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HAPPY 4th OF JULY



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\$20 million marked for healthcare

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Sha'Carri Richardson

People In The News ...



Stephanie Mills



RaHSan-RaHSan Lindsay

NDG Quote of the Week: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."

- The Declaration of Independence

Sha'Carri Richardson

By David Wilfong
NDG Contributing Writer

The world of athletics is abuzz with athletes trying to make their way onto Olympic rosters.

While there is a virtual sea of events athletes can qualify for, track and field remains one of the bedrocks of the global event, and a young woman from Dallas secured her ticket to Tokyo in a big way.

It has been a few years Sha'Carri Richardson burned up the high school tracks around the DFW



USATF

area competing for Dallas Carter. From here she went on to stand out among the runners at LSU.

This past week she was in Eugene, Ore. to prove her worth in representing

the U.S. in the 100-meter sprint.

She did so, in resounding fashion.

All eyes were on Richardson, with her fiery hair and equally explosive on-track personality. When the starting gun sounded, Richardson did not disappoint.

She blew through the preliminary heats, with a 10.64-second semifinal run where she had enough of a lead to confidently point to the time clock before she even reached the finish line.

Richardson's acceleration was on full display on the final race. Not as quick from the blocks as some of

the other more seasoned veterans on the track, Richardson powered from the middle of the pack to the finish line to take the top spot. This was the first U.S. title for Richardson.

Richardson's training partner Javianne Oliver took second place in the race with a time of 10.99, and the 2019 U.S. champion, Teahna Daniels of Austin finished third to round out the Olympic representatives with a time of 11.03.

Richardson then pulled at the heartstrings of the televised audience when, after a few brief congratulatory hugs from the other top fin-

ishers, she bolted from the track and into the stands. Her energy stayed at top level until she found her family's seats where she collapsed into her grandmother's arms.

In a post-race interview afterward, Richardson revealed that she had just lost her biological mother, and that her family is what had sustained her through all her challenges leading up to the title.

"Nobody knows what I go through," Richardson told NBS cameras after the race. "Everybody has struggles, and I understand that. But y'all see

me on this track, and y'all see the poker face I put on. But nobody but them and my coach know what I go through on a day to day basis and I'm highly grateful for them. Without them, there would be no me.

"Without my grandmother, there would be no Sha'Carri Richardson, so my family is my everything; my everything until the day I'm done."

There are many competitions left in many sports to determine the athletes which will make up the U.S. Olympic team in Tokyo, but one of the stars has already begun to shine.

Stephanie Mills

Music lovers, prepare yourself for one of the most anticipated comebacks in history.

The legendary Grammy Award winner Stephanie Mills has announced her new single, "Let's Do the Right Thing," an anthem not unlike Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?" of 50 years ago.

Her long-awaited new music drops appropriately on Saturday, June 19 – June 19th.

"It's all me. I am not doing this through a [traditional] record label," Mills



told the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in an exclusive interview.

The NNPA is the trade association that represents the hundreds of African American-owned newspa-

pers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America.

Parts of the icon's special interview, including the debut of Mills' new single, can be seen on Friday, June 25, at 1PM EST, as part of the NNPA's Virtual 2021 National Convention. The NNPA will air the full interview at 5 p.m. EST on its "Fiyah!" broadcast.

The broadcast will air over several of the Black

Press of America's social media channels, including Facebook.com/BlackPressUSA/Videos, YouTube.com/c/BlackPressUSATV, and Twitter @BlackPressUSA.

Mills' team said the new music brings fans back to her traditional soulful sound infused with an empowering message that challenges the listener "to take an introspective look at oneself to create love and

peace."

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Mills has proven to be a treasure embedded in music's fabric.

Her illustrious career spans a half-century.

The singer, whose voice knows no peers, began her professional career at the age of 11 with a Broadway run of "Maggie Flynn," followed by the leading role of Dorothy in the Tony Award-Winning play "The

Wiz."

After conquering the Great White Way, Mills recorded some of the most memorable songs in music history, including "Never Knew Love Like This," "Putting a Rush on Me," "Power of Love," and "Home."

Along with her singing and acting career, Mills is a lifelong social justice and

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Rahsan-Rahsan Lindsay

(New York, NY) — MediaCo Holding Inc. (NASDAQ: MDIA), owner of HOT 97, WBLS, and Fairway Outdoor, announced today that Rahsan-Rahsan Lindsay has been named Chief Executive Officer, effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Lindsay most recently served as Executive Vice President, Urban One. He brings over twenty years of successful leadership experience across media, television, and advertising to MediaCo. As CEO, Lindsay will be responsible for setting MediaCo's overall strategic vision and expanding its radio and outdoor divisions with an emphasis on transforming the digital business.

"Rahsan-Rahsan is a talented and dedicated leader



with the right strategic vision, relentless drive, and passion for media required to lead the MediaCo team at this critical time. He forged his career at the intersection of technology and media, and his vast experience and keen perspective will be invaluable in taking the company into the future," said MediaCo Board Director Laura Lee.

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Lindsay has spent the past



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Biracials: America's emergent race

By Allen R. Gray
NDG Special Correspondent

The One Drop theory is defunct and wasted away.

America has arrived at a point where it must admit that the way we have historically felt about racial classifications has changed. Our world is no longer as simple as Black and white—or Hispanic or Asian. Even job applications now allow applicants to declare if they are biracial, multi-racial, or if they are of two or more races—and just the atypical white, Black, Hispanic or Asian.

There once was a time that the viscosity of Black blood was so infectious that merely one drop could condemn any other major ethnicity to the bowels of Negrodom. It was for this reason that inter-racial marriage was a crime punishable by imprisonment and miscegenation was often a death sentence.

All states enforced some brand of anti-miscegenation law, but the notion of a government dictating who one could or could not love based on race took roots with the ruling in an 1883 Supreme Court Decision that upheld the constitutionality of anti-miscegenation laws.

In the pivotal case *Pace v. Alabama* (1883), a Black man, Tony Pace, was accused of living together in "adultery and fornication" with Mary J. Cox, a white woman. Had there been two white people caught in this moral dilemma, they would have been fined one-hundred dollars, or they were sentenced to a few days in jail. Pace and Cox were sentenced to the maximum penalty allowed, which was two years in the state penitentiary. Pace and Cox appealed their conviction to the U.S. Supreme Court under the provisions

of the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause, but they didn't receive a righteous verdict from that august body. The Supreme Court ruled that Alabama's anti-miscegenation law did not violate the 14th Amendment, because both the white and Black offenders received the same sentence. That unrighteous decision stood for nearly a century and proved to be just as damning for fair and just America as did the ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson's* "separate but equal" doctrine.

So it is that in America it is not always a matter of how one might view oneself or what they are purported to be racially, it is more a matter of what the racial culture of the day allows them to be. For some, it is no more than an imitation of life.

Being multiracial is mostly a matter of opinion. The Black culture has always accepted multiracial Americans. We had to because we didn't have a choice. A biracial was apt to be found in places as lowly as slave quarters, and as grand as the big house. But those biracials could never claim to be white even if they wanted to. Still, mankind's view of his racial self is due to evolve, even when some wish otherwise.

The day some ardently white Americas have feared for centuries is now upon us. Biracials have come boldly out of the closet. A recent Pew Research Center survey on America's racial composite revealed that 60% of Americans identified as multiracial say that they are proud of their background, even though, they have been subjected to racial slurs or jokes. U.S. Census statistics show that our multifarious construct of America is rapidly

changing.

In 2016, Americans claiming two or more races accounted for 2.6% of the total population. Keep in mind that 2.6% is comprised of only of those multi-racial individuals who were audacious enough to admit that they were multi-racial. Over the next four decades, though, the number of multiracial Americans is projected to grow exponentially. At the same time, the biracial race is experiencing this growth, the white population is projected to shrink by nearly 19 million people when you measure births versus deaths.

As America becomes more racially diverse and social taboos against interracial marriage fade, a new level of acceptance has descended upon our land.

