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# ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS FAST FOR SOME SLOW FOR OTHERS

**Solid proposals to close the unemployment rate gap and increase the pace of recovery among African Americans is imperative.**



Getty Images

**The Biden-Harris focus on caregiving jobs and the human infrastructure in needed, pg3**



## DOJ: FBI delayed, made 'fundamental errors' in investigation of abuser of Simone Biles, others

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General's recently released report has determined that the FBI mishandled the investigation into former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar's sexual assault case. Nassar was accused and convicted of sexually abusing over 150 underage athletes, including Simone Biles.

The disgraced doctor was previously employed as an osteopathic physician and associate professor at Michigan State University's Department of Family and Community Medicine, where he treated patients from 1996 through 2016. For most of that time, he also was employed as the USA Gymnastics national medical coordinator and a treating physician for gymnasts.

Nassar was reported to the FBI's Indianapolis field office in July 2015 after multiple gymnasts came forward to accuse him of sexual misconduct, leading USA Gymnastics President and CEO Stephen D. Penny Jr. to forward the allegations to the FBI. The OIG felt it necessary to retrace the FBI's steps following complaints that employees in the Indianapolis field office mishandled the Nassar investigation, which did not begin until September 2016 in the wake of a report by the Indianapolis Star on the abuse scandal. Dozens more young women and girls were abused by Nassar over that time frame, the OIG report says.

According to the report, the OIG uncovered several instances of mismanagement, including senior offi-



Simone Biles looks on during warm ups prior to the Women's competition of the 2021 U.S. Gymnastics Olympic Trials at America's Center on June 27, 2021 in St Louis, Missouri. (Photo by Jamie Squire/Getty Images)

cials in the office failing to respond to accusations against Nassar "with the utmost seriousness and urgency that the allegations deserved and required" and "made numerous and fundamental errors when they did respond to them" including failing to "notify state or local authorities of the allegations or take other steps to mitigate the ongoing threat posed by Nassar."

"This is a devastating indictment of the FBI and the Department of Justice that multiple federal agents covered up Nassar's abuse and child molestation," John Manly, a lawyer for many of Nassar's victims, told The New York Times. "They've failed these women. They've failed these families. No one seems to give a damn about these little girl

## Twitter has failed to address its use by hate-mongers, was major tool in Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection

Southern Poverty Law Center (TriceEdneyWire.com) –

Six months after the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, Twitter continues to be a major tool for far-right extremists, facilitating and boosting their efforts, and – if left unchecked – will likely enable politically motivated violence again, according to a report released this week by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project.

The report, titled, "We Make Mistakes: Twitter's Embrace of the Extreme Far Right," documents the company's failure to address the use of its social media platform to spread disinformation and highlights its complicity in the far-right movement by amplifying those voices. "Perhaps above any other platform, Twitter enabled the Jan. 6 insurrectionists to organize their attack on the U.S. Capitol," said the report's author, Michael Edison Hayden, a senior investigative reporter for the SPLC's Intelligence Project. "This multibillion-dollar company has clearly made the calculation that enabling and even promoting fascists like Nick Fuentes is good for their bottom line. There is little doubt that we will see similar violence again if

they do not correct course immediately or are not forced to do so." The analysis also contains several other revelations, including that:

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and his team know that far-right extremists are plotting on the platform because they verified the extremists and watched them do it. Dorsey even actively "followed" election disinformation spreaders such as Mike Cernovich, Ali Alexander and Tim Pool prior to the November 2020 vote.

The SPLC warned Twitter about verified "Stop the Steal" extremists, including Jack Posobiec and Nick Fuentes, in the runup to Jan. 6. However, Twitter not only ignored those warnings, but also has promoted tweets by Posobiec. Meanwhile, Fuentes brags openly that Twitter helps him retain his audience.

Extremists exploit Twitter's algorithm to create chaos by rigging trending topics. The company's tools also "recommend" white nationalists and other extremists.

Twitter moderators "are powerless," according to a source with inside information about the process. The company's top brass is ideologically driven, the source said. This explains why Twitter has enabled so many frauds and extremists to have verified accounts and big followings.



Groups preparing to enter the U. S. Capitol Jan. 6, carried the Confederate Flag, among the best-known symbols of hate. PHOTO: Hamil Harris/Trice Edney News Wire

"Twitter's willingness to amplify extreme far-right voices has been a significant part of the company's history," the report states. "Now, those voices are one of the defining characteristics of the platform." Read the full report here.

## Police chief resigns after 'KKK' note placed in Black officer's jacket

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

Sheffield Lake Police Chief Anthony Campo, who was captured on surveillance video placing a Ku Klux Klan note in the jacket of a Black officer, has retired.

Campo reportedly decided to retire after more than 30 years on the police force in the Ohio town of just over 9,000 people and just over 21 miles from Cleveland.

"We had a very emotional sit down because it took us 10 minutes to talk to each other because we were both crying," Mayor Dennis Bring told a local television news crew.

Bring, who had immediately placed Campo on administrative leave, said at first, he did not know why the chief decided to put the note in the officer's jacket.

"I don't know why he did it. I really do not. There are no words to describe this," the mayor asserted. He said the chief maintains it was a joke that got out of hand, one



for which Campo still refuses to apologize.

"I took it very seriously, and I've asked for his badge and keys," Bring said, adding that he asked for Campo's resignation and advised him to retire.

The video, which has been replayed over various news and social media outlets, shows Campo tampering with a raincoat on a desk that appears to be that of a Black officer.

He then places a white piece of paper on the jacket, with the words "Ku Klux Klan" covering a police label on the back.

The African American officer has not been publicly identified. Neither the officer nor Campo has issued any statements.

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A young Utah woman's heated yet unthreatening response to an officer's treatment of her and a friend landed her in jail.

Nineteen-year-old Lauren Gibson and her friends were driving back to California from a camping trip in Panguitch, Utah, when the

group was pulled over and ticketed for speeding before they made it out of the small town. After witnessing the allegedly aggressive behavior of the officer, Gibson was left feeling upset enough to want to "stand up" for her friend and try to "make her feel better." However, in doing so, she ended up on the wrong side of the law.

In response to the officer's

treatment, Gibson pulled out an old "Back the Blue" sign that she'd picked up earlier in the day and waved it at the officer before stomping on it and throwing it in the trash, a gesture that the Garfield County Sheriff's deputy perceived as "intimidating."

Shortly thereafter, Gibson was arrested and charged with "disorderly conduct and criminal mischief with a hate-crime enhancement for her attempt to 'intimidate law enforcement,' according to a probable cause affidavit obtained by The Daily Beast.

The affidavit goes into more detail of the officer's account of what occurred, reporting that "Gibson stomped on the 'Back the Blue' sign, crumbled it up in a destructive manner" and threw it into a trash can—"all while smirking in an intimidating manner."

Gibson feels that she was simply expressing her freedom of speech and her actions didn't warrant such a serious response, noting that had she done the same thing to anyone of a different profession, the outcome would have been much different. "I don't feel like I did anything wrong," she said. "If it was a dentist's sign or something and I just crushed a dentist sign or something in front of them, like, nothing would have happened. It's the same thing. it's just an occupation."

