

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Biden signs bill into law making Juneteenth a national holiday



Congratulations to Mrs. Lashawnda McNair for being Teacher of the Year!

BY: CHERYL HUGHEY

In recognition of her teaching excellence, effective communication with students, her high expectations and leadership, we congratulate Lashawnda McNair for being “Teacher of the Year!”

Mrs. McNair is the loving wife of Floyd McNair and the loving, devoted mother of their three daughters, Shannon, Shawna and Shana.

Mrs. McNair is a third-grade teacher at J.D. Parker Elementary in Stuart. While in the classroom, McNair is busy helping her students become successful, responsible citizens.

“I love the fact that every day brings something new. Whether it’s a new challenge, a new concept to teach, or an off-the-wall comment by one of my students, each day is completely different than the one before,” McNair said.

McNair’s first career was in banking, while raising her firstborn, Shannon. Several years later, she became the mother of twin daughters, Shanna and Shawna. The demands of her job along with the expensive costs of daycare convinced her to become a stay-at-home mom.

“When my daughters started attending school at Jensen Beach Elementary, I absolutely enjoyed volunteering in their classrooms. It was during this time that my future career of teaching came into view,” she said.

In 2012, McNair graduated with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Florida Atlantic University. The following year, she began teaching third grade at Weatherbee Elementary School in Fort Pierce.

Mrs. McNair gives credit to her father, Terry Hughey for always inspiring her to reach for the sky, to her mother, Sherry Hughey for encouraging her early on to pursue teaching (making them proud continues to be her goal), her husband Floyd whose unyielding support made it possible for her to return to college and earn her degree.

“My husband has definitely been my rock through all of this,” he made it possible for me go back to school, while he worked double time to make sure that our family is being provided for,” Mrs. McNair added.

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A Picture That’s Worth A Thousand Words

BY: TERRY HUGHEY

President Joe Biden said that signing legislation into law on Thursday establishing June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day -- a US federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States -- will go down as "one of the greatest honors" of his presidency.

"I have to say to you, I've only been president for several months, but I think this will go down, for me, as one of the greatest honors I will have as president," Biden said at the White House during a signing ceremony.

"I regret that my grandchildren aren't here, because this is a really, really, really important moment in our history. By making Juneteenth a federal holiday, all Americans can feel the power of this day and learn from our history -- and celebrate progress and grapple with the distance we've come (and) the distance we have to travel," Biden said.

The ceremony, which took place in the East Room, included some 80 members of Congress -- including members of the Congressional Black Caucus, local elected officials, community leaders and activists.

The President specifically noted that Opal Lee, the activist who campaigned to establish Juneteenth as a federal holiday, was in attendance.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union Major General Gordon Granger announced the end of slavery in Galveston, Texas, in accordance with President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation.

Only a handful of states currently observe Juneteenth as a paid holiday.

Biden, speaking at the White House alongside Vice President Kamala Harris, repeated the sentiments he relayed when he commemorated the Tulsa race massacre earlier this year, that "great nations don't ignore their most painful moments."

"They embrace them. Great nations don't walk away. We've come to terms with the mistakes we made and in remembering those moments, we begin to heal and grow stronger," the President said.

During the ceremony, the President said it was not enough to commemorate the holiday, but to use it as a day of reflection and action.



"We can't rest until the promise of equality if fulfilled for every one of us in every corner of this nation. That to me is the meaning of Juneteenth," Biden said.

Biden also underscored how his White House agenda is working to deliver (Continued page 3)

Father's Day 2021



The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972—58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official—that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States. Father's Day 2021 will occur on Sunday, June 20.

Mother's Day: Inspiration for Father's Day

The "Mother's Day" we celebrate today has its origins in the peace-and-reconciliation campaigns of the post-Civil War era. During the 1860s, at the urging of activist Ann Reeves Jarvis, one divided West Virginia town celebrated "Mother's Work days" that brought together the mothers of Confederate and Union soldiers.

However, Mother's Day did not become a commercial holiday until 1908, when—inspired by Jarvis's daughter, Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor her own mother by making Mother's Day a national holiday—the John Wanamaker department store in Philadelphia sponsored a service dedicated to mothers in its auditorium.

