OH, OH, OH THE ‘FLY JOCK’ FLIES AWAY

Living legend Tom Joyner leaves a void in the fight for civil rights as he ends 50 years of radio.

The voice that registered millions of new voters, raised $65M for HBCUs, held drives for victims of Katrina and prompted companies to stop discriminating in advertising, hangs up the mic, page 6
**Black men walk the streets of Baltimore to combat violence**

Newyorkbeacon.com

A group of Black men from Baltimore is on a mission to address the violence that plagues some of the neighborhoods throughout the city. According to The Baltimore Sun, local community leaders have joined forces to host walks that were started to spread awareness about violence and provide support for residents who have felt the wrath of its negative effects.

The group—a collective comprised of activists, church leaders, and residents—has been gathering for months to walk the streets of Baltimore and interact with locals. To offer solutions to issues faced by the community, they provide resources for employment, drug treatment, and other forms of support along their walks. Baltimore ended 2019 with one of its worst homicide rates to date, and the men are determined to prevent another individual from becoming a statistic. They want to mediate situations in the streets that could potentially result in violence.

“We have to be at the center of the change of saving lives,” said Dr. Andrey Bundey, who serves as the Director of African American Male Engagement, a division of the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success. “If the state of Black men is going to change, it’s going to take Black men to inspire and guide Black men, first, and then other people of good will.”

**Fourth inmate dies in Mississippi prison**

Newyorkbeacon.com

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Another Mississippi inmate has died at the hands of a fellow inmate, bringing the death toll to four in disturbances over the past week in the state prison system. The violence comes even as a federal judge has rejected claims that conditions in one Mississippi prison are unconstitutional.

“Everybody is up here and everything is calm and cool right now,” he said.

**Weinstein charged with new sex crimes during court appearance in separate rape case**

Newyorkbeacon.com

A man who was once arguably the most powerful person in the film industry got another crushing legal punch to the gut as he was attending a court hearing in New York City.

Harvey Weinstein (pictured, center) appeared in court on Monday (January 6) as jury selection in a criminal case against the disgraced film executive, who is being prosecuted by the state of New York.

Weinstein, 67, faces multiple aggravated sexual assault charges in this case related to allegations made by two different women who claimed he raped them in 2006 and 2013. In the 2006 case, the Miramax Films co-founder allegedly performed a sex act forcibly on an unwilling woman in the New York City area. Another woman alleged that Weinstein raped her in a hotel room in Manhattan, New York.

At the news conference. Lacey Burton told The Associated Press a 32-year-old male prisoner died before noon Thursday at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. Burton said the inmate, whom she declined to identify pending notification of relatives, had multiple stab wounds.

Sunflower County Sheriff James Haywood said other inmates were injured. Departments from multiple counties and state agencies responded to the sprawling and isolated Parchman prison, Haywood said. Inmates are in a different unit than the one where the stabbing occurred set their cell block on fire, the sheriff said, speaking by cell phone from the prison. Haywood said the fire was put out and the inmates were under control.

“We have to be at the center of the change of saving lives,” said Dr. Andrey Bundey, who serves as the Director of African American Male Engagement, a division of the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success. “If the state of Black men is going to change, it’s going to take Black men to inspire and guide Black men, first, and then other people of good will.”

**Soleimani’s daughter: Father’s death ‘will bring darker days’ for the US, Israel**

Newyorkbeacon.com

Iranian Gen. Qasem Soleimani’s daughter warned that her father’s death “will cause more awakening in the resistance front” and “will bring darker days” for the United States and Israel.

Speaking in front of a large crowd at her father’s funeral procession at Tehran University on Monday, Zeinab Soleimani said President Trump’s “evil plan to cause separation between two nations of Iran and Iraq with your strategic mistake in assassinating both Haj Qasem and Abu Mahdi has failed and it has only caused historical unity between two nations and their mutual eternal hatred for the United States,” Zeinab Soleimani said.

“Our plan to attack Iran was the biggest mistake of your life,” she said.

**Report: More people are leaving New York than any other state**

By Victor Omundi

When it comes to states that have been greatly hit by the recent exodus, New York takes the lead. While some states have seen a significant rise in their overall population, New York seems to be tailing in this sector.

According to the most recent census data released Monday, about 76790 cleared out of the state between July 2018 and July 2019. This represents a loss of 0.4%, which isn’t healthy for a state of its caliber.

Again, looking at the population lost through domestic immigration in New York, the situation is even worse. The state is among the three states that lost more than 10000 to other states between July 2018 to July 2019.

According to the census data, at least 1860649 more residents left New York between the two years than those who moved in. Now, looking at the population data between 2010 and 2019, the state has seen a loss of at least 1.4 million residents due to domestic migration.

Based on an analysis of the census data by the Empire Center, New York’s population currently stands at 19453561, which is below the 19530351 recorded in 2018. Despite the major population crisis facing the state, it’s still the fourth most populous state after California, Texas, and Florida. The states have a population of 39.5 million, 28.9 million, and 21.4 million respectively.

While New Jersey and Connecticut experienced net outflows of about 4000 each, in the record, New York experienced the biggest loss. The 4000 decline in these states is way below the 76790 recorded in New York.
Mayor Pete Buttigieg: Generational wealth has been stolen from Black America

Newyorkbeacon.com

Video footage of Democratic presidential candidate Mayor Pete Buttigieg saying Black Americans had its generational wealth stolen was shared today. When asked his stance on reparations, Buttigieg not only voiced his support for HR 40, but also said the wealth disparity between Blacks and whites is a result of "systemic racism in this country." Buttigieg said, but I don’t think we have to wait for that commission to do its work to do other things," Buttigieg added. He added if generational wealth is "true for a dollar that's been saved, that's also true for a dollar that's been stolen -- and what has been stolen from Black Americans is generational opportunity to build up wealth." The video was captured and shared by a Twitter user identified as Jameion B. Fowler, who identifies as an outspoken member of the American Descendants of Slavery (#ADOS) movement. "So we shouldn’t be surprised that when slavery ended... less than two lifetimes ago, that we continue to see the consequences of that, in addition to things that are not from some distant far-off point past but happened within living memory," Buttigieg continued.

Two kicked out of National Guard over white supremacist ties

Newyorkbeacon.com

ATLANTA (AP) — Two men have been kicked out of the Army National Guard after liberal activists uncovered their membership in a religious group with white supremacist ties. Brandon Trent East told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the Alabama National Guard sent him a separation notice on Dec. 14.

A spokeswoman for the Georgia National Guard said Dalton Woodward is no longer a member. She declined to comment on the terms of Woodward’s separation. Woodward didn’t respond to a request for comment left with his friend East.

Earlier in 2019, the Atlanta AntiFascists group published a report saying East and Woodward were leaders of the Norse pagan group Ravensblood Kindred. The group is part of the Asatru Folk Assembly, which researchers say endorses white supremacy.

Border stops for people of Iranian descent spark outrage

Newyorkbeacon.com

Reports of Iranians and Iranian-Americans being detained for questioning upon entering the U.S. kicked off a furor on Sunday from Washington state to Washington, D.C., marking a new domestic blowback to the Trump administration’s targeted killing of a key Iranian leader.

The Washington state chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a prominent Muslim civil liberties group, said on Sunday that more than 60 people of Iranian descent, including American citizens, were held for hours long periods of questioning over the weekend at the Peace Arch checkpoint in Blaine, Wash., along the border with Canada. CAIR noted that the agency received a national directive from the Department of Homeland Security to “report” and detain anyone with Iranian heritage entering the country who is deemed potentially suspicious or “adversarial,” regardless of citizenship status.

“Are we working to verify reports of a broad nationwide directive to detain Iranian-Americans at ports of entry so that we can provide community members with accurate travel guidance,” Masih Fouladi, executive director of CAIR’s Washington chapter, said in a statement.

Protests across US condemn action in Iran and Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Demonstrators in dozens of cities around the U.S. gathered Saturday to protest the Trump administration’s killing of an Iranian general and decision to send thousands of additional soldiers to the Middle East.

More than 70 planned protests were organized by CODEPINK and Act Now to Stop War and End Racism, a U.S.-based anti-war coalition, along with other groups. From Tampa to Philadelphia and San Francisco to New York, protesters carried signs and chanted anti-war slogans.

President Donald Trump ordered Friday’s airstrike near Baghdad’s international airport that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran’s elite Quds Force who has been blamed for attacks on U.S. troops and American allies going back decades. Iran has vowed retribution, raising fears of an all-out war, but it’s unclear how or when a response might come. Protest organizers said the Trump administration has essentially started a war with Iran by assassinating Soleimani.

Black, Jewish leaders unite in NYC after wave of anti-Semitic attacks

Newyorkbeacon.com

After a violent few days in New York City and one far-out suburban community in which Jewish people were targeted, Black and Jewish leaders planned to come together Monday morning in Harlem to denounce the attacks.

The coalition planned to speak out at the National Action Network House of Justice, headquarters for the National Action Network civil rights organization headed by Rev. Al Sharpton.

Along with Sharpton, other leaders slated to speak are: Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, Ha- zel Dukes, president of the NAACP New York State Conference, and Rabbi Marc Schneier, president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

The Greater New York area was reeling after five people were stabbed at a Hannukah celebration at a private residence in Monsey, N.Y., over the weekend, and several more attacks took place in the five boroughs throughout the month of December. The violence comes on the heels of a fatal attack at a Kosher supermarket in New York City that left six people dead.
Danielle Outlaw is Philadelphia’s first Black woman Police Commissioner

The city of Philadelphia has a new police commissioner, and she’s a Black woman.