## Young woman faces prison, hate crime charge for defacing 'back the blue' sign



Blue Lives Matter supporters hold flags as Black Lives Matter rally against them on October 7, 2020. (Staff Photo By Matt Stone/MediaNews Group/Boston Herald)



# The road to economic recovery has potholes—pace faster for whites than for Blacks

By Julianne Malveaux

## NEWS ANALYSIS

There is lots of great news in the June Employment Situation report (<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>). Eight hundred and fifty thousand jobs were created!

And while the unemployment rate remained essentially unchanged at 5.9 percent, the labor market is showing signs of life. The Biden-Harris administration doesn't mind crowing about it, either, noting that the three million jobs that have been created since they took office in late January is the best running start that any administration has experienced in modern history.

The legislation that has pumped money into the economy and quickened the pace of COVID vaccinations is working, even though the vaccination pace has slowed and the administration has missed its July 4 goal of two million vaccinations.

A careful look at the data, though, shows that a rising tide doesn't lift all boats. And in the boat called this economy, some folks are riding and some are rowing. Some are enjoying the benefits of economic recovery, while others are waiting for the benefits to trickle down. The pace of recovery, not unsurprisingly, has been more rapid for Whites than for African Americans. The unemployment rate for Whites dropped from 10.1 percent a year ago to 5.2 percent last month, a reduction by almost half. In contrast, the Black unemployment rate was 15.3 percent in June of 2020, and it dropped to 9.2 percent last month—a less steep drop than the white rate. White women's unemployment rate more than

halved from 10.7 percent to 5 percent, while Black women's rate dropped from 14.1 percent to 8.5 percent, a reduction of 65 percent, which is much lower than the 114 percent reduction white women experienced.

The uneven rate of recovery is a pothole that the Biden-Harris team must acknowledge. It isn't enough to talk about equity. Solid proposals to both close the unemployment rate gap and to increase the pace of recovery among African Americans is imperative. We haven't fully studied the ways COVID affected Black people, but the fact that fully half of all African Americans were not working in June 2020 is illustrative (45 percent of whites were not working).

How does one recover from long-term unemployment. To its credit, Congress put money in people's pockets last year, and the Biden-Harris administration has followed up with significant legislation to assist those economically affected by the pandemic. Some of the protections are expiring, though, including the protection against eviction. People are simply camping out on the street because housing has become unaffordable and they have nowhere to go. This problem will get worse before it gets better.

Meanwhile parsimonious members of Congress raise the possibility of inflation as a reason to offer less relief to those who are in economic distress. It is delightfully true that wages are rising, up by more than 3 percent last month. But the myth of labor shortages is exactly that, a myth. The reality is that the pandemic forced people to reevaluate their work and family choices, with many women choosing to stay home instead of returning to work because of limited child care options. Others are



rethinking work, especially when their old jobs required 60 or 80 hour workweeks. The Biden-Harris focus on caregiving jobs and the human infrastructure is most welcome now.

Inflation is certainly real, especially in some sectors. That's partly because of pandemic uncertainty and poor forecasting. Who knew that the Biden-Harris team could get shots in arms so quickly that the nation is opening back up? Who knew, American Airlines, that passengers were so eager to get out of their homes and into the unfriendly skies that they'd fill seats on planes to the brim? I think inflation will shake out in a few months as people, in some cases motivated by incentives, return to work.

The Biden-Harris team has much to celebrate. Unfortunately, the uneven pace of recovery means that Black America has less to rejoice about. President Biden says he has Black America's back. Now is the time to prove that by closing gaps, and increasing the pace of recovery for those who elected him.

*Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at California State University at Los Angeles. [Juliannemalveaux.com](http://Juliannemalveaux.com)*

# President Biden demands freedom for Cuban citizens

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

President Joe Biden, on Monday, July 12, issued a clarion call for freedom in Cuba.

"We stand with the Cuban people and their clarion call for freedom and relief from the tragic grip of the pandemic and from the decades of repression and economic suffering to which they have been subjected by Cuba's authoritarian regime," President Biden asserted in a statement issued by the White House.

"The Cuban people are bravely asserting fundamental and universal rights. Those rights, including the right to peaceful protest and the right to freely determine their own future, must be respected. "The United States calls on the

Cuban regime to hear their people and serve their needs at this vital moment rather than enriching themselves," President Biden concluded.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel blamed American trade sanctions for creating "economic misery" in Cuba.

"The order to combat has been given. Revolutionaries need to be on the streets," the island nation's president declared.

The tens of thousands of residents in Cuba protested the lack of food, medicine, and supplies in the country, much of it attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic and sanctions placed on the nation by the United States.

The protestors chanted "freedom," and Reuters News Service reported that most called on President Díaz-Canel to step down.



# Texas democrats are getting into 'Good trouble'

## News Analysis

By Ben Jealous

One year after the death of the great civil rights icon John Lewis, a group of Texas Democratic lawmakers is following Lewis's lifelong call for people to make "good trouble" and "necessary trouble" to secure equality and justice for all. Congressional Democrats should bring the same level of commitment to resisting and overturning a new wave of voting restrictions that voting rights activist Stacey Abrams has labeled "Jim Crow 2.0."

Here's why dozens of Texas lawmakers were in Washington, D.C. last week:

Texas is the latest Republican-run state where legislators and the governor are trying to impose new voting restrictions—banning drive-through and 24-hour early voting, restricting distribution of absentee ballots, imposing new voter ID provisions—that they hope will make it harder for Democrats to win future elections. Their voter suppression laws are aimed at Black and brown voters and others more likely to support Democratic candidates.

Republican officials are also trying to make former President Donald Trump happy by giving credibility to his false claims that the 2020 election was stolen from him. They're using his lies about "election fraud" and "election integrity" to justify new restrictive voting rules.

In Texas, Republicans control the state House and Senate. And hard-right Gov. Gregg Abbott is eager to do Trump's bidding. Back in May, Texas Republicans tried to push their election bill through the House just before the close of the legislative session. Because the Texas House is required to have two-thirds of its members present to conduct official business, Democratic legislators stopped the bill from passing by walking out of the chamber.

But Gov. Abbott is so set on getting his new voting law that he ordered legislators to come back into session this month to push it through. To prevent the state's Republicans from forcing new voting restrictions into law, more than 50 Democratic legislators left the state.

Gov. Abbott and Republi-



can Senate leaders have threatened lawmakers with arrest to try to force them to attend the session. And he has said he will keep calling special sessions until he gets his way. That's why the Texas legislators came to Washington, D.C. They brought an urgent message to members of Congress: the only way to protect voters from voter suppression at the state level is to pass national voting rights legislation.

The House of Representatives has previously passed the For the

People Act, which would reverse many new voting restrictions and includes a number of priorities specifically outlined by John Lewis during his lifetime, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would help prevent future voter suppression efforts from taking effect. Both are essential to protect democracy and voting rights. But right now Senate Republicans are using the filibuster to block the For the People Act, and they could do the same to the VRA. President Joe Biden has just

made a strong speech in defense of voting rights. He denounced new voter suppression efforts. And he called for the Senate to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

I am grateful that President Biden has called attention to the urgent need for congressional action. Now we need him to use his leadership to get voting rights legislation through the Senate. And if Republicans continue to block it using a filibuster, he must work with Senate leaders to break through that obstruction.

John Lewis nearly died in the struggle to pass the national Voting Rights Act. He dedicated his career in Congress to defending it. I am steeling myself for the disgust I will feel when Republican officials praise him on the anniversary of his death at the same time they are undermining the cause to which he devoted his life.

