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Speaking Truth to Justice

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POLICE FATAL SHOOTING OF ANDREW BROWN IS JUSTIFIED



**Brown's
car posed
threat to
officers
DA said**

No charges will be filed against North Carolina sheriff's deputies who fired 14 shots killing 42 year old Andrew Brown Jr. Brown was shot dead in the back of his head as he was trying to flee arrest. Brown's family claims he was "executed" p3



AOC exercises restraint against Marjorie Taylor Green

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Entitled by her whiteness and her QAnon membership, Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene seems to believe that she can aggressively rundown on her colleagues and scream at them whenever she so chooses.

According to the Washington Post, Greene, emboldened by the spirit of the insurrectionists, chased down Democrat Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and in her wacky QAnon way accused her of supporting “terrorists.” Because AOC is a woman of class and knows that this level of fuckery is beneath her, she chose to have her office call on leadership to ensure that QAnon leaves her the fuck alone and that Congress remains “a safe, civil place for all Members and staff.”

As AOC was leaving the House chamber Wednesday afternoon, Greene reportedly shouted “Hey Alexandria.” Realizing that the woman calling her name looked

like a violent PTA mom, AOC kept walking so, of course, that meant that QAnon sped up, reportedly shouting to ask her why she supports antifa and Black Lives Matter, calling both groups “terrorists.”

“You don’t care about the American people,” Greene shouted. “Why do you support terrorists and antifa?”

“Representative Greene tried to begin an argument with Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez and when Rep. Ocasio-Cortez tried to walk away, Congresswoman Greene began screaming and called Rep. Ocasio-Cortez a terrorist sympathizer,” Ocasio-Cortez spokeswoman Lauren Hitt said in a statement, the Post reports.

“We hope leadership and the Sergeant at Arms will take real steps to make Congress a safe, civil place for all Members and staff — especially as many offices are discussing reopening. One Member has already been forced to relocate her office due to Congresswoman Greene’s attacks.”

Minneapolis suburb approves changes to policing after Daunte Wright’s death

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Minneapolis suburb where police recently killed 20-year-old Daunte Wright has approved a package of proposals meant to begin making changes to public safety and violence prevention in the city.

The Brooklyn Center City Council voted 4-1 on Saturday to pass a resolution called the Daunte Wright and Kobe Dimock-Heisler Community Safety & Violence Prevention Act. Mayor Mike Elliott introduced the resolution last week, naming it after two men who abruptly died at the hands of police — one of whom was killed just last month.

“This will transform public safety in our city, honoring two young men who were robbed of their futures,” Elliott tweeted. “This is just the first step in a long road

ahead — but that is work that we as a city are ready to do with our community. There will be lots of questions to answer, lots of learning, and lots of opportunity for the community to be at the center of this change.”



Rep. Val Demings will challenge Marco Rubio for his senate seat in 2022

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Val Demings was reportedly considered to be Joe Biden’s running mate, has a history of being a no-nonsense straight shooter, and the people of Florida—the ones who aren’t on meth or saving up their coins to afford a Mar-a-Lago membership—love her. So it makes sense that she’s going to leave her House seat for the Senate.

In 2022, Demings will challenge Florida Sen. Marco Rubio for his seat, Politico reports.

“Val is an impressive and formidable candidate whose

potential entrance would make the race against Rubio highly competitive,” a Democrat with knowledge of the party’s direction told Politico.

“I have received calls and texts and messages from people all over the state asking me to run because they feel that they are not represented and their voices are not heard,” she said. “I want to go, Jonathan, to the position where I can do the most good. And be the most effective and do the most work. My home state of Florida deserves that.”

Demings has served in the House since 2017 and her hus-

band is the mayor of Orange County, Fla. And because white people love this shit, Demings worked as the chief of Orlando’s police department.

But why now?

“If I had to point to one thing, I think it’s the COVID bill and the way Republicans voted against it for no good reason,” an adviser for Demings told Politico. “That really helped push her over the edge. She also had this huge fight with [Ohio Republican Rep.] Jim Jordan and it brought that into focus. This fight is in Washington and it’s the right fight for her to continue.”



Five migrant girls found abandoned in sweltering heat by Texas farmer

Philadelphiaobserver.com

US Rep. Tony Gonzalez (R-Texas) tweeted out a photo of the girls Sunday night and talked with the farmer.

“Take a good hard look at the #BidenBorderCrisis... @POTUS enough is enough let’s work together [to] solve this crisis,” Gonzalez said in the post.

Three of the girls — all ranging in age from 7 years to 11 months — are believed to be from Honduras and the other two from Guatemala.

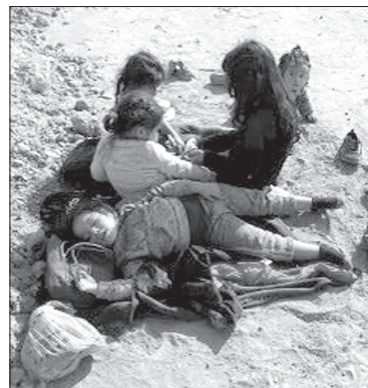
The farmer, identified as Jimmy Hobbs, said he called the Border Patrol and got the children into the shade and gave them food and water.

“I don’t think they would have made it if I hadn’t found them,” he told Gonzalez, “because it got up to 103 yesterday.”

Hobbs, who said he was born there and farmed onions, said he’s “never” seen the situation at the border so bad.

“My thoughts are that it needs to stop right now. There are going to be thousands. This is just five miles of the Rio Grande,” Hobbs’ wife told Gonzalez as they stood on the banks of the Rio Grande.

“That’s a huge border. This is happening all up and down it. It



can’t go on. It’s gonna be too hot. There’ll be a lot of deaths, a lot of suffering,” she said.

Customs and Border Protection said the girls will be placed in custody of the Department of Health and Human Services after being processed.

They did not require medical attention.

“It is heartbreaking to find such small children fending for themselves in the middle of nowhere,” Chief Border Patrol Agent Austin Skero II, told ABC 7 Eyewitness News.

“Unfortunately this happens far too often now. If not for our community and law enforcement partners, these little girls could have faced the more than 100-de-

gree temperatures with no help.”

President Biden named Vice President Kamala Harris in March to head up the administration’s response to the surge of illegal immigrants crossing into the United States.

While she has yet to travel to the border, she met virtually with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador last week and will travel to Mexico and Guatemala on June 7 and 9.

“Together, we must fight violence, we must fight corruption and impunity. It is in our countries’ mutual interest to provide immediate relief to the Northern Triangle and to address the root causes of migration,” Harris told the Mexican leader.

Fatal police shooting of Andrew Brown was 'justified,' NC DA says

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The fatal police shooting of Andrew Brown Jr. by North Carolina deputies was "justified" because he posed "an immediate threat to others," prosecutors said Tuesday, as new police body camera footage showing the deadly encounter was released.

"This case clearly illustrates the officers who used deadly force on Andrew Brown Jr. did so reasonably, and only when a violent felon, used a deadly weapon to

place their lives in danger," District Attorney R. Andrew Womble said at a press conference.

Womble, the DA for North Carolina's First Judicial District, said no officer will be criminally charged in the April 21 shooting.

"The shooting of Brown was justified to prevent potential harm to those living near where the incident occurred, as well as pedestrians, support deputies and the deputies who were in front of Mr. Brown," Womble added.

Browns' family accused the

DA of trying to "whitewash this unjustified killing."

"To say this shooting was justified, despite the known facts, is both an insult and a slap in the face to Andrew's family, the Elizabeth City community, and to rational people everywhere," according to a statement released by the family's attorneys.

Four new body-camera clips were released Tuesday showing the 44-second fatal police encounter with the 42-year-old for the first time.



Federal Grand Jury indicts Chauvin, other officers in George Floyd death

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump and members of his team who won a \$27 million civil judgment in favor of George Floyd's family and whose relentless work in the case helped lead to a rare conviction of a police officer in the death of a Black person, applauded new federal indictments in the case on Friday, May 7.

"Today's federal indictment for criminal, civil rights violations associated with the murder of George Floyd reinforces the strength and wisdom of the United States Constitution," Crump said in a combined statement with attorneys Antonio Romanucci and L. Chris Stewart.

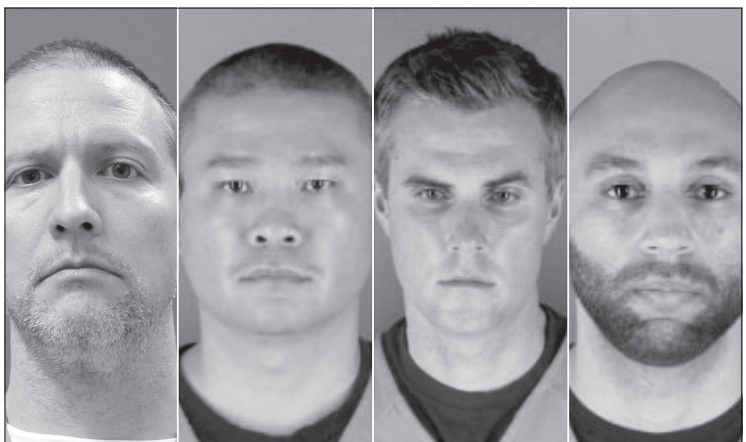
A federal grand jury handed down indictments against four former Minneapolis police officers at the scene of Floyd's 2020 death.

The indictment charges the officers with violating Floyd's constitutional rights.

It alleges that Derek Chauvin, the former cop convicted in April on state murder charges, deprived Floyd of the right to be free from unreasonable seizure by a police officer.

Tou Thao and J. Alexander Kueng also were hit with federal indictments after failing to stop Chauvin from fatally wounding Floyd.

Chauvin pressed his knee into Floyd's neck and back for 9 minutes and 29 seconds, continuing even after EMT workers who arrived at the scene could not detect a pulse.



Chauvin, Thao, Kueng, and the fourth officer, Thomas Lane, all face a charge for failing to give Floyd medical aid.

"The defendants saw George Floyd lying on the ground in clear need of medical care and willfully failed to aid Floyd, thereby acting with deliberate indifference to a substantial risk of harm to Floyd," the grand jury charged.

Additional charges were lodged against Chauvin related to his use of "unreasonable force" on a 14-year-old in September 2017.

The indictment noted that Chauvin "held the teenager by the throat and struck the teenager multiple times in the head with a flashlight." Chauvin further "held his knee on the neck and the upper back of the teenager even after the teenager was lying prone, handcuffed, and unresisting, also resulting in bodily injury."

While Chauvin faces as much as 40 years in prison after his conviction on state charges, Thao, Kueng, and Lane are scheduled to

stand trial in August on charges of aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

Each has pleaded not guilty.

"The Constitution claims to be committed to life, liberty, and justice, and we are seeing this realized in the justice George Floyd continues to receive," Crump stated.

"This comes after hundreds of years of American history in which Black Americans, unfortunately, did not receive equal justice. The constitutional violations that George suffered are clear and were also detailed by our civil litigation team last July."

Crump continued:

"Further, the additional indictment of Derek Chauvin shows a pattern and practice of behavior. We are encouraged by these charges and eager to see continued justice in this historic case that will impact Black citizens and all Americans for generations to come."



Federal hate crimes lodged against three in Ahmaud Arbery murder

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA

As Ahmaud Arbery jogged on a public street in the Satilla Shores neighborhood of Brunswick, Georgia, Travis and Gregory McMichael armed themselves with firearms.

The men got into a truck and chased the young African American man through the neighborhood while yelling at him, using their vehicle to cut off his route, and threatening him with firearms, the U.S. Justice Department said in a statement on Wednesday, April 28.

Having already been indicted on a series of state charges that include felony murder and aggravated assault, the men now face a host of federal crimes.

Each were hit with one count of interference with Arbery's right to use a public street because of his race and one count of attempted kidnapping.

The McMichael duo also faces one count each of using, carrying, and brandishing a weapon.

Authorities identified Travis

McMichael as the individual who shot Arbery.

William "Roddie" Bryan Jr., the man who recorded the shooting death of Arbery, faces charges that he struck the 25-year-old with his pickup truck during the February 23, 2020, encounter.

Bryan also faces charges of interference with rights and attempted kidnapping.

Each has pleaded not guilty.

"In addition to the hate-crime charges, Count Three alleges that all three defendants attempted to unlawfully seize and confine Arbery by chasing after him in their trucks in an attempt to restrain him, restrict his free movement, corral and detain him against his will, and prevent his escape," the DOJ said in a news release detailing the charges.

"Counts Four and Five allege that during the crime of violence charged in Count One, Travis used, carried, brandished, and discharged a Remington shotgun, and Gregory used, carried, and brandished a .357 Magnum revolver."

Georgia governor repeals 1863 Citizen's Arrest Law ahead of trial for Ahmaud Arbery's killers

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp signed a repeal of the state's 1863 citizen's arrest law, which previously stated that bystanders could make an arrest if they witnessed a crime. The legislation, which was signed on Monday, comes a little over a year after Ahmaud Arbery was fatally shot by white vigilantes who suspected the 25-year-old was a burglary suspect.

"I think the state of Georgia is moving in the right direction by passing this particular bill," Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, said at the Georgia State Capitol, NPR reports. "Unfortunately, I had to lose my son to get significant change. But again, I'm still thankful."

According to ABC News, the original citizen's arrest law was used as a way to corral runaway formerly enslaved people and was utilized to validate the lynchings of Black people.

"This bill makes Georgia the first state in the country to repeal its citizen's arrest statute," Kemp said before signing. "Today we are replacing this Civil War-era law, ripe for abuse, with language that balances the sacred right of self-defense of person and property with our shared responsibility to root

out injustice and set our state on a better path forward."

The new legislation states deadly force can't be used to detain someone unless it's in self-protection, protecting a home or preventing a forcible felony, maintaining Georgia's "stand your ground" law. In addition, business employees are still allowed to detain someone they believe stole something, and lets restaurant employees apprehend anyone who tries to leave without paying for a meal. Licensed security guards and private detectives are also permitted to detain people, ABC News reports.

"I ask the governor and my fellow legislators to continue pursuing the goal of criminal justice reform," Georgia Sen. Tonya Anderson said. "There is more work to do and we are prepared to do it, together as one Georgia."

The dated law is the second of its kind to be passed in light of Arbery's death. Following the outrage of Arbery's death, Gov. Kemp signed the Georgia Anti-Hate Crimes Act into law in June 2020 with bipartisan support, WABE reported. The bill imposes heavier consequences for anyone who commits crimes against a person based on their race, gender, sexual orientation and more.

Life sentence over weed conviction upheld in Mississippi

Philadelphiaobserver.com

In a sign that the failed war on drugs is still going strong, a Black man serving life in prison stemming from a marijuana conviction in Mississippi had his sentence upheld this week.

The Mississippi Court of Appeals on Tuesday denied Russell Allen's appeal in part because he is a "habitual offender," a classification that eliminates any judicial discretion and guarantees harsher sentences for people who have previously been convicted multiple times — even if the most recent offense is nonviolent.

Similar to the notorious, so-called "three strikes" laws sprinkled around the country, "habitual offender" laws have been widely criticized by people working toward criminal justice reform.

In Allen's case, the 38-year-old was found guilty in 2019 for being in possession of more than 30 grams of marijuana. That was after he had previously been separately convicted of two home burglary charges and unlawful possession of a firearm, spending more than a decade behind bars in total.

One of the judges who dissented in the ruling is a Black woman who wrote in her opinion that the decision to uphold Allen's life sentence undermines the true duty of the court.

"The purpose of the criminal justice system is to punish those who break the law, deter them from making similar mistakes, and give them the opportunity to become productive members of society," Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge Latrice Westbrook wrote in her dissenting opinion. "The fact that judges are not routinely given the ability to exercise discretion in sentencing all habitual offenders is completely at odds with this goal."

The Mississippi Clarion-Ledger reported last year that there were 86 "habitual offenders" serving life without parole because of convictions for nonviolent crimes, like Allen.

Those types of convictions, critics, say, lead to the criminal



justice system being backlogged with cases and a prison system that continues to experience overcrowding with no end in sight.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has expressed similar sentiments in the past about "habitual offender" laws in other states.

"America is the world's largest incarcerator, but our addiction to incarceration is doing little to make Americans safer," Rachel Myers wrote for the ACLU 10 years ago with nearly prophetic words that still resonate today. "Especially in the face of economic crisis, our government should invest in alternatives to incarceration and make prisons options of last — not first — resort."

Derek Harris knows that truth first-hand. The Louisiana man was given life in prison for less than \$30 of marijuana and served a nearly decade behind bars before he was released due to time served.

Harris, a military veteran, was arrested back in 2008 in Abbeville, Louisiana after selling .69 grams of marijuana to an officer. At first, he was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison. However, in 2012, he was re-sentenced to life in prison under the Habitual Offender Law, which allows judges to give updated sentences to those who have previous convictions on their record.

"Louisiana's habitual offender law is abused, misused and ineffective," Jamila Johnson, a senior supervising attorney for the Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund, explained in 2019.

Florida man facing manslaughter charges after he punched customer who repeatedly used racial slur

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A Tampa Dunkin' Donuts employee is facing an aggravated manslaughter charge after the man he punched for repeatedly calling him a racial slur later died.

Corey Pujols, 27, was originally arrested on a charge of battery on a person older than 65 in connection with the May 5 incident and released the next day on bond, but the charge was upgraded to aggravated manslaughter of a person older than 65 after the 77-year-old died two days later.

When the victim, who has not been identified, went through the drive-thru the Dunkin' Donuts at 410 South 50th Street earlier this month, was upset by the service he received.

Employees asked him to leave, but instead the man parked his car and went inside to confront the workers. Inside, he continued to argue with Pujols. Pujols said the man, who was a regular customer, was acting "extremely rude" on the day of the incident, The Tampa Bay Times reported.

Corey Pujols, 27, is facing a manslaughter charge after punching a man who called him a racial slur at a Tampa Dunkin' Donuts earlier this month. Photo: Tampa Police Department

The man called Pujols a racial slur that is not specified in the police report, and the employee then challenged him to repeat the word. When the man said the word again, Pujols punched the man in the jaw, knocking him to the floor, where his



head hit the floor.

When police and fire crews arrived, the man was unconscious on the floor and bleeding from the head. He was transported to a hospital and died two days later on May 7. An autopsy showed that the man had a skull fracture and brain injuries that resulted from blunt trauma.

Pujols has been held at the Hillsborough County Jail without bond since Tuesday. He faces a maximum of 30 years in prison and will be appointed a public defender, according to jail records. The case is under investigation by the Tampa Police Department. A doctor at the medical examiner's office said the man's death will be ruled a homicide.

Police violently arrest man in his driveway claiming he ran a stop sign

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Thurman King, a 55-year-old Black man, was driving from work to his home in Rockford, Michigan, a predominantly white suburb of Grand Rapids, late one night in March 2019.

When he got about a half block from home, he noticed a police car with its lights flashing behind him. He pulled into his driveway and got out of his car to ask why he was being stopped.

Moments later, King was tackled, handcuffed and arrested, according to a federal lawsuit he recently filed seeking monetary damages for what he says was an unwarranted arrest.

Grand Rapids attorney Stephen Drew lodged the lawsuit March 19 on King's behalf in the U.S. District Court's Western Michigan district. King is suing the city of Rockford and the Rockford Department of Public Safety. Zachary Abbate and Jason Bradley, the two officers who allegedly abused him, are also listed as defendants in the complaint.

The lawsuit alleges the two officers violated King's constitutional rights by arresting him for unsubstantiated traffic violations and falsely incarcerating him without probable cause. The suit goes on to allege Bradley and Abbate assaulted and battered King. His attorneys assert that the city of Rockford and its consolidated public safety agency are liable for the officers' actions and contends each of the defendants denied King due process.

"Stopping someone just because you can and putting information in a police report about something that is not accurate — that he ran through a stop sign — leads to difficulties that should not have to occur to someone just because they're driving while black trying to get home," Drew told Atlanta Black Star. "As black men, myself included, my sons included, we've all had times where we have been stopped when there has been no reason."

Drew argued that because of their negligence in falsely arresting King, Bradley and Abbate shouldn't be afforded statutory immunity, a



legal roadblock that, in many instances, shields state and local government officials from being sued civilly for actions they take while performing their official duties.

Abbate is no longer a Rockford police officer. Bradley, however, still serves on the force, the officers' attorney Michael Borgen told Wood TV News Channel 8.

In a statement to News 8, Rockford city officials denied the claims in King's lawsuit.

"While we do not intend to try this case in the court of public opinion, we disagree strongly with the claims as presented here. We intend to present a vigorous defense in this matter," the statement said.

Louisiana man's name cleared after surveillance camera appears to capture probation officer planting evidence

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Louisiana civil rights activists want a state probation officer fired after video surfaced that allegedly shows him planting drugs on a Black man.

McKinley Bates III was charged with several drug and weapons felonies and faced 10 years in prison. He spent three months behind bars awaiting trial. But after officials from the Concordia Parish District Attorney reviewed footage of the alleged misconduct, prosecutors dropped charges against Bates.

In January 2020, Bates filed a federal lawsuit against Lane Normand, the Louisiana probation and parole officer he alleges fabricated damning evidence against him.

"It is beyond me how this guy

is still working and not arrested because he would have had to do two things to get to this point," said Eugene Collins, president of the Baton Rouge chapter of the NAACP. "We've got the video of him planting drugs; that's clear. And then he had to perjure himself on the stand. He should be in jail, but he's still actively somebody's probation officer. It's almost unbelievable."

Bates and a friend were sitting underneath a carport outside his father's house playing chess the evening of Oct. 30, 2018. One of Bates' three daughters and a young child were sitting beside the picnic table when Normand and a group of Concordia Parish sheriff's deputies suddenly pulled up in unmarked cars. The officers swarmed the Ferriday, Louisiana,



A Louisiana probation officer, right, searches through items in a carport in October 2018. McKinley Bates III, center, was arrested and charged with several drug and weapons charges that were later dismissed. Bates alleged that the officer planted drugs in the carport in a federal lawsuit. (Screenshot: Surveillance footage provided by NAACP)

home, running up with weapons drawn.

Almost immediately, Bates took off running. He was the target of the raid. Bates had a parole warrant when officers spotted him sitting outside the home.

According to an arrest report that Normand authored, officers had to chase Bates for several blocks. The report claims he resisted arrest and Normand used an arm bar to tackle him to the ground. Another officer zapped Bates with a stun gun before they were finally able to handcuff him.

Normand claimed in his report that he smelled a heavy odor of marijuana and saw Bates stand up, reach into his pockets and toss a

Continued on page 6

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Editorial - Opinion



By Julianne Malveaux

Rocky road to economic recovery - even worse for African Americans

cause they get too much money from unemployment benefits and that there is a "labor shortage."

The Black unemployment rate is 9.7 percent. If there were a labor shortage, it would not be that high. 9.8 million people are officially unemployed, and many don't get unemployment benefits, but if employers think there is a labor shortage, they should pay higher wages. Too many are still paying the minimum \$7.25 wage, and some maneuver to pay even less. They use tactics that require workers to come to work, do some work, then punch in, work a full day, punch out, and then go back to their work station to "clean up." The big box stores are worst at this, but they aren't the only ones.

We have a rocky road to economic recovery. While more than half of all adults have been vaccinated against the coronavirus, many women remain homebound because more than half of all

schools are not yet open. Vaccinations will likely be available for children and teens in the next few months, but some teachers hesitate to return to the classroom until then. When teachers aren't teaching, some moms aren't working. So many women have left the labor market that participation rates are as low as they were in the 1980s. Affordable child care, which is included in Biden's American Families Plan, would make it easier for more women to return to work. Without child care, it's a rocky road to recovery.

Senate Republicans are treating President Biden nearly as severely as they treated President Obama. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell committed to making President Obama a one-term president. He failed, but he behaved like the Last Obstructionist, blocking legislation, court appointments, and more. Last week, he said that "100 percent

of our focus is stopping this new administration." His focus is not on economic recovery, infrastructure, or health care. It's on stopping the Biden administration.

McConnell and his cronies claim that the Biden infusion of cash in the economy is inflationary, and prices are, indeed, 2.6 percent higher than they were a year ago. Many of these price hikes result from the pandemic, with supply chain problems part of the reason for higher prices. These issues will resolve themselves as we return to "normal" and supply chains are strengthened. Senate Republicans are using inflation as a fig leaf; both Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell are more concerned with getting people back to work.

If the road to economic recovery is rocky for most, it is even worse for African Americans who earn just two-thirds of what whites earn and have nearly twice the

unemployment as whites (5.3 percent for whites, 9.7 percent for African Americans). While the Biden Administration has spoken of equity issues, there must be a race-specific plan to close these gaps.

The March job creation data was exciting, but it was also impermanent. The April data confirms that two steps forward, one step back, will be the path we are on until there is meaningful structural change. That won't happen when Republicans are 100 percent focused on opposing President Biden.

Some people made money from the pandemic. Some are no worse off than they were a year ago. But many, especially those at the bottom, continue to suffer. Republican indifference to this hardship illustrates the utter callousness that McConnell and his cronies have for most of their fellow citizens.

While the economy generated 916,000 jobs in March, it only generated 266,000 in April, essentially slowing the previous month's momentum. Last month, the Biden team was crowing about economic progress. Republicans were suggesting that the economy made so much progress that we don't need the stimulus embodied in the American Families Plan or the American Jobs plan, Biden proposals that will inject \$4 trillion into the economy. Republicans say that unemployed people won't go back to work be-

Louisiana man's name cleared after surveillance camera appears to capture probation officer planting evidence

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clear plastic baggie when officers initially arrived.

After he escorted Bates back to his father's house, Normand said he found marijuana sitting in "plain view" on the picnic table and atop a washing machine under the carport.

Normand then searched the area where he claimed he saw

Bates throw off the baggie, and found a clear plastic bag filled with multiple "Xanax bars," the deputy alleged in his report.

Normand was not wearing a body camera, according to Bates' lawsuit. But Bates' father's home was equipped with surveillance cameras that recorded the officer's activity in the carport. The footage showed Normand combing through trash cans and

other containers as Bates sat at the picnic table handcuffed next to another man.

The video showed Normand fishing through a small white trash bucket in the carport. He pulled several items out of the bucket. And as he was putting them back in, he removed something from his pocket and placed it in the bucket, Bates argued in his complaint. Normand reportedly

recovered the bag of Xanax from the bucket.

Normand then removed everything from the top of the washing machine, threw it on the ground and searched through the items. He reportedly found more marijuana in that area.

While Normand indicated in his report that the drugs found on the washing machine were "in plain view," the lawsuit

claims a police officer stood next to the washing machine and the white bucket for 20 to 30 minutes and never noticed any narcotics.

Bates was charged with possession with intent to distribute schedule IV drugs, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and resisting arrest.



Parents must choose between Confederate Flag or their child, judge rules

Philadelphiaobserver.com

An Albany, New York, district judge ruled last week that if the parents of a biracial child do not remove the imagery of a Confederate flag they could face consequences.

Justice Stanley Pritzker is not pleased parents, identified only as Christie BB and Isaiah CC, have subjected their 7-year-old to embrace a rock with a Confederate flag painted on it, The Hill reported.

The judge is giving the parents an ultimatum, lose the rock or your daughter.

It was in 2014 when the appellate division of the state's second-highest court ruled in a 5-0 decision, ruled by Justices John Egan, Sharon Aarons, Molly Reynolds Fitzgerald, and John Colangelo, and Pritzker, to make the couple retain their joint custody of the newborn child.

However, details of the rock and the child's mixed-race put into question if the parents are acting in the best interest of the child, The Albany Times Union first

reported.

"Given that the child is of mixed race, it would seem apparent that the presence of the flag is not in the child's best interests, as the mother must encourage and teach the child to embrace her mixed race identity, rather than thrust her into a world that only makes sense through the tortured lens of cognitive dissonance," Pritzker wrote.

"Christie BB" has until June 1 to remove the rock from her driveway or the courts will look "into any future best interests analysis."

"As such, while recognizing that the First Amendment protects the mother's right to display the flag if it is not removed by June 1, 2021, its continued presence shall constitute a change in circumstances and Family Court shall factor this into any future best interests analysis," his statement continued.

"In response to questioning, the mother testified that she has never used any racial slurs in front of the child or at all," the ruling said.



Prince Harry takes heat for calling First Amendment 'bonkers'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Prince Harry is taking heat for calling the First Amendment "bonkers" in a recent podcast interview.

The Duke of Sussex made the statement on Dax Shepard's "Armchair Expert" podcast while discussing what he called the media "feeding frenzy" that arose from his stay at Tyler Perry's Beverly Hills mansion, the Daily Mail reported.

"I've got so much I want to say about the First Amendment

as I sort of understand it, but it is bonkers," Harry said, according to the report.

"I don't want to start going down the First Amendment route because that's a huge subject and one which I don't understand because I've only been here a short time.

"But, you can find a loophole in anything. You can capitalize or exploit what's not said rather than uphold what is said," Harry reportedly said.

Harry's comments drew sharp criticism on Twitter from both

Americans and Brits.

Brexit leader Nigel Farage opined: "For Prince Harry to condemn the USA's First Amendment shows he has lost the plot. Soon he will not be wanted on either side of the pond."

Meanwhile, Texas Rep. Dan Crenshaw said, "Well I just doubled the size of my Independence Day party."

Another commenter wrote on Twitter, "Imagine being completely mystified by the idea that people have a right to speak their minds without fear of being arrested."

WHAT IF THE FUTURE OF KIDS WAS A STOCK YOU COULD INVEST IN?

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On the scene

Wendy Williams immortalized at Madame Tussauds Museum

By Audrey J. Bernard

On Monday, May 10, 2021, Wendy Williams achieved a major career milestone when her waxed image was added to the star-studded immortalized doppelgangers at Madame Tussauds in New York City. Williams, who was surrounded by the staff from her popular eponymous daytime talk show, marked another historic day in her life. Thrilled to bits, Williams expressed her joy with her special invited guests. “I’m so excited to be part of @madame-tussaudsusa and glad that my son was with me on such a special day.”

Madame Tussauds spent hours to perfect her likeness which is spot on! The artists took 200 measurements of the TV mogul and photographs of her from every angle to make sure every last detail was perfect. Williams was for once, speechless. She was stunned by the likeness.

She was awe-struck how detailed Madame Tussauds was in creating her replica. “The hair [took] over five weeks of work. Every strand is inserted individually. Human hair, ethically sourced, of course,” Matthew Clarkson, the Head of Marketing Operations at



Wendy Williams with her Madame Tussauds New York wax doppelganger



Wendy Williams with her Madame Tussauds New York wax doppelganger



Wendy Williams play interviews her Madame Tussauds wax doppelganger

Madame Tussauds USA, said on the show. “She’s got your signature ‘W’ necklace. As you know, we raided your closet for the jumpsuit and the Gucci shoes. And, a little Easter egg, the watch is set to 10:00 a.m., which reflects the time that her show airs.” There were no mistakes. Every detail was perfection personified.

And as her son Kevin Hunter Jr. looked on with unbridled pride, Williams complimented Madame Tussauds’ staff. “I think it’s wonderful. You did a superb job. You got all the skin complexion, all the hair compilations, the eyebrows that I wear. ... I want to thank my glam squad for working so hard with you guys and you guys being so accepting,” said Williams.

“We know times have been challenging for everyone and this new experience is designed to encourage guests to set aside the serious,” Madame Tussauds New York spokesperson Brittany Williams said in a statement. “We can’t wait to watch guests let loose and laugh as they step into the spotlight with Wendy.”

Following the unveiling of her lookalike wax figure at Madame Tussauds New York, the talk show host said in an interview that she was feeling “overwhelmed” about the accomplishment. “This is a big deal. I’ll go down in history!” she said while tearing up. What’s next? Mount Rushmore? (Photos by Getty Images)



Wendy Williams’ son Kevin Hunter Jr. was on hand to honor his mother

Philadelphia small business owners are making a way through the pandemic

By David Miree, Head of Consumer and Small Business Banking Diverse Segments, Wells Fargo

Music professor Randy Gibson has helped generations of students find and polish their talent at his Gibson School of Music & Arts in Philadelphia, including singer Jazmine Sullivan and The Roots’ keyboardist Kamal Gray. This past year hasn’t been easy, but like countless other small businesses across Philadelphia and the U.S., Gibson has found a way to keep the school going, day after day, and the business is now celebrating its 26th year.

Owning a small business has never been for the faint of heart, and the pandemic coupled the typical stressors of business ownership with additional layers of financial risk and uncertainty. Yet somehow, in 2020 more than 130,000 Pennsylvanians found a way to open new businesses, up 26% from the previous year, according to the U.S. Census.

Bravery, resilience, and sheer grit are all words that come to mind. If small business owners like Gibson are willing to put it all on the line, while simultaneously employing nearly 2.5 million Pennsylvanians and 60 million Americans nationwide, how can we help them recover and rebuild even stronger?

The federal government took a momentous step in creating the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and later reconfiguring the



program to ensure that Community Financial Development Institutions (CDFIs), sole proprietors, and diverse entrepreneurs have more opportunities to apply for the funding. This has allowed us at Wells Fargo to help thousands of small businesses across the state keep more than 44,000 Pennsylvanians at work through the program. A significant portion of this population has been comprised of smaller and diverse-owned businesses, with more than 85% of Wells Fargo’s PPP applications coming from companies with fewer than 10 employees, and 40% of our PPP lending going to small

businesses located in either LMI or Majority-Minority census tracts. Wells Fargo has also invested \$50 million in Black-owned Minority Depository Institutions, providing capital and technical assistance for Black and African American small business owners, individuals and homeowners.

But we know more support is needed for the smallest of the small business owners, and especially Black and African American entrepreneurs who have historically faced barriers to accessing capital and other resources needed to sustain and grow their business.

Gibson School of Music & Arts



is one of the many small businesses here in Philadelphia benefitting from Wells Fargo’s Open for Business Fund, a roughly \$420 million small business recovery effort created with the gross processing fees earned from the bank’s participation in the PPP for loans made in 2020. A \$5,000 grant from LISC Philadelphia, a CDFI and grantee of the Open for Business Fund, plus a PPP loan and adjustments to a virtual world has enabled Gibson to keep the lights on, the staff and teachers paid, and upgrade the school’s recording studio and concert hall on North Fifth Street.

As part of the Open for Busi-

ness Fund, Wells Fargo is providing grants to nonprofits, which can then provide low-cost capital and training to diverse entrepreneurs struggling the most. We’ve already provided roughly \$10 million in grants to organizations in Pennsylvania, with the majority of funding going to the City of Philadelphia to help businesses remain resilient and rebuild.

We know there isn’t a single program that will reverse the damage this pandemic has inflicted on America’s small businesses, and we must continue to work across government, private and nonprofit sectors to identify bold, rapid solutions. But our hope is the Open for Business Fund can serve as a blueprint for how private sector entities can work with nonprofits to help make economic opportunities more inclusive for diverse-owned businesses.

Wells Fargo has also joined forces with the Greater Philadelphia Financial Services Leadership Coalition, a consortium of more than 20 financial institutions which is setting up a \$100 million fund earmarked for loans and grants to local minority-owned businesses.

Thanks to the tireless work of local nonprofits who serve small business, we are beginning to see relief reach owners who have weathered seemingly-impossible odds. There is still more work to be done, and we hope other companies and leaders in the private and public sectors will step in to join this critical effort.

ConocoPhillips heads diversity and inclusion efforts in oil, gas industry

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

With projections that half of its workforce will consist of minorities by 2040, the oil and gas industry has continued to recruit individuals of color, women, veterans, and groups that have been mainly underrepresented.

At ConocoPhillips, Shawn Green and Maalika Moore-Thomas each take an optimistic approach to recruiting some of the best minority talent and minds.

Green, the manager of global services and technology, and Moore-Thomas, the senior supplier diversity coordinator, also keep a steady eye on diversity and inclusion with ConocoPhillips' contractors and suppliers.

"My day-to-day is basically working with our diverse suppliers from various backgrounds – minorities, LGBTQ community, and veterans – to ensure that our supplier base is well-rounded and to make sure that we have those diverse suppliers that we contract within our oil and gas specific jobs,

as well as our professional services jobs," Moore-Thomas asserted.

Green's role is "to set the supply chain approach and strategy for automation, data analytics, and merchant technology," he stated.

"I'm ultimately accountable for the development approach for those programs that are under my purview."

Moore-Thomas added that ConocoPhillips and the industry continue to work toward a more inclusive environment that reflects different backgrounds, interests, and perspectives.

Green concurred.

"One of our major initiatives is ensuring we have suppliers for the variety of categories and sourcing opportunities we have," Green remarked.

"It's really about making sure that we have a line of sight to those opportunities and a pipeline to diverse suppliers."

Added Moore-Thomas, "The importance of diversity is not just talking points or conversation. We believe each person is accountable for creating and sustaining an inclusive work environment.

It's important to have diversity in backgrounds, but it's important to have diversity in thought and perspective at each table where decision making takes place."

Raised in a single-family home in Tampa, Florida, Moore-Thomas later attended The Ohio State University and earned two degrees in psychology and criminology.

While working as a buyer for a small company, Moore-Thomas received a message from a ConocoPhillips manager that intrigued her enough to relocate to Houston eventually.

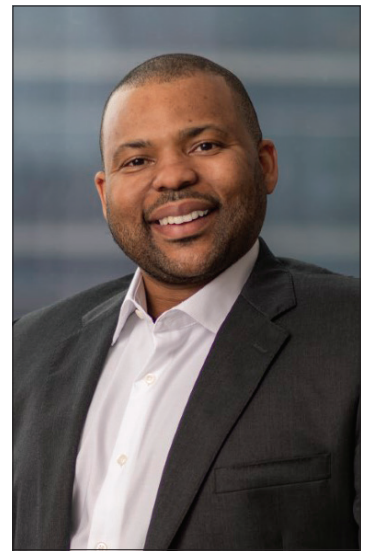
"I became very interested in oil and gas through learning about how much this industry truly influences the way we work and live," Moore-Thomas said.

"I applied for the position and never looked back."

Green grew up in Houston, where he lived with his grandparents.

He said his primary focus was acquiring an education.

Green attended a magnet high school where engineers from Exxon often mentored him and other students.



Green attended Tulane University, where he majored in chemical engineering, and he later received an MBA with finance and management concentrations.

Both Green and Moore-Thomas have pitched the industry to students at historically Black colleges and universities, and they continue to encourage all minorities about oil and gas.

"I have worked in this industry for 24 years, but my first exposure was in high school," Green recalled.

"Over the years, I think we've made steady strides in energizing folks to understand the industry more. I know we have more work

to do in having that awareness and outreach (regarding diversity and inclusion)."

Moore-Thomas said "all hands are on deck" in creating a more diverse and inclusive industry.

"[We are] figuring out how we can better task force, or diversify, the space," she added.

Green concluded that the industry is keen on developing programs and strategies to increase diversity in the workforce.

"It's a great time to be in the industry," he exclaimed.

"It's a great time to be at the forefront of change. There will be a lot of opportunities."



America's Pandemic Recovery Relies on Energy

Energy Workers And Company Leaders Are Supporting the COVID-19 Relief Support Effort:

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- Philanthropic community efforts to provide fuel gift cards, sanitizers, clothing, face coverings, and meals to hospitals, fire and police departments throughout the U.S.;
- Supplying jet fuel at no cost to critical companies and airlines to transport PPE deliveries and restore air service to remote communities;
- Providing fuel discounts to first responders and others who serve their communities;
- Donating ultra-low temperature freezers to health organization to help keep vaccines at their required storage temperature.

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The Community Energy Center, a cooperative with the National Newspaper Publishers Association and National Association of Hispanic Publications Media, will provide information and perspectives on the integral role of the energy sector in daily life for American families in a wide range of communities.

Health

Black physicians discuss benefits of medical marijuana

Editor's note: This commentary is provided by the Medical Marijuana Education and Research Initiative (MMERI) of Florida A&M University.

Dr. Genester Wilson-King is a board-certified gynecologist who started recommending medical marijuana treatments to her patients after Florida legalized it in 2016.

She's one of the 2,500+ doctors in the state qualified to order medical marijuana and low-THC cannabis for patients with qualifying conditions.

"I always looked for other ways of helping my patients outside of pharmaceuticals, especially the ones people take all the time, and in my research, I found and learned about cannabis," she said.

"Many women's health conditions have multi-factorial components, including mood, pain, difficulty sleeping and hormone imbalance. The capacity of cannabis to act as an anti-inflammatory agent, a muscle relaxant, a mood enhancer, a sleep remedy, and a pain reliever, all at the same time, makes it ideal for women's health conditions."

Launching of ACHEM

Dr. Wilson-King is among a growing number of Black physicians focused on helping people of color consider the therapeutic benefits of cannabis through the Cannabis Health Equity Movement and its recently launched Association for Cannabis Health Equity and Medicine.

ACHEM (pronounced AyKem) is focused on educating health professionals and healers in a nationwide effort to raise awareness about cannabis use in the health care treatment of Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), and to promote entrepreneurship



and employment opportunities in the medical marijuana industry.

ACHEM was co-founded by Board Vice President Dr. Janice Knox, a nationally recognized endocannabinologist, speaker and authority on the subject of medical cannabis.

"We call ourselves endocannabinologists because we really study the physiology of the body [i.e., the endocannabinoid system] first and then the pharmacology of cannabis to emphasize the correct clinical application," said Dr. Knox, a board-certified anesthesiologist and co-founder of The American Cannabinoid Clinics in Portland, Ore.

"When I talk to a patient, I am looking at the disease process, thinking about which receptors involved in that process I need to target, and then what is the best

cannabinoid that is going to work on that receptor."

The receptors she's talking about are found throughout the body and the endocannabinoid system, which Dr. Wilson-King describes as one of the most important physiological systems in establishing and maintaining human health.

"The endocannabinoid system is responsible for helping us to relax, eat, and sleep. Cannabis works through the endocannabinoid system and utilizes such receptors as CB1 and CB2, plus some others, to affect change within the body," Dr. Wilson-King explained.

Cannabis vs pharmaceutical

When comparing the use of medical cannabis versus some pharmaceutical medications,

Dr. Angela "Kaya" Ledbetter, a board-certified emergency medicine physician in Houston, Texas and ACHEM board member, says it's important to know that the safety profile of cannabis is better.

"It is a lot safer. Fortunately, cannabis has fewer side effects than a lot of other medications, which allows us the ability to experiment a little bit and work with a patient to figure out what works best with them.

I definitely believe there are great things about our modern medical system that does wonders for people, but I also believe that when our modern medical system was developed it demonized a lot of natural treatments."

Dr. Wilson-King added, "Cannabis is a medicine, but you can't think of it like a pharmaceutical. A pharmaceutical is a single molec-

ular chemical that goes into the body to do a singular thing.

Cannabis is made up of multiple substances that go into the body and do a multitude of things. It is called 'multiple mechanisms of action,' meaning it works in many different ways, and that is why cannabis can be so helpful for many different conditions."

Removing the stigma

All three doctors hope the launch of ACHEM will help remove the stigma of medical cannabis use in the Black community.

"ACHEM is going to be very important for us to train clinicians and providers that look like us so we can change some of those old staunch beliefs in our community," said Dr. Knox.

"I can tell you that when a Black patient saw my face, you could almost taste the relief that they had when I walked into the room. It's a matter of trust.

If we can train more health care providers that look like us, explaining the science and the physiology and the benefits to our people, I think they will receive it better."

To learn more about Medical Marijuana as Medicine, visit mmeri.famu.edu to watch MMERI's Conversations on Cannabis Virtual Forum featuring Dr. Genester Wilson-King, Dr. Janice Knox and Dr. Angela "Kaya" Ledbetter on YouTube. For more information on medical marijuana, visit MMERI's website at <http://mmeri.famu.edu/>

The post Black physicians discuss benefits of medical marijuana appeared first on Florida Courier.

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DOLLAR GENERAL
LITERACY FOUNDATION

Naomi Osaka to start-up sports academy in Haiti, Los Angeles for girls

By Victor Omondi

Naomi Osaka took the world by storm when she clinched the title of the best tennis player, ranked by the Women's Tennis Association. Osaka has had a good run this year, and she seems like she isn't stopping anytime soon. The 23-year-old, who has perfected her tennis skills, has now set her eyes on helping other underprivileged young girls realize their potential in the world of sports.

Osaka, partnering with Nike and Laureus Sport for Good, launched Play Academy, which aims to increase the participation of young girls in sports activities.

"There are huge barriers that girls face in getting active. Some girls, especially those from marginalized communities, never even get the chance to play," said Osaka while speaking to the People. "The more I learned about these barriers — through my work with Nike and Laureus Sport for Good — the more I felt determined to do something about it."

Osaka spoke to People magazine, stating her desire to help young girls, especially from the Black, Asian, and Latino communities, find their way in life through athletics.



"It started with conversations and it became this incredible program working with community partners that are committed to leveling the playing field for girls," she said.

The academy will provide aspiring girl athletes with grants and capacity-building training. These academies, located in Haiti, Osaka's birth land, and Los Angeles, where she currently lives, will act as a hub for nurturing talent. She's already running a successful Nation Women's Soccer League club that's helping women to become professional football players.

"We believe that all kids — especially girls — deserve a chance to play, no matter where they come from or what they look like," she said, adding, "The more we provide girls with opportunities to get active, the more opportunities we are giving them to become leaders in their communities."

Play Academy will not only give young girls from humble backgrounds the opportunity to sharpen their athletic skills but will also "hire more female coaches and provide girls with education to help build up their confidence, self-esteem and leadership skills."

Vanessa Bryant accepts Kobe Bryant Hall of Fame induction: 'You're an all-time great'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

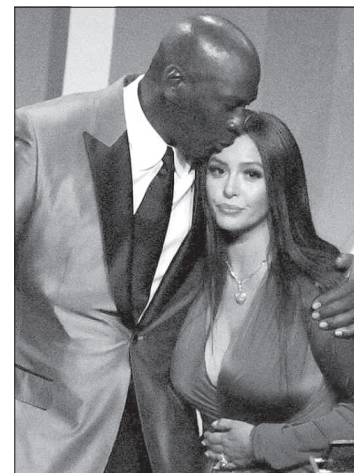
"You once told me, 'If you're going to bet on someone, bet on yourself. I'm glad you bet on yourself, you overachiever,'" Vanessa Bryant says about the late Kobe Bryant.

Induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame is a time for honorees to celebrate and reflect on their careers, however, Saturday's ceremony was overwhelmingly bittersweet.

The 2020 induction class stands out not only for its volume of high-profile players, but for the absence of one: Kobe Bryant.

With the death of the NBA superstar in January 2020, fans were unable to hear his acceptance speech. Instead, his widow, Vanessa Bryant, courageously stood in his place as he was enshrined with other basketball legends. Vanessa was accompanied by Kobe's presenter, friend and mentor, Michael Jordan. All inductees get to choose current Hall of Famers to present them into induction during their speech. Jordan was inducted in 2009.

Vanessa delivered a grateful, stoic speech on behalf of her husband, who along with their daughter, Giana, and seven others were killed in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26, 2020. Vanessa was informed that Kobe was inducted for the class of 2020 in April 2020. She began last night's speech by



acknowledging Jordan.

"Last February, I called Michael and asked him if he would introduce Kobe tonight, and he graciously accepted. Thank you for being here, Michael," she told Jordan as he stood by her side. "Kobe admired you. This means so much to us."

She acknowledged everyone in her family's circle who has been supported for her and Kobe's three daughters, Natalia, Bianca and Capri.

"To all of our close friends and family who have been present for my girls and I, thank you," Vanessa said. "That list is long, and it takes a village. But know that your kindness and love does not go unappreciated. I know that Kobe is thankful that you're all coming through for his girls."

Man opens Ohio's first Black-owned breast cancer center honors his mother

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Ohio's first Black-owned breast cancer center recently opened in Akron's Kenmore neighborhood. Aws reported by WKYC. Lavar Jacobs wanted to start The Kim Jacobs Breast Cancer Center, in honor of his 49-year-old mother and best friend who tragically passed away from breast cancer in 2009, so he took proactive measures to make his dream a reality.

According to WKYC, Jacob said that wearing pink in the month of October is a nice way to bring awareness to breast cancer, however, for folks who are affected by

the disease, it's a year-round battle. Jacobs also founded a nonprofit to help women and others who are impacted by the disease. Wigs, massages, therapy, help with their finances, help with insurance, the kids have a room where they can hang out while treatment is being received will be available at the center, according to WKYC.

"Not Just October, a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, was created to expand the knowledge and resources available to breast cancer patients, survivors, and their supporters. We are dedicated to fostering a culture of encouragement, advocacy, and total support.

Through the promotion of education and community engagement, we hope to improve the awareness around breast cancer and its effect on families around the world," the website explains.

Through his vision of helping others who are affected by breast cancer in the community, Jacobs is honoring his late mother.

Instagram photo credit - @notjustoctober

"I've always had the vision of the Kim Jacobs Breast Cancer Resource Center," Lavar said to WKYC. "She didn't get to do everything she had planned. She deserves more of a legacy."



The story behind Lionel Richie's 'Hello'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Today, May 12, marks the 37th anniversary of the day in 1984 when Richie recorded "Hello." The song became his second No. 1 from "Can't Slow Down," which was his second solo album since leaving The Commodores. It won the 1984 Grammy for "Album of the Year" and is still the biggest-selling album in the history of Motown Records.

But the song wasn't just a magnet for ridiculous album sales and every major music award in 1984. It also became the source of a copyright infringement lawsuit, and spawned a music video that had everyone confused, including Richie himself.

"Hello" is reportedly rooted in Richie's shyness as a youngster, too introverted to talk to girls. In his head, he would tell them, "Hello, is it me you're looking for?" Years later he decided to write a song using the line, but couldn't quite make it work and gave up. Some time later, when record producer James Anthony Carmichael visited Richie, the singer jokingly greeted him with his childhood phrase, to which Carmichael replied, "Finish that song."



Richie wrote the song for his self-titled 1982 solo debut album, but he left it off the final version, thinking it was too corny. His wife Brenda, however, loved it and insisted that he include the ballad on his next album, "Can't Slow Down."

That brings us to the music video, where Richie plays a teacher, Mr. Reynolds, who falls for his blind pottery student, Laura. The kicker is that she ends up crafting a clay model of her instructor's head. "This is how I see you," she tells him, while feeling his face. Richie complained to director Bob Giraldi that the storyline had nothing to do with the song's lyrics. Giraldi, who also directed Michael Jackson's "Beat It" video, reportedly replied, "You're not creating the story, I am."

International

Chinese Americans sent thousands of dollars to Proud Boys weeks before attack on the Capitol

By Victor Omondi

Details have emerged that donors of Chinese origin have been supporting the Proud Boys group known to have deep ties with the white supremacists.

The funds were raised to meet the medical costs for the members of the radical group who were injured during December 2020 protests. Four people were stabbed close to Harry's bar, a retreat joint that's popular among members of the Proud Boys. The incident took place after the group clashed with Antifa counter-protesters. The protesters had taken to the streets of Washington to contest the presidential election results.

Of the \$106,107 that was raised through the GiveSendGo fundraising website, about \$86,000 was contributed by people from the Chinese community.

They justified their donations, stating that they saw the group as democracy supporters in the fight against communism. "You have to understand how we feel – we came from communist China and we managed to come here and we appreciate it here so much. The Proud Boys are for Trump and they are fighting Antifa, and can you see anything good that Antifa did except destroy department stores and small businesses?" said Rebecca Kwan, who donated \$500 on Christmas day.

Ao Liu, another Chinese supporter, also thanked the group for fighting for their 'freedom' by donating \$30.

The Proud Boys, an all-male organization formed in 2016, has been known to provide security at pro-America rallies while taking advantage of social unrest during protests and demonstrations by posing



as Antifa members.

Following the January 6 Capital attack, at least 21 members of Proud Boys have been indicted for the role they played in the attack that took place just weeks after they started receiving donations from the Chinese supporters.

Megan Squire, a university professor who tracks online extremists, noted the group's reaction after Trump's comment to them before he left office in September to "stand back and stand by."

She said, "They were pro-Trump before this shout-out, and they are absolutely over the moon now. Their fantasy is to fight Antifa in his defense, and he apparently just asked them to do just that."

'Smart and Cheeky' Aboriginal boy teaches Australia a lesson

Philadelphiaobserver.com

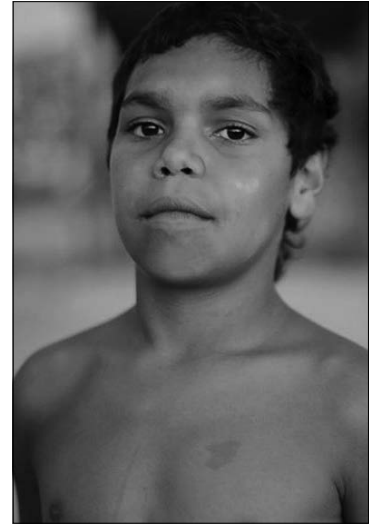
A documentary about a 10-year-old Aboriginal boy's experience in school, *In My Blood It Runs*, has reignited a debate about Australia's failure to give indigenous children a good education and a fair start in life.

"Listen carefully," the teacher tells the class. "This one isn't a story, this is information, or non-fiction – it's fact."

She's holding up *The Australia Book*, a picture book from 1952, and reads: "In Botany Bay, Cook landed for the first time in a new country. Then he sailed up the coast, mapping as he went... On an island in Cape York he raised the English flag. And he claimed for the English country the whole of this new land."

Djuwan Hoosan's hand shoots up, but he doesn't get the chance to speak.

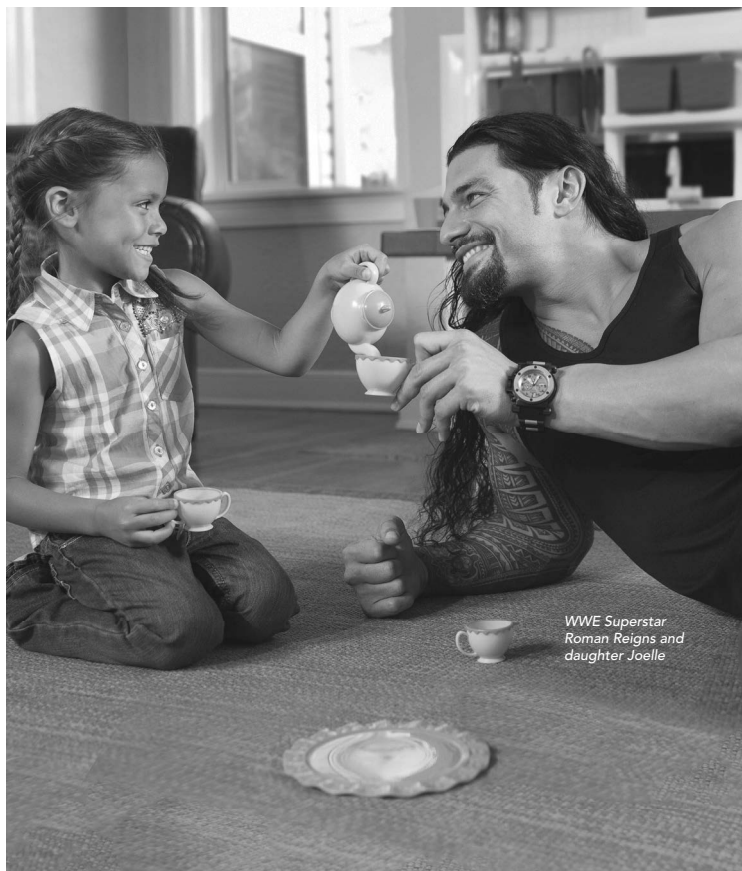
Afterwards, the children have to find a list of words in the text and mark them with a highlighter. Djuwan, a 10-year-old Aboriginal boy, struggles a bit with the vocabulary, but he finds it even harder to recognize the story, because the history he has been taught by his elders is very different.



"That [lesson] was for white people, not for Aboriginals," he reflects. "This man came on the ship and he was the first white man on Australia. The Aboriginal people told them to go and find another land, because this was their land. But people didn't listen."

Film-maker Maya Newell filmed the scene for her documentary, *In My Blood It Runs* – in which she followed Djuwan at school for a year – and could feel his frustration.

"You imagine what it feels like to be essentially erased from history," she says.



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Religious violence spreads across Israel

Newyorkbeacon.com

At Yam, Israel — Religious violence unlike anything seen in decades has spread across Israel. CBS News correspondent Imtiaz Tyab reports that Jewish and Arab neighbors who've lived side-by-side for generations have started to turn on each other.

On Wednesday night an Arab-Israeli man was pulled from his car in the Tel Aviv suburb of Bat Yam and beaten unconscious by dozens of far-right Jewish Israelis.

The brutal attack, labelled a "lynching" by Israeli media, was broadcast live on TV. It was condemned by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the country's chief rabbi.

"I think this is different from anything I've seen, and I've been living here for 24 years," Tel Aviv resident Dahlia Scheindlin told CBS News. "I just want to point out that we're all Israelis, so Jews, Arabs — we're all Israelis."

Images of a horrifyingly similar scene were posted on social media from Acre, in northern Israel, showing a Jewish-Israeli man allegedly being attacked by a group of young Palestinian Arabs.

"We had a nightmare of a night, a real riot by hundreds of Arab youths," said Avraham Sagron,



the rabbi of a nearby synagogue. "They came in masses, torched car after car, trash bins, broke windows and it was really dangerous to leave the house."

People, homes, businesses and places of worship have all been targeted.

Just a few days ago the violence sweeping across towns and cities with mixed populations of Jews and Arabs was unthinkable, but the fear now across the region is that there may be much more

to come.

The nightmare is being felt nowhere more acutely than in the Gaza Strip. The tiny, densely populated Palestinian territory controlled by the Hamas group has been pummeled by Israeli airstrikes for four days.

The strikes are wreaking havoc, while Hamas' military wing and other Palestinian groups continue to fire rockets at Israel. More than 1,000 were let loose on Wednesday night alone.



By Victoria Horsford

OUR TROUBLED WORLD

CONFLICTS: A year ago, the world had a common enemy, the coronavirus pandemic. Everywhere, people were quarantined, living in the unknown about how much devastation and for how long. Today, while most nations are recovering from the pandemic, two countries, Israel and Ethiopia are engaged in war games. The week-old Israeli/Palestinian conflict dominates news cycles the world over. Israeli Jews and the Palestinians in Gaza under Hamas are at war. The Palestinians have launched rockets towards Israeli sites; and the Israelis retaliate with air strikes which have resulted in deaths of civilians, women and children. The Gaza Palestinians have experienced disproportionately large numbers of fatalities. Neither side is ready to discuss a ceasefire. The intensity of the Palestinian discontent eluded Israeli intelligence. The current warfare is the result of 1) Israeli soldiers going into a holy Mosque in Eastern Jerusalem on the last day of Ramadan, interrupting their services 2) banning Palestinians youngsters from a popular gathering spot in East Jerusalem. The Biden White House says that he speaks with Israeli President Netanyahu speaks and Hamas leaders. Biden wants ceasefire but cannot persuade the warring sides. Hmm. The Israeli conflict between Jews and Palestinians date back to Biblical times. The two groups are brothers, both offspring of Abraham.

The six-month Ethiopian conflict barely gets media attention because its borders are closed by the government. Ethiopia's Central government is at war with the people of the Tigray in the country's northern region. The Tigray region is known as the cradle of Ethiopi-

an civilization. The Tigrayans are in crisis. The conflict has resulted in carnage, ethni cleansing, rape, starvation. Those who could escape are refugees in Sudan. Those unable to escape are being killed by Ethiopian soldiers or neighboring Eritreans who joined the killing fields of Tigray. What started this conflict? The Tigrayans dominated Ethiopian government for almost 30 years until 2018. What started this conflict a military encounter between Central government and Tigrayans defense group. A Nobel Peace Prize winner, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali has held that post since 2018. The Ethiopian conflict is comparable to the Israeli/Palestinian family rivalry.

AMERICA: Americans are alive with the sounds of spring music and the liberation that attends COVID vaccines.

THE NATION: What happened to President Biden's nominee Kristen Clarke as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights? Last week, her Senate Judiciary Committee vote ended in deadlock, 11-11, of course along party lines. Can nomination come out of committee so that the entire Senate can cast a vote, relying on a 50-50 split and with VEEP Kamala Harris' vote.

Tishaura Jones was sworn in as mayor of St. Louis, Missouri on April 20, becoming the first Black woman to hold that office. She ran on a progressive platform. She was St. Louis Treasurer for 8 years after serving in state legislature.

NEW YORK: New Yorkers are in zoom fatigue trying to follow the mayoral candidates and their platforms. This week Eric Adams leads the in the polls. Wonder if it has anything to do with crime in the city. He got an endorsement



Abiy Ahmed Ali



Tishaura Jones

from politico eminence grise Congressman Charles Rangel. Yang is running second. Scott Stringer is running third, the sex harassment accusation notwithstanding. More attention is focused on ranked choice voting which about 20% of the electorate understands. More than 20% of the voters admit that they haven't made up their minds about their mayoral choice.

ARTS/CULTURE

TV: Journalist Stephen Satterfield hosts a four-episode Netflix show, HIGH ON THE HOG with Dr. Jessica Harris, prolific food and culture historian/author. Show is based on Harris' book of the same title, published in 2011, which explores how African American cuisine has transformed America. The show's launch date is May 26.

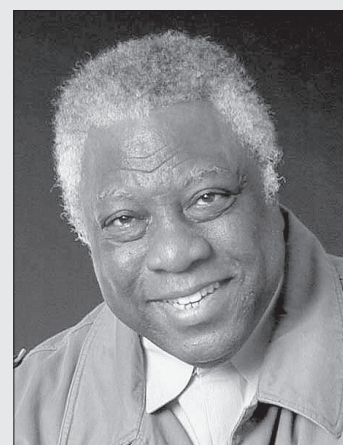
Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, set in antebellum America, circa 1850, is a story about a physical railroad to freedom, employed by enslaved Africans, has been adapted to film by Amazon Prime, in a 10-part series, directed by MOONLIGHT creator Barry Jenkins. Series began streaming on May 14

THEATER: Woodie King, Jr is to Black theater what Barry Gordy is to Motown recording artists. King founded the New Federal Theatre, NFT, 50 years ago. During that time, he has been producer, director and the guiding light for multiple plays for theater and film. The NFT It was sanctuary and finishing school for scores of Black actors, playwrights, directors, many of whom are household names in theater, film and television. NFT alum include Denzel Washington, Charles Fuller, Barbara Montgomery, Debbie Allen, Samuel Jackson, Ntozake Shange, Laurence Fishburne, Jacee Harry, Morgan Freeman, Anna Maria Horsford, Chadwick Boseman, and Ruby Dee. The King of American Black Theater is calling it a day and retires next month.

Phylicia Rashad, actress/director and distinguished Howard University alumna, returns to HBCU life as the Dean of Howard's College of Fine Arts, ef-



Jessica Harris



Woodie King

fective July 1. Propelled to fame from her TV portrayal of The Cosby Show's Claire Huxtable. Later, she worked on Broadway in A Raisin in the Sun and garnered a coveted TONY Award.

Vy Higginsen's Mama Foundation For The Arts presents SING HARLEM LIVE, Episode 7, a free virtual gospel experience, starring the MFFTA teen choir, on May 23 at 4 pm ET. Registration is necessary. Log into Looped Live and go to Sing Harlem Sing or Visit SINGHARLEM.COM/LIVE

NEWSMAKERS

GEMINI BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUTS to Carmelo Anthony; Roslyn Woods Cabbagestalk, RN; Naomi Campbell; Ice Cube; Sandra Epps, PhD/Fine Artist; Louis Gossett; former Cote Ivoire President Laurent Gbagbo; Dennis Haysbert; Lauryn Hill; Mia Destiny Horsford; Naomi Horsford, college coed; LaMar Kendrick; Divas Gladys Knight and Patti LaBelle; Aaron McGruder, writer/lecturer, cartoonist creator of The Boondocks; Mamadou Niang, TV/Film producer; Lionel Ritchie; Edgar Ridley, author of nonfiction book, "The Golden Apple: Changing The Structure of

Civilization, Aftermath 3;" Octavio Spencer; Kai Sidberry; Ming Smith fine arts photog; Sherry Smith, Wall Streeter; Karen Soltau, real estate/film/tv producer; Pierre Thiam, restaurateur/author; Kanye West; actress Sundra Williams; Bob Tate, Harlem grandee/griot; Franklin Thomas, former Ford Foundation President; and former Senegal President Abdoulaye Wade.

RIP: Political trailblazer Aurelia Greene, 86, transitioned last week. A Bronx politico, she was elected to the NYS Assembly before being named Bronx Deputy Boro Pre.



Naomi Campbell



Aurelia Greene

During her tenure as an Assembly member (1982 to 2009) she was the first woman to Chair the Banking Committee and the first African American appointed as Speaker Pro Tempore. She served as Bronx Deputy Boro Prexy from 2009 to 2017. A Rutgers University graduate, she was married to Reverend Jerome Greene, in a loving union which produced two children. Her funeral will be held on May 20 at 9 am at the Thessalonian Worship Center, located at 941 Rev. James Polite Avenue, Bronx, NY. Homegoing services can be viewed via live stream FACEBOOK LIVE.

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Ponder this!

May madness in Greenwood



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

In 1906, O. W. Gurley purchased 40 acres of land in Tulsa, Oklahoma and named it the Greenwood District. Gurley did not keep his wealth to himself, he lent it to other Blacks to start their own businesses with Black salespeople and customers.

Following the oil boom of the early 20th century, wealthy Black doctors and lawyers and business owners thrived in the one-square-mile Greenwood suburb that was nicknamed "Black Wall Street." However, the prosperous black community became a source of widespread resentment in the surrounding white communities.

So, the story goes! On May 30, 1921, a 19-year-old Black man named Dick Rowland was accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old white girl in an elevator. Accounts of the incident circulated among the city's white community and Tulsa police arrested Rowland.

A highly charged article "Nab Negro for Attacking Girl in an Elevator" appeared in the May 31 edition of the Tulsa Tribune. A confrontation took place between Black and white armed mobs around the courthouse where



Black Wall Street burned down

Rowland was being held. Shots were fired and the outnumbered African Americans retreated to the homes in the Greenwood District.

In the early morning hours, Greenwood was attacked by white rioters shooting Black men in the streets, destroying property, and burning down homes. They bombed businesses and looted buildings.

Thirty-five city blocks lay in ashes, more than 800 people were treated for injuries and historians believe as many as 300 people were killed. The governor declared martial law, and National Guard troops arrived in Tulsa to assist firemen. Residents of Greenwood were held at the Convention Hall and the Fairgrounds under investigation, some for as long as eight days.

In 2001, an official Race Riot Commission was organized to review the events that took place prior to and throughout the horrific hours that Greenwood was burning. Members of the Race Riot Commission determined several details to be undeniable. "These are not myths, not rumors, not speculations, they are the historical record."

The following information comes from the 2001 Race Riot Commission Report: Black Tulsans had every reason to believe that Dick Rowland would be lynched after his arrest. His charges were later dismissed and highly suspect from the start. They had cause to believe that his personal safety, like the defense of themselves and their commu-

nity, depended on them alone. As hostile groups gathered and their confrontation worsened, municipal and county authorities failed to take actions to calm or contain the situation.

Monday, May 31, 2021 will be 100 years since the burning of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is Memorial Day celebrated across the nation to remember and honor those military personnel who died in service to their country.

Black residents of Tulsa today can remember their soldiers of fortune who succeeded in sharing their wealth for the betterment of their community. We remember "Black Wall Street," was built with dignity and pride by Black people. We remember not one of the criminal acts in the Greenwood attack was then or ever has been

prosecuted or punished by government at any level.

Sarah Page, the white girl supposedly a victim did not press charges, but the white community was determined to have its way. Jim Crow, jealousy, and white supremacy were in part the underlying causes in what led up to the destruction and loss of life in May madness and malice in Greenwood. And still, we rise!

[Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director for HSTM-Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries and HRS-Hazel Rosetta Speaks! Retired former Women's Editor and Managing Editor of the New York Beacon News and current columnist for Harlem Community News, Inc. Contact: misshazel@twc.com]



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