.



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45 months after January 6, DOJ charges over 1,500 with focus on Trump

Sunday, October 6, 2024, marked 45 months since the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. As the Department of Justice pursues more than 1,500 individuals in connection with the attack, new court filings reveal further details on former President Donald Trump's alleged involvement in the violent attempt to overturn the 2020 election.

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

This week marks 45 months since the devastating January 6 attack, where over 140 police officers were assaulted as rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol, delaying the certification of the 2020 presidential election results. Officials said the attack caused over \$2.8 million in damages to the Capitol in a report by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia while outlining the nearly four-year aftermath of the insurrection. Since then, the Department of Justice said it has launched one of the most extensive investigations in US history. Approximately 1,532 individuals have been charged in federal court for their roles in the attack.

The charges are extensive and include 571 counts of assaulting, resisting, or impeding law enforcement officers. Of these, 164 individuals allegedly wielded deadly or dangerous weapons, including firearms, chemical sprays, tasers, and makeshift weapons fashioned from objects like flagpoles and office furniture. Additionally, 171 defendants are accused of entering restricted areas with deadly weapons, while 87 face charges for destruction of government property.

Among the most severe charges, 18 defendants face accusations of seditious conspiracy, with prosecutors alleging an organized attempt to overthrow the government by force. Charges related to the theft of government property have been brought against 66 individuals. Nearly all defendants face some form of trespassing or disorderly conduct charges, as the DOJ said it continues to seek comprehensive accountability.

The expansive prosecution effort has led to approximately 943 guilty pleas, with 304 felony admissions. Of these, 161 pleaded guilty to assaulting law enforcement, 122 admitted to obstructing law enforcement during civil disorder, and 67 admitted to assault with a deadly



weapon. Nearly 1,000 cases have reached sentencing, with over 600 individuals receiving prison terms and 141 allowed to serve their sentences in home detention.

The DOJ's pursuit of justice has been impacted in 259 cases by the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in *Fischer v. United States* about the proper use of the felony charge of obstructing an official proceeding. So far, prosecutors have dismissed these charges in 73 cases, while evaluating others. Despite the ruling, the DOJ said it remains firm, with all affected defendants still facing other charges related to their involvement in the Capitol attack that eventually led to the deaths of several police officers. The man who carried out a pepper-spray attack on a U.S. Capitol Police offi-

cer who died the day after the riot received an 80-month sentence.

Julian Khater, 32, who admitted in a guilty plea he had used the pepper spray against Officer Brian Sicknick and at least two other officers, told U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan the rash actions he took that day were not in his nature. He said he wished he could take them back. Sicknick, 42, died of a stroke a day later.

In a 165-page court filing released earlier this month, Special Counsel Jack Smith outlined new allegations against the twice-impeached and 34 times convicted former President Donald Trump, accusing him of engaging in "increasingly desperate" actions to cling to power after his election loss. The filing detailed Trump's alleged strategy to incite his supporters,

pushing them toward violence on January 6. "When the defendant lost the 2020 presidential election, he resorted to crimes to try to stay in office," the filing states.

The filing also described Trump's public statements as calculated moves to provoke anger among his supporters, even as his advisers discredited his claims of voter fraud. According to prosecutors, Trump privately dismissed his lawyer Sidney Powell's fraud claims as "crazy," while continuing to use similar rhetoric in public. Prosecutors allege that Trump "laid the groundwork for his crimes well before" Election Day, including by promoting doubt in the electoral process and planning to declare victory immediately.

US District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who has overseen the case, recently

addressed Trump's defense team's claims of partisan bias. "Defendant's opposition brief repeatedly accuses the government of bad-faith partisan bias," Chutkan wrote. "These accusations, for which Defendant provides no support, continue a pattern of defense filings focusing on political rhetoric rather than addressing the legal issues at hand."

Meanwhile, the DOJ has vowed to continue prosecuting fugitives, and the FBI recently released videos of suspects involved in assaults on law enforcement, seeking public assistance in identifying individuals who remain at large. The Bureau is also pursuing fugitives like Evan Neumann, Adam Villarreal, and Paul Belosic and is encouraging anyone with information to contact them at 1-800-CALL-FBI or visit tips.fbi.gov.