Texas Democrats are honoring John Lewis by making good and necessary trouble. It is time for Democrats in Washington, and any Republicans committed more to country than party, to do the same.



## Louisville woman dies in jail custody, family says she complained they were 'going to kill me in here'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A 23-year-old Louisville woman died in police custody shortly after being transported to the hospital, according to the Indiana State Police.

Ta'neasha Chappell, originally from Kentucky, was taken by ambulance from Jackson County Jail, in Brownstone, Ind., to Schneck Memorial Hospital in Seymour Friday, ISP said in a press release Sunday.

She died that day.

Officials have not released a cause of death or disclosed why Chappell was initially hospitalized.

An autopsy and toxicology report is pending.

Chappell was arrested on May 26 after allegedly stealing more



than \$3,000 worth of merchandise from an outlet mall Ralph Lauren, then leading police on a car chase.



## White man accused of beating Black child with belt in Georgia

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A mother in Georgia said her 15-year-old son was attacked and beaten with a belt by a white man and the incident was caught on camera, 11 Alive reports.

Latika Sim of Carroll County says her son Malyik was attacked by an adult male who's been identified as 29-year-old Matthew Martel by the Villa Rica Police Department.

Home surveillance footage shows Martel running over to the children who were playing in the driveway. He then grabs Malyik by his neck and shoves him, before going off-camera.

"I was just panicked," Latika said. "I was just, like, in 2021 I could not believe that a fully grown man would think that it was okay to come outside with a belt. When you see the video, he's running full speed at my son and my son is caught off guard."

Latika said that the neighbor came outside while her son was

playing basketball with his cousins.

"When you see the video, he is running full speed at him and he's caught off guard," she said.

As expected, Malyik was completely stunned by the altercation.

"And he grabbed me with his hands around my neck. He threw me up against a garage and I hit my head," Malyik said.

During the incident, Malyik recalled that he didn't fight back because he didn't want to get in trouble.

Latika said that Malyik is more than able to take care of himself but tried to diffuse the situation by leaving the scene. As he attempted to walk away, Martel kept pursuing him.

"My son has played football, he has played every sport, he is fully capable of defending himself. But he knew he could not defend himself. So he walked away. He walked away and still this man is chasing him with a belt. So now I am in a full panic because my kids are unprotected," Lakita said.

## Convict who accidentally voted in Texas, violated his parole was arrested for 'voter fraud'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

In Texas, a Black man exercised his right to vote in the presidential primary on March 4, 2020, and waited six hours to cast his vote. But to his dismay, he was arrested by undercover police officers because it was apparently illegal for him to vote.

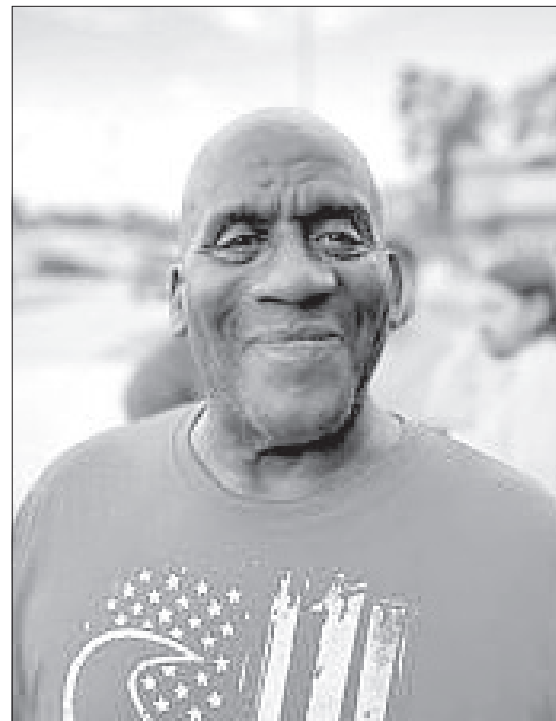
Hervis Rogers, 62, did not know his appearance on CNN would land him back in jail, but he was charged with voter fraud after voting in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary while on parole, [MSNBC reported](#).

Considering that he waited six hours to cast his ballot, news anchor Joy Reid speculated he would not have admitted on TV to voting if he knew it was illegal.

Rogers' appearance on CNN was initially a news piece on voter suppression, a strategy used to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting.

In his experience, he felt like the unnecessary long process was designed for people like him to walk away.

"I wanted to get my vote in to voice my opinion and I wasn't going let nothing stop me, so I waited it out," Rogers told CNN at the time. "It's like, the way it was going like it was set up for me to walk away."



## Cop seen punching woman in the throat at New York Walmart

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A police officer was placed on administrative leave after a video captured him punching a woman in the throat during an arrest at a New York Walmart, WSYR reported.

The scuffle occurred on July 4 when officers were dispatched to the store in East Syracuse after two women were fighting and using pepper spray.

"While in route officers were advised that the employees were being threatened, struck in the face, and the customers had also been pepper-sprayed by the same two suspects," Public Information Officer Lt. Jerry Pace said, according to CBS Albany.

"Conclusions about whether the actions of the officers are consistent

with department policies and the law will not be made until all the facts are known and the investigation is complete," Pace said in a Facebook video recounting the incident.

The footage shows DeWitt police officers Rory Spain and Corey Buyck attempting to apprehend two women, 26-year-old Tyreana Edmonds and her sister, 22-year-old Tajenik Byrd, who said that she was pregnant. Buyck is seen cuffing Byrd and swinging her to the ground, while Spain and Edmonds engage in a physical altercation, ending with him striking Edmonds in the throat after she was accused of trying to bite him.

Edmonds was charged with second-degree attempted assault of a police officer, resisting arrest, fourth-degree criminal assault,

disorderly conduct, second-degree harassment and obstruction of governmental administration. Byrd was charged with third-degree assault, endangering the welfare of a child, resisting arrest, possession of a noxious material and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

Following the incident, members of Rebirth SYR, an organization that advocates for change in police interactions with Black and brown people, gathered outside the DeWitt Police Department.

"Say if that cop was off duty and he did that, he would be going to jail. So we're saying that police are above the law and that's not fair," Rebirth SYR co-founder Hasahn Bloodworth said, according to Spectrum News. "Police are not above the law."





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# Editorial - Opinion



By Marc H. Morial

*"The 21st century Jim Crow assault is real. It's unrelenting, and we're going to challenge it vigorously. While this broad assault against voting rights is not unprecedented, it's taking on a new and, literally, pernicious forms. It's no longer just about who gets to vote or making*

## Civil rights leaders urge White House to put the "full moral prestige and power of the presidency" behind voting rights

*it easier for eligible voters to vote. It's about who gets to count the vote — who gets to count whether or not your vote counted at all. It's about moving from independent election administrators who work for the people to polarized state legislatures and partisan actors who work for political parties. To me, this is simple: This is election subversion. It's the most dangerous threat to voting and the integrity of free and fair elections in our history."* – President Joe Biden

Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with President Biden and Vice President Harris to discuss the appalling attack on democracy that is ongoing in state legislatures across the country, as well as other issues of racial justice.

A few days later, President Biden delivered one of the most impassioned speeches of his presidency, echoing many of the themes we discussed in our meeting. He alluded to our meet-

ing, reminding Americans of our commitment to "stay vigilant and challenge these odious laws in the courts." I was proud that we pushed the President to address the issue, and we intend to continue pushing.

