

"The cynics may be the loudest voices - but I promise you they will accomplish the least." - Barack Obama



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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

May 14 - 20, 2020

HIGHLAND PARK CAFETERIA WILL REMAIN CLOSED PERMANENTLY – AFTER 95 YEARS



Cafeteria staff circa 1960.

DALLAS - The Highland Park Cafeteria opened 95 years ago in 1925 on Knox Street in the foothills of Highland Park, a highly affluent town in central Dallas County, Texas.

The restaurant had eight locations throughout Dallas, but after experiencing hard times in 1996, they had to downsize. Only the Casa Linda location in East Dallas survived and was called the 'Casa Linda Cafeteria.'

In 2007, a new owner, changed the name back to the original

name, 'Highland Park Cafeteria.' They continued to serve classics like; meatloaf with mashed potatoes, squash casserole, ambrosia salad, glossy rolls, and delicious zucchini muffins.

The Highland Park Cafeteria announced the sad news on Monday, May 11, that it will remain closed after the temporary closure due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Photos Credit: Highland Park Cafeteria Facebook and Website

Highland Park Cafeteria
MEMORABLE FRESH & HEALTHY SINCE 1925

We are saddened to let our loyal customers and community know that the Highland Park Cafeteria will not be re-opening.

We have been blessed to serve you for many years, to have been part of family celebrations and holiday traditions.

We would love to have a farewell event to honor you and our faithful employees, but due to the current restrictions, we won't be able to.

If you would like to have something to remember the good times you have had at HPC, you may participate in our online auction.

All contents of the cafeteria, including memorabilia, non-perishable food supplies, furniture and equipment will be sold through ATXauctions.com, starting Friday May 15.
(see their website for details)

All perishable and frozen food is being donated to local organizations.

One final word – HPC is not tables and chairs and stoves, it is generations of cooks faithfully preparing special recipes and lovingly serving generation of diners. We are safeguarding the secret recipes all 932 of them.

So making no promises but who knows? Zucchini muffins may one day make a comeback!

If you have any questions, they may be emailed to hpcafe2020@gmail.com

Thank you for being an important part of our lives



Obama lashes out at Trump in call with supporters



By KEVIN FREKING

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Barack Obama harshly criticized President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic as an "absolute chaotic disaster" during a conversation with ex-members of his administration, according to a recording obtained by Yahoo News.

Obama also reacted to the Justice Department dropping its criminal case

against Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, saying he worried that the "basic understanding of rule of law is at risk."

More than 78,400 people with COVID-19 have died in the United States and more than 1.3 million people have tested positive, according to the latest estimates from the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

Obama's comments

came during a Friday call with 3,000 members of the Obama Alumni Association, people who served in his administration. Obama urged his supporters to back his former vice president, Joe Biden, who is trying to unseat Trump in the Nov. 3 election.

"What we're fighting against is these long-term trends in which being selfish, being tribal, being divided, and seeing others as an enemy — that has become a stronger impulse in American life. And by the way, we're seeing that internationally as well. It's part of the reason why the response to this global crisis has been so anemic and spotty," Obama said, according to Yahoo News.

"It would have been bad

even with the best of governments. It has been an absolute chaotic disaster when that mindset — of 'what's in it for me' and 'to heck with everybody else' — when that mindset is operationalized in our government," he said.

Trump has consistently defended and boasted of his response to the virus, saying that travel restrictions from China and Europe as well as social distancing guidelines have prevented far greater damage. "I think we saved millions of lives," he said earlier this week.

Trump has criticized the Obama administration in relation to his own administration's response to the outbreak.

See PAGE 2

Statement on Dallas ISD decision to hold virtual graduation ceremonies

2020 Graduations

District Statement

BY THE HUB

DALLAS — Dallas ISD's decision to honor our 2020 graduating seniors with virtual rather than in-person commencement ceremonies is based on one overriding concern: the safety of our students, their families and district staff. District leaders made this decision after much discussion and in-depth consultation with trustees, government officials and the area medical community. This is clearly a responsible call in favor of public health.

See PAGE 3



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AMANDA EDWARDS ENDORSES ROYCE WEST

Endorsement Caps Off Three-Week Period That Includes Endorsements from Major Unions, Congressional Black Caucus PAC



HOUSTON, Texas - On Friday, the Royce West for U.S. Senate campaign announced that former at-large Houston City Councilwoman Amanda Edwards, who placed fifth in the March 3 runoff earning more than 189,000 votes and more than ten percent of all votes cast, has endorsed Senator West in anticipation of the July 14 runoff. Edwards issued the following statement announcing her endorsement:

The race for United States Senate this year is an important one that will shape the future of our state, and the Senate itself, for years to come.

