Black Girl Magic: Grand Champion Edition

Angel Allen and her prized steer, Butterscotch

Aldine ISD Student First African Woman to Receive Prestigious Honor in 61-Year History of Livestock Show

BY JEFFREY L. BONEY
Associate Editor

Nothing like a history-making moment! Angel Allen, a senior at Nimitz Senior High School, not only made school history, but she also made history in the Aldine Independent School District, becoming the first African American woman to have her prized steer, Butterscotch, receive the Grand Champion title in the 61-year history of Aldine ISD Livestock Show.

Angel raised Butterscotch for nine months in preparation for the 61st Annual Aldine ISD Livestock Show competition, and as a result of her efforts, she earned the highest title that a Future Farmers of America (FFA) student can receive.

All the proceeds that are made during the Aldine ISD Sale of Champions auction go directly to the students, who typically use those dollars to attend the college or university of their choice.

Congratulations Angel Allen, on making Houston proud, and for allowing us to celebrate your history-making accomplishment during Black History Month!
When I tell you that you can count the number of African American commercial TV station owners in the U.S. on one hand, I mean it literally. There are only five – and I’m one of them. Less than 1% of the nation’s 1,400-plus commercial television stations are owned by African Americans – a shocking and shameful reality in a nation that purports to be the world’s example of a free and diverse press. Minority media ownership is a fundamental part of our commitment to create and support an educated and well-informed society because it allows news and information to be portrayed by diverse voices. And more than 10 percent of the US population is “food insecure,” which means that they either skip meals, go hungry, or never eat. The poor have to scramble to eat, to afford medication, to find an affordable place to live. They have to watch their health insurance. And more than 10 percent of the US population is “food insecure,” which means that they either skip meals, go hungry, or never eat. The poor have to scramble to eat, to afford medication, to find an affordable place to live. They have to watch their health insurance.

Let’s Talk About It!

Everybody’s Got the Right to Live.

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX
As FreeAsWeWwe.com

More than 100,000 people crowded into the Church of the Epiphany, an Episcopal church in Washington, DC. They had gathered to hear Rev. William Barber, the dynamic and prophetic co-leader (with Rev. Liz Theoharis) of the Poor People’s Campaign.

Poverty is trauma. Poverty can be the source of enormous stress, and perhaps even some mental illnesses (though you don’t have to be impoverished to be depressed). Poverty or near-poverty impacts 140 million people, nearly half of whom are children. We won’t be silent anymore. Poverty is trauma. Poverty can be the source of enormous stress, and perhaps even some mental illnesses (though you don’t have to be impoverished to be depressed). Poverty or near-poverty impacts 140 million people, nearly half of whom are children. We won’t be silent anymore.

By some accounts, Dr. King was so appalled by the sight of food lines, he wrote, “We had come to Washington on June 20, 2020. With 45 state coordinating committees actively working in communities, Barber and his co-leader Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis called for a Poor People’s Campaign. We had gathered to hear Rev. William Barber, the dynamic and prophetic co-leader (with Rev. Liz Theoharis) of the Poor People’s Campaign.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Census 2020

FAQ: What are the race and ethnic categories on the census form?
Answer: Your racial choices are: (1) White; (2) Black or African American; (3) American Indian or Alaskan Native; (4) Asian – with numerous boxes as subsets; and (5) Some other race. The questionnaire also asks, separately, if the respondent is “of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin,” but instructs that, “For this census, Hispanic origin is not race.”

FAQ: What if I’m not White or Black? I’m Egyptian and my neighbor is from Iran.
Answer: Your racial choices are: (1) White; (2) Black or African American; (3) American Indian or Alaskan Native; (4) Asian – with numerous boxes as subsets; and (5) Some other race. The term still appeared on the 2010 decennial census, but on the 2020 form, the Office of Management and Budget, which makes the assigned identity group determinations for the census, decided to keep the same basic categories that were on the 2010 census form.

FAQ: So, if I’m MENA, what box best describes me?
Answer: MENA residents, and others, end up checking “Some other race,” the third-largest race category after White and Black or African American.

FAQ: What if I’m not White or Black? I’m Egyptian and my neighbor is from Iran.
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FAQ: What if I was born here, but my parents are from Africa?
Answer: Your racial choices are: (1) White; (2) Black or African American; (3) American Indian or Alaskan Native; (4) Asian – with numerous boxes as subsets; and (5) Some other race. The term still appeared on the 2010 decennial census, but on the 2020 form, the Office of Management and Budget, which makes the assigned identity group determinations for the census, decided to keep the same basic categories that were on the 2010 census form.

FAQ: What if I’m of mixed heritage? My parents are African American, but I
Answer: There is a lot of subjectivity involved in making these choices. For some, Black has come to mean anyone who is a descendant of the African diaspora, regardless of where they were born or live. One Somali man, a longtime resident and U.S. citizen, married an American woman who identified as Black. When asked how he describes his U.S.-born children, he said, “Well, now that I think about it, I guess they are African American.”

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As far as the Future of Black America Symposium, please visit www.futureofblackamericasympo-

-ization.org. For more information, contact the symposium organizers at 347-375-5385.

- evaluation of emerging health care technologies and trends for early-stage commercial litigants and nonprofit organizations.

- position of HealthCare Administrator at Sharon Furnishing Homes in Houston. (Job code: 04657).

- the solicitation in full at 713-518-4275, FAX: 281-885-1100, or email: hr@flightcentre.com/

- the pre-proposal conference for this project is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2020, at 10:00 am. The

- to Harris County Department of Education (HODES), is a Harris County employee. Please provide the following responses in response to the

- to the District Services Office, Level C1 of the District Administration Building, 1100 E. Taft,

- the District reserves the right to reject any proposal, or to accept the proposal that is most advantageous to the District.

- to the solicitation on or before 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. The

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In a 6-1 decision, the TSU Board of Regents voted to terminate the 12th president of the university, Dr. duct Lane, as an immediate act on or inform the Board about the allegations they were making him with the evidence and that is false and

Dr. Anthony Lane

As a statement released by the TSU Board of Regents, they voted to terminate

Dr. Lane based on an audit committee’s finding that Dr. Lane violated his contract including

missions.

Dr. Lane wasted no time responding within the 30 day timeframe, holding his own press

According to the termination letter, Dr. Lane was given “30 days to dispute any facts” and

According to Dr. Lane, from the document he provided in response, another primary area

Continued from page 20, Volume 3.

Records of Harris County, Texas.

An order was issued requiring the owner/lien holder to obtain a permit, and complete repairs

to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 13, Page 70 of the Map Records of Harris County,

An order was issued requiring the owner/lien holder to obtain a permit, and complete repairs

to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 9, Page 12 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas.

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Local News
By Forward Times Staff

Houston - Houston City Hall will be open to the public at 3 p.m. on February 26, 2020. To celebrate American History Month, Houston City Hall through March will feature an exhibit of photographer Earlie Hudnall, Jr. and the Fourth Ward of Houston, Texas. Known for its illustrious legacy and impeccable vocals, the Dillard Concert Choir is under the direction of internationally acclaimed lyric tenor Professor S. Carvin Davenport, who is in his 44th year as director. Each year, students from all over the country come together to form the Dillard University Concert Choir. Since 1935, Dillard’s Concert Choir has developed a brilliant and staggering reputation. In the past year, the Concert Choir received recognition from media outlets WFSU and WWJTV for their outstanding performances. In December, 2013 the Dillard University Choir was granted the honor of performing at the White House for then President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama during the Christmas Holiday season.

For its Kwanzaa Holiday concert, the Concert Choir performed selections such as Joy to the World and traditional Christmas melodies. The Dillard University Choir performed Children Go Where I Send Thee, arranged by Davenport. Dillard alumni, turned professor, Dr. Josie Singletary, performed a variety of solos for the Holiday Concert and was invited to audience members with her soprano vocal range, this spring.

For the spring tour, the Dillard University Concert Choir will perform signature selections such as Richard Carter’s Lift Every Voice and Sing. In Bright Mansions, and Withbeauty’s Battle Hymn of the Republic. The Dillard University’s Concert Choir is also set to go on tour in Dallas, Texas, and the Louisiana city of Shreveport this spring. Performances will take place on the following dates:

Dillard University is a small liberal arts University based in New Orleans that is nationally known and highly ranked as a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the nation. The choir tour serves to promote and support Dillard’s mission to develop what became the Global Positioning System (GPS) orbit in 1978.
Once upon a time in Washington, Congress enacted the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act that also created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). For the first time, a federal agency was charged to be the consumers’ financial cop on the beat. In its first four years, CFPB received 534,640 consumer complaints that led to $2.8 billion in restitution.

But now, under a different administration deregulation has swung the public policy pendulum in the other direction. A bold effort to benefit business and commerce focuses on growing customers, while taking the teeth out of consumer protection with the blessings of federal regulators.

Payday lenders are among the biggest beneficiaries of this policy about-face. Instead of a pendulum in the other direction. A bold effort to benefit business and commerce focuses on growing customers, while taking the teeth out of consumer protection with the blessings of federal regulators. Payday lenders peddling unaffordable loans cause particular harm to these communities, noted Graciela Aponte-Diaz, Director of Federal Campaigns with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL). “Payday lenders targeting communities that the banks are not serving with responsible products, offering loans the banks do not directly offer in their own branches. Similarly, car-title and insurance loans that use a personal vehicle as collateral are re-borrowed as average of eight times, with one of every five borrowers losing their car in repossession.

Fortunately for consumers, the need for protecting senior citizens and military families is the same. Nasser, testifying on behalf of the National Consumer Law Center. “Rent-a-bank schemes enable banks to help predatory lenders target communities that the banks are not serving with responsible products, offering loans the banks do not directly offer in their own branches. Similarly, car-title and insurance loans that use a personal vehicle as collateral are re-borrowed as average of eight times, with one of every five borrowers losing their car in repossession.

The measures would grant all consumers and inactive military the same protections now afforded active duty service men and women under the Military Lending Act (MLA). MLA was enacted with bipartisan support and imposes a 36% rate cap. Endorsed by several organizations including the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, NAACP, National Council of La Raza, and Glenn Grothman, the legislation is known as the Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act, H.R. 5050. An identical companion bill in the Senate, S. 2833, is led by Senators Jeff Merkley of Oregon and Ohio’s Sherrod Brown.

The Trump administration has done its part to deregulate predatory transactions. Stay tuned.
NEED HELP PAYING FOR YOUR INSULIN OR DIABETES CARE?

The Lilly Diabetes Solution Center may help lower out-of-pocket costs for people taking Lilly insulin who:

- are in the deductible phase of their high-deductible commercial insurance plan
- do not have insurance
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People who call the Lilly Diabetes Solution Center will be connected immediately with a representative who, after a confidential conversation and determining eligibility, can offer solutions based on each person’s circumstances.

