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Former housekeeper Francia Marquez becomes Colombia's first Black Vice President

Philadelphiaobserver.com

For the first time in its history, Colombia has elected a Black woman, Francia Márquez, as its vice president, bringing hope to the country's poor and Black citizens.

The New York Times reports that Márquez, an environmental activist from the mountainous region of Cauca in southwestern Colombia, has become a national figure, mobilizing decades of voter frustration to become the first Black vice president Sunday as the running mate to Gustavo Petro.

The Perto-Márquez ticket won Sunday's runoff election, according to preliminary results. Márquez's win is significant as Black Colombians are often subjected to racism, structural barriers, and poverty in a country where a person's economic class often defines their place in society.

Most of the country's former presidents were educated abroad and connected with the country's most elite and influential families. Márquez told the Times she ran for office "because our governments have turned their backs on the peo-



ple, and on justice and on peace."

Márquez spent her childhood years sleeping on a dirt floor under the sound of bullets in a region that dealt with violence stemming from the country's internal conflict. She became a mother at 16 and worked in the country's gold mines to support her and her child before seeking work as a live-in maid.

To Black Columbians who have spent years begging for change and for the country's leaders to be more diverse, the

former housekeeper is a sign of change and their champion. However, she also has a long line of opponents.

Her critics have called her divisive, adding she is a part of a leftist movement focused on tearing apart the political establishment. She has also never held office, leading many to believe she is not well versed in Colombia's economic and foreign policies. Her more extreme opponents have used racist acts to criticize her class and political ambitions.

Union cries foul as Starbucks announces the closing of 16 locations

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Citing safety reasons, Starbucks has announced it would close its store at the busy Union Station Train Concourse in Washington, D.C.

The location counts among the 16 scheduled to close by the end of the month. Stores in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle are closing.

The store said the following are closing by the end of July:

- 1st and Los Angeles (Doubletree), Los Angeles
- 2nd and San Pedro, Los Angeles
- Hollywood and Vine, Los Angeles
- Hollywood and Western, Los Angeles
- Ocean Front Walk and Moss, Los Angeles
- Santa Monica and Westmount, Los Angeles
- 4th and Morrison, Portland Gateway, Portland, Oregon
- 10th and Chestnut, Philadelphia
- 23rd and Jackson, Seattle
- 505 Union Station, Seattle
- East Olive Way, Seattle
- Highway 99 and Airport Road, Everett, Washington
- Roosevelt Square, Seattle
- Westlake Center, Seattle
- Union Station Train Concourse, Washington, D.C.

"You're also seeing firsthand the challenges facing our communities – personal safety, racism, lack of access to healthcare, a growing mental health crisis,



rising drug use, and more," Denise Stroud and Denise Nelson, Starbucks' vice presidents, wrote in a letter to employees this week.

"With stores in thousands of communities across the country, we know these challenges can, at times, play out within our stores too. We read every incident report you file – it's a lot," they wrote.

In a separate letter, Starbucks' CEO Howard Schultz shared a set of principles and a new partnership to reinvent the company's next chapter.

"The state of the world, the conditions of our stores and communities, and the hopes and dreams and lives of each of our partners are top of mind as I write you this morning," Schultz wrote.

"Since my return in April, I have been learning so much through open, honest, and often vulnerable conversations and collaboration sessions across stores, manufacturing plants, and in the Starbucks Support Center," he continued.

"It's clear we're living in a changing world where economic, societal, and operational pressures are colliding. We're seeing unprecedented cultural division and economic trauma – all while navigating a pandemic, and it seems as though every day there is a new crisis to address."

However, skeptics abound, particularly among the unionized sector of Starbucks.

In a tweet, Starbucks Workers United Seattle questioned whether the decision to close one of the Seattle locations was made in good faith.

"Is this bargaining in good faith," the union tweeted. "We will not let them get away with this."

In June, Starbucks workers at an Ithaca, New York, store insisted that their location was being shuttered in retaliation for union activism.

The union filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board, stating that the company has made "a clear attempt to scare workers across the country."

Las Vegas judge becomes target of police union for telling man to stay away from cops

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Las Vegas police union has asked a judge to quit her position on the bench after she made a slick remark to a Black man about his choice to engage law enforcement.

An organization representing police has taken exception with the court official, saying her comments were "disparaging" to the men and women in blue and inferred those in uniform have an implicit bias against certain people because of their race.

On Wednesday, July 13, the Las Vegas Police Protective Association is calling for Erika Ballou, a district judge, to resign after a video of her remarks she made on Monday, July 11 about the complicated (and often adversarial) relationship between African-Americans and the police went viral, reports the Daily Mail.

The LVPPA, which represents Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officers, posted the footage on its Facebook page late on Wednesday, blasting the judge's controversial statement days earlier in the caption.

Ballou, a Black woman, said to the defendant, who had been arrested on charges of committing battery against an officer in the state while on probation, he should have kept his distance from the cop.

"You're a Black man in America, you know you don't want to be nowhere where cops are," she is heard in the video saying.

"You listen to me, you know



you don't want to be nowhere where cops are. Because I know I don't, and I'm a middle-aged, middle-class Black woman. I don't want to be around where the cops are because I don't know if I'm going to walk away alive or not," Ballou continued.

The remarks were made during a hearing where the Clark County District Attorney's Office was seeking a revocation of the man's probation.

A spokesperson from the LVPPA released a statement saying, "On behalf of the men and women of law enforcement, the Las Vegas Police Protective Association takes exception to Judge Erika Ballou's disparaging comments about police officers."

"We call upon Judge Ballou to resign from the bench. We also ask the Judicial Ethics Commission to sanction her for violating the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct," the statement continued. "Among other obligations, the rules require the judiciary to, '[A]spire at all times to conduct that ensures the greatest possible public confidence in their independence, impartiality, integrity, and competence.'

Brittney Griner: Russian trial for cannabis charges

Analysis

THE BURTON WIRE — Jonathan Abrams and Tania Gunguli of The New York Times are reporting that the trial is an exercise to convict Griner because there is no presumption of innocence in the Russian judicial system. When charged, you are convicted and sent to trial so prosecutors can present evidence and the defendant can be sentenced. Griner faces 10 years in prison if convicted. ESPN's T.J. Quinn has reported similar concerns about Griner's bleak options with this trial and that Griner is being held so Russia can trade her for Russian prisoners being held in prison in the U.S.

By Nsenga K. Burton Ph.D.

WNBA Superstar Brittney Griner will stand trial in a Moscow court on cannabis possession charges, nearly 5 months after her arrest at a Russian airport tomorrow. Griner has been held in jail since being detained without an opportunity to speak to the public or for herself. Russian airport officials claim they found cannabis oil vape cartridges in Griner's luggage February 17. Some pundits argue that Griner is a political prisoner as she was taken into custody shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Griner, who plays on Russia's national team, has lived there part-time for seven years. If Griner



WNBA legend Brittney Griner is led into a Russian courtroom to learn of her trial date. (Photo: Google Images)

knows the laws and hasn't broken any before, then why would one of basketball's greatest players do it now, especially in wartime?

In response to a public outcry about Brittney's case, the U.S. State Department classified the Texas native as "wrongfully detained" by the Russian government in May. "The welfare and safety of U.S. citizens abroad is among the highest priorities of the U.S. government," the State Department said.

Social media influencers and international media called out Russia because no one had seen or heard from Griner for weeks after her arrest. Those claims were buoyed by reports from Griner's wife Cherelle who said it was difficult to contact the two-time Olympic Gold medalist. Cherelle also said Griner

Continued on page 4

Day care provider shoots husband after child molestation claims

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Washington, DC police are investigating after a woman shoots her husband following child molestation claims. According to reports, 50-year-old, Shanteari Weems of Randallstown, has been charged with assault with intent to kill after shooting her husband of five years. The incident took place Thursday, July 21 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Southwest DC. Weems, who operates a day care in Owings Mills, said she was told by the children that her husband was molesting them.



When police arrived on scene and asked Weems if someone had been shot, she responded "F**k him. He's a child molester." At this time, Weems remains in custody. There is no update on her husband's condition at the time.

Officer doused in gasoline, set on fire by drunk driver

Philadelphiaobserver.com

*A drunk driver who soaked a traffic cop in gasoline and set him on fire has been seized by police in Russia. Shocking police bodycam footage of the drama emerged after what had begun as a routine traffic stop turned into a grim human inferno. The footage begins with a traffic cop checking the documents of a bare-chested driver who was suspected of drunk driving. But as officers were writing out a ticket, the 42-year-old driver opened the car trunk and pulled out a can of gas. While the officers were drawing up the fine, the car owner took out a canister of gasoline from the boot and reportedly tried to pour

it over his vehicle. But he was stopped from doing so by the police officers, one of whom can be seen catching fire after being doused in the flammable liquid, with the suspect allegedly igniting it. As he struggled with the 33-year-old officer, he apparently set off a lighter, igniting gas that had splashed over the policeman's arms and torso. The shocking footage shows the officer fully ablaze as he struggles to put out the fire while the driver attempts to flee. It ends with the driver forced up against a wall, apparently under arrest. The gruesome attack took place in the village of Yumaguzino, in the Kuyurgazinsky District, Republic of Bashkortostan, in south-western Russia. Watch video



Brittney Griner: Russian trial for cannabis charges

From page 3

is alone and without help or assistance in the Russian jail. Griner's oldest sister Shekera made a video plea June 10 to bring Griner home, "safely and quickly." On July 27, Russian authorities paraded Griner into court wearing handcuffs and shackles to announce the upcoming trial date. Jonathan Abrams and Tania Gunguli of The New York Times are reporting that the trial is an exercise to convict Griner because there is no presumption of innocence in the Russian judicial system. When charged, you are convicted and sent to trial so prosecutors can present evidence and the defendant can be sentenced. Griner faces 10 years in prison if convicted. ESPN's T.J. Quinn has reported

similar concerns about Griner's bleak options with this trial and that Griner is being held so Russia can trade her for Russian prisoners being held in prison in the U.S. There have been calls for President Biden to step in to try and extricate Griner from the Russian prison. Ben Proudfoot, director of the Academy award-winning short film, *The Queen of Basketball*, asked for President Biden to intervene and "Bring Brittney Home," during his acceptance speech. Griner's sister Shekera and wife have also asked President Biden to bring Brittney home. This article was written by Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D., founder & editor-in-chief of The Burton Wire. Follow Nsenga on Instagram or Twitter @Ntellectual or @TheBurtonWire



