Ending myths of white skin being ideal for ink
Artists fight pervasive claims rooted in racism

Christine Fernando USA TODAY

Sezin Koehler had the perfect tattoo in mind. She imagined blue and purple swirls rising up her arm to match the colorful tattoos adorning her shoulders. After hours of planning and research, she brought her idea to a tattoo artist. The artist took one look at her and said no.

“You skin tone is a problem,” she remembers the artist telling her.

Koehler, 42, wanted to multiply artists, who said her skin was too dark to be tattooed in color. They suggested black and gray, even though Koehler already had blue and purple tattoos.

Each time, Koehler left the tattoo shops crying. “Artists should be able to paint on any canvas,” said Koehler, a Sri Lankan and Lithuanian American culture writer from southeast Florida. “And if you can’t, there’s the internet, books, networks of artists that can teach you.”

“If you wanted to learn, you could. So the fact that they’re making a choice that they only want...”

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Biden, Johnson talk Brexit, reopening

Overseas travel, climate topics for G-7 summit

Kim Hjelmgaard and Michael Collins USA TODAY

FALMOUTH, England – President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson sized each other up in person Thursday for the first time since Biden took office.

Despite Britain’s sometimes controversial and unpredictable leader’s enthusiastic support of President Donald Trump, Johnson and Biden's first big moment on the global stage got off to a muddled and largely tepid start — at least in public.

“It’s progress. I don’t want to go home,” Biden said as he and Johnson, joined by their wives, Jill and Carrie, stood on a deck over the River Thames in central London, a majestic stretch of beach that looks out to rugged headlands in this part of southwestern England.

The Group of seven summit, a meeting of the world’s wealthiest industrialized nations, takes place here Friday to Sunday. The coronavirus pandemic and climate change are among the topics under discussion.

Beyond the photo opportunities, there was substance to their talks.

Biden and Johnson launched a task force that will make policy recommendations about safely reopening international travel between the U.K. and the U.S. before the coronavirus outbreak, more than 4.5 million Americans visited the U.K. every year, and more than 4 million British nationals traveled to the U.S. annually.

No specific timing was announced on when the travel task force would begin its work. British scientists said the U.K. may be starting to see a third wave of coronavirus infections as a result of the Delta variant that was first detected in India.

See G7 SUMMIT, Page 4A

Fertility doctors secretly fathering

Few states have laws for fraud discovered by DNA

Kevin McCoy USA TODAY

Bianca Voss reeled in shock when her daughter, Roberta, told her the results of the 23andMe genetic test she took last fall. It indicated that the fertility doctor who had artificially inseminated Voss in 1983, enabling her to give birth to Roberta, had secretly used his own semen.

“I am angry that I was violated in this manner,” Voss said during a late May online news conference to announce a federal lawsuit against the doctor, Martin D. Greenberg, who worked in New York City during the 1980s and now lives in Avon-by-the-Sea, New Jersey.

“How could I have picked such a criminal and immoral physician who would do such a thing to me?”

Voss’s daughter was angry, too. Roberta Voss had tried to contact Greenberg through his 23andMe account, but it was deleted after she messaged him. “He knew he was caught, and he was trying to cover it up,” she said in an interview with USA TODAY.

Bianca Voss is the latest among dozens of women who have alleged they were duped by fertility doctors they trusted to inseminate them with sperm from anonymous or chosen donors. They discovered the discrepancies decades later when their children took popular, relatively new DNA tests.

Increasingly, the parents, their siblings and former lovers are fighting back. Families have sued former doctors for what they say were fraudulent inseminations decades ago. Six states have enacted laws against so-called fertility fraud, and other states are considering similar statutes.

One of the lawyers representing Bianca Voss says the pandemic and climate change are among the topics for discussion before the G-7 summit.

“In the majority of states, and at the federal level, it’s the Wild West,” said attorney Adam Wolf, a share-

See FRAUD, Page 2A

LGBTQ flags explained: Beyond the rainbow

How many of the Pride flags do you know? From the traditional rainbow to relatively new designs representing groups, we break it down. Page 5D

NFL: fewer second chances after domestic violence

USA TODAY Sports analysis finds significant shift in how abuse reports are handled. In Sports

Dwyane Wade hosts new game show: ‘The Cube’

The former NBA champ's gig was “emotional” as he became invested in the players. In Life

Tann Parker, left, founder of ink the Diaspora, with artist Quiara Capellan in their studio in New York, created Ink the Diaspora in 2017 to help connect people with artists of color.

Not only do tattoo artists lack training to work on different skin shades, many tattoo artists aren’t trained to create on non-white skin. This means, and what this person would do this. Roberta Voss, who discovered a doctor who had artificially inseminated Voss in 1983, enabling her to give birth to Roberta, had secretly used his own semen, is “in turmoil about who I am, what this means, and what kind of person would do this,” she said.

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See FRAUD, Page 2A
STOCKS FACING SHORTAGES OF INGREDIENTS

Snagging your favorite Starbucks treat might be more difficult due to shortages of such ingredients as oat milk. When you open the Starbucks app, you’ll see a message warning of the shortages will vary by store or market. Starbucks spokes-
person Sanja Gould said confirmed of stock,” it reads. Starbucks spokes-
your favorites may be temporarily out
ages of such ingredients as oat milk.

SOURCES
USA TODAY RESEARCH, BLOOMBERG
INDEX CLOSE CHG
THURSDAY MARKETS
Dow Jones Industrial Avg. 34,466
S&P 500 19,630
Nasdaq composite 14,020.33

USA TODAY SNAPSHOT®
Gas Prices
Per gallon of regular unleaded.
Yesterday Avg. $3.073
Wednesday Avg. $3.067
Week Ago Avg. $3.044
Month Ago Avg. $2.967
Year Ago Avg. $2.072

The world’s largest meat processing company says it paid the equivalent of $11 million to hackers who broke into its computer system late last month. JBS SA said on May 31 that it was the victim of a ransomware attack, but Wednesday was the first time the U.S. division confirmed that it had paid the ransom. “We felt this decision had to be made to prevent any potential risk for our customers,” said Andre No-
guera, CEO of JBS USA. The FBI has attributed the attack to Russian-
speaking gang REvil.

JBS CONFIRMS IT PAID $11M IN RANSOM TO HACKERS

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell for the sixth straight week as the U.S. econo-
my reopens rapidly. Jobless claims fell by 9,000 to 376,000 from 385,000 the week before, the Labor Department
reported Thursday. The number of
people signing up for benefits ex-
ceeded 1 million in early January and has fallen more or less steadily ever since. Still, claims are high by historic standards. Nearly 3.5 million people were receiving state unemployment
benefits the week of May 29, down by 258,000 from the week before.

JOBLESS CLAIMS FALL FOR SIXTH STRAIGHT WEEK

Shanina Lockwood/USA TODAY

The first time he called in late May, the wait was more than two hours. He got in the virtual queue for a callback but missed it during a work

meeting. Gogh called Delta again a week and a half lat-
er – on a Tuesday around lunchtime. The quot-
ed wait time: seven hours and 40 minutes. He eventually got booking help from a Delta
representative on Twitter, but the delays cost
him: The ticket price went up $200 from his ini-
tial online search.

Dawn Gilbertson

We’re back at the office? Can we still talk politics now to the office, where these polarizing
topics might come up in face-to-face
conversations for the first time.

Since the last time millions of American workers chatted around wa-
ter coolers, the nation has gone through a pandemic, protests power-
ing a social justice movement, an elec-
tion, an insurrection and two presi-
dential impeachments.

Brandon Bents, of Wichita, Kansas, sells tortillas to retailers. He wants to avoid talking about politics at work. “I was hoping for more unity after things open up,” said Brandon Bents, 38, of Wichita, Kansas. “It’s like, let’s all try to start fresh.”

And that’s how some people want it. “I was hoping for more unity after things open up,” said Brandon Bents, 38, of Wichita, Kansas. “It’s like, let’s all try to start fresh.”

But after the Donald Trump era and the divisive debate over masks taxed Americans against each other, he

doesn’t want to talk about politics at work.

“My personal philosophy is I just don’t think there’s a place for it in most workplace,” said Bents, who sells tor-
tillas to grocery retailers.

He’s not alone. And employers are increas-
ingly concerned about the impact of political debates in the workplace.

More than 4 in 10 human resource professionals are discouraging employ-
es from discussing politics at work, ac-
cording to an October survey by the So-
ciety for Human Resource Manage-
ment.

But some workers are recoiling at those restrictions.

One-third of employees at a software productivity company called Basecamp said they would resign after their CEO,
Jason Fried, announced in April that
Workers would no longer be allowed to engage in “societal and political discourse” and redress would be in the form of “societal and political discourse.” “It’s become too much,” he said in a blunt, unapologetic voice. “We’re in a major disaster and there says our energy, and redirects our dialog engage in “societal and political discourse.”

Continued from Page 1B

Workers on how they begin seeing each other after COVID-19 lockdowns can add long wait times to reach Airlines, says co-chair Elizabeth Taylor. “We had an opportunity for everyone to hear many points of view in the same resolution practices, says co-chair Eliz-

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Airlines

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