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VOTING RESTRICTIONS - A SHAMELESS GRAB FOR POWER

Voting rights and economic justice are inextricably intertwined



There is no rights without voting rights



Astroworld claims a 10th victim as 9-year-old Ezra Blount dies from his injuries

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The mass casualty event that took place on November 5 at Travis Scott's 2021 Astroworld festival in Houston has claimed its tenth—and youngest—victim. As reported by The Root last week, nine-year-old Scott fan Ezra Blount was atop his father Treston's shoulders when a crowd surge among the festival's approximately 50,000 attendees crushed Treston to unconsciousness. Falling to the ground, Ezra was subsequently trampled by concertgoers, suffering massive injuries.



"He has injuries to his kidney, to his lung, to his liver. Basically, every organ has damage," Ezra's grandmother, Tericia Blount, told Rolling Stone. "He had cardiac arrest. His heart is weak and has damage as well. And his brain has swelling, and he's in an induced coma."

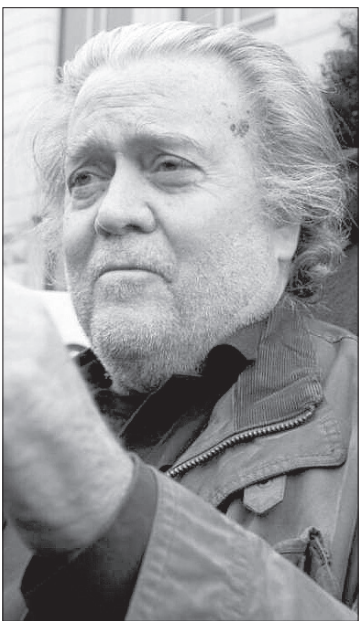
tragically, after over a week on a ventilator, Ezra's injuries were too severe for the 9-year-old to survive. The Blount family announced Ezra's death on Sunday night via a statement from the family's attorney Ben Crump (h/t Variety).

The Blount family tonight is grieving the incomprehensible loss of their precious young son. This should not have been the outcome of taking their son to a concert, what should have been a joyful celebration. Ezra's death is absolutely heartbreaking. We are committed to seeking answers and justice for the Blount family. But tonight we stand in solidarity with the family, in grief, and in prayer.

Trump ally Bannon taken into custody on contempt charges

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Bannon, 67, was indicted on two counts of criminal contempt – one for refusing to appear for a congressional deposition and the other for refusing to provide documents in response to the committee's subpoena.



Steve Bannon, a longtime ally of former President Donald Trump, surrendered to federal authorities on Monday to face contempt charges after defying a subpoena from a House committee investigating January's insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Bannon was taken into custody Monday morning and is expected to appear in court later in the afternoon. The 67-year-old was indicted on Friday on two counts of criminal contempt – one for refusing to appear for a congressional deposition and the other for refusing to provide documents in response to the committee's subpoena.

The indictment came as a second expected witness, former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, defied his own subpoena from the committee on Friday and as Trump has escalated his legal battles to withhold documents and testimony about the insurrection.

Illinois cop ousted from police association, facing charges for exposing police brutality

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Meet Sgt. Javier Esqueda of the Joliet Police Department in Joliet, Illinois.

In September, Esqueda was featured in "Behind the Blue Wall," a series of stories published by USA Today covering more than 300 cases of police officers over the past decade who have exposed and spoken out against alleged misconduct of other officers in their departments. Esqueda appears to have found out the hard way that the police have a "no snitch" policy similar to that of the streets and the criminal underworld where anyone who exposes wrongdoing or illegal activity to the authorities will soon find themselves the subject of swift retaliation.



In July 2020, Esqueda reportedly shared with the media exposing how police officers treated Eric Lurry, a Black man who died in police custody after cops allegedly slapped him, restricted his breathing, shoved a baton in his mouth and drove him to the police station

instead of to the hospital even though he was apparently suffering complications due to drug use and despite police believing that he had swallowed drugs to avoid the cops finding them.

The officers involved received minor punishments, but none of them were charged with any criminal wrongdoing. Esqueda, on the other hand, is now facing 20 years in prison after being accused of illegally using his department-issued laptop to access and then leak squad car video footage of the Lurry incident.



Investigation at federal prisons unveils workers are committing some of the crimes, report

Philadelphiaobserver.com

An investigation conducted by The Associated Press has found that employees within the Federal Bureau of Prisons are turning a blind eye to corruption amongst the workers.

Based on the report, since 2019, there have been more than 100 federal prison workers who have been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for crimes. Some of the violations include a warden indicted for sexual abuse, an associate warden charged with murder, several prison guards who were taking cash to smuggle drugs and weapons, and supervisors being caught stealing property such as tires and tractors.

Investigation) only had five. The (DEA) Drug Enforcement Administration and the (ATF) Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives each only had two.

In recent years, about 67% of the criminal cases against Justice Department staff have involved federal prison workers, who make up less than one-third of the department's workforce. Twenty-eight out of the 41 arrests in just this year alone were of BOP employees or contractors. In comparison, the FBI (Federal Bureau of

In a written statement to the Associated Press, the Justice Department said it "will not tolerate staff misconduct, particularly criminal misconduct." They said it is "committed to holding accountable any employee who abuses a position of trust, which we have demonstrated through federal criminal prosecutions and other means."

FEMA changing rules that have historically deprived African Americans of crucial aid

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

In the past, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – relied on deeds to prove that land belonged to disaster victims before sending relief funds.

However, those guidelines proved to deny aid to many African American applicants whose homes or land were inherited informally without written wills.

But, as first reported by NBC News, the rules quietly have changed.

As floodwaters and the after-effects of Hurricane Ida ravaged Louisiana, Mississippi, and eventually wreaked havoc in the northeast, FEMA officials announced that there will be significant changes in how they verify the ownership status of disaster relief applicants, noting that the objective in making the changes is to better assist applicants whose property was inherited without a will.

“What we’re trying to do is make sure that we understand each individual situation is unique and that we need not have a one-size-fits-all approach,” FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell told the news outlet.

“We’re going to continue to try to improve our program and make additional changes. Some of them we can do right away, like this. Some of them will require some regulatory change,” she said. “But we are really driving hard to make these changes.”

African Americans, particularly those in southern states, have routinely had difficulty proving property ownership.

Even without a damaging natural disaster, the Gullah Geechee



community of St. Helena Island told the Black Press last year that they were fighting to protect their lands and the legacy left by their ancestors, who toiled for lifetimes under the brutal oppression of slavery.

Local tax officials held an auction of some of the property on the island belonging to families, citing delinquent tax payments that have accumulated over the years.

