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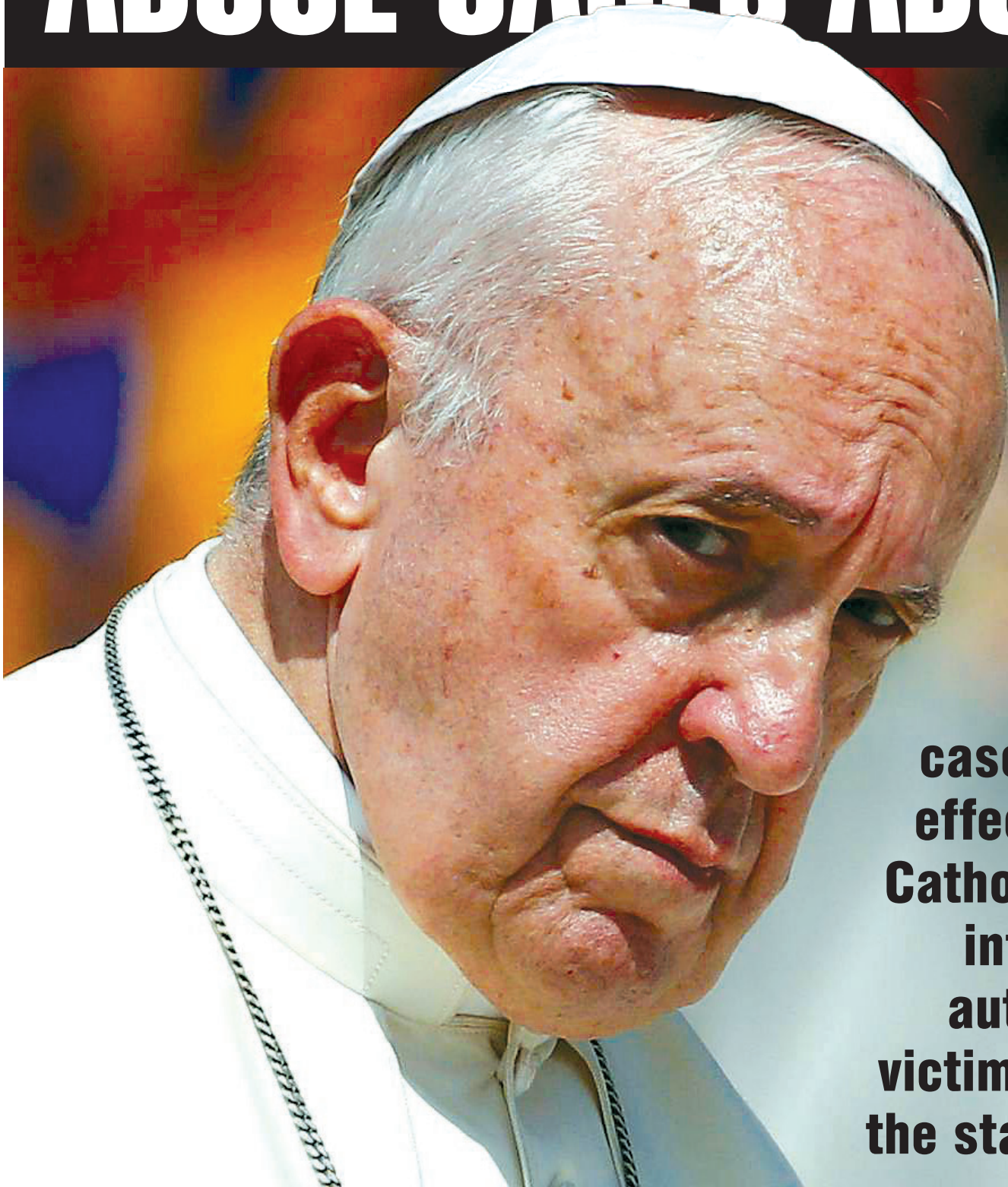
Speaking Truth to Justice

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# VATICAN SECRECY ON SEXUAL ABUSE CASES ABOLISHED



**Pope Francis has abolished Vatican secrecy rules for cases of sexual abuse, effectively allowing the Catholic church to share information with civil authorities, and allow victims to be updated of the status of their cases.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL**





## South African beauty queen crowned Miss Universe 2019

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

**N**elson Mandela would be so proud.

Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa was crowned Miss Universe 2019 on Sunday after receiving excellent scores for her response to questions on social issues and what we should be teaching young girls about their value, self-being and how they have to “cement” themselves in spaces that they enter.

Tunzi’s smile was as vibrant as the sun and lit up the stage.

“I think the most important thing we should be teaching young girls today is leadership. It’s something that has been lacking in young girls and women for a very long time, not because we don’t want to but because of what society has labeled women to be,” said Tunzi, who is an activist engaged in the fight against gender-based violence, according to Miss Universe. “I think we are the most powerful beings in the world and that we should be given every opportunity and that is what we should be teaching these girls, to take up space. Nothing is as important as taking up space and cementing yourself.”

Zozibini Tunzi said she grew up in a world where a woman who looks like her, was never considered beautiful.

“I grew up in a world where a



woman who looks like me, with my kind of skin and my kind of hair, was never considered beautiful,” Tunzi stated.

“I think it is time that that stops today. I want children to look at me and see my face, and I want them to see their faces reflected in mine,” she added.

The 26-year-old from Tsolo, South Africa, speaks English and Isixhosa.

Tunzi’s official biography notes that she’s a passionate activist and engaged in the fight against gender-based violence. Tunzi has devoted her social media campaign to changing the narrative around gender stereotypes, and she said she’s a proud advocate for natural beauty.

Tunzi also works to encourage women to “love themselves the way they are,” she stated.

“Tonight, a door was opened, and I could not be more grateful to have been the one to have walked through it,” Tunzi wrote on Twitter after being crowned Miss Universe 2019.

“May every little girl who witnessed this moment forever believe in the power of her dreams,

## Bill Cosby denied appeal, but other avenues to freedom remain



By Zak Goldstein, Special to NNPA Newswire@ ZakTGGoldstein

**B**ill Cosby, who in 2018 was convicted and sentenced to prison on aggravated indecent assault charges, has lost his bid for an appeal to the Pennsylvania Superior Court.

Zak Goldstein, an attorney who specializes in criminal defense appeals in Pennsylvania, told NNPA Newswire that the court’s denial of Cosby isn’t the last hurrah for the actor and comedian.

Goldstein, who does not represent Cosby, outlines what’s next for Cosby and his team. ~ Editors

Unfortunately, the majority of criminal appeals in Pennsylvania are denied by the Superior Court – meaning it is relatively rare for them to reverse a criminal defendant’s conviction or sentence.

In my experience, this seems to hold true whether the case was a high-profile case or not.

It happens, but the error committed by the trial court has to be significant AND preserved by the trial attorney, meaning the trial attorney must have made a timely objection at the time that the error occurred.

The case law directs the Superior Court to provide a great deal of deference to the rulings of the trial judge for most evidentiary issues.

For example, the issue of whether the other accusers who were not actually part of the case should have been allowed to testify is an issue where the Superior Court applies an “abuse of discretion standard.”

This means that they will not review the issue for whether they would have admitted the evidence themselves if they were initially making the ruling, but instead they look at whether it was unreasonable for the trial judge to make that ruling.

