

NAACP WEEKLY NEWS RECAP



Chicago Sun-Times: [Nolan Wells autopsy, released in Chicago, finds 'undetermined' cause of death](#)

Wells, 18, disappeared after a July 4 boat trip with friends off the Mississippi coast. Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who is representing the Wells family, announced the preliminary findings Wednesday at the annual NAACP National Convention in Chicago.

Sun Herald: [NAACP president blasts Mississippi officials over Nolan Wells investigation](#)

The president and chief executive officer of the NAACP slammed Mississippi officials over the investigation into the death of Nolan Xavier Wells of Ocean Springs during a press conference at the NAACP convention in Chicago on Wednesday. "We're not accusing anyone of anything other than the state of Mississippi and local officials," said NAACP

president Derrick Johnson, an attorney. "We're accusing them of being derelict in their duties to follow up and to ensure that, regardless of what happened, that there was a proper investigation."

The Root: [NAACP and Attorney Ben Crump Announce Findings of Nolan Wells' Independent Autopsy](#)

The NAACP and nationally renowned civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump will hold a press conference on Wednesday, July 22, to announce the findings of an independent autopsy conducted in connection with the death of Nolan Wells. Family members, legal representatives, and NAACP leadership are expected to be in attendance for the briefing.

TheGrio: [NAACP & Benjamin Crump Announce Independent Autopsy Findings in Death of Nolan Wells](#)

The NAACP and nationally renowned civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump will hold a press conference on Wednesday, July 22 at 9:00am ET, to announce the findings of an independent autopsy conducted in connection with the death of Nolan Wells. Family members, legal representatives, and NAACP leadership are expected to attend the briefing.

WLBT: [Ben Crump announces preliminary findings of Nolan Wells' independent autopsy as 'undetermined'](#)

The news conference came days after the NAACP National Board of Directors adopted a resolution of condolence for the family. The resolution calls on local, state and federal authorities, including the U.S. Department of Justice, to conduct what it describes as an in-depth and transparent review of how Wells came to be left on the island and of events in the hours before his body was recovered.

WAPT: [NAACP president says many unanswered questions in death of Nolan Wells](#)

"The fact that you had the local law enforcement agency to come out early on and say that it was an accident without a thorough investigation, that's a problem. The fact that Nolan left on a trip with his friends, allegedly, and went to the island, and they came back with his cellphone and not him, and that was not no one was arrested or their words were taken as factual as opposed to doing a thorough investigation against them. That's a problem. The fact that the family deleted all of their social media platforms, so there is no trace of the conversation. That's a problem. I can go on and on." (President and CEO Derrick) Johnson said.

Fox 32 Chicago: [Nolan Wells death: Independent autopsy findings revealed in Chicago](#)

Attorney Ben Crump is expected to release preliminary findings from an independent autopsy Wednesday morning in the death of Mississippi teenager Nolan Wells during a news conference at the NAACP National Convention in Chicago.

NBC 5 Chicago: [Nolan Wells autopsy results to be released at NAACP Chicago conference after teen's mysterious death](#)

The preliminary findings are set to be made public during a news conference held at the annual NAACP National Convention in Chicago, according to the civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who is representing the family. Wells' parents are expected to attend.

NewsNation: [Nolan Wells' family to reveal independent autopsy findings](#)

The family of 18-year-old Nolan Wells will share preliminary results from a private autopsy Wednesday morning at the NAACP's national convention in Chicago, according to their attorney Ben Crump.

People's World: [NAACP and unions plan closer cooperation as November election looms](#)

The NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization, and the union movement plan closer cooperation in the fight to defeat MAGA and the Trump administration, which both call an enormous threat to workers and people of color. NAACP Executive Director Derrick Johnson and board chair Leon Russell announced that closer collaboration in back-to-back remarks at a special labor-oriented session on July 20 during the organization's convention here.