'Bystander video, police officer video are different': Activists worry about long-term impacts of Arizona law making it illegal to record police

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A new Arizona law will make it illegal to record police closer than eight feet and activists and civic groups are worried what could happen in future police encounters without quality video to show what really happened. Republican Gov. Doug Ducey signed House Bill 2319 on July 6, 2022; the bill passed along party lines and places restrictions on the public's ability to record police activity. "As an organization, we've fought so hard for body worn cameras, but we know they tend to get turned off, we know there have been situations where parts of the video are not shown," said Kiana Sears, president of East Valley NAACP in East Valley, Arizona. "We are absolutely outraged, this is something we won't stand for, we stand against it. We understand this has been passed and we are here to push back," Sears went on to say of the law. The law takes effect on Sept. 24, and, if violated, is a class-

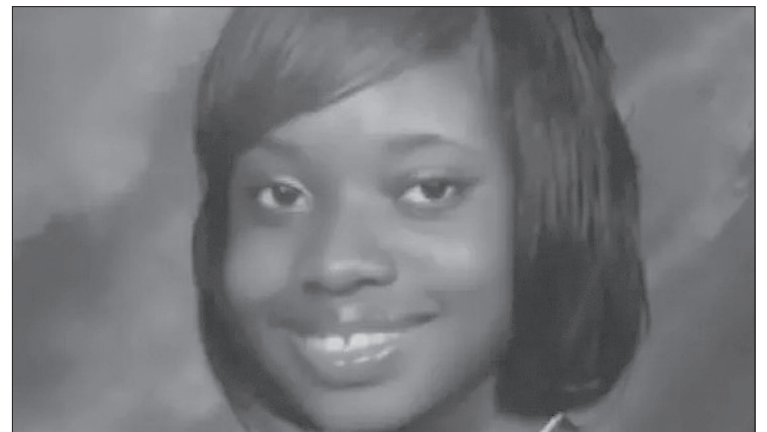
three misdemeanor punishable up to 30 days in jail. The law prohibits a person from knowingly making a video recording of law enforcement activity within eight feet, with certain exceptions. The bill describes law enforcement activity to include questioning a suspicious person, an officer arresting someone or an officer handling a situation involving an emotionally disturbed or disorderly person. Sears sees the law as a dangerous slippery slope, pointing to the effectiveness of video in other high-profile police encounters such as those involving George Floyd, Daunte Wright or ongoing cases like Patrick Lyoya's, all of which, left officers facing charges and/or sentenced to prison. "Not one of these egregious crimes would have been addressed if it not for video," Sears said. Republican and State Rep. John Kavanaugh co-sponsored the bill and said, "Police officers have no way of knowing whether the person approaching is an innocent bystander or an accomplice of the person they're arrest-

ing who might assault them," as reported by The Hill. Bruce Franks Jr. is the spokesman for Mass Liberations Arizona, a nonprofit focused on police accountability and ending mass incarceration. Franks does not buy Kavanaugh's reasoning for co-sponsoring the pro-police bill. "I really wish I had a more politically correct term, but that's just dumb as hell. A person holding a cell phone videotaping, the justification for the law is we don't know if they're an accomplice or going to attack the police," said Franks. John Fullinwieder is co-founder of Mothers Against Police Brutality, a national organization that united mothers who lost children to police violence and promotes police accountability. Fullinwieder stresses the importance of bystander video compared to police video and the difference it makes when prosecuting police who engage in misconduct. "I have been working on police issues in Dallas since the 1970s and ever since cell phone video has become available, I don't think I've seen an indictment without it," Fullinwieder said.

Woman dies after falling out of moving police car!

Philadelphiaobserver.com

*A 28-year-old Georgia woman is dead after sustaining head injuries from allegedly jumping out of a patrol car while being detained. Brianna Marie Grier was arrested around 1 A.M on July 15 after her parents, Mary and Marvin Grier, called police because she was experiencing a schizophrenic episode. As she was being transported to the sheriff's office, police claim that Brianna kicked open the door of the patrol car and jumped out, hitting her head on the concrete. She is said to have been handcuffed at the time. Later that day, Hancock County police visited her parents to inform them that Brianna had been airlifted to the hospital for



brain injuries sustained during the incident. Brianna was in a coma for a few days, but later died from her injuries. Her parents say they don't fully believe the story the police gave them.

"If she got out of the car, they had to have let her out of the car," Mary said. "That's my interpretation because in a police car you can't open the door from the inside so it had to have been opened from the outside."

High school students nationwide now applying for popular Disney Dreamers Academy Mentorship Program

Application process for 2023 event now open for teens from across America; Mentorship program with all-expense-paid experience at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida aimed at fostering the dreams of Black students and teens from underrepresented communities

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.—Teens from around the country are trying to put their best foot forward in hopes of being among the 100 students selected for the 2023 Disney Dreamers Academy. Applications are now underway for the inspiring and transformational mentorship program at Walt Disney World Resort for Black teens and students from underrepresented communities.

The application process for the 16th annual program, set for March 23-26, 2023, runs through October at <http://www.DisneyDreamersAcademy.com>. The 100 teen participants receive an

all-expense-paid trip along with one parent or guardian to Walt Disney World Resort in Florida to experience a combination of inspiration, education and fun at The Most Magical Place on Earth.

The program is an important part of Disney's commitment to supporting diverse communities by encouraging the next generation of Black students to think big, so they can relentlessly pursue their dreams and make a difference in the lives of others.

"We're excited to find the next group of Disney Dreamers and welcome them to Walt Disney World Resort for an experience they won't soon forget," said Tracey D. Powell, Disney Signature Experiences vice president and Disney Dreamers Academy executive champion. "If there is a teen in your life who has a dream, I would highly encourage them to apply. Taking a first step towards your dream is a hugely powerful

moment. And, for those who are selected, the experience can be life changing."

Since 2008, Disney Dreamers Academy has inspired more than 1,400 students from across the country who were selected from thousands of applicants who submitted written essays about their personal stories and dreams for the future.

During the four-day event, the students interact with community and business leaders, Disney cast members, celebrities and other special guests while participating in sessions teaching valuable life tools such as leadership skills, effective communication techniques and networking strategies. Past celebrity participants have included stars from the big screen and television, noted sports figures, popular musicians as well as personalities and cast members from across the Disney family, including "Good Morning America," ESPN, Disney Channel and the TV series "black-ish" and "grown-ish."

The students also take part in career workshops covering a variety of disciplines aligned with the students' dreams. These workshops introduce the Disney Dreamers to diverse career paths within business, entertainment and sciences, including career opportunities within The Walt Disney Company.

After taking part in the academy, graduates have gone on to become doctors, nurses, engineers, pilots, journalists and more, and some have transitioned into mentors to the Disney Dreamers who followed them.

For more information, visit DisneyDreamersAcademy.com, or follow on social media at [Facebook.com/DisneyDreamersAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/DisneyDreamersAcademy), [Twitter.com/DreamersAcademy](https://twitter.com/DreamersAcademy) and [Instagram.com/disneydreamersacademy/](https://www.instagram.com/disneydreamersacademy/).



After taking part in the academy, graduates have gone on to become doctors, nurses, engineers, pilots, journalists and more, and some have transitioned into mentors to the Disney Dreamers who followed them

While school populations have become more diverse, segregation still remains

Philadelphiaobserver.com

1954's Brown v. Brown of Education decision may have made state laws intentionally separating students of different races by school unconstitutional, but gentrification and other economic factors have kept segregation going. As NPR reports, while the entirety of America's student makeup is more diverse than ever, segregation is still prevalent in 2022.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a comprehensive report showing that 18.5 million attended a predominantly same-race/ethnicity school during the 2020-21 school year. 14% of students attended schools where almost all of the student body was of a single race/ethnicity.

Director of K-12 education at the GAO and lead author of the report, Jackie Nowicki, stressed that racial division in schools happens because minority students have fewer resources.

From NPR: "There is clearly still racial division in schools," says Nowicki. She adds that schools with large proportions of Hispanic, Black and American Indian/Alaska Native students – minority groups with higher rates of poverty

than white and Asian American students – are also increasing. "What that means is you have large portions of minority children not only attending essentially segregated schools, but schools that have less resources available to them."



Gates Foundation to spend additional \$3B each year on several causes

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Bill Gates insists he's optimistic about the future.

One of the wealthiest men in the world said he sees incredible heroism and sacrifice all over the globe, especially as the Covid-19 pandemic continues.

"Medical workers put in unbelievable hours at great risk to themselves to help people infected with COVID. Incredible efforts are taking place to help refugees from the Ukrainian war and to help those caught in battle zones," Gates wrote on his personal blog.

"Activists are courageously protesting and often risking their lives to protect people's rights. People on the front lines inspire me to do whatever I can. Although each of us can only do so much, when lots of people join in, we will resume progress."

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced it would significantly increase its already robust philanthropic efforts in areas including global health, economic development, gender equality, and education.

The world's largest charitable foundation will increase the rate of its grant-making from nearly \$6 billion to \$9 billion each year by 2026.

Among its many efforts, the foundation sponsors the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) education program.

"We need all sectors of society – government, the private sector, and the non-profit sector, including philanthropy – to engage on these issues," Gates insisted. "Philanthropy is the smallest of these sectors, but it is unique in its ability to try risky ideas that can have a large impact if they succeed and are scaled up."

