

If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com

or contact

John Robbins 281-965-6390 Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Publisher: Wea H. Lee **President:** Catherine Lee **Editor:** John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072 E-mail: News@scdaily.com



Inside C2

Monday, December 05 2022

## Alex Jones files for bankruptcy following \$1.5 billion Sandy Hook verdicts

Infowars founder Alex Jones speaks after appearing at his Sandy Hook defamation trial in Waterbury

Infowars founder Alex Jones speaks to the media after appearing at his Sandy Hook defamation trial at Connecticut Superior Court in Waterbury, Connecticut, U.S., October 4, 2022. REUTERS/Mike Segar/File Photo

Dec 2 (Reuters) - Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones filed for bankruptcy on Friday, after he and the parent of his Infowars website were ordered to pay about \$1.5 billion for spreading lies about the 2012 Sandy Hook mass shooting.

Jones filed for Chapter 11 protection from creditors with the U.S. bankruptcy court in Houston, a court filing showed.

The filing said Jones has between \$1 million and \$10 million of assets and between \$1 billion and \$10 billion of liabilities. The extent of Jones' personal wealth is unclear.

Jones claimed for years that the 2012 killing of 20 students and six staff members at

Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, was staged with actors as part of a government plot to seize Americans' guns. He has since acknowledged the shooting occurred, but plaintiffs said Jones cashed in for years off his lies about the massacre.

"Like every other cowardly move Alex Jones has made, this bankruptcy will not work," said Chris Mattei, an attorney representing Sandy Hook families. "The American judicial system will hold Alex Jones accountable, and we will never stop working to enforce the jury's verdict."

Julian Assange appeals to European court over U.S. extradi-

Mattei said Jones had engaged in intentional and egregious attacks and the bankruptcy system would not protect him.

A lawyer for Jones did not immediately return a request for comment.

In October, a Connecticut jury said Jones and Free Speech Systems, the parent company of Infowars, should pay nearly \$1 billion in damages to numerous families of victims of the Sandy Hook shooting.

The Connecticut court later ordered Jones to pay an additional \$473 million in punitive damages.

The trial was marked by weeks of anguished testimony from the families, who recounted how Jones's lies about Sandy Hook compounded their grief.

Free Speech Systems filed for bankruptcy in July.



In a separate case in Texas, a jury in August decided Jones must pay the parents of a 6-year-old boy killed in the Sandy Hook massacre \$45.2 million in punitive damages, on top of \$4.1 million in compensatory damages.

Jones's lawyers have said he would appeal the Connecticut and Texas verdicts.

Bankruptcy can be used to wipe out debts, but not if they result from "willful or malicious injury" caused by the debtor. Jones's lies appear to meet that standard, said Susan Block-Lieb, a professor of bankruptcy law at Fordham University School of Law.

"Defamation is pretty clearly an intentional tort - it is especially clear in Alex Jones's case,' Block-Lieb said.

The filing also comes with risk for Jones, who will have to disclose all of his assets in court, said bankruptcy lawyer Sidney Scheinberg.

"Now that he's filed for bankruptcy, his assets are an open book," Scheinberg said. "If you hide assets in a bankruptcy case, that's a federal crime."

An economist in the Texas case estimated that Jones is personally worth between \$135 million and \$270 million.

The bankruptcy filing lists the plaintiffs who won verdicts against Jones as his largest unsecured creditors.

Among them are Robert Parker, father of six-year-old

Emilie Parker, who was awarded \$120 million by the Connecticut jury, and FBI agent William Aldenberg, who was among the first law enforcement officers on the scene of the 2012 shooting.

Connecticut judge Barbara Bellis had temporarily blocked Jones from moving any personal assets out of the country at the request of the plaintiffs, who claimed Jones was trying to hide assets to avoid paying.

The families have sued Jones in Texas state court seeking to unwind what they say are millions of dollars worth of illegitimate transfers from Jones's company to shell entities he controls. They allege those transactions were intended to shield Jones's assets from potential judgments.