The descendants who have lived in the Gullah Geechee community, which extends the coastal areas of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, possessed deeds but lacked titles to their properties.

Many in the community discovered that their ancestors left no wills and never possessed a title.

That was primarily because of oppressive laws.

The freed slaves were deprived of an education and were at the mercy of White men who sold the land for as little as \$1.25 per acre

and never provided appropriate sale documentation.

“The heirs don’t have a title in their names,” said Sará Reynolds Green, an activist, and farmer who raises produce on the St. Helena plot of land passed down throughout her family’s generations.

While FEMA’s new rules don’t necessarily apply to St. Helena, they should provide a more level playing field for African Americans affected by hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other disasters.

“Updated guidelines will also expand the options for paperwork renters can submit to prove that they live at affected properties,” the NBC News team reported.

According to the report, “in addition to a written lease or rent receipts, renters will now be able to submit documents such as their car registration and letters from local schools or nonprofits. People in mobile homes will also have the flexibility to submit a letter from the property’s owner.”

The 2021 elections proved real the connection Republicans are making with Black voters

By Stacy M. Brown | NNPA Newswire

– During the decisive victories scored by Republicans on Election Day, significant shifts occurred among crucial voting groups, which has only added to the misery of Democrats. Notably, Black voters showed up for Republicans in Virginia and elsewhere.

The GOP candidate who defeated heavily favorite Democrat Terry McAuliffe for governor, Glenn Youngkin, garnered 13 percent of the Black vote and did better overall than former President Donald Trump in every county.

In Virginia’s Lt. Governor’s race, Republican Winsome Sears (Pictured) earned 17 percent of the Black vote in her victory against Democrat Hala Ayala – both are women of color. While Democrats held on in New Jersey, with Gov. Phil Murphy retaining his seat by winning by a razor-thin margin against Republican Jack Ciattarelli, the GOP still made significant gains in the Garden State.

Overall, Republicans flipped four New Jersey counties.

While some point out that the electorate in Virginia was older and whiter than last year’s presidential election, many said the inroads the GOP made

this year are unmistakable. While Black voters didn’t turn out this month as they did for the 2020 Presidential election, the progress made by Republicans could also be a significant hint for what lies ahead in the 2022 midterm elections.

“Congratulations to all of the Black Republican candidates who made history Tuesday night winning their state-wide and local elections across the country,” RNC National Spokesman Paris Dennard stated. “Republican trailblazer Winsome Sears defied the odds to become the first Black woman elected to serve as Virginia’s Lieutenant Governor. On the local level, Black Republicans like A.C. Cordoza (VA-91), Donald Douglas (KY,SD-22), and Jalen Johnson (Albany City Commission-II) highlight the growth and diversity of the GOP at all levels,” noted Denard, who also serves as the RNC’s director of Black Media Affairs.

With Youngkin’s victory, Denard noted that Black Virginians have a new governor “that supports school choice and is committed to supporting HBCUs in his budgets.”

“The RNC remains committed to expanding our party, supporting our Black Republican leaders, and having meaningful engagement through our RNC Black Community Centers,” Denard wrote.



No rights without voting rights

Opinion



By Julianne Malveaux

– Black women leaders have been working on this issue of voting rights, calling for the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, the Freedom to Vote Act, the Build Back Better Reconciliation Act, and DC Statehood. Several leaders, including Melanie Campbell, CEO of the National Coalition of Black Civic

Participation, and Janice Mathis, Executive Director of the National Council of Negro Women, were arrested a couple of weeks ago. On November 16, the women took their energy to the Supreme Court, walking from the NCNW headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue to the Court building.

It ought to be a no-brainer that the same country who invades other people’s countries around human rights and voting rights would provide the same rights for its own citizens. Predatory capitalism, however, makes the voting-rights blocking filibuster essential to those who would extract every penny of surplus value from other citizens. How else can we explain the resistance to managing drug prices, raising the minimum wage, or blocking the right to vote? The big-money politics game makes it easy enough for deep-pocketed corporations to purchase a senator to protect their interests. Grassroots efforts, like the NCNW/NCBPC (with many allies) efforts are less well funded than some of these senators are,

and they may be less influential. Republicans with consciences surely know that voting is an essential right. However, too many of them want to win at all costs, eschewing fairness for power.

It’s like a chicken and egg thing. Republicans (yes, let’s call it as it is) want to suppress the vote so they can keep getting elected. Once elected, they continue to manipulate the system with a gerrymandering that is designed to minimize the electoral influence of those who oppose the predatory capitalist agenda. This includes Black folks, Chicano/Latina folks, American Indians, senior citizens, and those who live in inner cities. These voters, certainly, aren’t a monolith, but voters of color are treated monolithically and sidelined in the same way. Voting rights legislation might pass, but for the filibuster.

So why can’t we eliminate the filibuster? Some Democrats want to embrace the traditions of the past, even though those traditions allow the minority to ride roughshod over the majority. President

Biden, whose legislation has been blocked by the filibuster, only recently signaled some willingness to get rid of the filibuster in some cases. He should have spoken up sooner, and more loudly. Though more than 60 percent of Americans support the Build Back Better legislation, just two recalcitrant Senators have been able to hold up the vote. Now, as we head into the holiday season, the window to pass this legislation is closing. In my opinion, neither the House nor the Senate deserves time off until voting rights legislation is passed.

Too many of us seem to forget that we are the BOSSES, not the serfs, of these members of the House and the Senate. We can kick them to the curb as viciously as they’ve kicked us. We have powerful Black women leaders who are urging us to take our power back, rejecting incumbents who don’t have our interests at heart. Our work, our serious work, is to vet these incumbents and send them home when it is necessary.

We don’t do that. We tend to reelect incumbents because we

are used to them, because we feel close to them, because they’ve been to our schools, because they’ve done a town hall, because they are friendly and personable. As personable as some of them are, if they don’t support economic justice, they are just a waste of space. They are sitting in an elected seat that someone else might better use to serve people.

Voting rights and economic justice are inextricably intertwined. We won’t get fair wages, good labor laws, student loan forgiveness, child care, or more progressive economic legislation until we get the right to vote, because there are those who would offer rights like goodies on a snack plate, goodies they an easily take back. It is absurd that in a nation that brags about democracy fails to provide it for too many of its citizens.

Republicans are shameless in their grab for power. We have to be aggressive in our resistance. We cannot have economic justice without voting rights. Kudos to the Black women who are fighting for our rights.

BLM activist threatens to riot if New York Mayor-Elect Eric Adams reinstates plainclothes street units.

Philadelphiaobserver.com

New York City Police officials have labeled an activist a domestic terrorist after he warned the mayor-elect there would be riots and “bloodshed” if the city reactivates plainclothes street units.