Despite the 2021 announce-

ment that Gates and his wife, Melinda French Gates, were divorcing, the couple has continued to make the foundation and charitable giving a primary focus.

"I am putting a lot of my energy and resources into innovators working on pandemic prevention, global health, climate mitigation (including getting rid of dependence on hydrocarbons) and adaption, education, improvement (including remediation), and food costs.

"When I say 'innovation,' I'm referring to new products and services as well as new ways of delivering them to those in need – including by strengthening local leaders and institutions," Gates continued.

"These innovations will not come in time to avoid the problems altogether, but the faster we move, the less people will suffer. For many people, including myself, this is the most concrete way of contributing, even when it seems modest compared to the scale of the problems. Focusing on being part of the solution is better than giving up in despair."

According to the New York Times, Gates and French Gates promised to inject an additional \$15 billion in funds into the foundation a year ago. Gates said that as part of that commitment, he planned to give \$20 billion to the foundation this month.

"As I look to the future, my plan is to give all my wealth to the foundation other than what I spend on myself and my family," Gates wrote this week.

"I will move down and eventually off of the list of the world's richest people," added Mr. Gates, who, along with French Gates, has already given \$39 billion to the foundation since 1994.

"My giving this money is not a sacrifice at all I feel privileged to be involved in tackling these great challenges," Gates insisted.

Editorial - Opinion



By Emil Guillermo

Highland Park is a tragedy, but so is Akron, Ohio and Jayland Walker.

If you were celebrating on the Fourth of July, you have to be troubled on the fifth, sixth, seventh, and all the rest of our days. This past weekend, some of our fellow Americans were flinching from gunpowder blasts. And it's not from the fireworks. It's from guns. And it's a reminder that our freedoms just don't seem to be working right now for all of us in America. We may have to think seriously about giving up some rights for the greater good. It surely can't go on much lon-

ger the way it is. Not when seven are dead and more than 30 are injured when a gunman shot up a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, Ill. Not when the police chief of Akron, Ohio, finally released officers' body camera videos of the killing of Jayland Walker on Sunday, nearly a week after Akron cops put more than 60 gunshot wounds into an unarmed Walker. The Sunday release of the body-cam footage and the NAACP-led protest that occurred over the holiday in Akron would have led the national news most weekends. But not when you have a live shooting at a Fourth of July parade in a Chicago suburb considered one of the safest places in America. If you don't know Highland Park (population 30,177), it's to Chicago what the Lamorinda area

is to Oakland. Affluent (\$147,067 plus median income), 80-90% white. As a "white flight" suburb, mass shootings aren't supposed to happen there. So, when it does, the media get super-focused on Highland Park. Meanwhile, Akron barely got mentioned in the news. You need both instances together to give you the rich, full picture of America's gun problem. It's not the same for everyone. For people of color, we have to fear the bad guys and the good guys. Surely, minority communities know the Highland Park kind of gun violence perpetrated by an alienated male with an AR-15 type weapon. The Black community felt the pain at the Tops Supermarket shooting in Buffalo where 10 people died in May. The Hispanic com-

munity suffered in Uvalde when 21 people were killed last month. But then you have the kind of shooting that took Jayland Walker's life. Reports say Walker had a handgun on a seat in his car. It wasn't loaded. And he didn't use it. Walker was stopped by the Akron police during a routine traffic stop. He had one traffic ticket and no criminal record. So why did it take eight officers to stop him, ending in a seven-minute pursuit that left Walker dead? At one point, Walker stopped, exited his car wearing a ski mask, and fled on foot. Police used tasers at first, but when that didn't stop Walker, the officers opened fire. Akron Chief Stephen L. Mylett confirmed Walker was unarmed when confronted and told the lawyers for Walker that evidence

he'd seen, indicated the officers were not threatened. The eight officers were placed on administrative leave. And last weekend hundreds protested in downtown Akron. We just didn't see much coverage on it. It would have only reinforced what we know—that police violence, specifically toward the BIPOC community is real and keeps happening again and again. Who knows if Jayland Walker and his family will ever see justice? We only know for sure that Walker won't be the last Black man who dies by police violence. That's why we need to keep shining a light on Walker's case, so that in a year people won't wonder, "Jayland Who?" Emil Guillermo is a veteran journalist and commentator. See his work on www.amok.com

I asked what kind of family

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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Alvin Ailey announces highlights of 2022 New York Center Season

Posted by Audrey J. Bernard

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company and America's cultural ambassador to the world, announces highlights of its always-anticipated annual season at New York City Center. Returning to its "home" theater for four weeks from November 30–December 24, 2022, the Ailey company will present a world premiere by Kyle Abraham, the company premiere of Twyla Tharp's *Roy's Joys*, and a new production of Alvin Ailey's *Survivors*. Programs will also feature the Company's City Center premieres of Paul Taylor's *DUET* and Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood*. Beginning with a one-night-only Opening Night Gala special program on November 30, the season showcases over a half dozen classic works by founder Alvin Ailey, including the always-inspiring must-see masterpiece *Revelations*.

Artistic Director Robert Battle said, "The repertory I have chosen for this season puts audiences back in touch with some of the richest, deepest works Alvin Ailey ever choreographed, shows off the brilliance of our dancers in pieces by great contemporaries of Mr. Ailey, Twyla Tharp and Paul Taylor, and introduces everyone to amazing new works by Kyle Abraham and Jamar Roberts that find reservoirs of love and resilience in our complicated lives and times. This is going to be a season overflowing with the joy of connections—eclectic, surprising, moving connections—between eras, between dancemakers, and between people."

In his third commission for the Ailey company, acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham creates a work that celebrates Black culture, Black music, and the youthful spirit that perseveres in us all. Scored to a "mixtape" of soul, hip-hop and R&B, the work explores the connections among music, communication, and personal memory.

Continuing to expand its renowned repertory, the company

will offer its premiere of Twyla Tharp's silky and sultry *Roy's Joys* (1997), embodying the spontaneity of a 1940s and 50s jazz soundtrack by Roy Eldridge. Mixing vernacular dance with ballet and modern technique, *Roy's Joys* exudes an easy, carefree energy that shows Tharp at her rollicking best.

A new production of Alvin Ailey's *Survivors* (1986) revives this impassioned tribute to the profound courage and terrible anguish of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, and more broadly presents a portrait of people transformed by injustice. Max Roach's richly varied drumming and Abbey Lincoln's vocals set the emotional tone for this powerful work that lifts up those who resist oppression in any form.

Following critically acclaimed premieres earlier this year, the Company will present Paul Taylor's 1964 *DUET*, set to the music of Franz Josef Haydn and portraying a love, perhaps not new, but rather tried and true; and Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood*, an intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple that becomes an exploration of love and desire. The work is set to an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia. Along with Alvin Ailey's classic *Cry, Memoria, and Revelations*, the performances will also feature a number of the founder's works set to the music of the great Duke Ellington, including *Night Creature, Reflections in D, Pas de Duke, and The River*.

During the 2022-23 season, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will welcome four new dancers, three of whom trained in the Ailey organization. Alisha Rena Peek (Upper Marlboro, MD) and Deidre Rogan (Fort Myers, FL) are both graduates of the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program and former members of Ailey II, while Hannah Alissa Richardson (Toronto, Ontario Canada) is a former member of Ailey II and a graduate of The Ailey School Certificate Program. Xavier



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Constance Stamatiou and Yannick Lebrun in Alvin Ailey's *Pas de Duke* (Photo by Paul Kolnik)

Mack (Washington, D.C.) previously performed for five years with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

The announcement of the season highlights comes as Ailey prepares to kick off Ailey Moves NYC! a summer celebration with free outdoor events throughout all five New York boroughs, Saturday, July 23–August 1, 2022. Embracing people everywhere in the city that is Ailey's home, Ailey Moves NYC! offers performances, dance classes, *Revelations* workshops, and screenings of Jamila Wignot's acclaimed 2021 documentary *Ailey*, with events featuring Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, *Ailey II*, *Ailey Extension*—which provides dance and fitness classes for all experience levels—and *Ailey Arts In Education*. For details and



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Ghrai DeVore-Stokes and Chavar Monteiro in Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood* (Photo by Paul Kolnik)



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* (Photo by Dario Calmese)

information, visit alvinailey.org/ailey-moves-nyc. Full New York City Center program details will be announced before tickets go on sale October 11. For further information about season schedule and to purchase tickets, starting at \$29, please visit www.alvinailey.org/nycc.

The 2022 Winter Season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature,

and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Ailey Moves NYC! is supported, in part, by Con Edison's Arts Al Fresco Series and the Rockefeller Foundation. For more general information, visit www.alvinailey.org. Tickets On Sale Tuesday, October 11. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: Nov 30 – Dec 24, 2022, at New York City Center, 131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY, (212) 581-1212 / www.nycitycenter.org

On the scene

45th Kennedy Center Honors five powerful phenoms for lifetime artistic achievements



45th Kennedy Center Honoree George Clooney (Photo Credit Annette Nantell)



45th Kennedy Center Honoree Amy Grant (Photo Credit Cameron Powell)



45th Kennedy Center Honoree Gladys Knight (Photo Credit Derek Blanks)



45th Kennedy Center Honoree Tania León (Photo Credit Gail Hadani)

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts recently announced their selection of the five Honorees who will receive the 2022 45th Kennedy Center Honors for lifetime artistic achievements. Recipients to be honored at the annual national celebration of the arts in Washington, D.C. are acclaimed actor and filmmaker George Clooney; contemporary Christian and pop singer-songwriter Amy Grant; the legendary singer of soul, Gospel, R&B, and pop Gladys Knight; Cuban-born American composer, conductor, and educator Tania León; and iconic Irish rock band U2, comprised of band members Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton, and Larry Mullen Jr. Additionally, Done+Dusted, the award-winning production company and producers of the Center's Mark Twain Prize since 2018, have been selected as Executive Producers of the 45th annual Kennedy Center Honors.