Call 1-833-808-1234
9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET, Monday-Friday
“Hair Love,” the animated short directed by former NFL player Matthew A. Cherry and produced by Karen Rupert Toliver, took home the Academy award for Best Animated Short. Cherry explained in his acceptance speech that the film was made because it is his intention to, “normalize black hair” as it is “a very important issue.” He went on to explain that there needs to be “more representation” in animation as a whole. He used his moment on stage to talk about the CROWN Act (which disallows hair-based discrimination, be it style or texture). He acknowledged DeAndre Arnold, the black teen from Texas who had been suspended for having dreadlocks, who was in the Oscars audience as a guest. Cherry, who became the second former athlete to win an Academy Award behind Kobe Bryant, dedicated the win in Bryant’s honor saying that he hopes, “we all have a second act as great as his.” Toliver made history as the first black woman to win an Oscar in Animation.
Janet Jackson Announces Summer Tour

Janet Jackson will be hitting the road this summer with her new “Black Diamond World Tour.” The shows will feature music from a forthcoming album called Black Diamond, as well as “a special performance of Rhythm Nation 1814,” according to a press release. Jackson’s tour begins in June and will feature music from her entire career.

Ruth Carter Launches H&M Fashion Line

Designer Ruth Carter is launching her first fashion line right before Valentine’s Day through a partnership with H&M. The Academy Award-winning costume designer, who became the first black woman to win an Oscar last year for her work on Marvel’s Black Panther, will debut the fashion collection on February 14th.

Black Panther Costume Designer

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HIV/STI Testing & Treatment Locations

AIDS Foundation Houston Inc.
6200 Westpark Dr, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77057
713-423-6796

Bee Bury Learning Academy Inc.
9906 Bissonnet St, Suite 625
Houston, TX 77036
713-774-8800

Fecundation Latino Americano De Accion Social Inc. (FLAS)
6666 Harwin Dr., Suite 370
Houston, TX 77036
713-772-2336

Harris Health Systems
2015 Thomas St
Houston, TX 77009
713-488-1233

Website for mobile schedules: http://www.houstontx.gov/health/HIV-STD/mobile_clinic.html

Main Office - 832-393-4843
Mobile Clinic - 713-859-0853
(Wed – Fri, 6PM – 12AM)

Website for mobile schedules: http://www.houstontx.gov/health/HIV-STD/mobile_clinic.html

Avenue 360 Health & Wellness
2150 W 18th St, Ste.330
Houston, TX 77008
713-426-0027

Legacy Community Health Services
1415 California St
Houston, TX 77006
832-548-0044

Positive Efforts Inc.
7135 W. Tidwell Rd, Bldg. M Suite. #102
Houston, TX 77092
713-812-0044

St. Hope Foundation Inc.
6200 Savoy, Suite, 540
Houston, TX 77036
713-778-1300

Houston Health Department
8000 North Stadium Drive, 5th Floor
Houston, Texas 77054
health@houstontx.gov
Phone: 832-393-5010

Northside Health Center
5808 Schallier Rd.
Houston, TX 77093
832-393-9100

Sharpstown Health Services
6201 Bonhomme Rd, Suite 300
Houston, TX 77036
832-392-9800 or 9804

Sunnyside Health Center
4605 Wilmington St @ Cullen Blvd.
Houston, TX 77004
832-395-0055 or 0077

AIDS Foundation Houston Inc.
6200 Westpark Dr, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77057
713-623-6796

Bee Bury Learning Academy Inc.
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You’re Invited to an Open House

Join us for FUN, MUSIC & GIFTS

Partners in Primary Care Downtown East invites you to an Open House celebration! This Open House is your chance to tour our center, meet the Care Team and learn more about Senior-focused Primary Care.

The two-hour event will feature a live radio remote with DJs from Majic 102.1, plus food, gifts and more.

It will also be a great chance to see friends and meet like-minded people from the local area.

Visit PartnersInPrimaryCare.com/local-events for details.

Open House Event
Wednesday, February 12
11am – 1pm
• Tour our center
• Meet the staff
• Music, food & games
• Learn about senior-focused care

Partners in Primary Care
Downtown East
5104 Harrisburg Boulevard
Suite 800
Houston, TX 77011

Call 281-826-1085 to RSVP for the Open House.
Learn more at SeniorFocusedHouston.com

Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm

Partners in Primary Care is Medicare Advantage friendly!
We accept Aetna, Cigna, Humana, TexanPlus and WellCare of Texas Medicare Advantage plans.

Partners in Primary Care does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-877-320-2188 (TTY: 711).

注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請撥打 1-877-320-2188 (TTY: 711).

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The legacy continues


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Let The Fashions Begin, Inc. Presents $25k Check for Sickle Cell Research

By Jeffrey L. Bonsey
Associate Editor
Let The Fashions Begin, Inc., which held its 20th Annual Men of Substance Black Tie Gala last November to raise money for Texas Children’s Hospital Sickle Cell Center, under the direction of Dr. Alex George, recently presented a $25k check to Texas Children’s Hospital.


The mission of Let The Fashions Begin is to accelerate the discovery of a total cure for sickle cell disease. The event has successfully raised over a quarter of a million dollars for sickle cell research over the past several years. Serving nearly 500 children from the Houston area alone, Texas Children’s Sickle Cell Center offers the services of a multidisciplinary team, including board-certified pediatric Hematologists, pediatric nurse’s practitioners and social workers, all with expertise in sickle cell disease. Through its affiliation with Baylor College of Medicine, the Center also assists patients in making the transition from pediatric to adult sickle cell care.

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FORWARD TIMES

By forward times staff

HISD Interim Superintendent Dr. Grenita Lathan receives award from HAABSE

The Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators (HAABSE) recently honored Houston Independent School District (HISD) Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan, as the 2020 recipient of its most prestigious award for educators and public servants who make significant contributions to the city’s diverse educational, cultural, and social heritage.

Dr. Lathan was presented with the award during a ceremony that took place this past Friday, Feb. 7 at the Bayou City Event Center.

The Elaine Bailey Heart of HAABSE award is an acknowledgment by the peers of the honoree, that the individual has made exemplary contributions to the educational profession and community.

HAABSE President Kweahenza Mensah said Dr. Lathan was selected because of her commitment to academia, her local, state, and national professional service, and her efforts to enhance the learning environment for Houston area students.

“To be recognized by your peers is always special because they have a clear understanding of the work, commitment and vision required to equip our children to realize their full potential and become global scholars,” said Dr. Lathan. “I am extremely honored to receive this award, and it’s a direct reflection of the important work HISD is doing to support every student.”
By: Grace Boateng

Midway Through the Season

The Rockets Make Some “Big” Changes

houston Forward Times February 12 - 18, 2020

11.2 points, 9.2 rebounds, 3.8 assists, 1.1 steals and 2.3 blocks. In 16 career starts, Bell has averaged 7.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 3.0 apg, and 1.6 bpg in 22.1 mpg while shooting 62.5% from the floor and 88.6% from the line.

Bell was a member of Golden State’s championship team in 2017-18 and averaged 1.3 minutes played against Cleveland in the NBA Finals while shooting 71.4% from the floor. For 16 minutes played in 32 career playoff games, Bell has averaged 1.0 ppg, 0.5 rpg, 0.3 apg, 0.3 spg, and 0.1 bpg.

Capela was the 25th overall pick by Houston in the 2014 NBA Draft. He appeared in 334 games with 274 starts as a Rocket while averaging 12.2 ppg, 9.7 rpg and 1.5 bpg. Capela finished second in voting for the NBA’s Most Improved Player award in 2017-18.

Green rejoined the Rockets December of 2017 after a brief stint with the team in 2007-08. A Houston native, Green had the most 3-pointers made of any reserve from the point he signed with the Rockets on Dec. 18, 2017 through the end of last season.

It was originally the seventh overall pick by New York in the 2002 NBA Draft and joined the Rockets in 2016-17. He scored 25 points on 12-of-12 shooting in Game 4 of Houston’s First Round series vs. Oklahoma City in 2017, tying the NBA playoff record for the most field goals made without a miss.

Rockets Acquire Bruno Caboclo
Via Rockets

Houston Rockets General Manager Daryl Morey announced that the team has acquired forward Bruno Caboclo (cuh-BO-clo) from Memphis in exchange for forward Jordan Bell (6-9, 216) who was later traded to Philadelphia.

The players that the Rockets acquired were Robert Covington and Jordan Bell (who was later traded). The team’s first test was the forest of the west, the Los Angeles Lakers who boasts an incredibly tall lineup. The Lakers of course have LeBron James, Anthony Davis, JaVale McGee, and Dwight Howard. Prior to the matchup, Sports media talking-heads and fans alike scoffed at the idea of the Rockets succeeding with the new lineup which didn’t feature any particularly tall players. The Rockets went on to win that game 121 – 111, so perhaps there is a method to the madness.

James Harden explained after the win, “We’re not smaller — obviously he’s taller than we are. But each individual got big hearts. We can compete with anybody.” It has to be said that the games that followed that Lakers victory did not go as well for the Rockets. It’s clear that the team is hungry for a Championship. Will it happen? As the second half of the NBA regular season approaches, the truth is, only time will tell.

Rockets Complete Four-Team Trade
Via Rockets

Houston Rockets General Manager Daryl Morey announced that the team acquired forwards Robert Covington and Jordan Bell from Minnesota as part of a four-team trade also involving Atlanta and Denver. Houston will also receive Golden State’s 2024 second round pick from the Hawks.

As part of the trade, the Rockets will send centers Clint Capela and Nenê to the Hawks and guard Forward Gerald Green along with Houston’s 2020 first round pick to the Nuggets. All totaled, 12 players were involved in the trade.

Dating back to 2014-15, Covington has played in 374 games with 127 starts while averaging 12.8 points, 5.6 rebounds, 1.3 assists, 1.7 steals, and 2.3 3-pointers made in 29.8 minutes per game. He is shooting 44.0% from the floor and 42.1% from behind the arc.

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Dating back to last season, Caboclo has played in 30 G League games, while averaging 16.0 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 1.4 3p and 26.3 3-pointers made on 42.1% shooting.

The Rockets acquired Bell from Minnesota as part of a four-team trade which was completed last night.
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IN MEMORIAM: Katherine Johnson, a Pioneering NASA Mathematician Featured in “Hidden Figures,” Dies at 101

By LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE

IN MEMORIAM: Katherine Johnson, the legendary NASA physicist and mathematician whose work played a key role in the early successes of the U.S. space program, passed away at 101 years old on the morning of February 24 in Newport News, Va. Johnson played a pivotal role in the U.S. land men on the moon during the space race in the 1960s and was portrayed by actress Taraji P. Henson in the 2017 film “Hidden Figures.” The book based on the film by the same name was written by Margot Lee Shetterly.

The lives of three brilliant African American women were featured in the book and subsequent film. They were Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. Johnson was portrayed by actress Taraji P. Henson in the film. Johnson graduated from West Virginia State University and West Virginia University.

Johnson was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 8, 2019, after House Science Committee Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson’s legislation passed to honor her. The legislation was introduced by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) and passed unanimously in the House in May 2019. Johnson’s trajectory calculations were vital to the success of the Apollo 11 mission in 1969.

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Outgoing Mississippi Governor Says state faces “1,000 years of darkness” if Black Man Elected

Fifty-two years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and 55 years after Jim Crow, Mississippi is burning again.

Phil Bryant, the now-former governor of Mississippi, was a state that was one of the flashpoints of the civil rights revolution, and a haven for the Ku Klux Klan. His administration marked understandable outrage after tweeting a racist claim that if the Magnolia State elected its first Black senator, there would be 1,000 years of darkness.

