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“ARE YOU FIRED UP, READY TO GO?”



**Obama's chant
at end of campaign
speech in Pennsylvania**

**With absentee ballot deadline looming and early voting
option ending, voters in Pennsylvania stand in long lines
to cast their vote, pg3**

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE



AOC blasts GOP lawmakers for calling female colleagues by nicknames

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez blasted Republican lawmakers for calling female legislators by nicknames after President Trump twice referred to her as “AOC” in Thursday night’s debate.

“I wonder if Republicans understand how much they advertise their disrespect of women in debates when they consistently call women members of Congress by nicknames or first names while using titles & last names when referring to men of= stature,” Ocasio-Cortez tweeted

early Friday morning.

“Women notice. It conveys a lot,” she wrote.

The Queens-Bronx congresswoman said her popular nickname, “AOC,” was born out of the community and should be reserved for “the people.”

“Government colleagues referring to each other in a public or professional context (aka who don’t know me like that) should refer to their peers as “Congresswoman,” “Representative,” etc. Basic respect 101,” the lawmaker added on Twitter.

Philadelphia cops kill Walter Wallace Jr., Black man with knife who video shows didn’t pose deadly threat to police

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Protesters took to the streets of Philadelphia Monday night hours after a pair of white police officers shot and killed a Black man who had a knife but did not appear to be threatening the lives of the cops, according to a viral video of the shooting. Walter Wallace Jr., who was said to have suffered from mental illness, was killed on a West Philadelphia street as his mother begged police not to shoot him.

In #Philadelphia police just murdered an unarmed man in West Philadelphia. About a hundred protestors are taking the streets up Spruce. pic.twitter.com/rtsxYwDEpl

— Sharmin Hossain (@sharminultra) October 27, 2020

Video shows the 27-year-old Wallace walking — not running or charging or aggressively approaching — toward the officers, who could be seen scrambling while retreating and aiming their guns at him. Wallace continued walking when the officers fired their weapons in front of multiple onlookers.

Markers on the ground at the scene showed what appeared to be at least 12 shots fired during the encounter that took place around 4 p.m. When the shooting happened, Wallace did not appear to be close enough to the officers to pose a mortal threat to them.

Rioting and looting have kicked off in #Philadelphia following the fatal police shooting of #WalterWallaceJr. pic.twitter.com/SKcl7fH9M

— It’s Going Down (@IGD_News) October 27, 2020

Wallace’s father told the Philadelphia Inquirer that his son suffered from mental illness and wondered why they had to resort to using lethal force.

A caravan of dozens of cars and protestors are driving up Walnut protesting the murder of Walter Wallace #Philadelphia #BlackLivesMatterpic.twitter.com/Ox-TwamfV0i

— Sharmin Hossain (@sharminultra) October 27, 2020

“Why didn’t they use a Taser?” Walter Wallace Sr. asked. “His mother was trying to defuse the situation.”



Amy Coney Barrett’s confirmation is one of the fastest nominations and confirmations in modern times

Philadelphiaobserver.com

As republicans pushed ahead with the Amy Coney Barrett’s confirmation a week before the elections, Coney Barrett is preparing to join the Supreme Court as the justices are ready to take action on a number of important petitions before them, including several related to next week’s election.

Barrett will solidify a 6-3 conservative majority on the high court and will be able to participate in the court’s action on the petitions, potentially giving Republican litigants an additional ally as the justices review the various requests.

Here’s a look at the major petitions awaiting Barrett:

Trump taxes case: The justices are primed to decide soon whether a New York prosecutor will get access to Trump’s financial documents from January 2011 to August 2019, including his tax returns.

Pennsylvania ballot extensions: Republicans in Pennsylvania asked the Supreme Court on Friday to block a ballot receipt extension that would allow them to be counted if they are received within three days of Election Day — even if they do not have a legible postmark.



Wisconsin ballot counting and requests: Three Wisconsin petitions before the court concern Democrats who are asking the justices to allow the counting of ballots six days after the election and whether Covid-19 vulnerable voters and others in the state can secure replacement mail-in ballots by email.

Minnesota congressional election date: A Republican candidate for Minnesota’s 2nd Congressional District is asking the justices to intervene in a case concerning whether his election takes place on Nov. 3 or on Feb. 9, after the recent death of Legal Marijuana Now Party candidate Adam Weeks caused the contest to be moved to next year as required by state law.

Mississippi abortion case: As

abortion rights backers and opponents spar over whether Barrett’s confirmation would mean the end of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 landmark Supreme Court decision, the justices will consider Friday whether or not to hear a case that could directly consider the precedent. The case pertains to Mississippi’s 15-week abortion ban, which Republican Gov. Phil Bryant signed into law in 2018. The law made exceptions only for medical emergencies or cases in which there’s a “severe fetal abnormality,” but not for incidents of rape or incest. A federal judge in Mississippi struck down the law in November 2018, and the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the ruling late last year.

Maryland man threatening Joe Biden and Kamala Harris has been arrested and charged

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Fredrick, Maryland resident James Dale Reed was arrested last Friday for threatening to kidnap and kill Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris, according to The New York Times.

It was reported that on Oct. 4, James Dale Reed left a hand-

written note on a Biden-Harris campaign sign at a house in his hometown of Frederick, Maryland. This note contained graphic threats against the candidates and their supporters.

The note said in part, “We are the ones with these scary guns, we are the ones your children have nightmares about.”

Unfortunately, death

threats against the US president and presidential candidates aren’t uncommon during election years. Reed acknowledged to authorities that he wrote the letter and is currently being held without bond in Frederick County on a federal charge of threatening a major candidate and two violations of state law, including threatening mass violence and voter intimidation.



November 3: So much at stake in this election

By Ray Curry

Vote! I cannot say it any simpler or say it enough.

Vote to restore government for the people, by the people; vote to preserve our threatened middle class; vote for America's workers by voting for an America that works; vote up and down the ballot and vote union blue.

Sisters and brothers, I have to say that never before has there been so much at stake for the American people than in this election. From constitutional court decisions affecting human, civil and worker rights, to the ability to safely exercise our right to vote ... all are on the line. Our current way of life, fought for and worked for over so many decades, is being threatened. Ruled by the rich for the rich sure is not looking out for those of us who work for a living.

Together we can readjust America's light to again shine on a united future — the way it was intended to be.

Here is what makes your vote so critical. Consider the issues that your ballot will impact by helping to elect representatives who support labor and the American worker —

Who represents us in the courts?

Our courts are deteriorating quickly to an anti-worker mindset. Over the past four years, two very conservative Supreme Court justices have been appointed, Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch, moving the Court further to the right and further away from protecting our rights. And a third anti-labor judge will likely be railroaded through in advance of the election. In addition, more than 50 judges for the United States Courts of Appeals, more than 135 judges for the United States District Courts, and two judges for the United States Court of International Trade have been appointed during the current term. In consequence of these numerous court appointments, our courts are turning in a detrimental way against fair labor practices and human rights. Through your vote in November, you can help

fend off further anti-labor control of decisions and policy.

Who is watching out for us?

Since the 2016 election, there have been several disturbing anti-labor appointees to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the government agency that enforces labor law as it relates to collective bargaining and unfair labor practice charges. This includes officials like William Emanuel, a labor lawyer at the notorious anti-worker law firm Littler Mendelson. He is, most certainly, no friend to labor and his voting record shows it. And we must not forget the appointment of Eugene Scalia last fall to Secretary of Labor. The New Yorker magazine has called him "a wrecking ball for labor."

And consider that on February 6, 2020, the House of Representatives passed the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which would significantly restore workers' right to organize and bargain collectively. However, the Senate has failed to even allow a vote, let alone, pass the PRO Act. The UAW has endorsed the PRO Act and we must work to see that it is passed.

Protect our right to vote

Your very right to vote in this, and every election is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. It is a fundamental aspect of living in this democracy. During the COVID-19 pandemic, making our way to the polls has been a concern for many. Mail-in and absentee ballots are a viable option for a safe, secure election. However, we have seen:

Challenges to states' rights and roles in overseeing the presidential election.

Opposed election aid for states to run safe elections with COVID-19 restrictions in place.

Opposition to funding to make elections safe and secure, including a \$25 billion emergency funding bill for the U.S. Postal Service and a Democratic proposal to provide \$3.6 billion in additional election funding to the states.

Keep us safe

That the current management

of the pandemic favors the Chamber of Commerce interests over that of the labor force is clearly illustrated in the response to the COVID-19 crisis. Among the anti-worker, anti-safety steps taken:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) refused to issue any required measures — via an emergency temporary infectious disease standard — to protect workers from the virus.

OSHA is also failing to enforce the Occupational Safety and Health Act during the pandemic. Despite over 9,000 complaints from workers about unsafe working conditions from COVID-19, the agency issued only four citations for failure to protect workers as of August.

Petitions by unions representing affected workers and by the AFL-CIO for mandatory rules to protect workers from exposure to the coronavirus on the job were rejected.

Guide us out of this crisis

This terrible pandemic has been devastating on so many levels and recovery from the economic, public health and employment impact of the virus will take years. We need strong leadership to guide our country out of this crisis. Now, more than ever, it is time to use our right to vote to let our voices be heard. When UAW members vote, when labor votes, we win. If we stay home, we are silent and powerless and we enable those who would work against us.

Brothers and Sisters there are no excuses. Voting by mail is easy and safe. Dropping your ballot at the city clerk's office or at a voting ballot drop box is easy and safe. You can vote early. Or you can do it at the polls on November 3rd. But however you choose to vote, please vote. Don't let anything or anyone stand in your way.

Our way of life is at stake.

Ray Curry is Secretary-Treasurer, UAW

He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration / Finance. He holds a Master of Business Administration, MBA, degree from the University of Alabama.