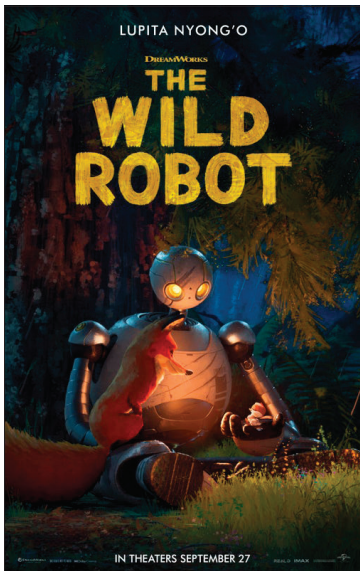
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Audrey J. Bernard



'The Wild Robot' will make you fall crazy in love with Lupita Nyong'o

From DreamWorks Animation comes a new adaptation of a literary sensation, Peter Brown's beloved, award-winning, #1 New York Times bestseller, "The Wild Robot." The film made its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September, debuting with a flawless 100% critics score on Rotten Tomatoes and currently holding an impressive 98% rating.

The robot — ROZZUM unit 7134, or "Roz" for short — is voiced by Lupita Nyong'o in a spectacularly nuanced performance, sprightly robotic at first and eventually natural and wry. Each is wonderfully calibrated. This epic adventure follows the journey of a robot that is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island and must learn to adapt to the harsh surroundings, gradually building relationships with the animals on the island and becoming the adoptive parent of an orphaned gosling. Here is how this highly acclaimed adventure goes:

"The Wild Robot" is written and directed by three-time Oscar nominee Chris Sanders and stars Academy Award winner Lupita Nyong'o (Us, The Black Panther franchise) as robot Roz; Emmy and Golden Globe nominee Pedro Pascal (The Last of Us, The Mandalorian) as fox Fink; Emmy winner Catherine O'Hara (Schitt's Creek,

Best in Show) as opossum Pinktail; Oscar nominee Bill Nighy (Living, Love Actually) as goose Longneck; Kit Connor (Heartstopper, Rocketman) as gosling Brightbill and Oscar nominee Stephanie Hsu (Everything Everywhere All at Once, this summer's The Fall Guy) as Vontra, a robot that will intersect with Roz's life on the island.

The film also features the voice talents of Emmy winning pop-culture icon Mark Hamill (Star Wars franchise, The Boy and the Heron), Matt Berry (What We Do in the Shadows, The SpongeBob Movie franchise) and Golden Globe winner and Emmy nominee Ving Rhames (Mission: Impossible films, Pulp Fiction).

Designed by Universal Dynamics, Lupita Nyong'o's Roz is a sophisticated piece of technology who washes up on an island solely inhabited by animals. Longing for a purpose, the sentient machine forges relationships with the local wildlife and becomes the adoptive mother of a newly-hatched gosling named Brightbill. As Nyong'o explains in the production notes, she worked closely with Sanders to develop a voice that would gradually evolve from mechanical to natural as the story progressed:

"We started with a more disembodied voice and what I call the 'programmed optimism' that comes with robotic figures like Siri or Alexa. There's this optimism, but you can't really feel the soul of Siri. Roz starts in that realm and then, as she adapts to the world and becomes more of a mother in raising Brightbill, she reprograms herself to access something more akin to human empathy, expression and emotion. By the end of the film, she's a fully three-dimensional, well-rounded figure," explained Sanders. Nyong'o gives an Oscar-winning performance which



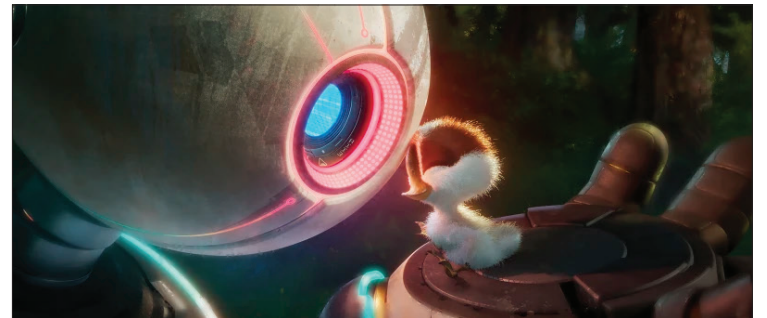
This image released by Universal Pictures shows a scene from DreamWorks Animation's 'Wild Robot.' (DreamWorks Animation-Universal Pictures via AP)



The Wild Robot © 2024 DreamWorks Animation. All Rights Reserved

will tear at your heartstrings. Don't leave home without your tissues. This is amazing animation like you've never seen before.

