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## ELECTION 2020

# COURT ORDERS INSPECTORS TO USPS POST OFFICES TO SWEEP FOR BALLOTS



At publication time, no clear winner had been called  
for the 2020 Presidential Elections



# The squad's here to stay: Ocasio-Cortez, Pressley, Omar and Tlaib win reelection

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The quartet of first-term progressive representatives best known as “the Squad” are sticking around Washington a little while longer: Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (N.Y.), Ilhan

Omar (Minn.), Ayanna Pressley (Mass.) and Rashida Tlaib (Mich.) have all won reelection to another two years in Congress.

On Tuesday, the Democratic women of color, who are frequent targets of President Donald Trump, resolidified their standing

in Congress by winning reelection in New York, Minnesota, Massachusetts and Michigan.

Endorsed and shaped by the progressive group Justice Democrats, the lawmakers' victories are enhanced by those of three other Justice Democrat-backed

candidates who were also elected on Tuesday.

Those individuals include Jamaal Bowman in New York's 16th Congressional District, Cori Bush in Missouri's 1st Congressional District, and Marie Newman in Illinois' 3rd Congressional District.

## Mauree Turner wins, will be first Muslim lawmaker in Oklahoma

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Mauree Turner won her election for state House in Oklahoma's 88th district, making history as the first Muslim person elected to the state's legislature.

The 27-year-old political newcomer beat out Republican Kelly Barlean for the seat. In the heavily Republican state, Turner's district, which includes Oklahoma City, leans solidly Democratic.

Turner told HuffPost last month that she was running because Oklahomans with her “shared lived experience” — someone who was raised in “a single parent household because one parent was incarcerated” and “had to live off SNAP benefits” — have not been represented.

“That was my upbringing, and it's not a unique one,” said Turner, who is Black and queer.

Turner, a community organizer, had secured an upset win over Democratic incumbent Rep. Jason Dunnington in the June primary. Her progressive platform is centered around criminal justice reform, a higher minimum wage, and access to affordable health care.

Mauree Turner is the first Mus-



lim representative in Oklahoma's legislature.

Growing up, Turner's mother worked up to three jobs and her father was incarcerated for years, giving Turner firsthand experience of what it's like to struggle to make ends meet and to be affected by “a carceral system built on revenge rather than rehabilitation,” as she put it.

Turner, who now wears a hijab, grew up in a multi-faith household. She sang in a Baptist choir — her mother is Baptist — and learned from her father's Islamic faith after he converted in prison.

Before running for office, she was a field director for the American Civil Liberties Union's criminal justice reform project, Campaign for Smart Justice.

In February, Turner announced her candidacy, saying “it has never been a more important time for those closest to our state's problems to be structuring the solutions.”

## Covid-19 vaccine may be ready in spring 2021

By Viviane Faver Philadelphiaobserver.com

The vaccine for Covid-19 still has no prediction of when it will be ready. According to Food and Drug Administration commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn, the goal is that everyone can get a vaccine in the spring, but that depends on several factors.

“At the end of the day, only our career scientists at the Center for Biological Research and Evaluation will make that decision and will make it solely based on science and data from clinical trials,” said Hahn.

To speed up the process, Hahn said the FDA has been working with manufacturers since day one and has been in touch throughout the manufacturing process, rather than reviewing everything at the end of the process.

“We need to make sure that there are quality and consistency and that each batch has the same capacity to protect all Americans,” said Hahn. “We are very confident in the manufacturing of these developers and will do our part to work with them to ensure that manufacturing can be accelerated as quickly as possible.”



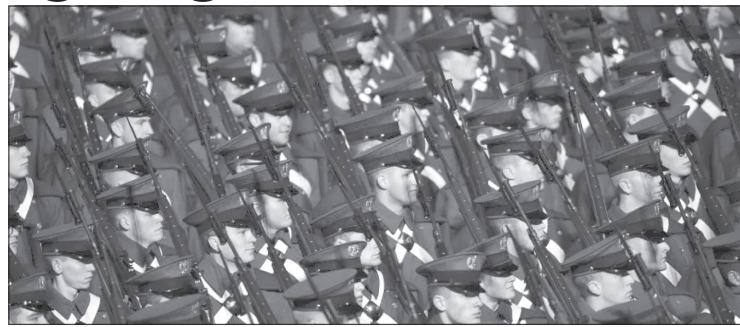
## Virginia Military Institute superintendent resigns amid reports of ongoing racism

By Viviane Faver Philadelphiaobserver.com

The superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, retired Army Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III, stepped down days after the Washington Post documented “relentless racism” suffered by the Black cadets at the state-sponsored school.

The retired four-star general wrote in a public resignation letter that Gov. Ralph Northam and other state politicians had “lost confidence in my leadership” and “desired my resignation.”

One 2019 graduate, Keniya Lee, told the Post that a professor “reminisced” about her father's membership in the Ku Klux Klan. Another Black student claimed a white classmate told him he



would “lynch” him and use his “corpse as a punching bag.”

At that time, Peay said that any attitude of racism or discrimination would be “investigated and properly punished if proven.”

Northam, who graduated from VMI in 1981, launched a formal investigation and a third-party review in an order signed by Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax, Attorney General

Mark Herring, and the president of Virginia's Black Caucus Legislative.

Peay's letter said that VMI cadets “continue to be educated in a physical environment that honors the Confederacy and celebrates an inaccurate and dangerous version of ‘The Lost Cause’ of Virginia's history. It is past time to send these relics to the trash can of history.”

## 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.



# Trump's latest executive orders deemed as attempts to sabotage Biden admin, eliminate diversity, inclusion programs

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

With record early voting numbers heavily pointing to a potential landslide by Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden, President Donald Trump is working behind the scenes to undermine a new administration and further divide the country.

The President this week quietly signed an executive order that strips civil service protections from a large number of career federal workers if Trump determines that they are in "confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating positions."

He also was called out by members of Congress for another executive order that removes diversity and inclusion programs both at the federal and private sector levels.

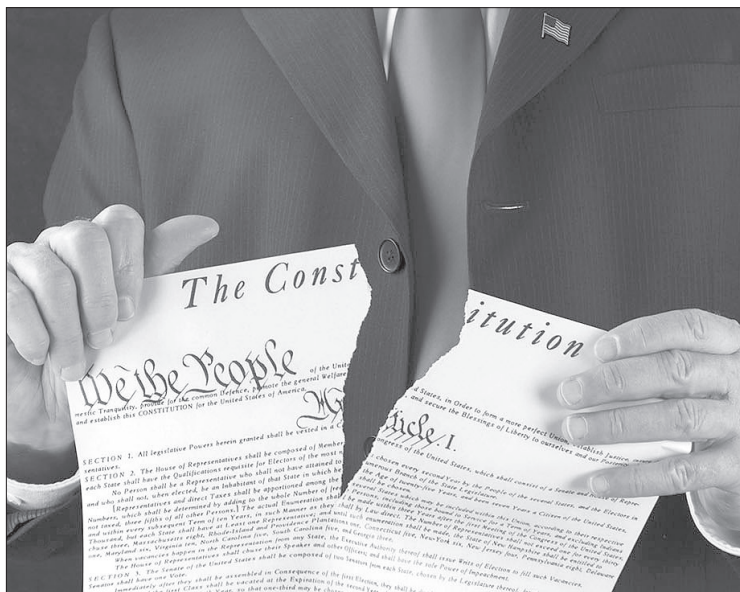
As first reported by the U.K. Independent, the most recent executive order creates a new category "Schedule F" for such federal positions that do not turn over from administration to administration and reclassifying them.

