

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

—Booker T. Washington”



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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 19

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 5 - 11, 2026

Grammys Open Black History Month as Michael Jackson's Story Heads to the Big Screen

By Stacy M. Brown

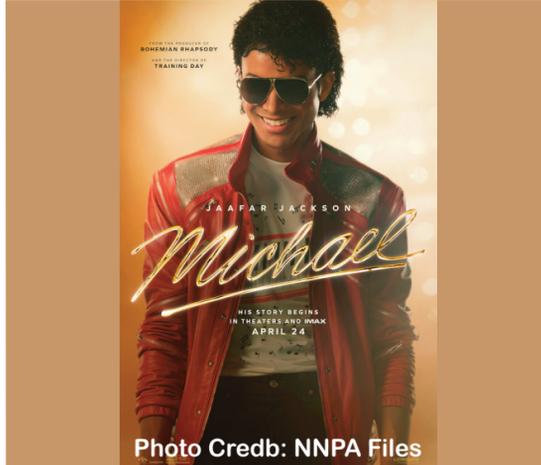


Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Lionsgate has released a new trailer for “Michael,” its long-anticipated biopic charting Jackson’s rise from his earliest days with the Jackson 5 to his emergence as a global phenomenon. The film seeks to balance the spectacle of his success with the complexity of the man behind the music.

Taking on the title role is Jaafar Jackson, Michael Jackson’s nephew, in his first major film performance. The film is directed by

Antoine Fuqua from a screenplay by John Logan.

Fuqua has expressed strong confidence in Jackson’s portrayal. “But most importantly, it’s Jaafar who embodies Michael,” Fuqua told People. “It goes beyond the physical resemblance. It’s Michael’s spirit that comes through in a magical way. You have to experience it to believe it.”

The film tells the story

Continue **Michael** Page 5

History Will Remember Who Spoke and Who Hid

By Stacy M. Brown

America watched it happen in real time.

Journalists were arrested for doing their jobs. Not in some distant dictatorship. Not under cover of night in a failed state. In the United States of America.

Don Lemon. Georgia Fort. Trahem Jeen Crews. Jamael Lydell Lundy.

Their crime was witnessing power and reporting it.

While the arrests were immediate and the outrage was instant, the courage was nowhere to be found.

Yes, statements poured in. Carefully worded. Properly formatted. Issued by politicians, civil rights organizations, advocacy groups, and celebrities. Condemnations. Expressions of concern. Warnings about precedent. All of it swift. All of it predictable. All of it ultimately safe.

And yet, here we are.

The arrests were not a misunderstanding. They were not overzealous enforcement. They were not a procedural error to be corrected quietly. They were a



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Continue Page 3
“History Will Remember”

Alabama Prison Documentary ‘The Alabama Solution’ Earns Oscar Nomination

By Lisa Crane | WVTM |
The Birmingham Times / NNPA



‘The Alabama Solution,’ documentary chronicling the horrific conditions inside the state’s prison system, premieres at Sundance and has now been nominated for an Academy Award. (HBO)/ Photo Credit: NNPA

A documentary that puts Alabama prisons in the spotlight is now in the running for one of the most well-known, prestigious awards in Hollywood — an Oscar. Nominees for the 98th Academy Awards were announced Thursday. “The Alabama Solution” is one of five films nominated in the documentary feature

film category.

It’s a sobering look at life behind bars in Alabama prisons. Most of the video in the documentary, “The Alabama Solution,” is shot by inmates themselves, on contraband cellphones. It’s graphic and, at times, difficult to watch. Former corrections officer Stacy George is a part of the documentary. He called it an accurate depiction of what an Alabama prison inmate faces.

“These things are real. I mean, there’s a lot of abuse, and there’s a lot of neglect. I saw boxes that said ‘not

for human consumption’ on the boxes; they feed them,” George said.

Some say part of the problem is the secrecy. Not many people from the outside ever get to see inside Alabama prisons. Even journalists aren’t allowed to get close. We’re kept about a mile away from St. Clair Correctional Facility. That’s as close as we’re allowed to be.

George claims the culture is the real problem. He said, sadly, many of the corrections officers are simply

Continue **Oscar** Page 5

2026 Texas Election



Jasmine Crockett, left, and James Talarico, Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate. Photo Credit: U.S. House of Representatives, The Texas Tribune

On the issues: a Q&A with the Texas Democrats running for U.S. Senate

By Kayla Guo and Gabby Birenbaum

In a rare opportunity for Texas Democrats, this year’s primary for U.S. Senate features a highly competitive race between two rising stars with national audiences and strong fundraising abilities.

