

Terrell native sings National Anthem at MLB Home Run Derby



ESPN

Kennedy B. Jones sings the National Anthem of the United States of America before the 2019 Major League Baseball Home Run Derby on Monday night at Progressive Field in Cleveland.

BY TRAVIS DETHERAGE

Terrell native Kennedy B. Jones performed the National Anthem of the United States of America before the 2019 Major League Baseball Home Run Derby on Monday night at Progressive Field in Cleveland, OH.

Jones was born and raised in Terrell and is a graduate of Terrell High School. Jones also started a ministry in Terrell at the New Hope Baptist Church in Terrell. Jones graduated from the U.S. International University School of Performing Arts in San Diego, CA with a bachelor's degree in music with an emphasis on vocal performance.

Jones is a husband, a father and has over 20 years of experience at the Cleveland Police Department.

"It was amazing to have 36,000

people yell like crazy once you finish. I had the attention of the entire world for a view minutes and there's not too many people who can say that. It was absolutely amazing to be out on the field and to be featured on ESPN. The word that I can come up with to exemplify it is amazing, absolutely amazing," Jones said.

Jones has been singing the National Anthem of the United States of America for the Cleveland Browns of the National Football League and for the Cleveland Cavaliers for the National Basketball Association.

The Cavaliers referred Jones to the Cleveland Indians Major League Baseball front office.

"I took a video to a particular young lady at the front office and that was all she wrote. They asked me to sing at three different dates. I performed God Bless America

at a game at the end of May, start of June. I did the anthem about a month ago and I performed the anthem on Monday," Jones said.

Jones has performed the National Anthem of the United States of America at several Cavaliers' games.

"I sang during their first round playoff game against the Indiana Pacers in 2016. The first year I sang for the Browns, it's ironic because it was the Browns versus the Cowboys, so I have family in Terrell and the surrounding areas that knew I was going to be rooting for the Cowboys," Jones said.

People can find Jones' musical work by visiting his Facebook page or visiting his website www.kennedyjonesgospel.com. Jones has recorded three gospel CD's that people can find on his website.

Council recognizes city employees for receiving advanced certifications

Terrell City Council recently recognized three City of Terrell employees for receiving advanced certifications in their respective fields. Terrell Police Department Captain Arley Sansom, Assistant Manager of Inspection/Code Enforcement Supervisor Ricky Mendez and Housing Director Jamarcus Ayers all were recognized for completing continuing education and training.

Arley Sansom is a recent graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigators (FBI) Academy in Quantico, Virginia. He is one of 256 law enforcement officers who graduated from the 10-week by-invitation-only program.

Sansom began his employment as a patrol officer for the City of Terrell in 1987. He attended the North Central Texas Regional Police Academy in Arlington, graduating in March of 1988.

During his tenure, he has served the agency as a patrol officer, D.A.R.E. officer/Juvenile Investigator, Patrol Corporal, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, SWAT team leader, SWAT commander, Patrol Lieutenant and Captain of both the Patrol Division and Administrative Divisions, respectively during his near

32-year tenure. He

Sansom, who holds a Master Peace Officer License, has completed thousands of Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) additional training hours.

Ricky Mendez recently acquired his State Plumbing Inspectors license. This certification requires many hours of on-the-job experience alongside a licensed inspector, numerous specialized training courses, and passing the state test. The failure rate for this test is 70 percent; however, Mendez passed on his first attempt.

Mendez joined the City of Terrell in 2012 as the Code Enforcement Supervisor and Section 8 Housing Inspector. In 2016, utilizing the knowledge gained in his years as a residential builder, he took on additional duties as a building inspector.

Along the way, he has acquired several certifications, including Registered Code Enforcement Officer, Code Enforcement Officer II, HCV Housing Quality Standards Specialist, ICC/AACe Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector and ICC Residential Plumbing Inspector. He is a graduate of the Kaufman County Leadership Program.

Jamarcus Ayers recently received the Government

See COUNCIL RECOGNIZES, 2A



CITY OF TERRELL

Director of Human Resources Carol Holland, left, and Mayor Pro Tem Grady Simpson, second from left, congratulated employees, from left, Jamarcus Ayers, Ricky Mendez and Arley Samson for attaining advanced certifications in their respective fields. Also pictured: Interim City Manager Mike Sims, right.

Chemical fire erupts in diesel accident

BY KENDALL LYONS

A fire erupted from a diesel truck accident along the Interstate Highway 20 service road just before Farm-to-Market 429 on Monday morning.

Traffic along Interstate Highway 20 going east-bound was reduced to one-lane as emergency personnel responded to the blaze. Traffic was slowed to a crawl as onlookers witnessed the detached diesel trailer melting and burning from the intensity of the fire.

See CHEMICAL FIRE, 2A



KENDALL LYONS

A fire erupted from a diesel truck accident along the Interstate Highway 20 service road before Farm-to-Market 429 on Monday.



TRAVIS DETHERAGE

Hobby Lobby located at I-20 and FM 148 will have its grand opening on Monday, July 15 at 9 a.m.

Hobby Lobby opens Monday, July 15

Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., a privately held national retail chain of craft and home decor stores, opens in Terrell, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and official grand opening celebration on Monday, July 15, at 9 a.m. The Terrell store is Hobby Lobby's 106th location in Texas. Ronah Mutsvunguma is the store manager of the 55,000 square-foot retail facility located at I-20 and FM 148.

The store's grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony is open to the public. Local dignitaries, ambassadors from the Terrell Texas Chamber of Commerce and other business leaders will attend the celebration.

"The success of our stores in Texas is a good indicator that Terrell shoppers will be pleased with the quality, selection and value we offer in the craft and home dé

See HOBBY LOBBY, 2A

Labeling for TRT 06/29/19

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