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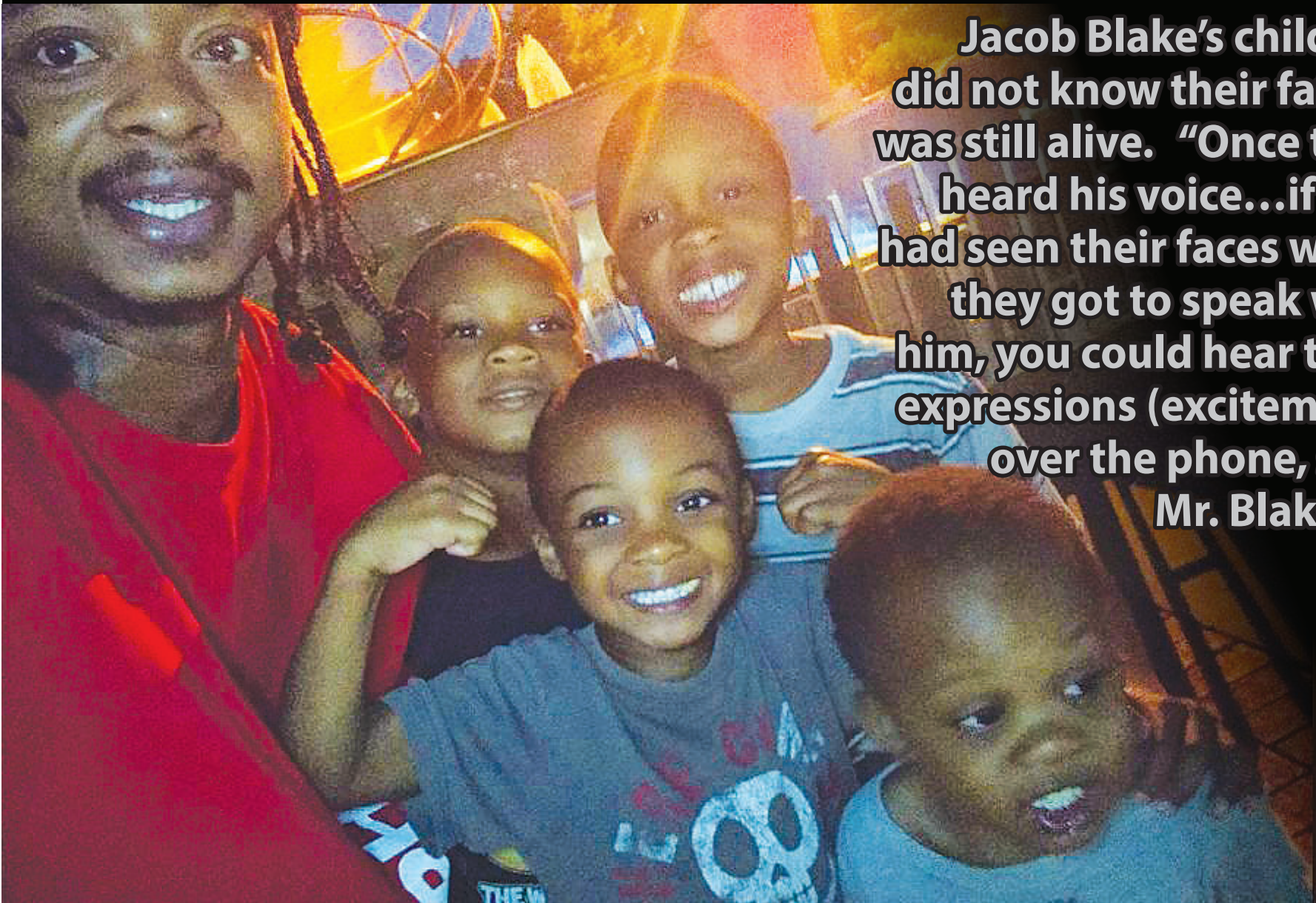
Speaking Truth to Justice

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## “THAT’S DADDY ON THE PHONE; THAT’S DADDY!”



Jacob Blake’s children did not know their father was still alive. “Once they heard his voice...if you had seen their faces when they got to speak with him, you could hear their expressions (excitement) over the phone, said Mr. Blake Sr.

When Jacob Blake was shot in the back seven times with a 40- caliber weapon, police body cams were not on. The intent was not to apprehend, but to kill him. The scene was captured by a neighbor on video that drew outrage on social media, said Blake Sr., p3



## Trump believes he's owed a 3rd term as president because Democrats ruined his first one

Philadelphiaobserver.com

To hear Trump tell it, he would've gotten away with everything had it not been for those pesky Democrats. So if he wins the upcoming election in November, the president of people who put big-as.. tires on little-as.. trucks is going to immediately start working on how to run for a third term.

Ignoring all kinds of social distancing rules, Trump told a bunch of maskholes (a maskhole is someone who refuses to wear a mask) in Nevada on Saturday that he wanted to serve three terms as president. Trump truly believes that he's entitled to another eight years in the White House because his boo is Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Putin does what he wants.

"Fifty-two days from now we're going to win Nevada, and we're going to win four more years in the White House," Trump told

a crowd of at least 5,000 people in Minden, Nev., that was packed inside like a sleeve of Keebler Club Crackers. "And then after that, we'll negotiate, right? Because we're probably—based on the way we were treated—we are probably entitled to another four after that," Slate reports.

Despite every poll in America—including Trump's favorite OnlyFans station Fox News—showing that Trump is trailing Kamala Harris' boss, the president of people who would rather catch the 'Rona than wear a f...ing mask claimed that the only way he could lose the election in November is if the Democrats rigged it.

"The Democrats are trying to rig this election because that's the only way they're going to win," he said. Trump also called mail-in voting "the greatest scam in the history of presidential politics" and added, without proof, that Democrats are sending ballots "to dogs."



## Kamala Harris promises free tuition for low-income students at public universities and HBCUs

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee Sen. Kamala Harris promised that if she and Joe Biden are elected, they would make college free for low-income students.

Harris made the promise Thursday at a roundtable discussion held at Florida Memorial University, saying students whose family makes less than \$125,000 a year will receive free tuition and pledged student-loan debt forgiveness for some graduates of HBCUs.

"In relation to the history of HBCUs, [students] decide to take on a profession of service, which often does not pay as well as if they go into the private sector and do other things," Harris said, according to MarketWatch. "So for those students who come out and have jobs that pay less than \$125,000, student-loan debt will



also be forgiven."

Harris also promised to invest \$70 billion in HBCUs and make two-year college programs free for low-income Americans.

"We want to support our young people for whatever they pursue by way of education after high school," Harris said. "For some that will be a college and university, for some, it will be a two-year program, or an apprenticeship, or something of that nature, and we want to make sure that we support them in that quest."



## Court's ruling to end immigrants' TPS status hurts essential workers in the pandemic

Philadelphiaobserver.com

It was the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that ruled on Monday to end Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for immigrants in the U.S. from four Black and brown countries, but Donald Trump deserves all the credit. That's because the president "flipped" the traditionally liberal West Coast-based circuit by methodically appointing nothing but conservative judges.

But a closer look at the ruling that will end TPS status for an estimated 500,000 citizens of Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Sudan — including hundreds of thousands of children who were born in the U.S. — shows it will disproportionately impact people working in industries that have been deemed essential during

the coronavirus pandemic.

The protected statuses were scheduled to expire early next year.

Monday's 2-1 decision reversed a 2018 ruling extending the protected status because the U.S. District Court "abused its discretion in issuing the preliminary injunction," the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said in its decision — a decision that will affect people working in essential business sectors such as health care, food processing, delivery and the service industries.

The Center for American Progress, a nonprofit, nonpartisan and independent think tank, found in April that about 131,000 people working in the aforementioned essential industries were TPS holders. With COVID-19 cases surging around the country, send-

ing these immigrants who serve such dire and necessary roles in the pandemic could be seen as short-sighted at best and downright insensitive at worst.

But, of course, Monday's ruling was all but by design as the president has made no secret of his contempt for nations that he infamously referred to as "shithole countries." One of the ways Trump managed to accomplish his apparent version of ethnic cleansing was to stack the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals with conservative judges. Not only has Trump appointed nearly a quarter of all active federal judges in the United States — he gave 51 judges lifetime jobs in just three years — but he has also named 10 judges to the 9th Circuit. That's more than one-third of the circuit's active judges.

## President Trump allegedly states 'He (Mandela) was no leader'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

President Donald Trump, according to his ex-lawyer and ex-fixer, Michael Cohen, allegedly stated that South Africa's first Black president, Nelson Mandela, "was no leader," according to CBS News.

In *Disloyal: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump* written by Michael Cohen, the president's disrespect toward former President Barack Obama included his racist thoughts about Blacks.

"[A]s a rule, Trump expressed low opinions of all Black folks, from music to culture and politics. Africa was a hell-hole, he believed, and Mandela, to use but one example, was an object of contempt for Trump," Cohen writes.

He quotes Mr. Trump saying, during a rant about President Obama, "Tell me one country run by a Black person that isn't a s\*\*\*hole. They are all complete f\*\*\*ing toilets."

Cohen also stated that after Mandela died, Trump said South Africa "was once a beautiful country twenty, thirty years ago," when it was still under apartheid rule.

"Mandela f\*\*\*ed the whole country up. Now it's a s\*\*\*hole," he quotes Mr. Trump saying. "F\*\*\* Mandela. He was no leader."

Cohen said that Trump went on a rant degrading the former president.

"Obama is a f\*\*\*\*\*g phony," Trump screamed. "He's



a Manchurian candidate. He's not even f\*\*\*\*\*g American. The only reason he got into Harvard law school and Columbia was f\*\*\*\*\*g affirmative action. He could never get into those schools on his f\*\*\*\*\*g grades. F\*\*\* him," Cohen recalls.

Cohen, who was Trump's personal lawyer until 2018, was charged and pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations, fraud, and lying to Congress. He was given a sentence of three years in federal prison but was allowed to leave and be transferred to house arrest earlier this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Black households earned 61 cents for every dollar of White median incomes

## Police violence linked to segregated housing



By Charlene Crowell

The August 23 police shooting of an unarmed Black man in Kenosha, Wisconsin, triggered yet another round of community protests and national news coverage of a Black man. A series of multiple gunshots fired by a local police officer, were not fatal for 29-year old Jacob Blake; but may have permanently paralyzed him from the waist down.

Days later on August 28, the National Action Network served as a major organizer for a Commitment March, rededicating the yet unaddressed dreams of the historic 1963 March on Washington. Assembled again at Washington's Lincoln Memorial, the day's speakers spanned nationally-known leaders like Rev. Al Sharpton, Martin Luther King III, and Attorney Ben Crump to the family members of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake and others.

