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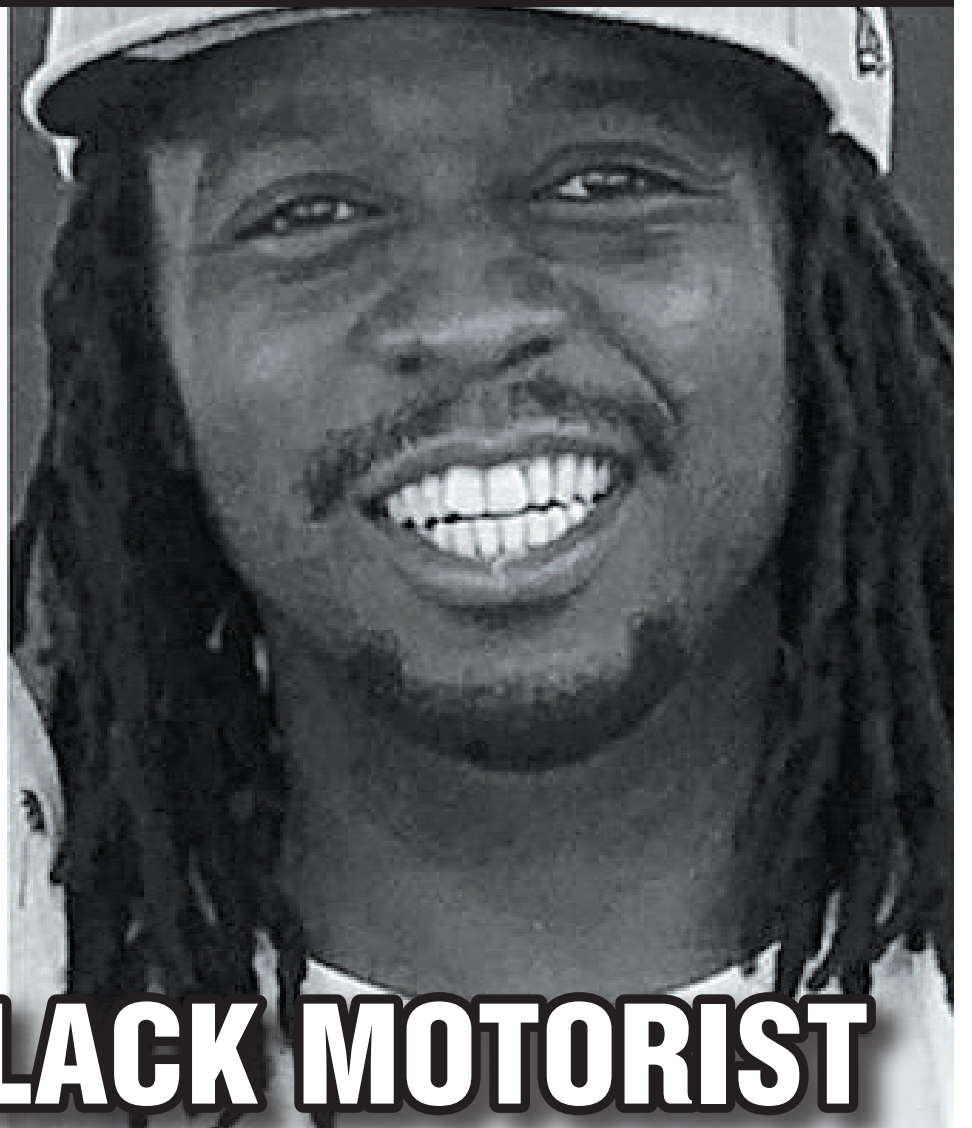
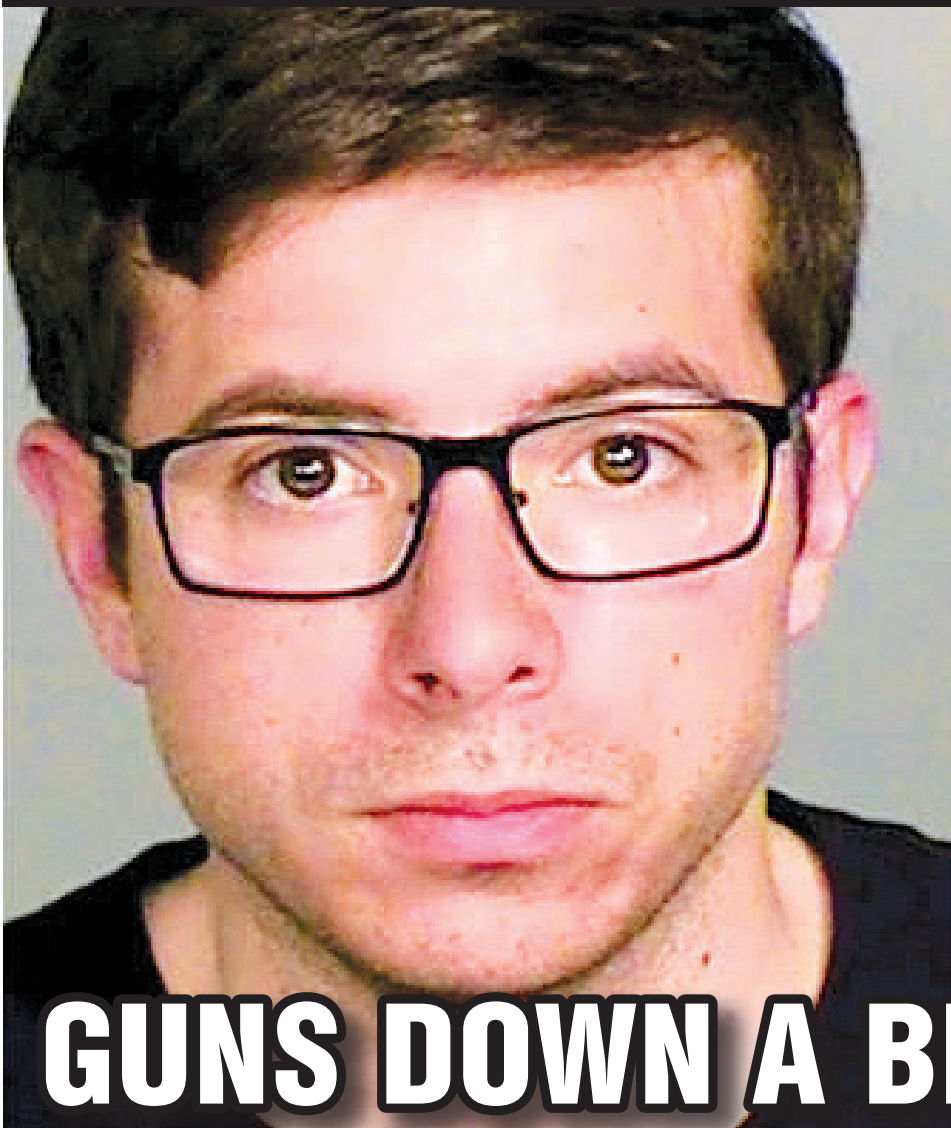
Speaking Truth to Justice

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ANOTHER ONE CLAIMING HE 'FEARED FOR HIS LIFE'



GUNS DOWN A BLACK MOTORIST

A white 24 year old Minnesota driver is charged with the shooting death of an unarmed Black driver following a minor collision and dispute. He is charged with Murder2, pg 3

Thousands around the world protest Floyd's death in global display of solidarity

Newyorbeacon.com(CNN)

Protesters have marched in the US for six consecutive nights over the death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer. Their anger over the

killing of the unarmed black man has now spread worldwide.

Over the weekend demonstrators gathered in London, Berlin and Auckland, among other cities, to protest against police brutality in solidarity with the US crowds.

Germany

Crowds gathered in Berlin in front of the US embassy on Saturday and Sunday. Participants wore face masks and carried signs declaring "Black lives matter" and "Justice can't wait".

People attend a protest rally against racism in front of the Brandenburg Gate following the recent death of George Floyd in the USA on May 31, 2020 in Berlin, Germany.



Britain

In London, protesters rallied in Trafalgar Square on Sunday morning, in defiance of Britain's lockdown rules which prohibit large gatherings.

Some participants marched to the US embassy in the capital's Nine Elms area.

