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'NEW RULES' FOR FATHERS



**New Challenge:
Teaching your kids how
to stay alive**

Responsibilities of Black parents have increased in the face of racism. Black fathers double down on teaching their kids how to survive. NAACP provides a guide to help if stopped by police.

Supreme Court rules against lowering sentences for crack cocaine convictions

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

On Monday, June 14, the Supreme Court ruled that those convicted of possessing small amounts of crack cocaine are prohibited from seeking sentence reductions.

Activists complained that the ruling is just another slap in the face to minority defendants who were disproportionately sentenced to lengthy prison sentences during the 1980s crack epidemic.

Congress passed laws in the 1980s in response to the crack epidemic that mandated that anyone arrested and convicted for possessing small amounts of crack would face sentences as long as someone caught with heavier weights of powder cocaine.

African Americans and Latinos found possessing small amounts of crack received sentences longer than White suspects who had power cocaine.

"This is still White America, and the Supreme Court reflects this 'White privilege' mindset," stated Tremaine Powell, an Alexandria, Va., resident who recently was released after a 15-year-to-life sen-

tence for crack cocaine possession. "I'm on probation for the rest of my life," Powell complained. "Some White Wall Street executive caught with zip-lock bags full of cocaine only gets probation."

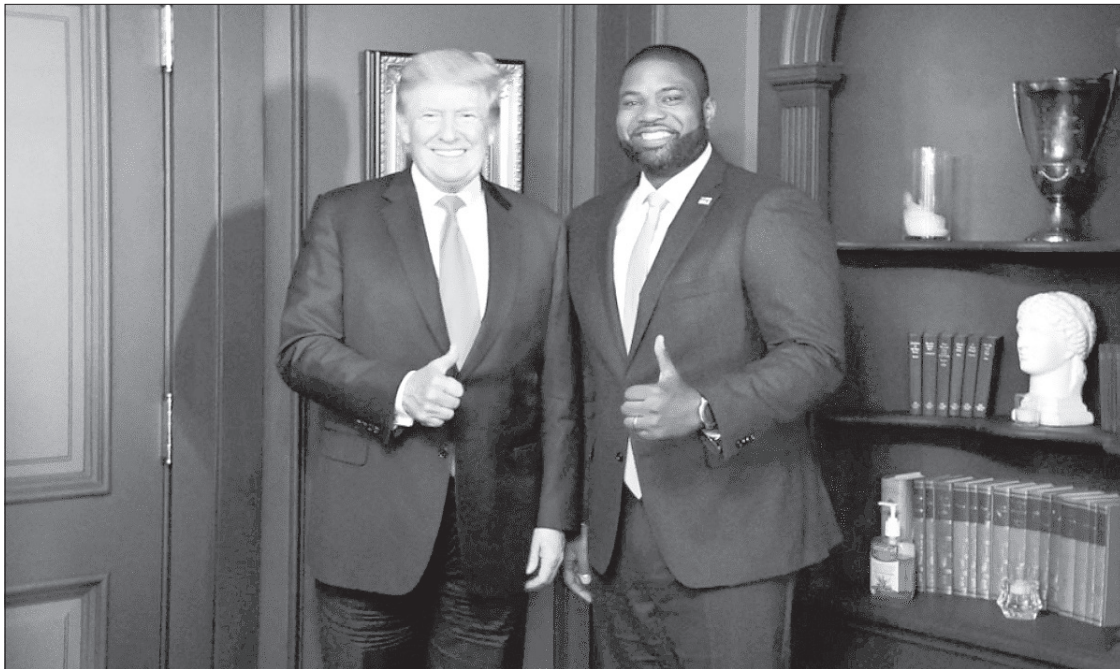
Tarahrick Terry, who lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, brought the case to the Supreme Court.

Terry served a little more than 15 years for possessing less than 4 grams of crack cocaine, which reports noted weighs about the same as four paper clips.

Terry sought relief from his sentence under the First Step Act, but a lower court ruled that the law did not apply to low-level offenses.

In December of 2018, Congress passed the First Step Act, and the law was viewed as a measure to correct the injustice tied to crack cocaine sentences and other criminal activity that otherwise should not have led to long prison terms.

According to the nonprofit Red Restorative Justice Program, the goal of the law was to "give deserving prisoners the opportunity to get a shortened sentence for positive behavior and job training and giving judges and juries the power that the Constitution intended to grant them in sentencing



Florida Republican Rep. Byron Donalds, a Donald Trump supporter, expressed frustration Thursday that he has not been allowed to join the Congressional Black Caucus despite communicating his interest in doing so. (Photo: Byron Donalds/Instagram)

Black Republican who voted against certifying Biden's win upset over being blocked from joining CBC

Florida Republican Rep. Byron Donalds expressed frustration on Thursday that he has not been allowed to join the Congressional Black Caucus despite communicating his interest in doing so.

Donalds said he has "not really heard much from the CBC" in the months since he expressed interest, although other lawmakers also elected in 2020 were inducted into the group more than six months ago. During a CNN interview, Donalds said, "I'm allowed to have my own thoughts."

Donalds made the comments after the CBC said in a statement to CNN, "We will work with those who share our values and priorities for the constituents we serve."

Donalds, a proud Donald Trump supporter who voted to deny cer-

tification of President Joe Biden's electoral victory, also used his CNN appearance to defend a slew of voting bills being introduced across the country that are expected to limit Black Americans' access to the polls.

"The Congressional Black Caucus remains committed to fighting for issues that support Black communities, including the police accountability bill, protecting voting rights and a jobs bill that helps our communities," the group said in a statement.

CNN host Brianna Keilar pressed Donalds on Thursday about whether his values are "incongruent" with the priorities of the CBC.

"They're basically saying they don't think you share their values and priorities for the constituents they serve," Keilar said.

But according to Donalds, who

described himself as a "poor kid from Brooklyn," he would offer a helpful perspective as member of the CBC.

"I have a perspective being a 42-year-old Black man who's come up in America after a lot of the battles through the civil rights movement that I think would actually be helpful and a helpful perspective to the CBC," Donalds said. "Whether they want to take advantage of that is really up to them."

The CBC is nominally partisan but currently there are no Republican members in the group.

Donalds told Politico in February that he wanted to shift the caucus away from its predominately liberal voice.

"Obviously, the dominant voice in the CBC tends to be Democrat or liberal voices, and I want to bring change to that," he said.



COVID may shutter South Africa's beloved heritage museums

GIN

Popular exhibits at the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg and other legacy museums are barely surviving and may close over funding shortfalls due to Covid.

A pair of boxing gloves worn by Nelson Mandela at the height of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, one of the most popular exhibits, is now covered with dust in a darkened room, according to Mfuneko Toyana, writing for Reuters.

"We had to let go of all of the staff. About 30 people. There's no one here to turn the lights on and off," the museum's director, Christopher Till, said.

By March 2020, most cultural institutions across the world were indefinitely closed (or at least with their services radically curtailed), and in-person exhibitions, events,

and performances were cancelled or postponed.

Among these were all museums in Morocco as of March 15 until further notice and cancellation of Mawazine – the world's second largest music festival – scheduled for mid-June.

In response, there were intensive efforts to provide alternative or additional services through digital platforms, to maintain essential activities with minimal resources, and to document the events themselves through new acquisitions, including new creative works inspired by the pandemic.

Hundreds of artworks and artefacts illustrating the history of the long struggle against white minority rule could become inaccessible to the public but "we can't afford to lose this place," Till said.

Over 1,000 visitors viewed



the historic exhibits before the pandemic. Like other cultural institutions, it had to close its doors in March 2020 when South

Africa imposed its first COVID-19 lockdown.

The museum reopened in January 2021, Toyana reported,

but having sold no tickets for 10 months and with visitor numbers very low due to the ongoing outbreak, it was too cash-strapped to operate and shut down again in March.

The Fugard Theatre is also permanently closed as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in Cape Town. "We are not persuaded that the theatre will be Covid safe or financially viable to reopen as a theatre in the foreseeable future," wrote theatre founder Eric Abraham.

"The theatre will be handed back to the owner of the freehold of the building as a working theatre and we hope they will be able to use it for the benefit of the Museum and the community."

Other institutions facing permanent shutdown are the Johannesburg Art Gallery and Mandela's house in the township of Soweto.



Father's Day 2021: Responsibilities of Black parents have increased in the face of racism

The NAACP steps in to help parents teach their sons, daughters

By Virgil Parker (TriceEdneyWire)

Police officers and racism have forced Black fathers to have an added responsibility to their parenting. Black fathers must have a conversation with their children about how to survive when encountering a racist civilian or police officer.

Infamous incidents such as George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Philando Castile are just a few examples in which their deaths resulted from a deadly encounter with racism. Former officer Derek Chauvin was convicted on all three charges against him in the killing of George Floyd. However, police officers who conduct similar controversial actions do not always get the appropriate justice.

Even then, on this Father's Day, June 20, Black parents across America find themselves with a new challenge to try to teach their children how to avoid such encounters in the first place if at all possible. In that regard, on this Father's Day, Black fathers are having to double down on teaching their kids how to stay alive in a racist atmosphere; especially since their killers may not always receive justice. The lessons being taught are universal.

Quincy Williams, a Black father of a 23-year-old son from Laurel Hills, Calif., told his son that interactions with law enforcement are "not the time to prove that you are right." Williams has told his son to "remain calm and make no quick movements so you can get home. We will handle the situation as needed."