Advertising giants are beginning to realize that, as a nation, we've come a long way, baby. Based on their recent nationally televised advertisements, even corporate America is getting the message. Interracial couples and their biracial offspring are smiling for the camera in all imaginable combinations of family members. Biracials are the face of products as diverse as automobiles to insurance. This new perception of the Black gene pool is a far cry from the perceptions of yesteryear.

75 years ago, Blacks weren't allowed to participate in major sports; and even when that color line was crossed, Blacks were placed in limited support roles. Blacks certainly couldn't play the position of quarterback, because—even though Blacks had "the God-given ability"—the claim was that Blacks didn't have the IQ to be QB. Biracial athletes, though, are a can't miss proposition, because they

are credited with having all the God-given ability attributed to Black athletes plus all the intellectual strengths attributed to white athletes.

That twisted bit of genetic logic might be hard to argue with when we take a look at their production on the field. Biracial athletes have ascended to MVP of the NFL, NBA, WTA, WNBA, MLS, MLB, Formula 1...and they are working on dominating the NHL. (We, too, must pay homage to groundbreaking, record-shattering "Caulasian," Tiger Woods as he continues to recover.)

Americans must now become cognizant of what racial tags we place on our fellow Americans. Specifically, Black folk will have to be cautious of the racial tags we place on our brethren; and where that tag might place us in the annals of historical accomplishments. We would be forced to admit that we Americans have never elected a Black president but, instead, a biracial president who is more commonly affiliated with Blacks. Nor have we ever elected a Black vice president but, rather, a multiracial woman who attended an HBCU (Historically Black Colleges or University) and who is a member of a historically Black sorority.

One must confess that a few more people admitting that they are proud to have Black blood streaming through their veins isn't likely to cause a major shift in American politics (most admitted biracials tend to be democrats, though), nor will biracials coming out of the racial closet dampen the flames of systemic racism, but the unconditional acceptance of this new breed of American may have us two steps closer to being an all-inclusive melting pot.

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CMS announces \$20 million in American Rescue Plan funding available to improve access to state-based marketplace coverage

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced \$20 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to support State-based Marketplaces (SBMs) to improve access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance coverage for consumers in their states. States can apply for funding to help modernize or update their systems, programs, or technology to comply with federal Marketplace requirements, including the recent provisions of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) that increased the financial assistance available to certain consumers.

SBMs that operate their own eligibility platforms



Hush Naidoo / Unsplash

collectively enrolled over 3.8 million consumers in Marketplace coverage thus far for the 2021 plan year. Most consumers are now eligible for increased savings to reduce monthly premium payments and many may be eligible for lower out-of-pocket costs, such as lower deductibles, due

to changes made through the ARP. This means states with Marketplaces will be enrolling more consumers and reassessing current enrollees' eligibility for financial assistance as consumers seek to access this broader financial help.

"Our State-based Marketplaces are the gateway

to quality, affordable health care for millions of consumers and these investments will make it even easier to sign up for coverage," said CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "This funding available to states will help them to provide consumers with swift eligibility determinations and enrollment into comprehensive health care plans. We applaud State-based Marketplaces – many of which have provided opportunities for special enrollment periods during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency – for their hard work."

Under this funding opportunity, up to 21 cooperative agreement grants can be awarded to currently-

approved SBMs that meet the application requirements, including those that use the HealthCare.gov for eligibility and enrollment. SBMs can prioritize funding to make modifications to systems or technology infrastructure related to the implementation of applicable federal requirements. This includes changes needed to ensure consumers can quickly receive a new eligibility determination in order to access the increased premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions available through the ARP.

States may also use the funds for program policies or procedures required for implementation of applicable federal requirements.

This includes consumer notifications, consumer education or other assistance activities, stakeholder education or training, state and federal reporting, call center or appeal supports, staff training, and oversight and monitoring activities.

Applications from eligible SBM applicants will be due on July 20, 2021. CMS anticipates issuing grant awards in early September 2021. The period of performance for this grant will be from the date of the award through September 9, 2022. The NOFO provides additional details regarding eligibility and program requirements, as well as key deadline and application submission information.

FCB Health New York and broadcast journalist Ted Koppel team up to find the millions living with undiagnosed COPD

NEW YORK - Before COVID-19, 150,000 Americans were dying of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) every year, and the pandemic has only worsened this crisis. An estimated 30 million Americans have COPD, and almost half — 12–15 million — don't know they have it. As the nation focuses on getting as many Americans as possible vaccinated against COVID-19, those with COPD are particularly vulnerable, as the disease doubles the risk of COVID-related hospitalization and death.

Focused on finding these "missing millions," FCB Health New York has partnered with the Dorney-Koppel Foundation, the COPD Foundation and the American Respiratory Care Foundation to create "COPD SOS" — a public service campaign that will air on major broadcast and cable networks including ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN throughout Summer 2021.

For broadcast journalist Ted Koppel and his wife, COPD activist Grace Anne Dorney Koppel, the campaign and its mission are

personal. "My wife, Grace Anne, was diagnosed with very severe COPD in 2001. At the time, she was told that her life expectancy was 3–5 years. As Grace Anne puts it, she's lived well beyond her 'use by' date. We want to give others with COPD the same hope and opportunity," said Koppel. "And this mission is more urgent than ever in the face of this pandemic. We partnered around this campaign to accelerate awareness, find those unknowingly living with COPD, and get them vaccinated against COVID-19."

Working with FCB Health New York, Koppel interviewed more than 30 COPD patients in New York, Louisiana and West Virginia. Their stories are at the heart of this campaign, underscoring the heightened vulnerability of living with COPD in the age of COVID-19. <https://vimeo.com/561839285/cf-8b3e6b1e>

COPD is a chronic lung condition that worsens over time and is often associated with smoking, but more than 25% of COPD patients

have never smoked a day in their life.

"We're honored to work with Ted and Grace Anne to drive awareness for this urgent yet overlooked condition and to help find the missing millions of undiag-

nosed COPD patients," said Mike Devlin, FCB Health New York Executive Creative Director.

To learn more about COPD and to take the self-assessment survey, please visit <https://copsos.org/>.

Burn Camp offers survivors support, fun - virtually

Although they won't be splashing in pools or singing around the campfire together this year, children with burn injuries will be able to gather for a virtual camping experience hosted by Parkland Health & Hospital System's Regional Burn Center in conjunction with Camp John Marc.

Camp I-Thonka-Chi (Choctaw for "a place that makes one strong or fearless, not afraid to face life") is traditionally held during the first full week of June at Camp John Marc near Meridian, Texas. But like many traditions upended by the pandemic, Parkland's beloved Burn Camp was

shifted to an online experience in 2020 and will again be held virtually this year due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

According to Donna Crump, Parkland physical therapy manager and co-founder and director of Camp I-Thonka-Chi, "Our host site for summer camp,

Camp John Marc, made the difficult decision that it was in the best interest of the campers that are served to cancel our traditional in-person group camping this summer."

Instead, Parkland's dedicated team of Burn Camp

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President Biden signs Juneteenth holiday into law

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Beginning on Friday, June 18, federal employees enjoyed the country's 12th – and perhaps most significant – paid holiday.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris held a signing ceremony, officially marking Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Because Juneteenth falls on a Saturday this year, workers are enjoying the new holiday one day early.

“Black history is American history, and I am proud to stand alongside President Biden and my fellow congressional colleagues in reaffirming that sacred principle,” Congressional Black Caucus Chair Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio) stated.

“While we rightfully celebrate this momentous moment today, the Congressional Black Caucus recognizes that the work to build a brighter tomorrow for Black Americans is far from over. ‘Our Power, Our Message’ remains the same: equity, equality, and justice for all people.”

Before attending the White House signing ceremony, Congresswoman Be-



“Black history is American history, and I am proud to stand alongside President Biden and my fellow congressional colleagues in reaffirming that sacred principle,” Beatty said ahead of her visit to the White House. “While we rightfully celebrate this momentous moment today, the Congressional Black Caucus recognizes that the work to build a brighter tomorrow for Black Americans is far from over.” She continued, “‘Our Power, Our Message’ remains the same: equity, equality, and justice for all people.”
(Photo: Joyce Beatty / Flickr)

atty witnessed the bill's enactment while flanked by CBC members and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

President Biden and Vice President Harris had made it a mission of their administration to undo as much systemic racism and defeat White supremacy.