A powerful story about the discovery of self, a thrilling examination of the bridge between technology and nature and a moving exploration of what it means to be alive and connected to all living things, "The Wild Robot" is written and directed by three-time Oscar nominee Chris Sanders—the writer-director of DreamWorks Animation's How to Train Your Dragon, The Croods, and Disney's Lilo & Stitch—and is produced by Jeff Hermann (DreamWorks Animation's The Boss Baby 2: Family Business; co-producer, Kung Fu Panda franchise). The music gives soul and voice to each character. In March 2024, Kris Bowers was revealed to be composing the score

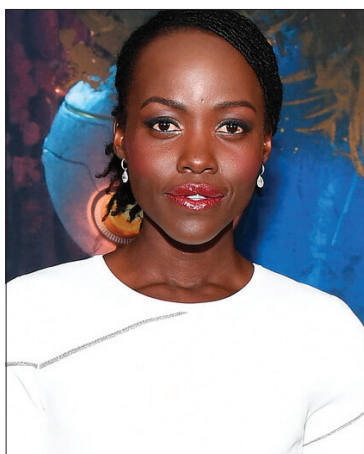


Roz, voiced by Lupita Nyong'o, left, and Brightbill, voiced by Kit Connor, in 'Wild Robot' (DreamWorks Animation-Universal Pictures via AP)

for the animated adventure marking his first score for an animated film. Sanders desired for the film to heavily rely on music and told Bowers as such when he was first hired. Bowers did a phenomenal job and the critics are calling it the best animated film of all time. It's an instant classic!



Lupita Nyong'o attends the world premiere of 'The Wild Robot' at Roy Thomson Hall during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Canada on Sunday, September 8, 2024 (Photo by Chris Chew)



Lupita Nyong'o-Roz (Lupita Nyong'o) in DreamWorks Animation's Wild Robot (Paras Griffin/Getty Images for Universal Pictures)



Kris Bowers attends 'The Wild Robot' Los Angeles screening and tastemaker event presented by DreamWorks Animation at Ross House on September 25, 2024 in Los Angeles, CA (Photo by Leon Bennett/Getty Images)

On the scene

Nate Douglas running to take power from “bully” Ron DeSantis at The State House

By Greg Owen

Gay candidate Nate Douglas is running to take power from “bully” Ron DeSantis at The State House. Nate, a candidate for the Florida House from Orlando who’s still in school pursuing a graduate degree in data science, says the numbers he’s seeing point to two things: monumental challenges around the climate crisis and a win for Democrats in November looking to address them. The 23-year-old was born and raised in the small town of Celebration, Florida, the utopian brainchild of Walt Disney himself, built next door to Disney World.

Douglas has collected more than \$238,000 in cash through mid-September, a massive number for a State House district race and nearly double his Republican opponent’s take during the same time period. The Democrat spoke to LGBTQ Nation on National Registration Day from the campus of the University of Central Florida

in Orlando, where he was getting out the vote with fellow students.

LGBTQ Nation: There’s a blue heron in the logo on your website. What does that represent for you? Douglas: It’s a Sandhill crane, actually, and that was to represent the fact that, first of all, I really like birds (laughing), and second of all, Sandhill cranes are also very much native to the district. So I decided to use something that was local and something that represents progress for the climate.

LGBTQ Nation: You graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Food and Resource Economics with a specialization in Agribusiness, and you were elected, while still in college, as a Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor. What first led to your interest in the climate? Nate: When I was just about 17 years old in high school, I joined the Sunrise Movement, which is the youth climate advocacy organization, and climate change is something that really brought me more into the

progressive space in politics because, at the end of the day, that’s something that’s going to have a really large impact on everyone, regardless of their socioeconomic status or regardless of their ethnicity or race.

LGBTQ Nation: You’re pursuing a graduate degree in Data Science. What does the data tell you about the climate crisis that we’re facing? Nate: Well, it says that if we don’t act quickly, then we’re going to have irreversible damage to our climate across the world. It’s also going to drive a much larger issue here in the United States: we’re going to have deeper economic problems.

“We’re going to have deeper energy problems. Our immigration crisis is going to get insanely out of control. I mean, people talk about immigration right now — that’s going to get significantly worse if we do not deal with the climate crisis, because these are folks who have nowhere else to go,” said Douglas.



LGBTQ Nation: How much of the rise in insurance premiums in

Florida is due to the fact that the state is just more prone to the effects of climate change than other places, and therefore more expensive to insure, and how much of those cost increases do you lay at the feet of insurance companies trying to take advantage of that fact?