On Monday, Mayor Jim Kenney named Danielle Outlaw as the new head of the city police department, making her the first African-American woman to hold the position. Outlaw, former police chief of Portland, Oregon, is now in charge of the fourth-largest police department in the U.S., with 6,300 sworn officers, according to the agency’s website.

In her new role as Philadelphia police commissioner, Danielle Outlaw said she will work on tackling crime and gun violence in the city. After meeting and speaking with her at length, I came away confident that Danielle Outlaw possesses the strength, integrity, and empathy vital to the tasks ahead.

Outlaw’s appointment concluded an extensive four-month search in which over 30 candidates were considered, including several from within the department.

Kenney wrote that “while I have tremendous respect for our officers, the Philadelphia Police Department needs reform.”

Annual Kwanzaa crawl brings $250,000 to Black businesses in New York City

It's support black businesses through libations! According to The Root, the annual Kwanzaa Crawl helps generate $250,000 for black businesses in Brooklyn and Harlem in New York City. Kwanzaa, the week-long holiday celebrating black culture, heritage, and family, is the theme for the yearly bar crawl that takes place in New York City in the neighborhood of Harlem and the borough of Brooklyn. New York’s fourth annual Kwanzaa Crawl kicked off with a ceremony recognizing the holiday’s seven core principals of African heritage that include unity, self-determination, and purpose.

As listed on the Kwanzaa Crawl website, The crawl is “a one-day event that brings people of the African diaspora together to support Black-owned businesses in their communities. Heading into our 4th annual year, we have hosted over 8,000 crawlers. We’ve expanded from 17 Black-owned businesses in Brooklyn in our inaugural year to over 30 businesses in Brooklyn and Harlem, last year, cumulatively raising over $250,000 for these businesses.”

Ex-fiancé of Bobbi Kristina Brown, Nick Gordon, dies at age 30

Nick Gordon, the ex-boyfriend of Bobbi Kristina Brown, died Wednesday of a suspected drug overdose in Florida reports CBS News. He was 30 years old.

Gordon’s death was confirmed via a statement by his attorney, Joe S. Habachy.

“When I cannot speak to the specific circumstances of his death, I can say that it’s been truly heartbreaking to have witnessed first hand the total devastation that drug addiction has wreaked upon a group of young friends, all of whom were loved and had immense potential,” Habachy stated.

Despite all of the incredible challenges Nick faced over the last few years I can honestly say that he worked hard to hold his head up and stay sober and that he genuinely wanted a happy healthy life with his family more than anything else,” the attorney continued.

“We are devastated by the loss of my beautiful brother, He leaves a void in the hearts of my family and his friends. Nick’s battle in life was not an easy one. I will be forever grateful that my God afforded a small moment at the very end of Nick’s life, and I was able to hold his hand as he journeyed on,” Jack Walker Jr, said according to People.

Black NYPD sergeant says he was suspended after seeing treatment for 9/11-related health issues

New York City police sergeant who claims he faced retaliation for seeking treatment for his 9/11-related health issues has since been suspended.

Sgt. Cyress Smith spoke with the New York Post about how he was reportedly forced out after leaving work to pick up his daughter from the hospital earlier this month.

“I am being forced off the job,” Smith told the outlet. I believe “what made them come after me was the lawsuit and the fact [that] an article appeared in the paper. You know what? They crossed the line with my daughter.”

The 52-year old law enforcement officer says he suffers from a chronic cough, asthma and other illnesses after sifting through debris in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. (Photo: Henry Ray Abrams/AFP via Getty Images)

NYPD Sgt. Cyress Smith says he developed a chronic cough, asthma and other illnesses after sifting through debris in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. (Photo: Henry Ray Abrams/AFP via Getty Images)

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“I am being forced off the job,” Smith told the outlet. I believe “what made them come after me was the lawsuit and the fact [that] an article appeared in the paper. You know what? They crossed the line with my daughter.”

The 52-year old law enforcement officer says he suffers from a chronic cough, asthma and other illnesses after sifting through debris at the Fresh Kills Landfill following the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001. In a lawsuit filed in June, Smith accused the NYPD of exiling him to the department’s outcast assignment, the VIPER Unit, for three years after attending treatment for his ailments.
Sometimes the person who helps you finish high school hasn’t even started preschool.

If you’re thinking of finishing your high school diploma, you have more support than you realize. Find free adult education classes near you by texting FINISH to 97779 or by visiting FinishYourDiploma.org.
Will money rule in this presidential race?

By Julianne Malveaux

Democrats started this Presidential campaign season with more than 20 candidates. Eventually, it dropped to about a dozen, with, so far, only five of those “qualified” to appear on the debate stage. But debate performance doesn’t seem to matter much. Both Senator Kamala Harris and former Obama cabinet member Julian Castro had excellent debate performances, yet they have still dropped out of the race.

It’s a money thing.

With just $9 million in the bank, Senator Harris said she couldn’t see her way clear to the nomination given her extremely limited resources. Castro, matching Harris in grace and intellect, showed, said, “It just wasn’t our time.” He, too, felt he did not have enough money in the bank to compete. It almost certainly would have helped these candidates qualify if they had the resources, said, of former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who pumped $100 million into his campaign in just one month!

In fairness, though, it is essential to note that Senator Bernie Sanders raised a whopping $34.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2019 alone. Mayor Pete Buttigieg and former VP Joe Biden raised more than $20 million in that quarter, and Senator Elizabeth Warren came close. The deadline for filing finance reports is later this month, so I’m cautious in concluding based on news articles and partial reports. Still, generally, it seems something to crow about put their numbers out there early.

And for some, money isn’t the only issue. Did they meet the thresholds the Democracy Finance Project set for debate qualification? Do they and their advisors think they can win? What are the polls saying?

So even though Kristen Gillibrand had $14.9 million in the bank when she dropped out of the race last August, she was not polling well and failed to qualify for the September debate. Meanwhile, Senator Corey Booker did not qualify for the last debate, but he is hanging in there.

Although Booker and entrepreneur Andrew Yang are still in the race, the Democratic field is mostly white, with only one African American, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, qualifying for the debates. And for the last debate, but he is hanging in there.

The fact that our radio station has been around our education partnerships with Joyner have helped these candidates all appreciate the fact that they have more time to go in-depth answering questions. Still, if it’s an all-white debate stage, does that say anything about respect for his many years of entertainment and commentary, wish him well in retirement and look forward to lending our “Living Legend” at our March 13th event.

To engage new voters, perhaps Democrats need to examine their rules to embrace more candidates of color. And they need to fight for legislation that makes it easier to vote. Democrats like to call themselves candidates of the “underdog.” But when billionaires like Steyer and Bloomberg are sauntering through the door, concern for the underdog seems to go out the window.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCVTY is available on youTube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.julianneomalveaux.com

Editoria

‘Living legend’ Tom Joyner’s career has transformed black media

By Marc H. Morial

“I learned so much about journalism Bomani Jones.

Even as we enter 2020 with optimism and a sense of renewed purpose, there will be a huge void in our cultural life without the daily voice of radio legend Tom Joyner, who retired last month after nearly 50 years on the air, the last 25 as the host of the iconic Tom Joyner Morning Show.

It’s hard for me to imagine the last 16 years of my life as President and CEO of the National Urban League without Joyner’s enthusiastic support and clear-minded analysis. Reach Media, the company he founded in 2001, has long been truly the one voice in Joyner’s most valued media partners.

When ever the National Urban League has launched a new initiative or announced an event, the Tom Joyner Morning Show was one of our first stops. There was no better forum for reaching everyone who’s worked on that project.

Joyner’s devotion and sizeable audience, or for thought-provoking analysis of the issues of the day.

In 2015, the National Urban League honored Joyner with our “Living Legend” at our Conference in Fort Lauderdale. His live broadcast from the Conference was a highlight of the week.

Our most important partnerships with Joyner have been around our education initiatives. A third-generation alumnus of a HBCU, Joyner has been a passionate advocate, with his Tom Joyner Foundation raising more than $35.00 per year. 213-8585 www.newyorkbeacon.com

And for some, money will suffer much for dropping out of the race. Some say that Ben Carson, who dropped out of the race. Some say that Ben Carson, who dropped out of the race. Some say that Ben Carson, who dropped out of the race. Some say that Ben Carson, who dropped out of the race. Some say that Ben Carson, who dropped out of the race.

But despite the money, the fact is that our radio station has been a passionate advocate, with his Tom Joyner Foundation raising more than $35.00 per year. 213-8585 www.newyorkbeacon.com

For Democrats, there are three keys to winning this election. First, Dems must engage “new voters,” including young people and first-time voters. Next, Dems must monitor the rules around elections so that they do not discriminate and scrutinize the ways people are removed from the voting rolls. Finally, and most importantly, Democrats must place significant effort on getting out the vote (and during the primaries), and new voters and especially communities of color, must be targeted.

Election protection organizations have the monitoring in place, and they are likely to be massive GOTV efforts. But what engages new voters? They must feel that the political process reflects their values. Already Latino voters are concerned that Democrats aren’t vying for their vote. And African American voters think that the Democratic Party takes them for granted. To engage new voters, perhaps Democrats need to examine their rules to embrace more candidates of color. And they need to fight for legislation that makes it easier to vote. Democrats like to call themselves candidates of the “underdog.” But when billionaires like Steyer and Bloomberg are sauntering through the door, concern for the underdog seems to go out the window.