The Office of Personnel Management — essentially the executive branch's human resources department — has been charged with implementing the order by publishing a "preliminary" list of positions to be moved into a new category on what could be President Donald Trump's last full day in office: January 19, 2021.

The range of workers who could be stripped of protections and placed in a new category is vast, experts told the Independent.

The list could include most non-partisan experts — scientists, doctors, lawyers, economists — whose work to advise and inform policymakers is supposed to be fact-driven and devoid of politics.

For instance, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of the National



Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, would be among those terminated by Trump.

In a nutshell, the Independent reported that the executive order could give Trump the power to "mount a scorched-earth campaign which would cripple a future Biden administration."

"In the event the incumbent president loses his re-election bid, this order could give him largely unfettered authority to fire experts ... while leaving behind a corps of embedded loyalists to undermine his successor, according to federal employment law experts," the newspaper noted.

Creating the new category — known as "Schedule F" — and moving current civil servants into it "could allow a lame-duck President Trump to cripple his successor's administration by firing any career federal employees who've been included on the list," Journalist Andrew Feinberg wrote for the Independent.

"It also could allow Trump administration officials to skirt prohibitions against "burrowing in" — the heavily restricted practice of converting political appointees (known as "Schedule

C" employees) into career civil servants — by hiring them under the new category for positions which would not end with Trump's term.

"Another provision orders agencies to take steps to prohibit removing "Schedule F" appointees from their jobs on the grounds of "political affiliation," which could potentially prevent a future administration from firing unqualified appointees because of their association with President Trump."

Spokespeople for both the President and Biden did not return emails to Black Press USA.

"Yes, if Biden wins, he will undo all of these Executive Orders," tweeted Beth Noveck, the first United States Deputy Chief Technology Officer and director of the White House Open Government Initiative under President Barack Obama.

"However, if they fire people on their way out the door, it will wreak considerable havoc. And if he doesn't win, then this disaster is another one of many but a serious one for democracy and the rule of law."

Noveck added: "It's unclear whether this be-

Continued on page 6

# Court orders USPS to sweep post offices in numerous states for mailed ballots

New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced a major victory for voters across the nation in the effort to ensure every ballot cast in today's election is counted.

Judge Emmet Sullivan of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a minute-order in which he instructed the United States Postal Service (USPS) to immediately send postal inspectors or inspectors from the USPS Office of Inspector General to post offices in various cities and states across the country to sweep for any ballots that have yet to be delivered and send them out immediately.

"This is a major win for all Americans," said Attorney General James. "Our democracy is at its strongest when every voice is heard. This order will ensure the will of the people decides the outcome of this election, not the Trump Administration. We will continue to fight for every voice to be heard, but I urge all Americans who have yet to vote to do so now. Either drop your absentee ballot off in-person or go vote in-person."

The court order forces the USPS to — by 3:00 EST today — have the USPS conclude a sweep of all facilities in the following jurisdictions for ballots that have yet to be delivered:

- Central Pennsylvania,
- Philadelphia,
- Detroit,
- Colorado/Wyoming,
- Atlanta,
- Houston,
- Alabama,
- Northern New England,
- Greater South Carolina,
- South Florida,
- Lakeland (Wisconsin), and
- Arizona

The post offices in all of the above-mentioned jurisdictions have continued to receive low internal ratings from the USPS.

In August, Attorney General James led a coalition of states and cities from across the country in filing a lawsuit to stop the Trump Administration's attempts to dismantle the USPS. The slowdown is already having life-threatening impacts on veterans and seniors who are not receiving medication, as well as economic impacts on individuals waiting for pension checks and paychecks. As the United States neared today's presidential election, the USPS was also expected to handle a record number of mail-in ballots because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shortly after the lawsuit was filed, Attorney General James filed a motion for a preliminary injunction, asking the court to quickly stop President Donald Trump, the USPS, and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy from continuing down the path of slowing mail operations in the lead-up to Election Day. In September, the court issued a preliminary injunction, national in scope, that was set to immediately take effect, but for a month the Trump Administration made excuses in an effort to avoid full compliance with that order.

Last week, Attorney General James won an interim order — issued by the same court that issued today's decision — that clarified that the Trump Administration must take every effort to restore USPS sorting machines and use special measures (including delivering mail via air transportation) to deliver election mail on time over the next several weeks.

# Kamala Harris delivers powerful response to republicans who mock her name

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Democratic vice-presidential candidate Kamala Harris called out the "childish" Republicans who've mocked her first name.

The senator from California told "The Daily Show" host Trevor Noah that a name is the first gift a child receives from their family:

"It is usually informed by tradition and love, and the hope and aspiration the family has for that child. It is something precious and sacred, and it is a part

of their identity. And when I see people fighting for the right for that to be respected and treated in a dignified way, I applaud and salute them."

Then, Harris took aim at conservatives who "play childish games" with an opponent's name, such as President Donald Trump and Sen. David Perdue (R-Ga.).

"It speaks poorly of their appreciation for the responsibility and the role that they have," she said. "And I think it's a reflection of their values and maturity."

# Trump falsely calls election 'major fraud' as votes continue to be counted

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The president appeared before supporters at the White House vowing to ask the Supreme Court to weigh in on the inconclusive election.

President Donald Trump is vowing to ask the Supreme Court to weigh in on the inconclusive election. The Associated Press has not declared a winner in the presidential race.

Trump appeared before supporters at the White House early Wednesday morning and cried foul over the election results, calling the process "a major fraud on our nation." But there's no evidence of foul play in the cliff-



hanger. The night ended with hundreds of thousands of votes still to be counted, and the outcome still unclear in key states he needs if he is to win against Democrat Joe

Biden. Nevertheless, he has cast the night as a disenfranchisement of his voters. He said: "We will win this and as far as I'm concerned, we already have won it."

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## Man who burned down 3 Black Louisiana churches sentenced to 25 years in prison

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**T**he Department of Justice announced that 23-year-old Holden Matthews has been sentenced to 300 months, or 25 years, in prison after admitting to burning down three Black churches in Louisiana last year.

Matthews will also have three years of supervised release and has been ordered to pay restitution of \$590,246 to St. Mary Baptist Church, \$970,213.30 to Greater Union, and \$1,100,000 to Mt. Pleasant, according to the Justice Department statement.