Hawk Newsome, co-founder of Black Lives Matter (BLM) of Greater New York, had a heated exchange with New York Mayor-elect Eric Adams during a public meeting over the mayor’s stance on the police unit, which has been involved in the high profile killings of Black men.

Adams said he would reform the units that are meant to reduce gun violence, implementing body-worn camera requirements and other accountability measures. Newsome accused Adams of betraying the BLM movement and sending the wrong message to cops.

Newsome said he would not let the mayor reinstate the units without a fight. The units that have been connected to the deaths of Eric Garner, Sean Bell and Amadou Diallo were dismantled after years of agitation by activists and litigation in the courts.

“If he thinks that they’re going to go back to the old ways of policing, then we are going to take to the streets again,” Newsome said during a meeting at the Brooklyn Borough Hall.



Hawk Newsome, President of Black Lives Matter of Greater New York, in Times Square for a demonstration to announce their plan to enact Law Enforcement Reform Policies and the “I CAN’T BREATHE ACT.” (Photo by Michael Nigro/Pacific Press/LightRocket via Getty Images)



Racial hatred behind teens’ hoax calls to BLM leader, police say

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Authorities say three teenagers driven by racial hatred were behind hoax calls that brought major police responses to the home of a leading Black Lives Matter activist in Los Angeles.

The teenagers, aged 13 to 16, connected over the Discord chat platform and are suspects in more than 30 bomb threats and so-called “swatting” incidents across the country, according to the Los Angeles Police Department. Swatting refers to a phony emergency call made to attract police to a particular address without cause. They are accused of perpe-

trating two fake swatting calls — one this past September and another in August 2021 — at the LA home of Melina Abdullah, co-founder of BLM-LA and a Cal State Los Angeles professor.

Police did not identify Abdullah by name as a victim of the teens, but listed her block as the location of two of the swatting incidents.

Los Angeles police said Friday that the teens were behind hoaxes dating back to July 2020 that targeted “other online persons, video gamers, activists, schools, airports, houses of worship, entertainment venues and memorial parks.”

National Brotherhood of Skiers diversifying the slopes one mountain at a time

Philadelphiaobserver.com

“NBS works to identify, develop and support athletes of color that are going to win international and Olympic competitions representing the United States. That is our mission right now,” says Henry Rivers

It was the winter of 1997. Henry Rivers vividly remembers the ski trip to Vail, Colorado. The cool crisp air, the freshly fallen snow, and thousands of skiers and snowboarders who looked just like him.

“There were 5,000 Black people in there, all smiling, all with the best-looking gear you could imagine,” Rivers explains. “Then you look up the hill and you’re seeing people skiing down. I mean, just expert skiers coming down. I was just like, ‘Wow.’”

Those winter sports enthusiasts were there for the National Brotherhood of Skiers Annual Summit, an organization created by Ben Finley and Art Clay.

Rivers, who currently serves as the President of NBS tells theGrio how the founders met in 1972 through a mutual friend. Finley was President of the Four Seasons West Ski Club of Los Angeles and Clay was Trip Director of the Sno-Gophers Ski Club of Chicago.

“These were two young Black skiers back then from different clubs—one from Chicago, one

from the L.A.,” he says. “They got together and organized what has become the National

Brotherhood of Skiers. Initially it was just 13 clubs that they got together with.”



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Editorial - Opinion

First-ever civil rights scorecard grades senators on performance defending voting rights



By Marc H. Morial

"Partisan sabotage bills ... are a new and dangerous twist on the same legislative agenda. Each is driven by the Big Lie that there is widespread voter fraud. And each is part of a broader ongoing parti-

san project to thwart democratic elections and rig electoral outcomes, especially by undermining or canceling the votes of people of color. Each is antidemocratic and toxic to a free and fair society. And each demands urgent intervention by Congress to prevent irreparable corruption of our electoral system..." – The Brennan Center, The Election Sabotage Scheme and How Congress Can Stop It

How much do your senators care about voter suppression? How committed are they to our most sacred constitutional right? What have they done, and what are they willing to do, to defend it?

The Civil Rights Scorecard answers those questions.

Released this week by National Urban League, along with the NAACP, National Action Network, National Coalition of Black Civic Participation, Fighting for Our Vote Initiative, and National Council of Negro Women, the Scorecard

provides civil rights advocates and their supporters with clear insights into the voting patterns of their Senate delegations.

There is no greater crisis facing our nation at this moment than the preservation of democracy. History will judge every member of the Senate on their commitment to democratic principles. The Civil Rights Scorecard is not just a measure of each Senator's voting record. It is a measure of their character, their integrity, and their patriotism.

The grades are based on senators' votes on the American Rescue Plan Act, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and the For the People Act, along with each senator's stance on the filibuster – a once-rare procedure has been weaponized to block major legislation, including voting rights protection bills.

As the Scorecard notes, "the divide between the 51st and 60th

vote in the Senate is unbridgeable with the Senate split along partisan lines."

Senators were awarded one point for each "yes" vote on the three bills, and zero points for a "no" vote, abstention or not voting.

Their stance on the filibuster, which comprised 50 percent of their overall score – was worth three points for abolishing the filibuster, two for reforming it, one for willingness to change it and zero for retaining the filibuster as it currently exists.

Senators with a score of 2.1 to 3 earned an "A" grade; those with a score of 1 to 2 earned an "I" for "incomplete," and those with a score of 0.9 or lower earned an "F."

The Scorecard focused on voting rights because every other right stems directly from it. Without the right to vote we have no say. No voice. No seat at the table to determine public policy on policing, education, or economic equity.

"A law is unjust if it is inflicted on a minority that, as a result of being denied the right to vote, had no part in enacting or devising the law," Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote in Letter from a Birmingham Jail. Stacey Abrams expounded on this reality in Our Time Is Now: Power, Purpose, and the Fight for a Fair America: "As millions are stripped of their rights, we live out the policy consequences, from lethal pollution running through poor communities to kindergartners practicing active shooter drills taught with nursery rhymes."

Our democracy is cracking at the seams. It is crumbling before our eyes. The Scorecard is a clanging alarm, alerting every member of the United States Senate that we expect them honor their Constitutional duty and to do everything in their power to protect democracy, including abolishing or reforming the filibuster.



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Oil & Natural Gas Industry Engineering Successful Opportunities for People of Color, and Women

By Stacy M. Brown

The Washington Informer Amanda Eversole spent 13 years at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C., where she cemented a legacy of leadership and innovation before joining JP Morgan Chase, where she created a framework for the firm's philanthropic approach.

Now, as executive vice president and chief operating officer at the American Petroleum Institute (API), Eversole has the monumental task of leading efforts to integrate the trade association's diverse functions and develop and implement a strategic plan for the natural gas and oil industry.

