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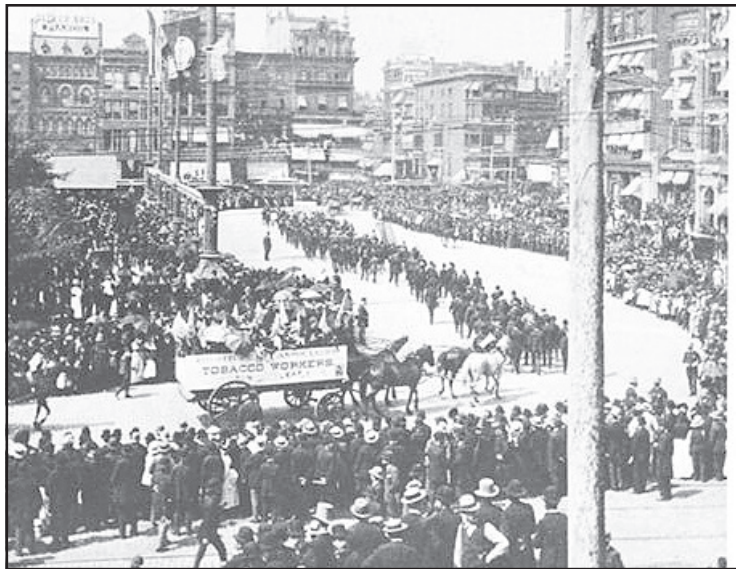
September 10 – September 16, 2020

24 HOURS OF PAIN IT HURTS TO BREATHE



LIFE CAN CHANGE IN AN INSTANT

“Twenty-four hours, every 24 hours it’s pain, nothing but pain. It hurts to breathe, it hurts to sleep, it hurts to move from side-to-side, it hurts to eat,” said the 29-year-old father of six, who was shot seven times in the back by a Kenosha, WI police officer on Aug. 23. The shooting has left him with staples in his stomach and back and paralyzed from the waist down, pg 3



New York invented the first Labor Day parade

Philadelphiaobserver.com

History isn't sure who actually came up with the idea of a holiday honoring workers. What is known is that the first Labor Day was launched by the Central Labor Union in New York City, with a parade and festivities taking place in Union Square on September 5, 1882.

The holiday was popular. "The following year the union shifted the holiday to the first Monday of the month," states the Smithsonian/National Museum of Ameri-

can History.

"This tradition generally spread as state governments began to officially put the holiday on their calendars.

Finally in 1894, the federal government made Labor Day a national holiday for all 50 states and the District of Columbia."

This image of the parade five years later also shows marchers in Union Square. And what about the 2020 Labor Day Parade? Perhaps it's being held virtually this year due to the pandemic.



Meghan Markle, Prince Harry sign multiyear deal with Netflix

The former royals are now part of Netflix's impressive group of creatives

Just six months after officially stepping down as senior members of the British royal family, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are already Hollywood producers with a lucrative new Netflix deal.

According to the New York Times, Wednesday it was revealed that Harry and Meghan have founded a production company and inked a multiyear deal with Netflix, which will allow them to produce documentaries, docu-series, feature films, scripted shows, and children's programming.

"Our focus will be on creating

content that informs but also gives hope," the dynamic duo said in a statement. "As new parents, making inspirational family programming is also important to us."

They also noted that Netflix's "unprecedented reach will help us share impactful content that unlocks action," which is true given that the streaming service has 193M subscribers worldwide.

Their production company has yet to be named, and while Harry and Meghan may appear on screen in a documentary, Markle has reportedly made it clear that she has no intention of ever returning to acting.

Teyana Taylor's 'Still' music video featuring tributes to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor garners mixed responses

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Teyana Taylor's latest music video for her song "Still" aims to serve as a reminder that Black lives truly matter, and that police brutality in America needs to end. "Still" is found on the Harlem native's latest project, The Album, and the music video (released on Wednesday) was directed by Taylor as her creative alter ego, Spike Tey.

Throughout the video, footage of past acts of police brutality such as the assault of Rodney King and the bodycam footage of the assault of George Floyd are on stirring display. Taylor also appears at various points in the visual dressed as civil rights activists and police brutality victims, such as Malcolm X, Huey P. Newton, Breonna Taylor (in an EMT uniform), Trayvon Martin (in a black hoodie), and Elijah McClain (as evidenced



by a violin, which he played).

While dressed as Newton, Taylor's prominent baby bump is on display. She announced in June that she was expecting her second child via the music video for "Wake Up Love," which features her husband Iman Shumpert.

While Taylor attempted to send a message about the importance of Black lives, several Twitter users are not thrilled about the

use of violent videos and audio for "Still," or her method of evoking the above victims. On Twitter, one user said that the video was "careless," while another questioned why she was "cosplaying" as victims of police brutality.

"[Police brutality victims] are not public property and it's not fair to use their image like this," a Twitter user wrote. "They didn't ask for all of this macabre."

Couple refusing to wear masks pulled from NY ferry in handcuffs

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A couple was taken from a New York City ferry in handcuffs after refusing the captain's order to wear masks and holding up the ferry's departure for more than an hour while they stood defiantly on the top deck.

Officers were called to the pier in Brooklyn Bridge Park around 10 p.m.

Saturday when a ferry captain reported disorderly people, police said. The captain told officers the 53-year-old man and 37-year-old woman refused to get off the boat when they were told to leave for not wearing masks.

The news site Gothamist reports that the pair claimed they have a constitutional right to ride mask-free because they have a medical condition that exempts

them from the governor's coronavirus protection order. They declined to provide evidence of their medical condition to an officer.

As other ferry riders grew impatient with the delay, officers gave the pair a last chance to voluntarily leave before taking out the handcuffs and ticketing the couple for disorderly conduct and violating an emergency order.





'It hurts to breathe': Jacob Blake speaks publicly from hospital bed

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Video of Jacob Blake speaking from his hospital bed was released over the weekend by his family's lawyer Benjamin Crump.

"Twenty-four hours, every 24 hours it's pain, nothing but pain. It hurts to breathe, it hurts

to sleep, it hurts to move from side-to-side, it hurts to eat," said the 29-year-old father of six, who was shot seven times in the back by a Kenosha, WI police officer on Aug. 23. The shooting has left him with staples in his stomach and back and paralyzed from the waist down.

"Your life, and not only just

your life, your legs, something you need to move around and forward in life, can be taken from you like this," Blake said, snapping his fingers. He added: "Stick together, make some money, make everything easier for our people out there, man, because there's so much time that's been wasted."

Why Chadwick Boseman kept his cancer battle a secret, according to his agent

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The devastating news of Chadwick Boseman's death last week was met with shock and disbelief from his fans and close friends alike.

"Black Panther" director Ryan Coogler and "Da 5 Bloods" director Spike Lee have already said they had no idea Boseman was battling colon cancer, a disease he was diagnosed with in 2016. Marvel boss Kevin Feige reportedly only learned about Boseman's diagnosis on the day he died.

Only a "tight-knit" circle of friends and his team were aware of the actor's diagnosis, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Michael Greene, Boseman's longtime agent, was one of those people, and he explained Boseman's reasoning for not telling more people.

Greene told THR that he partly attributes Boseman's choice to keep his cancer battle private to lessons the actor learned from his mother, Carolyn.

"[She] always taught him not to have people fuss over him," explained Greene. "He also felt in



this business that people trip out about things, and he was a very, very private person."

Keeping his health battle to himself meant that Boseman struggled privately. Greene talked about Netflix's upcoming movie "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," based on the play written by August Wilson, explaining that though Boseman was experiencing "hard-core pain" during filming, he

was excited to be in a movie produced by Denzel Washington and "launch this cycle of August Wilson at Netflix."

In the wake of Boseman's death, fans and friends, including Washington, have continued to offer heartfelt tributes. Many have flooded social media with the "Wakanda Forever" salute, which Boseman made famous in "Black Panther."