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$35.00 per year 212-213-8585 www.newyorkbeacon.com
NFL is working to improve diversity in its coaching ranks

Newyorkbeacon.com

While the National Football League has plenty of diverse talent on the field, you’d be hard pressed to see that reflected in the sidelines. The New York Times reports that in the 2019 off-season the number of minority head coaches shrunk from eight to four. When it comes to general managers, that number went from four to two. This led to Richard Lapchick, the director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, giving the NFL its lowest grade in 16 years in the annual report he puts out that tracks the hiring of minorities and women in the league. The only minority head coaches at the moment are Mike Tomlin of the Steelers, Anthony Lynn with the Chargers, Brian Flores with the Dolphins and as of today Ron Rivera with the Washington Redskins.

This drought of talent is partially explained by the fact that minority coaches are selected, one that tends to favor offensive coordinators and coaches for quarterbacks. Many black coaches are typically selected for jobs involving the defensive line. When it comes to coaches for quarterbacks, there were only two black coaches in the 2019 season.

This is a problem the NFL is working to solve. In 2003 the league introduced the Rooney Rule to help increase diversity across coaching staffs and front offices. The rule requires teams to interview minority candidates from outside the organization when hiring a head coach, assistant coaches or senior executives. This rule hasn’t led to much change, though, with there never having been more than eight minority head coaches at any time in the league. Additionally, the NFL has seldom penalized teams for violating the rule.

Apps tracking students location leads to debate about privacy on college campuses

Newyorkbeacon.com

Syracuse University professor Jeff Rubin’s Introduction to Information Technologies class has multiple Bluetooth beacons hidden around the lecture hall that connects with an app on students’ smartphones to boost their “attendance points.” Rubin uses the Spotter app which according to their site is used at “over 30 schools.”

It may seem odd, but it is just the latest in a technological trend on college campuses across the nation that use smartphones to track students more precisely than ever before.

The technology also allows schools to monitor students’ academic performance, analyze their conduct and assess their mental health.

“One thing that’s gone wrong with our society is that we’re more focused on what kids are doing offline and we’re failing to understand what they’re doing online,” Rubin said to The Washington Post. “They know I’m watching and acting on it. So, behaviorally, they change.”

One school that recently began logging the attendance of students using the campus Wi-Fi network is Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, and students have begun to speak out against the changes.

“We’re adults. Do we really need to be tracked?” Robby Pfeifer, a sophomore at VCU, said to The Washington Post.

“Why is this necessary? How does this benefit us? ... And is it just going to keep progressing until we’re micromanaged every second of the day?”

Mountain lions killed after they ate human remains near a popular hiking trail

Newyorkbeacon.com

Officials in Arizona killed three mountain lions who ate human remains close to a popular hiking trail.

The Pima County Sheriff’s Department discovered the human remains Tuesday during an investigation at Pima Canyon Trail near Tucson and closed the trail, the department said. The Arizona Game & Fish Department said in a statement Wednesday the lions were killed overnight.

“The mountain lions are not routinely scavengers. A mountain lion eating human remains is abnormal behavior. Those that do are more likely to attack a human being in the future,” Game & Fish Department Regional Supervisor Raul Vega said in a statement provided to CNN affiliate KGUN.

Vega added: “In addition, they did so 50 yards from a popular hiking trail and within sight of homes, and repeatedly showed no fear of responding officers.”

He said the mountain lions “were a clear and present danger to public safety.”

The mountain lions are being preserved as possible evidence in the death investigation, officials said.

DC students forced to portray slaves for history lesson, principal apologizes

Newyorkbeacon.com

The principal at an elementary school in Washington, D.C., sent a letter of apology home to the parents of all its students after a racially charged and totally inappropriate incident.

According to CNN, Black fifth-graders at D.C.’s Lafayette Elementary School were required to portray the role of slaves, which was part of a history lesson on America’s Civil War and Reconstruction Era. The fifth-graders were assigned the task of providing themselves up into groups as prescribed by their “teaching teams” after the students read an article called “A Nation Divided.”

“The teaching team had students further engage with the material by having them either put on a dramatic reading, create a living picture, create a podcast or create a video for classroom purposes, according to a separate letter sent to families of fifth-graders from the school’s fifth-grade teaching team,” reads a portion of the CNN report, which further explains the assignment.

To reenact these “living pictures” created by some of the groups of students, Cauca- sian fifth-graders asked their Black peers to portray the role of slaves during these group projects. This was assigned in December before Christmas of 2019, Lafayette’s principal, Carrie Broquard, sent a letter home with all students to their parents describing the disgraceful production of apology home to the parents of all its students after a racially charged and totally inappropriate incident.

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Health

Getting diabetes as we get older—there is good news!

By Glenn Ellis (TriceEdneyWire.com)

More and more, I am finding many people who, as they enter their sixth decade, are finding new aches and pains that never existed before. Increasingly, many are finding something else that never existed before: diabetes. For many are finding something else that never existed before. Increasingly, for example, high blood pressure or other changes in the body as we age, your body becomes more susceptible to diabetes.

Of course, seniors (those over 65) are not the only people to be affected by diabetes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 30 million people in the United States have diabetes. The CDC also notes that 90 to 95 percent of cases involve type 2 diabetes. More than one-quarter of the US population aged 65 and older has diabetes, 1 including type 1 and 2, and approximately one-half of older adults have prediabetes. In this population, age-related insulin resistance and impaired pancreatic islet function increase the risk of developing the disease.

Many older people also have other conditions as well as diabetes, and this can complicate diabetes management. For example, high blood pressure or high levels of certain fats in the blood can speed up the progression of common complications of diabetes, such as kidney problems, eye problems, foot problems, and heart and blood vessel problems. People with diabetes whose blood glucose levels are high are more prone to infections than people with normal blood glucose levels.

People with poorly controlled diabetes are also at greater risk for dental problems. They’re more likely to have infections of their gums and the bones that hold their teeth in place, because diabetes can reduce the blood supply to the gums.

Not only that, but when we age, loss of teeth and poor dental health becomes more and more common. As a result, what we eat, and how we eat (along with age-related poorer appetite). We don’t, and can’t, chew like we used to. That means things like crunchy fruits and vegetables are off-limits. We end up gravitating towards softer chewy foods that tend to be more processed, and bad for our health in the long run. A poor diet of soft and processed foods can have serious long-term effects, especially on the seniors or those with systemic health issues like heart disease and diabetes. Specifically, a poor diet can lead to either unhealthy weight loss or unhealthy weight gain, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, malnutrition, dehydration, jawbone loss, osteoporosis, stroke, and some cancers. Poor nutrition can also cause even more oral health issues, including gingivitis and tooth decay.

If we look, honestly, at all the things that go along with aging, we find that it makes sense that the risk of becoming diabetic increases as we get older. In addition to their many physical challenges, elderly diabetes patients often are socially isolated and have financial problems that negatively affect their care. They may forget to eat, be unable to afford medications or quality food, or skip medication doses to extend a prescription. They also may experience changes in taste and a lack of interest and ability to shop for food and prepare meals at home.

An additional concern with blood sugar being too high, is the danger of blood sugar dropping too low (hypoglycemia). This creates the conditions for many serious issues that wreak havoc in the lives of the elderly; particularly falls and fractures. Instead of, or in addition to, sweating and tremors, elderly diabetes patients should be taught to look for symptoms of hypoglycemia, such as dizziness, weakness, delirium, and confusion. Often, the low glucose will cause them to fall, resulting in a head injury and death.

There is good news! Despite the high rates of diagnosis, there are ways the disease may be delayed and even prevented. Your best options include regular exercise; losing 5 to 10 percent of your body weight if you’re overweight or obese; and reducing your intake of sugar and sweetened beverages. If we are all honest with ourselves, one or more of these risk factors is a part of who we are, and how we have grown accustomed to living. By losing just 5 to 7 percent of your body weight, you can slow the development of type 2 diabetes.

You may not be able to prevent diabetes entirely. But taking steps now may prevent related complications and improve your quality of life. Remember, I’m not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly. Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com
Guilty of corruption, Sudan’s ex-president is sent to reform center

(GIN) –

From a cell inside the court in Khartoum, Sudan’s former President Omar al-Bashir heard the judgement against him – a historic moment for the Sudanese justice system and its subject. It was a dramatic fall for the former regional power broker who rose through the ranks from paratroop officer to colonel in the Sudanese Army, from Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation to finally all the posts of chief of state, prime minister, chief of the armed forces, and minister of defense. He served as president of Sudan for 30 years. As a brigadier in the Sudanese Army, he led a group of officers in a military coup that ousted the democratically elected government of Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi. He ruled with an iron fist – his 30-year dictatorship was marked by oppression, genocide, and human rights abuses.

In the Darfur region, he fought a 20-year war against south Sudanese that resulted in death tolls estimated between 200,000 and 400,000, according to the U.N., from either combat, starvation or disease. This produced her arrest warrant in 2010 for the crime of genocide but it was dismissed by the Sudanese government and opposed by the African Union, League of Arab States and the Non-Aligned Movement as well as the governments of Russia and China.