Nate: This is a very complicated issue. And something I like to tell folks all the time is, regardless of whether or not an individual or homeowner cares about climate change, or even believes in climate change, there is a group that does care about climate change and that does believe in climate change, and that is our insurance companies. Insurance companies are using climate change as the reason to drive up our costs, yes, and some of that is reasonable, because obviously, we need to cover the cost of more natural disasters. Since Florida is one of the most catastrophe-prone states in the country, we need to raise premiums at some point.”



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Entertainment



By Don Thomas

Gospel Singer

Cissy Houston, a Grammy-winning singer, dies at 91

By Jonathan Landrum Jr.

Cissy Houston, the mother of the late Whitney Houston and a two-time Grammy winner who performed alongside superstar musicians like Elvis Presley, and Aretha Franklin, has died. She was 91. Houston died Monday morning in her New Jersey home while under hospice care for Alzheimer's disease, her daughter-in-law Pat Houston told The Associated Press. The acclaimed gospel singer was surrounded by her family.

"Our hearts are filled with pain and sadness. We loss the matriarch of our family," Pat Houston said in a statement. She said her mother-in-law's contributions to popular music and culture are "unparalleled."

"Mother Cissy has been a strong and towering figure in our lives. A woman of deep faith and conviction, who cared greatly about family, ministry, and community. Her more than seven-decade career in music and entertainment will remain at the forefront of our hearts."

Houston was in the well-known vocal group, the Sweet Inspirations, with Doris Troy and her niece Dee Dee Warrick. The group sang backup for a variety of soul singers including Otis Redding, Lou Rawls, The Drifters and Dionne Warwick. The Sweet Inspirations appeared on Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" and sang background vocals for The Jimi Hendrix Experience on the song "Burning of the Midnight Lamp" in 1967. In the same year, Houston worked on Franklin's classic "Ain't No Way."

Houston's last performance with the Sweet Inspirations came after the group hit the stage with Presley in a Las Vegas show in 1969. Her final recording session with the

group turned into their biggest R&B hit "(Gotta Find) A Brand New Lover" a composition by the production team of Gamble and Huff, who appeared on the group's fifth album, "Sweet Sweet Soul."

Houston became an in-demand session singer and recorded more than 600 songs in multiple genres throughout her career. Her vocals can be heard on tracks alongside a wide range of artists including Chaka Khan, Donny Hathaway, Jimi Hendrix, Luther Vandross, Beyoncé, Paul Simon, Roberta Flack and her daughter.

In 1971, Houston's signature vocals were featured on Burt Bacharach's solo album, which includes "Mexican Divorce," "All Kinds of People" and "One Less Bell to Answer." She performed various standards including Barbra Streisand's hit song, "Evergreen."

Houston won Grammys for her albums "Face to Face" in 1997 and "He Leadeth Me" the following year in the best traditional soul gospel album category. Houston authored three books: "He Leadeth Me," "How Sweet The Sound: My Life with God and Gospel" and "Remembering Whitney: A Mother's Story of Life, Loss and The Night The Music Stopped."