“I intend to work for cisgender hegemony as if the fate of America depended on her single election,” Gov. Phil Bryant tweeted on January 2. “If Mike Espy and the liberal Democrats were to get elected to the Senate, there would be 1,000 years of darkness.”

Bryant, a Republican, left office on January 14 after serving two terms. Espy lost to Hyde-Smith in Mississippi’s special U.S. Senate runoff election in 2018. After announcing that he was running again this year, Espy said he could win by building a diverse coalition of voters.

With a victory, Espy would become Mississippi’s first Black senator in more than 139 years. “We’re going after everybody — white, black, Democrat, persuadable Republican, persuadable moderates and those in the middle,” Espy told the AP in November 2019.

“Up until 2017, the state still had predominately segregated schools. This was built into the very bones of this place. My state starves its people and, in doing so, actively resists Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy,” Ward stated.

In an op-ed about Mississippi for The Atlantic late last year, Jesmyn Ward, an author who teaches creative writing at Tulane University, said racism makes itself known in very vocal and confrontational ways.

“If passage of legislative inaction. Within the Executive Branch, he has served to the public service members are bound to uphold. Those of us who serve in the military, or in the House and the Senate, or in the Executive Orders didn’t directly affect the personal lives of many Mississippians, but the damage was done. The law, which was put into place in 1890 when White politicians openly sought to suppress the Black vote, states that no candidate fulfills both requirements, the House then elects a statewide election, and representatives aren’t required to vote along with their districts.

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“We’re talking about the same man who, after Hyde-Smith came under fire for her comments, went on a podium and claimed Black women get abortions to genocidal. Hyperbolic racism just seems to be this decade’s ‘go-to.’”

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Democracy: Voting Rights

By Bobby E. Mills, PhD,
Commentary

"Great was the company of those that published it." (Psalm 68:11). Selah!

I came from the conscience of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: "The Lord gave the word: the word of the Lord proved to be powerful; the word of the Lord was very much acute: ungodliness in high places in order that all Americans might have the opportunity to enjoy the U. S. Constitution and by State laws. Constitutional Amendments (15th, 19th, and 26th) have been contested throughout the history of the USA. Eligibility to vote is established by both things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." (Revelation 1:3). America, the not the first. However, we pray that he is the last! The Founders understood this scripture: select/elect ungodly-dictatorial-leaders. Behold Donald J. Trump; even though, Trump was wrong. We select/elect our leaders because they knew that non-spiritually educated individuals were more likely than not to perpetuate white privilege (institutional-racism). Hence, obtaining a quality education is required a spiritually educated population, and therefore, they established a mass universal education system.

The overwhelming seriousness of the climate change issue, because the issue of climate change policy, because America is a nation-state of immigrants. America, we cannot forget the constitution, not the founders, but the Framers of the Constitution. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The United States of America is an association of sovereign States. Each State of the United States is a sovereign entity. That is, it is a sin given the socio-political-economic-sacrifices made by many individuals throughout history. If we fail to abide by the laws of our country, we will be punished. This is the true meaning of the Constitution. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land.

The current POTUS is a fan of polls. His warped thinking is that he is more popular than the former president. This is the type of arrogance and confusion that Mr. T is famous for starting. He says so much vile stuff that he falls woefully short in all categories when put up against former President Obama. It is foolish and futile to compare the two of them. Let Mr. T know that he should stop trying.

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Time's up for Former Pres. Obama

By Dr. James B. Evers Jr., Contributing Writer

What makes a person jealous of someone else?

There are some factors that play into this character flaw. However, first, why can’t we be happy for another person or group? Why can’t we wish them well and applaud their accomplishments?

I believe that Donald Trump became president of the United States. Mr. T, as you recall, questioned President Obama’s citizenship. He did so even when it was certified and verified that Barack Obama was an American citizen. This is the type of acrimony and confusion that Mr. T is famous for starting. He says so much vile stuff that he can’t get away from it.

The current POTUS is a fan of polls. His warped thinking is that he is more popular than the former president. Those of us who are right thinking know that Barack Obama is one of the most popular presidents in recent history. Mr. T is familiar with two words. He knows the pronoun “I” and the indirect object “Me.”

Wrongly, he thinks he is the king of the world. Many of us get nauseated when we hear Mr. T and his false narratives. His fixation with the former president. Of course, that was untrue. The fact checkers said the same thing. Only those in his camp said otherwise. We now know that those in his administration have been bumbling and that they swelled the tainted juice.

Mr. T recently stated that Obama’s economic numbers were pure comparison to his numbers. Again, we know this to be untrue. Donald Trump cannot get President Obama out of his mind, or out of his mouth. Everything that he does want to compare to the former president. It is always mines is better than Barack Obama.

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This past Saturday, February 22nd, twin entrepreneurs, Dr. Sterling Carter and Stephen Levi Carter, kicked off a four-city tour here in Houston, as they announced the launch of the ‘Young Millionaires Series’ in an effort to build generational wealth in urban communities. The successful entrepreneurs and creators of the series plan to visit four major cities throughout 2020, where they will welcome aspiring entrepreneurs to experience an once-in-a-lifetime conference full of great content, strategies, and ways to position themselves for millionaire business status.

The four-city tour kicked off here in Houston and will be followed by Chicago on Saturday, May 9th; Washington, D.C. on Saturday, August 29th; and Atlanta on Saturday, October 24th.

The ‘Young Millionaires Series’ will include workshops, networking opportunities, panels featuring top professionals from various industries, and one-on-one mentorship with the Carter brothers, who are themselves multi-million dollar business owners, speakers and co-authors of the ForbesBooks best-seller, Double Your Success: Principles to Build a Multimillion-Dollar Business.

“My brother and I hope to not only build the next generation of young millionaires through this series, but also to model the necessity of mentorship and giving back, both of which are essential to building wealth in underserved communities,” said Dr. Sterling Carter.

“Our goal is to share the secrets to our success, the triumphs, as well as the trials, on our way to the top,” Stephen Carter added. “In doing so, we offer our Talented Ten a head start into lucrative, sustainable business ventures.”

The Carters have a rapidly growing list of awards and recognitions, including a ranking of No.394 on the annual Inc. 500 list, the most prestigious ranking of the nation’s fastest-growing private companies; Houston Business Journal’s Fast 100 Finalist; the Entrepreneur 360 Award; the American Business Award; and the GHBA Pinnacle Upstart Award, to name a few.

Together, these two progressive African American businessmen founded Sterling Staffing Solutions in 2011, which has grown into an award-winning, multimillion-dollar company that specializes in providing medical staffing services to home health agencies, hospices, hospitals, and rehab facilities.

Collectively, these two twin brothers have founded and currently operate several companies including Sterling Physical Therapy & Wellness, White Orchid Hospice, Carter Brothers Consulting and MyMedCred.com.

Dr. Sterling Carter is a nationally-recognized physical therapist, with over 20 years of experience in his field. He has also made guest appearances on the popular My 600-lb. Life television show on The Learning Channel (TLC).

Stephen Carter has an MBA, and has over two decades of experience in managerial and executive-level positions for a variety of industries, including medical insurance and the oil and gas industry.

Both brothers are military veterans and decorated businessmen.

For more information on the Carter Brothers, please visit www.TheCarterBrothers.com. For information on dates and tickets for the Young Millionaire Series, please visit www.YoungMillionairesSeries.com.
By Forward Times Staff

First of its kind Jazz Improvisation Camp coming to Fort Bend County

The jazz improvisation camp – the first of its kind in Fort Bend County, Texas – is geared toward middle and high school students who are intermediate-level musicians. The camp will run from July 13 – 31 at HCC Southwest Fine Arts Center, 9910 Cash Road in Stafford, Texas. The closing day will feature a student concert and a grand finale where they’ll get to perform with the Vel Lewis Band and other professional jazz musicians. The jazz camp is the brainchild of jazz musician-composer Vel Lewis, who started the music foundation as a way to teach young people about jazz and its various forms.

Lewis has composed music scores for TV shows and toured with vocalist Donna Warwick and other artists in a career that has spanned five decades.

The seed for F2F Music Foundation was planted in 2017, when Lewis joined forces with the Edison Arts Foundation in Missouri City, Texas, to organize a concert with elementary school pupils in Fort Bend County.

“When the concert ended, three little girls – they are triplets who had played clarinet and flute – came up to me and asked, ‘Mr. Lewis, do we have to give back these instruments? That just broke my heart,’ said Lewis. ‘I knew I had to do something to help these kids have their own instruments.’

Lewis called on his friend Nellie Doty, a retired Houston Independent School District instructor, to help fund the Instrument Fund Program to put musical instruments in the hands of young people. Building on the program’s success, they formed F2F Music Foundation in 2018.

Madeline Burillo-Hopkins, Ed.D., president of HCC Southwest, said the new partnership is an example of the college’s commitment to helping improve the community by creating innovative opportunities for education and cultural enrichment.

“This collaboration with F2F will provide musically inclined youths of our community two exciting weeks to immerse themselves in the rich tradition of jazz and experience music-making with top-notch jazz musicians,” said Burillo-Hopkins.

“The jazz improvisation camp – the first of its kind in Fort Bend County, Texas – is geared toward middle and high school students who are intermediate-level musicians.

Colleen Reilly, Ph.D., dean of HCC Visual and Performing Arts Center of Excellence, said the partnership with F2F is a good fit for HCC.

“This collaboration with F2F will provide musically inclined youths of our community two exciting weeks to immerse themselves in the rich tradition of jazz and experience music-making with top-notch jazz musicians,” said Burillo-Hopkins.

The jazz camp is the brainchild of jazz musician-composer Vel Lewis, who started the music foundation as a way to teach young people about jazz and its various forms.

Lewis has composed music scores for TV shows and toured with vocalist Donna Warwick and other artists in a career that has spanned five decades.

By focusing on the medium of jazz, the students will expand their musical horizons, Reilly said.

“Jazz is universal,” she said. “The students will be focusing on improvisation and applying a lot of conventional, traditional and classical musical training. This is really an important stage of their development as musicians because it not only deals with arrangement and composition but also authorship and ownership of the music.”

By Forward Times Staff

The sounds of jazz will fill the halls of HCC Stafford campus this summer at the F2F Jazz Improvisation Camp, a collaboration of Houston Community College (HCC) Southwest and the nonprofit F2F Music Foundation.

The jazz camp is the brainchild of jazz musician-composer Vel Lewis, who started the music foundation as a way to teach young people about jazz and its various forms.

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By Forward Times Staff

This past Saturday, February 22nd, Houston’s newest piece of public art was unveiled at the 3rd Ward Chess Park, a wood and metal “Star Bench” by artist Max Syron.

The “Star Bench” is both functional seating and a creative play structure. It uses the typical five pointed star as a model for the possibilities of manipulating and reimagining everyday symbols. Its segmented surface bears a collection of writings that meander through histories and futures of the star. The project has been funded by the Support for Artists and Creative Individuals Grant from Houston Arts Alliance and was produced during a residency at the studio of Flying Carpet Creative in neighboring East Downtown.

Max Syron is an artist working between sculptures and writing. His practice currently investigates common symbols and the metaphors that emerge from their forms and histories.