Eversole now puts her strong track record of driving consensus and winning strategies to the test as API and all in oil and natural gas wrestles with ensuring people of color and women are a large part of the lucrative industry.

"Every day, we get up and say what we're going to do to make sure that we are giving people opportunities to interact with this industry, and it changes people's lives," Eversole told NNPA News-wire.

API states that about half of new industry-related job opportunities through 2040 are projected to be filled by African Americans, Hispanic, Asians, and women.

Eversole remarked that talk isn't good enough.

"The default narrative that the industry is old, dirty, and predominately white male is not true anymore, and the way we prove that is not by statistics," Eversole exclaimed.

"It is by standing up and doing the work that we're doing and showing people by opportunities and not by talking points."

Eversole reiterated that API possesses a strong belief that educational opportunities remain critical to successful employment.

Backing that belief are programs like the organization's Minority Serving Institution Initiative, where API has partnered with Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) to provide students free access to the trade association's world-class standards.

API also has joined Discovery Education's STEM Careers Coalition where a coalition of industry partners joined to nurture a diverse culture of STEM education in K-12 schools nationwide.

In five years, that program aims at impacting 10 million students at 5,000 schools.

"There's this common thread of opportunity, and I had not worked with an industry like oil and natural gas where the constant focus is on improvement and optimization," Eversole asserted.

"There are career opportunities that can last an entire lifetime, and there's a sense of intergenerational opportunities through education to children with STEM skillsets."

Eversole continued:

"When I talk about the opportunities we have in the industry, I step back and say, 'How does API, which represents more than 600 members, figure out how to accelerate the journey we're on together in America understanding and acknowledging those suf-



fering and working through racial inequities?' I'm proud to say that we have a lot to show for our work."

API is also building a job readiness training program through API's Global Industry Services platform that facilitates baseline industry knowledge and skills, leading to entry-level operational roles across the industry.

API is partnering with Opportu-

nity@Work in Houston, the world's energy capital, where it's estimated to have proportionally more rising STARS – Skilled-Through-Alternative-Routes.

"It's a journey," Eversole stated.

"When you think about long term workforce programs and when I think about STEM education and some of the internship programs – in terms of how to get

that pipeline ready – we're evaluating points of continuum and figuring out where some of those barriers are and why we are not seeing proportionality within the overall workforce."

Eversole said the oil and natural gas industry "can do better."

"We will do better," she declared. "I'm encouraged that there's a building sense of momentum."

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Fashion

All eyes are on Forbes' designated 'Designer to Watch' — Tori Nichel

"I created Maison Black to build an ecosystem that fosters design excellence and creativity for black designers." Tori Nichel

By Veronica Jones

Tori Nichel is an American designer who after graduation from the Fashion Institute of Technology embarked on a career in fashion design in the business of fashion. Her first position in the industry was as a design assistant for Dana Buchman, a popular brand owned by Liz Claibourne, a Fortune 500 Company. Nichel garnered a strong foundation in fashion design at the company and an awareness of how retail drives the business. Knowledge and understanding of design, trends, production, manufacturing and how it all resonates at retail to the customer is essential to building a successful business in the industry.

Nichel, an African American, has held key positions in merchandising and design at several corporate firms. After gaining recognition as a Senior Designer at Kenneth Cole, she became Head Designer at Tibi, an innovative contemporary brand selling at Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Neiman Marcus. Even though her name was not on the label



Tori Nichel (C) Mason Black Founder & Designers



Tori Nichel with Kenzy Mentor Lead Boys Girls Club

she was aware that her designs were bought by a plethora of retail customers. Nichel's creative spirit, fresh face, and vibrant personality landed her a spot on NBC's Fashion Stars. Women's Wear Daily and Forbes claimed she was a "Designer to Watch."

Major retailers began designing, producing and marketing their own corporate labels to offer their customers. Nichel successfully led brand development for some of the nation's largest retailers scaling over 500 hundred million dollars in sales volume. Her corporate success inspired her to realize her dream of establishing her own label, Nichel. She conceptualized, financed and produced her namesake collection. It takes money to make money in the fashion business. Without access to capital to gain a position in the retail landscape Nichel returned to the retail corporate arena.

African Americans spend upwards of 1.3 trillion dollars in the American market place. Historically, Department Stores were the first to establish lines of credit to the Black consumer. Consequently since the late fifties the buying power of the Black Community has soared upwards, contributing 30%

to 50% of retail sales volume. Retailers began to advertise major brands and to celebrate designers who fueled the business. Creative TV advertising and in store fashion events attracted the customers to shop and to be entertained. Bloomingdales was the master of the game. Innovative window displays by Candy Pratts enticed customers to shop. Candy Pratts Price power and creative influence led her to become the Executive fashionDirector of style.com. Pratts Price a proud latina whose creative vision led her to transform her talent digitally to shape American fashion. People of Color are taking ownership in the digital world.

Tori Nichel has reimagined herself as a design entrepreneur in the global digital landscape. She acknowledges that without Black ownership of manufacturing, production and retail the presence of Black Designers is limited. Like Nichel, there are more black designers working in the industry without name recognition. For the past five years she has been on a mission to found an e-commerce website to establish a global identity and retail experience for creatives of color.

Hence, www.maisonblack.shop

was launched in Detroit at the end of fashion week in October. Detroit is home to Nichel, and six talented veteran black designers in the industry who showed up and showed out on the runway staged at the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant. The theme of the launch was Detroit: Manhattan to Motown. Maison Black presented a beautifully curated fashion show featuring designers originally from Detroit who built viable careers in New York City's fashion industry. Kevan Hall, known for his Red Carpet Gowns, N'Gai By Nicole King's sharp casual style, Isaiah Hemmingway's vibrant menswear, APotts, by Aaron Potts, Phluid Style, Truth by Sharryl Cross, a collection of painted print dresses, and S.McGee by Shawna McGee created art for wearing, silk kimonos and scarves.