The National Urban League helped lead the meeting between the White House and a group of leaders from eight legacy Black civil rights organizations. Joining me were Melanie Campbell, President and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation; Dr. Johnnetta Cole, National Chair and President of the National Council of Negro Women; Wade Henderson, Interim President of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Damon Hewitt, President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Derrick Johnson, President and

CEO of the NAACP; and Reverend Al Sharpton, President of the National Action Network.

I was grateful for the opportunity to impress upon the President and Vice President the urgency of confronting the wave of anti-voter legislation that is surging through state legislatures. When we look at what is happening in this nation, we see an effort to impose a system of American apartheid on our grand and glorious multicultural nation. State laws are used to suppress the vote, the filibuster process is used to obstruct Congressional oversight, the courts are used to undercut the Voting Rights Act, all to subvert the democratic process and overturn the will of the people.

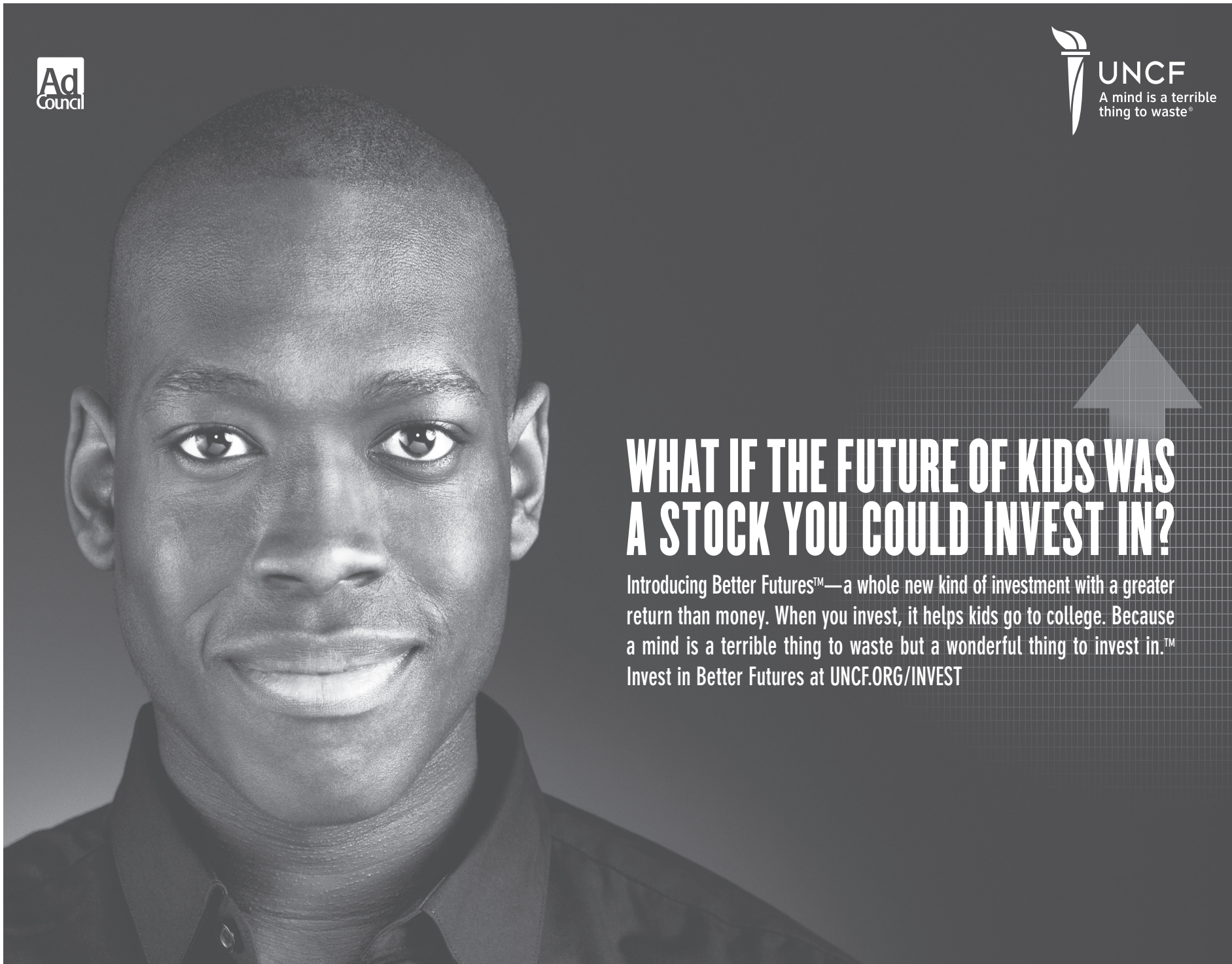
We urged President Biden to put the full moral prestige and the power of the presidency behind voting rights, to help frame the debate for the American people. As a candidate, he talked about the

soul of the nation. No issue cuts to the soul of the nation more than voting rights.

I was glad to hear President Biden and Vice President Harris reconfirm their determination to push for passage of the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act – two vital bills that would protect voting rights and the integrity of the elections process.

We also discussed the frustrating delay in securing passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which is currently being negotiated in the Senate. Days after the meeting, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, who is leading the negotiations for Senate Republicans, said he hopes a police reform package is approved by the end of this month.

We look forward to continuing the discussion and holding the President and Vice President to their commitments.



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# On the scene

## RCA Inspiration celebrates four wins and powerful performances at Stellar Awards



By Audrey J. Bernard

The 36th Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards was filmed live on July 10, 2021 in Nashville, TN at Schermerhorn Symphony Center and the show will be airing on Sunday, August 1 on BET at 8 pm (ET). The renowned gos-

pel show was hosted by gospel legend Tye Tribbett and multiple Stellar Award winner Jekalyn Carr and will feature inspirational performances from gospel's greatest and most celebrated artists including Hezekiah Walker, Mali Music, Jonathan McReynolds, and many more.

This year's acclaimed *Stellar Awards* was a glorious evening for RCA Inspiration which won four big wins for hit releases from Kierra Sheard-Kelly and Donnie McClurkin and featured a night of powerful performances from Hezekiah Walker, Kirk Franklin (Fo Yo Soul/RCA), Mali Music, and DOE. Franklin was also a presenter. Mali Music joined Jonathan McReynolds in performing their hit duet "Movin' On" (RCA Inspiration/eOne). Mali also joined DOE in hosting the Stellar Awards Chairman's Nominee Reception and Pre-Show Awards on July 9.

Sheard-Kelly gave two powerful performances, as well as garnered multiple honors for her hit album *KIERRA* (Karew Entertainment/RCA Inspiration). *KIERRA* won *Contemporary Album of the Year*, while the hit song "Something Has to Break (Live) ft. Tasha Cobbs

Leonard" won *Song of the Year* and *Music Video of the Year* (Dir: James Hairston IV).

In addition to her solo performance of "Something Has to Break," she joined her mother and aunts, who make up the legendary group The Clark Sisters, in their stunning performance of their classic hits, and celebrated their family's special night at the stellar music event which also honored The Clark Sisters with the James Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gospel favorite Donnie McClurkin won *Traditional Male Artist of the Year* for his hit album *A DIFFERENT SONG* (CamDon Music/RCA Inspiration), and appeared as a presenter. Congratulations to Maverick City Music, who took home *New Artist of the Year* and *Album of the Year* for the 2020 release of *Maverick City Vol. 3 Part 1*

This was a joyful evening. Phil Thornton, RCA Inspiration SVP and General Manager commented: "Congratulations to Kierra and Donnie on their Stellar Award wins, and what an amazing time it was to come together, celebrate live music and honor the incredible impact of Gospel and the messages of hope, faith, and God's love that all the artists continue to shine a light on. Thank you to the Stellar Awards for a great show!"