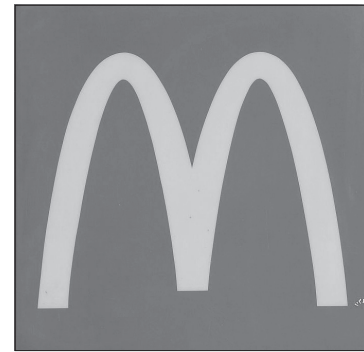
McDonald's sued for racial discrimination by 52 Black former franchisees

Philadelphiaobserver.com

More than 50 Black former McDonald's franchise owners are suing the burger chain, saying the company steered them to less-profitable restaurants and didn't give them the same support and opportunities given white franchisees.

The 52 plaintiffs, who owned around 200 U.S. stores before being forced to sell them over the last decade, are seeking compensation of \$4 million to \$5 million per store, according to the lawsuit. The suit was filed Tuesday in federal court in Chicago, where McDonald's is based.

According to the lawsuit, McDonald's steered Black franchisees to stores in inner-city neighborhoods with lower sales volumes and higher security and insurance costs. The company would provide



them with misleading financial information or push them to decide quickly when a store became available, the lawsuit says.

Once Black franchisees owned a store, they would be asked to rebuild or remodel within a shorter period of time than white franchisees without the rent relief and other financial support given to white franchisees, the lawsuit says. Black franchise owners were also denied the chance to buy more profitable stores in better neighborhoods, it says.

Trump: Black Lives Matter movement is 'Bad for Black people'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

In an interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham, President Trump called the Black Lives Matter movement "a Marxist organization," and added the name is "discriminatory."

"The first time I ever heard of Black Lives Matter, I said, 'That's a terrible name.' It's so discriminatory. It's bad for Black people. It's bad for everybody," Trump said according to The Grio.

Trump spent much of the interview slamming the protests taking place in many American cities across the country this summer. The majority of the protests have been peaceful rebukes of the police killings of Black people, however, Republicans and conservatives, many of whom supported

the anti-quarantine protests, have called these protests violent takeover attempts.

"Biden won't calm things down. They will take over. They will have won," Trump said about former Vice President Joe Biden. "If Biden gets in, they will have won."

"They will have taken over your cities. It's a revolution," he continued. "You understand that. It's a revolution. And the people of this country will not stand for that."

Fox News host, Tucker Carlson made a similar claim Monday.

"This may be a lot of things, this moment we are living through, but it is definitely not about Black lives," Carlson said. "Remember that when they come for you," he said. "And at this rate, they will."





11-year-old girl attacked after Defending her blackness to white 12-year-old boy

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A 12-year-old Kansas boy is facing a felony charge after he allegedly used a racial slur and hit an 11-year-old Black girl with a pipe.

Last Friday, the girl, Nevaeh Thomas, was playing with her friends at an apartment complex in Shawnee when the boy walked up and used a racial slur toward her, according to news reports. After Thomas told the boy “my Black is beautiful,” he hit her with a metal pipe.

The blow caused Thomas to lose consciousness and she was left with several injuries. A GoFundMe campaign created by her mother, Brandi Stewart, showed several pictures of the girl’s battered face.

“She suffered from a concussion. She has stitches inside and outside of her cheek. She lost her tooth,” Stewart said during an interview on August 31.

The boy was charged with aggravated battery and is under house arrest. He was not identified due to his age. He is white, according to KHSB.



Sheriff who quit over calling woman ‘N*gger lover’ kept on payroll ‘Out of compassion’

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A former sheriff in Arkansas who was forced to resign over his racist views and language replete with the N-word was reportedly being shown “compassion” for his racism and has been allowed to keep getting paid even though he is no longer officially a law enforcement officer.

Yes, you read the right. Ex-Arkansas County Sheriff Todd Wright was apparently secretly recorded speaking his racist mind in public, at one point even calling a woman a “N*gger lover,” prompting a court to ask for his resignation.

To be clear, Wright was not fired, nor was that ever an apparent consideration for his racism while leading law enforcement

efforts in a county that is 25 percent Black. Instead, Wright was encouraged to resign, out of apparent compassion for him. It was also “Out of compassion” that the “court also unanimously passed a motion to allow Wright to continue to be paid on contract labor through September 30” even though he won’t actually be laboring at all, according to local news outlet the Stuttgart Daily Leader.

The recording provides a much clearer picture of Wright’s racist offenses, which took place during a conversation with a woman at a local grocery store. Audio of the conversation hit social media last week and shows that Wright used the N-word multiple times out of anger once he found out the woman had spoken to a Black man at the supermarket.

Colin Kaepernick is nominated for the NFL Hall of Fame

Philadelphiaobserver.com

After leading the San Francisco 49ers to the Super Bowl in 2013, some football fans say that former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick belongs in the NFL Hall of Fame.

According to USA Today, one particular fan feels Kaepernick should be in there, but not for his playing abilities. Football fan Bob Birkett discovered that anyone, even someone who is a retiree from Vermont with no connections to the NFL, can nominate someone for the Hall of Fame. As a result, Birkett sent a letter to the Hall in late June requesting that Kaepernick be inducted as a contributor based on the former quarterback’s efforts to call attention to police violence against Black and brown people.

“It is my pleasure, privilege, and responsibility as a supporter of racial equality to nominate Mr.



Colin Kaepernick,” reads the letter Birkett wrote to the committee. “Mr. Kaepernick has shown exceptional courage in highlighting the damaging effects of racial injustice on Black people and on our society as a whole. His respectful kneeling posture has created a powerful symbol for those who are oppressed by our society.”

Birkett discussed his intentions with USA Today.

“He’s gotten a raw deal for so long,” Birkett told USA TODAY Sports. “It’s a little bit like (Muhammad Ali refusing to serve in Vietnam). The initial reaction was, ‘Holy cow what a horrible thing.’ Then a little while later, it’s like, ‘Man, that guy had some guts.’”

Naomi Osaka wears different masks of victims’ names to each match in this year’s Open

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Many athletes are voicing support for the protests against racial injustice and against the police killings of unarmed Black men and women.

Professional tennis player Naomi Osaka has continued the trend. Osaka donned a mask bearing the name of Trayvon Martin ahead of her U.S. Open match against Anett Kontaveit over the weekend.

Actually, I have a lot to say about this. I remember Trayvon’s death clearly. I remember being a kid and just feeling scared, irreverent info but I actually didn’t wear hoodies for years cause I wanted to decrease the odds of “looking suspicious”. I know his death wasn’t the first, but for me it was the one that opened my eyes to what was going on. I remember watching the events unfold on tv and wondering what was taking so long, why was justice not being served. To see the same things happening over and over still is sad. Things have to change.

The 22-year-old tennis pro, who beat Kontaveit, has worn a different mask bearing the name of a victim of police violence—Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain, Ahmaud Arbery, and Martin—to every match at this year’s Open.

Osaka, the highest-paid female athlete ever, recently made headlines when she dropped out of the semifinals for the Western & Southern Open in



the wake of the shooting of Jacob Blake by law enforcement officials in Wisconsin.

“Before I am an athlete, I am a Black woman. And as a Black woman I feel as though there are much more important matters at hand that need immediate attention, rather than watching me play tennis,” Osaka said.

“I don’t expect anything drastic to happen with me not playing, but if I can get a conversation started in a majority White sport I consider that a step in the right direction,” she continued, while also calling out what she called the “continued genocide of Black people at the hand of the police.”

Tulsa massacre survivors file lawsuit against city

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The lawsuit against Tulsa alleges that the city has appropriated the massacre

This week, survivors of the Tulsa massacre and the descendants of the victims have filed a lawsuit against the city, stating that it is time they finally receive compensation for the losses they endured.

A hundred years ago, Greenwood was a thriving business district in Tulsa with over 40 blocks of restaurants, hotels and theaters owned and run by Black business owners.

However, in 1921, the Black entrepreneurship mecca was violently destroyed by an angry white mob after armed Black Tulsans trying to save a man from being lynched, confronted them.



Now all these generations later, Greenwood is now only half a block. Lawyers for the plaintiffs in this new case argue that Tulsa officials shamelessly appropriated the massacre and then tried to turn what little is left of the district into a tourist destination.