Nichel also engaged Shinola to have a three day shopping experience for the designers at their flagship store. To quote Tori Nichel "I created Maison Black to build an ecosystem that fosters design excellence and creativity for black designers." Be sure to visit "Blacks Behind the Brands" on YouTube, interviews by Tori Nichel. Shop Maison Black for the Holidays. (Photos courtesy Tori Nichel)

On the scene

Iconic comedian Kenan Thompson to host 'Jonas Brothers Family Roast'

By Audrey J. Bernard

The Jonas Brothers – Kevin Jonas, Joe Jonas, and Nick Jonas will participate in a special Jonas Brothers Family Roast hosted by Emmy award winning comedian Kenan Thompson. The star-studded roast guests include: Pete Davidson, Niall Horan, Gabriel “Fluffy” Iglesias, John Legend, Lilly Singh, Jack Whitehall, Blake Shelton and the JoBro wives: Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Danielle Jonas, and Sophie Turner. This one of a kind comedy special of epic proportions celebrates the universal truth that no one can get under your skin quite like your own family. You’ll see the multi-platinum global superstars the Jonas Brothers like you’ve never seen them before through sketches, songs, games, and special guests – all to give them a roasting they’ll never forget. Jonas Brothers Family Roast premieres globally only on Netflix on November 23, 2021. Jonas Brothers Family Roast is produced by Fulwell 73. Executive Producers:



Host Kenan Thompson (center) with the Jonas Brothers and their wives (Photo Booth)

Emma Conway and Gabe Turner for Fulwell 73, Kevin Jonas, Joe Jonas, Nick Jonas and John Lloyd Taylor. Executive Producer and Showrunner: James Longman. Head Writer: Lauren Greenberg netflix.com/jonasbrothers-familyroast



Climate Solutions Require A Collaborative Effort

Today, our growing population will require an abundance of energy sources to meet our daily needs. We will need greater access to transportation, more housing and workplace options, and more electricity.

Americans can achieve these realities while also addressing climate change.

We will need the brightest minds from across America, with diverse opinions and ideas, to collaborate to meet our ever growing energy demand all while reducing carbon emissions in the U.S. Communities throughout the U.S. can help lead the way.

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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.

New Jersey school renamed to honor the legacy of Tuskegee Airman

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The bravery and resilience the Tuskegee Airmen embodied during World War II will reverberate for generations to come, and one of the members of the troop recently received a posthumous honor in recognition of his service. Malcolm E. Nettingham's former school, Park Middle School, was renamed after him to pay homage to his legacy, My Central Jersey reported.

The Scotch Plains, New Jersey-based middle school, changed its moniker not only to honor the sacrifices Nettingham made while serving but to illuminate his impact and influence within the local community. The New York City native was drafted during WWII and served as a radio operator and gunner in the Army Air Corps. He broke racial barriers in the military by being a part of the first racially integrated flight radio class and became one of five Black servicemen to integrate Army Air Corps training.

Nettingham was part of the illustrious Tuskegee Airmen collective, the first Black military aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps history. After serving, Nettingham worked as a mason and played an instrumental role in restoring Scotch Plains' Jerseyland Park Community Center. He passed away last year at the age of 101, but his contributions will forever be embedded in the fabric of American history.



First all-Black crew of pilots make history with flight to Tuskegee

Philadelphiaobserver.com

What better way to honor Veteran's Day than by acknowledging the recent history made by a crew of Black military pilots in Tuskegee, Alabama?

Captains Kyle Green and Johnny Frye made history by becoming the first all-Black crew to land a C-21 aircraft in Alabama's Sharp Field, formerly known as Tuskegee Army Airfield, Fox 2 Now reports. The two Black pilots made the trip to educate students on the sacrifices made by many Black military men throughout America's history.

"I think it's important because it's easy to forget," Capt. Frye said.

"We weren't living in those times and just to look at the history of what they went through."

Both men have been flying for the military for the last six years and were honored to take the historical flight ahead of Veteran's Day.

"Just being able to accomplish something that hasn't been accomplished before and the historical significance of going to a field where guys that look like us trained," Capt. Green said.

"Times are different now but their legacy and the things they had to endure should go down in history and should never leave our minds!"

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black military aviators in

the U.S. Army Air Corps (AAC) before it became the U.S. Air Force, as noted by History. During World War II, The Tuskegee Airman had to fight racism and discrimination to help America in aerial combat.

Even after helping the country win the war, Black military men faced their own battles back home because of racism and segregation. It took decades before the Airmen were honored by sitting presidents. In 2007, 300 of the original Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush. In 2009, the surviving members were invited to attend the inauguration of the nation's first African American president, Barack Obama.



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International

As climate confab opens in Glasgow, four are shot over gold mining in the DRC

(GIN)

"Gold mining is one of the most destructive industries in the world. It can displace communities, contaminate drinking water, hurt workers, and destroy pristine environments. It pollutes water and land with mercury and cyanide, endangering the health of people and ecosystems."

Just those factors alone, cited by Earthworks.org, a Washington, DC environmental organization, would appear to be reason enough to reconsider expansion of the Kibali gold mine—already one of the largest gold mines in Africa—in the northeast part of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

But last month, operators of the Kibali mine, local authorities and state security moved to evict residents said to be living on the mine company's property. They were met by protestors objecting to the evictions with the result that four people, including one soldier, were shot dead and 14 others wounded on Oct. 22, according to Reuters. At least one police station was reportedly destroyed.

In company records cited by Mining.com, this was the second major eviction of local residents by the Kibali mining operation. Previously, some 17,000 people were removed from the Kibali property with compensation. In an early interview with the Denver-based show *The Street*, Barrick CEO Mark Bristow proudly described the project as "a fully integrated gold mine in the middle of nowhere."

A parliamentary mission sent to investigate the recent fatalities

blamed local authorities for failing to properly communicate the proposed removal of residents and faulted state security for the disproportionate use of force against the demonstrators, causing the loss of life.

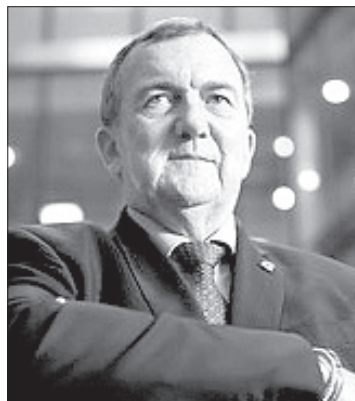
The government report said those evicted "suffered significant damage" with the demolition of a church and a school of at least 400, plus unemployment. Locals from Kilimalande, one of the resettlement sites for the displaced villagers, said they were unable to accommodate those left homeless by the evictions. Kibali country director Cyrille Mutombo said the people who built homes in Kibali's concession ignored concrete markers showing the boundaries of the exclusion zone.

"With the involvement of government, markers were erected and trees planted to demarcate the exclusion zone. (However) some people don't think that's enough," he acknowledged.

Kibali is 45%-owned by Barrick Gold, 45% by AngloGold Ashanti and 10% by state-owned gold company SOKIMO. It produced 814,027 ounces of gold in 2019, according to Mining Technology.com and is expected to produce 600,000 ounces of gold per year for the first 12 years of operation.

In April of this year, Kibali Gold mines accused the state-owned company (SOKIMO) of attempting to extort certain benefits by filing proceedings with the commercial court in Kinshasa.