Catch the 36th Annual Stellar Awards airing Sunday, August 1, 2021, on BET at 8 pm EST, with an encore presentation at 10 pm EST. Viewers will also be able to watch the show in national broadcast syndication August 1 through September 5, 2021. For the full list of winners, click here. (Photos courtesy Getty Images for Stellar Awards)



RCA Inspiration celebrates Kierra Sheard & Donnie McClurkin



The Clark Sisters



Stellar Awards 2021 Hosts Jekalyn Carr & Tye Tribbett



Yolanda Adams & Daughter Taylor Ayanna Crawford



Kirk Franklin, Tasha Cobbs Leonard



Kierra Sheard



Mali Music



Jekalyn Carr.



# On the scene

## LeBron James takes center court at the 'Space Jam: A New Legacy' premiere



Space Jam-A New Legacy

By Audrey J. Bernard

LeBron James brought his beautiful wife Savannah and their adorable daughter Zuri to the star-studded Hollywood premiere of his movie "Space Jam: A New Legacy." King James takes the lead role – like he does on any court he plays on – in this Warner

Bros. *tooniverse* about a rogue artificial intelligence (Don Cheadle) who kidnaps the son of famed basketball player LeBron James, who then has to work with Bugs Bunny (Zendaya) to win a basketball game. King James was joined on the stunning royal carpet by the cast of "Space Jam: A New Legacy" at the film's LA premiere on July 12, 2021 including Director Malcolm D. Lee, Zendaya whose Lola Bunny-inspired look was a slam dunk on the purple carpet, Sonequa Martin-Green, Cedric Joe, Ceyair J. Wright, Harper Leigh Alexander, and the movie's foul player Don Cheadle, who he greeted with a big hug. The movie is now screening on HBO Max. Dressed to impress guests in attendance included John Legend, Lil Wayne, SZA, Symba, Kash Kool, Joyner Lucas, G-Eazy, Animé, Salt-N-Pepa, who turned back the clock for a performance of their song Hoops that also features Saweetie and Kash Doll off the film's soundtrack, and many more. (Photo Credit: Emma McIntyre/ Eric Charbonneau/ Kevin Winter/ Getty Images/ Warner Bros. Pictures)



Cast-Don Cheadle, Ceyair Wright, LeBron James, Harper Leigh Alexander, Malcolm D. Lee, Sonequa Martin-Green and John Legend at the premiere of 'Space Jam-A New Legacy' in Los Angeles



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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

## Grandmother 'a walking miracle' after surviving COVID-19-induced coma and eight surgeries

Newyorkbeacon.com

**A**lisa White—a walking miracle who beat COVID-19 against the odds—returned to Huntington Hospital in New York to thank medical professionals who gave her a second chance at life.

The 61-year-old grandmother of 11 was in “a medically induced coma with only a 10% chance of survival” after being admitted to Huntington Hospital on Jan. 6, according to CBS2.

After developing “severe pancreatitis,” which is a complication of the coronavirus, her family said that most hospitals gave up on her recovery. But Dr. Demetrio Tzimas and Dr. Anthony Armetta took a different approach, they “worked tirelessly over the course of six months, performing eight surgeries to remove the infected tissue, leaving just a tiny healthy fraction

a person can live with,” according to the news report.

“According to MSN, “since the first death attributable to COVID-19 was reported in the United States on Feb. 29, 2020, an estimated 600,406 Americans have died — and that number still continues to grow.”

COVID-19 is still around, in addition to mutations and variants. KFF—“a leader in health policy analysis and health journalism”—reported that “Black and Hispanic people have had persistently lower rates of vaccination compared to their White counterparts across most states.”

As a result of receiving fewer vaccinations, individuals who are “Black and Hispanic” are at a higher risk “for infection, illness, and death, particularly as new variants, like the Delta variant, spread,” per the recent report.

She’s really a walking miracle,” Tzimas said in CBS2’s interview.



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## Remembering Biz Markie . . .

### Life of Biz

**M**arcel Theo Hall, known professionally as Biz Markie, died on Friday, July 16, 2021, in Baltimore, Maryland. He was 57. Markie was an American rapper, singer-songwriter, DJ, and record producer best known for his 1989 single “Just a Friend,” which became a top 40 hit in several countries. In 2008, “Just a Friend” made No. 100 on VH1’s list of the 100 greatest hip hop songs of all time. Markie was sometimes referred to as the “Clown Prince of Hip Hop.”

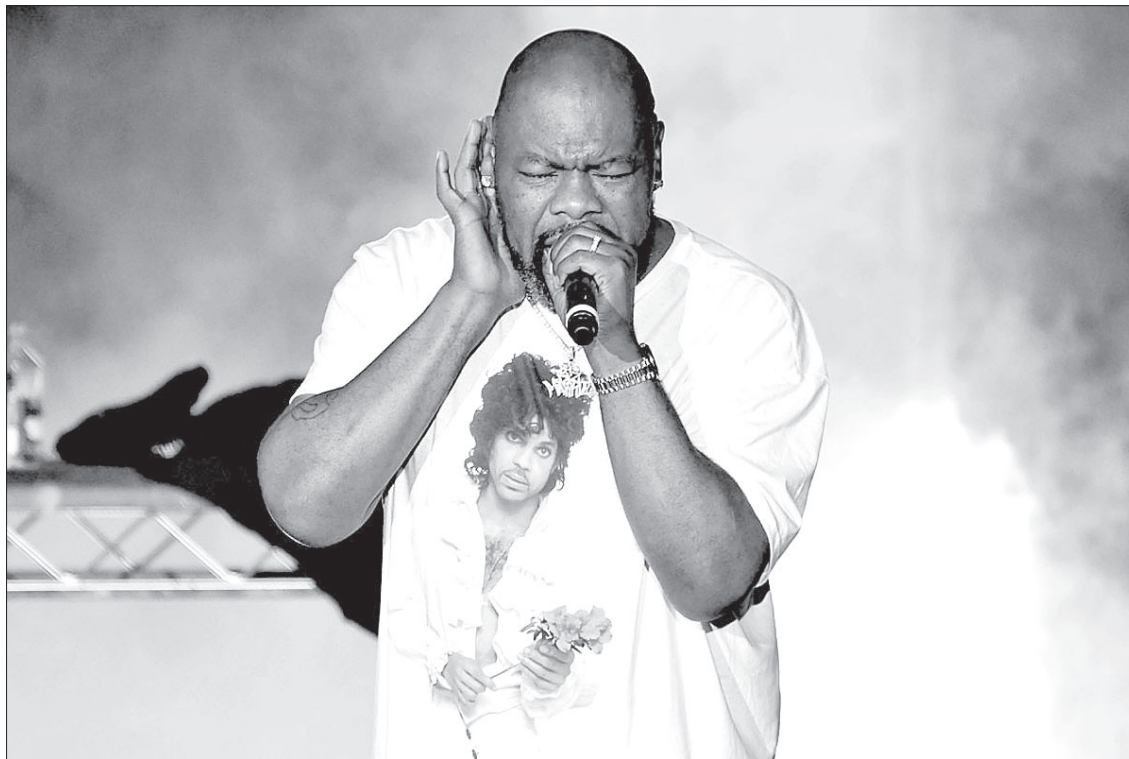
The legendary Biz Markie brings more than 30 years of solid hip-hop acumen and an overwhelming fan-base that stretches from New York City to Japan to Europe. At the age of 14, Marcel Hall dazzled his neighborhood under the alias of Biz Markie. His music scene debut began in 1985 as a beat box for Roxanne Shante of the Juice Crew. From then Biz began constructing his own destiny in the mystifying world of rap and hip-hop. Now 30 years older and immensely wiser, Biz continues to be universally praised by the ever-fickle and unforgiving hip-hop industry. No easy feat to accomplish, Biz is the definition of longevity and has managed to remain one of the most notable artists and DJs in the industry.