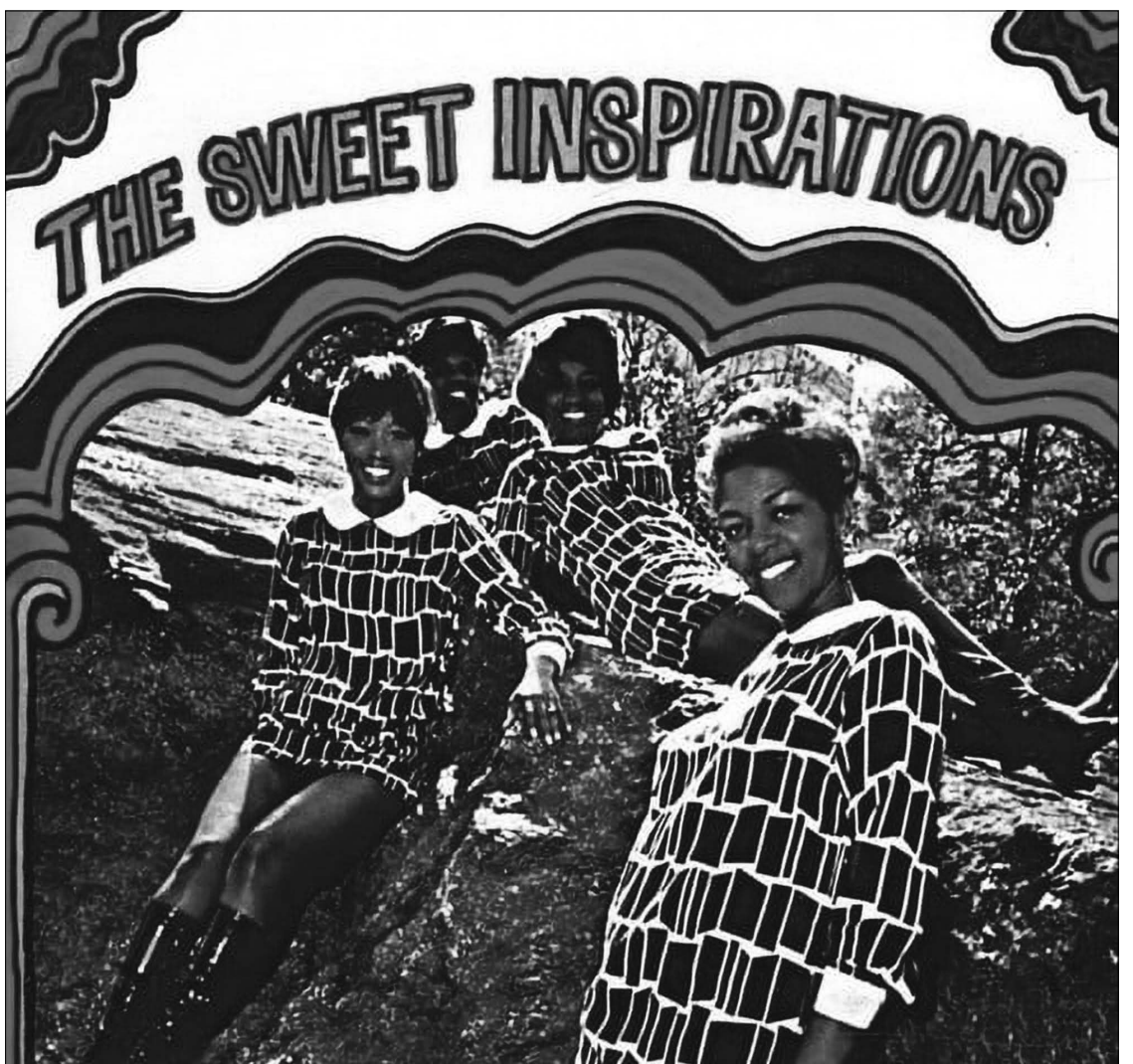
In 1938, Cissy Houston started her career when she joined her sister Anne and brothers Larry and Nicky to form the gospel group, The Drinkard Four, who recorded one album. She attended New Hope Baptist Church, where she later become Minister of Sacred Music. Houston was the youngest of eight children. "We are touched by your generous support, and your outpouring of love during our profound time of grief," Houston said on behalf of the family. "We respectfully request our privacy during this difficult time."



Singers Cissy Houston, (left), and her daughter Whitney Houston appear at the "Keep A Child Alive Black Ball" in New York City on Sept. 30, 2010 (Photo: Evan Agostini)



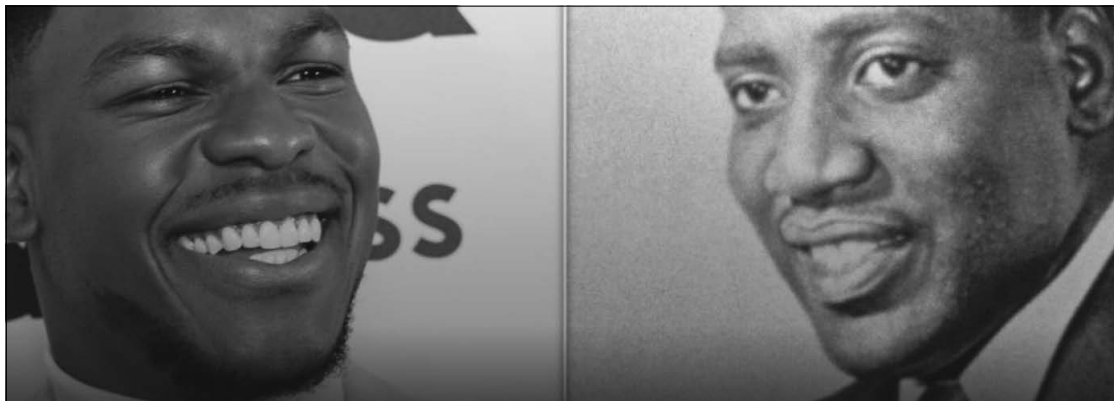
Cissy performs during McDonald's Gospelfest 2013 in Newark, New Jersey (Photo: Charles Sykes/Invision/AP)