"These churches trace their origins to the post-Civil War Reconstruction period and, for generations, were a place for predominantly African American Christians to gather, pray, worship, and celebrate their faith," said Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband of the Civil Rights Division.

"The churches survived for nearly 150 years but did not survive this defendant's warped act

of hatred. I extend my sympathy to the victims of this defendant's arson spree, the congregants of Saint Mary Baptist Church, Greater Union Baptist Church, and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church," he added.

The high-profile case caused outrage in 2019 when Matthews burned down all three churches over a 10-day span. As Blavity previously reported, Matthews is also the son of Landry Parish Sheriff's Office deputy Roy Matthews.

According to WBNS, it was his father who turned him in. He later said he was inspired by Varg Vikernes, the former neo-Nazi metal musician who was sentenced to 15 years in prison for setting fires at three Norway churches, as Blavity previously reported.

Matthews pleaded guilty in February and admitted to burning down St. Mary Baptist Church in Port Barre, Louisiana on March 26, 2019, Greater Union Baptist Church in Opelousas, Louisiana on April 2 and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Opelousas on April 4.



## Walter Wallace Jr.'s family does not want Philadelphia officers to face murder charges, attorney says

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**P**HILADELPHIA — The family of Walter Wallace Jr. is not calling for the Philadelphia police officers who fatally shot him to be charged with murder, family attorney Shaka Johnson told reporters on Thursday.

"And here's why: they were improperly trained and did not have the proper equipment by which to effectuate their job," Johnson said.

The comments came after the family watched body camera footage of the moments leading up to Wallace's death, which Johnson said shows him in an "obvious mental health crisis."

Walter Wallace Jr.'s family does not want Philadelphia officers to face murder charges, said attorney Shaka Johnson during a press conference on October 29, 2020.

"I saw a person in obvious mental health crisis. My auditory senses heard people shouting, 'He's mental, he's mental,'" said Johnson.

The footage, which is about 30-40 seconds long, shows Wallace emerging from a house with a knife as family members shout about his mental condition, he said.

Johnson also claims the video shows Wallace was incapacitated after the first shot.

# Philadelphia police vow to release 911 tapes, body camera video of Black man's killing

**P**HILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia police pledged to release 911 tapes and police body camera footage "in the near future" in the shooting death of a Black man with a history of mental health problems, a death that prompted protests, widespread vandalism and an overnight curfew days before Election Day.

Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw pledged to release the video evidence once the department shares it with the family of Walter Wallace Jr.

Outlaw, who came to Philadelphia less than a year ago from Port-

land, Oregon, lamented at a news conference Wednesday that her department lacks a mental health unit or consistent way to coordinate police calls with specialists.

"We don't have a behavioral health unit, which is sorely needed," said Outlaw, when asked about reports that police had been called to the home twice before that day. "There's clearly a disconnect on our end in terms of knowing what's out there" at the scene.

Police say they fatally shot Wallace on Monday after he ignored orders to drop a knife, a death that intensified already heightened

tensions in the presidential battleground state. Wallace's mother said she warned police Monday afternoon that her son was in the throes of a mental health crisis.

In the days since, more than 90 people have been arrested and about 50 police officers injured in clashes with protesters and vandals, including the 1,000 or so who suddenly swarmed a shopping center Tuesday night, breaking windows and stealing merchandise. That scene erupted on the other side of the city, miles from Wallace' neighborhood, where protests were underway.



## Wisconsin shooter denied bail, extradited to county jail to face formal murder charges

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**A**n Illinois judge has ordered Kyle Rittenhouse to be extradited on homicide charges, news reports say.

On Friday (October 30), the judge denied the teen's request for release as he was transported to Kenosha County Jail. According to a sheriff's spokesperson, he had been in custody in an Illinois juvenile facility since turning himself

in, according to the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.

Rittenhouse, 17, less than two hours after the shooting, reportedly walked into the Antioch, Illinois police station and told an officer he had "ended a man's life," court records obtained by the news outlet show.

The teen told officers he had been hired to protect a business in Kenosha and shot the three protesters in self defense. The owner of the business, Car Source, has

told the Journal Sentinel, that he didn't hire anyone to act as armed security.

Rittenhouse said he told Antioch police he had tried turning himself in to a Kenosha police officer but was instead told to go home.

Rittenhouse reportedly had small scratches to one of his arms but no bruising or cuts. While medical help was summoned to the police station, Rittenhouse stated: "I shot two white kids."



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# Editorial - Opinion

## Kamala Harris: The Africa in Joe Biden

By Steve Ogah  
Opinion  
Philaobserver.com

While Donald Trump, America's 45th and current president; doesn't engender much excitement on the African continent as a result of some of his immigration policies, which seek to enclose America with a border wall, and purported ingrained derogatory linguistic capabilities for some countries, it is in Joe Biden and the democratic party that most Africans are looking up to for some measure of political and economic solace, and even immigration latitude.

Regardless that Joe Biden doesn't exude Africa in his genes, it is in Kamala Harris, his biracial and female running mate and Biden's public travel history that one can locate the Africa in him. But is there any real reason to hope and believe that America's former vice president will be favorably disposed to Africa should he end up at the Oval office?

The interrogation of the Africa in Barack Obama was fitting, when he sought to become America's president after his Chicago declaration for the presidency on 10th February, 2007. He was biracial but there was a sense in which some assumed that he hadn't properly aligned himself with the mother continent of Africa. Consequent upon this, analysts and intellectuals searched his records to see if he knew Africa well enough and had any sort of interest in her turbulent affairs, political traumas and developmental projections.

This writer recalls an essay by Prof. Ropo Sekoni on page 10 of the Nigerian paper, *The Nation* of 9th November, 2008 which was titled "How Much Of Africa Is In Barack Obama?" It was in this piece that the columnist examined Obama vis a vis his connection to Africa. And at



the end of it, one came off with the sentiment that there was indeed a strain of Africa in Barack Obama, whether in his genes or in his politics. His engagement with issues that related to the place of the Black man in some of Chicago's economically challenged neighborhoods was an indication that he had an ingrained liking for Blacks and people of African descent. But that wasn't the only interrogation of Africa during the Obama euphoria.

The British Broadcasting Corporation aired the Obama in Africa program on 11th July, 2009. Guests on the show included one ambassador Hayford, and world-renowned fashion designer, Oswald Boateng. Here again, we were able to behold the African elements in the former American president who was rightly seen as half white and half black, a human hybrid which could be claimed by any of the races. Beyond his race, one could see a huge grade of Africa in Obama, in the sense that he spoke of his ancestral roots with a sense of pride and referenced his father and grandfather's dreams whenever he could. Africa accepted him be-

cause he too had embraced Africa with a gigantic measure of delight and eloquence.

One is hoping that Biden will be generous in his approach to Africa because Donald Trump doesn't cause as much exciting stirs on the continent as one would have expected. Not much has been seen from Trump, which seems to say that there is a huge liking for the continent by way of his carriage or campaign evocations. One can't hold Trump guilty for not liking what he has no appetite for. It is this often alleged display of bigotry from Trump that has seen some Africans rooting for Joe Biden in the in-coming November elections in America, just perhaps. But are there congenital qualities or political antecedents in Joe Biden and his history-making duo with Kamala Harris, to give us hope that his administration would impact positively on the continent?

Joe Biden has always loved Africa. He first visited the motherland as a 34-year-old senator. To be sure, Joe Biden has exhibited the possibility that he loves Africa and some of her heroes in his public records which seems to suggest that he admired the

heroism of Nelson Mandela. He was in South Africa in 1977 when it was not stylish to identify with the communist-inclined Africa National Congress which sought to dismantle the apartheid system of white supremacists. That historic visit was a demonstration of courage and love for the disenfranchised in apartheid South Africa. His sympathy towards Blacks in general, and Nelson Mandela in particular, perhaps, emboldened the struggles of the ANC which culminated in the eventual release of Nelson Mandela from Victor Vester prison on 11th February 1990 and the enthronement of multiparty democracy in 1994.

To further identify with Africa, Biden visited Kenya in 2010 and went on to make a distinguished appearance at the opening ceremony of the 2010 world cup in South Africa, where he sat as a representative of the United States of America. And when Mandela died on 5 December 2013, he was among those eminent personalities who signed their respect for the iconic freedom fighter at the south African embassy in America.

After a thoughtful consideration of her electoral and

political merit, among other things; one may surmise that it is an emotional attachment for Africa and her peoples which propelled Joe Biden to choose Kamala Harris as his running mate. As a result of that celebrated action, one is now able to locate Harris as the personification of that love for Africa which dwells in Biden. He identifies with the achievements of blacks and people of color and his past engagements with the continent seems to point that he will show admiration and concern for activists, democracy and genuine heroes on the side of the masses. Joe Biden seems poised to help Africa out of her seemingly unending troubles and favors those with a deep understanding of the continent as advisers. This is exemplified in some of his advisers which include people from the Clinton and Obama era such as, Michelle Gavin, Susan Rice, Nicholas Burns and Anthony Blinken; as reported in *The Africa Report* of 10th August, 2020.

He once sort to show support for Nelson Mandela. That is a pointer that Joe Biden, if he eventually becomes the 46th president of the most powerful country on earth, will perhaps give courage and backing to genuine concerns of the peoples of Africa and her visionary leaders.

If as president, Joe Biden doesn't reckon with Africa, then all his campaign grandstanding and evocation of one of Africa's greatest struggle icons, will become of no admirable value to his history and place in Africa, by the time that account is finally written by those who are watching his politics with interest.

Steve Ogah is a fellow of the British Council/Lancaster University Crossing Borders Online writing program. He is the author of *The Pretty Butterfly* and *The African New Yorker*, and *Voicesnet(USA)* poet of the month(Feb.2002).

## Trump's latest executive orders deemed as attempts to sabotage Biden admin, eliminate diversity, inclusion programs

From page 3  
comes... a blunt instrument... to do some surgical removal of people they don't like, or whether they're going to actually attempt some sort of bloodletting or purge."

Charlie Reeves, who describes himself as an anti-Trump moderate, said the implications of the executive order is far-reaching.

"I understand as an executive order it can be reversed, but you can do a lot of damage in two months and make for a big mess for Biden to clean up early," Reeves tweeted.

"Clear effort for petty revenge and to hinder a smooth transition."

The President's latest act marked another in a string of recent controversial executive orders.

Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03), Chair of the House Financial Services Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee, recently introduced a bill (H.R. 8595) to invalidate Executive Order 13950 and preserve diversity and inclusion training programs at federal departments and agencies as well as in the private sector.

Beatty's bill, which has the backing of 23 members of Congress, noted that Trump's order rolls back diversity and inclusion training programs within all federal departments and agencies, the U.S. uniformed services, federal contractors, subcontractors, and specific federal grant recipients.

The order also established a hotline within the Department of Labor for the investigation of complaints.

It required the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) to craft a request for seeking information from

federal contractors, subcontractors, and their employees regarding the training, workshops, or similar programming provided to employees, under the threat of termination of any existing contract and preclusion of future contracting opportunities.

"As the first-ever Chair of the Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion, I have focused our bipartisan work on highlighting the tremendous impact of a more inclusive U.S. economy and workforce," Beatty said.

"In hearings throughout the 116th Congress, the Subcom-

mittee has received testimony from industry leaders and experts acknowledging the correlation between diversity performance and the bottom line. Diverse organizations are more profitable, pose less regulatory risk, and strengthen our economy."

She added:  
"That is why I strongly oppose Trump's divisive attempt to cement racism as the practice and policy of the federal government and call on all Americans to join me in this effort because this Executive Order is antithetical to the values we hold so dear as a nation."



## Amazon adds 100,000 seasonal workers in holiday hiring blitz

By Joséphine Li  
Philadelphiaobserver.com

On October 27, Amazon announced plans to hire an additional 100,000 employees across its operations in North America in preparation for holiday shopping.

According to the company's press release, the e-commerce giant is looking for full-time and part-time jobs that span across all skill levels. The new employees will help pick, pack and ship customer orders across Amazon's network of warehouses in the US and Canada. Amazon says these jobs will offer a path to a longer-term career, or simply provide flexibility and extra income during the holiday season.

This isn't Amazon's first hiring boost this year. Since March, the company has hired 175,000 tem-

porary employees to cope with the high demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Amazon later said it would keep 70 percent of those employees permanently.

In 2019, Amazon announced it would bring on 200,000 temporary workers for the holiday season. The seasonal hiring news comes as consumers start buzzing about holiday shopping. Deloitte predicted last month that e-commerce sales from November to January will increase 25 percent to 35 percent this year compared to last.

Amazon said in a statement that it is confident in its ability to serve customers this holiday season. The statement also revealed that this year, Amazon has spent billions adding new last mile and shipping capacity, and are setting up more options in distribution centers closer to customers to en-

hance their shopping experience, which is possible because of the integrated and sophisticated network Amazon has been building for more than 20 years.

But Amazon's in-house delivery service may struggle to handle all the additional shipments this holiday season. Satish Jindel, the president of Shipmatrix, a software provider that works with parcel shippers, said it would be a crisis for Amazon if customers ignore the warning to order early.

The media interviewed 10 Amazon warehouse workers last week about working during Prime Day and the holiday season. Some employees are concerned about their ability to follow social distance guidelines. If they fail to do so, they are at risk of reprimands. Others said they were stressed about the amount of extra work that might come in the future.

## Tyler Perry to hire new writers, filmmakers to help expand his brand

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Tyler Perry has heard all the criticism about his writing style and he's bringing changes to his studios in Atlanta.

After previously catching heat from fans for not having a writers room, the filmmaker plans to hire up-and-coming writers and filmmakers to help expand his brand.

"We're super excited about the young, up-and-coming filmmakers and new writers that we're working with," Michelle Sneed, Tyler Perry Studios president of production and development, tells Variety. "Tyler has solidified his place in the industry; his brand is amazing, and we'll continue to grow that. Then on the other side, we're working on promoting, providing a platform and advocating for this new talent, both in front of and behind the camera."



The news comes after Perry was criticized for revealing that he does not have a "writers room" for his projects, unlike most television shows.

"So, I don't know if you know this, but all shows on television have a writers room," Perry said in a video shared to Instagram

in January. "And, most of the time, there are 10 people or 12 or whatever that write on these television shows. Well, I have no writers room. Nobody writes any of my work. I write it all. Why am I telling you this? I wrote all of these scripts by myself in 2019. Work ethic!"

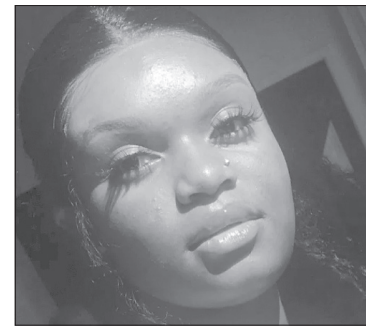
## Teen who filmed George Floyd's death to be honored at 2020 PEN America Gala

Philadelphiaobserver.com

PEN America announced that Darnella Frazier, the 17-year-old young woman who filmed the death of George Floyd, will be receiving the 2020 PEN/Benenson Courage Award, according to a press release. PEN America will honor the teen at its virtual gala celebration on Dec. 8.

While former police officer Derek Chauvin held his knee on Floyd's knee as he repeatedly cried "I can't breathe" on May 25, Frazier took out her mobile phone and proceeded to film the incident while also admonishing the police officers on the scene.

"With nothing more than a cell phone and sheer guts, Darnella changed the course of history in this country, sparking a bold movement demanding an end to systemic anti-Black racism and violence at the hands of police," said PEN America CEO Suzanne Nossel, author of Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All. "With remarkable steadiness, Darnella carried out the expressive act of bearing witness, and allowing hundreds of millions around the world to see what she saw. Without Darnella's presence of mind and readiness to



risk her own safety and well-being, we may never have known the truth about George Floyd's murder. We are proud to recognize her exceptional courage with this award."

"With courage and clear-eyed resolve, Darnella bore witness to a critical truth at great personal and emotional cost—and our country is in her debt," said Jennifer Egan, author, and president of PEN America's Board of Trustees. "We would all do well to emulate Darnella's grit in standing up to those with a monopoly on force and violence as we push for a stronger democracy, a more equal society, and a more just world. Her truth-telling epitomizes the kind of brave action that PEN America exists to celebrate and defend."



WWE Superstar Roman Reigns and daughter Joelle

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# On the scene

## The RichFresh Fall 2021 Collection was swellegant!

By Audrey J. Bernard

A-based luxury designer **Patrick Henry** – professionally known as “Fresh” — conceived his aesthetic RichFresh brand for the crème de la crème. Invitations to his styled to the nines shows are well sought after and he never disappoints

— always delivering a breathless collection of superior sophistication! His Fall 2021 collection showed off his years of luxury tailoring experience and his unique eye for color. With tailoring, comfort, and an indiscriminate use of double stripes as its hallmarks, RichFresh has become a name quickly known amongst Hollywood and the elite. *(Photos courtesy RichFresh)*



RichFresh, Graciela Ayala



Color block robe



Diagonal stripe track suit



Double-breasted wool suit



Curved color block



Striped track suit



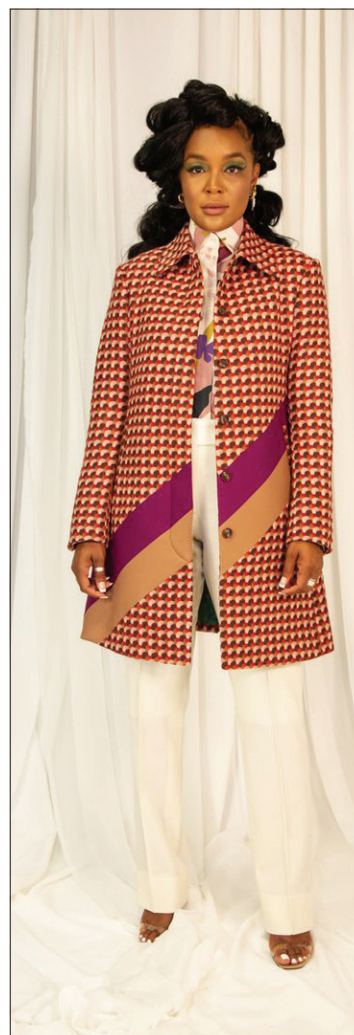
Teal double-breasted suit



Track suit



Woman's double breasted wool suit



Striped pea coat





# The all-new Hyundai ELANTRA.

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Designed for the young at heart, this sleek compact sedan offers a fully integrated tech experience with flavor you can savor right at your fingertips. Imagine a Digital Key that locks, unlocks, and starts your ride along with a 10.25-inch infotainment touchscreen. Mix in Dynamic Voice Recognition that allows you to roll down your windows, pop your trunk, and control the temperature with your voice. Suddenly you have an intuitive, tech-savvy car designed for better living without breaking the bank. Now that's dripping.



Preproduction model shown with optional features. Near Field Communication (NFC) digital smartphone key requires a compatible Android smartphone and an appropriately equipped 2021 Elantra. Not all Android devices are compatible. The Elantra must be equipped with smart key with push button start, wireless device charging, and Audio Video Navigation System 5.0 (or newer) or Display Audio 2.0. Lock/unlock functionality works on driver's door only. See your Owner's Manual for details and limitations. Dynamic Voice Recognition varies by unit. Speak in a normal voice and minimize background noise for best results. See Owner's Manual for details and limitations. Hyundai is a registered trademark of Hyundai Motor Company. All rights reserved. ©2020 Hyundai Motor America.

# Culture

## Rest in Peace



## Gospel music legend, Bishop Rance Allen, is dead at 71

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Church of God in Christ (COGIC) announced the singer's passing in a statement on Saturday.

Gospel music legend Bishop Rance Allen is dead at 71, the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) announced in a statement Saturday. His cause of death is not yet known.

"God who is omnipotent and omniscient has summoned his servant, Bishop Rance Lee Allen, to eternal rest," the Pentecostal-Holiness Christian denomination leader, Bishop Rober G. Rudolph Jr. said in a letter.

"Bishop Allen was a world-renowned gospel artist and affectionately known as the 'Father of Contemporary Gospel Music.' Bishop Allen's unique vocal ministry was an indispens-

able sound within the Church Of God In Christ and Christendom. His gift transcended the boundaries of musical genre as he remained a sought-after personality called to perform on global venues."

Allen was the lead vocalist of the Detroit, Michigan gospel group with his namesake, The Rance Allen Group, which was formed along with his brothers Tom, Steve and Esau in 1970. The group was known for its signature blend of gospel, rock and soul music.

As a vocalist, Allen was known for his massive vocal range. He and his group performed alongside other gospel greats like Andraé Crouch, Marvin Winans, Bebe and Cece Winans, the Clark Sisters, Kirk Franklin, Marvin Sapp, Shirley Caesar and Donnie McClurkin.

## Rest in Peace

## Bond. James Bond: Actor Sean Connery is dead at 90

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The first 007 and according to some, the best James Bond ever, Sean Connery, has died. He was 90.

The Scottish actor's death was confirmed by his family, BBC reported Saturday. The report states he died overnight in his sleep while in the Bahamas, where he was known to be living in his final years.

Connery starred in 7 Bond films between 1962 and 1983.

Among them were "From Russia with Love," "Goldfinger," "Thunderball," "You Only Live Twice," "Diamonds are Forever," and "Never Say Never Again."

Even though Connery became a huge star in 1962 with the release of "Dr. No," it almost didn't happen. Bond's creator Ian Fleming didn't think he was right



for the role and really wanted someone smooth like Cary Grant.

Ultimately, Fleming relented and said it was a good call.

## Whitney Houston makes history with 3rd diamond album

Philadelphiaobserver.com

NEW YORK (AP) — The late Whitney Houston has earned her third diamond-certified album, becoming the first Black artist to achieve the feat.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and Legacy Recordings announced Wednesday that Houston's 1987 sophomore album, "Whitney," has reached diamond status, which is equivalent to selling 10 million albums. Her self-titled 1985 debut album and 1992's "The Bodyguard" soundtrack were already diamond successes, selling 13 million and 18 million units, respectively.

"Whitney" featured four songs that topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart: the Grammy-winning "I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)," "Didn't We Almost Have It All," "So Emotional" and "Where Do Broken Hearts Go." The single "Love Will Save the Day" peaked at No. 9



on the chart.

Garth Brooks holds the record for most diamond-certified albums, with nine. Others with

three or more albums that have reached diamond status include The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Shania Twain and the Eagles.

## PBS White House correspondent Yamiche Alcindor named NABJ's 2020 Journalist of The Year

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Previously, New York Beacon.com reported that PBS Newshour White House correspondent Yamiche Alcindor was awarded the Gwen Ifill award for her outstanding work in journalism covering the Trump administration. Now, the network announced the political journalist is set to receive another high honor from the National Association for Black Journalists

(NABJ) as their 2020 Journalist of the Year award.

"Thanks so much, NABJ and Newshour," Alcindor wrote on her social media pages about the honor. "I feel so honored to be the 2020 NABJ Journalist of the Year." "So many journalists are doing amazing work amid this election, pandemic, and racial reckoning. I am blessed to be recognized among them."

She was named "Emerging Journalist of the Year" from the

NABJ back in 2013. Earlier this year, Alcindor went viral on social media after becoming known for her tough questions to the Trump administration, garnering support from users who celebrate for her work covering politics, specifically the COVID-19 pandemic and the government's response to the public health crisis.

The virtual awards ceremony is set to take place on December 19 and will also be honoring Hall of Fame inductees and

2020 Special Honors recipients who include NAACP Image Award-winning actress Tichina Arnold and co-anchor of "ABC World News Now" and "America This Morning" Kenneth Moton. During the ceremony, other awards will be given out including the Ida B. Wells Award to Kimberly Godwin, the Journalist of Distinction to Elaine Houston, and the Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award to Kevin Merida.





## Same sex couples marry in mass military wedding — a first for Taiwan's armed forces

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**T**aoyuan, Taiwan—Two women became the first military officers to marry their same-sex civilian partners at a mass military wedding in Taiwan on Friday, marking another landmark for LGBTQ+ rights in Asia.

The island's Defence Ministry called it an "open and progressive" move and gave its blessings to all

188 couples married during the annual mass wedding in Taiwan, considered a beacon of liberalism in Asia.

"I am hoping to boost the visibility of homosexuals so that people understand we are also just part of everyday life," said major Wang Wi, who cried after receiving her marriage certificate at the ceremony in the city of Taoyuan.

Taiwan's government last year became the first to legalize same-sex marriage in Asia, a part of the world where homosexuality remains illegal in many countries. But the island remains divided over other related issues such as same-sex parenting, while gay couples are only allowed to marry foreigners from countries where same-sex marriage is also legal.

## East Africa weighs profit potential in medical cannabis for export

(GIN) —

"Some of these therapeutic crops can fetch around \$10 million per hectare of production. Flowers fetch about \$300,000 from one hectare, so economically it is a potentially good business for the country."

That was Clare Akamanzi, CEO of Rwanda Development Board as Rwanda became the latest East African partner state to approve the export of pot for medical uses, following closely in the footsteps of Uganda.

The country has developed and approved the bloc's first framework for cannabis export, and is now reviewing bids from interested investors.

This investment framework does not affect the legal status of cannabis consumption in Rwanda which remains a crime and draws two years in jail, while selling it is punishable by 20 years to life in prison.

Uganda has the most advanced guidelines for the production and export of medical cannabis, although it also remains illegal in the country.

The country first registered a cannabis firm in 2012 — Industrial Hemp Uganda Ltd — to grow and develop cannabis exports. More firms have joined since then, including the Israeli marijuana company, Together Pharma, which has an agreement with Industrial Hemp to invest in production for clients in Europe and America.

Tanzania and Kenya, which produce the largest amounts of cannabis in the region, are yet to legalize the commodity and so it is exported illegally.



In Kenya, a medical marijuana bill was introduced in the National Assembly in 2018 which would have decriminalized weed as well as offered amnesty for those prosecuted for growing or using pot.

But MP Ken Okoth — who was suffering from cancer and testified that marijuana helped relieve his pain — died in July 2019 before the law could be passed.

After his death, Senator Ledama Olekina took up the campaign to legalize cannabis for medical use.

"Why is it that we in Kenya are still stuck with the old way? If this drug reduces pain in cancer patients, why don't we legalize it? What is so bad about it, we only live once," Olekina said in an online video.

Meanwhile, Lesotho and Zimbabwe have strong backing for the development of medical marijuana from the medical and business communities.

While in the Rainbow Nation of South Africa, pot has been pushed mainly for recreation by the political group Dagga Party of South Africa. Dagga is a local street name for cannabis which forms the party's platform.

Other countries where campaigns to change the legal status of cannabis have picked up steam are Malawi, Morocco, Ghana and eSwatini. w/pix of Lesotho field of medical pot

## Mount Everest empties as Covid-19 strikes tourism in Nepal



By Bhadra Sharma and Jeffrey Gettleman

**K**ATHMANDU, Nepal — Just last year, Nepal attracted so many mountain climbers that a human traffic jam of hundreds of hikers in puffy jackets snarled a trail to the top of Mount Everest.

The crowds were proof of how fast — too fast, some have said — Nepal's alpine tourism industry had grown, becoming a lifeline for the country. Last year tourism

brought in more than \$2 billion to Nepal, one of Asia's poorest nations, and employed a million people, from porters to pilots.

The pandemic has stopped all of that.

The trails snaking through the Himalayas are deserted, including those leading up to Everest Base Camp. Fewer than 150 climbers have arrived this fall season, immigration officials said, down from thousands last year.

Countless Sherpas and experienced mountain guides have been put out of work, leaving

many to plant barley or graze yaks across the empty slopes to survive.

Many Nepalis fear that the combined effect of the coronavirus and the hammer blow to the economy could set this nation back for years.

"I often think I will die of hunger before corona kills me," said Upendra Lama, an out-of-work mountain porter who now relies on donations from a small aid organization to feed himself and his children. "How long will this go on?"

## Vietnam prepares to evacuate 1.3 million people as typhoon approaches

**V**ietnam is preparing to evacuate nearly 1.3 million people ahead of Typhoon Molave, which is expected to make landfall on Wednesday.

Typhoon Molave, with wind speeds of 125 kilometers (77 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 150 kph (93.2 mph), left the main Philippine island of Luzon earlier on Monday, with heavy rain causing seven landslides and floods in 11 areas, the disaster agency said.

There were no reports of casual-

ties, but 12 fishermen at sea failed to return to Catanduanes province off the country's eastern coast. Molave, known as Typhoon Quinta in the Philippines, was the 17th typhoon to hit the country this year.

It will be the fourth storm to hit Vietnam in a tumultuous month, during which floods and landslides have killed 130 people and left 20 missing in the central region. When Molave makes landfall, wind speeds are forecast to reach 135 kph (83.8 mph).



# Health

## The other pandemic: Social determinants of health



By Glenn Ellis

There is an old saying, “When America catches a cold, Black people get pneumonia.” An article from The Brookings Institution goes into detail in describing the data that demonstrates that in 2020, Blacks in just about every state (with racial data available) have higher infection rates and higher death rates of COVID-19. At this point in the pandemic here in the United States, the COVID-19 infection rate is three times higher in predominantly black counties than in predominantly white counties, and the mortality rate is six times higher. Even though there is only racial data available for just 35% of those who have fallen victim to the virus, the pattern of discrimination is undeniable.

This is nothing new, for centuries pandemics disproportionately affect the poor and disadvantaged. Sadly, it’s no secret that structural and institutional racism, in our

society today, is real. This column aims to contribute to what we must know, and do, in order to navigate this system and enjoy the highest quality of life achievable.

The institutionalization of racial inequality was sowed into this nation from its beginning. All of the inequities in community resources and within the entire healthcare system are nothing but the fruits of this harvest. And, when crises like the COVID-19 pandemic occur, inequalities are on steroids rather than reduced.

The media coverage, and some of our own personal experiences have made it crystal clear that COVID-19 is highly contagious and potentially deadly. But you would be hard pressed to find the news cycles highlighting the fact that the same social determinants (including poverty and most definitely race and ethnicity) that impact the risk of being infected with COVID-19 also influence our disproportionate rates of chronic diseases. We are more likely to work (for those who are employed) in those “so-called essential jobs”; like as nursing homes or home health care, grocery stores, fast food, retail, restaurants, and mass transit. Jobs where we are more likely to come into close contact with people who are sick. No wonder we have such high rates of chronic conditions, like diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, all known to be risk fac-

tors for infection and death from COVID-19!

The term, social determinants of health, was most widely publicized after the World Health Organization, whose Commission on Social Determinants of Health in 2008 published the report, “Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health”.

Why is no one advocating for the school closures/disruptions that have increased food insecurity for children living in poverty who traditionally have benefited from school breakfast and lunch programs. Malnutrition causes substantial risk to both the physical and mental health of these children, including lowering immune response, which has the potential to increase the risk of infectious disease transmission.

And what about the homeless, who are at higher risk of infection and transmission? People experiencing homelessness are vulnerable to COVID-19 due to the risk of transmission and the high rates of chronic diseases, like many of the rest of us.

How much attention and resources are our “leaders” devoting to making sure that access and availability of primary care, and medications are sufficient to address this disproportionate rate of chronic conditions in disadvantaged and marginalized communities? Kaiser Health News

published research that shows the impact of COVID-19 on community primary health centers. Drops in patient visits, and worker shortages has the ripple effect of centers with multiple sites closing or reducing hours. Not only does this negatively affect those in these communities whose chronic conditions require regular primary care, but also how they get their medications.

The New York Times reported that state regulatory agencies around the country are seeing more and pharmacists at companies like CVS, Rite Aid and Walgreens described understaffed and chaotic workplaces where they said it had become difficult to perform their jobs safely, putting the public at risk of medication errors

This is leading a lot of doctors to complain that pharmacies bombard them with requests for refills that patients have not asked for and should not receive. Refills are closely tracked by pharmacy chains and can factor into employee bonuses. It’s all a hot mess!

Please, remain vigilant!

The “second wave” of Fall and wintertime outbreaks of COVID-19, coupled with flu season, means that as a member of a marginalized community in this country, it is imperative that you try to understand as much as you can about infectious diseases; all of them – COVID, Flu, and pneumonia. Learn how they are transmitted, and how

to best protect yourself and your families. Read up on the best type of face masks, and the correct way to wear them; as well as how often you need to replace them. Spend the extra time with the young and the elderly; help them understand the seriousness of the times.

Pay close attention to how “they” are deciding what’s safe and effective for any of the many vaccines being researched in this “Warp Speed” race. We have had over six months to witness, firsthand, that all of the experts, agencies, and officials, we thought we could look to for credible guidance have failed us.

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

*The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly. Glenn Ellis, MPH is a Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Fellow in Research Bioethics and Writing. He is author of Which Doctor? and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: [www.glennellis.com](http://www.glennellis.com)*



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By Victoria Horsford

# What's going on

## 11/3: USA ELECTION DAY

Thought that today 11/3 would never arrive. I keep hope alive and I am filled eager anticipation about tonight's election outcomes and a new beginning for our beloved republic! Americans are braving the elements

to vote in the midst of a new surge in COVID activity from coast to coast. On 11/2 more than 93,000 new COVID cases were reported in America. Alas, all of the good news unfolds much later tonight.

## BLACK ENTERPRISE

TheRealDeal.com story, Black Owned Firms to Launch First Affordable Housing REIT is required reading. Two of the largest African-American owned companies, Avanath Capital Management and MacFarland Partners are have joined forces to make this affordable Housing REIT—real estate investment trust—which is named Aspire Real Estate Investors, and which will target \$1.6 billion in investments. The REIT principals are California-based MacFarland CEO Victor MacFarland and Avanath CEO Daryl Carter, who enthuse. "We will be the first



Daryl Carter



Victor MacFarland

publicly-traded REIT to pursue a strategy focused on affordable and workforce multifamily housing" ASPIRE will target "federal Opportunity Zones and other areas for investments in workforce housing and affordable housing, the latter of which it defines as developments where renters earn a maximum of 60% of the area's media income AMI. The ASPIRE prospectus, filed with the SEC, lists an initial portfolio of 9 investment markets in IL, FL, TX, NC, CA and MI, which will cost \$582.4 million. Additionally, ASPIRE has an acquisition pipeline totaling \$1.1 billion in projects.

## WORLD AFFAIRS

Read the US News and World Report opinion essay, "The Case For a Nigerian-born Woman to Lead the World Trade Organization" written by two former African-American Ambassadors. They are referencing Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, an economist and international development expert, who is a dual citizen—Nigeria and the USA, who is on the short list to become the World Trade Organization Director General. A former Nigerian Finance Minister, she worked at the World Bank for 25 years and ascended to Managing Director, its #2 position. She sits the Boards of companies such as Standard Chartered Bank, Twitter and the Global Alliance For Vaccines and Immunization. She holds degrees from Harvard and MIT. The Trump Administration is blocking her progress, which is strange because that was another organization from which he wanted the US to retreat or sever ties. We must write to US Senators to pressure the White House to support Dr. Okonjo-Iweala.

Ivory Coast President Alassane Outtara, 78, won a controversial third term on 10/31 with 94% of the votes, which represents about 54% of the electorate, according to nation's election commission. His three opposition candidates called for an election boycott, saying after the election that numbers cited by government are inaccurate. The constitution stipulates that the nation's president cannot serve more than two terms. A disputed 2010 presidential election which enabled the Outtara Presidency, resulted in a civil war which took the lives of 3000 people. There is an undercurrent of restlessness



Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

in this Francophone African nation of 26 million. According to a 11/2 UN Refugee Agency report, more than 3200 people have crossed the border relocating to Liberia, Ghana and Togo.

## ARTS AND CULTURE

**THEATER:** National Black theaters are eligible for the Billie Holiday Theatre's BLACK SEED FUND, an initiative which will provide up to 50 grants, from 30,000 to \$300,000 annually, which is made possible by a \$5 million gift from the Mellon Foundation. "The Black Seed will be a force for systemic change in the arts and culture world; a 21<sup>st</sup> Century ecosystem for institutional thriving, collectively tackling racial injustices, inequalities and creating profound world-class relevant art." Black theater nonprofits are invited to apply for this grant. The RFP (Request For Proposals) deadline is November 12. Visit [Thebillieholiday.org/the-black-seed-rfp](http://Thebillieholiday.org/the-black-seed-rfp)

includes tuition, living expenses and books, up to \$40,000 annually. Application deadline is January 6, 2021. Since 2000, the Jack Cooke Foundation has awarded more than \$222 million in scholarships to more than 2800 students headed to undergraduate and graduate colleges. Visit [scholarships@jkc.org](mailto:scholarships@jkc.org).

**BOOK NOTE:** LUBAYA'S QUIET ROAR is a new children's book by Marilyn Nelson with paintings by gallery artist Philemona Williamson who employs the power of color to rouse the psyche in contemplation of her narratives. She "explores the innocence and wonder of pubescent youth and how the magic of art made a difference in the way she viewed herself in her community and the world."

**EDUCATION OP:** Looking for education-related financial aid. Check out the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, an aid program targeted to high-achieving junior college students with financial needs, poised to attend the nation's top 4-year colleges and universities and earn bachelor degrees. The coveted Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

Essence Magazine digital tip sheet lists "10 Places Every Black Woman Should Visit in Her Lifetime, includes Brazil, South Africa, France, Jamaica, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Ethiopia, Japan, The Maldives, and Tanzania in that order. Wish that this colorful, disparate list included "why."

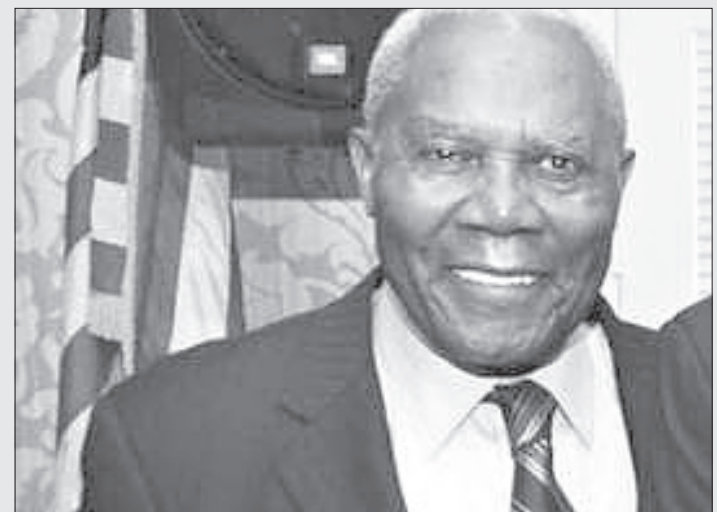
## NEWSMAKERS

Last week, Pope Francis named 13 new cardinals, including Washington, DC Archbishop Wilton Gregory, 72, who becomes the first Black US prelate to earn the coveted red hat in a ceremony which will be held on November 28. Nine of the new cardinals are under age 80 and will be eligible to elect Pope Francis' successor.

mersed in the performing arts and arousing their interest in travel. A part of her legacy was her belief and practice that everyone should live life fully and vibrantly, which is documented in a loving tribute to her by daughter Donna Walker-Kuhne, a blogger and Walker International Communications Group principal.

**SCORPIO** birthday shoutouts to: Miss Mamie's Spoonbread restaurant Norma Jean Darden; entertainment curator Cheryl Flowers Briggs; public relations guru Raymond Lewis; events curator Sharon Lopez; Natika Martin; marketing executive Wanda McKenzie; educator Carrie Simpson; and MTA manager Constance "Mandy" Seal.

**RIP:** Beloved matriarch Theresia Walker, 97, transitioned this lifetime on October 30. Widowed for decades, Theresia Walker raised three daughters—Sheila, Patricia and Donna—keeping them im-



Archie Spigner

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# Ahhhhhhh. That “be your own boss” feeling. Join the Cricket Authorized Retailer Network!



## Why Join?

### **Location, Location, Location:**

- We have 4,800+ stores.
- 98% of them are independently owned and operated by Authorized Retailers.

### **Development and Expansion:**

- Cricket Wireless is one of the fastest-growing prepaid wireless companies.
- We now have over 9 million subscribers, which is double our subscriber base from 2014.

Cricket is looking for exclusive authorized retailers across the nation who want to be part of an extraordinary team. With nationwide coverage, unlimited talk & text, various data options, an exceptional lineup of smartphones, and no annual contract, we pride ourselves on providing a simple, delightful customer experience—and you can, too.

If you think you have the drive to be part of our amazing Cricket Authorized Retailer Team, contact us today!

**Take the next step by contacting us at:**  
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