Kennedy Center Chairman David M. Rubenstein said this about the 2022 Honorees: "Whether saving humanity, masterminding a heist, or captaining a ship in dangerous seas, actor George Clooney's unique brand of earnest charisma and his complete embodiment of a character has led us to root for him every time; multi-platinum singer-songwriter Amy Grant became the first artist to bring contemporary Christian music to the forefront of American culture, then equally thrived after crossing over into mainstream pop with hit after hit, and today is revered as the 'Queen of Christian Pop.' In her 55-year music career, legendary singer and America's beloved 'Empress of Soul' Gladys Knight went from the Pips of Georgia to Grammy royalty, showcasing a boundless vocal range and soulfulness that has stood the test of time; a brave, young Cuban refugee turned Pulitzer Prize-winning composer



45th Kennedy Center Honoree U2 (Photo Credit Olaf Heine)

and music ambassador, Tania León has blessed America for more than five decades with her astoundingly original compositions and continues to be a major influence on classical music; and one of most influential rock bands of the modern rock era, U2, won over America and the world long ago with their iconic anthems, potent lyrics, and powerful messages of social justice and global citizenship—

earning a musical legacy that crosses generations, inspires, and unites."

Deborah F. Rutter, Kennedy Center President, added: "For nearly a half-century, the Kennedy Center Honors has represented the very best of America's creative culture. The Honors is often referred to by past recipients as the pinnacle of awards because it recognizes not just one performance, album, or film, but es-

teems an artist's cumulative body of work and influence over many decades. This level of distinction is important. Through this holistic viewpoint, each year's Honorees add another layer to the complex and inspiring collage of artists that together tell the story of our collective contribution to global culture. Now, as the Center completes its yearlong 50th Anniversary celebration, I cannot help but think that the Kennedy Center's

namesake would surely smile at this celebration that brings us closer to his vision of an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft."

Throughout its 44-year history, the annual Honors Gala has become the highlight of the Washington cultural and society calendar, and its national broadcast on CBS is a high point of the television season. On Sunday, December 4, in a star-studded celebration on the Kennedy Center Opera House stage, the 45th class of Kennedy Center Honorees will be saluted by today's leading performers from New York, Hollywood, and the arts capitals of the world. Seated in the Box Tier of the iconic Kennedy Center Opera House, the Honorees will accept the recognition and gratitude of their peers through performances and tributes. The 45th Kennedy Center Honors Gala concludes with a dinner in the Grand Foyer. The Honors Gala will be recorded for broadcast on the CBS Television Network at a later date for the 45th consecutive year as a two-hour primetime special and will be available to stream live and on demand on Paramount+.

Joining this year's Honors creative team is Done+Dusted, a production company with a reputation for creating and capturing the moments that make headlines and shape culture. The 45th annual Kennedy Center Honors will be produced by Done+Dusted in association with ROK Productions, represented by Elizabeth Kelly, who will executive produce alongside David Jammy and Ian Stewart. The show will be directed by Alex Rudzinski. For ticket inquiries, please visit kennedy-center.org/honorsinfo or email Honors@kennedy-center.org. For more information about the Kennedy Center, please visit our website.

On the scene

Happy 100th Birthday Rachel Robinson, a truly 'phenomenal woman'

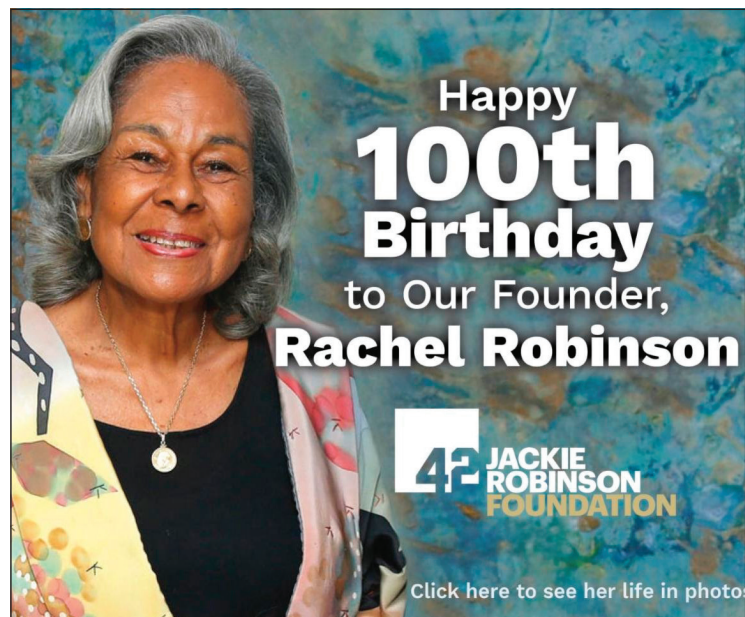


Jackie Robinson Foundation official image -- Rachel Robinson is pictured with her daughter Sharon Robinson and son David Robinson Jr.

HARLEM, NEW YORK — On Tuesday, July 19, 2022, NYC's Jazzmobile program, under the dynamic direction of Executive Producer Robin Bell-Stevens, celebrated Rachel Arnetta Isum Robinson's One Hundredth Birthday during Summer set week three with Lynette

Washington in collaboration with The Historic Harlem Parks @ Jackie Robinson Park Bandshell, at Bradhurst Avenue near 145th Street in Harlem. Rachel Robinson, a friend, leader and mentor to many has preserved the memory and legacy of her husband, Jackie, for 50 years. She

is the founder of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, a nonprofit that provides college scholarships and leadership training. Alongside her husband, who was the first African American to play Major League Baseball in the modern era, she was a civil rights activist, and in her own right, a pioneer



Happy Centennial Celebrant Rachel Robinson

in the medical field. In 1961, Rachel graduated from New York University with a master's degree in psychiatric nursing. She was later the director of nursing for the Connecticut Mental Health Center and an assistant professor of nursing at Yale University. In tribute to Rachel's centennial celebration, Bell-Stevens praised her friend and mentor. "Having met her, Jackie and their children at 'An Afternoon of Jazz' festival through family friends at their home in North Stamford, Connecticut, little did I know that years later after friendships were formed—one day I would be asked by Rachel to join her, Billy Taylor, George & Joyce Wein, Marion Logan and George T. Simon as the Executive Producer of this pre-

mier one-day jazz festival! Working with Rachel, Sharon & David Robinson, and Jerry A. Lewis, the President of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, we expanded the Jazz Committee with a dynamic group of 400 young professionals, (including sororities & fraternities), and their families. The Robinson family presented this festival for about 40 years. It supported various charities, most notably the Jackie Robinson Foundation. The first year, in 1963, they raised bail money for the Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was there when jazz greats such as Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington took to the stage. Today we celebrate her, a truly Phenomenal Woman!" — Robin Bell-Stevens



David Robinson Jr. with his mother Rachel Robinson at a Jackie Robinson Foundation gala dinner (Photo by Seitu Oronde)



By Victoria Horsford

What's going on

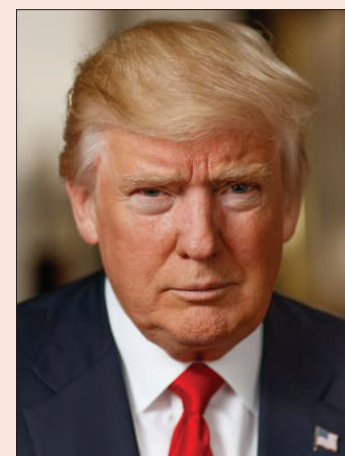
AMERICAN POLITICS

THE NATION: Congressional televised version of its January 6 hearing about the dark day in American history has aroused consternation and anger in myriad circles. Read the NY Times opinion piece, "We are Retired Generals and Admirals, Trump's Actions on January 6 Were a Dereliction of Duty." NY Times opinion writer Charles Blow's 7/24 essay "We Can't Afford Not to Prosecute Trump" argues that the Justice Department must act. He adds a Trump free of prosecution is a Trump free to rampage." He concludes if a president can operate with impunity, the presidency invites corruption and it defies the ideals of this democracy.

Others pundits opine about the US republic as a broken sys-



Charles Blow



Donald Trump

tem marred by division. Recent polls show that most Americans agree on one thing. A change in government is inevitable and American leadership must be much younger than septuagenarians Biden and Trump. They concur that Donald Trump should be tried for criminal charges for his January 6 behavior and his failure to interrupt the insurgents at the Capitol, as he languished for three hours at the White House, looking at Fox TV and calling Republican US Senators to halt the vote to confirm presidential election results.

The call for a younger generation to govern America who would that be.

None of the Republicans who have announced interest. Governors De Santis, Greg Abbott, Marco Rubio, Georgia US Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, VEEP Mike Pence, William Barr. To a man, they are MAGA acolytes. Democratic hopefuls would include Vice President Kamala Harris, Stacey Abrams, Governor Gavin Newsom? NY Governor Kathy Hochul? NYC Mayor Eric Adams?

GEORGIA: Fani Willis, Fulton County District Attorney, launched a criminal probe into Trump and his allies who wanted to overturn results of the 2020 election in Georgia.

MARYLAND: Maryland-born, Jamerican Wes Moore, 43, a Rhodes Scholar, author, a combat veteran and former head of the NY based Robin Hood Foundation, an anti poverty nonprofit, won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination last week. Kweisi Mfume won the Democratic nomination for a congressional seat.

TEXAS: Governor Greg Abbott is in trouble, maybe. He and the Lone Star state go to the head of the class re: all that is wrong in America. Ban on abortion, hostile towards immigrants, voting restrictions. And guns, guns and more guns.

THE MILITARY: US Marine Lt. General Michael E. Langley



Fani Willis



Michael E. Langley



Darcel Clark

who has served in Afghanistan, and Japan, will become the first Black Marine four star general in its 246 year history, pending US Senate confirmation. He will have oversight of US forces in Africa as chief of the US Africa Command.