Today, I am proud to

announce that I support Royce West for U.S. Senate in the July 14 runoff election. I support Senator West because of his strong Democratic values, and his focus on addressing the issues I care about that impact the lives of Texans and people nationwide. Throughout the course of my campaign, I said this race was about people, and what matters most to us, not politics. I said this race was about healthcare, about providing our communities real leadership, and about finding reforms to ensure previously marginalized voices find their way to the forefront. I am endorsing Royce

West because I believe he will bring about the change we need when it comes to healthcare, climate change, education, criminal justice reform, and many issues I championed as a candidate in this race. When it comes to the issues that I and so many others care about, Royce West has the determination to get things done in Washington, which is why I'm proud to endorse Royce West. Senator West said he was honored to receive Edwards' endorsement. "Amanda and young leaders like her who are willing to take a stand for what they believe are the future of the Democratic

Party in Texas, and I am honored to have her endorsement and support as we head toward the July runoff," West said. West's campaign team noted Edwards' endorsement brings the total of former contenders in the March 3 primary endorsing the Dallas state senator to 6: Jolt founder and former Worker's Defense Project Executive Director Cristina Tzintzún Ramirez, former Houston City Councilman and Congressman Chris Bell, Co-Chair of the Texas Poor People's Campaign Sema Hernandez, and Beaumont NAACP leader and pastor Michael Cooper. The candidates currently endorsing West represent 826,398 votes from the March 3 primary, said West Communications Director Vince Leibowitz. "The support that has coalesced around Senator West represents more than one million total votes from the March 3 primary, when considered with the Senator's vote total," Leibowitz said. "A wide variety of distinguished Democrats from that field, as well as many others,

have stepped up to endorse the Senator in recent weeks," Leibowitz continued. Those groups include the Communication Workers of America, representing more than 64,000 people in Texas, the American Federation of Teachers, The Black Women's PAC of Texas, and Democracy for America. Additionally, Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun, the first African American female elected to the United States Senate, Louisiana Congressman Cedric Richmond, and Fort Worth City Councilwoman Kelly Allen Gray have all endorsed the Senator in recent weeks, Leibowitz noted. He also said another major announcement was forthcoming, noting the West Campaign was also notified this week that a formal endorsement announcement would be coming soon from the Congressional Black Caucus PAC. A date has not yet been set for the formal release of the announcement.

Obama lashes out at Trump in call with supporters

Continued from Page 1

Yet Trump's contention that his administration inherited "a broken system and a broken test" from Obama's is false; the novel coronavirus did not exist until late last year. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention struggled to develop its own test in January and then discovered problems in its kits in February. Obama has generally kept a low profile on current political events, even when Trump would disparage him or his administration on Twitter. But Friday's call indicates that he'll be playing an active role in the coming election. He told supporters that he would be "spending as much time as necessary and campaigning as hard as I can for Joe Biden."



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EDITORIAL PAGE



Congresswoman Johnson Introduces Bill to Create Housing Solutions During COVID-19 Crises

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30), alongside Representatives Jared Huffman (CA-02) and Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), introduced the *COVID-19 Serving the Homeless by Expanding the List of Tenant Eligible Residences Act of 2020*, or COVID-19 SHELTER Act of 2020. This bill aims to ensure that the federal government supports creative ways to shelter unsheltered individuals during and after the novel coronavirus outbreak.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there are over 500,000 people in America experiencing homelessness on any given night. On top of this, there is a national shortage of over 7 million affordable housing units for extremely low-income individuals and families, resulting in 75% of those families paying more than half their income in rent. Recent safety guidance from San Francisco has suggested it is safer to sleep on the street than to congregate in often overcrowded shelters in order to avoid the potential spread of coronavirus.

“This pandemic has brought to light the stark

inequities in our society when it comes to access to health care and housing, and there are none harder hit than our constituents struggling with homelessness and housing insecurity. As the co-chair of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, I am proud to lead the COVID-19 SHELTER Act with my colleagues Representatives Jared Huffman and Alcee L. Hastings,” said

Congresswoman Johnson. “This bill will be a transformative effort to provide emergency housing for individuals during this pandemic. It is critical that we strive to expand homelessness prevention resources as part of our societal response to contain this coronavirus.”