People hold placards as they join a spontaneous Black Lives Matter march at Trafalgar Square to protest the death of George Floyd in London, England on May 31.



Denmark

Chants of "no justice, no peace" were heard in the streets of Copenhagen on Sunday, as protesters marched over Floyd's death. Some rallied outside the Danish capital's US embassy.

People protest during a Black Lives Matter demonstration in front of the US Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark, on May 31, 2020.

Italy

In Milan, crowds held a flashmob near the city's US consulate on Thursday.

Flash mob under the American consulate in Milan on 28 May 2020 to protest the death of George Floyd.



New Zealand

Protests over Floyd's killing were held in multiple locations across New Zealand on Monday. Thousands held demonstrations and vigils in places including Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Protestors march down Queen Street on June 01, 2020 in Auckland, New Zealand.

Canada

Several protests were also held in Canada during the weekend, as crowds rallied against alleged police brutality.



Police murder of George Floyd sparks uprisings across America

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

From the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul to the Streets of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago, Louisville, Atlanta, Washington, DC, and New York City, and the bright lights of the Big Apple, African Americans are expressing outrage over the police killing of George Floyd, the latest in a country-mile long list of Black men and women murdered under the color of law.

City officials in Minneapolis and St. Paul called on the National Guard, and state police lined the streets there in riot gear.

An 8PM curfew was ordered, and an African American CNN reporter was arrested while giving a live report from a hotspot of protests.

In California, demonstrators closed the 101 freeway in San Jose as marchers took to the streets in San Francisco and Oakland.

In New York, where the novel coronavirus hit America the hardest and where residents had remained reluctant to gather outdoors, protestors jammed city streets.

New York's Gov. Andrew Cuomo joined an extensive list of politicians condemning the action of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, 44, who, along with three other officers, were videotaped using excessive force on Floyd.

National Newspaper Publishers Association Chair Karen Carter Richards and NNPA President and



CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., and numerous other Black Press of America newspaper publishers have expressed outrage over Floyd's murder and concern about the rampant killings of African Americans at the hands of police and white supremacist vigilantes acting under color of law.

Chauvin inexplicably pressed his knee against a handcuffed Floyd's neck while the young Black man lay on the ground.

The assault went on for nine minutes, with Floyd pleading that he couldn't breathe.

Floyd died a short time later at a local hospital.

On Friday, May 29, Chauvin was arrested and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter. Later on that day, bail was set at \$500,000.

He faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

"This is not a new story, this is a continuing narrative," Governor Cuomo stated. "This is just another chapter in the book called: Injustice and inequality in America."

Earlier, former President Barack Obama released a state-

ment weighing in on the injustice regularly experienced by African Americans.

"This shouldn't be 'normal' in 2020 America. It can't be 'normal,'" Obama stated. "If we want our children to grow up in a nation that lives up to its highest ideals, we can and must be better."

"It will fall mainly on the officials of Minnesota to ensure that the circumstances surrounding George Floyd's death are investigated thoroughly and that justice is ultimately done."

"But it falls on all of us, regardless of our race or station — including the majority of men and women in law enforcement who take pride in doing their tough job the right way, every day — to work together to create a 'new normal' in which the legacy of bigotry and unequal treatment no longer infects our institutions or our hearts."

Margaret Huang, president, and chief executive officer of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), said the organization joins

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Trump declares himself the law and order president

President Trump on Monday responded to peaceful protesters in front of the White House, who were still within their curfew limits, by turning the military on them with tear gas and hails of rubber bullets. Then in the Rose Garden Trump declared that he is "an ally of all peaceful protesters," before declaring himself the law and order president.

In a defiant manner, Trump strode across Lafayette Park to stand in front of the iconic St John's Church holding a Bible while striking a pose merely for a photo op.

And after using St. John's Church, the "church of the presidents," Trump drew immediate criticism from faith leaders, including Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

"The President just used the Bible, our sacred text of the Judeo-Christian tradition, and one of the churches of my diocese, without permission, as a backdrop for a message antithetical to the teachings of Jesus,"

In order for the media moment



to take place, peaceful demonstrators in Lafayette Square were dispersed by police with tear gas, flash grenades, and rubber bullets to clear the way for the president.

It appears that Trump had been aggravated and enraged by media's portrayal of him being sheltered in a bunker for his safety the night before during protests around the White House, according to CNN.

Trump threatens to send military force to the states if violence isn't stopped.



White motorist charged with murder of Black St Paul man

By Mel Reeves, Minnesota
Spokesman-Recorder

While much of the country is still up and arms about the apparent racially motivated killing of Ahmaud Asbery, Twin Cities social media was abuzz with speculation about whether the killing of a Black man by a White man claiming he felt threatened was also motivated by race.

In the late evening of May 1st, Douglas Lewis was killed after he was shot four times by Watertown resident Anthony Trifiletti after a minor traffic accident. Trifiletti, who was licensed to carry a firearm, told authorities that he shot Lewis — who was unarmed — because he feared for his life.

The Ramsey County prosecutors' office charged Trifeletti with second degree murder. Lewis, 39, was Black, Trifiletti 25 is White.

"As soon as a White man says he was afraid for his life, I always know they are racist. He killed my brother in cold blood," said Valerie Lewis, Doug Lewis's sister.

According to his sister Valerie, Doug came to Minnesota in 2003. He was living a pretty rough life back home in Chicago. He was ready to change.

Ironically, his sister said, "He came to Minnesota so he could experience some peace in his life, because he was tired of all the violence in Chicago." On the day he was shot, he had visited his sister and barbecued for both families and had left to retrieve his car. Lewis was a delivery driver for Amazon and Door Dash.

"He was so sweet, so nice, so loving. He was charming, helpful and a caring and loving Father," longtime girlfriend Christine Hicks said of her deceased partner Lewis, who was father to four children. "He was a hard-working man. He always tried to do what he thought was best. And he was doing everything right."

Trifiletti and Lewis were involved in an auto accident that occurred on Burns Road near Highway 61 in St Paul.

Lewis was driving a silver Ford car and Trifiletti a red pickup truck. Apparently, Lewis' car bumped Trifiletti's truck from behind. The two pulled over and discussed exchanging insurance info when an argument ensued, during which time Trifiletti said that he and a friend on the scene heard Lewis say, "I'm GD."

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The Tulsa race massacre happened 99 years ago today. It was one of the worst acts of racial violence in the US

Philadelphiaobserver.com

As Americans' rage over racial injustice boils over into a sixth day of protests, Monday also marks the 99th anniversary of one of the worst acts of racial violence the country has ever seen.

This year's anniversary of the 1921 Tulsa race massacre comes amid nationwide demonstrations sparked by the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old unarmed black man who died last week at the hands of a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

And while Floyd's name along with his repeated plea, "I can't breathe," have been exclaimed by thousands of protesters, the victims' names of the Tulsa race massacre have been rarely spoken as the incident went unmentioned for decades in classrooms across the state.

Here's how the massacre, also known as the Tulsa Race Riot, unfolded.

It started with an elevator encounter

In the 1920s, the Greenwood District was dubbed "Black Wall Street" as the community boasted more than 300 black-owned businesses, including two theaters,



doctors, pharmacists and even a pilot who owned his own private airplane.

The success of this black community, however, caused some white people in Tulsa to become envious and angry, according to Mechelle Brown, director of programs at the Greenwood Cultural Center.

They commented, "How dare these negroes have a grand piano in their house, and I don't have a piano in my house," Brown told CNN's Sara Sidner in 2016.

The tension reached its tipping point after an elevator incident between a 17-year-old white girl named Sarah Page and a 19-year-old black man named Dick Rowland.

Page worked as an elevator operator and Rowland would use the elevator almost every day.

"This particular day after the elevator doors closed and Sarah Page and Dick Rowland were alone in the elevator a few moments, there was a scream," Brown said.

After the elevator doors opened, Rowland ran and was later arrested. Page initially claimed that she was assaulted, Brown said.

Other historic accounts say Rowland tripped leaving the elevator, grabbed Page's arm, she screamed and an onlooker went to authorities.

While Page never pressed charges, authorities did, and by the end of the day the rumor was that Page had been raped.

Coronavirus: South Korea closes schools again after biggest spike in weeks

Philadelphiaobserver.com

More than 200 schools in South Korea have been forced to close just days after they re-opened, due to a new spike in virus cases.