Unless the judge was clearly wrong, they are not going to reverse the conviction for that reason.

With respect to prior bad acts evidence, such as these other accusers, trial courts often let this type of evidence in where the Commonwealth can show that the allegations were similar or somewhat similar to the allegations in the current case, and the appellate courts usually approve

of this.

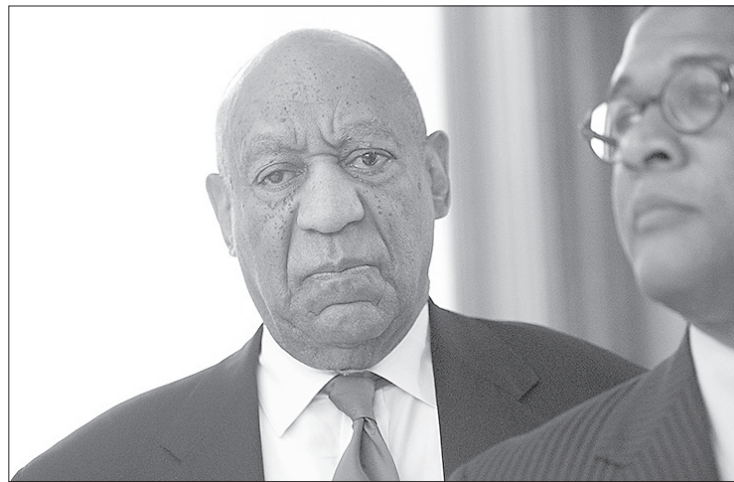
It then becomes incredibly difficult to obtain a fair trial as this type of propensity evidence is overwhelmingly prejudicial.

This is particularly true in cases involving sex offenses. Most cases involving alleged sex crimes do not involve forensic evidence, and there are usually not any witnesses other than the complainant.

Therefore, prosecutors have responded by pushing for rules which make it easier to obtain a conviction and defend a conviction in these types of cases.

By piling on with other unproven allegations, even where the defendant is not charged with

Continued on page 4



## Covering the Miss Universe Pageant taught me that the world is finally seeing the magnificent power of Black beauty

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

**V**anessa Williams, Halle Berry and Kenya Moore all have this one thing in common having carved a place for themselves as Black women in the national spotlight through the Miss America and Miss USA pageants.

Berry, representing as Miss Ohio USA, didn’t win but, boy, did she make an impression! Still, for a lot of Black women, pageants have not been the way to go. Speaking for myself, a competition where beauty is what women lead with doesn’t sound super progressive. I never had a burning desire as a journalist to cover a pageant, but when publicists reached out to me to cover Miss Universe hosted at the Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta, I couldn’t say no, especially when I found out that both Miss Iceland and Miss Ireland were Black.

Despite not having a super high interest in this world of white sashes, perfect posture, and coiffed hair, I got up super early a few days before the big day and stood in line at the Marriott Marquis and waited for the majority of the 90 contestants to



come out to cover this once-in-a-lifetime moment.

My main objective was to talk to all of the Black contestants, so I figured my load would be fairly light. It wasn’t. Given the number of countries in the world with a large number of Black nationals, along with countries like Ireland and Iceland with Black queens in full representation, my morning was more than full.

What I found was a group of some of the most incredible women and, in many ways, they were just like the women I admire the most. They were smart, stylish, confident, dynamic and powerful. I just loved them. They opened my mind to considerations of global beauty standards and how those standards are represented or not across the world.

## Miss Jamaica crowned 2019 Miss World



Jamaica’s Toni-Ann Singh was crowned Miss World on Saturday.

“To that little girl in St. Thomas, Jamaica and all the girls around the world – please believe in yourself. Please know that you are worthy and capable of achieving your dreams. This crown is not mine but yours. You have a PURPOSE,” Singh tweeted on Saturday.

Singh, 23, was born in Morant, St. Thomas, Jamaica. She is a psychology and women studies graduate of the Florida State

University.

Situating the headquarters of this regional newspaper in a hub that skilfully combines education, business, creativity and innovation helps it compete.

On Saturday, she earned an ovation from the audience after singing Whitney Houston’s hit “I Have Nothing” during the beauty pageant and after a round of questions from British journalist Piers Morgan.

“I think I represent something special, a generation of women that are pushing forward



# House leaders announce Articles of Impeachment against Trump

## Jim Clyburn urges, do what is necessary

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has ordered the House Judiciary Committee to draft articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump following hearings that he violated the U.S. Constitution.

The articles of impeachment, announced Tuesday morning by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, concern Trump's effort to pressure Ukraine to investigate political rival, Joe Biden, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for president. Impeachment means the legislative body issues a written accusation against a government official, who must be convicted of impeachment in order to be removed from office.

"President Trump's misconduct is as simple and as terrible as this. President Trump solicited a foreign nation, Ukraine, to publically announced investigations into his opponent in a baseless conspiracy theory promoted by Russia, to help his re-election campaign," Nadler said in a televised announcement Tuesday morning. "President Trump abused the power of his office."

Pelosi had already laid the groundwork in a public announcement last week: "The facts are uncontested. The president abused his power for his own political benefit at the expense of our national security by withholding military aid and a crucial Oval Office meeting in exchange for an announcement of an investigation into his political rival," Pelosi said. "Sadly, but with confidence and humility, with allegiance to our Founders and our hearts full of love for America, today I am asking our chairman to proceed with articles of impeachment," Pelosi said, referring to Nadler. "The president leaves us no choice but to act."

As Republicans fight vehemently to defend the President, at least two articles related to abuse of power and obstruction of Congress will likely be voted on by the full House next week, according to widespread reports.

Nadler has described Trump as a "continuing risk to the country," according to MSN.com. "Nadler forcefully accused the president of using his office to pressure Ukraine to launch political investigations and then trying to block Congress from investigating him." Nadler has repeatedly asserted, "President Trump put himself before country."

"The evidence presented does not prove any of these Democrat allegations and none of the Democrats' witnesses testified to having evidence of bribery, extortion, or any high crime or misdemeanor,"



according to a copy of the report reviewed by CNN. Meanwhile, House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, the highest placed African-American in Congress, has issued a statement encouraging all involved in the hearings. to be bold enough to protect the country rather than themselves or a political party.

He praised Pelosi's speech announcing her directive to start the impeachment articles.

"My own personal philosophy which I keep right over my head, at my desk, is a little poster of a turtle," Clyburn stated. "I have been worshipping turtles since my childhood. I have them scattered all over my office and all over my home. The turtle to me is a metaphor for public service. The shell is there to protect us from all that surrounds us, but if you ever want to make progress, the turtle has to stick its neck out. I think if we want to make progress, we will do what is necessary and sometimes that entails sticking your neck out. We can be safe under the shell, but I hope that we all want to make progress for this great country of ours. And I hope, that as we move forward on this question, that the rest of the country sees us as being protectors of this great republic."

# Texas cop who shot Michael Dean in the head was previously sued for excessive force



PhiladelphiaObserver.com

The Texas police officer who killed an unarmed Black man by shooting him in the head last week has a history of being accused of using excessive force, according to a report from 2017. Carmen DeCruz, an officer with the Temple Police De-

partment in the central part of the state, has been identified as the cop who killed Michael Dean on Dec. 3. And while little else about the encounter between DeCruz and Dean has been announced, it was reported in 2017 that the officer was named in an excessive force lawsuit for his actions surrounding the apprehension of an alleged suspect two years earlier.