With a diverse cabinet and staff, and policies that aim to level the playing field for African Americans and other people of color, the administration has worked diligently in living up to its mission.

Juneteenth was established on June 19, 1865, more than two years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Union soldiers – led by General Gordon Granger – arrived in Galveston, Texas, with the news that the Civil War was over and all previously enslaved people were free.

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in September 1862 to free enslaved people in Confederate states.

However, it wasn't until nearly three years later that news of the proclamation reached Black people in Texas.

The fight to formally recognize Juneteenth has been a decades-long effort culminating in the broad bipartisan passage of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act.

Before the U.S. House of Representatives' historic vote, Congresswoman Beatty called on her colleagues to support the measure.

“You can't change the future if you can't acknowledge the past,” she proclaimed.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Financial Services, applauded signage of the bill.

However, Congresswoman Waters said recognition comes 156 years late.

“While this is certainly welcomed, it comes 156 years late, and after legislation to protect voting rights and address police abuse sits idle because of Republican Senators who refuse to understand the need to protect our communities and our right to participate in this democracy,” the congresswoman asserted.

“To put this moment into perspective, the establishment of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a federal holiday happened in 1986, and we are still fighting for our civil rights,” she stated.

Congresswoman Waters continued:

“We are still waiting for Senate passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. We are still waiting for lynching to be classified as a federal hate crime. We are still waiting for the terrorists who de-

stroyed Black Wall Street during the Tulsa Race Massacre to be held accountable, and we are still waiting for Black history to be accurately taught in our schools.”

The congresswoman insisted further that “as we celebrate the passage of this legislation, let us be clear that we will not be distracted or appeased.”

“We will not simply accept Juneteenth as a federal holiday in exchange for real action that honors our history and our place in this country and moves us closer to achieving justice,” Congresswoman Waters remarked.

She said she fully expects her colleagues to join her urgent calls for the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Senate passage of the For the People Act.

“In the final analysis, it will be shown that platitudes and niceties are one thing but having the courage and taking real action on this issue is another,” Congresswoman Waters demanded.

“Let us honor this day by working toward a nation in which Black lives and Black votes are protected and respected.”

America's police brutality problem results in thousands taken to emergency rooms

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

A new investigation by the nonprofit The Marshall Project and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reveal the depth of police brutality and unpunished violence that continues to rock the nation, particularly communities of color.

Since 2015, more than 400,000 people have been treated in emergency rooms because of a violent interaction with police or security guards, according to the report that The

Marshall Project published in conjunction with NBC News. “But there's almost no nationwide data on the nature or circumstances of their injuries,” the report's authors wrote.

“Many of the country's roughly 18,000 law enforcement agencies don't tally or make public the number of people who need medical care after officers break their arms, bruise their faces, or shock them with Tasers.”

The researchers noted the national conversation about policing over the past year, where public attention has focused on those

like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tamir Rice, who die at the hands of officers.

“Few know that tens of thousands of people like Eliel Paulino end up in emergency rooms after run-ins with police,” the researchers penned in the study.

Paulino was less than a block from his apartment complex late one night in 2015 when “red police lights flashed in his SUV's rearview mirror,” the researchers continued.

Officers told Paulino that lights on his license plates

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The impact of HBCUs and how to support them

Lena Borrelli
Contributing Writer
Bestvalueschools.com

Historically Black colleges and universities, commonly known as HBCUs, are an incredibly important part of the higher education system in the United States. These schools, which make up just 3% of the nation's colleges and universities, produce nearly 20% of all African American graduates — making them a crucial component of minority education.

That's not the only benefit of HBCUs, either. Historically Black colleges and universities are also responsible for educating about 25% of African American STEM graduates. These science, technology, engineering, and math fields are extremely important to the future of our nation — and offer solid career paths to STEM graduates, who are sought out by major companies and typically enter their fields with high earning potentials.

These types of higher education institutions are also incredibly important when it comes to support for Black students. According to a 2015 Gallup-Purdue poll, African American graduates of HBCUs are more likely to have felt supported while in college and are more likely to thrive after graduation when compared to their Black peers who graduated from other higher education institutions. Adding more weight to the argument that HBCUs are a vital component of higher education is the fact that about 40% of HBCU students reported feeling financially secure during college. On the other hand, only 29% of Black students reported feeling financially secure at other schools.

Diversity within college graduates helps to make for a stronger, more positive society, and education helps to level the playing field for people of all colors. Given



2C2K Photography / Flickr

the role that HBCUs play, it's incredibly important to show support for these vital institutions — and people from all corners of the nation and walks of life can play a role in doing so. By showing support, you will help make higher education accessible to anyone who wants to pursue it. In the guide below, we'll talk more about why you should support HBCUs and offer ways you can do that.

Understanding HBCUs

The road to equal education rights in the U.S. has been long and full of obstacles. To best understand the significance of historically Black colleges and universities, you first must understand how and why these institutions of higher education were necessary to begin with.

Background

The first historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) were established 1861 with the introduction of just two schools, which were founded in Pennsylvania and Ohio just prior to the start of the American Civil War. These institutions were created to serve as educational centers specifically designed to cater to Black students, who were isolated from white-only schools. The focus during the early days of these institutions was to help educate future teachers and tradesmen with basic education and trained skills that would help to serve them in the workplace.

It wasn't until after the Civil War that HBCUs expanded into the South. The momentum that helped to propel the growth of HBCUs in the South was due,

at least in part, to work done by the Freedmen's Bureau, a federal Reconstruction group designed to help Black people acclimate to free life. Many of today's most respected HBCUs were founded during this time, including

Clark Atlanta University — formerly known as Atlanta University, Howard University, and Morehouse College — formerly the Augusta Institute.

Still, at that point in time, America was a long way from equal rights for all people. It would take a series of groundbreaking legislative actions to shatter the physical and legal barriers separating the Black community from much of society. It would also take many more decades for these colleges and universities to earn the HBCU moniker via the 1965 Higher Education Act.

Plessy vs. Ferguson

The case of Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 U.S. 537, was an 1896 federal case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court after Homer Plessy, a Black man from Louisiana, was jailed for sitting in a white-only train car.

Despite impassioned arguments, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of racially segregated public facilities, so long as they were equal between the races. The court's decision drew upon and upheld the Jim Crow laws, giving birth to a new phrase that would ring infamous for decades to come: "Separate but equal."

As the Library of Congress notes, "It became the legal basis for racial segregation in the United States

for the next fifty years."

Brown vs. Board of Education

More than 50 years passed from Plessy v. Ferguson to the point when the Supreme Court justices reversed the original segregation laws. This happened in 1954 with the decision regarding Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. After Oliver Brown's Black daughter was denied entrance to a white-only school, Brown served the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, with a class-action lawsuit, arguing that segregated facilities were far from equal. Such division only served to violate the equal protections afforded by the 14th amendment.

His lawsuit was joined by four others, and the cases progressed all the way to the Supreme Court before it was all combined into one: Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.

This time, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of desegregation, voting unanimously to end the racial segregation of U.S. public schools.

Civil Rights Act of 1964

The Civil War gave birth to a series of new amendments designed to affect equal rights: the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery; the 14th Amendment, which recognized formerly enslaved people as citizens; and the 15th amendment, which gave men of all races the right to vote.

Before his death, President John F. Kennedy began laying the groundwork for new legislation that would recognize equal rights and outlaw segregation based on race, national origin, or religion in all public establishments. He was assassinated prior to seeing the legislation through, but President Lyndon B. Johnson picked up where Kennedy left off.

Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which includes Title VII, which specifically bans discrimination in the workplace and among labor unions. This act served as the foundation for today's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The late Martin Luther

King, Jr. later said that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was nothing less than a "second emancipation."

But, despite the progress, Black Americans remained largely disenfranchised from their communities. The unequal footing in the decades prior had led to issues with wealth distribution and test scores, which kept many Black Americans from assimilating into former white-only schools.

It is from these types of disparities that HBCUs were founded. These schools, which catered to Black and minority students, gave people of color the opportunity to be free to pursue higher education without fear of harassment or reprisal.