U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett of Dallas is facing off against her former legislative colleague, state Rep. James Talarico of Austin, to be the party’s 2026 standard-bearer atop the ticket. The winner will face off against the prevailing Re-

publican this November in what’s expected to be an uphill battle, given that no Democrat has won statewide office in Texas since 1994.

The stakes are high.

The U.S. Senate is currently made up of 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats, with Republican Vice President JD Vance able to cast tiebreaking votes. Turning Texas’ seat blue would be a major

Continue **Senate** Page 4

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Citizens Shot, Protests Continue, and The City of Minneapolis Is In Turmoil

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

Should you believe what you see? Can your eyes play tricks on you? Can emotions get in the way of making good decisions?

Depending upon who you are and the circumstances at the time, you will get different responses to those questions. There are several different factors that go into these assessments.

Back in the day, what happened in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with two people being killed within days probably would not have been caught on tape. We didn't have the technology then, but we have it now.

These days, everyone has some type of device they can use to videotape. The phrase "caught on tape" applies to what was filmed in Minneapolis over the past few weeks.

What is so troubling about these tragedies is that this administration uses the same

explanation and justification to describe every action that ICE takes. Having sympathy for the victims' families isn't expressed. They have no intention of acknowledging the hurt caused by this agency.

The ICE leader, Gregory Bovino, has left Minneapolis. Most believe that administration officials told him to leave. His leadership was embarrassing and just plain bad. Tom Homan, a career law enforcement officer and the border czar, has replaced him.

What will happen in the "City of Lakes" next is anyone's guess. There was a lack of direction in the city when Bovino was in charge. Traditional police personnel were left with no real authority over their own city. Federal folks just came in and snatched it away. Maybe things will be different now. We'll see.

Chief of Minneapolis Police, Brian O'Hara, said, "People have had enough." About Alex Pretti, he said, "This is an individual who was a city resident. It appears that he was exercising his First Amendment rights to record law enforcement activity and also exercising

his Second Amendment rights to be lawfully armed in a public space in the city. So, I think very obviously, there are some serious questions that are being raised."

What is happening in Minneapolis has drawn the attention of all citizens who believe in fairness and justice. What matters least is your party affiliation, as both sides are speaking out.

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas), the former chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, said, "I am troubled by the events that have unfolded in Minneapolis. As an attorney and former federal prosecutor, I believe a thorough investigation is necessary both to get to the bottom of these incidents and to maintain Americans' confidence in our judicial system."

Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minnesota), whose district includes parts of Minneapolis, said, "It is beyond shameful these federal agents are targeting our residents instead of protecting them."

Americans, because of the media coverage, are getting a first-hand account about the feelings and attitudes of the people there. We are realizing that what is tak-

ing place there could be taking place in our communities as well. This is our America, and this should not be happening.

Poll numbers don't favor what is happening in Minneapolis. Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst, Tim Malloy, said, "More than eight in ten American voters say they've seen the video." It is my opinion, which is shared by many, that the shootings of Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti were avoidable and didn't have to happen.

ICE has gone too far. Even loyalists to the new administration have admitted as such. Human life is too precious to be used for political gain. Those families are hurt forever.

As tensions mount in Minneapolis, will ICE leave the city? Can the new leadership of it make a difference in how the laws are enforced?

All these questions will be answered in the days to come. I do know that the city cannot continue this way. Right now, at this very second, the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is overwhelmed with fear, apprehension, and intimidation. This is no way to live.

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The National Protest Must Be Accompanied by Our Votes

By: **Dr. John E. Warren**, Publisher
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper
Chairman of the Board of Directors, NNPA



Dr. John E. Warren

As thousands of Americans march every week in cities across this great nation, it must be remembered that the protest without the vote is of no concern to Donald Trump and his Administration. In every city, there is a personal connection to the U.S. Congress. In too many cases, the member of Congress representing the people of that city and

the Congressional District in which it sits is a Republican. It is the Republicans who are giving silent support to the destructive actions of those persons like the Attorney General, the Director of Homeland Security, and the National Intelligence Director, who are carrying out the Revenge Campaign of the President rather than upholding the Oath of Office each of them took "To Defend The Constitution of the United States."