Born to embrace hip-hop, Biz is originally from Harlem but later moved to Long Island where he

gained notoriety by his early teen years for beat boxing and rhyming. The Biz began his journey by beat boxing his way into the hearts of hip-hop lovers and delivering humorous, witty rhymes that made him loveable and admired by music fans all over.

You can find Biz spinning and performing amongst almost every major celebrity in America and abroad. He has under his belt such mega-events as The Grammy’s After Parties, The Pre-Oscar Party, Will Smith Movie Premiere Events, Chris Rock’s *No Apologies* tour, events hosted by The Magic Johnson Foundation, State Farm (*50 Million Pound Challenge*), ESPN as well as for such annual occasions as the Super Bowl, NBA Allstar Weekend, CIAA Weekend, Essence Festival and many more.

Biz Markie shows no signs of stopping. He currently DJs and performs in club and concert venues all over the world, consistently booking over 175 shows a year. *Just a Friend* made VH1’s list of 100 greatest hip-hop songs of all time. Biz’s television credits include Nick Jr’s *Yo Gabba Gabba* doing “Biz’s Beat of the Day,” *Sharknado 2*, *Spongebob Squarepants*, *Nick Cannon Presents: Wild ‘n Out* on MTV, *MAD TV*, *Hip-Hop Squares*, VH1’s *Celebrity Fit Club*, *Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja*, and *In Living Color*.



Biz Markie, the ‘Clown Prince of Hip-Hop’ Dead at 57

Biz has appeared on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* and *The Roots*, *The Jimmy Kimmel Show* and *The Meredith Vieira Show*. Other projects include Listerine, Zevia, commercials for Lucky Charms, Radio Shack and Heineken, TuneUp Media, and designing a sneaker with Pro Keds. The Biz Markie brand has also achieved com-

mercial success for corporate sponsors such as Capt’n Crunch, Verizon, Pepsi Cola Corporation, Budweiser and more. Biz also provides music entertainment for various political fund-raising and awareness events.

With more than 30 prosperous years in the entertainment industry, Biz Markie continues to maintain his longevity while

pioneering innovative works. Biz moves with ease through multiple genres outside of the Hip Hop world, having worked with The Rolling Stones, Will Smith and the alternative rock band The Flaming Lips just to name a few. Simply put, Biz Markie is one of the most sought after Entertainers in the business to date. (Source: bizmarkie.com)

## Biz Markie, Clown Prince of Hip Hop, dies at 57

By Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D., NNPA Newswire Culture and Entertainment Editor

**A**lways in on the joke, the beloved rapper created a persona of a happy go-lucky jokester and kooky rapper with funny and clever lyrics and videos like “The Vapors” amid a sea of rap personas wrapped in machismo and conflict. Biz Markie’s collaborations gave Hip-Hop some of its most iconic hits.

The world is mourning the loss of rap legend Biz Markie who passed away Friday at age 57 at a Baltimore hospital. Lisa Respers France, senior writer for *CNN*, confirmed the Hip-Hop icon’s death.

Nicknamed the “Clown Prince of Hip-Hop,” Biz Markie gained fame through his collaborations with Big Daddy Kane and Marley Marl. Born Marcel Theo Hall, the Harlem born rapper burst onto the scene with his classic 1988 album “Goin’ Off,” which featured the hit songs, “Nobody Beats the Biz,” “Vapors,” and “Make the Music With Your Mouth Biz.” Biz Markie formed the legendary Juice Crew with Marley Marl and released the album on the Cold Chillin’ rap label under the guidance of legendary hip-hop DJ, DJ Mr. Magic. In a 2008 interview with Hip-Hop A3C, the



rap legend stated, “When we did pick the Juice Crew, it was about people being different and dope in their own way.”

Always in on the joke, the beloved rapper created a persona of a

happy go-lucky jokester and kooky rapper with funny and clever lyrics and videos like “The Vapors” amid a sea of rap personas wrapped in machismo and conflict. Biz Markie’s collaborations gave Hip-Hop

some of its most iconic hits. Biz followed up “Goin’ Off,” with 1989’s “The Biz Never Sleeps,” album which produced the iconic hit, “Just a Friend,” which went platinum. Biz Markie lamenting over a love interest openly cheating on her boyfriend while singing loudly and off-key was pop culture gold, catapulting the beloved rapper into the pop culture stratosphere. There was even a popular dance named “The Biz” and “The Biz Markie.”

The good times wouldn’t last forever. Biz Markie was sued for his follow-up 1991 album, “I Need a Haircut,” by musician Gilbert O’Sullivan, for sampling his 1972 hit song, “Alone Again,” on Biz’s song with the same name. In what would become a landmark case, O’Sullivan won the lawsuit changing the way samples were licensed in rap music going forward. Biz Markie learned from the experience, naming his next album, “All Samples Cleared,” as a nod to the game changing Hip-Hop in the process.

In 2009, Biz Markie appeared in a Radio Shack commercial parodying his smash hit, “Just a Friend.”

Over the years, Biz Markie continued to work as a producer and traveled the world as a DJ, DJing sets or parties for celebri-

ties, many of whom were close friends like Will and Jada Pinkett Smith. In 1999, Biz Markie was featured on Will Smith’s song, “So Fresh,” along with rap legend Slick Rick and appeared in the music video directed by Jada Pinkett Smith. Over the years, Biz Markie appeared on numerous television shows and films including *The Meteor Man*, *Men in Black II*, “Eve,” “Crank Yankers,” “Empire,” “Yo Gabba Gabba,” “Sharknado 2,” “MadTV” and “Black-ish.”

In recent years, Biz Markie suffered from diabetes and had been hospitalized for the past few months following a stroke. In early July, it was reported and confirmed the Hip-Hop legend had been moved to hospice care, after false reports of his death surfaced online.

Hall is survived by his wife Tara Hall, who reportedly held his hand as the rapper transitioned. The “Clown Prince” is now the “Crown Prince” of Hip-Hop. Biz Markie was 57.

This article was written by Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D., NNPA Culture and Entertainment Editor and the founder & editor-in-chief of *The Burton Wire*. Follow Nsenga on Twitter @Ntellectual. Follow *The Burton Wire* on Instagram or Twitter @TheBurtonWire.



# Culture

## Fans excited over Colin Kaepernick's new children's picture book

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Colin Kaepernick will soon release a children's picture book which will be based on experiences from his own life. The NFL veteran said the book, *I Color Myself Different*, is deeply personal to him.