It wasn't long before HBCUs began to open their doors across the nation, forming the foundation for today's most cherished and respected HBCU educational institutions.

As of 2021, there were about 107 U.S. historically Black colleges and univer-

See HBCU, Page 12

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Plano Mayor's summer interns invest service day at North Texas Food Bank

As the pandemic caused more people than ever to struggle to feed their families, approximately 80 high school teens participating in the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program took a day off from their paid positions to serve at the North Texas Food Bank for Community Service Day, sponsored by NTT DATA, on June 18.



Plano Mayor John Muns (left) joins students from the summer internship in organizing food donations at the North Texas Food Bank during Community Service Day. (Photo James Edwards / Courtesy photo)

Newly elected Plano Mayor John Muns, Councilmember Rick Grady, Councilmember Julie Holmer and Deputy City Manager Greg Rushin joined the teens, along with NTT DATA CEO Bob Pryor and other volunteers.

In his first year leading the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program, Mayor Muns shared his insights with the teens about the importance of giving back and the life-long dividends reaped when young adults adopt a philanthropic spirit

early on. He even endearingly related to the interns, who like him, just experienced their first day on the job. (His was at City Hall!) "It is exciting to have the opportunity to work alongside our summer interns for

this Community Service work day," said Mayor Muns. "Giving back to our community to help our underserved is a great investment for all involved. My hope is that today's event inspires these students to be life-long servant leaders."

Mayor Muns also expressed appreciation to all the companies and nonprofits who stepped up this year to support the program, especially NTT DATA for sponsoring the annual Community Service Day. The company also presented a \$25,000 check to the North Texas Food Bank.

"NTT DATA first engaged with the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program through the

leadership of our former chairman, John McCain. I remember being in the audience at our first event several years ago, and John spoke of the positive impact on interns and the community at large," said Bob Pryor, chief executive officer for NTT DATA Services. "The program – and this event – aligns with our corporate values and helps future leaders see the importance of community engagement first hand."

Throughout the morning, Mayor Muns, councilmembers, students and NTT DATA volunteers sorted food and packaged dry goods for distribution to North Texas families in need. By the end of their

shift, they packed 17,326 lbs. of food – that will provide for 14,438 meals -- and created 1,151 produce bags!

Intern Kirti Moteka was excited to get to work alongside Mayor Muns and her fellow interns.

"Giving back is great, but when we get to roll up our sleeves next to our mayor, it's even more meaningful and memorable," said Kirti Moteka, a rising senior at Plano East Senior High school who's working in government affairs at the City of Plano. "It's awesome to see everyone come together and make such a difference in just a few hours!"

Senate Republicans block sweeping voting rights bill

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

With Republican-backed voter suppression bills sweeping the country, the Democrat-majority in the U.S. Senate has quickly lost its grip on protecting voters of color and others who are marginalized at the polls.

On Tuesday, a procedural vote on the House-passed "For the People Act" proved dead on arrival after falling well short of the 60-votes needed.

"Donald Trump, with

his despicable lies, has lit a fire under Republican state legislatures, and they have launched the most sweeping effort at voter suppression in 80 years," declared Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York).

"The GOP doesn't even want to debate," Schumer asserted.

Democrats hold the tie-breaking vote in the evenly divided Senate.

However, all its members had to vote favorably for the measure, and at least 10 Republicans would have to

join.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-West Virginia) had preemptively broken ranks with the party and said he would vote against the "For the People Act."

Party leaders spent considerable time negotiating a compromise with Sen. Manchin on amendments he proposed. "I think we put out an awful lot of good changes, I think, hopefully, the country would agree," Sen. Manchin said ahead of the vote. He said the changes "makes a lot of sense for a lot of voters."

Before Democrats accepted Sen. Manchin's amendments, he expressed a reticence to vote for the legislation.

"Some in my party have argued that now is the time to discard such bipartisan voting reforms and embrace election reforms and policies solely supported by one party. Respectfully,

I do not agree," a defiant Sen. Machin wrote in an op-ed in the Charleston Gazette-Mail newspaper in West Virginia.

Ironically, Republicans used the filibuster to torpedo the "For the People Act," but Sen. Manchin steadfastly has ignored cries to eliminate or modify the rule.

"I will not vote to weaken or eliminate the filibuster," the moderate Senator wrote.

With voter suppression bills passing in Florida, Georgia, Texas, and other GOP-led states, many Democrats in the Senate and President Joe Biden

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'Old School' cruises to tennis win at Juneteenth Exhibition

Barbeque is typically the way many celebrate Juneteenth each year.

But this year, family and friends were able to attend Camp Wisdom's Juneteenth Tennis Exhibition held at Kiest Tennis Center in Dallas.

The inaugural event featured doubles match between Adia and Aliya Larzeia and General Berry and Rev. James Minor, retired.

The Larzeia siblings were this year's Carter High School doubles district champions. The match was a church fundraiser for

youth and one other ministry.

The match up was billed as "New School" verses "Old School." This time, "Old School" experience overcame the young champions, 6-0 and 60.

"It was a wonderful event," said Rev. Lesta Anderson, pastor at Camp Wisdom.

"I thought the idea for these two teams playing was truly a different way for us to celebrate our heritage. Plus, it just so happened to be the day the country recognized it as a national holi-

day."

Recently, President Joe Biden signed into law that Juneteenth is now a federal holiday.

"We didn't know the law would be passed," finance chair General Berry said. "But perhaps this means that Dallas is the first city in the country to hold a Juneteenth tennis exhibition. Isn't that something?"

Perhaps as many as 30 people attended. The charity was a financial success, Berry said, and he hopes the tennis exhibition will catch on even more next year.



From left, Aliya and Adia Larzeia, General Berry, Jr. and Rev. James Minor. (Courtesy photos)

VOTING, from Page 7

had hoped the "For the People Act" would override restrictive legislation.

The bill addresses voter access, election integrity, election security, political spending, and ethics for the three branches of government.

It would expand voter registration and voting access and limit removing voters from voter rolls.

Among other provisions, the bill provides for states to establish independent, nonpartisan redistricting commissions.

It sets provisions related to election security, including sharing intelligence information with state election officials, protecting the safety of the voter rolls, and supporting states in secur-

ing their election systems.

The "For the People Act" develops a national strategy to protect the security and integrity of U.S. democratic institutions, establishes in the legislative branch the National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions, and other provisions to improve the cybersecurity of election systems.

Even former President Barack Obama jumped into the fray this week to criticize opponents of the "For the People Act."

"Whatever else we may argue about, the one thing we should agree on the bedrock idea that we as Americans have been taught to take pride in, this is the fact that we're a democracy,"

Obama said.

"The issue of voting rights might not set off alarms for most of us. The violence that occurred in the U.S. Capitol on January 6 should remind us we can't take our democracy for granted."

Georgia Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock insisted that his colleagues on both sides of the aisle should protect democracy.

"Protecting the sacred right to vote doesn't just help secure our democracy. It helps ensure a future in which Americans can come together to solve our nation's challenges," Sen. Warnock stated.

"Congress cannot stand idly by as efforts to suppress voters' voices are being enacted."



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The 2021 Tribeca Film Festival shines a light on feature films

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

The 20th annual Tribeca Film Festival brimmed over with feature films that focused on our multicultural world. Check out some of the most unique ones.

Brighton 4th (***)

Every immigrant has a backstory. The elderly Kakhi (Levan Tedaishvili) was a champion wrestler back in his country of Georgia, before he came to Brighton Beach, Brooklyn to live with his son in a boarding house. With his pugilistic background, he isn't afraid when he confronts violent thugs who threaten his wayward son Soso (Giorgi Tabidze) who owes them a huge gambling debt. Every frame is evocatively shot (Phedon Papamichael), perfectly edited (Sasha Frumin, Davit Kiknadze, Elene Asatiani) and directed by Levan Koguashvili. Scenes in Eastern Europe and Brooklyn set time, place and mood impeccably in this slowly moving dirge. The meandering script (Boris Frumin) takes too many detours with too many extraneous characters, zapping the film's true strength. Still, a very worthy meditation on dutiful father/loser son strife as seen through the eye's a wise old man.