CNBC: [Elon Musk's Memphis AI empire is the epicenter of the data center backlash](#)

The NAACP released a [guide for communities](#) in January on how to protect themselves from "dirty data," and a [framework companies can follow](#) to avoid clashes with neighbors like SpaceXAI experienced in Memphis. Attorney Abre' Conner, who leads the NAACP Center for Environmental and Climate Justice, said SpaceXAI and other companies are moving to areas that have already experienced industrial pollution, "deepening the sacrifice zones that many of these community members have been fighting to get out of for so long."

Daily Mail: [Cancer-linked chemicals pumped into US neighborhoods by Elon Musk's 'illegal' data center, lawsuit claims](#)

Abre' Conner, NAACP Director of Environmental and Climate Justice, said in a statement: 'A data center should not be a potential death sentence for a community's health. ... The NAACP, represented by Earthjustice and the Southern Environmental Law Center, sued xAI and subsidiary MZX Tech in April.

The Tribe: [What is the true cost of immoral laws? This Black immigration film tells the story](#)

A short film drew audible gasps Wednesday at the 117th NAACP National Conference in Chicago. Hide & Seek is the story of a queer, immigrant family seen through the eyes of a

child. The film contributed a thoughtful perspective to the conversation of how immigration laws and enforcement affects families.

NAACP NEWS AND UPDATES

- [117th NAACP National Convention Ends in Chicago, Mobilizing Thousands Under the Theme “We, The People”](#)
-

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NAACP CREATIVE FELLOWSHIP



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The [NAACP Creative Fellowship program](#), in partnership with Adobe, is a 14-week paid fellowship that includes training, mentorship, and hands-on workplace experience. This Fellowship is for individuals with some experience with video editing who are ready to launch their careers in post-production.

This program includes:

- Intensive Week-Long Retreat
- Industry Mentorship and Career Coaching
- Craft Conversations
- Hands-on Industry Experience
- Tools & Creative Support

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INTRODUCING

THE POWERED BY NAACP ADVANCEMENT LIST

HONORING THE LEADERS
SHAPING WHAT'S NEXT

ADVANCEMENTLIST.COM

FINAL REMINDER! The NAACP just launched [The Advancement List](https://www.naacp.org/advancementlist), a new initiative recognizing the Black leaders and visionaries making an impact across every industry. This list honors those whose work is creating change, opening doors, and helping shape the future of America. The future is being built right now, and Black excellence is leading the way. [APPLY BY JULY 26!](https://www.naacp.org/advancementlist)

Apply

VOTE FOR KIDS WEBINAR

 **VOTE** for
KIDS

WEBINAR

Tuesday, July 28, 4:30- 6:00 pm ET



Abre' Conner
NAACP



Anne Mellinger-Birdsong
Mothers and Others
for Clean Air



Nsedu Obot
Witherspoon
Children's
Environmental
Health Network



Garrett Smith
Children's Environmental
Health Network



Mike Schade
Toxic-Free Future

Join Children's Environmental Health Network and partners to find out how you can protect kids' health and their environments in the 2026 elections. Parents, caregivers, advocates, community members, health care providers, and public and environmental health professionals are invited to this engaging, nonpartisan discussion on identifying and electing political leaders at all levels of government who put the health of children, their future, and their families first.

Register today!

