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STIMULUS CHECKS ARE ARRIVING



Treasury officials said they expect 50 million to 70 million Americans to have received directly deposited payments by April 15



Rural hospitals shut out of stimulus loans face financial crisis

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Government-owned hospitals were shut out of the coronavirus rescue package's loan program, putting some of the most financially vulnerable rural health care systems in danger of running out of money just as the virus hits the heartland.

Dozens of Republican and Democratic lawmakers are now pleading with the Trump administration to make an exception for rural health providers or for a legislative fix. Without one, they're warning the industry could tumble into further financial turmoil. About one-third of rural hospitals — as well as over 15 percent of rural health clinics — are owned by local governments, but municipal owned entities are not allowed to receive small business loans.

City-owned Magnolia Regional Medical Center in Arkansas, where the virus is projected to peak later this month, is in dire financial straits — the rural hospital just furloughed 10 percent of its staff for two months, in what CEO Rex Jones called a "painful" reduction for the 49-bed facility.

This hole in the stimulus was apparently unintentional, multiple Republican and Democratic congressional aides said. Congress or possibly the Trump administration would have had to create an exception to let municipal-owned entities receive federal small business loans.

"Many of these hospitals are the sole provider for health needs in their community and their closure would leave wide areas of America with even greater access to care issues than ever before, which we simply cannot risk during this pandemic," nine senators wrote in a letter to leadership.

For years, rural health providers have grappled with low patient volumes, staffing shortages and thin operating margins. Over 120 rural hospitals shuttered in the past decade, and another 1 in 4 were considered a high-risk for closure even before the pandemic hit. Now, the widespread cancellation of pricey elective surgeries, which make up the bulk of hospitals' revenue, have made their finances all the more precarious.

Hospitals on Friday began receiving the first tranche of a separate \$100 billion rescue fund dedicated to health care providers, but rural health providers are also competing with larger and more politically connected urban systems for funding. Rural health providers said this funding will help, but it won't sustain them for very long.

"It was a desperately needed lifeline, but they're still treading water out there," said Maggie Elehwany, head of government affairs for the National Rural Health Association. "We need more assistance to keep them afloat and that makes it all the more important to let them access the SBA provisions."

Scientists think newly discovered 60,000-year-old forest may help build new medicines

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Nearly 60,000 years ago, as prehistoric humans just started venturing out of Africa, a forest of cypress trees grew on the banks of a river near the Gulf of Mexico. As the trees grew old, they fell and were buried under sediment. When the sea level rose, the remains of the forest were covered once again.

Now, scientists have uncovered that same forest and believe it may hold the secrets to creating new medicines and saving lives.

For millennia, the ancient forest remained undisturbed, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which published an article about the forest last week.



But in 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit the Gulf Coast, sweeping up the seabed and sediment that kept the forest entombed.

Since then, the site, which now lies 60 feet underwater off Alabama's coast in Mobile Bay has been visited by a few scientists and filmmakers. But it wasn't until December that a team of scientists from Northeastern University and the University of Utah set out on an expedition funded by NOAA to dive into the waters and bring back pieces of wood to study.

Europe begins tentative easing of coronavirus lockdown



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Spaniards working in the industrial and construction sector are starting to head back to work, while Italy, Austria and Denmark all have plans this week to partially release some confinement measures.

In Spain, which after Italy has seen more deaths from the virus than any other European country, the government is allowing

some workers to return to their jobs from Monday and Tuesday. Most Spaniards, however, are expected to remain at home, as schools and restaurants remain shut, with Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez noting in a message on Sunday that the country is not in a de-escalation phase.

The country's health ministry issued guidance over the weekend for those returning to work, recommending that work-

ers bike or walk to work if possible. Authorities also began on Monday handing out face masks to people boarding public transport. The government said it would be handing out 10 million masks in total over the coming days.

The health impact of the decision — which will mean people heading back on to public transport potentially in large numbers — on the spread of the virus will not be apparent for a few days or weeks. Nevertheless, the decision has sparked a public debate, with some experts describing the move as premature.

Pablo Casado, leader of the main Spanish opposition Partido Popular, warned on Sunday that a general state of chaos over the arrangements could put people at risk.

"Many employees return to

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States still baffled over how to get coronavirus supplies from Trump

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis was pleading with the federal government to send ventilators.

The state was starting to see hundreds of new coronavirus cases pop up each day, and Polis, a Democrat, worried that hospitals wouldn't have enough life-saving ventilators to deal with the looming spike.

So he made an official request for ventilators through the Federal Emergency Management System, which is managing the effort. That went nowhere. He wrote to Vice President Mike Pence, leader of the White House's coronavirus task force. That didn't work. He tried to purchase supplies himself. The federal government swooped in



and bought them.

Then, on Tuesday, five weeks after the state's first coronavirus case, the state's Republican Sen.

Cory Gardner called President Donald Trump. The federal gov-

Continued on page 7

Wounded by media scrutiny, Trump turned a briefing into a presidential tantrum

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A toddler threw a self-pitying tantrum on live television on Monday night. Unfortunately-

ly he was 73 years old, wearing a long red tie and running the world's most powerful country.

Donald Trump, starved of campaign rallies, Mar-a-Lago week-

ends and golf, and goaded by a bombshell newspaper report, couldn't take it any more. Years of accreted grievance and resentment towards the media came gushing out in a torrent. He ranted, he raved, he melted down and he blew up the internet with one of the most jaw-dropping performances of his presidency.

This was, as he likes to put it, "a 10".

Trump's Easter had evidently been ruined by a damning 5,500-word New York Times investigation showing that Trump squandered precious time in January

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Fate of American middle class is in hands of regulators



By Donnell Williams and Antoine M. Thompson

Last week, Congress passed phase three of its COVID-19 response, the CARES ACT, a \$2 trillion stimulus package that has become most well-known for its direct payments of up to \$1,200 for many Americans. These payments are a much-appreciated addition to the already enacted policies like the delayed tax deadline, deferred interest on student loan payments, updated paid sick leave policies, and other actions taken to ease the impact the pandemic is causing.

One of the policies that the media has largely neglected to cover is the impact of widespread forbearance – the term for when a mortgage servicer allows homeowners to temporarily pay at a lower rate or pause payments. During the current crisis, forbearance will serve as a significant relief for many middle and low-income families. The typical mortgage can add up to nearly 30 percent of the average American family's income, and with many individuals temporarily out of work and impacted by COVID-19, forbearance allows those funds to be reallocated to immediate life-sustaining expenses like meals and medications.

Home ownership has long been a quintessential element of the

American Dream. It is more than a place to live. It is a tangible path to the middle class – and arguably the greatest investment an individual can make. Furthermore, expanding access to home ownership is key to closing the gap between socio-economic classes, providing new economic opportunities for families, and laying the foundation for success for aspiring homeowners.

However, an often-unknown part of forbearance is that although homeowners around the country are receiving much needed relief, lenders and servicers are still obligated to pay principal, interest, taxes, and insurance, on the homeowner's behalf. Given the nature of their business, this is potentially fatal for non-bank lenders.

Non-depository mortgage servicers have limited liquidity access. And depending on the duration of the crisis at hand, non-bank servicers will not have the liquidity to advance mortgage payments at the high rate that will be necessary. This presents a challenge, considering more than half of all mortgages in recent years came from non-depository lending institutions—including larger parts of loans made to low-income families. If a solution for non-bank mortgage lenders is not found, we could backtrack on nearly a decade of housing gains and relief efforts and require further government intervention to prevent a mortgage crisis that could mirror the events of 2008.

Now that the CARES ACT has been signed into law, it is important that regulators take the opportunity to clarify forbearance policy to not only provide needed economic relief to impacted homeowners, but also lay out guidelines for mortgage lenders to navigate this unprece-



Antoine Thompson

dent challenge.

Unfortunately, policymakers failed to provide lenders and servicers with access to the necessary liquidity in the CARES ACT and puts the issue in the hands of regulators. Hours after Congress' omission of liquidity to non-depository servicers, Ginnie Mae announced plans to provide liquidity in the market for servicers within the next two weeks. While this is a step in the right direction, regulators must provide additional guidance to protect lower-income Americans and allow servicers to prepare for the coming months.

Servicers open the door for homeownership for many American families. These institutions play a key role in market diversification and provide new opportunities for a diverse group of borrowers. It is essential that regulators and Congress work to ensure that non-bank lenders and servicers receive the necessary protections and have access to needed liquidity, allowing them to continue the important role they play in helping families realize the dream of homeownership.

Donnell Williams is president and Antoine M. Thompson is national executive director of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB).



Lockdowns can't end until Covid-19 vaccine found, study says

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Countries wanting to end the lockdown and allow people to move about and work again will have to monitor closely for new infections and adjust the controls they have in place until there is a vaccine against Covid-19, according to a new study based on the Chinese experience.

China's aggressive controls over daily life have brought the first wave of Covid-19 to an end, say researchers based in Hong Kong. But the danger of a second wave is very real.

"While these control measures appear to have reduced the number of infections to very low levels, without herd immunity against Covid-19, cases could easily resurge as businesses, factory operations, and schools gradually resume and increase social mixing, particularly given the increasing risk of imported cases from overseas as Covid-19 continues to

spread globally," says Prof Joseph T Wu from the University of Hong Kong, who co-led the research.