Thousands of students had earlier on Wednesday returned to school as the country began easing virus restrictions.

But just a day later, 79 new cases were recorded, the highest daily figure in two months.

Most of these cases have been linked to a distribution center outside Seoul.

The warehouse, in the city of Bucheon, is run by the country's biggest e-commerce firm Coupang, and officials have said the facility was not strictly complying with infection control measures. Health officials even discovered traces of Covid-19 on workers' shoes and clothes.

It's possible that South Korea will continue to see a rise in cases as it continues to test thousands of employees from the center.

Some 58 new cases were recorded on Friday, bringing the total number of cases nationwide to 11,402.

Police murder of George Floyd sparks uprisings across America

From page 3

with its allies in condemning the recent police killings of Floyd, Tony McDade, Sean Reed, and Breonna Taylor.

"Following the tragic killing of Ahmaud Arbery by a former police officer, the impact of these murders reaches across the country, and there must be accountability. It is absolutely imperative that local police departments and district attorneys investigate, arrest, and prosecute officers and all who violate the rights of the people who live in the communities they are charged to serve," Huang stated.

"Equally important, law enforcement must stop responding to peaceful protest of police killings with more violence. Police are obligated to protect those in the community, and punishing peaceful protest is a gross abuse of human rights," she stated. We stand with millions of people across the country who are rightfully outraged by the killing of unarmed Black people, the lack of responsiveness, the lack

of action and President Trump calling for violence against those demanding justice for Mr. Floyd's death."

Florida Rep. Val Demings, who is Black and a former Orlando police chief, wrote an op-ed for the Washington Post Friday, noting that, "as a former woman in blue, let me begin with my brothers and sisters in blue: What in the hell are you doing?"

"As law enforcement officers, we took an oath to protect and serve. And those who forgot — or who never understood that oath in the first place — must go. That includes those who would stand by as they witness misconduct by a fellow officer," she wrote.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. concluded, "The NNPA, the voice of Black America, calls for an independent investigation into the police murder of George Floyd. We do not trust the perpetrators to investigate themselves. Black America's cup has run over with grief, anger and rage as a result of these continuing racially motivated murders. If there is no justice, there will be no peace."

Attorney General Keith Ellison takes over George Floyd murder case

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent
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Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison has taken over the prosecution of ex-police officer Derek Chauvin in the murder of George Floyd, an unarmed and handcuffed African American who died because of the actions of Chauvin and other officers.

"It is with a large degree of humility and great seriousness, I accept for my office, the responsibility for leadership in this critical case involving the killing of George Floyd," Ellison said during a news conference in Minneapolis.

"We are going to bring to bear all the resources necessary to achieve justice in this case," he pronounced.

Ellison's appointment came following a telephone meeting between hip-hop icon Jay-Z and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz.

JAY-Z described the conversation as "very earnest" and thanked Governor Walz.

"Earlier today, Governor Walz mentioned having a human conversation with me — a dad and a black man in pain," Jay-Z, whose



real name is Shawn Carter, wrote in a statement.

"Yes, I am human, a father and a black man in pain, and I am not the only one. This is just a first step. I am more determined to fight for justice than any fight my would-be oppressors may have."

Walz noted that the icon came to him "not as an international performer, but dad, stressing to me that justice needs to be served."

This week, Jay-Z's superstar wife, Beyonce, also spoke out on Floyd's death on a social media post.

"We need justice for George Floyd," she uttered. "We all witnessed his murder in broad daylight. We're broken, and we're disgusted. We cannot normalize this pain."

Walz's selection of Ellison comes as uprisings are taking place around the country and abroad. It also comes as Floyd's family and their attorney, Ben Crump, have demanded that the other three officers involved face charges.

The family remains outraged that Chauvin is the only officer arrested so far, and prosecutors have leveled just the relatively minor third-degree murder charge against the cop.

Ellison, a former congressman from Minnesota who ran for chair of the Democratic National Committee in 2017, noted that he was accepting the lead on the case with "a large degree of humility and great seriousness."



Disney World sets reopening date

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Disney World will reopen its gates, ending a multi-month closure of the park that left the Walt Disney Company reeling.

The Disney theme park, which employs some 70,000 people, plans to begin a phased reopening on July 11 for its Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom parks and July 15 for EPCOT and Hollywood Studios, the company said on Wednesday.

Walt Disney World as well as Disney's Disneyland resort in Anaheim, California, closed in mid-March because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Disney is implementing several measures to reopen safely and prevent the spread of the coronavirus at its parks.

Employees and guests will be required to wear face coverings and undergo temperature screenings before entering the parks.

Disney will reduce capacity at the parks and the resort will

temporarily suspend parades, fireworks and other events that create crowds.

The resort will also enable cashless transactions by expanding contactless payments.

Disney will also increase the number of available hand-sanitizing stations.

The plan was approved Wednesday morning by the Orange County government. It still needs approval from Orange County's mayor and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

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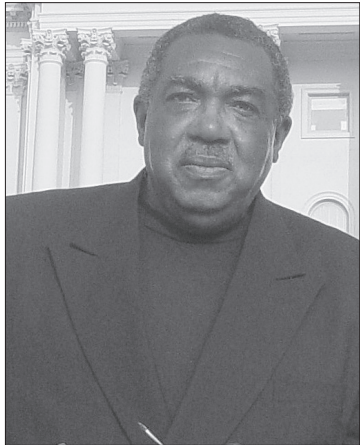
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Editorial

Philadelphia Observer

BET, TV ONE and OWN are not carrying out the functions of the Black press



By A. Peter Bailey

As a child growing up in Tuskegee, Alabama in the 1950's, my only connections with the national black community was the Pittsburgh Courier newspaper and JET magazine. I could hardly wait for them to be delivered every week. That's why no one has ever had to convince me of the importance of the Black Press.

When hearing black pontificators from the broadcast press so cavalierly predict the demise of

black newspapers I get extremely agitated. If they are right then we, as a people, are in much more trouble than even I thought because of black-owned TV One, OWN and black oriented BET are not up to the job. I came to this conclusion after watching them religiously during the home-boundness brought on by the COVID-19 virus. I enjoy programs such as Living Single, Martin and a couple of Tyler Perry films but they present absolutely no news coverage of any kind and very little serious cultural coverage. In fact the only program on the three that one

can say has any cultural relevance is *Unsung* on TV One.

A friend, Dr. Lionel C. Barrow, Jr., who was dean of Howard University's School of Communications, defined the role of the early Black Press in a 1977 handbook that celebrated the sesquicentennial of the Black Press. He stated that it has four major functions: "to perform as a watchdog function for the black community that the white press was either are unable or unwilling to perform, to answer the attacks published in the white press, to present a viewpoint that

differed even from that of liberal whites and to be a carrier and preserver of black culture." I am not saying that black newspapers are all that they can and should be in carrying out the functions cited by Dr. Barrow but at least many of them make an effort to do so.

TV One, OWN and BET do none of the first three functions and very little of the fourth. That's why we, as a people, are in deep you know what if the predictors of the demise of black newspapers are on target. It's up to us to prove them wrong.

Of course there are protests; the state is failing Black people.

By Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor

Ready or not, life is returning to some sort of normal in the United States, and normal inevitably includes police officers killing an unarmed black man in their custody, followed by street protests. The country is working its way back into its familiar groove.

This time it's Minneapolis. Thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest the killing of George Floyd by a police officer who pressed his knee into Mr. Floyd's neck for a breathtaking seven minutes as he lay pinned

on the ground in handcuffs. Mr. Floyd's pleas for help — repeating that he couldn't breathe, calling out for his dead mother — were ignored. The three other police officers who watched seemed uninterested in the life they were violently snuffing out in front of a crowd gathered in disgust.

Elected officials from Minnesota denounced the brutality. Jacob Frey, the mayor of Minneapolis, said, "Being black in America should not be a death sentence." Others, including Senator Amy Klobuchar, who hopes to emerge as Joe Biden's running mate, ex-

pressed a range of public emotions that have become commonplace: shock, horror, promises of investigation and pleas for calm. In a rare rebuke, the four officers involved have been fired.

But the fact that Mr. Floyd was even arrested, let alone killed, for the inconsequential "crime" of forgery amid a pandemic that has taken the life of one out of every 2,000 African-Americans is a chilling affirmation that black lives still do not matter in the United States.

It is easy to understand the response of multiracial protesters in Minneapolis. (If you look close-

ly, hundreds of white people are participating; the intersecting injustices are also apparent to them.) This spring season has bloomed at least 23,000 Covid-19-related deaths in black America. The coronavirus has scythed its way through black communities, highlighting and accelerating the ingrained social inequities that have made African-Americans most vulnerable to the disease.

This unbelievable loss of life has taken place while restrictions were at their tightest and social distancing at its most extreme. What will happen when the coun-

try fully reopens, even as the number coronavirus cases continues to grow? As mostly white public officials try to get things back to normal as fast as possible, the discussions about the pandemic's devastating consequences to black people melt into the background, consequences which become accepted as a "new normal" we will have to live or die with. If there were ever questions about whether poor and working-class African-Americans were disposable, there can be none now. State violence is not solely the preserve of the police.



Oprah Winfrey donates \$12M for COVID-19 relief in five cities

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent

During a recent virtual address to the class of 2020 college graduates, Oprah Winfrey spoke of the need to provide for those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

"What this pandemic has done is made me think about giving differently. How I give and who's on the receiving end of that, and how do you do that in such a way that sustains people? I've ultimately always believed that you teach people to fish. But sometimes people just need fish and a piece of bread," the media mogul stated. "Sometimes you need some fish, OK? Sometimes you don't have time to learn to fish. I just need some fish today!"

Winfrey made sure that there was plenty of "fish" in the places she's called home. Through the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation, the OWN Network boss announced she was donating \$12 million to organizations dedicated to helping underserved communities in Chicago, Baltimore, Nashville, Milwaukee and Kosciusko, Mississippi.

Born in Kosciusko, Winfrey has lived in each of the cities where she's donating money.

"This thing is not going away. Even when the virus is gone, the devastation left by people not being able to work for months who were holding on paycheck

to paycheck, who have used up their savings — people are going to be in need," Winfrey told the Associated Press.

"So, my thing is, look in your own neighborhood, in your own backyard to see how you can serve and where your service is most essential. That is the real essential work, I think, for people of means."

Of the \$12 million donations, Winfrey gave \$5 million to Live Healthy Chicago, which provides immediate support to seniors and high-risk residents affected by the coronavirus.

She gave \$2 million to Nashville Nurtures, a collaboration with Mount Zion Baptist Church and Tennessee State University (TSU). Winfrey graduated from TSU and began her career in Nashville. She later lived in Milwaukee, where she announced a \$100,000 gift to SaintA and the Nia Imani Family, Inc., which assists those in need of housing and mental health care.

In Baltimore, where she once worked, Winfrey is donating money to Living Classrooms Foundation and Center for Urban Families. Winfrey also said she's giving \$115,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of East Mississippi.

"I want to be able to reach people who have been incarcerated and are coming out of prison," Winfrey noted.

"I want to reach mothers of domestic violence. I want to reach people. I want to feed people. I want to help people get access to testing.



White motorist charged with murder of Black St Paul man

From page 3

None of the witnesses at the scene confirmed that they heard Lewis make that claim. After the exchange they both got in their cars and left.

In his statement to police, the shooter claimed that after driving away, he "unintentionally" followed Lewis. Lewis pulled over and Trifiletti pulled over behind him and when Lewis got out of his car, presumably to ask why the 25-year old was following him, the shooter claimed he saw Lewis reaching under his shirt.

At that point, according to Trifiletti's statement, he shot Lewis who he said was about ten feet away. Lewis subsequently died from his wounds at Regions Hospital in St Paul later that evening.

The shooter told police that he "thought he was going to die and was afraid for his life."

That statement is a familiar refrain as it is used by police in the U.S. as justification for shooting and sometimes killing people.

Valerie Lewis said a witness to the shooting told her that Trifiletti took a shooter's stance, aimed, and fired his weapon, "like he was a professional."

The killer fired his weapon four times, with each bullet striking Lewis.

Upon taking the shooter's

statement, police asked him if he thought the shooting could have been avoided. He told police he, "didn't think that was an option."

Why wouldn't it have been an option?" asked Minneapolis attorney Jordan Kushner. "I don't see a legal excuse for it. I can't say what's going to happen, but I don't see a legitimate defense from what I have read about it. If the system works, he shouldn't succeed if that's his defense."

Minnesota laws governing self-defense claims are fairly stringent and straightforward. In order to claim self-defense legally, a person is obligated to retreat from danger unless it is impossible. They have to be in legitimate fear of death or great bodily harm and their extreme reaction has to be justified as the only choice left to them.

Incidentally, there is no "stand your ground" law in Minnesota.

Trifiletti initially left the scene of the shooting but came back after consulting with his father over the phone, who suggested that he turn himself in to police. He was subsequently charged him with second degree murder and his bail was initially set at a million dollars.

In his first appearance before the court on last Friday morning, his bail was reduced to \$500,000 with the stipulation that he wear

an electronic monitor, hand over his firearms, stay away from drugs and alcohol and volunteer for a chemical health evaluation.

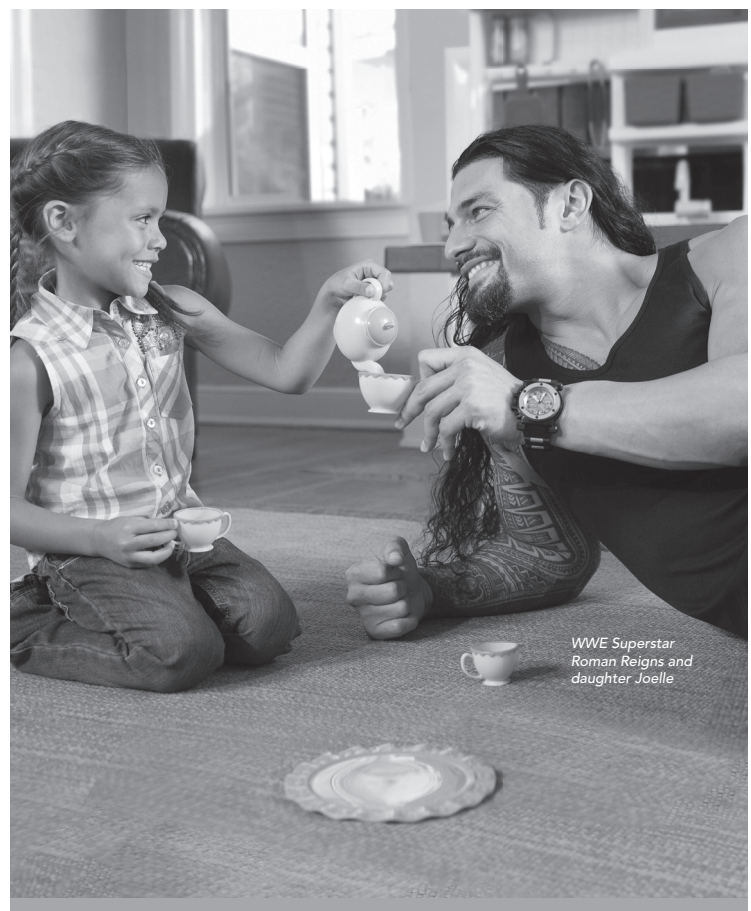
Many of Lewis' family and friends, including his girlfriend, were on hand at the hearing.

Trifiletti's attorney told the court that his client was not wealthy and could not afford bail and was not a threat to society or a risk to run. However, the killer has had contacts with police including a DWI and he was involved in a traffic accident that caused the death of another motorist about a year ago. The mother of the accident victim, Karen Malave, was in court showing support for the Lewis family.

She told the Star Tribune that her son, Ricardo Torres, was killed in a motorcycle crash with Trifiletti. She felt badly and regrets that another family is going through what hers did.

"If the weapon is the color of our skin, then we will always be looked at [as] armed," said Pastor Brian Herron of Zion Baptist Church. "We are not free to just be."

A vigil was held for the father of four two weekends ago near the scene of the shooting on Burns Avenue in St Paul, in which over 50 people attended to honor his memory and express their condolences and grief.



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On the scene

By Audrey J. Bernard

These five Black designers were sew good but still did not make the final cut!