"I hope that it honors the courage and bravery of young people everywhere by encouraging them to live with authenticity and purpose," the 33-year-old said in a press release on Thursday, according to *The Los Angeles Times*. "I'm excited for Kaepernick Publishing to be collaborating with Scholastic on books with Black and brown voices at the forefront. I hope that our books will inspire readers to walk through the world with confidence, strength and truth in all they do."

The story, which is part of a multi-book deal between Kaepernick's publishing company and Scholastic, is based on a key moment in the athlete's childhood. In the book, a young Kaepernick is pictured as he draws his adopted white family in yellow crayon and then draws himself brown. In that moment, the boy recognizes the difference in the characters' appearance and learns to celebrate each individual as they are.

"During a kindergarten exer-



cise on drawing families, Kaepernick remembers putting down the yellow crayon he had been using to draw his family and picking up the brown crayon for himself," the publishers said in a press release. "This moment crystallized for him the differences marked by his adoption, and how acknowledging those distinctions could encourage us all to be more accepting of ourselves and each other."

The book, illustrated by Eric Wilkerson, is scheduled to be released on April 5, 2022, *The Guardian* reported. Kaepernick, who has received widespread criticism since deciding to kneel during the national anthem before football games to draw attention to police brutality, hasn't played in the NFL since 2016.

## Keyshia Cole's mother, Frankie Lons, passes at 61

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Frankie Lons, the mother of R&B singer Keyshia Cole, has passed away at the age of 61. According to Love B. Scott, Cole's sister, Elite Noel, shared the tragic news on Instagram Stories on Monday. Noel revealed in the post that her mother had just turned 61 on Monday.

"Worse pain ever," Noel wrote. "To see my mama in a body bag on her birthday! My heart so f\*\*kin broke."

According to Cole's brother, she died of an overdose that

followed her birthday celebration per TMZ.

According to *The Source*, one of Lons' grandchildren also shared the news on social media, saying "happy birthday beautiful and rest in heaven." The 61-year-old became popular among fans in 2006 when she appeared in Cole's reality show, *Keyshia Cole: The Way It Is*, which led to the spinoff series *Frankie & Neffie*. Lons' show ended in 2009, according to BET. The two had a fraught relationship that was captured in the series.



## Undefeated: First Black girl duo wins International Debate Competition at Harvard

Philadelphiaobserver.com

For the first time in the history of the Harvard Debate Council, two Black girls from Atlanta have made history as the first Black female duo to win the annual summer debate competition at Harvard University according to an announcement.

If you don't already know, the students from the Harvard Debate Council's program are pretty much unstoppable and for the fourth year in a row have left the competition in the dust and taken top prize.

Each summer, the Harvard Debate Council, one of the oldest campus organizations at Harvard University, hosts a summer residential program for hundreds of gifted youths from over 15 countries around the world who converge on campus for two weeks of intensive study, which culminates in a program-wide debate tournament. This year's residency and competition were held virtually due to COVID-19 protocols.

Jayla Jackson, 16, is a rising junior at Holy Innocence Episcopal School. Emani Stanton, 17, is a rising senior at North Atlanta High School. Both girls are current members of the Atlanta-based Harvard Diversity Project, an initiative founded by Harvard's award-winning debate coach and author Brandon P. Fleming. In 2017, Harvard accepted Fleming's



proposal to establish the Diversity Project as a means to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus.

Fleming recruits underserved Black youth in Atlanta with little to no prior debate experience. He trains them every weekend for one year in Atlanta leading up to the Harvard summer program, exposing them to higher level academic disciplines. In four years, Fleming has raised over one million dollars to enroll over 100 African-American students into the Harvard debate residency on full scholarship. All four cohorts trained by Fleming's unique curriculum have gone on to win the international debate competition at Harvard.

This year, Jackson and Stanton secured the 4th consecutive championship for the Atlanta-based team with an undefeated 10-0 record. The topic of debate was, "Resolved: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization should substantially increase its defense commitments in the Baltic States."

Fleming emphasizes to his students that the program is "bigger than debate." He states, "The achievements of this program and our scholars reveals to the world the power of educational equity." Jackson remarks about the historic win, "We want to use our platform to show people what's possible when the playing field is leveled for those who need it most."

## Snoop Dogg's daughter claps back at body shaming trolls

Philadelphiaobserver.com

\* Snoop Dogg's daughter Cori Broadus took to Instagram on Tuesday to clap back at social media trolls who post negative comments about her features and complexion.

Broadus shared one particular comment from a hater who suggested she get a "Tummy tuck and breast reduction."

"Like what y'all b so miserable on here," she wrote on Instagram Stories while showing off her physique in the clip. "Like I don't know what I'm suppose to do my sh.t just big as f.k. Y'all be annoying on here."

She continued in another post: "Oh she 2 big oh she 2 skinny oh she this oh she that.. embrace what you got and shut the f\*\*ck up."





# New partnership brings Black history to life through Google Assistant

By Airik Myers

'Hey, Google, what happened on this day in Black History?' is a term that might become a daily ritual for many people across the country. Thanks to a new partnership between Google and Dr. Carl Mack, Publisher of the Black Heritage Day Calendar – a comprehensive flip calendar that highlights 366 notable African Americans and African American accomplishments, more than 500 million people can get a daily dose of Black History utilizing Google Assistant.

Just prior to Juneteenth, the Google Assistant team unveiled the new feature that allows users to receive information on Black History by date. By saying 'Hey Google, what happened on this day in Black History?'; you are met with a unique verbal response, which is powered by the information contained in Dr. Mack's calendar, that will provide you with a brief narrative of Black History that occurred on that day.

There are two ways that you can utilize the feature. The first option is by asking what happen today, and the second is by asking what happen on a specific date in Black History. For example, asking what happened on October 8th in Black History will solicit a response about Powhatan Beaty, who was born into slavery on this day in 1837, but later gained his freedom and moved to Ohio, where he proved his talent as an actor.

The feature is accessible on more than 1 billion Google Assistant-enabled devices, including smart speakers, phones, TVs from LG and Samsung, Chromecast, watches and many popular soundbars.

According to Mack, the inspiration for the calendar stemmed from a conversation that he had with a White co-worker back in the 80s, who was asking Mack about a historic Black figure that he never heard of.

"One day [my co-worker] came to work and he was talking to me about this guy, Henry Flipper, who was the first Black to graduate from the West Point Military Academy. And [he's] looking at me like I know who this guy is and I had no idea who [he] was talking about," recalled Mack. "I literally felt ashamed and embarrassed that this White man knew more about my culture than I did."

The interaction led Mack to learn more about Black History and over time become a Black Historian in his own right. The discoveries that he made gave Mack an enhanced sense of self-pride and fueled his passion to teach, learn and serve others. After some years of doing research, Mack decided to share his knowledge more broadly, so he produced the original version of the Black Heritage calendar in 1992.

Fast forward to today and people are still fascinated with the information contained in the calendar, which is now in its fourth edition. Some of the information like Martin Luther King's Birthday is commonly known, but there are



Daily excerpts drafted from Dr. Carl Mack's Black Heritage Day calendar can now be heard through Google Assistant. Mack, pictured above, released version four of his calendar last year. Courtesy Photo

other lesser-known entries that have a common connection to our everyday lives like Elijah McCoy, an African American inventor, whose high quality inventions gained so much notoriety the phrase "the Real McCoy" was coined to distinguish his inventions from cheap imitations.