Clean (**1/2)

Clean (Adrien Brody) is a garbage man in Utica, New York who packs more than a trash compactor. He packs heat. When thugs threaten a teen (Chandler DuPont) he shepherds, this former hitman loads up. Brody and director Paul Solet wrote a white-man-savior script that feels dated. Yet as a director, Solet is very capable of turning this shoestring budget production into an engaging urban indie. Credit the atmospheric cinematography (Zoran Popovic), perceptive editing (Arndt-Wulf Peemöller), low-key costumes (Michael Bevins) and realistic production design (Timothy Whid-



bee) for adding more to the film than was on the page. What's iffy in a theater will play better 'round midnight on streaming services and cable.

Italian Studies (**1/2)

What's most distinctive about writer/director Adam Leon's spacey NYC drama is its total lack of structure. Jean-Luc Godard fans will be pleased. Others maybe not. What everyone can probably agree on is that when actress Vanessa Kirby (Pieces of a Woman) wanders aimlessly around the streets of Chelsea as Alina, a writer with a foggy memory, her character is extremely beguiling because she is extremely beguiling. Nice looking (cinematographer Brett Jutkiewicz), well scored (composer Nicholas Britell) and smartly jumbled together (editors Sara Shaw, Erin DeWitt, Kristan Sprague, Betsy Kagen). The teen cast of actors that befriend Alina are as natural and carefree as the film. Still, it's not enough.

Mark, Mary & Some Other People (**1/2)

During a controversial 1995 interview Princess Diana shamed her husband and his mistress by saying: "There were three of us in the marriage, so that made it a bit crowded." For Gen Zers Mary (Hayley Law) and Mark (Ben Rosenfield), three is only the be-

ginning once they embark on their open relationship. Writer/director Hannah Marks, sets up a very titillating premise, casts the film well and has a feel for a younger generation that is curious about casual sex and not sure about the complications: infidelity, jealousy, hurt feelings, STDs ... When the couple's journey ends, they're still way too whiny and have had no huge revelations. It's a disappointment. It's like being invited to a feeble Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice-themed party that fizzles.

No Sudden Move (**)

If you use Martin Scorsese's Goodfellas and The Irishman as the high-bar standard for gangster films, this project by director Steven Soderbergh and screenwriter Ed Solomon is no more than a 90min knockoff. A pair of Black (Don Cheadle) and Latino (Benicio Del Toro) hit men are hired to steal corporate documents by kidnapping an executive (David Harbour, Stranger Things). They're not sure who hired them and are trying to outgame the person who is pulling their strings. Complication after complication leads to a flaccid ending. Cheadle and Del Toro are craftsmen, the supporting cast is tight too (Julia Fox, Ray Liotta, Bill Duke, Kieran Culkin, Amy Seimetz)

and the tech teams do their jobs well, but even they can't make this crime/drama/mystery as riveting as it needs to be.

The Outside Story (*1/2)

This slice-of-life, only-in-New York story follows the one-day exploits of a jilted video editor (the very charming Brian Tyree Henry) who, in a bumbling state, locks himself out of his apartment. Sound like a perfect Saturday Night Live sketch? That's where writer/director Casimir Nozkowski should have staged it. As an 85-minute urban anecdote it wears thin quickly. Even a bevy of idiosyncratic supporting

characters (flirty police-woman, priggish gay upstairs neighbor, older woman looking for romance) can't compensate enough for a storyline that feels like it can't get off its own treadmill.

Queen of Glory (**1/2)

How do you hold on to your home country's roots when you live in a new land? Actor/writer/director Nana Mensah's ode to her Ghanaian American community in the Bronx, New York explores that quandary. She plays a Ghanaian PhD hopeful who attends Columbia University and is having an affair with a white married man. She's oblivious to the implications of her assimilation until her mom dies suddenly and her estranged dad arrives from the Motherland expecting a funeral. African traditions and Western cultures collide. It's a very modern predicament that gives Mensah a golden opportunity to express the inner/outer turmoil many immigrants face. Production elements are fine for a low budget indie. If the script had chosen to either be a viable drama or complete farcical comedy instead of merging both, it would have been far more compelling. In this case, straddling two genres undermines Mensah's best efforts.

Werewolves Within (**1/2)

The sole purpose of this hysterical horror comedy is to perfectly deliver the right amount of gore and guffaws. A new forest ranger (Sam Richardson, Veep) arrives in the remote, woody town of Beaverfield for duty, only to discover a mysterious creature is gnawing and killing people. A snowstorm cuts off all access in and out of town. A raging war over an impending pipeline pits citizen against citizen. So, who's dying next? Director Josh Ruben and writer Mishna Wolff must have studied improv because that's the film's vibe. It's like the entire comic cast was given a license to camp it up. And they do—like John Waters was their patron saint. If you can imagine a sequel to the film Knives Out, only all the folks are completely crazy, you'll get the picture. Everyone attached to this production is funny as hell and destined to go on to bigger and better projects.

For more information about Tribeca Film Festival go to: <https://www.tribecafilm.com>

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com and BlackPressUSA.com.

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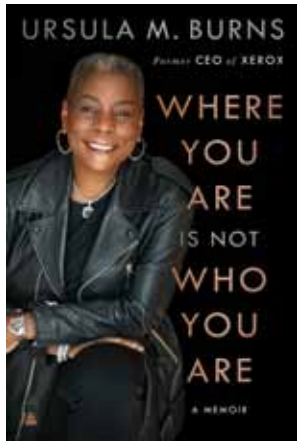
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NDG Book Review: 'Where You Are is not Who You Are'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer



Start small, plan big. You don't have to have much for the former, just a little love and a place to launch. The latter, though, that takes some work. You have to see the goal, hold your confidence tight, and know yourself well. And then, as in the new book "Where You Are is Not Who You Are" by Ursula M. Burns, you step up and fly.

When she was a child growing up in a New York tenement, Ursula Burns never thought about how much her mother sacrificed for her and her siblings. The family had food, shelter, a

TV, school, and clothing. It wasn't until Burns was almost grown that she realized what a feat this was: her single, Panamanian-born mother kept the family going on \$4,400 a year.

Somehow, despite the lack of income, Burns was

able to attend a Manhattan Catholic school, where she excelled in her studies and learned that being vocal could make a difference in how things were run. This outspokenness did indeed make change, but it also led to a certain amount of chiding when she was an adult.

Upon graduation, Burns says she had her pick of several major colleges, but she chose Brooklyn Polytech, after having decided upon a career based on the its potential income. It was heavily steeped in math, a skill she was good at but her more-privileged classmates were better; it took a few months to catch up before she began tutoring others

in math class. Burns loved school and she was grateful for the help she got from New York's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), which provided support, both career-wise and economically.

At the end of her junior year in college, she accepted an internship position at Xerox and the company supported her while she got her master's degree. Upon graduation, she took the full-time job they offered, a position that allowed her to make history...

Get a few pages into "Where You Are is Not

Who You Are" and you might reconsider your plans to finish this book. Author Ursula M. Burns jumps almost immediately to the latter part of her career, leaping from point to place to person in a dizzying chunk that's exhausting to read. Name-dropping features heavily there, it lasts way too long, and it feels forced.

If you're still with the book, you'll be happy when Burns settles in to share her memoir, a rags-to-riches tale that has the feel of a TV movie. It rambles a little, but that rambling is

appealing; Burns writes of poverty and of determination, resourcefulness, and the love of family before sliding into the story of her career again.

The second time on that subject, thankfully, is readable and quite well-done.

This is one of those books in which you need to prepare yourself to pick and choose what you read. Be ready to skim or skip parts. Do that, and you'll be fine; otherwise, reading "Where You Are Is Not Who You Are" could be a big task.

MILLS, from Page 2

civil rights activist and philanthropist.

She has earned multiple Grammy, American Music, and NAACP Image awards.

"My new music is a reflection of the sadness and heartache I've been feeling over the pandemic and George Floyd and the systemic racism that plagues our people," Mills asserted.

"Let's Do the Right Thing" is my personal plea for all people to rise up and come together," she said.

The single is reminiscent

of Gaye's "What's Going On," where the late Motown great crooned disenchantment over the state of America and its involvement in the Vietnam War.