The deadly confrontation over evictions preceded COP26, the international summit on climate change in Glasgow, Scotland, that ran from Oct. 31 to Nov. 15 attend-



ed by leaders of developed and developing countries and thousands of young people demanding environmental accountability from the rich nations of the world.

There, U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres made the following remarks about burning, drilling and mining. "It's time to say 'enough,'" said the U.N. chief. "Enough of treating nature like a toilet... Enough of burning and drilling and mining... We are digging our own graves."

Elsewhere in gold mining, some 10,000 people harmed by the New Liberty Gold Mine in Liberia have moved forward with their complaint against German and French national development banks—DEG and Proparco—for their links to the project. Injuries include drinking water polluted by a cyanide and arsenic spill, loss of homes and farms, and broken promises to provide jobs, schools and other facilities.

The complainants are supported by Oxfam, Novib, Inclusive Development International and Liberian NGOs, among others. The full story of New Liberty can be found at www.thenewhumanitarian.org/w/pix of M. Bristow

A private funeral to be held for last of the apartheid-era presidents

(GIN) –

There will be no state funeral for South Africa's last white president, Frederick Willem de Klerk, his foundation said in a published statement.

Instead, Mr. de Klerk will have a private burial following cremation on Nov. 21 for family members that will be closed to the media. He was 85 years of age.

De Klerk, who won praise worldwide for his role in scrapping apartheid and shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela in 1993, has a conflicted legacy among the country's Black population for his failure to curb political violence in the run up to South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994.

There was little appetite among South Africans for a state funeral—which ultimately was not scheduled to take place.

De Klerk passed away after a battle with cancer at his home in the Fresnaye area of Cape Town. After his death, his foundation published a video in which he apologized for "the pain and the hurt and the indignity and the damage" apartheid caused during decades of white minority rule.

His previous refusal to apologize came as recently as last year when he said he did not believe apartheid was a crime against humanity. He also angered right wing Afrikaners who viewed him as a traitor to their causes of white supremacy and nationalism by ending apartheid.

Lukhanyo Calata, son of the anti-apartheid activist Fort Calata, claimed the former president was directly involved in his father's death and should have been held accountable.

Instead, he took "the secrets about the murders of our fathers to the grave."

Fort Calata and fellow activists Matthew Goniwe, Sparrow Mkonto and Sicelo Mhlauli were community leaders, guilty of such things as being part of a Marxist reading group, forming street committees, writing a letter to the municipality about dirty streets, fighting an unfair rental system and writing for a community newspaper.

In December 1984, Goniwe called for a boycott known as the "Black Christmas" of white-owned shops, infuriating the white business community. The boycott was successful as the Lingelihle community did not buy food or liquor from white-owned stores.

In 1985 they were abducted and murdered by South African security police under orders of the apartheid regime. The so-called Cradock Four who came from the town of Cradock, were members of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front.

A document leaked to the press years after their deaths resulted in the removal of several police officers. At the second inquest, a judge ruled that the "security forces" were responsible, but named no one individual.

Calata, Goniwe, Mhlauli and Mkonto were buried in Cradock on July 20, 1985, at a massive political funeral attended by thousands of people from all over the country. Speakers at the funeral included Beyers Naudé, Allan Boesak and Steve Tshwete. A message from the then president of the ANC Oliver Tambo was read. It was also the first time that a huge SA Communist Party flag was unfurled and openly displayed at the funeral.

De Klerk oversaw the end of white minority rule as the country's last apartheid president and shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela.

Nigeria panel finds army, police killed peaceful protesters

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Police also "shot at, assaulted and battered unarmed protesters, which led to injuries and deaths," the panel found.

A Nigerian judicial panel says that army soldiers "shot, injured and killed" peaceful protesters demonstrating against police brutality at the Lekki toll gate in Lagos in Oct. 2020. The report calls the shootings "a massacre."

Police also "shot at, assaulted and battered unarmed protesters, which led to injuries and deaths," the panel found.

Eleven people — all males — were killed while four others are missing and "presumed dead" out of 48 persons identified as victims of the Lekki shootings, according to the report that has been submitted to Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

The report has not yet been made public but The Associated



Press has obtained a copy and confirmed the details with sources close to the panel, including one of its members.

"At the Lekki toll gate, officers of the Nigerian army shot, injured and killed unarmed, helpless and

defenseless protesters, without provocation or justification, while they were waving the Nigerian flag and singing the national anthem and the manner of assault and killing could in context be described as a massacre," says the report.



Culture



Coronji Calhoun Sr., Halle Berry's 'Monster's Ball' co-star, is dead at age 30

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Coronji Calhoun Sr., whose role as Halle Berry's son in the 2001 film "Monster's Ball" helped propel his co-star to the first Best Actress Oscar won by a Black woman, has died at age 30.

Berry stepped forward on Wednesday to help with costs for "a sacred celebration" of Calhoun's life. Calhoun died of heart failure and lung problems on Oct. 13, his mother, Theresa C. Bailey, told the CBS affiliate in New Orleans last month.

Berry and "Monster's Ball" producer Lee Daniels each donated

\$3,394, according to a GoFundMe page hosted by Calhoun's family. His mother issued a thank-you for all the contributions.

"We are blown away by the outpouring of love the community and Coronji's adopted family has shown during our process of grief," Bailey wrote Wednesday. "As we close this chapter, we ask that in your remembrance of him, you remember to love your neighbor as yourself, because that is what Coronji did for his entire community."

Calhoun, born in St. Charles Parish, had a 10-year-old son and a 13-year-old stepson.

Jodie Turner-Smith's 'Anne Boleyn' acquired by AMC+ for U.S. premiere

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The series is described as a psychological thriller that explores the final months of the historical figure's life.

The highly anticipated psychological thriller starring Jodie Turner-Smith in the titular role of Anne Boleyn has officially been acquired by AMC+.

First announced by Deadline in 2020, the three-part thriller focuses on Boleyn, the second wife of King Henry VIII and mother of Elizabeth I. Boleyn famously met her end via beheading for treason against her husband.

Unlike many other adaptations of Boleyn's life, Fable Pictures opted to view it through the lens of a thriller rather than the historical drama we normally see in popular series like The Crown.

The official synopsis of the series reads, "The drama explores the final months of Anne Boleyn's life from the eponymous Queen's perspective, as she struggles to secure a future for her daughter and to challenge the powerful patriarchy closing in around her. Anne Boleyn depicts the key moments that cause Anne to topple, unpicking her immense strength, her fatal vulnerabilities and her determination to be an equal among men."