The report from the Dallas Morning News about the lawsuit seemed to be the first glimpse into the mind of a man behind a killing that a preliminary autopsy report said was a homicide. And while the circumstances that the lawsuit stemmed from were not deadly like the one last month, it was still very troubling.

DeCruz and his partner at the time were accused of intentionally running over Kaylem Gonzalez, a teenager, and leaving him under their squad car, which remained idling for 10 minutes and burned the 15-year-old boy's body. The teenager's mother filed the lawsuit that specifically named DeCruz and blamed him and his partner for Gonzalez's "third-degree burns to his torso, thighs and pelvis while pinned beneath the running vehicle."



# Pope lifts secrecy rules for sex abuse cases

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

The church already shares files with authorities in some countries, such as the United States, but the practice is not universal. Some Catholic churches around the world have invoked the "pontifical secret" to refuse cooperation in certain cases.

Pontifical secret is considered the highest level of confidentiality in church law which covers a number of administrative cases at the Vatican, such as nominations of cardinals, investigations by the

Secretariat of State, and by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The violation of pontifical secrecy can result in excommunication from the church.

"Pontifical secret is no longer an excuse," the Vatican's top investigator for sexual abuse, Archbishop Charles Scicluna said.

Scrapping the secrecy rule comes after several church officials criticized it during the historic Vatican summit in February, which focused on combating clergy sexual abuse.



# Boston marathon bomber appeals his death sentence alleging juror bias

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

The surviving Boston Marathon bomber who was sentenced to death for his role in the terror plot that killed four and left the city under siege in April 2013, is hoping his legal team's appeal will give him his life back.

Lawyers representing Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 26, made opening statements on Thursday morning to the 1st US Circuit Court of Appeals in hopes of overturning his death sentence.

Attorney Daniel Habib argued that Tsarnaev did not get a fair trial because Boston was the scene of the mayhem. He argued that the jury was made up of people directly affected by the terror plot who

already had made up their mind about Tsarnaev.

Habib spoke about how all of Boston was traumatized by the bombing, with some forced to shelter in place during the manhunt and others who spilled into the streets and cheered when Tsarnaev was caught.

"It was the extraordinary effect of this crime on the community," Habib said. "This community atmosphere filtered to the actual jury."

Habib further said that the jury pool was tainted by news reports that contained, what he called, "a wealth of inadmissible evidence," like former Boston Mayor Tom Menino calling for Tsarnaev to receive the death penalty.



## Barack Obama: Women are better leaders than men

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

Speaking at a private event on leadership, Mr Obama said while in office he had mused what a world run by women would look like.

"Now women, I just want you to know; you are not perfect, but what I can say pretty indisputably is that you're better than us [men]."

"I'm absolutely confident that for two years if every nation on earth was run by women, you would see a significant improvement across the board on just about everything... living standards and outcomes."

When asked if he would ever consider going back into political leadership, he said he believed in leaders stepping aside when the



time came.

"If you look at the world and look at the problems it's usually old people, usually old men, not getting out of the way," he said.

"It is important for political leaders to try and remind themselves that you are there to do a job, but you are not there for life, you are not there in order to prop up your own sense of self-importance or your own power."

## Archeologists unearth lost town from little-known ancient empire

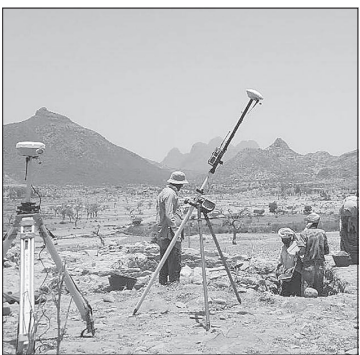
PhiladelphiaObserver.com

Archeologists have unearthed the remains of a town from an influential but little-known ancient civilization in East Africa that sheds light on the origins of Christianity in Ethiopia.

The buried settlement, which contains one of the oldest churches in sub-Saharan Africa, was inhabited for some 1,400 years before vanishing into the dusty highlands of northern Ethiopia around AD 650.

Called Beta Samati, it was part of the Empire or Kingdom of Aksum, but prior to its discovery archeologists thought the area had been abandoned when the empire's ruling class set up its capital elsewhere.

The international team of archeologists conducted excavations at



the site in 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2016.

The Kingdom of Aksum ruled over the region between 80 BC to AD 825 and was one of the ancient world's major powers — conquering surrounding regions and trading with the Roman Empire, the researchers said. The kingdom converted to Christianity in the 4th century.

## Former Gary, Indiana Mayor Richard Hatcher dies

Former Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher, who became one of the first black mayors of a big U.S. city when he was elected in 1967, has died. He was 86.

Hatcher died Friday night at a Chicago hospital, said his daughter, Indiana state Rep. Ragen Hatcher, a Gary Democrat. She did not provide a cause of her father's death.

The Hatcher family said in a statement that "in the last days of his life, he was surrounded by his family and loved ones."

"While deeply saddened by his passing, his family is very proud of the life he lived, including his many contributions to the cause of racial and economic justice and the more than 20 years of service he devoted to the city of Gary," the family added.

Hatcher had to overcome opposition from the local Democratic



machine to become mayor of what was then Indiana's second-largest city in a surprise victory in 1967. He went on to serve five terms.

Hatcher became the political face of Gary and a political force for blacks after his ground-breaking election. He organized the 1972 National Black Political Convention in Gary and served as chairman of Jesse Jackson's Democratic presidential campaign in 1984 and vice chairman four years later.

## Obamas purchase \$11.75M home from Celtics owner in Martha's Vineyard

Barack and Michelle Obama have purchased a property at the prestigious Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts earlier this week, according to the Vineyard Gazette.

The former First Family purchased a 6,892-square-foot home situated on 29.3 secluded acres for a total of \$11.75 million. The couple consistently visited Martha's Vineyard during the eight years they were stationed in the White House.

"I'm sure the full-time residents have their own opinions, but they've been summering on the island for so long now, they are part of the community," Nolle C. Bonham, a serial Martha's Vineyard vacationer, said to The Root. "They stay up island, so you



see them when they come in town and while they can still cause a stir, I mean we love them, so we take it in stride."

While the Martha's Vineyard veteran predicted there may be

some concern from residents about the increased bustle their famed new neighbors could bring, she pointed out that other changes should be higher on their priority list of worries.

## Bill Cosby denied appeal, but other avenues to freedom remain

From page 2

those offenses, the prosecution increases its chances of obtaining a conviction.

In my view, the case law which the Superior Court followed in this case does not adequately recognize the overwhelming, prejudicial effect of this type of evidence and the way in which it makes it incredibly difficult to obtain a fair trial on the actual allegations in question.

It is not surprising to me that the first trial, where only one "prior bad act" was allowed into evidence, resulted in a hung jury while the second trial, where more accusers were allowed to testify, resulted in a conviction.

This type of evidence is admitted in criminal trials every day throughout the state.

The thing that was really baffling to me in this case was that the ruling changed in the Com-

monwealth's favor after the first trial.

Mr. Cosby has a number of potential avenues through which he could continue to pursue his appeal. First, he could file an application for re-argument en banc.

The initial ruling by the Superior Court was made by a panel of three judges.

The application for re-argument en banc asks the court to have a panel of nine judges review the case instead.