Specifically, the SHELTER Act would:

- Create an additional 200,000 Section 8 vouchers for families in need
- Create a disaster assistance voucher program with 500,000 vouchers available to individuals who were unsheltered at the time of the COVID-19 crisis for up to two years with the ability for the HUD secretary to renew the vouchers if necessary
- Expand the list of eligible dwelling units currently under Section 8 to include hotel rooms,

motel rooms, unrented Air BnBs, Junior Accessory Dwelling Units, and RVs

“Before the COVID-19 crisis, the country faced a serious lack of affordable housing and far too many individuals sleeping on the streets and in shelters,” said **Rep. Huffman.** “America is facing an unprecedented crisis, with thousands of people losing their livelihoods and ability to support their families every day which will only serve to exacerbate the struggles to find affordable housing. There is a long road ahead before the county can get back on its feet, and it’s going to take ingenuity and hard work to make sure the most vulnerable populations are cared for. With the COVID-19 SHELTER Act, we can creatively house individuals experiencing homelessness and support them throughout the crisis and its aftermath.”

“In addition to exposing pre-existing issues in our housing system, this pandemic has caused many families and workers in Florida and across our nation to face financial challenges, housing insecurity, and other hardships they could have never anticipated. We have a responsibility to address

the housing shortages, shelter overcrowding, and other urgent issues this crisis has created for the organizations trying to keep up with the growing need for innovative housing solutions,” said **Congressman Hastings.** “As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, I am proud to introduce the COVID-19 SHELTER Act with Representatives Jared Huffman and Eddie Bernice Johnson to address this need and provide shelter to our neighbors during this time of crisis.”

“The National Coalition for the Homeless applauds Representatives Huffman, Johnson, and Hastings for introducing legislation to provide flexible vouchers to those who were homeless when the COVID-19 emergency struck. Housing ends homelessness, and we will likely see large increases in households losing housing in the coming months. This effort will help scale up housing resources quickly, and with an understanding of each family’s unique needs,” said **Megan Hustings, Managing Director of the National Coalition for the Homeless.**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Total Primary Care Offers the First COVID-19 Antibody Test in Texas Approved by FDA for EUA Use

Total Primary Care has become the first medical provider in Texas to secure and offer a COVID-19 antibody test approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for EUA use.

The cost for an antibody test is covered by in-network insurance plans, with many plans waiving co-pays to encourage testing.

Total Primary Care is a large primary care system in the greater Austin area, operating 16 Total Care Primary Care and Total Men’s Primary Care locations in Central Texas. The company also has 8 loca-

tions in the DFW area. Men, women and children are now able to get COVID-19 antibody tests at all area locations.

- Richardson (Campbell & 75) Fort Worth – Alliance (Heritage Trace Pkwy & IH-35W)
- Addison (Montfort & Belt Line)
- The Colony (Sam Rayburn & N Josey Ln)
- Flower Mound (Village Pkwy & Justin Rd) NOW OPEN
- Southlake (Southlake Blvd & Kimball Ave) NOW OPEN
- McKinney NOW OPEN
- Frisco NOW OPEN
- Allen (Coming Soon)
- Fort Worth (Coming Soon)
- Las Colinas (Coming Soon)
- Prosper (Coming Soon)

Statement on Dallas ISD decision to hold virtual graduation ceremonies

Continued from Page 1

In fact, given Dallas County’s current level of COVID-19 activity, the county’s top health authority, director of Dallas County Health and Human Services Dr. Philip Huang, has specifically advised school leaders against holding any kind of in-person social gatherings, includ-

ing vehicle ceremonies.

In a letter to area superintendents in which he cited the advice of the CDC and the Texas Department of Health, Dr. Huang called on school districts to hold only virtual celebrations. He says hosting live events increases the potential for massive spread of COVID-19, especially among those

in high-risk groups such as older adults and people with underlying health conditions.

Without question, high school graduation is a momentous time in the lives of students and their families, and everyone wishes circumstances were such that this milestone could be publicly celebrated. Even so, Dallas ISD recognizes its

responsibility to make public health our number one priority. Therefore, we respectfully ask students, parents and community members to heed the advice of public health authorities and observe the occasion with the virtual graduation ceremonies planned to honor our students.

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The Beauty of Drive Thru Testing

My Day
By Dr. J. Ester Davis

Have you been tested yet for the COVID-19? So, then when are you going? If you have been, what did you think about the process? I thought it was well worth the trip.