Convenient, Fast, Secure

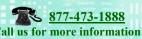
**Make Deposit or Send Money Directly** 

**Mobile Deposit** 

on the AFNB Mobile App

Split bill with a friend . Deposit checks Send money

Pay a bill





**First Colony Branch** 



**Las Vegas Branch** Pahrump Branch Amargosa Branch **Henderson Branch** 775-751-1773 775-372-1100

Main Office 713-596-2888

713-273-1838 Harry-Hines Branch Legacy Branch

**Spring Branch** 

**Katy Branch** 281-762-6688

713-273-1888 713-596-2588 **Carrollton Branch** 

**Harwin Branch** 

**Arlington Branch** 

**Garland Branch** 

281-762-6699

Sugar Land Branch

**City of Industry Branch** Alhambra Branch Arcadia Branch

702-216-5500

**Richardson Branch** 972-348-3488 972-348-3433

972-348-3466 972-428-5088 817-261-5585

972-272-3375

**Plano Branch** 469-429-2422

702-777-9988

John Doe 1234 Executive Drive 7X 7736

626-667-3988

626-863-1980

626-321-4455



### **LOCAL NEWS**

## Amazon pauses work on six new U.S. office buildings to weigh hybrid work needs



July 15 (Reuters) - Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) is pausing the construction of six new office buildings in Bellevue and Nashville to reevaluate the designs to suit hybrid work, the tech giant said on Friday.

The pausing and delay of construction will not affect Amazon's hiring plans, a company spokesperson said, reiterating the firm's proposal to create 25,000 jobs in Bellevue and another 5,000 in Nashville.

"The pandemic has significantly changed the way people work ... Our offices are long-term investments and we want to make sure that we design them in a way that meets our employees' needs in the future," said John Schoettler, vice president of Global Real Estate and Facilities at Amazon.

Separately, Bloomberg News reported on

Friday that Facebook parent Meta Platforms (META.O) and Amazon have pulled back on their office expansion plans in New York City. (https://bit.ly/3PvFMeD)

Meta has decided not to take an additional 300,000 square feet of space at 770 Broadway, a building near Astor Place where it is already located and Amazon has cut down the amount of space it intended to lease from JPMorgan Chase & Co at Hudson Yards, the report said. Cómo proteger tu motor después de 75,000 millas.

Maximiza la vida del motor con el aceite de motor Valvoline High Mileage y protégelo del calor, el desgaste, la fricción y los depósitos. Aprende más.

"There are often a number of reasons why we wouldn't proceed with a particular deal, including office utilization. The past few years have brought new possibilities around the ways we connect and work," a Meta spokesperson told Reuters without confirming or denying the report.

"We remain firmly committed to New York and look forward to opening the Farley in the coming months," the spokesperson added. Amazon declined to comment on the report.

"Case investigation, contact tracing, isolation at home will be your best bets," said Rosamund Lewis, WHO head of the smallpox secretariat which is part of the WHO Emergencies Programme.

### Oil rises 2% as no immediate Saudi output boost expected

NEW YORK, July 15 (Reuters) - Oil gained 2.5% on Friday after a U.S. official told Reuters that an immediate Saudi oil output boost was not expected, and as investors question whether OPEC has the room to significantly ramp up crude production.

The comment during U.S.
President Joe Biden's Middle
East visit comes at a time when
spare capacity at members of
the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
(OPEC) is running low.
"Part of the support is that
everybody and their brother
who digs down into the Saudi
situation see that they don't
have a lot of capacity left," said

John Kilduff, partner at Again Capital LLC in New York.

Brent crude futures settled at \$101.16 a barrel, rising \$2.06, or 2.1%, while West Texas Intermediate crude settled at \$97.59 a barrel, gaining \$1.81, or 1.9%.

Both benchmarks saw their biggest weekly percentage drops in about a month, largely on fears earlier in the week that a nearing recession would chop away at demand. Brent lost 5.5% in its third weekly drop, while WTI was down 6.9% in its second weekly decline. Biden, prompted by energy and security interests, arrived in Jeddah on Friday and had been expected to call for Saudi

## Southern Make Today Different

### **Editor's Choice**



A worshipper prays during a mass in support of Brazil's President and candidate for re-election Jair Bolsonaro, in Brasilia, Brazil. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino



of a residential building heavily damaged by a Russian missile strike, amid their attack on the country, in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) pose for a picture after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in an unknown location, Ukraine. Courtesy: Head of Ukraine's Presidential Office



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema after winning the Ballon d'Or. REUTERS/Benoit Tessier



British Prime Minister Liz Truss leaves the Houses of Parliament estate in London, Britain. REU-TERS/Henry Nicholls



Kevin Spacey breaks down as he testifies during Anthony Rapp's (seated) civil sex abuse case against Spacey in this courtroom sketch from the trial in New York as U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan presides. REUTERS/Jane Rosenberg



Celebrating Asian American And Pacific Islander Heritage Month

### Six Charts That Shed Light On Images Of Asian **Americans Held By Many**



By Connie Hanzhang Jin - NPR Writer

#### Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Currently, more than 22 million people

of Asian descent live in the U.S., mak-

ing up approximately 7% of the nation's

population. They trace their heritage to

different regions around the world, with

people of East Asian and Southeast Asian

descent making up the largest shares,

though no group makes up a majority.

More than 1.5 million Pacific Islanders,

who descend from Micronesia, Melane-

sia or Polynesia, live in the U.S. as well. ASIAN AMERICANS TRACE

THEIR HERITAGE TO DIFFER-

ENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD

"Smart." "Hard-working." "Nice." Those were among the adjectives that respondents offered up in a recent poll when asked to describe Asian Americans.

The poll, conducted by the nonprofit Leading Asian Americans to Unite for Change (LAAUNCH), was another all-too-familiar reminder that Asian Americans are still perceived as the "model minority."

Since the end of World War II, this myth about Asian Americans and their perceived collective success has been used as a racial wedge — to minimize the role racism plays in the struggles of other minority groups, such as Black Americans.

Characterizing Asian Americans as a model minority flattens the diverse experiences of Asian Americans into a singular, narrow narrative. And it paints a misleading picture about the community that doesn't align with current statistics.

Here's a look at some common misconceptions driven by the model minority myth.

Myth: Asian Americans are a single monolithic group

## BUSINESS

#### NOTES

The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community

Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR

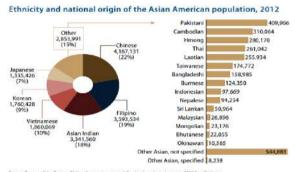
Academics and activists trace the term "Asian American" to 1968, when students at the University of California, Berkeley, founded the Asian American Political Alliance. At the time, the group sought to unite students of Japanese, Chinese and Filipino descent to fight for political and social

"Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders" (AAPI) is a term that has its roots in the 1980s and '90s, when the U.S. Census Bureau used the "Asian Pacific American" classification to group Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders together. In 1997, the bureau disaggregated the categories into "Asian" and "Pacific Islander."

Scholars and activists have critiqued both terms for masking differences in histories and needs among communities, as well as supporting the myth that Asian Americans are a monolithic group.

Within these regional groups, a huge variety of ethnicities exist within the Asian American community. People who identify their heritage as Chinese, Indian or Filipino make up the largest share.

#### MANY ETHNICITIES FALL UNDER THE ASIAN AMERICAN UMBRELLA



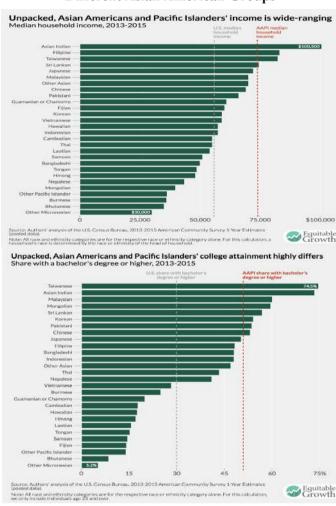
Ethnicities with fewer than 100,000 people not shown. The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian.

These numbers have risen rapidly in recent years. The Asian American population is the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the U.S., growing by 81% from 2000 to 2019. The Hispanic population saw the second-fastest growth, at 70%, followed by Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, at 60%. The white population grew by only 1% in that time. Myth: Asian Americans are high earning and well educated

Asian Americans have a median household income of around \$78,000 a year, which is higher than the national median of about \$66,000. However, that overall statistic obscures large differences among different Asian-origin groups.

These economic disparities are partially driven by similar disparities in education levels among Asian Americans. The highest-earning groups — Indian American and Taiwanese American households — also have the highest levels of education, while the lowest-earning groups have comparatively lower levels of education.

#### **Key Disparities In Income And Education Among Different Asian American Groups**



The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR

(Continued On Page C4)

# Southern Make Today Different

(Continued From Page C3)

### Six Charts That Shed Light On Images Of Asian Americans Held By Many



AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS ARE THE HIGHEST-EARNING GROUP, WITH A MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF \$127,000 A YEAR. ON THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE, BURMESE AMERICAN HOUSE-HOLDS ARE THE LOWEST-EARNING GROUP, WITH A MEDIAN HOUSE-HOLD INCOME OF \$46,000 A YEAR.

### Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

In fact, a 2018 Pew Research Center study found that Asian Americans were the most economically divided racial or ethnic group in the U.S., with Asian Americans in the top 10th of the income distribution making 10.7 times more than those in the bottom 10th. Myth: Asian Americans immigrate to the

More than half of those who identify as Asian American and at least 17% of Pacific Islanders were born outside the U.S., according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

U.S. in the "right" way

The Asian American community has the highest proportion of immigrants of any ethnic or racial group in the United States. Yet, Asian Americans are often overlooked in debates about immigration reform.