If the court votes to grant re-argument, then the opinion would be withdrawn, and a new briefing schedule would be set. Nine Superior Court judges would then consider the appeal.

His second option is to forego the application for re-argument and appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court by filing a Petition for Allowance of Appeal.

This would mean asking the Supreme Court to review the case.

The PA Supreme Court does not have to accept an appeal.

Instead, they typically only review a case when there is some new issue for which there is no case law or where the case law has become outdated, when the Superior Court's ruling is clearly incorrect, or when there are conflicting opinions between panels of the Superior Court that cannot really be reconciled. The PA Supreme Court does not hear very many cases each year. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court, however, has been relatively progressive on criminal issues recently.

Finally, with respect to a direct appeal, if re-argument and a Petition for Allowance of Appeal are unsuccessful, he could appeal to the United States Supreme Court if there was some federal issue involved that he would like to raise.

It is not too late to file a

Continued on page 11

## Long distance swimmer dives into the Great Pacific garbage patch

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

In June, Ben Lecomte set out on a boat from Hawaii to spend 80 days swimming through the world's largest collection of marine litter.

The 52-year old Frenchman, who has been based in the US since 1991, swam for up to eight hours at a time within the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. In total, he swam 300 nautical miles.

Also known as the Pacific trash vortex, the garbage spans an area between North America and Japan of roughly 1.6 million square kilometers — three times the size of France, and more than double the size of Texas. It is bounded by an enormous gyre — spinning oceanic currents that pull trash



towards the center and trap it there, creating a garbage vortex.

A recent survey estimates that at least 79,000 metric tons of plastic swirl around the patch.

Between 10% and 20% of the debris is thought to have been swept out to sea by the Tohoku tsunami which struck the coast of Japan in 2011.



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# Editorial

## Philadelphia Observer

### New Jersey anti-Semitic shootings are part of a horrifying spike in hate crime that demands our action

(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

“If this incident was motivated by hate, which news reports indicate, then this is another incident in a long line of violent incidents targeting the Jewish community. This hatred is a disease and right now we are experiencing an epidemic. Leaders must lead and call out hate wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head – regardless of politics. This is about principle.” –

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and National Director, Anti-Defamation League

For the third time in just over a year, the nation is reeling in the face of a deadly mass shooting that appears to have been motivated by anti-Semitism.

Earlier this week, a man and woman killed a police detective near a Jersey City cemetery and then stormed a nearby Jewish market, shooting and killing three people there. The two were killed in a subsequent shootout with police.

The suspects have been linked to a religious sect that includes factions designated as anti-Semitic hate groups. In the stolen van they were driving, investigators found a note that contained anti-Semitic and anti-police sentiments. Similar sentiments were found in social media posts linked to the suspects.

In April of this year, a gunman opened fire in a San Diego synagogue on the last day of Passover, killing a 60-year-old woman and wounding three other people, including a rabbi and an 8-year-old girl.

Shortly before the attack, the gunman posted an anti-Semitic and racist manifesto on social media, citing conspiracy theories, expressing admiration for the gunmen who perpetrated the anti-Muslim killings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Six months earlier, in Pittsburgh, 11 people were killed at the Tree of Life Synagogue. That shooter, too, deeply enmeshed in anti-Semitic conspiracy theories on social media.

These acts are part of a horrifying three-year trend that has coincided with a spike in course and heated racial rhetoric in political discourse. It is one that demands action on several fronts, including gun policy, moderation of social media terms of service, and a sweeping reexamination of racial and religious intolerance.

As a child of the Civil Rights Movement and the leader of the nation's largest racial justice organization, I have witnessed the recent rise of white nationalism with equal parts dismay and a sickening sense of familiarity. Our nation's history is sullied with racial and religious intolerance and violence. What has sustained us, as famously



expressed by Martin Luther King, Jr., is that “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

In this particular period of history, the arc seems especially long. Leaked emails recently revealed that one of the President's closest advisors, Stephen Miller, has cited

and promoted white nationalist ideologies and conspiracy theories about “white genocide,” the criminality of immigrants, and the reviled eugenics movement. Congressional response to the emails has been almost nonexistent.

Meanwhile, personal attacks motivated by bias or prejudice reached a 16-year high last year, according to the F.B.I.

More than 4,300 attacks on people, motivated by racial or religious hatred, were recorded by the FBI. State and local police forces are not required to report hate crimes to the F.B.I., and as many as half the victims of hate crimes never file a report, so the actual number of hate-fueled assaults is significantly higher than the official record.

Lately it seems that the atrocities and outrages of racism and intolerance are falling too fast and too frequently to respond appropriately. But we must not lose sight of our ideals as Americans – as brothers and sisters and parents and neighbors – to love and protect one another. Let your elected representatives know that these incidents call for responsible gun reform, holding social media companies accountable for dissemination of hate speech, and a moderation of their public rhetoric. And join us in our prayers for the victims and their families.

## President Trump's war on the poor



By Jesse Jackson

Donald Trump is famed for his head-snapping reversals. One day he's taking troops out of the Middle East; the next he's sending more in. One day he's on the verge of an agreement with China on trade; the next he's tweeting about holding

off until after the election.

On one thing, however, Trump and his administration have been clear, consistent, coordinated and relentless: waging a war on the poor. Not a war on poverty but a war on the most vulnerable themselves. Despite low unemployment, millions of Americans — the Brookings Institution estimates an astounding 44 percent of all workers in the prime working ages of 18-64 — struggle to get by on median wages of little over \$10 an hour or \$18,000 a year.

The working poor face soaring costs of housing, health care, transportation, utilities and, of course, debt — all rising faster than their wages. The official “poverty rate” is far lower than any accounting of the true needs of a family. The National Center for Children in Poverty estimates that the average family needs about twice as much income as the poverty level to meet basic needs. Cruelly, the Trump response to this is to make it worse.

The administration and Republicans in Congress oppose raising the minimum wage and won't even allow a vote on it in the Senate. Now the administration proposes lowering the poverty line over time by pegging the inflation adjustments lower than the actual increase in costs.

All programs that help low-wage workers would be affected. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities projects that 250,000 seniors would get less help in purchasing prescription drugs, 300,000 children would lose health care under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

This rule combined with others that the administration has imposed will cost literally millions of low-wage workers to face cutbacks in food assistance. Student loan debt is now \$1.5 trillion, primarily loans taken out by the children of middle- or low-income families trying to better themselves through education. Bernie Sanders, running for president, has pledged to eliminate all student debt, paying for it with taxes on the wealthy, and to make all public colleges tuition free. Elizabeth Warren has joined in a plan to eliminate the debt for most students and make colleges tuition free. Trump is reportedly worried that these plans are very popular. His administration is scrambling to respond.

One proposal, as the Washington Post reported, is to cap the loans a student could get in relation to their projected income. That's right, the Trump plan may call for reducing student debt by cutting the availability of loans to students — effectively

closing the doors to college to the children of middle- and low-income families. Add to this Trump's most recent plan to take \$2 billion out of the Pell Grant program — which supports college grants to children from families with less than \$50,000 in income — to pay for sending NASA back to the moon. The maximum Pell Grant once covered nearly 80% of the cost of tuition, fees, room and board at public four-year college; now it covers less than 30 percent.