I can vividly remember (circa 1958) being in line at Booker T. Washington School Gymnasium, the all African American School, in South Texas, for the polio vaccine. It was rendered in the form of a sugar cube after much trial, cribbing, death and error. And . . . it come to past.

To date, Monday, May 11, 2020, there have been 6,123 cases reported in Dallas County. On this same date, 253 new cases were added to the list. I got in line at *Ellis Davis Field House* Monday about 11:00 AM. I had an informed 90 year old neighbor with me. The route at Ellis Davis Field House, DeSoto, Texas,

was ideal for the number of vehicles, southern sector residents, the ever constant construction and visible security. The navigation was well planned. (Thank you Dallas County.) While in line, I could count the number of cars, but not the number of people per vehicle. So my time in line was about an hour and fifteen minutes. There are three stops. Three white tents. As you get closer to *Stop Number One*, there are more signs to read which is extremely helpful. All signage is in English and Spanish. That first stop is for proper identification and collection of information. You will leave this site with a white piece of paper. On the 'Informed Consent: "You have agreed by coming to this test site, to participate in testing designed to identify whether you have been infected by the novel coronavirus and have developed COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel

coronavirus. Your participation in this process is voluntary." The test involves a nasal swab that you administer personally. It was so easy. You have to love technology! You leave *Stop Number One* with a consent form. Just drive slowly and be aglow about bringing this too to past. The first responders at these test sites are quite efficient. *Stop Number Two* is more interactive, a few questions and verifying the correct information. Nothing more than name, telephone number. Your Driver's License or some form of identification will be asked for. At *Stop Number Two* we were asked to view the video and tune in to 88.3 on the Radio. You can see the staff working with *precision-in-excellence*. This entire process is less than 60 seconds. If you place your Radio on 88.3, there is a taped repeated instruction message about how to swab your nose when you

get to *Stop Number Three*. The message is simple. The message is clear. The value is priceless and mess-free. *Stop Number Three* is the final step in the testing process. You follow the cones, drive to the third white tent. Your information is verified again. Here you receive a wrapped "cotton swab". I called it a 'one-legged' QTip, because only one side is cotton. You place it in the left-side of your nose . . . then the right. The attendance outside your window is your clock, counting-your-fifteen-seconds on his gloved hand, because each circling swab should take 15-seconds. You place the one . . . "one-legged" QTip in the secure tube. It is closed in front of you, your smile . . . and you are free to go. Way to go Dallas.

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NEWS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Raising Cane's Thrives, Even in Times of Crisis, with Unrelenting Focus on Crew and Culture, Distributing \$2 Million Crew Bonus

This week, popular chicken finger brand plans to hire 5,000 new Crewmembers nationwide

DALLAS (May 11, 2020) – Raising Cane's, the popular brand known for its ONE LOVE® – quality chicken finger meals – refuses to let the pandemic slow it down.

Throughout the crisis, Raising Cane's has kept

all but a handful of its 500 restaurants open nationwide. Only those without drive-thrus have temporarily closed. In addition, Founder & Co-CEO Todd Graves and Co-CEO & COO AJ Kumaran have taken no salary as part of their commitment to not furlough a single Crewmember.

And this week, to show its appreciation for its Crew's extraordinary work and sacrifice during the pandemic, Raising Cane's distributed \$2 million to its Crewmembers systemwide.

The \$2 million payout is intended to make-up for the hours that each Crewmember agreed to give-up at the beginning

of this pandemic, so that all Crewmembers could stay employed, in support of the mantra.

As Trump urges reopening, thousands getting sick on the job

By DAVID CRARY

NEW YORK (AP) — Even as President Donald Trump urges getting people back to work and reopening the economy, an Associated Press analysis shows thousands of people are getting sick from COVID-19 on the job.

Recent figures show a surge of infections in meatpacking and poultry-processing plants. There's

been a spike of new cases among construction workers in Austin, Texas, where that sector recently returned to work. Even the White House has proven vulnerable, with positive coronavirus tests for one of Trump's valets and for Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary.

The developments underscore the high stakes for communities nationwide as they gradually loosen restrictions on business.

"The people who are getting sick right now are generally people who are working," Dr. Mark Escott, a regional health official, told Austin's city council. "That risk is going to increase the more people are working."