Asians have a wide range of reasons for immigrating to the U.S., including those coming as refugees or asylum-seekers. Out of the almost 11 million estimated undocumented immigrants in the U.S., around 1.5 million (14%) are from Asia, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

A LARGE NUMBER OF ASIANS IN

#### **AMERICA** ARE UNAUTHO-RIZED IMMIGRANTS

Out of the top 10 most common origin countries for unauthorized immigrants in the U.S., an estimated one million people come from India, China or the Philippines.

ORIGIN COUNTRY	EST. NUMBER OF UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS:	SHARE OF TOTA
Mexico.	5,572,000€	51%₽
El Salvador	750,000₽	7%∂
Guatemala₽	588,000₽	5%₽
India∂	469,000∂	4%∂
Honduras:	402,000₽	4%∻
China₽	394,000€	4%∂
Philippines	233,000∂	2%₽
Dominican Republic 191,000 €		2%∉
Colombia -	182,000 ₽	2%₽
Brazil₽	145,000₽	1%₽

NOTES Data as of 2018. Source: Migration Policy Institute Credit: Connie

Heightened immigration enforcement has also impacted Asian Americans. From 2015 to 2018, Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested about 15,000 immigrants from Asia, according

# COMMUNITY

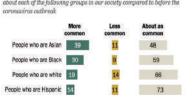
The report also found that Southeast Asian immigrants were three to four times more likely to be deported for old criminal convictions compared with other immigrant groups. Out of the approximately 16,000 Southeast Asians with final removal orders in that period, more than 13,000 had removal orders that were based on old criminal convic-

icans Advancing Justice.

**Myth: Asian Americans Face Less Systemic Racism And Discrimination** Since the coronavirus pandemic started, hate crimes and violence against Asian Americans have increased. In an April survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 32% of Asian American adults — a greater percentage than any other racial or ethnic group — said that they feared someone might threaten or physically attack them.

ASIAN AMERICANS AND OTHER **GROUPS REPORT NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES SINCE THE** START OF THE PANDEMIC

#### About four-in-ten Americans say it is more common for people to express racist views about people who are Asian than before COVID-19



Share of respondents who say each of the following has happened to them since the coronavirus outbreak because of their race or ethnicity.

### **NOTES**

Asian American adults were interviewed in English only. Sample does not include Pacific Islanders.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11. Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR



In response, the House of Representatives passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act on May 18. The bill would have the Justice Department appoint a point person to expedite the review of hate crimes related to COVID-19. It would also direct resources toward making the reporting of hate crimes more accessible.

Despite increased news coverage of various attacks against Asian Americans and the upcoming legislation, the LAAUNCH survey, which was conducted between March 29 to April 14, found that 37% of white Americans were not aware of increased incidents of hate crimes.

But anti-Asian bias and discrimination are not new to the pandemic. To understand the current climate, it's important to look at historical context. In past periods of national tension, especially during times when the U.S. has been at war with Asian countries, anti-Asian racism has similarly

#### Myth: Asian Americans are fairly represented in leadership positions

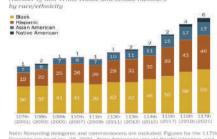
The recent LAAUNCH survey also found that almost half of Americans incorrectly believe that Asian Americans are overrepresented or fairly represented in senior positions within American companies, politics, media or other realms.

In reality, Asian Americans are underrepresented in these positions of power, holding about 3% of these positions in comparison with composing 7% of the U.S. population, a report from The New York Times found

More specifically, Asian Americans have the lowest degree of representation in political office compared with any other racial or ethnic group.

**Asian Americans Are The Most Politically Underrepresented** Group

When it comes to holding elected office, as of last year Asian Americans were underrepresented relative to their population by a differential of -85%. White people were overrepresented by 46%.



Asian Americans are even underrepresented in states with a high concentration of Asian American residents, like New York and California, according to a report by the Reflective Democracy Campaign.

Especially since the start of collective activism among Asian Americans in the 1960s, Asian Americans have had a rich history of political activism and involvement. But that history has not always translated to greater representation in political leadership



One finding in the LAAUNCH survey may point to answers: 92% of Americans polled said they were comfortable with Asian Americans as doctors or friends, but only 85% said they were comfortable with an Asian American as a boss and 73% as a president of the United States.

Despite these perceptions, Asian Americans are pushing forward. Asian Americans increased their voter turnout rate by more than any other racial or ethnic group in the 2020 election and in part helped Joe Biden win Georgia. In that same year, 158 Asian Americans ran for state legislatures, the highest number since the 2018 midterms. (Courtesy https://www.npr.org/)