Just as Donald Trump is gathering election data like having the FBI take all the election data in Georgia from the 2020 election, so must we organize in preparation for the coming Primary Season, to have the right people on ballots in each Republican District,

so that we can regain control of the House of Representatives and by doing so, restore the separation of powers and balance that our democracy is being deprived of.

In California, the Primary comes in June 2026. The Congressional races must be a priority just as much as the local elections of people have been so important in keeping ICE from acquiring facilities to build more prisons around the country.

"We the People" are winning this battle, even though it might not look like it. Each of us must get involved now, right where we are. In this Black History month, it is important to remember that all we have accomplished in this nation has been "In spite

of" and not "because of". Frederick Douglas said, "Power concedes nothing without a struggle." Today, the struggle is to maintain our very institutions and history. Our strength in this struggle rests in our "collectiveness". Our newspapers and journalists are at the greatest risk. We must not personally add to the attack by ignoring those who have been our very foundation, our Black Press.

Are you spending your dollars this Black History Month with those who salute and honor contributions by supporting those who tell our stories?

Remember that silence is the same as consent and support for the opposition. Where do you stand and where will your dollars go?

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Icons of Liberation explores how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela and other notable icons transformed the twentieth century through nonviolence, moral clarity, and a deep commitment to human dignity. Though shaped by different histories and geographies, their visions of justice echo each other across continents and generations.

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2614	Break the Bank Overall Odds are 1 in 4.80	\$2	3/25/26	9/21/26
2651	Lady Luck Multiplier Overall Odds are 1 in 4.34	\$5	3/25/26	9/21/26
2657	JAWS Overall Odds are 1 in 4.19	\$5	3/25/26	9/21/26
2474	\$250 Grand Overall Odds are 1 in 3.86	\$10	3/25/26	9/21/26
2494	Dazzling Winnings Overall Odds are 1 in 3.82	\$10	3/25/26	9/21/26
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2630	Colossal Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.41	\$20	3/25/26	9/21/26

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NEWS

Continued Senate Page 1

victory for Democrats that would simplify their difficult path to 51 seats and re-establish them as a viable opposition party in Texas, where Republicans have prevailed by wide margins in recent statewide elections.

U.S. senators are elected to six-year terms in Congress' 100-member upper chamber. They vote on critical federal legislation, from annual spending bills to military policy to ratifying treaties. Presidential Cabinet and judicial appointments must be confirmed by the Senate.

To help primary voters distinguish between Crockett and Talarico, we asked the candidates to share their views on a variety of issues ranging from immigration and energy to taxes and artificial intelligence. See where they stand, and how they differ.

This article has been shortened for space. Continued online.

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texas-tribune.org/2026/02/04/on-the-issues-a-qa-with-the-texas-democrats-running-for-u-s-senate/" />

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February is Black History Month

Quinn Minute

Valentine's Day

By Rix Quinn

Millions celebrate February 14 by giving flowers, candy, and cards to express romantic love. And some buy presents for their spouses, too.

Yes, Valentine's Day offers ladies the opportunity to declare affectionate thoughts with a lovely card. Many men, however, know they should spend a lot of money, or else they might experience discomfort.

In ancient times, pre-historic man gave his girlfriend a practical gift – like a goat – to show admiration. His girlfriend and her family could feed

from it. This was called “milking a compliment.”

It's speculated that Valentine's Day originated 2500 years ago as Lupercalia, a festival to honor the god Lupercus with a lottery. Young ladies put their names in a giant container, and young men randomly drew a partner.

At the end of a year – if the man wasn't either married or dead – he could draw for a different partner. About this same time, the card-giving tradition started, too. Postage was really cheap back then, because air mail was delivered by pigeon.

Today, just about everybody celebrates Valentine's Day. Elementary school children exchange cards with classmates.

Middle schoolers write anonymous notes to their secret crushes. Older teens might bestow presents, kisses, or mononucleosis.

If you're a guy, here are three hints:

1. Buy your girlfriend a corsage.
2. Pick out a real mushy card for her. Look for romantic messages full of words like “sweet,”

“love,” or “honey.” Avoid rhymes that contain the words “contagious” or “burp.”