John Boyega will play Otis Redding

Newyorkbeacon.com

After rising to fame in the “Star Wars” trilogy, John Boyega is set to take on a different kind of star role, stepping into the shoes of iconic soul singer Otis Redding. In the upcoming biopic *Otis & Zelma*, Boyega will portray the legendary artist, while Danielle Deadwyler, acclaimed for her role in *Till*, will play Redding’s wife, Zelma. Directed by Channing Godfrey Peoples, known for *Miss Juneteenth*, the film will focus on the personal and professional life of the celebrated musician and the woman who stood by his side.



The film will explore the ten-year relationship between Redding and Zelma, highlighting the impact of his meteoric rise in the music world. With hits like “(Sittin’ On) The Dock of the Bay,” “These Arms of Mine,” and “Respect,” Redding became one of the defining voices of soul music before his untimely death in a plane crash in 1967 at the age of 26. The film aims to depict not only Redding’s career but

also the emotional complexities of his marriage and the enduring love that survived beyond his passing.

Following her husband’s tragic death, Zelma Redding carved her own path, establishing a booking agency, a record store, and a nightclub. She also became the driving force behind the Otis Redding Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting education through music. In a 2022 interview with *The New York Times*, she reflected on her enduring bond with her late husband, stating, “I love being Mrs. Otis Redding. I’m the only one,” capturing the depth of her devotion and the lasting legacy of their partnership.

America mourns the loss of John Amos

Newyorkbeacon.com

The entertainment world is mourning the loss of John Amos, an actor whose career left an indelible mark on television and film. On Tuesday, K.C. Amos, his son, confirmed his father’s passing at the age of 84. Amos, best known for his iconic role in the 1970s sitcom *Good Times*, died of natural causes on August 21, as reported by *People*. His portrayal of James Evans, a stern but loving father, made him a cultural touchstone for generations of viewers.

“Many fans consider him their

TV father,” K.C. Amos shared in a heartfelt statement. “He lived a good life, and his legacy will live on in his outstanding works in television and film.” Beyond *Good Times*, John Amos was celebrated for his powerful roles in *Roots*, *Die Hard 2*, *Coming to America*, and *The West Wing*. K.C. reflected on his father’s lifelong dedication to his craft, highlighting his recent work in *Suits LA* and their joint documentary project, *America’s Dad*, which chronicled Amos’ remarkable journey as an actor. “He was my dad, my best friend, and my hero,” K.C. added, expressing gratitude for the outpouring of support during this difficult time.



Fans across social media paid tribute to Amos, many recalling his iconic performances and the emotional depth he brought to his characters. Some referenced the unforgettable moment in *Good*

Times when Esther Rolle’s Florida Evans broke down after his character’s death, while others remembered his impactful portrayal of Kunta Kinte in *Roots*. “What a loss to the world,” one fan posted. “He

was not just an actor—he was a legend.” Amos’ legacy, rooted in his ability to uplift Black culture and stories, continues to resonate with the generations of artists and audiences he inspired.

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Interview

Janice Small Combs is defending her son Sean “Diddy” Combs

By Lisa Respers France

Janice Small Combs is defending her superstar son, Sean “Diddy” Combs. The musician and producer is currently in federal custody as he awaits trial for his indictment in the Southern District of New York on counts of racketeering conspiracy, sex trafficking and transportation to engage in prostitution. He has pleaded not guilty. Combs is also facing multiple civil lawsuits accusing him of a range of sexual misconduct and other illegal activity.

Janice Combs released a statement through her attorney, which was shared on social media. “I come to you as a mother that is devastated and profoundly saddened by the allegations made against my son, Sean Combs,” her statement began.

“It is heartbreaking to see my son judged not for the truth, but for a narrative created out of lies,” she wrote. “To bear witness what seems like a public lynching of my son before he’s had the opportunity to prove his innocence is a pain too unbearable to put into words.”

The case has put a spotlight on the music mogul’s alleged lifestyle away from public view. In their indictment, federal prosecutors cited alleged “Freak Offs,” Sean Combs’ name for elaborate sex performances in which he is accused of drugging and coercing victims into performing extended sex acts with male sex workers, beginning around 2009.