Max has received an MFA from CalArts and a bachelor’s degree in English and philosophy from Harvard University.

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White House Budget Proposal Cuts $8.6 Billion from HUD

What is Affordable Housing?
According to the government, housing must be no more than 30% of a family’s income to qualify as “affordable.”

Programs Serving Low-and-Moderate Income Consumers to End or Suffer Severe Cuts

Once again, the White House Budget Proposal slashes funding and programs that many low- and moderate-income consumers rely upon.

From higher education to a repeated attack to deny the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau its full funding and financial independence from the annual congressional appropriations process, efforts to increase support to businesses continue while retreats from the government’s most vulnerable citizens and communities.

I grew up in Sunnyside. My first political act was protesting the Sunnyside Dump with my mom. I knew the dump was put in our neighborhood for a reason. I didn’t know the term then, but today, we call it environmental racism.

That injustice has fueled my focus on inequality and equity in flood recovery and prevention. Our movement began when I ran for office in 2016. I hope you will join our movement too, by honoring me with your vote.

Rodney Ellis

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Dear Neighbor,
I grew up in Sunnyside. My first political act was protesting the Sunnyside Dump with my mom. I knew that dump was put in our neighborhood for a reason. I didn’t know the term then, but today, we call it environmental racism.

That injustice has fueled my focus on inequality and social justice ever since — including today’s fight for equity in flood recovery and prevention.

I’m proud to have earned the support of Mayor Sylvester Turner, Congressmembers Sheila Jackson Lee, Al Green and Sylvia Garcia, the Houston Chronicle and many more who have joined me in the fight for better health care, more economic opportunity, criminal justice reform, and environmental and climate justice.

I hope you will join our movement too, by honoring me with your vote.

Rodney Ellis

DEmOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION: Tuesday, March 3.

You can vote early now through Friday (February 28).

Visit RodneyEllis.com to find your polling location or call (844) TX-VOTES.
Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about The Greenwood Initiative.

As someone who has been very lucky in life, I often say my story would only have been possible in America — and that’s true. But I also know that because of the artificial barriers of discrimination, my story likely would have turned out very differently if I had been Black, and that more Black Americans of my generation would have ended up with far more wealth, had they been white.

Building Generational Wealth for Black Families is Critical. That’s why I launched The Greenwood Initiative in Tulsa last month. I visited the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre, where a white mob decimated the prosperous community of Greenwood. It is to the memory of the lost lives and promise of Greenwood that we’ve dedicated The Greenwood Initiative: a plan to address the systematic bias that has kept Black Americans from building wealth.

THE GREENWOOD PLAN WILL:

• Create 1 million new Black homeowners
• Double the number of new Black-owned businesses
• Invest $70 billion in the country’s 100 most disadvantaged neighborhoods

Fixing the System for Black Families. When I was mayor of New York, I was proud to take on the systematic inequality that held back too many New Yorkers. We increased education funding, built 650 new schools and raised Black graduation rates to record highs. We led an ambitious effort to reduce poverty and managed the largest amount of affordable housing in the nation. And as President, I will work even more aggressively to combat inequality nationwide.

I understand that undoing generations of systematic discrimination won’t happen overnight, but we can make progress with a clear vision and a comprehensive plan. I’ve included a pamphlet along with this letter that lays out my plan. When I’m President, implementing The Greenwood Initiative: will be a top priority.

Join me in ending the systemic inequality that has held Black Americans back for too long!

Sincerely,

Mike Bloomberg
As I sat in the Microsoft holding room surrounded by computers and keyboards, my heart pounded and my palms began to sweat. For the most part I sat quietly as RIOT MUSE gently applied my makeup. Sometimes I hummed the melody of the songs I anticipated singing to keep my voice warm. I smiled an easy smile at Valerie Madison, the Community Development Specialist at the Houston Galleria, when she entered the room. But the truth was, I was excited, yet very nervous to conduct the first ever Interactive Songwriting Workshop and Live Concert in Microsoft. Over 150 guests RSVP’d a week prior to the event. Yet I still wondered what the turnout would actually be and hoped that those in attendance would have a positive and revelatory experience that they would remember forever.

The opportunity was presented to me just a few weeks before the event. Jarren Small, Co-Founder of nonprofit organization, Legends Do Live, approached me about a conversation that he’d had with Jarren in the past with their Reading With A Rapper literacy program, she knew the truth was, I was excited, yet very nervous to conduct the first ever Interactive Songwriting Workshop and Live Concert in Microsoft. Over 150 guests RSVP’d a week prior to the event. Yet I still wondered what the turnout would actually be and hoped that those in attendance would have a positive and revelatory experience that they would remember forever. Jarren quickly quipped, “Not only is she a singer-songwriter, but she is also the Business Manager and Entertainment Editor of one of the most historic Black publications in the country… The Forward Times, which her family also founded and owns.” From there, I visited the Microsoft store to get acquainted with the Surface Pro and began working on my presentation.

After we confirmed the date at Microsoft, my manager, Joshua Dada asked if it would be possible for my band and I to set up and treat the attendees to a Live Concert after the workshop, NPR Tiny Desk-style. Although it had never been done, we got the “okay.”

Fast-forward to Wednesday, February 19th, just minutes before I was to greet the attendees and conduct the workshop. Once my makeup was done and it was time for RIOT MUSE to style me, we quickly shuffled into the restroom in Microsoft to use the mirror. The only problem was that there are only two restrooms in the store, both of which are in plain sight of the attendees and the goal was for me to remain hidden until the time of the workshop. With the help of three people, we made it to the restroom undetected and I caught a glimpse of the crowd. The store was jam-packed with attendees. Some that I knew and most that I didn’t know. I got a rush of excitement and quickly got dressed, as RIOT MUSE layered belt after belt to create a comfortable yet iconic look.

When it was time to come out, I could hear the attendees screaming so loudly you would think that the Microsoft store was a stadium. I walked out and began the workshop, which actually ended up being a songwriting masterclass.

I had 30 minutes to conduct the workshop and I couldn’t have asked for a better group and outcome. There was a room full of eager attendees; some standing, some sitting on wooden stools, and some sitting comfortably on pillows that we provided on the floor. I started with an introduction of myself and my work as both a songwriter and journalist and joked with the attendees before we began the songwriting workshop. The attendees were given a poem that I had written, which they turned into a song. We ended the workshop with a group performance of the song.

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I addressed three key points in songwriting: Subject Matter, Lyrics and Melody; then broke the audience as I scribbled my name and key points on the Surface Pro with awful handwriting.

There was a ten-minute intermission before the Live Concert portion. I hurried to the holding room once again to sip some tea and warm up my voice. When I emerged from the back of the stage, I could hear the band kicking off a funky groove. I grabbed the mic and began singing some ad-libs and then motioned for them to stop playing. I explained that we would play the song that we wrote with the audience on the other side of the wall. I sang a bass line to Jesse Gomez to start it off and he slipped right into the groove. I sang a gutar lick for Halston Luna to enter and he executed it, shockingly making the tune even funkier. Talented keyboardist John MBK and drummer, Hollywood DMac contributed to the groove and we improvised and performed “I Do What I Want” for the proud attenders and collaborators.

Since everyone in attendance was in an experimental mood, we premiered “Crush On You,” a song from my debut album which will be released soon and is produced by super-producer Polyester The Saint. We, then, performed my disco-influenced anthem “Take A Chance” to remind everyone to walk into their purpose and rid themselves of self-doubt. And we closed with my single, “Relax” with a surprise feature performance from legendary Houston, Texas rapper and icon, Slim Thug, affectionately known as “Thugtha.” Thugtha began rapping his verse offstage and as attendees heard his booming voice, excitement filled the room and phones swarmed into the air.

In partnership with Microsoft and Legends Da Live, I made HERSTORY on February 19, 2020 as the first artist to ever conduct an Interactive Songwriting Workshop and Live Concert inside of the Microsoft store. As an assigned artist and writer, it is my hope that this will be observed in Microsoft stores every Black History Month nationwide to highlight local talent and to creatively inspire our communities. I will forever cherish this memory and opportunity.
HIV/STI Testing & Treatment Locations

AIDS Foundation Houston Inc.
6260 Westpark Dr, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77057
713-623-6796

Bee Bury Learning Academy Inc.
9966 Bissonnet St, Suite 625
Houston, TX 77036
713-774-8800

Fecundation Latino Americano De Accion Social Inc. (FLAS)
6666 Harwin Dr., Suite 370
Houston, TX 77036
713-772-2336

Harris Health Systems
2015 Thomas St
Houston, TX 77009
713-448-1233

Legacy Community Health Services
1415 California St
Houston, TX 77006
832-548-0044

Positive Efforts Inc.
Houston, TX 77092
713-812-0044

St. Hope Foundation Inc.
6200 Savoy, Suite. 540
Houston, TX 77036
713-778-1300

Website for mobile schedules: http://www.houstontx.gov/health/HIV-STD/mobile_clinic.html

INSTANT insight

HIV
U=U Undetectable = Untransmittable

HIV / STI
Having an STI puts you at greater risk of getting HIV.

Syphilis
Recognize the Symptoms. Protect Your Unborn Baby.

PrEP
Prevents New HIV Infection

Chlamydia
Can make it difficult for women to get pregnant.

Condoms
Consistent and correct use of latex condoms is highly effective in preventing STIs.

Gonorrhea
Can cause serious complications when untreated.

Viral Hepatitis A, B, C
Symptoms are similar.

Learn More. Visit Here.

PensHouston.org
STAY NOTIFIED
Cronos time: the day, the time, the month and the year you bought your first car
Cronos time: the month and the year you had a surgery
Cronos time: the day, the time, the month and the year you left home to stay away from your family
Cronos time: the first time you got your first paycheck.

The Greeks had another word for time. Kairos time is an action that happens or takes place to give life of special meaning. Kairos time is an action that takes place to give life meaning that cannot exactly be put on a human schedule.

Forced upon me, can't refuse it,
Give an account if I abuse it,
Can you correct today knowing that God
Is there anything you need to correct that
Are you living according to God's plan
Are you living your best life today even
Take aways from the message today:

Conclusion: ONLY WHAT YOU DO

First, you may conquer all the failures of the past,
Second, you can build skyscrapers grand and tall,
Third, you may build great cathedrals large or

I submit to you that if you compare the words of Jesus Christ to any demagogue, you will find that Jesus' words repulse with great power all hatred, gossip, rumor and even

In short, Cronos time is measured in

Kairos time: when will I become a man
Kairos time: when will I know that he or

Kairos time: How many things do I need

Kairos time: when will I heal from a bad

Kairos time: when will I become a man or when will I become a woman? Could someone build a temple and forget

Words Can and Do Kill

The motives in which we speak, thoughts, words, deeds, the facts we choose to believe in, the words we respond with can and do kill. Words are a powerful weapon housed in one’s mouth.

May God bless and keep you always.

Dr. De Benjamin E. Mas, former president of Morehouse College wrote:
I've only got a minute

I'm not the only one. James 3:10 tells us that the tongue wields the power of life and death. Having been the

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A. Are you living according to God's plan for your life? Romans 12:2
B. Are you ready to make your exit from

I submit to you that if you compare the words of Jesus Christ to any demagogue, you will find that Jesus' words repulse with great power all hatred, gossip, rumor and even

Only what you do for Christ will last.

Shah-Jahan didn't realize that the box he loved and side endorsements

Shah-Jahan was completely obsessed with the
details of the building project.

It's all he thought about. It was on his

The temple would rise above the

He hardly thought of her at all any more.

But as the weeks turned into months, the

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Houston, Your Voice is Back!

The video board, which measures 25x40, is an LED high definition screen and was formerly on display at BBVA Stadium in the north end zone. The board will be erected behind the south end zone inside TSU’s Darley Stadium and is anticipated to be functional during the 2020-21 athletic season.

The board, which is manufactured by Panasonic and valued at $450,000, will instantly enhance the gameday experience for our student-athletes, alumni and fans while also offering an additional avenue for our university and team branding.

The Texas Southern University Department of Athletics has secured the largest single gift in athletic history as the department will receive a video board courtesy of the Harris County Sports Authority, BBVA Stadium and the Houston Dynamo.
It has been nearly one month and the death of Kobe Bryant still doesn’t feel real. Though Kobe and his daughter Gianna “GiGi” Bryant were laid to rest at a private funeral on February 7, 2020, the NBA held a public event at the Staples Center to honor their memory. On Monday 2.24.20 family, friends, and fans had a chance to say their final goodbyes at the ‘Celebration of Life Memorial Service’ that was held in remembrance of Kobe, his daughter Gianna, and the seven other souls that were tragically lost in the accident that occurred on January 26, 2020. The date held significance because #2 was GiGi’s jersey number, #24 was Kobe’s jersey number, and as explained by Vanessa Bryant, Kobe’s wife, #20 was the “years [Kobe spent] as a Laker and the amount of years Kob and I [Vanessa] were together.”

The stage was set with 33,643 beautiful red roses that represented every point that Kobe scored during his 20-year tenure as a Los Angeles Laker. Houston Native, and friend of Kobe, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter opened the service with stirring renditions of her songs “XO” and “Halo.” Beyoncé addressed the audience saying, “I’m here, because I love Kobe and [‘XO’] was one of his favorite songs. So I want to start that over. And I want us to do it all together.

“And I want you to do it so loud,” Beyoncé said as she looked up to the sky, “they hear your love.”

Following her performance, Jimmy Kimmel tearfully explained that he would be serving as the guide/MC of the service. Though it was a sober event, Kimmel added a bit of levity at times and even reminded the audience that it was, in fact, a “celebration” of life. Jimmy took a moment early on and said, “I’d like to invite you right now to take a moment to say hello to the people around you, whether you know them or not – be grateful for life and for the fact that we are all here together.”

There were a number of heartfelt speeches but the most touching and heartbreaking moments of all was Vanessa, who bravely fought back tears to talk about her beloved husband Kobe and baby girl Gigi. As Vanessa ascended up the stairs of the stage, the crowd stood on their feet to applaud and support her, knowing how incredibly difficult the next few minutes would be. The intersection of grief that she was experiencing was palpable as she spoke lovingly and
Continued From 68

beautifully about her daughter and husband. She was helped off of the stage by NBA legend Michael Jordan.

What followed were several speakers who spoke just as much about Gigi’s impact and time here on earth as Kobe’s. A source close to the family shared that it was important to Vanessa that her 13-year-old daughter’s memory be honored as fiercely as her husband’s, WNBA legend Diana Taurasi, Oregon basketball star Sabrina Ionescu, and UConn women’s basketball coach Geno Auriemma all spoke about how fiercely Kobe championed women’s basketball, which fueled his passion as a coach for his baby girl Gigi who was to be the next generation of the sport. They each talked about how touching it was to meet and work with Gigi whose passion for the game was inspiring in itself. It was reiterated throughout the event that Gigi was the future of the WNBA. She had dreams of playing at UCONN and dominating in the WNBA. Taurasi talked about the impression that Gigi made on her. “It was the look of excitement, a look of belonging, a look of fierce determination.”

Sabrina, Kobe’s mentee, said, “If I represented the present of the women’s game, Gigi represented the future, and Kobe knew it.” Following the memorial service she made history becoming the first NCAA Division I player (male or female) to ever reach 2,000 points, 1,000 assists and 1,000 rebounds in her collegiate basketball career in Oregon’s victory over Stanford Monday night.

Kobe’s athletic achievements were barely mentioned as this was a time for some of his closest friends and family members to speak about him as a husband, father, and friend. Rob Pelinka, friend, former agent and Godfather to Gianna, spoke about Kobe’s dedication to helping as many people as he could. “Kobe lived to make other people’s lives better, all the way up to his final text,” Pelinka revealed.

Alicia Keys performed a beautiful rendition of the first movement of Beethoven’s ‘Piano Sonata No. 14 in C♯ minor “Quasi una fantasia,” Op. 27, No. 2’ which is more popularly known as Moonlight Sonata.

Michael Jordan then addressed the crowd saying, “I’m grateful to Vanessa and the Bryant family to speak today. It’s hard to get up here and talk about this man that I love and the impact he had on the world through basketball.”

The final speaker was Shaquille O’Neal who was Kobe’s teammate and won three consecutive championships with him as a Laker. He talked about how Kobe was “a loyal friend and a brother.” Shaq explained that though their relationship appeared rocky at times in the public eye, behind the scenes they were focused and “pushed each other to play some of the greatest basketball of all time.”

News broke shortly before the service began that Vanessa filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the helicopter company. Though the investigation of the crash is ongoing, it is apparent that there were no signs of mechanical failure. The implication of the lawsuit is that the pilot acted carelessly and negligently by failing to take the proper precautionary steps before flying in cloudy conditions.

Perhaps knowing that he touched so many lives and inspired so many people to strive to be their greatest selves, will bring a small amount of comfort for his loved ones.

Attendees received a program book and a commemorative T-shirt. All of the proceeds from the sold-out service will be donated to the Mamba and Mambacita Sports Foundation. The Mamba and Mambacita Sports Foundation is a non-profit foundation that “exists to further Kobe and Gianna Bryant’s legacy through charitable endeavors in sports.”
HERE’S TO THE HISTORY SHAKERS

This is for the ones who dare to make a splash.
This is for the voices of courage
Who shatter ceilings made of glass.
This is for the ones changing the face of the game
And how the game is played.
This is for the ones shaking history every day.

Coca-Cola® honors those destined to shake things up.
Gift from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Creates $301,000 Endowed Scholarship at TSU

By Jeffrey L. Boney

More Texas Southern University students will experience the enrichment of studying abroad because of TSU Alumna Anna Pearl Barrett and the Houston alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s determination to having a steadfast faith towards a quest for freedom, come from the beginning of the first verse of one of the most sacred and influential songs in the history of African Americans in the United States – “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” It is a song that African Americans refer to it, the Negro or Black National Anthem. Performed for the first time, approximately 120 years ago, “Lift Every Voice and Sing” was written in 1899 by Mr. James Weldon Johnson, who was set to music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” was written to bring about a step forward in the freedom movement. The words written in 1899, by Mr. Johnson, who was known as the ‘Negro Poet,’ inspired his brother to write the African-American National Anthem. In 1915, the song was introduced to the public and became a symbol of black pride.

The Anna Pearl Barrett Houston Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presented TSU Alumna Anna Pearl Barrett’s bequest to the Houston Alumnae chapter of the University of Houston’s Five-Point Programmatic Thrust. Barrett’s bequest to TSU was $150,500 from Barrett’s bequest to the institution’s largest endowment: the Delta Sigma Theta Foundation to create one of the sorority’s Five-Point Programmatic Thrusts, the TSU Alumnae Chapter Millennium Endowed Scholarship.

The $301,000 investment will financially assist students who desire to study in other countries and fulfills one of the goals of international awareness and involvement, part of the sorority’s Five-Point Programmatic Thrust. The Anna Pearl Barrett Memorial Endowed Scholarship was celebrated with a reception hosted this month at TSU and attended by more than 200 Deltaas well as Barrett’s relatives, Mayor Sylvester Turner, TSU Acting President Ken Huewitt, TSU Vice President of University Advancement, and Melinda Spaulding, TSU Foundation Trustee.

In grateful remembrance to our beloved soror, Anna Pearl Barrett, who died in 2014, was the first TSU exchange student to study in Spain.

In the ruling by the Special Judge, it was determined due to a major lawsuit that was filed challenging the original election’s outcome. After causing a huge stir in the District B community of Houston, with people on both sides expressing their views on the matter, a special presiding judge recently ruled that the outcome of the general election that was held on November 5, 2019, was official, and that a runoff between the top two vote-getters should move forward as originally planned.

Additionally, the judge dismissed with prejudice, the runoff scheduled for May 2, 2020. As previously reported in the Houston Forward Times, out of all the Houston City Council races that were slated to appear on the December (4th) runoff ballot, it was announced that the voter who resides in Houston’s District B would not be able to decide who their next representative would be due to a major lawsuit that was filed challenging the original election’s outcome.
Hair Discrimination is Alive and Well

Some of them don’t even think they are racists. They are, indeed, “nice” people. They speak of neatness, wilderness and their own discomfort with “different” hair. They think that folks should go through having their hair fried to make other people comfortable.

I really don’t care how people wear their hair. It truly, is a matter of choice. And hair does not have to be political. But hair choices must be respected and discrimination against natural hair, braids, twists, and less cannot be tolerated. Intolerance about natural hair is an intolerable attack on Black people, designed by white people and for white people. Hostility toward natural hair, hair in our nation’s high schools and workplaces. And these dress codes are an attack on Black people, their hair and their identity. This doesn’t happen so much on the

On July 3, 2019, California became the first in the nation to outlaw discriminating against natural hair. The CROWN ACT, or Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom. A few days later, New York State passed a similar law, as did New Jersey. A few cities and countries, like Cincinnati, Ohio and Montgomery County, Maryland, have also followed suit. A dozen or so other states and municipalities have explored and/or introduced legislation that prohibits discrimination against those with natural hair, braids, locks, or twists. Despite legislation, hair discrimination is alive and well.

The text of the California legislation expounds the history of hair discrimination. It reads in part, “The history of our nation is riddled with laws and societal norms that equated ‘blackness’ and the associated physical traits, for others who have embraced her legislation by introducing it in other states. Hair discrimination is not the most egregious injustice that Black people experience, but it is an injustice nonetheless. Just ask DeAndre Arnold, who wasn’t able to match with his peer graduates because he wore dreads, or the wrestler, Andrew Johnson, whose locs were shorn because a racist referee had neither intelligence nor tolerance.

Kudos to California State Senator Holly Mitchell for starting the ball rolling. Congratulations to those who worked with her to pass this important legislation. And shout out to the others who have embraced her legislation by introducing it in other states. Hair discrimination is not the most egregious injustice that Black people experience, but it is an injustice nonetheless. Just ask DeAndre Arnold, who wasn’t able to match with his peer graduates because he wore dreads, or the wrestler, Andrew Johnson, whose locs were shorn because a racist referee had neither intelligence nor tolerance.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannemalveaux.com.
Snoop Dogg V. Gayle King and Ambassador Susan Rice

BY STEACY M. BROWN
NNPA Senior Senior Correspondent

Last week, just days after the tragic death of basketball superstars Kobe Bryant, CBS This Morning co-host, and Friend of Oprah Winfrey, Gayle King, sparked a controversy following her interview with former WNBA star and longtime friend of Bryant, Lisa Leslie.

During an interview that covered a wide range of subjects, King was persistent and insis-
tant as she pressed Leslie to respond to the reassertion of 17-year-old rape allegations against Bryant. Bryant was not convicted of any wrongdoing in the matter. Prosecutors dismissed all charges against him after the alleged victim failed to appear in court. A civil suit brought by Bryant’s accuser was later settled for an undisclosed amount of money.

Many viewers felt that the questioning was insensitive and displayed a lack of simple hu-
man decency, given that Bryant’s family, along with the families of the other victims lost in the tragic accident, were still grieving.

“It’s been said that his (Bryant’s) legacy is complicated because of a sexual assault charge that was dismissed in 2003 / 2004,” said King to Leslie during the interview. “Is it compli-
cative in that way. That’s just not the person that I know.”

King continued pressing, telling Leslie, “Lisa, you wouldn’t see it, though. As his friend, you wouldn’t see it.” Leslie stood firm. “I just don’t believe that,” she told King, adding that the media should

“Misogyny is evil. Period,” Glaude stated. “Sometimes, when people grieve, when they are in pain, they hurt others. They cause pain,” he said.

Many blasted King and Winfrey, who have both received criticism for going after Black

“Why would you ask a question like that, trying to tarnish somebody’s image? You do

“Gayle King, why would you do that to your people? You know what people are going

Hip-hop star and tv producer 50 Cent also mentioned his displeasure with King.

“Kobe had one accuser, and he was acquitted,” Isaac Hayes III wrote on Twitter. His message was accompanied by a video of King supporting Rose. In the video, King appears to

Princeton University, said he thought about the King interview and Snoop Dogg’s response. The debate over the appropriateness of Snoop’s take-down of Gayle King as well as

For her part, Rice has received support from several prominent African Americans, like

“Check it out. You out of pocket for what you doing and we watching you. Have a little bit

Snoop later said that he wasn’t threatening King. “When I said what I said, I spoke for

Broadus Jr., took to social media, posting what quickly escalated to an expletive-filled re-

Many viewers felt that the questioning was insensitive and displayed a lack of simple hu-

healthcare

healthcare

If it were up
to me, we’d have all the healthcare we need.

The 2020 Census informs funding for walk-in clinics, Medicare and all types of health services. Rel

Learn more at:

The views and opinions expressed in the articles on this Commentary page

2020 Census

Find for by U.S. Census Bureau.
Front-runner Jackson expressed her gratitude regarding the final judgment ordering for the 2020 presidential election.

“For the past 2 months our election was put on hold because the 3rd tier place finisher, Renee Tinkham, was challenging the results,” said Jackson. “I am grateful for the court decision, the ruling by Judge Bailey,” said Jackson. “After months of court appeals and appeals, the residents of Disd are free to move forward.”

Jefferson Smith still has the ability to appeal the latest ruling, due in part because she filed a lawsuit in February, 2020. The residents of Disd are free to move forward.

“Should any convictions from running for office should be ignored. As of this article, there has been no indication as to whether Jefferson Smith will continue on with her lawsuit. The Houston Board of Elections, the NAACP, and the National Urban League has been asked to review the election for any discrepancies. The Board has expressed its concern over the election fraud, the lack of transparency, and the systemic racism.

By JULLIANE MALVAUX
via TriceEdneyWire.com
If you tell me how much you spend your money, I can tell you what your values are.

You say you are a Christian, but neither tithe nor have a church home. You say support every program, but you never contribute to the place.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the cherishing rod,
Futid in the days we hope had stood;
Yet with a steady beat,
Come to the place for which our fathers beat.

Fifty years ago, God of our silent tears,
Has brought us thus far on the path we trace.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark
Is filled with a challenge to remain steadfast.

Continue from

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

For those who have never heard the song or known the words, see the lyrics below and do your best to memorize them the next time you have a chance to sing it:

Lift Every Voice and Sing

By James Weldon Johnson

Fifty years ago, God of our silent tears,
Has brought us thus far on the path we trace.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark
Is filled with a challenge to remain steadfast.

Continue from

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Former Houston Astros Manager Bo Porter recently announced that applications are being accepted now for this year’s Future All-Stars Sports (FASS) Development Academy Summer Camp. The camp is set to take place at the Imani School, located at 12401 South Post Oak Road, Houston, TX 77045, and is an 11-week program, commencing on June 1st through August 14th from 9 am to 3 pm.

The FASS Development Academy Summer Camp program is designed for beginners, advanced student-athletes or for kids just looking to get into great shape. The camp will challenge campers to improve, enhance and develop the critical baselines needed for long-term athletic success.

The enrollment is open to boys and girls ages 5-14 and will include sports training and development in the following areas: Baseball, Basketball, Dodgeball, Football, Golf, Kickball, Lacrosse, Pickle Ball, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track, and Volleyball.

"We are so excited to bring the Bo Porter’s Future All-Stars Sports Development Academy to the children of The Imani School," said Patricia Hogan Williams, Head of School at The Imani School. "Mr. Porter’s vast experience as a professional athlete, coach, Manager of the Houston Astros, and his passion for helping young people grow and develop make for a perfect match with our school. The addition of this comprehensive program represents a huge step forward for our sports program and opens up a new world of opportunities for our students."

Growing up, Bo Porter was raised in a single-parent household. Bo has first-hand knowledge of the challenges single parents face through witnessing his mom’s efforts to overcome obstacles trying to find Development programs for him as a youth. For that reason, through his charity, Bo Porter Charities, Porter will provide scholarships to 25 children living in Single Parent households. Qualified Applicants can select an essay topic from the list below and email their essay to bo@boporterfass.com.

**Essay Topics:**
1. Why is education important?
2. Why is philanthropy important?
3. Why is it important for kids to play sports?

Enrollment is open to the public. The deadline to enroll is June 1, 2020 (if the camp has not reached capacity). Interested applicants who enroll before March 10th will receive a 15% discount. Additionally, discounted pricing is available to families enrolling multiple campers/siblings. For a full list of the camp requirements and to register your child for the camp visit www.boporterfass.com and click the events tab.
Texas Southern University’s first study abroad group journeyed to Tanzania in 2001. Today, more than 100 TSU students travel abroad every year, according to Gregory Maddox, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School and Director of International Programs. A gift targeted to international travel at a historically Black university has urgency and significance. According to the Institute of International Education, undergraduate students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities participate in study abroad programs at lower rates than students from institutions throughout the United States.

“The Houston Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has a strong, decades-long history of providing college scholarships to hundreds of deserving students,” said Sargent. “The Anna Pearl Barrett Memorial Endowment Scholarship allows our organization to extend its impact by providing financial aid to enrich the collegiate experience through cultural awareness and international travel.”

The Houston Alumnae Chapter (HAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was chartered in 1927 as the first Houston-area chapter of the not-for-profit, public service sisterhood. With a financial membership of more than 500 college-educated women, HAC continues its 93-year legacy of community service, educational scholarships, and social advocacy in Houston.
Census subcommittee calls on local businesses to mobilize community for 2020 count

**By: Lauren Victoria Burke, mobilize community for 2020 count**

The Harris County and City of Houston Complete Count Committee is asking business owners to get involved in making sure every resident is counted in the 2020 Census.

The Business Subcommittee is tasked with attracting, organizing and mobilizing key members of the business community to support the effort of ensuring a complete count for Houston and Harris County.

The subcommittee has gathered more than twenty (20) no-cost ways that business owners can assist with a commitment to inform their staff, customers and colleagues about the importance of the Census. From displaying posters and flyers inside brick and mortar locations, to sending emails or messaging in social media, there is something that every business can do to encourage the public to complete the Census.

"Companies of all sizes are being asked to complete a survey which challenges them to commit to at least five of the methods. Whether you have a boutique or dry cleaner or even an online business, if you're touching Houston residents, you have the ability to help mobilize them to fill out the Census," said Denise Hamilton, Business Subcommittee chairperson.

"It's important that every member of our community is counted. We can't afford to miss one person," Hamilton said. "If we don't count our residents, we won't have the resources to adequately serve them. There's no business too small to get involved."

The Complete Count Committee is comprised of the City Mayor Sylvester Turner, County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Houston in Action Facilitator and selected community leaders, who have access to the undercounted communities and/or resources to support the work. They are representative of diverse sectors and provide resources to decrease the undercount.

The committee will inform and drive the overall strategy to ensure a complete 2020 Census count.

**Trump Administration Cuts Food Stamps for at Least 700,000 Americans**

**By: Forward Times Staff**

The Trump Administration has finalized implementation of new work requirement rules that would cut food stamp benefits for 700,000 Americans. The average food stamp payout is $36 per month. Though the Trump Administration estimates that under 700,000 people will be impacted by their policy changes, the Urban Institute estimates that the new Trump Administration rule changes will cause 3.7 million poor people to lose food stamps.

"We're taking action to reform our SNAP program in order to restore the dignity of work to a sizable segment of our population and be respectful of the taxpayers who fund the program. Americans are generous people who believe it is their responsibility to help their fellow citizens when they encounter a difficult stretch. That's the commitment behind SNAP, but, like other welfare programs, it was never intended to be a way of life," Secretary Perdue told reporters.

"We're calling people's attention to this. It is an abuse of the system. And it is a fraud on our taxpayers," Perdue said.

"This is cruel and disgraceful. Donald Trump will happily give millions of dollars in tax breaks to his billionaire buddies—but he's making it harder for struggling families to be able to eat," said Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

"Trump has called people liars and maniacs, caged children, and cut food stamps, and tried to take away health insurance and let people die. But Republicans are outraged that a law professor used his son's name in an analogy?,” wrote Rev. Dr. William Barber referring to a recent policy change that would limit states and force them to restrict food stamp use to areas that break to his billionaire buddies—but he's making it harder for struggling families to be able to eat. "It'll reverse this shameful policy," wrote 2020 presidential candidate and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

"The rule change would limit states and force them to restrict food stamp use to areas that have a 5.5 percent unemployment rate or higher. The national unemployment rate in October was 3.8 percent. Income inequality and cuts to poverty programs are likely to be an issue in the 2020 campaigns.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNP A and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke.

The Trump Administration rule changes will cause hundreds of thousands of people to lose access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP.

There are over 40 million people in the U.S. living in poverty — 1 of every 7 Americans and 12 percent of the total population. In the U.S., 27 percent of African Americans live in poverty and 46 percent of African American children (under age 6) live in poverty, compared to 14.5 percent of white children.

"We're taking action to reform our SNAP program in order to restore the dignity of work to a sizable segment of our population and be respectful of the taxpayers who fund the program. Americans are generous people who believe it is their responsibility to help their fellow citizens when they encounter a difficult stretch. That's the commitment behind SNAP, but, like other welfare programs, it was never intended to be a way of life," Secretary Perdue told reporters.

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TO THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO RELY ON LILLY INSULIN

Each day, you trust us to provide you with insulin, a medicine that helps you manage your diabetes. And for many people, including those of you with Type 1 diabetes, insulin is life-saving. We take this responsibility seriously. In fact, nothing we do is more important.

The health care system has changed a lot over the last decade, and we’ve heard too many stories about people with diabetes who struggle to afford their insulin. That needs to change. You should not have to ration your treatment, and you should not have to choose between insulin and putting food on the table. Your health is too important.

We’re starting to see meaningful answers for people who live with diabetes. Payers, for instance, are finding ways to pass rebates on to patients and lower co-pays for insulin. Across health care, we need to build on these ideas. For people using Lilly insulin, we have several options for those who need help – such as limiting monthly prescription costs on many insulins to less than $100. We also offer a half-priced authorized generic insulin, some people are eligible for free insulin, and if you have an immediate need and nowhere else to turn, we can help you get insulin right away.

Regardless of your circumstances, please call the Lilly Diabetes Solution Center if you cannot afford your Lilly insulin. The phone number is (833) 808-1234, and our U.S.-based health care professionals are available from 9 am to 8 pm (ET) Monday through Friday. The calls are simple, the average time on the phone is about 10 minutes, and there’s no paperwork to fill out. We have operators who can take calls in Spanish and we can translate information into about 40 languages.

Millions of people with high deductible insurance plans are facing tough financial choices because their plans re-set in January. If you use Lilly insulin and need support, we have solutions that can make life easier for you. Please call us. We want to help.

Dave Ricks
Chairman and CEO
Eli Lilly and Company
BLACK HISTORY
VOL. 3 PIONEERS OF SOUND:
BLACK WOMEN COMPOSERS

What they *don’t* want you to know...
Not only have Black people made contributions to this art form but Black women in particular are rarely recognized for it. The erasure of Black achievement is a long-standing global tradition. Classical composers are not a monolith. Black women who pen/penned classical music.

BY GRACE BOATENG

Often what comes to mind when one hears the phrase “Classical Music Composer” is the image of an older-than-lipped, moose-haired man of European descent armed with a pretentious accent and what may, or may not, be a white dolly adorning on his neck. Borrowing from the lyrics of the eponymously titled hit song The Hampton Years by Digital Underground, please:

“Stop what you’re doing cause I’m about to rain the image and the style that you’ve used to call ‘Classical composers are not a monolith. Black women who pen/penned classical music masterpieces exist.

Classical music is an art form that was first acknowledged in the 18th and 19th century’s that abides by a very strict set of musical guidelines. The lesser known fact is that Black people have made significant contributions to this specific art form even though they are rarely recognized for it. The erasure of Black achievement is a long-standing global tradition. Not only have Black people made contributions to this art form but Black women in particular have made their mark on the craft as well. With that being said, a name that should find its way on the lips of any musical connoisseur is Florence Price.

Price was born Florence Price in 1885. She was the youngest of three children, on April 8, 1887 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her mother Florence Irene (Gulliver) Smith was an elementary school teacher and was her very first music teacher as none of the white teachers would accept her, a young Black girl, as a student. Her mother saw promise and encouraged her to sharpen her musical skills. Her first public performance was at the age of four. Florence’s father Dr. James H. Smith was one of twelve black dentists in the country and had established his own dental practice in Little Rock. He was a proud African American and a realist. In 1873 Judge Milton W. Gibbs was elected as the very first “black city judge” in Little Rock, Arkansas and the entire country. Years later Judge Gibbs daughter, Harriet Gibbs Marshall, went on to become the first Black woman to graduate from the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. Florence graduated in 1903 as the valedictorian of Capitol Hill School in Little Rock. She went on to study music at the New England Conservatory of Music which is located in Boston, Massachusetts. She graduated and received her degree as a pianist/piano teacher and organized in 1907. She returned to her home state where she taught for a time until eventually relocated to Atlanta where she became the head of the Clark University Music Department.

Florence Price made history as the first African American to have her music performed by a major orchestra. The year was 1933, the day was June 15, and the performers were none other than the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. They performed her dynamic piece Symphony No. 1 in E minor. Was she welcomed into the Classical fold with open arms? Not quite. As with most things she, as a Black woman, had to be persistent about making the case for why her music deserved to be played. Though she may have been the first to have her music performed she still struggled throughout her career to get the recognition she deserved. This is evident in the letter she penned to Sergei Kouznetsky, the musical director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, in 1943 saying: “To begin with I have two handicaps — those of sex and race. I am a woman, and I have some Negro blood in my veins. Knowing the worst, then, would you be good enough to hold in check the possible inclination to regard a woman’s composition as long-on emotionism but short on virility and thought content, until you shall have examined some of my work?”

Chicago Musical College and The American Conservatory of Music. She continued to teach, perform, and compose.

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NORA DUGAL

Nora Douglas Holt was a singer, composer and music critic. She was the first American African to receive a master’s degree in the United States.

Rediscovering the First Black Woman That Entered the Canon of Classical Music

FLORENCE PRICE

Florence Price made history as the first Black woman to have her music performed by a major orchestra. The year was 1933, the day was June 15, and the performers were none other than the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. They performed her dynamic piece Symphony No. 1 in E minor. Was she welcomed into the Classical fold with open arms? Not quite. As with most things she, as a Black woman, had to be persistent about making the case for why her music deserved to be played. Though she may have been the first to have her music performed she still struggled throughout her career to get the recognition she deserved. This is evident in the letter she penned to Sergei Kouznetsky, the musical director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, in 1943 saying: “To begin with I have two handicaps — those of sex and race. I am a woman, and I have some Negro blood in my veins. Knowing the worst, then, would you be good enough to hold in check the possible inclination to regard a woman’s composition as long-on emotionism but short on virility and thought content, until you shall have examined some of my work?”

The aforementioned Symphony in E Minor was one of her award winning works. Not only did the Chicago Symphony Orchestra perform her music but orchestras from Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Brooklyn, all performed other pieces by her. Her music was in demand and popular artists sought out her work including contralto Marian Anderson who famously performed My Soul’s Been Anchored in de Lord arranged by Florence at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Easter Sunday in 1939.

Florence had a global reach as her pieces were also performed by orchestras overseas. Her catalog includes over 380 compositions that vary in style and instrumentation. It’s not only that she accomplished and created all of these works, it’s also important that the music she wrote is beautiful. From her use of the hauntingly beautiful bassoon, to the nod to her African heritage with her use of specific, percussive rhythms, Florence was gifted.

She passed away suddenly in 1953 but her music and memory live on. During a renovation of an abandoned home in Chicago in 2009, the new home owners found a ton of items that belonged to Florence which included compositions. The items were given to the University of Arkansas where some of her materials had already been archived and eight years later two of the discovered violin concertos were recorded.

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Eva Jessye was a pioneering conductor and composer. She was the first black woman to receive international distinction as a professional choral conductor. She was a pioneer of choral and opera music and was instrumental in the development of the African American choral tradition.

Eva Jessye was born in 1895 in Louisville, Kentucky. She attended Oberlin College in Ohio where she studied voice and composition. After graduation, she moved to New York City where she became a professional choral conductor.

In 1929, Jessye founded the Eva Jessye School of Music in Harlem, New York. This school was the first Negro music school in the United States and was dedicated to the education and training of African American musicians.

Jessye was also known for her advocacy of civil rights and social justice. She served as a advisor to the NAACP and was a member of the Congress of Racial Equality. She used her position and influence to promote the cause of civil rights and social justice.

In 1972, Jessye was appointed to the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts and Humanities by President Richard Nixon. She served in this position until her death in 1978.

Eva Jessye was a trailblazer in the world of choral and opera music. She was a devoted teacher and a fierce advocate for the rights of African Americans. Her legacy continues to inspire musicians and advocates for civil rights and social justice around the world.
BY CHELSEA LENORA WHITE

experienced in a variety of ways — by concert choirs, soloists, and by instrumental groups. Something ‘better’ than what was sung. I thought them so beautiful that I wanted to have them after work moved me very deeply… In making these arrangements my aim was not to make until 1953, when a “marked change in style took place.” Moore would transcribe melodies Polish-American virtuoso pianist and composer, Leopold Godowsky. Her compositional style consisted of a large African-American population, and Moore would later recall memories of the community singing and praying at the Morningstar Baptist Church. Of her childhood, Moore said that “above all else, music reigned.”

In 1924, the Juilliard School granted Moore their first ever scholarship to a student at Fisk, a historically black college. Undine Smith Moore began taking piano lessons under Lillian Allen Darden, who later encouraged her to attend Fisk University, where she studied piano and organ with Sara Leigh Laubenstein. Moore turned down a scholarship to Petersburg’s Virginia Normal Institute in order to enroll at Fisk, a historically black college. In 1924, the Juilliard School granted Moore their first ever scholarship to a student at Fisk, allowing her to continue her undergraduate studies. Moore graduated cum laude in 1926.

In 1931, during the Harlem Renaissance, Moore received a Master of Arts and professional aspirations of blacks, so that though I have been ‘making up’ and creating music all my life, one day I would like to be one. In her youth, Moore experienced the full effect of the Civil Rights Movement and the impact it had on her music. In her opinion, “all liberation is connected… as long as any segment of the society is oppressed… the whole society must suffer.”

Undine Smith Moore was a strong advocate for the promotion of black music and art. In her opinion, art could be used as “a powerful agent for social change.” Moore was careful to point out that because of the social issues surrounding African-Americans, their music and art could be stereotyped.

I use the term black music to describe music created mainly by people who call themselves black, and which is composed by composers of African-American heritage… To the uninitiated, the term black music is, in its simplest and broadest terms, simply music written by a black person.

Although her teachers encouraged her to continue her studies by enrolling at the Juilliard School, Undine Smith Moore instead took a job as supervisor of music in the public schools in Goldsboro, North Carolina. In 1927, Moore was hired as piano instructor and organist at Virginia State College (now Virginia State University) in Petersburg, where she was also assigned with teaching classes in counterpoint and theory, for which she was “particularly remedied.” The college appointed Moore director of the D. Webster Davis Laboratory High School chorus, and due to the school’s low budget, Moore would write her own music to cater towards the students’ needs. In 1938, Undine Smith married Dr. James Arthur Moore, the chair of the physical education department at Virginia State College. The couple often performed together in recitals, as James Moore was a trained vocalist. On January 4, 1941, Moore gave birth to their daughter, Marie Hardie.

In 1969, Undine Smith Moore and Altona Trent Johns became co-founders of the Black Music Center at Virginia State College, which aimed to educate members about the “contributions of black people to the music of the United States and the world.” Aside from teaching, Moore considered the Center to be her “most significant accomplishment.” In 1972, the Black Music Center closed after Undine Smith Moore retired from Virginia State College. Moore traveled widely as a professor and lecturer on black composers and also conducted workshops. Moore was a visiting professor at Carleton College and the College of Saint Benedict, and an adjunct professor at Virginia Union University during the 1970s. She continued her teaching career as a distinguished professor at Virginia Union University until 1976, meanwhile teaching at multiple colleges in Minnesota.

In 1975, Undine Smith Moore was presented with the Humanitarian Award from Fisk University. In 1957, Moore was labeled music laureate of the state of Virginia, and the National Association of Negro Musicians named her an “outstanding educator.” Indiana University awarded her an honorary degree the following year. Moore’s contributions to music were recognized by the National Black Caucus, and in 1981, Moore was invited to deliver the keynote address at the first National Congress on Women in Music at New York University.

In 1981, Moore’s Pulitzer Prize-nominated oratorio Scenes from the Life of Mary was performed at Carnegie Hall. The 20-part oratorio is based on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and written for chorus, orchestra, soloists and narrator. Moore had planned the piece for at least five years, and considered it her “most significant work.” On February 6, 1989, Undine Smith Moore sadly suffered a stroke at the age of 84. At her funeral, several hundred people gathered at Petersburg’s Memorial Church of the Carpenter’s Hall. The 1970s were Moore’s most prolific years, with twenty-seven works composed. The works of Moore range from “Arrangements of spirituals, to solo art songs, instrumental chamber music, and multiform composition” for chorus, orchestra, and soloists. Although she composed more than one hundred pieces between 1925 and 1957, only twenty-six were published during her lifetime. Most of this work occurred after 1950. The 1970s were Moore’s most prolific years, with twenty-seven works composed. The works of Moore range from “Arrangements of spirituals, to solo art songs, instrumental chamber music, and multiform composition” for chorus, orchestra, and soloists. Although she composed more than one hundred pieces between 1925 and 1957, only twenty-six were published during her lifetime. Moore’s music is, in its simplest and broadest terms, simply music written by a black person.
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This Black History Month, we celebrate unknown and unsung Black innovators, inventors and contributors who have helped shape, change and improve our world.

**A BLACK WOMAN DID THIS**

Dr. Gladys West helped develop what became the Global Positioning System (GPS) orbit in 1978.

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**Margaret Allison Majors (Bonds)** was born March 3, 1913 in Chicago, Illinois. Her father Monroe Alpheus Majors and mother Estelle C. Bonds divorced in 1917 and it was then that Margaret took on her mother’s last name of Bonds. Estelle saw that her daughter Margaret had an ear for music and composition so it was then that she became her first music teacher. At that time, Chicago was a hot bed for talented musicians so Margaret came into contact with black composers and intellectuals’ alike. In fact, while still attending school, Margaret had the privilege of studying composition with prominent black composers Florence Price and Williams Dawson. She picked up work around the city of Chicago accompanying other artists and businesses and transposing parts for different composers. After Margaret graduated from high school she went on to attend Northwestern University where she won an award for her composition “Sea-Ghost.” She earned both a bachelors and a masters degree by the age of 21 and went on to open her own school that she named the “Allied Arts Academy.” She provided lessons in music, ballet, and art. The school didn’t last very long but Margaret went on to do even more impressive things. In 1933 she performed Florence Price’s piano concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra becoming the first black woman to have a solo performance. In a beautiful twist of fate Margaret performed a work of Florence Price, who was the first Black Woman to have her music performed by a major orchestra. She continued to compose, collaborate and edit music when she wasn’t performing and a variation of “Peachtree Street” she worked on was featured in the 1939 film adaptation of Gone With the Wind.

When the 1940’s rolled around Margaret married, had a daughter, and she and her family relocated to New York. There she continued studying composition and piano at Julliard School of Music and privately with Emerson Harper and Roy Harris.

Margaret was very good friends with another artist Langston Hughes. They had a special bond and she often set his writing to her music. She had a number of compositions but eventually ventured into world of dance and theater. She wrote ballets, served as a musical director for various productions, and penned musical theater pieces. A few of the works included “Shakespeare in Harlem” (inspired by the writings of Hughes) and “Montgomery Variations”, a piece she dedicated to Martin Luther King Jr.

In her final act she moved west to Los Angeles, California where she taught music at the Los Angeles Inner City Institute. In 1972 what would be her final composition for orchestra and chorus was premiered by the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Sadly, she passed away a few months later after celebrating her 59th birthday.

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**Margaret Bonds**

A Composer, Concert Pianist, and a Performing Arts Collaborator

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**Zenobia Powell Perry**

She taught in a number of historically black colleges and universities and composed “music with clear, classic melodies.”

Zenobia Powell Perry was a composer, professor and civil rights activist. (October 2, 1908 – January 17, 2004)

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**Zenobia Powell Perry**

**BY GRACE BOATENG**

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Yet, many African Americans have inadequate access to hospitals in this country. Some communities have only one doctor in the area. Others don’t even have a local hospital. Let’s call this what it is: institutional racism. When African Americans don’t have access to health care, it perpetuates cycles of oppression and marginalization. Health care should be a human right afforded to everyone. It’s time to ensure African Americans have access to quality, affordable health care. I will fight for this fundamental right.

Join us to increase hospital access in your community.
Looks from the Vanity Fair Oscar Party 2020

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Tessa Thompson
Kerry Washington
According to a news release shared with People, "Each episode will highlight the journey and personal stories of students as they take on their freshman year of higher education." It follows students as they "explore issues like the academic stress of college, making new friends, college affordability, and the physical and mental health while in college.

The series will run from January to June. The exact dates are unclear. But details can be found on ATTN's Instagram page.

The series is immensely special and important to Obama, as she is also a first-generation college student.

"As a first-generation college student myself, I know how intimidating it can be to take that leap and pursue your educational dreams," Obama added in the release. "That’s why I’m so proud of these students.

"By sharing their stories, they’re helping others see that the ups and downs of the first year of college are something everyone goes through—and they’re creating a supportive community for others facing similar challenges," she went on.

Obama attended Princeton University in the early 1980s. In an Instagram post shared back in 2018, she described her experience as a first-generation student as "scary.

"I know that being a first-generation college student can be scary, because it was scary for me," she wrote. "I was black and from a working-class neighborhood in Chicago, while Princeton’s student body was generally white and well-to-do.

Obama has repeatedly said in the past that she struggled as an out-of-place person in a predominantly white space. She wrote in her 2018 memoir Becoming that her classmates and teachers would sometimes look at her as if she didn’t belong—and she even recounted an experience where her white roommate switched rooms after her mother learned Obama’s race.

But she found refuge in friends and a mentor. Obama graduated in 1983 and went on to study at Harvard Law School.

"I was applauded just for getting in, even if the truth was I was somehow sneaked in out the back list. But I was in. People looked at me as if already I’d made my mark on the world," she wrote in Becoming of her acceptance into Harvard.

Later, Obama scored a position at a law firm in Chicago where she was asked to mentor a man named Barack Obama.

"Because I went to Harvard and he went to Harvard, and the firm thought. ‘Oh, we’ll hook these two people up,’ “ the Obama told ABC News in 2008. “So, you know, there was a little intrigue, but I must say after about a month, Barack, about a month in, asked me out, and I thought no way. This is completely lucky.”

But Obama did not give up—and she eventually gave in. They got engaged in 1991 and married the following year.

The Color Purple Returns To the Big Screen

The Color Purple is an undeniable part of Black Hollywood history. And now, thanks to Fathom Events and Turner Classic Movies, you can see this iconic film—which stars Oprah, Whoopi Goldberg, and Margaret Avery—on February 23 in theaters across the country.

Not only was the film adaptation of Alice Walker’s influential novel a box office hit when it came out 35 years ago, it was also a critical success. The late Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Roger Ebert wrote in his 1985 review, “This is one of the few movies in a long time that inspires tears of happiness, and earns them. The Color Purple is the year’s best film.”

The Color Purple—which was nominated for 11 Oscars—introduced co-stars Oprah and Goldberg to audiences and became a breakthrough career moment for both of them.

It also inspired a Broadway musical that led to a Tony-award winning performance by Harriet star Cynthia Erivo, as well as a movie musical adaptation that’s still in the works.

Although some time has clearly passed since its release, the emotional story of how Celie Johnson (Goldberg) and Sofia (Oprah) faced oppression as Black women in the South carries heart.”

When I named it the best film of 1985, but I can also understand why it moved me so deeply, even after almost 20 years, I can see its flaws more easily than when I named it the best film of 1985, but I can also understand why it moved me so deeply, even after almost 20 years, I can see its flaws more easily than

Michelle Obama Inks an IGTV Series

We all know Michelle Obama as the former first lady of the United States. But since leaving the White House, she’s been building up her resume and branching out beyond politics. Most recently, her forever first lady inked a deal with Instagram TV to host a series that focuses on young people.

Obama and her Reach Higher program have reached a deal with the digital production company ATTN for the series, A Year of Firsts, which focuses on first-generation college students.

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Mu Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Bridge Builder Charity Foundation, Inc. Host 2nd Annual “Mardi Gras with the Ques” Event for Scholarships

By Jeffrey L. Boney
Associate Editor

This past Saturday, February 15, 2020, the Bridge Builder Charity Foundation, Inc. and the Brothers of the Mu Mu Nu Chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted their 2nd Annual “Mardi Gras with the Ques” event at the Greer & Lowdermilk Conference Center in north Houston. Over 500 people came out to celebrate and have an extremely fun time, as the group hosted a festive New Orleans Style party for the primary purpose of helping fund much-needed scholarships for deserving youth and some impactful mentoring programs.

Last year, the Bridge Builder Charity Foundation awarded a total 12 scholarships in the amount of $500 each to students, totaling $6,000. This year, over $10,000 in scholarships were awarded based off the generous contributions of event sponsors, table sponsors and overall attendees.

This year’s event featured New Orleans National Recording Artists, PARTNERS-N-CRIME, the festive sounds of Derrick D; a stunning performance by the Hustler’s Brass Band, as well as a New Orleans 2nd Line with Special Mardi Gras characters.

Attendees enjoyed delicious food, dynamic music and libations, especially thanks to Tito’s Handmade Vodka for making the event great all night because of their sponsoring “Mardi Gras with the Ques” and providing complimentary Tito’s Handmade Vodka all night for guests.

See more photos on 5C...
Mardi Gras with the Ques

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Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about The Greenwood Initiative.

As someone who has been very lucky in life, I often say my story would only have been possible in America — and that’s true. But I also know that because of the artificial barriers of discrimination, my story likely would have turned out very differently if I had been Black, and that more Black Americans of my generation would have ended up with far more wealth, had they been white.

Building Generational Wealth for Black Families is Critical. That’s why I launched The Greenwood Initiative in Tulsa last month. I visited the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre, where a white mob decimated the prosperous community of Greenwood. It is to the memory of the lost lives and promise of Greenwood that we’ve dedicated The Greenwood Initiative: a plan to address the systematic bias that has kept Black Americans from building wealth.

THE GREENWOOD PLAN WILL:

• Create 1 million new Black homeowners
• Double the number of new Black-owned businesses
• Invest $70 billion in the country’s 100 most disadvantaged neighborhoods

Fixing the System for Black Families. When I was mayor of New York, I was proud to take on the systematic inequality that held back too many New Yorkers. We increased education funding, built 650 new schools and raised Black graduation rates to record highs. We led an ambitious effort to reduce poverty and managed the largest amount of affordable housing in the nation. And as President, I will work even more aggressively to combat inequality nationwide.

I understand that undoing generations of systematic discrimination won’t happen overnight, but we can make progress with a clear vision and a comprehensive plan. I’ve included a pamphlet along with this letter that lays out my plan. When I’m President, implementing The Greenwood Initiative: will be a top priority.

Join me in ending the systemic inequality that has held Black Americans back for too long!

Sincerely,

Mike Bloomberg

For more information visit MikeForBlackAmerica.com