Courtney Thomasma, general manager for AMC+ shared an official statement regarding the series joining their slate of original shows. "We are proud to add Anne Boleyn to our slate of AMC+ Original Series," Thomasma said. "Featuring a superb ensemble cast led by Jodie Turner-Smith's mesmerizing performance and a predominantly female creative team, this groundbreaking drama, told from the unique perspective of one of

history's most fascinating – and scrutinized – women, makes for a can't-miss television event to end the year."

At the time of the casting announcement, the show's writer, Eve Hedderwick Turner, shared excitement regarding Turner-Smith's involvement with the project. "Jodie is a complete natural queen. She is magnetic and has this deep dignity that she brings to the part," she said.

Mahershala Ali celebrates his first lead role with the release of 'Swan Song'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Though he has been a Hollywood mainstay since his award-winning performance in Moonlight, Mahershala Ali's latest film, Swan Song marks his first turn as the lead character in a movie.

Ali plays both the main character and a supporting role in this new Apple TV project. Swan Song follows the final weeks during which a terminally ill man must say goodbye to his family, as his clone is prepared to take his place in order to spare his pregnant wife and young child the pain of griev-

ing him.

In addition to his double-duty acting responsibilities, Ali also serves as a producer for the film, written by Oscar-winning writer/director Benjamin Cleary.

On Nov. 12, Ali and the cast and crew of Swan Song, which includes his Moonlight co-star Naomi Harris and Glenn Close, celebrated the movie's first screening at the American Film Institute's AFI Fest in Los Angeles.

"It was an emotional day, for me, I gotta say," Ali told Variety ahead of the screening. "It's been a long time coming, but, in some ways, it went by very quickly. In a larger sense, I think



I feel prepared for the moment as best I can. I could have done it a year or two earlier, but with

a lesser film probably, so to get to do it with this film that just feels so rich and [have] the char-

acters and the supporting cast [be] phenomenal, I'm just really grateful."

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The Reel

The Critics Choice Association will host 4th annual Celebration of Black Cinema & Television hosted by Emmy Award-winning actress Niecy Nash



Celebration of Black Cinema & Television 2021 Honorees



Posted by Audrey J. Bernard

The Critics Choice Association recently announced the final list of honorees for the annual Celebration of Black Cinema & Television, taking place on Monday, December 6, 2021, at the Fairmont Century Plaza Hotel. The event, hosted by Emmy Award-winning actress and producer Niecy Nash (“Claws,” “When They See Us”), will include 16 award categories as part of a star-studded night honoring standout achievements in Black filmmaking and television.

The Celebration of Black Cinema & Television will honor the following: Award winning writer, director, producer, and film dis-

tributor Ava DuVernay will be receiving the first-ever Melvin Van Peebles Trailblazer Award. Her slate of current projects includes the narrative film adaptation of the bestselling book “Caste” for Netflix, along with television projects “Colin in Black and White” and “Wings of Fire” for Netflix, “Home Sweet Home” for NBC, “Queen Sugar” and “Cherish the Day” for OWN, and “DMZ” and “One Perfect Shot” for HBO Max.

“We are truly honored to name our prestigious Trailblazer Award after Melvin Van Peebles,” said Shawn Edwards, CCA Board Member and Executive Producer of the Celebration of Black Cinema & Television. “Van Peebles inspired a generation of filmmakers. He was a true maverick and a visionary cinematic genius. We’re thrilled that Melvin’s son, Mario will be presenting the award to Ava DuVernay, as the first recipient of the Melvin Van Peebles Trailblazer Award.”

Two-time Academy Award-nominated actor Will Smith will receive the Actor Award for Film for his role in “King Richard,” which follows the journey of Richard Williams, the father who was instrumental in raising two of the most extraordinarily gifted

athletes of all time, Venus and Serena Williams.

Emmy and PGA Award-winning director and producer Antoine Fuqua will receive the Director Award for Film. Among his many credits, Fuqua is best known for directing “Training Day,” and most recently “The Guilty” starring Jake Gyllenhaal which can be seen on Netflix.

The cast of the Netflix film “The Harder They Fall,” which includes Jonathan Majors, Idris Elba, Zazie Beetz, Regina King, Delroy Lindo, LaKeith Stanfield, Deon Cole, R.J. Cyler, Edi Gathegi, and Danielle Deadwyler, will receive the Ensemble Award.

Academy and Emmy Award-nominated actress Ruth Negga will receive a Special Honoree Award for her recent role in the critically acclaimed Netflix film “Passing,” the story of a Black woman who finds her world upended when her life becomes intertwined with a former childhood friend who is passing as white.

Grammy Award-winning and Tony Award-nominated actress Danielle Brooks will receive the Actress Award for Television for her role in the Lifetime movie “Robin Roberts Presents: Mahalia” based on one of the most revered gospel

singers in history, Mahalia Jackson. She is also well-known for her role in Netflix’s acclaimed series “Orange is the New Black.”

César Award-winning French actor Omar Sy will receive the Actor Award for Television for his impressive work in Netflix’s “Lupin.” He also appeared in the critically acclaimed film “The Intouchables.”

Emmy nominee Robin Thede will receive the Showrunner Award for HBO’s “A Black Lady Sketch Show.” She is also the creator, executive producer, writer and star of the eight-time Emmy-nominated variety sketch series.

Toheeb Jimoh will receive the Breakthrough Award for his role on the Apple TV+ series “Ted Lasso” where he plays the young Nigerian footballer Sam Obisanya.

Emmy Award-nominated actor Kenan Thompson will receive a Special Honoree Award recognizing his work on both NBC’s “Saturday Night Live,” where he is the longest-serving cast member, and his eponymous comedy “Kenan.”

Tony Award winner Patina Miller will receive a Special Honoree Award for her starring role in the Starz series “Power Book III: Rising Kanan,” the third installment in the “Power” universe that chronicles

the early years of Kanan Stark, played by Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson.

Natasha Rothwell will receive a Special Honoree Award for her acclaimed role as Belinda Lindsey on HBO’s “The White Lotus.” She also serves as a writer, series regular and consulting producer on HBO’s “Insecure.”

Halle Berry will receive the Career Achievement Award, Anthony Anderson will receive the Producer Award for Television, Jennifer Hudson will be honored with the Actress Award for Film, and Barry Jenkins will receive the Director Award for Television.

About the Critics Choice Association (CCA)

The Critics Choice Association is the largest critics organization in the United States and Canada, representing almost 500 media critics and entertainment journalists. It was established in 2019 with the formal merger of the Broadcast Film Critics Association and the Broadcast Television Journalists Association, recognizing the intersection between film, television, and streaming content. For more information, visit: www.CriticsChoice.com.