China has pushed the reproductive number – the number of people on average that one person with Covid-19 will infect – from two or three to below one, where the epidemic is effectively shrinking.

But, the researchers warn, if normal life is allowed to resume too quickly and the lifting of controls is too extensive, the reproductive number will rise again. Governments will need to keep a close watch on what is happening, they say.

"Although control policies such as physical distancing and behavioural change are likely to be maintained for some time, proactively striking a balance between resuming economic activities and keeping the reproductive number below one is likely to be the best strategy until effective vaccines become widely available," said Wu.

Officials in Barbados accuse U.S. of ventilator theft as COVID-19 spreads to the Caribbean

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The United States (U.S.) has been accused of doing a long list of deplorable things, including a number of evil deeds committed against its own citizens.

As the U.S. has become the world's epicenter of today's global COVID-19 pandemic, public health bureaus in America are showing the world what not to do as nations everywhere race to curtail this crisis. Stealing medical equipment is one thing that a nation should never do under any circumstances. But that is exactly what officials in Barbados have accused the U.S. of doing.

Speaking to reporters at a recent press conference, Barbados Minister of Health and Wellness Lt. Col. Jeffrey Bostic accused the U.S. of seizing ventilators paid for by singer Rihanna. The ventilators were part of a \$1.4 million dollar assistance package the pop star provided to her home country as it races to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into its

borders from the U.S.

"They were seized in the United States. Paid for, but seized, so we are trying to see exactly what is going to transpire there. But I remind you that ventilators are one of the most in-demand items in the world today and Barbados is merely wrestling with the other 203 countries and territories around the world seeking to secure as many of these pieces of equipment as possible," he said.

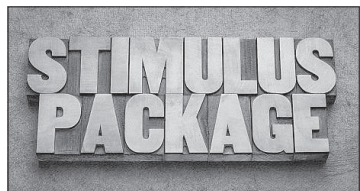
It is not known which state government in the U.S. is responsible for the recent ventilator seizure. However, in a recent executive order, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo authorized the seizure of unused ventilators from private entities. Governor Cuomo's state is America's hardest-hit, as the total COVID-19-related death toll in New York is approaching 9,000.

According to the Barbados Today newspaper, there are 56 COVID-19 cases in Barbados. Only three people out of those 56 cases are in need of ventilators, the newspaper reported.



Individual stimulus checks begin to arrive, what should you expect?

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia



Payments from the \$2.3 trillion federal coronavirus stimulus package have begun hitting individual bank accounts.

In a memo, IRS Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the first round of payments were sent on Thursday, April 9, and should arrive in bank accounts beginning no later than Tuesday, April 14.

Most Americans are eligible for and will receive stimulus payments, except for those who owe back child support payments.

Single-filers who make less than \$75,000 will receive \$1,200, while married couples making less than \$150,000 are scheduled to get \$2,400. An additional \$500 payment will be provided to households for each child under 17.

The IRS will base the payments on the adjusted gross income of taxpayers' 2019 return. If a 2019 return hasn't been filed (the deadline has been extended for two months), the IRS will use information from the 2018 return. If the return doesn't contain direct deposit information, or if the IRS

doesn't have returns from 2018 or 2019, a paper check will be issued later.

Electronic payments also will go out to those receiving Social Security and disability, even if recipients don't typically file a tax return.

For those who haven't provided the IRS with bank account information, paper checks are expected to begin reaching households in May, but, in some cases, recipients won't receive payment until September.

"If we have your bank information, you'll get it within two weeks," Mnuchin said. "Social Security, you'll get it very quickly after that. If we don't have your information, you'll have a simple web portal, we'll upload it. If we don't have that, we'll send you checks in the mail."

Treasury officials said they expect 50 million to 70 million Americans to have received directly deposited payments by April 15, which is one day later than what

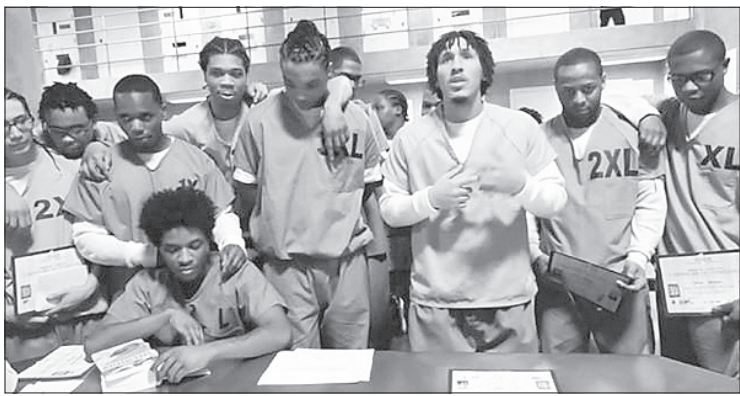
the IRS said it expects the deposits to become available.

The IRS does plan to set up a portal on its website where filers can enter direct deposit information if the agency doesn't already have those details. Those who have provided bank information on their 2018 or 2019 returns don't have to do anything unless their information has changed.

As for paper checks, the Washington Post reported that the IRS plan would distribute those to the lowest-income Americans first, prioritizing payments for individual taxpayers with incomes of \$10,000 or less on April 24.

Checks for earners of \$20,000 or less would be in the mail May 1, followed by those with incomes of \$30,000 on May 8, \$40,000 on May 15, and continuing in income increments of \$10,000 each week, according to the plan. The IRS plans to issue about 5 million checks each week.

Stimulus checks would be issued on Sept. 4 to joint taxpayers earning \$198,000, the maximum allowed under the stimulus. All others would be sent on Sept. 11, in most cases, because the IRS did not have prior tax information for them, and they need to apply for the checks.



238 inmates infected with coronavirus at Chicago's Cook County Jail

Philadelphiaobserver.com

As coronavirus cases continue to rise in the country, Cook County Jail in Chicago, Illinois has recorded the highest number of cases in a single area in the entire country. They have had a total of over 355 cases since the pandemic started – 238 inmates and 115 staff members.

The outbreak of the virus apparently started from 2 inmates who were the first ones to test positive for COVID-19 about two weeks ago.

The Cook County Sheriff's Office, which operates the jail which is one of the country's largest with more than 4,500 inmates, noted that the numbers could increase even more as a vast majority of the inmates have yet been tested.

The inmates who have tested positive have already been placed in a quarantine area, while at least 17 who had complicated symp-

toms have been hospitalized. One inmate who is COVID-19 positive apparently died of complications from the coronavirus, officials said.

"This has been a difficult time for everyone," Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart told the New York Times.

The rapid transmission of the coronavirus behind bars have been linked to the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in jails that allegedly helped spread the virus. According to reports, at least 1,324 coronavirus cases are from U.S. jails, including at least 32 deaths.

In line with that, some authorities were prompted to release thousands of inmates who were mostly awaiting trial or sentenced for nonviolent crimes to decrease the prison population. Visitations have been prohibited also to prevent further spread to people outside the prison.

Why some people of color say they won't wear homemade masks

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now recommending that all Americans wear homemade face coverings in public to help stem the spread of coronavirus.

But Trevon Logan, an economics professor at Ohio State University, will not be following this guidance.

"We have a lot of examples of the presumed criminality of black men in general," Logan, who is black, told CNN. "And then we have the advice to go out in public in something that ... can certainly be read as being criminal or nefarious, particularly

when applied to black men."

Logan is not alone in his concerns. On social media and in interviews with CNN, a number of people of color — activists, academics and ordinary Americans — expressed fears that homemade masks could exacerbate racial profiling and place blacks and Latinos in danger.

"I don't feel safe wearing a handkerchief or something else that isn't CLEARLY a protective mask covering my face to the store because I am a Black man living in this world," tweeted Aaron Thomas, an educator in Columbus, Ohio. "I want to stay alive but I also want to stay alive."



Retired professor who taught at Univ. of Maryland for 20 years dies from coronavirus

Philadelphiaobserver.com

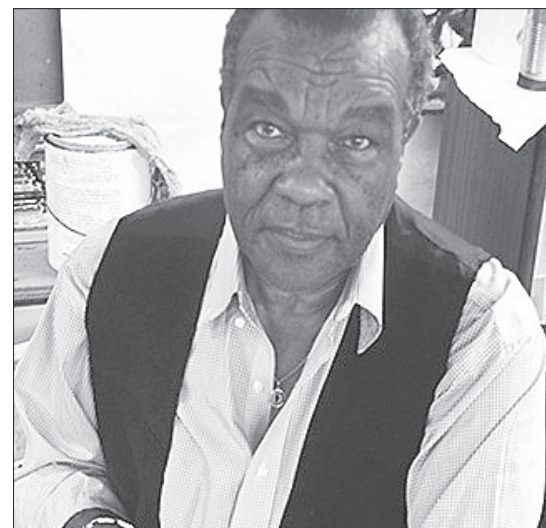
David C. Driskell, a retired University of Maryland College Park professor, has died after testing positive for the coronavirus according to a statement released by school officials.

"It is heartbreaking to say that Distinguished Professor David Driskell is the first known death of our #UMD community due to COVID-19 complications. A towering figure in the art world. Our deepest condolences to the Driskell family," University President Wallace D. Loh said in a statement.

Driskell joined the university's Department of Art in 1977 and taught there for over 2 decades until his retirement in 1998. He has been known as a distinguished professor, artist, collector, curator, and art historian.