Dr. Eric Bell, a Black father in Northern Virginia, tells his 17-year-old son that "though we live in a society rich with opportunity only limited by one's imagination, there are segments whom aim to promote discourse and destruction through the advancement of division in people." Dr. Bell also tells his son to "continue to seek out the

good in people, educate the uninformed, and never allow yourself to be silenced through any form of oppression from anyone!"

Dr. Bell's son has had to use this advice when dealing with racism from his peers in school and in other social settings.

Dana Lintz, a Black father who raised both of his sons in Silver Spring, Maryland, tells them to "comply, comply, comply, when encountering the police." Lintz tells his sons to "keep your hands on the steering wheel or on the dashboard at all times. Do not argue. If you feel you aren't treated right, memorize the name and badge number. You can fight legally, but you must first survive the encounter." Lintz's two sons are 25 and 20 years old.

Ben-James Brown, a Black father from Los Angeles has talked to his 16 year old son about racism. Brown said, "in dealing with racism it's important to understand where it stems from individually. Typically, when we are able to identify that we are able to break down walls and barriers that allow us to meet on neutral grounds." Brown's son encountered racism at the early age of 7 years old. One of his son's peers called him the 'n word'. Brown says that his son was super embarrassed over the incident.

Carlisle, a father to two sons who are 34 and 7 years old, tells his sons "bear in mind this officer will not see you as a regular person but as a treat or a person beneath him as such reasoning with them or expecting fairness should not be done." Carlisle also told his oldest son, "as for racism, understand its definition and know everyone can be prejudiced but not everyone can be racist. Racist referendums and doctrines have greater consequences and knowing the persons responsible for this narrative allows you...better knowledge in response and dealing with these acts."

Carlisle tells his youngest son that "if he has any encounters with police when not with me ask that they contact his father because he's a child."

Keith Moody, a Black father, gave advice to his son about how to deal with the police. Moody says, "the primary thing is that I've expressed to him is that his goal is to make it home and do not worry about what ticket you are getting, what you being charged with, or what is being said to you. I've told him that we would deal with that later." Moody also said, "if they ask you for your license and registration. Ask for their permission to get the requested item before reaching to get anything that is in your wallet or glove compartment." Moody's son is 20 years old and lives in Leesburg, VA.

Black parents' responsibilities have increased when it comes to teaching their children how to survive. But they have help. Here is a guide from the NAACP on ways that sons and daughters can survive when stopped by police:

Ten Rules of Survival if Stopped by the Police:

1. Be polite and respectful when stopped by the police. Keep your mouth closed.
2. Remember that your goal is to get home safely. If you feel that your rights have been violated, you and your parents have the right to file a formal complaint with your local police jurisdiction.
3. Don't, under any circumstance, get into an argument with the police.
4. Always remember that anything you say or do can be used against you in court.
5. Keep your hands in plain sight and make sure the police can see your hands at all times.
6. Avoid physical contact with the police. No sudden movements, and keep hands out of your pockets.
7. Do not run, even if you are afraid of the police.
8. Even if you believe that you are innocent, do not resist arrest.
9. Don't make any statements about the incident until you are able to meet with a lawyer or public defender.
10. Stay calm and remain in control. Watch your words, body language and emotions.

Philadelphia officer allegedly deletes man's video of arrest, bodycam footage shows

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Attorney Donte Mills was able to retrieve the arrest video from his client's iCloud account.

A Philadelphia cop is under fire after he allegedly deleted footage from a cell phone showing him arresting a man with an outstanding warrant.

Jacob Giddings recorded his own arrest in March by a Philly cop identified as Officer Burnett. According to the police report, per TMZ, Burnett said when he spotted Giddings' pickup truck idling for 10-15 minutes at a gas station, he ran the plates, and it came back that the man had an active warrant for assault.

When Officer Burnett attempted to arrest him, Giddings "started to resist," so Burnett used force to pull him out of his vehicle. The officer's body cam was activated and captured Giddings recording the encounter on his cell phone from inside his truck.

During the struggle, Giddings lost his phone and the officer picked it up and gained access to the footage, which he appears

to delete (see video above). After Giddings is in custody and sitting in the police car's backseat, he is heard on the bodycam footage asking Burnett if the video is still on his phone. The cop says, "I don't know," — but Giddings believes Burnett deleted the clip, and now he's suing.

Giddings has hired attorney Donte Mills of Mills & Edwards LLP to lead his lawsuit against the Philadelphia PD for excessive force and assault, tampering with evidence, false arrest and malicious prosecution, per TMZ.

Mills was able to retrieve Giddings' arrest video from his iCloud account. His client was also charged with one count of drug possession after cops found marijuana on Giddings during the bust. According to the report, he suffered minor cuts to his wrist from the handcuffs and was treated at the local hospital.

The Philadelphia Police said, "This incident is currently under investigation with our Internal Affairs Bureau. The officer involved has been placed on administrative duty status pending the outcome of the internal investigation."

Second teenager charged in shooting of British Black Lives Matter activist Sasha Johnson

Philadelphiaobserver.com

It's been two weeks since five people were arrested in connection with the shooting of activist Sasha Johnson in London. Following the arrests, reports revealed that three of the five suspects were teenagers, and all were facing weapons and drug charges.

On Friday, 18-year-old Devante Brown was charged with conspiracy to murder over the shooting of Johnson, the Metropolitan police said. He was scheduled to appear at Westminster Magistrates Court on Saturday, The Guardian reports.

Johnson remains in critical condition after being shot in the head while attending a party in South London where four men entered and started firing shots. The 27-year-old mother of two was the only person critically wounded by the violence.

The young activist rose to prominence during the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020. She is also a leader within the UK's Taking the Initiative Party (TTIP), an organization she helped found that has been credited as "Britain's first Black-led political party."

Johnson "remains in a critical condition in hospital," police said. She was shot in the early hours of the morning on May 26 after four men "entered the garden of the property and discharged a firearm," CNN reports. Eighteen-year-old Cameron Deriggs was charged with conspiracy to murder late last month. Both Brown and Deriggs remain in police custody.



At the time of the arrests, one teenager was charged with possession of an offensive weapon and possession with the intent to supply class A drugs. Three additional men—ages 18, 19, and 28—were arrested and charged with suspicion of affray (a group fight) and possession with intent to supply class B drugs. A fifth man, age 25, was arrested on suspicion of affray and failing to stop for police.

Johnson "remains in a critical condition in hospital," police said. She was shot in the early hours of the morning on May 26 after four men "entered the garden of the property and discharged a firearm," CNN reports. Eighteen-year-old Cameron Deriggs was charged with conspiracy to murder late last month. Both Brown and Deriggs remain in police custody.

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Burger King employee had customer say her uniform was 'distracting' her husband

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A Black Burger King employee took to TikTok to address a female customer who allegedly told her that her uniform was "too distracting" for her husband.

Lala or @rockefeller.o demonstrated her black Burger King attire on social media, The New York Post reported.

"I had a lady complain today because my work uniform was a 'distraction' to her husband."

In response to the alleged customer, La La said: "I guess I'll leave

my ass at home next time?"

She ended the video with both middle fingers directed at the angry woman.

Her initial video went viral, and now she has amassed more than 4 million followers on TikTok.

La La's popularity led her to make a follow-up video. This time, she addressed a comment calling her "an attention-seeking, home-wrecking [n-word]."

"My back hurts from carrying the weight of not caring because I did nothing wrong except wear my uniform and STILL sexually objectified and harassed," she said.



Woman killed as car drives into crowd of people protesting police violence

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A Minneapolis woman is dead after a man drove his car into a group of people who were peacefully protesting against police violence.

According to the New York Times, the group had gathered on Sunday night to protest the death of Winston Smith, who was fatally shot by U.S. Marshals earlier this month. Zachery James, one of the protesters who was at the scene, told the Times that there were 40 to 50 people gathered at the protest and they barricaded the area with their own cars. James said they were "occupying peacefully"

when a car approached at a high speed, hitting one of the parked cars so hard it struck the woman and sent her flying several yards into a pole.

The woman was pronounced dead at a local hospital and the Minneapolis police tweeted that three other people suffered non-life-threatening injuries as a result of the accident. The police have not identified the woman nor the alleged assailant. James described her as "an uplifting, kind, beautiful spirit."

"She was just here for us and with us," James told the Times. "I've never seen anything that horrendous."



Schools reckoning with race trigger polarization

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The clashes mirror fights underway throughout the U.S. Nevada has become the latest flashpoint in a national debate over how to teach students about racism and its role in U.S. history, with parents clashing over curriculum proposals.

People wore MAGA hats and waved signs outside a packed school board meeting this week in Reno, while trustees considered expanding K-5 curriculum to include more teaching about equity, diversity and racism.

Opponents say the proposal would lead to the teaching of

"critical race theory," which seeks to reframe the narrative of American history. Critics say such lesson plans teach students to hate the United States.

A conservative group even suggested outfitting teachers with body cameras to ensure they aren't indoctrinating children with such lessons.

"You guys have a serious problem with activist teachers pushing politics in the classroom, and there's no place for it, especially for our fifth graders," Karen England, Nevada Family Alliance executive director, told Washoe County School District trustees Tuesday.

District officials there and in

Carson City, where a similar debate is playing out, say critical race theory is not part of their plans.

The clashes mirror fights underway throughout the U.S.

In GOP-controlled statehouses, lawmakers have passed measures prohibiting the teaching of critical race theory, a reaction to the nation's racial reckoning after last year's police killing of George Floyd.

Nevada has bucked that trend. Gov. Steve Sisolak signed legislation this week to add multicultural education to social studies curriculum standards and teach students about the historic contributions of members of additional racial and ethnic groups.