This is a program that needs more funding, not less. Trump, of course, brags on his economy and the low unemployment. He argues — without evidence — that his tax cut is trickling down to workers. What he doesn't realize is that this economy continues to generate jobs that won't support a family. That's why so-called poverty programs — from CHIP to food stamps to public housing to low income heating assistance to Medicaid — are so necessary. They give vital support to low-wage workers who do some of the hardest, most taxing jobs in our country. Cuts in student aid, cuts in Pell grants, cuts in food stamps, cuts in the poverty level — Trump is putting low wage workers and their families in a box with no way out except down. Our country is paying a very high price for this meanness.

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# Baby Phat has officially re-launched



PhiladelphiaObserver.com

**B**aby Phat is back! According to *Madame Noire*, Kimora Lee Simmons surprised the fashion world by relaunching and revamping the streetwear brand and dropped a surprise on [BabyPhat.com](http://BabyPhat.com) earlier this month.

The initial collection has 10 to 15 styles, including an updated version of its iconic velour tracksuit. Shoppers can expect windbreakers, oversized hoodies, and knitwear separates. Everything will be priced between \$70 and \$300.

The former model's daughters, Aoki Lee, 17, and Ming Lee, 19, are featured as the campaign models who are showcased on the website. When Kimora announced back in June that she reacquired Baby Phat, she dropped a Forever 21 collaborative collection that was sold out online within 24 hours.

# New Nike swimwear includes a swim hijab

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

**N**ike's Victory Swim Collection will include a full-coverage swimsuit and a swim hijab.

The line, announced Tuesday, will be available globally at select retailers and online February 1.

"The design of the Nike Victory Swim Collection serves a variety of needs from modesty preferences to sun protection and represents Nike's commitment to inclusive design, providing more women with game-changing innovation to enjoy sport," the company said.

The fabric is designed to be lightweight, breathable and fast-drying with UPF40+ sun protection, Nike said.

The new swim options follow Nike's release of a performance hijab for Muslim women athletes in 2017, which featured a single-layer pull-on design made from lightweight polyester in dark, neutral colors with tiny holes that make the fabric breathable and opaque.



Nike said it began developing the hijab after some Muslim athletes complained about wearing a traditional head scarf during competition.

"I was thrilled and a bit emotional to see Nike prototyping a Hijab," Emirati figure skater

Zahra Lari said in a statement. "I've tried so many different hijabs for performance, and ... so few of them actually work for me. But once I put it on and took it for a spin on the ice, I was blown away by the fit and the light weight."

# Racket Serena Williams smashed at US OPEN sells for \$20,910

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

**O**n Sept. 8, 2018, Naomi Osaka became the first Japanese player ever to win a Grand Slam title after defeating her childhood idol, Serena Williams. Sadly, what should've been one of the greatest days of Osaka's life was marred by poor officiating and controversy.

Now, over a year later, one of the infamous mementos from that day—a racket that Williams destroyed in frustration that has since gone on to symbolize how black women are far too often maligned, misunderstood, and mistreated—was sold at auction for a cool \$20,910, according to CNN.

It was one of many pieces of sports history up for grabs courtesy of Goldin Auctions. Tennis Now reports that other items included sprinter Jesse Owens' 1936 Olympic gold medal, a Rawlings baseball bat used by MLB legend Reggie Jackson to hit his 501st



and 502nd career home runs, and an autographed LeBron James rookie card.

"This was truly a remarkable event in both the wide assortment of items and the record prices realized for so many of them," Ken Goldin, founder of Goldin Auctions, told CNN.

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fatherhood.gov





# On the scene

## Diddy's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash was all *The Way Up!*

By Audrey J. Bernard

**H**ands down, Diddy is the J.P. Barnum of Black entertainment! This brother is known for his extravagant events! He recently opened his plush Beverly Hills mansion to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and there were more stars in da house than in the sky! The celebrity-studded birthday bash – which was sponsored by Ciroc – had celebrities dancing the night away when not exchanging “Diddyisms” about the birthday celebrant. Following a beloved toast to the host led by Usher and Lil’ Kim, along with Diddy’s sons Quincy and Christian, Diddy’s long-time friend Mary J. Blige took to the stage and slayed the crowd with a mini concert performing some of her hits. The crowd went ballistic — and that’s the 411! (Photos by Getty Images)



Sean “Diddy” Combs celebrates big 5-0 birthday



Pharrell Williams, Kanye West, Diddy, Jay-Z



The Weeknd, Swizz Beatz



Diddy, The Kardashians



Doug E. Fresh, Diddy



Lil Kim, Usher, Quincy Combs, Christian Combs



Jay-Z, Beyoncé,



Kobe & Vanessa Bryant



Kanye West, Jermaine Dupri



Post Malone



Diddy, Cardi B., Offset



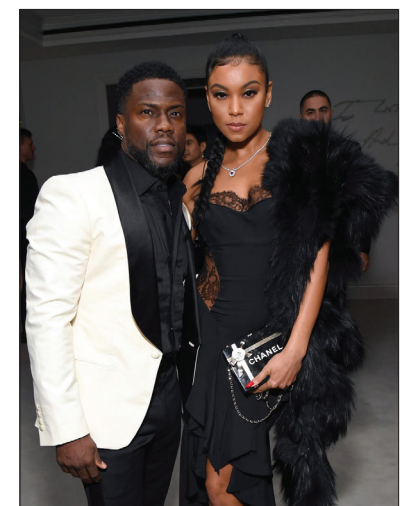
Mary J. Blige



Naomi Campbell, Diddy



Regina King, Janelle Monáe



Kevin & Eniko Hart





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# International

## “It’s all fake news” complains president of Zambia about devastating media expose



Removal of Mukula tree

(GIN)

No, that’s not our President condemning the critical voices of media. That troubling phrase was deployed by Zambian President Edgar Lungu, complaining about local coverage of the plunder of valuable, increasingly scarce Mukula rosewood trees – and hence, the destruction of Zambia’s vulnerable forests.

President Lungu was particularly incensed by a report naming the President himself, his daughter, Tasila, and several high-ranking ministers for allegedly trafficking the rare and valuable rosewood to eager buyers in China.

Authors of the “Mukula Cartel” – the UK- and US-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) – estimate the illegal trade generates around \$7.5 million in bribes and “informal fees” per year.

“If not dismantled, this Mukula Cartel has the power to derail the international protection recently granted to the rare African trees,”

warned the EIA. “At the current rate of exploitation, the rosewood species may soon be extinct.”

As the Zambian leader was making an appearance at the recent Climate Summit in Madrid, Zambians at home were devouring news of the so-called Mukula Cartel.

“Mukula Cartel is Fake News,” the President protested. Scolding reporters, he ordered them to “return to professional reporting.”

Illicit and unsustainable harvesting of this precious timber has led to the destruction of Zambian forests, with environmental activists and the international community warning of a looming extinction.

Zambia’s deforestation rate is the highest in Africa and fifth globally, with an average loss of between 250,000 and 300,000 hectares of forest every year, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

Presidential spokesman Isaac Chipampe also struck back at the charges, repeating the president’s

claim that the country “is being polluted daily with lies that have the potential to endanger peace in the country.”

But Rueben Lifuka, president of Transparency International Zambia said: “It is imperative that the claims made in this report are investigated by multiple agencies and offices... the sale of Zambia’s natural resources benefits only a few people at the highest level of the government.”