Mills' new song also decries the state of America, most notably the police killings of African Americans like George Floyd, Tamir Rice, Breonna Taylor and many other Black people.

Along with releasing her new single, Mills will debut the accompanying music

video and perform her Billboard hit "Home" from The Wiz during the Juneteenth Celebration in New York with the historic Riverside Church and Middle Collegiate Church.

"The evening will embody Juneteenth's spirit of freedom and celebration of two Black-led faith institutions historically and presently combined to do transformative justice work," her team noted.

"Let's Do the Right Thing" will be available on all streaming platforms beginning on June 19.



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NNPA Chair leads Black Press to most successful period in history

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

According to Karen Carter Richards, the state of the Black Press of America is more robust than it has ever been.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) chair and the Houston Forward Times publisher expressed even more optimism for the future.

"I'm proud to chair this organization," she told

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., during an extensive discussion inside the trade association's new state-of-the-art television studio and headquarters at the Thurgood Marshall Center in Washington, D.C.

"We've always known that we are a resilient people, but the pandemic forced a lot of us to take a deep breath because it was new," Carter Richards continued.

"A lot of us were print publications, but we had to

change the game. We took a breath and started doing what we do. Some of us were already making digital strides, but it was gradual. The pandemic forced us to step it up, and we had a lot of help from the NNPA office, and the publishers helped each other."

The NNPA represents the hundreds of newspapers and media companies in the Black Press of America family.

From June 23 to June 26, the NNPA will host its national convention. The

convention will feature a special performance by the legendary Grammy winner Chaka Khan and Nu-Soul and Jazz artist Candice Hoyes.

The NNPA will also hand out its prestigious Legacy Awards, including to:

- Darnella Frazier, the African American teenager who courageously filmed the police officer kneeling on George Floyd's neck, will receive the Ida B. Wells National Photojournalism Award.

- The Rev. John P.

Keewill receive the 2021 National Gospel Transformative Award

- Earth, Wind & Fire Lead Singer Philip Bailey will be presented with the 2021 National Lifetime Achievement Legacy Award for Outstanding Achievement, Impact, and Creative Genius.

- Scotty Barnhart, the legendary Count Basie Orchestra leader, will receive the 2021 National Performance and Outstanding Leadership Award.

- The Rev. Dr. Starsky

Wilson will receive the 2021 National Achievement and Outstanding Leadership Award for his work as President and CEO of the Children's Defense Fund.

- Congresswoman Joyce L. Beatty (D-Ohio) will receive the 2021 National Congressional Leadership Award, and the NNPA will present Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison with the Outstanding and Courageous Leadership

See NNPA, Page 14

PARKLAND, from Page 4

volunteers have created a fun-filled schedule of online events June 6-11 for young burn patients ages 6 to 18 with the theme "Camp is More Than a Place." Activities will include a Game Day, live events broadcast from Camp John Marc, clowns, arts and crafts projects like cake decorating, nature exploration and more. Each child will also receive a 'camp-in-a-box' filled with camp logo items, crafts supplies, snacks and other surprises to enjoy during camp week.

Johnson County firefighter and burn survivor Randal Goodwin and his wife Grace have spent hours shopping for supplies and assembling camp boxes in recent weeks, including rounding up balloons and cake decorating supplies the campers will use in classes the couple will lead via video during the virtual camp week.

"I have a really stupid skill," Goodwin said with his trademark laugh. "I can make 81 different balloon animals. It's a fun thing to do with the kids at camp. Grace teaches cooking projects including cake decorating that the kids really enjoy."

Randal and Grace have volunteered as Burn Camp counselors for more than 20 years. "I'll do anything I can to help. Parkland Burn Center gave me my life back," Goodwin said, referring to the months he spent

as a burn patient recovering from injuries sustained in the line of duty in 1988. Goodwin lost both legs and required years of surgeries and physical therapy. He now walks with prosthetic legs "decorated with bright yellow and orange fire stickers," he said.

Volunteering at Camp I-Thonka-Chi proved to be one of the most healing experiences he's had.

"Emotional wounds can take longer to heal than the physical injuries," Goodwin said. "Coming to camp with other kids who know what you've been through allows them to just be normal and feel accepted. No one's asking 'what's wrong with your arm' or 'how come you don't have one eye.' Swimming, canoeing, playing games together — the kids open up and share with one another. It's a really special place."

While virtual camp can't replace the in-person experience, Goodwin says protecting the health of all involved is the right decision. "We will get through this," he said confidently.

Margaret Burkett of Yantis said she hasn't yet told her son Braden, 18, that camp will be virtual this year, but she appreciates all the effort going into creating a virtual camp experience. "Camp has been unbelievable for Braden," she said, "he looks forward to it all year long."

Braden was severely

burned at age 23 months, resulting in loss of fingers on both hands and a severe foot injury. He stopped breathing during the incident and had to be revived. Lack of oxygen left him with developmental disabilities. Braden was treated at the Shriner's Hospital in Galveston and adopted by Margaret as a young child. Through a chance encounter with a burn survivor who volunteers as a counselor at the Burn Camp she learned about the program and her son has been attending for years.

"Braden was always afraid of water," Burkett said, "but at camp the other kids helped him overcome that. He learns so much from the other kids. Camp I-Thonka-Chi has given us so much. All the staff are like family to Braden."

Camp John Marc is offering "Family Escape" opportunities at no cost for the families of eight pediatric burn patients to spend a weekend at one of the staff lodges and enjoy camp amenities like fishing, hiking, arts and crafts, sports and games at the 150-acre Bosque County facility. Participants will be asked to comply with CDC COVID-19 guidelines to ensure staff and guest safety.

"This has been a challenging year and both campers and counselors are disappointed that we are missing another chance to gather together this summer," Crump said. "There is very much a family at-

mosphere at our camp and with our families. I am hopeful we can resume in-person camping next year."

Camp I-Thonka-Chi, unlike some other charity programs, is not supported by a national organization. Children can attend for free thanks to the generous donations of Parkland employees and area donors. Camp John Marc also helps with fundraising so more children can attend. During

the weeklong event campers build friendships, improve social skills and simply have fun without being self-conscious of their scars or injuries.

Established in 1962, the Parkland Burn Center provides care to more than 1,800 patients annually. Serving North Texas and surrounding areas, this comprehensive burn center is one of only 74 verified burn centers in North

America and the only one in North Texas and provides all services from emergency treatment to intensive care to rehabilitation and outpatient follow-up care.

For more information on Camp I-Thonka-Chi or to make a donation, please visit Parkland Burn Camp. For more information on services available at Parkland, please visit www.parklandhospital.com



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Russell Simmons, TOKAU to exclusively launch 'Masterminds of Hip Hop'

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent



Def Jam Records founder Russell Simmons has collaborated with TOKAU to launch an NFT (non-fungible tokens) collection named "Masterminds of Hip Hop." (UniRush)

Def Jam Records founder Russell Simmons has collaborated with TOKAU to launch an NFT (non-fungible tokens) collection named "Masterminds of Hip Hop."

A spokesperson for the music and business mogul said the collection is built alongside legendary musicians who were the original rappers of Hip Hop.

According to a news release, the exclusive joint venture aims to give credit and compensation back to the original musicians who helped to create the multi-billion-dollar industry that

Hip Hop has become.

Def Jam Records counts as the largest label under Universal Music.

TOKAU is the world's leading platform that allows Celebrities and Influ-

encers to interact with their fans using blockchain NFT technology.

"We are super excited to partner with Russell to create this one-of-a-kind NFT which will recognize

the creators of Hip Hop," Dennis Jia, the head of the Tokau family, noted in the news release.

"Our goal is to give credit back to the original artists," asserted Tokau, who is also known as Dennis Tok.

Simmons added that he regularly reminisces about the early days of rap music.

"I often think of the early days of pre-recorded hip hop when it was only a performance art. Some rappers and DJs pioneered the space and made it so popular that the recording of rap artists was eminent," Simmons noted in the release.

"None of them has received the accolades that I believe they deserve, and this is my chance to use a

new vehicle to revisit and repay these amazing artists while they are still living. Masterminds of Hip Hop aims to give credit back to the creators of the cultural movement," Simmons continued.

