



ENTERTAINMENT

DENZEL WASHINGTON  
CANDID ON LIFE  
AND BLACK HOLLYWOOD



LIFESTYLES

REFLECTING ON BLACK  
MUSIC MONTH'S  
PHILLY ROOTS

HEALTH

HOW TO  
EAT TO LIVE  
LONGER

Vol. 140, No. 61

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 | www.phillytrib.com | \$2.00

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

# A Juneteenth Legacy



Channel 6 ABC anchor Tamala Edwards, center, with her two sons in front of the statue of her uncle, civil rights activist and former Texas legislator Al Edwards. Edwards grew up learning about Juneteenth and its origins at an early age through her uncle's efforts in being the first in the country to make June 19 a holiday. — COURTESY OF TAMALA EDWARDS

## Local anchor Tamala Edwards holds close family's ties to national holiday

Chanel Hill  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Tamala Edwards' first memory of Juneteenth happened in Austin, Texas when she was eight years old.

Edwards, a 6ABC morning co-anchor, watched her late uncle Albert "Al" Edwards help pass legislation that made Juneteenth an official state holiday in Texas.

The holiday is the oldest celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

On June 19, 1965, Union Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger and his troops arrived at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and enslaved African Americans were free. More than two years after President



Former Texas State Rep. Al Edwards, at podium, surrounded by his family the day the Texas legislature made Juneteenth a holiday in 1979. —<SPAN> COURTESY OF JASON K. EDWARDS.</SPAN>

Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

"I remember going to the statehouse in Austin," Tamala said. "All of my

cousins, aunts and uncles were there. It was cold outside and I had on white tights with a dress.

"We were up in the visitor's gallery and my uncle

Al was down on the floor," she said. "His legislation would pass to make Juneteenth a state holiday. We all cheered. The family was just so proud of him."

### A LIST OF JUNETEENTH EVENTS, 4A.

A civil rights activist, Al Edwards was elected to the Texas State Legislature from Houston's House District 146 at the age of 41. He would serve in the House of Representatives for more than 30 years.

As a legislator, his main goal was to recognize the emancipation of slavery as a holiday. In 1979, he authored and sponsored House Bill 1016, making June 19, also known as Juneteenth, a state-paid holiday in Texas.

The move helped Texas become the first state in the country to make the abolition of slavery an official

JUNETEENTH » 4A

## Biden's new ad targets Trump felonies

\$50M blitz also spotlights sex assault, fraud verdicts

Will Weissert

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden's reelection campaign is spending \$50 million through the end of June, a blitz that includes its first television ad trumpeting Donald Trump's felony conviction and signals that the Democratic incumbent is seeking to make his Republican opponent's legal woes a bigger issue heading into November.

The advertising push comes with Election Day still months away. But Biden's campaign says it wants to more clearly define the choice between the candidates ahead of the first debate between them in Atlanta on June 27.

The ad campaign includes more than \$1 million geared toward media reaching Black, Hispanic and Asian American voters and a spot highlighting Trump's conviction on 34 felony counts in a New York hush money case. It will air on general market television and connected TV on streaming devices and cellphones in battleground states as well as on national cable.

Besides Trump's criminal conviction, the ad, titled "Character Matters," notes the former president also was found liable for sexual assault and financial fraud

BIDEN » 6A

## Street renaming for activist who spoke up for Black LGBTQ affairs, homeless

Friends and colleagues recall Michael Hinson Jr.'s work in the community.

Kiara Santos  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

In 2000, Former Mayor John Street appointed Michael Hinson Jr. as the first liaison for LGBTQ communities in the city.

Hinson's groundbreaking work at City Hall was only a footnote to his widespread contributions and leadership in providing a safe space for persons struggling with AIDS and homelessness, dealing with drug addiction and offering support for transitioning genders.

Hinson died in August 2022 at the age of 55. Family, friends and colleagues will meet Wednesday to pay their respects to him at a street sign unveiling in his honor at 12th and Chestnut.

"To look at someone who really acted as a catalyst for



Before his death in 2022, Michael Hinson Jr. was busy tackling homelessness as head of the nonprofit SELF, Inc. — BILLY PENN / WHY? / RODNEY ATIENZA / COURTESY DAVID FAIR

a lot of movement, especially around AIDS and HIV in the 80s and 90s, I think that is truly a testament to the work he was doing," said Colours Community Engagement Director Elijah Summers.

Hinson founded Colours in 1991 to advocate for LGBTQ people of color. The aim of Colours was to provide more visibility for

the Black gay community through Philadelphia's media. He helped create Colours as a magazine, which later became a social organization.

"[Michael] was helping a community that was not receiving the necessary help or resources, and to champion people who

HINSON » 6A

## City extends arbitration award one year with correction officers

Marco Cerino  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Higher raises and a waiving of residency requirements were major parts of the city's extended arbitration award with the city's correctional officers working for the Department of Prisons.

Mayor Cherelle Parker announced Monday one additional year to the 2022 deal that was set to expire at the end of the month.

When the new fiscal year starts, employees will get a 4.5% raise, up from 3.25% the last two years. The retention bonus goes from \$1,300 to \$1,600, while the new hire bonus jumps from \$2,000 to 20% of the first-year salary, paid out in two installments which will equal around \$5,000.

Parker also waived the residency requirement for new employees until the head count reaches 80% of guidelines. President of Local 159



Mayor Cherelle Parker announced Monday one additional year to the 2022 deal that was set to expire at the end of the month. — TRIBUNE PHOTO / ABDUL SULAYMAN

of AFSCME, District Council 33 Eric Desiderio, leader of the labor group representing the officers, said that while the officer corps has increased from 1,530 to 1,715, that still only puts that at 55% capacity. Those who are hired with the waiver will be allowed to reside outside the city once the target head count is met.

"This one-year extension

allows us to one, conform to what you've seen us do with police and fire, right here in the city of Philadelphia," she said. "This allows us to get prepared to enter into a multiyear contract with our municipal work force in the very, very near future. We needed this to happen, in order to move forward."

GUARDS » 5A





Brittany Robertson with a photo of her mother, Erica, at her home in Columbus, Ohio, on Friday. She was just a girl when her mother was stabbed to death in the Bronx. Now, an arrest based on DNA has brought her bittersweet relief.

— MADDIE MCGARVEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

# Almost 20 years after she found her mother’s body, a cold case thaws

Dan Barry

NEW YORK — Things were off that morning. Her mother always called out “I love you, baby,” before leaving for work; there was only silence. And she always left the bathroom light on; only darkness.

Her childhood rituals disrupted, 12-year-old Brittany Robertson rose from her bed in the living room and opened the door to the only bedroom in their small Bronx apartment.

It was the cold Wednesday before Thanksgiving, 2005. The cooked shrimp and macaroni and cheese for the feast her mother had planned for co-workers was in the kitchen. And in the bedroom, the would-be host, Erica Robertson, 29, was dead on the floor, a knife protruding from her chest, a single glove by her side.

Nearly 20 years ago, I wrote an “About New York” column about the killings of two young women. Both had moved to the city from Columbus, Ohio, and both had been stabbed to death in their apartments. One was Catherine Woods, an aspiring Broadway dancer who moonlighted at topless clubs and whose death on the Upper East Side generated headlines; she was white. The other was Robertson, a security guard at a shelter in East Harlem whose surname tended to be misspelled as Robinson in the scant news coverage; she was Black.

Within a month, a former boyfriend was arrested — and later convicted — in the murder of Woods. But the unsolved killing of Robertson receded from New York’s memory, and from mine.

Until last week, that is, when word came that an ex-boyfriend of Robertson’s had been returned from Ohio and charged with killing her. A little-noticed case gone cold had benefited, it seems, from what is often portrayed as the nemesis of police work: time.

Robertson had surprised her family by moving with her daughter to New York to be with a man from Ohio named James Devore. “It didn’t really sit well with anybody,” her older brother, Phillip, later said.

The family’s misgivings proved prescient. Robertson eventually broke up with Devore, though she continued to raise a daughter of his. Her own daughter, Brittany, recently said that her childhood impression of him was of a man forever yelling.

“Mean,” she said. “Always.”

The weekend before that Thanksgiving, Phillip Robertson, a truck driver, drove 540 miles east, picked up his sister and niece, drove them west for a family wedding in Columbus, then drove them back to the Concourse section of the Bronx, often listening to his sister talking excitedly about the holiday feast she was preparing for her colleagues.

Three days later, Phillip Robertson again drove the 540 miles to the Bronx, his parents and younger brother in tow. They identified the body, collected a shaken Brittany and returned to Columbus, where, in shock, they ate the Thanksgiving food prepared by their beloved Erica.

For Daniel Scanlon, the lead New York police detective investigating the case, Devore was “in the middle of the frame.” Several days after the killing, he and his partner tracked down their suspect and interrogated him at police headquarters in Columbus — but not before the detective had the foresight to empty the interview room’s wastebasket.

The questioning yielded little. Devore said he was hungry; they bought him McDonald’s. He said he wanted to smoke; they gave him cigarettes. The interview ended, the suspect left — and the detective collected the cigarette butts from the wastebasket.

“I put them in an evidence bag and brought them back,” Scanlon recalled.

The DNA gleaned from a cigarette butt matched the DNA on the glove at the scene of the killing, but the Bronx district attorney’s office determined there was not yet enough evidence to secure a conviction. “I was very upset, to say the least,” Scanlon said.

So began the killing’s inexorable relegation from active investigation to cold-case shelving, as that horrible Thanksgiving in the Bronx gradually blurred into Gotham’s ceaseless com-

motion. But it remained fresh for a wounded family in Ohio aching for a resolution that never came.

Erica Robertson’s father, Phillip Sr., an equipment operator, died in 2017. Her mother, Sharon, a registered nurse, died in 2022. And her older brother, Phillip Jr., who frequently stayed on a futon in her apartment just to make sure she was all right, died unexpectedly, at 49, in 2019.

As time passed, the forensic use of DNA became more sophisticated. A couple of years ago, the cold-case unit decided to revive the investigation into Erica Robertson’s killing, eventually leading to enhanced testing of the victim’s nails, which had been clipped and saved.

The DNA material culled from her nails matched the DNA found on the cigarette butt and the single glove. The DNA, prosecutors say, of James Devore, now 54.

He was taken into custody by federal marshals in Ohio in late May. New York detectives from the cold-case unit collected and returned him last week to the Bronx, where he pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter and was remanded without bail.

“The defendant thought he successfully escaped responsibility for this heinous act,” said the Bronx district attorney, Darcel D. Clark. “Thanks to the forensic expertise and determination of investigators, he now faces justice.”

Brittany Robertson, whose girlhood ended when she opened that bedroom door, is now 30. She lives in her mother’s childhood home in Columbus, where she is raising three children of her own. A fourth child, Elizabeth, was struck and killed while crossing a road to her bus stop; she was 11.

Robertson sobbed as she searched for words that could convey what she felt. Bittersweet relief that justice might be achieved. Gratitude for the New York investigators who persisted. And maybe, even, a certain pride.

“My mother was a fighter,” she said, referring to the DNA found in her nails. “She basically solved her own case.”

The New York Times

# He was ‘Mr. X’ before a true crime podcast stirred investigators

Amanda Holpuch

For nearly 50 years, a man whose body was found by a hunter in Greenville County, South Carolina, was known only as Mr. X, but law enforcement officials announced Monday that they had identified the remains. The case was revived after investigators were inspired by a local true crime podcast.

He was Oscar James Nedd, a young man who had moved from his small hometown in Georgia to White Plains, New York, for college, in the hopes of becoming a journalist.

“Murder, etc.,” the podcast that brought new attention to the case, was not focused on the unsolved killing and unidentified body but mentioned the cold case briefly in one of its more than two dozen episodes. Still, Sheriff Hobart Lewis of Greenville County said at a news conference Monday that the true crime series prompted his office to reexamine the case.

Lewis said that Nedd, who would have been 23 around the time of his death, was a murder victim.

“It is believed that Oscar was killed in New York and ultimately brought to South Carolina for reasons we do not know,” Lewis said.

The death will now be investigated in New York.

Brad Willis, the producer and host of “Murder, etc.,” said that it was gratifying for him and his researcher, Andy Ethridge, to learn that Nedd’s family came to know where he had been for the last 50 years.

It was also a huge surprise. The podcast’s last episode was released in February 2020, and it was not about the cold case. Instead, it investigated the murders of Frank Looper, a police officer, and his son, Rufus, also in 1975. Some of their family members and former co-workers have shared doubts that the man convicted of the murders, Charles Wakefield, is responsible for the deaths, and key pieces of evidence have since been questioned. Wakefield is pursuing a new trial.

Willis, formerly a TV news reporter in South Carolina, created the podcast after calling Wakefield, who was released from prison in 2010, to apologize because he thought that his work as a reporter had been partially responsible for keeping Wakefield in prison longer than was fair.

The fact that the sheriff in Greenville County listened and was motivated to look back at the Mr. X mystery was an unintended consequence, though a welcome one, said Willis, who had since stopped podcasting because of the emotional and financial toll of the investigation.

“Even though I’ve not picked up a podcast microphone for several years, it’s possible that something good came out of all of it,” he said.

One podcast episode, “Greenville, We Have a

Problem,” was about there being more than one murder a week in Greenville in 1975, and it discussed Mr. X because he was the first murder victim of the year.

“Mr. X, now known as Oscar Nedd, he represented a lot of what was happening in Greenville, South Carolina, at the time, which was people who were killed and almost forgotten,” Willis said.

The unsolved killing got the attention of Lewis, who said Monday that he revamped the cold case unit when he became sheriff in March 2020. The team has since solved 11 cases by following old leads, interviewing new witnesses and using new technology, the sheriff said.

Lewis said that the initial investigation of Mr. X’s death began Jan. 4, 1975, after a hunter found the body. It was wrapped in a sheet and was smoldering, indicating it had been set on fire, the sheriff said. The coroner’s office ruled the death a homicide by blunt-force trauma and strangulation.

Authorities in Greenville County exhumed the body in July 2020 and sent the skeletal remains for DNA testing. A profile was also created in the National Unidentified and Missing Persons System, a database of missing- and unidentified-person cases that is accessible to investigators across the country.

Things were relatively quiet until February 2024, when White Plains Public Safety contacted the Greenville County Sheriff’s Office about a potential match for Mr. X.

“We began comparing notes and reviewing case files,” Lewis said. “The comparisons between the missing person and our discovered body were strikingly similar.”

Investigators sought out Nedd’s family and were able to confirm his identity.

Nedd was born in his family home in Marshallville, Georgia. His relatives told The New York Times in 2005 that he was a star high school athlete and an excellent student. His family could not immediately be reached for comment.

Austin Avery, who died in 2014, investigated Nedd’s disappearance for decades. He resigned from the White Plains Police Department in anger in 1978 because he felt it wasn’t devoting enough resources to the case.

Avery, who was white, told the Times in 2005 that he thought the department had little interest in Nedd’s disappearance because he was Black and from a poor family in rural Georgia. The police commissioner at the time, John Dolce, denied Avery’s allegations.

Since the announcement Monday, people have been encouraging Willis to restart the podcast, though he said he is hesitant. Yet he said he couldn’t ignore Wakefield’s trial if it happens.

The New York Times



A photo provided by the Greenville County Sheriff’s Office shows Oscar James Nedd. Nedd moved to New York to attend college, but he went missing in 1975. He was ‘Mr. X’ before “Murder, etc.,” a true crime podcast, stirred investigators. — GREENVILLE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES



Photos of Erica Robertson at her daughter’s home in Columbus, Ohio, on Friday. — MADDIE MCGARVEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES



# Thousands flock to West Philly for Juneteenth parade

O.J. Spivey  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

The weather was perfect for thousands to attend this year's Juneteenth parade on 52nd Street in West Philadelphia. The annual event, which ended at Malcolm X Park, is one of the largest of its kind in the U.S.

Mayor Cherelle Parker served as the grand marshal for the parade and rode solo along the parade route in a shiny black convertible.

"I'm trying to do something that a lot of people don't think is possible," Parker said. "They don't believe we can be unified. I'm doing the best I can with what we have and there is nothing that will make me give up on this city."

Juneteenth is the oldest celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. The date was 159 years ago on June 19, 1865, nearly three years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, when Union soldiers arrived at Galveston, Texas, with news that the nation's enslaved were now free.

The day is also known as Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day and Juneteenth Independence Day. Pennsylvania first recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday in 2019 and it became a national holiday in June 2021.



A float sponsored by Drexel University is adorned in Juneteenth colors Sunday during the Juneteenth parade on 52nd Street in West Philadelphia. — TRIBUNE PHOTOS / O.J. SPIVEY

The Pennsylvania Juneteenth Initiative, Inc. was

founded in 2019 by Philadelphia businessmen and cultural activists Ali Salauddin and Michael Rashid. According to their web-

site, "the organization's mission is to provide information to the public concerning the history and significance of Juneteenth

through the production of cultural events such as parades, festivals and educational workshops." The parade and festival is the

organization's most important project.

The parade was hosted on site by radio personalities Manwell Glenn and Saj Blackwell and was televised live on Channel 6 ABC with Rick Williams and Tamala Edwards and legendary radio personality Gary Shepard.

Over 250 vendors lined the parade route, ranging from art to food and clothing sellers, along with community and government resources. There was also an additional stage for musical concerts and performances.

One featured float was of the Little Free(dom) Library, a Visit Philadelphia initiative that gives away banned books by underrepresented authors. The works are available at 16 locations across the city. Representing the project on Visit Philly's float was filmmaker and Philadelphia native Kyra Knox.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think we would have a Juneteenth parade," Knox said. "And when I tell you, the community packed the streets with excitement, good food and entertainment. Reading excerpts from the book 'The 1619 Project' made me get even more excited when the crowds were responding to the words."



A float rolls along 52nd Street in West Philadelphia on Sunday.



Mayor Parker takes the time to meet constituents after riding the parade route Sunday in West Philadelphia.

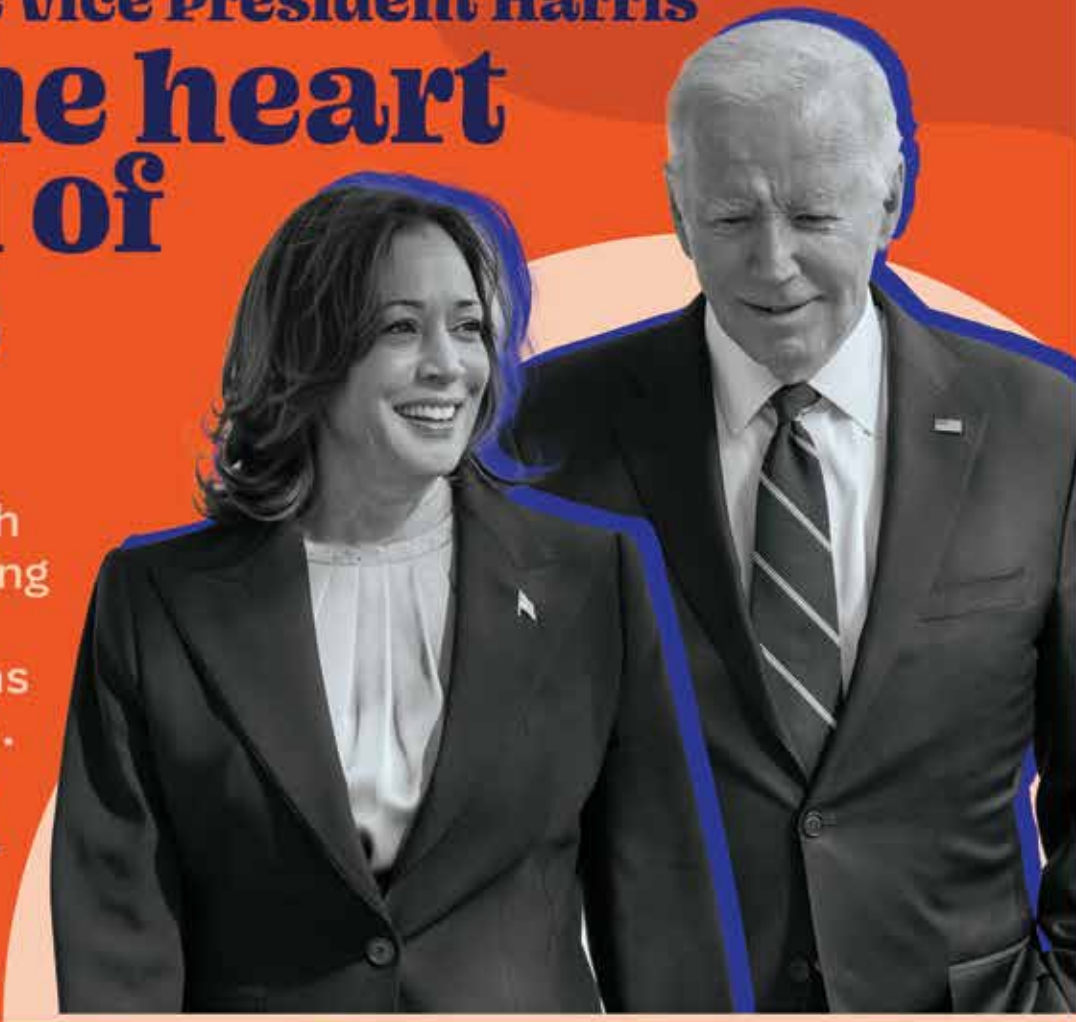


Mayor Parker takes the time to meet constituents after riding the parade route Sunday in West Philadelphia.

**This Juneteenth,**  
**President Biden & Vice President Harris Salute the heart and soul of America**

The Biden-Harris Administration is proud to have made Juneteenth a Federal Holiday – honoring the contributions and sacrifices Black Americans have made for our nation.  
**Join us as we continue our progress—together.**

**BIDEN HARRIS**



JOEBIDEN.COM

PAID FOR BY BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT.



# Looking to celebrate Juneteenth in Philly? A list of events.

**Chanel Hill**  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Juneteenth is the oldest celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

On June 19, 1865, a Union general arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved African Americans that they were free and that the Civil War had ended.

This news came two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all enslaved people were free.

This year, the federal holiday will be celebrated with community events, musical performances, children activities and programs throughout the Philadelphia region. Here is what you need to know about the events that will be taking place on Juneteenth.

## Wednesday Events

**Juneteenth children activities**  
Time: 9 a.m. to 4:40 p.m.  
Location: Please Touch Museum

Celebrate Juneteenth with a day of programming that is engaging and educational. Children can enjoy themed crafts, performances, interactive story times, games and more. All activities are included with museum admission. Online reservations required.

**Juneteenth celebration**  
Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Location: Eastern State Penitentiary  
The day will start with the

reading of children's books focusing on stories about Juneteenth and resistance with Thembi Palmer. Guests will then be invited to catch performances by the choir The Black Breath Collective and a special panel discussion featuring local scholars exploring the holiday's history.

**Juneteenth at the Museum**  
Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Location: Museum of the American Revolution  
Explore special exhibits and tours highlighting the diverse contributions and struggles of African Americans during the American Revolution. Learning about notable figures like Phillis Wheatley and Harry Washington through gallery talks, tours and more. Plus, kids can engage in special hands-on experiences in the Revolution Place discovery center. Admission is necessary.

**Juneteenth programs and film**  
Time: 10 a.m. to the afternoon  
Location: Temple University Center for Anti-Racism  
Faculty from Temple's Tyler School of the Art and Architecture will lead children craft activities until 11:30 a.m. Following the children's event, the center will open its doors to faculty, staff and community members for a screening of the film "Origin." After the screening, the center's director Timothy N. Welbeck and Associate Vice President and Chief Inclusion officer Tiffenia Archie will lead a film discussion.

**Juneteenth Pop-up Market**  
Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Location: Independence Visitor Center, North End  
This market invites guests to shop works and wares from a collection of Black entrepreneurs. Among the small businesses that will be participating includes Kirra's Cakes for delicious goods, Ceramic Concept for handmade pottery and home goods and Haiama Beauty for natural hair and body care products.

**A June Jordan Inspired Family Reunion**  
Time: 12 to 4 p.m.  
Location: Harriett's Bookshop  
Harriett's Bookshop hosts a day dedicated to poet and activist June Jordan with poets, musicians, scholars and artists. The event is free to attend, but for a \$20 ticket, you'll also get a meal from chef Tonia Renee's fish fry and barbecue.

**Rhythms of Liberation: Celebrating Juneteenth through Music and Conversations**  
Time: 12 to 7 p.m.  
Location: African American Museum  
This blockbuster event features performances from legendary hip-hop duo Kid 'n Play and local talent Rich Medina, Seraiah Nicole and Suede Lace. There will be a marketplace highlighting Black-owned businesses and food trucks; free wellness screenings and workshops and children activities. The day will close out with a panel discussion featuring Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Joanna McCClinton and Former Mayor of



Black Americans have recognized Juneteenth with parades, street festivals, musical performances and cookouts. — COURTESY OF JOHNSON HOUSE HISTORIC SITE / VISIT PHILADELPHIA

Atlanta Keisha Lance Bottoms. Broadcast journalist Soledad O'Brien will be the moderator of the panel discussion.

**Juneteenth Festival**  
Time: 2 to 7 p.m.  
Location: 48th and Woodland Playground  
Join nonprofit organization Millennial Juneteenth for its 5th annual Juneteenth festival at Kingsessing Recreation Center. The event will feature Black-owned business vendors, live music and performances and kids activities.

**Delaware County's third annual Juneteenth Celebration**  
Time: 4 p.m.  
Location: Rose Tree Park, Media  
This family event kicks off with food and fun, culminating in a Juneteenth ceremony and a performance by local band Philly Gumbo.

This celebration is free to attend, with pay-as-you-go food and drink.

**Black Music City Grantee Showcase**  
Time: 5 to 9 p.m.  
Location: World Café Live  
A showcase and celebration of new music and art projects honoring Philadelphia's legendary Black music heritage, which is created by the 30 Black creatives. The event will be hosted by Seraiah Nicole.

**Dinner**  
Time: 6 to 9 p.m.  
Location: Awbury Arboretum, Francis Cope House  
Chef Gail Jones-Hinson shares a meal inspired by cooks of the Reconstruction era. The evening also includes a panel discussion and jazz performance. Tickets are necessary for the event.

chill@phillytrib.com  
215-893-5716

"I'm hopeful that as kids hear the Juneteenth history they hear the possibility for right action," she said. "They need to know that the right thing is always available to

them and they always have the opportunity to be a part of it."  
chill@phillytrib.com  
215-893-5716

### JUNETEENTH « 1A

holiday. The same year, he created Juneteenth USA, the first and oldest Juneteenth advocacy organization in the country.

Today, the nonprofit's goal is to help corporations and large organizations adopt the Juneteenth holiday and to raise funds to help those affected by slavery.

"Juneteenth USA was the advocacy vehicle to get Juneteenth to become a national holiday," said Jason Edwards, son of Al Edwards and chairman and president of Juneteenth USA.

"Dad used to do events here in Houston," he said. "He would have a tennis tournament, gospel festival and a big party for the city at our biggest convention center. He had events all around Texas."

Tamala said her family's gathering around these events was a special time.

"Every year, Uncle Al added on more and more activities," Tamala said. "There were gospel brunches, jazz evenings, church services and cookouts. It is a major thing in Houston."

"He would often come to all of the things that are going on," she said. "To this day, when I hear Frankie Beverly and Maze 'Before I Let Go' I think of Juneteenth in Texas."

During his legislative career, Al understood that in order for the U.S. Congress to make Juneteenth a national holiday, it would need to pass first in the majority of the states.

To help achieve this feat, Al would serve as the vice chairman of the Democratic Party's Black Caucus and the National Chairman of the Democratic Party's Black Caucus. He would also have a senior role in the National Conference of Black Legislators and the National Conference of State Legislators.

"Dad knew that Dr. King's holiday passed at the federal level first and was adopted by the states," Jason Edwards said. "He said it had to be passed state by state for Juneteenth to ultimately become a national holiday."

"He helped pass legislation around the country," he said. "By the time he essentially retired in 2014, 45 states had passed some version of his legislation around the country. That's when Ms. Opal Lee started her effort in 2016.

"Dad's goal was to back the country into a state-led national holiday," he added. "A national holiday celebrated by all of the states, which would then force the hand of the Senate to yield. They did with unanimous consent, which is a rare action by the United States Senate."

In 2021, President Joe Biden signed a bill by Congress to make Juneteenth a federal holiday. It was the first new national holiday since President Ronald Reagan signed the bill to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a holiday in 1983.

Jason said he had mixed emotions when he heard about the federal holiday as his dad wasn't here to celebrate the news. Al died in 2020. He was 83.

"It was definitely a surreal moment because this was always dad's goal," Jason Edwards said. "He would move this legislation across the country, visit other states and help them pass the legislation."

"The Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee presented the legislation for 11 sessions in a row for 22 years. Overall, this is a 41-year effort. I'm just so proud of my dad. He never stopped fighting and pushing for Juneteenth to become a national holiday."

The following year, Tamala took her two sons to Galveston, Texas to visit Ashton Villa.

The villa is near the site of the first reading where people of Texas were informed that, in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.

"The previous year, the boys were sitting in the living room watching Pres. Joe Biden sign the bill," Tamala said. "But I really wanted them to be with their family in a place where the history actually was."

"When we visited Ashton Villa, there was someone there who pretended to be Gen. Granger," she said. "They read out the proclamation. Sheila Jackson Lee, who was my Congresswoman, also gave a speech."

"There is a statue of Uncle Al outside, so the whole family gathered around and took some photos," she added. "It was just an amazing day full of love, family and history."

Tamala said what the youth can take away from Juneteenth is that they too can make meaningful change.

"Young people need to hear the stories of their elders," Tamala said. "They need to hear those stories of when they were young, the choices they made and the outcomes. They need to hear their history. They also need to be reminded that there is so much more to them than what the world necessarily wants them to be."



Tamala Edwards' sons watch as President Joe Biden makes Juneteenth a national holiday in 2021. — COURTESY OF TAMALA EDWARDS

## Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. PECO Energy Company – Electric and Gas Divisions Rate Increase

# NOTICE OF IN-PERSON PUBLIC INPUT HEARING

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) will conduct Public Input Hearings concerning the general rate increase requests filed by PECO Energy Company – Electric and Gas Divisions on March 28, 2024, seeking to increase electric distribution rates by \$464 million per year and to increase gas distribution rates by \$111 million per year.

The in-person hearing will be held at the following time and place:

Presiding Officer:  
Administrative Law Judges Darlene Heep and Marta Guhl

### IN-PERSON PUBLIC INPUT HEARING

Pre-registration is not required.

Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024  
Time: 6 p.m.  
Location: Limerick Township Building  
646 W. Ridge Pike Limerick, PA, 19468

**HEARING EXHIBITS:** If you have any hearing exhibits to which you will refer during the hearing, please email them to the Office of the Administrative Law Judge (OALJ) at [sdelvillar@pa.gov](mailto:sdelvillar@pa.gov). The OALJ will forward the exhibits to the Judges and all parties. Exhibits for the public input hearing must be received the day before the hearing at 10AM.

**QUESTIONS?** The Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) represents the interests of utility customers before the PUC. If you have questions about the public input hearings or the Company's requested rate increase, please contact the OCA toll free at 1-800-684-6560 or by email at [consumer@paoca.org](mailto:consumer@paoca.org).

**OTHER WAYS TO BE HEARD:** If you want to be heard about the proposed rate increase but do not want or cannot testify at the Public Input Hearing, you may file a formal complaint or comment to the proposed rate increase. Please visit the PUC's website to use the applicable form available at <https://www.puc.pa.gov/complaints/formal-complaints/>





Mayor Cherelle Parker stands with new leaders and commissioners of the Mayor's Commission on African American Males Friday. — TRIBUNE PHOTO / ABDUL SULAYMAN

# ‘We are here to be supportive’

## Mayor welcomes new leaders and faces for Commission on African American Males.

**Sherry Stone**  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Mayor Cherelle Parker met on Friday evening with the director and commissioners of the Mayor's Commission on African American Males. Local activist Abu Edwards is the director of the unit.

"We needed to find the right person for the job," Parker said to Edwards. "I am so grateful that you answered yes when asked to be the director."

According to Parker, there are 31,825 Black boys and men in the city of Philadelphia and they make up 19% of the city's total population, and 40% of the city's total male population.

Parker emphasized that

she is tired of crime and the overrepresentation of Black males in the city's criminal justice system.

"Black men have the lowest life expectancy and highest death rate in the city," she said. "Black males ages 16-19 die at two and a half times the rate of their white counterparts."

Dozens gathered in the Mayor's Reception Room inside City Hall to briefly discuss the issues facing African Americans in Philadelphia.

"This is not ceremonial," the mayor said of the gathering. "We are here to affirm, we are here to be supportive."

The mayor said the city has provided \$6.7 million in the budget for the commission with the support of City

Council President Kenyatta Johnson.

The organization will include commissioners on Latino engagement, Muslim engagement, Interfaith engagement and will soon add a Pan-Hellenic/Historically Black colleges and Universities engagement commissioner.

Councilman Jeffery Young was on hand to encourage the new commissioners as well as City Managing Director Adam K. Thiel, and Deputy Police Commissioner John Stanford.

"We as council members are here to listen to you and put some of your ideas into action," Young said. "When you have an issue affecting Black men, it is your duty to bring those ideas and

that information back to us. Your City Council has four Black male members under the age of 40. Do not feel that you can't talk about the issues."

The group's new leadership consists of familiar names such as Otis Bullock, Anton Moore, and Ryan Boyer of the Building Trades Union.

"I am excited to be here," Boyer said. "Director Abu Edwards is doing a tremendous job. I met him a few years ago and we talked about the tremendous talent among Black men. I also want to thank Mayor Parker for building up the community and for bringing in people from every sector of the community."

Boyer said he hoped to be of benefit in terms of jobs and in any other capacity.

Other commissioners include: David Buck, who worked for six years for the Office of Violence Prevention; Wahdu Ahmed, a Philadelphia employer; Maurice Baynard, Drexel University's Vice President for Community Learning; Jordan Parisse-Ferrarini; Khalil Edwards of the gun-violence prevention group, Every Murder Is Real (E.M.I.R.); the Rev. Damone Jones, a church pastor in West Philadelphia; Syeed King of the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Service Center; and Donovan Sterling West, former President of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Philadelphia, New Jersey and Delaware.

"I'm here for anything that may help uplift Black men," Jones said.

sstone@phillytrib.com  
215-893-5781

— ADVERTISEMENT —

### How a Philadelphia Non-Profit is Helping to Preserve Affordable Housing with TD

By TD Bank



Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to live but with the current nationwide housing crisis, there are fewer options available.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Philadelphia is aiming to help change that in the city with its Non-profit Preservation Initiative, which aims to fund non-profit building owners and developers to preserve and protect publicly assisted affordable rental housing units in Philadelphia neighborhoods.

This initiative also includes working with residents and community organizations to create communities where people can live, work, visit, play and raise families, according to Andrew Frishkoff, Executive Director of LISC Philadelphia.

The program's goal is to help preserve 1,500 units of affordable housing in the next two years. Last year, the TD Social Impact Investment Council announced its contribution of \$2.5 million over two years for the initiative to assist LISC's work.

"TD was the first to say yes, we are fully behind supporting this issue, and their support has been huge even in year one," Frishkoff said.

"TD has roots in metro Philadelphia and with that comes the responsibility to serve all communities here," said Rob Curley, Regional President of Metro Pennsylvania/New Jersey, TD Bank. "By making tangible increases in resources and economic opportunities in Philadelphia, diverse and underserved individuals and families can realize their full potential and have the same financial security as their neighbors."

Frishkoff noted in the first year, the initiative has worked with nine non-profit organizations to preserve 712 units of affordable housing, exceeding LISC's own expectations. The organization has also provided workforce training.

## CITY BRIEFS

### Teen shot in leg near North Alden Street

On Monday morning, a 17-year-old Black male was shot in the left leg and was found in an alleyway near the 1500 block of North Alden Street.

The teen was placed in stable condition at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center.

According to Philadelphia police, the teen was arrested for his alleged involvement in the Alden Street shooting that was tied into an incident on the 1500 block of Media Street in West Philadelphia. A weapon was recovered and an investigation is ongoing with the Shooting Investigation Group.

— Tribune Staff Writer Sherry Stone

### Man shot on Alcott Street in stable condition

On Sunday afternoon, a 21-year-old Black man was shot in the stomach and left shoulder on the 1000 block of Alcott Street, according to police.

He was transported to Albert Einstein Medical Center where he was placed in stable condition. No arrests have been made, and the incident is under police investigation.

— Tribune Staff Writer Sherry Stone

### Double shooting on Father's Day

On Father's Day, Philadelphia police responded to a double shooting that left a 30-year-old victim with gunshot wounds to the chest and arm and a 20-year-old victim with a gunshot wound to the right calf.

Both victims were listed in stable condition at Temple University Hospital, according to police.

The police department is urging anyone with information regarding this shooting to contact The Shooting Investigation Group at (215) 686-8270 or by texting (215) 686-TIPS (8477).

— Tribune Staff Writer Sherry Stone

### Double shooting leaves two injured

A double shooting on Saturday, left two Latino victims who were sitting inside a Honda CR-V, injured by gunfire.

A 35-year-old man was shot in the neck and a 31-year-old woman was shot in the face, during the incident on the 1200 block of Bridge Street, just before 10 p.m.

Both victims were placed in stable condition at Temple University Hospital. No arrests were made, according to police, and the shooting remains under investigation.

— Tribune Staff Writer Sherry Stone

### Man, 26, shot placed in stable condition

A 26-year-old Black man was rushed to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center with a gunshot wound to the left shoulder and thigh, on Saturday around 9:15 p.m. The victim was placed in stable condition. According to police, the location of the shooting is still unknown.

— Tribune Staff Writer Sherry Stone

### Two shot on the 6700 block of Dorel Street

During a double shooting last Friday, a 19-year-old Black male victim was shot once in the left side of the stomach and a 24-year-Black male victim was shot once in the right hand, on the 6700 block of Dorel Street.

The incident took place around 2:30 p.m. The younger victim was listed in critical condition at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center and the 24-year-old man was listed in stable condition, according to police.

— Tribune Staff Writer Sherry Stone

### Police investigate shooting at 58th and Sansom

In West Philadelphia, police were investigating a shooting at 58th and Sansom streets. An unidentified Black man between the ages of 25-30, was shot once in the chest and once in the right arm, around 5:07 p.m. on Friday evening and was listed in critical condition. The investigation is still ongoing, according to police.

— Tribune Staff Writer Sherry Stone

### GUARDS « 1A

Desiderio thanked his negotiating team for their efforts, which Parker admitted the communications between the two sides were not "always rosy." The new deal will cost \$30.6 million as part of the updated Five Year Plan the city will submit to the state government.

"The award has two major components, economics and staffing," he said. "Fair compensation, in increased wages, bonuses, and incentives, have been provided to acknowledge the hard work of our current employees. Additionally, the award provides incentive to increase the much-needed staffing numbers at the Philadelphia Department of Prisons by paying new hires a generous signing bonus and waiving residency to allow the prisons to recruit from within the city and throughout the region."

One of the many new hires during the Parker administration's first six months is Michael Resnick as Commissioner for the Philadelphia Department of Prisons. The mayor raved about his reputation among front line



Some of the city's correctional officers listening during the announcement of the city's extended arbitration award on Monday at City Hall. — TRIBUNE PHOTO / ABDUL SULAYMAN

employees he earned for his service in previous roles with the city and his time in Baltimore. He mentioned that in addition to the financial support, the department will provide wellness support and mentorship to bolster retention efforts.

"The extension of the arbitration award announced today by the mayor will be a valuable tool in ensuring the success of our recruiting campaign," Resnick said. 36 people are in the academy right now and the last class graduated 20.

While Parker acknowledged her support for residency requirements for city jobs as a member of City Council, she noted that as mayor, she can use a waiver to remove it. She cited the need to fill the ranks as her reasoning behind the decision.

"For any city of Philadelphia professional role that is difficult for us here to fill, any position for that matter, the mayor has the ability to have his or her administration offer a waiver," she said. "I did what I told you all could be done, as a member of City Council. It just wasn't done. Just have to have the fortitude to make it happen."

mcerino@phillytrib.com  
215-893-5700



# Surgeon general wants warnings on social media

Ellen Barry  
Cecilia Kang

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy announced Monday that he would push for a warning label on social media platforms advising parents that using the platforms might damage adolescents' mental health.

Warning labels — like those that appear on tobacco and alcohol products — are one of the most powerful tools available to the nation's top health official, but Murthy cannot unilaterally require them; the action requires approval by Congress.

The proposal builds on several years of escalating warnings from the surgeon general. In a May 2023 advisory, he recommended that parents immediately set limits on phone use, and urged Congress to swiftly develop health and safety standards for technology platforms.

He also called on tech companies to make changes: to share internal data on the health impact of their products; to allow independent safety audits; and restrict

features such as push notifications, autoplay and infinite scroll, which he says “prey on developing brains and contribute to excessive use.”

In an interview, Murthy said he had been deeply frustrated by the platforms' reluctance to do so.

“I don't think we can solely rely on the hope that the platforms can fix this problem on their own,” he said. “They’ve had 20 years.”

He said that he was “quite optimistic” that legislators will put forward a bill requiring a warning label, which he envisioned would appear regularly on screens when people use social media sites.

The push for a warning label sets up a battle between the Biden administration and the tech industry, which has sued several states over laws on social media.

Technology companies are likely to argue that the science on the harmful effects of social media is not settled. They will also invoke free speech law, arguing that the government cannot force companies to carry a product warning, which is sometimes



U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has long indicated that he believes social media poses a health risk to children and adolescents. — DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

described as “compelled speech.”

“Legally speaking, it’s no different from a Trump administration surgeon general declaring there needs to be a warning label on mainstream media because he deems it to be fake news,” said Adam Kovacevich, CEO of Chamber of Progress, a tech lobbying firm. “It’s all the same abuse of government’s power to infringe on speech.”

That challenge may find a sympathetic ear in U.S. courtrooms, with a cohort of judges who show less deference to public health regulations than their predecessors did, said Claudia E. Haupt, a professor of law and political science at Northeastern University School of Law.

For more than a decade, cigarette companies have successfully used a First Amendment argument to

fend off a requirement that they print a graphic photograph of diseased lungs on tobacco products, she said.

TikTok did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the surgeon general’s proposal. Spokespeople for YouTube and X declined to comment.

The surgeon general’s call to action received support from two senators, Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., the authors of the Kids Online Safety Act, which would require platforms to take a range of steps to protect minors on social media but does not include warning labels.

“We are pleased that the surgeon general — America’s top doctor — continues to bring attention to the harmful impact that social media has on our children,” a joint statement from the two senators said.

Past warning labels have had significant effects on behavior. In 1965, after a landmark report from the surgeon general, Congress voted to require all cigarette packag-

es distributed in the United States to carry a warning that using the product “may be hazardous to your health.”

Thus began a 50-year decline in smoking. When the warning labels first appeared, around 42% of U.S. adults were daily cigarette smokers; by 2021, that portion had dropped to 11.5%.

There is fierce debate among researchers about whether social media is behind the crisis in child and adolescent mental health. In his new book, “The Anxious Generation,” social psychologist Jonathan Haidt points to the rise of smartphones in the late 2000s as an inflection point that led to a sharp increase in suicidal behavior and reports of despair.

Other experts say that, while the rise of social media has coincided with declines in well-being, there is no evidence that one caused the other, and point instead to factors like economic hardship, social isolation, racism, school shootings and the opioid crisis.

The New York Times

# Man plotted mass shooting in Atlanta to incite ‘race war,’ officials say

Orlando Mayorquín

An Arizona man who planned to commit a mass shooting at an Atlanta rap concert as a way of inciting a “race war” has been indicted by a federal grand jury on hate crime and firearm charges.

The man, Mark Adams Prieto, hatched a plan in several discussions with two people working with the FBI who posed as racist extremists to carry out a mass shooting targeting Black people and other people of color at a concert in Atlanta on May 14 and May 15, the Justice Department said on Tuesday.

Prieto intended for the shooting to incite a “race war” before the presidential election, prosecutors said in a news release.

Prieto, 58, was reported to the authorities last year by an acquaintance who said he had made concerning comments calling for mass shootings targeting Black people and others, according to officials.

Prieto faces two counts of trafficking in firearms, one

count of transfer of a firearm for use in a hate crime and one count of possessing an unregistered firearm.

He faces a maximum 15-year prison sentence for each firearm trafficking and transfer charge and a maximum 10-year sentence for the unregistered firearm charge, prosecutors said. Prieto also could be fined \$250,000 for each count.

A lawyer for Prieto was not listed in a court database as of Saturday evening.

Officials stopped and arrested Prieto, of Prescott, Arizona, near Interstate 40 in New Mexico on May 14, according to prosecutors.

He had seven firearms in his vehicle, and investigators carrying out a search warrant would later find an arsenal of guns in his home, including an unregistered short-barreled rifle and AR-15 and AK-47-style rifles, according to the indictment.

Officials were tipped off about Prieto in October by a man who had known and frequently chatted with him at gun shows, according to an affidavit filed in court.

The man told the author-



A photo provided by the U.S. Department of Justice shows Mark Adams Prieto, who intended for the shooting to incite a “race war” before the presidential election in November, prosecutors said. — U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES

ities that Prieto began making alarming comments, “including advocating for a mass shooting, and specifically targeting ‘Blacks, Jews or Muslims,’” the affidavit said.

The indictment said that beginning in January, at several gun shows around Arizona, Prieto discussed mass shooting plans with

an undercover agent and the man who had reported him (now working as an informant).

In a conversation at a gun show on Jan. 21, Prieto asked the men for their help carrying out a mass shooting at a rap concert in Atlanta, where he believed there would be a large number of Black concertgoers.

Prieto expounded on tactics and how to effectively use their weapons in the attack. During that time, he sold the undercover agent firearms, according to the affidavit, and confirmed that the attack would take place at a concert at State Farm Arena on May 14 or 15.

Bad Bunny, one of the biggest names in Latin American music, went on to hold concerts at that venue on those dates.

As May approached, Prieto suggested pushing back the attack date to June or July, emphasizing that it should be done before the election in November. In May, he said he planned to travel to Atlanta to conduct reconnaissance around the arena.

He initially told investigators that he had been traveling to Florida to visit his mother, according to the affidavit. He later confessed to the authorities about the planned attack but said that he did not intend to go forward with it.

The New York Times

BIDEN « 1A

in separate proceedings. Trump also faces felony charges in three other criminal cases, none of which may go to trial before the November election.

“In the courtroom, we see Donald Trump for who he is,” intones the ad’s narrator. It adds over images of a Trump mug shot and Biden high-fiving supporters, “This election is between a convicted criminal who’s only out for him-

self and a president who’s fighting for your family.”

Biden also has frequently talked about Trump’s 34 felony convictions while decrying the former president for claiming that the case against him was politically motivated. Biden argues that “it’s reckless, it’s dangerous, it’s irresponsible for anyone to say this was rigged just because they don’t like the verdict.”

Biden’s son Hunter last week was convicted in Dela-

ware of three felony charges related to the purchase of a revolver in 2018, when, prosecutors argued, he lied on a mandatory gun purchase form by saying he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs. The president has said he would accept the outcome of the case and “continue to respect the judicial process as Hunter considers an appeal.”

A central part of Biden’s reelection strategy is also highlighting Trump’s policy

proposals for a second term and firing up disaffected Democrats and independent voters. Still, the campaign producing an ad that leans heavily into Trump’s conviction and including it in such a large advertising buy indicates a renewed effort to make Trump’s legal problems an election issue in ways Biden’s team previously resisted.

“It’s a stark contrast, and it’s one that matters deeply to the American people,” Biden campaign spokes-

person Michael Tyler said in a statement. “And it’s why we will make sure that every single day we are reminding voters about how Joe Biden is fighting for them, while Donald Trump runs a campaign focused on one man and one man only: himself.”

Trump has denied any wrongdoing and has argued, without evidence, that Biden or Justice Department officials orchestrated the New York case against him for political reasons. He and

his allies also have raised the prospect of prosecuting political opponents in revenge if he returns to the White House.

Trump campaign spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said the Biden administration had “weaponized the justice system against President Trump” and that the contrast between her candidate and Biden “will be very clear on the debate stage.”

The Associated Press

HINSON « 1A

were left to the side a lot of times by government agencies and the public at large,” Summers said. “It humanizes a group of people that normally wouldn’t get that treatment.

“Everyone is worth fighting for, fighting through and

fighting with,” Summers added. “This community is resilient and we deserve to love and love each other.”

The site of the street naming signified Hinson’s pragmatic approach to his life’s activism and work. The event intentionally coincides with the June-teenth holiday, a celebra-

tion of Black American liberation and independence.

Longtime friends of Hinson weighed in with their sentiments on the street unveiling and the memorialization of his name and legacy. Organizer and writer Abdul-Aliy Muhammad spoke about how conflicting memorization sits inside them in regards to their late friend and colleague.

“My wish is that Michael would have felt that love, that affirmation, that care when he was here,” Muhammad said.

“I hope that his story and work moves us to say, thank you for the work that you’re doing. I honor the work that you’re doing,” Muhammad added. “Oftentimes, what I see is deep disagreement with someone’s tactics while they’re alive. I see this elevation, this memorialization or monument made out of people’s memories — but when they were here it was different.”

Muhammad views Hinson’s multifaceted activism as “collective care.”

“I think about him, his deep commitment to Black LGBTQ folks in the city — his desire to access the material needs of those communities was organized and was achieved,” he said.

José DeMarco, co-founder of Black and Latinx Community Control of Health, spoke about Hinson as a “hero” and a person who did not accept injustice.

“Michael didn’t accept it, not for a minute,” he said. “I think he was an incredible hero. He was doing this work at a time when there were very few black gay men, queer men stepping up to do this work. Michael was one of them. And I think that’s what made him a leader. Michael really loved his people.”

DeMarco credits Hinson for many strides in Black queer and homelessness advocacy, noting Hinson’s work in the streets department for the rainbows signs in Philly’s Gayborhood and more.

“Michael has made this city a lot safer for Black and Latinx queer men than

anyone else has,” DeMarco said. “He knew that we could not expect the white gay community to advocate for what the needs for our community are.

“We suffer with issues of homelessness, drug addiction, incarceration,” he added. “Michael worked on all of those things. We don’t have privilege, we have oppression. Michael dealt with that, and he never ever got the recognition that he deserved. Now Michael’s dead, [the city is] going to name a street after him. We should have done a lot of this recognition when Michael was alive.”

DeMarco is gearing up to name an institute in Hinson’s name. The Michael S. Hinson Justice Institute will be a six-week training program and course for queer and trans individuals in governmental and political education. The mission will be to create a fellowship and support fellows for a year. Then, the individuals can become leaders of their own.

“I’m doing this in Michael’s memory and his

name because his legacy is far too precious to me to let go,” DeMarco said. “His activism and his work must continue.”

Local activist Quibila Divine is another longtime friend of Hinson and retired chief program officer at SELF Inc., an organization striving to bring housing and housing resources to those in need.

She thinks if he were alive that Hinson would not accept the street naming because of his humble personality and would want the ceremony to be tied to a call-to-action campaign or address a public issue.

“Hopefully the leaders of those organizations [Colours and SELF Inc.] will continue instilling information and resources about Mike and the work that he did so that his legacy will continue,” she said. “And as long as those of us who Mike touched are around, we should be compelled to ensure that his legacy continues.”

ksantos@phillytrib.com  
215-893-5787



The Philadelphia Tribune

www.phillytrib.com

520 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19146

Hours of Operation:  
Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DIRECTORY

Main number  
Fax  
Email address:  
Business Office  
Advertising

(215) 893-5700  
(215) 735-3612  
info@phillytrib.com  
(215) 893-5727  
(215) 893-4066  
Send ad copy to:  
production@phillytrib.com  
Circulation Customer Service  
(215) 893-5786

Local news, Business  
cityeditor@phillytrib.com

Entertainment, Lifestyles  
sdaniels@phillytrib.com

Sports/Health  
newsroom@phillytrib.com

Obituaries  
newsroom@phillytrib.com

Press Releases  
newsroom@phillytrib.com

NEWS  
News tips, Letters to the Editor,  
Commentary to:  
newsroom@phillytrib.com  
(215) 893-5738

Customer Service Help Line (215) 893-5714



## Haddonfield unveils markers commemorating the borough's Black experience

**P. Kenneth Burns**  
WHYY

Linda Armstead's father attended School #4, a second elementary school for Black students, which was built in 1904.

Years later, he bought the house after serving in the military and "resided in his kindergarten classroom." Armstead did not know the home where she spent her entire life and where she lives now with her mom was a school with historical significance.

"To me, this was just a regular house," she said.

The Armstead house was one of the sites featured on a tour that unveiled markers commemorating the Black experience in the Borough of Haddonfield.

Adrienne Rhodes, co-founder of the Preserving Black Haddonfield History Project, said these are the first such markers since the borough's founding in 1713.

"It feels awesome," she said. "It has never, ever been done before in Haddonfield."

The two markers will be installed at the Lincoln School for Coloreds on Lincoln Avenue and the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church on Douglass Avenue. The Lincoln School site is now Tarditi Com-



Adrienne Rhodes, co-founder of the Preserving Black Haddonfield History Project, right with Historic Mt. Olivet Baptist Church pastor, Reverend Anthony Talton, at the ceremonial groundbreaking of a marker denoting the historical significance of the church. — KIMBERLY PAYNTER/WHYY PHOTOS

mons, an affordable senior housing community.

Rhodes, who is also a member of WHYY's Community Advisory Board, said the markers are expected to be installed in the fall.

To celebrate the occasion, officials on Friday broke ground and had a mini-church social where iced tea and sweet potato pound cake was served. There was also a walking tour of 12 sites in an area

known as "The Point," a former vibrant African American community.

"Black Haddonfield once covered at least five streets and included several dozen families,

a couple of churches, schools and businesses," Rhodes added.

At Mt. Olivet, the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Anthony C. Talton, greeted those on the tour from the church's steps.

"[We're] a church that is loving, that is welcoming and, more importantly, it has air conditioning," he said, noting the warm summer weather.

Talton is an adviser for the Preserving Black Haddonfield History Project. His early recollections of the borough's Black community were from his grandfather, who once led the church.

"The Sunday dinners, when they would come to my grandfather's house, and they just had dinner [and] would just enjoy themselves," he said. "This was such a community close-knit that everybody knew each other, and more importantly, it was Christ-centered."

Talton credited those who came before him for paving the way to honor the borough's Black history.

"All I can say is thank you for just the giftedness of their perseverance," he said. If they didn't persevere, we wouldn't have what we have right now."

This article first appeared on WHYY.org.



Historic Mt. Olivet Baptist Church pastor, Reverend Anthony Talton, welcome visitors during the Preserving Black Haddonfield History Project's walking tour.



Alfred Dansbury is the grandson of Haddonfield, N.J.'s first Black teacher, Theresa Marvel Dansbury.



Keystone First proudly celebrates

# Juneteenth

Commemorating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States and honoring the role of culture, history, freedom, and fellowship in achieving a more equitable and inclusive society.

Keystone First. Our roots run deep.

[keystonefirsttpa.com](https://www.keystonefirsttpa.com)



Keystone First



## Over 70M people in the U.S. are under heat alerts

PHOENIX — More than 70 million people in the United States were under extreme heat alerts Monday as a heat wave moved eastward, and the mid-Atlantic and New England were likely to see highs in the 90s as the week progresses.

The heat has been especially dangerous in recent years in Phoenix, where temperatures hit 112 degrees Fahrenheit on Saturday. Weather service forecasters say the first two weeks of June in Phoenix have been an average of 5.6 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than normal — the hottest start to June on record there.

A meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Phoenix, Ted Whittock, advised reducing time outdoors between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., staying hydrated and wearing light, looser fitting clothing. More than 100 cooling centers were open in the city and surrounding county, including two new overnight ones.

In neighboring New Mexico, heat on the Chaves County plains including Roswell was expected to hit 107 degrees F (41.6 Celsius) on Monday. In southern Colorado, temperatures were expected to surpass 100 degrees (37.7 Celsius).

In Southern California, firefighters increased their containment of a large wildfire in mountains north of Los Angeles on Monday after a weekend of explosive, wind-driven growth along Interstate 5.

— The Associated Press

## At least 9 shot at splash park in Michigan

A gunman opened fire at a Michigan splash park Saturday in what authorities said was a random attack that left at least nine people, including a child, wounded, police said. The shooting occurred at Brooklands Plaza Splash Pad in Rochester Hills, Michigan, a Detroit suburb, authorities said. Officers were called to the scene just after 5 p.m.

A Glock 9 mm handgun and three empty magazines were recovered at the scene, the sheriff said, adding that the gunman fired up to 28 times.

Officials said they believed that they had the gunman “contained” inside a nearby home.

The victims were transported to multiple hospitals, but their conditions were unknown, Bouchard said. He added that at least one of them was an 8-year-old child.

— The New York Times

## CAU to host Mandela Washington Fellowship

Clark Atlanta University (CAU) recently announced its selection as an Institute Partner for the 2024 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Beginning June 19 – July 28, CAU will host 25 of Africa’s bright, emerging Business leaders for a six-week Leadership Institute, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

The cohort of Fellows hosted by Clark Atlanta University will be part of a group of 700 Mandela Washington Fellows hosted at 28 educational institutions across the United States. CAU’s Dr. Darlita Moye said the Mandela Washington Fellowship was a program which started during the Obama administration and essentially is a program that brings over roughly 700 fellows from across the continent, in different countries in Africa every year.

There are three tracks: Civic engagement, public management, and leadership in business. Following the reception and during their 6-week stay, the Fellows will participate in speed networking, small group sector, social/cultural events and more.

After their Leadership Institutes, Fellows will participate in the Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit, in Washington, D.C. where they will take part in networking and panel discussions with each other and with U.S. leaders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

— The Atlanta Voice

## 1,200 evacuated as wildfire spreads in L.A. County

At least 1,200 people in California were evacuated this weekend as a wildfire in Los Angeles County spread over thousands of remote mountain acres.

The blaze had spread across more than 12,200 acres as of Sunday afternoon and was 2 percent contained, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. The fire also damaged two commercial structures, according to county fire officials.

The National Weather Service office in Los Angeles issued a red flag warning for the Interstate 5 corridor in Los Angeles and Ventura counties because of strong winds and low humidity.

Officials said they’re investigating what caused the fire and haven’t reported fatalities or injuries.

— The Washington Post

# ACROSS AMERICA

## Opal Lee receives keys to historic Texas home

Jamie Stengle  
Kendria LaFleur

FORT WORTH, Texas — Opal Lee, the 97-year-old Texan known for her push to make Juneteenth a national holiday, was given the keys Friday to her new home, which was built on the same tree-lined corner lot in Fort Worth that her family was driven from by a racist mob when she was 12.

“I’m so happy I don’t know what to do,” said Lee, sitting in a rocking chair on the porch of the home just before the ceremony.

The ceremony to welcome Lee into the newly completed home comes just days before the nation celebrates Juneteenth, the holiday marking the end of slavery across the U.S. that means so much to Lee. Several area groups came together to build and furnish the house, which was completed less than three months after the first wall was raised.

Lee said she plans to hold an open house so she can meet her new neighbors.

“Everybody will know that this is going to be a happy place,” she said.

This June 19 — Juneteenth — will be the 85th anniversary of the day a mob, angered that a Black family had moved in, began gathering outside the home her parents had just bought. As the crowd grew, her parents sent her and her siblings to a friend’s house several blocks away and then eventually left themselves.

Newspaper articles at the time said the mob that grew to about 500 people broke windows in the house and dragged furniture out into the street and smashed it. She has said her family didn’t return to the house and her parents never talked about what happened that day. Instead, they just went to work in order to buy another home.

Lee has said it wasn’t something she dwelled on either, but in recent years she began thinking of trying to get the lot back. After learning that Trinity Habitat for Humanity had bought the land, Lee called its CEO and her longtime friend, Gage Yager.

Yager has said it was not until that call several years ago when Lee asked if she could buy the lot that he learned the story of what happened to her family on June 19, 1939. The lot was sold to her for \$10.

HistoryMaker Homes built the house at no cost to Lee while Texas Capital, a financial services company, provided funding for the home’s furnishings. JCPenney



Opal Lee, right, sits in a rocking chair while her granddaughter Magistrate Judge Renée Toliver pauses while telling the story of Lee’s parents and the home site in Fort Worth, Texas, Friday. — AP PHOTO/LM OTERO



People gather outside Opal Lee’s new house in Fort Worth, Texas, Friday. Habitat for Humanity built Lee the home on the same lot where, as a child, a white mob destroyed her family’s home driving them away. — AP PHOTO/LM OTERO

donated appliances, dinnerware and linens.

In recent years, Lee has become known as the “Grandmother of Juneteenth” after spending years rallying people to join her in what became a successful push to make June 19 a national holiday. The former teacher and a counselor in the school district has been tirelessly involved in her hometown of Fort Worth for decades, work that’s included establishing a large community garden.

During the ceremony Friday, Myra Savage, board president of Trinity Habitat for Humanity, told Lee: “Thank you for

being a living example of what your home represents today, which is community, restoration, hope and light.”

Lee has said she was so eager to move from the Fort Worth home she’s lived in for over half a century to the new house that she planned to just bring her toothbrush, which she had in hand on Friday.

“I just so want this community and others to work together to make this the best city, best state, the best country in the whole wide world. and we can do it together,” Lee said.

The Associated Press

## Maryland Gov. Wes Moore pardons over 175,000 marijuana convictions

Brian Witte

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland Gov. Wes Moore ordered more than 175,000 pardons for marijuana convictions on Monday, saying the “most sweeping state-level pardon in any state” will help reverse harms from the past caused by the war on drugs.

During a news conference, Moore said the executive order will affect “tens of thousands of Marylanders” convicted of misdemeanors. Some may have had more than one conviction pardoned through the process.

“We are taking actions that are intentional, that are sweeping and unapologetic, and this is the largest such action in our nation’s history,” Moore, a Democrat, said.

Though the pardons will not result in anyone being released from incarceration — and nor will they result in having past convictions automatically expunged from a person’s background check — advocates praised the move as a way of removing barriers to housing, employment, or educational opportunities based on convictions for conduct that is no longer illegal.

Heather Warnken, executive director of the University of Baltimore School of Law Center for Criminal Justice Reform, described the pardons as “a win for thousands of Marylanders getting a fresh start to pursue education, employment, and other forms of economic opportunity without the stain of a criminal conviction.”

Recreational cannabis was legalized in Maryland in 2023 after voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2022 with 67% of the vote. Maryland decriminalized possession of personal use amounts of cannabis on Jan. 1, 2023. Now, 24 states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational cannabis.

“This is about changing how both government and society view those who have been walled off from opportunity because of broken and uneven policies,” Moore said.

Moore said “legalization does not turn back the clock on decades of harm that was caused by this war on drugs.”

He continued: “It doesn’t erase the fact that Black Marylanders were three times more likely to be arrested for cannabis than white Marylanders before legalization. It doesn’t erase the fact that having a conviction on your record means a harder time



Maryland Gov. Wes Moore holds up an executive order he signed to issue more than 175,000 pardons for marijuana convictions on Monday in Annapolis, Md. —AP PHOTO/BRIAN WITTE

with everything, everything, from housing, to employment to education.”

Shiloh Jordan, who lost his job on his second day at work after a minor cannabis conviction appeared in a background check by his employer, attended the news conference. Moore noted that even though Jordan went back to college and now works for the Center for Urban Families in Baltimore, he still had the cannabis conviction on his record.

“Well today, that ends,” Moore said.

Jordan said he was thankful that his experience could be used as a testimony “and offer a lot of change for the people of Maryland.”

“It means a lot, because I know a lot of people that have been convicted for petty cannabis charges, and it really affected their whole way of life and their whole way of thinking,” Jordan said.

Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown, who attended the news conference, said the action was “long overdue.”

“As a nation, we have taken far too long to correct the injustices of a system that is supposed to be just for all.”

The attorney general also noted the magnitude of the governor’s actions, and he said it was about equity.

“It’s about racial justice. While the order applies to all who meet its criteria the impact is a triumphant victory for African Americans and other Marylanders of color who were disproportionately arrested, con-

victed and sentenced for actions yesterday that are lawful today.”

More than 150,000 misdemeanor convictions for simple possession of cannabis will be affected by the order, which also will cover more than 18,000 misdemeanor convictions for use or possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia, according to a summary by the governor’s office.

Now that Moore has ordered the pardons, the Maryland Judiciary will ensure each individual electronic docket is updated with an entry indicating the conviction has been pardoned by the governor, a process that should take about two weeks, the governor’s office said.

The governor’s order also directs the state corrections department to develop a process to indicate a pardon in an individual’s criminal record, a process expected to take about 10 months to complete.

The pardons absolve people from the guilt of a criminal offense, and individuals do not need to take any action to receive the pardon.

A pardon is different from an expungement. Although the Judiciary will make a note on the record that the offense has been pardoned, it will still show on the record. Expungement is the process by which a criminal conviction is destroyed and removed completely from the public record, which requires an additional step.

The Associated Press





Kehinde Wiley at the de Young Museum in San Francisco, Calif., on March 2023. The Minneapolis Institute of Art announced Thursday that it had decided not to move forward with a planned Kehinde Wiley exhibition, citing recent allegations of sexual misconduct against the artist, which he has denied. — IAN C. BATES/THE NEW YORK TIMES



Foreground: “The Virgin Martyr St. Cecilia,” 2021, at the de Young Museum in San Francisco, Calif., March 2023. Background: “Young Tarentine II (Ndeye Fatou Mbaye),” 2022. — IAN C. BATES/THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Museum calls off Kehinde Wiley show, citing assault allegations

Alex Marshall  
Robin Pogrebin

The Minneapolis Institute of Art announced Thursday that it had decided not to move forward with a planned Kehinde Wiley exhibition, citing recent allegations of sexual misconduct against the artist, which he has denied.

The exhibition, called “An Archaeology of Silence,” originated at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and has been traveling around the country.

The Minneapolis museum put plans to stage the exhibition on hold after several men made accusations against Wiley, all of which he has denied. The first was in May, when an artist accused him of sexual assault in a post on Instagram. Wiley denied the allegations at the time, saying that “these claims are not true and are an affront to all victims of sexual abuse.”

The Minneapolis Institute of Art said in an email that it “was considering taking the Kehinde Wiley exhibition, but as a result of these unfortunate allegations we will not be proceeding with this presentation.”

It was not the only museum to distance itself from Wiley, a hugely successful artist who gained fame when he painted the 2018 portrait of President Barack Obama for the National Portrait Gallery in Washington. Shortly after Minneapolis made its announcement, the Pérez Art Museum Miami said that it had “suspended plans” to host the traveling show, but did not offer any reason.

Wiley once again denied the accusations in a statement Thursday.

“It is disappointing that this social media-driven fabrication is distracting from the goal of the tour: shedding light on the inequities Black and Brown people face in

our society,” he said in an emailed statement. “These allegations are completely false, raising more questions about their credibility and motivation than there are facts supporting their authenticity.”

The furor around Wiley began last month when Joseph Awuah-Darko, a British-born Ghanaian artist, said in an Instagram post that, in 2021, Wiley assaulted him twice during and after a dinner in Ghana that was held in the painter’s honor. Awuah-Darko told The New York Times that he had begun a consensual sexual encounter with Wiley, but the painter eventually forced himself on Awuah-Darko.

Last week, another man said in an Instagram post that Wiley had assaulted him.

On Monday, Derrick Ingram, an activist who helped organize New York’s Black Lives Matter protests, said that in September 2021, Wiley raped and sexually assaulted him.

In a telephone interview, Ingram said that he had a brief relationship with Wiley during which time the assault occurred. Ingram said that he could not detail the incidents because he was seeking legal advice.

On Tuesday, Wiley denied Ingram’s accusation in his own lengthy Instagram post, saying the pair had a “brief consensual encounter” after which Ingram sent him texts asking to see him again. “What is motivating these individuals to hurl these disgusting accusations?” Wiley said. “What is clear is that my accusers wanted far more than I was willing to give them,” he added.

Jennifer Barrett, an attorney representing Wiley, said in an email that the artist intended to “pursue every avenue available to him, legal and otherwise, to defend his reputation.”

The traveling exhibition was not the only show of Wiley’s paintings that has been postponed. On

Thursday, the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska, said it was “revisiting” its schedule and would not open “Kehinde Wiley: Omaha,” a planned exhibition of portraits of the city’s residents. “The Joslyn will announce any updates at a later date,” a spokesperson said in an email, declining further comment.

A spokesperson for Wiley said in an email that the artist’s team was “working with the Joslyn Art Museum to find a new date that works with their revised exhibition schedule.”

Thomas Campbell, the director and CEO of the Fine Art Museums of San Francisco, where the bigger Wiley show originated, said in an email: “We are grateful to the many visitors who have engaged with ‘An Archaeology of Silence.’ We respect the decisions of the Pérez Museum and the MIA.”

The New York Times



## The Philadelphia Tribune Celebrates Juneteenth

We celebrate African American heritage, acknowledge the ongoing fight for racial justice, and foster community unity. Join us in reflecting on our past and striving for a better future.



# THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE

America's Oldest, Continuously Published Newspaper owned and operated by African-Americans  
is published every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday by The Philadelphia Tribune Company, Inc.



**Alliance for Audited Media**  
The New Audit Bureau of Circulations

**Christopher J. Perry Sr.**  
Founder and Publisher  
1884-1921



**PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION**

**E. Washington Rhodes**  
Editor and Publisher  
1922-1970



**NNPA**  
NATIONAL NEWS PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

**Robert W. Bogle**  
President/CEO

**Alonzo Kittrels**  
Director of Administrative Services

**Michael LeVere**  
Director of Circulation

**Eugene L. Cliett, CPA**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Donna Clark**  
Director of Communications and Special Projects

**Irv Randolph**  
Managing Editor

**John Mason**  
Director of Advertising

**Bruce Johnson**  
Director of Art & Design

**Allen Mailman**  
Director of Technology and Digital Operations

# Democracy depends on us acting together

## A message from NNPA's board chair

Bobby R. Henry Sr.

*We must all stand before Christ to be judged. Everyone will get what they should. They will be paid for whatever they did — good or bad — when they lived in this earthly body.*  
— 2 Corinthians 5:10 (ERV)

As citizens of a democracy, our role in shaping its course cannot be overstated. Whether we cast our vote for President Joe Biden and the strides he has made for inclusion or Donald Trump for all that he has done and is doing to discredit this country as a democracy as a whole, our actions affect what happens in our country's history. We better believe that our responsibility for our rights extends way beyond the ballot box; it includes the values we uphold, the causes we champion, and the ideals we strive and will fight for.

No one man, woman or other should stand in the way of our freedom for equal rights and our will to be FREE — come hell or high water!

The actions of those who lead speak volumes about the direction in which we are headed. Whether we stand for women's rights, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ+ rights, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), affirmative action, or combating white



**Bobby R. Henry Sr., publisher of the Westside Gazette Newspaper and chairman of the board of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.**

supremacy, our choices shape the landscape of freedom, equality, and justice for all.

Supporting candidates who champion values essential for equity, it is not enough. We have to hold leaders accountable, demanding transparency, integrity, and loyalty to the principles upon which our democracy stands. We cannot afford to be passive observers, content with merely casting our votes and hoping for the best. We must actively engage in our communities, standing up for the voices least heard, demanding change, and standing up against injustice wherever it may intrude.

The continuation of democracy depends on us and rests squarely on our shoulders. It is a collective endeavor, requiring the participation and dedication of every citizen who is willing not to fall for the bovine excretions. We must refuse complacency and

apathy, recognizing that the fight for democracy is ongoing and requires our persistent concern.

Now is not the time for us to be divided or allow our lack of concern to see our democratic systems crumble right before our eyes.

We have to know who is in the "foxhole" with us before we can conquer the foes who are attempting to destroy us by keeping us apart.

It is a time for unity and action. Regardless of our political affiliations, we must come together in defense of our shared values and the principles that define us as a nation. Only then can we ensure that freedom, equality and justice are not just lofty ideals, but tangible realities for all Americans.

Bobby R. Henry Sr. is publisher of the Westside Gazette Newspaper and chairman of the board of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

# An innocent life lost in a D.C. carjacking

I care less that D.C. carjackings are significantly down in the first half of 2024 compared with a year ago because I'm so sickened by what happened to Leslie Marie Gaines. She was the 55-year-old victim of an unarmed carjacking at the MedStar Washington Hospital Center on Monday afternoon.

It's one of those events that stops you in your tracks. Gaines's day began at the hospital's rehab facility on nearby Irving Street NW, where she went for physical therapy at approximately 11:15 a.m. It ended at George Washington University Hospital, where she was pronounced dead at 2:38 p.m.

What happened in between leaves me frustrated and mad as hell because the true justice that her family wants for her is impossible. That is, if justice also means showing mercy and compassion to one another. Were a sliver of that present on Monday, Gaines would be alive today.

Court documents detail some of the key events in this case. The documents also point to reasons D.C. police charged Kayla Kenisha Brown, 22, in connection with Gaines's death.

Where was mercy for Gaines on that day?

According to the court records, Gaines and her daughter pulled up to MedStar's emergency room entrance because Gaines wasn't feeling well following her physical therapy. Gaines's daughter went inside to seek wheelchair assistance for her mother, who remained in the car with the engine running, the documents say. But when the daughter returned to the entrance, both the car and her mother were missing.

A D.C. police news release reported that at about 1:11 p.m., Brown walked away from her family at MedStar just as Gaines and her daughter were pulling up. After Gaines's daughter went inside for the wheelchair, police report, Brown entered the driver's seat and drove away with Gaines inside the car.

Where was compassion for an ailing mother?



**Colbert I. King**

Documents tell us how it ended.

The car, with Brown at the wheel and Gaines in the passenger seat, was observed traveling at high speed when it failed to negotiate a turn at Sixth and D streets NW and collided with a barrier outside the office of the U.S. attorney. Keys in hand, Brown tried to flee on foot and was caught by the police, while Gaines was found unconscious in the front passenger seat. Police provided first aid until emergency medical services arrived to transport her to George Washington University Hospital.

How did Gaines and Brown end up crossing paths? The answer gets at an important part of this story.

This account is also drawn from court documents: Around the time Gaines and her daughter were arriving at the rehab center, police were responding to a 911 call from a woman screaming and asking for help before the line disconnected. Police and emergency medical technicians went to the apartment that the call was made from, where they were met by Brown and her mother. Brown stared at them but didn't respond to their questions.

Brown's mother said that her daughter, as summarized by court documents, had "gone out and gotten some sort of drug while out with a man she met on Instagram." Brown's father indicated "she had been acting crazy for about three days," court documents state.

Emergency medical technicians found that Brown's blood pressure and heart rate were too high for her age and transported her by ambulance to MedStar, where she arrived 12:40 p.m.

After determining that Brown was not a crime victim, the police left the emergency room around 12:46 p.m. That's where Brown remained until she

walked away from her family.

In D.C. Superior Court on Friday, I saw Brown at the defendant's table in an orange jumpsuit. And I heard Detective Roberto Torres describe the events surrounding the carjacking and Brown's arrest. Missing was Leslie Marie Gaines.

At the end of the preliminary hearing, the court found that Brown's actions were "incredibly dangerous" and that she must be "held without bond" until the next hearing. Still, where's the justice?

I'm not talking about the carjacking charge against Brown; we'll see what happens with that. I'm thinking of the words of Brown's mother and father about their daughter going out with a man to get some kind of drug, and her acting crazy, and ask why, if the parent's representations are true, should I rethink the drug trade, as reformers want me to? This city is full of people in the drug supply chain. And this city is also full of innocent people who end up on the receiving end of behaviors fueled by the poison that drug dealers push.

Ah, but those sellers are likely to be men and women experiencing poverty and selling drugs for survival. Rethink, I'm told.

Instead, I'll think of Gaines strapped in her daughter's car. Think of the shoplifting, car thefts, robberies and turf wars plaguing our streets, all fueled by drug-seeking.

Mercy demands we think of all that, not just the dealer and the users. But we don't give a second thought to people like Leslie Marie Gaines — "an angel on earth," her sister Erica Gaines called her — who day in and out fall victim to people with substance use disorders. It's a torment so commonplace that it is ignored — until a car smashes into a wall and an innocent soul is pronounced dead.

Pray Leslie Marie Gaines is at peace. But where's the justice?

Colbert I. "Colby" King writes a column — sometimes about D.C., sometimes about politics — for The Washington Post.

# Trump's past is the best argument for defeating him

Joe Lockhart

Former President Donald Trump held a pre-sentencing interview last Monday with a probation officer after being convicted last month of falsifying business documents concerning hush money paid to conceal an alleged affair. In the aftermath of the trial, Democrats have struggled with delivering a consistent response to the verdict and taking advantage of moments like the probation interview.

President Joe Biden started to stake out the right response last week when he referred to his opponent as a "convicted felon" — but didn't mention Stormy Daniels, the porn star who alleged the affair (which Trump denies), and the hush money payout to "catch and kill" the story so it wasn't made public during the 2016 campaign.

We need to move on from these details because the public isn't convinced these facts, no matter how sordid, disqualify him from office. It's not the crime that's powerful in this case, it's the punishment, as we're observing with Trump having to meet (albeit virtually) with a probation officer.

In other words, it's not about Stormy Daniels or payoffs; instead, the conviction should be the centerpiece of a campaign arguing that Trump is unfit, not because of infidelity or shady business practices,

but because he is a convicted criminal. Though some Americans don't see this case as being as serious as the others pending against him, it's one in which he was still found guilty. We need to go big here, and the conviction is a small piece in a sordid life of a man who has no business leading our country or the free world.

With all due respect to my old boss and the best political mind of a generation, Bill Clinton, I disagreed with his contention that successful campaigns are ones that focus on the future. I believe in this case we must use the conviction of the former president as a launching pad to remind voters of everything Trump's done both before he took office and while he was president.

There is a very strong case against Trump based on what his second term will look like. There have been reports that Trump has fundamental changes in our government in store, such as gutting the civil service in favor of political operatives loyal to Trump. There have also been reports that some seeking employment at the Republican National Committee were asked to state whether they thought the 2020 campaign results were illegitimate.

But a much richer vein for Democrats is going after the past. Many will argue voters have already factored in all of Trump's malfeasance in their current level of support



**Former President Donald Trump arrives for a campaign rally last July in Erie, Pa. — AP PHOTO/SUE OGROCKI, FILE**

and repeating it for them won't have any impact. I couldn't disagree more.

In 2016, voters rationalized a vote for Trump saying "It won't be as bad as everyone thinks." He'll have smart people around him and there will be other safeguards. Today it's just the opposite. Essentially: "It really wasn't that bad, was it?" Both are completely wrong. The Biden campaign must remove any and every justification that allows voters to "reluctantly" vote for Trump.

It's not only voters who have forgotten or glossed over the carnage that was the Trump presidency. I recently talked with a group of seasoned political professionals about the impact of Gaza on the campaign. Several argued Biden would have trouble with Arab Americans, particularly in Michigan. I countered by asking how they could vote

for the man who banned people from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the country. I was dumbfounded when several people claimed Trump had never done that. (He did.)

Voters need a daily reminder of every aspect of Trump's malfeasance. Trump as a convicted criminal validates the coming attacks as more than just partisan attacks using a "rigged system." And it doesn't stop with the New York conviction. The conviction actually gives new life and extra weight to the federal documents indictment and the election interference cases in Georgia and Arizona. While it's all but certain neither will be adjudicated until after the election, and Trump denies wrongdoing in all the cases, the allegations carry much more weight now than they did before the verdict.

In fact, everything Trump has been accused of in the past should carry extra weight now. Attacking Trump for not paying taxes and defrauding business partners, for example, are much more believable now that a jury of his peers has deemed him a criminal. All the things that just didn't stick in 2016 are more likely to weigh him down in 2024.

The case must be made that the essence of Trump is a criminal and someone unfit to lead. In this country, being convicted of a crime carries a heavy stigma. That stigma politically can extend to Trump, making the litany of attacks on him more powerful. Trump has engaged in racism. Trump has cheated. Trump is xenophobic. Trump is a serial liar. Trump praises Russia and China, while calling American veterans — our heroes — losers. Trump has been impeached twice. Trump was found by a civil jury to have committed sexual assault.

The list goes on and on. These attacks should both energize the Democratic base and chip away at the reluctant swing Trump voter.

Trump can and should be criticized for what he is planning. But he'll be defeated by what he's already done. The Biden campaign is right that once voters focus on the choice of Biden or Trump, they will come around to voting for

Biden, even if it's with great reluctance.

Finally, here's the kicker and what might be the most powerful argument. America is a proud country with an arrogance that is well earned on the battlefield, the halls of diplomacy and the leadership in economic and technological progress.

There is no better way to energize that pride than to paint Trump as a danger to everything that makes us exceptional. The message is America has been great and remains great, let's not let Trump and his MAGA cap squander nearly 250 years of well-earned power and respect.

We are what former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright famously called the "indispensable nation." The world, whether they'll admit it or not, depends on the United States to both forge alliances and deter opponents. Our democracy stands as a model copied around the world. This is not the country that can be led by a convicted criminal — that's what happens in countries that don't follow the rule of law. We are better than that.

That's a message all Democrats can and should get behind.

Joe Lockhart is the managing director at strategic communications firm Rational 360 and served as White House press secretary for former President Bill Clinton.



# Curtailing syringe exchange services will fuel HIV

Dr. Florence Momplaisir  
Dr. Ronald Collman

The recently passed Philadelphia budget that removes funding for syringes in the life-saving needle exchange services is a misguided step that will harm not just people who inject drugs but the broader Philadelphia population as well. We are not sure that this fact is widely appreciated in the discussion over syringe exchange funding. Syringe exchange has prevented thousands of Philadelphians from acquiring HIV and developing AIDS — and not just among people who inject drugs!

It is rare that there is a simple, low-cost method that prevents a complex, high-cost and deadly outcome, but this is one of the clearest examples. The effectiveness of syringe exchange is not hypothetical but fact, with research studies uniformly showing large decreases in new infections. Syringe exchange programs reduce new HIV infections by one- to two-thirds. Syringe exchange also reduces transmission of another deadly virus, hepatitis C (HCV), to half or one-quarter of what otherwise would be.

The syringe exchange introduced in Philadelphia in 1992 led to a dramatic drop in new HIV infections. But people who inject drugs do not associate only with other people who inject drugs — they transmit these viral infections to the broader community. From 1993 to 2002, about 10,000 HIV infections overall were prevented in Philadelphia by syringe exchange services. Let’s not reverse this trend — the entire city has benefited from syringe exchange services, and the entire city will experience adverse consequences if it is scaled back or stopped.

We currently have nearly 400 new HIV infections per year in Philadelphia, most of which are



City Hall in Philadelphia, April 27, 2023. — AP PHOTO/MATT ROURKE

transmitted sexually and not through injection drug use. In Philadelphia, 28% of people living with HIV are women, one of the highest proportions in the country. Limiting needle exchange will lead to a resurgence of HIV in people who inject drugs, which will lead to increased spread to their sexual partners, and a resurgence in the general Philadelphia community including women and, when women are pregnant, to their infants. Enabling HIV to take off among people who use drugs will not remain contained there for long.

Beyond increasing HIV and HCV infections in the city, degrading the syringe exchange services will hurt Philadelphia financially — needle exchange is cost-saving. Every new case of HIV costs

\$30,000 to \$55,000 per year for medicines alone — not including costs for medical visits and treating complications, let alone the burden on our city’s health infrastructure (ever spend hours and hours in a local ER waiting room?) The 50%-75% reduction in hepatitis C is also cost-savings — one case of hepatitis C avoided saves more than \$300,000.

What about the downside of syringe exchange? A hard fact demonstrated by data is that well-run syringe exchange simply does not increase injection drug use. Nor does it increase crime, or unsafe needle disposal — in fact, unsafe needle disposal actually decreases in areas where syringe exchange is implemented. So syringe exchange services neither worsen nor provide implicit

approval or condonement of injection drugs — while saving money and lives in the city.

Finally, it is sometimes claimed that syringe exchange draws people who inject drugs to locations where it is available. But people who inject drugs are drawn to these neighborhoods because that’s where the drugs are. Curtailing syringe exchange will not impact injection drug use in those areas, it will just increase HIV and HCV infections and increase transmission into the broader community.

The city is harmed in so many ways by the injection drug use crisis, and especially so for the neighborhoods that are so terribly hard-hit. We fully support innovative approaches to combat the drug epidemic and make these

neighborhoods more livable. However, the decision to pull funding for syringe exchange services will undercut a tremendously medically effective and cost-effective prevention strategy.

While it is claimed that syringes can be obtained through other sources (like charities), that will not be sufficient. Just as importantly, the policy sends the message that this effective prevention strategy is not a Philadelphia priority and will inevitably lead to tragic and costly spikes in HIV and HCV in the broader Philadelphia community. All this disproportionately affects people of color in our community, exacerbating Philadelphia’s already deep health inequities.

We are both physicians and HIV/AIDS researchers. The purpose of research is to figure out what works and what does not. The powerful facts here show that syringe exchange reduces HIV and other deadly diseases, without exacerbating drug use. The facts also show that a resurgence of HIV among people who inject drugs will penetrate the broader Philadelphia community. Full funding and support for sustaining syringe exchange services is essential to protect the health of all of Philadelphia, in tandem with strong and effective approaches to increase public safety and curtail the underlying drug use epidemic.

Florence Momplaisir, M.D., is a senior fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics and assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Ronald Collman, M.D., is a professor of medicine and microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He is a virologist who has studied HIV/AIDS for many years and is director of the Penn Center for AIDS Research.

# Five ways to cut ultra-processed foods from your diet

Leana S. Wen

This has been a bad year for ultra-processed food. In January, a British Medical Journal review compiled results from 45 studies and demonstrated direct associations between ultra-processed food and negative health outcomes, from increased deaths due to heart attack and stroke to a higher risk of developing diabetes, cancer, sleep disorders, anxiety and depression.

Just last month, a new study in the journal Neurology uncovered a link between ultra-processed food and dementia. Researchers found that a 10% increase in these foods was associated with a 16% higher likelihood of developing cognitive impairment. This increase was seen even in individuals who otherwise adhered to healthy diets.

The science is convincing, but data alone won’t change behavior. That’s because the modern American diet relies so heavily on ultra-processed food — i.e., items loaded with chemicals such as emulsifiers, artificial colors and flavors, preservatives, and thickeners — that nearly 60% of daily calories come from these substances. Consumption has increased over time and is prevalent across all age groups, including children.

It is difficult, if not downright impossible, to eliminate all ultra-processed food from today’s diet, but there are ways to cut

down on intake. Here are five ways to start.

1. Opt for food with the least amount of processing. The healthiest choice is unprocessed food — meaning food that comes directly from plants and animals, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, chicken, fish and eggs.
- Second choice is minimally processed foods that go through slight modifications. Think chopped and frozen vegetables or shelled nuts. This degree of processing doesn’t significantly change a food’s quality.
- Third choice is food containing a small number of added ingredients, such as crackers consisting of just wheat, oil and salt, or whole-grain bread baked with flour, yeast, sugar, salt and oil.
- Ultra-processed substances are packed with additives. These include traditional junk foods such as sodas, chips, candies and doughnuts, as well as hot dogs, store-bought white bread, french fries, and many ready-to-eat meals and frozen pizzas.
- When possible, select the least-processed option. Choose chicken breast over nuggets and an apple over fruit gummies.
2. Shop the perimeter of the store first. In general, grocery stores have fresh items along the outer edges and processed and ultra-processed foods in the middle aisles. Try to get most items from the perimeter. (Though not everything along the outer edge is healthy; for instance, deli



Nearly 60% of daily calories in the modern American diet rely on ultra-processed food. — AP PHOTO/DAVID ZALUBOWSKI

meats, which are ultra-processed, are often found there.)

Whole, unprocessed foods don’t have and don’t need labels because the sole ingredient is the food item. For all others, look carefully at the ingredient list. Choose products that have mainly whole food ingredients, with as few additives as possible.

3. Look out for ultra-processed substances masquerading as healthy food. It’s unfortunate that manufacturers are allowed to market ultra-processed products as “nutritious” and “healthy” when they are anything but. Be aware — many products carrying these labels are no better than other forms of junk food.
- Breakfast cereal is a major

offender. Many brands contain a lot of added sugar, multiple flavorings and preservatives. Same with granola bars and energy drinks.

Instead of these cereals, opt for oatmeal made from rolled oats and sweeten it with honey and fresh fruit. Choose nuts and dried fruit for on-the-go snacks. Energy drinks should be thought of in the same category as sodas and are best avoided.

4. Cut down on sugary drinks. Speaking of soda, this is a good place for many people to start making cuts. That’s because there is no ambiguity about soda being junk food; all store-bought sodas are ultra-processed, including diet sodas and those that claim to have fruit ingredients.

The option to switch to is, of course, water. Those who miss carbonation and flavor can try carbonated water with a dash of fruit juice.

5. Think harm reduction, not elimination. In the food environment we live in, it would take an enormous investment of time and resources to completely avoid ultra-processed food. This is not realistic. Instead, we should aim for harm reduction.

That means being aware of our choices and cutting down on unhealthy substances where we can. Sometimes, victory is simply choosing the less bad option. Research demonstrates that the more ultra-processed food someone eats, the worse off they are, so every bit of reduction counts.

At the end of the day, what we should all advocate for are policy changes that stop incentivizing manufacturers to produce ultra-processed food. It shouldn’t take so much effort to avoid these substances that are chemically manipulated to stimulate cravings and end up shortening our life spans.

Leana S. Wen, a Washington Post contributing columnist, is an emergency physician, clinical associate professor at George Washington University and author of “Lifelines: A Doctor’s Journey in the Fight for Public Health.” Previously, she served as Baltimore’s health commissioner.

# Senate failure to pass contraception bill is infuriating

The Los Angeles Times

It is infuriating as well as alarming that the U.S. Senate on June 5 failed to pass the Right to Contraception Act, a straightforward bill that would guarantee a federal right to safe and legal contraception.

The bill needed 60 votes to proceed but only received 51, all but two coming from Democrats and independents who caucus with Democrats. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), a staunch supporter of the bill, changed his vote to a “no” so as to allow him to bring up the bill again.

Americans should be appalled that nearly half the people elected to represent them in the Senate

are so spineless they couldn’t vote for something as simple as a right to contraception, which 90% of women have used at one point in their lives and is considered basic preventive health care.

Only two Republicans, Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) voted for it. Good for them. Their Republican colleagues, on the other hand, blustered variously about the bill being a political move, too broad or unnecessary.

That’s ridiculous. There’s clearly a movement among anti-abortion activists to wrongly redefine contraceptives as abortifacients. And any of their constituents should think long and hard about voting for a senator who won’t support their

right to contraception. If it were enshrined into federal law, states couldn’t override it with restrictions. If the Supreme Court struck down its own precedents protecting the right to contraception, the federal law would still protect it.

And that is not out of the question. The Supreme Court has voted three times to support the right to contraception over the decades, but does anyone want to bet on the justices upholding this precedent? The court also guaranteed a right to abortion in Roe vs. Wade — and upheld it in a subsequent case — before overturning it in the Dobbs decision two years ago.

Ominously, that abortion decision also contained a concurrence written by Justice Clarence

Thomas that suggested the court revisit the landmark 1965 decision in Griswold vs. Connecticut, which granted married couples the right to birth control. So there are plenty of reasons to fear that the Supreme Court could withdraw its support for birth control.

The Senate contraception bill does not force anyone to provide contraception. It allows women to access it and health care professionals to provide it. Nor is this bill a slippery slope to condoning abortion, as opponents claim.

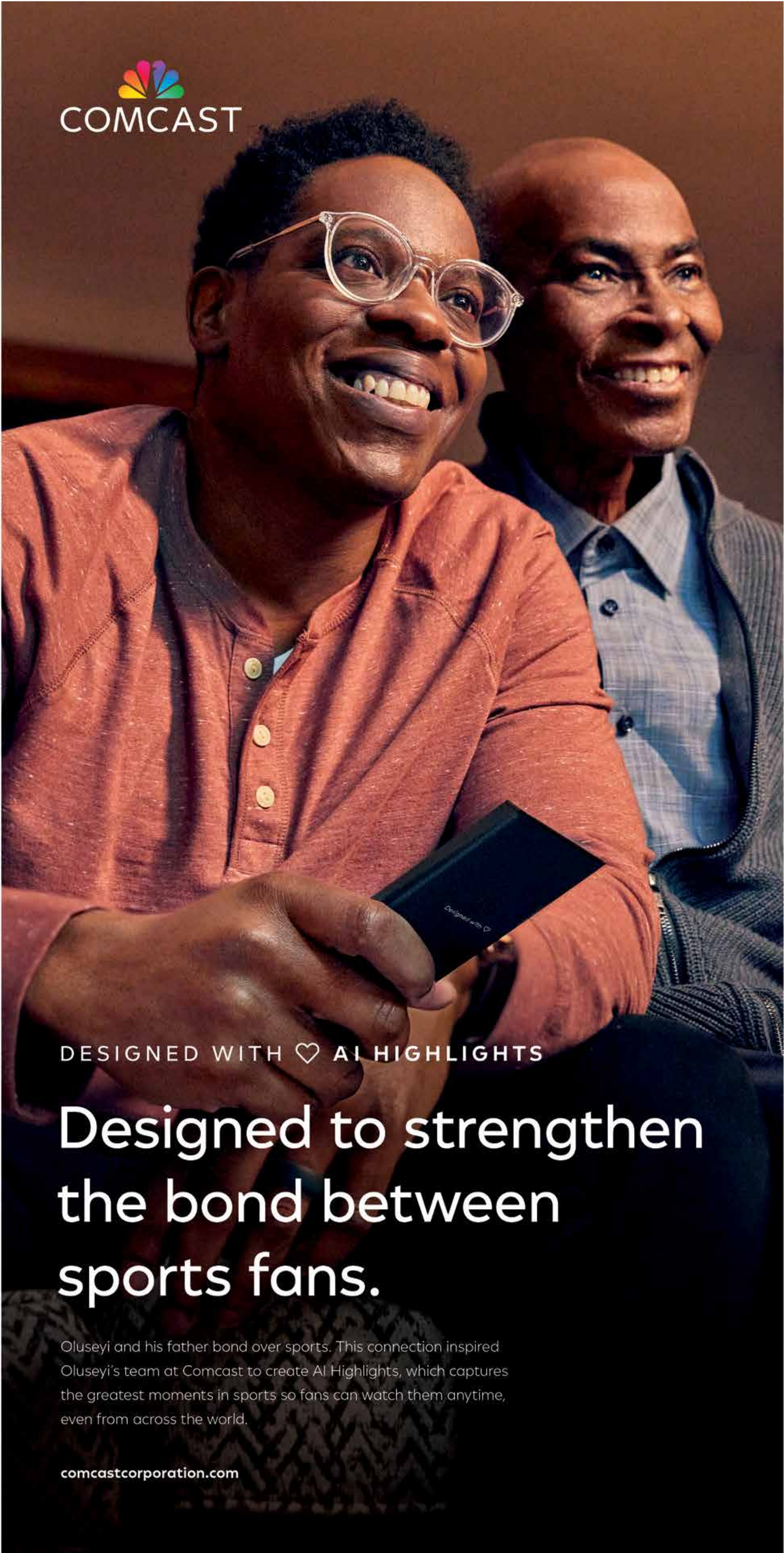
Contraceptives are not abortifacients. “The medical definition of pregnancy is an embryo implanted in the wall of the uterus,” says Daniel Grossman, a professor in the Department of Obstetrics,

Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at UC San Francisco. “No contraceptives end an established pregnancy — they prevent pregnancy from occurring.”

So why would Senate Republicans block a bill supporting a right to contraception? Aren’t these the same people who, for the most part, don’t want women having abortions? How do they think reproduction works? Or is this about taking away the rights of women to control their own bodies to curry favor with far-right anti-abortion groups who have problems with contraception as well?

We should all work to make sure lawmakers who don’t support the right to control your own body don’t get reelected.





DESIGNED WITH ♥ AI HIGHLIGHTS

# Designed to strengthen the bond between sports fans.

Oluseyi and his father bond over sports. This connection inspired Oluseyi's team at Comcast to create AI Highlights, which captures the greatest moments in sports so fans can watch them anytime, even from across the world.

[comcastcorporation.com](https://comcastcorporation.com)



DECEPTIVE, FAULTY PRODUCT



TikTok influencer Golloria George applies Youthforia foundation in an April 30 video that went viral. — COURTESY GOLLORIA GEORGE VIA CNN NEWSOURCE

‘Shark Tank’ makeup brand faces backlash over foundation critics say resembles ‘black face paint.’

Kaila Nichols

When cosmetic company Youthforia launched its “Date Night Skin Tint” serum foundation line in 15 shades last year, some beauty influencers and reviewers were critical of the lack of options for darker skin tones.

Golloria George, a Texas-based beauty influencer with over 1.5 million followers on TikTok, shared why she felt the brand had missed the mark — and an opportunity — in a TikTok video last September that racked up more than 2.4 million views.

In her series, “The Darkest Shade,” George reviews the darkest shade in a brand’s lineup to see if it could match her complexion. The darkest Youthforia shade, she claimed, was lighter than what was advertised online and didn’t match her skin tone.

It’s a criticism many brands have faced over the years, as the beauty industry — which critics have long accused of elevating Eurocentric beauty standards — tries to expand its product lines for melanated skin tones.

Youthforia is a “clean and sustainable makeup company” that markets itself as “makeup you can sleep in,” according to its website. The company’s founder, Fiona Co Chan, appeared on an episode of the TV series “Shark Tank” that aired in 2023 and received a \$400,000 investment from billionaire Mark Cuban.

In March, the beauty brand added

10 new shades to its “Date Night” collection, many for darker complexions. George told CNN she was still unsure if one of the new products would be a match, so she again tried the brand’s darkest shade — 600 Deep Neutral — and was stunned by the result.

“Which side of my face is the black face paint or the Youthforia foundation?” she asked in a Tiktok video posted April 30. “You can’t tell. You know why? Tar in a bottle.”

That video now has over 24 million views.

Youthforia did not respond to CNN’s request for comment. Last year, Chan defended her brand in a post that has since been deleted. Earlier this year, days before the new products launched, Youthforia posted a video on TikTok where Chan says the brand had trouble finding models to match the darkest shades they offer.

“So a month ago we held a casting call to just look for real people, real skin. We found matches for most of our shades except for our dark shades,” she says in the video.

In the days that followed, the brand posted a series of view of videos showing Chan searching for models and ultimately testing the foundation on two young men who “graciously agreed to be our models” in a mall.

She applies the 600 foundation — the same one George used — to half of one model’s face and remarks on how it appears to be a match. “His undertone was actually perfect,” she says.

Last week, Youthforia replied to a comment about the brand’s darkest shade by resharing the video from March.

While George acknowledges the shade may work for some customers, she also posted a separate video where she reviews the brand’s second darkest shade, 590, which she notes “leans very red on me.”

George told CNN she found the transition between the two darkest products offered by Youthforia to be “shocking.”

“It was like we really just missed a whole range of undertones and depth and it’s disrespectful,” she said.

And she wasn’t the only one remarking on the brand’s attempt to provide products for darker skin tones, with other content creators calling out the brand and even trying to mix shades together to create lighter options.

George told CNN the saga reminded her of not being able to find shades of makeup that matched her complexion when she was younger.

“It was a big deal. It was really disheartening,” she said. “I really felt like there was something wrong with me, you know, and no one deserves to feel like that.”

Karen Chambers, chair of the diversity, equity & inclusion taskforce at Cosmetic Executive Women, said Youthforia is not the only brand to face this sort of criticism from customers.

The success of Rhianna’s FENTY

launch in 2017 saw many makeup brands working to expand their product offerings. But in 2020, influencers called for a boycott of Hourglass Cosmetics after the company released a fan-favorite foundation with a limited shade range.

In 2018, Tarte’s Shape Tape line also faced similar criticism, causing beauty influencer NikkieTutorials to remove a video about the product and call their shade range “an absolute mess.”

Chambers, who has worked with brands such as IMAN Cosmetics, Dark & Lovely and Posner throughout her 28-year career, said in the past five or so years brands have recognized the need for more conversations around diversity and inclusivity.

“Whether it’s domestically or globally, demographics are changing and if a brand is not inclusive in what they offer, then they are just missing a huge opportunity as far as just accurately being there for their consumer base,” she said.

“So we’ve seen brands that have gotten (an) ‘A’ in their efforts to diversify and we’ve seen brands that have gotten an ‘F’ and everywhere in between.”

In addition to research, Chambers said, the businesses should incorporate diversity as a whole.

“Certainly as in this instance, in those laboratories, you’ve got to have someone who understands that creating darker shades for brown skin is not as easy as adding black to an

existing one that’s created for light skin.”

It is unclear how Youthforia created its formulas for foundation shades.

George said she now feels it’s important to call out brands and the industry as a whole when they exclude darker complexions.

“It kind of feels like a slap in the face. It kind of feels like you know, not only are we just not being seen, but we’re also just like, not even being considered and it’s just really horrible,” George said. “I feel like it just goes to show how rampant colorism is still in the beauty industry.”

“There are a lot of people in this world, and everyone deserves to be able to try makeup, play with makeup and, you know, just be included,” she added. “The girls are here. We’ve been here and you know everyone deserves a spot in this industry.”

Chambers said Youthforia needs to rebuild trust with its audience — and that starts with making sure the audience feels included and important. Many of the brand’s posts and advertisements on social media feature people of color.

“It’s also just good business,” Chambers added. “There really is no way to be in this industry and not take diversity seriously. I think any brand out here that really wants to continue to grow and evolve ... It makes for a better company.”

CNN

Bankruptcy judge approves sale of Express Inc.

Company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in April.

NEW YORK — A U.S. bankruptcy judge has approved the sale of the majority of Express Inc. ‘s operations to a consortium led by brand acquisition and management firm WHP Global — providing a lifeline to the struggling retailer and its hundreds of remaining stores.

The offer includes \$136 million in cash consideration and \$38 million of liabilities set to be assumed by the buyers, court records show, for a combined \$174 million. The sale was approved Friday, and the deal is set to close by June 21, subject to customary conditions.

Express Inc. owns the Express, Bonobos and UpWest brands. It filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in April. At the time, Express said its bankruptcy filing would “facilitate the sale process” after receiving a non-binding letter of intent from a WHP-

led group. The company also announced plans to close 95 Express retail stores and all 10 UpWest stores.

The group that won grant approval for the sale is a newly-formed retail operating platform called “Phoenix” — which WHP announced Friday in collaboration with mall operators Simon Property Group, Brookfield Properties and Centennial Real Estate.

Phoenix will operate all direct-to-consumer commerce for Express and Bonobos in the U.S., accordng to WHP — maintaining the brands’ more than 450 stores, e-commerce operations and nearly 7,000 jobs nationwide.

The Associated Press reached out to contacts for Express Inc. for further comments on Monday. Bloomberg reported that Express Inc. Chief Financial Officer Mark Still said in a sworn statement

that the now-approved sale secures the company’s retail business and keeps almost all existing locations open.

WHP acquired a 60% stake in the Express brand’s intellectual property back in January 2023. Months later, Express and WHP announced plans to acquire Bonobos from Walmart in a joint-venture.

Founded in 1980, Columbus, Ohio-based Express Inc. was a trendsetter of casual office attire. But in recent years the retailer has struggled to compete with the likes of Zara and H&M.

In its Chapter 11 petition earlier this year, filed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, Express Inc. reported nearly \$1.2 billion in total debts and \$1.3 billion in total assets.

The Associated Press



A storefront of Express, Inc. a fashion apparel retailer, shown in 2020 in Paradise Valley, Ariz. A U.S. bankruptcy judge has approved the sale of Express Inc. to a consortium led by brand acquisition and management firm WHP Global — providing a lifeline to the struggling retailer and its hundreds of remaining stores. — AP PHOTO/ROSS D. FRANKLIN, FILE





You can reduce your risk of an early death for any reason by nearly 20% just by eating more foods from your choice of four healthy eating patterns, according to a new study. — ISTOCKPHOTO VIA CNN NEWSOURCE

# Here’s how to eat to live longer

Sandee Lamotte

You can reduce your risk of an early death for any reason by nearly 20%, just by eating more foods from your choice of four healthy eating patterns, according to a new study.

People who more carefully followed any of the healthy eating patterns — which all share a focus on consuming more whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes — were also less likely to die from cancer, cardiovascular illness, and respiratory and neurodegenerative disease.

The results of the study, published recently in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine, show “there is more than one way to eat well and derive the attendant health benefits,” said Dr. David Katz, a lifestyle medicine specialist who was not involved in the study.

People often get bored with one way of eating, study coauthor Dr. Frank Hu said, “so this is good news. It means that we have a lot of flexibility in terms of creating our own healthy dietary patterns that can be tailored to individual food preferences, health conditions and cultures.

“For example, if you are eating healthy Mediterranean, and after a few months you want to try something different, you can switch to a DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet or you can switch to a semi-vegetarian diet,” said Hu, a professor of nutrition and epidemiology and chair of the department of nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. “Or you can follow US dietary guidelines and create your own healthy eating plate.”

### A long-term study

The study followed the eating habits of 75,000 women participating in the Nurses’ Health Study and more than 44,000 men in the Health Professionals Follow-up Study over 36 years. None of the men and women had cardiovascular disease at the start of the study, and few were smokers. All filled out eating questionnaires every four years.

“This is one of the largest and longest-running cohort studies to exam-

ine recommended dietary patterns and the long-term risk of premature deaths and deaths from major diseases,” Hu said.

Hu and his team scored participants on how closely they followed four healthy eating styles that are in sync with current US dietary guidelines.

One is the Mediterranean diet, which stresses eating fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, legumes, fish and a high amount of olive oil, Hu said. “This dietary pattern emphasizes healthy fats, especially monounsaturated fat, in addition to plant-based foods and moderate alcohol,” he said.

The next is called the healthful plant-based diet, which also focuses on eating more plant products but gives negative points for all animal products and any alcohol.

“It even discourages relatively healthy options, like fish or some dairy products,” Hu said, adding that the eating plan frowns on unhealthy plant-based foods such as potato products.

“So you can imagine that vegetarians are probably on the higher end of this diet score,” he said, “and people who eat a lot of animal products or highly processed carbohydrate foods would be at the lower end of this score.”

The Healthy Eating Index tracks whether people follow basic US nutritional guidelines, which stress healthy, plant-based foods, frown on red and processed meat, and discourage eating added sugar, unhealthy fats and alcohol, Hu said.

The Alternate Healthy Eating Index was developed at Harvard, Hu said, and uses the “best available evidence” to include foods and nutrients most strongly associated with a lower risk of chronic disease.

“We explicitly included nuts, seeds, whole grains and lower consumption of red and processed meats and sugar-sweetened beverages,” he added. “A moderate consumption of alcohol is allowed.”

### Findings by disease

After each person’s eating pattern was scored, the participants were divided

into five groups, or quintiles, from highest to lowest adherence to one or more of the eating patterns.

“The highest quintile of diet quality as compared to the lowest was associated with a roughly 20% reduction in all-cause mortality,” said Katz, president and founder of the nonprofit True Health Initiative, a global coalition of experts dedicated to evidence-based lifestyle medicine.

The study also found reductions in risk of death from certain chronic diseases if people improved their diet over time, Hu said.

Participants who improved the health of their diet by 25% could reduce their risk of dying from cardiovascular disease by a range of 6% to 13% and dying from cancer by 7% to 18%, he said. There was up to a 7% reduction in risk of death by neurodegenerative disease, such as dementia.

“Respiratory disease mortality reduction was actually much greater, reducing risk by 35% to 46%,” Hu said.

The study relied on participants’ self-reports of food preferences and therefore only showed an association, not a direct cause and effect, between eating habits and health outcomes. Still, the fact that the study asked about diets every four years over such a long time frame added weight to the findings, Hu said.

### What is the takeaway of this large, long-term study?

“It’s never too late to adopt healthy eating patterns, and the benefits of eating a healthy diet can be substantial in terms of reducing total premature deaths and different causes of premature death,” Hu said.

“People also have a lot of flexibility in terms of creating their own healthy dietary pattern. But the common principles — eating more-plant based foods and fewer servings of red meat, processed meats, added sugar and sodium — should be there, no matter what kind of diet that you want to create.”

CNN

# How to eat, lose weight healthier



“I know you don’t recommend ‘quick fix’ weight loss programs. What do you define as quick?”  
— Marsha in Richmond, Va.

I am not a proponent of quick loss programs. The answer depends on the amount of weight you want to lose. If you have to lose 50 pounds, you’re likely to lose weight more quickly at first than if you have 10 pounds to lose. You should consider how long it took you to gain your weight. Most health professionals recommend a half-pound to one pound a week is good.

If you lose weight too fast you’re likely to gain it back and lose just as much muscle and bone as fat. I always recommend developing a healthy life style and letting your body give up the unwanted weight naturally. There is no special time line for weight loss. Change to a healthy lifestyle and your weight loss will happen in it’s own time line.

“What’s worse, eating a bad meal like hamburger and fries or skipping a meal altogether?”  
— John in Atlanta

I want you to imagine you are in foreign country hiking and you get lost. Days pass with no sign of rescue. Then you stumble into a small village whose diet consists mainly of fatty foods. Would you refuse to eat because it didn’t have the right mix of carbs, protein and fat? Or would your survival instincts kick in and place you at the dinner table, elbow to elbow with the villagers.

The point is eating something is better than eating nothing.

“I like to go hunting. I eat what I hunt. The animals don’t come with packaging with nutrition information. How does wild game like venison, wild hog and rabbit compare with beef, ham and chicken?”  
— Maria in West Virginia

Because wild animals are very active, they are generally leaner. But as with most meat, fat content depends on the cut. Loin cuts are leaner than ribs.

Three ounces of roasted venison contains 134 calories and 2.7 fat grams (1.1 grams of saturated fat). This is nearly identical to select grade eye of round steak. A T-bone steak has 275 calories and 21 fat grams with 8.3 grams of saturated fat.

Three ounces of rabbit contains 147 calories and 3 grams of fat with .8 grams of saturated fat. That is the same as skinless chicken.

No matter what kind of meat you eat, trim all visible fat, use low-fat cooking methods and keep your portions small. A portion of meat is around 3 ounces. That’s about the size of a deck of cards. Most people eat twice that amount.

“I work on the computer a lot every day. Am I causing permanent damage?”  
— Mark in Philadelphia

With more people-using computer more for work we are suffering from more eye-strain, blurred vision,

eye fatigue and headaches from all that computer work. When focusing on your screen most people blink only one-third as often as they normally do.

Here are some tips that may help:

- Adjust your screen so that it’s 20 to 28 inches in front of you and the center is four to nine inches lower than your eyes.
- Dim your lights especially overhead.
- Blink more often.
- Let your eye muscles relax by looking off into the distance every 20 minutes.

“Is it safe to order my prescriptions through an online pharmacy? Can I trust online pharmacies?”  
— Sandra in Patterson, N.J.

Even our insurance plans are encouraging us to use home delivery of medications and online pharmacy services. As your cost for medications increase we are all looking for lower cost medications. Some people turn to online pharmacies to get low cost medicines. Online pharmacies offer value, convenience and privacy when purchasing your medicines.

You should not use online companies that:

- Allow you to buy drugs without a prescription or by completing an online questionnaire.
- Offer discounts or cheap prices that seem too good to be true.
- Send unsolicited email or other spam offering cheap medicine.
- Ship prescription drugs worldwide.
- State that the drugs will be shipped from a foreign country.
- Are located outside of the United States.
- Are not licensed by a state board of pharmacy in the United States (or equivalent state health authority)

Your online pharmacy should:

- Require a valid prescription.
  - Provide a physical address and phone number in the United States.
  - Be licensed by a state board of pharmacy in your state and the state they operate their pharmacy.
- Types of complaints:
- Unexpected side effects or adverse events can include everything from skin rashes to more serious complications.
  - Product quality problems such as information if a product isn’t working properly or if it has a defect.
  - Product use/medication errors that can be prevented. Various issues, including choosing the wrong product because of labels or packaging that look alike or have similar brand or generic names. Mistakes also can be caused by difficulty with a device due to hard-to-read controls or displays, which may cause you to record a test result that is not correct.

If you have a problem with an online pharmacy you should report them to the FDA.

If you have a fitness question or concern, write to “Tips to be Fit,” P.O. Box 53443, Philadelphia, PA 19105 or send an email to tipstobefit@gmail.com. Past articles can be found at www.phillytrib.com by searching “Tips to be Fit.”

# Common low-calorie sweetener linked to heart attack and stroke

Sandee Lamotte

A low-calorie sweetener called xylitol used in many reduced-sugar foods and consumer products such as gum and toothpaste may be linked to nearly twice the risk of heart attacks, stroke and death in people who consume the highest levels of the sweetener, a new study found.

“We gave healthy volunteers a typical drink with xylitol to see how high the levels would get and they went up 1,000-fold,” said senior study author Dr. Stanley Hazen, director of the Center for Cardiovascular Diagnostics and Prevention at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute.

“When you eat sugar, your glucose level may go up 10% or 20% but it doesn’t go up a 1,000-fold,” said Hazen, who also directs the Cleveland Clinic’s Center for Microbiome and Human Health.

“Humankind has not experienced levels of xylitol this high except within the last couple of decades when we began ingesting completely contrived and sugar-substituted processed foods,” he added.

### Worrisome blood clots occur

In 2023, the same researchers found similar results for another low-calorie



Sugar-free gum is only one of many consumer products and foods that contain xylitol, experts say. — SYNTHETIC-EXPOSITION/ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES VIA CNN NEWSOURCE

sweetener called erythritol, which is used as a bulking sugar in stevia, monkfruit and keto reduced-sugar products.

Additional lab and animal research presented in both papers revealed erythritol and xylitol may cause blood platelets to clot more readily. Clots can break off and travel to the heart, triggering a heart attack, or to the brain, triggering a stroke.

In the new study on xylitol, “differences in platelet behavior were

seen even after a person consumed a modest quantity of xylitol in a drink typical of a portion consumed in real life,” said Dr. Matthew Tomey, a cardiologist at Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital in New York City, who was not involved in the study.

“These experiments are interesting but alone do not prove that platelet abnormalities are to account for a linkage between xylitol and clinical

SWEETENER • 3B











First row, from left, Selena Price Kent, Mia Washington, Deidre Patterson, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Omega Chapter president, Jay Hall, board chairman, and Kimberly Guiles. Second row, from left, Dawn Dumas, LaRonda Burnette Cardwell, and Tiana Belton. — SUBMITTED PHOTOS

THE ROSE FOUNDATION HOSTS 22ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



The R.O.S.E. (Recognizing Opportunities for Service and Education) Foundation held its annual fundraiser on June 8 at the North Hills Country Club in Glenside. Supported and endorsed by the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Omega Chapter, the R.O.S.E. Foundation benefits from a strong community network.

At the helm of both the R.O.S.E. Foundation and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Omega Chapter stands **Deidre L. Patterson**, serving as dynamic president, alongside **Jay Hall**, who leads as dedicated board chair. **Selena Price Kent**, **Mia Washington**, and **Kimberly Guiles** served as this year’s phenomenal event co-chairs. Together, they passionately guide the mission of the organization, dedicated to empowering women and strengthening families through comprehensive support and education.

Patterson described the affair as, “electric” and highlighted it as the “event of the summer,” where everyone had a terrific time.

The evening began with a performance by talented students from the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA), “instilling pride in our young people and hope for the future,” Patterson remarked. Students were led by CAPA teacher **Lauren Thomas**.

Patterson emphasized “the event was more than just a celebration; it was a purposeful gathering. Thanks to the proceeds, we can award scholarships to deserving students and grants to community organizations. This year, we are especially thrilled to have awarded \$25,000 in scholarships, \$2,000 to



AKA sorors stroll to “Set it Off” during the fundraiser.

the Laurel House, and additional community grants, marking our chapter’s 25th anniversary.”

The announcement of a \$2,000 donation to the Laurel House, made possible through collaboration with the Phi Omega Chapter, was poignant. This contribution bolsters Laurel House’s mission to advocate for and empower individuals impacted by domestic violence, offering crucial services such as crisis intervention, safe havens, supportive programs, and resources throughout Montgomery County. Named after the state flower, the laurel, the agency remains steadfast in its dedication to serving affected individuals, families, and communities.

“The R.O.S.E. Foundation has

been a beacon of hope and resilience for 21 years, offering critical support and resources to women and their families in need,” Hall remarked. “Our signature fundraiser supports scholarships for deserving students.

“By providing financial assistance, our scholarships enable talented and deserving students to pursue their academic and professional aspirations without the burden of financial stress. This not only empowers individuals but also enriches the educational environment with diverse perspectives, contributing to a more inclusive and innovative society. Our commitment to fostering positive change in our community hopefully inspires others to do the same.”

“Summer Essence is the Rose Foundation’s main event of the year, Price Kent. “This year’s theme Caribbean Glow was imagined as a springboard into summer. In this fast-paced world we aimed to enlighten guests’ senses with the look, feel, and taste of the Caribbean Islands. We were delighted to showcase the exceptionally talented CAPA students.”

The R.O.S.E. Foundation, founded on June 12, 2002, by the Phi Beta Omega Chapter and officially commenced operations in September 2003, is a dedicated non-profit community organization. The mission is to secure resources to enhance the quality of life for deserving women and their families.

The illustrious history of this renowned sorority states, “Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated” (AKA) is an international service organization that was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American, college-educated women. Alpha Kappa Alpha is comprised of over 300,000 members in more than 1,000 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Liberia, Bahamas, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Canada, Japan, Germany, South Korea, South Africa, and in the Middle East. Led by International President and Chief Executive Officer, **Glenda Glover Ph.D.**, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated” is often hailed as “America’s premier Greek-letter organization for African American women.”

It further stated, “Phi Beta Omega Chapter was chartered on June 6, 1998, to serve Montgomery and Bucks Counties on behalf of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.” Since our chartering we have provided scholarships and grants to deserving college students and community organizations. We are committed to fostering relationships with other community organizations that further our mission and values.”

Congratulations to the dedicated leadership and all members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Omega Chapter supporting the R.O.S.E. Foundation. Your stellar contributions to our community are greatly needed and sincerely appreciated.

Have a fantastic week “Out & About,” everyone!”

FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT  
PHILLYTRIB.COM



From left, Deidre Patterson, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Omega Chapter president; Brad Smith, development director of Laurel House; and Jay Hall, board chairman, pose for a photo during the fundraiser.



Soca Sakita Fitness, LLC, performing “Carnival in a Class” during the fundraiser.



Board Chairman Jay Hall, left, and AKA Phi Beta Omega Chapter president Deidre Patterson pose for a photo during the fundraiser.



BOOK REVIEW

# TWO BOOKS TO HELP CELEBRATE THE JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

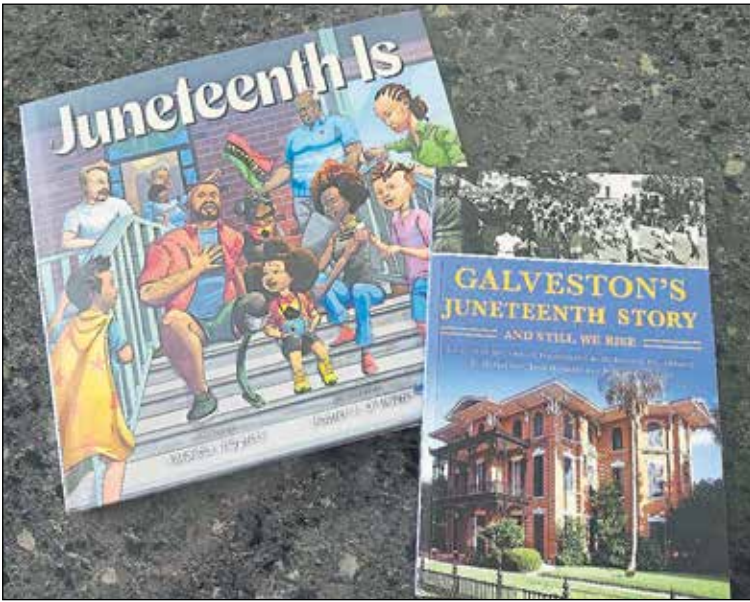
**Terri Schlichenmeyer**  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

The park shelter has been reserved.

You've told everyone where to be and what to bring (Grandma's favorite dessert!) and someone will set up games to occupy the kids. Your whole family celebrates Juneteenth, so maybe it's time to bring these two great books to your jubilee...

If you sometimes feel like you're always the last to know, then read "Galveston's Juneteenth Story: And Still We Rise" by Tommie Boudreaux, Alice Gatson, Jami Durham and W. Dwayne Jones (The History Press, \$24.99). Because sometimes, you are the last.

Some 60 years before the end of the Civil War, Britain and the U.S. both "banned the international trade of enslaved people..." Slavery still existed, of course, and "Galveston [Texas] was known as the largest slave market west of New Orleans..." Roughly a thousand people were enslaved there, and "many



To celebrate Juneteenth, these books give a history lesson on the holiday that commemorates the freedom of the enslaved.

— PHOTO BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

more... passed through the city's slave trading houses." It's estimated that "thousands" also tried to escape slavery through Galveston and Brownsville, over the Rio Grande to Mexico.

Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation proclamation on Sept. 22, 1862. The Civil War ended in April 1865. On June 19 of that same year — two months after wars' end — Black Texans

finally learned that they were free. The slaves in Galveston were the last in the country to be notified.

This essential look at the history of Juneteenth goes beyond that historic day to show more of what happened in the immediate aftermath of the posting of General Order No. 3. The authors don't stop there, though: they take their narrative well into the early 20th century, through Jim Crow laws, and into modern times and today's celebrations. Complete with lots of illustrations, "Galveston's Juneteenth Story: And Still We Rise" is a great book to browse and to keep around for reference.

You know your child wants to understand the history of this holiday, too, so look for the new picture book, "Juneteenth Is" by Natasha Tripplett, illustrated by Daniel J. O'Brien (Chronicle Books, \$17.99).

The morning has just started. The sun is up and today is the day for Jubilee. Everyone's heading for the park and a parade with drummers and steppers.

They throw candy to everyone along the parade route. There are red, green, and black flags everywhere!

After the festivities at the park, it's time to get together with family. Juneteenth is a time to "be thankful." It's "the ladies singing in the kitchen," an uncle's jokes (groan!), basketball in the front driveway, prayer around the table, and "generations of family recipes." And, of course, Juneteenth is a solemn time to acknowledge "things not taught in school." That's the lesson to be learned, and children ages 3 to 8 will love learning it with this book.

If these Juneteenth books aren't exactly what you're looking for, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian. They can put lots of other Juneteenth books for anyone of any age, directly in your hands. Ask for help, or be sure to put these two great books on reserve soon.

c.2024, The History Press / Chronicle Books \$24.99 / \$17.99 141 pages / 40 pages

# REFLECTING ON THE PHILLY ROOTS OF BLACK MUSIC MONTH

As one of the greatest music cities in the country, The City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection was instrumental in the launch of the annual celebration.

**Rashad Grove**  
BILLY PENN/WHYY

June 7 marks the 45th Anniversary of Black Music Month. First officially recognized by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, the month honors the significant contributions of Black musicians in numerous genres and how that influence is one of the country's greatest creations and exports.

The first celebration was held on the South Lawn of the White House and featured performances by Chuck Berry and Billy Eckstine.

The month has had several names including National Black Music Month. It was renamed African American Music Appreciation Month in 2009 by President Barack Obama. He noted that Black artists have created music "to dance, to express our faith through song, to march against injustice, and to defend our country's endearing promise of freedom and opportunity for all."

In 2023, President Biden, signed a new proclamation and returned the month to its original name.

"During Black Music Month, we pay homage to legends of American music, who have composed the soundtrack of American life," Biden wrote in his proclamation. "Their creativity has given rise to distinctly American art forms that influence contemporary music worldwide and sing to the soul of the American experience."

While the contributions of Black Philadelphia artists have been well documented, the story of Philly's crucial role in creating and celebrating Black Music Month since it started in 1979 may be less well known.

Here's a look at the history of efforts in Philly to create Black Music Month:

## Philly legend Kenny Gamble co-founds Black Music Month

The name Kenny Gamble is synonymous with musical excellence, so it is completely on brand for Gamble to help lead the way in co-founding Black Music Month along with his former partner, media trailblazer Dyana Williams, and pioneering label executive Ed Wright.

Alongside songwriting partner Leon Huff and their longtime collaborator Thom Bell, Gamble founded Philadelphia International Records in 1971, which gave the world TSOP: The Sound of Philadelphia. The label would go on to be one of the most successful labels of the 70s boasting



In this Nov. 17, 2010, file photo, Kenny Gamble, right, and Leon Huff pose for a photo during a street naming ceremony, in Philadelphia.

— AP PHOTO/JOSEPH KACZMAREK, FILE

a roster that included The O'Jays, Teddy Pendergrass, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, Patti LaBelle, MFSB, The Three Degrees, and Lou Rawls. Gamble and Huff are credited with 175 gold and platinum records. In addition to numerous other accolades, Gamble was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and in 2024, he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania along with Huff.

## The Black Music Association: the engine behind Black Music Month

After witnessing the work of the Country Music Association and Country Music Month while on a trip to Nashville, Gamble was convinced that Black artists need something similar. Shortly thereafter, Gamble and met Wright at a National Association of Television and Radio Announcers (NATRA) convention, after which they would go on to establish the Black Music Association.

In September 1978, the BMA officially launched in La Costa, California. Music industry heavyweights like Berry Gordy, Dick Griffey, Don Cornelius, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, and Rev. Jesse Jackson, were all in attendance at the history-making event.

Originally, the BMA had four divisions which were marketing and merchandising, record company executives, TV and radio on-air talent (including DJs and journalists), and the artists themselves.

"Initially, Black Music Month started as an economic program more than anything else," Kenny Gamble said in an interview with Music Quarterly. "The CMA had worked to establish October as

Country Music Month, so we picked June as a time where we could concentrate on recognizing and celebrating the economic and cultural power of Black music and those who made and promoted it. The slogan we came up with was, 'Black Music Is Green' — it was about economics. So, in an effort to galvanize, as well as create an advocacy entity, Black Music Month was born."

## Dyana Williams' nearly decade-long lobbying effort

Although she was born and raised in Harlem, "The Godmother of Black Music Month" Dyana Williams is definitely at least an honorary Philadelphian after more than four decades of being connected to the city. As a Black Music Month co-founder, Williams hosted celebrations and events to honor the month through the 80s. She was stunned to discover that President Carter never signed the official proclamation for Black Music Month to be recognized by the federal government as an annual celebration. While producing a Black Music Month celebration in the 90s, she wrote to then-President Bill Clinton, calling for the White House to host an event when she learned of Carter's oversight.

"The White House said, 'Well, we see that President Carter hosted the Black Music Association. We know that you were his guests. But he unintentionally did not write a presidential proclamation, which would've meant that every president following him would have done similarly,'" Williams said in an interview with Grammy.com

"I remember I called Gamble: 'Can you believe this?' It just gave

a higher level of official recognition or celebration," she continued. "It's just like Juneteenth. Black folks have been celebrating Juneteenth for a long time, but now it's becoming more in vogue and more well known."

## Chaka Fattah helps get Black Music Month legislation approved by Congress

Former Philadelphia Congressman Chaka Fattah played a pivotal role in getting Black Music Month officially recognized in Congress. For years, Fattah and Williams worked diligently to pass House Resolution 509, also known as the African American Music Bill, in the spring of 2000 during Clinton's final term. The bill even had bipartisan support from Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter.

"I reached out to [Democrat] Chaka Fattah, who is the representative in Philadelphia where I reside, and also state Senator Arlen Specter, who was the Republican Senator because I wanted bilateral support on both sides ... Specter agreed to do letters and contact other senators on my behalf, and Congressman Fattah agreed to introduce the legislation," Williams told HuffPost in 2014. "I wrote the actual draft that became the language for the bill that ultimately in 2000 was passed in Congress and recognized June as Black Music Month."

While producing a Black Music Month celebration in the 90s, she wrote to then-President Bill Clinton, calling for the White House to host an event when she learned of Carter's oversight.

"The White House said, 'Well, we see that President Carter hosted the Black Music Association. We know that you were his guests. But he unintentionally did not write a presidential proclamation, which would've meant that every president following him would have done similarly,'" Williams said in an interview with Grammy.com

"I remember I called Gamble: 'Can you believe this?' It just gave a higher level of official recognition or celebration," she continued. "It's just like Juneteenth. Black folks have been celebrating Juneteenth for a long time, but now it's becoming more in vogue and more well known."

## Chaka Fattah helps get Black Music Month legislation approved by Congress

Former Philadelphia Congressman Chaka Fattah played a piv-

otal role in getting Black Music Month officially recognized in Congress. For years, Fattah and Williams worked diligently to pass House Resolution 509, also known as the African American Music Bill, in the spring of 2000 during Clinton's final term. The bill even had bipartisan support from Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter.

"I reached out to [Democrat] Chaka Fattah, who is the representative in Philadelphia where I reside, and also state Senator Arlen Specter, who was the Republican Senator because I wanted bilateral support on both sides ... Specter agreed to do letters and contact other senators on my behalf, and Congressman Fattah agreed to introduce the legislation," Williams told HuffPost in 2014. "I wrote the actual draft that became the language for the bill that ultimately in 2000 was passed in Congress and recognized June as Black Music Month."

## Caliph Gamble carries on his parent's legacy

Caliph Gamble, the son of Gamble and Williams, is the founder of the Sons of Legends Foundation which is inspired by the BMA. The group is committed to carrying the torch of his father's and mother's love of music and commitment to activism. The organization's mission, similar to the BMA, is focused on spreading the message of the importance of Black Music Month as well as leading initiatives and projects throughout Philadelphia.

"It's an honor to have observed my parents' work over the course of my life," Caliph Gamble said in an interview with Billboard.com. "And it's with great pleasure that we look forward to establishing a blueprint of what they've accomplished, so generations to come can use their model as an option toward their own success."

---  
The city's heritage of Black music will be a big part of the Juneteenth festivities on June 19. A free Black Music City Grantee Showcase will celebrate 30 recipients of artistic grants who've received grants for their work inspired by Black musicians or musical styles closely connected to Philadelphia through its history. The showcase will be held at World Cafe Live from 5 to 9 p.m.



# DENZEL WASHINGTON CANDID ON LIFE, BLACK HOLLYWOOD AND NAVIGATING THEM

Kathia Woods  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

At the American Black Film Festival, Denzel Washington took to the stage for a conversation about his storied career. Chaz Ebert of Ebert.com moderated the discussion, where the actor's jovial and humorous demeanor shone through as he reflected on his extraordinary six-decade-long career.

Washington went on to share with the audience the details of his Saturday routine in preparation for the eventful festivities.

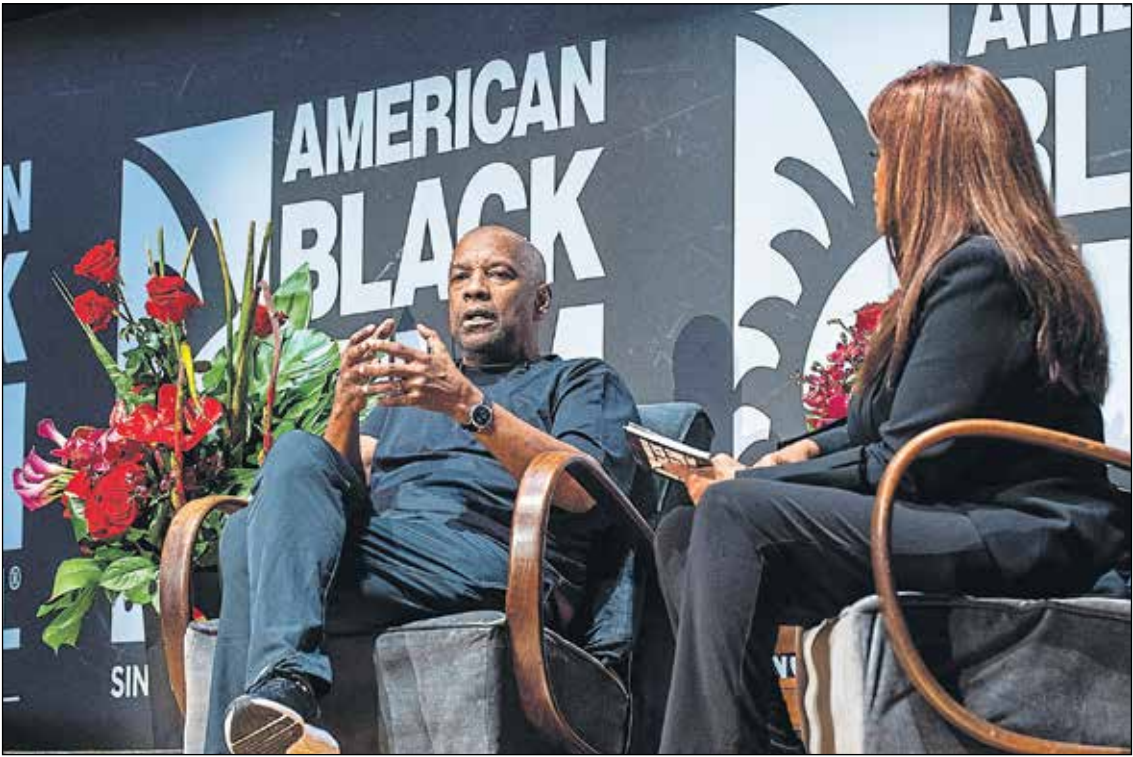
According to Washington, having God as a foundation in his life has helped him deal with life's complexities. "Inner peace is the word of the day. I read the daily word every day."

Washington, who first gained fame as Dr. Philip Chandler on the popular NBC show "St. Elsewhere," spoke about how his theatrical background laid the foundation for his acting career. However, what was particularly striking was the fact that he never aspired to be an actor.

After putting on a show for the children at The Boys Club in New York, he received a suggestion to pursue a career in acting. He took the advice and returned to the Fordham University theater department.

Washington discovered his voice in theater, where he first portrayed Private First Class Melvin Peterson in "A Soldier's Story" and later reprised the role in the film adaptation. He also met his mentor, actor Michael Potts, in the theater.

The August Wilson family has currently entrusted Washington with bringing Wilson's work to the big screen. Having completed two films ("Fences" and "Ma Rainey's



Denzel Washington with Chaz Ebert during Day 4 of the American Black Film Festival on Saturday in Miami Beach, Florida. — PHOTO BY AARON J. THORNTON/ABFF

Black Bottom"), he will now bring "The Piano Lesson" to life as the third installment. His youngest son, Malcom Washington, directs the film, which stars his oldest son, John David Washington.

Washington expressed that his children understood the importance of taking charge. "I was on set for two weeks and left. They got it. I am of no use here." He also attributed their giftedness and groundedness to his wife, Pauletta.

Additionally, he addressed the performances of actors Danielle Deadwyler and Corey Hawkins in

the film, stating, "It takes one to know. I am pretty good, so I know."

In addition to his work on "High and Low," Washington discussed his ongoing collaboration with Spike Lee, with whom he recently completed their fifth project together.

"Spike, a pit bull," he shared. "He's relentless, and so is Brooklyn."

In which moment did he resolve to take on the role of director, Ebert asked.

"My producing partner, Todd Black, talked me into it. I began the process via the acting lens. I know what a stellar performance is. I

also steal a lot from everyone I've worked with and take credit for it," he explained while smiling.

Washington was also candid about being Black in Hollywood.

"Early in my career, I received advice on how to be Black from individuals who didn't resemble me," he recalled. "I was like, damn. You know, they try to tell you how to speak and such." It left a telling impression.

Of all his relationships, the most significant one is with his wife Pauletta. They have been married for an impressive 41 years.

In a surprising and delightful twist, Washington decided to FaceTime with her, leaving the audience in awe. The ensuing exchange was a delightful fusion of laughter and candid moments, offering a rare glimpse into the affectionate and playful bond shared between the two.

Pauletta Washington quickly shared, "This is your father's day gift." She also added, "I don't have my girlfriend on," referring to her wig as she was comfortably at home.

Upon the exchange, Washington responded to the audience, "I married a Black woman."

The actor blended in effortlessly within the predominantly Black audience throughout the evening. He engaged with the attendees, sharing his experiences and thoughts.

"Giving is the most selfish feeling in life," he said. "It fills you up. I tried to do that as an actor; that's how I try to be of service."

The much-anticipated film of the fall season, Ridley Scott's "Gladiator II," features Washington in front of the camera. In the film, Washington takes on the role of a former slave who rose to the ranks of a wealthy merchant and harbors a grudge against the emperors. He is the sole Black actor who has consistently generated revenue at the box office, and whose salary commensurate with his efforts.

It is apparent that Denzel Washington is at ease with the man he has grown into. This comfort is evident in his unwavering dedication to his talent, his embrace of manhood, and, above all, his deep faith.

# AFTER 50 YEARS WITH THE NSO, VIOLINIST DESI ALSTON FINISHES STRONG

Michael Andor Brodeur

For National Symphony Orchestra violinist Desi Alston, discipline goes a long way. He likes early mornings, long runs, regular practice and a daily thermos of hot chocolate.

It's discipline that's gotten him over the finish line of more than 50 marathons and several international triathlons. And it's the same discipline that's delivered him to the end of a storied career. This summer, after 50 years Alston, 71, will play his final performances with the NSO.

A virtuosic player with a magnetic presence onstage, Alston prefers to think of himself as part of an orchestra that's grown from good to great under the batons of five music directors. "My retirement concludes for me a 50-year glorious epoch in the National Symphony Orchestra," he tells me.

That epoch was launched by a bit of good fortune in a fourth-grade classroom in Philadelphia. Alston was 8 years old when a man came in with a question for the class: "Who wants to play the violin?"

"Nobody knew what the violin was," Alston recalls in a phone interview. "We'd never even heard the word. But everyone knew was 'play' was."

Young Desimont joined every other boy in the class in raising his hand — and survived his first-ever round of orchestral cuts: "He literally said you, you and you. I was one of the you's."

Alston isn't eager to revisit his childhood in "not the greatest neighborhood" in Philadelphia — he'd rather not run the risk of sounding "hackneyed or trite" recounting the hardships of his youth, the police who mistook his violin case for something else, the streets that taught him how to run for distance. ("Most bad guys weren't going to chase you more than a block," he says.)

But he does reserve a special fondness for one aspect of his upbringing. At age 9, Alston began violin studies with Edgar Ortenberg, a teacher and mentor who would guide Alston all the way up to his graduation from Temple University in 1974.

Ortenberg, a Ukrainian-born violinist who fled Russia in the 1920s to escape antisemitism, fled Berlin to escape the rise of the Nazis in the 1930s, and fled Paris for New York in 1940. He spent a decade playing in the Budapest



Desi Alston performs with the National Symphony Orchestra at Columbia University in 2019. — PHOTOS COURTESY KENNEDY CENTER ARCHIVES

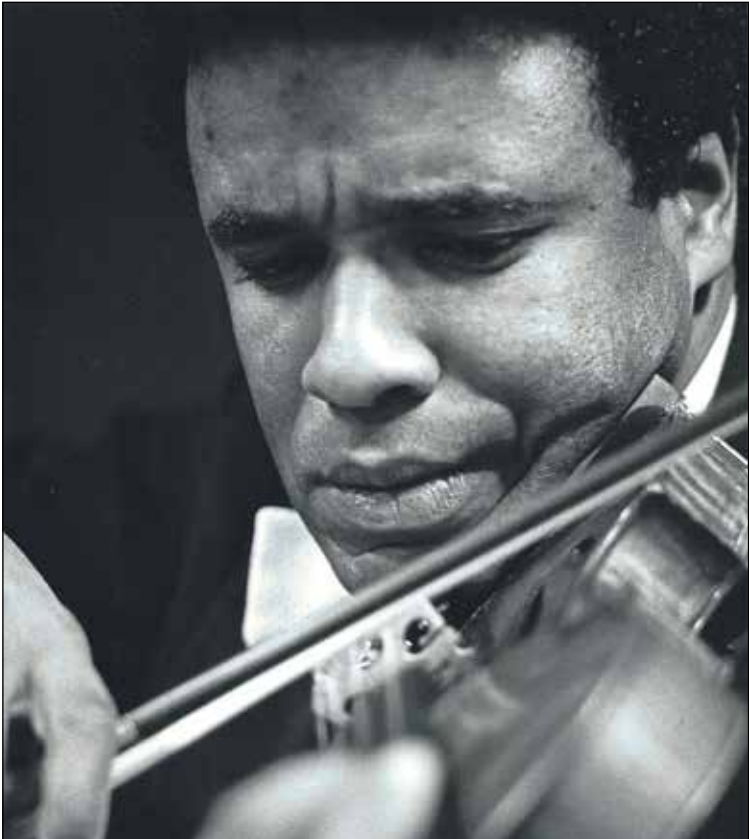
String Quartet before taking up teaching positions at Philadelphia's Settlement Music School, where he met the precocious 9-year-old and promptly poached him from his original instructor.

He would remain Alston's teacher through his entire adolescence, and Alston would follow Ortenberg to Temple, where the latter served as head of the string department at the Boyer College of Music and Dance.

In a 1988 Washington Post story chronicling Alston's "double life" as a violinist and runner, the 88-year-old Ortenberg confirmed the profundity of their bond: "We never had any children of our own, and Desi is like our own child," he said. "That's the highest compliment I could pay to anyone."

Alston says Ortenberg taught him to immerse and invest himself in the music, to keep his head together and focus, and to believe, beyond any doubt, that "if you really want to do something, you'll find the time to do it."

"I had to learn how to navigate the mean streets and going to my lessons," Alston says. "[Ortenberg] gave me so many free lessons in addition to the one that was paid for weekly, and I think he did that just to get my mind off all this other stuff not related to music I had to deal with. My mind would be so focused on what I was doing musically, that I didn't have time



Desi Alston in the 1970s.

to think about the pernicious side of life that I had to deal with once I left to get home."

Ortenberg's guidance led Alston to his first (and second and third) orchestral auditions, which often defaulted to a similar refrain:

Alston's playing was good, but he had no orchestral experience. It was NSO music director Antal Doráti who went out on a limb to give the 21-year-old Desi a spot in 1974.

"I was just this intrepid kid," Alston says. "I didn't let anything

bother me. I was fearless. I call it young and dumb."

In addition to inspiring Alston's life of musicianship, Ortenberg, who died at 96 in 1996, is also the namesake of the Edgar Ortenberg Bowed String Instrument Scholarship Fund, a scholarship Alston created at Temple in 2023 for "students who maintain a 2.5 GPA and demonstrate financial need." (At a recent gathering honoring retirees, the second violin section of the NSO pitched in \$1,000 toward the scholarship.)

NSO principal second violin Marissa Regni sees the Temple scholarship as a natural extension of a generosity of spirit that extends beyond the orchestra.

"I think it's so amazing that he did this, but I'm not at all surprised," she said. "Desi is incredibly generous, especially when it comes to the promotion of young people and supporting their goals."

"Not to sound boring," Alston says, "but my main precept in life is what we do for ourselves dies with us, what we do for others lives on forever. I don't know who wrote that, but that's how I live my life. A lot of people helped me, and I needed every penny. I wanted to pay it back. I want to give tribute to my teacher. How lucky I was to have him involved in my life."

On tour in Europe with the NSO this past February, the professional affection and musical admiration earned by Alston among his cohort was clear at every stop. Entire logistical plans were constructed with consideration of his abiding aversion to texts, emails, smartphones and technology in general. (Alston is additionally not thrilled about the unreliable fiber-optic cables that have sullied his home landline.)

"Maybe I'll come out of the dark ages in the future," he tells me. "But for now, I'm blissfully happy with the way my life is."

That trend is likely to continue as Alston relocates to Hawaii, where he's had a place since 2000. His hope is that the finish line of retirement will deliver the same rush of joy, accomplishment and catharsis as a good run.

"I'm profoundly grateful for the myriad memories of world travel, wonderful music making and the cherished friendships spawned along the way," he says. "I've had a good ride, but now it's off to my idée fixe, my soif de vivre."



# Inis Nua's 'Lovesong' reminds us that love is worth taking the leap for

**Rita Charleston**  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

It's been described as a soaring, intimate love story as it spans the marriage of English couple Maggie and Billy from the grand romantic gesture of their young love to the aching silences of 40 years on. "Lovesong," by Welsh playwright Abi Morgan, is presented by Inis Nua at the Louis Bluver Theatre at the Drake and continues through June 23. It stars Mary Martello and Kirk Wendell Brown as the couple in their maturity, along with Taylor Congdon and Gabe Moses who play Maggie and Billy, the same couple, in their youth. Remembrances lead to meaningful connections, reminding us that ultimately, with love, we need to take the leap. "Lovesong' has been on my bucket list and it's a play I've been passionate to direct for years," says Inis Nua Artistic Director and the show's Director Kathryn Mac-Millan. "As I curated my first full season as Inis Nua's artistic director, it was clear to me that it was a great fit for our company." It was also clear to veteran stage and film actor Brown that it was a good fit for him, too, especially when he heard he would be playing



Kirk Wendell Brown stars as Billy in Inis Nua's "Lovesong," playing through June 23 at the Louis Bluver Theatre at the Drake. — SUBMITTED

opposite Martello, a five-time Barrymore Award-winner for Excellence in Theatre Performance. "I've known Mary and the wonderful work that she does for some time," Brown shares. "Of course, I loved the script, but once I found out I'd be playing opposite her, I was all in." In describing his role, Brown explains that Billy is a retired dentist and ex-pat from Britain. The play has the couple moving to Northern California where Maggie is ailing. "We come to a point in life, after 40-plus-years of marriage, when decisions — difficult decisions —

must be made," Brown says. "Billy and Maggie are also a bi-racial couple, something that comes with its own set of challenges. In rehearsal we spent a lot of time making sure that Billy didn't come across as an angry Black man, but rather a truly concerned husband trying to do the right thing for his wife." And in playing Billy, Brown explains that even when a character is nothing like himself, he has a few tricks he can employ to get to the heart of that character. He says "I try to find a kernel of truth in the person I'm playing that I can relate to. There's always something in you and the character that is like you in some way." Brown remembers that feeling of finding that certain something and then running with it. "Acting has always been my main mission in life. It started way back when I was a freshman in high school," he recalls. "One day in class, each student had to read a passage by Shakespeare and I found that I really loved it." After several more forays into various school roles, Brown says his career goals were solidified, and he headed off to Boston University College of Fine Arts to pursue his dream. But he never did graduate because he was pulled out of school one day to audition for a role in the film, "Taps." And although the role eventually went to someone else, Brown was determined that acting is what his "main mission in life" should definitely be, and he headed for New York. Eventually, Brown went on to study further at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art/King's College — London. Since appearing in many works nationally and internationally, he has produced and instructed theater curricula from Lawrenceville, New Jersey, to St. Denis, France. Brown admits he enjoys playing many diverse roles, while still, even today, is especially fond of doing Shakespeare. "Aside from doing many contemporary works, I still do a lot of Shakespeare," Brown concludes, "and I love bringing his works to others to prove to them his works are not just in books that stay on a shelf. Shakespeare is not just for the hoi-polloi. They are meant to be read and enjoyed by everyone." For more information on Kirk Wendell Brown and the "Lovesong" production, visit inisnuaattheatre.org.

# GOSPEL GROUP, BASKING IN RESURGENCE, RELEASES FIRST NEW MUSIC IN NEARLY 50 YEARS

**Michael Casey**

She made a single gospel soul record in the 1970s with her brothers, when they were all teenagers. Then Annie Brown Caldwell moved on with her life. Decades later, she was running a clothing store in a tiny Mississippi town and singing on weekends with her husband and children when she got a call from a label founded by David Byrne. They wanted to add a single from her first band, the Staples Jr. Singers, to a compilation record. That 2019 call led to more — the Luaka Bop label reissued the band's 1975 record "When Do We Get Paid," drawing rave reviews in 2022 for its raw sound and mix of blues, funk and soul. And soon the Brown siblings, now in their 60s, found themselves on a course that would make any rising pop star jealous. In the past four years, they flew for the first time, toured Europe four times and played hipster clubs like Brooklyn's Baby's All Right. And, finally last year, they saw a performance by Mavis Staples, whose group The Staple Singers inspired their own early sound with genre-busting, socially conscious Stax Records hits. Also a band of siblings, they had covered several of their songs. "It's been a dream come true," said Brown Caldwell, who was 11 when she and R.C. and Edward, who were 12 and 13, co-founded The Staples Jr. Singers in 1967. They started playing in the church where their mother was a preacher and father a deacon, and toured by van around the South. And on Friday, the Browns are releasing "Searching," their first batch of new songs in nearly 50 years, and gearing up for a tour in July to the Roskilde festival in Denmark as well as the Netherlands, Slovakia, and Germany. "It's a blessing," Brown Caldwell said. "It feels good. We are getting older and it seems the Lord just now is blessing our youth like it's brand new again." Their resurgence began with a record collector who stumbled on their first single in a Midwest thrift store and bought it for \$1. Greg Belson, whose gospel collection fills three rooms in Los Angeles, was intrigued that the band's name was so similar to The Staple Singers. He put "We Got a Race to Run" on a portable turntable he often brings with him, and was struck by their sound: "It sat completely in the wheelhouse of what I look for, which is specifically gospel with a soulful tinge, rather than what I would say more classical church-based gospel," Belson said. Yale Evelev, the president of Luaka Bop, heard Belson's radio show and pulled from his collection for a compilation of 1970s gospel soul songs called "The Time



Siblings Annie Brown Caldwell, left, R.C. Brown, center, and Edward Brown, original members of the Staple Jr. Singers, gather in their home church of Johnson Chapel Holiness Church in Aberdeen, Miss., May 20, for a group photograph. — AP PHOTOS/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

For Peace Is Now." He wanted to include the Staples Jr. Singers single, but first he had to find the band. He figured out that Annie Brown was now Annie Caldwell, and called all seven listed in Mississippi. Like Belson, Evelev was attracted to a gospel sound that isn't heard much on the radio these days. "These are soul records really," he said. "Soul records with a message. That message imbues the performance with a certain underlying intensity and honesty." He reached Brown Caldwell on the last call. "I never believed that this record would come up again," Brown Caldwell said. "For real though. Is this for real?" She agreed to put the single out but her brothers were initially resistant, and they balked at reissuing "When Do We Get Paid." Only a few hundred origi-

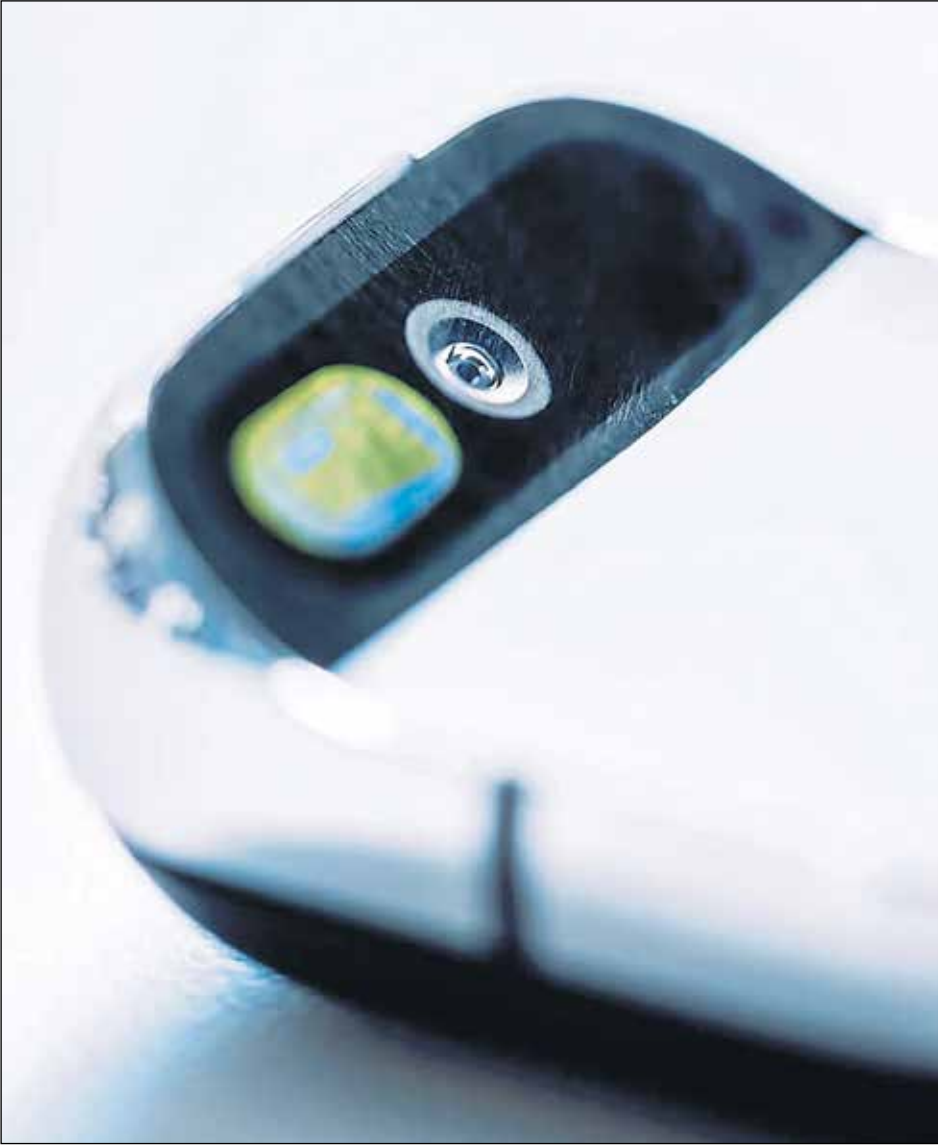
nal copies of the record exist, one of which Belson bought off a Milwaukee collector for \$600. "There was a lot of family drama that was happening that had existed for a long time," Evelev said. "We kind of ended up in the middle of it, and it was a lot of back and forth and a lot of yelling at each other." They worked it out, and agreed to perform four shows in New York in 2022. Evelev heard some songs that weren't on their 1975 record and asked if they had any unreleased music. It turned out they recorded about a dozen songs in Muscle Shoals in the 1980s. Evelev brought in Ahmed Gallab, who performs as the artist Sinkane, as a producer, and he recorded them over two nights in a Mississippi church where they sat in a semi-circle or in the pews as they played. Gallab then went to Nashville to mix it and do some overdubs, aiming to have the songs "ring as true as possible" to when he first heard them play. Like their first album, "Searching" weaves its gospel message with blues guitar and influences ranging from boogaloo to swamp music to rhythm and blues to soul. A world-weariness comes through in songs like the lead track, "Living In This World Alone," with Brown Caldwell lamenting how she misses her mother and tries to "live free from sin" without her. "I can listen to their voices and hear the stories that they're talking about and really understand them," Gallab said. "That's the one thing that's really sets them apart, especially when Annie sings. She's just telling you a story." The band members — now four generations of the Brown family — shrug off their newfound celebrity. On the latest record, R.C. plays guitar and the two other siblings sing. Edward's son sings backing vocals, R.C.'s son plays bass and R.C.'s grandson plays drums. They still live in Aberdeen, a town of 5,000 along the Tombigbee River where they grew up and where Edward and R.C. retired from factory jobs. All three insist their mission remains the same as it was all those years ago — to spread the word of God and inspire listeners to follow his path. Edward Brown said he rarely hears anything good on the radio anymore and worries about younger generations turning to gun violence. So he is doing his part by singing and trying to "touch people" with his life story. "You have to do what God said do," he said. "When I hit the stage, I tell the Lord, 'take self out, You take over.' I just give it all to him and do what he wants me to do."



Johnson Chapel Holiness Church assistant pastor Rev. Letha Morgan, aunt to the members of the Staple Jr. Singers, recalls their playing every Sunday at the Aberdeen, Miss., church, on May 20.

The Associated Press





Humane's Ai Pin, displayed at the company's headquarters in San Francisco. — ANDRI TAMBUNAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS



Humane's Ai Pin in its charging case. — ANDRI TAMBUNAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTO

# 'THIS IS GOING TO BE PAINFUL': *How a bold AI device flopped*

Tripp Mickle  
Erin Griffith

SAN FRANCISCO — Days before gadget reviewers weighed in on the Humane Ai Pin, a futuristic wearable device powered by artificial intelligence, the founders of the company gathered their employees and encouraged them to brace themselves. The reviews might be disappointing, they warned.

Humane's founders, Bethany Bongiorno and Imran Chaudhri, were right. In April, reviewers brutally panned the new \$699 product, which Humane had marketed for a year with ads and at glitzy events such as Paris Fashion Week. The Ai Pin was "totally broken" and had "glaring flaws," some reviewers said. One declared it "the worst product I've ever reviewed."

About a week after the reviews came out, Humane started talking to HP, a computer and printer company, about selling itself for more than \$1 billion, three people with knowledge of the conversations said. Other potential buyers have emerged, although talks have been casual and no formal sales process has begun.

Humane retained Tidal Partners, an investment bank, to help navigate the discussions while also managing a new funding round that would value it at \$1.1 billion, three people with knowledge of the plans said.

The developments amount to a face-plant by Humane, which had positioned itself as a top contender among a wave of AI hardware makers. The San Francisco company had raised \$240 million from powerful Silicon Valley investors, including OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff, who valued the startup at \$1 billion based on its enormous ambition and promise. Humane spent five years building a device to disrupt the smartphone — only to founder.

As of early April, Humane had received about 10,000 orders for the Ai Pin, a small fraction of the 100,000 that it hoped to sell this year, two people familiar with its sales said. In recent months, the company has also grappled with employee departures and changed a return policy to address canceled orders. On Wednesday, it asked customers to stop using the Ai Pin charging case because of a fire risk associated with its battery.

Its setbacks are part of a pattern of stumbles across the world of generative AI as companies release unpolished products. Over the past two years, Google has introduced and pared back AI search abilities that recommended people eat rocks, Microsoft has trumpeted a Bing chatbot that hallucinated, and



Humane's Ai Pin is modeled at the company's headquarters in San Francisco. — KELSEY MCCLELLAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Samsung has added AI features to a smartphone that were called "excellent at times and baffling at others."

In an interview, Bongiorno and Chaudhri, who are married, declined to comment on a possible sale or fundraising for Humane. They said their ambitions for the Ai Pin had not changed, but they acknowledged that there was a difference between testing a device and actually using it.

"You don't know everything before you launch," Bongiorno said. Given the product reviews, Chaudhri said, they "definitely wish that we were able to resolve some of those things a little bit differently."

HP didn't respond to requests for comment.

This account of Humane is based on interviews with 23 current and former employees, advisers and investors, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter or feared retaliation. Bloomberg earlier reported on the startup's potential sale.

Many current and former employees said Chaudhri and Bongiorno preferred positivity over criticism, leading them to disregard warnings about the Ai Pin's poor battery life and power consumption. A senior software engineer was dismissed after raising questions about the product, they said, while others left out of frustration.

Chaudhri said his company, which had 250 employees at its peak, encouraged workers to offer

feedback. The departures were a natural consequence of transitioning from creating a new device to sustaining it after its release, which he said appealed to "a different type of person."

Chaudhri and Bongiorno, who both worked at Apple, started Humane in 2019. They set out to create a lapel pin that clips to clothing with a magnet. The device gives users access to an AI-powered virtual assistant that can send messages, search the web or take photos. It is complemented by a laser that projects text onto the palm of a user's hand for tasks such as skipping a song while playing music. It also has a camera, a speaker and cellular service.

From the beginning, current and former employees said, the Ai Pin had issues, which reviewers later picked apart.

One was the device's laser display, which consumed tremendous power and would cause the pin to overheat. Before showing the gadget to prospective partners and investors, Humane executives often chilled it on ice packs so it would last longer, three people familiar with the demonstrations said. Those employees said such measures could be common early in a product development cycle.

When employees expressed concerns about the heat, they said, Humane's founders replied that software improvements reducing power use would fix it. Chaudhri, who led design, wanted to keep the gadget's sleek design, three people said.

The device's battery was not big enough to last long. Test units ran out of power within hours, current and former employees said. Humane decided to provide customers with a backup battery and charging case, which increased the product's price more than \$100, two employees said.

The problems contributed to Humane's pushing back the date when it would ship the device to April from October, employees said.

Some employees tried persuading the founders not to launch the Ai Pin because it wasn't ready, three people said. Others repeatedly asked them to hire a head of marketing. The role remained vacant before the product's release.

In October, Time magazine named the Ai Pin one of the best inventions of 2023. The next month, Humane revealed the product's details, promoting it in commercials.

But orders were slower than expected, three people said, leading Humane to reduce plans to produce more of the devices. Bongiorno declined to comment on sales.

In January, Humane laid off about 10 employees. A month later, a senior software engineer was let go after she questioned whether the Ai Pin would be ready by April. In a company meeting after the dismissal, Chaudhri and Bongiorno said the employee had violated policy by talking negatively about Humane, two attendees said.

Bongiorno said the company couldn't comment on individual employees.

The founders said they had spoken with several reviewers as they evaluated the device and responded to questions about their experiences, which included concerns about the Ai Pin's temperature and inaccurate responses to some requests.

On April 11, reviews in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Verge blasted the Ai Pin's shortcomings. Marques Brownlee, a tech reviewer on YouTube with 19 million subscribers, headlined his review "The Worst Product I've Ever Reviewed ... for Now."

After the reviews, Bongiorno said, "we pulled the team together, and we said, 'OK, look, this is going to be painful. We're going to have to lean into painful feedback.'"

Bongiorno and Chaudhri said Humane had since worked on the device's issues. The startup has added more voice navigation options to the device, as well as sound effects, to make it easier to use. The updates include integrating OpenAI's newest chatbot system, GPT-4o, and one that is set to improve battery life by 25% and cut the device's response time to two seconds.

Those updates have addressed the questions raised by reviewers, the founders said. Bongiorno referred to the reviews and feedback as "a gift that we've been given."

Businesses are interested in the device, she added. Within 48 hours of its launch, more than 1,000 companies — including in retail, medicine and education — reached out to discuss potentially working together or building software for the pin, Bongiorno said.

Humane also signed wireless carrier deals to expand the Ai Pin to South Korea and Japan.

Some discussions, including with HP, turned into talks about a potential sale, as well as licensing Humane's technology, three people with knowledge of the situation said. The conversations led Chaudhri and Bongiorno to hire Tidal Partners, which had advised Cisco on its recent \$28 billion acquisition of cybersecurity business Splunk.

Those talks have continued as Humane dealt with its discovery that a battery supplier had provided components that could pose a fire risk. On Wednesday, it asked customers to stop using their charging case accessory while it worked to find a new vendor.

Humane had enough money to release its device, people close to the company said, but was trying to raise more.

"We just want to build," Bongiorno said.

Chaudhri added, "We have to look at how best we fund that."



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Cherelle Parker (D)**, Mayor  
City Hall, Room 215  
(215) 686-3000 file complaints.  
**Mayor's office of Information Services**  
1234 Market St. Suite 1850  
(215) 686-8101  
(Provides technical development for access to information.)

## COUNCIL-AT-LARGE

**Nina Ahmad (D)** (215) 686-3450  
**Kendra Brooks (WFP)** (215) 686-0461/62  
**Jim Harrity (D)** (215) 686-8295/96  
**Rue Landau (D)** (215) 686-3420-21  
**Nicolas O'Rourke (WFP)** (215) 686-3452/53  
**Katherine Gilmore Richardson (D)**  
(215) 686-0454/55  
**Isaiah Thomas (D)** (215) 686-3446/47

## BY DISTRICT

Find your district on the online map:  
<https://phlcouncil.com/council-members/>  
**1st District – Mark Squilla (D)** (215) 686-3458/59  
**2nd District – Kenyatta Johnson (D)**  
(215) 686-3412/13  
**3rd District – Jamie Gauthier (D)** (215) 686-0459/60  
**4th District – Curtis Jones Jr. (D)** (215) 686-3416/17  
**5th District – Jeffrey Young Jr. (D)** (215) 686-3442/43  
**6th District – Michael J. Driscoll (D)**  
(215) 686-3444/45  
**7th District – Quetcy Lozada (D)** (215) 686-3448/49  
**8th District – Cindy Bass (D)** (215) 686-3424/25  
**9th District – Anthony Phillips (D)** (215) 686-3454/55  
**10th District – Brian J. O'Neill (R)** (215) 686-3422/23

## STATE GOVERNMENT

**Governor Josh Shapiro (D)**  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120 (717) 787-2500

## Governor's Advisory

**Commission on African-American Affairs**  
**Anette Nance**, Executive Director  
200 S. Broad St., 11th Floor  
(215) 560-2640  
[ra-gacaaa@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-gacaaa@state.pa.us)  
(GACAAA assists African Americans in gaining full access (877) 374-0222)

## Pa. Senators

**Nikil Saval (D)** (District 1)  
1107-09 S. 6th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
(267) 668-3550/ (215) 952-3119 [saval@pasenate.com](mailto:saval@pasenate.com)  
**Christine Tartaglione (D)** (District 2)  
400 West Allegheny Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19133  
(215) 291-4653 / (215) 533-0440  
[tartaglione@pasenate.com](mailto:tartaglione@pasenate.com)  
**Sharif Street (D)** (District 3)  
4458A Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19140  
(215) 457-5200/ (215) 227-6161 [info@sharifstreet.com](mailto:info@sharifstreet.com)  
**Art Haywood (D)** (District 4)  
7106 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19119  
(215) 242-8171/ (215) 517-1434  
[Senatorhaywood@pasenate.com](mailto:Senatorhaywood@pasenate.com)  
**Jimmy Dillon (D)** (District 5)  
12361 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154  
(215) 281-2539/ (215) 695-1020 [dillon@pasenate.com](mailto:dillon@pasenate.com)  
**Vincent Hughes (D)** (District 7)  
2401 North 54th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19131  
(215) 879-7777 [hughes@pasenate.com](mailto:hughes@pasenate.com)  
**Anthony Hardy Williams (D)** (District 8)  
2901 Island Ave., Suite 100, (215) 492-2980  
[williams@pasenate.com](mailto:williams@pasenate.com)  
**John I. Kane (D)** (District 9)  
504 Ave. of the States  
Chester, PA 19013  
(610) 447-5845 [kane@pasenate.com](mailto:kane@pasenate.com)

## State Representatives

**Kevin J. Boyle (D)**, 172nd district  
7801-A Hasbrook Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19111 (215) 331-2600  
**Pat Gallagher (D)**, 173rd district  
8760 Frankford Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19136-1315 (215) 281-3414  
**MaryLouise Isaacson (D)**, 175th district  
610 N. 2nd St. (215) 503-3245  
Joseph C. Hohenstein (D), 177th district  
4725-27 Richmond St. (215) 744-2600  
**Jason Dawkins (D)**, 179th district  
4667 Paul Street (215) 744-7901  
**Jose Giral (D)**, 180th district  
3503 B Street, Unit 7 (215) 291-5643  
**Malcolm Kenyatta (D)**, 181st district  
1501 N. Broad St., Suite 17 (215) 978-0311  
**Ben Waxman (D)**, 182nd district  
1500 Walnut Street, 10th Floor (215) 246-1501  
**Elizabeth Fiedler (D)**, 184th district  
2400 S. 9th St. (215) 271-9190  
**Regina Young (D)**, 185th district  
6844 Elmwood Ave. (215) 952-3376  
**Jordan A. Harris (D)**, 186th district  
1444 Point Breeze Ave. (215) 952-3378  
**Rick Krajewski (D)**, 188th district  
4712 Baltimore Ave. (215) 724-2227  
**G. Roni Green (D)**, 190th district  
1719 North 52nd Street, Unit G (833) 321-9070 Toll Free  
**Joanna E. McClinton (D)**, 191st district  
52 S. 60th St. (215) 748-6712  
**Morgan B. Cephas (D)**, 192nd district  
7538 Haverford Avenue (215) 879-6625  
**Tarik Khan (D)**, 194th district  
4001 Main Street, Suite 101 (215) 482-8726  
**Donna Bullock (D)**, 195th district  
2835 W. Girard Ave. (215) 684-3738  
**Danilo Burgos (D)**, 197th district  
635 W. Erie Ave. (215) 223-1890  
**Darisha Parker (D)**, 198th district  
1335 West Tabor Road, Suite 109 (215) 849-6426  
**Chris Rabb (D)**, 200th district  
7216 Germantown Ave. (215) 242-7300  
**Stephen Kinsey (D)**, 201st district  
5952-54 Germantown Ave. (215) 849-6592  
**Jared G. Solomon (D)**, 202nd district  
6434 Castor Avenue (215) 342-6340  
**Anthony A. Bellmon (D)**, 203rd district  
7215-B Rising Sun Avenue (215) 560-1315

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

## U.S. Senators

**Robert P. Casey (D)** (202) 224-6324  
393 Russell Senate Office Building, Wash., DC 20510  
200 N. Third Street, Suite 14A, Harrisburg, PA 17101  
2000 Market St., Suite 1870, Phila., PA 19103  
(215) 405-9660

**John Fetterman (D)**, (202) 224-4254  
142 Russell Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC 20510  
320 Market Street, Suite 475E, Harrisburg, PA 17101  
200 Chestnut Street, Suite 600, Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 241-1090

## U.S. Representatives

**Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R)**, 1st district  
1717 Langhorne Newton Rd., Suite 400  
(215) 579-8102  
**Congressman Brendan F. Boyle (D)**, 2nd district  
8572 Bustleton Ave. (215) 335-3355  
**Congressman Dwight Evans (D)**, 3rd district  
7174 Ogontz Ave. (215) 276-0340  
**Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon (D)**, 5th district  
2501 Seaport Drive, BH230, Chester, PA 19013  
(610) 626-2020



## HOUSING

**Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA)**  
(Develops, acquires, leases and operates affordable housing for residents with limited income)  
2013 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19121  
(215) 684-4000 (800) 654-5984 TTY  
[www.info@pha.phila.gov](http://www.info@pha.phila.gov)  
**Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**  
The Strawbridge Building  
801 Market Street, 12th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
<https://www.hud.gov>  
**Northwest Counseling Service**  
6521 N Broad St., Phila., PA 19126 (215) 324-7500  
<https://www.nwcsinc.org>  
**Division of Housing and Community Development**  
(Supports housing development and preservation, housing counseling and community development programs benefiting low- and moderate-income Philadelphians.)  
1234 Market St., 17th floor (215) 686-9749  
<https://www.phila.gov/departments/division-of-housing-and-community-development/>  
**Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation**  
(Provides home improvement services and housing purchase opportunities for low- and moderate-income households)  
1234 Market St., 17th floor (215) 448-3000  
[www.phdchousing.org](http://www.phdchousing.org)  
**Redevelopment Authority**  
(Offers financing products designed to make owning a home more affordable for low- and moderate-income Philadelphians)  
1234 Market St., 17th floor (215) 854-6500  
<https://phdcp.hila.org/>  
**Tenant Union Representative Network**  
100 S. Broad St., Suite 800 (215) 940-3900  
<https://rturn.net/>  
**Underemployment Information Center (Counsels in default and foreclosure.)**  
112 N Broad St., #11, Phila., PA 19102 (215) 557-0822  
<https://philaup.org/web/>  
**Housing Association Information Program**  
(Offers default, pre-purchase and landlord/tenant counseling)  
658 N. Watts St. (215) 978-0224  
**Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pa**  
444 N. 3rd St., Suite 110, Philadelphia, PA 19123  
(215) 625-0700



## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

**Philadelphia Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Services (LRIS)**  
1101 Market St., 11th FL.  
(215) 238-6300 (215) 238-6333  
**Barristers Association of Philadelphia**  
Monique Myatt Galloway, President, P.O. Box 58448  
(Addresses the professional needs and development of African-American lawyers.)  
1735 Market Street, Suite A234, Philadelphia, PA  
[info@phillybarristers.com](mailto:info@phillybarristers.com) - [www.phillybarristers.com](http://www.phillybarristers.com)  
**Community Legal Services**  
Center City Office, 1424 Chestnut St., (215) 981-3700  
N. Phila. Law Center, 1410 W. Erie Ave. (215) 227-2400  
**Common Pleas Court**  
1400 John F Kennedy Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 686-7000  
<https://www.courts.phila.gov/>  
**Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**  
(Provides administrative and judicial enforcement of the civil rights laws and handles complaints.)  
801 Market Street, Suite 1000, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3127  
(800) 669-4000, (800) 669-6820 TTY  
**Homeless Advocacy Project**  
(Provides free legal aid and counseling to homeless and families)  
1429 Walnut St., 15th Floor (215) 523-9595  
<https://www.haplegal.org/>  
**Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations Center City Office**  
601 Walnut St., Suite 300 (215) 686-4670  
**Mothers in Charge**  
2839 W Girard Ave. 1st FL, Phila., PA 19130  
(215) 228-1718  
<https://www.mothersincharge.org/>



**City of Philadelphia Parking Violations Branch**  
P.O. Box 41818 Philadelphia, PA 19101  
1-888-591-3636  
[www.phila.gov/parking](http://www.phila.gov/parking)

## CIVIL RIGHTS

**Urban League of Philadelphia**  
(Offers counseling for default/foreclosure, pre-purchase and rentals.) 1100 Ludlow Street, WeWork 7 Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 985-3220 [info@urbanleaguephila.org](mailto:info@urbanleaguephila.org)  
[www.urbanleaguephila.org](http://www.urbanleaguephila.org)

## Local NAACP

**Philadelphia Branch NAACP**  
Catherine Hicks, President  
Unit# 2346, 4458B Germantown Ave., 19140  
(215) 278-2216  
**Media Area Branch NAACP**  
Varma Mitchell, President (610)-566-0541  
**Willow Grove NAACP**  
(215) 659-7400  
**Norristown Branch NAACP**  
P.O. Box 201, Norristown, PA 19401 (610) 994-4000  
**NAACP PA State Conference**  
P.O. Box 181, Glen Mills, PA 19342-0181  
(484)-636-9308  
**Yeadon Branch NAACP**  
Linda Ofinupebi, President  
P.O. Box 5514, Yeadon, PA 19050

## Anti-Defamation League

1500 Market St., Suite 2415 (West Tower)  
(215) 568-2223

## VOTER INFORMATION

**Commissioner Seth Bluestein**  
Rm. 132, City Hall (215) 686-3462/ 3467  
**The Committee of Seventy**  
123 S. Broad Street, Suite 2830, Philadelphia, PA 215-557-3600

## PHILADELPHIA STREETS DEPARTMENT

**Report a pothole** 311  
**Free dumping facilities in Philadelphia**  
(dump up to eight bags per household trash only):  
**South and Southwest –** 3033 S. 63rd St.  
**Roxborough and Northwest –** 320 Domino Ln.  
**Northeast –** 8401 State Rd  
**Port Richmond –** 3901 Delaware Ave.  
**Strawberry Mansion –** 2601 W Glenwood Ave.  
**West –** 5100 Grays Ave.

311- Find your trash collection day

Call the CVN officer in your police district to report illegal dumping

## Licenses and Inspections

1401 John F. Kennedy Blvd., 11th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 686-2463

## CLEAN AND SAFE STREETS

## Streets and Walkways Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP)

(215) 685-4279  
File a complaint about dumpster placement or appeal for a licensed dumpster near your home:  
(215) 686-2418

## Other sanitation violations

**Food disposal** (215) 685-7495  
**Rat complaints** (215) 685-9000  
**Mosquito complaints** (215) 685-9000  
**Animal management complaints** (267) 385-3800  
**Food and restaurant complaints** (215) 685-7495  
**Report abandoned property** 311  
**Request a recycling bin** (215) 686-5444

## Streets Lighting Division

To report defective streetlights.  
Call (215) 686-5560 weekdays between the hours of 8am to 5pm.  
Call 311 on weekends between the hours of 8am to 5pm.

## Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee (PMBC)

2601 W. Glenwood Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19121 (215) 685-3971

## PUBLIC SAFETY

**Abandoned Vehicle Unit**  
4000 N. American St.  
(215) 685-9500  
24-hour hotline: (215) 683-CARS

**Operation Safe Streets, Philadelphia Police Department**  
Narcotics Bureau  
5301 Tacony St., Building 110, Box 113  
(215) 685-1138

**Narcotics Bureau**  
Narcotics Intelligence Squad (215) 685-1137  
Narcotics Strike Force (215) 685-1107

## Narcotics Field Units

North: (215) 685-2475  
South: (215) 685-4135  
East: (215) 685-1006

## Roll Call Complaints

District Attorney's Office  
Attn: Edgar Jaramillo  
Public Nuisance Task Force  
1421 Arch St. (215) 686-5819  
To report non-emergency neighborhood concerns.

**Philadelphia Police Department**  
[www.ppdonline.org](http://www.ppdonline.org)

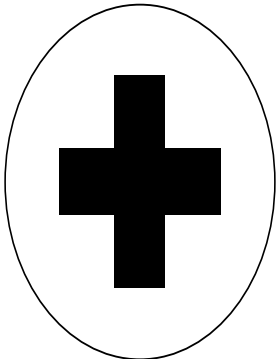
**Snow Emergency** [www.phila.gov](http://www.phila.gov) for a list of snow routes. (215) 686-SNOW

## Permits

**Request a demonstration permit**  
Pedro A. Ramos, managing director  
(215) 686-3480  
**Highway Division's Right of Way Unit**  
MSB, 1401 J.F.K. Blvd, Rm. 940  
(215) 686-5501,02  
**Main streets** (215) 686-3488.  
**Parades** (215) 683-2489  
**Deadlines and forms at**  
[www.phila.gov/streets/blockparty.html](http://www.phila.gov/streets/blockparty.html)  
**Block Captain Registration** (215) 685-3981

## HEALTH CARE

**Chestnut Hill Hospital**  
Outpatient Surgical Center  
8835 Germantown Ave. (215) 242-5353  
**Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**  
34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard  
(215) 590-1000  
**Eagleville Hospital**  
100 Eagleville Rd., Eagleville, PA (610) 539-6000  
**Albert Einstein Medical Center**  
5501 Old York Road (215) 456-7890  
**Fox Chase Cancer Center**  
333 Cottman Ave. (888) 369-2427  
**Jefferson Frankford Hospital**  
4900 Frankford Ave. (215) 831-2000  
**Friends Hospital**  
4641 Roosevelt Boulevard (215) 831-4600  
**Jefferson Methodist Hospital**  
2301 S. Broad St. (215) 952-9000  
**Pennsylvania Hospital**  
800 Spruce St. (215) 316-5151  
**Presbyterian Medical Center**  
51 N. 39th St. (215) 662-8000  
**Roxborough Memorial Hospital**  
5800 Ridge Ave. (215) 483-9900  
**St. Christopher's Hospital for Children**  
160 E. Erie Ave. (215) 427-5000  
**Temple University Hospital**  
3401 N. Broad St. (215) 707-2000  
**Thomas Jefferson University Hospital**  
111 S. 11th St. (215) 955-6000  
**University of Pennsylvania Hospital**  
3400 Spruce St. (215) 662-4000



## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**Lead Poisoning Prevention** (215) 685-2797  
**PECO** (800) 841-4141  
**PGW** (215) 235-1212  
**Philadelphia Water Dept.** (215) 685-6300  
**Poison Control Center** (215) 386-2100  
**Fire and other safety emergencies** Dial 9-1-1  
**National Response Center** (Oil spills, chemical or biological terrorism) 1-800-424-8802  
**American Red Cross of Southeastern PA**  
2221 Chestnut St. (215) 299-4000  
**Salvation Army Eliza Shirley House**  
(Overnight Intake for Homeless Women and Children, 4 p.m. - 6 a.m.)  
1320 Arch St. ((215) 568-5111  
**Adult Protective Services Hotline**, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
(Abused, neglected, exploited adults 18-59)  
(215) 686-5671  
**Emergency Shelter and Services for Homeless Women and Children**, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
715 N. Broad St. (215) 787-2887  
Weekends - 1430 Cherry St.  
**Office of Emergency Shelter and Services**  
(215) 686-7175  
**National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women**  
800-799-7233  
**Women in Transition**  
(215) 564-5301  
**Women Against Abuse**  
(215) 386-1280  
**Women Organized Against Rape (WOAR)**  
(215) 985-3333  
**Dept. of Public Health**  
1101 Market St., Suite 840 (215) 686-5000  
**Philadelphia Corporation for Aging Older Adult Protective Services Senior Hotline**  
(215) 765-9040  
**Child Abuse Line**  
1-800-932-0313 (215) 683-6100  
**Youth in Crisis Covenant House of Philadelphia**  
31 E Armat St. [www.covenanthousepa.org](http://www.covenanthousepa.org)  
(215) 951-5411  
**Youth Emergency Services (YES)**  
(215) 787-0633  
**Department of Human Services**  
(215) 683-4347  
**Suicide Prevention Hotline**  
(215) 685-6440  
**Mental Health Association of Greater Philadelphia**  
3119 Spring Garden St. (215) 243-0550  
**Survivors of Suicide for those who lost someone to suicide**  
(215) 545-2242  
**Black Family Services**  
3801 Market St. (215) 662-0533  
**WIC General Information**  
1-800-942-9467  
**AIDS Activities Coordinating Office**  
(215) 685-5600, (800) 985-AIDS  
**Community AIDS Hotline**  
(215) 985-2437  
**Lutheran Settlement House**  
1340 Frankford Ave. (215) 426-8610  
**Choice Sexual Health Hotline**  
(bilingual hotline) (215) 985-3300  
**Homeless Outreach Coordination Center (Project H.O.M.E.)**  
(215) 232-7272  
**Heat Crisis Hotline**  
(215) 686-2590  
**Office of Mental Health**  
24 hours (215) 685-0400  
**Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline**  
24 hours (866) 723-3014  
**Bilingual Domestic Violence Project**,  
(215) 763-8870



Harold Frye, co-founder of psychology practice, dies at 76

James Jackson  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Harold Frye, who co-founded a Philadelphia psychology practice that served the community for over 30 years, died on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. He was 76.

He was born on Aug. 29, 1947, in Harrisburg to the late Leslie and Leona Frye.

Frye was affectionately known as Rusty by family members and friends. He moved to Philadelphia at age 5 with his father and stepmother, Edith, following his parents' divorce.

He was educated in the Philadelphia public school system and was an academic and athletic standout at Germantown High School.

In 1966, during the Vietnam era, he joined the



Harold Frye

Army. After three years of active duty, he worked for a short time in the Veterans Administration before going back to Harrisburg.

As the first Black probation officer in Dauphin County, he knocked down boundaries while also spending nine more years

in the Army Reserves. His active participation in the VFW demonstrated his lifetime dedication to supporting other veterans.

Frye studied psychology, earning a bachelor's degree from Antioch University, a master's degree from Bowie State University and a doctorate from Southwest University. His distinguished career in mental health began at Hahnemann University's Department of Psychiatry and flourished over the years.

In 1978, he married Lois Gail Forrester.

His career took off when he oversaw many outpatient mental health programs in Philadelphia and provided consultation for Head Start programs.

Along with Dr. Anita Bell, he co-founded a prosperous

private group psychology practice in 1986 that provided over 30 years of community service. He was also an adjunct faculty member in the graduate psychology program at Alvernia University.

He was a charter member of the Abington Ambler Alumni Chapter and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He belonged to the Pyramid Temple Shriners, the Elks, and the Free and Accepted Masons (in every house).

Seeing his kids, Craig and Leslee, blossom into accomplished adults and pursue fulfilling jobs in mental health support brought him much delight. He cheered on his grandson, Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young, as he played football with evident delight and excitement.

Frye enjoyed playing tennis and football in a community league, as well as informal games of pool and table tennis. He was enthusiastic about boating, which he shared with his daughter Leslee.

"Dr. Harold 'Rusty' Frye's life was a shining example of faith, love and service," his family said in a tribute. "As a veteran, psychologist, educator and family man, he touched lives with his wisdom, kindness and infectious laughter."

"His legacy lives on through the countless individuals he guided, the community he enriched, and the family he cherished," the tribute continued. "Rusty's journey on earth may have ended, but his spirit of love, generosity and faith will forever inspire those who had

the privilege of knowing him.

He was preceded in death by his stepsister, Tina.

In addition to his children Craig and Leslee and grandson Bryce, he is survived by his wife Lois; siblings, K.M. Byam-Brown (Beth) and Barbara Frye; children, Patrice Council (Jeffrey) and Michelle Frye; daughter-in-law, Julie; grandchildren, Patton, Byron, Naseer, Jeffery and Jasmine; and step-siblings, Edith, Carolyn and Bobby.

Services were held on Friday, June 14, at New Bethel A.M.E. Church of Germantown.

Beckett-Brown & Hodges Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

[jjackson@phillytrib.com](mailto:jjackson@phillytrib.com)  
215-893-5719

Ron Simons, Tony Award-winning Broadway producer, dies at 63

Mark Kennedy

NEW YORK — Ron Simons, an actor who turned into a formidable screen and stage producer, winning four Tony Awards and having several films selected at the Sundance Film Festival, has died. He was 63.

SimonSays Entertainment, his New York-based production company said Simons died Wednesday, June 12, 2024, but gave no cause or other details.

"It is with heavy hearts that we share the unexpected passing of our beloved, blessed, and highly favored friend, Ronald Keith Simons," the production company wrote in a statement on Facebook.

Simons won Tonys for

producing "Porgy and Bess," with Norm Lewis and Audra McDonald, "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," starring Jefferson Mays, "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," with Sigourney Weaver, and "Jitney," with John Douglas Thompson.

He also co-produced "Hughie," with Forest Whitaker, "The Gin Game," starring Cicely Tyson and James Earl Jones, "Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations," an all-Black production of "A Streetcar Named Desire," the revival of "for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf" and the original work "Thoughts of a Colored Man."

In 2022, after the first full

season since the death of George Floyd reignited a conversation about race and representation in America, Simons was pleased to see Broadway offer one of its most diverse Tony slates yet.

"I can guarantee you I have not seen this many people of color represented across all categories of the Tony Awards," he told The Associated Press. "I was so uplifted and impressed by that."

On the film side, Simons produced "Night Catches Us," with Kerry Washington, Anthony Mackie and Wendell Pierce, "Gun Hill Road," with Esai Morales and Judy Reyes, "Blue Caprice," starring Isaiah Washington and Tequan Richmond, and "Mother of George," with Danai Gurira.

Simons, who earned a

bachelor's degree from Columbia College, an MBA from Columbia Business School and an MFA from the University of Washington, was a product manager at Microsoft when he decided to change his life and pursue a career in entertainment.

He began as an actor, appearing in regional theaters including Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival and the Classical Theatre of Harlem.

He was in the films "27 Dresses" and "Mystery Team," as well as on the small screen in "The Resident," "Law & Order," "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" and "Law & Order: SVU."

The Associated Press



Director Ron Simons poses for a portrait during the 2011 Sundance Film Festival on Jan. 23, 2011, in Park City, Utah. Simon, an actor who turned into a formidable screen and stage producer, winning four Tony Awards and having several films selected at the Sundance Film Festival, has died. He was 63. — AP PHOTO/VICTORIA WILL, FILE

Kevin Campbell, former English soccer star, trailblazer, dies at 54



Kevin Campbell in 1993. — ALLSPORT UK/GETTY IMAGES VIA CNN NEWSOURCE

Issy Ronald

Former Arsenal player Kevin Campbell has died aged 54 after a "short illness," the Premier League club announced on Saturday.

Campbell played 228 times for Arsenal in the 1980s and 1990s, winning the English First Division title (the predecessor to the Premier League), the FA Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup with the North London club.

He later moved to Nottingham Forest and Everton, where he became the club's first Black captain and a fan favorite, especially for his remarkable record of scoring nine goals in five games to help ensure the Toffees avoided relegation from the Premier League in the 1998/99 season.

Tributes have poured in from former teammates, with Wayne Rooney — who played with Campbell at Everton — saying he was "devastated to hear the news."

"Kev was a great teammate but more importantly a brilliant person who helped me a lot in my early years," the former England and Manchester United striker said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

He had spells at West Bromwich Albion and Cardiff City before retiring from soccer in 2007 and embarking on a media career as a pundit.

Born in London, Campbell grew up supporting Arsenal and joined the club's academy aged 15 where his knack for goal scoring was quickly established.

He later formed a close

partnership with fellow forward Ian Wright and the two men proved integral to Arsenal's historic 1992-93 season in which it became the first club to win the FA Cup and League Cup double.

Wright on Saturday posted several pictures on social media of the two of them.

Such was Campbell's popularity at Arsenal that "he remained a dear and cherished friend to many at the club, always maintaining the close links that began in his very early days at Highbury," the Gunners said in a statement.

Similarly at Everton, he became "one of the most popular men to ever wear the royal blue jersey," the club said in a statement.

Meanwhile, former Arsenal captain Tony Adams said on X: "Super Kev: a goal

machine, a giant of a man, with an even bigger heart.

"An intensely private and truly wonderful human being. I'm devastated for his loved ones, and all of us. Love you Super Kev, Skipper."

Campbell's 24-year-old son Tyrese thanked those paying tribute for "the outpouring of love" that had followed his father's death.

"The pain of this is indescribable and as a son you look at your dad as invincible. He is my idol, the one who I wanted to be when I grew up," he said on Instagram Stories.

"He was the life and soul of every party and room he blessed, a one-in-a-million person that was loved by everyone. A special, special person. I'll miss you Dad."

CNN

Memorial held, best friend arrested after teen fatally shot

Samantha Sosa  
Ruben Rosario  
Jordan Segundo

FLORIDA CITY, Florida — Devastated loved ones came

together in Florida City to remember and pay tribute to a 15-year-old boy who was shot and killed by a young man described by the accused gunman's family as his best friend.

7News cameras on Sunday evening captured candles lit in memory of Damarion Bailey.

"He didn't deserve this. He was 15 years old, just turned

15," said a family member who attended the memorial.

Family members described the teen as a sweet and quiet kid who was getting ready to start his freshman year of high school.

Bailey's mother took in the show of support on a somber Father's Day, as dozens of loved ones released balloons with messages on them.

"I thank God for all the support ... to let him know we didn't forget about him," she said.

According to Miami-Dade Police, the shooting that claimed Bailey's life happened along Northwest 13th Street, near Fourth Avenue, just after 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Officers arrested 18-year-old Jeron Smith. Detectives said he admitted to pulling the trigger.

According to his arrest report, Smith and Bailey were sitting outside talking when two men on bicycles rode up to them.

It's unclear why, but police said Smith started to shoot, and as he was firing, Bailey was shot in the head.

The report states the other



A memorial for Damarion Bailey, 15, who was fatally shot Sunday. — WSVN VIA CNN NEWSOURCE

two people dropped their bikes and ran away.

Bailey was pronounced dead at the scene.

Smith's grandmother spoke with 7News on Sunday. She said she knows why her grandson opened fire.

"They were trying to defend one another," she said.

The sudden loss of Bailey has left the suspect's grandmother heartbroken.

"Him and my grandson were best friends. They've been best friends ever since he was a little boy coming

up," she said. "They've been the best of friends. What happened? I don't know."

As Smith remains in jail, his grandmother and her family set up a small memorial where Bailey died.

"He's the sweetest kid you'll ever want to meet, real sweet," said Smith's grandmother. "Everyone talked highly about him. I loved him just like he was my own child."

Smith is being charged with second-degree murder.

WSVN/CNN

Death leaves a heartache  
no one can heal,  
Love leaves a memory  
no one can steal.

Visit [PhillyTrib.com](http://PhillyTrib.com)'s  
obituary section to leave a  
lasting message of sympathy.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## HELP WANTED GENERAL

### Philadelphia Tribune Account Executive

**About The Company:** The Philadelphia Tribune is a prestigious, multi-media company and the nation's oldest, continuously published African American newspaper. The company also publishes PhillyTrib.com and Tribune Magazines as well as producing events of interest that impact the African American community.

**Job Summary:** We have a unique opportunity for highly motivated sales professionals, who can drive sales through networking, creating referral partnerships, cultivating relationships and creative marketing. This individual will represent The Philadelphia Tribune and its newspaper, magazine and digital products in the Greater Philadelphia region.

In your role, you will report directly to the Director of Advertising and Marketing and work with a dynamic team of sales professionals. You will be representing a newspaper of unprecedented authority within the region's African American community.

#### Job Requirements:

- Establish new relationships with national, regional, and local advertisers who can benefit from Tribune products and services.
- Meet monthly, quarterly, and annual revenue goals.
- Possess a valid driver's license and an insured motor vehicle.

#### Desired Qualifications:

- Must have high energy and demonstrated passion for selling.
- Possess excellent presentation skills.
- Familiar with all phases of the sale cycle, from prospecting to closing.
- Previous sales experience highly desired.
- Experience working with advertising agencies and multicultural communities is a plus.

Qualified candidates should send their resume and cover letter to: Human Resources, The Philadelphia Tribune, 520 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 or fax: (215) 735-3612 or email to: [humanresources@phillytrib.com](mailto:humanresources@phillytrib.com). EOE

### Assistant Business Office Manager

The Philadelphia Tribune, an award-winning African-American newspaper, seeks a highly organized, detailed oriented Assistant Business Office Manager to supervise the general functions in the business office including maintaining the general ledger, reconciliation of accounts payroll, and account payables and receivables.

#### Primary responsibilities to include but not limited to:

- Maintaining the general ledger and preparation of the monthly trial balance
- Processing accounts payables/receivables and via ADP system
- Processing vendor payments/T&E reports.
- Reconciliation of accounts on weekly basis
- Ensure compliance with federal, state and local tax reporting requirements
- Maintain records of financial transactions through verifying and posting
- Payroll Timecard Processing
- Organizing financial information
- Administrative Support

#### Requirements:

- Associates Degree in Accounting (minimum)
- Understand basic accounting procedures
- Have fast, accurate data entry skills
- Strong Oral and written communications skills with vendors and advertising customers
- Understanding of US GAAP
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, specifically, Microsoft Word and Excel

Qualified candidates should send resume, cover letter, and relevant work samples to: Human Resources, Philadelphia Tribune, 520 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 or fax: (215) 735-3612 or email to: [humanresources@phillytrib.com](mailto:humanresources@phillytrib.com).

### Home Delivery Manager

The Philadelphia Tribune, an award-winning African-American newspaper, seeks a motivated, energetic Home Delivery Manager for all home delivery activities including distribution, retention, customer service and penetration levels within a designated geographic area. Proven management experience in newspaper circulation distribution is desired.

The successful candidate must have a general knowledge of the Philadelphia region, a reliable vehicle, registration and automobile insurance. In addition, the ideal candidate must be customer service focused, team oriented, and self-motivated.

Qualified candidates should send a resume and three references to: Human Resources, Philadelphia Tribune, 520 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 or fax: (215) 735-3612 or email to: [humanresources@phillytrib.com](mailto:humanresources@phillytrib.com).

## HELP WANTED GENERAL

### ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

**Job Type:** Part-Time

**Company Benefits:**  
Health Insurance Including Dental and Vision  
401k and Profit Sharing Programs  
Paid Time Off  
Credit Union  
Employee Assistance Program  
Paid Life, Short and Long-Term disability insurance

**About The Company:** Since 1884 our mission has been to provide timely and compelling news that is informative and relevant to the African-American community. The Philadelphia Tribune Media Group is an award-winning, multi-media company and the nation's oldest, continuously published African American newspaper. The company also publishes print and digital versions of the Philadelphia Tribune, various community focused supplements and as well as producing events of interest that impact the African American community.

**Job Summary:** We have a unique opportunity for a highly organized, detailed oriented administrative secretary that will report directly to the President and Chief Executive Officer.

This individual will perform high-level secretarial and administrative support of a confidential nature including formatting reports and maintaining databases.

You will be representing a newspaper with an unprecedented legacy within the region's African-American community and also played a significant role in some of the most pivotal events within the last 100 years in African and American history.

#### Job Requirement:

- Performs secretarial and administrative assignments of a confidential nature
- Composes correspondence for internal and external communications
- Routine typing, editing, formatting reports and documents
- Performs mail merges using Excel spreadsheets
- Filing documents, as well as entering data and maintaining databases
- Observe the best business practices and etiquette
- Dress in business attire

#### Desired Qualifications:

- Formal qualification in office administration, secretarial work or related training
- Must be proficient with Microsoft Office Word and Excel
- Possess effective communication skills
- Possess excellent presentation skills

Qualified candidates should send their resume and cover letter to: Human Resources, The Philadelphia Tribune Media Group, 520 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 or email: [humanresources@phillytrib.com](mailto:humanresources@phillytrib.com) or fax: 215.735.3612. EOE

### General Assignment Reporter

**Job Type:** Independent Contractor/Freelance Reporter

**About The Company:** Since 1884 our mission has been to provide timely and compelling news that is informative and relevant to the African-American community. The Philadelphia Tribune Media Group is an award-winning, multi-media company and the nation's oldest, continuously published African American newspaper. The company also publishes print and digital versions of the Philadelphia Tribune, various community focused supplements and as well as producing events of interest that impact the African American community.

**Job Summary:** The Philadelphia Tribune Media Group, an award-winning African-American newspaper, is seeking energetic and creative reporters looking to cover hard news and features in the Philadelphia area and surrounding suburbs.

You will be representing a newspaper with an unprecedented legacy within the region's African-American community and also played a significant role in some of the most pivotal events within the last 100 years in African and American history.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

- Gathers information by using sources, tips, press releases etc.
- Performs research through interviews, public records and other sources
- Verifies facts to assure accuracy in reporting
- Performs other duties as may be described

#### Desired Qualifications

- Degree in Journalism or related field with a minimum of 3 years newspaper experience preferred
- Good News Judgment, accuracy and the ability to meet deadlines
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications
- Excellent communication skills
- Knowledge of AP Style
- Must be detailed oriented, self-motivated and have the ability to handle multiple shifting priorities
- Possess excellent presentation skills
- Must have a driver's license and have access to an automobile

Qualified candidates should send their resume and cover letter to: Human Resources, The Philadelphia Tribune Media Group, 520 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 or email: [humanresources@phillytrib.com](mailto:humanresources@phillytrib.com) or fax: 215.735.3612. EOE

## HELP WANTED GENERAL

### DRIVERS NEEDED

The Philadelphia Tribune Newspaper is looking for a motivated individual that is interested in earning \$285 per week distributing our newspaper to stores, newsstands and vendors three days a week (Tuesday, Friday and Sunday) in our West Philadelphia area.

**General requirements** are a dependable vehicle, valid driver's license and registration, automobile insurance, must be reliable and self-motivated.

**Qualified individuals should contact the Circulation Department at (215) 893-5786.**

## LEGAL NOTICES

Keystone Academy Charter School ("KACS") Attention: Food Service Management Companies KACS is requesting proposals for school food service management services. FSMCs and/or their representatives may submit proposals to:

**Keystone Academy Charter School**  
C/O Santilli & Thomson  
4 Greentree Ctr. 601 Route 73 N., Ste 302  
Marlton, NJ 08053

A mandatory Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled for June 12th, 2024, at 2:00 PM at 4521 Longshore Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19135. A walk-through meeting will take place shortly after. All proposals must be submitted no later than 11:00 AM on June 28th, 2024. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to MBACS and be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal. Inquiries can be addressed to [mthomson@s-tmail.com](mailto:mthomson@s-tmail.com)

In the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Orphans' Court Division, Estate of Mary Levins, deceased, O.C. No. 241DE of 2024: Notice is hereby given that on February 29, 2024, a Petition for Determination of Title to Decedent's Interest in Real Estate Pursuant to 20 Pa.C.S.A. § 3546 was filed to adjudge title to the interest of Mary Levins, deceased, in the real estate located at 5716 Rodman Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143 is in Petitioner, Denise Levins. By order of The Honorable Ramy I. Djerassi, a hearing on this matter will take place in-person on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 2:00pm at Court Room 414, City Hall, 1400 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19107. If no objections are filed within twenty (20) days of this notice, then the relief requested may be granted.

## ESTATE NOTICES

### ESTATE OF MARIE ABRAMS, DECEASED

Late of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to

Brian P. Abrams  
1813 North Sheridan Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Or

Corinne DiDomenico  
250 Scotch Bush Road  
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Want fast cash? Our Classified advertisers get great results. If you have merchandise to sell, place a classified ad.

## ESTATE NOTICES

### ESTATE OF ANN PARYLAK, AKA ANN C. PARYLAK, DECEASED

Late of City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the above estate have been granted the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment, and those having legal claims to present the same without delay to:

Executrix: Amy Parylak  
c/o Mazullo & Murphy, P.C.  
2003 Lower State Road, Suite 120  
Doylestown, PA 18901

Attorney: Kevin J. Murphy, Esquire  
Mazullo & Murphy, P.C.  
2003 Lower State Road, Suite 120  
Doylestown, PA 18901

## LEGAL NOTICES

### ESTATE OF CARL EDMOND MCALLISTER, SR., DECEASED

Late of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

LETTERS of Administration on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned Co-Administrators: MICHELLE DENISE MCALLISTER, RONALD MATTHEW MCALLISTER and CARL E. MCALLISTER, JR., who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to the above Co-Administrators

Or to Attorney at:

Rosalind M. Plummer, Esquire  
500 E. Washington Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19144-1011

### ESTATE OF HOWARD EUGENE BROOKS, DECEASED

Late of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to

Judann O. Taylor, Administratrix  
P.O. Box 33074  
Philadelphia, PA 19142

### ESTATE OF WALTER PATRICK DUNLEAVY, A/K/A WALTER DUNLEAVY, DECEASED

Late of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to

Susan Barrett  
2757 Eddington Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19137

### ESTATE OF SHEILA BARNHILL, DECEASED

Letters of Administration on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned who requests all persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the decedent to make known the same, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to:

Kenneth Barnhill, Executor  
c/o Leonard R. Parks, Esquire  
1301 S. Broad Street, Suite 200  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

# Wall Street rises toward more records

Stan Choe

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks are rising toward more records in quiet trading Monday ahead of what could be a quiet, holiday-shortened week.

The S&P 500 was 0.6% higher in afternoon trading and on track to close above its all-time high set on Thursday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 108 points, or 0.3%, as of 12:52 p.m. Eastern time. The Nasdaq composite was adding 0.7% to its own record.

Autodesk jumped 6.5% for one of the market's biggest gains after after an investment firm said it will try to delay the software company's annual meeting so that it can nominate new directors for the board. Starboard Value also outlined how it says Autodesk

hasn't performed as well financially as it should have. In response, Autodesk said it will review Starboard's suggestions but added that it has "a clear strategy that is working."

Chip company Broadcom rose 4.6% to add to gains from last week after it reported better profit than expected and said it would undergo a 10-for-one stock split to make its price more affordable. It followed Nvidia, the company that's become the poster child of Wall Street's frenzy around artificial-intelligence technology and just executed a similar split.

Broadcom was one of the strongest forces pushing the S&P 500 upward, along with a 2.2% rise for Apple and 3.9% jump for Tesla.

They were helping to offset weakness caused by rising

Treasury yields in the bond market. The climb in yields erased some of the slack created last week when better-than-expected reports on inflation raised hopes that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates later this year.

This upcoming week has few top-tier economic reports for the United States, outside of Tuesday's update on how much customers are spending at U.S. retailers and Friday's preliminary look at the state of U.S. business activity. Markets will also be closed Wednesday for the Juneteenth holiday.

A report on Monday said manufacturing in New York state is still contracting, though not by as much as economists expected. Manufacturing has been one of the areas hardest hit by the Federal Reserve's zeal to keep

its main interest rate at the highest level in more than two decades.

The Fed is trying to hold rates high for long enough to slow the economy and snuff out high inflation, but it wants to cut rates and reverse the momentum before the slow-down can evolve into a painful recession.

High interest rates hurt all kinds of investments, and they tend to hit some areas particularly hard. Real-estate stocks, for example, can struggle when high rates make conditions tougher for the industry and draw income-seeking investors away from them and toward bonds.

Real-estate investment trusts in the S&P 500 fell 0.8% for the worst loss among the 11 sectors that make up the index. Close behind was a

Inflation Reduction Act had enabled increased oversight and greater awareness of the practice.

"These tax shelters allow wealthy taxpayers to avoid paying what they owe," IRS commissioner Danny Werfel said.

Due to previous years of underfunding, the IRS had cut back on the auditing of wealthy individuals and the shifting of assets among partnerships and companies became common.

The IRS says filings for large pass-through businesses used for the type of tax avoidance in the guidance increased 70% from 174,100 in 2010 to 297,400 in 2019. However, audit rates for these businesses fell from 3.8% to 0.1% in the same time frame.

Treasury said in a statement announcing the new guidance that there is an estimated \$160 billion gap between what the top 1% of earners likely owe in taxes and what they pay.

Miles Johnson, a senior attorney adviser and partnership tax specialist at the Tax Law Center at NYU Law, said "these transactions effectively make income disappear from the tax system by creating depreciation deductions or other tax reductions that don't reflect any true economic cost."

He said the proposed rule and guidance shows that the IRS wants to stop these sorts of transactions "by eliminating their tax benefits and better identifying them to the IRS as without substance."

Monday's announcement is part of the IRS's ongoing effort to zero in on high-wealth tax cheats who manipulate the tax code or don't pay their taxes at all.

Initiatives announced in the past year have included pursuing people and businesses that improperly deduct personal flights on corporate jets and collecting back taxes from delinquent millionaires.

The IRS plans to raise audit rates on companies with assets above \$250 million to 22.6% in 2026, from an 8.8% rate in the tax year 2019. It also plans to increase audit rates by tenfold on large complex partnerships with assets over \$10 million.

The Associated Press

# IRS wants to end another major tax loophole for the wealthy

Josh Boak  
Fatima Hussein

WASHINGTON — The IRS plans to end a major tax loophole for wealthy taxpayers that could raise more than \$50 billion in revenue over the next decade, the U.S. Treasury Department says.

The proposed rule and guidance announced Monday includes plans to essentially stop "partnership basis shifting" — a process by which a business or person can move assets among a series of related parties to avoid paying taxes.

Biden administration officials said after evaluating the practice that there are no economic grounds for these transactions, with Deputy



**A sign for the Internal Revenue Service building in Washington, May 4, 2021. The IRS plans to end another major tax loophole that could raise more than \$50 billion in revenue over the next decade, the U.S. Treasury says.** — AP PHOTO/PATRICK SEMANSKY

Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo calling it "really just a shell game." The officials said the additional IRS funding provided through the 2022



# Barkley announces plans to retire

Ben Golliver

With Warner Bros. Discovery engaged in ongoing media rights negotiations with the NBA, TNT commentator Charles Barkley announced Friday that he plans to retire from television broadcasting in 2025.

The 61-year-old Barkley, a Hall of Fame forward turned widely respected broadcaster, has been a mainstay on TNT since his retirement from the NBA in 2000. Mixing quick wit, sharp humor and fearless criticism, Barkley has teamed with host Ernie Johnson and commentators Shaquille O’Neal and Kenny Smith on the popular and influential “Inside the NBA” show.

The NBA has held negotiations with Disney, Warner Bros. Discovery, Amazon and NBC on its next media rights deal, which will begin after the 2024-25 season. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said this month that talks remain ongoing, but multiple reports have indicated Warner Bros. Discovery, the parent company of TNT, could lose its NBA rights for the first time since 1988.

“There has been a lot of noise around our network the last few months,” Barkley said. “I just want to say: I’ve talked to all the other networks, but I ain’t going nowhere other than TNT. But I have made the decision myself: no matter what happens, next year is going to be my last year on television. I just want to say thank you to my NBA family. You guys have been great to me. My heart is full of joy and gratitude. But I’m going to pass the baton at the end of next year. I hope the NBA stays with TNT. But, for me personally, I wanted you guys to hear from me.”

Barkley, who has hinted at the possibility of retirement for years, made the announcement on an NBA TV postgame show following the Dallas Mavericks’ 122-84 victory over the Boston Celtics in Game 4 of the NBA Finals.

“I’m not doing any more interviews,” he said. “Don’t y’all be calling me. I’m not talking about this again. I wanted to tell my TNT and NBA TV family that I’m not going to another network. I’m going to pass the baton to Jamal Crawford, Vince Carter or Steve [Smith].”

Barkley signed a contract extension with TNT in 2022 that reportedly gave him the opportunity to leave the network if it was unable to renew its media rights agreement with the NBA. As the media rights negotiations have dragged on for months, Barkley has repeatedly criticized

TNT’s leadership and expressed his support for the network’s rank-and-file employees, who remain in limbo.

“I want to say this because you guys are my family,” Barkley said. “I really love TNT, all the people who work here, and NBA Television. You guys have been great to me for 24 years. I just want to say thank you to my entire NBA family. I love you guys.”

The 67-year-old Johnson, who joined Turner Sports in 1989, said last month he would not leave TNT even if the network lost its NBA rights.

Silver said June 6 that the media rights negotiations are “incredibly complex” and that league staffers had been “literally working around the clock” to finalize new agreements.

“It’s complicated for several reasons,” Silver said. “One is the advent of new platforms, particularly streaming, and the interest of streaming companies, and then the traditional media companies also carrying our games on streaming platforms. It’s complicated with multiple partners all seeking similar assets. In many cases, just figuring out the right way to balance those games as they go to different partners. Then lastly, we tend to do long-term deals. We think that’s good for the stability of the league, but it means to a certain extent you’re trying to predict the future, which is of course impossible.”

The commissioner added that “Inside the NBA” has held a “special” role in the league’s community and that he enjoys “a close relationship with everyone who’s on that show.”

“On one hand, from the league standpoint, it’s fantastic to be liked and to be wanted and to have multiple suitors,” Silver said. “At the same time, it makes me uncomfortable that it’s zero sum, that at the end of the day there’s only going to be so many television packages, there’s only so many Finals games and playoff games and regular season games to distribute.

“I will say directly from me, to the people who seem to be most impacted right now, the folks at Turner Sports, I apologize that this has been a prolonged process, because I know they’re committed to their jobs. I know people who work in this industry. It’s a large part of their identity and their family’s identity, and no one likes this uncertainty. I think it’s on the league office to bring these negotiations to a head and conclude them as quickly as we can.”

The Washington Post



Teen players during training at the NBA Academy in Saly, Senegal, May 10, 2024. — THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTO/CARMEN ABD ALI

# The NBA nurtures its hoop dreams in Africa

Tania Ganguli

On an outdoor basketball court surrounded by seashell-scattered sand last month, a man coached a group of teenage girls through a drill. The staccato pounding of their dribbles alternated in the hot air with a tinnier sound in the distance: men hammering nails into wood while a bleating white billy goat looked on.

The coach, Abibou Sall, 34, instructed his players to dribble along the sideline, first with their left hands, then their right. Don’t look down at the ball, he told them, wanting the girls to learn to trust their hands.

Sall is a physical trainer for the Pikine Basket Club, which practices at the Jacques Chirac Center. About 600 children play basketball at this recreational center in Pikine, a suburb bordering Dakar. The youngest players, ages 6 to 7, are introduced to the game on mini hoops. The oldest are 18. Sall is also a die-hard fan of the NBA.

“I am passionate, I watch every game,” Sall said. “I never sleep,” he added jokingly.

It is a picture that would delight the NBA — a devotee of its league teaching basketball to youngsters on a continent in which it sees tremendous economic opportunity.

The NBA has been promoting basketball in Africa for more than 20 years, pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into the effort. The aim is to cultivate an immense potential fan base, the way it has in China, while also tapping into the rich talent pool on the continent.

Much of the league’s work is concentrated in Senegal, where it operates an academy for high-school-age players, an NBA Africa office and the headquarters of the Basketball Africa League. NBA Africa’s investors include former NBA players and former President Barack Obama. The Basketball Africa League, or BAL, was announced in 2019 with FIBA, the sport’s international governing body. Its first season was in 2021.

Although NBA Africa is not yet profitable, the investment seems to be producing results. Soccer may still be the king of sports on the continent, but basketball is becoming increasingly popular. People

throughout Africa play on local club teams and in after-school programs. The NBA has generated goodwill by building courts, libraries and homes; administering basketball camps and other development programs; and supporting gender equality. But some wonder about whether the support needed for basketball to flourish can be sustained.

“As much as we are investing in Africa, the opportunity is so enormous I worry that we’re under investing,” Adam Silver, the NBA commissioner, said in an interview. “There’s so much opportunity, but it’s not always easy to know how to deploy capital, which government you should be dealing with, who the honest brokers are. And so we’re learning as we go.”

Today, about 10% of NBA players are either African or have at least one parent from Africa. A vast majority of its players are African American.

The league is also conscious of population growth figures, which say that by 2050, 1 in 4 people on the planet will be African.

The league’s first African office opened in Johannesburg in 2010. Eleven years later, a second was opened in Dakar, followed by others in Lagos, Nigeria; Cairo; and Nairobi, Kenya. Investors and strategic partners including Obama were tapped in 2021 to help make NBA Africa a stand-alone entity that operated its offices and the BAL.

Beyond money, the NBA emphasized connection and expertise. Most investors in NBA Africa and the BAL either are African or have conducted business or humanitarian work in Africa.

Luol Deng, who played at Duke University and then spent 15 seasons in the NBA, was among the former players who invested. Deng, 39, was born in what is now South Sudan and fled with his family to Egypt as a child. He is the president of South Sudan’s basketball federation, which earned Africa’s automatic qualifying berth to this year’s Summer Olympics in Paris.

On a recent evening, Deng was in Dakar Arena, watching as the stands filled up with fans before a BAL game.

“I went from being a refugee in Egypt, never seen a basketball game, to being in the NBA,” he said. “So now imagine for these kids. This is in their backyard.”

With the BAL, the NBA accomplished something it couldn’t do in China: help establish a league that it could operate. The 12 teams in the league play in three conferences, which include the six champions from leagues in Angola, Egypt, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Tunisia. Six teams earned their spots this year through a qualifying tournament. Seeding games were played in Pretoria, South Africa; Cairo; and Dakar, with eight teams advancing to the playoffs in Kigali, Rwanda.

Amadou Gallo Fall, the president of the BAL, hopes that the league can one day become one of the best in the world. “We believe that when kids are exposed to basketball, if they have access, they’ll love it,” he said.

The NBA’s first official event on the continent was a Basketball Without Borders camp for teenagers in 2003. The league has since held Jr. NBA programs for younger children in 19 African countries and opened its NBA Academy in Senegal for elite high-school-age players from the continent.

“I’ve made a lot of friends, brothers, these guys here in the academy,” said Khaman Maluach, a 7-foot-2 center who will play for Duke University in North Carolina next season. “It’s very special.”

Silver said that it would be “a while” before the NBA’s ventures in Africa were profitable, and that the league was behind on its projections, in part because the BAL’s start was constrained by the coronavirus pandemic. But he said the league was achieving attendance and viewership goals.

And the NBA’s footprint does seem to be growing in Africa.

Aziz Sy, 34, grew up in Dakar and runs a business incubator. He started following the NBA as a child. As he watches companies and foreign governments try to establish themselves in Africa, he worries that some of them aren’t thinking enough about the challenges African people face.

The NBA, in his mind, has been different. “They’ve really come in and tried to understand the country, understand the people,” he said.

The New York Times



Charles Barkley — AP PHOTO/RICHARD SHOTWELL

# Boats cruise the Seine river for the Olympics’ opening ceremony rehearsal

Jerome Pugmire  
Tom Nouvian

PARIS — Curious onlookers gathered on bridges as dozens of boats snaked along the Seine river on Monday in a rehearsal for the Paris Olympics’ unique opening ceremony next month.

A total of 55 boats made the journey from Pont d’Austerlitz, named after a French military victory in 1805, to Pont d’Iéna, a stone’s throw from the Eiffel Tower, the nation’s most striking and best known landmark.

Officials are confident that the near four-hour ceremony will run like clockwork on July 26.



Barges cruise on the Seine river during a rehearsal for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games opening ceremony on Monday. — AP PHOTO/THOMAS PADILLA

“Six months ago we had like 10 minutes delay on the timing and today we are very close, almost to the second to our targets,” Thierry Reboul, the executive director for

ceremonies said. “So it is very satisfying. We’ve respected an extremely precise level of timing.”

On the day of the eagerly-awaited event, around

200 Olympic delegations will join the parade on more than 80 boats. They will make the journey from east to west, along a six-kilometer (3.7-mile) route which has become a major talking point — for its audacity as a unique open-air event and for its exposure to potential danger.

Security concerns led French President Emmanuel Macron to say in mid-April that the ceremony could shift to Stade de France if the threat level was too high. But Reboul said Monday that authorities are preparing for the big day as originally planned, with no alternatives being prepared at this stage.

The Associated Press