3. Finally, take her to a nice restaurant for dinner. But go indoors, don't use the drive-through.

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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Feb. 5



Friday, Feb. 6



Saturday, Feb. 7



Sunday, Feb. 8



Monday, Feb. 9



Tuesday, Feb. 10



Wednesday, Feb. 11



The Latest: Seahawks get their turn at Super Bowl Opening Night

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Super Bowl Opening Night is ongoing, with Drake Maye, Sam Darnold and other Super Bowl participants meeting with thousands of reporters from across the globe in a zany spectacle that kicks off the week's festivities on Monday night.

Maye and the New England Patriots will take on Darnold and the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday at Levi's Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers.

First, the athletes will meet more than 6,000 credentialed reporters who will pepper them with questions ranging from the standard football topics to the silly and offbeat stuff.

The event began as a daytime introduction of the teams and evolved into a live, ticketed, prime-time showcase on national television.

The Latest:

Cooper Kupp says 18th regular-season game

would need to make sense financially for players

Even though NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said expanding the regular season to 18 games is "not a given," several players said they expect it to be discussed long before the current labor deal expires in 2030.

Seahawks receiver Cooper Kupp hinted that owners would have to give up a bigger piece of the financial pie to get it done.

"For the 18th game to happen, there's obviously going to be some negotiation," Kupp said. "There's some things, give and take. Unfortunately, it's one of those things. If the 18th game is on the table, there's going to have to be some talks about what makes that worth it to the players. And we'll get to that point. We'll cross that bridge."

Seahawks' Mike Macdonald calls Clint Kubiak's likely departure 'bittersweet'

Seahawks coach Mike Macdonald has mixed feelings as he prepares for the Super Bowl.

It won't be long after Sunday's game that teams start raiding Seattle's coaching staff. Offensive coordinator Clint Kubiak is likely to become the head coach in Las Vegas and could take a handful of assistants with him.

"Our coaches, as they get these opportunities to take it to the next level, you're happy for them," Macdonald said. "It's a little bittersweet because (Kubiak is) such a great person and great coach."

"We have a lot of great coaches and those people are going to have opportunities as well."

Seahawks' Cooper Kupp would like to see halftime show led by Noah Kahan

Singer-songwriter Noah Kahan has a fan in Seahawks receiver Cooper Kupp.

Asked to pick one person to perform during the Super Bowl halftime show, Kupp thought about it for a minute before going with Kahan.

"I have a few people I really love listening to," Kupp said. "I'm a big Noah Kahan fan. Noah could get some people around him, too, that can make a pretty cool thing collaboratively come to life. So I'll go with that one."

Bad Bunny is the halftime act for Sunday's game.

Sam Darnold gets an odd gift: A hat that looks like a giant ham

Of all the zaniness of the Super Bowl's Opening Night, this one was hamnier than most.

A reporter presented Seahawks quarterback Sam Darnold with an oversized hat designed to look like a giant ham, complete with pineapple slices.

"I'll wear it later," Darnold said politely.



Continued Oscar Page 1

bullies.

"If they come down here to Birmingham and they want to be a police officer, the first thing they probably do will take a mental evaluation test. Well, if that officer wants to be an officer, if he fails that test, guess where the next place he goes to get a job. It's with the Alabama Department of Corrections," George said.

Gov. Kay Ivey's press secretary released a statement saying, "We already knew the Oscars had a low bar, but as far as corrections goes, there has never

been an Alabama governor more dedicated to solving the longstanding challenges facing the system than Governor Ivey. From recruiting a record number of corrections officers to doing sentencing reforms to constructing needed, new facilities, Governor Ivey is getting the job done and making it safer for inmates, officers and the public alike."

Now that the documentary is a favorite to win an Academy Award, George hopes even more people will watch it and be inspired to push for change. The Oscars ceremony is set for 6 p.m. March 15.

Continued Page 3
"History Will Remember"

Hakeem Jeffries said the American people are demanding accountability. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called the arrest of Don Lemon a dark message to journalists everywhere. Mayor Karen Bass called it an egregious assault on constitutionally protected rights. Rev. Al Sharpton called it a sledgehammer to the knees of the First Amendment. Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren warned of tinpot dictatorship and

spine-chilling assaults on press freedom.

They are right. And still the arrests happened.

ICE continues to occupy communities. Federal power continues to be weaponized. The Department of Justice continues to be bent toward vengeance rather than law. The Federal Reserve is looted in plain sight. Racism is no longer dog whistled. It is sanctioned. The ambition is not governance. It is domination.