As part of the venture, Simmons will work with Tokau to sign more than 15 of the original pioneers in Hip Hop responsible for establishing the culture.

"Masterminds of Hip Hop" will be a collector's series broken into two phases – pre-recorded and early recording. The collaborative promises to release at least 40 exclusive NFTs.

Each NFT will be a unique collectible co-designed and co-curated by

Simmons, the artist, and the Tokau team and capture a piece of Hip Hop history behind the scenes with stories told by the artists.

Together, the entire collection showcases a holistic story of the origins and development of Hip Hop that became the most potent part of global musical culture today.

"Artists now have a powerful way to distribute their art using cryptocurrency and blockchain technology. This reflects a new phase of how fintech and blockchain technology merges with art for the benefit of all," Miranda Tan, a spokesperson for Tokau, said in a statement.

HBCU, from Page 6

sities. These colleges and universities were located in a total of 19 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Enrollment and Graduation

The National Center for Education Statistics offers some interesting data on HBCUs in its 2018 study. Notable statistics include:

There were about 101 HBCU schools as of 2018. These were about evenly split between public and private non-profit institutions.

Female HBCU enrollment has consistently outnumbered that of males every year, from 1976 to 2018.

About 24% of HBCU enrollment includes non-Black students. This is a significant increase from just 15% in 1976.

Bachelor's and master's degrees outweigh associates and doctorate degrees as the most popular HBCU programs, with about 48,300 HBCU degrees earned during the 2017-2018 school term alone.

HBCU total revenue for the 2017-18 school term was about \$8.7 billion.

Nearly 90% of the students enrolled at HBCUs attend four-year institu-

tions, while the other 10% attend two-year schools. More than three-quarters of all students enrolled at HBCUs attended public schools as of 2018.

Overall, there has been a steady increase in the number of students enrolled in HBCUs. The number of Black students enrolled in HBCUs increased by 17% from 1976 to 2018. That enrollment rate jumped even further after 1976, with a 47% increase in enrollment through 2010.

That said, there was a troubling statistic to emerge from the 2018 NCES report. According to the data from the report, there was an 11% decrease in HBCU enrollment between 2010 and 2018 — despite the significant rates of growth in the decades prior.

To help combat this trend, many HBCUs have established and support various on-campus groups and organizations that can improve the university experience and better prepare you for success.

Over time, the areas of study offered by HBCUs have evolved as well, with programs that include degrees in psychology and business administration.

Investing in Black Futures

There are many ways that you can support students of HBCUs so you can begin making a difference today.

Supporting Scholarships: Many of these scholarship programs are made possible by the donations from people and businesses. If you are interested in sponsoring the education of future HBCU students, you can typically donate directly to the scholarship program of your choice.

The HBCU Foundation is a great way to support HBCU education. This foundation offers support through its partnerships with 106 member-schools. If you want to support the foundation, you can find a program you like and donate directly to that cause.

Donating Time: Not everyone has extra finances to donate toward scholarships, but sharing your time is a free way to make a difference. You can volunteer to serve as a mentor for incoming freshmen who are nervous about their new college life.

From academic support to simply offering an ear during tough times, volunteering as an HBCU mentor can make an enormous difference in a student's

academic career and help prepare those you mentor for a life of success.

Supporting Future Growth: After graduation, students start the process of finding full-time employment. It is not always easy to find and land a job in your industry of choice, which is how professional mentors can help to ease the process for new graduates.

For example, creating and sustaining a college-to-corporate pipeline for HBCU graduates can be an invaluable way to help students find meaningful and lasting employment. These connections can not only help students find better-paying jobs, but in many cases, better benefits, too.

Conclusion

It has been a long, hard road to equal rights for people of color. The battle for equality continues even today, but through it all, HBCUs have stood strong, acting as pillars of strength and providing opportunities to the Black and minority students who attend them. HBCUs also offer an exceptional sense of community and inclusivity, as well as a solid support system for their students.

Even if you do not plan to attend an HBCU as a student, there are plenty

of ways to get involved and support these important institutes of higher education. Mentoring and financial donations can help underprivileged students succeed, while corpo-

rate partnerships can help ensure employment for emerging grads. Through your support, you can play a direct role in shaping and molding tomorrow's leaders.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36-foot, 6-inch Monopole Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 1394 Wood Street, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75202, Lat: [32-46-42.1284], Long: [-96-47-57.0228], Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Alicia, a.santucci@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.*

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**Ongoing
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POLICE, from Page 5

were out, and "within minutes, a routine traffic stop became a beatdown."

An emergency room doctor needed four staples to close the wounds in Paulino's battered right arm after officers mercilessly slammed him to the ground and viciously beat him with their batons.

The officers claimed that Paulino resisted arrest, but video from a security camera proved them wrong. The city of San Jose, California, paid Paulino a \$700,000 civil settlement after a jury found the cops violated his constitutional rights.

According to a 2020 analysis, when police use force, more than half of the incidents end with a suspect or civilian getting hurt. The report authors also noted that "most experts agree that injuries at the hands of cops remain underreported."

"This data depends on the discretion of police, who get to decide who is worthy or unworthy of an ambulance," Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve, an associate professor of sociology at Brown University who has researched the Chicago Police Department, told researchers.

"It is absolutely an undercount."

In an email to the Black Press of America, Tulane University professor An-

drea Boyles said police officers are the most visible arm of the government.

Officers are protectors of state, representing and enforcing immense state power, added Dr. Boyles, a sociologist, and criminologist in the university's Africana Studies Program.

"This includes violence, which in turn, becomes akin to professional or occupational hazards," asserted Dr. Boyles, who also serves on the faculty of Tulane's Violence Prevention Institute.

"And since law enforcement acts as their master status, police violence is treated as inherently warranted and undeserving of prosecution regardless of exchanges across time and places."

Dr. Boyles continued:

"The bigger concern are the numbers of unreported and uncharged violent crimes committed by police daily. I argue that violent crimes committed by the police largely are not occurring as one-offs or in isolation. Rather, many are happening as build-ups of problems that manifest as dangerous and anticipatorily vindicated escalations. Thus, they become lead-ins to the more serious cases like murder."

San Jose, which has just over one million residents, tracks injuries and hospi-

talizations as part of reducing violent interactions between residents and the police.

However, researchers noted that about 1,300 people over the three years ending in 2020 still landed in the emergency room after an altercation with police.

Most of the ER visits involved officers using their hands on people, the analysis found.

"Control holds" — twisting arms or holding people down — played a role in 60% of the cases, The Marshall Project found.

Almost 20% of people who went to the ER were shot with stun guns.

Police hit 10% with an

"impact weapon" such as a baton.

"In those four years, city data shows, encounters with San Jose police left 72 people seriously injured, which includes broken bones, dog bites, and internal injuries. Nine more people died, all from gunshot wounds," the researchers continued.

They said rough arrests had cost the city more than \$26 million in lawsuit payouts for civil rights violations since 2010.

The Marshall Project found that police in San Jose, Denver, and Chicago has strict rules about seeking medical attention when someone complains of an injury.



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NOTICE: *New You, Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church at www.bethelbiblefellowship.org*

Note: Until further notice, all services at Bethel church will be via Video-Conferencing and perhaps other churches as well; log on individual churches websites for details. See Bethel's website www.bethelbiblefellowship.org for their details because of the Coronavirus.

June 27, 9:45 am

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morn-

ing Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

June 30, 7 pm

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world's Coronavirus. In Wednesday's Bible we are studying Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster, Chapter 10. Dial in Phone # 346 248 7799, Meeting I.D. 256 518 4741.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor
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Check "The Ship's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

June 27

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

June 30, 7 pm

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
Senior Pastor
2450 K Avenue #300

Plano, TX 75074
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INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! MATTHEW 4:19

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."

- Malachi 3:8-10

Check "IBOC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

June 25, 7 pm

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

June 27, 10 a.m.
Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

June 28, 7 pm

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
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Check "SMBC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

June 27, 8 and 11 am

You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

June 28, 7 to 8 pm Every Monday Night

Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

June 30, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
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NNPA, from Page 11

Award.