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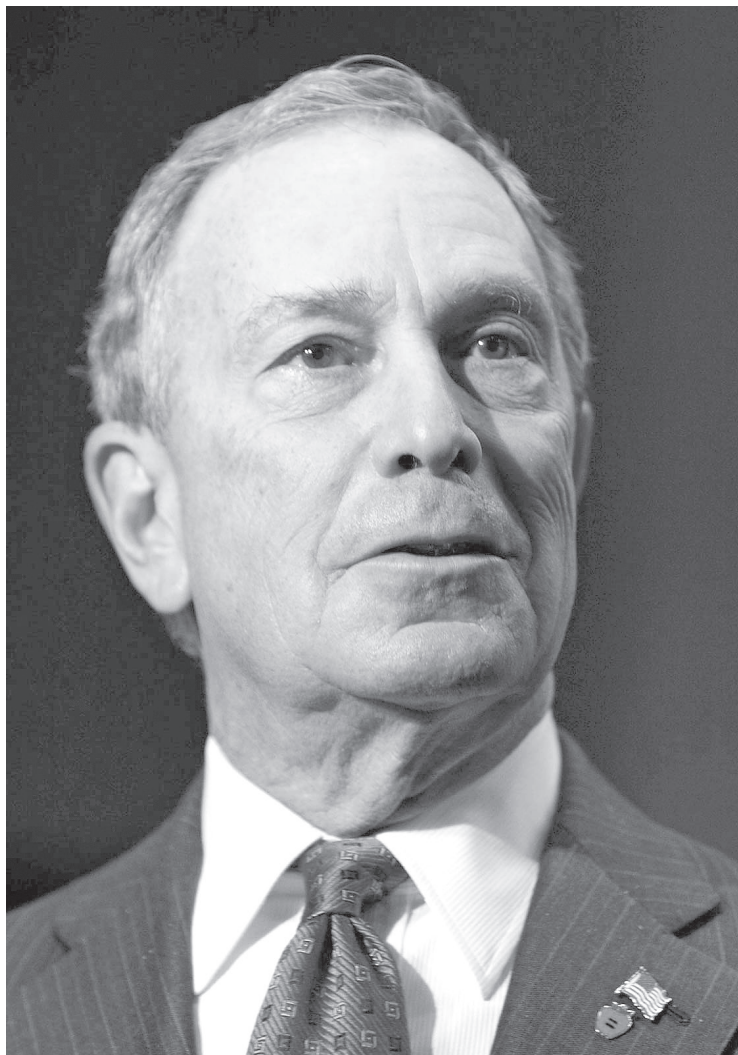
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Editorial

Philadelphia Observer

Four HBMS to receive \$100M to aid in fight against coronavirus, Bloomberg Philanthropies



By Michael R. Bloomberg, Wayne A. I. Frederick, David M. Carlisle, Valerie Montgomery Rice, James Hildreth

The Black community has suffered the highest death rates from Covid-19, and the numbers are staggering. Black people are nearly three times more likely than White people to contract the virus, and twice as likely to die from it, according to a report from the

National Urban League.

There are many factors that contribute to these disparities, including the fact that Black people are disproportionately represented in essential jobs that cannot be performed at home, and they are more likely to live in housing with a high number of occupants.

Lack of access to quality and affordable health care is also an important factor – and one facet of the issue is glaring but has gotten very little attention: There are too

few Black doctors.

For a number of reasons – including patient trust, physician engagement, and cultural awareness – Black patients overall have better outcomes when they are treated by Black doctors. A wealth of data supports this, including a recent study that found Black newborns treated by Black physicians had higher rates of survival.

Black doctors are also more likely to practice in communities where the lack of access to quality care – including preventative care – is most acute. Better care leads to better health and fewer medical bills, which leads to more economic opportunity and stronger finances – because there is a direct correlation between health and wealth.

In other words: If we had more Black doctors, we would save more Black lives – and also make progress in closing the racial wealth gap.

Currently, Black people make up 13% of the US population but, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges, only 5% of practicing medical doctors.

And while this disparity has been growing for years – especially among Black male doctors – the coronavirus threatens to make it far worse.

Across higher education, nearly 70% of Black students who drop out cite debt as a factor – and that was before the pandemic struck.

Without help, it's likely that even more students who might otherwise have pursued medical degrees will now decide against it. And the financial effects of the pandemic may significantly limit schools' ability to provide student aid at scale. The shortage of Black doctors could become even more acute, with deadly consequences.

It's encouraging that both Democrats and Republicans have supported including more fund-

ing for historically Black colleges and universities in the next round of stimulus funding. But private philanthropy has an important role to play, too – especially when so many lives are at stake.

So on Thursday, America's four historically Black medical schools are joining Bloomberg Philanthropies in a new partnership to increase the number of Black doctors by addressing one of the biggest obstacles: student debt.

Bloomberg Philanthropies is committing \$100 million to America's four historically Black medical schools (HBMSs) over the next four years to provide scholarships up to \$100,000 to nearly every medical student currently enrolled and receiving financial aid.

The four schools – Meharry Medical College, Howard University College of Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science – produced as many Black medical school graduates over the last 10 years as the top 10 non-HBMSs with the highest number of Black graduates."

These four schools tend to have higher graduation rates of Black students than medical schools overall – in part because increasing diversity in medicine and offering medical services for communities most in need are ingrained in their mission, so they provide more support to ensure students overcome obstacles and graduate than many other schools do.

The cost of education should never be an obstacle. A number of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have created programs that provide support to undergraduates who are considering a career in medicine – including internships, mentorships, and tuition assistance. But more aid is needed – more must be done to tackle the dearth of Black doctors

more directly and to help Black institutions fulfil their missions.

The \$100 million commitment from Bloomberg Philanthropies reflects its support for organizations and institutions that have proven track records of increasing economic and social mobility. This is the first investment by Bloomberg Philanthropies to build out its new Greenwood Initiative, which aims to increase generational wealth among Black families and address decades of underinvestment in Black communities.

One of the most outrageously unacceptable statistics in American life is that Black families have on average only 1/10th the wealth of White families. The disparities are seen not only in housing, education, and employment – but also in health.

The pandemic has underscored just how urgent the need for more Black doctors is, and we can't afford to wait for the economy to recover to increase support for the universities that most effectively enroll and graduate them. More Black doctors will mean more Black lives saved and less debilitating health conditions that limit economic opportunity in Black communities.

That won't cure the disease of disparities within our healthcare and economic systems, but it is an essential part of the treatment.

Michael R. Bloomberg, Founder Bloomberg LP, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Mayor of New York City 2002 to 2013; Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick, President, Howard University; Dr. David M. Carlisle, President CEO Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, President, Dean Morehouse School of Medicine; Dr. James Hildreth, President, CEO Meharry Medical College. The opinions expressed in this commentary are those of the authors; view more opinion on CNN.



Civil rights icon Benjamin Chavis to host weekly black talk show on PBS

By Hazel Trice Edney

- Civil rights icon Dr. Benjamin Chavis, former NAACP executive director and current president/CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), will become host of a weekly Black-oriented public affairs talk show on PBS (Public Broadcasting System) in October.

As racial tensions and disparities have skyrocketed in almost every category of American life, Chavis and the show's producer Clara Wilkerson says it's time for a program that challenges the mind and focuses on solutions. They believe the show, Chavis Chronicles, is among the answers. PBS apparently agrees.

"Our nation is polarized by race; polarized by politics; polarized by economics; polarized by health disparities; polarized by the pursuit of education and the education gap; culturally polarized; ethnically polarized; religiously polarized," Chavis said in an interview with the Trice Edney News Wire. "And so, with all of these multiple polarizations that are undergirded by systemic racism, having a national one half hour in depth discussion about these issues—particularly from an African-American perspective—which the main stream media has not really chosen to focus on, will be crucial."

American Public Television (APT), the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's public television stations, has confirmed that Chavis Chronicles is set to air in top markets across the nation, starting Oct. 1.

"We have reviewed the materials and are pleased to confirm it has been accepted for release in October, 2020 to the nation's public television stations," said a letter to Wilkerson from Judy Barlow, APT vice president for business development. "We are honored to work with you and Dr. Chavis on this fine series which will bring important conversations to the American people. Thank you for bringing it to us."

Wilkerson, an award-winning independent producer, has worked with PBS for more than 25 years. Her company, CRW Worldwide, Inc., has produced more than 25 documentaries and video productions held in over 300 libraries internationally. Wilkerson says she created the Chronicles format specifically with Chavis in mind.

"I first and foremost see this show as one that touches the mind, body and soul. PBS is intellectual," Wilkerson describes her vision for the show. "We're bringing this program to those who want to see something more introspective—deep thinkers, change makers, leaders—but then we're not snobs. We're not saying we just want to do it for those who are highly educated. We want people who are into social justice and what's good for the masses."

Chavis Chronicles will be rare programming as there are currently no weekly talk shows on network television specifically from



a Black perspective. Also, unlike cable television, PBS is still free of charge, which makes it accessible to people of all income levels, Wilkerson points out. "That's why PBS is a great place for this. There's no better place because we can reach the masses."

PBS is a non-profit corporation established by Congress in 1967. It is funded by multiple resources, including private donations, foundations, federal funds, and dues from member stations. Chavis Chronicles will be self-funded, including through advertising sales, "so we can be more autonomous," Wilkerson said.

An APT "Fact Sheet" describing the programming of Chavis Chronicles in its first year calls it "a thought-provoking half-hour weekly series with an urban American flair, featuring interviews with famous leaders and politicians, doctors and scientists, cultural leaders and influencers from around the globe... The Chavis Chronicles goes beyond the headlines offering insights on matters that impact the public and provides a unique perspective from a renowned living legend of the African American community."

More than 62 million homes will have access to the show in 100 markets. They include top Nielson-rated markets: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Houston, Boston and Atlanta.

Chavis says the first episode will feature an interview with U. S. Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) in his home office in Columbia, S.C. It will not only spotlight Clyburn as the nation's highest-ranking Black lawmaker in his role as House majority whip; but also his family roots and civil rights background.

A social justice activist of more than 60 years, Chavis says his experiences have given him an appeal to people from all walks of life. He started his civil rights career as a youth coordinator for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Duke University while serving an unjust 34-year prison sentence as a member of the Wilmington 10, who Amnesty International

declared political prisoners. The Wilmington 10 case garnered international attention and was pardoned 40 years later. He also received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Howard University. He believes Chavis Chronicles will draw a vastly diverse audience despite it being from an African American perspective.

"The problem of systemic racism is not just a Black problem. It's a White problem. It's a Latino problem. It's an Asian problem; a native American problem. So, this is a program for all audiences from all racial backgrounds. It's also intergenerational. While I've had a longevity in the civil rights movement; I still have an appeal to millennials. I still have an appeal to the Hip Hop generation. I still have an appeal to the environmental justice movement which I helped to initiate 30 or 40 years ago," Chavis says. "So, it's very broad in terms of the scope of the program, but it comes from an African-American perspective."

As president/CEO of NNPA, the Black Press of America, Chavis already has a broad weekly audience as a columnist. He also serves as board chairman of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) and is a regular contributor on the Black News Channel. However, he stresses that his new role as a PBS talk show host will be independent of all of his various other positions and responsibilities.

"And so, we have an unprecedented opportunity to present an in depth discussion; an in depth analysis and also to talk about some solutions to the problems that beset America and that beset people of color throughout the world; particularly those of African descent," Chavis concludes. "My whole career is about freedom, justice and equality. But, overarching, the struggle for freedom, justice and equality is to stand for what's true. Speaking truth to power, publishing truth to power, distributing truth to power. Now I have an opportunity to broadcast truth to power. If the Chavis Chronicles is going to represent anything, it's going to represent the truth."

Americans have saved nearly \$91B since working from home, report says

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Since the spread of COVID-19, or the novel coronavirus, in the United States, many companies have been forced to close their offices to prevent the transmission of the virus among their workforce. The change has completely reshaped corporate cultures as more companies plan on working from home until 2021. Now, a new study shows that not driving to work has saved Americans close to \$91 billion.

The study, done by economist Adam Ozimek of Upwork, explores shifts in corporate structures and workers since the COVID-19 pandemic started. "Since the onset of COVID-19 and the massive shift to remote work, however, many are considering life without a commute," Ozimek wrote in the study.

"To understand the impact of remote work on commutes, we surveyed 1,000 people currently working from home to see how much time they are saving sans commute. Of this group, 31.4% are working from home due to COVID and 15% were working from home

prior to COVID." The data shows that the average American worker saved \$2,000 each from trading in their commute for a home office.

"Of the COVID remote workers, 86% report having previously commuted by car and are now saving, on average, 46.3 minutes per day," he adds. "Altogether, we estimate that those post-COVID remote workers are saving 32.9 million hours of car commuting per day."

The reduction in commuting has correlated with an increase in productivity, which is part of why many companies like Twitter plan to permanently stay remote.

It also has an economic effect: The study estimates that for every day of the pandemic, \$183 million was saved in fuel plus the costs of car maintenance and repairs; \$164 million in costs associated with pollution, congestion, and accidents; and \$411 million as the value of time saved. That's \$758 million a day saved by workers who used to drive to the office, or more than \$90 billion since mid-March for those car commuters now working from home.



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Honorary Chairs

VIPs named as Black Music Collective

By Ian Courtney

LOS ANGELES, CA The Recording Academy announced the creation of the Black Music Collective, a coalition of prominent Black figures in the music industry who will help to foster inclusion within the Academy and the music community at large.

The collective will provide a platform for its membership to

speak openly about new and emerging opportunities in the industry across all genres and develop ways to encourage more representation.

Jeffrey Harleston, Jimmy Jam, Quincy Jones, Debra Lee, John Legend, and Sylvia Rhone will all serve as honorary chairs of the BMC, with a leadership committee to be announced in the coming weeks.

Recording Academy Trustee Riggs Morales and Washington, D.C. Chapter Executive Director Jeriel Johnson will lead the initiative internally.

"The Black Music Collective is necessary to help drive the Recording Academy into a new era. Creating an open space for Black music creators can only benefit our membership as a whole," said Harvey Mason Jr., Chair and

Interim President/CEO of the Recording Academy.

"Through the past few months, I've been personally invested in propelling this collective along with Chapter leadership within the Academy. Together, we will elevate Black music creators within our organization and the industry at large."

"As Black music continues to drive culture, it is essential we

grow and maintain representation within the Academy and the music industry," added Valeisha Butterfield Jones, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer of the Recording Academy. "We're thrilled to help develop the leaders of tomorrow with impactful educational and experiential programs that we will announce in coming weeks."

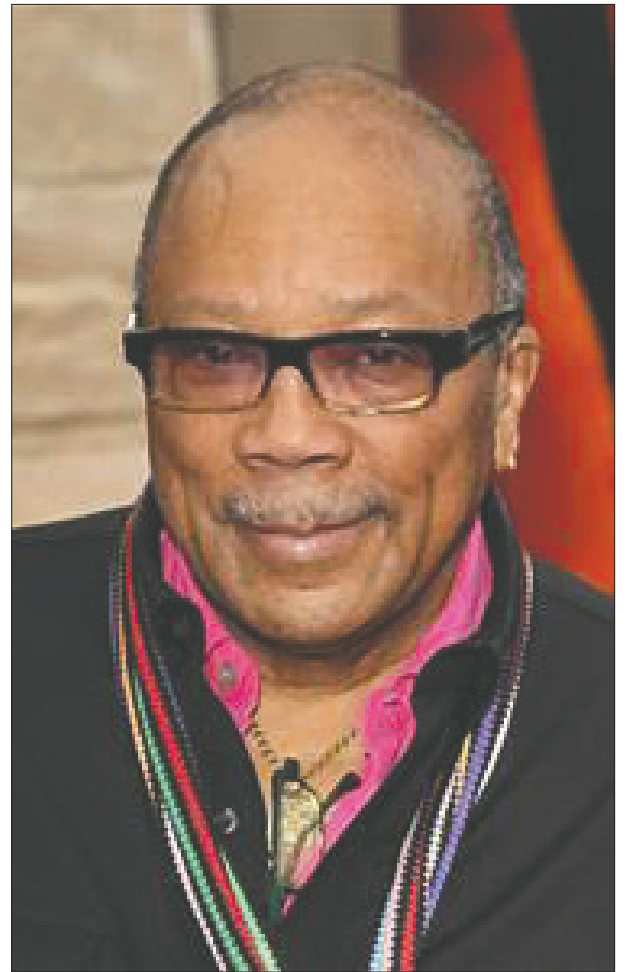
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Jeffrey Harleston



Jimmy Jam



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John Legend



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Health

COVID-19 and Sickle Cell disease

By Glenn Ellis

September is Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month, and COVID-19 has given the need for awareness more urgent than ever.

The CDC has issued this statement a couple of weeks ago, as it pointed out that people of any age with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Like, seemingly, everything else about COVID-19, Blacks/African Americans are carrying a much heavier burden as it relates to those with sickle cell disease. Thirty years ago, the U.S. sickle cell anemia population was estimated to be 32,000 – 50,000.

Today, assessing the number of individuals with SCD nationwide with sickle cell disease is, for all practical purposes, impossible, since there is no coordinated system of data collection and reporting of the prevalence and death rate from this disease. Sadly, because of this, the number of individuals who died with or of sickle cell disease or even the number of individuals that go unreported, is unknown.

Back in 2010, a study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine pointed out that the average age of death (39 years) and the proportion of individuals surviving to age 45 years (35%) were lower in 2006 than the proportion of individuals surviving (50%) before 1994. This is in spite of the presumed improvements in health care in this country.

Many of us don't understand

that sickle cell disease is a genetic condition. People who have it have inherited certain genes in their blood from their parents. If a child inherits a sickle cell gene from each parent, they have sickle cell disease. If a child inherits a sickle cell gene from one parent and a normal hemoglobin gene from the other has sickle cell trait rather than sickle cell disease. Most people with sickle cell trait don't have symptoms but can pass the gene to their children. Sickle cell disease (SCD) disproportionately affects Black/African Americans in the United States as well as forebearers from sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Hemisphere (South America, the Caribbean, and Central America), and some Mediterranean countries.

Symptoms and complications of sickle cell disease are different for each person and can range from mild to severe. However, people with the condition inherited a mutation that causes red blood cells to transform from a round shape into a sickle shape (a process called "sickling"). Healthy, round red blood cells are able to move easily through the blood vessels to carry oxygen to all parts of the body. Sickle-shaped red blood cells, however, are not able to flow through blood vessels as easily: They can get stuck and clog blood flow, which can inhibit oxygen delivery, damage blood vessels and lead to inflammation.

The symptoms of sickle cell disease include abdominal pain, bone pain, shortness of breath, delayed growth, fatigue, fever and chest

pain. A bone marrow transplant may cure the disease; otherwise, treatment focuses on symptom management.

Due to the impact other infections can have on people living with sickle cell (including pneumonia and acute chest syndrome) anyone with a sickle cell disorder who has a worsening cough, difficulty in breathing or fever.

Thanks, in large part, to Dr. Mary T Basset, a physician during the American civil rights movement, who protested the fact that sickle cell disease research, screening, and treatment received little to no funding and was neglected because patients were of mostly African American descent. As a result, one of the civil rights movements' achievements was the establishment of the Sickle Cell Anemia Act of 1972. Since then, there has been more public awareness of the genetic disorder and it has led to more funding towards finding a cure for the disease. Now, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), spends about \$100 million on sickle cell disease research each year.

The Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and University Hospitals reports that, according to the NIH, "the only cure for sickle cell disease is a bone-marrow transplant, a procedure in which a patient receives bone marrow from a healthy, genetically-compatible sibling donor. However, transplants are too risky for many adults, and only about 18% of children with the disease have a healthy, matched sibling donor".

There is some very promising



hope, as a result of the years of research. A young African American woman, Jennelle Stephenson, 28, who was born with sickle cell disease, fully recovered after receiving genetic treatment as part of an NIH clinical trial that might hold the key to a cure of this disease. This is truly exciting news!

In the meantime, we must especially remember that those with sickle cell disease are particularly vulnerable, and we have an obligation to ensure that they are protected and receiving the best of care.

COVID-19 can cause severe inflammation and injury to the lungs. This can take a greater toll if you have sickle cell disease, a group of inherited red blood cell disorders.

Be sure to stay well hydrated, wash your hands frequently and avoid close contact with other

people who have symptoms of a respiratory infection!

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

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly. *Glenn Ellis, MPH is a Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Fellow in Research Bioethics and Writing. 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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Migrants abandoned at sea by the Greek government

By Viviane Faver

The Greek government faces criticism accused of pushing migrant boats back into the Mediterranean Sea, effectively condemning many on board to death or inhumane conditions.

According to The New York Times, Greek authorities have quietly forced the departure of more than 1,000 refugees, taking those arriving by boat and driving them back to Greek territorial waters' shores.

It has also been revealed that refugees are left in the middle of the ocean in overloaded lifeboats or inflatable boats that can quickly sink.

Documents analyzed by the newspaper show that there were at least 31 separate cases, the Greek government abandoned at least 1,072 migrants at sea. The act of catching migrants and pushing them back to the sea to die within the European Union violates the law, according to DW.com.

"It was very inhuman. I left Syria for fear of bombing – but when that happened, I wished I had died under a bomb," Najma al-Khatib told The New York Times in an interview.

Al-Khatib said on July 26, masked Greek officers took her,

20 others, and two babies out of a detention center on Rhodes' island. Officials put them on life rafts in pitch-black darkness, and they were left in the middle of the sea on a raft with no motor.

Fortunately, the Turkish Coast Guard rescued them; however, there is even more serious news, such as a video in which the Turkish Coast Guard published showing Greek officers intentionally shutting down a boat's engine and leaving people floating in the sea.

Greek authorities have denied illegal activities. But for years, Greek citizens have expressed fury because, since 2015, thousands of migrants from Africa and the Middle East have tried to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Greece or Italy in the hope of a better life.

The European Union tried to keep migrants away from boats heading for Greece and Italy, but that deal started to crumble when Turkey became home to millions of Syrian immigrants fleeing civil war.

According to The New York Times, Greek officials accused Turkey of essentially arming migrants and sending them to Europe to receive a more lucrative and favorable deal from the European Union.

François Crépeau, a former United Nations special rapporteur on migrants' human rights, told the newspaper that human rights advocates had long suspected that Greece was expelling migrants before they made it to shore. But now that Greek officials are taking people who have already made it and forcing them back out, the situation has reached another illegality level, Crépeau said.

"These pushbacks are totally illegal in all their aspects, in international law, and in European law. It is a human right and humanitarian disaster," he said.

Several photos and videos are being shared by migrants.

"They told us that they would take us for a Corona test, and then we would get our belongings back and be transferred to Athens. They put everyone in ... children, women, the elderly, and young people. They left no one on the ship," said a refugee to Keady-Tabbal.

Crépeau says the coronavirus pandemic helped to increase this situation. "Unfortunately, there has been a widespread reaction against migration across Europe, leading to a situation where few countries are politically willing to criticize Greece for its recent actions."



Senegal sees dollar signs in new construction underway in Dakar

(GIN) –

Can a fish and peanut-based economy ramp up to become a world-class industrial powerhouse when money is tight and oil discoveries may not bring the hoped-for rewards?

That's the question for Senegalese people to consider as hopes placed in their president, Macky Sall, and his "Plan for an Emerging Senegal" sputter forward.

Billboards touting the President's ambitious schemes promising wealth, jobs and social inclusion line the streets of the capital city Dakar while talk on the street focuses on a string of major oil and gas discoveries off its coast, which the government hopes will make Senegal an oil exporter in the coming years.

Senegal has a young population with a median age of 18.4 years, eager to find work.

But oil prices globally are low and have yet to turn around while over-exuberant government spending could negatively impact future growth.

"The young need jobs and they can't eat concrete," worries Elimane Haby Kane, founder and chair of LEGS-Africa, a pan-African think-tank based in Dakar.

The president's plan for Senegal is facing challenges.

Frequent fliers through the shiny new Blaise Diagne International Airport say they are dreading the 90 minute drive into Dakar. A taxi ride to the airport costs around \$35; the ride to the old one cost less than \$5.

Elimone Thiaw, secretary general for the union of taxi drivers at the old airport, said that his union



had over 500 registered taxis but that so far only 100 of those had been allowed to work at the new airport.

Downtown's gleaming new high rises with their glass, steel and concrete panels may impress visitors from New York and Paris but how will they fare in Senegal's warm, dry climate? Huge windows tend to invite uncomfortable heat.

"People are going to have their air conditioning on all day long," said Mamy Tall, a local architect who runs the Instagram page DakarLives, which has 297,000 followers.

This year, a familiar investor came forward with an ambitious plan for Dakar's environs. American-born hip hop singer and solar energy promoter known as Akon, said he is raising \$6 billion to build a 'real-life futuristic Wakanda' in a 2,000 acre cornfield gifted to him by the government. Run on cryptocurrency called Akoin, it will feature luxury condos, a beachfront resort, office parks, a university and a hospital.

Zimbabwe grants coal mining rights in its biggest game park

(GIN) –

Wildlife and the environment will be at risk in Zimbabwe's biggest game park now that the government has given the green light to several Chinese companies seeking to launch polluting coal-mining activities in the fragile animal preserve.

Zimbabwe is already on the hook to explain the deaths of 22 elephants just as the mining concessions were awarded to several Chinese companies in Hwange National Park.

Environmentalists now fear the mining activities will harm the environment and worsen human-wildlife conflict as animals move to get away from disturbances to their habitats.

Zimbabwe uses hydro-generated electricity but recent

droughts, worsened by climate change, have meant less capacity for the country as well as neighboring Zambia from the Kariba Dam.

Even as China's investment in renewable energy projects has soared, making them one of the world's leaders in solar, for example, Chinese companies have been building hundreds of coal plants abroad, some in countries that currently burn little or no coal.

Last year, Kenyan judges stopped a Chinese-backed scheme to build Kenya and East Africa's first coal plant because the owners had failed to conduct a thorough assessment of the plant's impact on Lamu, an idyllic archipelago in the country's northeast.

The Hwange National Park is home to elephants, rhinos, lions,



cheetahs, giraffes and other rare species. Zhongxin Coal Mining Group and Afrochine Smelting received permission from the

government to begin environmental impact assessments for drilling, land clearance, road building and geological surveys

at two proposed sites inside the park, which is home to almost 10% of Africa's remaining wild elephants.

It could devastate safari tourism, which is a vital source of income for local people.

The mysterious deaths of the elephants in Zimbabwe appear similar to the deaths last month of more than 275 elephants in neighboring Botswana. Scientists are still investigating the deaths of the elephants in Botswana's Okavango Delta area and poaching, poisoning and anthrax have been ruled out.

Botswana has the world's largest elephant population, estimated at 156,000 and Zimbabwe has the second largest, estimated at 85,000. Last year about 200 elephants in Zimbabwe died of starvation as a result of the country's drought.

Culture

Atlanta announces plans to build monument of Coretta Scott King

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The city of Atlanta and mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms unveiled plans for a new monument to civil rights icon Coretta Scott King on Thursday in honor of Women's Equality Day.

In the U.S. there are only 394 public sculptures of women yet more than 4,500 monuments of men. Popular streaming website Hulu decided to get involved in a project to change that fact, working with artists and specific cities to build more monuments to iconic women according to a press release sent exclusively to Blavity.

"Coretta Scott King is one of our unsung heroes. The best way to create these conversations in our communities are to have places and spaces that people can look

to ask more questions," Bottoms said in a statement.

For the statue to King, Hulu and the city of Atlanta partnered with Brooklyn artist Saya Woolfalk.

Last year, Hulu sponsored a "Shape the Future" art installation in three cities that sought to equalize the number of monuments dedicated to women and men in three cities. The mirrored statuettes allowed any passerby to see themselves in these representations.

King is well known for continuing the work of her husband Martin Luther King Jr., who was killed at age 39. Dubbed the "First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement," King spent decades helping to lead the fight against racism and became a notable figure in the women's rights movement.



Final tweet from Chadwick Boseman's account is most liked ever on Twitter

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The final tweet from the account of Black Panther star Chadwick Boseman has become the most-liked post in Twitter history.

The social media company's official feed announced the news. The original message – posted on Saturday and confirming Boseman's death from cancer aged 43 – currently has more than 7m "likes". (The previous most-liked tweet was by Barack Obama, with 4.3m.)

Boseman, who starred in Da 5 Bloods and Marshall as well as Black Panther, was diagnosed with

colon cancer in 2016. The post said that his most famous roles were "filmed during and between countless surgeries and chemotherapy".

It added: "The family thanks you for your love and prayers, and asks that you continue to respect their privacy during this difficult time."

Tributes continued to pour in for the actor, including a lengthy statement from Black Panther director Ryan Coogler. "[He] was an anomaly. He was calm. Assured. Constantly studying. But also kind, comforting, had the warmest laugh in the world, and eyes that seen much beyond his years, but could still sparkle like a child seeing something for the first time."



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Inaugural 'Salute THEM Awards' honors influencers impacting global change

Posted by Audrey J. Bernard

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 4, 2020 – During an unprecedented year disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and social justice protests, the first-ever **Salute THEM (Together Heroes Emerge Momentous) Awards** will recognize women, men, and organizations who have "initiated global change" and will take place during the annual CBC Annual Legislative Conference Week.

Thanks to the support of longstanding partners, Toyota and AARP, the Salute THEM Awards is an extension of 10-year-old Café Mocha's Salute Her Awards Tour. The event will kick off with Patcasso (fusion of art and entertainment) reception and virtual Awards featuring performances from **Tamela Mann**, **Anthony Hamilton**, and phenomenal newcomer **Jac Ross**. Hosted by Emmy-winner **Loni Love**, the awards will stream 'live' Saturday, **September 12, 2020**, at 7 pm ET via SaluteTHEMAwards.com and following across all the network's social media platforms @cafemocharadio.

This year's Salute THEM Awards include: *Family Legacy Award*, **The Clark Sisters**, the highest-selling female gospel group of all time; *Champion for Change Award*, **Congresswoman Maxine Waters** (D-Calif.), who represents South Los Angeles County and made history as the first woman and African American Chair of the House Financial Services Committee; *Creating The Legacy Award*, **Lamman Rucker**, actor, education, activist, entrepreneur and founder of non-profit The Black Gents; *Legend Award*, **Marla Gibbs**, legendary actress and singer; *Game Changer Award*, **Rehan Staton**, former sanitation worker now accepted to Harvard Law School; and the *new Toyota Champion Award*, **Jahmal Cole**, My Block My Hood My City organization founder committed to providing underprivileged youth with an awareness of the world and STEM-focused opportunities beyond their neighborhood.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the first Salute Her Awards at the Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center, formerly the Audubon Ballroom, with 50 attendees, has grown to honor over 200 women from every walk of life including past honorees: trailblazing actresses **Pam Grier**, **Sheryl Lee Ralph**, **Kim Fields**, **Lynn Whitfield**, **Malinda Williams**, and **Terri J. Vaughn** to **Vy Higginson**, television personalities **Wendy Williams**, **Iyanla Vanzant**, **Cynthia Bailey** to singers **Gloria Gaynor**, **Stephanie Mills**, **Fantasia Barrino Taylor**, **Syleena Johnson**,

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SEPTEMBER 12TH LIVE STREAM SALUTEHEMAWARDS.COM 7P EST/4P PST

Tamela Mann and veteran Black Society chronicler **Audrey J. Bernard**, to name of few.

The Café Mocha Network, hosted by Emmy-winning talk show host **Loni Love**, hip hop icon **YoYo**, and veteran broadcaster **Angelique Perrin**, is the only female-owned syndicated digital and radio platform created by and for 'women of color' now crowned the #1 nationally syndicated radio show for women.

"It's always been our mission to recognize the great work of our 'sisters,' but this year with so much loss and social unrest, we felt compelled to honor those who are not only driving change in their communities but empowering others to come to together, thus inspiring our *Stand In Solidarity* initiative," says **Sheila Eldridge**, CEO of Miles Ahead Broadcasting and creator/executive producer of Café Mocha Network.

"At AARP, we share a commitment with Café Mocha to uplift women and

families. We're honored to be a presenting sponsor for the last four years. This year's theme, *Stand in Solidarity*, aligns with our 34-year history of non-partisan voter engagement advocating safety for those 50+ at the polls," says **Shani Hosten**, AARP African American/Black Strategy Vice President.

Café Mocha's *Stand In Solidarity* initiative has partnered with **WhenWeAllVote** and **Black Voters Matter** to encourage people to exercise their right to vote. In addition, a special Toyota Champion Award has been established to support organizations nominated by the public at www.SaluteTHEMAwards.com

"For the last four years, Toyota has been the presenting sponsor of the Café Mocha Radio Salute Her Awards Tour, and through that work, we have been honored to celebrate and acknowledge the brave women of color who have served this nation with the Toyota American Pride award," said **Alva Adams-Mason**, Group Manager, Multicul-

tural Business Strategy, and Dealer Relations for Toyota Motor North America. "This year, as this country is faced with unprecedented obstacles, a new signature award was created, the Toyota Champion Award. This tour season, we strive to honor everyday champions who have worked selflessly and bravely."

With a focus to be a 'voice' to empower women and children in local shelters, proceeds from the Salute THEM Awards will benefit the Mocha Cares Foundation to support housing and services to combat homelessness and domestic violence through mentorship programs.

Those who are the first to RSVP at www.SaluteTHEMAwards.com will receive a special Café Mocha care package, while supplies last. For more information, contact Alex Hill at 313-655-0111, Alex@milesaheadentertainment.com; or Sheila Eldridge at 301-249-1700, sheila@milesaheadentertainment.com.

About Cafe Mocha Radio Show

Two-time Gracie Award winner Café Mocha Radio launched in March 2010. It is known as 'radio from a woman's perspective' and is built on the concept of women helping other women to grow through shared experiences and information. Syndicated by Compass Media Networks in more than 35 markets and on SiriusXM channel 141, the show airs weekends and is hosted by comedienne **Loni Love**, also Emmy Award-winning host of TV's "The Real"; broadcast veteran **Angelique Perrin**; and Grammy-nominated female rap icon **Yo-Yo**. The two-hour girlfriend's guide to radio features the latest in urban music, compelling hot topics, and advice from an unabashedly women's perspective. Café Mocha also includes exclusive interviews with top recording artists, celebrities,

politicians, and those making headlines. To learn more about **Café Mocha Radio**, visit CafeMochaRadio.com, Twitter, Instagram @cafemocharadio; YouTube: Cafemocharadio; and on Facebook www.facebook.com/cafemocharadio.

About the Salute Her Awards

Café Mocha Radio launched its annual Salute Her Awards events in 2011, with a mission to recognize dynamic women who have made contributions in their communities and breaking down barriers. Since its inception eight years ago, past honorees include activist Sybrina Fulton, broadcast personality Wendy Williams, and Iyanla Vanzant, "Empire" actress Ta'Rhonda Jones, CNN correspondent Fredricka Whitfield, renowned White House journalist and author April Ryan, legendary actress Pam Grier, actress/humanitarian Sheryl Lee

Ralph, Cynthia Bailey, Kim Fields, Malinda Williams, Terri J. Vaughn and Vy Higginson, singers Gloria Gaynor, Stephanie Mills, Fantasia Barrino Taylor, Syleena Johnson, and Tamela Mann, influencers Constance White, Luvvie Ajayi, Lola Ogunnaike, Jamie Foster Brown, Shirley Strawberry, fashion designer Barbara Bates, Dr. Bernice King, Deanna Brown Thomas, Ricki Fairley, NBA mom Wanda Durant, Ilyasah Shabazz, and Audrey J. Bernard to name few.

About Toyota

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directly employ more than 47,000 people (over 36,000 in the U.S.). Our 1,800 North American dealerships (nearly 1,500 in the U.S.) sold nearly 2.8 million cars and trucks (nearly 2.4 million in the U.S.) in 2019.

About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence and nearly 38 million members, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.

Introducing

A millennial whose putting Black radio station on the map

Posted By Don Thomas

With the explosive growth of digital streaming, the rise of social media and other online distractions, many have pronounced terrestrial radio dead. However, KOKA 980 AM – The Heart of Gospel is Shreveport, Louisiana's first African American radio station, with a history dating back to the '50s is very much alive.

The station which had been in decline for some years has been robustly resuscitated by its Program Director **Charles "Pastor CeJay" Johnson** 31-years-old. In the midst of a national pandemic and civil rights unrest, he has taken stands and made decisions that have renewed the station's relationship with the local community and made it a leader in the gospel music industry nationally.

Johnson assumed his position in August of 2019, a few months after the death of KOKA's longtime Program Director, Eddie Giles, an R&B Singer-turned pastor, who had been with the station for more than 46 years. Aside from rebranding the station, Johnson overhauled the playlist to attract a younger audience while retaining its longtime listenership.

"The station had no social media presence at all. This station had been written off. We didn't have a relationship with the community anymore. No relationship

with the major gospel labels and we worked very quickly to repair those problems," said Johnson.

Under Johnson's management, KOKA ratings are up and it's become a reporting station for Billboard Magazine's Gospel Airplay chart panel. It has revived its relationships with the gospel industry too. Fred Hammond recently drove from his home in Dallas to spend time with KOKA staff and to thank them for their support of his No. 1 hit, "Alright." Kirk Franklin recently did a Facebook Live with the station to promote his latest No. 1 radio hit, "Just for Me."

Johnson says "This is not just a gospel station. It's a community station." The station partnered with a law firm to pay for and to distribute thousands of face masks to slow the spread of the Coronavirus. During the winter, they give away coats and food baskets to the needy. Civic leaders call upon him for advice and he led the June 7th Unity march through Shreveport in light of George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis.

"There was so much tension and bitterness, many people had been scarred from the past. There were people protesting in our streets. We had the mayor. We had the district attorney. We had the school superintendent. We had the chief of police. We had church congregations Black and



Charles "Pastor CeJay" Johnson

white who all took to the street," said Johnson.

Taking to the streets is not the role Johnson envisioned for himself during his youth. He planned to become a schoolteacher, earning degrees from multiple schools,

including East Texas Baptist University. He's currently working on a doctorate from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

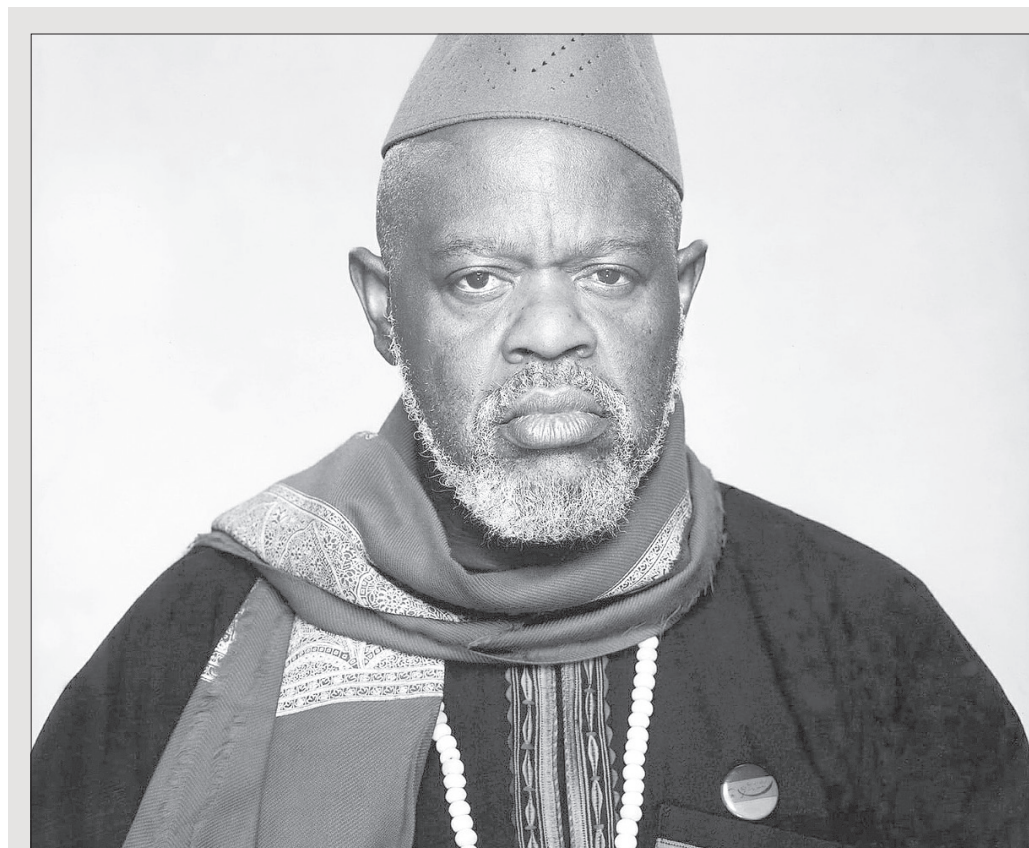
Johnson's passion for education evolved into a call to ministry. Initially, he held down a full-time

job at a call center while pastoring. It was only when he sought a radio show to expand his ministry that broadcasting entered the picture. "I never had an interest in radio. However, he took a job at Alpha Media radio in 2010 as an advertising rep. Over the years, he's earned millions of dollars for the cluster of six Shreveport radio stations.

At the company, Johnson was mentored by R&B Programmer, Quinn Echols, who gave him a half hour Sunday morning program, called "Pastor CeJay's 30 Minute Praise Break," on KBTT 103.7 The Beat. The show kept growing in popularity, eventually expanding to five hours. When KOKA's longtime music director died last year, Alpha Media staffers thought that with his sales experience and pastoral history, that he'd be the perfect person to carry the station into a new era.

For Johnson, it's not simply about creating a better music playlist, but also about bringing harmony to the community. "One of the things we have tried to do is become leaders who affect change versus leaders who just complain about where we are.

"When I was growing up there was a saying old folks would say, 'Don't talk the talk, if you can't walk the walk.' We have tried to position ourselves to not only talk, but most importantly to walk," concluded Johnson.



Benediction of Truth

This Benediction for truth and justice was delivered at the Democratic National Convention (DNC), August 20, 2020, in Washington, DC. "Send us forth this night we pray, inspired with the courage to transform ourselves and our society. Grant us the unwavering resolve to exorcise our demons of generational racism and violence from the soul of America once and for all that our children's children and their children, might be spared the burden of our iniquities. Forgive us our sins of inhumanity to our neighbors, O Lord. Bless our young and our elders, our teachers and the common working people, our crises responders and our caretakers. Guide the leaders of this nation and bless them with reverence, moral courage, competence, integrity, empathy, love and compassion. Hear our prayer Most Merciful God, AMEN. By Imam Al-Haji Talib 'Abdur-Rashid, The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood Inc.

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Sports



**Andrew
Rosario,
Sports
Editor**

Serena Looks for 24 at US Open

By Shara Talia Taylor

Days are getting cooler with the end of summer, but Serena Williams is just warming up at the US Open.

Williams became more active through several intense matches, two that went to a third set over the last few days. Her powerful serve did not fail her as she pushed ahead to the quarterfinals over the Labor Day weekend at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Prior to the Us Open, Williams had a 3-2 record in the five matches she had competed in since the shutdown of sports due to Covid-19. Williams won three matches since last Thursday after a successful week, when she just broke the record for most wins at the U.S. Open, 102, held by Chris Evert.

she said. "So, I'll keep that in mind for the next match."

Stephens said she thought Williams served a lot better in the second set when asked whether she noticed a difference and how she prepared for the third set.

"Yeah, I thought she raised her level on her serve," Stephens said. "Obviously she has one of the greatest serves in the game. It's really difficult to read. Yeah, definitely something that I thought was a little bit trickier, but I just tried to get my racquet on a lot of the balls and make her play as best I could."

When Williams faced 24-year-old Maria Sakkari on Monday, it was expected that this match could be challenging for Williams as lost to Sakkari in the third round of the Western & Southern Open in New York 5-7, 7-6, 6-1 the previous week.



Serena Marches On Despite No Fans
Special to the Philadelphia Observer

Last Williams, took on Margarita Gasparyan on a rainy Thursday night without fans in attendance because of COVID-19. The 26-year-old tennis player ranked 117th in the world.

The second set seemed to be more difficult for Williams. She seemed tired and stationary, yet was able to finish the match with the fast speed of her serves, one recorded at 118 mph. Williams defeated Gasparyan 6-2, 6-4 and moved ahead to round three. She said in her on-court interview following the match that she was happy to get through it and focus on next round. Williams was asked to examine her next opponent Sloan Stephens in the press conference following the match.

"It's an incredibly interesting match, because she's actually a US Open champion," Williams said. "You can't win a grand slam and not be really really, really good."

Stephens was competitive and Williams had a slow start and had to push her way back after losing the first set. She defeated Stephens 2-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Williams appeared to play less at the net Saturday versus Thursday.

"It wasn't on purpose to not, but I have been coming in more,"

The match was competitive. Williams was more mobile and moved towards the net, once catching Sakkari off guard and winning the point. Other times Sakkari countered her approach with fast deep shots. Williams hit cross-court shots away from Sakkari forcing her to move. Sakkari also had her fair share of fast serves. Williams won the first set, but lost the tie-breaker in the second set. Williams defeated Sakkari 6-3, 6-7, 6-3.

Maria Sakkari said she was confident going into the third set. "I said to myself, 'I did it once I can do it again of course' and that was my mentality up until the end," she said. "She just came out with some better tennis when she had to. More experience. She took her chances when I didn't."

Williams said she was able to compete longer against Sakkari in comparison to their last match.

"I was a little fatigued last time and had some cramps," Williams said. "She's such a good competitor. So it was still really an intense match."

Williams hopes to claim her 24th grand slam title now at the age of 38 and mother to 3-year-old Alexis Olympia Ohanian.



Seaver Met For Life
Special to the Philadelphia Observer

RIP Seaver and Brock

By Andrew Rosario

Baseball lost two great and totally different players this past week in Tom Seaver of the New York Mets and Lou Brock of the St. Louis Cardinals. In the history of the New York Mets, who at one point was the laughing stock of major league baseball, the man called the "Franchise" took the team to the epic of baseball world winning the World Series in 1969 against a heavily favored Baltimore Orioles.

Brock took his offense to another level every time he got on base. At the end of his 19 year career (16 with the Cardinals) Brock stole 938 bases while hitting .293 and finished with 3,023 hits. He was a 6 time All Star, winning the World Series

two times (1964, 1967). The organization retired his 20 and he was inducted into the baseball Hall of Fame in 1985.

Seaver accomplished things not many major league pitchers did. 311 wins, 2.86 era, 12 time All Star and won the Cy Young award 3 times. Seaver changed the image of a organization that at one point was called the "Miserable Mets". Seaver led by example when he pitched. When he didn't, Seaver set a professional tone that his teammates followed. Not one baseball protagonist thought the Mets could take out the mighty Orioles in 1969. When Baltimore won game one, (Seaver was the losing pitcher) it was a given the Mets Would be swept. The fact that the Metropolitan were even representing the National League,

was amazing enough. New York would win the next 4 games as Jerry Koosman won games 2 and 5. Seaver won game 4 shocking the baseball world. The Mets would get back to World Series in 1973 only to come up short against the Oakland Athletics losing in 7 games, Seaver losing the only game he would pitch game 6. In the history of New York sports, the trade of Seaver to Cincinnati, goes down as the biggest trade of all time.

Both Tom Seaver and Lou Brock was the face of their franchise for different reasons. Seaver, for the dirt he left on his right knee as he delivered his pitch. Brock, for the dirt he left sliding after stealing a base. Both set a standard that players try to accomplish today. Not only on the field but off it.



Brock Set the Bar for Stolen Bases
Special to the Philadelphia Observer