Woman caught on video vandalizing monument honoring Black enslaved laborer: 'I don't give a f**k'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Racism is always on the job. In Portland, Oregon, the bust of a Black enslaved laborer named York, who accompanied Merriweather Lewis and William Clark on their expeditions throughout North America beginning in 1804, was defaced by a white woman on Tuesday.

The incident that took place at Mount Tabor Park in Portland was caught on video by a biker who saw the white woman vandalizing the monument with spray paint.

The woman, identified as Jeanette K. Grode, was unapologetic about her actions and was blatantly racist.

"I've been prejudiced against Black people and Hispanic people," she said. "I don't give a f**k. Do whatever the f**k you want."

After saying she would pay for the damages, she said, "f**k you all!"

She said that her anger

stemmed from the installation of the bust of York that sought "to replace a white man with a f**king Black man."

"That's not f**king unity," she argued.

On Thursday, Grode, who was not arrested, was issued a citation for criminal mischief, abuse of venerated objects, unlawful applying of graffiti and vandalism as reported by the Oregonian.

The Portland Parks & Recreation Department said they are in the process of removing the paint as well as assessing the damage caused by the vandalism.

Residents were appalled by Grode's behavior and how it reflects the city known for having racial tensions.

"It was an important commemoration of the specific times that we need to pay attention to," Kaisa Holt, 38, said. "There's still people that don't understand why this is important and that's a problem we need to address."

Denise Dekker, another resi-

dent who routinely walks where the bust was located, was also shocked by the incident.

"I didn't understand why we had the other statue up and I always wished we had a statue we could actually be proud of," Dekker explained. "It was such a big relief to have something beautiful and meaningful here."

Dekker hopes the space where York's memory was honored will become a permanent fixture in the city.

"I'm hoping the city steps up to make this permanent and to make a real plaque," she continued. "I would love it to be permanent and official."

Under the administration of President Thomas Jefferson, Lewis and Clark were assigned to explore land west of Mississippi according to the terms of the Louisiana Purchase. Traveling over 8,000 miles, their travels helped to expand the American empire westward beyond the original thirteen colonies.

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Editorial - Opinion

Pride Month means Black pride too



By Julianne Malveaux

- June is Pride Month, commemorating the violent police raid on the Stonewall Inn on June 28, 1969, when GLBTQ activists fought abusive police officers who beat gay men, lesbians, and those who cross-dressed. So-called law enforcement also participated in blackmail and extortion against

those who were closeted.

It took 50 years, until June 2019, for the New York City police commissioner to apologize for the raid. While the GLBTQIA community has increased visibility and acceptance, there is also the putrid and hateful resistance to the very existence of this community.

In a tiny Texas town, a bakery that offered Rainbow cookies in honor of Pride Month faced a detestable backlash when a patron who ordered five dozen cookies, a sizeable order for a small family-run bakery, canceled their order (having not paid for it) because they felt that a Facebook recognition of Pride month was "gay propaganda." (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2021/06/09/pride-month-rainbow-bakery-customer/>).

In Jacksonville, Florida, a planned bridge lighting in honor of Pride Month was threatened, some say over intergovernmental jurisdictional issues, while others say it was simple homophobia.

In a Washington, DC suburb, a teacher says he violates his religion to refer to young people by their

preferred pronouns. He was fired, and he sues saying that it violates his faith for him to be courteous and compassionate to others. The court agrees with him, and he is headed back to the classroom, intolerant as ever.

These are incidents that have bubbled into the national consciousness, but there are others that go unreported. The bottom line is that hate – racism, homophobia, and more – thrives in our nation, and few are prepared to stop it.

Police violence is at the root of Pride Month, just as it is at the foundation of the Black Lives Matter Movement. The Movement for Black Lives has been firmly and fiercely supportive of GLBTQIA rights, especially sensitive to the rights of trans people, focusing on the trans women who are exponentially more likely to be murdered than others. But with police violence as the common root of two vital movements, why is there so little visible collaboration between those communities). Gay pride is Black pride, too. Let's call the roll of Black GLBTQIA lead-

ers and thinkers – Bayard Rustin, Pauli Murray, Audre Lorde, James Baldwin, so many others. And let's look at hate and hate crime from an intersectional perspective and solutions from that same place.

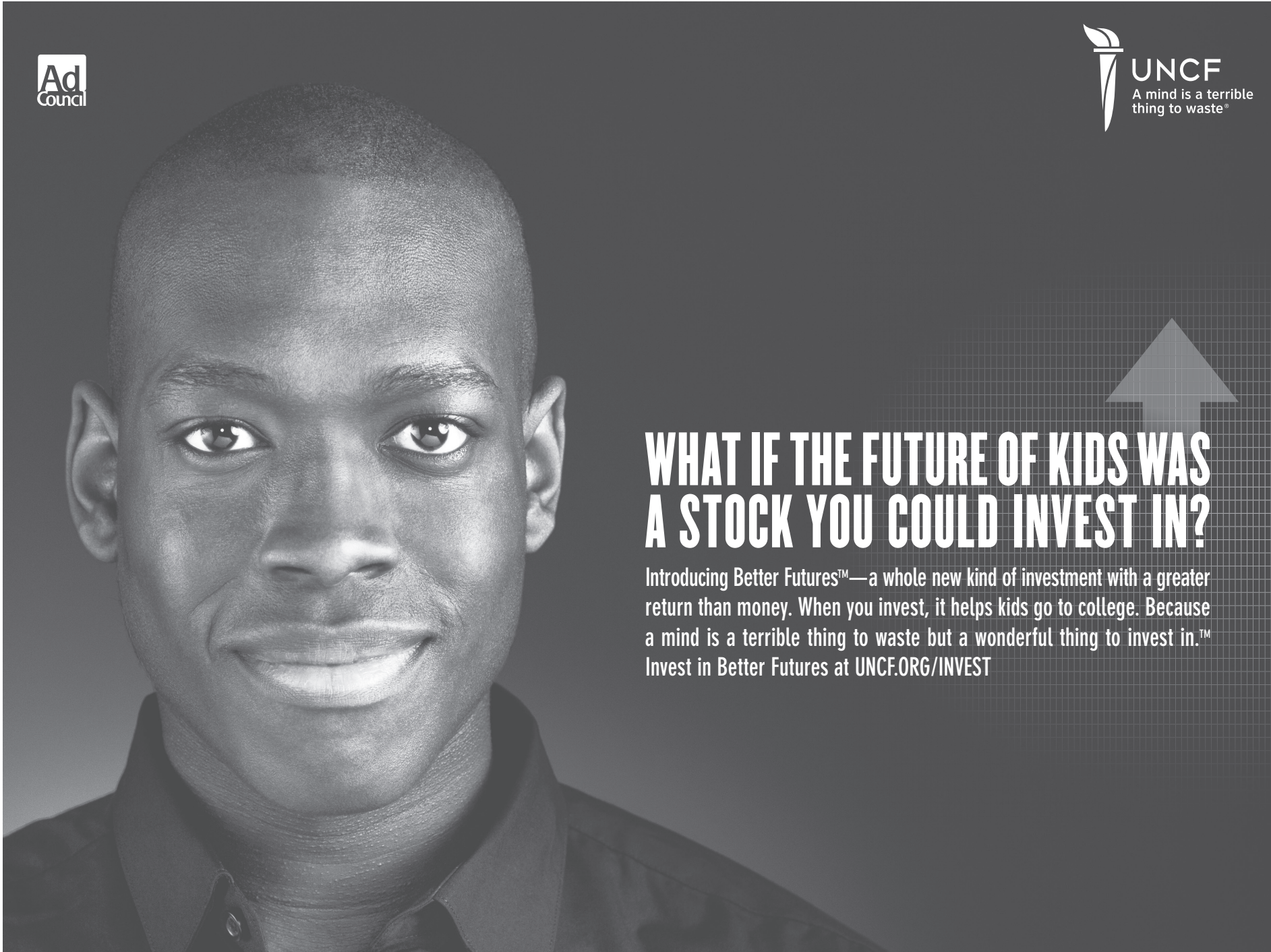
Pride Month has to be about Black Pride, too, about embracing all GLBTQIA identities. After all, as we experience major demographic shifts, the population, and the electorate, are increasingly diverse. We need to see the intersectional in our commemorations, celebration, and more. And we need to be vocal about our opposition to hate and hateful behavior no matter how it is directed. For example, in an ideal world, the NAACP would have bought some Juneteenth cookies (and maybe they still will) from the Confections bakery in Lufkin, Texas.

Our task is not to respond to each hateful incident but to build a movement that rejects hate. And our mission is to do it "at a time such as this" when the haters empower many who are fearful of inevitable change. Now is a time for a mass movement against racism, homophobia, sexism, and

hate. It begins when we know our histories and share them. It starts when we acknowledge that Gay Pride Month is about Black Pride, too, that Women's History is not White Women's History, Native American History is not a footnote, and hatred is contemptuous.

The carte blanche that so-called "officers of the law" have to terrorize communities they don't like is especially contemptuous. The same way they bullied gay folks in the 1950s and 60s is the same way they terrorize Black communities today. Building on Stonewall's history, the GLBTQIA communities should be some of the most vital voices supporting the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was fond of speaking of collective strength. She would say, if I tap you with my finger, you may never feel it, but if my fingers turn into a fist and I tap you then, you'll feel it. If Black folks and GLBTQIA folks join with others, perhaps we can stop the hate. The folks who patronized Celebrations Bakery in the face of hate put a firewall between us



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On Tulsa anniversary: Biden White House announces plans to build Black wealth, narrow racial wealth gap

By Hazel Trice Edney

A recent announcement from President Biden not only tells the story of the Tulsa massacre on its one hundredth year anniversary but unveiled new actions that could impact America's Black economic development for years to come.