Thanks in large part to this association with retailers, who saw great potential for profit in the holiday, Mother's Day caught on right away. In 1909, 45 states observed the day, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson approved a resolution that made the second Sunday in May a holiday in honor of "that tender, gentle army, the mothers of America."

Origins of Father's Day

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm—perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June: Father's Day 2021 occurs on June 20.

In other countries—especially in Europe and Latin America—fathers are honored on St. Joseph's Day, a traditional Catholic holiday that falls on March 19.

Father's Day: Controversy and Commercialism

Many men, however, continued to disdain the day. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."

During the 1920s and 1930s, a movement arose to scrap Mother's Day and Father's Day altogether in favor of a single holiday, Parents' Day. Every year on Mother's Day, pro-Parents' Day groups rallied in New York City's Central Park—a public reminder, said Parents' Day activist and radio performer Robert Spere, "that both parents should be loved and respected together."

Paradoxically, however, the Great Depression derailed this effort to combine and de-commercialize the holidays. Struggling retailers and advertisers redoubled their efforts to make Father's Day a "second Christmas" for men, promoting goods such as neckties, hats, socks, pipes and tobacco, golf clubs and other sporting goods, and greeting cards.

When World War II began, advertisers began to argue that celebrating Father's Day was a way to honor American troops and support the war effort. By the end of the war, Father's Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution.

In 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential re-election campaign, Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last. Today, economists estimate that Americans spend more than \$1 billion each year on Father's Day gifts.

Biden signs bill into law (continued)



equality and emphasized that the promise of equality is not going to be fulfilled, "so long as the sacred right to vote remains under attack." The President specifically pointed to restrictive voter laws in some states, calling them "an assault that offends our very democracy."

The holiday is the first federal holiday established since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983 and becomes at least the eleventh federal holiday recognized by the US federal government.

The US Office of Personnel Management announced Thursday that most federal employees will observe the holiday on Friday since Juneteenth falls on a Saturday this year.

The legislation, which was passed by Congress on Wednesday, gained momentum following Black Lives Matter protests sparked by the police killing of George Floyd last year.

It was also spurred after Democrats won the White House and control of the House of Representatives and the US Senate. The bill passed the House on Wednesday with a 415-14 vote after the Senate unanimously passed the legislation the day before.

The bill had bipartisan sponsors that included Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas and Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts.

At the White House on Thursday, Biden lauded members of Congress for the bipartisan effort, saying, "I hope this is the beginning of a change in the way we deal with one another." Lee told reporters ahead of the final passage of the bill, "what I see here today is racial divide crumbling, being crushed this day under a momentous vote that brings together people who understand the value of freedom."

The 14 Republicans who voted against the bill were Reps. Thomas Massie of Kentucky, Mo Brooks of Alabama, Scott DesJarlais of Tennessee, Andy Biggs of Arizona, Tom Tiffany of Wisconsin, Doug LaMalfa of California, Tom McClintock of California, Mike Rogers of Alabama, Matt Rosendale of Montana, Ronny Jackson of Texas, Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Andrew Clyde of Georgia, Chip Roy of Texas and Paul Gosar of Arizona.

Wisconsin Republican Sen. Ron Johnson had previously blocked the bill in 2020, saying that the day off for federal employees would cost US taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

But Johnson dropped his objection this week despite his concerns, which paved the way for the bill's passage in the Senate Capitol.***

Affordable Care Act Survives Latest Supreme Court Challenge



The Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act — also known as Obamacare — in a Thursday morning ruling, retaining health care for millions of Americans.

In a 7-2 ruling in *California v. Texas*, a majority of the court said that Texas and a number of other Republican-controlled states did not have standing in their case to overturn former President Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement.

A federal judge in Texas had ruled in favor of the challenge in 2018 and struck the entire health care law as invalid, but the decision never went into effect as appeals worked their way through the system.

Without protections for preexisting conditions provided by Obamacare, the Kaiser Family Foundation estimated in 2016 that up to 52 million people could be denied coverage.

Others would lose insurance if the Medicaid expansion that was adopted by dozens of states and D.C. is killed.