"I shared [the 'Today In Black History feature] with close to a hundred people and their level of excitement is insane," says Mack. "It is off the charts, but they come back to me and every one of them, my mama included said, 'If you didn't tell me this, how would I ever know it existed?'"

While Mack's initial intent was to share his information with the world, he had no idea that he literally would be sharing it on a platform that reaches hundreds of millions of people on a daily basis.

"Did I think that 30 years later, the research that I did on Black history would now be on the Google assistant, and that 500 million people around the world could access it?" says Mack in awe of the achievement. "That is just where God says big, God means BIG."

The connection with Google came from one of Mack's men-

tees, Justin Steele, who works for Google. Mack sent a copy of his calendar to Steele looking for feedback. Unbeknownst to Mack at the time, Google was in the process of looking for content that they could feature every day that was in line with their efforts towards diversity and inclusion.

According to Beth Tsai, Policy Director for Google Search and Assistant, Mack's calendar was a perfect fit for what they were trying to do.

"We felt like it was very important to raise awareness about the Black community and about important figures in the Black community that often don't get attention," said Tsai.

"The beautiful thing about Dr. Mack's calendar is it looks at the parts of the story that like most people aren't aware of, it tells us about important moments in Black culture and Black history," added Tsai. "It tells us about contributors who are not your big names. [It] helps people understand that bigger picture. And for us, that was the compelling moment here. Here's a chance for your average Google user who doesn't know anything about these things to really jump

in, learn more and learn in depth."

For Mack, who previously served as president of the Seattle King County NAACP and was the former executive director of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the opportunity for people to learn about and appreciate Black History is a tremendous step towards self-knowledge and pride for African Americans, and a chance for others to see and understand African Americans in a way that is not readily found in traditional American history books.

"I mean, you look at Google. Google is arguably one of the greatest search engines on this planet. The fact that they have the content from the calendar and every day, all you have to say is, 'Hey, Google, what happened on this day in Black History?' And just like that, with just your voice, you could be exposed to 366 days of African-American History with just your voice," says Mack about the ease that people can access the information through Google Assistant. "You just learn something beautiful about our history and you know, the reason why it's important to me, [is] because I know what knowledge of self-did

for me."

As it relates to the "Today in Black History" initiative, this is Google's first partnership that was "specifically designed to educate and raise awareness about equity and inclusion on the Google Assistant."

Tsai says that the Google Assistant, from the beginning, has been about inclusivity, and being an assistant for everyone to connect to.

"Everyone, regardless of who you are, regardless of your race, regardless of your gender, regardless of your ethnicity, your religion, we wanted the system to recognize you," says Tsai.

"I hope our Black users... listen to our calendar, and I hope that they feel like the Google Assistant is theirs," she continued. "I hope that they see themselves in the Google system. [I hope it feels] like the Google assistant recognizes them and sees them as an ally. Because that, fundamentally, is the most important thing for us."

*Editor's Note: The Google Assistant App is available for download from the Google App Store for Android users. iPhone & iPad users can download the Google Assistant App for FREE from the Apple App Store.*



# Young philanthropist Simone Gordon receives Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant

Since launching the *Black Fairy Godmother Foundation* over a year ago, the New Jersey-based Simone Gordon has helped several families dealing with issues ranging from domestic violence by way of finding safe homes, food insecurities via a partnership with InstaCart (which have forgiven delivery fees for orders over \$200.00 per family) to the *FairyDust Scholarship Fund*, which helps women with enrollment into a community college or receive a license/certificate in a field of their choice.

Recently, Ms. Gordon's work has resulted in receiving a boost from a well-known source – the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which made a substantial donation for the young philanthropist to continue her work. *"I was absolutely floored when I received this wonderful gift from the Gates Foundation,"* said Ms. Gordon. *"At first I*

*thought it was someone playing a prank until I received the letter and check. This will help The Black Fairy Godmother Foundation continue our work assisting families in need."*

The grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is one of a few *The Black Fairy Godmother Foundation* has received in recent weeks. Other organizations include the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital Foundation, the Grapevine Foundation, Benevity (partnership with Google) as well as Tony Burch/Upworthy.

The aforementioned donations/grants will help Gordon continue her work helping families and communities. This fall, *The Black Fairy Godmother Foundation* will host their annual Purple Diamond Awards fundraising ceremony on Saturday, October 30, 2021 at the Waterside Restaurant in North Bergen, NJ with proceeds benefiting the organization.



Simone Gordon, Bill Gates

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# Sports



Andrew  
Rosario,  
Sports  
Editor

## Sports thoughts

By Andrew Rosario

When the Phoenix Suns took the floor against the Milwaukee Bucks Tuesday night, Chris Paul might have been one of the greatest guards to never have won a championship. The Suns looked they were on the way to their first Larry O'Brien trophy after winning the first two games of the series. Paul putting on a clinic with help from teammate Devon Booker. Coming back home, Milwaukee made adjustments pressuring Paul forcing turnovers. Like the Suns, the Bucks took advantage of home court with two time Most Valuable Player Giannis Antetokounmpo dominating on both sides of the floor. Phoenix felt confident going into game 5 but Jrue Holiday came up with huge defensive stop in the closing moments to secure the win. It has been 50 years since Milwaukee has raised the trophy. The "Greek Freak" decided to resign with Milwaukee instead of looking for a big market team. Paul accepted a trade and led the Suns to the NBA Finals. At the end of the series, one player will take his team to the promise land. The other player will go down in the annals of being one of the greatest players to play the game and never win a ring.

The New York Football Giants open their training camp on Tuesday the 27th and one their most

exciting player in Saquan Barkley is not sure if he will be ready for the season opener. Not the news Big Blue fans wanted to hear. Barkley tore his ACL last September and spoke with reporters at his youth football camp this past Monday. "I guess that's the theme of the summer, going to be when I'll be back," Barkley said. "But no, I don't have that answer, to be honest. I'm not trying to lead it up to it or something like that or put something up. I don't have the answer. It's a fun process, but it's a tough process at the same time. Just have to continue to listen to my body, listen to my trainers, listen to the coaches and take it day by day." The Giants need to have a healthy Barkley in order to support Daniel Jones who is in a make-or-break year. The division is up for grabs and if it wasn't for the Eagles tanking the last game of the year against Dallas, the Giants would have made the playoffs. They would have faced the Tom Brady Bucs. Given the history between the Giants and Brady in the Super Bowl, it would have been no surprise that Big Blue would have come out on top.

Finally, after more than a year, I was able to cover a live sporting event when I attended game 2 of the Nets/Milwaukee at Barclays center. The atmosphere was electric as Brooklyn blew out the Bucks. Unfortunately, the Nets



Paul Has Struggled After Game 2  
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

would lose the series in 7 games after Kyrie Irving wrecked his ankle coming down on Giannis Antetokounmpo in game three. Pre-and post-game interviews

were done virtually. Normally, the media would have access to players and coaches. Due to the Pandemic, no in person interviews were allowed. Like the NBA, MLB,

NHL and the U.S. Open, the NFL will allow 100% fan capacity. For now, all interviews will remain virtually. It is the current state of the sports journalist world.



Greek Freak Block Secures Game 5  
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer



Barkley Still Recovering From ACL Surgery  
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer