

Available at your local



Philadelphia
Observer

50 Cents

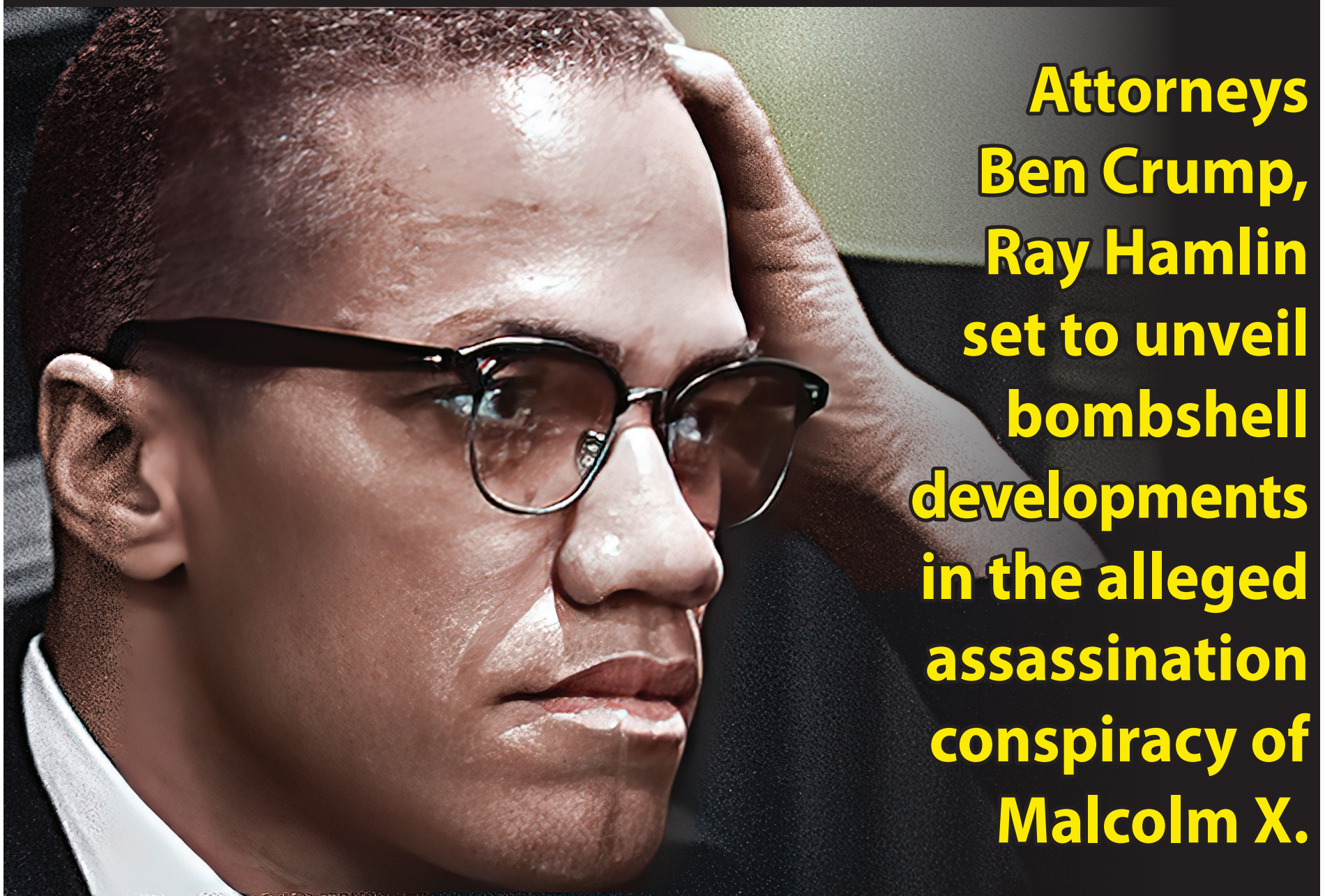
Speaking Truth to Justice

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

Vol. 30 • No. 30

July 27 - August 2, 2023

SHOCKING REVELATIONS IN MALCOLM X DEATH



**Attorneys
Ben Crump,
Ray Hamlin
set to unveil
bombshell
developments
in the alleged
assassination
conspiracy of
Malcolm X.**

**They are expected to reveal a conspiracy
to kill the legendary leader, p3**



EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEYS OF THE CHEVROLET DTU FELLOWS

Watch as these talented HBCU students Discover The Unexpected!



Jordan Jennings
Florida A&M University
-
Chevrolet Marketing Fellow



Jada Tullos
Alabama A&M University
-
Chevrolet Marketing Fellow



Carmen Graham
Delaware State University
-
Chevrolet Marketing Fellow



Janiya Pearson
Hampton University
-
Chevrolet Marketing Fellow



Eshé Ukweli
Howard University
-
NNPA Fellow



Antonio Sweeney
Morehouse College
-
NNPA Fellow



Jacob Bellevue
Howard University
-
NNPA Fellow



Brielle Smith
Howard University
-
NNPA Fellow



Robertney Harlan
Howard University
-
NNPA Fellow



Solomon Hayes
Morehouse College
-
NNPA Fellow

GO TO [NNPA.ORG/CHEVYDTU](https://nnpa.org/chevydtu) TO EXPERIENCE THE DOCUSERIES

     #TheDTUExperience



Tony Bennett's life wasn't just singing; he marched along with King, Belafonte for civil rights

After being caught consorting with a Black soldier, Bennett was spat upon by a higher-ranking Army official, who assigned him the unenviable task of digging up the corpses of dead military members.

He said the encounter motivated him to speak out for civil rights.

By Stacy M. Brown
(NNPA Newswire)

Tony Bennett, the legendary singer whose smooth vocals and timeless classics captured the hearts of millions, died at 96 in his hometown of New York.

Although renowned for his musical achievements, his tireless work in civil rights advocacy has left an indelible mark on history.

Bennett's journey into activism began early in his life.

Drafted into the Army as a teen in 1944 during World War II, he served on the front lines in Europe, witnessing the horrors of war and its devastating impact on human lives.

"The first time I saw a dead German, that's when I became a pacifist," Bennett revealed in an earlier interview with Howard Stern.

"Every war is insane, no matter where it is or what it's about. Fighting is the lowest form of human behavior. No human being should have to go to war, especially an eighteen-year-old boy."

His time in the military exposed him to the grim reality of racial segregation within the U.S. Armed Forces.

After being caught consorting with a Black soldier, Bennett was spat upon by a higher-ranking Army official, who assigned him the unenviable task of digging up the corpses of dead military members.

He said the encounter motivated him to speak out for civil rights.

In 1965, Bennett took part in the historic 50-mile Selma to Montgomery marches, standing alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to demand equality and justice for all.

"The mood was anger," singer and activist Harry Belafonte said in an interview he and Bennett



did in 2013.

"The mood was rebellious on the part of the movement, on the part of the civil rights crowd, and the question is: What do we do in the face of this kind of rage and this kind of mayhem? And there was just... the bottom line was that we will go back as often as necessary."

To rally the crowd during the march, Bennett performed "Just In Time" on a makeshift stage constructed from dozens of empty coffins, a powerful symbol of the lives lost in the struggle for civil rights.

"I didn't want to do it, but then Harry Belafonte told me what went down," Bennett recalled.



Tony Bennett/wikimedia commons

"How some blacks were burned, had gasoline thrown on them. When I heard that, I said, 'I'll go with you,'" he said.

Bennett remained dedicated to championing humanitarian causes and advocating for equality throughout his life.

He was an outspoken ally of various social issues, using his platform to bring attention to pressing global challenges, including the plight of refugees.