"Today's U.S. Supreme Court decision is a major victory for all Americans benefitting from this groundbreaking and life-changing law," President Biden said in a statement, adding, "After more than a decade of attacks on the Affordable Care Act through the Congress and the courts, today's decision — the third major challenge to the law that the U.S. Supreme Court has rejected — it is time move forward and keep building on this landmark law."

In an opinion authored by liberal Justice Stephen Breyer, the court concluded "that the plaintiffs in this suit failed to show a concrete, particularized injury fairly traceable to the defendants' conduct in enforcing the specific statutory provision they attack as unconstitutional.

They have failed to show that they have standing to attack as unconstitutional the Act's minimum essential coverage provision.

Therefore, we reverse the Fifth Circuit's judgment in respect to standing, vacate the judgment, and remand the case with instructions to dismiss."

JUST MY OPINION

BY: TERRY HUGHEY



“AMERICAN HISTORY”

So, let's really think about why "Critical Race Theory" should not be taught in our K-12 education system in America.

We should all want our children to have a real understanding of the true History in America. Real history, the good and bad, the triumphs and the ugly truths of systematic racism on all levels.

If we educate our children to the realization of American History as it really happened. I believe it would create a dialog that would help our country move forward with a true understanding that equal justice for all can only be attained if "Critical Race Theory" is brought to the forefront in our educational system.

The Great American Experiment will always have its challenges on our democracy, but as we are witnessing with the proper leadership our democracy is strong enough to withstand the attacks by those forces who strongly oppose Equal Justice for all.

We all should look forward to watching and witnessing the real "American History"




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Mother Forced 4-Year-Old Girl to Stand for Three Days Straight as Punishment Until She Died from Exhaustion



MALIKAH BENNETT, 31, HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER AND CHILD ABUSE AND BENNETT'S MOTHER, TAMMY TAYLOR MOFFETT, 53, WAS ALSO CHARGED WITH CONCEALING A DEATH AND ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT OF MURDER

BY: CHERYL HUGHEY

A North Carolina mother accused of murdering her 4-year-old girl allegedly abused the child in myriad and disturbing ways before she died, according to recently released court documents.

Malikah Bennett, 31, stands accused of child abuse and murder in the first degree over the 2020 death of Majelic “Jellie” Young.

The young girl was last seen alive in late August or early September 2020; she was reported missing in September; her remains were found buried outside of a home in Charlotte, N.C. in May 2021.

Bennett and the girl’s grandmother, Tammy Moffett, 53, were both arrested in quick succession after voluntary interviews with the

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Moffett was charged with concealing human remains and accessory to murder after the fact.

“I’ve worked homicide most of the last 10 years and I can tell you this case is deeply disturbing,” CMPD Lieutenant Bryan Crum said during a press conference earlier this year. “It’s disturbing to everyone who’s worked it. Crime scene investigators, detectives, everyone involved in this case – many of us are parents, and it’s very difficult to understand how someone could do this to their child, kill their child and bury them and move on with their life as if nothing happened.”

Some of those disturbing details have now come to light.

According to warrants, the girl’s body was found following a phone call made to police by a social worker. Bennett was previously facing relatively minor child neglect charges related to two of her other children.

Those recently released warrants reportedly contain the witness testimony of Majelic’s 13-year-old sister. The teenager allegedly told police that her younger sister was essentially abused to death by being forced to stand in the laundry room as punishment.

The 4-year-old was allowed no breaks to sit; she also couldn’t leave.

Majelic’s sister said that at the end of the first day, her baby sister had a bowel movement inside of her pants.

The standing torture abuse allegedly continued on for two more days.

In interviews with police, the teenager said that her sister’s breathing was labored, going on and off by the third day when Majelic finally got so weak that she fell out the back door and hit her head on the ground. That was the day she died.

Afterwards, the older girl, who is not being named, said that her mother put the dead child into two plastic bags where her corpse likely began to decompose inside of the trunk of her SUV for five days. Then, the mother allegedly forced the teenager to help her dig a hole and cover the girl’s body with dirt.