Voter suppression tactics, long lines fail to quell resolve of Black voters

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

The lines are long, but Black voters are demonstrating their will to vote.

In Texas, Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, and Indiana, African Americans' resiliency and resolve have never been as severely tested.

They have gone to great lengths to overcome voter suppression, discouragement, misinformation, gerrymandering, and so many other obstacles to participate in America's elections.

In Fort Bend County, Texas, a check-in machine glitch shut down at least four precincts, and a court ruling that significantly limited ballot locations didn't stop many African Americans from traveling long distances and overcoming even longer wait times to vote.

In Georgia, NPR Reported that the clogged polling locations in metro Atlanta reflected an underlying pattern: the number of places to vote has shrunk statewide, with little recourse.

"Although the reduction in polling places has taken place across racial lines, it has primarily caused long lines in nonwhite neighborhoods where voter registration has surged and more residents cast ballots in person on Election Day. The pruning of polling places started long before the pandemic, which has discouraged people from voting in person," the report noted.

In Virginia, a glitch shut down polls and forced officials to push back deadlines to cast early votes.

Also, General Registrar Donna Patterson told reporters that the long lines in Virginia Beach had been like that each day since early voting began about one month ago. Add to that number the 55,000 mail-in ballots the registrar received to that point.

Patterson noted that the state might have the highest voter turnout ever.

In North Carolina, about 163,000 votes were cast in person across North Carolina on Saturday, bringing the total to 828,456 in the state — more than double the number of people in North Carolina who went to the polls at this time in the 2016 election.

"Texas has been under siege confronting voter suppression from multiple fronts from our Governor Greg Abbott to the state higher courts," noted Sonny Mesiah Jiles, the publisher, and CEO of The Houston Defender Media Group, DefenderNetwork.com.

"It is unbelievable or ridiculous for a county with 2.4 million registered voters to have one location to drop off mail-in ballots," Jiles remarked.

"Despite their efforts, the Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins, a smart young millennial, has been strategic and innovative with drive-thru voting, doubling the early voting locations and the historical move of 24-hour voting. But aside from voting access, we need to beware not to be bamboozled listening to the polls and just go and vote like our life depends on it, because

it does."

Numerous voter suppression tactics have been used in Texas and throughout the nation, added Patrick Washington, CEO, and co-publisher of the Dallas Weekly.

"Like the late-night ruling, from a 5th Circuit Court via a three judge panel, all of whom appointed by President Trump to uphold Governor Abbot's mandate to limit one ballot drop box for millions of voters in Dallas county," Washington observed.

However, he continued:

"Despite this deliberate, detrimental move, the night before early voting in Texas, I am pleased to see that the very voters that may have been affected in Dallas counties came to the polls big.

"I witnessed many volunteers at the Martin Luther King Center assisting the elderly with remaining comfortable with chairs and water during the long wait and assisting first-time voters by explaining the sample ballots. To know that ballot records are being broken in counties all over Texas doesn't shock me. Unfortunately, a lot of tragic events due to racism and police brutality have occurred during Trump's time in office.

"People are tired. People can't see family and friends like they used to. In some cases, people are unemployed, angry, scared or maybe all of the above. So, in any case, people have the time to exercise their civic duty and vote."

Even in states like Indiana, voter suppression efforts haven't stopped Black people from lining up at the polls.

"Indiana has some incredibly restrictive voter laws, and currently we only have one early voting site in all of Indianapolis," stated Robert Shegog, CEO at the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper and Indiana Minority Business Magazine.

"A few more will open Oct. 24, but significantly more are needed given the size of the city. However, it is very refreshing to see so many people voting early. This has been a trend in Indianapolis for over ten years now, and the numbers keep increasing," Shegog noted.

The Indianapolis Recorder reported that there were 13,206 votes cast through the first nine days of early voting — or nearly 10,000 more in the same period in 2008 and 5,000 more than in 2016.

Early voting in Marion county started on Oct. 6 and continues through Nov. 2. In 2016, 33 percent of the 362,372 voters in Marion county voted early — a record-breaking number.

This year, Indiana voters are expected to break the record again.

"When one considers the pandemic and the physical and mental effects it had on so many Hoosiers, the tough voting laws, only one early voting site in a city that is nearly 400 square miles, and even the immense pressure that Blacks experience daily; the fact that so many people are voting early demonstrates their desire to have their voices heard and their votes counted," Shegog said.

"I am incredibly proud of the numbers, and local experts are optimistic that they will continue to increase through Nov. 3."

Ocasio-Cortez delivers yet another takedown after Trump's rally insult

Philadelphiaobserver.com

President Donald Trump keeps pumping out the insults, and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) just keeps knocking them right back at him.

At a campaign rally Monday in Lititz, Pennsylvania, the president tossed out some of his go-to attacks against the progressive lawmaker and her proposals to combat climate change.

"A great student of the environment — I don't think she ever took an environmental course in college," he said. "She did go to college, right?"

Ocasio-Cortez, who graduated from Boston University with degrees in economics and international relations, argued that plenty of people without a college education could run the country better than Trump has. She slammed him and his fellow Republicans for their elitist attitude toward people without degrees, such as food service workers, calling



it "classist & disgusting."

She also pointed out that as college tuition continues to rise, degrees begin to measure privilege more than competence.



Tulsa resumes excavation to find 'Original 18' site of 1921 race massacre victims

On Monday, Oct. 19, Oklahoma archeologists and forensic scientists began to excavate an area of a Tulsa cemetery that is thought to be the "Original 18" site, a section of Oaklawn Cemetery believed to be the burial place of 18 Black victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

Officials believe 18 Black people whose names are listed on a ledger at a white-owned funeral home may be found in unmarked graves, ones the funeral home never plotted precisely.

As many as 300 people died and more than 800 were injured in the Tulsa Race Massacre that devastated the affluent Black Greenwood community almost 100 years ago.

The violence began after a Black teen, Dick Rowland, was accused of assaulting a white woman, Sarah Page, in an elevator. At some point during the elevator

ride, Page screamed, and Rowland subsequently fled the scene.

Rumors spread across the city about what may have occurred, and Rowland was arrested the next morning. White mobs swarmed the courthouse, demanding Rowland be handed over, but the sheriff refused, and officials barricaded Rowland on the top floor.

A group of 25 armed Black men arrived to offer their help in protecting Rowland but the sheriff declined. The mob clashed with the group and shots rang out. Outnumbered, the Black men retreated to the Greenwood district, as the mob followed in pursuit.

Over an 18-hour period between May 31 and June 1, white mobs attacked, burned and looted the thriving business district, Black Wall Street. Thousands of survivors were left homeless, and reports of what occurred were largely silenced within the media.



Jacksonville family demands justice for 19-year-old Black man fatally shot by police outside Chicago

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A grieving family is demanding answers and justice after a 19-year-old Black man was fatally shot by a police officer in Waukegan, Ill.—a suburb of Chicago—during a traffic stop on Tuesday. The officer shot both the driver and passenger of the car involved in the stop. One shooting victim survived and is now in the hospital.

News 4 JAX reports that Marcellis Stinnette had recently moved from Jacksonville, Fla., to Chicago, according to his family. Waukegan Police said that the events that led to the shooting happened just before midnight Tuesday when officers were called to investigate a "suspicious vehicle." The car drove off when they arrived.

From News 4:

Sometime later, another officer spotted the car. According to police, as the officer approached on foot, the car reversed and the officer fired his pistol, he said, out of fear for his safety.

Stinnette, a 19-year-old passenger in the vehicle, died at the scene. His girlfriend, Tafara Williams, who was driving the car, is now in the hospital with serious injuries.

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Williams is expected to recover from her wounds. Her mother, Clifftina Johnson, told ABC 7 that she has spoken with her daughter.

"When I got there, she said, 'Mama, they just shot us for nothing,'" Johnson said. "My daughter said she put her hand up, and if she didn't put her hand up, she said, 'Mama, I would be dead.'"

'Truth be Told': Breonna Taylor grand juror breaks silence, suggests Daniel 'Sellout' Cameron lied

Philadelphiaobserver.com

One of the grand jurors responsible for the widely criticized indictment against a Louisville police officer involved in Breonna Taylor's killing has spoken out weeks after filing a motion to legally speak out about the controversial case. The "Anonymous Juror #1" suggested that Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron — who was famously called a "sellout" by activist Tamika Mallory — and his office lied about the applicable charges police officers could have faced.

The juror released a brief statement Tuesday afternoon confirming critics' suspicion that Cameron failed to present the option of any criminal charges other than wanton endangerment for gunshots

that did not kill Taylor, who died in a hail of police bullets in her own home after cops botched serving a suspiciously obtained no-knock warrant in March. In fact, Anonymous Juror #1 said, grand jurors even asked if there were any other charges they should consider and were told no.

But after watching Cameron's infamous press conference during which he defended the indictment of just one of the three cops involved and all but blamed Taylor's boyfriend for her killing, Anonymous Juror #1 felt compelled out of a civic "duty" to speak out.

"The grand jury was not presented any charges other than the three Wanton Endangerment charges against Detective Brett Hankison. The grand jury did not



have homicide offenses explained to them. The grand jury never heard anything about those laws," Anonymous Juror #1 said in part before continuing later. "Questions were asked about additional charges and the grand jury was told there would be none because the prosecutors didn't feel they could make them stick."

Twitter users ramp up calls for Colin Kaepernick's NFL return after Cowboys' loss

People are once again calling out the NFL for Colin Kaepernick's absence from the league after the Dallas Cowboys suffered a sizable loss to the Arizona Cardinals on Monday night.

Fans of the activist and former San Francisco 49ers quarterback are arguing online that the Cowboys should sign Kaepernick, who has remained unsigned by a team since he became a free agent after the 2016 season.

Kaepernick famously led peaceful protests against racial injustice by kneeling during the playing of the national anthem at NFL games. The league, which

has an unsettling history of confronting racism, has been widely accused of blackballing Kaepernick for his activism.

The Dallas Cowboys lost 38-10 to the Cardinals on Monday. It was the first game the team played this season without starting quarterback Dak Prescott — and with former Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Andy Dalton filling his spot. Prescott suffered a season-ending ankle injury during a game on Oct. 10.

"The Cowboys need Kaepernick lol but I'm dead serious!!!! #CowboysNeedHelp" actor/comedian Lil Rel Howery tweeted on Monday.



Parole granted to Black man serving life sentence for stealing hedge clippers

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A Louisiana Black man who was serving a life sentence for stealing a pair of hedge clippers back in 1997, was given parole last Thursday after being in prison for more than two decades, according to NBC News.

This decision was made after the Louisiana State Supreme Court decided that it wouldn't review his case back in August.

Fair Wayne Bryant, 63, was sentenced to life in prison for stealing hedge clippers, according to court records. He was convicted of one count of attempted simple burglary. In August, five of the six state Supreme Court justices had upheld Bryant's life sentence and denied the appeal he had filed.

After the Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole voted on Thursday to release Bryant, he was allowed to walk out of prison later that day after serving more than 20 years at the state penitentiary in Angola, his attorney said.

Based on the conditions of his parole, Bryant will have to abide by a curfew, attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and complete community service. He will also be entered into a program in Baton Rouge that helps prisoners adjust to life after



they are released. Eventually, he will be allowed to live with his brother in Shreveport.

"Because of his prior history of petty crimes to fuel a drug addiction, Mr. Bryant was sentenced to a life in prison rather than given the help he needed to recover from his drug addiction," Bryant's attorney, Robert Lancaster, said in a written statement. "Finally, after 24 years in prison, he has been given a second chance."

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Editorial - Opinion

My plan to lift every voice in Black America

OP-ED:

By Joe Biden

There is injustice in America. There is discrimination. There is a legacy of racism and inequality that lives still in our institutions, our laws, and in too many people's hearts that makes it harder for Black people to succeed. These are facts in the United States of America in 2020, and we must all do more to move our nation closer to the ideals inlaid at our founding—that all women and men are created equal.

This year has also brought us too many examples of the dangers Black people can face in the course of going about their lives. With grieving hearts, we learned to say the names of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and many more. I've spent time with the families of George Floyd and Jacob Blake, sharing their grief and anger and seeing the incredible resilience of communities that for too long have had a knee on their neck. And I was inspired by their commitment to turn their pain into purpose.

Today, there are Americans all across this country, especially Black Americans, who are exhausted and hurting. Who are disappointed by a system that never seems to deliver for your communities. Who are sick and tired of a cycle where, in good times, Black communities lag behind, in bad times they get hit first and hardest, and in recovery, they take the longest to bounce back.

We're in the midst of four simultaneous crises—a pandemic that has claimed more than 200,000 lives, a disproportionate number of whom were Black; an economic crash that has hit Black workers and Black business owners especially hard; a long overdue reckoning on racial justice; and a climate crisis that is already hurting Black and Brown communities the most.

It is our job to do everything in our power to rip out systemic



racism across our society, root and branch. It will be hard work in any case. But we will not succeed without a leader who understands our history and is ready to grapple with our challenges.

President Trump wants to paper over the living wound of racism. He's issued Executive Orders and established a new national commission designed to whitewash our history—and deny the daily reality of being Black in America. He actively appeals to white supremacists and fans the flames of hatred and division in our country, because he thinks it benefits him politically. He ignores the most basic job of every president: the duty to care for all of us, not just those who voted for him.

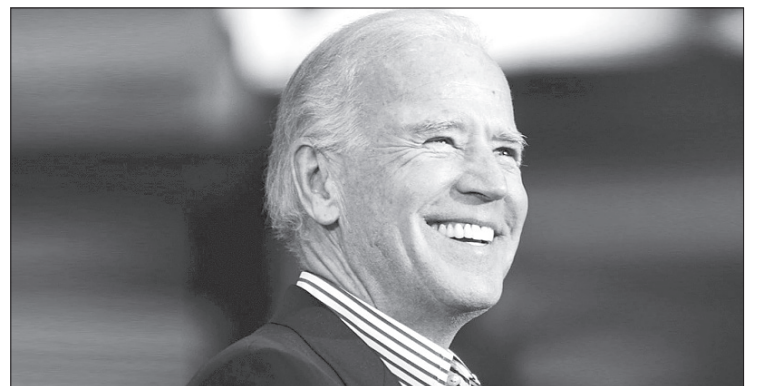
It's the polar opposite of what I will do as president. I was proud to serve for eight years alongside President Obama. I watched up close how he filled the Oval Office with dignity and compassion for others. And, together with Senator Kamala Harris as my vice president,

we will restore honor, integrity, and competence to the White House.

We will build an administration that looks like America, including nominating the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

We will work to unite the country around solutions that will push our country forward, and most importantly, I will listen to those impacted by the long-standing inequities in our system—especially Black Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and Native Americans.

That's how we will work together to deliver real, lasting change. Criminal justice and policing reforms, but also economic opportunity and financial stability. Building wealth for families of color and passing it down. Closing the racial wealth gap is one of the most powerful ways we can build real equity in our society, and it's going to require a full-court press. That's what my Lift Every Voice plan is—a comprehensive agenda to take on the range of issues that drive inequality in Black America.



We'll tackle student debt and invest more in our HBCUs, so higher education is a pathway to wealth and opportunity instead of to debt that prevents you from owning a home or starting a small business.

My plan will empower Black-owned small businesses, with short-term relief to get you through this tough time and long-term investments to help you build back better — with access to new capital and financing and government contracts.

Critically, we're going to tackle the racial homeownership gap head on. There is no greater vehicle for wealth creation than homeownership. That's why my plan will restore the steps President Obama and I took toward eradicating housing discrimination, including redlining; end racial bias in how we judge which families are credit-worthy; and provide a \$15,000 down payment tax credit to help millions of young Black families buy their first home.

We'll fix our upside-down tax system to finally reward work, not wealth. Trump thinks billionaires deserve more tax cuts. But under my plan, I'll make sure the super wealthy and big corporations pay their fair share, while ensuring that no one making less than \$400,000 a year sees their taxes go up.

And I'm going to fight like hell to defend your family's health care, just like I would my own.

Right now, in the midst of a pandemic, Donald Trump is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Obamacare—all of it. He wants to overturn the very law that expanded coverage to an additional 3 million Black Americans. If he succeeds, more than 20 million Americans will lose their coverage, and more than 100 million people with preexisting conditions will no longer be protected against their insurance companies charging them more, or denying them coverage all together.

I'll defend Obamacare and build on it—adding a public option that will automatically enroll 4 million more people that Republicans shut out by refusing to expand Medicaid in their states. We're going to get to universal coverage and lower health care costs. We're going to give working families a bigger subsidy to lower their premiums. And we're going to take on pharmaceutical companies, bringing down the cost of your prescription drugs by 60 percent.

As my friend John Lewis used his final words to remind us: "Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America." We cannot be tired. We cannot be hopeless. The choice in this election couldn't be more stark, and we must vote for the future we want for every single one of our children. I'm ready to fight for you and your families, and I hope to earn your vote.



CEOs pledge \$1B to fight systemic racism

By Joséphine Li
Philadelphiaobserver.com

As the Black Lives Matter movement swept across America a few months ago, corporate America promised to help advance racial justice and equality. But many questioned what specific initiatives business leaders would take in order to do so.

On October 15, the Business Roundtable — a top business lobbying group of executives that run the largest corporations in America — released a report recommending specific ways to combat systemic racism in health, finance, education, employment, housing and the justice system.

Doug McMillon, Business Roundtable Chairman, president and CEO of Walmart, believes that these long-standing systemic

challenges have too often prevented access to the benefits of economic growth and mobility for too many and it is time to take action.

The commitments and recommendations from the group are far-ranging — in terms of legislative and government efforts, the report calls for an increase in the federal minimum wage, police reforms and better access to affordable education and childcare.

The Business Roundtable is committing to several initiatives aimed at ensuring greater access to better jobs for African Americans, including support for historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), help to alleviate student debt and public disclosure of diversity metrics. These initiatives will be focusing more on skills in hiring rather than college degrees and doing

more to establish pay equity in their ranks.

The group also pledged to provide \$1 billion to community lending institutions by 2025 to support black-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs and to establish a mentoring system for 50,000 black and Latino small business owners over the next five years.

The Business Roundtable members pledged to help people of color by helping unbanked and underbanked Latinos and Blacks build credit and aiming to invest \$30 billion to build 200,000 low-cost rental units by 2025.

The group issued a statement of corporate purpose in 2019, which stressed that public companies are accountable not only to shareholders but to all stakeholders, including employees, customers and the communities. It has been met with skepticism by critics of corporate America, who are tracking the ideals that members of Business Roundtable publicly espouse with their actions.

McMillon seems to acknowledge that the report, released on October 15, might be met with the same skepticism in an opinion piece he wrote for USA Today prior to the release of the report.

McMillon told all critics and skeptics that the members of the Business Roundtable will act, and they will act now. He also mentioned that any power the initiatives have will come from the energy, resources and sustained commitment Business Roundtable put behind them — it will take the full weight of business, in cooperation with other leaders, to drive change.



Alabama State to rename building honoring former governor — a one-time KKK leader

(CNN)

Alabama State University (ASU) is the latest entity to remove the name of a controversial figure from its building.

The university removed the name of former Alabama governor Bibb Graves from a residence hall on Wednesday. Graves was propelled into political power in the 1920s through the support of the Ku Klux Klan, the university said. And the hall has been located on the ASU campus since 1928.

The removal of Gibb's name followed a unanimous vote by the ASU Board of Trustees to change the name of the residence hall that also houses a historic bell tower, the university said.

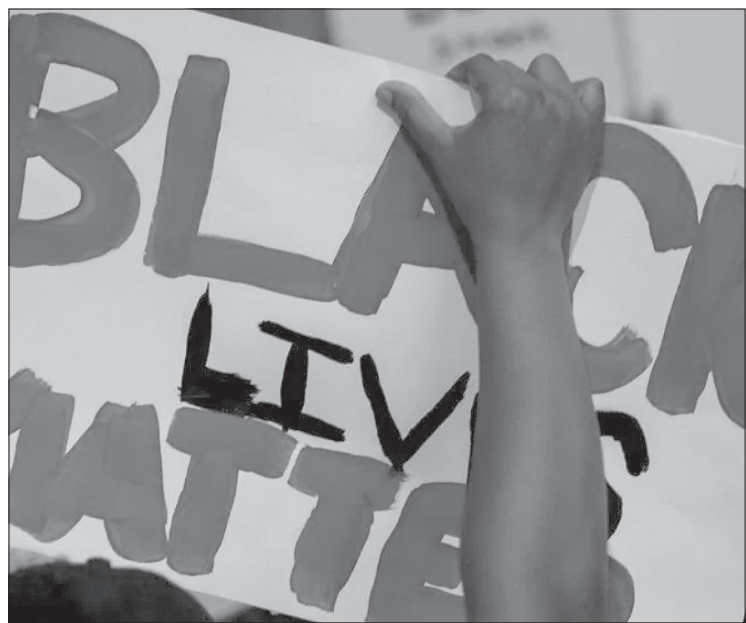
"I established a committee to

research the names that are on our buildings to determine those who were closely associated with racist organizations, such as the Ku Klux Klan," said ASU President Quinton T. Ross Jr. "Bibb Graves was a Klan leader at one point, so the decision was made to remove his name from the building."

The university said when the name was physically removed, it took two men "less than two minutes to make a change that many have waited to see for years."

Ross added that the process of selecting the appropriate name to be placed on the bell tower building will now begin.

"We will now begin the process of selecting the appropriate name to be placed on the Bell Tower building," Ross said.



Trump and Biden vie for Catholic voters amid Supreme Court battle

(CNN)

The fight to win over swing Catholic voters in the presidential election has intensified as Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill battle over confirming President Donald Trump's conservative nominee to the Supreme Court.

Advocates of the President argue he's earned the Catholic vote by supporting policies that restrict access to abortion, while Biden supporters insist Catholics are multi-issue voters and say Trump's divisive policies and rhetoric make him undeserving of Catholic support.

Trump's nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court could give a boost to his reelection campaign, which has lagged behind Biden's in national and key swing state polls. Many Republicans are energized by the prospect of cementing a conservative majority on the court, which could enact sweeping changes across the nation on issues including health care, abortion, voting and gun rights.

Catholics are a large, diverse constituency and have tended to back the winner of presidential elections. The key swing voting bloc is split down the middle politically among registered voters and divided along racial and ethnic

lines. Trump won White Catholics by a 23-point margin over Hillary Clinton in 2016, while Hispanic Catholics backed Clinton over Trump by a 41-point margin. Trump won Catholics overall by 7 points.

Biden is a practicing Roman Catholic, and if elected, he would be only the second Catholic to become President of the United States; John F. Kennedy was the first in 1960. Biden regularly attends mass and has spoken about how his faith helped him cope after the death of his first wife and infant daughter in a 1972 car crash, and losing his son Beau five years ago to brain cancer.

Sister Simone Campbell leads the "Nuns on the Bus," a group of politically active nuns who have been advocating for liberal policies since at least 2012. They are urging Catholic voters not to cast a ballot for Trump because they say his "policies and demeanor violate every tenet of Catholic social teaching."

Campbell is the executive director of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, a group that recently told its members, "Catholics cannot be true to their faith and vote for Donald Trump in November." The statement was the first of its kind in the group's nearly 50-year history. More than 50 nuns are part of the "Nuns on

the Bus" campaign, which is hosting virtual events in 56 swing state communities.

Campbell said Trump's immigration policy, his mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic and his efforts to take away health care protections from Americans with pre-existing conditions, make the choice this November a "moral issue, and therefore we had to stand up."

She quoted Pope Francis: "A good Catholic meddles in politics."

Campbell said Catholics, like most voters, "worry about health care, they worry about the economy, they worry about staying well in this Covid-19 crisis, and they worry about caring for those who are at the margins of our society."

In the group's recent kickoff of their virtual bus tour to battleground states, Campbell said "for too long, Catholics have been pigeon-holed as if they only cared about" abortion.

A recent Pew Research Center poll shows White Catholics prefer Trump over Biden by eight percentage points — 52% say they would vote for Trump or are leaning toward Trump, and 44% favor Biden. But that gap has narrowed significantly since August, when Pew put out a poll that showed Trump was 19 points ahead of Biden (59% to 40%).

San Francisco Mayor London Breed announces monthly \$1,000 income program for artists

Philadelphiaobserver.com

In an effort to provide some help to struggling artists, San Francisco Mayor London Breed announced a new universal basic income program that will provide \$1,000 each month to 130 artists in the city, according to the mayor's office.

The program is part of a larger package of initiatives designed to address the economic calamity caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Breed helped create the Economic Recovery Task Force which has released a 74-page report of recommendations for how the city can recover.

"San Francisco is only at the beginning of what we know is going to be a long road to recovery. In the months and years ahead, it's going to take that same collective effort to confront the economic devastation caused by this virus," said Breed in a statement. "We need to continue to translate these ideas into action so we can get people back to work and get San Francisco moving forward."

According to a statement from city officials, nearly \$6 million is being put forward for artists, teaching artists, arts organizations and cultural workers. Within that \$6 million is the new universal basic income pilot program which will provide \$1,000 for six months next year.



Artists of all kinds have been devastated by the spread of COVID-19. The Brookings Institute estimated that the pandemic led to the loss of nearly three million jobs and more than \$150 billion in sales of goods and services for creative industries nationwide.

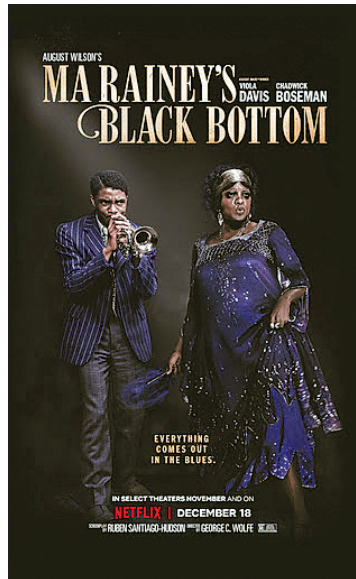
Performing arts industries are facing the brunt of the economic damage, dealing with about 1.4 million job losses and more than \$42 billion in lost sales, the report stated. The Brookings Institute also predicted even more job losses as quarantine measures continue and thousands of people continue to contract coronavirus daily.

Their report also found that of all states, California will be the hardest hit, but artists in almost every city and state are facing an unprecedented crisis.

As Blavity previously reported, there have been a number of fundraisers and auctions held online to try and supplement the money that has been lost, but little can be done to make up for the billions that are made each year through live shows, performances and festivals.

Black Excellence!

Chadwick Boseman's posthumous performance in 'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom' is phenomenal!



By Audrey J. Bernard

Netflix's drama featuring Chadwick Boseman's posthumous performance as Levee, a trumpet player who dreams of making it big one day, adapted for the screen by Ruben Santiago-Hudson from two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson's play, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, is directed by George C. Wolfe, and produced by Fences Oscar nominees Denzel Washington and Todd Black along with Dany Wolfe and executive produced by Constanza Romero. The play also stars Viola Davis as a legendary Blues singer and co-stars Colman Domingo, Glynn Turman, Michael Potts, Taylour Paige, Dusan Brown Jonny Coyne, Jeremym Shamos and Joshua Harto. The music is composed by Grammy winner Branford Marsalis. Ann Roth is the costume designer. Andrew Mondshein is the editor.

Synopsis: Tensions and temperatures rise over the course of an afternoon recording session in 1920s Chicago as a band of musicians await trailblazing performer, the legendary "Mother of the Blues," Ma Rainey (Academy Award winner Viola Davis). Late to the session, the fearless, fiery Ma engages in a battle of wills with her white manager and producer over control of her music. As the band waits in the studio's claustrophobic rehearsal room, ambitious trumpeter Levee (Chadwick Boseman) — who has an eye for Ma's girlfriend and is



determined to stake his own claim on the music industry — spurs his fellow musicians into an eruption of stories revealing truths that will forever change the course of their lives. Adapted from two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson's play, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* cele-

brates the transformative power of the blues and the artists who refuse to let society's prejudices dictate their worth. *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* is set in 1920s Chicago, where a band is waiting for the arrival of Ma Rainey, a famous singer. At a Netflix press event Davis

remembered Boseman for his dedication and performance in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. "Chadwick was an artist. That's who he was. He loved it. He demanded it in every single way," she said. "He was incredible." Wolfe added, "Chadwick put his entire being

into Levee. Levee demands that herculean scale of the role. He's a phenomenal character. [Boseman] put every ounce of energy, heart, and passion [into it]." *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* premieres on Netflix December 18, 2020. (Production Photos courtesy Netflix)



On the scene

Music's leading women to be honored at ASCAP's Virtual 'Women Behind The Scene'

On Monday, October 26, 2020, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) — recognized as influential figures paving the way for women in music — announced that its annual ASCAP Women Behind the Music (WBTM) event, traditionally held in Los Angeles, will take place virtually Wednesday, October 28 – Friday, October 30, 2020. The 2020 WBTM will honor music influencers, songwriting/production duo Nova Wav, music manager Malita Rice and Universal Music Publishing Group A&R Manager Ari Gelaw.



Malita Rice



Ari Gelaw



Nova Wav

Beginning October 28 on @ASCAPUrban on Instagram, ASCAP will release “confessional-style” video interviews with each honoree sharing personal insights on their careers and the music industry. Additionally, an #ASCAPRealSounds playlist, curated to reflect the honorees, will be available on October 28. The event will conclude on October 30 with an @ASCAPUrban Instagram Live DJ set from special guest DJ C. DeVone to honor the women.

Presented every year by the ASCAP Rhythm & Soul department, ASCAP Women Behind the Music

recognizes and encourages women in the music community. The celebration not only honors songwriters and artists but also female executives across the industry including managers, attorneys, label executives and music publishers.

Nova Wav is an American Grammy Award-winning producing and songwriting duo, composed of Denisia “Blu June” Andrews and Brittany “Chi” Conney. Over the course of their career, Nova Wav have written and produced tracks and albums for artists including Beyoncé, Rihanna, DJ Khaled, Ariana Grande,

Jay-Z, Saweetie, Nicki Minaj, Teyana Taylor, Kehlani and more. Signed to Warner Chappell Music by Ryan Press and Jon Platt, the duo was named one of Billboard’s 2018 R&B/Hip-Hop 100 Power Players and listed on Revolt’s Top 9 producers of 2019.

Malita Rice is an entertainment entrepreneur with a background in talent management, content production and brand development. She is the Founder of Mogul Mentality, an entertainment management and marketing firm. Originally from Baltimore, Rice is a key figure in hip-hop and R&B

music and is recognized globally as an accomplished, high-energy entertainment maven with 8+ years of industry experience. In 2019, she worked as a consultant for Interscope Records, serving as lead A&R for hit artist 5AM. Her current client roster includes hitmaking producers OG Parker, Yung Lan, Romano, Nonstop da Hitman, \$k, Xeryus and more. In addition to Interscope, she’s also worked with Quality Control, Sony, RCA, Warner Music Group and Universal. Rice is a member of the esteemed Recording Academy (Atlanta) and is a results-driven

manager lauded by both clients and colleagues for her unparalleled tenacity, drive and vision.

Ari Gelaw is currently an A&R manager at Universal Music Publishing. She notably signed mega rap star DaBaby to a publishing deal—his record “ROCKSTAR” is steadily charting as one of the biggest songs in the US right now. Gelaw has also inked deals for platinum producers Earl on the Beat (City Girls’ “Act Up”) and Speaker Bangerz (Rod Wave’s “Heart on Ice”). Gelaw is a firm believer in paving the way for future creatives.



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Culture

Harvard Medical Society renamed in honor of Harvard Alumnus and Professor Dr. William Augustus Hinton

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Harvard Medical School has approved renaming the Oliver Wendell Holmes Academic Society in honor of the late Dr. William Augustus Hinton, a former HMS clinical professor of bacteriology and immunology and 1912 HMS graduate.

The recommendation from a Faculty Council Subcommittee on Artwork and Cultural Representations task force is part of an ongoing effort to ensure that HMS buildings, symbols, academic societies and public spaces fully reflect the institution's mission and values.

To quote from The Harvard Crimson:

Holmes was one of the first American intellectuals to promote the racist doctrine of eugenics. In 1850, he revoked the acceptances of the Medical School's first three Black students, writing that the "intermixing of the white and black races in their lecture rooms is distasteful to a large portion of the class and injurious to the interests of the school."

Hinton — a 1905 graduate of the College and later HMS — specialized in the fields of bacteriology and immunology. He created a new diagnostic blood test for syphilis, one the U.S. Public Health Service later adopted.

Earlier this year, two medical students launched a petition to rename the former Holmes Society due to Holmes's support of eugenics and racism towards Black and Indigenous people.



The petition garnered over 1000 signatures from HMS and HSDM faculty, administrators, students, and alumni.

"Although task force members considered several worthy candidates, Dr. Hinton emerged as the unanimous choice. He is an eminent former faculty member and alumnus, a pioneering scientist and physician, and an individual abundantly deserving of this recognition," said Harvard Medical School Dean George Q. Daley. "The School is delighted to honor him."

"As we at HMS work to foster a culture of diversity and inclusion, and contribute to a more just and equitable world, it is vitally important that our campus environment reflect our values, inspire our community, and demonstrate that all we aspire to can be attained," Daley added.

Archbishop Wilton Gregory to become 1st African American cardinal in Roman Catholic Church

Philadelphiaobserver.com

According to nytimes.com, Pope Francis announced that Wilton Gregory, the archbishop of Washington, would be elevated to cardinal, one of 13 new cardinals in the Roman Catholic Church.

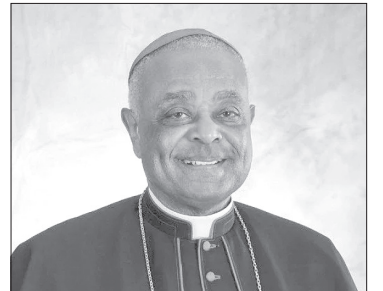
This promotion will make Gregory the first African-American man to hold such a position.

Gregory was part of a select group of Catholic leaders that criticized Donald Trump for staging a photo op in front of St. John's Episcopal Church near the White

House earlier this year, amid protests about the death of George Floyd.

To quote the New York Times: Archbishop Gregory, who served for years in the diocese of Atlanta, is also a former president of the U.S. Bishops' Conference and considered in line with Francis' most pastoral and welcoming approach in the church.

The ceremony to install the new cardinals is set for Nov. 28. Nine of the 13 men named, including Archbishop Gregory, are under age 80 and therefore eligible to participate in the next conclave



to elect Francis' successor. The new cardinals chosen by Francis reflect his priorities, making it more likely that the college will elect someone like him.

Serena Williams takes daughter, Olympia 3, to first tennis lesson

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The tennis coach had no idea she'd be teaching Serena's daughter

Dressed in an adorable black and white ensemble and equipped with a Wilson racket identical to her mom's, Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr, the three-year-old daughter of tennis star Serena Williams was given her first tennis lesson over the weekend.

Williams documented the momentous occasion via her Instagram Story on Thursday. The series of clips started with the iconic athlete revealing to her Instagram followers that she'd signed her daughter up for tennis lessons.

"Don't even start with me because I'm not giving her lessons."

The unsuspecting tennis coach had no idea she'd be teaching the daughter of a 23-time Grand Slam singles champion.

"The lady has no idea that it's my daughter. So we'll see how it goes," Williams continued. "I'm not a pushy mom, but I know how I like technique. So, I



want to make sure she's good at teaching Olympia some techniques."

The Supremes made history when this album hit No. 1 on Oct. 22, 1966

Philadelphiaobserver.com

*Fifty-four years ago today, The Supremes made histo-

ry as the first girl group to score a No. 1 album in the United States.

Their ninth studio LP, "The Su-

premes A'Go-Go, was released by Motown on August 25, 1966 with two tracks that hit the Top 10 on the Hot 100 chart.

The first was the No. 9 hit "Love is Like an Itching in My Heart," written and produced by Motown's main production team of Holland-Dozier-Holland, and featuring instrumentation by The Funk Brothers. With Diana Ross on lead and background vocals from Mary Wilson and Florence Ballard, the song was one of their few that did not reach No. 1.

Released in April 1966, the track about being "bitten by the love bug" and not being able to scratch the itch peaked at No. 9 for one week in May of 1966.

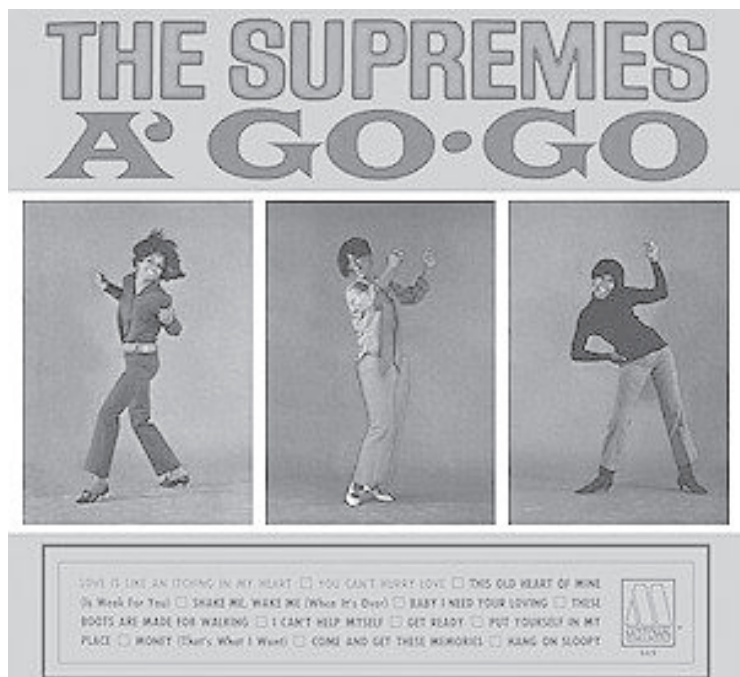
The second release from "The Supremes A'Go-Go," on July 25, 1966, was the No. 1 classic "You Can't Hurry Love," also written and produced by Motown's house writers Holland-Dozier-Holland.

According to AllMusic, "You Can't Hurry Love" was based on the 1950s gospel tune "(You



Can't Hurry God) He's Right on Time," written by Dorothy Love Coates of The Original Gospel Harmonettes. Her lyrics included: "You can't hurry God/you just have to wait/Trust and give him time/no matter how long it takes."

Songwriter Lamont Dozier said, according to Songfacts.com, "We were trying to reconstruct 'Come See About Me' and somehow it turned into 'You Can't Hurry Love.' It was basically a gospel feel we were after."



Why Nigerians are protesting police brutality

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Nigeria has been rocked by days of nationwide protests over police brutality, following widespread claims of kidnapping, harassment and extortion by a controversial police unit known as the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

The protests turned bloody on Tuesday in Lagos, the country's largest city, as rallies continued despite a state-wide curfew. Eyewitnesses told CNN that multiple demonstrators had been shot dead by Army soldiers, who then took the bodies away.

President Muhammadu Buhari appealed for "understanding and calm" Wednesday as scenes of chaos unfolded in the city, with buildings set alight and police stations attacked.

The inspector general of police announced 10 days ago that the controversial SARS unit was being disbanded and its officers redeployed.

But protests have continued in cities across the country, with some young Nigerians insisting they will continue to take to the streets until the entire police force is reformed.

So what is SARS and why is it so controversial?

For more than a quarter of a century, SARS took the lead on the country's most serious crimes — armed robbery, kidnapping, assault and murder. But over time it has become notorious for alleged abuses committed with apparent impunity.

The government promised to overhaul the unit in 2018 following a months-long social media

campaign by Nigerian activists protesting alleged human rights abuses by the squad. In January 2019, the police announced further reforms to the unit.

But critics say the #EndSARS campaign has resulted in little change.

Human rights group Amnesty International released a damning report in June this year in which it said it had documented 82 cases of police brutality in Nigeria between 2017 and 2020.

"Detainees in SARS custody have been subjected to a variety of methods of torture including hanging, mock execution, beating, punching and kicking, burning with cigarettes, waterboarding, near-asphyxiation with plastic bags, forcing detainees to assume stressful bodily positions and sexual violence," the report said.



Japan, China both claim these islands. Now the US is showing Tokyo how it can help defend them

Hong Kong (CNN)

Tens of thousands of US and Japanese troops will begin a massive island-landing exercise in the Pacific this week as part of joint military operations seen as a warning to China that Washington backs Tokyo over Beijing's claim to Japanese-controlled islands.

Speaking aboard a Japanese warship Monday, Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider, commander of US Forces Japan, said the exercises would demonstrate the ability of the US-Japan alliance "to deliver combat troops to defend the Senkakus or respond to other crises or contingencies."

Both Tokyo and Beijing claim

the Senkaku Islands, known as the Diaoyu in China, as their own, but Japan has administered them since 1972.

Tensions over the uninhabited rocky chain, 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometers) southwest of Tokyo, have simmered for years, and with claims over them dating back centuries, neither Japan nor China is likely to back down.

Chinese vessels have been spending record amounts of time in the waters around the islands this year, drawing condemnation from Tokyo.

The US-Japan exercises, named Keen Sword 21, have been held biennially for more than 30 years. This year's exercises run through to November 5.



India is facing a double health threat this winter: pollution and the pandemic

New Delhi (CNN)

A familiar scene is taking place in northern India. Vast fields burn, flames engulfing bare stalks of already-harvested crops. Billowing smoke travels across state borders. In towns and cities, the air is thick with yellow haze.

Stubble burning, the practice of intentionally setting fire to cultivated fields to prepare the land for its next crop, is one of the chief drivers of India's so-called annual pollution season, which begins each winter.

It is especially bad in cities like the capital New Delhi, where smog from the burning crop fields, vehicular emissions, power plants, construction sites, and smoke from Diwali firecrackers combine to create a toxic cloud that lingers until spring.

Authorities have been trying

for years to combat this serious public health risk — but there's a new urgency this year, with fears that pollution could compound the danger of Covid-19.

The coronavirus outbreak in India has infected nearly 7.6 million people and killed more than 115,000, according to the country's Health Ministry. India went into a months-long nationwide total lockdown in an attempt to contain the virus — but with little success. Presently, India has the second highest number of infections globally, after the United States, and the third highest number of deaths.

Experts and politicians now worry that the arrival of pollution season could pose a double threat, putting people at higher risk of severe infection, while increasing the strain on public health services.



"The combination of air pollution along with Covid-19, and especially as this is going to happen during the winter months,

is something we need to be really concerned about and take adequate measures, so that we don't let a huge spike occur in

the number of cases," said Dr. Randeep Guleria, director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).



By Victoria Horsford

What's going on

AUTUMN IN AMERICA: NOV 3.

Are Americans better off today than they were four years ago? No! Four years ago, we had a White House occupant Barack Obama, a democrat, who understood the clout, dignity and symbolic power of the office. Today, we have Donald Trump, an autocrat, dismissive of the rule of law, a bully unable to manage the major crises like the COVID19 pandemic nor the economy it instigated. A COVID19 surge across Europe and the United States accompanied by the Trump Administration's inability to stimulate the economy is wreaking havoc with the stock market. On the campaign trail, Trump trivializes the COVID19 menace.

The total US Covid19 infections to date is 8.5 million. Total US COVID19 deaths is 224,000. Sure that the many unemployed, impoverished Americans were not happy to hear President Trump's chief of staff Mark Meadows publicly admit last weekend, "We are not going to control the pandemic"

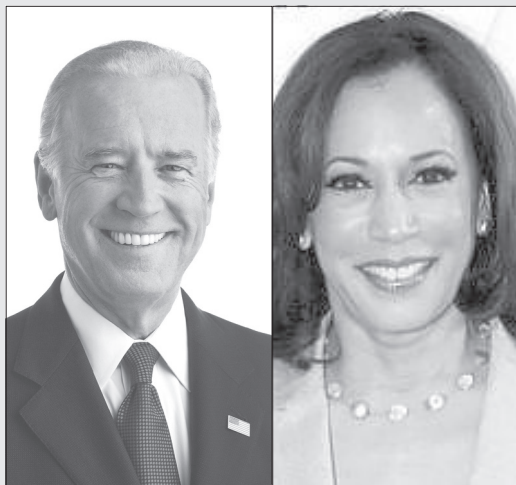
Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, I pray for your Tuesday landslide. At least you are offer solutions and trust scientists to deal with the plague, the pandemic which has paralyzed American and world society.

VOTING TRENDS: As of 10/26, more than 64 million Americans have cast their ballots – mail or early voting—for the 2020 election, which is projected to be largest in nation's history. The battleground states – AR, FL, GA, MI, NC, PA, IA, MN, NH, OH and TX still contain the magic.

Their residents include white rural populations and lots of African American voters. Advise relatives and friends in those states that it is imperative to cast a vote for the 2020 presidency. Read stories about Black men in states like Wisconsin who voted in 2016, ignoring the line for the presidency. In Florida, 67,000 former felons are registered to vote.

BTW: Did you see what Jared Kushner, Trump adviser and son-in-law said on 10/6. "African Americans must want to be successful in order for the administration to help them."

NEW YORK NOTES: On 11/3, cast your ballot on the Working Families Party Line which resembles the Democratic lineup. Founded in 1998, the WFP has to conform to a new NYS law requiring all minority parties to obtain the higher of either 2% of total vote turnout or 130,000 votes, to keep its status on NYS ballots. US Senators Schumer, Gillibrand and Elizabeth Warren, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Rep Alexandria Ocasio



Joe Biden and Kamala Harris



Alexandria Ocasio Cortez

Cortez support voting on the WFP.

New York electorate must be mindful of keeping the NYS Democratic Senate is eyeing a supermajority to expand its power enabling it to override any gubernatorial veto. Many Long Island and upstate right-wing Republicans want to wrestle power from Dem Senate.

NYC early voting days continue through Sunday, October

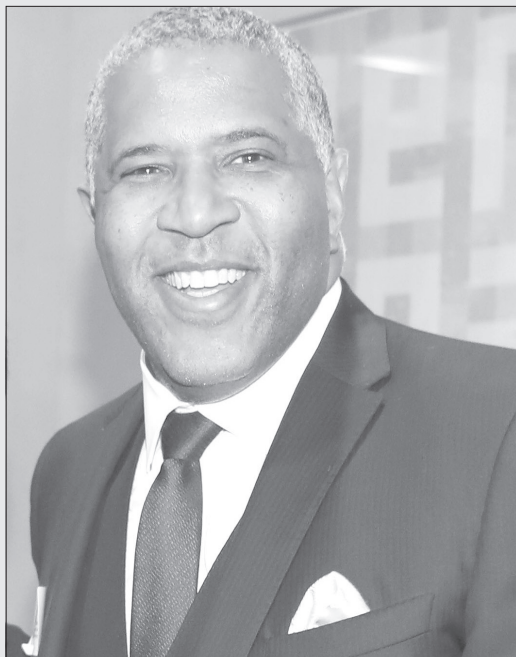
BUSINESS MATTERS

LISC NYC launched a \$1 million fund in small business relief and recovery grants to NYC Minority-Owned Small Businesses, in under-served communities, impacted by COVID-19. The FUND provides direct grants of \$10,000 to subject businesses. Qualifications: Businesses must be NYC based, owned by a minority entrepreneur, have less than 10 employees and gross less than \$500,000 annually. LISC, (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) is a national nonprofit that "equips underinvested communities with capital, strategies and know how to become places where low to moderate income Americans can thrive." Visit LISC.ORG/nyc for application and list of community partners in the 5 boroughs.

Robert Smith, Chairman/CEO of Vista Equities Partners, donates \$50 million to support STEM Students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, through the Student Freedom Initiative. Smith's gift matches initial June, 2020 funding of \$50 million provided by the Fund II Foundation. Smith is the philanthropist who absorbed full tuition costs for the Morehouse College Class of 2019.

HipHop mogul, Live Nation architect Shawn (Jay-Z) Carter adds Cannabis entrepreneur to his CV. Cannabis, aka weed/marijuana, is a billion dollar industry in America. Jay-Z partners with cannabis CALIVA, California's largest cannabis company as its chief brand strategist. Carter will launch MONOGRAM, the first brand under his Caliva asso-

ciation, which "will redefine what cannabis means to consumers today." Wonder if Carter knows about forthcoming NY cannabis ops.



Robert Smith

WORLD AFFAIRS

NIGERIA: Where is the media when you are hunger for info? Youth driven protests in Nigeria began in early October against the nation's dreaded SARS (Special Anti Robbery Squad) police unit. Protesters waved Nigerian flags and often sang the national anthems during demonstrations. Nigerian protesters were akin to the 2020 Black Lives Matters protests across America, following the George Floyd murder by a policeman. On October 20, things turned violent when SARS and security forces fired into crowded killing 10 Nigerian protesters. Things started to fall apart and riots and violence followed. At least 10 states were

under curfew. Most Nigerian observers allege that the government could have a hand in the ensuing civilian violence. Almost sounds like the American play-book this summer. Government has dissolved SARS and replaced it. Nigeria is oil rich and Africa's most populous nation with 206 million people, predicted to be world's third most populous nation by 2050. The international community, including the US, has been reticent about Nigerian youth instigated unrest. Visit #EndSARSProtest.

The twin-island nation of ANTIGUA-BARBUDA, celebrates its Independence anniversary on November 1.

NEWSMAKERS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SCORPIOS: Odell Beckham; Joe Biden; entertainment impresario Cheryl Flowers Briggs; Hillary Clinton; Sean (Puff Daddy) Combs; Africanspot Publisher Isseu Diouf; investment banker Harold Doley III; journalist Joy Elliott; Drake; hair esthetician Darryk Floyd; Dr. Lonnetta Gaines; Whoopi Goldberg; Mama I Want to Sing producer Vy Higginsen; Valerie Jarrett; Thornel Jones; Colin Kaepernick; Nia Long; event curator Sharon Lopez; Harlem Community leader Stanley McIntosh; Chris Michel; literacy specialist Rosetta "Kitty" Phillips; Esther Perry; Tracee Ellis Ross; Michael Strahan, Gabrielle Union; writer Anita Webster; and political analyst Chet Whye.



Whoopi Goldberg

NOVEMBER 2020

November 2 is BLACK SOLIDARITY DAY, founded in 1969 by Panama-born by historian, professor author, Panama-born Dr. Carlos E. Russell and inspired by the play DAY OF ABSENCE, about what happens in a southern town when all of its Blacks willingly leave. The purpose of Black Solidarity Day, observed on the first Monday in November, is to

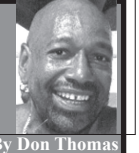
get African Diasporic people to exercise a 24-hour moratorium on shopping, work and school. Visit Blacksolidarity.org or #Blacksolidarity2020 for NY celebrations in Brooklyn at BedStuy Restoration and Medgar Evers College.

November 3 is the American general election day. New Yorkers vote for the US President, the NYS Assembly and Senate.

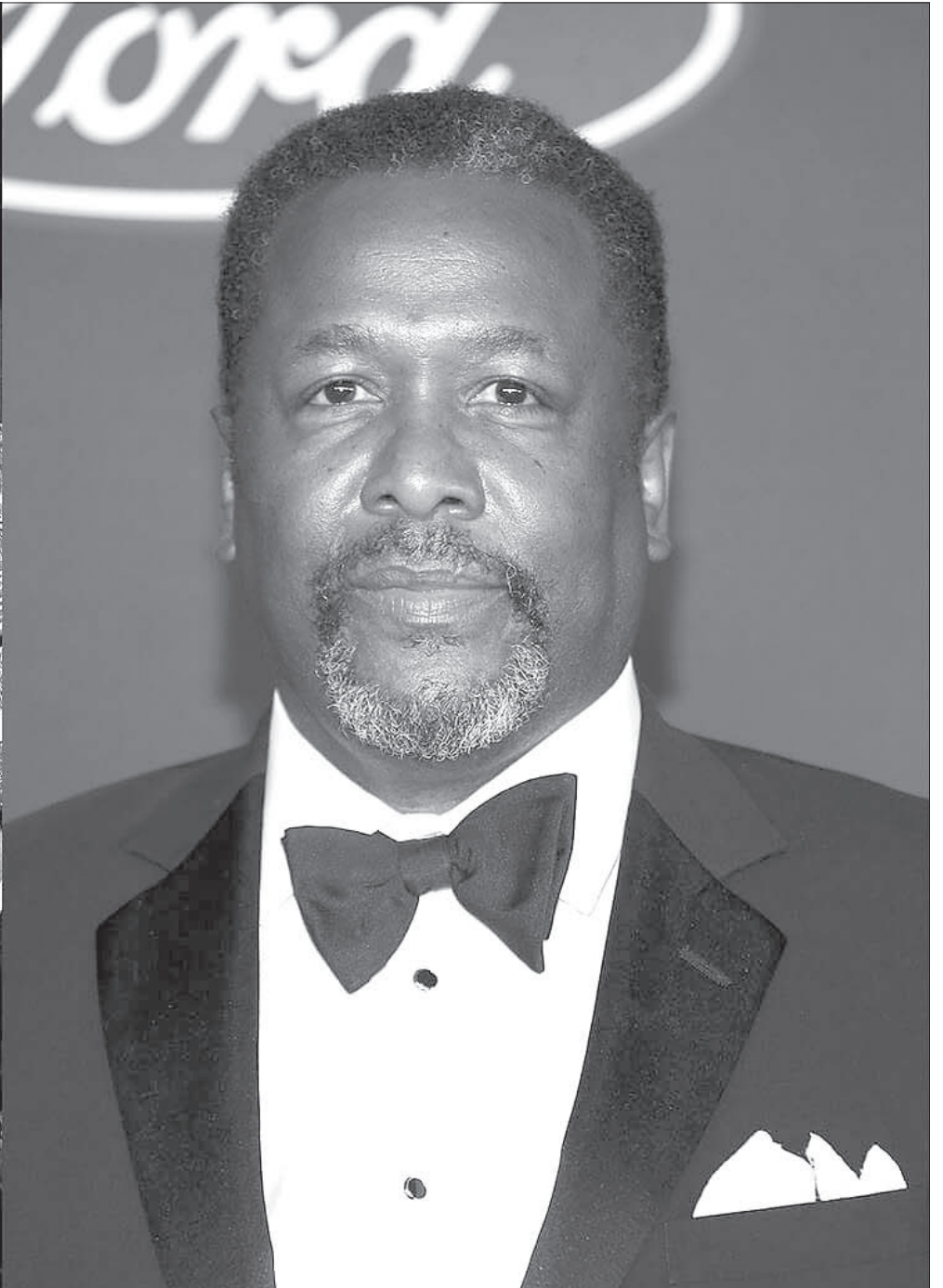
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By Don Thomas



B.B. King and Wendell Pierce
(Photos: Astrid Stawiarz/Tommaso Boddi)

Actor Wendell Pierce to play B.B. King

Actor **Wendell Pierce** is no stranger to portraying real-life people on screen. “The Wire” actor portrayed Civil Rights Leader

Hosea Williams in Ava DuVernay’s 2014 film Selma and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in the 2016 HBO movie Confirmation. In a tweet

posted to his official Twitter account, Pierce announced he was set to portray the late Blues Legend **B.B. King** in an upcoming biopic. “We are

official. Preparation has begun on a film where I will be honored to play the great B.B. King.” The biopic titled The Thrill Is On, will be centered on

B.B. King’s friendship with Musician Michael Zanetis. The script will be written by Zanetis and Melora Donoghue.



#DadJokesRule

fatherhood.gov



Ponder this

Just Do the Right Thing—VOTE



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

If there are four words that should pierce the heart and open one's conscience, they are DO THE RIGHT THING. Perhaps if those four words were not so heavily associated with the ever-popular movie *Do the Right Thing* written by Spike Lee in 1989, it could have become a mantra of action for this present time, thirty-one years later.

It is 2020 and we are still asking and begging people to **vote**. There is information available highlighting the great and grave historical efforts put forth by people of color in their fight for the right to **vote** and to be counted as citizens of these united states. Can we just do the right thing – **VOTE**.

The presidential campaign is over, the presumptive nominees are set. The ballots have been printed and are ready to go. What more is there to do, but **VOTE**. And yet, the numbers show there are



Stay the course

many still undecided. Are they waiting for a slip of the tongue from either candidate that will tip them over the bar? Pay attention people, all that needs to be said has already been noted.

It has been written that on September 2, 1858, in a debate, Abraham Lincoln supposedly made one of his most famous statements: "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people

all the time."

I receive it and I believe it. Donald Trump has preached his silly sermons to his own heart's delight without any reckoning that he is revealing his true nature for all the world to witness. We never needed a light to see through him, because he has always angled his own light clearly on himself and it has become a beacon of spinning misconceptions and misinformation that cannot be denied by rationally

thinking people.

Yet, this man whose leadership has failed time and again continues to think he can fool the people who know him well and hoodwink those who are still on the fence.

On Saturday, October 24th, New York began nine days of early voting in a presidential election for the first time in history. I chose to make my way to my community's early voting site on the first day to do my duty by any



Whatever it takes

means necessary.

Yes, it takes perseverance, patience, but most of all determination to get the deed done. I carried a small folding stool suitable for momentary resting on the slow-moving line that circled three times around 4 blocks before entering the designated high school gym.

Five hours later my ballot was validated, and my heart was delighted. I was proud to sport my "I Voted Early" sticker. I hope you will get to stepping to the poll as soon as you can. **VOTE** straight down the line for the good of us all. [Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and executive director of Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries, retired former Managing Editor and Woman's Editor of the New York Beacon News and current columnist of Harlem Community News, Inc. Contact: misshazel@twc.com]

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Sports



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Jones and Giants Stumble in Loss to Philly

By Shara Talia Taylor

The New York Giants hoped to boost their NFC East record with a long awaited victory against division rivals the Philadelphia Eagles last Thursday night in Philadelphia.

The Giants had not defeated the Eagles since November 2016. A win looked promising for Big Blue in the second half of the game, but penalties at crucial moments were costly and the Eagles unexpectedly soared back in the last few minutes to win 22-21.

"Every time the Eagles and Giants play, it always comes down to the last drive," said Giants Head Coach Joe Judge. "That's kind of regardless of who is here, whether it's coaches, players, whoever it is. That's just a rivalry that's going to go that way."

Eagles scored on opening possession. The Giants answered with a 39-yard touchdown pass from QB Daniel Jones to WR Golden Tate, when about 4:20 remained in the first quarter.

Giants defense kept the pressure on Eagles QB Carson Wentz as he was called for intentional

and kept the lead early into the fourth quarter. Jones passed to WR Sterling Shepard in the end zone for another touchdown with 6:21 remaining extending the lead to 21-10.

Then, the Giants defense loosened. The Eagles scored twice in the fourth quarter with less than 5 minutes remaining on the clock. The Giants couldn't score in the last 29 seconds.

"I thought our players played hard," said Judge. "I thought we showed a lot of flash throughout the game of ways we want to play the game and there are some things we did that held us back. Ultimately, [we had] too many turnovers and penalties and things we have to eliminate."

This division matchup seemed particularly important considering the Giants/Eagles history, but New York acknowledged the importance of all games following the loss.

"Anytime I'm going out there I want to win," said Giants LB Blake Martinez. "I want to play to the best of my ability and every week I'm just trying to keep getting better and better making plays that



Down Goes Jones

Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

grounding with about 20 seconds remaining in the first quarter. He was covered by Devante Downs who had five total tackles for the game. Philly went for a field goal about two minutes into the second quarter and didn't score again until the third quarter.

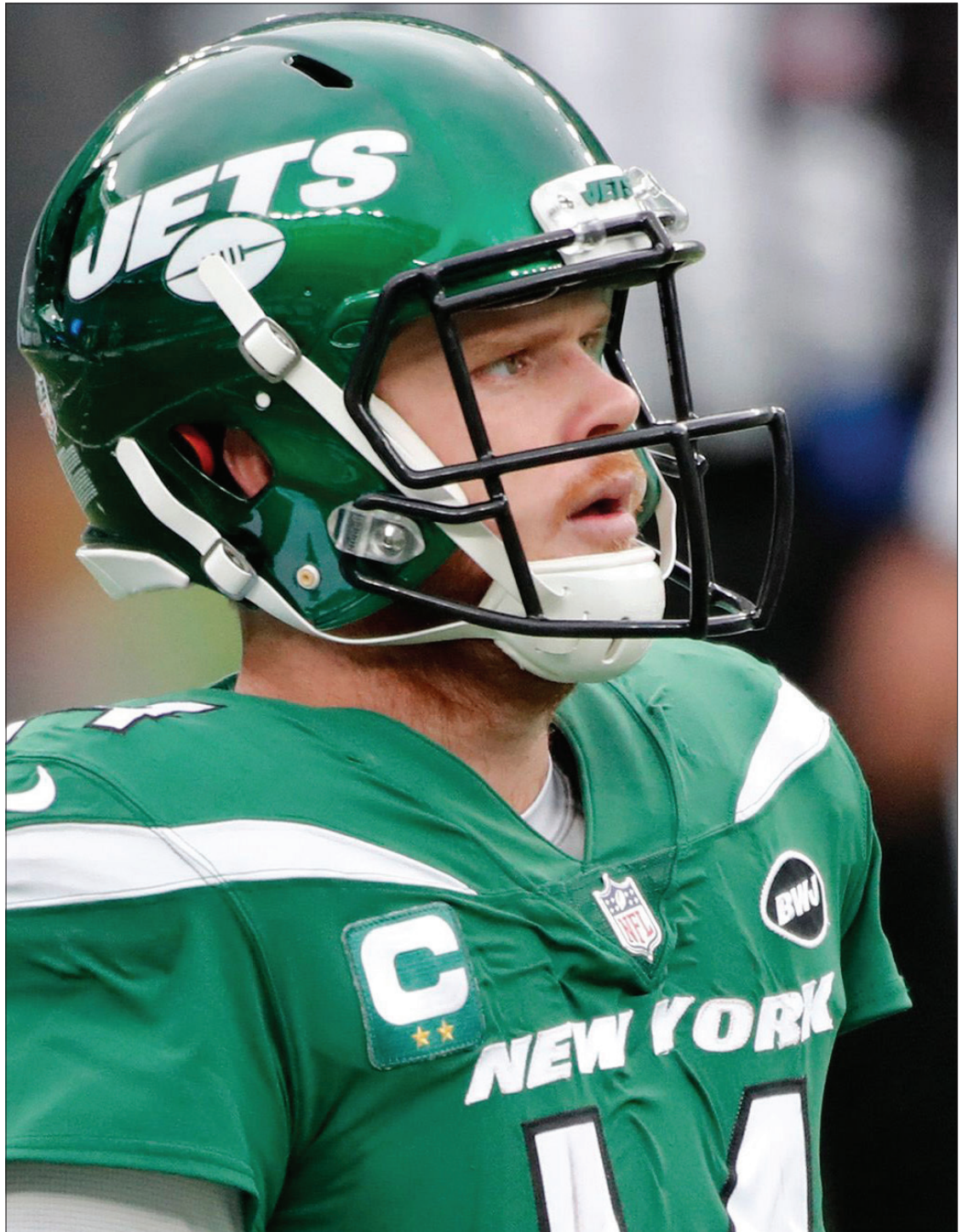
New York was behind 10-7 at halftime, but returned with fervor. Jones had an amazing 80 yard run in the third quarter. According to NFL Next Gen Stats, Jones reached up to 21.23 MPH, the fastest top speed of a quarterback since 2018. He tripped before reaching the end zone at the 20 yard line. "I just tried to run faster than I was running and I got caught up," said Jones. "We finished the drive and scored a touchdown. That was a relief to me for sure." The Giants scored when Jones handed off to RB Wayne Gallman three plays later.

New York went ahead 14-10

come to me for my team." Martinez led defense with seven tackles and two assists.

"At this point, our focus is to look at all of the stuff we've done already in this first chunk of the season," said Jones. "We've got a long week right now leading into Tampa Bay. Our job is to go ahead and make the adjustments and make sure we improve as team."

Giants have to make improvements before they face Tom Brady and the Buccaneers next Monday night at MetLife Stadium. The Giants had a total of nine penalties while the Eagles had seven. New York lost the ball on two fumbles. The Eagles had none. New York can't afford those mistakes against one of the best defenses in the league. At 1-6, Giants are in last place in the NFC East race. The Eagles, Washington and Dallas have only 1 more win than New York.



Darnold Returns to Same Results

Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

6 Bills Field Goals Drop Jets to 0-7

By Andrew Rosario

As the losses continue to pile up, the New York Jets try to come away with something, anything positive. Gang Green had quarterback Sam Darnold back under center after missing the last two games with a strained throwing shoulder. They did something for the first time this year against the Buffalo Bills last Sunday at MetLife Stadium that they hadn't done in their first 6 games. They scored first. Darnold moved them 62 yards in 11 plays resulting in a 29-yard Sergio Castillo field goal. Darnold completing 4 passes for 39 yards. The last time both teams played, the Jets defense could not contain Bills quarterback Josh Allen who ran for 57 yards. Although Allen gained 61 yards in this game, the defense did not allow a touchdown.

New York would extend their lead to 10-0 after a Bills fumble. Allen had them on the move

getting them down to the Jets 14-yard line. From the shotgun, Allen is sacked by Tarell Basham forcing the fumble which is recovered by John Franklin-Myers. Darnold then gets them into the end zone in 7 plays, 52 yards later as he finds La'Mical Perine for the 5 yards touchdown pass. Buffalo then began piling up field goals as Tyler Bass kicked the next 6 field goals (after missing his first attempt) from 53, 48, 46, 37, 37 and 29 yards.

New York took a 10-6 lead into the half. Even with head coach Adam Gase giving up the play calling duties to offensive coordinator Dowell Loggains, the offense vanished in the second half. It is head shaking inconceivable that a professional football team could only gain 4 total yards in the second half. 16 plays resulted in 2 first downs (one by penalty. Darnold finished his day completing only 12 passes on 23 attempts for 120 yards and two interceptions. Buffalo sacked Darnold 6 times as he

missed on 7 of 8 passes totaling 4 yards in the final 30 minutes. "They made some good adjustments," Darnold said. "I think we've just got to adjust to their adjustments. We've got to beat man coverage and protect. I've got to throw accurate footballs and that's it."

When questioned about giving up the play calling duties Gase said, "I've been thinking about it for a while. Just trying to figure out what's going on, how come we're not consistent, productive, all the situations you're looking through every week. I just felt like it was the time to do it and just see how our guys would respond and see what our offensive staff could put together. "It allowed me to take a step back and just really focus on every phase of our organization."

The New York Jets travel to Kansas City Sunday after the Chiefs (6-1) went to Denver and routed the Broncos 43-16 As of this past Monday, Las Vegas listed the Jets as a 20-point underdog. 0-7 with no end in sight.