The irony is that despite the passage of nearly 60 years between the original march and its 2020 recommitment, many of the issues that have plagued Black America remain the same. Black America and other people of color still cry for justice, equality, and freedom. Yet noticeably, what formerly focused national attention on events in Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham have now emanated from Ferguson, to Kenosha, Minneapolis, Portland and other locales.

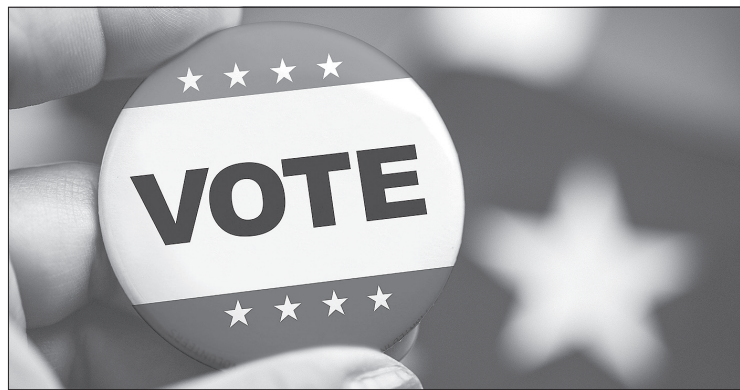
Why measurable forward strides in policing, or economic progress have remained elusive after decades of calls for reforms may partly be explained by the findings of a new policy analysis by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis. Using U.S. Census Bureau data, Ana Hernandez Kent, a policy analyst with the St. Louis Fed, found that America's racial poverty gap continues to suppress social and economic justice. Moreover,

Wisconsin, not a southern state, claims the dubious distinction of having the largest poverty gap in the nation.

Nationally the St. Louis Fed found that in 2018, Black households earned 61 cents for every \$1 of White household median income. Further, the Black/White median household income gaps ranged from 87 cents per dollar in Maine and Hawaii, down to 32 cents per dollar in the District of Columbia. The disparity in median translates into 22 percent of all Black Americans living in poverty, a gap of 13 percent compared to Whites who are poor. Wisconsin's gap is 23 percent.

"In noting the socioeconomic indicators of median income, poverty rates and health insurance rates, I found that White people had more favorable outcomes than Black people in every state," wrote Hernandez Kent.

Continued on page 11



# Biden campaign, DNC announce new vote-by-mail features on IWillVote.com

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Joe Biden for President campaign and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) have announced new features on IWillVote.com – the DNC's voter participation website – that will help voters easily request and return their ballot by mail.

According to the campaign, the site will also help visitors learn important information about the voting process in their state as they make their plan to vote.

Previously, an individual could use the site to check or update their registration and find voting locations. The new user experience will also guide a voter through their best voting-by-mail option based on their state and county regulations, including:

Requesting a ballot online. A voter will be directed to their state's online vote-by-mail request form.

Requesting a ballot by email. A voter completes a vote-by-mail request form, including uploading a picture of their signature (where required), on com. The form is automatically emailed to the state.

Printing and mailing their request. A voter completes a vote-

by-mail request form on com. The voter then prints, signs, and mails the request form to the state.

Requesting a prepaid return envelope: A voter completes a vote-by-mail request form on com and requests a prepaid return envelope. The voter will then receive their completed request form via mail to sign and return in a prepaid return envelope.

Additionally, IWillVote.com has been updated with new state-specific voter education pages and resources – to help voters easily find their states' deadlines to vote by mail, early, or in person, as well as other important information about their states' voting process.

"However voters choose to cast their ballots, these updates to the IWillVote.com site provide the tools necessary to exercise their right to participate in our democracy and ensure our community's voice is heard in this critical election," said DNC National Press Secretary Brandon Gassaway.

"Our lives and our livelihoods are at stake this November, and we're doing everything in our power to ensure every voter has all the information they need to make a plan to vote and send Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to the White House," Gassaway declared.

# Jacob Blake Sr. Interview

By Juan Ignacio Chávez  
Special to the  
Philadelphiaobserver.com

"Why did they shoot my dad in the back?" asked Jacob Blake Junior's children to their grandfather, Jacob Blake Senior. "I can't explain that to them," he tells us.

Three weeks after his son Jacob Blake Jr. was shot in the back by a Kenosha police officer, Jacob Blake Sr., had an intimate conversation with family friend and BlogTalkRadio host Carla Giles, who kindly invited The New York Beacon to participate. Topics ranged from personal to political, from the latest news from Jacob's family to the upcoming tasks that they —and the whole country—have to face.

### The facts

Rusten Sheskey fired seven times on Aug. 23 at Jacob Blake Jr. while he tried to get into his car. The scene was captured by a neighbor on a video that drew outrage on social media. In the following days,

demonstrations —some violent— in Kenosha became a trending topic in social media. They traced a political battle between President Trump and Joe Biden, who showed up to back the police and the family, respectively.

Jacob Blake Jr. has since then become a symbol, as are Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, though he is also a survivor and a witness. Regardless of the severe medical challenges he faces and the difficult times his family is going through, they all stay strong to raise their voices, since there are still loose ends in the investigation.

"The officers' body cameras were not on. We want to make it mandatory that body cameras are on constantly," said Mr. Blake after asking for reforms in policing. "When you put seven shots in somebody, you are not trying to lay them down. You are not trying to apprehend them. When you shoot someone in the back seven times, you intend to kill that

individual. Whether you admit it or not is another thing. But seven shots from a 40 caliber weapon in the back. So when it comes to that fact, what is your intention?"

According to Mr. Blake Sr., what is at stake are fundamental rights, the recognition of equality under the law that is still far from being respected. "There is one system for white people, and there is another system for black people. On the one that white people have, the justice lady is holding a scale and has a blindfold. With black people, she doesn't have a blindfold; she has bifocals. And you are guilty until you prove your innocence," he said.

On a personal level, he shared that after the incident, Mr. Blake Jr.'s children did not fully understand that their father was alive. "They thought they were not going to see daddy again. So once they got to hear his voice...if you had seen their faces when he got to speak to them...you could hear their expressions over the phone.



Photo credit: ABC News

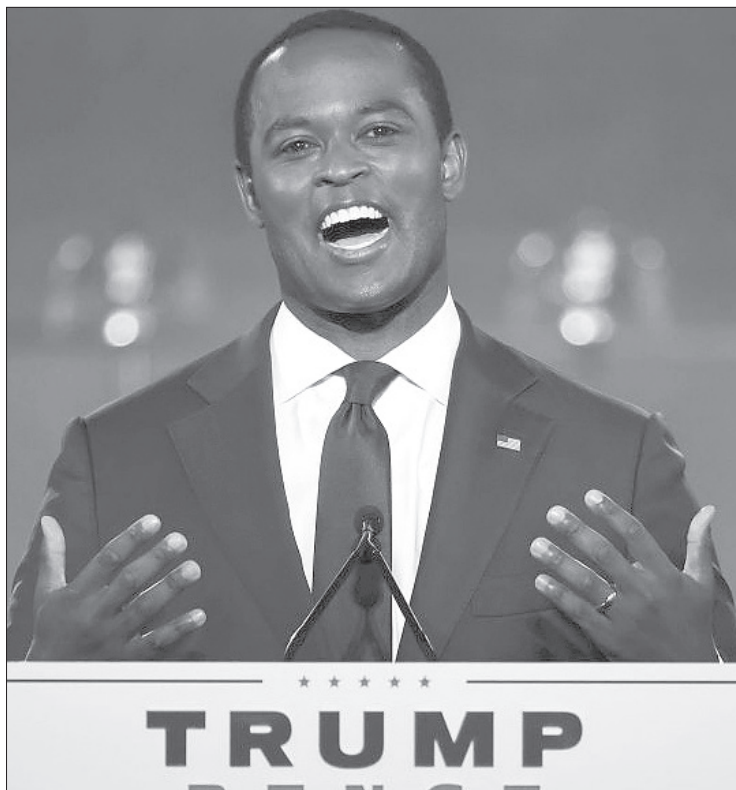
«That's daddy on the phone; that's daddy!».

He also shared that Jacob Blake Jr. is staying strong despite the difficulties. "His spirits are high. He got to speak to Lil Wayne the day before yesterday, and he said, «Dad, I am so happy I think I could jump and run across the room,» and I said, «Baby, that is all I want you to be.» He sounded

like he was 12 years old. It was a beautiful thing to me. I could hear him smiling on the phone".

At the end of the interview, we asked Mr. Blake Sr. to give a message to his grandchildren, as well as to the future children of the community. "We will carry out justice. We will find justice. It's somewhere out there. And we will find it," he said.





## Kentucky AG Daniel Cameron is on Trump's list of potential SCOTUS nominees

Philadelphiaobserver.com

President Donald Trump released the names of 20 people he'd be likely to nominate to the Supreme Court of the United States on Wednesday.

If 2020 continues down its godforsaken path and the 45th president is reelected, he may have the chance to nominate a SCOTUS justice.

According to The Hill, Trump read from a list of Supreme Court Justice nominees that included 11th Circuit Judge Barbara Lagoa, Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz at a press conference in the White House.

Cameron thrust himself into the national spotlight after failing to implement the arrests of the three officers responsible for the March 13 killing of 26-year-old Breonna Taylor. He leveraged the attention on Taylor's case into a coveted speaking spot at the Republican National Convention.

During his August 25 RNC speech, Cameron mentioned Tay-

lor's family despite not yet having attained any semblance of justice for the EMT's grieving loved ones.

Whether you are the family of Breonna Taylor or David Dorn, these are the ideals that will heal our nation's wounds.

— Daniel Cameron (@DanielCameronAG) August 26, 2020

Cameron, endorsed for his role as attorney general by Trump, has only shown minimum interest in discussing Taylor or her case in the past. He joined the president at the White House on June 8 for a discussion surrounding police-community relations and didn't once mention the 26-year-old once, as reported by Blavity.

Upon the announcement of the list, Cameron said he was honored to have been included according to The Hill.

"It is an honor to be mentioned by President Trump today. I remain focused on serving the people of Kentucky and delivering on my promise to tackle child abuse, human trafficking, the drug epidemic, and other public safety challenges throughout the Commonwealth," Cameron said.

## Donald Trump nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

Philadelphiaobserver.com

According to The Hill, a member of the Norwegian Parliament nominated the President for the prestigious award for his role in brokering relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The nomination came after Christian Tybring-Gjedde, a four-term member of Parliament and chairman of the Norwegian delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, said Trump should be

considered because of his work "for a peace agreement between the United Arab Emirates and Israel which opens up for possible peace in the Middle East."

"No matter how Trump acts at home and what he says at press conferences, he has absolutely a chance at getting the Nobel Peace Prize," Tybring-Gjedde, told The Associated Press. As ABC News notes, the lawmaker nominated Trump on Wednesday, adding that "Donald Trump meets the criteria" for the Nobel Peace Prize.

## Homeland security says white supremacy is "Most lethal threat" to U.S.

Philadelphiaobserver.com

In a new draft document from the Department of Homeland Security, it was depicted that white supremacy poses the greatest challenges regarding domestic safety. In short, the document stated that radicalized and potentially armed white extremists present a "most lethal threat" to the United States through next year.

In a detailed report from Politico, the draft document, which was revised twice by the time of reporting, share a consistent message: white supremacists and far-right extremists are the greatest threats to the Homeland through 2021, although they were categorized under the kinder "Domestic Violent Extremists" heading rather than earlier draft framing the group as "white supremacist extremists."

From Politico:

The document discusses white supremacists in greater detail when introducing the section



titled "The Terrorist Threat to the Homeland." Once again, language in the earliest draft is slightly stronger than the language in the subsequent drafts. The earliest draft introduces the threat from terrorism this way:

"We judge that ideologically-motivated lone offenders and small groups will pose the greatest terrorist threat to the Homeland through 2021, with white supremacist extremists presenting the most lethal threat," it reads.

The next two drafts refer to "Domestic Violent Extremists" — rather than "white supremacist extremists" — as "the most persistent and lethal threat." All three drafts contain the following sentence further down in the same section: "Among DVEs [Domestic Violent Extremists], we judge that white supremacist extremists (WSEs) will remain the most persistent and lethal threat in the Homeland through 2021."

## Ex-Minneapolis cops charged in George Floyd's death turn on each other

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Actions by the attorneys for the former Minneapolis Police officers charged in the killing of George Floyd are indicating that the men are blaming each other.

All four defendants will appear in person in court for the first time today.

Attorneys for the fired officers have filed motions for four separate trials and for those trials to be moved out of the city of Minneapolis. Those motions will be addressed at the hearing.

Hennepin County prosecutors maintain that the four should be tried together.

Earl Gray, the attorney for Thomas Lane, filed two motions on Tuesday. In the first, he argued for a second trial for his

client, saying that it's "plausible that all officers have a different version of what happened." In the second, he asked for the trial to be moved.

Lane, 37, had only been on the job four days when Floyd died after a veteran officer, Derek Chauvin, knelt on his neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds and ignored the man as he said repeatedly that he couldn't breathe. Lane is charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and manslaughter in Floyd's killing.

J. Alexander Kueng, the Black officer on the scene, had been on the job for three days. In a profile of his family by The New York Times, his sister, Radiance, said that as a Black man, her brother should have intervened.

"He knows right from wrong," she said.

Kueng's attorney has also filed a motion that the charges against him be dismissed, however, that motion won't be addressed at the hearing scheduled for today. He, too, is charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and manslaughter.

Former officer Tou Thao faces the same charges. His attorney has argued that his role in the slaying was "absolutely distinct" from the others, as he was on crowd control while the other three restrained Floyd.

Chauvin, who was captured on video kneeling on Floyd's neck, is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter. He has been held in state custody, and the hearing will mark the first time he has been seen in court.





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# Editorial - Opinion

## One huge lie crystallized

By Roger Caldwell, NNPA  
Newswire Contributor

You may have decided not to look at the recent Republican National Convention on television, and many Americans think President Trump broke the law by abusing the Hatch Act. But our president is smiling, because he got away with it.

The president needed a convention bounce and, according to polls, White voters have increased their support of his policies. By comparison, following the Democratic National Convention, held a week earlier, nothing changed statically in terms of support.

A recent Morning Consult poll that asked 4,035 likely voters which candidate they would pick, found Biden leading Trump by 6 percentage points, 50 percent to 44 percent. It marked a 4-point improvement for Trump from his

standing going into the convention on August 23, when Biden led 52 percent to 42 percent. "The poll had a 2-point margin of error," according to Morning Consult's by Eli Yokley.

After the Republican Convention, President Trump has cut into Biden's lead, and it appears that our president is a man of character. Trump supporters made it appear that he was working for all Americans and that there are thousands of Black men who believe he is the best candidate for our community. The president made it appear that he was working for the soul of America, and he was a huge supporter of voting.

Even though there are 198 judges appointed by the president to the different courts in 3 1/2 years, not one has been Black. This has solidified conservative thinking and created and supported racism. These appointments are

not about the next 4 years, but this will impact the positions and decisions that the judges will make for the next 40 years.

The Democrats have cast the President as a failed leader, but Trump's supporters painted him as a success and the last line of defense against radical socialism. Black Lives Matter is trying to defund the police Departments and when you need a policeman, there will be a busy signal. Many of the mayors in many cities are finding out that Trump administration is paying people to create violence during peaceful protests.

Even though the Republican Convention was one huge lie, many of Biden's supporters are having second thoughts about supporting the Democrats. As the race gets closer, all of the Republicans will be lying, and it is very hard to know what a lie is and where the truth starts.

On the last night of the convention Giuliani said, progressive Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York is the reason crime has elevated in the city. But when Giuliani was mayor in 2000 the yearly murder rate was 673, compared to 318 in 2019.

It is so easy to lie and give half of the story or picture. During the last night, a supporter kept telling the country that the president created the strongest economy in American history and strengthened Medicare and Social Security. However, Obama's last three years were stronger than Trump's first three years, and the present economy is close to a depression. Ending payroll taxes would deplete the Social Security fund in two years.

It is obvious that the majority of the Republican National Convention was one continuous lie but squeezing 1,500 people on the South lawn of the White House was irresponsible during a coronavirus

pandemic. This was the wrong message to send Americans, and President Trump does not care.

"He once again claimed to have done more for the African American community than any president since Abraham Lincoln – ignoring Harry Truman's integration of the military, Lyndon Johnson's passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, and many other accomplishments. One might wonder, if this is true, why polls show just 5 percent of Black voters supporting him, says Fred Kaplan of the Slate, an online magazine.

As Republicans and President Trump build a campaign on lies the numbers are still in the Democrats favor. It is time for the Democrats to expose the lies and speak truth to power. The major key to Biden winning this election is getting support from the 18-to-30-year old voters, the Black voters, and the women voters.

## "Trump the biggest threat to our democracy since Civil War"

By Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43), Chair of the House Financial Services Committee (FSC)

The shocking revelations from the last few days that Trump disparaged the military and intentionally downplayed the threat of the coronavirus have confirmed what I have believed since this President assumed office. Donald Trump is a deplorable, morally repugnant, morally bankrupt, con man devoid of any character who has proven himself to be the greatest threat to our democracy since the Civil War. Never before has this country been led by a Commander in Chief, or any elected official, who has exhibited such disdain for public service, disparaged our military, undermined our freedoms, incited violence against his political opponents, and is so rotten to the core that he would demean war heroes who sacrificed their lives in defense of our country. This President tear gassed peaceful protestors.

This President deployed unidentified federal troops to cities run by Democratic leaders to

squash free speech. This President called our fallen heroes losers and suckers – a smear he continued to levy against Senator John McCain long after his death.

This President isolated the United States from our Western allies while cozying up to dictators such as Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Putin. And just like the dictators and autocrats he admires around the world, he welcomes foreign interference in U.S. elections, held hostage military aid to Ukraine in exchange for damaging information on his political opponent, and is now trying to dismantle and gut the United States Postal Service so that he can sabotage vote by mail.

Donald Trump's lies and hateful rhetoric are not only destructive to our democracy, they have cost the United States over 6 million coronavirus infections and nearly 200,000 coronavirus deaths. No one should be in the least surprised that Donald Trump would boast to the Washington Post's Bob Woodward that he downplayed the threat of the coronavirus when he knew that it was a very deadly pandemic.

Despite how hazardous his



experts told him the coronavirus would be to our public health, Donald Trump mocked people who wore facial coverings, bullied local governments and businesses into reopening early, recommended untested drugs and disinfectants as treatments, and he continues to hold public events in blatant disregard of the guidance advanced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The United States of America stands on the brink of collapse. I kept up the drumbeat for

many years on why this President should have been impeached and was maligned by many who thought that someone like Donald Trump would suddenly become presidential. Impeachment was too late and the Senate failed to remove this disastrous president from office.

One has to wonder, in their isolation and in the confines of their homes, do the Senators who voted against removing Donald Trump from office ever consider how many lives could have been

saved if they had done what was right instead of what was politically convenient. While the American people, the last guardrail standing in the way of our country's complete descent into dictatorship, will ultimately have the final say, the Senators and Members of the House who voted against impeachment will carry that mark in history for the rest of their lives. If the United States pulls past this latest test to our democracy, the American people must never let them forget.

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# National Black Farmers Assoc calls for boycott of John Deere

Philadelphiaobserver.com

John Deere, the world's leading manufacturer of farm equipment, takes pride in its corporate values of "integrity, quality, commitment, innovation." But the nearly 200-year-old American industrial giant apparently cares little for equality and inclusiveness.

Year after year the National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) has invited the Deere company to display its equipment at the NBFA's annual conference. Repeatedly John Deere executives have curtly declined the invitation.

"John Deere has shown throughout its history that it has little respect for Black farmers. The company seems to view our invitations as a nuisance," said NBFA President John Boyd. "I have reached out to Mr. John May, president of John Deere, numerous times to discuss the issues raised by the NBFA. Mr. May's response is 'I decline your invitation,'" which is unacceptable.

With 116,000 members in 42 states, the NBFA represents a substantial customer base for John Deere. Many farmers would relish the opportunity to see first-hand the new and emerging farm technology that is developed to enhance their performance and productivity. But the company continues to participate at pre-

dominantly white farm shows and events while snubbing the black farmers' events. Deere has never displayed any of its equipment—not even a lawn mower. John Deere denies Black farmers the respect and dignity they deserve, reflecting the level of disdain that is still widely prevalent in agricultural industries.

Since the racial unrest spurred by the merciless killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police on Memorial Day and the shooting of Jason Blake in Wisconsin last month, many sectors of American society have recently taken actions to address the shameful racial disparities in treatment and

opportunities that plague people of color. Needed change seems to be rising, especially in this year of the nation's racial reckoning, when protests have roiled cities and towns. But not at John Deere.

The National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) members deserve the very same treatment as the Farm Bureau, whose members enjoy discounts on John Deere purchases. "Service call inquiries to John Deere equipment from Black farmers is much slower than their white counterparts," said Boyd. "We buy tractors and John Deere parts as well. We deserve to be treated with dignity and respect not as a nuisance."



# Racial justice can only begin when police depts reflect the communities they serve

By Sunita Sohrabji  
Ethnic Media Services

Even as U.S. crime rates drop to historic lows, residents of low-income neighborhoods continue to be over-policed and victimized by law enforcement, concluded panelists at a Sept. 4 briefing.

Crime in the U.S. peaked in the early 1990s, but has fallen 51 percent from 1993 to 2018, notwithstanding a couple of years with spikes in violent crime, according to FBI data. Property crime has also dropped by 54 percent in the past 25 years.

But low-income urban cities, overwhelmingly populated by Black and Latinx residents, continue to be over-policed, largely by white males, many with known affiliations to white supremacist organizations. 83 percent of police officers are white males.

A summer of protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement — after the death of Minnesota resident George Floyd who was killed by former police officer Derek Chauvin — has heightened public scrutiny on local law enforcement. The nation has been deeply divided by the choice of supporting either "law and order," with armed militia inserting its might into peaceful protests, or de-funding the police, which President Donald Trump and others have

equated with giving rise to anarchy.

Former FBI agent Michael German, author of the report "Hidden in Plain Sight: Racism, White Supremacy, and Far-Right Militancy in Law Enforcement" released by the Brennan Center for Justice Aug. 27, said ample evidence exists of police officers being affiliated with white supremacist groups.

Moreover, research organizations have uncovered hundreds of federal, state, and local law enforcement officials participating in overt bias, via racist and sexist social media activity, he said at the Sept. 4 briefing, organized by Ethnic Media Services. Officers rarely face repercussions for such activity, claiming they are protected by the First Amendment.

"The FBI believes this is a significant problem, and yet there is still no national strategy around far-right violence and white supremacy in the United States," said German. He said the problem was poorly understood because the federal government de-prioritizes such work, and state and local governments are unlikely to pick up the slack.

Raj Jayadev, the co-founder of Silicon Valley De-Bug, which pioneered the concept of participatory defense in criminal justice proceedings, gave the example of San Jose, California police officer Philip White, who was fired in 2015 for tweeting a series of

racially-charged messages. White targeted the Black Lives Matter movement, which was protesting the death of New York resident Eric Garner, who died in 2014 while being placed in a choke-hold by former police officer Daniel Pantaleo. "I can't breathe," said Garner as he fell unconscious.

White tweeted out: "By the way if anyone feels they can't breathe or their lives matter, I'll be at the movies tonight, off duty, carrying my gun." He was initially fired, but in 2016, following arbitration, White got his job back and is still on the force.

"The culture of policing is so steeped in racist practices. I don't know how you change that," said Jayadev, adding that the culture of policing is laced with white supremacy to the point where officers like White are not outliers, but instead accepted by their peers. "Oh that's just Phillip: he does things like that," said Jayadev, characterizing White's colleagues' response to his tweets. Moreover, racist officers are protected by their unions, he said, rarely facing the repercussions for their racist behavior.

In June, the postings of a private Facebook group comprised of active and retired San Jose police officers were exposed. One inflammatory post claimed: "Black lives really don't matter," whereas another post suggested a hijab could be used as a noose.

# When life becomes comics

By Viviane Faver  
Philadelphiaobserver.com

The act of racism that occurred in Central Park, New York, months ago, became a comic. The black man made the art himself who recorded a white woman calling the police against him in Central Park, Christian Cooper. It's a Bird was published by DC Comics, the home of Batman and Superman.

With ten pages, the comic is the first in a series called "Represent!" which will publish works by writers "traditionally underrepresented in the comic book media," including people of color and the LGBTQ community, said Marie Javins, DC executive editor, in a statement. The aim is to spread the daily humiliations of racism and deadly police brutality.

The story has the main character Jules, a Black teenage bird watcher who suddenly sees through his binoculars the faces of black people killed by the police.

One day, Jules confronts a white woman in the park named Beth, walking her dog off the leash. When Jules faces her, he is supported by images of several blacks killed in interactions with the police. When he turns his back on her, he sees them winged and flying free.

Cooper told the New York Times that the comic book "should



not be viewed as a unique experience, because it is not. It is drawn from a lot of experiences and intertwined from that — mine and the ones we hear in the news."

He added: "What happened to me is insignificant compared to the fatal consequences for George Floyd later that day, but it all comes from the same racial prejudice. I am not trying to combine these things. What I'm trying to say is: 'See the pattern'."

The Central Park incident prompted New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to pressure state legislators to pass a bill making it a hate crime to call 911 and make a false accusation based on race, sex, or religion. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed a similar bill last week.

It's a Bird is available online for free at several digital bookstores and comic books.



"Racism is embedded into an institution that has the ability to kill to harm to strip you of your liberty," said Jayadev, commenting on the Facebook group incident.

The civil rights activist spoke about the concept of de-funding police. "This system of law and order that has existed as a result of and since slavery does not result in safety. If anything, it creates more harm and danger," he said. "So take away that harm and then invent and create space for investments into other things that address the root causes of harm."

Jayadev and Dr. Dorothy Johnson-Speight, who founded Mothers in Charge after her son was killed in 2001 in a parking dispute, said some of the funds currently allocated to policing could instead be used to fund mental health and behavioral health services, which could be implemented in many situations in which police are currently deployed.

"When that call comes in, it doesn't go to 911. It goes to a

different number to a group of people that are equipped on how to de-escalate a situation and solve the issue without taking a life," said Jayadev.

"They go to the home and then they have someone that actually survives the encounter and actually gets the help that they probably called for," he said.

Johnson-Speight spoke about the need for police departments to reflect the community they are policing. "You can't expect 83 percent of white men to understand the issues of minority communities."

"How can it be community policing if you don't understand, or if you're not really involved in the community," she queried, noting that police are recruited from throughout the nation.

"I think now because of George Floyd we have seen people around the country and around the world standing up against police brutality," said Johnson-Speight. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."



# Entertainment

## Legendary 'Carousel of Hope Ball' 2020 gala goes virtual



By Audrey J. Bernard

**L**OS ANGELES, CA – The 34<sup>th</sup> Carousel of Hope Ball is going virtual this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The annual event – which is dedicated to raising funds for clinical care and diabetes research at the **Barbara David Center for Diabetes**, will take place on **Saturday, October 10, 2020**, in partnership with PEOPLE and will stream exclusively on PEOPLE.com, PeopleTV, PEOPLE social platforms (Facebook and Twitter) and PEOPLE YouTube. The stellar gala will be chaired and hosted by **Barbara Davis** and co-chaired by **Dana Davis**.

Rated #1 Benefit in Southern California by BizBash for multiple years, this year's star-studded event will celebrate two very significant occasions – Davis' 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes — and will be filled with once-in-a-lifetime performances and special appearances from icons including **Burt Bacharach, Carole Bayer Sager, Tony Bennett, Andrea Bocelli, George Clooney, Dame Joan Collins, Clive Davis, Robert De Niro, Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds, Cynthia Erivo, Jane Fonda, David Foster, David Geffen, Josh Groban, Samuel L. Jackson, Quincy Jones, Gladys Knight, Adam Lambert, Jay Leno, Rob Lowe, Nigel Lythgoe, Barry Manilow, Judge Judy Sheindlin, Diane Warren, Dionne Warwick, Oprah Winfrey, Henry Winkler**, and many more!

"We are looking forward to hosting another sensational event, and bringing together our Car-



Attendees adding virtualosity to 2020 Carousel of Hope gala include: Oprah Winfrey, George Clooney, Robert DeNiro and Cynthia Erivo (Getty Images)



Gladys Knight performs at 2018 gala

ousel of Hope family to raise awareness and funds to fight his life-altering disease," said Barbara Davis. "We could not be more proud to commemorate 40 years of the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes, and the revolutionary work being done to care for those in need!"

Added Dana Davis, "While the event will certainly look different this year, and we are saddened that we can't all be together, we know it will still be the kind of extraordinary and memorable evening that

Carousel of Hope has delivered for many years! We are so proud to be working with our longtime friends and collaborators, and some inspired new talent, in order to bring this historic event into the virtual world."

**Jay Leno** returns as Master of Ceremonies and will be joined by **David Foster** as music director, **George Schlatter** as honorary producer, and **Clive Davis** and **Quincy Jones** as music chairmen. The event will be produced and directed by **Erich Bergen** and



Barbara Davis at 2018 gala



Barbara Davis and Berry Gordy at 2018 gala

**Marc Johnston**. Attendees will enjoy a silent auction, exciting entertainment, and musical performances.

The most recent Carousel of Hope Ball, hosted in 2018, honored **Robert De Niro** with the "Brass Ring Award" and featured show-stopping performances by legends **Gladys Knight, Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds, and David Foster**. The gala alone raised over \$1.9 Million. Previous "Brass Ring Award" honorees include **Frank Sinatra, Hillary Clinton, Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston, George Clooney, Jane Fonda, Sir Sidney Poitier, David Foster, Halle Berry, Sherry Lansing** and many more.

Since its inception in 1978, the iconic event has been a Hollywood favorite, uniting entertainment, sports, and business industry leaders from all areas for a night dedicated to raising awareness and, ultimately, finding a cure for diabetes. Diabetes, which afflicts over 30 million people in the United States alone, is rapidly on the rise. It is estimated that each year, approximately 50,000 Americans are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Of those, 25,000 are children.

The Carousel Balls have raised more than \$105 million to date, with proceeds benefitting the Children's Diabetes Foundation and the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes. Funds are raised through sponsorships, dinner

tickets, a live and silent auction, and contributions. The 2020 Carousel of Hope Ball is generously sponsored by Dexcom, Marlyn and Robert Day, and The Beverly Hilton. For additional information about the 2020 Carousel of Hope Ball, and to reserve a virtual spot, visit: [carouselofhope.org](http://carouselofhope.org). (Photos courtesy Carousel of Hope)

### About The Children's Diabetes Foundation

The Children's Diabetes Foundation, located in Denver, CO, was established more than 40 years ago by Barbara and Marvin Davis after their daughter, Dana, developed diabetes at the age of seven. The non-profit organization is dedicated to the support of research in diabetes, providing the best possible clinical and educational programs for people with the disease, and advocacy on their behalf. The Foundation's mission is to raise funds to support the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes and its world-renowned research programs, where thousands of patients with type 1 diabetes, children and adults alike, receive the finest diabetes care available. Thanks to the generous funding provided to the Center, all patients are welcome, regardless of their financial status. For more information please visit: [www.childrensdiabetesfoundation.org](http://www.childrensdiabetesfoundation.org) or [www.barbaradaviscenter.org](http://www.barbaradaviscenter.org).



David Foster, Babyface, Quincy Jones at 2018 gala

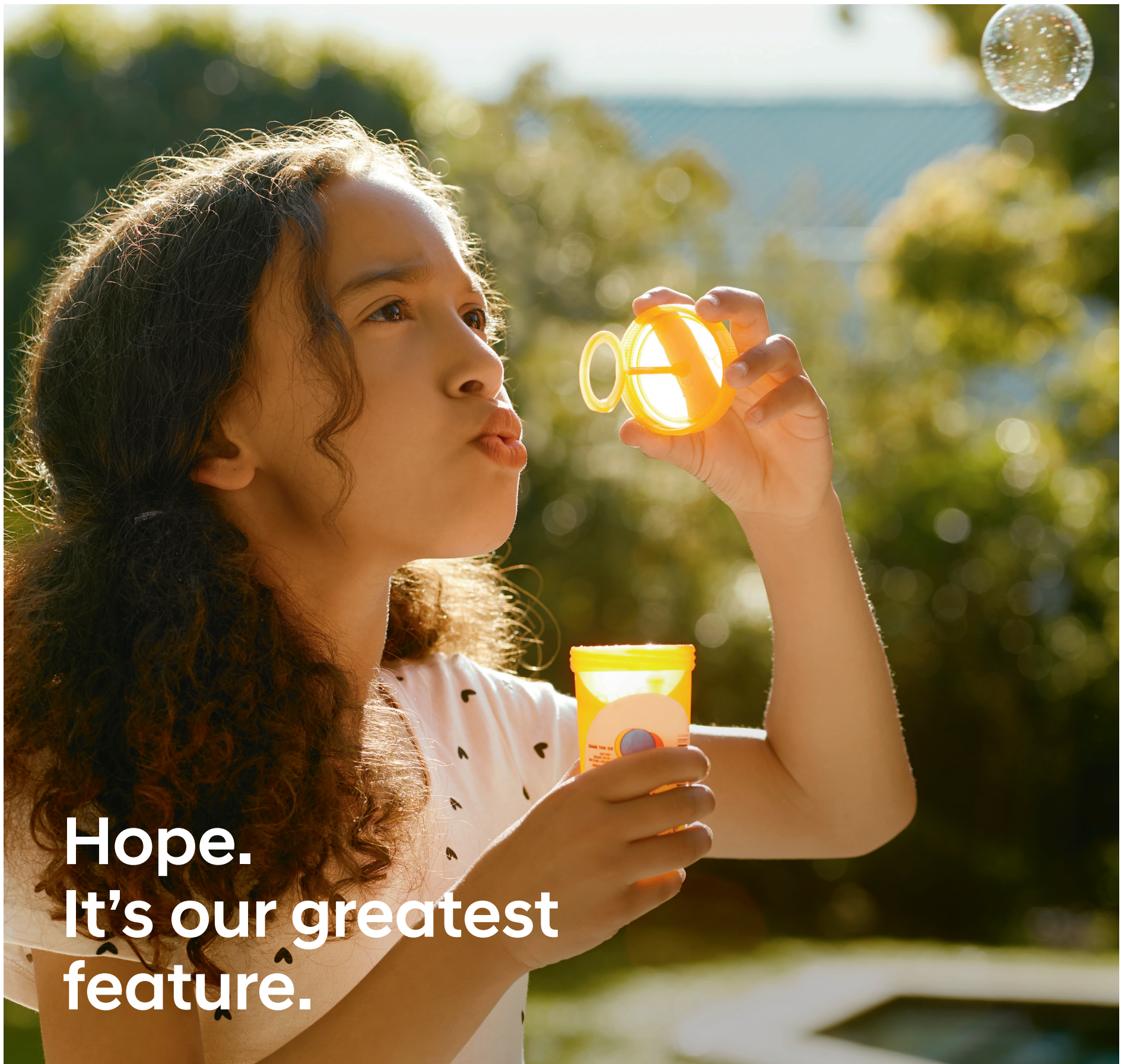


Babyface performs at 2018 gala



Tom Hanks, Barbara Davis, Jay Leno, George Schlatter at 2018 gala





**Hope.  
It's our greatest  
feature.**

It all started in 1998 when a group of Hyundai dealers wanted to make a difference for kids facing cancer. Their idea blossomed into Hyundai Hope On Wheels®. Now, every time a new Hyundai is sold a portion goes to Hyundai Hope On Wheels to help fight childhood cancer. To date, over \$172 million and 1,000 grants have gone to support research at children's hospitals with the hope of finding a cure. And during the COVID-19 crisis, Hyundai has also donated \$4.4 million for drive-thru testing to help expedite diagnosis for health-compromised and at-risk children. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a good time to remember that hope is our greatest feature. And it comes standard on every Hyundai.



**September is  
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**





## Hyundai Hope on Wheels awards \$11.2M to pediatric cancer research

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif., Sept. 1, 2020 /PRNewswire/ — Hyundai Hope On Wheels® (HHOW), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, supported by Hyundai Motor America and its U.S. dealers, announces its 22nd consecutive year in the fight to end childhood cancer. September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness month and the organization announces new grant winners in efforts of finding more cures and improving care for children fighting pediatric cancer.

When a child is diagnosed with pediatric cancer, s/he is immediately thrust into a scary world of cancer. For a child diagnosed, the journey back to health often includes constant trips to the hospital, medical tests, surgeries, and nights spent away from all things familiar.

The non-profit organization has selected 26 grant winners for pediatric cancer research and 23 institutions to receive grants for COVID-19 testing. To date, this brings Hyundai Hope On Wheels donations to just over \$172 million to support the fight against pediatric cancer.

The annual September campaign theme is Every Handprint Tells A Story. Every 36 minutes a child is diagnosed with pediatric cancer. There are more than 15,000 new cases of pediatric cancer diagnosed in the United States each year. Although 80% of kids with cancer can be cured, pediatric cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease among U.S. children. With its Every Handprint Tells A Story campaign, Hyundai Hope On Wheels brings together the many stakeholders – the child, families, doctors, hospitals, advocates, donors, and others – who work to identify new ways to find a cure and improve care for children battling pediatric cancer. When a child is diagnosed, it not only changes their life, but his/her family and broader communal network.

“As the board chair for Hyundai Hope On Wheels, there is no greater joy for me than to meet the faces of brave pediatric cancer fighters at children’s hospitals across the nation,” says Scott Fink, Board Chair and Hyundai owner, Hyundai of New Port Richey (New Port Richey, FL) and Hyundai of Wesley Chapel (Wesley Chapel, FL). “These amazing kids embody the word hope. They exemplify

all that’s wonderful about childhood, and they show adults the courage of facing adversity. The reality is there is nothing fun about being a kid with cancer. With Hyundai Hope On Wheels, we will continue this fight the disease, and help these children thrive and return to a happy and normal life.”

Hyundai Hope On Wheels grants are awarded through a competitive peer-reviewed process. The Scholar Hope Grant and The Young Investigator grants are awarded during the month of September, exclusively to COG member institutions. This year, the organization awarded COVID-19 drive-thru testing grants to 23 sites throughout the nation. More than one-million COVID-19 tests have been completed at sites supported by the Hyundai grant.

2020 Every Handprint Tells A Story Campaign elements

The Hyundai Hope On Wheels annual September campaign, Every Handprint Tells A Story, crisscrosses the nation to increase awareness and raise awareness of pediatric cancer. Highlights of this year’s campaign include:

Nationwide Virtual Grant Ceremonies to 26 new grants winners  
Video stories of hope from child survivors and doctor researchers

Annual 2020 Celebration of Hope Awards, to be broadcast online on September 19th

Interactive website experience at [HyundaiHopeOnWheels.org](http://HyundaiHopeOnWheels.org)

Social media childhood cancer survivor and doctor-researcher videos

National Media Day  
And more....

2020 Hyundai Hope On Wheels Campaign Assets for (Media Use)

2020 Campaign Video: <https://youtu.be/R1U3X2UMb9k>

2020 PSA Video: <https://youtu.be/wRu-KkOQqK8>

COVID-19 Response Video: <https://youtu.be/15FJgJgXito>

The gold ribbon is the symbol for childhood cancer. The public is invited to help spread awareness about Hyundai Hope On Wheels and its efforts to end childhood cancer. For more information about Hyundai Hope On Wheels and to view a list of 2020 Hope On Wheels grant winners, please visit [www.hyundaihopeonwheels.org/research](http://www.hyundaihopeonwheels.org/research).



## Black voices, Black Lives Matter: #RolandMartinUnfiltered celebrates 2nd anniversary, carves niche as a prominent daily digital show

WASHINGTON, DC (September 10, 2020) — This year has brought unimaginable changes, but the #RolandMartinUnfiltered daily digital show has emerged as a constant and influential voice on the media landscape.

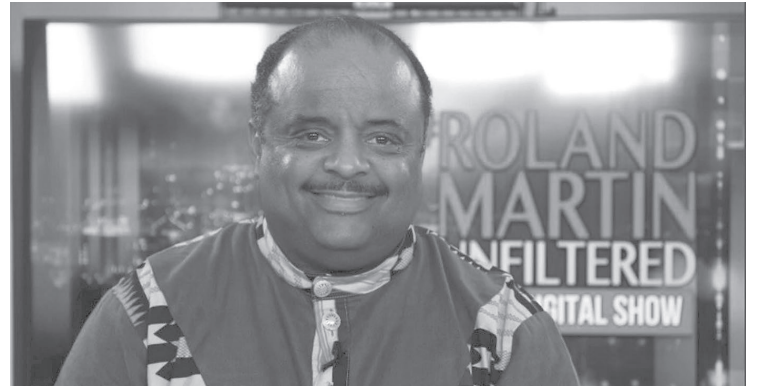
#RolandMartinUnfiltered provides live news and information from an unapologetically Black perspective five days a week, and streams content seven days a week. Celebrating its second anniversary, the show has carved its niche as a go-to source for interviews with key newsmakers and influencers. In depth discussion of topics across a variety of fields, including politics, education, health, entertainment, sports, African American issues and culture has been at the forefront of the #RolandMartinUnfiltered mission since day one. When breaking news happens or big shifts in the culture occur, Martin has been there to document, explain and highlight those aspects of the story that most impact the African American community.

Sadly, when Black cultural icons have departed this life, such as Chadwick Boseman, Kobe Bryant, Congressman John Lewis, Earl Graves, Rev. C.T. Vivian, Rev. Joseph Lowery, Leah Chase and Bill Withers, #RolandMartinUnfiltered has drawn attention to their passage and honored their contributions to American society.

While social justice issues, calls for policing reform, widespread unrest and a global pandemic have rocked the nation, Roland Martin has been on the scene examining the story from every angle and helping his audience interpret the impact on their world.

Celebrities like T.I. Harris, Aunjanue Ellis, John Legend, Ice Cube, Anthony Anderson, Sherrie Shepherd, Will Packer and more have joined the show for insightful conversations on breaking news and hot topics, though Martin doesn’t just focus on landing the ‘big’ interviews. #RolandMartinUnfiltered also provides a platform for people on the frontlines such as grassroots activists, essential workers, blue-collar professionals, journalists of color and other unsung heroes. For Roland and his team, it’s all about the story or angle that mainstream media overlooks when it comes to issues and concerns facing the Black community.

“News One Now ended at the end of 2017, and I had already started driving content on the digital platform. I knew what I was going to do and how I was going to do it,” said Martin, a three-time author and contributor to numerous books. “I knew that Tom Joyner was retiring at the end of December 2019. I said then, ‘We need to have a significant daily news platform speaking to the issues and concerns of African Americans that’s not traditional media, cable or broadcast.’ That’s why I launched the show.”



As COVID-19 hit, #RolandMartinUnfiltered was already firmly entrenched in the daily digital space and used the platform to feature more than 80 Black infectious disease professionals, epidemiologists and other medical experts on the show. Every major Democratic presidential candidate made it a point to appear on his show, some multiple times, including Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris.

While others in the media struggled with adjusting to state-mandated quarantines, shut inside in their homes trying to figure out how to produce their segments remotely, #RolandMartinUnfiltered was busy dishing out headlines on the health disparity facing Black communities around the country.

“You had all these folks trying to figure it out; how to broadcast from their homes,” reflected Martin, who founded the first Black news source audio podcast in 2005 when he ran the Chicago Defender, and a video podcast in 2006. “News folks, entertainers, preachers and many others were blowing up my phone up with questions about what microphone to buy; what camera to buy; what should we do? And I was already there. We were in a prime position to keep doing what we are doing.”

Regarding the motivation behind developing #RolandMartinUnfiltered, the Texas A&M University Journalism Hall of Honor inductee and recipient of more than 30 awards for journalistic excellence noted, “Launching the show in 2018 was all about following the vision to deliver news and information to African Americans during the 2020 Election. That was by design, not happenstance.” He added, “When we launched in 2018, we did collectively 9.3 million views our first month. In July we did 30 million views.” Now with nearly 620,000 subscribers on YouTube – they launched with 150,000 in 2018 – #RolandMartinUnfiltered’s exponential growth is a direct reflection of efforts to super serve its audience with content and information focused on their unique concerns as Black Americans.

The bricks laid to build the road to #RolandMartinUnfiltered stretch over a nearly 25-year career. From 1993-1995, he worked at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, which he cites as one of the first daily newspapers to go online.

“I went and talked to the executives there, I saw what they were doing,” said Martin, who was the founding editor of Tom Joyner’s BlackAmericaWeb.com from 2001-2003. “I went to a communications high school and I have been a multimedia journalist my entire career. This was not foreign for to me. I saw a long time ago where the industry was headed.”

On the role of the Black Press, the four-time NAACP Award winner shares deep concerns. He points to the demise of many Black outlets such as Ebony and JET, as well as mainstream media’s lack of deep coverage on issues facing African Americans and its narrow threshold of providing information from a Black perspective. “As an African American, I’m really afraid of the future of Black media,” said Martin, who has worked for and with Black media staples such as Essence, Ebony, TV One, Savoy Magazine, and was managing editor of three Black newspapers. “There’s a dearth of news targeted to our community. Where are we going to get our information from?”

Attempting to fill this gap, the #RolandMartinUnfiltered daily digital show features more than 10 hours of live, timely news content weekly. And this is only its second year. Martin, who also spent six years as a CNN contributor says, “You’re going to see a further explosion in this space on the digital side. This is only the beginning. This show represents a very clear and undeniable focus on Black lives.”

In the spirit of true trailblazers, as Roland marks the second anniversary of #RolandMartinUnfiltered, he celebrates the careers of other journalists and news commentators he has helped cultivate over the years. The list includes noteworthy news figures and popular pundits such as April Ryan, Angela Rye, Nia Malika Henderson, Laura Coates, Gianno Caldwell, Paris Dennard, Shermichael Singleton, Monique Pressley, Paul Butler and many, many more. Van Jones once described him as “the Spike Lee of media,” because of his mentorship, exposure to opportunity for emerging talent and relentless support of the next generation.

Looking ahead to the future, Martin surmises, “I’ve used my platform to greatly diversify mainstream media and will continue to do so.” Because that is what pioneers do.



## Navigating suicide prevention in a global pandemic: Home health care insight

By: Deirdré DeLeo, MA, LCSW,

**W**hen the COVID-19 pandemic first hit us, our daily lives shifted dramatically—and rapidly. It is not unusual during these unprecedented times to experience being overwhelmed with feelings of worry, sadness and loss—loss of how things were, of connections to others and loss of certain freedoms and privileges.

If any of these sound relative to your own experience, you are not alone. According to a recent study conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 40 percent of U.S. adults reported dealing with mental health issues or substance abuse in late June, 11 percent of which seriously considered suicide. Additionally, essential workers, unpaid adult caregivers, those who are racial/ethnic minorities and younger adults ages 18-24 reported disproportionately more severe mental health struggles, substance abuse and suicidal ideation.

It is important to note that while this time of crisis has exacerbated increased symptoms of mental illness, suicide was a public health concern even before the pandemic and continues to be so. In my role as Associate Director for Community Mental Health Programs and Clinical Operations at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, my colleagues and I are trained to observe and skillfully respond to people of all ages who may be struggling with mental health issues.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and a time—perhaps more fitting than ever—to discuss how those struggling with mental illness and their loved ones can navigate a public health crisis during a public health crisis.

### Look for Signs

Use the increased time you are spending with roommates or family to be one step ahead when it comes to recognizing signs and symptoms someone you love might be contemplating suicide. Phrases like, “I can’t do this anymore,” “I just want to give up,” or “I’ll never be good enough,” may disguise suicidal desires and can be a transparent but overlooked sign that someone might be thinking about suicide.

Other signs and symptoms to take note of include: increased use of drugs or alcohol, a change in sleeping habits (either can’t sleep or sleeping more), introduction of new habits, reckless behavior, or the giving away of prized possessions. While we have all endured a social disconnect in some variety during the pandemic, uncharacteristic withdrawal from social interaction can also be sign that someone is severely depressed or



struggling with suicidal thoughts.

### Stay Connected...

Humans are social creatures, but once social distancing regulations were put into place many of our daily face-to-face interactions stopped. That may be taking a bigger toll after more than six months of what feels to many like a “lockdown.” It’s natural to feel alone during this time or believe your relationships with friends or family are drifting apart, both of which can produce depressive patterns.

Now is the time to let technology help you stay connected with loved ones, whether through a simple text message, a humorous meme, social media post or through more personal avenues such as a voice or video call. While there may not be game-changing updates to share, a quick touch-base can mean a lot in these challenging times. Don’t be afraid to ask someone you care about if they are struggling. And

don’t be afraid to listen to what they say if they open up. It is important too not to minimize what someone says with comments like, “don’t say that.” Just listen and let them express how they feel.

### ...But Know When to Disconnect!

Anyone listening to the news these days might find themselves feeling overwhelmed, endangered or hopeless, wishing there was a way to “make things better.” We live in a time (and city) where things are so fast paced. There’s a wealth of information at our fingertips, but as efficient and helpful as this might be, it is also important to know when information overload becomes too much to handle. Try setting aside time once or twice a day to get news updates. “TMI” can add to stress in our already stressful lives.

### Air it Out!

Quarantined conditions have given people limited options when

it comes to enjoying activities beyond the square footage of their homes. Spending too much time in one indoor space can increase feelings of agitation, anxiety or confinement. Additionally, many people who cohabitate are spending extended time together in tight spaces, which has the potential to create conflict fueled by general stress. Remember that we all need alone time, even if we’re isolated from the rest of the world! Getting outside, even just sit on your stoop or a park bench for a few minutes, can be a much-needed change of scenery and a simple way to break out of repetitive routines.

### Find Hope in Each Day

It’s standard to feel hopeless during a pandemic, but hopelessness can often trigger suicidal ideation. Take some time each day to practice self-care and do something enjoyable, whether it’s watching a TV show, working on a craft, trying a new recipe, taking a hot shower with your favorite scents or reading a book. Make sure you are also eating and drinking water properly and keeping physical active—even if that means dancing to a favorite song or walking laps around your room!

Many of us have also had radical changes in how our time is structured, so keeping a schedule can be a great way to not only have your priorities in order, but also ensure that you pencil in self-care activities and always have something to look forward to! Thinking about the future—or even the next month—can be intimidating and even feel impossible at times, but conquering life one day at a time will always provide you with a daily gift: You’ve won another battle—and you are a winner.

If you or someone you care about seems seriously anxious or depressed, it’s time to get help. Remember to Ask, Listen and Get Help.

## Black households earned 61 cents for every dollar of White median incomes

From page 3

Poverty’s racial disparity extends to other key measures such as median incomes, homeownership and retirement.

Even with the enactment of the Fair Housing Act more than 50 years ago, today’s Black homeownership rate is dwindling. According to Ohio State University professor, Trevon Logan, “The homeownership gap between Blacks and whites is higher today in percentage terms than it was in 1900.”

Prof. Logan’s position is bolstered by findings from a 2020 report by the National Association of Realtors, A Snapshot of Race and Homebuying in America that found:

62 percent of Black mortgage applicants were rejected because of their debt to income ratio, compared to only 5 percent of whites; and

51 percent of Blacks are first-time homeowners, compared to only 30% of Whites.

Moreover, since the Great Recession that heavily hit Black homeowners a decade ago, today’s Black homeownership rate has yet to return to pre-recession levels.

With lower and life-long disparities in median income earnings, the ability to prepare for retirement is hindered as well. Social Security figures each worker’s retirement benefit on the basis of a taxpayer’s 35 highest-earning years. With lower incomes and a corresponding lack of monies available for savings or retirement, Black Americans rely on Social Security more than other races and/or ethnicities. Now, for much of Black America, Social Security is a financial lifeline and often the major retirement benefit.

In sum, it seems that in 2020, historic ills remain virtually unchanged. A key component of what continues is police violence against Black America.

In 1963, escalating racial tensions that worsened with growing numbers of peaceful protests that became violent by counter-protesters and led to multiple arrests, prompted President John F. Kennedy to deliver a nationally televised address on America’s racial reckoning.

“One hundred years of delay have passed since President Lincoln freed the slaves, yet their heirs, their grandsons, are not fully free”, he continued. “They are not free from the bonds of injustice. They are not yet freed from social and economic oppression. And this Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be fully free until all its citizens are free.”

Fast forward and it is nearly inconceivable that the current president would deliver such an address. In fact, President Trump and HUD Secretary Ben Carson co-authored a recent op ed in the

Wall Street Journal that portrayed mixed income neighborhoods as “social engineering”. The redlining of Black communities, racial covenants, real estate steering and restrictive zoning laws that together perpetuated segregated housing were never acknowledged in the guest column.

In response, Nikitra Bailey’s the Center for Responsible Lending recently spoke with ABC News saying that the suburbs “intentionally created opportunities for White families while holding back opportunities for families of color... What we are really talking about is opportunity in our nation.”

With escalated violence in a growing number of cities occurring just months before an election, everyday citizens and scholars are echoing community and national leaders on the connection between key policies like housing segregation to violent eruptions.

Last December, the Journal of the National Medical Association, the professional organization of Black physicians, published an article titled, The Relationship between Racial Residential Segregation and Black-White Disparities in Fatal Police Shootings at the City Level, 2013–2017.

The authors concluded that “Racial residential segregation is a significant predictor of the magnitude of the Black-White disparity in fatal police shootings at the city level. Efforts to ameliorate the problem of fatal police violence must move beyond the individual level and consider the interaction between law enforcement officers and the neighborhoods that they police.”

Before the thousands gathered this August, Rev. Sharpton also spoke to this same concern.

“It’s time we have a conversation with America. We need to have a conversation about your racism, about your bigotry, about your hate, about how you would put your knee on our neck while we cry our lives. We need a new conversation... You act like it’s no trouble to shoot us in the back. You act like it’s no trouble to put a choke hold on us while we scream, ‘I can’t breathe,’ 11 times. You act like it’s no trouble to hold a man down on the ground until you squeeze the life out of him.”

“Our vote is dipped in blood,” he continued. “Our vote is dipped in those that went to their grave. We don’t care how long the line, we don’t care what you do, we’re going to vote, not for one candidate or the other, but we going to vote for a nation that’ll stop the George Floyds, that’ll stop the Breonna Taylors.”

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



# International

## Africa business travel do's and don'ts amid COVID-19

Philadelphiaobserver.com

As COVID-19 wreaks havoc across the globe, business and lifestyle tourism-dependent regions are suffering exponentially. Africa is one glaring example, with South Africa propelled into the global top 10 for coronavirus infections. It reportedly has surpassed the United Kingdom in cases.

For its part, the tourism and industrial sectors in North Africa will likely be hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the African Development Bank's 2020 edition North Africa Economic Outlook report.

Even as the continent contends with pandemic concerns, there are still throngs of business travelers who need or desire to visit the region in the near future. Many are doing diligence to discern if, when, and how to go about scheduling a business trip to this tourism hotspot.

To help spotlight some top-line issues, I turned to entrepreneur and philanthropist Jay Cameron, executive director of Maximum Impact Travel. Cameron is one of the leading global experts on Africa travel and commerce, so his insights are invaluable as travelers deal with this tumultuous situation and plan smartly in the post-pandemic era.

What are the key do's and don'ts when traveling to Africa amid COVID-19?

Surprisingly, some African countries have escaped the devastating impacts COVID-19 has caused globally. While other countries around the world have experienced often overwhelming consequences as a result of the coronavirus pandemic,



much of Africa appears to have been spared. Even so, the statistics do not suggest the citizens of the countries of Africa have not felt its impact. The fact is, many countries in Africa are seeing regular increases in the numbers of those infected by the novel coronavirus, while much of the world is experiencing a decline in infections.

Around the world, experts warn outbreaks of COVID-19 in Africa may continue, resulting in a higher rate of deaths due to the limited local health services available. With coronavirus worries come fears of potential famine due to the virus threat, in combination with existing drought conditions and ongoing conflicts.

With this in mind, should you intend to travel to the continent now, or post-COVID-19, you should be prepared. Some good preparedness ideas include researching virus statistics in the country you wish to visit that, for one, you can review at AfricaNews.com. It is also advisable to learn if said country has any travel restrictions, which is information that is accessible online at CDC.gov. Of course, maintaining a healthy lifestyle to boost immunity before and during your visit is also key.

## WHO says new polio outbreak in Sudan linked to oral vaccine

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The World Health Organization has reported that the strain of poliovirus now spreading in Sudan is linked to a vaccine-derived poliovirus that has circulated in neighboring Chad since last year.

The WHO issued a statement earlier this month stating that it was notified by Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health on Aug. 9 that a vaccine-derived poliovirus was circulating in the African nation.

In the first Sudan case, a 48-month-old child from Sulbi city in western Sudan showed symptoms of paralysis in March of 2020. In the second case, a 3-year-old from the eastern part of the country showed paralysis symptoms in early April.

Both children received their last bivalent oral poliovirus vaccine in 2019. Some 13 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 cases have been reported in Sudan between Aug. 9 and Aug. 26. According to the WHO, the risk that the virus will spread to central Africa and the Horn of Africa is high, and the same vaccine-derived strain of the virus is



circulating in Cameroon.

Experts say several cases of polio go unreported for each reported case. The virus is highly contagious, most often afflicting children under age 5, and can cause death and paralysis.

Africa had just been declared free of wild polio by the United Nations Late. 25 after years of vaccine drives, with some campaigns seeking to vaccinate upward of 90 percent of children.

The oral polio vaccine is made of a weakened form of the virus that is intended to cause the body to produce antibodies and establish immunity. However, in rare cases the virus may survive in the body without causing the disease. When this happens the virus can spread, mutating along the way, and an eventual mutation of the original weakened form of the virus can infect an unvaccinated person to become as dangerous as wild polio.

## US effort to block Ethiopian dam recalls legacy of British colonialism

(GIN) –

Based on guidance from President Trump, the State Department is suspending \$130 million in security-related aid to Ethiopia over a nearly completed dam that would lift Ethiopia from poverty and end the shadow of British colonialism that favored Egypt.

Programs on the chopping block include security assistance, counterterrorism and military education and training, anti-human trafficking programs, and broader development assistance funding, congressional aides said. The cuts would not impact U.S. funding for emergency humanitarian relief, food assistance, or health programs aimed at addressing COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS, they said.

When fully completed, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam—Africa's largest hydroelectric project—would be a game changer for Ethiopia where some 65 million Ethiopians—40-45% of the population—have no access to electricity. Plus, it would contribute to transforming neighboring South Sudan, Kenya, Sudan, Somalia and Tanzania with desperately needed electrical power.

The U.S. move has sparked outrage over its apparent interference in Ethiopia's development strategy. "This action ... is more than an outrageous encroachment of Ethiopia's sovereignty," wrote economic analyst Lawrence Freeman. "It is an assault on the right of emerging nations to take actions to improve the living conditions of their people."

Egypt insists that a 1959 Anglo-Egyptian agreement—when both Egypt and Sudan were British colonies—is the legal framework for control of the Nile. That treaty granted Egypt sole veto power over construction projects on the Nile or any of its tributaries which might interfere with Nile waters.

By 2013, Egyptians at a secret meeting were caught on a hot mike proposing to simply destroy the dam altogether.



Rev. Jackson lobbying against aid cut to Ethiopia

Officials in Addis Ababa deny that the Renaissance Dam will choke off water to Egypt, saying the dam will benefit countries in the region, including as a source of affordable electric power.

Even the Rev. Jesse Jackson weighed in on the matter. He cited hydro politics dominated by Egyptian hegemony to control and own the Nile rather than regulate or cooperate.

"The dam was built without help from the World Bank," he wrote, "but with the pennies and dinars of shoe shiners and poor farmers. They saw the hydroelectric generating juggernaut as a source of Ethiopian independence and pride. Above all, they saw it as the centerpiece of their bid in their fight against poverty."

Jackson concluded: "All people of conscience and justice around the world need to condemn the neo-colonial treaty that the US government and the World Bank are imposing on Ethiopia, a peaceful nation whose only desire is to harness its natural resources to elevate its people out of poverty."

## African Union threatens expulsion for member countries with outstanding bills

(GIN) –

The African Union made up of 55 countries is the continental body designated to achieve unity, cohesion and solidarity. But the lofty goals are apt to dissolve when countries are late in paying their bills.

Liberia is currently in their crosshairs with a debt of \$1.6 million. Full membership privileges have been withdrawn, leaving the cash-strapped West African nation with a lesser observer status.

Observers lack the ability to vote or propose resolutions, observed the Liberian FrontPageAfrica in a recent news story. "It is with this in mind that Liberia must return as quickly as possible to full membership in the Africa Union for the good of the nation, her people and humanity!"

According to a recent news report, former President Ellen Sirleaf Johnson found a hefty unpaid bill when she took office in 2006. Liberia was already under sanctions, deprived of voting rights and full membership privileges at virtually all international organizations, with unpaid dues dating as far back as the early 1990s.

The Sirleaf-led government negotiated payment plans, budgeted and made annual payments of its arrears in accordance with an agreed-upon payment plan. By the end of 2008, the Government had restored full rights for Liberia in all membership organizations.

If misery loves company, Liberia need not worry about facing sanctions alone. Other countries suspended by the African Union include South Sudan for failing to pay \$9 million over the past three years, and the West African nation of Mali, suspended after insurgent soldiers ousted President Ibrahim Boubacar, the Prime Minister, and several government officials for a crumbling economy and decrepit public services



Pres. George Weah at Ecowas meeting

and schools, along with a widely shared perception of government corruption.

Expulsions also face Burundi and South Sudan for defaulting on their annual dues to the East African Community (EAC), an intergovernmental organization of six countries. Member states pay \$8 million a year to the bloc but according to The East African news, Burundi had arrears of some \$15 million by June 10 while South Sudan owes \$27.8 million.

Other EAC states with arrears include Uganda (\$1.6 million), Rwanda (\$2.7 million) and Tanzania (\$4.2 million). Kenya is the only country out of the six members that has fully paid its annual dues.

In other news from Liberia, the U.S. State Dept. has blacklisted former Passport Director Andrew Wonplo and his entire family from entry to the U.S. for selling Liberian passports to foreign nationals. Wonplo was found innocent but the judgment was seen as flawed by the American government



## Beyoncé, Serena Williams, Janelle Monáe among DC Comics' 'Wonder Women of History'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**B**eyoncé Knowles Carter, Serena Williams, and Janelle Monáe, are among several women who are being honored by DC Comics in a new comic book featuring highly respected and esteemed women across different spectrums of life.

DC Comics announced that it is releasing Wonder Women of History in December. The highly anticipated young adult graphic novel anthology was curated by New York Times bestselling author Laurie Halse Anderson. Wonder Women of History will present tales of the real-world heroes who emblazon Wonder Woman's iconic mantle and work in the fields of science, social justice activism, politics, and more.

The narrative of the anthology as described on the website.

Not all heroes wear capes.

Wonder Woman has been an inspiration for decades, and while not everyone would choose her star-spangled outfit for themselves, her compassion and fairness are worthy of emulation. We'll be presenting tales of the real-world heroes who take up Diana's mantle and work in the fields of science, social justice activism, diplomacy, and more!

Award-winning author Laurie



Halse Anderson brings together an all-star cast of authors and illustrators in this anthology of Wonder Women.

The book, which is now available on pre-order, will be released on December 1st with a sales price of \$16.99.

Wonder Women of History spotlights the following notable public figures, written and drawn by some of the most talented writers and artists in publishing:

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez –

written by Lilliam Rivera and drawn by Anastasia Longoria

Ruth Bader Ginsburg – written by Lilah Sturges and drawn by Devaki Neogi

Elizabeth Warren – written and drawn by Renae De Liz

Rashida Tlaib – written and drawn by Marguerite Dabaie

Teara Fraser – written by Traci Sorell and drawn by Natasha Donovan

Beyoncé – written by Mikki Kendall and drawn by A. D'Amico

Edith Windsor – written by Amanda Deibert and drawn by Cat Staggs

Marsha P. Johnson – written by Jadzia Axelrod and drawn by Michaela Washington

Emma Gonzalez – written by Kami Garcia and drawn by Igzell

Judith Heumann – written by Marieke Nijkamp and drawn by Ashanti Fortson

Ellen Ochoa – written by Cecil Castellucci and drawn by Carina Guevara

Shi Zhengli – written by Emily X.R. Pan and drawn by Wendy Xu

Serena Williams – written by Danielle Paige and drawn by Britney Williams

Tig Notaro – written by Sara Farizan and drawn by Nicole Goux

Keiko Agena – written by Sarah Kuhn and drawn by Lynn Yoshii

Dominique Dawes – written by Danny Lore and drawn by Robyn Smith

Janelle Monáe – written by Vita Ayala and drawn by O'Neill Jones

## Alicia Keys, NFL announce \$1B fund for Black-owned businesses, communities

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**A**licia Keys and the NFL have teamed to launch a \$1 billion endowment fund focused on supporting Black-owned businesses and communities.

Keys announced the full details of her latest initiative, revealing NFL bosses will be contributing to the fund.

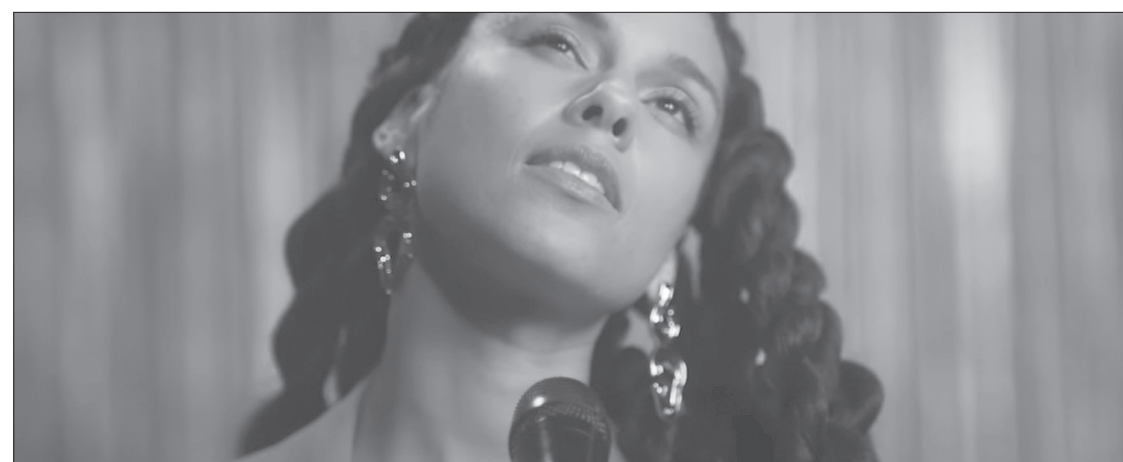
In an interview with Billboard, the singer said the recent protests have inspired her to raise aware-

ness about social injustice and systematic racism.

"We are already seeing the blatant injustices that are going on around us," she said. "As an

artist, I'm always thinking about how can I use my platform to further racial equity. This fund is one of the answers and our goal is to empower Black America through

investing in Black businesses, Black investors, institutions, entrepreneurs, schools and banks in a way to create sustainable solutions."



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# Entertainment



By Don Thomas

## JTB putting Jamaica back on track

For the past four months, Jamaica's robust tourist industry had virtually come to a grinding halt. Prior to Coronavirus, the island's tourist trade was enjoying consecutive quarters of growth. 2019 was a remarkable year for visitor arrivals and the month of Dec., 2019 was record-breaking with 281,115 stopover arrivals to the island, representing an increase of 7.6% over the previous Dec.

Suddenly there was an unwelcome guest- Coronavirus. Jamaica fought back bravely and in the aftermath of the lockdown, there is presently a steady resumption of air service into Kingston and Montego Bay from key markets, New York, Newark, Miami, Orlando, Atlanta, Charlotte, Baltimore, Boston, Dallas, Houston and Toronto. United, Southwest, Caribbean Airlines, JetBlue, Delta, Spirit and American Airlines are all back at some level of operation.

"All our Couples Resorts opened on July 1 and we've had ample time to train out staff with the new COVID-19 realities," Paul Issa, a marketing executive at Couples said.

Some Sandals properties are now open, and the Holiday Inn, the Half Moon, Round Hill, Hedonism 11 in Negril and the sprawling Palladium near Lucea are all bouncing back to life. Several Kingston hotels are receiving guests too. Among them, the Jamaica Pegasus, the Altamont Court, Terra Nova, the AC Marriott and the Courtyard Marriott.

But some major resorts and attractions are still closed, and several hoteliers say short term bookings are only at a trickle, but gradually building. Cruise



Zoom calls and Jamaica travel webinars helped to keep Jamaica top of mind for travel agents during the pandemic

shipping is on pause. And concerns about a dramatic increase in COVID-19 infections in some two dozen states including Florida, one of Jamaica's most productive markets, is creating concern among loyal tour operators and travel agents who sell Jamaica.

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) is the well oiled machine that is tasked with driving travel business, and "putting heads to

beds." The JTB overseas marketing teams fully grasp the devastating effect that the fallout is having on thousands of tourists with vacations and weddings planned.

The impact has also been felt by various related sectors on island- airport, resort and attraction workers, ground transportation providers, car rental companies, farmers who supply hotels, cambio operators and

restaurants, bars and other places of entertainment.

With this in mind, the marketing representatives across the Americas, including Canada, the United States and Latin America have been working relentlessly to build and sustain brand awareness for Destination Jamaica throughout the pandemic.

"Once we received word that Jamaica was closing her borders and travel would come to a halt, we immediately devised a plan to keep the brand alive with our travel agents, tour operators and our airline partners," said Donnie Dawson, deputy director of tourism for the Americas. "It was important for us to maintain our strong travel trade relationships and keep Jamaica top of mind during the pandemic," Dawson added.

Jamaica maintains relationships with more than 40,000 high yielding travel agents across the USA and Canada, and the engagement with them began immediately, first with providing updated information on Destination Jamaica to help determine if travel clients should reschedule, cancel or seek refunds.

The next step for the JTB marketing reps was to engage the thousands of agents in novel ways to keep the brand alive and jumping with excitement.

In the absence of in-person visits to travel agencies, service calls became telemarketing wellness calls.

Trade seminars morphed

into online training workshops. What would have normally been thank you functions for the trade turned into "Lively Chit Chat Zoom Calls." Monthly webinars are now conducted bi-weekly, monthly eNewsletters are now produced weekly for increased connectivity, and social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn are now more important than ever to reach almost 40,000 weekly, with further amplification from email blasts.

Additionally, the JTB utilized an elaborate and exciting audio visual musical journey that chronicles the development of mento, ska, rock steady and reggae as a cultural magnet. Competitions were launched across key markets to place focus on Jamaica and these included the Treasure Hunt Trivia Series and the Picture Me in Jamaica Photo Contest. And for Travel Agent Day in May, the JTB partnered with Grace Foods USA to create a Jamaica Quiz Challenge. Successful participants won Grace food baskets loaded with Jamaican treats.

"Our activities have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in fact we've never been busier, and our team continues to be the industry leader creating a kaleidoscope of activity," Phillip Rose, JTB's regional director for the Northeast revealed. "The global market has a big appetite for Jamaica and we continue to answer the call despite unprecedented times."



## A Journey Into Jamaica's Mento Music

The JTB engaged travel agents during the COVID-19 pandemic in various ways, including Jamaican music



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# Sports



**Andrew  
Rosario,  
Sports  
Editor**

# The Reign of Osaka

By Shara Talia Taylor

**N**aomi Osaka stretched out across the court at Arthur Ashe Stadium after an intense three-set match last Saturday afternoon.

She defeated Victoria Azarenka 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 to win the women's single title at the US Open.

"Yeah, I mean I was thinking about all the times I've watched the great players sort of collapse onto the ground and look up into the sky," Osaka said sharing her thoughts when she laid on the ground after her victory. "I've always wanted to see what they saw. For me, it was really an incredible moment."

Defeating a former world No.1 wasn't an easy task for the 22-year-old. Osaka became the first woman since 1994 to win a US Open final after losing the first set.

Osaka felt she was not playing 100% in the first set and the beginning of the second set. 31-year-old Azarenka dominated the first set with serves, by coming into the net at opportune moments and with fast deep corner shots. Some were over hit out, but Azarenka moved Osaka back and forth across the baseline with deep shots. Osaka responded with strong defense, but lost points at times when her returns fell short. She once tossed her racquet down in frustration after hitting a ball into the net. "Yeah, I think in the first set I was so nervous, I wasn't moving my feet," she said. "I just felt like I was too much in my own head."

She said she changed her way of thinking and "ran with it". Said Osaka, "then in the second set, of course I was down early, which really didn't help me out," she said.



Another Grand Slam Title For Naomi. Photo: Special to the philadelphia Observer

"I just thought to myself to be positive, don't lose 6-1, 6-0, hopefully give her a slight run for her money."

Osaka climbed her way back in the second set. She refused to give up at times when Azarenka was at the Ad-In point. Osaka's serve started to improve. She moved in when necessary and hit stronger and smarter deep shots when Azarenka moved in. Azarenka missed those deep shots.

"I felt I had a little bit of an energy dip that I could maybe do a little better," Victoria Azarenka said about her challenges in the second and third sets. "I think it's something for me to learn, is how to maybe manage my energy a little bit more."

Osaka reached the finals after her 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Jennifer Brady. Azarenka advanced to the finals after defeating Serena Williams 1-6, 6-3, 6-3. "She started hitting shots that she normally doesn't make, she made those," Williams said about the second and third sets of her match against Azarenka. "She just really stepped her level up."

Williams fought hard throughout the tournament. Her final three matches each went three sets. Her strong serve was a huge asset. She led all women's singles players with 70 aces, one at 124 mph, the fastest on the women's side. "Well, I was trying different things all the time, but it's very hard to resist against a strength like that," said Tsvetana Pironkova about Williams' improvements over their three-set match. "I'm not sure how many miles an hour was her serve, but it felt like a bomb at one point. I don't know how many aces she made, but they felt quite a lot, as well."

When Williams defeated Pironkova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 Sept. 9 in the quarterfinals advancing to the semi finals she passed Chris Evert's record for the most US Open wins with 106. Chris Everett held the record for most career singles victories at the US Open, with a total of 101. Williams said she will play the French Open which begins September 21st.

This was a US Open unlike any other. Matches were played without the public attending due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

"The quarantine definitely gave me a chance to think a lot about things, what I want to accomplish, what I want people to remember me by," said Osaka. "For me, I came into this tournament, or these two tournaments, with that mindset. I think it definitely helped me out."

People will remember Osaka for her social activism. She wore different facemasks throughout the tournament featuring the names of black people tragically killed in America and brought awareness of police brutality and racial injustice.

Osaka claimed her first US Open victory in 2018. She now has won 6 career titles, 3 at the Grand Slams. Could this be the reign of Osaka?



Serena Will Play The French Open. Photo: Special to the philadelphia Observer