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SPORTS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, May 14	Friday, May 15	Saturday, May 16	Sunday, May 17	Monday, May 18	Tuesday, May 19	Wednesday, May 20
H - 87° L - 71°	H - 84° L - 71°	H - 78° L - 66°	H - 76° L - 66°	H - 82° L - 66°	H - 82° L - 62°	H - 84° L - 66°

Georgia Man Ahmaud Arbery, Shot and Killed — Jogging While Black

By **Stacy M. Brown**, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

Add jogging while Black to the ever-growing list of reasons African Americans continue to be shot down senselessly by armed White men, supposedly under the color of law.

Twenty-five-year-old Georgia resident Ahmaud Arbery was shot and killed while jogging after a former police officer and his son chased him down because they "thought he looked like the suspect in a recent string of break-ins."

The incident took place two months ago but has come to light after Civil Rights Attorney Lee Merritt and Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper, appeared on CNN this week to call for justice.

Cooper said police originally told her that her son was involved in a burglary. They claimed that there was a confrontation between Arbery and the homeowner and a struggle over a gun.

The incident took place in Brunswick, a southeast coastal town in Glynn County that's less than

five hours from Atlanta. So far, there have been no charges filed against the former officer, Gregory McMichael, and his son, Travis McMichael. CNN and other media have reached out to the McMichael's for comment but were told they wouldn't comment because of "an ongoing investigation."

Reportedly, two district attorneys have recused themselves over possible conflicts of interest, one of whom wrote that Travis McMichael acted out of self-defense, and their actions fell within Georgia's citizen arrest laws.

"The decision to rely on the citizen's arrest statute is really a recent invention, prior to that they just simply said it was self-defense," Merritt told CNN, adding that the men are trying to use the law to stop a crime.

"According to that law, you actually have to be observing the crime or be in the immediate knowledge of the crime," Merritt said. "The only thing they have ever said is... that (Arbery) stopped by a house that was under construction and he looked



through the window. We don't know if that happened or not, but even if that did happen, that is not a felony that would invoke the citizen's arrest statute that would make this allowable."

After the shooting, Gregory McMichael told police he saw the same man "the other night" and that he stuck his hand down his pants on that occasion, leading McMichael to believe he was armed, according to the police report.

After seeing Arbery jogging, McMichael then alerted his 34-year-old son, Travis, according to a Glynn County Police report.

"Travis, the guy is running down the street, let's

go," McMichael said, according to the report.

The two grabbed a shotgun and a pistol and followed Arbery in their truck, police said. Travis McMichael, the driver, followed Arbery and then attempted to cut him off, the report continued. Arbery turned around and began running in the opposite direction, the police report said.

They chased Arbery to a nearby intersection where they caught up to him. The men claimed they told Arbery to stop because they wanted to talk to him.

Travis McMichael then exited the truck with the shotgun, and his father claimed at that point Arbery "violently attacked" his son, and they



This Thursday, May 7, 2020, file photo combo of images provided by the Glynn County Detention Center in Georgia shows Gregory McMichael, left, and his son Travis McMichael. Georgia's attorney general on Sunday asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the handling of the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a black man who authorities say died at the hands of the two men as he ran through a neighborhood. (Glynn County Detention Center via AP, File)

struggled over the gun. Travis McMichael fired two shots, according to the police report, killing Arbery.

"What made a jogger look like a suspect besides his Black skin," an outraged citizen named Gary Hughes wrote on Twitter.

"Why are these murderers not in jail awaiting trial for murder? If he looked suspicious, call the cops, don't grab a shotgun and a pistol," stated Hughes, who joined more than 1,000 individuals to either comment on or view a Twitter posting of the incident by Kristen Clarke, the president and executive director of the

National Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

"Arbery's family deserves justice," Clarke stated.

Merritt added that McMichael and his son only had the authority to follow Arbery and send law enforcement to the location. They had no authority to engage him.

The 911 calls show a dispatcher questioning McMichael as to what, if anything, Arbery was doing to break the law.

"They didn't give any answer for that," Merritt told CNN. "They said, 'He's a Black man running down our road.'"

Marc Eversley joins Bulls as GM from 76ers' front office



By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**
AP Sports Write

CHICAGO (AP) — Marc Eversley gets a chance to help restore an iconic NBA franchise and set an example for the city's youth.

He welcomes the opportunities.

A former Nike executive who spent the past four years in Philadelphia's front office, Eversley was introduced as the Bulls' general manager on Friday. He succeeds the fired Gar Forman and will work under new top executive Arturas Karnisovas.