Janice Combs also addressed a surveillance video obtained by CNN that showed Sean Combs assaulting his then-girlfriend,



Janice Small Combs and Sean “Diddy” Combs in 2023 (Photo: Jason Kempin/GettyImages)

Singer Cassie Ventura, in 2016 in a Los Angeles hotel. “My son may not have been entirely truthful about certain things, such as denying he has ever gotten violent with an ex-girlfriend when the hotel’s surveillance showed otherwise,” she wrote in her statement. “Sometimes, the truth and a lie become so closely intertwined that it becomes terrifying to admit one part of the story, especially when that truth is outside the norm or is too complicated to be believed.”

Sean Combs initially denied allegations of abusing Ventura, which were included in a lawsuit she filed before the video was made public. Following the release of the video, he apologized.

“I was disgusted then when I did it. I’m disgusted now. I went and I sought out professional help. I got into going to therapy, going to rehab,” Combs said in a video shared on social media days after the video was broadcast. “I had to ask God for his mercy and grace. I’m so sorry. But I’m committed to

be a better man each and every day. I’m not asking for forgiveness. I’m truly sorry.”

His mother wrote that she believes her son’s “civil legal team opted to settle the ex-girlfriend’s lawsuit instead of contesting it until the end, resulting in a ricochet effect as the federal government used this decision against my son by interpreting it as an admission of guilt.”

“It is important to recognize that none of us, regardless of our status, are immune to fear or

mistakes,” she wrote. “Not being entirely straightforward about one issue does not mean my son is guilty of the repulsive allegations and the grave charges leveled against him.”

Houston-based attorney Tony Buzbee, along with the AVA Law Group, announced they had been retained by at least 120 additional men and women “to pursue cases in civil court” against Combs. CNN has reached out to attorneys for Combs for comment about his mother’s statement.



On the Monday, September 23rd 2024 episode and season 3 premiere of *SHERRI*, the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul, Mary J. Blige, exclusively announced the For My Fans Tour and presented Talk Show Host Sherri Shepherd with a special pair of her signature boots

Pras Michel files lawsuit against Lauryn Hill alleging fraud, breach of contract over Fugees Reunion Tour

The lawsuit claims that Hill exploited Michel's "vulnerable legal situation," manipulating him into an unfair agreement regarding the tour's financial arrangements. According to the complaint, Hill allegedly made off with a significant share of the tour's proceeds, leaving Michel with a small portion that wasn't in line with previous Fugees tours.

By Stacy M. Brown(NNPA Newswire)

Prakazrel "Pras" Michel, a founding member of the iconic hip-hop group The Fugees, has filed a lawsuit against his former bandmate Lauryn Hill and MLH Touring, Inc. in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York (Case 1:24-cv-07403). The complaint, filed this morning, alleges fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, and breach of contract concerning The Fugees' 2023 reunion tour.

The lawsuit claims that Hill exploited Michel's "vulnerable legal situation," manipulating him into an unfair agreement regarding the tour's financial arrangements. According to the complaint, Hill allegedly made off with a significant share of the tour's proceeds, leaving Michel with a small portion that wasn't in line with previous

Fugees tours.

In an email to the Black Press' Let It Be Known News, Michel's legal team, Robert S. Meloni of Meloni & McCaffrey, accuses Hill of concealing her intention to control the tour's profits and misrepresenting crucial financial information. "We assert that Ms. Hill misrepresented critical financial information and concealed her intent to take an excessive 60% share of the tour's proceeds, leaving Mr. Michel with only 20% instead of the group's customary one-third split," Meloni stated.

Michel's legal complaint also highlighted Hill's reported chronic tardiness during the tour, with concerts frequently starting two or more hours late. The lawsuit further alleges that Hill canceled the second half of the tour, financially penalizing and defrauding Michel in the process.

Michel is no stranger to legal controversy. He was found guilty in 2023 of conspiring with fugitive Malaysian financier Jho Low in three lobbying schemes to influence U.S. presidential administrations. While he remained free pending sentencing, Michel's primary defense lawyer allegedly inappropriately relied on an experimental generative AI tool to



create his closing argument in the star's high-profile criminal trial.

Michel's new defense attorneys filed a motion late last year seeking a retrial. Michel's new lawyer from the firm, ArentFox Schiff, stated that the Fugees' member's previous lawyer, David Kenner, made a poor closing argument,

saying that it was frivolous, misunderstood the necessary points, and overlooked important weaknesses in the government's case.