So when the history books are written, the ones not erased or rewritten by

this administration, who will be remembered as having the guts to stand up?

It may not be the ones with titles. It may not be the ones with gavels. It may not be the ones with lifetime appointments.

It may be the journalists.

It may be Georgia Fort, standing in a church, documenting power intruding on sacred space.

It may be Don Lemon, livestreaming protest while knowing exactly how much the administration

despises him.

It may be Black journalists who once again find themselves on the front lines, absorbing the blows meant for democracy itself.

No matter what ails America, history shows the same pattern. Black America bleeds first. Black America resists longest. Black America saves what others abandon.

The question is not whether this moment will be remembered.

The question is who will be remembered with honor.

Silence will answer for everyone else.

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Continued Page 1

Grammys Open Black History Month as Michael Jackson's Story Heads to the Big Screen

of Michael Jackson's life beyond the music, tracing his journey from the discovery of his extraordinary talent as the lead of the Jackson Five, to the visionary artist whose creative ambition fueled a relentless pursuit to become the biggest entertainer in the world./Courtesy Lions Gate

The production features a notable ensemble cast. Colman Domingo plays family patriarch Joe Jackson, alongside Nia Long as Katherine Jackson. Miles Teller portrays entertainment attorney John Branca,

with Laura Harrier appearing as music executive Suzanne de Passe. Additional roles include Kat Graham as Diana Ross and Larenz Tate as Motown founder Berry Gordy. Jackson's siblings are portrayed by Jamal R. Henderson as Jermaine, Tre' Horton as Marlon, Rhyann Hill as Tito, Joseph David-Jones as Jackie and Jessica Sula as La Toya.

According to the film's official synopsis, "Michael" offers a cinematic portrait of one of the most influential artists in history, tracing his journey from the

discovery of his extraordinary talent as the lead singer of the Jackson 5 to the creative force driven to become the biggest entertainer in the world. The film explores his life away from the stage while recreating some of the most iconic moments from his early solo career, placing audiences closer to Michael Jackson than ever before.

Produced with the support of the Jackson estate, "Michael" is a collaboration between Lionsgate and GK Films.

The film is scheduled to open in theaters April 24.

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*Source: University of North Texas Economic Research Group

North Dallas student refines beauty brand through CTE program

By Molly Schrader

What began as Willo S.'s small, homemade cosmetics line is now being refined in the classroom.

At 11-years-old, to stave off boredom during 2020, Willo and her mom began researching how to make lip glosses from scratch. Together, they ordered lip gloss bases and oils and experimented with different formulas to create a product that was safe and naturally derived.

"We started mixing things around to see what would be best, and that took a long time to do before we actually launched," Willo said. "But as soon as we started, I felt like I gained a passion for having my own business."

The growing venture soon became known as Puc.ker Up! By Willo Dior, and is now sold through her own website. With multiple product lines in existence, it was important for her to create glosses that were youthful, fun, and hydrating, using ingredients such as coconut oil, grape seed oil, and avocado oil.

"It was really exciting because going from the things I saw on social media, to having bulk orders coming in every day and seeing my name on it,



Photo Credit: **The HUD**

it finally felt real," she said.

The lip gloss aficionado says she grew up playing with her mother's makeup, so it was a natural decision to pursue the beauty industry.

As a student in North Dallas High School's Career and Technical Education business pathway, Willo is learning how to strengthen her business through lessons in marketing, finance, customer service, and professional communication.

"For students who are already entrepreneurs, like Willo, the pathway provides mentorship, networking opportunities, and access to guest speakers who are real

business owners," said Merjournie Golightly, Willo's CTE teacher. "That allows them to gain practical insight, meaningful connections, and real-world feedback while refining their ventures."

As part of the class, Willo created a comprehensive presentation that examined every aspect of her business, from branding and pricing to target audience and financial planning.

"Eventually, I want to expand into hair care and skincare," she said. "I always get compliments on my hair, and never knew why, but my mom told me people are going to want to use my products just be-

cause of how I present myself."

Through hands-on assignments in the CTE business pathway, Willo learned to think more strategically about decisions she once made instinctively, from managing her finances to keeping her customers engaged, and that growth has extended beyond her business, strengthening her confidence and desire to inspire other young entrepreneurs.

"I hope people understand the amount of hard work that goes into having a business, but also that they can also do this, especially with a good support system and people who are confident in your dreams," she said.

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