"One hundred years ago, the thriving Black community of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma, known as 'Black Wall Street,' was ruthlessly attacked by a violent white supremacist mob. An estimated 300 Black Americans were killed and another 10,000 were left destitute and homeless," the White House announcement began. "The destruction wrought on the Greenwood neighborhood and its families was followed by laws and policies that made recovery nearly impossible. The streets were redlined, locking Black Tulsans out of homeownership and access to credit. Federal highways built through the heart of Greenwood cut off families and businesses from economic opportunity. And chronic disinvestment by the federal government in Black entrepreneurs and small businesses denied Black Wall Street a fair shot at rebuilding."

The announcement acknowledged that the Greenwood story has been repeated "in countless Black communities across the country."

It continued, "Because disparities in wealth compound like an interest rate, the disinvestment in Black families in Tulsa and across the country throughout our history is still felt sharply today. The median Black American family has thirteen cents for every one dollar in wealth held by White families."

On May 31, 2021, millions of Americans paused to acknowledge the 100th year anniversary of The Tulsa Race Massacre for which no one was ever punished, despite the numerous deaths of Black people.

The Biden-Harris Administration is now announcing new steps to help narrow the racial wealth gap and reinvest in communities that have been left behind by failed – and often racially insensitive – policies. Specifically, the Administration is expanding

access to two key wealth-creators – homeownership and small business ownership – in communities of color and disadvantaged communities.

According to the announcement posted at WhiteHouse.gov, the following are some of the actions that the Administration says it will take:

Address racial discrimination in the housing market, including by launching a first-of-its-kind interagency effort to address inequity in home appraisals, and conducting rulemaking to aggressively combat housing discrimination.

Use the federal government's purchasing power to grow federal contracting with small disadvantaged businesses by 50 percent, translating to an additional \$100 billion over five years, and helping more Americans realize their entrepreneurial dreams.

Create a new \$10 billion Community Revitalization Fund to support community-led civic infrastructure projects that create innovative shared amenities, spark new local economic activity, provide services, build community wealth, and strengthen social cohesion – all in communities of color.

Provide \$15 billion for new grants and technical assistance to support the planning, removal, or retrofitting of existing transportation infrastructure that creates a barrier to community connectivity, including barriers to mobility, access, or economic development.

Offer a new Neighborhood Homes Tax Credit to attract private investment in the development and rehabilitation of affordable homes for low- and moderate-income homebuyers and homeowners.

Allocate \$5 billion for the Unlocking Possibilities Program, an innovative new grant program that awards flexible and attractive funding to jurisdictions that take steps to reduce needless barriers to producing affordable housing and expand housing choices for people with low or moderate incomes.

Create \$31 billion in small business programs that will increase access to capital for small businesses and provide mentoring, networking, and other forms of technical assistance to socially

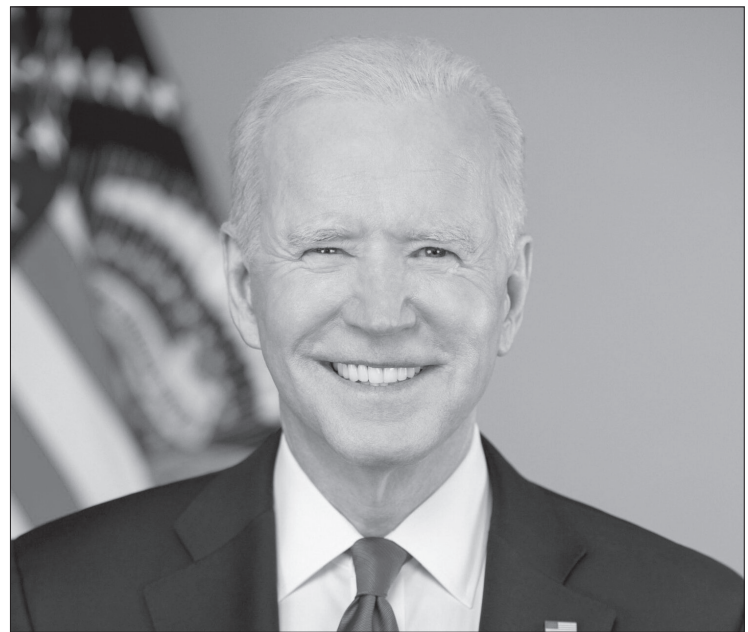
and economically disadvantaged businesses seeking to access federal contracts and participate in federal research and development investments.

Take action to end racial discrimination in the housing market. More than 50 years since the Fair Housing Act's passage, access to wealth through homeownership remains persistently unequal. In his first week in office, President Biden issued a memorandum directing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address discrimination in our housing market.

Additionally, the Biden-Harris Administration is promising to deal with discrimination in home appraisals.

"A 2018 Brookings study found that homes in majority-Black neighborhoods are often valued at tens of thousands of dollars less than comparable homes in similar—but majority-White—communities," the announcement said. "And the crisis is worsening: a recent study found that the gap between the appraised value of homes in predominantly White neighborhoods compared to comparable homes in predominantly Black and Latino neighborhoods nearly doubled between 1980 and 2015. The impact of these disparities in home appraisals can be sweeping, limiting homeowners' ability to properly benefit from refinancing or re-selling their homes at higher valuations and thereby contributing to the already-sprawling racial wealth gap."

According to the announcement, "President Biden is also charging Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia Fudge with leading a first-of-its-kind interagency initiative to address inequity in home appraisals. The effort will seek to utilize, quickly, the many levers at the federal government's disposal, including potential enforcement under fair housing laws, regulatory action, and development of standards and guidance in close partnership with industry and state and local governments, to root out discrimination in the appraisal and homebuying process. These are the kinds of policies and practices that keep Black families in Greenwood and across the nation



from building generational wealth through homeownership."

Also, the Biden-Harris Administration is launching an "all-of-government effort to expand contracting opportunities for underserved small businesses across the country. At its center is a new goal: increasing the share of contracts going to small disadvantaged businesses by 50 percent by 2026—translating to an additional \$100 billion to SDBs over the 5-year period. To achieve this goal, agencies will assess every available tool to lower barriers to entry and increase opportunities for small businesses and traditionally-underserved entrepreneurs to compete for federal contracts. The impact could be historic: all told, attainment of the new goal will represent the biggest increase in SDB contracting since data was first collected more than 30 years ago."

The Biden announcement is giving hope to leaders who tried to assist Black-owned businesses which suffered disparately during the pandemic and continue to suffer.

Ron Busby, president/CEO of the U.S. Black Chamber Inc. (USBC) said more than 450,000 Black-owned business were lost due to COVID between February and April 2020; representing about 41 percent of all Black-owned businesses.

Yet, Busby said, of Trump's \$349 billion allocated to stimulate the economy, \$250 million was awarded to 50 White publicly traded firms without ever asking the question, "Were you impacted by

COVID? Did you have to lay off employees? Did you lose revenue?... So, the country did not include Black businesses in that stimulus package."

Busby said, based on a survey by the USBC, "about 76 percent of Black-owned businesses said they got no stimulus money or far less than they needed."

That's largely because, he said, the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP), was for businesses with W-2 employees.

"Of the 2.6 million Black-owned businesses that we own and operate across the country, 2.5 million have no W-2 employees," Busby said. "So a very small percentage of Black-owned businesses were even eligible to participate in the Payroll Protection Plan," he said. Contracted or 10-99 employees were not included in the first round of the PPP, he said.

Busby said the new Biden plan will be helpful, but it comes after many of the Black-owned businesses have been forced to close and unable to re-open because the stimulus package was not for startups.

"So many of our businesses are now facing many challenges across this country as it relates to the future," Busby said. "So, yes, President Biden has come out and made a huge commitment." But Busby said it will only work if the programs specifically target those businesses that have been hurt the most; not "minority" businesses, which includes White women among other businesses that are not Black-owned.

#DadJokesRule

fatherhood.gov

On the scene

'Queen of Salsa' Celia Cruz gets second Street named in her Honor

By Audrey J. Bernard

BRONX, NEW YORK — City Councilman Fernando Cabrera, who represents District 14 in the Bronx, officiated over the co-street naming ceremony for Latin music icon Celia Cruz on Wednesday, June 5, 2021, at 10 a.m. at the corner of Reservoir Avenue and West 195th Street, in the Kingsbridge Heights neighborhood. The street being co-named for Cruz runs adjacent to the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music. The Cuban-born singer, known internationally as the "Queen of Salsa," died in 2003 at the age of 77. Today, her work and her legacy are part of New York's most deeply rooted Latino heritage, where you can regularly listen to her music and bump into any passerby who, after realizing that one is Cuban, immediately mentions her name. This will be the second Bronx street to bear Cruz's name. A stretch of Fordham Road in the Bronx is co-named Celia Cruz Boulevard. The ceremony featured a special performance by students from the school during the ceremony. Cruz's longtime friend and stylist Ruth Sanchez attended the ceremony along with Omer Pardillo, Cruz's Manager and President of the Celia Cruz Foundation and scores of fans who danced in her memory. (Photos courtesy Omer Pardillo)



In this Sept. 17, 2002 file photo, Cuba's Celia Cruz arrives for a tribute in honor of Mexico's Vicente Fernandez as the 2002 Latin Recording Academy person of the year in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles (AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian, File)



(L-R) Omer Pardillo, Ruth Sanchez, City Councilman Fernando Cabrera with other dignitaries



Street Sign: Celia Cruz Way in Bronx, New York



Students from the Celia Cruz School perform

Comedian Marla Gibbs Celebrates 90th birthday with Family & Friends

By Audrey J. Bernard

Los Angeles, California — Everyone's favorite TV maid Marla Gibbs celebrated her 90th birthday (born Margaret Theresa Bradley; June 14, 1931) at Peter Georges' Conference Room Restaurant & Bar in Playa Vista, Calif. Gibbs, a renowned actress, singer, comedian, writer and television producer whose career spans five decades, was surrounded by loving family and friends who adore her.