• Chaka Khan will receive the 2021 National Lifetime Achievement Legacy Award for Decades of Creative Genius and Outstanding Leadership for Freedom, Justice, and Equality in American and Throughout the World.

This year marks the second consecutive virtual convention.

During the convention, Carter Richards will seek election to a second successive term as national chair.

While any potential challenges for the position have yet to identify themselves, Carter Richards' run as chair has proved impressive.

"We are doing better than we've done in the history of the NNPA," she declared.

Despite the pandemic that forced many out of jobs and a topsy-turvy economy where government stimulus served to rescue most, Dr. Chavis said advertising and other revenue skyrocketed for the Black Press.

Carter Richards credited the national office led by Dr. Chavis, Claudette Perry, the NNPA's executive administrator, and the staff.

"It feels wonderful to have a great team," Carter Richards exclaimed.

"I have to give [Dr. Chavis] your due. You've done a great job, and we have a great team at NNPA. We can't do it without the team."

She also praised the NNPA's all-women executive committee, Janis Ware (The Atlanta Voice), the First Vice-Chair, Fran Farner (The County News in North Carolina), Second Vice-Chair, Brenda H. Andrews (New Journal and Guide in Virginia), Treasurer and Jackie Hampton (The Mississippi Link) Secretary.

"I'm loving being with the ladies," Carter Richards announced. "Black women do what Black women do. We are going to continue to do great things."

Carter Richards recalled

her father's vision for the Houston Forward Times. She noted that he began planning for the newspaper five years before its 1955 launch when he returned from serving in the U.S. military.

Julius Carter taught his daughter and her sister the value of community and the Black Press.

His steadfastness for bringing forward hard facts led to the Forward Times building bombing in 1971, just days after he published an article critical of the local police department.

Julius Carter died of a heart attack days later, and his wife, Lenora "Doll" Carter, immediately sprang into action to keep the paper alive.

"They were taking bets that my mom wouldn't last six months at the newspaper," Carter Richards remembered.

"She was 29 years old, with two little girls. But she took the paper to its 50th year. I was terrified because she had a massive heart attack, and she wasn't even

sick. I was next in line, but I was ready because I had shadowed my mother for years."

"My mother prepared me for a lot of things that have helped me to do what I'm doing now," Carter Richards said, noting that both her parents once served on the NNPA's executive committee.

The upcoming convention theme – "Black Press Matters: Trusted Voice, Resilient Vitality, and Transformative Vision" – could not be more appropriate.

"I think we have hit on all of those points. We know we are the trusted voice in the Black community, and 'resilient vitality' is who we are," Carter Richards determined.

"Our Black newspapers have thrived, and so many more are getting to the level that we want them to be. I'm so proud of the Black Press for all the work they are doing in the community and for the work they are doing to help each other."

She continued: "When I stepped in-

side this new studio, I was taken aback. It is remarkable. We are on the move, and the Black Press has for 194 years been the trusted voice, and you can say that to the Black community, we are mainstream media. And

we are going to continue to give the world information without fear or favor."

Registration for the NNPA's virtual convention is free. To register, click here or go to www.virtualnnpa2021.com.



According to Karen Carter Richards, the state of the Black Press of America is more robust than it has ever been. (Photo via NNPA)

Jesus: The Lord God Omnipotent



**Sister
Tarpley**
NDG
Religion
Editor

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!" Revelation 19:6

Jesus is the Lord God

Omnipotent. Because Jesus is the God who created all things (John 1:3), He has all power. What power do you need from Him today?

Because Jesus is the Lord who controls all things by His laws and sovereignty, will you let Him control your life today?

Because Jesus is omnipotent, He has the ability to do everything that is possible to do. Obviously, He will not make yesterday not happen, because that would mean God would have to deny that He existed.

Nor will God make two times two equal three, for that denies truth. An omnipotent God can do anything He wills to do, but He will not go against what He has previously done.

When Jesus comes to finally judge the world, He will have power to judge exactly as He wills. Therefore, you want to be in the center of God's will when He comes.

Lord Jesus, be the Lord who controls my life. Be the omnipotent One, whose will I do. Be the God who gives

me power to accomplish Your will.

Jesus will manifest Himself fully as the Lord God Omnipotent when He returns to Earth. Today, Jesus allows individuals to rebel against His control, deny His power and reject His will.

But what about you? Will you yield to His control? Will you claim His power? Will you do His will?

Lord Jesus, I want to glorify You with my life. I submit to Your control, and I claim Your power; help me do Your will.



David Lott, Sheila Tarpley Lott, Deven Bryan, Tyanna Lott and Bill Lott celebrating Father's Day 2021

Why do I have so many toes?

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I must confess that I'm not always obvious to everything that is before me. I admit I miss a lot of things set before me. I don't do this intentionally.

For example, sometimes, when I come home from the church office, I pass the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and she is waving at me, but I don't see her.

When I get home, she confronts me about it. I know it happened because, well, she told me it happened. I wasn't very obvious of the situation at the time.

Some things I see, some things I don't see. And I'm not sure the difference between either one. I don't know why I miss some things and not others. But I do, and I guess that's part of my personality.

I know I have ten toes, five on each foot, and one on each foot is a big toe. I have known that since I could recognize things. I will not tell you how long that is because my calculator doesn't go up that high.

In the morning, when I get up, I stumble to the kitchen to get my morning cup of coffee. Without that cup of coffee, I have no idea what I'm doing or where I'm going. That's the reason God gave us coffee. I don't plan anything before my coffee.

Several times I have to go to the doctor to get blood work done. I have to fast be-

fore I go, and that means no coffee. I told the nurse that was extracting my blood, "Are you sure you want me here before I have my coffee?"

Looking at me, she smiled and said, "It's okay. Remember, I have the needle."

I did remember. There are times when she can extract blood without any pain whatsoever. Then there are those other times that I will not talk about right now.

Before my coffee in the morning, I'm not exactly sure what I'm doing.

Being oblivious to things around me can catch up when I least expect it.

The other day when I got up, I think my eyes were open, but I'm not sure. I stumbled out into the kitchen to get my morning coffee.

On the way there, I heard a loud scream like a Comanche on the warpath and found myself dancing, and I don't dance. After a few seconds, I felt a pain coming from several of my toes up to the top of my head.

I had no idea what happened. I looked down and saw blood squirting out, I saw several toenails splintered, and two of my toes were black and blue.

Before I could end my screaming and dancing, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into the room and asked, "What in the world did you do?"

Of course, when anything happens in our house, it's always my fault. But I wasn't

in the mood at that time to debate whose fault it was. At the time, I didn't care whose fault it was; it was the pain in my toes that captured all of my attention.

I couldn't answer her. I simply pointed down to my toes and let out another Comanche scream.

Somehow in walking down to the hallway, I smashed my toes into something that resisted them completely. To this day, I don't know what in the world my toes ran into. They've never revealed that secret to me.

Fortunately, the Gracious Nurse of the Parsonage was able to take care of my toe's situation. If I can break it, she can fix it.

Up to this point, I never paid any attention to my toes. Since that time, every time I walk, my toes remind me of the incident. I try not to limp because I'm not going to give those toes any credit at all. I'm going to walk despite their aggravation.

I've had some time to think about that little incident, and I began wondering how many other things in my life have I been oblivious to? What am I not paying attention to?

I have the opinion that when something bad happens, use it as a lesson. What is the lesson here?

The lesson here is to pay attention to everything around you. That is quite a chore for me, and I'm working on it, but I'm not quite

there yet.

I almost got in a traffic scrape the other day. Now when I'm out driving, I'm always looking to see if the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is driving by waving at me.

I do have one gripe, but I don't want to make it known to everybody. But every morning when I get up and come to the kitchen for my coffee, someone who shall remain anonymous always says, "How's your toes this morning?"

Usually, I will mumble back, "Fine; they're all fine."

During this whole time, I had some serious thought about why I have to have ten toes? What is the purpose of all those toes?

I've been given a lot of thought to this, and in my devotions the other morning, this verse of Scripture was present. "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee" (Proverbs 4:25).

I'm not sure why I have ten toes, but after this experience, I will give attention to my toes, but I'm going to

give more attention to my eyes.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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