"A towering figure in the art world, he transformed the field of African American art through his scholarship, innovation, and humanity, showing how it is essential to the American art canon," Loh added.

In 2000, he was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Clinton. In 2001, the university established the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora to honor his work.



Driskell is survived by his wife and his 2 daughters. He also leaves behind a legacy to his students whom he mentored and taught to become successful in their careers in arts.

Meanwhile, the university further reiterated the importance of social distancing and other safety measures as well as showing resilience, determination, and compassion especially during this time of coronavirus pandemic.

Employee says Amazon fired him for protesting unsafe conditions

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Chris Smalls, an employee at an Amazon warehouse facility in Staten Island, NYC, claims he was fired after staging a walkout to call for the company to postpone operations and demand better protection amidst the coronavirus pandemic. He says that several employees there had already tested positive with COVID-19.

"Amazon would rather fire workers than face up to its total failure to do what it should to keep us, our families, and our communities safe," Smalls said in a statement. "I am outraged and disappointed, but I'm not shocked. As usual, Amazon would rather sweep a problem under the rug than act to keep workers and working communities safe."

Smalls added that he and his workers were just asking for greater protective measures, including facility closure so that it could be sanitized. He said that they are also worried that the management might not be telling them the truth about the number of colleagues that have actually



tested positive.

More than that, Smalls said the company allowed a worker who was tested after showing symptoms of the illness to go to work until her test results came back positive the next day. Smalls said it has caused a spread of the virus to her friend and might spread to others as well.

Amazon, however, argues that Smalls was fired because he violated the company's quarantine rules when he organized the walkout where 15 people reportedly gathered. The company also said that he was "further putting the teams at risk" when he came to work "despite that instruction to

stay home with pay."

The company also denied all the allegations of the employees. It said in a statement, "Like all businesses grappling with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we are working hard to keep employees safe while serving communities and the most vulnerable. The truth is the vast majority of employees continue to show up and do the heroic work of delivering for customers every day."

Meanwhile, New York State Attorney General Letitia James called Amazon's firing of Smalls "disgraceful" and is looking to consider legal actions regarding the incident.

Europe begins tentative easing of coronavirus lockdown

From page 2

work tomorrow, once again amid general confusion," he said, adding that "the government must guarantee workers' safety so that they can return to work without risk."

The pro-independence Catalan regional President Quim Torra, meanwhile, called the central government's decision "reckless and imprudent."

Italy, meanwhile, has opted to extend its strict lockdown measures — though as of Tuesday there will be a limited reopening, with businesses such as bookshops and stores selling children's clothing, as well as forestry and timber production, allowed to resume operations.

Some regions, however, have resisted the slight relaxation. In Lombardy, the worst-hit region, the regional government said bookstores and stationery stores

would not be opened as essential goods of that type can be bought in supermarkets already.

Austria will on Tuesday allow some non-essential shops to reopen. And in Denmark, some day care institutions and elementary schools will also resume activities this week. The Czech Republic last week already allowed a limited number of businesses, such as bicycle stores and building material shops, to reopen.

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Editorial

Philadelphia Observer

Pres. Trump continues to fight for Black community

By Ronna McDaniel, Chair, Republican National Committee for the NNPA Newswire

I am from Michigan, and here in my hometown I have seen our community rally to do all we can to support our neighbors and local businesses during this difficult time. Thanks to President Donald Trump, some more help is on the way, especially for Black-owned small businesses.

From the start of this pandemic, the President's first priority has always been the health and well-being of Americans, especially our most vulnerable. While he and his team are working to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, he is also working to ensure that our economy can bounce back stronger than ever.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw record low unemployment in the Black community, and many stepping out on faith to

become entrepreneurs and contribute to what was one of the best economies we had seen in America. There is a lifeline for the millions of Black-owned small business owners across the country that will help make this season easier to manage called the Paycheck Protection Program.

In a matter of just a few short weeks, small businesses in so many communities that were bustling with activity, providing jobs, opportunity and hope have now gone empty as they play their part in slowing the spread.

At a time where people's lives and livelihoods are on the line, the President is ensuring that small businesses have the financial resources they need to help them weather the economic storm this virus has imposed.

Every Black-owned small business should apply for relief under the Paycheck Protection Program today.

This amazing program is a prod-

uct of the bipartisan relief package President Trump signed into law providing \$350 billion of liquidity in the form of forgivable loans to small businesses, churches, and non-profits all across America.

Under this program, small-business owners can apply for up to eight weeks of cash-flow assistance at their local bank or at any one of the Small Business Administration's approved lenders.

Critically, as long as the loans go toward things like maintaining all employees' salaries and keeping the lights on and the doors open, they will be forgiven in full, so essentially this is a grant.

In other words, today, Black-owned small businesses; salons, restaurants, boutiques, you name it, there is guaranteed cash with no strings attached waiting for you, but you have to apply.

During this incredibly challenging time, small-business owners need the certainty that the business they have spent years

pouring their money, time and energy into building will still be around once we beat this virus. This program does that.

The more small businesses that can keep their employees on payroll, the easier it will be for them to get back up and running once the economy reopens, putting our country in the strongest possible economic position, especially in communities of color.

Small businesses can find these details and more, as well as apply at sba.gov/ppp.

America's small businesses, and the hardworking men and women they employ, represent more than just our shared faith in the free-enterprise system.

Black-owned small businesses, all over our country are the cornerstone of community life and sources of great pride.

As he has demonstrated throughout this crisis and for nearly four years in office, President Trump is committed to fighting for



Black-owned businesses. Thanks to his leadership, small businesses are going to weather this storm and they, along with our entire economy, are going to recover and come roaring back stronger than ever before. *Ronna McDaniel is chair of the Republican National Committee. Follow her on Twitter @GOPChairwoman.*

The government's only pretending to care about Black 'victims' of COVID-19

By Cory Alexander Haywood Guest editorial

Let's keep it real. It seems the media is temporarily replacing their normal coverage of the shootings in Chicago and New Orleans with a false narrative about African Americans dying disproportionately from COVID-19.

Even during a crisis, it's refreshing to see consistency from CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC.

These outlets routinely use minorities as pawns to boost ratings and promote their radicalized agendas.

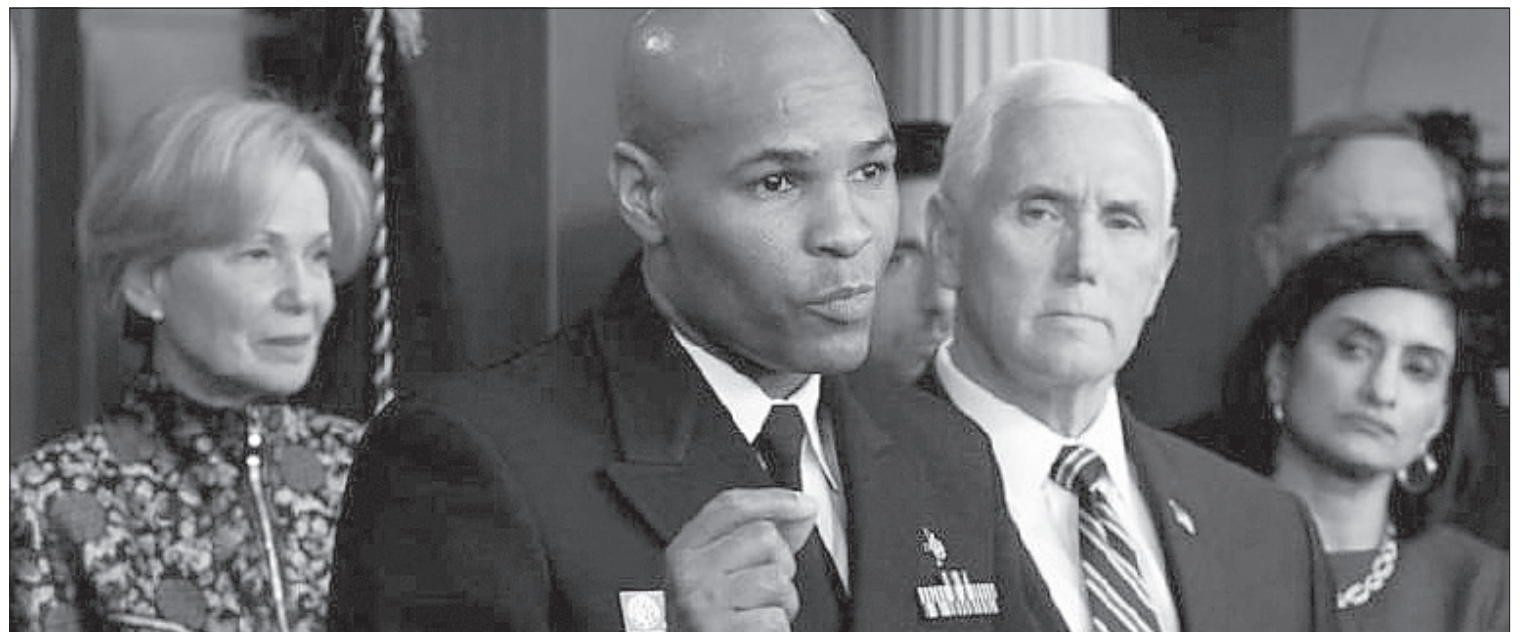
I'm actually impressed this time – they've managed to make blacks poster children for a virus that originated in China. It's now a race issue, and once again, we're the country's disobedient horde of victims. Bravo!