Bennett also refused to perform in South Africa during the Apartheid era, and later received the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees Humanitarian Award for his unwavering commitment to humanitarian work.

Additionally, his contributions to civil rights earned him a place of honor as an inductee into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame.

Beyond his activism, Bennett was a prolific musician with an impressive discography that spanned over 70 albums, earning him 19 performance Grammy awards.

His rendition of "I Left My Heart In San Francisco" became a timeless classic, earning him a legion of devoted fans, including fellow artists like Frank Sinatra and Lady Gaga.

A Kennedy Center Honoree and a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master, Bennett is survived by his wife Susan, daughters Johanna and Antonia, sons Danny and Dae.

He also had nine grandchildren.

Outrage sparks investigation as police dog attacks compliant Black truck driver in Ohio

The harrowing video shows 23-year-old Jadarius Rose obeying orders from troopers to get on his knees and keep his hands in the air. Despite complying with the commands, Rose became the victim of a police dog attack, further fueling concerns about law enforcement's excessive use of force.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

An incident involving a police dog attacking a compliant semi-truck driver has ignited public outrage, drawing comparisons to the dark era of pre-civil rights when police routinely unleashed dogs on Black Americans.

The incident, which occurred on July 4 on U.S. Route 23 near Circleville, Ohio, came to light when body-camera footage of the arrest was released on July 21 by the Ohio State Highway Police.

The harrowing video shows 23-year-old Jadarius Rose obeying orders from troopers to get on his knees and keep his hands in the air.

Despite complying with the commands, Rose became the victim of a police dog attack, further fueling concerns about law enforcement's excessive use of force.

"There is a very particular and sordid history of training dogs on Black people as a form of police terror in the U.S. that is both dehumanizing to victims and underscores the barbarism of law enforcement," Janai Nelson, president and director-counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc., wrote on Twitter.

The chain of events leading to the incident began at approximately 9:30 a.m. on July 4 when troopers from the state Highway Police Department's Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector unit attempted to stop Rose on westbound U.S. Route 35 for an alleged traffic defect violation, according to an initial incident report.

Allegedly refusing to pull over, Rose led the troopers on a chase

spanning two counties.

Eventually, troopers deployed spike strips, causing Rose to surrender on Route 23 in Pickaway County.

In the released footage, a German Shepherd K-9, a member of the Circleville, Ohio, Police Department, is seen arriving at the scene, initially held back by its handler as troopers order Rose to comply.

Despite pleas from other officers not to release the dog while Rose had his hands up, the K-9 is let loose, attacking Rose, and gripping his arm as he cries out in pain.

Fellow officers, including the dog's handler, intervened to remove the animal from Rose.

In a statement, the Ohio State Highway Police asserted that they were attempting to gain compliance through verbal commands when the Circleville Police Department deployed the canine, resulting in Rose being bitten.

After receiving medical attention at a hospital, Rose was taken into custody and booked at the Ross County Jail for failure to comply, classified as a fourth-degree felony.

It's still unclear why Rose didn't stop right away when the troopers ordered him to.

The Circleville Police Department's Use of Force Review Board is investigating the incident.

The K-9 Officer involved in the arrest has been identified as Circleville Police Officer R. Speakman, but it is unknown whether he will be placed on leave during the investigation.

Nana Watson, president of the NAACP Columbus Chapter, expressed deep concern after watching the body-camera video.

"I was afraid for him. I was fearful for him," she said.

"It saddens me that in 2023 we have officers who are unleashing dogs on a person who clearly had his hands in the air. That did not matter to the Circleville Police Department."



Attorneys Ben Crump, Ray Hamlin set to "Unveil shocking revelations" in Malcolm X assassination conspiracy

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

Celebrated civil rights attorney Ben Crump, alongside co-counsel Ray Hamlin, have announced that they will unveil bombshell developments in the alleged assassination conspiracy of Malcolm X.

A media alert said the event, planned for Tuesday, July 25, promises to shed new light on the tragic event that shook the nation more than half a century ago.

The attorneys filed a notice of claim earlier this year, signaling their intent to sue various government agencies, including the NYPD,

for their alleged involvement in the assassination and subsequent fraudulent concealment of evidence related to Malcolm X's murder.

They are expected to reveal that they've successfully uncovered a conspiracy to kill the legendary leader.

Malcolm X was assassinated on February 21, 1965, at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City, at the age of 39.

The circumstances surrounding his death have long been disputed, with allegations of connections to federal and New York government agencies, including the FBI and CIA, generating widespread controversy.

A turning point came in 2021, when two men previously convict-

ed of Malcolm's assassination had their convictions overturned.

The Manhattan district attorney and lawyers for the men revealed that a meticulous 22-month investigation found evidence of prosecutorial misconduct where prosecutors withheld key evidence that might have led to their acquittal.

Norman 3X Butler and Thomas 15X Johnson, both members of the Nation of Islam at the time of the killing, spent decades behind bars for the murder.

Malcolm's daughters had formally requested authorities reopen the murder investigation based on new evidence.

Ilyasah Shabazz, one of the icon's six daughters, emphasized

the importance of pursuing evidence that could provide deeper insights into the truth behind the tragic event.

The most recently revealed evidence included a deathbed letter of confession from a former police officer, Raymond Wood, who allegedly claimed that the New York police and the FBI conspired in Malcolm's murder.

Wood asserted that his job was to ensure the arrest of Malcolm's security team days before the fatal shooting in Manhattan.

Malcolm had distanced himself from the Nation of Islam at the time of his death, which some speculated added complexity to the motives behind the assassination.

"Any evidence that provides

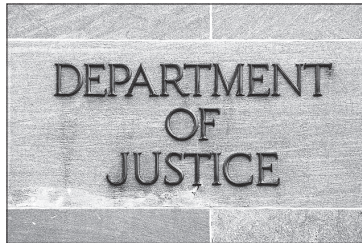


greater insight into the truth behind that terrible tragedy should be thoroughly investigated," Shabazz said in 2021.

Federal judge sets trial date for former president Trump's classified documents case

The decision arrived following what's been described as a contentious hearing at the federal courthouse in Fort Pierce, Fla., where prosecutors from the special counsel's team and lawyers representing Trump clashed over the trial's timing.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire



Trump's legal obligations to attend court likely intersect with his campaign schedule, making the case highly consequential.

Judge Aileen M. Cannon has rejected former President Donald Trump's request to delay his confidential documents trial until after the 2024 election.

Instead, Cannon announced on Friday that the trial date for the charges of illegally retaining dozens of classified documents will begin on May 20, 2024.

The decision arrived following what's been described as a contentious hearing at the federal courthouse in Fort Pierce, Fla., where prosecutors from the special counsel's team and lawyers representing Trump clashed over the trial's timing.

The judge took a middle position, pushing the start date past the Justice Department's request for a trial in December but refusing to postpone it after the 2024 election, as Trump had hoped.

Trump is the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination. Cannon clarified that the trial would not be moved to another location.

Her scheduling order includes a series of hearings throughout the remainder of this year and into next year, with a particular focus on handling the classified material central to the case.

Trump made his initial court appearance on Tuesday, June 13, where he pleaded not guilty to 37 charges related to the alleged mishandling of classified documents.

The charges brought against Trump involve the illegal retention of national defense information and the concealment of documents, with potential violations of witness-tampering laws during the ongoing investigation.

Trump's close aide, Walt Nauta, also faces charges related to a conspiracy to obstruct the federal investigation. Nauta has also pleaded not guilty.

The former president is also facing more than 30 felony charges related to alleged financial crimes in New York, and prosecutors in Georgia have seated a grand jury to determine whether to indict Trump on charges related to obstructing the 2020 presidential election.

Jack Smith, the special counsel, has also empaneled a federal grand jury in Washington where Trump acknowledged receipt this week of a target letter implying that he could be indicted on charges related to the January 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol.

Florida Board of Education Approves Anti-Black History Curriculum

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

Florida's Board of Education voted to approve several new rules this week, including teaching that African Americans benefited from their enslavement.

The new curriculum has sparked outrage and accusations of racism, setting up a new school year unlike any other because of these changes and other laws passed by state lawmakers and signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

One of the most controversial rules drawing significant pushback is the alteration of the standards of instruction for African American history.

Critics argue that the new standards attempt to rewrite Black history in a deeply concerning manner.

Democratic state lawmakers made their objections known at the board's meeting on July 19, expressing particular concern over one instructional change implying enslaved individuals benefited from their enslavement.

"Any kind of standards that indicate that slavery benefited Black people is such an insult," said State Rep. Rita Harris.

Added Rep. Anna Eskamani, "The notion that enslaved people benefited from being enslaved is inaccurate and a scary standard for us to establish in our education system."

The new rule faced additional opposition from a coalition of Black leaders and community groups, who wrote a letter to the school board asserting that the standards intentionally omitted or distorted crucial historical facts



about the Black experience.

Despite the widespread criticism, the board plans to implement the new rule on African American history instruction, along with several others, in classrooms across the state during the upcoming school year.

The move adds to the state's ongoing debate over African American history in education, further exacerbated by the education department's rejection of a preliminary pilot version of an Advanced Placement African American Studies course for high school students, citing an alleged lack of educational value.

Under the new standards imposed by the board and DeSantis, teachers will instruct middle school students about how enslaved people developed skills they could use to benefit themselves.

The curriculum omits the brutal horrors of slavery, the inhumane treatment of African Americans, including the rape and torture

of enslaved people, selling and separating families, and even the brutal mistreatment of children and babies.

The new curriculum will teach high school students about events like the 1920 Ocoee massacre, the deadliest Election Day violence in US history that began when white poll workers prevented Moses Norman, a Black landowner, from voting.

The rule stipulates that instructions also must include details about the Atlanta race massacre, the Tulsa race massacre, and the Rosewood race massacre.

"Our children deserve nothing less than truth, justice, and the equity our ancestors shed blood, sweat, and tears for," NAACP President Derrick Johnson stated.

"It is imperative that we understand that the horrors of slavery and Jim Crow were a violation of human rights and represent the darkest period in American history."

President Biden to sign proclamation establishing national monument honoring Emmett Till

Named the "Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument," the historic memorial will span three sites in Illinois and Mississippi, symbolizing locations that played a central role in Till's heartbreaking story.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

President Joe Biden plans to sign a proclamation on Tuesday, July 25, establishing a national monument honoring Emmett Till, the 14-year-old Black teenager whose tragic lynching in 1955 ignited a nationwide outcry against racial injustice and discrimination.

Named the "Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument," the historic memorial will span three sites in Illinois and Mississippi, symbolizing locations that played a central role in Till's heartbreaking story.

"The new monument will protect places that tell the story of Emmett Till's too-short life and

racially motivated murder, the unjust acquittal of his murderers, and the activism of his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, who courageously brought the world's attention to the brutal injustices and racism of the time, catalyzing the civil rights movement," White House officials explained.

The three sites that will be part of the monument are the Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ in Chicago, where Till's mother held an open-casket funeral to display her son's brutalized body; Graball Landing in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, believed to be the location where Till's body was retrieved from the Tallahatchie River; and the Tallahatchie County Second District Courthouse in Sumner, Mississippi, where Till's murderers were acquitted.

Till's tragic story unfolded in August 1955 while visiting relatives in Mississippi.

Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, two white men, allegedly kidnapped, brutally beat, and lynched him for allegedly whistling at a white

woman.

The men's trial, which occurred before an all-white jury, ended in their acquittal, sparking outrage and disbelief nationwide.

However, in a later interview with Look Magazine, Bryant and Milam admitted their responsibility for Till's heinous murder, revealing the justice system's deeply flawed and biased nature during that era.

As Till's story continued to gain national attention, the brave actions of his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, became a driving force behind the Civil Rights Movement.

She insisted that her son's casket remain open during the funeral, allowing the world to witness the brutality of racial violence and the stark realities of America's rampant racism.

Photographs of Till's battered and mutilated body were published in Jet Magazine, impacting the collective consciousness, and mobilizing people across the nation to fight against racial injustice.



Earlier this year, Carolyn Bryant Donham, the white woman whose false accusation against Till triggered the events leading to his lynching, died at the age of 88.

Donham passed away in Westlake, Louisiana, while receiving hospice care, according to a death record from the Calcasieu Parish Coroner's Office.

President Biden's decision to establish the national monument is seen as crucial to acknowledging and preserving the painful history of racial violence in the United States.

By commemorating Emmett Till's life and the legacy of his courageous mother, the monument will serve as a reminder of the immense sacrifices made by those who fought for civil rights, and it will stand as a beacon of hope and a call to action against ongoing injustices.

Administration officials said the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument would symbolize resilience, progress, and the enduring fight for a more equitable society.



Sometimes the person who helps you finish high school hasn't even started preschool.

If you're thinking of finishing your high school diploma, you have more support than you realize. Find free adult education classes near you by texting FINISH to 97779 or by visiting **FinishYourDiploma.org**.



DOLLAR GENERAL
LITERACY FOUNDATION

Message: 1/1/2023. Apply Reply Stop on our. No purchase necessary. Terms and Privacy: adcouncil.org/About-Us/Privacy-Policy.

Editorial - Opinion

Anything banned becomes a policing issue



NPA NEWSWIRE — Ban advocates acknowledge that there will be an increase in the trafficking of unregulated cigarettes nationwide. This creates a roadmap for organized criminal enterprises to expand their operations within Black and brown communities where individuals will be seeking their tobacco product of choice due to the ban. History has shown that nothing is better for expanding organized crime than prohibition.

Under federal guidelines, tobacco-related incidents fall under the jurisdiction of the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives), an agency that works both independently and in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies to combat tobacco-related offenses.

By Elliot T. Boyce, Sr. (Ret.), For-

mer Director of the New York State Police Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Why the FDA Menthol Ban is Not Good for Communities of Color

With the FDA's pending ban on menthol cigarettes growing ever closer, it's important that policymakers contemplating passing legislation that will impact the interactions between Black and Hispanic Americans and law enforcement better understand the unintended consequences of this decision.

For Those Who Are Uninformed

This August, the FDA could announce a nationwide ban on all menthol cigarettes, ending

the legal sale and purchase of menthol-flavored tobacco. Some advocates falsely claim that menthol products are more harmful, but research shows that menthol cigarettes are no more dangerous than any other cigarette. A JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute study found that "menthol cigarettes are no more, and perhaps less, harmful than nonmenthol cigarettes." Toothpaste, gum, and other products can add menthol, but this does not make the products more harmful or addictive. Moreover, menthol cigarettes are not the preferred cigarette in America; non-menthol cigarettes are. So why would the FDA aim to ban only menthol-flavored tobacco products, especially considering the majority of Black and Latino smokers prefer menthol? The reasoning behind the ban is misguided, non-scientific, and rooted in the historical targeting of people of color.

For Those Who Claim That the Ban is Solely Motivated by Health

The best solution for a public health issue like tobacco smoking is education, treatment, and counseling. The government knows this approach well, as it's led to tremendous declines in smoking since the 1960s. According to Statista, from 1965 to 2019, the prevalence of cigarette smoking in the U.S. has decreased from about 42 percent to 14 percent. Resources like quit-smoking websites, hotlines,

medications, and text message programs contributed to this decrease, as well as common tobacco control policies like warning labels, advertising bans, and smoke-free environments.