Revelers included: Beverly Todd, Judy Pace, Earnest Harden, Jr., Kathleen Bradley, Sheila Frazier, former State Senator Diane Watson, Jackee Harry, Vanessa Bell Calloway, Tico Wells, Attorney Frank K. Wheaton, and Marla's children; Angela, Amil, Dorian, and Jordan Gibbs. And a host of politicians who presented proclamations and kind words to Gibbs: Mayor James Butts, Councilmember Curren Price, Jr, Senator Sydney Kamlager, along with representatives for Congresswoman Karen Bass, Mayor Eric Garcetti, LA Supervisor Janice Hahn, and Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson.

Guests mixed and mingled while dining on a lavish display

of passed hors d'oeuvres: cauliflower wings, Brussels sprouts, lamb meat balls followed by a delicious buffet dinner that included: seafood pasta, penne Norma, flatbread, crispy chicken pillared, and a green salad. After dinner guests enjoyed a music video and a delicious birthday cake while singing Happy Birthday to Ms. Marla.

This wonderful celebration was sponsored by family friend and businessman Henry Woods, founder of HNW International Corporation, an International Consulting/Connector Firm, along with Lemuel Daniels, Peter George and others. The comedienne had the last word. "Thank you — and this is my 30th birthday celebration!" she quipped. (Photo Credit: Ian Foxx Media Group)

About Marla Gibbs

Gibbs is known for her role as George Jefferson's maid, Florence Johnson, in the CBS sitcom, The Jeffersons (1975–1985), for which she received five nominations for Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series. She also starred in the show's spin-off Checking In



(Top L-R) Mayor James Butts, Vanessa Bell Calloway, Sheila Frazier, Kathleen Bradley, Judy Pace, Councilmember Curren Price, Jr., and Earnest Harden (Bottom L-R) Jackee Harry, Marla Gibbs, and former State Senator Diane Watson



Marla with her children (L-R) Amil, Angela, Marla, Dorian and Jordan Gibbs

(1981) and the NBC sitcom, 227 (1985–1990); Gibbs co-produced the latter series, played the lead role of Mary Jenkins, and sang the theme song. Gibbs has won seven NAACP Image Awards. In later years, Gibbs played supporting roles in films The Meteor Man (1993), Lost & Found (1999), The Visit (2000), The Brothers (2001), Madea's Witness Protection (2012), Grantham & Rose (2015), and Lemon (2017) and

the TV show Station 19 (2018). In 2015, Gibbs made two appearances in the Shonda Rhimes' drama series, Scandal. She later guest starred on Hot in Cleveland, American Horror Story: Hotel and This Is Us. In 2018, she was cast in a recurring role on the ABC drama series Station 19. Gibbs also has had starring roles in two television pilots: Old Soul alongside Ellen Burstyn and Rita Moreno for NBC in 2014, and ABC's Jalen

vs. Everybody in 2017. In film, she co-starred in Lemon and Please Stand By. Gibbs owned a jazz club in South Central L.A. called Marla's Memory Lane Jazz and Supper Club from 1981 to 1999. As a singer, she released a number of albums. In 2019, Gibbs reprised her role as Florence on Live in Front of a Studio Audience: Norman Lear's All in the Family and The Jeffersons, less than a month before her 88th birthday.



The COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and there's no cost to you.

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Health

Commentary

Migraine is a health disparity for people of color



By Jaime M. Sanders,
The Migraine Diva, Co-Lead
of the Disparities in Headache
Advisory Council

Migraine is a neurological disease that affects 60 million Americans and is the 2nd leading cause of disability worldwide. It is an underestimated, underdiagnosed, and under-treated disease despite its heavy burden. However, communities of color, which have been historically, socially, and economically disenfranchised from research studies and treatment are bearing the brunt of this burden. The American

healthcare system is riddled with flaws, and headache medicine is no different.

The racial inequities in headache diagnosis and patient care have been brought to light by the recent increased focus on systematic racism that impacts health equity. Numerous studies have shown that the rates of migraine diagnosis and treatment vary significantly between Blacks, Hispanics, and Whites. Although prevalence of migraine is similar (14.5%, 14.5%, and 15.5% respectively), Blacks and Hispanics utilize healthcare at a disproportionate rate compared to Whites.

When seeking treatment, Hispanics had a lower total number of visits that result in a migraine diagnosis. Blacks with severe headaches are more likely to get a diagnosis of probable migraine, while Whites get a more definitive diagnosis. Because of disparities in the U.S. health care system, migraine is more severe and more likely to become chronic among Blacks and African Americans. This chronicity is unfortunately linked with increased depression

and disability, and a lower quality of life.

Black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) experience stress and adverse health outcomes due to the exposure to racism and racial trauma. A theory, known as race-based traumatic stress, indicates that some individuals experience racial prejudice as psychological trauma. This PTSD-like reaction leads to increased severe headaches and migraine attacks. Research confirms all of these inequities – but an ongoing lack of quality research on BIPOC with migraine means there is still much that is unknown or poorly understood.

The Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients (CHAMP) and its partners realized that meaningful change was required. They created the Disparities in Headache Advisory Council that has held numerous training sessions and provided seed-funding for new initiatives that promote diversity and equality in headache medicine.

CHAMP is one of many patient advocacy organizations participating in National Migraine and Headache Awareness Month.



Every June, we spend the month raising awareness and educating the public via a variety of programs and projects held around the country. The theme for this year is "A New Era of Care," which reflects the surge of innovation in headache and migraine treatments that are dramatically improving lives.

June 16th is our first Advocacy Day of Action, supporting a U.S. House Resolution designating

June as Migraine and Headache Awareness Month, led by Representative Madeleine Dean (D-PA-4th). This resolution addresses the inequities that BIPOC communities face in health access and quality of care. You can show your support by contacting your Representative in Congress and asking them to co-sign the resolution. Take action by visiting: headachemigraine.org/policy-partners/.



By Victoria Horsford

What's going on

SUMMER 2021

NEW YORK: June 2021 is a busy month for New Yorkers who will observe, Caribbean American Heritage, Black Music Appreciation, and Gay Pride. New Yorkers will also observe Juneteenth, the summer solstice, and the lifting of Covid restrictions. The centerpiece of the monthly rituals will be the June 22 NYC Democratic Primary when the electorate will determine who will govern Gotham – as Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, the 51-seat City Council, the Manhattan District Attorney - for the next four years. The mayoral protagonists include Eric Adams, Shaun Donovan, Kathryn Garcia, Ray McGuire, Dianne Morales, Scott Stringer, Maya Wiley and Andrew Yang. Adams enjoys an 8-point lead in the polls for two weeks. Will NYC get its first woman mayor? Will Attorney Alvin Braggs become the first African American to head the Manhattan D.A.'s Office.

THE NATION: Black Americans keep their eyes on the prize - 2021/2022 US Senate and Gubernatorial races – de-

spite 1) newly-enacted voter repression laws enacted by Republican Governors targeted to the Black electorate and 2) the US Senate's obstructionism re: voting right bills approved by the House. **FLORIDA:** Democrat Congress member Val Demings plans to unseat US Senator Marco Rubio next year.

MICHIGAN: Recently retired Black Republican Detroit police chief James



Eric Adams



Wes Moore

Craig is considering a run for Governor as is Nigeria-born entrepreneur Austin Chenge. They will challenge Governor Gretchen Whitmer in 2022.

TEXAS: Allen West, former Florida GOP Congressman relocated to Texas, and was elected state GOP Chair, from which he will soon resign to get ready to challenge Texas GOP Governor Greg Abbott.

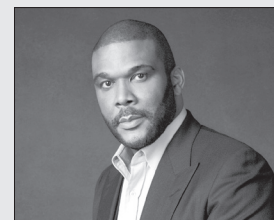
MARYLAND: Maryland-born Wes Moore, the NY based Robin Hood Foundation CEO, a Rhodes Scholar, and a Veteran US Army officer, will run for Maryland Governor.

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE

The FORTUNE 500 List of the largest American Corporations is on newsstands, the Jun/July issue. The TOP 10 companies include 1) Walmart 2) Amazon 3) Apple 4) CVS Health 5) Unitedhealth 6) Berkshire Hathaway 7) McKesson 8) Amerisourcebergen 9) Alphabet and 10) Exxon Mobil.

Wall Street powerhouse Goldman Sachs leading global financial institution names Comcast EVP African American Kimberly Harris Jones, to its Board of Directors as an independent director who will be a member of each of the company's Governance, Compensation and Public Responsibilities Committees.

FILM mogul/billionaire



Tyler Perry

Tyler Perry pulls MADEA, the tough love Black film matriarch whom he portrays, out of retirement. MADEA returns in 2022, as a part of the NETFLIX streaming. To date the MADEA 11-film franchise, has generated more than \$1 billion in North American revenues. A MADEA HOMECOMING, the first film in her resurrection, will be filmed at Perry's sprawling Atlanta Studio.