Until this virus is contained – which experts believe could take several months – the white delegation, and its leaders, are making one thing very clear: Blacks and Mexicans need to stay inside!

The internet is riddled with recordings of niggas gathering for barbecues, "twerkathons," and pool parties.

I imagine these videos have pissed off some old white people in high places, and now they're desperate to get some cooperation from all the "niggas" disobeying their orders.

Our president – don't worry, I won't name him – even convinced the U.S. Surgeon General – who's black and named "Jerome" – to get in front of a camera and spew garbage about African Americans being "high risk" and "more sus-



Dr. Getty Jerome Adams, US Surgeon General

ceptible" to COVID-19. The media picked up this storyline and ran with it this week, and now there are dozens of articles online urging blacks to stay inside.

These warnings make sense considering there's a staggering number of African Americans grappling with diabetes, asthma, sickle cell, and a wide assortment of heart-related illnesses.

However, poor health in the black community isn't a new phenomenon. We've been dying of sickness for decades, primarily because we lack affordable healthcare.

But why weren't these urgent messages from the CDC, the government, and the surgeon general delivered last year, or the year

before that, or 10 years ago?

Why are the powers that be suddenly concerned about the health and welfare of minorities? Well, if you ask me, this has nothing to do with us really. The ultimate goal for the leaders of this country is to stop the spread of COVID-19, and as long as niggas keep gathering in droves for parties on the street, flattening the corona curve will never happen.

In other words, they don't want niggas infecting white folk. And let's be honest – if this virus weren't affecting white people at such a devastating level, if it were only permeating communities of color, the media wouldn't give a darn. The government wouldn't either, nor would the CDC, or any other major healthcare institution.



Cannabis, cannabis-related business experiencing unprecedented demand during COVID-19 pandemic

NNPA Newswire

CCOVID-19 has not affected all industries and businesses equally, with some experiencing a huge spike in sales during the pandemic. Cannabis is just one of the markets that have seen sales surge with more Americans staying home and sparking up.

To the Cloud Vapor Store (an online retailer that sells cannabis vaporizers) has experienced a 75 percent growth in sales over the last three weeks, with a 200 percent increase in sales to metropolitan areas under mandatory quarantine, such as New York and San Francisco.

Tyler Browne, the owner of To the Cloud Vapor Store attributes this to a few factors: With more time spent sitting inside more people are smoking and drinking.

Cannabis dispensaries remain open, but smoke shops are closed. Online retailers who sell goods such as cannabis vaporizers — products that many



would otherwise purchase at local smoke shops, are being bought online.

Cannabis vaporizers emit much less of an odor compared to the conventional consumption methods of smoking. This permits someone inside on quarantine to smoke without worrying about

stinking up their apartment complex or house with kids.

To the Cloud Vapor Store offers rentals and lifetime buybacks, which allow customers to return their vaporizer after use. We have seen a vast amount of inquiries about renting a vaporizer to use in quarantine.

New Trump press secretary downplays pandemic

Philadelphiaobserver.com

New White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany repeatedly downplayed the threat of the coronavirus in comments made in February and March, a CNN KFile review has found.

In radio and television appearances, McEnany, in her role as spokeswoman for President Donald Trump's 2020 campaign, said the administration had the rapidly spreading coronavirus "under control" and said that because of travel restrictions enacted by the President, "we will not see diseases like the coronavirus come here."

She also said Democrats were "actively rooting against what's in the best interest of America," including rooting for coronavirus to take hold. She said coronavirus, like the Russia and Ukraine scandals, was being used to take down Trump.

CNN reported on Tuesday that McEnany, a spokeswoman for the Trump campaign who previously served as CNN contributor during the 2016 campaign, will replace Stephanie Grisham as White House press secretary.

The Trump administration is facing continued scrutiny over its preparations for the coronavirus pandemic, its slow response to provide states and cities assistance

in testing kits and personal protective equipment, and comments from the President and top White House officials downplaying the virus.

McEnany did not respond to a request for comment. The White House declined to comment.

"We will not see diseases like the coronavirus come here"

Speaking on Fox Business on February 25, McEnany said because of travel policies enacted by the President, coronavirus would not continue to come to the United States.

"This President will always put America first," she said. "He will always protect American citizens. We will not see diseases like the coronavirus come here. We will not see terrorism come here. And isn't that refreshing when contrasting it with the awful presidency of President Obama?"

McEnany defended her comments over the weekend in a series of tweets, saying, "Context matters, I was asked about travel restrictions and stated the intent of those restrictions."

Speaking on Fox Business a day later on February 26, McEnany said the President had coronavirus under control.

"The President's taking control, making sure we're safe from the coronavirus," she said. "And he's doing everything right."



States still baffled over how to get coronavirus supplies from Trump

From page 2

ernment sent 100 ventilators to Colorado the next day, but still only a fraction of what the state wanted.

The federal government's haphazard approach to distributing its limited supplies has left states trying everything — filling out lengthy FEMA applications, calling Trump, contacting Pence, sending messages to Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, and trade adviser Peter Navarro, who are both leading different efforts to find supplies, according to local and states officials in more than half dozen states. They're even asking mutual friends to call Trump or sending him signals on TV and Twitter.

Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't.

"This is not something that we should ever be faced with," Kansas

Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, said in an interview. "It really is the federal government's responsibility to build those stockpiles, and distribute those during the time of crisis."

In Illinois, Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker got results after he tweeted at the president and complained on TV. In California, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, a frequent sparring partner for Trump, chose to instead heap praise on the president. And in Kansas, Kelly submitted seven requests for millions of masks, gowns and gloves that went unheeded until a reporter asked Pence about the situation in a briefing. Pence pledged to call her.

The confusion is indicative more broadly of how Trump and his administration have responded to a number of crises. The president often bounces from one issue to the next, reacting to the headlines

of the day. Record turnover rates and competing power centers have hampered long-term planning. The result has been rotating strategies that are hard to fully chronicle.

In this instance, local and state officials of both parties say decisions seem less tied to partisan politics than they are to access to and praise of a president who has suggested he would only help local officials who were appreciative of the federal government's efforts.

"Right now you have more discretion at the White House, and we have prized our relationship in order to secure some of the ventilators and other supplies," said an aide to one governor, who asked that even the state not be named for fear of jeopardizing the supplies. "We operate within the world we live in. We made the decision to have a very constructive and amicable relationship."

Wounded by media scrutiny, Trump turned a briefing into a presidential tantrum

From page 2

and February as numerous government figures were sounding the alarm about the coronavirus.

With more than 23,000 American lives lost in such circumstances, some presidents might now be considering resignation. Not Trump. He arrived in the west wing briefing room determined to tell the world, or at least his base,

that he was not to blame. Instead it was a new and bloody phase of his war against the "enemy of the people": the media. Families grieving loved ones lost to the virus were in for cold comfort here.

A CNN chyron is a worth a thousand words: "Trump refuses to acknowledge any mistakes"; "Trump uses task force briefing to try and rewrite history on coro-

navirus response"; "Trump melts down in angry response to reports he ignored virus warnings"; "Angry Trump turns briefing into propaganda session"

The thin-skinned president lashed out at reporters, swiped at Democrat Joe Biden and refused to accept that he had put a foot wrong. "So the story in the New York Times is a total fake, it's a fake

newspaper and they write fake stories. And someday, hopefully in five years when I'm not here, those papers are all going out of business because nobody's going to read them," Trump said.

With a dramatic flourish, the president ordered the briefing room lights dimmed. In a James Bond film, it would be the moment that poisoned gas is piped

into the room. What happened wasn't far off: a campaign-style montage of video clips, shown on screens set up behind the podium. There was footage of doctors saying in January that the coronavirus did not pose an imminent threat, Trump declaring a national emergency, and Democratic governors praising him for providing federal assistance.

Naomi Campbell cuts up on Amazon's new reality fashion show



"Making the Cut" debuts on Amazon's Prime Video show (L-R) Carine Roitfeld, Tim Gunn, Heidi Klum, Joseph Altuzarra, Nicole Richie, Naomi Campbell (Photo by Just Jared)



From Tokyo: Naomi Campbell, Nicole Richie, Chiara Ferragni, Joseph Altuzarra, Heidi Klum

Fashion's latest sensational show, "Making the Cut" (MTC), helmed by former Project Runway hosts/judges **Heidi Klum** and **Tim Gunn**, is Amazon Prime's Video new reality show competition series featuring "12 talented entrepreneurs and

designers from around the globe who are competing to take their fledging brands to the next level in becoming the next big global phenomenon."

In each episode, the designers will create two looks — one "runway" and one "accessible,"

which will be available to purchase on Amazon's website. The show culminates with the winner receiving \$1 million and a mentorship program with Amazon Fashion.

Klum will be joined by a cache of superstar judges including model **Naomi Campbell** (consulting producer for the show), actress and media personality **Nicole Richie**, designer **Joseph Altuzarra**, fashion editor **Carine Roitfeld**, and fashion blogger/influencer **Chiara Ferragni**.

MTC's first runway show premiered Friday, March 27, 2020 on Amazon's streaming service at night in front of the Eiffel Tower, Paris, France and was fascinating! The show will continue to roll out two episodes each Friday for five weeks. If you can dream it, you can stream it!