For Those Who Don't Understand That Prohibitions are Police Matters

The federal government has not yet released its blueprint for enforcement of this proposed ban; however, under federal guidelines, tobacco-related incidents fall under the jurisdiction of the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives), an agency that works both independently and in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies to combat tobacco-related offenses. For advocates and policymakers to tell the public that the health department will enforce the ban, they are ignoring one key fact: anything banned becomes illegal and, therefore, a police matter.

Ban advocates acknowledge that there will be an increase in the trafficking of unregulated cigarettes nationwide. This creates a roadmap for organized criminal enterprises to expand their operations within Black and brown communities where individuals will be seeking their tobacco product of choice due to the ban. History has shown that nothing is better for expanding organized crime than prohibition. In addition, this could force traditionally law-abiding citizens, particularly elderly

individuals, who prefer menthol products to the streets to seek illegal, unregulated tobacco products, and in turn, increase their risk of being victims of street crime.

Police officers I have spoken with say this will become one more reason for officers to stop individuals in communities of color impacted by the ban, leading to more negative interactions and less community trust where it's already sorely lacking. This means a proactive police approach to solving the trafficking concerns will target individual possessors of contraband and illegal cigarettes to get the larger organized criminals. This is a police tactic that will, unfortunately, target individuals whose only crime is their choice of cigarette.

As a Former Director of the New York State Police Employee Assistance Program (EAP), I travel the nation speaking to policymakers, citizens, and other distinguished law enforcement professionals to further clear up misconceptions about the unintended consequences of the menthol ban. Many smokers and non-smokers (like myself) are unaware of the ban, and many are perplexed by the rationale behind banning products that are not the most widely smoked but instead are preferred by Blacks and Hispanics.

In conclusion, please remember that information is power; we must understand the unintended consequences of the menthol ban. Health concerns are more effectively managed through education, treatment, and counseling, not by police.

NO ONE GETS A DIPLOMA ALONE.

If you're thinking of finishing your high school diploma, you have more support than you realize. Find teachers and free adult education classes near you at FinishYourDiploma.org.

Ad Council | DOLLAR GENERAL LITERACY FOUNDATION

STOP THE FDA MENTHOL BAN!

When Good People Write Bad Policy

Numerous studies have been conducted which speak to the popularity of menthol cigarettes among Black and Hispanic Americans. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 77% of Black smokers prefer menthol cigarettes, a result the CDC claims is the result of many years of aggressive targeting of and marketing to Black smokers to buy these products. Other reputable sources place the number as high as 85%. Claims of targeting are based on ads that ran 40+ years ago. No such ads and targeting exist today. Targeting by the tobacco industry has been illegal by Federal law since 1998 with severe penalties and fines. Yet, while there may be compelling public health concerns for banning this product from sale, a ban on the sale of menthol products will create an underground market for these products. The task of enforcing the ban will fall on the nation's police.

This is not fearmongering as the experience of Eric Garner and his fatal rendezvous teaches us. Our experience informs us that implementation of this ban will undoubtedly create a greater number of stops and interactions between Black and Hispanic Americans and police, exacerbating the tensions between police and communities of color. Police may use the ban to approach the user to get to the seller of illegal menthol products. No language in the Federal ban can prevent police officers from unethically using the ban as a pretext for community engagement. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, Black and Hispanic Americans have a long and troubled history of disproportionately larger numbers of police stops and interactions with police. This proposed ban will do nothing to reduce this troubling reality. Moreover, there is data to suggest that a ban on the sale of menthol cigarettes would not meet the proposed ban's intended public health goals.

According to a report by the U.S. Surgeon General, published in 2020, "the evidence is suggestive but not sufficient to infer that restricting the sale of certain types of tobacco products, such as menthol or other flavored products, increases smoking cessation, especially among certain populations."

Our position is supported by a broad cross-section of community leaders and law enforcement professionals. We are joined in our efforts by National Newspaper Publishers Association, Newark Bronze Shields, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers, National Latino Officers Association, National Association of Police Organizations, Grand Council of Guardians New York, and National Organization of Retired State Troopers, to name a few. All are committed to ensuring that all Americans can live lives of dignity, free choice, and safety. Let's focus on education, treatment, and counseling to reduce smoking in communities of color. According to the CDC, cigarette smoking is at an all-time low among adults and total youth menthol smoking is so low it cannot be reliably measured. In a time of the legalization of marijuana, let's not defer to the criminal justice system with a menthol ban to solve a public health crisis.

A ban on menthol cigarettes will complicate the good intentions of a public health goal, as it will lead to the creation of an underground market for menthol products, cause more interactions between police and communities of color, and that inevitably, some of these interactions will turn deadly.

Call the FDA today to Stop the Menthol Ban!
1-877-287-1373 – Press "6"
 For more information, visit www.ncjp.info
National Coalition of Justice Practitioners (NCJP)

City Chic



Audrey J. Bernard



Warner Bros. is tickled PINK over the \$ucce\$\$ of 'Barbie.' It's Barbilicious!

"BARBIE: To live in Barbie Land is to be a perfect being in a perfect place. Unless you have a full-on existential crisis. Or you're a Ken."

After months of PINKsteria, Barbie (Margot Robbie) has finally arrived on the big screen and moviegoers are going PINK wild! Fans are flocking to the movie wearing anything PINK to get in on the fun, and the results have been staggering as Barbie made history as the highest grossing movie in 2023 exceeding all expectations. The hype was real and the empirically woke comedy does not disappoint — winning over moviegoers with its compelling content about female empowerment, and objectification which is no laughing matter. Beautifully directed by Greta Gerwig, Barbie is a "winner take back all" battle of the sexes with the Barbies winning back their freedom from bad boy Kens (Ryan Gosling) of the universe who treats them like invisible Stepford Dolls. The Barbies use their kickass wiles to win back their independence. The movie also has many heartwarming moments with messages about self-love, shameful bullying, female enfranchisement, and lots of fun fashion. I loved the positive messages of inspiration and forewarning to never give up your sovereignty to anyone. Own who you are! Barbie is not just another pretty face, she's a pretty smart leader. I loved this movie and its

positive emboldening messages to women of all ages. It's also a great movie for mothers to bond with their daughters — and sons! Barbie rules!

STAR-STUDED CAST: From Oscar-nominated writer/director Greta Gerwig ("Little Women," "Lady Bird") comes "Barbie," starring Oscar-nominees Margot Robbie ("Bombshell," "I, Tonya") and Ryan Gosling ("La La Land," "Half Nelson") as Barbie and Ken, alongside America Ferrera ("End of Watch," the "How to Train Your Dragon" films), Kate McKinnon ("Bombshell," "Yesterday"), Issa Rae ("The Photograph," "Insecure"), Rhea Perlman ("I'll See You in My Dreams," "Matilda"), and Will Ferrell (the "Anchorman" films, "Talladega Nights"). The film also stars Michael Cera ("Scott Pilgrim vs. the World," "Juno"), Ariana Greenblatt ("Avengers: Infinity War," "65"), Ana Cruz Kayne ("Little Women"), Emma Mackey ("Emily," "Sex Education"), Hari Nef ("Assassination Nation," "Transparent"), Alexandra Shipp (the "X-Men" films), Kingsley Ben-Adir ("One Night in Miami," "Peaky Blinders"), Simu Liu ("Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings"), Ncuti Gatwa ("Sex Education"), Scott Evans ("Grace and Frankie"), Jamie Demetriou ("Cruella"), Connor Swindells ("Sex Education," "Emma."), Sharon Rooney ("Dumbo," "Jerk"), Nicola Coughlan ("Bridgerton," "Derry Girls"), Ritu Arya ("The Umbrella Academy"), Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Dua Lipa and Oscar-winner Helen Mirren ("The Queen").

CREDITS: Gerwig directed "Barbie" from a screenplay by Gerwig &



Cast of Barbie attend Hollywood premiere (L-R) Ryan Gosling, America Ferrera, Ariana Greenblatt, Issa Rae, Margot Robbie, Greta Gerwig, Simu Liu and Hari Nef at the Shrine Auditorium

Oscar nominee Noah Baumbach ("Marriage Story," "The Squid and the Whale"), based on Barbie by Mattel. The film's producers are Oscar nominee David Heyman ("Marriage Story," "Gravity"), Robbie, Tom Ackerley and Robbie Brenner, with Gerwig, Baumbach, Michael Sharp, Josey McNamara, Ynon Kreiz, Richard Dickson, Courtenay Valenti, Toby Emmerich and Cate Adams serving as executive producers.

CREATIVES: Gerwig's creative team behind the camera included Oscar-nominated director of photography Rodrigo Prieto ("The Irishman," "Silence," "Brokeback Mountain"), six-time Oscar-nominated production designer Sarah Greenwood ("Beauty and the Beast," "Anna Karenina"), editor Nick Houy ("Little Women," "Lady Bird"), Oscar-winning costume

designer Jacqueline Durran ("Little Women," "Anna Karenina"), visual effects supervisor Glen Pratt ("Paddington 2," "Beauty and the Beast") and music supervisor George Drakoulias ("White Noise," "Marriage Story"), with music by Oscar winners Mark Ronson and Andrew Wyatt ("A Star Is Born").

This is what Greta Gerwig (Director/Writer/Executive Producer) had to say on making "Barbie"... "Barbie has so much recognition, so much love, and of course a 60-plus-year history, which was exciting for me. As a writer and a director, I'm always looking for a fun challenge. As with Little Women, Barbie is a property we all know, but to me she felt like a character with a story to tell, one that I could find a new, unexpected way into, honoring her

legacy while making her world feel fresh and alive and modern." On Margot Robbie as Barbie... "Margot is our Stereotypical Barbie, as she says in the film, 'I'm the Barbie everyone thinks of when you think of Barbie.' And when you think of the most beautiful, cheerful, friendly, blonde lady you've ever seen, that's Margot. But the thing I wanted to do most of all was 4 to allow her to be outrageously funny. She's the person you're going to go on a real journey with in the movie and because she's always able to make things grounded, relatable, and very emotional even when it's ridiculously heightened and funny, you never feel like you lose the humanity." On Ryan Gosling... "We wrote this part specifically for Ryan Gosling. Even though he's so wonderful in dramatic roles, I knew he was really funny as I had watched all his 'Saturday Night Live' appearances. There was no plan B. It was always Ryan."

Warner Bros. Pictures Presents a Heyday Films Production, a Lucky-Chap Entertainment Production, a NB/GG Pictures Production, a Mattel Production, "Barbie." The film will be distributed worldwide by Warner Bros. Pictures and released in theaters only nationwide on July 21, 2023 and beginning internationally on July 19, 2023. Warner Bros. Pictures rolled out a pink carpet for the Hollywood premiere on Sunday night, July 9 at the Shrine Auditorium led by Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling along with the rest of the amazing cast. Barbie rocks! (Photos by Getty Images for Warner Bros. Pictures)



Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling



Director Greta Gerwig



Issa Rae



Margot Robbie and Nicki Minaj



Simu Liu



Alix Earle



Nicki Minaj



Ryan Gosling



Margot Robbie



Kate McKinnon



Hari Nef



Ariana Greenblatt



America Ferrera

On the scene

“Dear Mama” series nominated for Emmy Award

Posted By Don Thomas

World-renowned Recording Artist/Singer/Songwriter/Ambassador of New Jack Swing, and podcast host Al B. Sure! released a statement following the July 12th announcement that The Emmys nominated the FX series Dear Mama: The Saga of Afeni and Tupac Shakur for its 2023 ceremony taking place in September. The film was shortlisted for “Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction series” and “Outstanding Writing for a Nonfiction Program and features music from Al B. Sure!, whose debut 1988 single “Nite & Day” from his debut album “In Effect Mode” is prominently featured throughout the film. Tupac previously sampled Al B. Sure!’s “Naturally Mine” for his single “This Life I lead” featuring Daz & Kuruft of the Dogg Pound and openly credited Al B! as a musical inspiration for him.



Al B. Sure



Tupac Shakur and Mother Afeni

“Dear Mama” was directed by Allen Hughes and premiered on the FX Network and Hulu in April as Al B! was recovering from a life-altering medical crisis that literally left him knocking on death’s doorstep in a coma for more than two months, a Tracheostomy, intubated and on a ventilator for 38-days.

According to Al B. Sure: “A massive Congrats to Allen Hughes, Nelson George, Uptown Records co-founder James “luv” Jenkins and the Hughes Bros production team on a historically phenomenal presentation on their FX / Hulu docuseries “Dear Mama.” These are such a well-deserved Emmy Nominations. I am humbly honored to have co-authored a few of our generation’s urban musical anthems in my lifetime that my spiritual Lil Bro Tupac embraced

musically as he’s sampled and subsequently unleashed a few epic verses over; or the fact that 2Pac would simply place the needle on the vinyl of an Al B. Sure! record in his “warming it up with a honey” leisure time. It is such an honor for “Nite & Day” from my music catalog to be included in several scenes of “The Saga of Afeni & Tupac Shakur” series. Both Mama and Son are gone to soon, but just imagine what an Iconic twenty-five trips around the sun they had together.”

“Dear Mama” is an authentic look into the mother-son relationship between Afeni Shakur, who was a member of the Black Panther Party, and Tupac, one of the most legendary rappers of all time. The documentary had the most-watched premiere episode for an unscripted series in FX’s 28-year history.

Rhonda Ross wants to chat with you July 29 & 30, 2023

Posted By Don Thomas

Hey there! Are you one of those people who’s always bracing for the next crisis, the next emergency that’s gonna befall you? Does your body feel tight? Do you feel shaky or exhausted from trying to figure out how you’re going to survive all the bad things that could possibly happen to you?

This constant underlying feeling of anxiousness is something that many of us are feeling. And no wonder! There’s so much in the

news today, so many things to be afraid of. Intellectually, you might know that it doesn’t help to be terrified and it doesn’t help to be worried, but how to stop it?

A lot of gurus tell us we can stop our bad feelings by thinking positive. Yeah, that sounds good, but again, HOW? Some of them tell us we can stop it with positive affirmations that we get from a book or social media posts. Yeah, that sounds good too, but I’m here to tell you that they don’t work if deep down we don’t really believe them.

So (again) HOW? HOW can we stop feeling anxious, scared and terrified? Join me on Saturday, July 29th and Sunday, 30th 2023 and I’ll show you how. And in my July 29-30 Songtra™ LIVE, I’m offering the remaining open spots left at a huge discount so grab your spot now before the discount expires (<http://www.happytoolbox.academy/friends-and-family-songtra-live-now3x2czx6z>) I will be walking you through the process that will show you how to feel better...and feel better FOR REAL. May your thoughts be with you, Rhonda.



International

African rights group press US corp to dismiss exec for 'spreading homophobia'

(GIN) –

Over a dozen organizations have signed on to a petition seeking the removal of a senior employee in the multinational Intel Corporation allegedly spreading anti-LGBTQ sentiment in several African countries.