On the Tube

The Root & HBO Max celebrate season 2 premiere of hit series 'South Side'

By Audrey J. Bernard

On Tuesday, November 10, 2021, The Root and HBO Max hosted a private screening event to celebrate season 2 of the hit series "South Side" at the historic Dynasty Typewriter in Los Angeles. The celebration was attended by show creators

Diallo Riddle and Bashir Saluhuddin, as well as cast members Chandra Russell, Will A. Miles, Kareme Young, Langston Kerman and Nefetari Spencer. Other celebrity guests who attended the event were Estelle, Lil Rel, and Erika Alexander. The evening began with a special DJ set by Diallo which created a lively atmosphere of pure delight for invitees. He played a mix of Chicago house music and hip hop, which had guests dancing in the

aisles of the theater, followed by a hilarious standup act from actor and comedian, Langston Kerman that had guests rolling in their seats from laughter. The laughter did not stop there as Comedian Will A. Miles then performed his own humorous standup set.

Diallo and Bashir were joined by Vanessa K. De Luca, Editor-in-Chief at The Root, who introduced the first two episodes of "South Side." Then they were joined by Chandra for an exciting Q&A panel about the new season. They discussed the inspiration for the show and their characters. Bashir also shared a few anecdotes about the show being based on cast member Quincy Young's real-life experiences working at Rent-A-Center. He even mentioned most of the writers on the show consisted of people from South Side

Chicago. Towards the end of the night, the cast and writers gathered on stage for a group photo, and the cast donned black satin bomber jackets with the gold "South Side" logo on the back. "South Side" follows two friends, Simon and Kareme, who just graduated from community college and are ready to take over the world. But until they do, they're stuck working at Rent-T-Own. Shot on location in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood, season two reintroduces the hilarious exploits of these adventure capitalists, while authentically showcasing the vibrant city life and dynamic cast of characters of the titular neighborhood. "South Side" season 2 returns Thursday, November 11th on HBO MAX. The first 3 episodes will debut on November 11th, with new

episodes premiering every week. (Photo Credit: Getty Images/Randy Shropshire)

About G/O Media

G/O Media reaches more than a third of all Americans online each month with over 100 million unique visitors, including its extended network. This collection of digital-first brands serves a young, diverse audience with content that reflects their shared values and passions, including category-leading sites focused on tech and science (Gizmodo); pop culture and entertainment (The A.V. Club); sports news (Deadspin); car culture (Jalopnik); modern women's interests (Jezebel); gaming (Kotaku); lifestyle (Lifehacker); food and drink (The Takeout); African American news and culture (The Root); humor

and satire news (The Onion); and e-commerce (The Inventory).

About HBO Max

HBO Max is WarnerMedia's direct-to-consumer streaming platform, offering best in class quality entertainment. HBO Max features the greatest array of storytelling for all audiences from the iconic brands of HBO, Warner Bros., DC, Cartoon Network, Adult Swim, Turner Classic Movies and much more. The platform launched in the United States in May 2020 and introduced a lower priced, advertising-supported tier in June 2021. HBO Max recently began its global rollout launching in 39 markets across Latin America and the Caribbean, and HBO Max will enter Europe later this year and into next as it begins replacing the HBO-branded streaming services.



(L-R) Vanessa K. De Luca, Bashir Saluhuddin, Chandra Russell and Diallo Riddle on stage during the Q&A discussion at The Root & HBO MAX "South Side" private screening



The cast and writers of the South Side series are all smiles on stage at The Root & HBO MAX South Side private screening



Nefetari Spencer



Will A. Miles



Diallo Riddle



Estelle



Langston Kerman



Lil Rel



Bashir Saluhuddin



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Sports



**Andrew
Rosario,
Sports
Editor**

Is David ready for Goliath?

By Rich Mancuso

David Benavidez came home to Phoenix Saturday night and accomplished more than a homecoming win over Kyrone Davis. The former 168-pound champion made a statement with a commanding seventh-round TKO.

It is time for Benavidez to get his opportunity against Canelo Alvarez and challenge for the unified super middleweight titles. Davis, a late replacement because Jose Uzcategui failed a drug test, took a barrage of punches and his corner threw in the towel. So, this was a good victory for Benavidez in an attempt to oppose the unified champion Canelo Alvarez.

Yes, it is now time for the WBC and other sanctioning organizations to sanction a fight that Benavidez deserves and it has to be against Canelo Alvarez.

How do they do it, when, where? All of that will transpire in the days and months ahead. Benavidez, though, rightfully deserves the opportunity and does not care where an eventual fight would take place. "Everybody wants to see me against Canelo, right," Benavidez said last Saturday night. "They need to give me the opportunity. I'll go through anybody in front of me. Whoever they

want me to go through."

Benavidez mentioned Jermall Charlo, who has been calling out Alvarez. Last week, after Alvarez unified the 168-pound titles with a win over Caleb Plant, it was Charlo immediately making his pitch.

But all of this is not in the hands of Benavidez or Charlo. It's in those hands of the WBC and various alphabet soup boxing organizations, who came to the table and allowed Alvarez to become the first unified 168-pound champion in the four-belt era.

Though, what matters is Benavidez and his team having to run through the usual politics of boxing. The fight with Davis was not a title eliminator and that changed when he became the new opponent for Benavidez.

Benavidez, 24-years old, said he has 15 more years to establish his time as an all-time great. Perhaps losing the title twice because of obstacles have prevented Benavidez from standing alone in the division or vying for titles at other weights.

Then, not like now, putting mega fights together was not as difficult with two major promoters, Don King and Bob Arum in control. HBO was the main television network and the alphabet sanctioned organizations were limited to the

WBC and WBA. And years progressed as more of this alphabet soup joined the party including the IBF, WBO, to name a few. Though the unified and rare title opportunities are usually put on the table with the Mexico City based WBC.

You can understand why this is called boxing politics. David Benavidez, with the credentials and plowing through opponents in the super middleweight division, deserves this title opportunity and rights to meet Canelo Alvarez. "I know that I don't have that one-punch knockout power but I'm going to be ready to get you every single round." Benavidez said after landing 181 of 382 punches thrown at Davis. But that ability to throw and land body punches have been effective. "I have the most power in the division besides Canelo," he said. "I have longer arms, as much as speed, possibly even better and as much power, too. I'm just hungry for this opportunity."

Hunger is one thing. But the power here will be punches from the Benavidez team as they will petition the WBC this week to make the fight. And for boxing and the super middleweight division, this is a fight that needs to happen.

Alvarez is looking at a ring return in May. That is perfect timing for the new boxing season and



*David Wants His Shot At Canelo
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon*

King at 168. I beg to differ with those that believe David Benavidez does not deserve the opportunity.

Rich Mancuso is Special Correspondent to the New York Beacon.

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