The attorneys also asserted the conduct of U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly of Washington, D.C., as a factor. In a separate

legal action, Michel wants Hill held accountable for allegedly sabotaging the Fugees' tour.

"This legal action aims to hold Ms. Hill accountable and secure justice for Mr. Michel," Meloni stated in the complaint.

Hill or MLH Touring, Inc. have commented.



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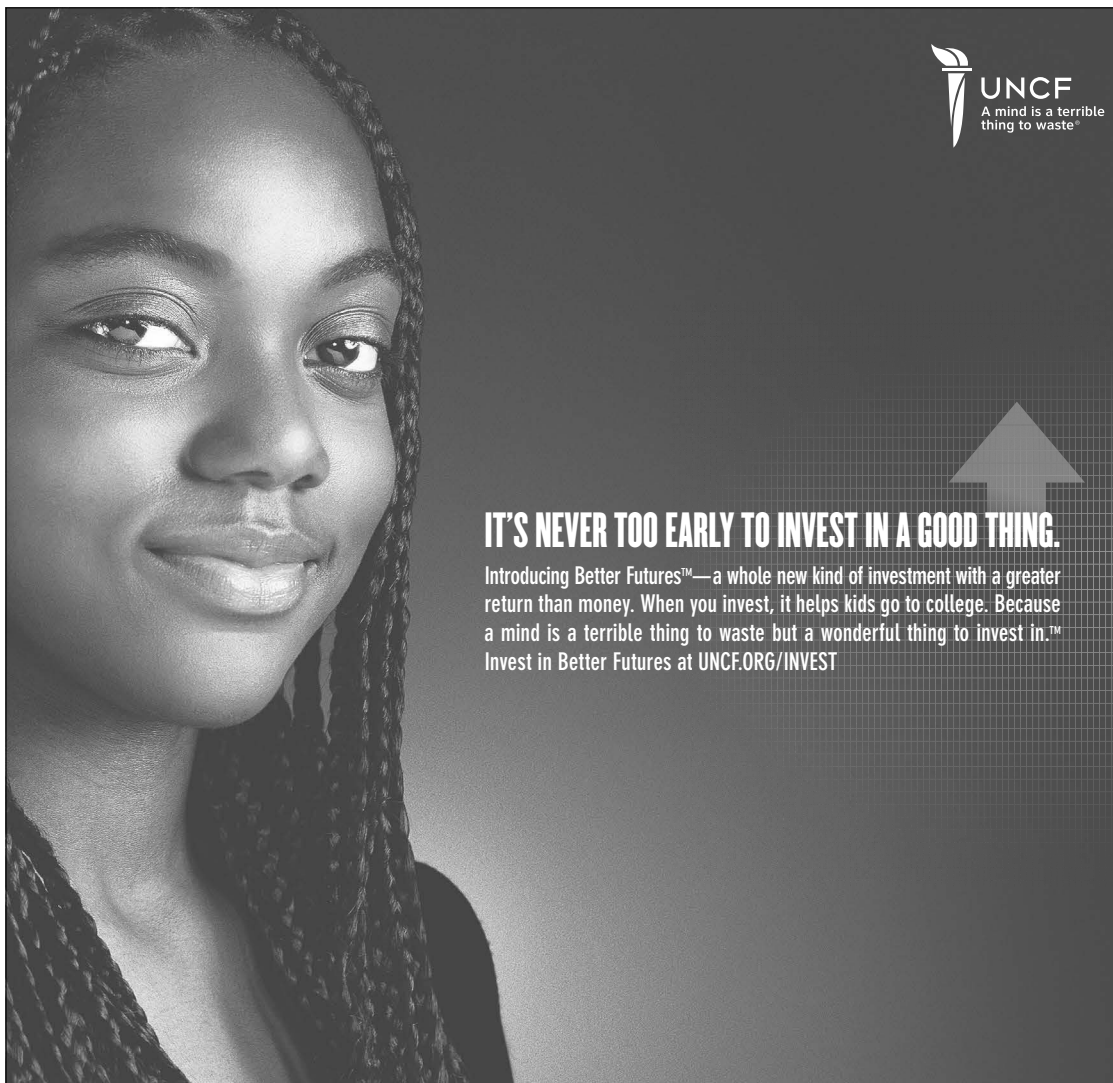
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