The rights groups allege that Intel's vice-president of global regulatory affairs has been "actively responsible for exporting, financing and spreading hate, homophobia" on the continent for decades, through the American conservative organization, Family Watch International.

Family Watch Int'l is run by the executive's wife and has been actively lobbying high-ranking African leaders and lawmakers to deny the rights of the LGBTQ community. The U.S. group is described as a "hate group" by the U.S. civil rights group Southern Poverty Law Center.

"Family Watch International has sponsored trips for politicians and diplomats from Kenya, Uganda and other African countries to ... train them on their extremist



agenda against homosexuality, sexuality education and reproductive rights," said Jedidah Maina of the Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health, the Kenyan non-profit

that filed the petition.

The U.S. group has been active in other countries such as Ghana and Kenya, which have witnessed moves to introduce similar legisla-

tion over the past year.

Family Watch International's website carries a denial of the claims against them. "Despite media reports to the contrary, Family

Watch has never advocated for or lobbied in favor of any anti-homosexuality bills we are seeing," said Muthoni Ngugi, the head of the East Africa Legal Service Network, one of the organisations supporting the petition.

But rights groups insist that the opposite is true. "There is nothing organic about the wave of anti-homosexuality bills we are seeing," said Muthoni Ngugi, the head of the East Africa Legal Service Network, one of the organisations supporting the petition.

Data shared with the Guardian newspaper by the Kenya National Human Rights Commission shows that at least 356 cases of physical, verbal, cyberbullying and death threats to members of the community have taken place, with nearly a dozen anti-LGBTQ+ rallies in major cities.

An Intel spokesperson said: "Intel is deeply committed to diversity and inclusion. We also understand that our employees have diverse opinions and viewpoints. We respect the rights of our employees to disagree with Intel's policies or undertake outside activities as long as they treat their fellow employees with respect and act in accordance with Intel's code of conduct."

Mozambican ex-minister faces U.S. trial over \$2B 'Tuna' scam

(GIN) –

A former government minister reputed to have orchestrated the embezzlement of over two billion dollars and the fabrication of a daring conspiracy whose victims were Swiss bankers, American investors and global lenders, has been extradited to the U.S. where it is hoped that justice will finally be served.

With the money he obtained from allegedly committing fraud and money laundering, the ex-minister from Mozambique, Manuel Chang, claimed he was going to buy a tuna fish factory for his very poor country with borrowed money—about two billion dollars.

Chang won over American investors, the political elite, Swiss bankers, and the current Mozambican president, Felipe Nyusi. Three Credit Suisse bankers signed on as did Russian lender VTB.

Some money was indeed used to buy ships and other things related to the project. However, the ships were never used and are rotting away in Mozambique's ports. Also, they were not bought at normal prices but at hugely inflated prices.

The promised benefits for Mozambique were not realized at all. There was no added value. Instead, a huge mountain of debt was created. The cost so far is about USD 11 billion or the country's entire gross domestic product in a year.

The economic consequences will cost many people their lives, or already have.

Now, after sitting in a jail in South Africa since December 2018, Mr. Chang has another place to go—a prison in the U.S. where he is expected to await charges in the US relating to loans obtained from Credit Suisse and Russia's VTB bank that were guaranteed by the

Mozambican government.

The son of Mozambique's former president received a 12 year jail sentence over the \$2.2 billion fishing project scandal that triggered an economic crisis in the country.

Chang, accused of receiving bribes of up to \$18 million, has pleaded not guilty in a federal court in New York.

The former minister had fought his extradition to the U.S. and the Mozambican government's own attempts to have Chang face trial in Mozambique. Some groups opposed his return to his country because of concerns he would likely be treated leniently.

He has also been denied bail. The judge, citing the amount of money involved and the gravity of the charges, agreed with prosecutors that he could be a flight risk.

At least 10 people have already been convicted and sentenced



to prison by a Mozambican court over the scandal, including Ndambi Guebuza, the son of former Mozambican president Armando Guebuza who was sentenced to 12

years in prison for receiving up to \$33 million from the corrupt deal.

The consequences of the crime "will last generations", the judge said.

Subscribe Philadelphia Observer

405 Lexington Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10174.

philadelphiaobserver.com

Shirley Chisholm monument in NYC marks first public artwork honoring a woman

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The first Black woman to serve in Congress is being honored with her own monument.

New York City officials have weighed in on the efforts of the She Built NYC initiative to build more monuments honoring the women of New York City by approving the construction of a monument dedicated to the late Shirley Chisholm.

According to a statement, the Chisholm monument will mark a historic first as Brooklyn has never built permanent public artwork in honor of a woman. The 32-foot-tall memorial presents a rising Chisholm from the waist up, designed with green, stenciled metal trimmed in gold. The structure of the dome of the U.S. Capitol building extends from the congresswoman detailed with gold.

The composite profile symbolizes how she disrupted the perception of who has the right to occupy such institutions and to be an embodiment for democracy," monument artists Amanda Williams and Olalekan B. Jeyifous wrote in a proposal brief.

"Our project celebrates Shirley Chisholm's legacy as a civil servant who 'left the door open' to make room for others to follow in her path toward equity and a place in our country's political landscape," the artists said in 2019 after

being selected by city officials. "We have designed a monument in which her iconic visage can be immediately recognizable while also equally portraying the power, beauty, and dimensionality of her contributions to our democracy."

Chisholm is a native of the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, where the monument will stand at Prospect Park's southeast entrance.

The eldest daughter of Barbados and Guyana immigrants, Chisholm sought to excel in her education. She graduated from Brooklyn College in 1946 and earned her master's degree from Columbia University in 1951 before becoming a member of Congress in 1968.



I asked what kind of family

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



LEARN ABOUT ADOPTING A TEEN
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE REWARD

ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE FAMOUS TO BE UNFORGETTABLE.

MAKE MORE. TEACH.

Make classrooms exciting and your lessons unforgettable. Become a teacher and make more. [Teach.org](https://www.teach.org)



Cornbread is a family friendly dining experience



Zadie Smith (Photos: Ronnie Wright)

Posted By Don Thomas

“We are a fastcasual chain focusing on old fashion soul food with modern technology to provide a unique dining experience. Cornbread Southern Restaurant is located in Maplewood, New Jersey. We source all of our ingredients from local farmers and shops. Our food is always fresh because we prepare our meals around the clock with great love and care. We specialize in cornbread of course. We love good food

so we obsess over every detail of each meal. From the first ingredients, to the right combination of seasoning, to the final product, we’re worked hard to develop the flavor profiles of every single dish,” said Zadie Smith, co-founder. Adenah Bayoh is also co-founder.

MORE ABOUT ZADIE SMITH

Zadie Smith is a pioneering entrepreneur who discovered her love of cooking at an early age from her parents in Tifton, Georgia



and has been in the kitchen ever since. She brings that passion for cooking and lifelong culinary experience to Cornbread where

she was instrumental in developing the menu and flavor profiles of each meal that we serve. In addition to her childcare and

real estate businesses, through a “labor of love” Zadie has added a new dimension to her life story: co-founder of Cornbread.

how well do you know these girls?

Learn more about your breast health at KnowYourGirls.org

#DanceLikeaDad

fatherhood.gov

Classified

ATTORNEY

Lung Cancer? And Age 60+? You And Your Family May Be Entitled To Significant Cash Award. No Risk. No Money Out Of Pocket. For Information Call 877-225-4813

AUCTIONS

NYS SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY PUBLIC AUCTION: 11/8/19, 335 Nashopa Road, Mamakating, NY, 3,767sf colonial, 3.26acs, 5BR, 3.5baths, fin-bsmt, MINBID \$249,000; Open House: 11:00am-1:00pm, 10/15,10/23,11/1; ogs.ny.gov/NYSStore 518-474-2195

AUTO DONATIONS

Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call (917) 336-1254

FINANCE

Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 866-

979-0096 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

HEALTH

A PLACE FOR MOM has helped over a million families find senior living. Our trusted, local advisors help find solutions to your unique needs at no cost to you. Call 855-977-3677

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION! World Health Link. Price Match Guarantee! Prescriptions Required. CIPA Certified. Over 1500 medications available. CALL Today For A Free Price Quote. 1-866-569-7986 Call Now!

VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed! 1-855-579-8907

HOME IMPROVEMENT

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 888-657-9488.

MISCELLANEOUS

COMPUTER ISSUES? FREE DIAGNOSIS by GEEKS ON SITE! Virus Removal, Data Recovery! 24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE, In-home repair/On-line solutions . \$20 OFF ANY SERVICE! 844-892-3990

TV INTERNET PHONE

DISH TV \$59.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. 1-888-609-9405

Get DIRECTV! ONLY \$35/month! 155 Channels & 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/ SELECT All Included Package.) PLUS Stream on Up to FIVE Screens Simultaneously at No Additional Cost. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

Spectrum Triple Play! TV, Internet & Voice for \$99.97/mo. Fastest Internet. 100 MB per second speed. Free Primetime on Demand. Unlimited Voice. NO CONTRACTS. Call 1-855-977-7198 or visit <http://tripleplaytoday.com/press>



Discover the world's best walk-in bathtub from *American Standard*

5 Reasons American Standard Walk-in Tubs are Your Best Choice

- 1 Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience
- 2 Ultra low entry for easy entering and exiting
- 3 Patented Quick Drain® fast water removal system
- 4 Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard
- 5 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage

\$1,500 SAVINGS

Includes FREE American Standard Right Height Toilet Limited Time Offer! Call Today!

888-609-0248

Receive a free American Standard Cadet toilet with full installation of a Liberation Walk-In Bath, Liberation Shower, or Deluxe Shower. Offer valid only while supplies last. Limit one per household. Must be first time purchaser. See www.walkintubs.americanstandard-us.com for other restrictions and for licensing, warranty, and company information. © 2023 American Standard, a Division of American Standard, LLC. Safety Tubs Co. LLC does not sell in Nassau NY, Westchester NY, Putnam NY, Rockland NY.



Donate A Boat or Car Today!

Boat Angel

"2-Night Free Vacation!"

800-700-BOAT (2628)

www.boatangel.com

sponsored by boat angel outreach centers STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN



Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES

I'm never alone

Life Alert® is always here for me even when away from home.

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.

Help at Home

Life Alert®

Help On-the-Go

FREE! FIRST AID KIT WHEN YOU ORDER!

Batteries Never Need Charging.

For a FREE brochure call:

1-800-404-9776



DENTAL Insurance

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

A less expensive way to help get the dental care you deserve!

CALL NOW! 1-855-225-1434

Get help paying dental bills and keep more money in your pocket

This is real dental insurance – NOT just a discount plan

You can get coverage before your next checkup

Don't wait! Call now and we'll rush you a FREE Information Kit with all the details.

FREE Information Kit

Here's the information you requested on Dental Insurance

Your Name Here

1-855-225-1434

Visit us online at www.dental50plus.com/nypress

Insurance Policy P150NY 6129 MB17-NM003Ec



UNCF
A mind is a terrible thing to waste®

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO INVEST IN A GOOD THING.

Introducing Better Futures™—a whole new kind of investment with a greater return than money. When you invest, it helps kids go to college. Because a mind is a terrible thing to waste but a wonderful thing to invest in.™ Invest in Better Futures at UNCF.ORG/INVEST

Subscribe Philadelphia Observer

405 Lexington Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10174.

philadelphiaobserver.com

Florida sheriff's employee confesses to lying about being carjacked by two Black men after shooting himself in the leg

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A former telecommunicator in the Hernando County Sheriff's Office fabricated a story about being shot by two Black men in order to deceive authorities about how he was shot in his leg.

The former law enforcement worker actually shot himself and then falsely claimed that he was wounded during a carjacking incident last month.

Dakotah Wood (Photo: Hernando County Sheriff's Office)

After he confessed to lying, the 21-year-old, a white man named Dakotah Wood, was charged with tampering with or fabricating physical evidence, false reports of the commission of crimes, and discharging a firearm in public or residential property.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said that incidents like this are "relatively rare" before calling Wood's case "unfortunate" and "unpleasant."

"My administration, however, has a very public reputation of

holding my people accountable for their actions," Nienhuis said. "The public can be confident that when an employee does something of this nature, they will forfeit their ability to be associated with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office."

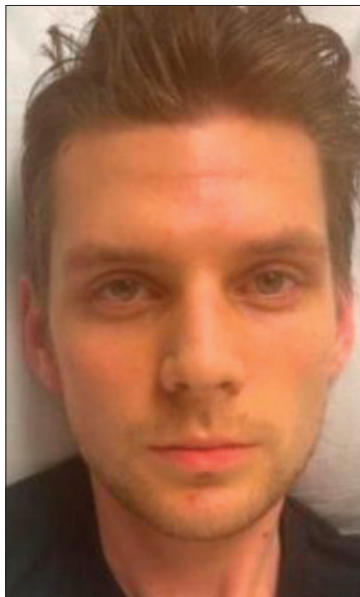
A bond of \$7,000 was set for Wood by authorities. He has since resigned from his position in the sheriff's office.

Wood called HCSO deputies on June 30 to report that he had been shot in the thigh after two African-American men attempted to steal his car while he was in it, according to a media release.

He told the officers that the shooter threatened to kill him and after blasting at him five times, "collected the shell casing prior to fleeing the area on foot."

Detectives would later interview Wood while he was in the hospital, where he confessed to making up the original story.

"Wood said he drove to Linda Pedersen Park because he was upset over issues he was having with



his girlfriend," the sheriff's report read. "Wood said he was 'playing' with his firearm in his vehicle when the firearm accidentally discharged, hitting him in the thigh."

The officers added, "Wood said he made up the story about the attempted carjacking because he did not want to get into trouble."

US soldier, private Travis King, who crossed into North Korea has history of assault, detention

*Seoul (CNN) —

New details have emerged about a US soldier (Private Travis King) who crossed into North Korea on Tuesday — but his exact whereabouts remain a mystery since the secretive country hasn't said a word about the incident.

Court documents showed that Private King believed to be the

first US soldier to cross into North Korea since 1982, had a history of assault, was facing disciplinary action over his conduct and was meant to go back to the US the day before the incident. An army official told CNN the private was set to be administratively separated from the US Army.

Details about how exactly King ended up on the North Korean side of the border remain unclear.

King had been on a tour of a border area as a civilian when he crossed the demarcation line.

His motive is also a mystery. King's mother, Claudine Gates, told ABC she was "shocked" after being told by the US Army that her son had crossed into North Korea.

"I can't see Travis doing anything like that," Gates told ABC, adding that she heard from her son several days ago and he told her that he'd be returning to his base in Fort Bliss.

The US has been actively reaching out to North Korea to resolve the situation, but it has not yet heard back, a defense official said Wednesday. It is typical of North Korea not to respond to US outreach, the defense official added.

Adm. John Aquilino, who is in charge of US Indo-Pacific Command, said Tuesday that the US has had "no contact at this point" with North Korea in regards to King. Speaking at the Aspen Security Forum on Tuesday, Aquilino said King "made a run across the demilitarized zone in the Joint Security Area, was picked up by the North Koreans, and we've had no contact at this point."



Filmmaker sues L.A. police after cops stunned him instead of burglary suspect he'd found in his home

Philadelphiaobserver.com

An actor and filmmaker is suing the Los Angeles Police Department for wrongfully using force against him after they stunned him with a Taser when a burglar broke into his home nearly two years ago.

That police encounter happened on Oct. 14, 2021. "Snowfall" actor Damien Smith had returned home around 12:30 a.m. that night to finalize preparations for a trip out of town.

He was all set for a friend to pick him up and drive him to the airport when he encountered a stranger leaving his bedroom carrying a backpack and wearing his grandfather's watch.

The man falsely claimed he was a mover, then charged at Smith. Smith had grabbed a camping knife and cut the stranger's hand then told him to lay on the floor and follow his orders. Smith then

called police.

Officers arrived at 1:30 a.m. and approached Smith's apartment from the back door which was left ajar. When Smith spotted them, he noticed they had what looked like guns drawn. Once they saw Smith holding a camping knife and the burglary suspect on the ground, they ordered Smith to drop the knife.

Smith complied and repeatedly told them that he was the one who called them while they were shouting at him to get on the ground.

At that point, Smith's neighbor Tiffany Wysinger ran downstairs after hearing the commotion and also tried to clear up any confusion.

"I see them with something drawn, and I scream at the top of my lungs, 'He's the resident!'" Wysinger told the Los Angeles Times. "Then I hear a pop, and I start crying profusely thinking they killed Damien."



Subscribe Philadelphia Observer

405 Lexington Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10174.

philadelphiaobserver.com

Sports



Andrew
Rosario,
Sports
Editor



First Father and Son To Win The Home Run Derby
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

Everyone Loves The Long Ball

By Matthew Kennedy

This year's Home Run Derby was one of the most entertaining in recent memory. Records were shattered and the contest was close up until the final swings. Vladimir Guerrero Jr. of the Blue Jays has now joined his father, Vlad Sr., as a Home Run Derby Champion, with his victory this past weekend.

Vlad Jr., who had the third lowest regular season home run total out of the 8 contestants, smashed a total of 72 dingers. Surprisingly, this total is less than his record-setting 91 homers in the 2019 Home-Run Derby, where he was ultimately defeated in the final round by 2x Derby Champion, Pete Alonso.

Seattle's own Julio Rodriguez dispatched Alonso in the first round, hitting a record-breaking 41 homers in one round. The previous record holder was none other than Vlad Jr. himself, who

hit 40 bambinos in 2019. Vlad Jr. would go on to defeat Rodriguez in the semifinals by one home run in a close round. The Toronto slugger hit 5 440+ foot homers in the semifinal round alone, with 2 exceeding 450 feet.

Randy Arozarena of the Rays had an impressive run, defeating the 4th seeded Adolis Garcia in the 1st round and 1st seeded Roberts Jr. in the semifinals. Garcia's pitcher had trouble delivering hittable pitches and was criticized for hurting his hitter's chances.

In the final round, Vlad Jr. defeated Arozarena to win the Derby. He crushed 14 homers in the final 1:13 of regulation time. His hardest hit homer was a whopping 112 MPH. Vlad Jr. looks to carry this momentum into the last 60 or so games of the season, where he has been struggling offensively and power wise. His Blue Jays sit at 3rd place in the toughest division in the MLB.

Alcaraz Showed Why He's #1

By Andrew Rosario

It will go down as one of the greatest Grand Slam Final Championships in tournament history. It will go down as the best Wimbledon Final as well. #1 ranked and 20-year-old Carlos Alcaraz from Spain took on #2 ranked and 36-year-old Novak Djokovic from Serbia last Sunday in a match that lasted close to 5-hours. In the end, the youngster from outlasted the seasoned veteran in 5 sets 1-6, 7-6 (8-6 in the tie breaker) 6-1, 3-6 and 6-4. Djokovic had won the first 2 grand slams to start year boosting his Grand Slam total to 23. Alcaraz is coming off winning the US Open last year playing in his second major finals and first this year. The Joker had not lost at Center Court in 10 years and was looking for his 5th consecutive championship as well as his record tying 8th overall at the All-England Club. Neither would be accomplished as Alcaraz overcame a rough first set before righting himself in the second set.



Alcaraz 3rd Youngest Man To Win Wimbledon
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

Facing going down 2-sets to nothing, Alcaraz used a 32-points, to tie the match at one which lasted 25-minutes. Said the Spaniard afterward about winning the tie

breaker, "if I would have lost that set, probably I couldn't lift the trophy. I probably could have lost in three sets. Alcaraz cruised in the 3rd set before Djokovic settled down to tie the match at four.

The 5th and final set was tied at 4 before Alcaraz would win the last 2 games as Djokovic last shot went into the net with Alcaraz falling to the grass recognizing that we won the championship. The Joker felt his back hand was his downfall. "The backhands kind of let me down," he would say afterwards.

Carlos Alcaraz became the third youngest man to win the grass court major in the open era which started in 1968. He joined Boris Becker and Bjorn Borg in that elite group.

On the victory he said, "we made great rallies, great points. It was a long, long match. Long sets. It was the mental part that allowed me to stay in there."

Next stop for both players will be the US Open in New York beginning in late August where Djokovic will look to get revenge against the defending champion. They will be hard pressed to match what they did last Sunday.



The Joker Comes Up Short
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

NL Snaps All Star Losing Streak

By Matthew Kennedy

This year's MLB All-Star Game was quite the nail biter, with the NL All-Stars finally triumphing over the AL for the first time in a decade, in a score of 3-2.

Sadly, the boys from New York did not have much of a presence, as only a combined 3 players from the Yankees and Mets were selected to represent their respective leagues. And on top of that, reigning AL MVP Aaron Judge, who has been sidelined by a toe injury, did not play. So, New York was left with one player apiece: The Yanks' ace, Gerrit Cole, and the Mets' top slugger, Pete Alonso.

Alonso, who got off to a hot start this season, has been struggling as of late since coming back from a wrist injury, going 0-10

in New York's series against San Diego. He went 0-2 in the All-Star showdown, striking out both times in two disappointing at-bats.

Gerrit Cole was chosen by the AL's manager, Dusty Baker, to start the game, a good choice by the former World Series winning manager. Cole did his job, pitching a 1-2-3 1st inning with ease, but was not seen for the rest of the day.

Other than that, there isn't anything else to say about the Yankees or Mets for this game. But other All-Stars made sure to make it a memorable game. Yandy Diaz of the Rays gave the AL the early lead with a 383 foot solo homer off Max Keller in the 2nd.

But it was the other Diaz, Elias Diaz, that had the biggest moment. Diaz sealed the deal for the NL with a come-from-behind,

go-ahead homer off Felix Bautista, who recorded the loss. Diaz's timely home run earned him the All-Star Game MVP, becoming the first Rockies player ever to win the award.

Atlanta's Sean Casey became the first catcher with a caught stealing in an All-Star Game since 2011, when he threw out Tampa Bay's Randy Arozarena in the 1st. Crazy enough, Luis Arraez of the Marlins was thrown out by Texas' Jonah Heim in the 4th, also while trying to steal 2nd base.

Arraez, who has been absolutely incredible through 86 games, recorded 2 hits and an RBI in the 4th to help lift the NL over the AL. Arraez is having one of the greatest contact hitting seasons of all time, posting a godly .383 average and leading the NL in hits. The player with the second best average in



Diaz HR Propels NL All Stars
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

the NL is a full .052 points lower, at .331.

If Arraez can keep his average at .380 or above, it would be the first time since 1994, when Tony Gwynn hit .394, that a player has

done so. Since the end of WWII there have only been four instances when a player has batted .380 or higher. Arraez is looking to join Ted Williams, George Brett, and Gwynn in this elite club.