WORLD AFFAIRS

Read the Economist Magazine essay, "There Will Be African Victims of Russian War, Warn Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Olusegun Obasanjo," former African heads of state, Liberia and Nigeria respectively. They believe that the UN is no longer fit for purpose. Story begins who maintain that the continuation

of the war in Ukraine is of great concern to Africa. Before the war, African face a perfect storm. Which suffer from isolation from the global supply chain during Covid10, a debt crisis looms with 25 countries in debt distress or of high risk of defaults with Zambia and Nigeria at the top of the list.

ARTS/CULTURE CALENDAR

THEATER: The National Black Theater Festival convenes August 1 to 6 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina headquartered at the Marriott Hotel and Embassy Suites Hotel on Cherry Street. Theater productions and talks fill most of the schedule. Celebrity attendees include theater brass, producers, actors, directors and playwrights, including Barbara Montgomery, Ruben Santiago Hudson, Stephen Byrd, Alia Jones-Harvey, Lisa Arrindell, Stephen McKinley Henderson, Laurence Holder, and Brian Stokes-Mitchell.

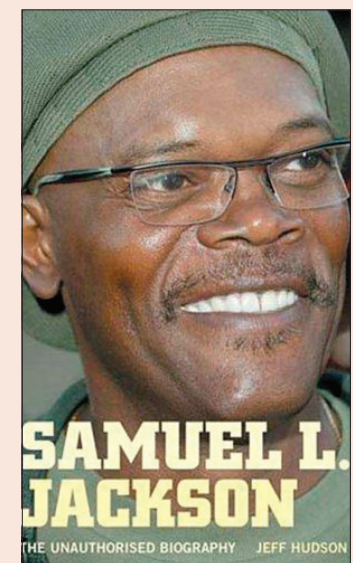
NY FALL LINEUP: Arthur Miller's Pulitzer play, DEATH OF A SALESMAN launched in 1949, first retelling of story about the American dream and values, filtered through the lens of Willie Loman's Black family, starring Wendell Pierce, Sharon Clarke and Andre Deshields. Performances begin September 17. For 17 weeks.

The August Wilson Pulitzer classic, PIANO LESSON, starring Samuel Jackson, Danielle Brooks, and John David Washington with LaTanya Richardson Jackson directing, returns to Broadway at the Barrymore Theatre, on September 18 for 17 weeks.

FILM: Boxing great Mike Tyson, is the subject of the 8-episode biopic series, MIKE, which debuts on the HULU streaming service on August 25.

Sylvia Wong Lewis presents the Auntyland Film Festival which returns with its first summer event, from July 27 to August 31 and which includes a menu of digital talk; 3 directors; and 3 films—"CityBirds," "Rain: UP Close," and "It's the Fuller Brush Man"—and a student-curated film series. It is the only Festival for women and BIPOC artists, who are 50 years plus. Visit auntylandfilmfest.org/summer-festival-2022 to attend free.

BOOK NOTES: Harvard scholar Dr. Henry Louis Gates was named editor in chief of the New Oxford Dictionary of African American English..... Georgia's first Black US Senator Raphael Warnock wrote a book, "A Memoir of Truth, Transfor-



Samuel Jackson

mation, and the New American Story" which hits bookstores in August.

African scholar Wole Soyinka, prolific Nigerian writer/playwright and 1986 Nobel Literature Laureate wrote his first novel since 1973, titled "Chronology From the Land of the Happiest People On Earth," a highly-acclaimed work, set in Nigeria, which was published in 2021, is available in paperback.

PRESERVATION: James Singletary was named Executive Director of the SAVE HARLEM NOW! SHN, a nonprofit organization whose mission is "to protect Harlem's built environment and to preserve its history." A veteran social service administrator, Singletary was director of the Children, Youth & Families organization at The Riverside Church for more than 10 years. He holds three Master's degrees in Social Work; Theology and Fine Arts, from Columbia University, Union Theological Seminary and the New School University, respectively. Founded in 2015, SHN has supported Harlem historic designation applicants like the Dorrance Brooks Square Property Owners and Residents Association, the West Harlem Community Preservation Organization, and the NY Public Library Harlem branch located at 9 West 124 Street. Valerie Jo Bradley is SHN President/co founder.

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Ad Council | DOLLAR GENERAL LITERACY FOUNDATION



Denver police shoot six bystanders while pursuing suspect

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Victims of a mass shooting are questioning why Denver police officers shot into a crowded downtown area at a man who was not firing his gun, injuring half a dozen innocent people.

Yekalo Weldehiwet, 26, said he lost mobility in his right arm after three officers opened seven rounds of gunfire on Jordan Waddy after 1 a.m. on July 17. Law enforcement officials said Waddy had a handgun and pointed the muzzle at patrol officers pursuing him on foot after he got into a fight outside the Larimer Beer Hall.

Crime scene investigators scan downtown Denver for evidence after a mass shooting on July 17, 2022. (YouTube/Denver7 – The Denver Channel)

Weldehiwet had been celebrating his brother's fiancée's birthday at the Larimer Beer Hall when he heard gunshots, ducked and started running.

"Then we were trying to get into the parking lot, and the next

thing you know, we heard the second bullet — the second gunshot. It landed right behind my bicep and fractured my bone," he said.

Weldehiwet said he did not know it was a police shooting until days after it occurred. Doctors said Weldehiwet's humerus bone was shattered, and he will need surgery to install a plate in his arm.

Five other bystanders and the suspect were also shot in the incident. Bailey Alexander, 24, said she was shot in soft tissue near her shoulder blade. She didn't know that officers were the ones who fired the shots until she saw the news.

Police said they found a 10mm handgun they allege belongs to Waddy at the scene, but there is no evidence that he fired the gun he was holding. Officials said they recovered the weapon with one bullet in the chamber with the hammer cocked and seven shots in the magazine.

Guillermo Cortes told the Denver Post he was standing near Larimer Beer Hall along with dozens

of other people. He saw two men get into a fight and at least two Denver police officers followed one of them.

Cortes said he saw the officers shoot the man and he fell to the ground, but he said he did not see the man holding a weapon or heard the officers give any warnings.

"I'm pretty sure we would've been shot had we been standing in the wrong spot," Cortes said.

Weldehiwet said he asked officers who visited him in the hospital if they caught the person who shot him, not knowing the whole story.

"To find out the next day that it was actually the police, and the suspect had not fired anything at all, at that moment, I felt unsafe. For them to shoot in a mass crowd like that with uncertainty — it blew my mind. That kind of spiraled into asking a bunch of questions as to why they did that," he said. "I am angry. I am frustrated. I am in pain. I am all of the above for sure."

Road rage driver avoids arrest after shooting woman six times

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A Black woman in Park Forest, Illinois, is demanding charges be filed against the white driver who shot her six times after a road rage encounter.

Aaliyah Ivory, 24, was on her way to Chicago to hang out with friends just before 2 p.m. on Saturday when she encountered an enraged white man who was upset that she cut him off on the I-57, WGN-TV reports. After merging onto I-57 northbound from Lincoln Highway near Matteson, Ivory was confronted by a white man who fired shots into her car.

"He wouldn't let her over, so he tried to push her off the side of the road," Ivory's family said. "She cut him back off; he pulled up on the side of her, called her a racist name."

"She called him a name back — he got behind her, next thing

you know bullets started to shoot."

Ivory was able to pull over, and witnesses rushed to her aid. She was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. CBS News reports that Illinois State Police did arrest the alleged shooter, but a detective later told the family the man claimed he feared for his life, so he was released without facing any charges.

Ivory's sister, Ashlee Johnson, said she did have a concealed carry permit, but she never touched her weapon.

"How did he fear for his life?" she said. "I never drew my gun. I never gave him no reason to shoot me — and then you shoot me six times."

"My sister is concealed to carry," Johnson added. "She does have a weapon, but she never drew her weapon; never shot her weapon. Her weapon was never taken off safety."



'You damaged his spine': Man hospitalized after store employee followed, hit him with 'pole' after accusing him of stealing shirt

Philadelphiaobserver.com

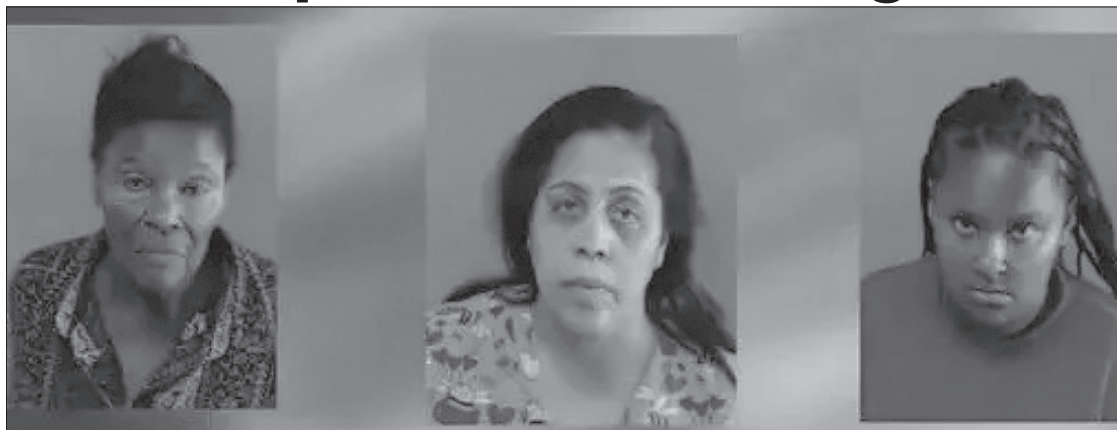
Police in the Atlanta suburb of DeKalb County are investigating an altercation at a local mall between a clerk at a popular clothing store and a man suspected of shoplifting. The accused man was left with injuries to his head, neck, and spine after he was struck with a metal object by the clerk, his family says, and now the mall owner is concerned.