ARTS/CULTURE

Congrats to all 2021 Pulitzer Prize winners for excellence in journalism, books, drama, and music. African American winners include 1) Playwright Katori Hall for the "Hot Wing King" about Black masculinity and a loving gay couple for DRAMA 2) The nonfiction book "Franchises: The

Golden Arches In Black America" by Marcia Chatelin for History 3) Wesley Morris, NY Times f who writes about the intersection of race and culture for Criticism and 4) Darnella Frazier, who recorded the 5/25/20 George Floyd murder in Minneapolis, a video that instigated worldwide protests.

BOOK NOTES:The 6/20 NYTimes best seller book list in nonfiction is topped by "HOW THE WORLD IS PASSED: A Reckoning With The History of Slavery Across America," by Clint Smith, a Black poet and Atlantic Magazine writer. The narrative is described as a cross country survey of slavery and remembrance. Yes,

Smith traveled to Senegal to recount life before the Middle Passage. This exhaustively researched, scholarly but accessible work sounds like an eminently readable 336 page piece, a cogent response to critical race theory naysayers.

Ursula Burns was XEROX Corporation's CEO from 2009 to 2016;

and in that capacity was the first Black woman CEO to make the coveted FORTUNE 500 List. Her new memoir, WHERE YOU ARE IS NOT WHO YOU ARE, charts her life's course from NYC tenement governed by a Panamanian single mom to the uppermost level of Corporate America.



Africa desperately short of COVID vaccine: 'This IS INSANE'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

In South Africa, which has the continent's most robust economy and its biggest coronavirus caseload, just 0.8% of the population is fully vaccinated.

In the global race to vaccinate people against COVID-19, Africa is tragically at the back of the pack.

In fact, it has barely gotten out of the starting blocks.

In South Africa, which has the continent's most robust economy and its biggest coronavirus caseload, just 0.8% of the population is fully vaccinated, according to a worldwide tracker kept by Johns Hopkins University. And hundreds of thousands of the country's health workers, many of whom come face-to-face with the virus every day, are still waiting for their shots.

In Nigeria, Africa's biggest country with more than 200 million people, only 0.1% are fully protected. Kenya, with 50 million

people, is even lower. Uganda has recalled doses from rural areas because it doesn't have nearly enough to fight outbreaks in big cities.

Chad didn't administer its first vaccine shots until this past weekend. And there are at least five other countries in Africa where not one dose has been put into an arm, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The World Health Organization says the continent of 1.3 billion people is facing a severe shortage of vaccine at the same time a new wave of infections is rising across Africa. Vaccine shipments into Africa have ground to a "near halt," WHO said last week.

"It is extremely concerning and at times frustrating," said Africa CDC Director Dr. John Nkengasong, a Cameroonian virologist who is trying to ensure some of the world's poorest nations get a fair share of vaccines in a market-

place where they can't possibly compete.

The United States and Britain, in contrast, have fully vaccinated more than 40% of their populations, with higher rates for adults and high-risk people. Countries in Europe are near or past 20% coverage, and their citizens are starting to think about where their vaccine certificates might take them on their summer vacations. The U.S., France and Germany are even offering shots to youngsters, who are at very low risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Poorer countries had warned as far back as last year of this impending vaccine inequality, fearful that rich nations would hoard doses.

In an interview, Nkengasong called on the leaders of wealthy nations meeting this week at the G-7 summit to share spare vaccines — something the United States has already agreed to do — and avert a "moral catastrophe."

Factory workers in Lesotho clash with police over low wages

(GIN) –

A woman has died after being shot during violent clashes between factory workers and police in Lesotho as a strike for a living wage goes into its second week.

Demonstrations spilled over into violence with looting and damage reported to several businesses in the capital Maseru. Trade unions say they have lost control over the angry protests over pay.

Lesotho's 50,000 factory workers are demanding a 20% salary increase for the lowest paid employees, who take home the local equivalent of \$8.20 a month. The employers say they can only pay a 5% increase because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their businesses.

Workers have been fighting running battles with police and army officers, who have been blocking the protests, which they say are "in contravention of Covid-19 regulations."

Workers blocked roads with rocks, logs, broken street lamps and rubbish bins, which the police dispersed with a water cannon.

During these clashes a worker, Motselisi Manase, was fatally shot.

Sam Mokhele, from the National Clothing Textile and Allied Workers Union (NACTWU), told the Guardian on Thursday: "It is unfortunate that we lost one of

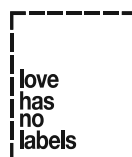
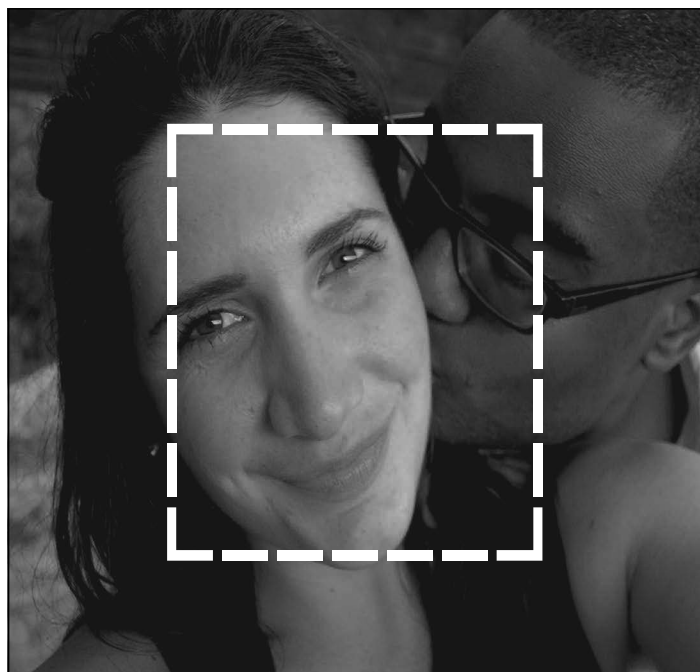
our members, Motselisi Manase, who worked in the packaging department at Nien Hsing textile factory. It is sad that neither the police nor the army, who were both present, are acknowledging the tragic death."

Last month, three workers were hospitalized after police shot at demonstrators with rubber bullets. Chief Justice Sakoane Sakoane criticized the police for "state-sponsored violence" against civilians in violation of constitutional provisions guaranteeing their freedom from cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment.

Meanwhile, prices of goods have increased dramatically since the first Covid-19 lockdown last year. Cooking oil alone has more than doubled in price.

Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro said a new salary would be published on June 16 and encouraged the strikers to return to work. But unions said that workers would "stay at home until they have a concrete promise that they would get salary increases" despite the threat of having their salaries for May docked for the days that they have been out of work.

According to unions, 95% of the workers are women, and low wages exacerbates their vulnerability in a country with a high prevalence of violent crimes against women.



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Culture

Daughters of Biggie Smalls, Jam Master Jay to bring NYC pizza to LA

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Tyra Myricks, the daughter of hip-hop icon Jam Master Jay, has joined forces with the daughter of the late Biggie Smalls to bring New York-style pizza to the West Coast.

Here's more from TMZ:

Tyra has teamed up with T'yan-na Wallace, daughter of The Notorious B.I.G., to launch Juicy Pizza ... named after the latter's smash 1994 hit track.

Myricks says she came up with the idea when she was struggling to find good NY-style 'za in L.A. — a common gripe, especially for transplanted NYers. So, she hit up T'yan-na with her plan, because Biggie best represents that Brooklyn vibe she wants for their pizza joint. Tyra appeared on Thursday's

"TMZ Live," and revealed their secret ingredient — real NY water in their dough. Peep the clip above.

The eatery is also planning to have a members-only cannabis lounge in the back, according to the report.

"The more I thought about how to bring that New York theme to Los Angeles, I felt, who represents New York more than Biggie Smalls?," Myricks told Business Insider.

"It's not an easy game," she said of being an entrepreneur. "Everybody on the internet shows the glorious side, but nobody shows the treacherous side where it's hard to get up in the morning."

Her goal is to turn the pizza joint into a swanky, Hollywood hotspot. Juicy Pizza official opens its doors on June 12.



Black veterans apologize to the Native American community

Philadelphiaobserver.com

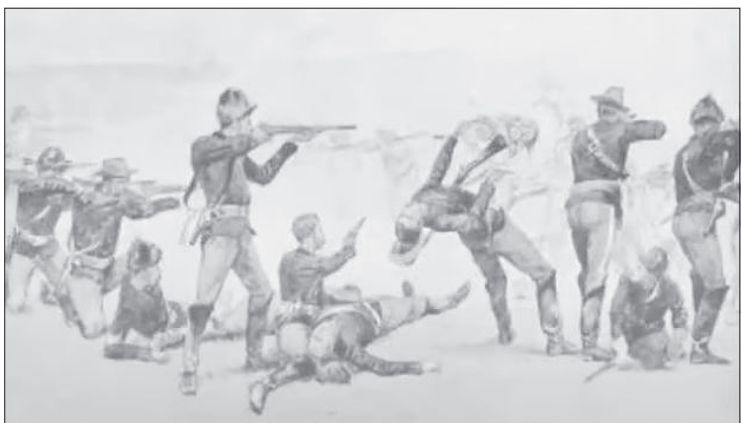
The National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations on behalf of our affiliate groups proclaim our unwavering support of our Native American brethren by supporting the passage of the Remove the Stain Act.

The Act pursues rescinding Medals of Honor awarded to those American soldiers who perpetrated the act of massacring 200 noncombatant young men, women, and children of the Lakota Tribe at Wounded Knee Creek. The Act would serve as a step in recognizing the tragedy of the Era with truth serving as the foundation toward Peace and Justice.

The Blacks interaction with the Native American Communities is

the nine-hundred-pound elephant in the room speaking of History. The Native American community suffered its own holocaust and the Black community contributed to their losses. We also recognize that some of our ancestors fought and lived together in cooperation, and the groups formed an agricultural and military alliance. Native American Tribes gave shelter to runaway enslaved Africans.

The act prompted the Seminole Indian War of 1835. The United States Army invaded the Seminole Tribes in Florida to recapture the slaves they gave refuge. Those captured were returned to the plantation owners. Black enlistment in the Armed Forces were banned through this period in our history.



Black Panther Party museum to open on Juneteenth

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The apartment is owned by visionary Jilchristina Vest and the exhibit will be curated by archivist Lisbet Tellefsen

There is a special exhibit coming to the Bay in honor of the Black Panther Party.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, a Bay Area apartment will be transformed into a temporary "mini museum" to honor and explore the history of the Black Panther Party, also known as the Black Panthers.

The 1,000-square-foot exhibit will display 7-foot banners that highlight the history and community service programs the Black Panther Party developed, among other features. It will open its doors to community members in West Oakland on the significant day of Juneteenth — a day commemorating the ending of slavery in America in 1865

The apartment is owned by visionary Jilchristina Vest and the exhibit will be curated by archivist Lisbet Tellefsen, San Francisco Chronicle reports.

Vest told the outlet she want-



Members of the Black Panther Party on USA, April 19, 1969. (Photo by Jean-Pierre Laffont/Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images)

ed to transform the space after tenants. In the future, she hopes to have the home designated as a landmark and wants to use the space as a potential community center, per San Francisco Chronicle.

"It felt like it needed to be something more than somebody's apartment," she said.

With their black berets and black leather jackets, the Black Panther Party mobilized people all across the country to fight for

change. The Black Panther Party is a "political organization founded in 1966 by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale to challenge police brutality against the African American community," as defined by history.com. Decades later, their legacy continues to impact activists in today's movement towards justice.

This is not the first time Vest is using her home to honor the Black Panther Party. Earlier this year, she brought another vision to fruition through a powerful mural honoring the group.

Vest has long held a dream to honor the women of the Black Panther Party.

That dream came true when she commissioned Oakland, California muralist Rachel Wolfe-Goldsmith to paint a mural on the side of her home dedicated to the unsung women of the Black Panther Party, East Bay Times reports.



Martha White, woman who sparked '53 Louisiana capital bus boycott, dies at 99

Philadelphiaobserver.com

White, then 23, was working as a housekeeper in the capital city of Baton Rouge in 1953 when she took action

Martha White, a Black woman whose actions helped launch the 1953 bus boycotts in Louisiana's capital city, has died. She was 99.

White died Saturday, her family and others confirmed.

White, then 23, was working as a housekeeper in the capital city of Baton Rouge in 1953 when she took action. After a long day of walking to and from work while seeking to reach her bus stop, she decided to sit in one of the only bus seats available — one designated for white passengers.

When the driver ordered her to get up, White refused and another Black woman sat beside her in solidarity. The bus driver threatened to have the women arrested. Ultimately police, the bus company manager and a civil rights activist, the Rev. T.J. Jemison, showed up. Jemison informed the driver of a recently passed ordinance to desegregate buses in the city,

meaning White wasn't violating any rules.

In response to the ordinance, bus drivers began a strike and the ordinance was later overturned. That prompted a boycott by the Black community in Baton Rouge.

Baton Rouge Mayor Sharon Weston Broome issued a statement Monday recognizing White's contribution to the city's civil rights movement.

"Martha White undoubtedly shaped our community in Baton Rouge, and communities across our nation," Broome said. "We honor her legacy today and every day."

That boycott later helped provide the framework for the famous effort sparked by Rosa Parks that led to a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955.

Ted Jemison, the son of the Rev. T.J. Jemison, remembered White as being outspoken and unafraid to share her opinion. He told The Advocate of a conversation he had with her years ago about that day. He recalled her telling him she just wanted to sit in that bus seat because she was tired from being on her feet constantly that day.



Martha White is seen in this 2005 photo at a Women of Courage luncheon in Baton Rouge, La. (Carol Anne Blitzer/The Advocate via AP)

"Can you imagine working on your feet all day and just wanting to sit down?" Jemison recalled White as saying. "She was the same way from when she was young to when she was 90 years old. She knew that what she did was for the good of everyone in Baton Rouge."

Introducing

Will Roundtree, a phenomenal finance expert

Posted By Don Thomas

Business financial consultant and entrepreneur Will Roundtree helps many across the country understand the power of credit as well as how to maintain good credit. Roundtree has visited community centers, barbershops and schools where many have benefited from him sharing his knowledge about the value of entrepreneurship as well as how money can work for folks.

He's authored two best-selling books about credit and finance, "Credit Is King (Transforming Your Credit to Royalty)" and "The Full-Time CEO: The S—t They Don't Tell You." Roundtree has created a unique marketing strategy directed to the Black and brown communities, where he brings his knowledge to the street by way of Barbershop's Beauty salons, as well as Bars. "Cocktails and Credit" is the title of his upcoming Summer 2021 Tours.

Roundtree will visit select cities to deliver his message regarding leveraging credit, money and finance. "The tours are about meeting people where they are. Where people can attend, listen and network. That's when I discuss credit, restructuring your field and building generational wealth," says Roundtree.

He will be touring through Atlanta, Milwaukee (his hometown), Houston and Chicago. He'll be in each city for at least two days – the first for the Cocktails and Credit meetings, then for private mastermind events the following day.

Prior to the start of the "Cocktails and Credit" tour, Roundtree is launching two podcast series, each on a different platform – Harlem



Will Roundtree

America and Sister 2 Sister 2.0. When asked what he hopes his living legacy will be after helping

others understand credit, money and finance, Will replied, "I don't care what they say about me be-

cause I'm solely focused on what they learn. I am concerned about the takeaway. What were they able

to get from their time with me? That's what matters to me. That is really the impact I want to leave."

Gospel group drops acapella "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Posted By Don Thomas

Billboard charting Pop-Gospel group, Brandon Camphor and One Way, have recorded an acapella rendition of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," in celebration of Black Music Month. "It's not only an anthem," says Camphor. "It's also a prayer of thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness and our freedom. That's what inspired us to record it."

Three of the Washington, D.C.-based foursome of Julia McMillan, Fred Cleveland, Angela Marie Jones, and group leader, Brandon Camphor, have been singing the song since their days as students at the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts.

"Angela and I were in the school choir together, Fred was in the

theater department. We sang that at almost every school concert. The audio and a music video of the 2-minute rendition has been released to Apple Music, iTunes, and YouTube. The audio will also be released to all other major digital service providers globally.

"After the great response to our acapella 'Happy Birthday, Jesus' Christmas song last year, we realized that people really liked hearing us deliver acapella music. It's also a way to showcase the group's vocal ability, harmony, and style," said Camphor.

The song was composed by James Weldon Johnson as a poem in 1900. His brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, set it to music in 1905 in recognition of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. In 1919, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) pro-

claimed it the Negro national anthem.

Over the years, the song has resonated with new generations. It's referenced in Maya Angelou's 1969 autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Motown legend Kim Weston opened the *WattStax* concert film with her take on it.

Branford Marsalis' rendition was featured in Spike Lee's 1989 film, *Do the Right Thing*. Melba Moore commandeered an all-star version in 1990 with a host of R&B stars. Beyoncé performed it at Coachella in 2018.

Over the last decade, the group has earned four Billboard Top 30 chart hits with the songs, "God of Mercy," "His Name," "You Are God," and "I Choose You," which peaked at No. 21 on the Gospel Airplay chart in 2015.



Brandon Camphor and One Way

Honoring Fathers Third Sunday in June

By Hazel Rosetta Smith

Whatever your gender may be, we are all in the same category when it comes to the first man in our human existence. From the father came the seed that became the root that became the tree and like it or not, we are the fruit that carries the remnants of that first seed throughout our life journey.

I suggest no comparison, nor competition between parents when we take a chosen day to celebrate parenthood. We can certainly agree both parents are important and valuable in the partnership of nurturing children. Just as we celebrated Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May, we shall give kudos to Fathers on their day, Sunday, June 20, 2021.

The first event in honor of fathers was a one-time commemoration event held on July 5, 1908, at Williams Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church in Fairmont, West Virginia. The Sunday sermon was preached in memory of 362 men who had perished at the Fairmont Coal Company's worst mining accident in U.S. history. Grace Golden Clayton, a minister's daughter proposed the service to honor all fathers, especially those who had died.

In Spokane, Washington, the following year, Sonora Smart Dodd began her idea to honor male parents that would be equivalent to Mother's Day. With a purpose to pay homage to her father, William Jackson Smart, who had raised his six children as a single parent, Sonora courted local churches and merchants and cornered government officials and was successful in the endeavor.

Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910. Ministers throughout the city devoted their sermon to the subject of fatherhood. Sonora delivered presents to handicapped fathers, boys of all ages were encouraged to celebrate their father wearing fresh-cut roses in their lapels (red for living fathers, white for deceased). Sonora spent



Dennis and son Dennis Jr.



Gerald and son Jaden



Charles and daughter Zenobia

the next 60 years pushing for the official recognition of Father's Day as a national holiday.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson personally observed the day, giving it political clout;

eight years later, President Calvin Coolidge signed a resolution in favor of Father's Day; 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order that the holiday be celebrated on the third

Sunday in June. In 1972, under President Richard Nixon, Congress passed an act officially making Father's Day a national holiday.

As a proud and humbly admitted daddy's girl, I speak to those who have unmeasurable memories of the unselfish goodness of the heart of their father, who was dad, daddy or simply pop. My papa was there with me and for me from my beginning to his ending. With love and respect, pride, and profound gratefulness, I hold my father in high esteem.

His thoughtfulness, humor and encouraging words are the foundation of who I am today. Let us be mindful and thankful for fathers, ours, and others wherever they may be. Make it a happy day.

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



Frank and daughter Melvina

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Sports



**Andrew
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2 other series 2 game fives

By Andrew Rosario

The Phoenix Suns, led by veteran All Star guard and first ballot Hall of Famer Chris Paul, will be home for a while after sweeping the Denver Nuggets and NBA MVP Nikola Jokic 4-0. In the clinching game, Jokic was ejected after being hit with a flagrant 2 foul as he raked Suns Cameron Payne's face attempting take the ball away. "I didn't want to injure him or hit him in the head on purpose," he would say after. Paul went on to score 37 points with Devon Booker adding 34 in the 125-118 series clinching win. The Suns will be making their first appearance in the Western Conference finals for the first time in 11 years.

They will face the winner of the Los Angeles Clippers and the Utah Jazz as the Clippers tied the series at 2 after winning Monday at the Staples Center. The Clippers lost the first 2 games in the opening round against Dallas before winning the series in 7. Utah held serve winning their first two games at home and watched as the Clippers did the same on their home floor. In the Monday night win, Kawhi Leonard sparked the team with a resounding dunk over Derrick Favors bringing the crowd to its feet in the 118-104 win. Leonard finished with 31 points matched by teammate Paul George. Said George of Leonard's play, "you see him being more aggressive and you know what time it is. It's written all over him in terms of its go time. It's playoff basketball. And, ultimately, it's winning time." Game 5 moved back to Utah last night before going back to Los Angeles for game 6 Friday night. It will be a closeout game for either team.

Back in the East, the Atlanta Hawks got a wake-up call in their second round series against the #1 seed Philadelphia 76ers. They were feeling themselves after snatching game 1 in Philadelphia. The Hawks were brought back down to earth losing game 2. They followed that up by losing game 3 on their home floor. The Hawks season was on the



*Paul Leads Suns In Sweep Of Denver
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia
Observer*

brink when they hosted game 4 this past Monday night. The way the game started, it looked like the Sixers would take a commanding series lead. Philadelphia had an 18-point third quarter lead. Like the Leonard slam, Hawks John Collins woke up his team and sent the crowd in a frenzy. Off a Danilo Gallinari miss, Collins rocks the rim with a one-hand jam reducing the lead to 8 (71-63). It also woke up Trae Young who finished his night with 25 points only 8-26 but made up by handing out 18 assists. Teammates Bogdan Bogdanovic (22 points) and John Collins (14 points) picked up the slack as Atlanta stunned Philly in the 103-100 come from behind win. Said Young after, "any win can change momentum. Any win can spark your team's energy. Hopefully, this will give us a little more momentum." 76ers center Joel Embid, (21 rebounds) playing on a knee that has been less than 100%, struggled in the second half missing all of his 12 shots. Said Philly's head coach Doc Rivers of the second half struggles, "we missed so many opportunities. My eyes told me that we blew a golden opportunity tonight."

The series moved back to the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia Wednesday night with the winner looking to close out the series Friday night in Atlanta.



*Leonard Slam Wakes Up Clippers
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer*

Nets without Irving Harden upgraded for game 5

By Shara Talia Taylor

The Brooklyn Nets lost their lead in the NBA Eastern Conference Semifinals, as the Milwaukee Bucks won games 3 and 4 at the Fiserv Forum.

Kyrie Irving suffered an ankle sprain in game 4 as the Bucks won 107-96. The Nets lost game 3, 83-86 as they missed several opportunities to regain the lead in the final moments of the game. The team felt they will need to improve offensively and communicate better moving forward. "It's interesting that we lose a game because of our offense, but it was a tough game," said first year head coach Steve Nash following Game 3. "The defense was solid though, but we have to clean it up. Both ends of the floor, but particularly offense."

Nash said they couldn't find their rhythm. The Nets played Game 3 without James Harden who sat out once again with a right hamstring injury, which he sustained in game 1. Kyrie Irving, Bruce Brown, Kevin Durant, Joe Harris and Blake Griffin was in the starting line-up.

The Nets just made 20% of their shots from the field in the first quarter compared to the Bucks 57.1%. The Nets, who relied on their 3-point shooting in games 1 and 2, made only 11.1% percent of their 3-point shots in the first quarter. Meanwhile, the Bucks made 37.5% of their shots. The Bucks 3-point game was not a factor in the first two games of the series. Playing in the comfort of their home crowd helped their confidence. "It goes without saying — you've got to come home, you gotta win, keeping your mind in a good place, be ready to compete and play," said Bucks head coach Mike Budenholzer.

The Bucks took the lead early as the Nets struggled early. Milwaukee jumped out to a 9-0 when Brooklyn took a time-out, about 4 minutes into the game. The Bucks were ahead 30-11 by the end of quarter. The Nets made a comeback and cut the Bucks' lead to three points almost half way through the second quarter. The Bucks led 52-45 at halftime.

Both teams played aggressively looking to come away with the win. Griffin was in foul trouble early with two in the first half. Both Durant and PJ Tucker received technical fouls when they had a face-to-face verbal altercation after a foul was called on Tucker with about 4:21 minutes remaining in the third quarter. The Nets gained a 65-64 lead, but the Bucks stepped up defense and blocked the Nets shots, and ended the quarter ahead 67-65.

A jump shot by Durant tied the score at 80 with less than 2:00 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. KD stepped up again and made a 3-pointer. A goal tending call on the Nets gave the Bucks a two-point lead. Bruce Brown



*Bad Sprain for Kyrie
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer*

and Durant missed shots in the final moments of the game. "We all know that we want Kevin and KY to shoot the ball, but if they don't get free, they got to make the right play," Nash said. "It was a great touch for us tonight and I think it's a lot for us to learn from."

Durant led the Nets with 30 points. Khris Middleton led the Bucks with 35 points and 15 rebounds, while Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 14 rebounds, totaling 68 points. They became the first team duo to reach 30 points and 10 rebounds in a playoff game since Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant in 2017.

Both teams were ready in

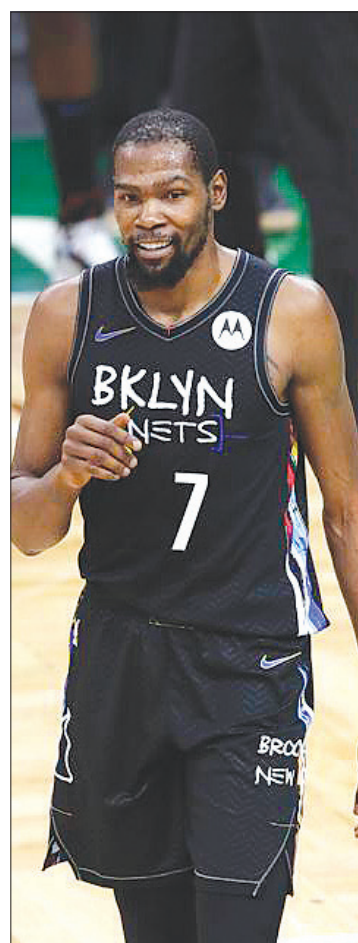
Game 4. Brooklyn led 26-23 at the end of the first quarter. The intensity picked up. The Bucks came back and led 44-38 with about 6:24 remaining in the second quarter. Irving took a pass from Durant and attempted to make a short jumper. On the way down, his right ankle caught the edge of Antetokounmpo's foot severely rolling the ankle. Writhing in pain, Irving spent minutes on the floor before limping to the locker-room. He would not return. The Bucks ended the first half ahead 53-48. The Bucks kept the lead the majority of the third quarter and went into the fourth quarter ahead 81-69 "It's never going to be easy," said Nash after Game 4 about the injuries. "It's the playoffs and we're going to face adversity. We got to allow the adversity to make us stronger instead of hanging our heads."

Durant led the Nets with 28 points and five assists. Jeff Green returned to the Nets lineup after an injury in the first round of the playoffs. He had eight total points and one assist. "I hate to see anybody go down," said Green about Irving's injury after Harden was injured. "We have to find a way to get momentum somewhere, to get out there on the floor, communicate, play together, whoever is in. Whatever five is in."

The Brooklyn Nets returned to Barclays Center for game 5 Tuesday night possibly without 2 of the "Big 3". The team announced Monday evening that Irving (ankle) would miss the game. Tuesday afternoon, the Nets announced that Harden's status was upgraded to doubtful. The status change allowed Harden to participate in the pre-game shoot around.

The outcome of Tuesday night's game could see the series over for either team as the series returned to Milwaukee Thursday night. Or, there will be a deciding game 7 back at Barclays Center Saturday night.

Sports Editor Andrew Rosario contributed to this article.



*Durant Needs Help
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia
Observer*