Eversley also becomes the Bulls' first black gen-

eral manager, after spending the past two years as the 76ers' senior vice president of player personnel.

"It means a lot," he said. "I take pride in that. I think it's a tremendous responsibility. I am a black man, I'm in a leadership position now in a city with so many black youths.

Pioneering boxing ref dies, sport's 1st black Olympic judge



By **JOHN SEEWER**
Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Carmen Williamson, who in the 1940s and '50s was a top U.S. amateur boxer and then in 1984 became the first black boxing referee and judge

at the Olympic games, has died. He was 94.

Williamson died of COVID-19 complications on April 8 at a hospital in Toledo, one of his daughters said Thursday. He was just three weeks away from receiving his college degree from the

University of Toledo — a pursuit he began nearly 20 years ago, she said.



IN MEMORIAM: Little Richard, One of the Most Influential Founding Fathers of Rock n' Roll, Dies at 87



By **Lauren Victoria Burke**, NNPA Newswire Contributor

Richard Wayne Penniman, better known as Little Richard, was one of the most influential singer songwriters in popular music. He was one of the founders of Rock n' Roll in the 1950s and one of the most memorable performers in rock history. Little Richard was born in 1932 in Macon, Georgia. "Tutti Frutti" (1955), one of Richard's signature songs, became a hit reaching the No. 2 on the Billboard chart. Another hit, "Long Tall Sally" (1956), hit No. 1 on Billboard. "Tutti Frutti" was added to the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress in

2010 and cited for its "unique vocalizing over the irresistible beat announced a new era in music". Two of his songs, "Tutti Frutti" and "Good Golly, Miss Molly" were listed on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll. Little Richard's music was covered by several artists thereafter and his influence included The Beatles, who opened for Little Richard as he toured Europe in 1962. He also advised Paul McCartney on his distinctive vocalizations. Little Richard influenced Otis Redding, James Brown, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, John Lennon and Cliff Richard and those influences frequently showed

up in their music. Legend has it that James Brown came up with the Famous Flames debut hit, "Please, Please, Please", after Richard had written the words down on a napkin. Redding started his professional career with Little Richard's band, The Upsetters. Bob Dylan performed covers of Little Richard's songs on piano during a high school talent show with his rock and roll group, the Golden Chords. In 1959, Dylan wrote in his yearbook under "Ambition": "to join Little Richard." Many Rock critics noted the similarities between Prince's androgynous look and vocal style to Little Richard. In 1963, Richard agreed to assist a failing tour

effort by The Everly Brothers, Bo Diddley and The Rolling Stones and was given his own TV special after the tour ended.

Little Richard received all the honors possible in music. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as part of its first group of legendary inductees in 1986. He was also inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Penniman's performances, like most early rock and roll shows, resulted in integrated audience reaction during an era of strict segregation in the South. On tours that included groups of music stars, Little Richard and other artists such as Fats Domino and Chuck Berry would allow audiences Black and white to enter buildings via the same door but sit in separate places — but everyone would dance.

Vocal supremacist groups such as the North Alabama White Citizens Council warned that rock and roll "brings the races together." The universal popularity of Little Richard killed the myth that black performers could not successfully perform at white-only venues.

Grammy-winning 1970s soul singer Betty Wright dies at 66



(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee, File)

MIAMI (AP) — Betty Wright, the Grammy-winning soul singer and songwriter whose influential 1970s hits included "Clean Up Woman" and "Where is the Love," has died at age 66.

Wright died at her home in Miami on Sunday, several media outlets reported. Steve Greenberg of S-Curve Records told the New York Times Wright had been diagnosed with cancer in the fall.

Wright had her breakthrough with 1971's "Clean Up Woman," which combined elements of funk, soul and R&B.

Recorded when Wright was just 17, the song would be a top 10 hit on both the Billboard R&B and pop charts, and its familiar grooves would be used and reused in the sampling era of future decades.

The youngest of seven children, Wright was born Bessie Regina Norris in 1953 in Miami, the city whose funk and soul sounds her music would always be identified with.

She started singing with the family gospel group, Echoes of Joy, and released her solo debut album, "My First Time Around," at age 15 in 1968. The album yielded a top 40 hit, "Girls Can't Do What the Guys Do."