On Sunday, July 17, Dekwan Jackson, 25, was inside the Player's Closet, a store inside the Mall at Stonecrest, when he was accused of stealing. At a certain point, while he was in the store, an employee approached him about boosting a shirt from their display inventory,

Fox 5 Atlanta reports.

Jackson reportedly denied he stole anything and exits the store. Cellphone video taken by another mall shopper shows the clerk approaching a man who is now being identified as Jackson from behind with what appears to be a metal rod or pipe in the common area of the mall and striking him in the head — leaving him immobile for seconds. The striker jogs away from the affray after the strike.

The young man eventually gets up and stumbles to the glass exit doors and is later taken to the hospital. Police said they were called that evening to a QuikTrip gas station where they found Jackson bleeding. He told them he was struck in the back of the head



by an unknown man in a parking lot at South DeKalb Mall — some 12 miles from Stonecrest Mall — according to Macon.com.

Officers submitted in a statement Jackson had visible injuries, prompting them to secure him with medical attention in a hospital.

The next day, Yvette Jackson, the victim's mother called the police to offer a different version of how her son sustained his injuries, telling authorities that her son was hit by a Player's Closet employee.

Jackson's aunt Marquita Jackson told local station Fox 5, "He hit

the ground so hard...you know how you get carpet burns? He has one and his is down to the white meat."

"He later had to have surgery on his spine, had to have metal plates put into his head, his neck, and a rod down his spine," she claimed.

International

Facebook blasted for publishing Amharic hate speech

(GIN) –

A proliferation of incendiary hate speech has turned up in social media's Facebook for Ethiopia in ads that call for people to be killed, starved or 'cleansed' from an area, that compare people to animals and call for genocide.

Phrases used are highly offensive and dehumanizing. Several posts amounted to a call for genocide. None of the sentences were dog-whistles or in any way difficult to interpret or mistake.

Whistleblower Frances Haugen, an advocate for accountability and transparency in social media, was among the first to show how Facebook exacerbates hostilities by 'literally fanning ethnic violence.'



A new investigation by Global Witness, done in partnership with legal non-profit Foxglove and independent researcher Dagim Afework Mekonnen, has exposed how Facebook failed to detect hate speech in the main language of Ethiopia. It follows from a previous investigation which showed the same in Myanmar.

In its defense, Facebook called Ethiopia 'one of our highest priorities for country-specific interventions to keep people safe.' For more than two years, they alleged, they have invested in safety and security measures 'including building our capacity to catch hateful and inflammatory content in the languages that are spoken most widely in the country.'

Specifically, they claimed that they had employed more staff who speak Amharic, and that they have technology to automatically identify hate speech in Amharic. Their efforts are 'industry-leading,' they said.

Facebook's 'industry-leading' hate speech detection was put to the test to see if their alleged safety and security measures could really prevent ads that fuel violence.

"We picked out the worst cases we could think of," said Rosie Sharpe, an activist with Global Witness and director of Foxglove, a London-based legal nonprofit. "The ones that ought to be the easiest for Facebook to detect. They weren't coded language. They weren't dog whistles. They were explicit statements saying

that this type of person is not a human or these types of people should be starved to death."

All of the hate speech examples had previously been reported to Facebook as violating their community standards and the majority had been removed from Facebook. Equal numbers of hate speech examples targeted the three main ethnic groups of the country, the Amhara, Oromo and Tigrayans.

None of the ads were ultimately published but were deleted once Facebook had determined whether the ads had been approved for publication or not.

All 12 of the ads had been accepted by Facebook for publication.

In November, Meta, the owner of Facebook and other social

media platforms, said it removed a post by Ethiopia's prime minister that urged citizens to rise up and "bury" rival Tigray forces who threatened the country's capital.

In the since-deleted post, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed had said the "obligation to die for Ethiopia belongs to all of us." He called on citizens to mobilize "by holding any weapon or capacity."

Abiy has continued to post on the platform, though, where he has 4.1 million followers. The U.S. and others have warned Ethiopia about "dehumanizing rhetoric" after the prime minister described the Tigray forces as "cancer" and "weeds" in comments made in July 2021.

"When ads calling for genocide in Ethiopia repeatedly get through Facebook's net — even after the issue is flagged with Facebook — there's only one possible conclusion: there's nobody home," said Curling.

All the ads would have breached the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had they been published.

Rather than helping to unify the country, Facebook has simply amplified existing tensions on a massive scale, wrote David Gilbert of VICE News.

Berhan Taye, Africa policy lead at digital rights group Access Now, told VICE News: "Facebook's inaction helps propagate hate and polarization in a country and has a devastating impact on the narrative and extent of the violence."

European countries still support forcible return of refugees

(GIN) –

No one chooses to be a refugee.

With those words, novelist Laila Lalami wound up her story of Europe's current crackdown on asylum seekers, predominantly from Africa and increasingly jailed, beaten, or killed by security officers patrolling the border with Spain. The latest incident in which 37 African men were shot and died, took place at a Spanish enclave in northern Morocco.

Most of the 2,000 refugees and immigrants who sprinted to freedom on June 24 this year were escaping poverty, persecution, armed conflict, or other crises or violence. Some no longer felt safe in their home country and might have faced discrimination for their ethnicity, religion, sexuality or political opinions.

But when they attempted to exercise their rights to asylum, they faced tear gas and beatings with billy clubs wielded by Moroccan police in full riot gear. The refugees hailed from Sudan, Chad and elsewhere in Africa. Among the border guards, to Lalami's dismay, were fellow Africans.

The incident, recorded and viewed widely, brought swift condemnation from the leader of the U.N. and many others. But after the cameras rolled away, Spain and Morocco leaders met quietly to discuss how to prevent the "violent and dangerous situation we saw two weeks ago."

The events at the border were "planned and orchestrated," in a way that was not typical of other



attempts to storm the Spanish border, a spokesman for the Moroccan government hypothesized. Authorities blamed the refugees themselves for the "stampede" but as videos and photos emerged in the following days, a different story came into focus.

Dozens of young Black men, some of them motionless and bleeding were seen strewn on the floor as Moroccan security forces stood over them. One uniformed man could be seen poking one body with his baton.

Omar Naji of Morocco's Human Rights Association in Nador said they have been contacted by the families of Sudanese migrants believed to be among the victims but have not been allowed to see the bodies or the dozens of injured migrants being treated at a local hospital.

"I am shocked by the violence," U.N. Chief Antonio Guterres tweeted this week. The use of excessive force is unacceptable, and the human rights and dignity of people on the move must be prioritized by countries."

But the fierce crackdown on migrants continues to be justified by countries in Europe and the U.S. as "an attack on their borders," where violence is blamed on migrants, encouraged by "mafias" who traffic in human beings.

It is particularly disappointing, noted a group of seven NGOs, that the EU never fulfilled its pledge to resettle 30,000 refugees in 2020, even after carrying this over into 2021. Last year, only 15,660 refugees were resettled to 12 EU states while more than 5.2 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe.

Countries willing to capture and deport migrants include Tunisia, Libya, and Senegal while Greece and Turkey are erecting a network of walls and fences.

Deporting migrants back to Morocco, flying them to Rwanda, or telling them to remain in Mexico—these are all cruel, shortsighted responses, Lalami says, adding: "For until their homes are safe, refugees will continue to come." w/pix of migrants scaling fence

Colombian cops mistakenly create citywide contact high while burning seized weed

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The war on drugs is one that isn't exclusive to America, with many of the narcotics used stateside coming as imports from other regions in the world.

Over in Colombia, authorities have for a long time practiced getting rid of confiscated drugs by way of an incineration process. However, that plan backfired in the Medellín suburb known as Bello when cops inadvertently caused a contact high throughout the town due to lingering smoke from the 1.5 tons of seized weed.

TMZ obtained the footage seen above, which shows a Bello resident recording what's believed to be a huge hovering cloud of marijuana. The story goes that authorities have been confiscating weed from local dealers for the past two weeks, and decided to bring it to the burner after bagging up a fair share of baggies. Unfortunately, whoever was in charge of the incineration didn't quite check the weather report. Heavy winds sent the smoke directly into

town, even causing evacuations at nearby residences that believed a fire was underway.

Colombia has for a long time been shrouded with the reputation of being the face of illegal drug trade, with Medellín, Norte del Valle, Cali and North Coast be-

ing the four main drug trafficking cartels. While cocaine has been its most prized delicacy when it comes to drugs, instances like the weed-burning blooper in Bello prove that, well, Colombia is pretty much booming with a little bit of everything.



Jordan Peele's 'Nope' dominates box office, debuts no. 1 with \$44m

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Jordan Peele has his third box office smash under his belt after his thriller *Nope* debuted at number one with an estimated \$44 million in ticket sales.

While the numbers are nowhere close to the \$71 million Peele's 2019 film *Us* raked in its opening weekend, it's still the biggest opening for an R-rated original screenplay during the pandemic.

The film raked in \$6.4 million on Thursday night. By Friday, *Nope* was nearing \$20 million.

The audience was 68% of 18-34 viewers, which is a "sweet spot" for horror films. Moviegoers were also diverse consisting of 35% Caucasian, 33% Black, 20% Hispanic, and 8% Asian.

Its IMAX experience accounted



for about \$5.2 million of its opening weekend earnings, something the IMAX CEO was extremely happy about.

"It's incredibly gratifying to see a visionary like Jordan Peele, who represents a new generation of filmmakers, use our technology in pioneering ways and create an experience meant to be seen

in IMAX," IMAX CEO Rich Gelfond said.

The \$41 million earned during the opening weekend will help Peele recoup all that he spent to create the alien thriller. With a \$68 million production budget, *Nope* is Peele's most expensive film to date, excluding marketing and promotion costs.

Us cost around \$20 million to make, while 2017's Oscar-winning *Get Out* was estimated to cost around \$4.5 million to produce. Both films made over \$255 million worldwide.