Police claim to have recovered a shovel at the residence where Majelic’s body was found some nine months later.

SPORTS

POLICE ARREST EX-NFL PLAYER, WANT TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT MISSING GIRLFRIEND

BY: TERRY HUGHEY



Harris County Sheriff's Office / Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Kevin Ware Jr., a former close NFL member whose girlfriend Taylor Pomaski has been missing for months, was arrested at a Spring, Texas mall on Friday after missing his bond watch hearings in April and May.

Police told Houston KPRC 2 that they wanted to question them about Pomaski's disappearance; she was last seen at a house party on April 25.

"There might be other people in the house that night," Eric Zuleger, a former boyfriend of Pomaski for six years with whom she has remained friends, told KPRC 2. "I am not. sure, but Kevin knows exactly what happened. "

Questions swirl after powerful lawyer wife and son are killed amid fatal boat investigation.

Ware, who played for the San Francisco 49ers and the Washington NFL team, was first arrested on April 19 for drug and gun trafficking, according to ABC 13.

Inside Edition Digital reports that police have arrested Ware for alleged speeding and searched his vehicle; MPs said they found an AK-47 and a 9mm pistol as well as cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and Xanax.

Days after Ware walked out on \$ 23,000 bail, ABC 13 reports, he and Pomaski fought fiercely in a meeting at his home, according to witnesses who reported the feud. Ware subsequently missed his bail hearings, and Pomaski has not been seen since.

Zuleger told Inside Edition that when confronted with Ware about his disappearance from the party, Ware told him that Pomaski left the party on April 25 with a friend of his.

Speaking to ABC 13, Zuleger said Pomaski "was in danger and in trouble. There was violence, she referred to a gun being shot at her. She was very scared, very nervous.

The last time he heard from her, he told Inside Edition, was at 6:55 a.m. on April 26, when Pomaski emailed him that simply said, "I have to. talk to you. "

Pomaski's mother, Leslie Mandeville, reported her missing on May 9; Given that

the day marked both Mother's Day and Pomaski's father's birthday, Mandeville noted, his silence was unusual. "She never missed this stuff," Mandeville told Inside Edition. "Never."

Mandeville said she and her daughter were in close contact until last spring, when she believes Pomaski began battling a substance use disorder, though her daughter has never said so much.

Mandeville said his daughter started dating the NFL alum around this time.

She tried to make plans to see her daughter and meet Ware on several occasions, she said, but they always canceled.

Zuleger, meanwhile, told Inside Edition that the last time he saw his friend was April 4.

"She was skinny and had bruises and swelling on her face," he said, later adding that Pomaski had previously claimed Ware had struck. her. "It was a big difference the physical transformation from February to April," Zuleger said. "It was shocking."

Ware did not respond to Inside Edition's request for comment regarding the Zuleger and Mandeville allegations. He is currently a Person of Interest but not a suspect.

Discussing his concern with Inside Edition, Mandeville began to cry. "I can't even express fear in words," she said. "Just not knowing is so scary. You know you care.

Is she afraid? ... Was she afraid? ... It's awful.

LOCAL NEWS

Baseball fans get vaccinated at Venezuela vs. USA Olympic qualifier game



As we see fewer COVID-19 cases, and more people getting out, health officials continue their efforts to get vaccination sites in places where people are going.

St. Lucie County health officials say vaccination is the best way to achieve herd immunity, and they are hoping people would "play ball" to get a shot.

Crowds came out for the USA vs. Venezuela Olympic baseball qualifier Saturday night at Clover Park in Port St. Lucie

"It's great to be back at the ballpark. It's great to be cheering for team USA, certainly," said Neil Meany.

"But great to be back again and have a chance to enjoy life."

Inside the stadium, crowds cheered and clapped. The scene was much like what life was like before the pandemic hit.

Outside the park, a disc jockey reminded people that COVID-19 hasn't completely left us, announcing an opportunity for fans to walk up and get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

While only a small percentage of the crowd took advantage of the clinic, a good portion of the crowd said they have already been vaccinated.

Medical experts estimate that we'll reach herd immunity for coronavirus when 65 to 85 percent of the population is vaccinate

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