Campbell hopes the new reality television fashion competition awakens the inner designer in audiences everywhere. "I want

people to watch it and say, 'I can do that! I know how to design! I could be on this show,'" she said in a recent interview from her swank abode in New York. "Since people are at home it would be fun to

see what people could make with what they've got, and send it to us at 'Making the Cut.' I think we would get some incredible things." (Photos courtesy Amazon Studios)



From Paris: Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn



From Paris: Carine Roitfeld, Joseph Altuzarra, Nicole Richie, Naomi Campbell

About Naomi Campbell

Naomi Campbell is one of the world's most sought-after supermodels of all times! This fashion icon is also a businesswoman, philanthropist, activist and actress. She is also a contributing editor of British Vogue and is a consulting producer on *Making The Cut*. As an in-demand supermodel she defined fashion in the '80s and '90s, none has had a longer, more robust, and more diverse career than Naomi Campbell. At 49 years old, Campbell is still walking the runways for everyone from **Tommy Hilfiger** to **Valentino** and appearing on the covers of the world's top magazines and in the industry's most high-profile campaigns. She was even named Models.com's 2019 Readers' Choice Social Media Star of the Year and Readers' Choice Model of the Year.

All of which is to say that not only has she seen it all and worn it all, but she's as relevant and vital to the fashion industry now as she ever was. Definitely the kind of person any designer would be lucky to have in their corner. And if we know Naomi... she's going to dole out some zingers! The legendary supermodel is now airing a live talk show with some of her best fashion friends on YouTube. *No Filter with Naomi* launched in April from her New York apartment with **Cindy Crawford** as the first guest. The gals chatted about Cindy's mole, walking for Versace when Gianni was alive, and their longtime friendship. **Marc Jacobs** joins Campbell on the premiere show. Follow Naomi on Twitter @NaomiCampbell and Instagram @Naomi. (Photo by Getty Images)



Supermodel Naomi Campbell

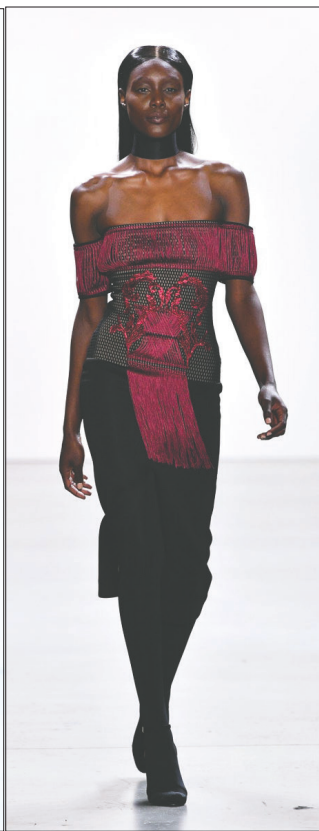
Senegalese Couturier Omar Salam makes smashing runway debut

By Audrey J. Bernard

New York Fashion Week – One of the most exciting shows held during NYFW was the **Sukeina Fall/Winter 2020** collection during the shows at Gallery I at Spring Studios on February 12, 2020,

in New York City. A favorite with the chic crowd because of his love of ladylike designs, a ticket to the **Senegalese Couturier Omar Salam's** show is like winning the lottery! Avant-garde ruffles, fearless feathers, sophisticated sleek lines and bold hues of neon green and purple dominated the runway filled

with Sukeina designs that accentuated the models' curves. His dazzling palette was sheer perfection! He considers his clothes "couture" because of their detailed construction and meticulous attention to fabric and fit. Take a look for yourself! *(Photo By Dia Dipasupil/Getty Images)*



Couturier Omar Salam



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Health

An open letter to Black America on COVID-19

By Glenn
Ellis(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

Dear Black America: By now, you seen or heard that it has been validated once again: when white America gets a cold, black people get pneumonia!

The early data emerging from the coronavirus pandemic in the United States has laid bare the disparities many public-health specialists are all too familiar with: Racial minorities are disproportionately affected by health crises such as this one. And in the case of COVID-19, more of them have died. As of this writing, there are over half-million confirmed cases, and over 20,000 dead. According to some experts, blacks, no matter where they live in this country, are thought to represent half of all those who have died, and upwards of 60-70% of confirmed cases.

In every one of the recent stories highlighting COVID-19, and its' impact on African American communities all over this country, images, video, and commentary all magnify the "widespread" lack of compliance, the extreme vulnerability, and the disbelief that the virus is real. To the uninformed, it appears that black folks are just that "trifling". If we buy into it, looking at the widespread devastation across this country, we could easily be made to feel that it our "fault". Don't let them make you mess with

your sense of self-worth!

Somewhere, sooner or later, someone's got to talk about institutional racism.

Everyone can agree that African Americans, have been slow to be tested; have difficulty complying with social distancing; tend to be "frontline" workers, without the ability to "work from home"; and are carrying a disproportionate burden of the full range of chronic diseases. As all of these points, certainly, are major contributing factors to the high infection and death rates from COVID-19 among African Americans, few acknowledge the link to institutional racism. While America was being built into the world's greatest power, the disadvantages and marginalization of 400 years has left African Americans (for the most part) sicker, poorer, less educated; and more vulnerable at a time like this. "You can't drive a bus or wash dishes on Zoom."

I felt an obligation to share some insights to help make sure that this does not become a "blame the victim" moment, or worse another effort to chip away at our collective sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem.

We have not historically been included in mainstream society. We lived within the framework of our cultural patterns and behaviors. Almost without exception, every area where we have worse outcomes, has at its core, the impact of having built a society, with

its' tenets grounded in institutional racism.

Let me give you an example.

When the CDC guidelines were established, African American communities, by and large, were disadvantaged before the first test was conducted. The country was told not to go to the hospital or doctor's office; call your doctor! Well...no one considered that a significant number of the black folks in this county don't have a doctor! Newly insured under Obamacare, state exchanges, or Medicaid expansion often do not have a specific individual they can call. As a result, a large percentage of the entire black community was disadvantaged before the first test was even conducted. So, the first to tested were the first to be hospitalized, and the first to get a ventilator. In addition, no testing means we were contagious longer and exposed larger numbers of other people who in turn infected others. Thus, the huge infection and death rates in our communities and families.

Another unacknowledged issue is the management of chronic diseases for African American patients. We were generally sicker with a disproportionate rate of diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease (look at all the dialysis centers), and the usual suspects, before COVID-19 hit. Now, not only are we seeing a strain on the medical workforce to care for those hit with the virus. What are the

provisions to insure that adequate, quality primary care will continue to widely available to care for this segment of our population? If there is nothing done, coming out of this we will continue to be sicker and more vulnerable to whatever may hit us in the future. Then, we will really feel like we did something wrong. Don't let them make you mess with your sense of self-worth!

Add to that the cultural behaviors in African American communities.

Webster's defines social distancing as, "the practice of maintaining a greater than usual physical distance from other people or of avoiding direct contact with people or objects in public places during the outbreak of a contagious disease in order to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection." Every culture is a world of its own. Verbal communication and day to day way of life are the true expression of what the culture of a certain place is like. Italians are typically a very social, and physically affectionate people.

You know, the same cultural behaviors that (in my opinion) almost wiped out Italy: close families; celebrations; funerals; physically affectionate. No one singled them out for their behavior. Now, can we do better? Should we be doing better? You absolutely right. We can and we should; and I believe we are, and we will. Don't let them make you mess with your sense of self-worth! We're smarter than that,



and better than that.

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. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly. Glenn Ellis, MPH, is a Harvard Medical School Research Bioethics Fellow and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Public Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

If you work outside of home, wash up, change clothes before touching your families

Sunita Sohrabji, India West/
Ethnic Media Services

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — The United States, currently leading the world in the number of people infected with coronavirus, is at the crest of fully experiencing the pandemic, a panel of medical experts and community health advocates told reporters March 27.

The U.S. has registered more than 136,000 infections and approximately 2,400 deaths, according to March 26 data from the World Health Organization.

The telebriefing — organized by Ethnic Media Services and sponsored by the Blue Shield of California Foundation — featured two physicians speaking from the front lines of the global health crisis: Tung Nguyen of the University of California, San Francisco, and Daniel Turner-Lloveras of the Harbor UCLA Medical Clinic.

A large percentage of the immigrant community relies on public health facilities, Turner-Lloveras said, but fear to seek care because of the new public charge rule the Trump administration rolled out Feb. 23. The rule says immigrants who seek any form of federal public aid could be denied permanent status in the U.S.

About 43 percent of undocu-

mented immigrants have no health insurance, said Turner-Lloveras. "We cannot contain a virus outbreak by providing care to only some of the population. We cannot successfully contain an outbreak if there are those among us who are afraid to seek care," he said.

Public health innovator Rishi Manchanda, founder of HealthBegins, said the pandemic disproportionately affects immigrants and people of color. Psychiatrist Sampat Shivangi, currently serving on the Trump administration's Council for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, spoke about the psychological effect of self-isolation and the possible surge in substance abuse.

Veteran activist Manju Kulkarni, executive director of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), briefed reporters on the rise of hate crimes against the Asian American community in the wake of the pandemic.

Nguyen said he has "never seen doctors so scared by an infection. We could be looking at a million infections by next week and four million by next month."

The virus is deadly: 15 to 45 of every 1,000 infected people will die of a COVID-19 related illness, Nguyen said, noting that the elderly are particularly vulnerable. No vaccine exists for the disease,

and the U.S. is still 12-18 months away from developing one. No cure exists, said medical experts on the panel, cautioning against spreading misinformation about using hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug President Trump has touted as a possible cure for coronavirus-afflicted people.

"You need to just stay home," Nguyen stressed. The most effective methods to steer clear of the virus are social isolation and avoiding touching objects and surfaces. For communities of color and immigrants, who tend to live in multigenerational households, it's imperative that people who must leave the household for work wash up and change clothes afterward, before engaging with their families again. The virus may be in the air for up to three hours. It can live on cardboard for up to 24 hours and on plastic and steel for 72 hours, the UCSF physician said.

New York City is currently experiencing the worst of the pandemic, Turner-Lloveras said, and its overloaded hospitals lack medical supplies to treat all ill patients. California hospitals, which had an extra week to prepare, may be better-equipped to manage the surge. They are trying to triage appropriately, using telemedicine and other resources to avoid a crush of

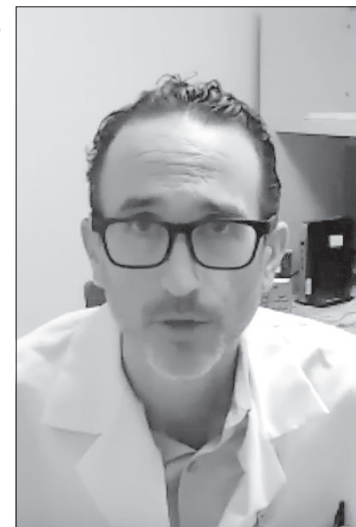
people coming in at once.

Turner-Lloveras has worked in low-income communities in Los Angeles and advocates for hospitals to be "ICE-free zones" that limit immigration agents' access so they cannot arrest and detain people seeking medical care. He also spoke out against the overcrowding at ICE detention centers that can increase the community spread of the virus.

Manchanda also has worked in South Central Los Angeles' low-income communities. He told reporters that the pandemic disproportionately affects the economic well-being of people of color and the immigrant community as well as their health.

"It's hard to not work for many communities of color. Lower wages and insufficient insurance coverage limits their access to treatment and often forces them to work even while ill, increasing the risk of exposure to the community," he said. Also, many minorities live in large cities, frequently in public housing, placing them at a greater risk for infection. And members of ethnic communities often work in front-facing jobs, such as grocery-store clerks, and take public transportation to get to jobs, resulting in higher rates of exposure.

Manchanda added that limited access to testing, language barriers,



and underlying illnesses, such as diabetes and heart disease that disproportionately affect certain minorities, put immigrants and minorities at greater risk of infection and death.

The rise of xenophobia against Asian Americans is real, Kulkarni said, citing the case of a child who was punched in the head 20 times at school because a bully thought he was Asian. She said A3PCON has received 750 reports of COVID-19-related hate crimes in the past month.

Dr. Turner-Lloveras is an assistant Professor of Medicine at Harbor-UC-LA/David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California Los Angeles

Sharp rise in deportations from China, Saudi Arabia

(GIN) –

Saudi Arabia has deported close to 3,000 Ethiopian migrant workers to Addis Ababa, over the objections of the United Nations migration agency.

An internal U.N. memo seen by Reuters said the Saudis were expecting to deport 200,000 Ethiopians in total. Other Gulf Arab states, Kenya and other neighboring countries are also expected to repatriate migrants from the Horn of Africa, the memo said.

Catherine Sozi, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Ethiopia, commented in a press interview: "Large-scale migratory movements which are not planned make the transmission of the virus much more likely to continue. We are therefore calling for the temporary suspension of large-scale deportations," she said.

Deportations have ramped up as migrant workers have lost their jobs due to economic lockdowns imposed by governments seeking to stem the spread of coronavirus.

"We are co-operating with individual countries to say 'do you want your people back, are you able to receive them, what can we help to enable them to come back?'" a senior Saudi official said. "And where countries have responded positively, we are organizing flights, some of it we pay for to send them home, but we are not forcing people."

Ethiopia has asked that the deportations stop during the



coronavirus crisis, and on Saturday denied landing rights to a Saudi aircraft, it was reported by the Financial Times. The Ethiopian foreign ministry could not be contacted for comment.

Saudi Arabia began repatriating Ethiopian migrants from mid-2018, according to UN officials. At the time, there were as many as 500,000 Ethiopians in the kingdom working in the construction industry, as maids or as animal herders, they said.

As many as 300,000 Ethiopians were repatriated during the past two years. Nearly 2 million foreign workers have left the kingdom since the beginning of 2017 as Riyadh has implemented labor reforms and imposed tariffs on expatriates and their dependents.

Meanwhile, Africans are also being deported from southern China's largest city where they say they have become targets of suspicion, racist abuse and subjected

to forced evictions.

Several Africans told the Agence France Press news service they had been forcibly evicted from their homes and turned away by hotels.

"I've been sleeping under the bridge for four days with no food to eat... I cannot buy food anywhere, no shops or restaurants will serve me," said Tony Mathias, an exchange student from Uganda who was forced from his apartment on Monday.

"We're like beggars on the street," the 24-year-old said.

Infections in Guangzhou have sparked a torrent of abuse online, with many Chinese internet users posting racist comments and calling for all Africans to be deported.

Last week a controversial cartoon depicting foreigners as different types of trash to be sorted through went viral on social media.

China denies the accusations.

People in India can see the Himalayas for the first time in 'decades'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

People in the northern Indian state of Punjab are reacting with awe at the sight of the Himalayan mountain range, which is now visible from more than 100 miles away due to the reduction in air pollution caused by the country's coronavirus lockdown.

Indians in the city of Jalandhar and the surrounding area have posted photos online of the views from their homes, with some saying they haven't seen the peaks of the Himalayas for decades.

"For the first time in almost 30 years (I) could clearly see the Himalayas due to India's lockdown clearing air pollution. Just amazing," Manjit Kang wrote.

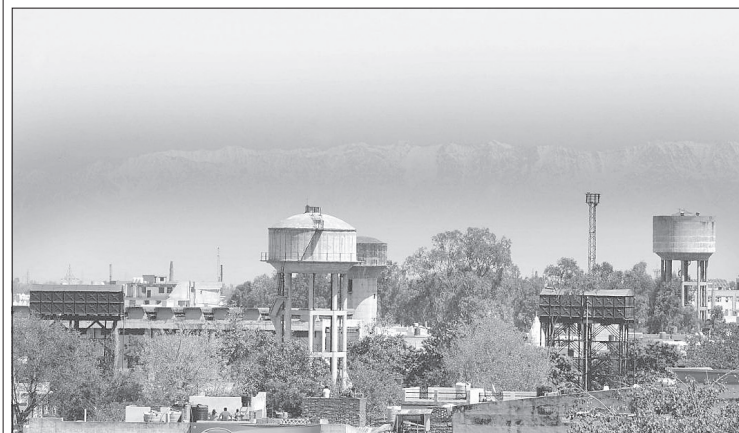
The phenomenon is made possible by a dramatic improvement

in air quality in recent weeks, after industries shut down, cars came off the road and airlines canceled flights in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Delhi saw up to a 44% reduction in PM10 air pollution levels on the first day of its restrictions, India's Central Pollution Control Board found. The PM10 standard measures airborne particulates 10 micrometers or smaller in diameter.

The report said that, in total, 85 cities across India saw less air pollution in the first week of the nationwide lockdown.

Meanwhile the air quality in Jalandhar, which sits more than 100 miles from the Himalayas, has been measured as "good" on the country's national index for 16 of the 17 days since the nationwide lockdown was announced.



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Culture

Angela Bassett, Halle Berry, others recognized as Hollywood queens in stunning T Magazine spread

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Halle Berry, Angela Bassett, Viola Davis, Taraji P. Henson, Lynn Whitfield, Mary J. Blige and Kimberly Elise are being recognized for their contributions to Hollywood in the April 19 Culture Issue of T Magazine.

Penning by novelist and essayist Brian Keith Jackson, the stunning and overdue spread "We Are Family," is accompanied by a video produced by Scott J. Ross. The high-fashion visuals showcase the legendary actresses as they reminisce about their first roles in Hollywood.

Jackson's piece focuses on the unfair treatment of Black thespians in Hollywood. Black actresses continue to be marginalized by mainstream media and award shows. To this day, Halle Berry is the only Black woman to win an Academy Award for best actress. "And yet there is an increasing sense that is



the Academy that is behind in the times," Jackson writes in his piece. "I feel a kinship with other Black women because we understand it the same. We have a knowing about the struggle and about how hard it's been for us," Halle Berry says in the clip. "I know whatever they did, I know they worked really hard to get that opportunity," Elise added.

Rihanna says new music coming after she's done 'trying to save the world'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Rihanna has warned fans that she is too busy "saving the world" so please stop asking when she's going to drop her highly anticipated ninth album.

During a recent Instagram Live session over the weekend, the loyal #RihannaNavy repeatedly asked the singer about the release of the album, which is reportedly being referred to as 'R9', to which RiRi noted that her focus is currently on providing relief to help those affected by COVID-19.

"If one of y'all motherf—ers ask me about the album one more time when I'm tryna save the world, unlike y'all president," said Rihanna, Daily Mail reports.

Rihanna recently teamed up with Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey to provide relief to domestic violence victims during the coronavirus pandemic.

"We're joining forces with Twitter/Square CEO @Jack today



by co-funding \$4.2 million grant to the @MayorsFundLA to address the current crisis for domestic violence victims in Los Angeles as a result of the COVID-19 Safer at Home Order. #startsmall #CLF" Rihanna's Clara Lionel Foundation announced on Twitter on Thursday.

Dorsey also noted on Twitter that the donation will cover

"10 weeks of shelter, meals, and counseling for individuals and their children in LA suffering from domestic violence as a result of the COVID-19 Safer at Home Order."

According to a press release, the grant will provide housing and food for nearly 100 victims every seven days, "with an additional 90 victims every week thereafter for 10 weeks."

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Music legends Whitney Houston & Biggie Smalls newest Inductees into Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

The mission of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame (RRHOF) is to “engage, teach and inspire through the power of Rock & Roll and to learn about our history, building, economic impact and more.” Each year, the RRHOF honors bands or solo artists which demonstrate musical excellence. Such a descriptor includes (but isn’t limited to) influence on other performers or genres; length and depth of career and catalog; stylistic innovations; or superior technique and skills. These artists have dedicated their lives to creating influential, important music infused with originality, and have achieved a level of timeless distinction.



Whitney Houston



Irving Azoff



Jon Landau

The 35th Annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony that honors these music legends will take place at 8 p.m. **Saturday, November 7, 2020**, postponed from May 2 due to the coronavirus pandemic by the urging of **Ohio Governor Mike DeWine**. Two GOATS – Greatest Of All Times — made the cut — **Whitney Houston** and **The Notorious B.I.G.** (aka Biggie Smalls) – and will receive music’s highest honor at the induction ceremony which will broadcast from the Public Auditorium in Cleveland, Ohio and air live on HBO. Other inductees include **Depeche Mode; The Doobie Brothers; Nine Inch Nails; and T. Rex**. In addition, producer **Jon Landau** and manager **Irving Azoff** will receive the coveted *Ahmet Ertegun Award* honoring “songwriters, producers, disc jockeys, record executives, journalists and other industry professionals who have had a major influence on rock & roll.”

Black artists and fans are rejoicing over the selection of Biggie Smalls on the first year of his eligibility which has not been the fate of other deserving African Americans. As one of the greatest rappers of all times, the acclaimed rapper is credited with having produced some of the most iconic songs of the 90’s resulting in catapulting hip-hop to platinum status! His body of work is indelible and many credit him with bringing hip-hop to the main stage. Unfortunately, this was not the fortune of Rufus featuring Chaka Khan which was

a spectacular seventies act but has been snubbed for the fourth time! Unquestionably, Houston is one of the greatest performers of all times and her body of work speaks for itself! However getting recognized by the RRHOF eluded her for many years and her induction – although celebrated — is long overdue! Houston is credited with having made some of the greatest dance-rock music of the 80’s and her staggering style is still celebrated by millions. *(Photos courtesy RRHOF)*



The Notorious B.I.G.



The Doobie Brothers



Nine Inch Nails



Depeche Mode



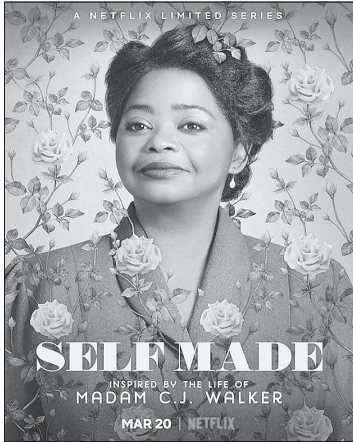
T. Rex

Reel

By Audrey J. Bernard

Octavia Spencer stuns in her portrayal of Madam C.J. Walker

"Sisters, sisters! Let's talk about hair. Hair can be freedom or bondage. The choice is yours." – Octavia Spencer as Madam C.J. Walker



"Self Made Madam C.J. Walker" Movie on Netflix



Octavia Spencer, Tiffany Haddish



Octavia Spencer, Carmen Ejogo



Blair Underwood, Octavia Spencer

NETFLIX presents the new limited series *Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker* inspired by the book *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker*, written by Walker's great-great-granddaughter, **A'Lelia Bundles**, which chronicles her iconic rise to fame and fortune. The Netflix four-part limited series which streams March 20, 2020, tells the story of how her revolutionary products and brand changed the Black haircare industry as we know it. *Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker* which streamed March 20, 2020 is executive-produced by Oscar winner **Octavia Spencer**—who's also starring in the show as Madam C.J. Walker—a mogul of the haircare industry who made history as one of the first self-made American female millionaires whose significant contributions to the hair industry are a vital part of both Black and American history.

Born in Louisiana to freed slaves, Walker began to experiment with store-bought cosmetics as well as her own homemade inventions after suffering from

severe hair loss. She worked hard in finding a successful formula that worked and in 1905 began to sell and advertise it to fellow African Americans. The product was called "Madam Walker's Wonderful Hair Grower" and she traveled across the country to promote it while also providing lectures on her personal hair styling technique.

Walker's business took off

like a wild fire and she eventually opened her own factory employing some 10,000 Black sales agents. As a result of her success she became one of America's first-ever self-made female millionaires and even built a mansion next to John D. Rockefeller's. She became; a prominent philanthropist who advocated for the anti-lynching movement and donated to the YMCA, Tuskegee

Institute, and NAACP.

DEETS: Inspired by the book, On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker, written by Walker's great-great-granddaughter A'Lelia Bundles, brings the uplifting story of this cultural icon to the screen for the first time. Against all odds, Walker overcame post-slavery racial and gender biases, personal betrayals, and business rivalries to build a ground-breaking brand that revolutionized Black haircare, as she simultaneously fought for social change. The four-part limited series also stars Blair Underwood as her husband C.J. Walker, Tiffany Haddish as her daughter Lelia, Carmen Ejogo as Walker's business rival Addie Munroe, Garrett Morris as Walker's father-in-law, Kevin Carroll as her longtime

lawyer Freeman Ransom and Bill Bellamy as Ransom's cousin Sweetness.

ASSETS: Director: **Kasi Lemmons, DeMane Davis**; Writer: **Nicole Jefferson Asher, A'Lelia Bundles**; Cinematographer: **Kira Kelly**; Editor: **Kathryn Himoff, Liza D. Espinas, Susana Benaim, Lena Cordina**; Composer: **Larry Goldings**; Executive producers: **Janine Sherman Barrois, Elle Johnson, Maverick Carter, LeBron James, Octavia Spencer, Mark Holder, Christine Holder, Kasi Lemmons, Jamal Henderson**; Producers: **DeMane Davis, Eric Oberland, Lena Cordina**; and Production companies: **SpringHill Entertainment; Orit Entertainment; Wonder Street; and Warner Bros. Television.** (Photos courtesy Netflix)

Madam C.J. Walker, *Two Dollars and a Dream*, streams on WORLD Channel

World Channel, the award-winning public television broadcaster and content producer behind series including *America ReFramed* and *Stories from the Stage*, has a new initiative to expand the distribution of some original content to its YouTube channel beginning this month. The program launched during Women's History Month in March—in the wake of the Netflix release of *Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker*—with director **Stanley Nelson's** debut film *Two Dollars and a Dream*, a documentary on the true story of the trailblazing African American businesswoman. The streaming of the film rounds out WORLD Channel's Women's History Month programming.

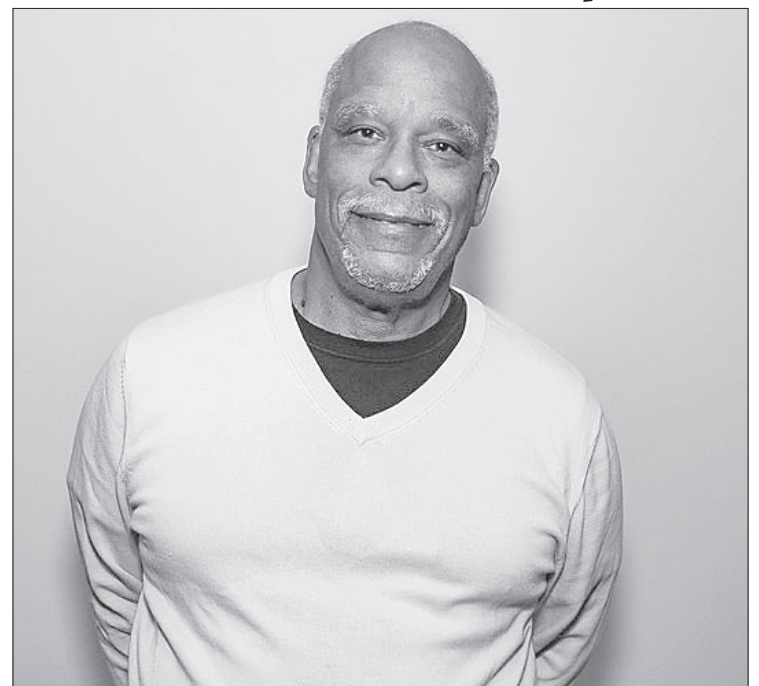
One of America's leading doc-

umentarians, Stanley Nelson captures Madam C.J. Walker's rise from humble beginnings to become America's first self-made female millionaire. Nelson, the grandson of **Freeman B. Ransom**, the attorney and general manager of the Walker hair-care company, interviews the sales representatives, office assistants, executives and more who worked with Walker and knew her journey best.

Along the way, *Two Dollars and a Dream* (1989) examines how Walker's commitment to excellence and the empowerment of the Black community also helped her become the nation's first Black philanthropist while her daughter, A'Lelia Walker, who grew up in a life of luxury, used her talents and wealth to help shape the Harlem Renaissance. Nelson's later works

include the Emmy Award-winning *Freedom Riders*, *The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution* and *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool*.

"With this initiative, our YouTube channel will now offer more exclusive content to our audiences where they are and in alignment with our role in bringing more diverse stories to public media," said **Chris Hastings**, executive producer and editorial manager for WORLD Channel at WGBH Boston. "At a time when more and more Americans are looking for new streaming options, it's our hope that the channel's new content will provide viewers with an online platform where they can learn about different people and events from history and today while engaging in civil, insightful conversations."



Director Stanley Nelson

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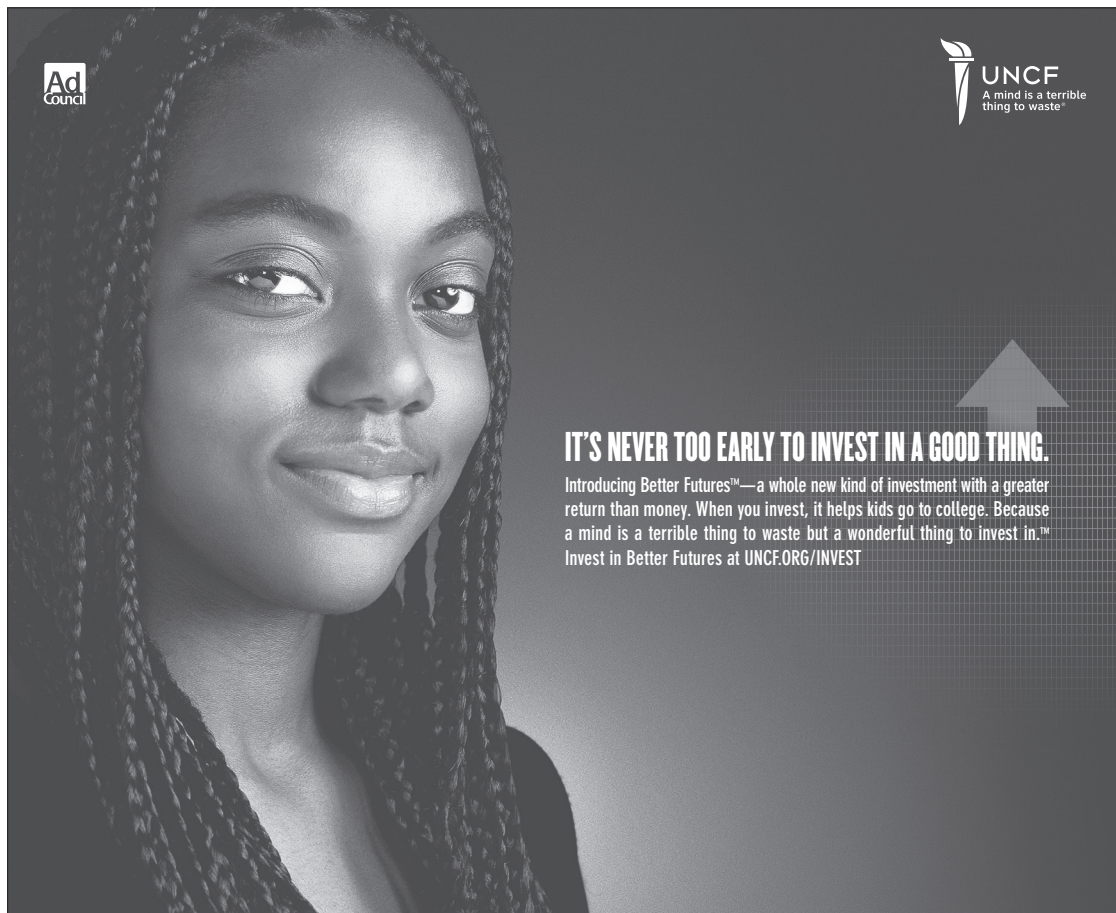
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Starks supports health care workers

By Andrew Rosario

There are athletes in every sport that have never won a championship. Ernie (let's play two) Banks with the Chicago Cubs. Dan Marino with the Miami Dolphins. Charles Barkley and Patrick Ewing of the NBA. The list is as long as organized sports has been played. Yet, despite not ever raising a trophy to end their season, there is a signature moment in a player's life that will always define them. No other player or play comes to mind than that of New York Knicks guard John Starks.

Coming out of Oklahoma in 1988 after playing for three colleges, Starks was not drafted but signed as a free agent by the Golden State Warriors. The Warriors used their 5th round pick and chose Mitch Richmond who went on to win the Rookie of the Year. Injuries stalled Starks attempt to get to the NBA and in 1990 the New York Knicks gave him a look and he took full advantage becoming an integral part of a team that went to the NBA Finals against the Houston Rockets in 1994. The Knicks took a 3-2 series lead only to lose the last two games on the road denying their chance at a third NBA Championship.

It was the year before that Starks would put his stamp on one of the greatest plays in sports history. Game two of the Eastern Conference Finals against the

Chicago Bulls at Madison Square Garden. The Knicks were up 1-0 and looked to put the Bulls down 2-0 and gain momentum as the series would go back Chicago. With the Garden rocking, Starks brought the crowd to a maddening frenzy. Dribbling on the right baseline, Starks goes airborne and switches the ball to his left hand. Horace Grant attempts to block the slam to no avail getting no help from Michael Jordan. Said Starks of the dunk, "it was a great play during that moment during that time of the game."

John Starks has been an ambassador with the organization since his playing days ended. The team issues on and off the court have been well documented and there will be more dark days in the coming future. Still, Starks' play that night will always be a highlight in the team's history.

This past week, John Starks did more to endear himself to the city of New York by donating scrubs to hospitals to the front line health care workers battling the Covid19 virus. Said Mayor Bill Di Blasio, "thank you John Starks. This time with no basketball, but with 3,000 scrubs for our health care workers."

The "Dunk" will always be associated with John Starks a player who many thought would be an afterthought after finishing his college career. His work with the organization and supporting the health care workers will be just as important.



Starks Helps Fight Covid19
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon



Anthony Causi A Life Well Lived
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

Anthony Causi and Hank Steinbrenner RIP

By Andrew Rosario

New York Post photographer Anthony Causi lost his battle with Covid19 last week at age 48. Causi was more than a photographer. A husband and father of two kids John 5 and Mia 2 along with his wife Romina. Anthony was in Florida covering spring training when he posted a photo of himself in the hospital on March 22nd. He was put on a ventilator for the next 3 weeks before succumbing to the illness.

The outpouring of affection from co-workers and colleagues showed the kind of person he was. Said NBC sports anchor Bruce Beck, "he would do unbelievable things for people. Anthony was kind. It's easy to be nice. It's difficult to be kind. He was generous in a way like no one I've ever seen."

Anthony Causi spent 25 years taking photos of the biggest sporting events developing relationships with athletes who had reputations of being difficult. NBA superstar Kevin Durant, Roger Clemens among some of them. Pedro Martinez of the Boston Red Sox invited Anthony to his house to photograph him. Not many photos in his profession were able to develop those relationships.

Anthony Causi was just as accommodating with the New York Post staff as well as rival newspaper photogs. He never failed to give advice in a profession that is competitive and cut throat as everyone was looking to get that "shot".

On a personal note, Anthony would take photos of me interviewing players before and after games unbeknownst to me. He would give me the photos and would not accept a dime when offered. I last saw him last September while covering the Giants against Tampa Bay. My brother Charles was my photog. I introduced Anthony to him. "Glad to meet you. Let me know if you

need anything," he told Charles shaking his hand. That was the kind of guy Anthony was.

Sports will resume in the future but it will not be the same without seeing Anthony Causi running from the photo room to the field. RIP Anthony gone way too soon. You were truly one of a kind.

The New York Yankees family lost General Partner and co-chairperson Hank Steinbrenner this past Tuesday after a long illness. It was not related to Covid19. Steinbrenner, was in his 13th year in that position and was 63 years old. Hank Steinbrenner was the oldest son of George and Joan Steinbrenner. His sisters Jennifer Steinbrenner Swindal and Jessica Steinbrenner are General Partners and Vice Chairpersons.

Hank Steinbrenner was the total opposite of his dad George who made constant headlines while running the team. George fired managers and called out his high profile players he felt were

not playing up to their potential. Hank took on more responsibilities running the team as his dad's health was failing. His passion for winning was as intense but less boisterous. The team issued a statement saying "Hank was a genuine and gentle spirit who treasured the deep relationships he formed with those closest to him."

The Yankees have not won a World Series since 2009 and a year later George passed away. The team failed to advance to the World Series in the last decade despite signing some of the biggest free agents. Aside from his baseball duties, Hank was part of the Indy car racing development program along with his son Michael IV. "More than anything, he set an example for all of us in how comfortably he lived enjoying his personal passions and pursuits. We are profoundly saddened to have lost him and will carry his memory with us always," the statement concluded.



Hank Followed in his Dad's Footsteps
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon