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YOUTH SUICIDE ON THE RISE

New research shows an alarming rise in Black young people trying to take their own lives

“There has been a lot of complex grief and loss related to death, related to loss of jobs and loss of income,” said Sean Joe, an expert on Black suicides at Washington University in St. Louis, pg 3



Supreme Court rules Manhattan DA can obtain Trump taxes

Philadelphiaobserver.com

WASHINGTON — Rejecting President Donald Trump's complaints that he's being harassed, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday in favor of a New York prosecutor's demands for the billionaire president's tax records. But in good political news for Trump, his taxes and other financial records almost certainly will be kept out of the public eye at least until after the November election.

In a separate case, the justices kept a hold on banking and other documents about Trump, family

members and his businesses that Congress has been seeking for more than a year. The court said that while Congress has significant power to demand the president's personal information, it is not limitless.

The court turned away the broadest arguments by Trump's lawyers and the Justice Department that the president is immune from investigation while he holds office or that a prosecutor must show a greater need than normal to obtain the tax records. But it

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Some 35 states see a rise in new Covid-19 cases, average age of the infected shifts downward

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The US has recorded more than 3.3 million coronavirus cases since the pandemic began, according to Johns Hopkins University, and at least 135,205 Americans have died. Across the world, 12.9 million people have tested positive for the virus.

Despite another bleak milestone, the US numbers could just be the tip of the iceberg, as experts have often highlighted infections could be around 10 times higher than what is reported, as many go untraced. And nearly 40% of Americans who were infected show no symptoms, according to new estimates by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Across the US, both local and state leaders have said in recent

weeks new cases are largely driven by Americans who have opted to resume gatherings and outings to bars. In many states, the average age of new cases has shifted downward, with more young people testing positive than ever before since the start of the pandemic.

In Louisiana, officials reported more than 1,300 new coronavirus cases Sunday — 99% of which were spread through the community and more than a third of which were in people aged 29 or younger, officials said. Gov. John Bel Edwards announced a mask mandate will go into effect Monday morning following an uptick in cases. Many of those new cases are being traced to gatherings including informal backyard get-togethers, the governor said.

Zindzi Mandela, daughter of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, dead at 59

(CNN)

Zindzi Mandela, South Africa's Ambassador to Denmark and daughter of anti-apartheid icons Nelson and Winnie Mandela, has died at the age of 59, the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation said Monday.

"Zindzi will not only be remembered as a daughter of our struggle heroes, Tata Nelson and Mama Winnie Mandela, but as a struggle heroine in her own right. She served South Africa well," Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations, said in a short statement Monday morning.

The department said it was still gathering information on the cause of Mandela's death and expects to release a detailed statement later.

Mandela, who was Nelson and Winnie Mandela's youngest daughter, died early Monday morning at a Johannesburg hospital, according to a statement from the office of President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The premier is "deeply saddened" by her death, the statement said.



Zindzi Mandela pictured with father Nelson in 1992.

"I offer my deep condolences to the Mandela family as we mourn the passing of a fearless political activist who was a leader in her own right," Ramaphosa said in the statement.

"Our sadness is compounded by this loss being visited upon us just days before the world marks the birthday of the great Nelson Mandela."

The Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation also released a statement mourning Mandela's

death.

She was "regarded by many as a child of the nation," the foundation said in a statement, and her death means "South Africa loses an important generational link connecting our divided history to the promise of better, more inclusive, tomorrows."

A spokesperson for the Nelson Mandela Foundation told CNN it is currently consulting with the Mandela family before it issues its own statement.

Facebook's decisions were 'Setbacks for civil rights,' audit finds

By Mike Isaac

SAN FRANCISCO — Auditors handpicked by Facebook to examine its policies said that the company had not done enough to protect people on the platform from discriminatory posts and ads and that its decisions to leave up President Trump's inflammatory posts were "significant setbacks for civil rights."

The 89-page audit put Facebook in an awkward position as the presidential campaign heats up. The report gave fuel to the company's detractors, who said the site had allowed hate speech and misinformation to flourish. The audit also placed the social network in the spotlight for an issue it had worked hard to avoid since the 2016 election: That it may once again be negatively influencing American voters.

Now Facebook has to decide whether its approach to hateful speech and noxious content — which was to leave it alone in the name of free expression — remains tenable. And that decision puts pressure on Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, who has repeatedly said that his company was not an arbiter of truth and that it would not police politicians' posts.

"Many in the civil rights community have become disheartened, frustrated and angry after years of engagement where they



implored the company to do more to advance equality and fight discrimination, while also safeguarding free expression," wrote the auditors, Laura W. Murphy and Megan Cacace, who are civil rights experts and lawyers.

The audit, which was the culmination of two years of examination of the social network, was another signal of how power by the largest tech companies is increasingly under scrutiny. Facebook, Google, Apple and Amazon are all facing questions over how they are wielding their influence and what effects it has had. Later this month, the chief executives of all four companies are set to testify in front of Congress.

But the report was especially devastating for Facebook, because its executives had pointed to it as a sign that the company was seriously grappling with the content of its site.

In the audit, Facebook was repeatedly faulted for prioritizing free expression on its platform

over nondiscrimination, and for not having a robust infrastructure to handle civil rights. The report homed in on three posts by Mr. Trump in May, which the audit said contained hateful and violent speech or which harmed voters. Facebook left those posts untouched, over objections by the auditors, the report said.

In doing so, the social network set a "terrible precedent" that others could copy and that could affect the November election, the report said. The move cheated the billions of other people who use Facebook out of equal treatment, giving powerful political leaders a special exemption to make false and divisive statements, it said.

"Facebook has made policy and enforcement choices that leave our election exposed to interference by the president and others who seek to use misinformation to sow confusion and suppress voting," Ms. Murphy and Ms. Cacace wrote.

2010 census omitted 3.7m Blacks – nearly five times its original ‘Undercount’: claims National Urban League

By Hazel Trice Edney

- A special report released by the National Urban League reveals that the U. S. Census Bureau omitted at least 3.7 million African-Americans from its 2010 count, nearly five times the 800,000 “undercount” that the bureau has long reported.

Largely due to the Coronavirus, the sluggish response to the 2020 Census count now underway is on track for the same or even worse results, NUL predicts. The organization says the Black community stands to lose billions of dollars and significant political power if something is not done quickly to speed up and establish a more accurate count.

“As a gauge, last decade, 9% of Black people in the U.S. (approximately 3.7 million people), were missed in the 2010 Census—an “omission” rate higher than any other racial or ethnic group,” says NUL’s 12-page “State of the 2020 Census” report released June 17. “Preliminary assessments of 2020 Census household response rates to date, portend the potential loss of billions of dollars in federal funding allocations, power and political representation for the Black population, if nothing is done to stop this trend.”

Using the mapping tool of the City University of New York (CUNY), the NUL reports that “currently, approximately 25% of households residing in predominantly Black areas are in the bottom 20% of response rates (below 50%),” so far.

Among the report’s key findings:

Young Black Children are poised to experience historic undercounts in the 2020 Census... Seven out of 10 black and brown children 0-5 years old were not counted in the 2010 Census.

Several large cities and jurisdictions with predominate or large Black populations trail their state response rates by 10 or more percentage points (i.e., St. Louis, Mo., Los Angeles, Calif., Miami, Fla., and Detroit, Mich.

The U.S. Census Bureau’s enumeration of persons experiencing homelessness has not occurred.

The U.S. Census Bureau’s difficulty in rescheduling the enumeration of college and university students and conducting outreach targeting these communities with clear and concise guidance, will impact local communities and the black count overall, if not corrected.

An undercount of the Black population in southern states will impact the overall Black count in America. One U.S. Census Regional Census Center is responsible for enumerating seven states (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana), with significant Black populations in the 2020 Census.

The Census count started April 1. People can respond by phone, mail or online. Through July, August, September, and October,

Census workers will escalate their attempts to count college students; plus anyone who has not responded by going to homes until the end of October.

Civil rights organizations have gone into high gear with an educational campaign pushing the importance of an accurate Census count to the Black community and other communities of color. Yet, it appears that the extent of the Census omissions in 2010 is now being widely reported for the first time.

“The U.S. Census Bureau and the current Administration must do all that it can to ensure an accurate count of the Black population by reallocating media resources and outreach to address these circumstances,” says NUL President/CEO Marc H. Morial in a release accompanying the report. “Historically, African Americans have been undercounted each decade. Approximately 3.7 million African Americans were entirely uncounted in the 2010 Census. The 2020 Census raises new risks and uncertainties that put an already vulnerable Black count at extreme risk.”

The 3.7 million omission appears even more extreme when compared to numbers used by other civil rights groups. A simple Google search turned up a March 2019 “Fact Sheet” led by the Leadership Conference Education Fund (a subsidiary of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights) which was also signed by the Georgetown Law School’s Center on Poverty and Inequality and by the Economic Security and Opportunity Initiative.

The Fact Sheet states, “The 2010 Census undercounted the African-American population by more than 800,000.” The “800,000” number is footnoted and attributed to a 2012 U.S. Census Bureau press release announcing estimates of undercounts.

Yet another number has been used by the NAACP for the 2010 Census undercount. Page 7 of a federal lawsuit filed two years ago by the NAACP against the U. S. Census Bureau, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and President Donald Trump states, “The 2010 Census did not account for 1.5 million black and Hispanic residents, which would be enough people to fill two Congressional districts.”

NUL’s omission number of “3.7 million”; the Leadership Conference’s undercount of “more than 800,000” and the NAACP’s combined “undercount of 1.5 million Black and Hispanic” residents. This scenario raises the question. Which one is correct?

In response to questions from the Trice Edney News Wire, the Census Bureau and the civil rights organizations sought to explain the conflicting numbers. For the most part, the explanations remain fuzzy at best, opening yet more questions than providing answers. The confusion apparently comes down to the vague difference between the terms “net undercount” and “omissions”.

In response to an inquiry from the Trice Edney News Wire, Census consultant, Terri Ann Lowenthal, said she is the source of the NUL’s 3.7 million omission number. She emailed a one paged document in which she listed the “net undercount” of Black people as 827,152 (2.06 percent) and “Omissions” as 3,734,229 (9.3 percent).

As for the NAACP’s lawsuit, which says the “2010 Census did not account for 1.5 million black and Hispanic residents”, Lowenthal’s document appears to dispute that number.

“Many news articles and even some fact sheets have incorrectly cited a figure of ‘1.5 million minorities missed in the 2010 Census,’” Lowenthal says in a footnote. “From what I can tell, that number is loosely derived from the national net undercount of Blacks (~ 827,000) and Hispanics (of any race) (~764,000) in the 2010 Census.”

In another email, Beth Lynk, Census campaign director for the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, which reported the “more than 800,000” undercount in its fact sheet, recommended a book, titled “Differential Undercounts in the U. S. Census. Who is Missed?” Lynk described the book as a “great resource on omissions.” But the “Terminology” chapter of that book, by social demographer William P. O’Hare, clearly implies that the Census use of the term “net undercount” to describe people who were not counted is erroneous.

O’Hare’s book states, “It is important to recognize that the net undercount does not reflect the number of people missed even though the term undercount is often used to suggest this. As stated earlier, net undercounts reflect a balance of people missed and people counted more than once or otherwise included erroneously,” O’Hare writes.

Jeri Green, consultant and senior advisor to the NUL on Census matters, said in an interview that its cited 3.7 million Black “omissions” from the 2010 Census is accurate without question.

Green is a former senior advisor for civic engagement in the office of the Census Bureau director. She is also a specialist on engagement with civil rights organizations and historically undercounted populations as they relate to critical 2020 Census issues.

“The cold-blooded straight up number of Black people that were missed in the 2010 Census is that number, 3.7 million,” Green says. “It’s a number that you won’t see out there. But I can give you reference after reference of 3.7 million Black people who were missed in the Census—using the Census Bureau’s own figures.”

Meanwhile, the NUL’s State of the 2020 Census’ report has sounded an alarm, apparently using the words “undercount” and “omissions” interchangeably.

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Pandemic, racism compound worries about Black suicide rate

Philadelphiaobserver.com

New research shows an alarming rise in Black young people trying to take their own lives

CHICAGO (AP) — Jasmin Pierre was 18 when she tried to end her life, overdosing on whatever pills she could find. Diagnosed with depression and anxiety, she survived two more attempts at suicide, which felt like the only way to stop her pain.

Years of therapy brought progress, but the 31-year-old Black woman’s journey is now complicated by a combination of stressors hitting simultaneously: isolation during the pandemic, a shortage of mental health care providers and racial trauma inflicted by

“Black people who already go through mental health issues, we’re even more triggered,” said Pierre, who lives in New Orleans. “I don’t think my mental health issues have ever, ever been this bad before.”

Health experts have warned

of a looming mental health crisis linked to the coronavirus outbreak, and the federal government rolled out a broad anti-suicide campaign. But doctors and researchers say the issues reverberate deeper among Black people, who’ve seen rising youth suicide attempts and suffered disproportionately during the pandemic.

Mental health advocates are calling for more specialized federal attention on Black suicides, including research funding. Counselors focusing on Black trauma are offering free help. And Black churches are finding new ways to address suicide as social distancing has eroded how people connect.

“There has been a lot of complex grief and loss related to death, related to loss of jobs and loss of income,” said Sean Joe, an expert on Black suicides at Washington University in St. Louis. “There’s a lot of hurt and pain in America going on right now, and you only are getting a sense of depth in the months ahead.”

Study: How societal challenges of Black men affect the Black family

By Victor Trammell
Philadelphiaobserver.com

A professional research study was conducted in the late 20th century by a team of educated black professionals, which was a centerpiece of the 1985 Conference on the Black Family.

This historically relevant three-day event was held in Cleveland, Ohio. Though this event was organized over 30 years ago, the speeches and professional research presentations provided

at the Conference on the Black Family remain relevant to black America today.

In 2020, nearly 35 years after this historic black summit, many people are reacting to the ongoing plight, which still faces a vast number of blacks who are experiencing systemic racism. This ongoing oppression is being carried out by multiple facets of America’s different societal institutions (economic, criminal justice, education, etc.).

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Photo credits: D.C. Area Educators for Social Justice



Rapper Lil Marlo shot dead while driving in Atlanta

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Investigators believe Lil Marlo was shot while driving and that he was the intended target.

The rap community has lost another rising star. Rapper Lil Marlo, also known as Rudolph Johnson, was shot and killed while driving on Interstate 285 last night.

Authorities in downtown Atlanta say they were responding to a call about a car crash, but when police arrived they realized that it wasn't a simple accident.

Police found him in the car with gunshot wounds. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigators believe Lil Marlo was shot while driving and that he was the intended target, according to TMZ.

As of right now, authorities are trying to determine the cause of the shooting. His body has been released to the medical examiner.

Many fans knew of Lil Marlo after he signed with Quality Control in 2017.

The record label is known for having launched the music careers of the Migos, City Girls, Lil Baby, and Lil Yachty.

Lil Yachty responded to the news of Lil Marlo's death on Instagram by telling fans that the two just recorded a song together at 4 a.m.

Lil Marlo's most known songs include "1st N 3rd," "F****em" and "9 + Z6ne = 1'5."

Lil Marlo was just 30. He leaves behind a son and a daughter.



Pennsylvania to extend eviction moratorium to Aug. 31

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Wolf administration has been facing growing calls to extend the four-month-old moratorium — which had been set to lapse Friday — with housing advocates and others predicting a rush to the courthouse and a wave of evictions and homelessness. House and Senate Democrats had also been pressing the Democratic governor for an extension.

"I am taking this action to help families know they will have a roof over their heads and a place to live while all of us fight the COVID-19 pandemic," Wolf said in a news release. "It takes one more burden off of people who are struggling and ensures that families can remain in their homes

so they can protect their health and well-being."

As a justification, the Wolf administration cited the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases statewide, the national surge in virus infections and the need to keep people in their homes to help prevent the spread.

Wolf's ban on foreclosures and evictions does not cover a tenant who damages property, breaks the law or breaches the lease in some other way aside from nonpayment of rent or overstaying a lease.

"This order does not treat nonpayment of monies during this period as forgiven and individuals are still responsible for any rent or monies owed under the terms of the mortgage or lease agreement," it said.

Cop putting knee on man's neck sparks protest

By Viviane Faver

Allentown, Pennsylvania — Cops were filmed Saturday night restraining a man on the ground outside the emergency room of the Sacred Heart Campus of St. Luke's Hospital. One cop used his elbow on the man's neck to restrain him before switching to his knee.

The case is being investigated and according to the statement, cops were outside the hospital for an unrelated situation when they saw a guy staggering in the street, vomiting and stopping in

the driveway of the ER.

Police say the hospital staff and officers interacted with the man, who started to yell and spit at them. The man was "noncompliant which required officers to restrain."

The video was released on various social media and caught the attention of groups like Black Lives Matter to Lehigh Valley, who demanded answers from the police. By late Saturday, a protest was organized in front of the police station.

"People think that it couldn't happen here and it has been

happening and it happened yesterday. So enough is enough," said Black Lives Matter to Lehigh Valley leader Justan Parker.

The video drew more attention for remembering the same police violence in the George Floyd case. And it was even posted on twitter by Floyd's lawyer, Ben Crump:

"@AllentownPolice held down this man's face to the pavement and then one of its officers placed their knee on his neck!! This happened yesterday and is exactly what led to #GeorgeFloyd's death. We need this officer's name and badge # NOW. #ICantBreathe."



Photo credits: Michael Rubinkam

Black activist assaulted by a group of white men in Indiana

By Viviane Faver

The FBI began investigating the reported assault of Vauhxx Booker, a civil rights activist and member of the Monroe County Human Rights Commission, who was cowardly beaten and racially insulted at Monroe Lake near Bloomington over the Fourth of July weekend.

Much of the assault was captured on cellphone video by Booker's acquaintances and Booker's attorney, Katherine Liell, said the FBI was questioning witnesses and that charging decisions could be made soon.

"We want this investigated as a hate crime. It was clearly racially motivated," Liell said. "We will continue our quest every day until some justice is served."

Liell also complained that law enforcement officers with the

Indiana Department of Natural Resources "did not move rapidly enough" in response to reports of the attack.

Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton said at the news conference that police continue to search for two people accused of knocking a woman unconscious and dragging a man with their car at a protest over the assault on Booker.

Police Capt. Ryan Pedigo told The Associated Press that the confrontation happened near the Monroe County courthouse in Bloomington on Monday evening.

A male passenger got out of a red Toyota car and went to move an electric scooter that had been left in the road near the protest site, Pedigo said. A 29-year-old woman approached the car and placed her hands on the hood, he said.

The driver accelerated into the woman, launching her onto the hood. A 35-year-old man then grabbed the driver's side of the car and held on as the vehicle continued to accelerate. Both were eventually flung to the ground and the car fled the scene, Pedigo said.

The woman was knocked unconscious and suffered a cut to her head, while the man scraped his arm. She was transported by ambulance to a hospital but her injuries are not believed to be life-threatening, Pedigo said.

Authorities have not released the identities of the injured nor said if they were participating in the protest.

The red Toyota has not been located and investigators are still trying to determine the identities and location of the male passenger and female driver, police said in a news release.

Several protesters provided police with cellphone footage, Pedigo said.

"The event last evening is being actively and aggressively investigated right now," Hamilton said. "We are taking whatever steps it takes to bring justice to that event."

The protesters had gathered in Bloomington, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Indianapolis, to demand arrests in the assault on Booker.



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Editorial

Philadelphia Observer

NFL will play Black National Anthem at games

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent

When Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the playing of the national anthem to bring awareness to social and other injustices faced regularly by Black and Brown individuals in America, the National Football League, President Donald Trump, and others wrongly associated the quarterback's actions as a protest against the U.S. flag and the nation's military.

In the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd, protests and demonstrations have awakened America and most of the world to the plight of African Americans who long have suffered injustice, inequality, and an overall lack of understanding.

The NFL remains at the forefront of the new understanding, and now they've taken that knowledge, and, in an unprecedented decision, the league announced it would play Lift Every Voice and Sing – the Black National Anthem – before every opening day game this year.

The performance of the song will occur before "The Star-Spangled Banner," the NFL said. The league's season opener is scheduled for September 10, with the Kansas City Chiefs hosting the Houston Texans.



"The league taking the opportunity to play "Lift every voice and sing" (the Black national anthem) is sweet. It's a great way to honor those who started this movement year and years ago," tweeted Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Chris Conley.

"For those who aren't familiar

with it, this song seeks to remind us of our past as a country and to strive to be better. It speaks to all of us, not just Black people, even tho it became a rallying cry for Blacks in the Jim Crow era. It is a beautiful message birthed from pain," Conley added.

"To those claiming the song is

derisive, I ask which part? Much like America the Beautiful is played to honor, this song is the same. It's isn't for "just Black people" it's for all who acknowledge the past and press toward a better future."

As noted in Sports Illustrated, Lift Every Voice and Sing has an extensive history since its first

inception as a poem in 1899. According to the NAACP, its lyrics were penned by writer and NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson (a Jacksonville native). It was eventually adopted for music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson. Years later, it was adopted by the NAACP as the organization's official song.

According to the NAACP, the song was first performed in Jacksonville at a school where James Weldon Johnson was the principal. As part of a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12, 1900, Lift Every Voice and Sing was publicly performed by 500 school children at the Stanton School.

The NFL has recently acknowledged it was wrong in how it handled Kaepernick, who has mostly been black balled from the game. Commissioner Roger Goodell has said he now would encourage teams to sign the former Super Bowl quarterback.

Because Goodell has reversed course and said he would allow kneeling, the league came under enormous criticism from President Donald Trump, who now is calling for a boycott of the NFL.

Sen. Ted Cruz called the decision to play the Black National Anthem "asinine," further fueling racial tensions that have already boiled over since the Floyd killing.

Study: How societal challenges of Black men affect the Black family

From page 3

Black men, in particular, have been disproportionately disadvantaged in American society due to generations of social experiments. The impact on black men that these different social experiments created was overwhelmingly adverse. Not only that, these adversities created a lasting effect on black men, which persisted for years after the social experiments were conducted.

Ultimately, these lasting effects drastically altered black men's connection to black women for the purpose of unifying with (not competing against) their female counterparts. This tremendously curtailed the strengthening of the black family, the foundation of black existence all over the world.

In his literary contributions to 1985's Conference on the Black Family, Dr. Lawrence E. Gray touched on this monumental drift within the black subculture. Dr. Gray is the former director of

the Institute for Urban Affairs and Research at Howard University. He is the author of a research paper titled Black Men's Perceptions of Their Problems: Implications for the Family.

Dr. Gray's research paper was based on an abundance of scientific research that was backed by empirical data. In addition to this, the data described in Dr. Gray's work was principal in nature, not peripheral.

"Although writers have consistently used secondary data sources to document the high risk status of Black families, this paper will rely on primary data to examine how Black men see problems in their lives. The author plans to report on a study of 142 Black men who lived in a large northeastern metropolitan area in the United States," Dr. Gray wrote.

His literary contributions begin on the 18th page of a 144-page document. The document unifies all the published contributions, which underpinned the historic 1985 Conference on the Black Family in Cleveland, Ohio.

Supreme Court rules Manhattan DA can obtain Trump taxes

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is unclear when a lower court judge might order the Manhattan district attorney's subpoena to be enforced.

Trump is the only president in modern times who has refused to make his tax returns public, and before he was elected he promised to release them. He didn't embrace Thursday's out-

come as a victory even though it is likely to prevent his opponents in Congress from obtaining potentially embarrassing personal and business records ahead of Election Day.

In fact, the increasing likelihood that a grand jury will eventually get to examine the documents drove the president into a public rage. He lashed out declaring that "It's a pure witch

hunt, it's a hoax" and calling New York, where he has lived most of his life, "a hellhole."

The documents have the potential to reveal details on everything from possible misdeeds to the true nature of the president's vaunted wealth – not to mention uncomfortable disclosures about how he's spent his money and how much he's given to charity.

2010 census omitted 3.7m Blacks – nearly five times its original 'Undercount': claims National Urban League

From page 3

"A census undercount of any population in the U.S. would have far-reaching implications. For Black populations, the consequences would be devastating, particularly in the aftermath of COVID-19 which has exposed deep systemic and underlying economic, wealth and health disparities within African American communities.

Similarly, as racially-moti-

vated police brutality in the Black community continues with deadly effect, an accurate census count helps ensure fair political representation and federal funding to address these concerns," Morial says in the Executive Summary of the report. "The purpose of this State of the 2020 Census report is to 'sound the alarm' about the current status of the Black census count. Over the past three months of 2020 Census operations (start-

ing last March 12th for most of the United States), the National Urban League has observed low response rates across heavily populated Black localities—both urban and rural. As a contributing factor, COVID-19 has disrupted Census operations off and on, for the entire nation. A full, fair, and accurate 2020 Census count remains imperative as we rebuild our communities in a post COVID-19 environment."

Scrabble will ban racial, ethnic slurs from tournaments, game rules

By David Waldstein
Philadelphiaobserver.com

Josephine Flowers became a ranked, competitive Scrabble player more than a dozen years ago, and to commemorate the moment, she inscribed her custom-built game board with one of her favorite sayings: “Never underestimate the power of words.”

The phrase serves as a constant reminder to her that, even when people say that the words formed on a Scrabble board are supposedly divorced of meaning, they can still inflict pain.

That is why Flowers, who is Black, and several other members of the North American Scrabble

Players Association, have called on the organization to ban the use of an anti-Black racial slur, and as many as 225 other offensive terms, from its lexicon.

“You could be sitting there for a 45-minute game just looking at that word,” said Flowers, a mental health worker from West Memphis, Ark. “And if you don’t know the person who played it, then you wonder, was it put down as a slight, or was it the first word that came to their mind?”

The issue may never come up again.

Hasbro, which owns the rights to Scrabble in North America, said Tuesday night the players association had “agreed to remove all slurs from their word

list for Scrabble tournament play, which is managed solely by NASPA and available only to members.”

John Chew, the chief executive of the association, seemed to agree. He had asked the organization’s 12-person advisory board to vote on the matter in the coming days, but the statement from Hasbro was presented as a *fait accompli*, which could rankle those who oppose expurgating any words from the lexicon.

“It is the right thing to do,” Chew said Tuesday night.

Julie Duffy, a spokeswoman for Hasbro, also said the company will amend Scrabble’s official rules “to make clear that slurs are not permissible in any form of the game.”



Photo credit: Mark Lennihan

Man dumps red paint on Black Lives Matter mural

By Juan Ignacio Chavez

On Monday, a white man in a black baseball cap approached the Black Lives Matter mural near the Trump Tower and splattered red paint over the letter “V.” A bystander got to make a video and shared it with the community.

The Black Lives Matter mural was painted in front of the Trump Tower last week in order to send a message to the authorities. In response, President Donald Trump has called the BLM movement a “Symbol of hate.”

After the mural was restored, Mayor Bill de Blasio addressed the incident on Twitter. “To whoever vandalized our mural on 5th Avenue: nice try. @NYC_DOT has already fixed it.”

In recent years Black Lives Matter movement has become a global organization that combats racism and police brutality. Since the death of George Floyd and the intensification of protests, several murals have been vandalized across the country. According to local station WABC, New York City police are still looking for the person responsible.



The Impact of COVID-19 in our community: Let’s not put our health at risk

By J.C. Watts, founder and chairman of J.C. Watts Companies

Washington, D.C., city attorney George Valentine was Black, brilliant, and fit. But after contracting COVID-19, he became so weak, he had trouble moving and even speaking. When it got to the point where he could barely breathe, George called an ambulance and waited on the steps of his house for it to arrive. Every second he waited must have seemed like an eternity. Two days later, George died. He was 66 and had suffered from diabetes and high blood pressure before getting sick with the coronavirus.

New research seems to confirm that, across the nation, the coronavirus has disproportionately impacted Black people, with death rates more than twice as high as that for any other race. Why is this happening—and can we do anything about it?

There are several explanations for the disparity, and most have to do with how we live, where we work, and our underlying health conditions. There are also factors that are within our immediate control that we can all do right now to protect ourselves, but that many in our community are failing to do.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cite several possible reasons that Black Americans are more affected. One is that many of us live in more highly populated areas where it’s

more difficult to practice physical distancing from one another. Many of us also live in multi-generational households where it’s easier for younger family members to spread the virus to more vulnerable elderly members. This is especially true for lower-income households with smaller living spaces.

Another reason is that a large percentage of African Americans hold frontline service industry jobs as food servers, cleaners, and personal-care providers, and in fields such as nursing that are all considered essential during the pandemic, and they bravely continue to go to work each day.

One other big factor is that, sadly, our people also tend to have more underlying medical conditions—like obesity, diabetes, and hypertension—that make us more vulnerable.

While many of these factors are difficult to change in the near term, we can do some things immediately to reduce our risks. In my own community in Oklahoma, I’ve witnessed many Black folks not wearing masks or practicing any degree of physical distancing in public. A lot of people just plain aren’t following recommendations to keep themselves and their families safe.

Let’s be real for a minute. Some of this stems from past experiences with government that make people skeptical about what they’re hearing from public officials. For some, it’s the bitter memories of government-enforced segre-



gation and other racist policies. For others, it’s the fact the young Black men have more negative encounters with the police, and people don’t want to wear masks and give anyone an excuse for mistaking them for criminals. For others, it’s that politicians have made promises to us for decades and have failed to make good. Why trust them now?

Despite all this, please don’t put your health at risk. We have to do all we can to protect our communities and our loved ones from being exposed to infection.

First, avoid close contact with people who are sick. Being in the same enclosed room with somebody who has the virus can lead to infection. Second, keep at least six feet between you and others if you have to leave home. People can be infected even if they’re

not showing symptoms. Third, wash your hands or sanitize them often and for at least 20 seconds. Also avoid touching your face, mouth, and eyes with unwashed hands.

I know the advice about wearing masks is a tough one for many folks, but perspectives have changed during this pandemic. So, cover your mouth and nose with a bandana or other face covering if you have to leave home. The mask provides some protection for others in case you’re infected and don’t know it.

Finally, be sure to get medical help if you have any flu-like symptoms or have trouble breathing, persistent pain in your chest, a fever, or a dry cough.

As I write this, The Heritage Foundation’s National Coronavirus Recovery Commission, of which I’m

a member, is wrapping up its final report offering recommendations to help us all recover from this pandemic. The commissioners are deeply concerned that COVID-19 has hit minority communities so hard and are urging medical researchers to look into how we can prevent this disproportionate impact in the future.

The commission is also recommending ways that our churches and community institutions can be a positive force for encouraging people to take preventative actions to stop the spread of COVID-19.

I’m hopeful that our nation will conquer this disease and that together, we will emerge from this chapter in our history stronger than before. But ultimately for that to happen, the cure must start with us.

Swag!

By Don Thomas

All Star Code welcomes 160 men of color to virtual brotherhood



Screen shot of 2020 All Star Code Scholars

All Star Code (ASC) is a computer science organization that creates economic opportunity by developing a new generation of boys and young men of color with an entrepreneurial mindset who have the tools they need to succeed in a technological world. The brainchild of Founder and Executive Director **Christina Lewis Halpern**, the company is set to welcome 160 young men of color to the ASC brotherhood.

“Amidst a pandemic and rising racial tension across the country, and as COVID-19 developments continue to unfold, our organization looks at this challenge as an opportunity to innovate,” says Lewis Halpern. “We converted our in-person Summer Intensive curriculum to a virtual program this year to continue this important work.”

The team has also been busy preparing for their first ever Virtual Summer Benefit on July 25! “We invite you to join us on July 25 to celebrate with us! All donations to the Virtual Summer Benefit will go to the All Star Code Emergency Relief Fund for 2020 programming,” added Lewis Halpern. ASC encourages you to register, fundraise, or spread the word so that they can continue to serve and celebrate their Scholars in the months and years to come.

The Virtual Summer Benefit Emergency Fund will ensure the health and longevity of ASC’s work and allow this savvy organization to continue delivering their life-changing Summer Intensive



Christina Halpern Lewis with All Star Code Scholars (Image courtesy of ASC)

and Scholar Services programming to nearly 800 young men of color this year.

Recently ASC kicked off its Summer Intensive with Professional Development Week for its instructional staff. After participating in virtual Zoom workshops on teaching best practices, growth mindset, and intersectionality awareness, ASC is more than confident that the teaching staff will get their students excited about a future career in coding. This year 75% of their instructional staff are All Star Code Scholars!

The ASC Summer Benefit gala is traditionally held in East Hampton, NY but this year the non-profit brotherhood is opening up the event for everyone to join

virtually with a **free registration**. The benefit event will honor **Robert F. Smith**, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Vista Equity Partners and **Marcus Samuelsson**, Chef & Restaurateur. In addition to an amazing silent auction, the event will showcase innovative demos by ASC’s Scholars with apps and projects that they’ve developed all on their own. ASC’s commitment to their students has not wavered and is now more important than ever.

In the weeks and days leading up to July 25 some of ASC’s remarkable Scholars and biggest supporters will engage with their Scholar Projects and take part in an incredible silent auction. That evening ASC will celebrate with a

special message from the event’s stellar Co-Chairs **Frank A. Baker**, **Valentino D. Carlotti**, and **Loida Nicolas Lewis**, followed by a Call-to-Action from Lewis Halpern, along with the honorees, and a few fun surprises topped off with an electrifying musical performance.

Lewis Halpern is the daughter of the late Black billionaire and business legend **Reginald F. Lewis** who is carrying on his legacy by giving Black young people the tools for success. The 2020 Benefit Committee includes **645 Ventures**, **Elois Austin**, **Celeste Bell**, **Stephen Catera**, **Kenneth Frazier**, **Andrea Hoffman**, **Sheila Lirio Marcelo**, **Michael Rubenstein**, and **Marva Smalls**. (Photos by Rob Richard)



Honoree Robert F. Smith



Honoree Marcus Samuelsson



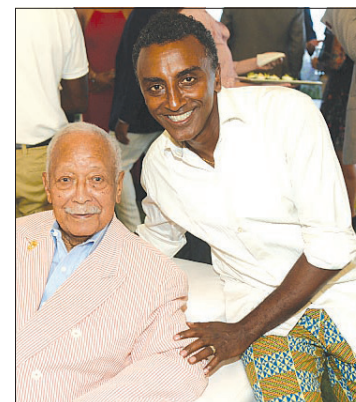
Loida N. Lewis, Hon. David N. Dinkins attend 6th annual benefit



Co-Chairs Frank A. Baker, Christina Lewis Halpern, Loida Nicolas Lewis, Valentino D. Carlotti at 6th annual benefit



Students with honoree Loida N. Lewis, Sheila Lirio Marcelo, Christina Lewis Halpern, Charles Phillips, and Frank D. Carlotti at the 6th annual benefit



Hon. David N. Dinkins, Marcus Samuelsson attend 6th annual benefit

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Culture

Halle Berry re-considers playing a role as a transgender man in upcoming film

By Viviane Faver

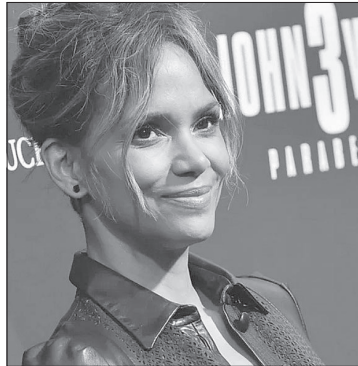
The Academy Award-winning actress Halle Berry revealed during an Instagram Live interview that she was going to take on the role of a transgender man in an upcoming movie.

She was immediately met with criticism and swift backlash from the transgender community and its allies for considering the role. Berry also got called out for her misgendering of the character.

This past Monday the actress apologized in her twitter account:

"Over the weekend I had the opportunity to discuss my consideration of an upcoming role as a transgender man, and I'd like to apologize for those remarks. As a cisgender woman, I now understand that I should not have considered this role and that the transgender community should undeniably have the opportunity to tell their own stories."

"I am grateful for the guidance and critical conversations over the past few days, and I will continue to listen, educate, and learn from this mistake. I vow to be an ally in using my voice to promote better representation on-screen, both in front of and behind



the camera."

Although the general public appreciated her apology, many still criticized that she didn't touch on the fact that she misgendered the person she was considering playing.

Facing the same situation, actress Scarlett Johansson faced backlash when she was initially cast for the role of trans mob boss Dante "Tex" Gill in the upcoming historical flick *Rub & Tub*. At the time she addressed the criticism by stating:

"You know, as an actor, I should be allowed to play any person, or any tree, or any animal because that is my job and the requirements of my job."

She would later apologize in an interview with *Vanity Fair* back in November, claiming, "I wasn't aware of that conversation — I was uneducated."



Beyoncé partners with NAACP to provide grants for Black businesses impacted by COVID-19

Since the rise of protests over racial injustice and police brutality, numerous high profile figures have stepped forward to do more for the Black community, specifically Black businesses. This week, the NAACP announced its new partnership with Beyoncé's BeyGood organization to create new small business grants for Black-owned businesses in different cities across the U.S.

The NAACP announced on its website that it will be distributing a number of grants valued at \$10,000 grants to Black-owned small businesses in Houston,

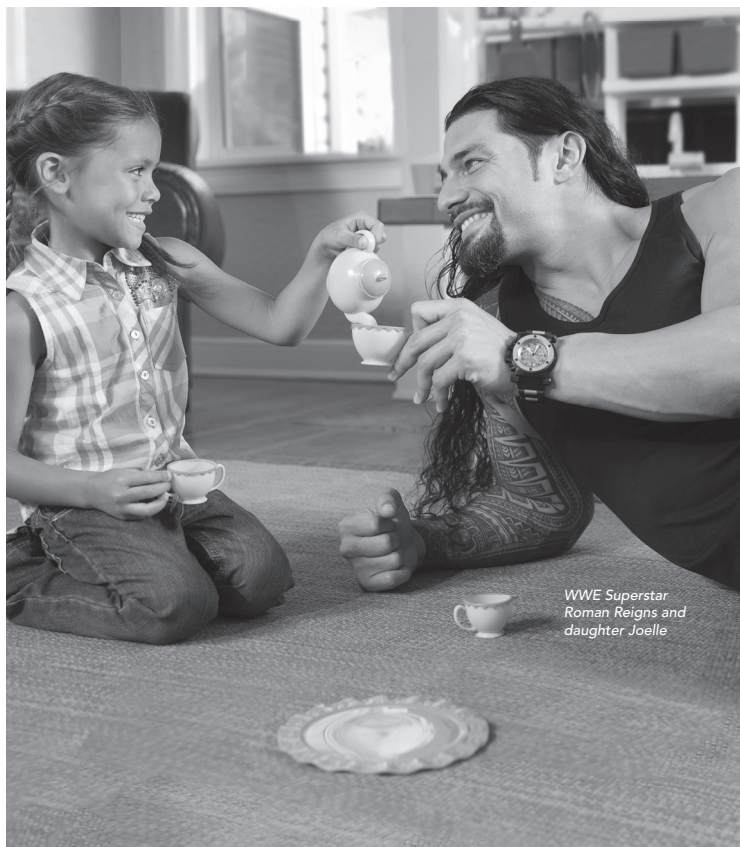
Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles, and Minneapolis that have been impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis.

"Over the last couple of months, the pandemic and outpour for justice throughout the Black community and across the country has been felt in every imaginable area of our lives, including in how our local businesses continue to operate," said the organization in a press release. "The challenges of Black business owners navigating in the climate cannot be understated, as the effects of uprisings across

the nation have led to many businesses being placed in dire straits due to damages and other small business needs."

The newly established fund comes after the entertainer's launch of the Black Parade Route on June-teenth to promote Black-owned brands across different sectors in addition to pledging \$6 million through BeyGood in partnership with Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey toward the global virus outbreak.

Applicants can go to NAACP's website to apply until July 18th and selected businesses will be notified by July 31st.v



WWE Superstar Roman Reigns and daughter Joelle

Lena Horne series is headed to Showtime

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Showtime's "Blackbird: Lena Horne and America," from her granddaughter Jenny Lumet and Alex Kurtzman, takes its name from Horne's favorite poem, *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird* by Wallace Stevens.

According to *Deadline.com*, "Blackbird" will follow Horne from her early years dancing at the Cotton Club at age 16, through World War II and stardom of the MGM years, being blacklisted in Hollywood during McCarthyism, fighting injustice in the civil rights movement and her triumphant return to Broadway.

That May 12, 1981 Broadway return, titled "Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music," featured the Brooklyn-born, Georgia-bred powerhouse dancing and singing music from her films, belting tunes written for her, and filling the spaces in between with rich, colorful anecdotes that moved along her life story. She touched on the racism that she encountered in Hollywood, including roles she could



have played that instead went to white actresses such as Ava Gardner and Hedy Lamarr in dark makeup. She was accompanied by dancers and backup singers. Costumes were designed by Giorgio di Sant'Angelo and the cast album was produced by Quincy Jones.

The musical numbers included her signature song "Stormy Weather" (performed twice), "I Got a Name," "Lady is a Tramp" and "Believe in Yourself." The show has been described as the definitive performance of Horne's career. *Newsweek* said Horne was "the

most awesome performer to have hit Broadway in years." The *New York Times* said she "transforms each song...into an intensely personal story that we've never quite heard before."

"The Lady and Her Music" came a year after Horne announced her retirement in March 1980 and performed a two-month farewell tour of the U.S. Director Arthur Faria had originally conceived a multi character script for a Broadway run called "Lena's World," but scrapped it for this one-woman show instead.

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600,000 vote in Hong Kong opposition primary despite fears of new security law

(CNN)

Hong Kong—Braving scorching conditions, a new wave of coronavirus infections and government warnings they could be breaking the law, hundreds of thousands of Hong Kongers took part in a primary election for the city's democratic opposition over the weekend.

The vote, held 10 days after China imposed a sweeping new security law on the city, was designed to narrow down the number of pro-democracy candidates in September elections to the city's legislature.

The opposition camp is hoping to seize a historic majority in the parliament, through careful coordination to avoid splitting the pro-democracy vote, and in making headway in the functional constituencies, seats chosen by business and professional groups

which form half of the legislature.

This would be a hard task at the best of times, and the government has already hinted that it may bar potentially dozens of candidates from those elections under the new security law, which criminalizes secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign forces.

Mood among the opposition was considerably boosted Monday, however, after organizers said some 600,000 votes were cast in the primary election. That's around 27% of the number of people who voted in the most recent legislative elections, and far above organizers' original target of 170,000.

"Hong Kong people have made history again," Benny Tai, one of the organizers, said after the polling ended on Sunday night. "Hong Kong people have demonstrated to the world, and

also to the authorities, that we have not given up to strive for democracy."

Erick Tsang, Hong Kong's Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, said on Friday that the primaries might violate Hong Kong's new national security law because of the candidates' political stance, according to Hong Kong public broadcaster RTHK.

"Those who have organized, planned or participated in the primary election should avoid carelessly violating the law," he said.

Late Friday night, police raided the offices of the Public Opinion Research Institute, a polling company that was helping to organize the primary.

Organizers denounced the move as an attempt to disrupt the vote or intimidate people, while police said it was related to a tip about potential hacked data.

Black Lives Matter spurs more changes in Africa

(GIN) –

As Americans explore the renaming of army bases, statues, streets, and schools that honor racist slave-holders or portray demeaning relationships between whites and Black, Brown and Latinx citizens, similar efforts are underway in Senegal and Liberia most recently.

Goree, an island in Senegal linked closely with slave trade, has decided to rename one of its main squares in response to the anti-racist movements around the world.

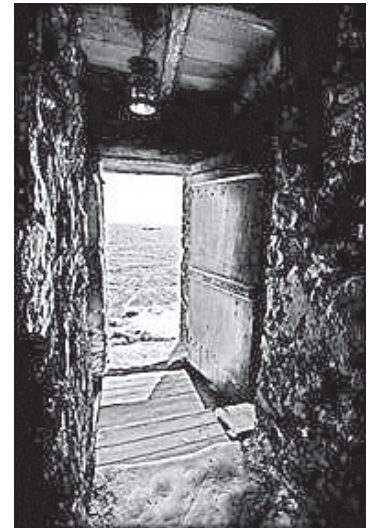
The island's municipal council unanimously agreed to rename Europe Square as "Liberty and Human Dignity Square."

According to a statement from authorities, the move is in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protests that have spread across the world, denouncing recurrent racial violence targeted at the black community.

The 28-hectare island, situated two kilometers offshore from Dakar, was the largest slave-trading center on the African coast between the 15th and 19th century, according to the UN's cultural agency UNESCO.

Goree Island is also registered by UNESCO as a World Heritage centre and act as a "symbol of human exploitation." Europe Square was inaugurated in 2003 by Mayor Augustin Senghor and the then President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi.

Mayor Augustin Senghor initially argued that street names should not be changed in order not to forget the pain and drama experienced on Goree Island—the "last stop of freedom" for many



Door of no return

Africans in Senegal.

The Senegalese also want the statue of former colonial governor, Louis Faidherbe, to be removed. Faidherbe was governor of French Senegal in 1854–61 and 1863–65 and a major founder of France's colonial empire in Africa. During Faidherbe's tenure, his major accomplishment was to create a vast colony dominated by Europeans.

The date for the renaming has yet to be fixed as access to the island, a commune of Dakar, is currently restricted due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In a related development, an open letter by Sekou Keita, a "proud son of Nimba", demands that Liberians consider the renaming of Liberia's capital, Monrovia, named for a staunch supporter of the movement to send Blacks to Africa.

He writes: "MONROE WAS A SLAVE OWNER! The task NOW is given to you to seek guidance from your Citizens to suggest a name that is both SYMBOLIC and HISTORICALLY relevant." The full text may be found on the internet.

France returns remains of Algerian resistance fighters killed decades ago

(GIN) –

"The martyrs are returning home."

Those were the words of noted historian Malika Rahal on learning that the remains of 24 Algerian resistance fighters, killed in the Algerian independence war of 1954-62, would be flown back to Algeria after years kept by the French in a museum's storage area.

"The body parts of those who fought the conquest of their country are returning home after a very long stay in cardboard boxes at the Musee de l'Homme in Paris," Rahal said.

Algeria had officially asked for the return of the remains in 2018, as well as a handover of colonial archives but bureaucratic obstacles blocked their return until now, when a worldwide

reevaluation of the legacy of colonialism since the May 25 killing of George Floyd by a white police officer is taking place.

The remains – skulls of decapitated fighters—were viewed as war trophies by French colonial officers.

"This is the monstrous face of colonization," Algerian army chief Said Chengiha said in a speech on July 3.

Algerian historian Ali-Farid Belkadi, the first to make the grisly discovery while doing research, alerted Algerian authorities. He said the skulls were kept in "vulgar cardboard boxes that resemble shoe boxes"

On July 5, Algeria's 58th anniversary of independence, the fighters' remains will finally be laid to rest in the martyrs' section of the capital's El Alia cemetery, local media reported.



They were flown into Algiers airport from France on a Hercules C-130 transport plane, escorted on arrival by Algerian fighter jets, an AFP correspondent said.

To a 21-gun salute, Algerian

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and a military guard of honor gave the war heroes an official welcome.

Tebboune bowed in front of each coffin and a Muslim cleric

recited a prayer for the dead.

France's 132 years of colonial rule, and the brutal eight-year war that ended it, have left a lasting legacy of tensions between the two governments and peoples. The French presidency described the handover as an effort to "reconcile the memories of the French and Algerian people".

Historians welcomed the return of the remains, but say they are just part of Algeria's history that is still in French hands.

"We have recovered part of our memory," historian Mohamed El Korso told the AP news agency.

"But the fight must continue, until the recovery of all the remains of the resistance fighters, which number in the hundreds, and the archives of our revolution." w/pix of Algerian resistance fighters in coffins

Health

COVID-19 vaccine and treatment research

By Glenn Ellis

In the spirit of doing my best to keep you informed on important aspects of this COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to continue to write about things we all will have to think more and more about moving forward.

Yes indeed, we must start doing a lot of thinking. Most of it is thinking about things that we otherwise wouldn't pay any attention to: clinical trials; antibody testing; vaccine candidates; experimental treatments.

You see folks, COVID is going to be with us for a long, long time, and it is important to get in the habit of learning as much as you can about these topics, and others. In this column, I will offer you a starting point by giving some general facts.

Clinical trials are required in order to have an FDA approved treatment or vaccine. Since the coronavirus was first identified in China in December 2019, over 1100 registered clinical trials, registered globally. Of those, 170 are solely devoted to looking for a vaccine. The rest are looking at other treatments, including antibody plasma therapy.

Out of the 170 companies, the Trump administration chose five companies to work on the development of a vaccine at "Warp Speed" (whatever that is). Even though, as of June 30th, the FDA issued guidelines calling for the inclusion of diverse populations, many of the studies are already underway, as well as, under

these pandemic circumstances, we can rest assured that there will be little, or no, oversight to ensure compliance with including Blacks, and other ethnic groups. Don't let anyone fool you, this is important. Your health status is determined 80% by the social determinants of health in the community in which you live. That is why it is good science to make sure that clinical trials for any medication or treatment includes research participants who reflect the general population that the drug or treatment is intended for. You want to look into this to inform any decision you make for yourself or you family.

Antibody testing is done following a person being infected with COVID-19. The test shows whether the person's immune system is producing antibodies. This would be the normal response of the immune system. If virus shows up again, there are already antibodies ready to attack. With over 200 antibody tests, either in development or on the market, only 12 have been approved emergency use authorization. So, what about the other 188? Another concern is that no one knows, at this point, if the antibodies actually offer any protection, and if so, for how long? In addition, the analysis of results shows a great range of accuracy for these tests.

Vaccines are steadily advancing in the process of development. As mentioned earlier, "warp speed" is not your typical approach to vaccine development. I worry about this, in particular, because of the sensitive, and sometimes

political, nature of the word. The development of the polio vaccine was the last time we had a vaccine to prevent a pandemic like this. Remember that we still don't have an HIV/AIDS vaccine after 40 years, and the flu vaccine last season was only 45% effective following the previous year when it was only 29 percent. Still, even a vaccine that's not 100% effective could be good enough. At the very least, vaccines do significantly reduce the severity a viral infection. With the horrible way COVID takes over the body and destroys it, a reduction in the severity of that is not a bad deal. So, you have to consider your own health status, risk factors, etc., and make the best decision.

Even for those who would previously consider themselves as "anti-vaxxers", COVID-19 has made it necessary for all of us to think in ways, and about things, that haven't had to before.

Experimental treatments are standard of care in the absence of an approved treatment. Remember the drug that President Trump touted hydroxychloroquine, and it turned out to be a dud? Well, seems like he wasn't the went for it. There were hundreds of trials around the world trying find out if it would work. Remdesivir is another experimental medication designed to stop a virus from replicating in the body. In times when there is no pandemic, carefully done clinical trials tell us drug's effectiveness against an illness. Or disease. Now, there are so many "work-arounds" in clinical care: compassionate-use programs



permit the use of untested treatments; older drugs are considered by doctors in never-before-seen situations; research is being rushed into publication without being peer-reviewed; and not to mention a constant stream of media reports jump on any research study result, often barely vetted, and typically, reported to us almost word-for-word from the company's press release.

By now, whether we like it or not, we all have come to accept that things are going to be different; really different. We have to begin to get information and learn more about these things. Come on, y'all. Let's do what we have done for so long; use good, common sense, make decisions based on the best information, and look out for each other.

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 Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Research Bioethics Fellow. He is author of Which Doctor? and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

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Wednesday's Woman

Breaking All Kinds Of Barriers: NASA names headquarters after Mary W. Jackson

Mary W. Jackson (1921–2005), the first African American female engineer at NASA, successfully overcame the barriers of segregation and gender bias to become a professional aerospace engineer and leader in ensuring equal opportunities for future generations. Jackson was part of a group of very important women who helped NASA succeed in getting American astronauts into space. Jackson, who is used to breaking barriers, will be immortalized with the renaming of NASA's Washington, D.C. headquarters, in her name.

The HBCU graduate was being honored posthumously because of her devotion not only to her profession but also to her heritage, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said in a press release.

"Mary W. Jackson was part of a group of very important women who helped NASA succeed in getting American astronauts into space. Mary never accepted the status quo, she helped break barriers and open opportunities for African Americans and women in the field of engineering and technology," said Bridenstine.

Bridenstine continued: "Today, we proudly announce the Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters building. It appropriately sits on 'Hidden Figures Way,' a reminder that Mary is one of many incredible and talented professionals in NASA's history who contributed to this agency's success. Hidden no more, we will continue to recognize the contributions of women, African Americans, and people of all backgrounds who have made NASA's successful history of exploration possible."

Jackson started her NASA career in the segregated West Area Computing Unit of the agency's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. Jackson, a mathematician and aerospace engineer, went on to lead programs influencing the hiring and promotion of women in NASA's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers. In 2019, she was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

The work of the West Area Computing Unit caught widespread national attention in the 2016 Margot Lee Shetterly book "Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race." The book was made into a popular movie that same year and Jackson's character was played by award-winning actress Janelle Monáe.

In 2019, after a bipartisan bill by Sens. Ted Cruz, Ed Markey, John Thune, and Bill Nelson made its way through Congress, the



Mary Winston Jackson (1921–2005) overcame barriers of segregation and gender bias to become an engineer and leader at NASA

portion of E Street SW in front of NASA Headquarters was renamed Hidden Figures Way.

"We are honored that NASA continues to celebrate the legacy of our mother and grandmother Mary W. Jackson," said, Carolyn Lewis, Mary's daughter. "She was a scientist, humanitarian, wife, mother, and trailblazer who paved the way for thousands of others to succeed, not only at NASA, but throughout this nation."

Jackson was born and raised in Hampton, Virginia. After graduating high school, she graduated from Hampton Institute in 1942 with a dual degree in math and physical sciences, and initially accepted a job as a math teacher in Calvert County, Maryland. She would work as a bookkeeper, marry Levi Jackson and start a family, and work a job as a U.S. Army secretary before her aerospace career would take off.

In 1951, Jackson was recruited by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, which in 1958 was succeeded by NASA. She started as a research mathematician who became known as one of the human computers at Langley. She worked under fellow "Hidden Figure" Dorothy Vaughan in the segregated West Area Computing Unit.

After two years in the computing pool, Jackson received an offer to work in the 4-foot by 4-foot Supersonic Pressure Tunnel, a 60,000 horsepower wind tunnel capable of blasting models with winds



Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters building in Washington, D.C.

approaching twice the speed of sound. There, she received hands-on experience conducting experiments. Her supervisor eventually suggested she enter a training program that would allow Jackson to earn a promotion from mathematician to engineer. Because the classes were held at then-segregated Hampton High School, Jackson needed special permission to join her white peers in the classroom.

Jackson completed the courses, earned the promotion, and in 1958 became NASA's first Black female engineer. For nearly two decades during her engineering career, she authored or co-authored research numerous reports, most focused on the behavior of the boundary layer of

air around airplanes. In 1979, she joined Langley's Federal Women's Program, where she worked hard to address the hiring and promotion of the next generation of female mathematicians, engineers and scientists. Mary retired from Langley in 1985.

In 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act that posthumously awarded the honor to Jackson, who passed away in 2005, and her "Hidden Figures" colleagues Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Christine Darden.

In 2017, then 99-year-old Katherine Johnson was there to personally dedicate a new state-of-the-art computer research facility the bears her name at

Langley. Johnson, another original member of the West Area Computing Unit, also was honored as a trailblazer and given the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. In addition, Johnson was part of the group honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, and NASA's Independent Verification and Validation facility in Fairmont, West Virginia, also bears Johnson's name.

"NASA facilities across the country are named after people who dedicated their lives to push the frontiers of the aerospace industry. The nation is beginning to awaken to the greater need to honor the full diversity of people who helped pioneer our great nation. Over the years NASA has worked to honor the work of these Hidden Figures in various ways, including naming facilities, renaming streets and celebrating their legacy," added Bridenstine.

"We know there are many other people of color and diverse backgrounds who have contributed to our success, which is why we're continuing the conversations started about a year ago with the agency's Unity Campaign. NASA is dedicated to advancing diversity, and we will continue to take steps to do so," Bridenstine concluded.

For additional information on Mary W. Jackson, the "Hidden Figures," and today's Modern Figures, visit: <https://www.nasa.gov/modernfigures>. (Photos courtesy NASA)

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Folks!

Eddie C. Brown: A Black man's perspective from the board room

Posted by Audrey J. Bernard

In an opinion that appeared in the *Washington Post* Wednesday, July 8, 2020, Baltimore's esteemed broker and business icon Eddie Carl Brown affirmed, **"I'm a Black CEO. I've been discounted on Wall Street because of my skin color."**

I was raised in the Jim Crow South, when the railroad tracks separated whites from blacks and African Americans were considered second-class citizens. Raised by common laborers who worked hard in Florida's citrus groves, I had my world widened by weekend excursions to Orlando, where seeing white men in suits and ties behind desks left an impression. It was there where possibility was seeded.

I began my investment career as the first African American portfolio manager at T. Rowe Price in 1973, not because of some quota or the good graces of white executives, but because the meritocratic model made me visible and managers were supportive. After 10 years in the business, I became an entrepreneur.

I founded Brown Capital Management in Baltimore, which now employs predominantly African American professionals and manages more than \$14 billion in client assets. Alongside my business partner Keith Lee, Brown Capital intentionally hired a diverse staff to gain broader perspectives and insight, purposely interviewed talent in non-finance professions and unabashedly approached black college graduates at conferences and job fairs, looking for well-rounded team players with ambition, intelligence and versatility.

But over the years, no amount of wealth, education or prestige has distracted me from the discrimination, prejudice and segregation of opportunity that America's communities of color endure. In my years on Wall Street, I have been doubted, discounted and judged reflexively on the basis of my skin color. The past few months have exposed our societal failures even further. We must heed the call to dismantle the inequality that makes careers such as mine the exception — rather than the rule.

It is no coincidence that African American representation in corporate America is abysmal when young blacks are told through societal cues that they are not as capable, intelligent, viable or even equal to their white counterparts. The fact that black adults make up 10 percent of college grads and 8 percent of professionals but just 3.2 percent of executives or senior-level managers and just five of Fortune 500 chief executives is an abrasive reminder that our country is committed to structural racism.

Following the death of George Floyd and the ensuing protests,



Illustration: "I'm a Black CEO. I've been discounted on Wall Street because of my skin color."



Eddie C. Brown (lower right corner) with Brown Capital Management Executive Team Eddie C. Brown



Eddie C. and C. Sylvia Brown

Fortune 100 company donations to battle racism and inequality now amount to more than \$2 billion. But what does this all mean when diversity programs and pledges throughout the years have still not been enough? What will change when corporate leaders still falsely claim there is not enough black talent to ascend the ranks?

The push for diversity has shown little resolve in the last decades. Chief executives still lack the intent to promote and retain more diverse leaders, and not enough attention is given to minorities who have to accomplish twice as much to be considered for promotions at the next level.

In finance, firms owned by white men manage 98.7 percent of the \$69 trillion managed by the U.S. asset management industry. Similarly, 88 percent of senior fund managers are white and even analysts and associate managers, more junior positions, are

more than 70 percent white. When it comes to the Federal Reserve, the State Department, the legal profession or myriad other fields, extraordinary qualifications are required for blacks to compete at the same level as their white colleagues.

The data illustrate contentment with homogeneity. We hire, support and mentor those who look like us and sustain a broken pipeline by playing down the outside influence managers have when it comes to positioning their employees for success. Executives often hire neophytes within their close networks, recycling the same stream of privilege.

America does not breed talent, it prefers to breed generational elitism, where very few minorities get to compete on a level playing field. This has catastrophic consequences for minorities and for blacks, made visible in the racial wealth gap. Today, younger gen-

erations of blacks experience the same economic disparities as their grandparents did in the 1950s. Equity ownership, the rocket fuel for wealth creation, is also in few black hands. Economic opportunity and career advancement are too often denied for those born without privilege. When black Americans say they are angry, believe them.

I have been saddened by the news and suspicious of the promises made by corporations and hiring managers that this time will be different. What gives me hope is the new faces who know all too well that this world is not equal, and who are paying attention to the change they want to see. I am reinvigorated by this youthful spirit of the masses and demand alongside them that we all deserve the same access, respect, opportunities and freedoms.

In the words of Frederick Douglass, power concedes nothing

without a demand. We all have the power to be change agents within our organizations. This country cannot afford to be lulled back to sleep. (Photos courtesy Brown Capital Management)

About Eddie C. Brown

American investment manager, entrepreneur and philanthropist Eddie Carl Brown is the founder, chairman, chief executive and senior portfolio manager of Brown Capital. Renowned for his stock-picking acumen, Brown is the founder and president of Brown Capital Management, a Baltimore-based firm that's amassed more than \$10 billion under management since it opened for business in 1983. An avid traveler and jazz aficionado, Brown and his wife, Sylvia, have given millions to various charitable causes under the aegis of the Baltimore-based Eddie C. and C. Sylvia Brown Family Foundation.

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THANK YOU

By Andrew Rosario

As I celebrated another year in this world this past Monday, I want to acknowledge and thank the people who have made it possible. This long and fantastic journey is a tribute to those who have made my dreams come true:

My mom Diana, my grandparents Isabel and Ernesto...My sister Yvonne, brothers Charles, David, Gene...Nadine, Tanya, Melissa, Randy, Darren, Jonathan, Daniel, Lisette, Jennette, Theresa, Gina, Steven, Kelli, Monica, Lisa, Doreen, Eric, Eddie Sr, Eddie Jr, Julie, Serena, Terrance, Ernesto Penn, Jr, Abita and my great nieces, nephews and cousins who I have not seen forever!

My friends...Bobby Childs, Jamie Harris, Jerome Syville, Rudy Robinson, Harry and Brenda Fogle, Harry Brantley, Dennis Brantley, Cliff Brantley, Jeff Thompson, Jeff Smith, Cat McKenzie, Jill and Julie Homorodean, Patty, Joe, Duece, Grady, Nina, Harvey, Andy, Rafael Valentin, Darlene Cruse, Tammy Johnson, Gayle, Darcia, Rick, Deborah, George and Janelle Willis, Todd and Michelle Goodwin, Season Mhoon, Julian and Barbara Phillips, Chris Jacobs, Sid Omen Brown, Zack Tawatari, Rudy and Lacey Bedoy, Liz Rodriguez, Kendall Vidal, Josh Garcia, Shara Taylor, Andrew Gutman, Michael Enriquez, Marc Rasbury, Greg Jackson Denard, Reggie Woods, Adam Salazar, Ivonne Velasquez, Millie Velasquez, Louis Benbow, Andrea Sooch, Samori Benjamin, Chuck and Johanna, Bill Rhoden, Wayne Mayo, Helen, Paul Kisslinger, James Lindenberg, Cliff Love, Tamara Skeeter, Angel and Minerva Tirado, Danny Tirado, Ricky, Rick Jefferson, Toya, Kristen Glaspy, Niomi, Carolina Leid, Fareed Wy-



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I am sure I have missed tons of people on this list. For that, I am truly sorry! You have made my path, through right and wrong, very memorable. It is my hope that we will go forward and look back only to not make the same mistakes. BIG LOVE TO ALL!



Stuart Scott