Meanwhile, Zambian hiphop singer and recording artist Pilato remains behind bars since his arrest after arriving at Kenneth Kaunda Airport in Lusaka last May. He had fled the country in January over death threats regarding his latest song Koswe Mumpoto (rat in the pot) which the President’s party, the Patriotic Front, considered insulting.

An “urgent action” campaign to release Pilato (real name Fumba Chama) can be found at [Amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org) – the website of Amnesty International. The name Pilato written as PilAto is an acronym for “People in Lyrical Arena Taking Over.”



Climate protest in Durban, South Africa

## Climate activists at Madrid summit denounce inaction by world leaders

(GIN) –

As the 25th United Nations climate conference moved into its second week, environmental activists from around the world denounced the influence of corporate power plainly visible at the Madrid summit and took to the streets in a massive climate protest led by indigenous leaders and youth.

The summit — known as COP25, or conference of parties — has so far focused on meeting the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to “well below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit.” But climate scientists say the talks are failing to produce the drastic measures necessary to address the climate crisis.

Protesters from India, Africa, the U.S., the UK, Europe and Latin America linked arms to march through Madrid’s city center.

Nigerian environmental organizer, Godwin Ojo, explained the purpose of his participation. “We are here to stop corporate power. We are here to stop corporate capture of the state, corporate capture of the U.N., corporate capture of resources.”

“We want to put an end to climate change. All over the south, there is flooding. A lot of people are dying from climate change. And now the farmers are unable to plant because there are rainfall problems

in Nigeria.

“Multinationals have totally grabbed the reins of government,” he observed. “Economic concerns overrule all other interests. Industry continues to degrade the environment, overexploit crude oil resources, destroy people’s livelihoods, pollute the waterways—they can’t even be brought to acknowledge the damage they are doing, let alone clean it up.”

“What is their driving force? Profit, profit and more profit. Human rights violations, climate change, none of it matters. Climate change even to the point of disaster is business.”

“Africa needs to receive means of implementation,” added Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, a lead negotiator from the Africa Group. “We need to receive financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity building. And these are not outrageous asks.”

Nakabuye Hilda Flavia of Uganda remarked: “This reminds me a bit of the rampant racism and apartheid my ancestors endured... We are suffering severe effects of climate change, as if coming from the global south is a mortal sin, with no or very little action from developing countries.”

“Developed countries must be ashamed of themselves given the amount of carbon they emit compared to what Africa is emitting. We almost emit nothing but we are suffering the most.”

## Home of struggle icon Winnie Mandela is now a museum

(GIN) –

The modest home of the late Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in Brandfort, Free State, where she was forced to live when banished in 1977, has become a museum.

The Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Brandfort House Museum in Majwemasweu, Brandfort, is now complete, the national Department of Sports, Arts and Culture announced this week.

Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa promised it would also serve as a multipurpose center with Wi-Fi facilities and parking spaces for tourists.

The struggle icon was banished to the town in May 1977 by the apartheid government. Madikizela-Mandela lived here with her

youngest daughter, Zindzi, for eight years.

The ailing anti-apartheid struggle icon died in a hospital on April 2, 2018. She was 81.

Twenty four-hour security services have been put in place by the Lejweleputswa District Municipality to guard this national asset.

“... at this stage, the department is in the process of procuring expertise to collect artefacts and curate an exhibition. After the collection of the artefacts and installation of the exhibition material, the museum will be officially opened,” department spokesperson Asanda Magaqa said.

The “Winnie Madikizela-Mandela House will now be part of the prized national monuments and sites that fall under the resistance



and liberation heritage route program—one of the premier depart-

mental mandates to preserve and promote the legacies of our heroes

and heroines as an integral part of our cultural heritage.

Initially, the construction of this museum was mired in scandal and controversy. In 2012, US\$208,000 was allocated to the Free State Independent Development Trust (IDT) but the oney “disappeared”.

According to the news website News24, “an audit report commissioned by the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) found that nearly R600 000 paid to two contractors for the Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Museum project in the Free State amounted to ‘fruitless expenditure’.

The new contractors responsible for the project are expected to restore the dwelling and the bombed clinic, converting them into interpretative spaces.



## Beware of a “Toxic” Christmas

By Glenn Ellis(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

**F**inding great holiday gifts for your children should be fun. Yet there are toxic chemicals in children's toys that simply shouldn't be on anyone's list.

However, if you're like most people, there are lots of children in your life that you would like to get something for as a gift. Of course, as there are typically so many of them, you have to be careful not to “break the bank”. That means you're bound to looking for affordable options for some cute toys and gifts.

And, like most people, you're bound to make a few runs to the “dollar stores”.

Afterall, they certainly got the right price range, and there always some novel little trinkets to buy. But what you probably aren't counting on is that the very gift you give to a child could be dangerously toxic and/or poisonous. Many communities served by dollar stores are predominantly communities of color or low-income communities that are already disproportionately exposed to chemical hazards and health effects linked to chemical exposures.

We already know that many chronic diseases and health conditions are linked to chemical exposures, and are potentially deadly, especially for children. These links have been established for everything from ADHD; to brain cancer; to asthma; and to birth defects, just to name a few. In all diseases and conditions, black and brown

communities in this country are hit the hardest; upwards of 2-3 times more likely to be struck by one of these problems. This means that they are more likely to die or suffer serious ill-effects if they do become ill after continuous exposure to these chemicals.

Think about how much of our family's lives are filled with all the stuff you usually buy at a “dollar store”- all to save a few bucks: dolls, kid backpacks, pencil cases, toy cars, kids jewelry, rug pads, household cleansers; fragrances; soaps; and dozens of other household items. Young children are at a high risk as they often put these “gifts” into their mouths. Other toxins can come in contact with your skin or respiratory system, exposing you to danger.

Specifically, this time of year, we, especially, have to think about the children. Toys sold in the US are regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), which enforces federal standards for children's products. Generally, there are laws that regulate all products with sharp points or edges, parts small enough for a child to swallow, and lead in paint, according to Consumer Reports. Unfortunately, this does not mean that the government tests toys for safety before they go on the market.

I know you're thinking that we have agencies, whose responsibility it is to see to it that as consumers, we are protected from being harmed by products we purchase. Sorry to disappoint...

Of all of the stuff we are ex-



posed to in the products we buy, only about 200 chemicals out of 80,000 registered for commercial use have been fully screened for health and safety, and of these, only 5 have ever been banned!

Researchers found a full 81 percent of the products tested from “dollar stores” contained at least one hazardous chemical of concern. Nearly half (49 percent) of the products at these stores contained two or more toxic chemicals.

This information should make you think, not just about those holiday gifts, but also about the decorations, tinsel, Christmas lights; candles; ornaments; cooking utensils; just about everything.

Chemicals detected included phthalates; polyvinyl chloride (PVC or vinyl); and toxic metals such as lead and chromium, bromine, and antimony. What they are, and how they harm your health? The “old folks” use to say, that if it's a word your Grandmama couldn't pronounce, or didn't eat, neither should you. Have you ever wondered why the whole store smells like cheap plastic as soon as you walk in?

One of the biggest culprits is a more common, but no least harmful substance - lead: it is illegal for the paint on toys, and other products, to contain more than 0.06 percent concentration lead, and with good reason. When

ingested in the human body, lead can cause nerve damage, learning and behavioral problems, reproductive damage, and irreversible brain damage. It can also increase the risk of cancer. The CDC warns that “no safe blood level in children has been identified.” With recent revelations of the extensive lead contamination in our children's schools and in some municipal water systems, wouldn't it make sense to protect our children in ways that we have direct control over?