Nope, which stars *Get Out*'s Daniel Kaluuya, Keke Palmer, and Steven Yeun, has received mostly positive reviews from film critics and currently rests at 83% on Rotten Tomatoes. The flick pays homage to UFO films like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *Signs*, CBS 17 reported.



13 year old Alena Analeigh Wicker accepted to medical school

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A 13-year-old girl from Texas has just become the youngest Black student ever accepted to medical school – talk about Black Girl Magic!

Alena Analeigh Wicker was recently accepted into the University of Alabama's Heersink School of Medicine class of 2024 this past June, and at only 13 years of age, she's over 10 years younger than the average medical student! Not only did she just achieve a milestone acceptance into med school but this also comes as she's working to complete her degrees in the biological sciences at both Oakwood University and Arizona State University!

For Alena, age is nothing but a number as she told *The Washington Post*, "What is age?"

She continued, "You're not too young to do anything. I feel like I have proven to myself that I can do anything that I put my heart and mind to."

Alena is also the founder of

Brown STEM Girl, an organization that helps girls of color explore futures in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. "We're showing the world that there are other girls out there that are just like me, and they deserve an opportunity and a chance," the teenager said about the program.

And if you're wondering what Alena's parents think about the young genius, Alena's adoptive mother Daphne McQuarter, said she knew from an early age that her daughter was different. "Alena was gifted," she said of her daughter. "It was just how she did things and how advanced she was. She was reading chapter books." And after a few years of home school, she returned to in-person school at ten years old and instead of joining her regular fifth grade class, she was instead focused on an advanced high school curriculum. "The high school work was so easy for me that I ended up graduating from high school at 12 years old."

One Nation mourns, another celebrates life in first 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' trailer, watch trailer

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Leading up to the debut of the *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* trailer, there was plenty of speculation about the highly-anticipated sequel to 2018's global blockbuster *Black Panther* following the tragic passing of Chadwick Boseman. Numerous reports of onset issues revolving around star Letitia Wright and the loud calls for Marvel Studios to recast T'Challa, something director Ryan Coogler, and studio head Kevin Feige vowed they would not do.

So it was pretty understandable that a lot was hanging on *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*'s first trailer, specifically if this film would excite a worried fanbase who felt this still young movie franchise could go on without the face of it. Based on the 2:11 teaser, it looks like Coogler and Feige were on the money when they said this film would honor the late Boseman.



Backed by a fantastic rendition of Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry," the trailer highlights a broken nation of Wakanda mourning the loss of its new king. Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett) painfully expresses her grief by shouting, "I am queen of

the most powerful nation in the world, and my entire family is gone." We also see in one scene Wright's Princess Shuri walking with her mother dressed in all white while holding her brother's Black Panther helmet and shedding tears in another.

#DadJokesRule

fatherhood.gov



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Flick chat

The dreamy 'Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris' is a tribute to Paris and the House of Dior



By Audrey J. Bernard

Focus Features' "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris" is one of this year's most bewitching stories about love, friendship, tenacity and dreams realized. Lesley Manville is the personification of a woman on a mission to make a dream come true and not being deterred by anything to achieve her goal – owning a dress from the haute couture collection of Dior! Although above her means, Manville did everything possible to accomplish her dream. Her journey was filled with great friends – and some luck – rooting her on. Special mention to her friendship with her ride or die neighborhood friend Vy who encouraged her to go the distance. Their chemistry was contagious. It's hard not to want to own a Dior gown after seeing this movie taking place in the beautiful City of Lights, Paris, France which was breathtakingly beautiful!

"Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris" is an enchanting tale of a seemingly ordinary British housekeeper whose dream to own a couture Christian Dior gown which takes her on an extraordinary adventure to Paris. The film is directed by Anthony Fabian (*Skin, Good Hope*) who transports us back to the glam 1950s and the House of Dior. "Anthony transports the audience to the nostalgia and glamour of 1950s London and Paris, and the timeless fantasy of Dior haute couture, offering both Mrs. Harris and us a welcome escape from our

day-to-day lives," said Focus President of Production & Acquisitions Kiska Higgs. "We are overjoyed to collaborate again with the brilliant Lesley Manville and Isabelle Huppert, who fill the screen with poignance and verve."

SYNOPSIS: In post-World War II London, Ada Harris (Academy Award nominee Lesley Manville) earns a living cleaning houses. She's led a lonely life since her beloved husband Eddie went missing in action, but she's not the type to brood over any misfortune or to complain about her circumstances. Still, when the ever-pragmatic Ada spies an unimaginably lovely Christian Dior gown hanging in the master bedroom of a wealthy client, she's surprised to feel an overwhelming pang of desire. Owning something so ethereal, so beautiful, a true work of art— why, that could really change things for a person. After taking on extra jobs and saving as much as she can—even trying her luck at the racetrack—Ada finally can afford to pay for a Dior dress. She bids farewell to close friends Vi (Ellen Thomas) and Archie (Jason Isaacs) and makes her way to Paris to visit the prestigious House of Dior and turn her dreams into reality.

Yet when she arrives, Ada is met with a series of surprising setbacks, not least of which is Dior's intimidating Madame Colbert (Academy Award nominee Isabelle Huppert), who bristles at the very notion of a common charlady wearing haute couture. Still, whatever obstacles are thrown her way, Ada refuses to leave Paris without her dress. Her unwavering commitment charms idealistic Dior accountant André (Lucas Bravo), kindly model Natasha (Alba Baptista) and the aristocratic Marquis de Chassagne (Lambert Wilson), Paris' most eligible bachelor. Ada soon discovers that in changing her own life, she begins to change the lives of all those around her. She might even help save the House of Dior itself. Adapting author Paul Gallico's 1958 novel *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris* for the screen, writer/director Anthony Fabian creates a win-



Mrs. Harris sharing good news with Ellen Thomas

ning, modern-day fairytale about pursuing your dreams, the power of friendship and the importance of remaining true to who you are.

CAST: "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris" stars Lesley Manville as Ada Harris; Isabelle Huppert as Claudine Colbert; Jason Isaacs as Archie; Lambert Wilson as Marquis de Chassagne; Alba Baptista as Natasha; Lucas Bravo as André Fauvel; Ellen Thomas as Vi Butterfield; Rose Williams as Pamela Penrose; Roxane Duran as Marguerite; Christian McKay as Giles Newcombe; and Guilaïne Londez as Madame Avallon.

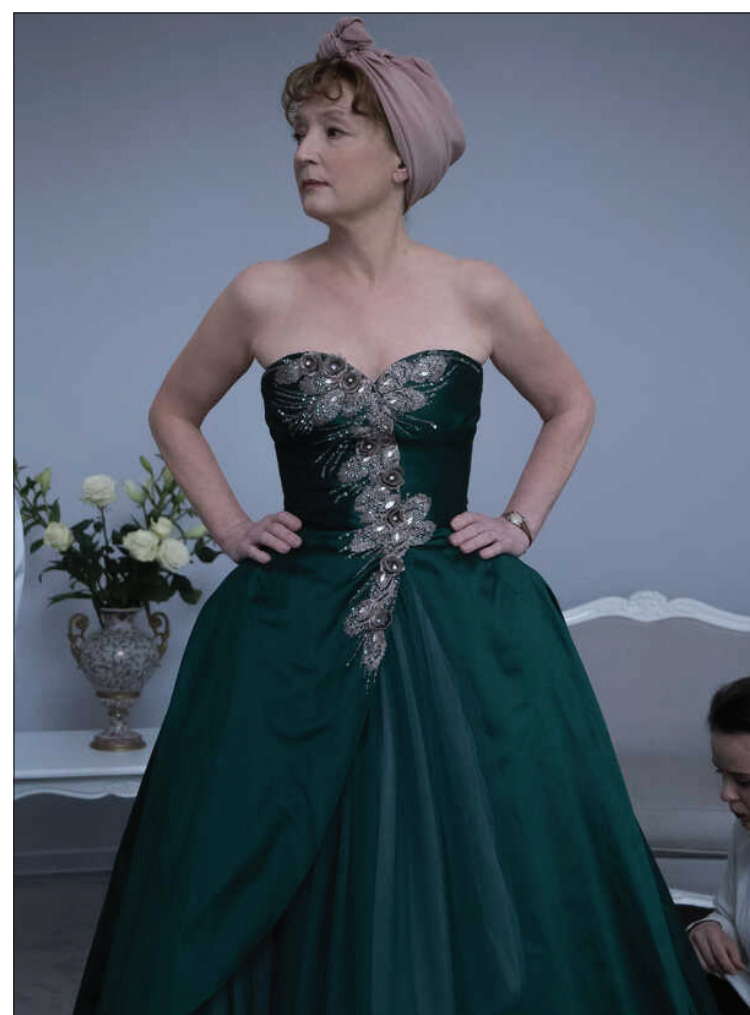
CREDITS: Focus Features Presents In Association With Umedia And Ufund A United Kingdom – Hungary Co-Production With The Participation Of The House Of Dior And Les Parfums Christian Dior. The film is based on the novella of the same name by Paul Gallico. Directed by Anthony Fabian (*Skin, Good Hope*), written by Fabian, Carroll Cartwright, Keith Thompson, Olivia Hetreed. Produced by Xavier Marchand, Guillaume Benski, Fabian. Co-Producers Jonathan Halperyn Jane Hooks Daniel Kresmery. Executive Producers Philippe Carcassonne, Lesley Manville. Screenplay by Carroll Cartwright, Anthony Fabian, Olivia Hetreed, Keith Thompson. Director of Photography Felix Wiedemann. Production Designer Luciana Arrighi. Editor Barney Pilling. Hair & Makeup Designer Csilla Blake-Horváth. Sound Designer Emiliyan Arnaudov. Music Supervisor Dushiyam Piruthivirajah. Visual Effects Supervisor Nikolas D'andrade. Costume Design Jenny Beavan. Music by Rael Jones. Focus Features will distribute the film domestically and Universal Pictures International will distribute internationally. eOne financed the project with support from the National Film Institute of Hungary. The film was released nationwide Friday, July 15, 2022. ("Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris" photos courtesy Focus Features)



'Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris' is the fairytale myth that endures



Ellen Thomas, Jason Isaacs



Mrs. Harris being fitted at the House of Dior in her dream dress

Sports



**Andrew
Rosario,
Sports
Editor**

Cotto stays in the game

By Rich Mancuso

San Juan- Professional boxing is returning to Puerto Rico. PROBOX-TV & Miguel Cotto Promotions in association with H2 Entertainment and the Capital City of San Juan made the official announcement of the partnership at their press conference held last Tuesday morning at the Roberto Clemente Coliseum in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Opening remarks were made by Ana Lynda Rivera, Director of Sports and Recreation of San Juan City. Other notable participants were Miguel Cotto, boxing Hall of Famer and four-division champion from Puerto Rico, former champion and Hall of Fame Juan Manuel Marquez, former champion Ivan Calderon, Juan Carlos "Indio" Camacho Jr., and Jose "Chiquiro" Martinez, WBO President Paco Valcarcel, Ruben De Jesus, Director of Operations of PROBOX-TV and Dr. Jorge Colo, Puerto Rico Boxing Commission President also delivered opening remarks and provided details that officially brings consistent and competitive boxing events to Puerto Rico.