After "Clean Up Woman," written by

Clarence Reid and Willie Clarke and later sampled by Afrika Bambaataa and Mary J. Blige, she would have her first hit she wrote herself with "Baby Sitter," a 1973 hit that showed off her so-called "whistle register" vocals, an ultra-high singing style later employed by Mariah Carey and others.

With members of K.C. and the Sunshine Band, she co-wrote her 1975 proto-disco hit, "Where is the Love," which would win her a Grammy for best R&B song.

A career lull in the late 1970s and early 1980s prompted Wright to start her own label in 1985, leading to a gold album, "Mother Wit," in 1987 and the comeback hit "No Pain (No Gain)"

She spent much of the rest of her life as a producer and mentor to younger artists, many of whom were singing her praises after her death.

"Thank you for being a master teacher, a friend and one of the greatest female soul singers in our industry," Ledisi said on Twitter. "You were so much more than your music. We were blessed to be around royalty."

John Legend tweeted that Wright "was always so loving and giving to younger artists. Always engaged, always relevant. She will be missed."



PRIORITIES FOR the HEROES ACT

Washington, D.C. -- As the House introduces The Heroes Act to provide much-needed federal resources to our nation, the CBC worked closely with leadership to develop legislation that responded to the urgent needs of Black America, who have been hit the hardest by coronavirus. The Congressional Black Caucus is calling for targeted comprehensive intervention through city, county, or state government public health agencies in communities where there is a disproportionate infection and death rates. This will include rapid results testing, early treatment and intervention and contact tracing. Contract tracers should be hired and trained from the community. The twelve-page proposal, which was submitted to House and Senate leadership on April 29th,

outlines a comprehensive immediate response and long-term recovery plan for emergency responders, front line workers, seniors, teachers, business owners, students, families, and state and local governments. The proposal includes policies to safeguard social safety net benefits, keep Black businesses afloat, support students and educational institutions, address health care inequities, strengthen infrastructure in the Black community, protect Black farmers, keep people in their homes, ensure incarcerated individuals are protected and much more. Since the outbreak of the coronavirus in America, the Congressional Black Caucus has led the way in calling for legislation to support Black communities through this pandemic. On March 20th, the CBC submitted an initial 11-page proposal to House

and Senate leadership with recommendations on legislation needed to support Black America. Through the collective efforts of CBC Members, the CARES Act included legislation from the CBC proposal including: an increased amount of direct payment assistance for people struggling to make ends meet, from \$600 in the original bill introduced by Senate Republicans to \$1200 in the final bipartisan agreement; an additional \$500 child tax credit per child; a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions; and \$447 million for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), among other priorities included. Additionally, in a subsequent measure to replenish small business funding in the CARES Act, the CBC helped secure \$25 billion in funding for targeted testing. This legisla-

tion also included a requirement that the Centers for Disease Control release a report including racial demographics of individuals impacted by Covid-19 by Friday, May 15th. The Congressional Black Caucus has been fully committed and engaged at the highest level in Congress and the Administration in developing impactful legislation to respond to the growing needs of Black America during this crisis. Despite the series of economic relief that has been passed, we know that there is still much more needed to strengthen our communities and ease the impact of the pandemic thus far. The new proposal goes beyond the immediate issues and incorporates a long-term response to ensure the full recovery of Black America when this is over.

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The Congressional Tri-Caucus Statement on the Lynching of Ahmaud Arbery

Washington, D.C. — The Chairs of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC)—also known as the Congressional Tri-Caucus, have released the following statement on the racially motivated killing of Ahmaud Arbery, who was targeted by two white men, while jogging in his neighborhood:


“On February 23, 2020, a young Ahmaud Arbery’s life was cut short because two White men were uncomfortable with an unarmed Black man jogging in the neighborhood they shared. What the world witnessed on the video that leaked was yet another racially-motivated murder in our country. How many times will we continue to see such heinous acts of White supremacy? And how many times will it take a national public outcry to result in an arrest? We have come to a critical juncture in our country, where we must be honest with ourselves and call these crimes what they really are - lynchings. Arbery was targeted, harassed, and then killed.