So keep in mind that regardless of what is legal, and allowed, in the United States, toys made in China or other developing countries carry a higher risk of containing chemicals that are illegal than toys made in the US, Canada, or the European Union (EU), because dangerous chemicals are less well-regulated in these countries.

Make sure that the gift you give to a young child for the holidays brings them joy, without the “side effects”!

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

*The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information, visit: www.glennellis.com*

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## Bill Cosby denied appeal, but other avenues to freedom remain

From page 4

Post-Conviction Relief Act Petition and allege the ineffective assistance of counsel.

Generally, direct appeals come first, meaning that a defendant who is unhappy with the outcome would first ask the Superior Court and possibly the Supreme Court to overturn the conviction or sentence.

When that fails, the sentence becomes final, and a defendant can file a Post-Conviction Relief Act Petition (PCRA) and allege that the lawyer did something wrong.

A direct appeal deals with errors made by the judge, while a PCRA Petition alleges errors made by the trial and/or appellate attorney. You typically have one year from the date on which the sentence becomes final to file a PCRA Petition.

The sentence does not become final until thirty days after the Superior Court affirms a conviction or ninety days after

the PA Supreme Court affirms a conviction.

The direct appeal, if you are going to file one, has to come first as you cannot file one after litigating a PCRA if you have missed the deadline, and they cannot be litigated at the same time.

A PCRA Petition goes back to the trial judge who heard the case for an initial ruling. If the trial judge denies it, then there can be another round of appeals to the Superior Court and the Supreme Court.

If those are unsuccessful, a defendant can file a Habeas Petition in federal court again alleging ineffective assistance of counsel, but it is not easy to overturn a state court conviction in federal court.

Zak Goldstein is a Philadelphia-based criminal appeals attorney with the firm, Goldstein Mehta LLC. You can visit his website at [www.goldsteinmehta.com](http://www.goldsteinmehta.com), or follow him on Twitter @ZakTGoldstein.



# Culture



## Viola Davis peaks out against diabetes with new documentary

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

**W**ith a career spanning over thirty years, Viola Davis is tackling a new venture to bring awareness to diabetes within the black community.

Davis is no stranger to us; whether she's getting away with murder on our screens or getting away with a slay in a photograph on our timelines, the actress has become a constant in our lives. Given her fame and status, she's now made it her duty to give voice to debunk the stigmas associated with diabetes by narrating a documentary called *A Touch*

of Sugar.

The film is something that hits home for Davis because her two sisters were diagnosed with the disease, her aunt died from it and she herself was diagnosed as being prediabetic.

Diabetes is currently an epidemic in America; 30 million Americans have Type 2 diabetes and 84 million have prediabetes and aren't even aware of it. "It's affecting our world and our country," says the award-winning actress. Davis says she felt it was time to "give voice to this issue and to debunk the myths and stigma that are associated with diabetes."

## Olympic champion Biles to headline post-Olympic tour

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

**S**imone Biles wants to bring gymnastics to the masses and plans to bring some of her friends along for the ride.

The Olympic and world champion is headlining a tour in the fall of 2020 that will be a mixture of sports and entertainment intended to inspire the next generation of female athletes. The "Gold Over America" tour will visit more than 35 cities, including Biles' hometown of Houston as well as New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

The idea originated when

Biles was in the early stages of her return to gymnastics in the fall of 2017 after taking a year off following her memorable performance at the 2016 Olympics, where she won four gold medals and five in all, becoming the face of her sport.

"When we found out I was coming back, we kind of sat down and talked about things I would want to do," Biles told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "They said it could be as small as starting a perfume line or maybe as big as a tour. I was like, 'Actually, that would be pretty sweet. That would be the coolest thing ever.'"



## Documentary about Mary J. Blige is in the works

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

**A** documentary about Mary J. Blige – the "Queen of Hip Hop Soul" – is in the works.

The untitled film, directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Vanessa Roth, is currently in production from Amazon Studios and Entertainment One, Deadline reported.

The documentary will show Blige revisit her personal life experiences and her music career, since releasing her second studio hit album, "My Life," 25 years ago, an announcement on Tuesday read.

"The film provides a personal and never before seen look into the emotional journey of Mary J. Blige's past struggles with poverty, abuse, addiction and heart-

break," the release stated.

Tara Long, Entertainment One's president of global, unscripted television, called Blige's album "My Life" "iconic and tremendously impactful."

"We hope that by bringing it to screens we can continue to inspire audiences around the world as her music has done for decades," Long said.



## Cicely Tyson joining TV Hall of Fame

**L**OS ANGELES (AP) — Cicely Tyson, Seth MacFarlane and Walt Disney Co. chief executive Bob Iger will be joining the Television Academy's Hall of Fame.

Geraldine Laybourne, who helped create the Nickelodeon channel and co-founded Oxygen Media, and veteran TV director Jay Sandrich also were announced Tuesday as inductees. Sandrich's credits include "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "The Golden Girls."

Tyson won three Emmy Awards over her nearly seven-decade acting career, including two trophies for 1974's "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and one for 1994's "Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All."

MacFarlane, a writer, director, producer and performer, is a five-time Emmy winner for his animated series "Family Guy."

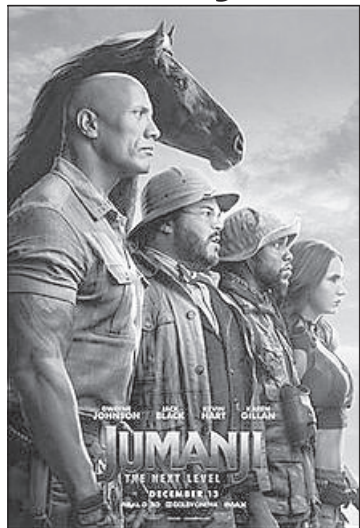
Iger became CEO of Disney in 2005, and during his tenure the company acquired Pixar, Marvel, Lucasfilm and 21st Century Fox and launched the new Disney Plus streaming service.





# Reel

## Jumanji: The Next Level tops box office with \$60M opening!



Production scene: Kevin Hart, Dwayne Johnson, Karen Gillan, Jack Black (Photo courtesy SONY)



Production scene: Kevin Hart stars in Jumanji: The Next Level

**S**ONY Pictures Releasing topped the box office with its fantasy/adventure *Jumanji: The Next Level* starring **Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Black, Jack Black, Karen Gillan, Nick Jonas, Awkwafina, Alex Wolff, Morgan Turner, Ser'Darius Blain, Madison Iseman, Danny Glover, and Danny DeVito**. The uproarious comedy exceeded expectations with a cool \$60M take. The *bro-mance* between Hart and Johnson is a winning combination and their on screen chemistry is off the hook! This time around there's a change in the characters and the switch will have you laughing out loud. The discovery of different body parts on some of the cast members is quite clever and cute. A nice twist to an already proven blueprint. This franchise remains one of the film company's most prosperous ones. So look for a "Jumanji 3."