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ing remarks and provided details that officially brings consistent and competitive boxing events to Puerto Rico.

The first card of the 2022 season will be held August 19, 2022, at the Roberto Clemente Coliseum. The event will showcase over eight bouts. The main event will feature Juan Carlos "Indio" Camacho Jr. (13-1, 7 KOs) vs Fernando Diaz (11-1-1, 3 KOs) in what promises to ignite the Puerto Rico – Mexico boxing classic.

Jose "Chiquiro" Martinez (21-1-3, 14 KOs) will make his return against a very worthy opponent, Jose Edgardo Garcia (13-1-3, 9 KOs). Undefeated Harold Laguna will also be competing.

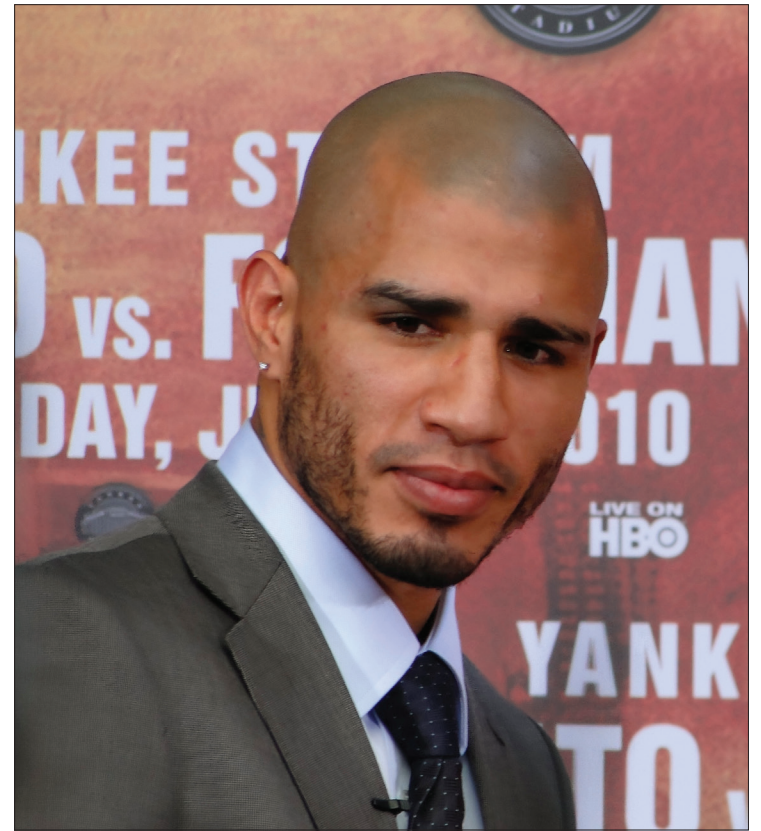
International Boxing Hall Of Fame Inductees Miguel Cotto and Juan Manuel Marquez spoke exclusively to Latino Sports. When asked about their expectations regarding their respective young prospects both former world champions expressed confidence. "We are well prepared as I'm sure he (Marquez) is too" said Cotto. "I have great expectations in my fighters, we have worked diligently to get to this point. It's a great opportunity to develop our new generation of boxers. My camp is ready for the tough matches against rivals from The United States and especially the ones from Puerto Rico,"

said Marquez. I felt it was a good opportunity to ask both Marquez and Cotto in regard to the Puerto Rico versus Mexico Boxing Rivalry. I believe that fighters and fans from both sides absolutely love the rivalry and this partnership with Miguel Cotto Promotions is a great example" said Marquez.

With a smile that few have seen in public appearances, Cotto said "The Mexico – Puerto Rico boxing rivalry is a must and will continue." Former Two-Weight World Super Champion Ivan Calderon also spoke exclusively to Latino Sports. Calderon will be providing the live commentary for PROBOX-TV bouts in Puerto Rico. He expressed lots of excitement in this new phase of his career after retiring from boxing in 2012.

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He is currently a trainer in the Félix Pagán Pintor Municipal Gymnasium in Guaynabo, P.R. "Our Puerto Rican fighters are going bring the action, we are ready for a slugfest as soon as the bell rings," said Calderon. "I would have never



*Cotto Still In The Game
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon*

thought I'd be doing commentary, but I'm honored to be working for Miguel Cotto. To all my friends and boxing fans in The Bronx, NY be sure to tune in to PROBOX-TV and support Latino Sports," said Calderon.

Rich Mancuso is a guest col-

umnist for the New York Beacon. Watch Sports with Rich live on Tuesday Nights at 10pm EST on The SLG Network/YouTube with host Rich Mancuso and cohost Robert Rizzo available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify under The SLG Network.

Hall of Fame welcomes Big Papi

By Robert Rizzo

Cooperstown, NY- Big Papi will stand in baseball pantheons for an eternity. This past Sunday afternoon, David Ortiz set his name among legends as he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Fans of all ages traveled from across the globe to upstate New York with plans to cherish their superhero. Dominican Republic flag paraded outside the Clark Sports Center as 35,000 were in attendance to witness Ortiz make history. Ortiz became the fourth Dominican in MLB history to be inducted into the Cooperstown Hall of Fame. Big Papi joins the legendary list of Juan Marichal (1983), Pedro Martinez (2015), and Vladimir Guerrero (2018). "Before I was Big Papi, before the Red Sox, before the Minnesota Twins, I was just a kid playing ball in the Dominican Republic," said Ortiz.

Consistently delivered in the clutch throughout his 20-year career, Ortiz ranks among the greatest designated hitters the game has ever seen. Three players shape out designated hitters inducted into the Hall of Fame: Harold Baines (2019), Edgar Martinez (2019), and Big Papi (2022). Earning the first ballot nod to Cooperstown, voted on by BBWAA, Ortiz received approximately 77.9% of the votes. He is the first designated hitter inducted into the Hall with a first ballot nomination.

You tend to look back on certain moments in sports and remember

exactly where you were down to the details. The clutch situations, the scenarios that change the landscape of your season. Well, those moments define the legend of Ortiz. Within one smack of the bat, Big Papi set his mark on the game. Baseball fans can argue back and forth on #34s most clutch moments, but Latino Sports will save you the time.

There's plenty to go around in the Ortiz trophy case. A 3-time World Series Champion, 10-time All-Star, 7-time Silver Slugger, and most importantly a two-time recipient of the Latino MVP. The most prestigious and oldest awards given to Latin ballplayers, many of whom view the Latino MVP as a "Latin Grammy". The Santo Domingo native was named the American League Latino MVP in back-to-back seasons (2005 and 2006).

His daughter, Alex Veda Ortiz opened the Hall of Fame induction ceremony for the Class of 2022 with a beautiful singing of the US national anthem. During post-ceremony media availability, Ortiz chuckled, saying "Running around the house, singing. In the car, singing. Everywhere we go, singing. So, I've been watching her for a minute singing the national anthem."

During his phenomenal induction speech, Ortiz alternated between Spanish and English, making for loud abruptions from the crowd. He recognized his parents, his family, along with several former teammates and coaches.



*Clutch Ortiz Gets In The Hall
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon*

"When Pedro was inducted, I was still playing. So, this was like my first time around here during the induction. I'm so used to

watching it on TV that I can't believe I was sitting out there with all the superstars and the greatest," Ortiz said on Sunday.

Ortiz revealed, "going through this speech and putting it together, I think I cried a lot. Even this morning, I was crying every time I touched base about my mom. So, I guess it just gets to the point where repeating things over, over, and over. I mean, it kinda cures a little."

Big Papi wasn't just a ballplayer with elite numbers. I viewed him as an icon. In terms of video games, Ortiz was the ultimate "create a player". A superhero figure with a storybook ending for the Dominican Republic. Congratulations on the induction to the Hall. Salute to the two-time Latino MVP David Ortiz. At the end of his career, Ortiz hit 541 home runs 17th in MLB history. He drove in 1,768 rbi 23rd in MLB history. 1,192 extra base hits 8th in MLB history and was walked intentionally 209 times 16th in MLB history.

Robert Rizzo is a guest columnist for the New York Beacon. "Follow us on instagram@latinosports official for updates and exclusive content" Robert Rizzo writes for Latino Sports Follow on Twitter: @RobertRiz994 Email: RobertRiz994@gmail.com. Watch Sports with Rich live on Tuesday Nights at 10pm EST on The SLG Network/YouTube with host Rich Mancuso and cohost Robert Rizzo. Available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify under The SLG Network.