The 18th season of Project Runway kicked-off Thursday, December 5, 2019 on BRAVO with a double elimination that featured Asma Bibi. The remaining 14 designers went on to com-

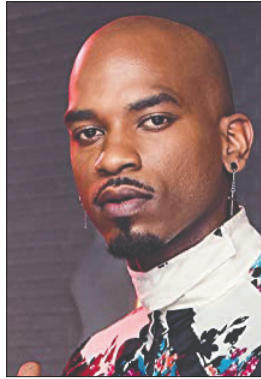
pete to become “the next great American designer” which was won by **Geoffrey Mac**. Returning as judges were supermodel **Karlie Kloss**, editor-in-chief **Elle**, **Nina Garcia**, fashion designer

Brandon Maxwell and former editor-in-chief of *Teen Vogue* **Elaine Welteroth**. Season 4 winner **Christian Siriano** returned to mentor the designers. The competition was stiff and although

five talented Black designers competed, they were all eliminated with **Chelsey Carter** going on to episode 8 and many feeling she was cheated out of the final selection likewise Brooklyn’s own

Marquise Foster who was eliminated in episode 7 brought back in episode 8 and eliminated again in episode 12. Here are the five Black contestants who were sew good! (Photos courtesy BRAVO)

Marquise Foster (5th Place, Double Elimination), age 30, Brooklyn, NY, eliminated in episode 12, “The Height of Avant-Garde Fashion.” Foster was a self-proclaimed “artsy kid” who grew up in the rough neighborhood of Oakland. To stay out of trouble, he moved to Louisiana to live with his father when he was 13 years old, and channeled his energy into fashion as a creative outlet. In 2009, Marquise moved to New York City to pursue his dreams in fashion. Marquise taught himself sewing, construction techniques,



Marquise Foster

and everything related to making his own clothes from his home in Brooklyn. After taking his skills to various internships with local designers, Marquise decided to launch his own brand. Aside from designing his eponymous clothing line, he teaches fashion design to young creative high schoolers in Harlem. Marquise’s collections are well-rounded, ranging from menswear and womenswear to avant-garde gowns. His experience in house and ballroom community has allowed him to expand his creativity and push his own boundaries to construct standout, unique garments.



Marquise Foster design

ShaVi Lewis, age 33, Newark, NJ, eliminated in episode 6, “There is Only One You.” Lewis has never been a stranger to creativity, growing up with a musician father, a theatrically trained mother, and a family of singers, like the Jackson’s, in Hillside, New Jersey. At seven years old, he desperately wanted an expensive sequined jacket for his choir concert that his grandmother offered to make from scratch. Ever since then, he has been inspired by his seamstress and designer grandmother to create and sew



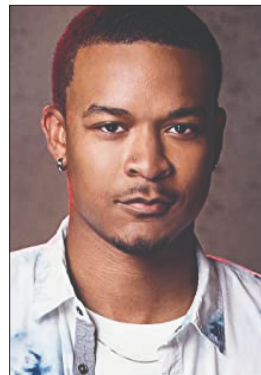
ShaVi Lewis

his own garments. This interest evolved, and in high school, he took classes at FIT during his summer breaks, and later, attended Clark Atlanta University for a degree in Fashion Design. While he did not graduate, it is at Clark where he found his style and flair for the dramatics, on which he founded his brand. For the past five years, ShaVi has been designing for his own self-titled line of clothing, as well as working as a creative director for an Italian menswear company called Stephen F. He has a classic feminine aesthetic to his luxury womenswear, but still loves to take risks with his designs



ShaVi Lewis design

Delvin McCray (7th Place), age 25, Chicago, IL, eliminated in episode 10, “Live and Let Tie Dye.” McCray has a love for the fine arts that blossomed in his early years. He was one of ten kids and art became an outlet to express himself during his sheltered and strict childhood. This ultimately led him to major in Fashion Design at Columbia College Chicago. He describes fashion as his “fate” and can’t imagine doing anything else as a career. After an internship, which honed his skills in couture sewing and

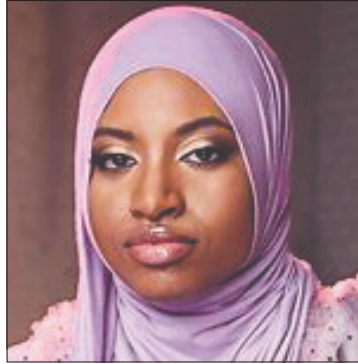


Delvin McCray

bespoke suit tailoring, he created his namesake brand, drawing inspiration from the Elizabethan era. His aesthetic, described as dark romanticism, influences everything from his avant-garde designs to his ready-to-wear clothing. He designs for strong men and women who like to avoid trends and have a desire to make their mark on the world. His two proudest moments were being in Barbara Bates’ fashion show and having his clothes featured in *British Vogue* in the Feb., Mar., and Apr. 2019 issues. He also competed in the Driehaus Design Initiative Competition in 2016.



Delvin McCray design



Asma Bibi

Asma Bibi (1st Place, Double Elimination), age 30, Atlanta, GA, eliminated in episode 1, “Blast Off.” Bibi found her passion for fashion at a young age. While Asma was growing up in Philadelphia, a city largely populated with American Muslims, her parents operated a clothing business and her mother taught her the basics of garment making. From there Asma taught herself more advanced skills aided by online tutorials and YouTube. Asma’s motivation for designing a fashion line stemmed from the gap she noticed in the fashion market for modern and modest clothing that appealed to young Muslim women. In 2017, Asma

launched her brand Hijabi Pop with the mission of creating modest yet trendy outfits for millennial Muslim females. In 2018, the designer showed her collection at the Fall 2018 Hijab Fest, the CLF Conference in Atlanta, and New York Fashion Week. In the future, Asma’s mission is to take her modest-wear line mainstream as a modest luxury brand. She takes pride in her determination and identity as an African-American Muslim woman.



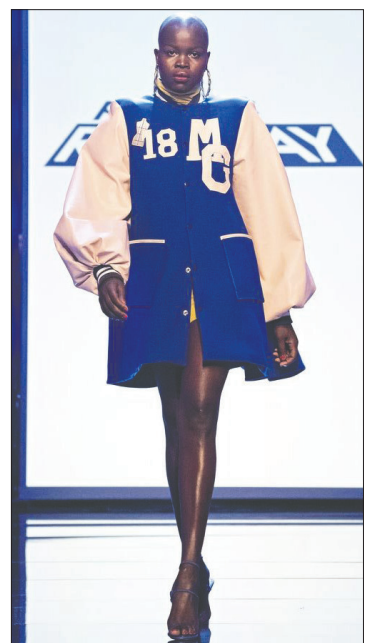
Asma Bibi design



Chelsey Carter

Chelsey Carter (8th Place), age 30, Chicago, IL, eliminated in episode 8 “Sheer Genius.” When she was younger, Carter was sure that painting was the path for her, until her high school art teacher saw her unique style and urged her to consider fashion design. After some convincing, she applied and was accepted to The Art Institute in Chicago. She focuses on the abstract for inspiration for her designs. Her brand, Alex Carter which she launched in 2015, is unisex, catering to customers who are risk-taking and statement-making. Her goal is to exude sensuality in her clothing without having to bare it all. Chelsey’s studio, Dojo Studios in Chicago, where she

has shot her lookbooks for the past three years, also doubles as a rental space for other creative professionals to work. One of her biggest role models is her grandmother, who embodies everything she strives to be as a woman and feeds her drive as a designer. Her jackets can be seen on SZA and Chance the Rapper, and she has sold to Erykah Badu. She has been featured in *Vogue Italia* and many other magazines.



Chelsey Carter design

On the scene



Favor in the midst of storm

Philadelphia pastor launches inspiration station in the midst of a pandemic, social unrest

PHILADELPHIA, PA — JAM-JACKJR ENTERPRISES is set to sign on its new gospel radio station. Philly's Favor 100.7 "Working for His Favor Every Day" will launch on June 8, 2020 and will broadcast on translator W264BH 100.7 FM and WJBR HD-3. In addition to the Philadelphia frequency, 100.7 Philly's Favor will also be available to stream online and on the app.

President and Chief Executive Officer, Jonathan A. Mason, Sr., Philly's Favor says it was designed to uplift the community and inspire positive change. The format will feature inspirational music and gospel hits highlighting artists such as Marvin Sapp, Kirk Franklin, Kanye West, Fred Hammond, Travis Greene, Kierra Sheard and Anthony Brown.

Bringing the gospel format back to the FM signal, Philly's Favor will have a stellar line up with some of gospel's leading talent. Gospel Music Legend and TV Host Bobby Jones will start the morning off from 5:00am

– 6:00am. Followed by the Dee Lee Show from 6:00am -9:00am and The Bishop Mary Show featuring Philadelphia's own Archbishop Mary Floyd Palmer from 10:00am –3:00pm. Grammy Award Winner, Bishop Hezekiah Walker 3:00pm to 7:00pm will round out the day.

The station will be programmed by veteran radio executive Ken Johnson who most recently served as Vice President of Urban Programming for Cumulus Media.

"I truly believe in the JAM-JACKJR ENTERPRISES mission to uplift and serve the community,"

says Program Director Ken Johnson. "Given the current political and social climate I couldn't think of a better time to launch this station."

"2nd Chronicles 7:14 tells us that if we learn to seek God's face and turn from our wicked ways, He will heal our land. With a pandemic gripping the nation, unemployment at depression level highs and social unrest causing violence in cities large and small, I think we can all agree that our land is in need of healing," said Mason LLC. Says. "It is with that thought in mind that we have decided to launch Philly's Favor

100.7 FM. We are committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ far and wide. Through our terrestrial signal, our App and stream, we will super-serve Philadelphia while providing great gospel content across the world. Our goal is to tithe back to our community in a substantive way. That is why we are launching our station with a food giveaway to 500 Philadelphia families. We invite you to join us on this journey."

Philly's Favor will be a 24-hour Gospel FM station in Philadelphia, playing a mix of contemporary and traditional gospel music



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Health

Polio, measles could surge after disruption of vaccine programs

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The widespread interruption of routine immunization programs around the world during the coronavirus pandemic is putting 80 million children under 1 year old at risk of contracting deadly, vaccine-preventable diseases, according to a report Friday by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

The groups surveyed 129 poor and middle-income countries and found that 68 had some degree of disruption of vaccine services through clinics and through large inoculation campaigns.

Measles initiatives, for example, have been suspended in 27 countries, including Chad and Ethiopia, and polio programs are on hold in 38, including Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Many public health experts say they are worried that deaths from diseases including cholera, rotavirus and diphtheria could far

outstrip those from Covid-19 itself.

The report highlighted warnings about polio, which had recently been all but eradicated, a hard-won victory that resulted from mass immunization programs that reached millions of children.

Dr. Seth Berkley, chief executive of Gavi, said that developing countries had made big gains in immunizations against numerous diseases in recent years. Before the pandemic hit, he said, more children in more countries had been protected against more vaccine-preventable diseases than ever before.

"Due to Covid-19, this immense progress is now under threat, risking the resurgence of diseases like measles and polio," he said.

Restarting immunization programs is crucial not just for preventing more outbreaks of life-threatening diseases, he said: "It will also ensure we have the infrastructure we need to roll out an eventual Covid-19 vaccine on a global scale."



The unexpected side effect of Covid-19

(CNN)

The concern was that Covid-19 would overwhelm the medical care system with patients. While that has happened in some hot spots, the broader picture is just the opposite: Covid-19 has deprived the system of patients.

Some of these would-be patients have surely been hurt: having either shied away or been told to stay away from interventions that would have helped them live longer and/or live better. For others the delay may not matter; they will do equally well with intervention at a later date. But it is important to consider another possible outcome: some do better with less medical care.

No one has national data yet, but the turn of events is remarkable.

In mid-March hospitals began to cancel elective surgeries both to protect patients and to provide surge capacity, following guidance from the American College of Surgeons. This not only halted hernia repairs and joint replacements, but also surgeries for low-risk cancers — specifically, early stage breast and prostate cancer.

Minneapolis protests escalate over George Floyd killing — in pictures

Next, emergency care unex-

pectedly plummeted. Emergency rooms in Boston, Detroit and Minneapolis/St. Paul saw substantial drops in volume, and ER doctors are experiencing cuts to both their hours and pay. The decline in volume doesn't appear to be confined to fewer minor injuries and self-limited illnesses, it also includes fewer heart attacks and strokes.

close dialog

But the impact of Covid-19 goes well beyond the hospital to include all physician/patient encounters. Despite the advent of telehealth, primary care practices are seeing fewer patients and laying off staff. The American Academy of Family Physicians estimates that about 40% of family medicine clinics are at risk of closing by the end of June — more than doubling the number of US counties with a significant shortfall in health care providers at the end of March.

Given fewer outpatient visits, one downstream effect is wholly expected: fewer lab tests and X-rays. This limits efforts to find disease early in asymptomatic individuals. Most notably, cancer screening has been effectively shut down.

What can we learn from this cataclysmic disruption in medical intervention?

Previous research on the global effects of doctor strikes suggests that overall mortality either remains stable — or, in fact, declines. Clearly, it will be important to carefully study 2020 mortality trends and disentangle Covid-related deaths from other causes of death. It will be equally important to distinguish the well-off from the poor: we may find that medical care disruption decreases mortality among the well-off, yet increases mortality among the poor.

While analysis of overall mortality is important, so, too, is looking into more granular topics. The disruption in elective surgeries should lead us to reevaluate the necessity of those surgeries and their associated risks. There are opportunities to look at still finer detail: In our hospitals (Brigham and OHSU), for example, women with early-stage breast cancer are having their surgeries delayed and are instead being started on hormonal therapy. Maybe we will learn that some women don't need surgery.

Suspending cancer screening is another important area to study. There is little doubt, for example, that the decline in mammography will lead to fewer breast cancers diagnosed. But is that a bad thing or good thing?



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Ethiopia's security forces accused of torture, evictions and killings – report

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Ethiopia's Nobel peace prize-winning prime minister Abiy Ahmed has been urged to investigate allegations that state security forces have committed a raft of serious human rights abuses including torture and unlawful killings since he came to power in 2018.

According to a report by Amnesty International, published on Friday, Ethiopia's military and police in its two most populous regions arbitrarily detained more than 10,000 people, summarily evicted whole families from their homes – some of which were burnt and destroyed – and in some cases were complicit in inter-communal violence targeting minorities.

Federal authorities have not responded to the report, which focuses on the period between January and December 2019 in the regions of Amhara and Oromia.

"Given the gravity and the duration [of the period in which abuses were reported] I cannot believe top officials are not aware of what was happening," the report's author, Fisseha Tekle, told the Guardian. "And if they are not then it is a dereliction of duty."

In Oromia, security forces are waging a counter-insurgency



campaign against rebels from the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), an armed guerrilla movement demanding more autonomy for Oromos, which returned from exile in 2018 after Abiy removed it from Ethiopia's list of terrorist organisations.

The move was part of a package of democratic reforms which won the prime minister widespread acclaim and, along with making peace with neighbouring Eritrea, secured him the Nobel peace prize last year. Shortly after becoming prime minister Abiy also confessed that security officials had in the past committed torture, and promised to ensure the sector was fully accountable in the future.

But the OLA has since returned to armed conflict, and accuses the government of failing to deliver its promises of more democracy and self-rule for Oromos.

Fighting in western and south-

ern parts of Oromia has involved targeted killings of local officials and community leaders and what the UN has described as "serious human rights violations". In Oromia's Guji district the unrest had driven 80,000 people from their homes by the start of this year.

Amnesty said it had a list of 39 people suspected of supporting the OLA who had been unlawfully executed in two parts of Guji since January 2019. It also said that on a single day in December 2018, soldiers from the federal military killed 13 people in the town of Finchawa in West Guji. One of those killed was an old woman selling milk on the street, according to an eyewitness who spoke to Amnesty.

Security forces are estimated to have detained more than 10,000 men and women suspected of supporting or working for the OLA, among other abuses documented by the organisation.

What Bolsonaro said as Brazil's coronavirus cases climbed

Philadelphiaobserver.com

That Brazil saw warning signs would be a dramatic understatement.

As Covid-19 raced across Europe, knocked the UK Prime Minister flat, and throttled New York City earlier this year, Brazil had plenty of notice that a catastrophe was on its way. But was some of the danger drowned out by the megaphone of its bombastic President Jair Bolsonaro, who has repeatedly dismissed the virus as a "little flu"?