His death is a vicious reminder that the past is never that far away. As recently as two years ago, a White man who lynched a Black man was convicted and executed. This is why the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Bill needs to be passed and signed in to law. This bill passed the House in February and is still sitting on the desk of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to be taken up for a vote. It is unfortunate that at a time when our communities are being devastated by COVID-19, we are also saddled with pain of modern-day lynchings,” said Congresswoman Karen Bass (CA-23), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

“Were it not for the horrific video that showed two White men deliberately hunting down an unarmed Black man while he was simply out on his daily jog, there might never have been justice for the cold-blooded murder of Ahmaud Arbery. Even now, justice is not guaranteed, as shown by our country’s poor track record of successfully prosecuting the murders of unarmed Black men and boys. Ahmaud was killed solely because of his skin color, just as so

many before him have been. This is a fear felt acutely in the Black community and we must take action to address the deep-seated racism and inequities in our society that have enabled these atrocities to happen. Ahmaud’s killers must be brought to justice to send a clear signal that vigilantes and White supremacists who decide to act on nothing but their own prejudices are criminals who will be held accountable for their actions,” said Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-27), Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

“Justice can never be fully achieved because Ahmaud Arbery, a young Black man with a beautiful future, should still be alive. The arrest of his accused killers is delayed and necessary news, but it is merely the first step for holding those responsible for his death accountable for their actions. From Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia to Sean Reed in Indiana to Michael Ramos in Texas, young people of color are not free from persecution and are afraid for their safety. We have all witnessed the injustice, and now we must marshal our collective moral and political will for systemic


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reform and real change,” said Congressman Joaquin Castro (TX-20), Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

While the father and son duo Gregory McMichael

and Travis McMichael have finally been arrested and charged for their crime, history has shown us that this is not enough. For justice to be served for Ahmaud Arbery and his

family, all involved parties must be arrested, tried and convicted to the highest extent of the law for their role in his murder. No one is above the law.

Malik Yusef raised more than \$10,000 to help slow COVID-19 behind bars

147Calboy and Vic Mensa joined the effort's initial concert.



By Benjamin Minick

The sweeping coronavirus pandemic has taken its toll on people from all walks of life. While many are at home practicing social distancing and wearing masks—which has been shown scientifically to slow the spread of the disease—there are some unable to comply: people behind bars.

One artist is trying to help. Multi-Grammy award winner Malik Yusef, who has written

and produced music with Beyonce, Jay-Z and Rihanna, has created a concert series to draw attention to the issue.

“We must remember that these men and women are still human beings regardless of what they may have been charged with. We should help people no matter what their situation may be. This is not the time to argue about guilt or innocence; this is the time to make sure that these people have the necessities that they need

to stay alive. This virus does not discriminate, and it can reach out and touch you no matter who you are,” Yusef told Zenger News.

While some states have called for the immediate release of nonviolent offenders, many have not. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, jails in places as disparate as Los Angeles; Maricopa County, Arizona; Anderson County, Tennessee; and Hennepin County, Minnesota as well as Delaware and Hawaii

have reduced their populations by at least 30% during the pandemic, though, the nonprofit advocacy organization reports, prisons are releasing far fewer people.

Multi-Grammy award winner Malik Yusef, who has written and produced music with Beyonce, Jay-Z and Rihanna, has created a concert series. (Photo Courtesy: Armani Sharpe of A Smoking Mirror)

Yusef teamed up with 147Calboy from Meek Mills Dream Chasers, who recently released a single, and Vic Mensa of Roc Nation, who has in the past taken a stance on climate change and passed out shoes in his community, for the inaugural show last month, which Yusef said raised more than \$10,000.

The concert is available via an app called MATT, which allows users to download and purchase a virtual ticket for the show. The technology helps bring the experience to

fans while assisting artists get paid. A portion of the proceeds will go to inmates as will personal care items and personal protective equipment.

The show is also available as a recorded segment.

And this won’t be the end: Yusef told Zenger there will be future shows.

Performances such as these may be the new normal going forward as it appears that the virus will be with us for some time. Virtual platforms allow fans to see artists from the comfort of home, keeping people safe while allowing artists to continue their trade.

There are some large differences performing on a virtual platform rather than in front of large crowds. “You can definitely feel your music and get pumped up but it’s kind of like being in a recording studio, it’s not the same as being around the fans and feeling their energy,” said Yusef.

The Chicago area

continues to be one of the hardest-hit urban centers in the United States. According to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University, Cook County, where Chicago is located, has seen more than 50,000 cases and more than 2,300 deaths from the virus.

While politicians struggle to keep people safe and businesses closed and some people start to feel as though they are being incarcerated in their own homes, the goal of efforts such as this concert series is to ground fans in their humanity and remind viewers there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

More shows in the series have not yet been announced, but Yusef says there have been discussions about furthering the project to benefit the community as a whole.

Zenger News/Urban News Service.