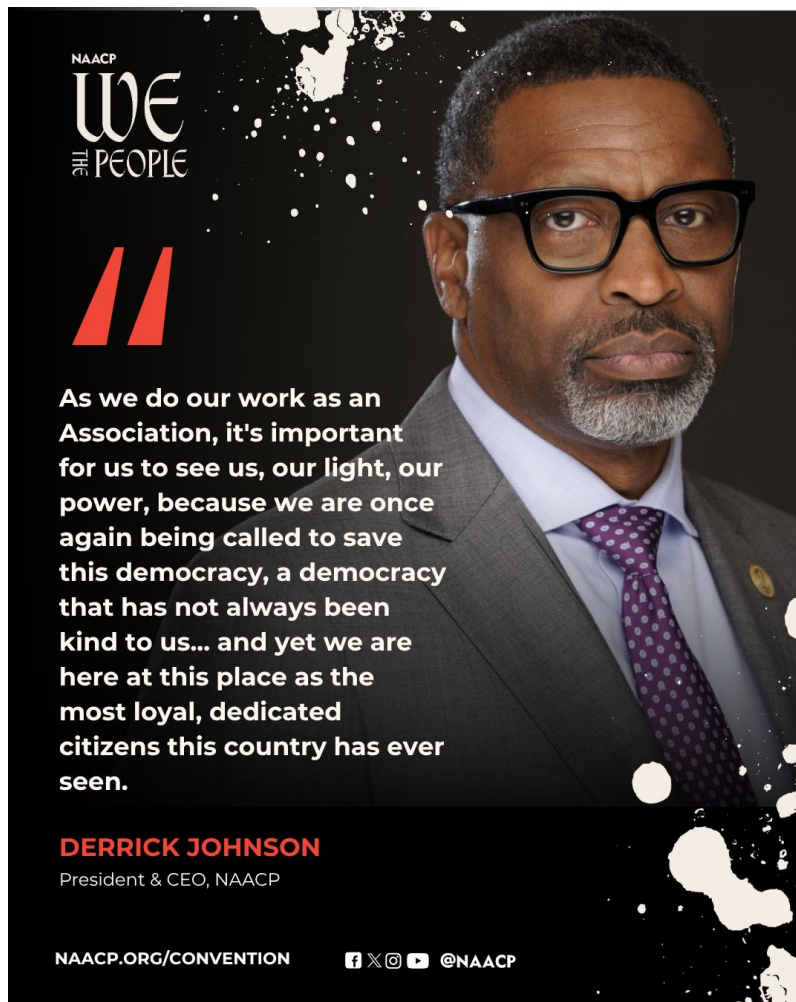
cehn.org/vote4kids

Join us on **Tuesday, July 28, from 4:30–6 p.m. ET**, as NAACP Director of Environmental and Climate Justice **Abre' Conner, Esq.** joins the Children's Environmental Health Network and a panel of advocates and public health leaders for a nonpartisan discussion on the issues shaping children's environmental health in the 2026 elections. The conversation will also introduce CEHN's new *Voter Guide for Children's Environmental Health* and companion toolkit, providing science-based resources to help communities make informed decisions on issues including clean air, toxic-free environments, and protecting democracy.

Visit cehn.org/vote4kids to view the full speaker lineup and learn more about the *Voter Guide for Children's Environmental Health*.

RSVP Here

117TH NAACP NATIONAL CONVENTION



Couldn't make it to Chicago for the 117th #NAACPConvention? We got you! Visit our [YouTube playlist](#) to experience all the inspiring speeches, conversations, standout moments, and more.

[Watch the Recap](#)

ONGOING ACTIONS

- **Out of Bounds:** NAACP is calling on Black athletes, families, alumni, and fans to withhold athletic and financial support from public universities in these states until they [protect Black voting power](#).

- **Redistricting:** Explore our “[Redistricting, Power & Our Vote](#)” collection, learn more about the fight for fair maps, and stay informed ahead of the 2026 midterms. Plus, visit the NAACP Store to grab our “[A Black Vote Was Suppressed Today](#)” merch and support the fight for voting rights.
- **One Nation, Overcharged:** This summer, NAACP is proud to join [One Nation, Overcharged](#). Together, we’re demanding a healthcare system that puts our health over corporate profits – and works for everyone.
- **25th Amendment:** The stability of our nation hangs in the balance under President Trump. [Tell the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment](#).
- **Fund the Future Now:** Learn more about this [youth-led campaign](#) by the NAACP Youth & College Division fighting to make college affordable, accessible, and free from lifelong debt.

NAACP

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