Eight years later, price increases in fuel and bread set off angry protests and finally a demand for Mr. Bashir’s removal from power. After months of unrest, Sudan’s military stepped in and toppled Mr Bashir on April 11, 2019. Al Bashir was finally done in by corruption. Millions of dollars were discovered stuffed in suitcases and a large hoard of foreign currency was found at his home.

As Mr. Bashir is over 70, he will serve his 2-year sentence in a state-run reform center. An appeal is being mounted, say his lawyers who called the verdict ‘political’.

Still, many are unsatisfied with the short sentence. “It’s just a slap on the wrist,” said a spokeswoman for the Sudanese Professionals Association. “Bashir needs to answer for his role in the 1989 coup, torture and killings including crimes against humanity in Darfur.”

Jehanne Henry of a Human Rights Watch who focuses on Sudan, added “The trial for these charges of financial crimes does not address the human rights violations that so many Sudanese have experienced. So the sentence will not likely satisfy the many thousands of victims of abuses under al-Bashir’s 30-year rule.”

Corruption fighter freezes bank account of Angola’s pampered rich

(GIN) –

Some called her Princess. Others labeled her the beautiful face of the dictatorship. From the pages of Fortune, Forbes and other high-finance magazines which featured her as Africa’s “First Woman Billionaire.” Today, the daughter of Angola’s ex-president is in a messy fight over millions siphoned from state funds, now frozen as part of the country’s president’s anti-corruption drive.

As Ms. Isabel dos Santos tells it, she made her first million selling eggs on the street on her way to school. Soon, she had a share in lucrative state contracts and became head of Angola’s state-owned oil firm, thanks to her father’s generous decrees. Her assets swelled to $2 billion, the Bloomberg news service reports.

Last month, an Angolan court froze the assets of dos Santos, her husband Sindika Dokolo, and one of her executives and seized their shares in local companies, including the United telecommunications firm, the BFA bank and the cement company Cimangola, according to Angola’s state news agency. The nation’s Attorney General accuses the three of engaging in transactions with state-owned companies that led to the government incurring losses of $1.14 billion. Jose Filomeno, Isabel’s brother, was fired as head of Angola’s sovereign wealth fund and accused of illegally transferring $500 million from Angola’s central bank to the U.K. Their sister, Welwitscha dos Santos, recently lost her seat as a member of parliament after leaving Angola.

These moves mark another step in President Joao Lourenco’s bid to battle graft and dismantle the influence of his predecessor’s family over key industries. Dos Santos says she will “use all the instruments of Angolan and international law at my disposal to fight this order and ensure the truth comes out.” But political analyst Paula Roque calls the arrests an indication that Angola is finally moving in the direction of accountability and reversing decades of impunity, nepotism, patronage and corruption.” Opposition spokesman Marcel Dachala concurs. “This confirms what we’ve been saying since 1975, that this country is a victim of kleptocracy.”

Angola is the second biggest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa. Nonetheless, 36% of its citizens live in extreme poverty, according to the United Nations.
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Chase's Thasunda Brown Duckett to receive UNCF’s Leadership Award

Thasunda Brown Duckett, Chief Executive Officer of Chase Consumer & Community Banking, will be the recipient of the coveted Leadership Award presented by the United Negro College Fund at their 2020 “A Mind Is…” Gala to be held Thursday, March 20, 2020, at Cipriani 42nd Street, 110 East 42nd Street, New York City. The always elegant event will begin with a reception followed by dinner and the program.

The celebrated banking executive is a member of the Chase Consumer & Community Banking Leadership Committee. Chase is one of the largest U.S. providers of banking, lending, treasury, wealth management and investment services. Duckett oversees a banking network with more than 7,500 ATMs and more than 47,000 branch employees — including more than 3,000 financial advisors — serving 23 million households nationwide.

From 2013 – 2016, Duckett was the CEO of Chase Auto Finance, one of the leading bank providers of auto financing in the country with a portfolio of more than $14 billion in assets and relationships with 75% of U.S. franchised automotive dealers.

Under her leadership, Chase Auto Finance moved from #27 in the JD Power Dealer Finance Satisfaction Survey to #1 in Prime and Non-Prime. She broadened its dealer partnerships and launched Chase Auto Direct, the bank’s new direct-to-consumer business.

Prior to Auto, Duckett served as National Retail Sales Executive for Chase Mortgage Banking, where she managed 4,000 mortgage bankers who provide home financing to customers across the nation. She was previously Mortgage Banking’s East Region Sales team for three years. She has also served as the Channel Executive of Bank Branch Integration and as Director of Affordable Lending and Emerging Markets.

Before joining JPMorgan Chase in 2004, Duckett was a Director of Emerging Markets at Fannie Mae, where she led the implementation of national strategies designed to increase homeownership among African Americans and Hispanics among them.

Duckett has been recognized widely as a leading executive in banking. She was named as a “Top 100 Leading Female Executive” by Automotive News; one of the most powerful women in corporate America by Black Enterprise magazine; one of the 25 most powerful women in corporate America by Savoy magazine.

Duckett is a founding member of the firm’s Women on the Move initiative and was an Executive Sponsor of The Fellowship Initiative in New York City. The enrichment program, run by JPMorgan Chase, offers young men of color academic, social and emotional support to help them achieve personal and professional success.

Duckett is originally from Texas. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Finance and Marketing from the University of Houston, and an MBA from Baylor University. She is married and has four children. She and her family live in Connecticut.

The 2020 “A Mind Is…” New York Gala raises funds for UNCF and honors those who have made a difference through their support of our mission and education. Proceeds and UNCF programs help students get to and through college.

Chase is a presenting sponsor of this event. Help UNCF celebrate its contributors and students at this black tie optional social event of the year, and help area students get to and through college by contacting Event Planner Dave Yawman, EVP, Government Affairs, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary who will accept the distinguished Corporate Partner Award on behalf of PepsiCo. PepsiCo and Delta are presenting sponsors of this event.

About The United Negro College Fund

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) is the nation’s largest and most effective minority education organization. Since 1944, UNCF has raised over $4.6 billion for higher education.

To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students’ education and development through scholarships and other programs, strengthens its 47 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of minority education.

Dining With the Divas 2020 sweetheart affair

The Apollo Theater’s annual Dining With the Divas Luncheon led by Jonelle Procope, President and CEO, Apollo Theater, will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2020. The anxiously awaited gathering will begin with a sisterhood networking reception at 11:30am followed by the luncheon which will actually take place on the legendary Apollo stage. The 2020 presenting sponsor is PepsiCo and the Divas Luncheon Event Chairs are Terri Borden, Joan Haffenreffer and Carolyn Minick Mason. Dining With the Divas is a special luncheon advancing women’s leadership through art education. This unique event highlights extraordinary women from many industries who serve as role models and mentors. The special luncheon attracts more than 350 guests and is an important networking opportunity for a diverse and influential group of women. Proceeds from Dining With the Divas will benefit the Apollo Theater’s year-round education, community, and performing arts programs as well as their scholarship fund. Each ticket is $75. All tickets and contributions are final and non-refundable. For further assistance, please contact special.events@apollotheater.org by Friday, January 24, 2020.

About The Apollo Theater

The legendary Apollo Theater -- the soul of American culture -- plays a vital role in cultivating emerging artists and launching legends. Since its founding, the Apollo has served as a center of innovation and a creative catalyst for Harlem, the city of New York, and the world. With music at its core, the Apollo’s programming extends to dance, theater, spoken word, and more. The Apollo Theater is a commissioner and presenter; catalyst for new artists, audiences, and creative workforce; and partner in the projection of the African American narrative and its role in the development of American and global culture. The Apollo Theater envisions a new American canon centered on contributions to the performing arts by artists of the African diaspora, in America and beyond. Since introducing the first Amateur Night contests in 1934, the Apollo Theater has served as a testing ground for new artists working across a variety of art forms and has ushered in the emergence of many new musical genres -- including jazz, swing, bebop, R&B, gospel, blues, soul, and hip-hop.
Golden Globes rich with glitz, glamour and grandeur!

By Audrey J. Bernard

BEVERLY HILLS, CA — The 77th Annual Golden Globe Awards presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association took place on Sunday, January 5, 2020 at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills. Ricky Gervais returned as host and proceeded to roast the star-studded audience as well as lambast the Hollywood Foreign Press for their lack of diversity in their 2020 nominations. “Many talented people of color were snubbed in major categories. Unfortunately, there’s nothing we can do about that because the Hollywood Foreign Press are all very, very racist.” He brazenly added, “We were going to do an In Memoriam tonight but when I saw the list, it wasn’t diverse enough. It was mostly white people and I thought nah, not on my watch.” Although his remarks drew wild laughter and applause, I don’t think he’ll ever be invited back. Some 3 hours later top winners included: Ellen DeGeneres received the Carol Burnett TV Achievement Award and Tom Hanks received the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement. “1917” won Best Motion Picture in drama, while “Once Upon A Time In Hollywood” won Best Motion Picture in comedy or musical. And in the TV awards categories, “ Fleabag”, “ Succession,” and “ Chernobyl” won top honors in comedy, drama and miniseries, respectively. Brad Pitt accepted the award for Best Supporting Actor—Motion Picture for “Once Upon A Time... In Hollywood.” In his acceptance speech, he thanked his co-star Leonardo DiCaprio mentioning that he “would have shared the raft,” a joke in reference to DiCaprio’s character’s fate in 1997 film, “Titanic.” Awkwafina accepted the award for Best Actress—Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy for “The Farewell.” The 31-year-old actress and rapper makes history as the first woman of Asian descent to win the award for lead actress in a movie comedy/musical. Bong Joon Ho accepted the award for Best Motion Picture, Foreign Language for “Parasite.” The South Korean director’s drama is the first South Korean movie to ever win this award in the 77-year history of the Golden Globes. Quentin Tarantino accepted the award for Best Screenplay—Motion Picture for “Once Upon A Time... In Hollywood.” Other big winners included: Best actor in a motion picture, drama: Joaquin Phoenix, “Joker”; Best actress in a motion picture, drama: Renée Zellweger, “Judy”; Best actor in a motion picture, musical or comedy: Taron Egerton, “Rocketman”; Best director: Sam Mendes, “1917”; Best supporting actress in a motion picture: Laura Dern, “Marriage Story”; Best original song: “I’m Gonna Love Me Again” from “Rocketman,” music by Elton John, lyrics by Bernie Taupin; and Best original score: Hildur Gudnadottir, “Joker”. (See Page 13 for additional coverage) (Photos by Paul Drinkwater/NBC, Getty Images and Just Jared)
Beacon on the scene

Billy Porter

Beyoncé, Jay-Z

Yara Shahidi

Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio

Da’Vine Joy Randolph

Paige Butcher, Eddie Murphy

Elisa Pugliese, Kegan-Michael Key

Laverne Cox

Jennifer Lopez

Priyanka Chopra

Cynthia Erivo

Kerry Washington

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East River Plaza surprises families at Holiday Festival

Posted By Don Thomas

East River Plaza on behalf of the Blumenfeld Development Group, Inc. (BDG) and Brookfield Properties presented an early Christmas gift to 12 families by raffling off free Christmas trees that were used by the Plaza for the one-day event. Plaza visitors had the opportunity to enter the free raffle when visiting the festival, which included performances by nationally renowned Vy Higginsen’s Sing Harlem and pictures with Santa.

“We are committed to always incorporate and give back to the local communities of our properties. We were honored to host for the ninth year in a row the very talented and celebrated Vy Higginsen’s Sing Harlem Choir at our Annual East River Plaza Holiday Festival, who were inspiring, entertaining and put smiles on everyone’s face. What better way to culminate the day’s activities than to surprise 12 lucky families with a free Christmas tree from our festival set,” said Ed Blumenfeld, President, Blumenfeld Development Group.

The raffle delivered a very special moment when Keith Carlson and Marek Dulka who were two of the lucky tree winners, traded their 5 foot tree with 10 year old Angel Sorey Perez who won one of the smaller trees.

Keith Carlson and Marek Dulka didn’t know was that Angel’s grandmother who passed away in March, loved celebrating Christmas, her favorite holiday with Angel and family. This was going to be the first Christmas Angel would spend without her grandmother and was very grateful that she could go home with a large tree her grandmother would be proud of.

The Holiday Festival is a continued effort by East River Plaza to give back and incorporate the local community into special events throughout the year, which have included, a mural painting exhibit, Save the Gates presentation and a Fall Festival.

Blumenfeld Development Group is a full service real estate development firm with a diverse portfolio in the New York metropolitan region. BDG develops all asset types and currently controls over five million square feet of real estate.

BDG services include leasing, acquisitions, property management, construction, land use, architecture, engineering and design. BDG not only supports a host of charitable based initiatives, but regularly invests in the local communities in which it develops.

With a primary focus on the New York City region, it redevelops obsolete, abandoned properties into viable projects that create job growth, investment, and new opportunities for residents in historically disadvantaged neighborhoods.
American Black Film Festival to honor Hollywood Trailblazers Louis Gossett Jr. and Lena Waithe

Lena Waithe

Deon Cole

Louis Gossett Jr.

T he American Black Film Festival (ABFF) Honors announced today the recipients of two of their most prestigious Hollywood Legacy Award and Industry Renaissance Awards. Notable accomplishments in film and television, Academy Award winner Louis Gossett Jr. ("Watchmen," "An Officer and a Gentleman") will be honored with the Hollywood Legacy Award for contributions to the entertainment industry. The Hollywood Legacy Award honors a legendary artist whose trailblazing work has inspired generations and made an enduring contribution to film and television. Additionally, Emmy Award-winning producer, writer, and actor, Lena Waithe ("The Chi," "Boomerang," "Queen & Slim") will receive the prestigious Industry Renaissance Award, which recognizes content creators whose exemplary work in film and television contributes to changing perceptions of people of color in the entertainment industry. "We’re honored to celebrate these two extraordinary talents," said ABFF Ventures CEO, Jeff Friday. "These awards not only acknowledge a new generation inspiring communities of color, but also the industry forward but also acknowledge a new generation of trailblazers in people like Mr. Waithe, who will continue to create change and new opportunities in film and television for people of color." Louis Gossett Jr. has been disrupting Hollywood for over 40 years making his film debut alongside Sidney Poitier in the 1961 classic "A Raisin in the Sun." Gossett Jr. was the first African American to walk the "red carpet" on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Other notable film and television credits include "The Deep," "Blue Chips," "Daddy’s Little Girls," Tyler Perry’s "Why Did I Get Married Too?," "Firewalk," "Jaws-3D," "Enemy Mine," "Iron Eagle," "Ex-tant," "Madam Secretary," "Boardwalk Empire," "Family Guy," and "ER," among others. Other honorees include the Founder of The Eracism Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating racism. A triple-threat in the entertainment industry, Lena Waithe expertly taps into emerging cultural sensibilities with a sharp wit, speaking to a myriad of experiences from her unique perspective and challenging audiences to think outside of conventional norms. She has become a champion for under-served voices in the industry, creating writing and development opportunities for people of color as well as promoting diversity and representation on the screen through her production company, Hillman Grad. Currently, she serves as a writer and executive producer of two BET shows: the new series "Twenties" which is based off her own early years in LA and the second season of the "Boomerang" revival which she created alongside Halle Berry. Both shows are set to air in early 2020. Waithe has also received critical acclaim for creating Showtime’s "The Chi," which will debut its third season this year.

Waithe has proven herself a talent to be reckoned with, continuing to grow her body of work which includes: an overall deal to create and produce original series for Amazon Prime Video; Showtime’s "How To Make Love to a Black Woman," which she will executive produce; the groundbreaking film, "The 40-Year-Old Version," which is premiering at Sundance 2020; the horror anthology series "Them" for Amazon; and Sundance darling “Dear White People,” among others. Waithe has proven herself in front of the camera as Denise, in the critically acclaimed Netflix series "Master of None." In a role that was originally intended for a straight, Caucasian female, Waithe has made Denise’s experience as a queer black woman uniquely her own and became the first woman of color to win an Emmy award in the category of "Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series." Waithe’s feature screenwriting debut, "Queen & Slim," is also nominated for ABFF Honors "Movie of the Year." ABFF Honors recently announced their nominees for "Movie of the Year," a competitive award presented to the best feature length film of the year directed by and/or starring a lead actor or actress of African descent. Voting is now open to the public at www.ABFFHonors.com. For the second year, American Airlines will sponsor the ABFF Honors "VIP Fan Experience," which is an opportunity for one consumer to attend this exclusive event and celebrate Black excellence among the most influential artists, executives, and stakeholders in the entertainment industry. One fan will be randomly selected by the ABFF organization from the pool of individuals who vote for the "Movie of the Year," and receive two (2) tickets for the event, two (2) round trip domestic economy-class tickets on American Airlines, hotel accommodations and a chance to walk the "red carpet" at the ceremony. The announcement will be made on or about January 20, 2020. Presented by ABFF Ventures, the 2020 ABFF Honors, hosted by Emmy-nominated comedian and actor Deon Cole ("black-ish"), will take place February 23, 2020 in Los Angeles. Previously announced honorees include Cynthia Erivo with the Rising Star Award and "The Wire" with the Classic Television Award. Sponsors to date include American Airlines, Cadillac and Hilton (Red Carpet), Accenture, Prudential Financial and Sony Pictures Entertainment (Supporting). About ABFF Honors ABFF Honors is an annual awards season gala dedicated to saluting excellence in the motion picture and television industry. The ceremony celebrates Black culture by recognizing artists who have made distinguished contributions to American entertainment through their work, as well as those who champion diversity and inclusion. Individual recognition awards include Hollywood Legacy, Excellence in the Arts, Rising Star, Industry Renaissance and Pro Hollywood. Recognition of outstanding content awards include Movie of the Year and Classic Television Award. Previous honorees and presenters include Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Robert Downey Jr., Regina King, Will Packer, Ryan Coogler, Ava DuVernay, Tiffany Haddish, Issa Rae, Violà Davis, Cicely Tyson, Octavia Spencer, Arnie Hammer, the late Diahann Carroll and more. To learn more about ABFF Honors and to stay up-to-date on upcoming announcements for the 2020 ceremony, visit www.ABFFHonors.com.

About ABFF Ventures

ABFF Ventures LLC (ABFFV) is a Los Angeles-based entertainment company founded by its CEO Jeff Friday as a platform to produce live events, television and film focused on African American culture. Its mission is to entertain and inspire communities of color while promoting diversity and inclusion in Hollywood. Its tent-pole properties are the American Black Film Festival (ABFF), cited by MovieMaker magazine as "One of the Coolest Festivals in the World," and "ABFF Honors," an annual awards ceremony saluting career achievement in film and television.

In creating ABFF Ventures, Friday channeled his passion for entertainment, as well as his discomfort with the under-representation of people of color in Hollywood, into an organization with the ultimate goal of advocating for diversity within the industry. Through his vision and perseverance, ABFFV has become a highly respected enterprise, generating goodwill throughout the entertainment and corporate communities. ABFFV’s momentum continues to build. In 2019, the company expanded its international footprint with the highly successful launch of the ABFF London as part of its Global Film Series. In addition, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, D.C., acquired ABFF photographs and other archival materials to be included in its permanent collection.

At the heart of the ABFF organization is its commitment to community — uniting artists in appreciation of one another’s work, to encourage, uplift and come together. With the support of the world’s leading entertainment, media and consumer product companies, the ABFF continues to lead the way promoting diversity and inclusion in the motion picture and television industries.
W arner Bros. Just Mercy dapper superstars Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Foxx along with Brie Larson were joined by co-stars Tim Blake Nelson, Karan Kendrick and Rob Morgan, as well as Bryan Stevenson at a special New York screening at The Edition on Sunday evening, December 15, 2019. Just Mercy shadows world-renowned civil rights defense attorney Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan) as he recounts his experiences and details the case of a condemned death row prisoner whom he fought to free brilliantly directed by award-winning filmmaker Destin Daniel Cretton (“The Glass Castle,” “Short Term 12”) from a screenplay he co-wrote, based on Stevenson’s bestselling memoir.

SYNOPSIS: Just Mercy is based on the powerful and thought-provoking true story of young lawyer Bryan Stevenson (Jordan) and his history making battle for justice. After graduating from Harvard, Bryan had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or who were not afforded proper representation, with the support of local advocate Eva Ansley (Larson). One of his first, and most incendiary, cases is that of Walter McMillian (Foxx), who, in 1987, was sentenced to die for the notorious murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite a preponderance of evidence proving his innocence and the fact that the main testimony against him came from a criminal with a motive to lie. In the years that follow, Bryan becomes embroiled in a labyrinth of legal and political maneuverings, as well as overt and unabashed racism as he fights for Walter, and others like him, with the odds—and the system—stacked against them.

ASSETS: Just Mercy stars Michael B. Jordan and Oscar winners Jamie Foxx (“Ray,” “Baby Driver,” “Django: Unchained”) and Brie Larson (“Room,” “Short Term 12,” “Captain Marvel”). The main cast also includes Rob Morgan (“Mudbound”) as Herbert Richardson, a fellow prisoner who also sits on death row awaiting his fate; Tim Blake Nelson (“Wormwood”) as Ralph Myers, whose pivotal testimony against Walter McMillian is called into question; Rafe Spall (“The Big Short”) as Tommy Chapman, the DA who is fighting to uphold Walter’s conviction and sentence; O’Shea Jackson Jr. (“Straight Outta Compton”) as Anthony Ray Hinton, another wrongly convicted death row inmate whose cause is taken up by Bryan; and Karan Kendrick (“The Hate U Give”) as Walter’s wife, Minnie McMillian, who stands by her husband. 

DEETS: The film was produced by two-time Oscar winner Jamie Foxx as producer of whom previously collaborated with the director on “The Glass Castle.” They are joined by costume designer Francine Jamison-Tanchuck (“Detroit,” “Roman J. Israel, Esq.”), Warner Bros. Pictures presents, in Association with En-Deavor Content/One Com-}

Michael B. Jordan, Bryan Stevenson Jamie Foxx, Bryan Stevenson, Michael B. Jordan Karan Kendrick Jamie Foxx Brie Larson Michael B. Jordan
What's going on

2020 COMMON ERA

A week ago, many people observed Christmas, Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights and Kwanzaa, all celebrations of the human spirit and to men of peace. New Year’s Day 2020 arrives with news of a war aborning in the Middle East in response to Trump’s nod to an American drone strike which killed Iranian Major General Qassem Soleimani. Now all hell is breaking loose. Did the impeachment motivate Trump’s action? And in a part of the world where so many American troops are scattered and vulnerable. Iraq has requested that US, paring the Middle East is not as hot as Hades. Brinkmanship is not the way to go. But the year has been one of vaxs veneration for Soleimani’s death. No one foretold the world’s end by 2020.

The 2020 calendar is rife with less bellicose events, like the US presidential election, city and state primaries and elections. And Japan hosts the summer Olympics.

Looking back: The big literary event was the August, 2019, NY Times Magazine single subject issue; THE 1619 PROJECT, 80 pages of historical essays and insights about the genesis of American slavery, its legacy, which endures and impacts contemporary race relations, by Black journalists and scholars like Harvard’s Khalil Muhammad, Wesley Morris, and Jamell Bouie. Last year was the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of the first ship carrying 20–30 enslaved Africans to the colony of Virginia. The brainchild of NY Times staffers headed by Nikole Hannah-Jones, THE 1619 Project exceeded all expectations. The Pulitzer Center has free PDF and lesson plans. NYT should have a book deal signed for the special edition.

IN MEMORIAM/2019

Harlem, New York born, Patricia Bath, 76, MD, was a pioneer in opthalmology and was the US woman doctor to hold patents for her development of precise instruments for cataract surgery.

Diannah Carroll, triple threat, actress of TV stage and screen. She makes history in the prime time TV as Julia an RN, not a stereotypical Black role.

Rep from Detroit, John Conyers, 90, longest serving Black Congressman who was a civil rights champion African American in Congress.

Rep from Baltimore, Elijah Cummings, 68, a 12-term congressman, was appointed House Oversight Committee which held pre Donald Trump impeachment hearings. The son of sharecroppers, Cummings was a lawyer and advocate for the poor before going to DC. He was the first African American Congressman to be in state in the dome of the Capitol His widow, Maya Rockeymoore will run for his congressional seat.

Ken Gibson, 86, was first African American to become a mayor in a major USA northeastern city. Elected in 1970, Mayor Gibson served four terms.

Richard Hatcher passed last month. He became mayor of Gary Indiana in 1967 and served five terms. He was one of the nation’s first Black mayors of a major city. He organized the 1972 National Black Political Convention in Gary and was the chair of Jesse Jackson’s 1984 Democratic Presidential campaign.

Toni Morrison, 88, internationally acclaimed American literary icon, first African-American woman to win Nobel Prize in Literature. Prominent title in her bibliography is BELOVED, SONG OF SOLOMON, THE BLUEST EYE She is getting the lion’s share of year-end coverage in memoriam columns.

Robert Mugabe, 95, revolutionary who became Zimbabwwe Prime Minister from 1980 to 1987 before his ascension to the presidency from 1987 to 2017. Mugabe returned land to indigenous Blacks, whose property was confiscated by the British colonists. Was that action a curse or blessing? Jessye Norman, sopran opera diva extraordinaire, is a minion of the NY Metropolitan Opera and European opera houses, The Metropolitan Opera House hosted her NY memorial.

Frank Robinson, 83, Major League Baseball Hall of Famer, who became and the first Black manager in MLB. He was the only player to win MVP status in both leagues.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The republic of Haiti celebrates its 216th Independence Anniversary on January 1, 2020. Known as the oldest Black nation and the second oldest republic in the New World, enslaved Haitians declared their emancipation from slavery in 1791 in and 1804 declared their independence from France Emancipation and independence were the outcomes of the Haitian Revolution, 1791-1804, under the leadership of Haitian Black generals Touissant Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines.

LOCAL CALENDAR

Harlem: Robert Horsford, Lee Braithwaite, and Alyah Horsford-Sidberry will co-host a Community Development Networking event in support of NYS Senator Brian Benjamin at Cove Lounge, located at 325 Lenox Avenue, Harlem. Sponsors are eligible for an open bar and VIP reception at 5:30 pm. Supporters networking phase begins at 6:30 pm. Personal checks only. Call 212.663.6288

BEACON, January 9 – January 15, 2020 newyorkbeacon.com

An Essence Magazine essay, 20 BEST FILMS 2010-2019, by Candace Frederick, a well-researched piece with spot-on analysis, about films by Black writers, directors, producers and actors. The 20 Best Films are PARIAH 20 (2011 FEET FROM STARDOM about Black music stars like Berry Claxton and Patrice Austin 3) BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD, 2012, about 6-year-old Quvenhnei- shane Wallis and survival, saving her dad, their home and the world’s end. 4) BELLE, 2013, a period drama about a mixed-race aristocrat and her struggle for love and dignity. 5) RUITE VALE STATION, 2013, a story about a young Black man named Richard Hatcher, who was one of the nation’s first Black mayors of a major city. He organized the 1972 National Black Political Convention in Gary and was the chair of Jesse Jackson’s 1984 Democratic Presidential campaign.

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One Night Only
Darrian Ford sings Sam Cooke’s songs

Multi-talented Darrian Ford brings his celebration of the late great Singer Sam Cooke to The Cutting Room in Manhattan for an exciting one-night only experience. Ford, along with the horns of Brass Illusion, will bring Cooke’s mastery of Gospel, Pop, Jazz and Blues to life in “The Cooke Book: The Music of Sam Cooke” on Wed., Jan. 22, 2020, on what would have been Cooke’s 89th birthday. Doors will open at 7:30 pm with an 8:30 pm showtime.

The production is not a musical theater piece, nor is it a concert. It is an entertainment experience that traces Cooke’s music from the singer’s Gospel roots to his all too brief career as an international Pop sensation. The show has received critical acclaim across the country and has created a new generation of fans for the singer. The engagement marks the return of the show to New York City since its earliest days of development back in 2006.

“The catchy melodies, naturally human lyrics and honesty make his music approachable to everyone,” Ford said on what makes Cooke’s music so enduring.

The idea to develop a stage show about Cooke was nurtured when Ford was doing a workshop of a new musical centered on the music of the late 40s, 50s and 60s. Crooners such as Nat King Cole, tight harmony groups like The Mills Brothers, and Sam Cooke were among Ford’s research subjects.

“I grew up listening to Sam’s Pop hits but when I discovered his Jazz interpretations during the course of my research, I was impacted by the fact that this was the same guy who sang “Cupid” and “Twistin.” I thought his range of artistic offerings, not to mention his business accomplishments, were compelling and deserve exhibition,” said Ford.

The Cooke Book will be the biggest version of the show yet, showcasing a company of 10 musicians and singers. Additionally, public television will film the performance for broadcast and a live album will be recorded and released in the Spring of 2020.

Considered “the freshest in vocal jazz,” Darrian Ford is a Chicago native and a true triple-threat. He released his debut album New Standards in the Spring of 2018. It charted #1 on Debut Jazz Albums on the NACC (North American College and Community Radio Chart/ naccchart.com), and finished the year at #11 on the Vibe UK Top 20 Jazz Albums for 2018.

Ford began his career as a dance prodigy, eventually performing with internationally renowned companies such as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Donald Byrd/The Group.

He made his Broadway debut in Rodgers and Hammerstein’s State Fair and went on to perform with the first national tours of The Color Purple, Smokey Joe’s Cafe, and The Who’s Tommy. Ford also co-starred as Fayard Nicholas of the legendary dance duo the Nicholas Brothers in HBO’s Introducing Dorothy Dandridge with Oscar-winning Halle Berry in the title role.

Brass Illusion is a musical powerhouse based in the New York/New Jersey area, playing the timeless R&B of great horn bands including Chicago and Blood, Sweat and Tears. For more information about Darrian Ford’s “The Cooke Book” event and his debut album (available on iTunes, Amazon, Google Music and CDBaby), visit www.darrianford.com.
Chadwick Boseman stars in riveting crime drama

TX Entertainment thrilled audiences with its release of the action-packed crime drama *21 Bridges* starring Chadwick Boseman, Sienna Miller, Stephan James, Keith David, Taylor Kitsch and J. K. Simmons, which was an early Thanksgiving treat for thrill seekers. The stars were joined by director Brian Kirk at the New York City premiere screening held at the Lincoln Square Theater on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 where onlookers feasted their eyes on Boseman’s longtime love Taylor Simone Ledward. The evening was delectious from beginning to end!

**SYNOPSIS:** *21 Bridges* follows an embattled NYPD detective Andre Davis (Chadwick Boseman), who is thrust into a citywide manhunt for a pair of cop killers (Stephan James and Taylor Kitsch) after uncovering a massive and unexpected conspiracy. As the night unfolds, lines become blurred on who he is pursuing, and who is in pursuit of him. When the search intensifies, extreme measures are taken to prevent the killers from escaping Manhattan, which is locked down for the first time in its history — as the authorities close all 21 Bridges to prevent any entry or exit from the iconic island. The movie was distributed by STXfilms last year.

**DEETS:** Brian Kirk (director); Anthony Russo, Joe Russo, Mike Larocca, Robert Simonds, Gigi Pritzker, Logan Coles (producers); Adam Mervis, Matthew Michael Carnahan (screenplay); Adam Mervis (story); Henry Jackman, Alex Belcher (music); Paul Cameron (cinematography); Tim Murrell (editor); and MWM Studios, H. Brothers; AGBO Films, X-Ception Content (production companies).

*21 Bridges* was released nationwide by STXfilms on Friday, November 22, 2019 to favorable reviews from thrillists. (Production photos courtesy STXfilms. Party photos by Just Jared)
Flick chat

Best of ADIFF 2019 announced!

Posted By: Don Thomas

The Best of the African Diaspora International Film Festival (ADIFF) is back from Jan. 10 to 12 with a selection of some of the most popular films showcased in 2019. Screenings will be held at Teachers College, Columbia University in Manhattan.

Several films that made the cut go back into history. Opening Night film, Ali's Comeback: The Untold Story by Art Jones, a fascinating documentary that recounts the unsung saga that broke the boxing's blacklist status of Muhammad Ali, the champion who said "no" to war and racism.

Paul Laurence Dunbar: Beyond The Mask by Frederick Lewis explores the life and legacy of Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906), the first African American to achieve national fame as a writer.

Wagner Moura’s Marighella, currently censored in Brazil, is a new Brazilian action drama set in 1969 based on the life of Afro-Brazilian politician and guerrilla fighter Carlos Marighella. Facing a violent military dictatorship and with little support from a timid opposition, writer-turned-politician Carlos Marighella organizes a resistance movement.

Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba the powerful documentary about the South African singer and activist Miriam Makeba is back again by popular demand. Coming from ADIFF NYC 2019 Spotlight on Nigerian Cinema are two films: the romantic comedy 2 Weeks in Lagos by Kathryn Fasegha, a turbulent and thrilling journey into the lives of Ejikeme and Lola which captures the excitement, vibrancy, and complexity of everyday life in Lagos, a dynamic city where anything is possible in 2 weeks.

Sundance 2019 Official Selection, The Last Tree by Shola Amoo, a moving coming of age story about Femi, a British boy of Nigerian descent who, after a happy childhood in rural Lincolnshire with his white foster mother, moves to inner London to live with his Nigerian mum. As an adolescent, Femi goes back to Nigeria with his mum to find his roots and internal peace.

From NYC 2019 Spotlight on Egyptian Cinema is Sins of the Flesh by Khaled El Hagar who establishes a parallel narrative, in which an erotic and symbolic struggle for freedom plays out on a farm while the 2011 urban revolt in Tahrir Square serves as a backdrop.

Winner of ADIFF NYC 2019 Public Award for the Best Film Directed by a Woman of Color, Made in Bangladesh by Rubaiyat Hossain is about a young woman working under very poor conditions in a factory in Bangladesh who decides to fight to set up a union despite threats from management and disapproval of her husband.

Also directed by a woman of color is Dhaliniaro/Youth, a rare drama from Djibouti that follows Amina and her two best friends, as they must choose their paths into adulthood.

For more information about the Best of ADIFF 2019, or to receive the complete line up, screeners and high resolution images e-mail pr@nyadiff.org.

The African Diaspora International Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.
Theater talk

Iconic musical – West Side Story – continues to break records

Now in previews, producers Scott Rudin, Barry Diller / David Geffen recently announced that the Broadway return of the Jerome Robbins / Arthur Laurents / Leonard Bernstein / Stephen Sondheim masterwork, West Side Story, has once again broken the all-time Broadway Theatre house record for a single week, with a gross of $1,807,025.94. In 7 performances the previous week, the Broadway veteran record (with a gross of $1,497,319) held by Hammerstein's Cinderella ($1,479,889.97, established on 12/29/13, for an 8-performance week). This new record also represents an all-time box office high in the storied 62-year life of West Side Story. The newly conceptualized production began performances on December 10, 2019, ahead of its official opening night on Thursday, February 20, 2020.

When the original production of West Side Story first premiered at the Winter Garden Theatre on December 26, 1957, it utterly changed the face of the American musical. As the first major musical reviving the tragic tale of young lovers from feuding families against the backdrop of gang-ridden streets, West Side Story on New York’s Upper West Side in the pre-gentrification 1950s. It features a book by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The original production ran for 732 performances, with a 1960 return engagement running an additional 240 shows. The musical was revived on Broadway in 1980 and 2009. This new production will be the first major staging in the U.S. to depart from the classic template of original director-choreographer Jerome Robbins’ iconic dances, immortalized in the 1961 film version that won 10 Oscars, including best picture. The Broadway revival will feature all-new choreography by Belgian modern dance luminary De Keersmaecker, who began previews December 10 at the Broadway Theatre, with an official opening night set for February 6, 2020. "This is not like any West Side Story anybody has seen," Rudin told The Hollywood Reporter. "It is being treated as a new work — and being made by a group of artists who have made a remarkable amount of visionary theater for their whole lives. Having done two shows with Ivo that I loved doing, this is a hugely important show for us. We're honored to have the opportunity to do it." The West Side Story revival marks the formation of a new powerhouse producing triumvirate of industry heavyweights, while Diller has been involved in several of Rudin’s Broadway productions since 2013, including The Humans, Three Tall Women and To Kill a Mockingbird, among others, this marks Geffen’s return as a principal Broadway producer for the first time since the 1980s, when he was a lead producer on hits like Cats, Dreamgirls and M. Butterfly. He is one of the original producers on the off-Broadway cult musical Little Shop of Horrors, which ran for five years in its 1982 premiere run. "This is, in fact, the beginning of an ongoing partnership," explained Rudin of the new producing team. "It comes out of long friendships and long working relationships that are enormously important to me, and have been for many years. Barry and David are the two smartest people I know. We like each other, we like making work together, we’re good friends and good collaborators — it’s a very natural and easy fit, and we all bring something different to the table. They are both much, much smarter than me — and frankly, I’m just happy to be in the room." There are very few musicals that were written 60 years ago that feel like they were created this morning," concluded Rudin. "This is that show." Marked by a record-setting 32 Broadway debuts, the cast of West Side Story includes Isaac Powell as Tony, Shereen Pimentel as Maria, Yenisey Ayala as Ani-ta, Ben Cook as Riff, Amar Ramasar as Bernardo, Mar- rissa Brown (debut), Gabi Campo, Adolfo Mena Ce-jas (debut), Daniel Ching (debut), Audrey Collette (debut), Lorna Courtney, Marc Crousillat (debut), Stephanie Crousillat (debut), Roman Cruz (debut), Kevin Csoe (debut), Julia DeHart (debut), Israel Del Rosario (debut), Jordan Dobson (debut), Tyler Doyle (debut), Armando Eleazar (debut), Mar- ton Feliz (debut), Satori Fieldstone (debut), Zuri Noelie Ford (debut), Uyen Francon (debut), Yeesha Geisz Graziano, Jennifer Guen-ner (debut), Jackson Guzman, Matthew Johnson (debut), Dam Mason (debut), Mich-elle Mercedes (debut), Paul Morland (debut), Daniel Ore-sky (debut), Mia Pinerio (debut), Gus Reed (debut), Thomas Jay Ryan, Mi-chael Seltzer (debut), Ahmad Simmons, Corey John Snide, Sheldon True (debut), Ricky Ubeda, Madis-son Vomastek (debut), Tony Ward, Bridget Whitman (de- but), Nate Wodehouse, Kathie and Kevin Zambrano (debut).

The production also features scenery and lighting design by Mr. van Hove’s longtime collaborator, five-time Tony Award nominee Jack Versweyveld, with costume design by An d’Huys, sound design by Tom Gibbons, video design by Luke Halls, and orchestrations by Leonard Bernstein, Sid Ramin, Ir- ir Kosstal and Tony Academy Award winner Jonathan Tu-nick. Alexander Gemignani is music supervisor / musical director. Casting is by Telsey & Company. DKC/O&M is the Press Representative.

Lillias White spends holiday at The Green Room

Santa came early for Lillias White who attended the Broadway debut of West Side Story. This aspiring thespian, who was frustrated with lots of Jamaican merriment, soul, jazz and blues and topped off with her signature scat — including “Jingle Bells,” “Christmas in My Pocket,” “We Three Kings,” “Let It Snow,” “Christmas Night in Harlem,” “Blue Holiday,” “A Christmas Love Song,” and the soulfully sassy “Santa Baby.” Other memorable standout included: “My Favorite Things,” “My Christmas Song for You,” “Merry Christmas Baby,” “Blue Holiday,” “Through the Eyes of a Child,” and the hallowed “Silent Night,” which was the proper centerpiece to the show. White thanked the audience several times expressing how blessed she is and grateful for her God-given gifts. (Photos courtesy The Green Room)
Actress Rhonda “Passion” Hansome lauded

Posted By Don Thomas

Veteran Actress/Director Rhonda “Passion” Hansome received the Longevity in Multi Disciplinary Artistic Achievement award presented by Andrea J. Fulton of The Anderson and Bert Cade Fulton Foundation at their 2nd annual awards benefit recently held at the Sugar Hill Restaurant/Supper Club in Brooklyn.

Hansome has appeared on “Saturday Night Live” and as (Bermuda) in the film “Pretty Woman.” A VIV AUDELCO Award winner Hansome has directed 35 productions, including “American Captives: Lena Baker and Sandra Bland” which was recently in the United Solo Festival on Theatre Row in Manhattan.

As a standup comedian, Hansome has opened for the late great Aretha Franklin, Grammy Award-winner Anita Baker, the late great James Brown and living legend Dion Ross in venues including Radio City Music Hall to LA’s Greek Theatre.

Rhonda tells stories at Generation Women, Yum’s The Word, Tale: NY’s Finest Storytelling, Rose Valley and Baby House Storytelling Concerts. She can currently be heard on John Fugelsang’s “Tell Me Everything” on Siriusxm. To keep up with Rhonda’s future projects and appearances, go to: www.rhondahansome.com.

Established in 2014, The Anderson and Bert Cade Fulton Foundation is a Brooklyn-based non-profit performing arts organization founded by Veteran Playwright/Producer, Andrea J. Fulton which focuses on nurturing and cultivating the performing arts interests of adults who later in life seek to begin or advance a career in the performing arts or one of the allied arts required to produce performing arts event.

It has provided a forum for hundreds of new and established artists and interns primarily via the production of original, award winning plays performed in schools, churches, theatres and courtyards throughout NYC and beyond. For additional ABCFF information, visit onerightanswer@aol.com

Actress Rhonda “Passion” Hansome (left) accepts award from Andrea J. Fulton (right). Actor Rome Neal congratulates Ms. Hansome
NFL player of the decade

By Andrew Rosario

D ue to the violent nature of the game, it is very rare that a player can last and be productive for 10 years. The average shelf life is 3. That’s what makes the New York Beacon NFL player of the decade so special. Rob Gronkowski, tight end for the New England Patriots was as just as big on the team as was the golden boy quarterback Tom Brady. The Patriots would not have added three more Super Bowls to their organization if not for the contributions of the man they call “Gronk.”

Coming out of the University of Arizona, he established himself after only playing two seasons where he averaged 18.8 yards per catch and 1,119 receiving yards setting school records. Gronkowski was the 42nd pick by the Patriots in 2010. The following year is when he began going nation-wide. Gronkowski had two seasons where he caught more than 50 passes and more than 11 touchdowns, injuries were a big part of his career as well. When the Patriots had the epic comeback victory against the Atlanta Falcons, Gronkowski was relegated as a spectator after having surgery to repair a herniated disk. He won his last Super Bowl in 2018 after the Patriots defeated the Los Angeles Rams. He announced his retirement last March.

Just one look at how the Patriots played this past year and more recently getting eliminated from the playoff in last Sunday’s wild card game against the Tennessee Titans showed just how much Gronkowski was missed. The NFL put him in the 100 greatest players of all time. The New York Beacon names Rob Gronkowski, the NFL player of the decade.

Boxer of the decade

By Joshua Garcia

O-ver the past decade the sweet science through its controversial highs and lows and changes in traditional coverage to streaming services continued to provide historical feats never seen in the sport of Boxing. For the first time in the fight game there is a champion in four different decades.

Released last month was the Forbes list of the athletes who made the most money over the last 10 years, Manny Pacquiao came in 8th with $435 mil. Lebron James (4) and Kevin Durant (9) joined Pac Man as they all looked up at Pacquiao’s rival Floyd Mayweather at #1 with $915 mil. The duo’s 2015 mega-fight sold out over 4 million pay per view buys and Pacquiao has over 20 million total ppv views in his impressive 71 fight career. No NFL or MLB players made Forbes top 10 list.

Throughout the decade there are a couple forgettable nights for the General Santos City kid, but two of his four legendary fights were in the twilight of his career as he dreamed of as a kid in the Philippines won his first title in 1998 as a flyweight and is currently the third ranked welterweight in the world at 41, the oldest man to ever be welterweight champion. Although when they sent Mad Max to the World Series in team history that leave us with Scherzer. All Star game every year since coming on the scene. The Vineyard, N.J. product who attended Millville Senior High school turns 29 years old in August. He has proved to be durable as well playing an average of 149 games a year after only playing in 40 games during the 2011 season. Mike Trout can be a free agent after the 2020 season. You can bet he will be the most sought after player in recent history. He could become the first $400 million dollar athlete. The New York Beacon names Mike Trout the best offensive player of the decade.

"Your team has one game to win for all of the marbles. Over the last decade, three pitchers can arguably could claim they could be that man. Clayton Kershaw, Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer averaged 162 regular season wins over that time. It is what they have done in post season that separates them. Verlander is 0-6 in the World Series. Kershaw is 4-7 with an era close to 5. That leave us with Scherzer. The Washington Nationals were looking to win their first World Series in team history when they sent Max to the mound in game 7 against the defending champion Houston Astros. He woke up the morning of the game and needed his wife’s assistance just to get dressed. Getting much needed pregame assistance from the training staff, Scherzer gave up only 2 runs in 5 innings as the Nats sprayed champagne and hoisted the Commissioner’s Trophy. It was the first time the road team won every game. Unlike Trout, Scherzer is in the twilight of his career as he will turn 36 in July. His career stats (170-89) over the decade shows why he is the best pitcher over the last 10 years. That is why the New York Beacon names Max Scherzer the pitcher of the decade.

Baseball players of the decade

By Andrew Rosario

G oing back to 1900 and every subsequent decades, a list would be released as to who were the best players at that time. That list saw players like Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Cy Young. 1910 saw Ty Cobb and Walter Johnson,1920 included the Babe with 1930 through 2010 adding Lou Gehrig.

Ted Williams, Joe Di Maggio, Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Sandy Koufax, Frank Robinson, Bob Gibson, Juan Marichal, Roberto Clemente, Joe Morgan, Rod Carew, Rickey Henderson, Reggie Jackson, Pete Rose, Roberto Clemente, Joe Morgan, Rod Carew, Rickey Henderson, Pete Rose, and more recently getting eliminated from the playoff in last Sunday’s wild card game against the Tennessee Titans showed just how much Gronkowski was missed. The NFL put him in the 100 greatest players of all time. The New York Beacon names Rob Gronkowski, the NFL player of the decade.

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