**ABOUT:** The gang is back but the game has changed. As they return to Jumanji to rescue one of their own, they discover that nothing is as they expect. The players will have to brave parts unknown and unexplored, from the arid deserts to the snowy mountains, in order to escape the world's most dangerous game

**ASSETS:** Based on *Jumanji* by **Chris Van Allsburg**, *Jumanji: The Next Level* is directed by **Jake Kasdan**; produced by **Dwayne Johnson, Dany Garcia, Hiram Garcia, Matt Tolmach, William Teitler, Jake Kasdan**; written by **Jake Kasdan, Jeff Pinkner, Scott Rosenberg**; music by **Henry Jackman**; cinematography by **Gyula Pados**; edited by **Steve Edwards**; production companies: **Columbia Pictures, Seven Bucks Productions; Hartbeat**



Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Awkwafina, Karen Gillan, Nick Jonas, Jack Black



Danny Glover, Kevin Hart, Danny DeVito, Dwayne Johnson

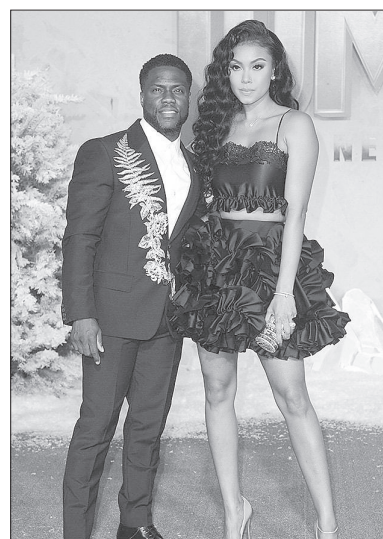
**Productions, Matt Tolmach Productions, The Detective Agency.** Distributed nationwide by **Sony Pictures Releasing** on Friday, December 13, 2019.

**PREMIERE:** The premiere which was held at the TCL Chi-

nese Theatre in Hollywood on Monday, December 9, 2019, was lit! **Kevin Hart** and his beautiful wife **Eniko Parrish** garnered wild applause as they walked the red carpet. His fans were so happy to see him up and about after

his tragic car accident. **Dwayne Johnson** who brought along the 2 beautiful women in his life, wife **Lauren Hashian** and mother **Ata Johnson** also received enthusiastic applause. Director **Jake Kasan** was joined by other stars from the

movie on the red carpet including **Awkwafina, Karen Gillan, Nick Jonas, Jack Black, Danny Glover, Danny DeVito, and Alex Wolff**. And a great fun time was had by all! (Photos by Getty Images for SONY)



Kevin Hart was joined by his stunning spouse Eniko Parrish



Dwayne Johnson was joined by his beautiful wife Lauren Hashian



Karen Gillan



Joe Jonas, Nick Jonas, Kevin Jonas



Alex Wolff, Danny DeVito, Danny Glover, Jake Kasdan



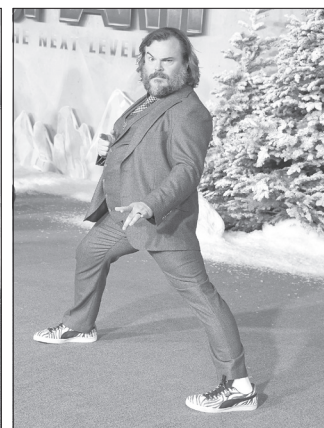
Dwayne Johnson brought along his mom Ata Johnson



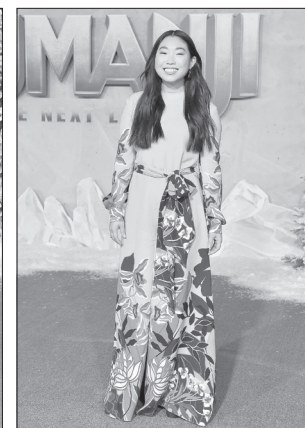
Kevin Hart



Dwayne Johnson



Jack Black



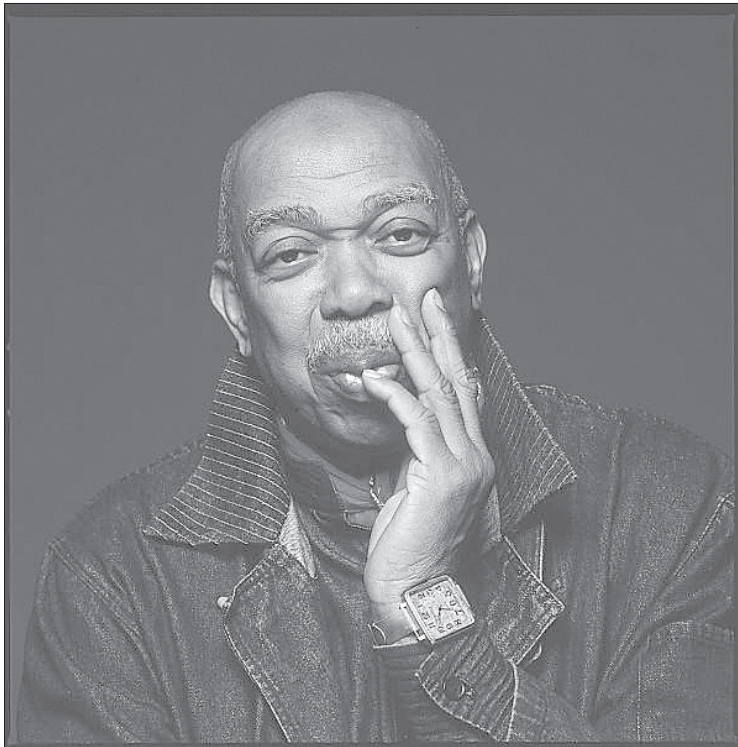
Awkwafina



# Entertainment



## Actress Vinie Burrows at 95!



The late great Dancer/Choreographer Geoffrey Holder

By **Ernece B. Kelly**  
*Special Assignment*

**G**eoffrey Holder, the late great internationally known Trinidadian-American dancer/

choreographer, reportedly said, "Darling, theatre artists never die. We just go on tour."

And the indomitable Actress **Vinie Burrows**—she's 95 years old—fits that description.

She's opening in January in the Off-Broadway play, "Love Stories," a program of short plays adapted from works by Russian writers Chekov and Tolstoy.

Burrow's lengthy and impressive resume includes Broadway productions of "Mandingo" (1961), "The Skin of Our Teeth" (1955) and "Green Pastures" (1951). She's also been active in Off-Broadway shows such as her starring role in the 2014 production of Drama Desk Award winner playwright J.E. Franklin's play, "To Break Every Yoke" and the world premiere of "The Homecoming Queen" (2018).

She joined a cast which included such other stars as Cicely Tyson, Maya Angelou, and James Earl Jones in "The Blacks" which eventually became the longest-running non-musical of the 1960s. Admired by her peers, Vinie Burrow—with other recipients such as Andre De Shields and Shemekia Copeland won a 2018 Bistro Award.

As recently as the Summer of 2019, Ms. Burrows appeared as (Peaseblossom) in the production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in Central Park's Delacorte Theatre.

According to advance publicity the unflagging Ms. Burrows will appear from January 23-March



Living Legend Actress Vinie Burrows 95

14, 2020 at Theatre Row on West 42nd Street, Manhattan. I, for one, intend to be in the audience to honor her countless contributions

to the world of drama and the special ways she's burnished the image of Blacks in modern American Theatre.



Ms. Burrows (center) with cast of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"



Tony Award-winning Actor Andre De Shields poses with Ms. Burrows



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