Brazil has now claimed the grim title of most Covid-19 cases globally after the US. More than 25,000 people in Brazil have

died, and some experts say the death toll could quintuple by August. Hospitals and graveyards alike are being stretched to their limits.

Around the world, citizens are asking their governments how local outbreaks spiraled out of control. But in Brazil, where the acting Health Minister is a military general with no health background, and the President personally attends anti-lockdown rallies, it's not clear who in the federal government might even deign to answer the question.

"What do you want me to do?" Bolsonaro asked reporters last month. "I'm not a miracle worker."



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Culture

Jimmy Fallon apologizes for Chris Rock impersonation in blackface on 'SNL'

(CNN)

Jimmy Fallon is addressing his impersonation of Chris Rock in a "Saturday Night Live" sketch from 20 years ago in which he appeared in blackface.

Fallon issued an apology on Tuesday after video and criticism of the sketch, which originally aired on "SNL" in 2000, resurfaced on social media.

"While on SNL, I made a terrible decision to do an impersonation of Chris Rock while in blackface. There is no excuse for this," "The Tonight Show" host wrote in a tweet. "I am very sorry for making this unquestionably offensive decision and thank all of you for holding me accountable."

Fallon was a cast member on "Saturday Night Live" from 1998 to 2004. Rock starred on "SNL" from 1990 to 1993.

In the sketch, which is not posted on NBC or the show's websites, Fallon appeared as Rock on a talk show hosted by Regis Philbin (played by Darrell Hammond).

Fallon joins other entertainment figures, including Sarah Silverman, who have apologized for offensive comedy in their past following online criticism.



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Ponder this

How low will they go?



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

Senseless killings of African Americans abound wrapped in new coverings to justify how they can be overlooked or undermined. Too often, those under the blue banner have used

their power and might to take Black lives with no reservation or hesitation. We are undeniably privy through handheld devices to what can be termed as a devastating downfall in trust of the law and those who claim to be its followers.

Supposed upright citizens have often criticized and ridiculed those declaring "Black Lives Matter." All lives matter, but when the roll call points to one group of similar hues carrying the fullness of the most inhumane treatment, it becomes more than a thing that makes you wonder. We know a person of color will get a spot in a cemetery or a cot in a prison cell; before they get a day in court.

Most of us worry about losing what little we have managed to attain after years of hard work, earned pensions, social security, and healthcare coverage. With congressional and senatorial face to face bouts of insults and negative rhetoric spewed from a leader with low morals and acute shortness of empathy, we wonder how

low the government will go.

We remember the poignant words spoken by First Lady Michelle Obama, "when they go low, we go high." That was in 2017, today we wonder how low we can let them go, as their actions play out like a reality show.

We have witnessed over three years of nitwit commentary toward everything and just about everyone and that has opened the way for negative forces to exude their ugliness across the nation in living color. Some Americans are in utter shock and others are in nonsensical awe. The

laws of the nation are ignored and stalled as the process to take the highest seat in the land moves along with full-blown blatant ignorance revealed for the world to see.

Along with who we will vote for, we now have concerns about how to get the vote in. Who will suffer standing on lines at polling stations despite COVID-19 warnings or the safety net of the absentee ballot drop in by mail? If

you are thinking it is a bumpy ride now, imagine another four years, if the people do not make a solid determination to vote under any means necessary.

America is divided in need, indeed. Since COVID-19 has shut in the people, and shut down parts of every state, dismantling daily businesses, we have unlimited time available to stay abreast of current news and activities in and out of our city.

With reverence for the sanctity of safety, respect for human life and an attitude of gratitude for survivorship, there must be order and it must come to fruition through each of us. There is no time to waste in thoughtless procrastination. Gather up your resources, set aside what you will surely need down the road and stay focused on how to safely protect you and yours right now.

We cannot allow anyone to put their shackles of bondage on our aspirations toward a future that is our right as citizens. Do not

allow your mind to be filled with needless smut for amusement's sake. When the doors reopen and they surely will, we must be ready to grab whole of every opportunity.

Physically and psychologically, we are being challenged and some will not make it. What happens next is a decision to be made individually to enhance every possibility to survive economically, collectively. We must be in it to win it and make no mistake, the race has already begun in the new normal on the new horizon that is just a breath away.

Think deep and long on what it will take to move from today and onto a productive and prosperous future. [Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and Executive Director of Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries. She is a retired former Managing Editor and Woman's Editor of the New York Beacon News and current columnist for Harlem Community News, Inc. Contact: misshazel@twc.com]

Gospel music

Soloist Earnest Pugh belts out "God Wants To Heal You"

Posted By Don Thomas

Gospel Singer Earnest Pugh, has reunited with Kerry Douglas, Blacksmoke Music Worldwide CEO, on the soul-stirring Billboard Top Ten Gospel Airplay chart radio track, "God Wants to Heal You."

Over a decade ago, they created a string of hits such as "For My Good," "Every Promise," "Rain on Us" and "I Need Your Glory."

Pugh's five-octave vocal range and Douglas' marketing tactics made them an unbeatable team. After years apart, they have picked up where they left off to release Pugh's 10th album, The Outpour Experience Live.

Produced by Keith Williams, Michael Bereal and Marque Walker, it opens with "Your Glory" which begins as a conversation with God and morphs into a majestic worship anthem.

There are up-tempo sing-

along tracks such as "Thank You So Much," "The Grace Dance," "Grateful," and "Awesome God." It closes with "God Wants to Heal You." "I think 'Outpour' will be my last full album. In the future, I think I'll concentrate on singles and tracks because that's where the industry is right now. In addition, I want to broaden my horizons beyond merely singing.

"I want to expand my philanthropic endeavors to do more charity because the needs are so great right now. I also want to finally finish my doctorate in theology at the Dallas Theological Seminary so that I can become a professor at a university. It's also my aim to begin to get film and television placements for my music," says Pugh.

The film and television placements have already begun. Under the guidance of Pugh's manager, Vanzil Burke, he's already bagged a couple of big looks. His 2009

recording "Praise Break 'The Sundoe'" has been featured in CBS' The Neighborhood sitcom. His 2017 "Trade It All" was recently featured in the BETH movie premiere of Director Coke Daniel's His, Hers and The Truth,

"After the movie made such a major impression at the Black Film Festival in Miami last year, the producers called and asked me for a song that would go with a certain scene in the movie. Because my repertoire is mostly gospel music, I felt that the only song I had that would be fitting and proper would be my remake of Joe Cocker's 'You Are So Beautiful'.

"They never replied to my email when I sent that song but instead, they called and said they were going through my body of work and found 'Trade It All.' I called CEO of Blacksmoke Music, Mr. Kerry Douglas and he said by all means we should give clearance for the song to be on the soundtrack and the rest is history," said Pugh.



Earnest Pugh

Subscribe Philadelphia Observer

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philadelphiaobserver.com

Music

By Audrey J. Bernard

Bounce & Brown Sugar celebrate Black Music Month

Hot Atlanta is the place to be this month as **Bounce**, the first and only multi-platform entertainment network targeting African Americans and Brown Sugar, Bounce's popular subscription streaming service, team up for a major Black Music Month celebration this month!

Bounce's schedule celebrates the contributions of African-Americans to music all month-long with iconic films including Cadillac Records, featuring Beyoncé as music legend Etta James; Mos Def as Chuck Berry and others in the story of pioneering Chess Records; Diana Ross' Oscar®-nominated performance as jazz legend Billie Holiday in Lady Sings the Blues; The Wiz with Ross as Dorothy and Michael Jackson as the Scarecrow easing on down the yellow brick road; the rap music-based Hustle & Flow; Idlewild featuring an ensemble cast including Andre 3000 and Big Boi of Outkast; Juice starring Tupac Shukur; and more. Visit BounceTV.com for all dates and times.

Brown Sugar's extensive curated collection of Black Music Month hits—which will be free to anyone accessing the service through Xfinity X1 from June 15-21—includes: Prince: A Purple Reign - The life and legacy of one of the greatest musicians of all time. Beyoncé: On Top - The story of Queen Bey's ascension. Michael Jackson: The Journey - Chronicles the rise of the King of Pop. Rihanna: No Regrets - A must-see for any music fan. Al Green: Everything's Gonna Be Alright - Live 1991 performance by the renowned soul singer. Mahalia Jackson: The Power & The Glory - The story of the gospel legend is told. Welcome to Death Row - The rise and fall of Death Row Records. The Winans: The Lost Concert - A classic 1984 performance by the contemporary gospel pioneers. The Dempsey Sisters - Cymphonique Miller, Denyce Lawton and Teairra Mari return to their roots. Hallelujah Gospel - Inspirational music from legendary gospel and



Bounce & Black Sugar celebrate Black Music Month

pop performers. The L.A. Mass Choir - The popular gospel choir performs their hits at the Celebrity Theater in California.

In addition to its spectacular Black music celebration Brown Sugar will also pay homage to Father's Day with strong paternal performances including: Comeback Dad, starring Charles S. Dutton who reconnects with

daughter Tatyana Ali after years of abandonment; Sounder, the depression-era drama starring Paul Winfield and Cecily Tyson; My Dad's A Soccer Mom, a gender-flipping comedy starring Lester Speight and Skai Jackson and many more.

Bounce (@bouncetv) is the first and only multi-platform entertainment network targeting African

Americans, with programming seen over-the-air, on cable, on DISH channel 359, over-the-top on Roku®, on mobile devices via the Bounce and Brown Sugar apps and on the web via BounceTV.com.

Brown Sugar is available on Apple TV, Roku, Chromecast, Comcast Xfinity X1, Amazon Channels, Amazon Fire TV, Amazon Kindle, Android TV, Win-

dows/Xbox, Android and Apple smartphones and tablets and web browsers via BrownSugar.com. There is a free 7-day initial trial period for subscribers with a retail price of \$3.99/month thereafter. Visit www.BrownSugar.com for more information. Bounce and Brown Sugar are both a part of The E.W. Scripps Company (NASDAQ: SSP).

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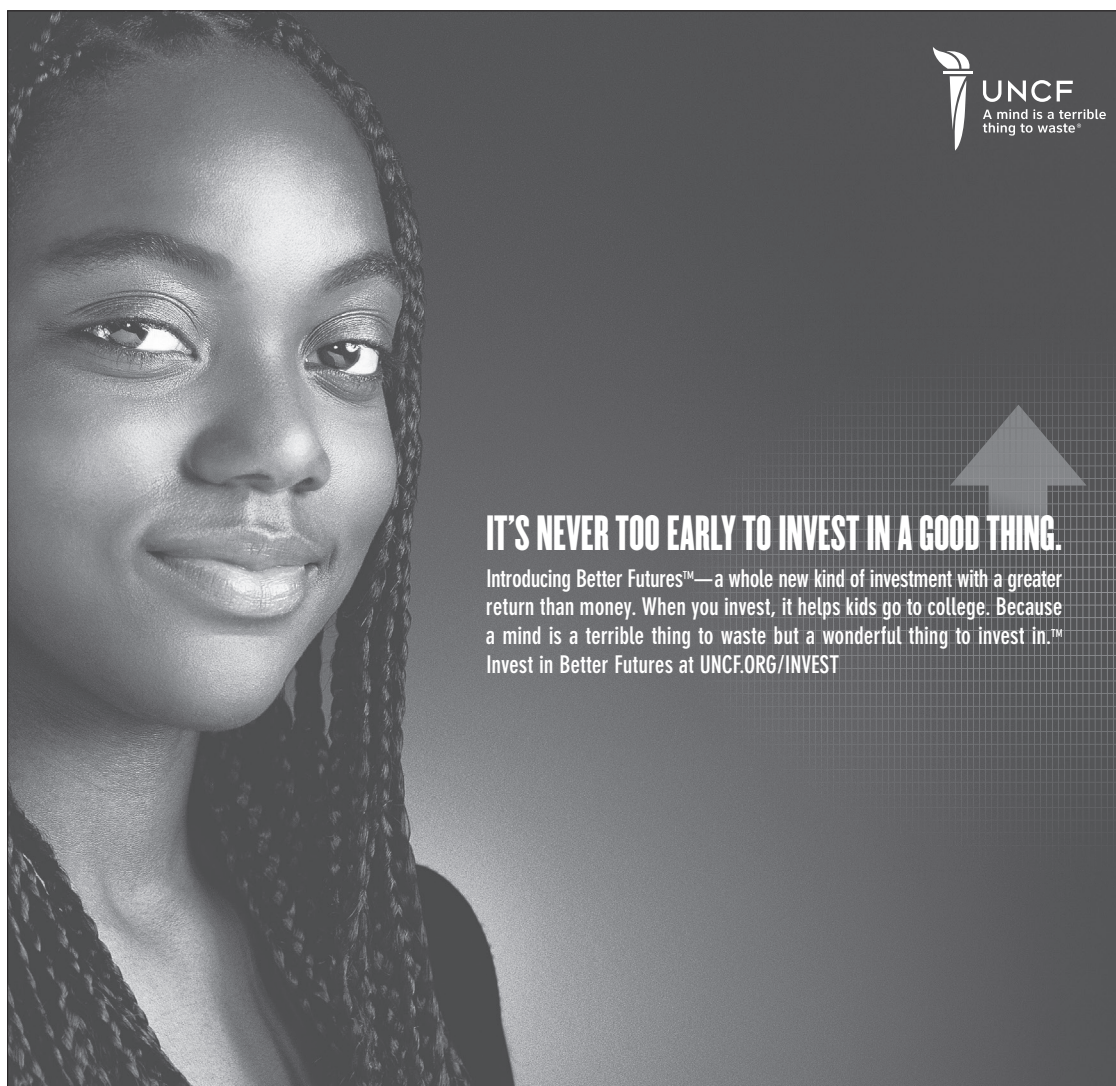
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Sports

Sports speak after the murder of George Floyd



Jackson Devastated at the Murder of Floyd
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

By Andrew Rosario

The picture of police officer Derek Chauvin burying his knee on the neck of George Floyd which resulted in his death was both disturbing and appalling. Making matters worse was the fact that two other police officers held Floyd down as well even though he was handcuffed. A fourth officer stood watch and did not do anything to descale the situation. An autopsy revealed that the cause of death was caused by Asphyxiation due to neck and back compression that led to a lack of blood flow to the brain. Chauvin, a 19 year veteran with 18 complaints on his record, was eventually charged with murder and manslaughter. The other 3 officers have yet to be

charged as of this issue.

It has led to riots, looting and fires to establishments. At least two people have been killed and injuries to both civilians and police have occurred. Curfews have been mandated in Los Angeles and New York with the National Guard being sent to Minneapolis to help control the crowd. Combine that with the Coronavirus/Covid19 pandemic and cities trying to re-open businesses and things look like they will get worse before they get better.

We have seen all too often recently people of color both male and female losing their lives at the hands of police officers without being charged. High profile athlete's remained quiet for the most part. All of this happening when

San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick took a knee prior to a game in 2016 to bring attention to the crimes committed by law enforcement. Kaepernick has never set foot upon the field again.

Back in 2014 after the death of Eric Garner at the hands of New York City police officers, LeBron James wore a "I can't breathe" t-shirt. Several other players followed suit but the backlash didn't come close to the outrage and comments made by athlete's and coaches as a result of the Floyd murder.

As the video became viral, statements were made via the internet, Facebook and Instagram. Ex-NBA player and close friend Stephen Jackson defended the character of Floyd saying, "they are not going to destroy the character

of George Floyd, my twin." San Antonio Spurs head coach, who has made comments in the past when it came to race relations, said, "the U.S. needs a president that says black lives matter." Michael Jordan, who was once quoted as saying " republicans buy sneakers too," issued a statement in part saying, "I am deeply saddened, truly pained and plain angry," he began. "I see and feel everyone's pain, outrage and frustration. I stand with those who are calling out the ingrained racism and violence toward the people of color in our country. We have had enough."

Since the days of Muhammad Ali, Jim Brown, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, there have been a dearth of African American athlete's and non athlete's who have spoken

out when it comes social issues. It is hard to gauge the responses from players and coaches had there been a full slate of games being played. Protest would still have taken place that is one thing for sure. Not would how it have effected attendance, we'll never know. The owners of MLB, NHL and NBA are still haggling as to when their seasons will start or resume.

One thing is for sure, there will be more riots and protests until the police officer's responsible for the cruel and brutal murder of George Floyd are prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Until then, more people who are in the position of prominence need to continue to speak up. It will be the only way to honor the memory of George Floyd.