

# NEWSPAPER

## Families Boycotting Publix For Donating \$300,000 To Trumps' Rally

Wendy Mize's family grew up on Publix, disciples to the giant supermarket chain's empirical marketing slogan: "Where shopping is a pleasure". As infants, her three daughters wore diapers bought from the Publix baby club. As children, they munched on free cookies from the bakery. There were even perks for the family's pets, who are proud members of Publix Paws.

But now the decades-long love affair is over. After a member of Publix's founding family donated \$300,000 to the Donald Trump rally that preceded January's deadly Capitol riots, Mize is pulling out of what she says has become "an abusive, dysfunctional relationship", and joining others in a boycott of the Florida-based grocery chain that operates more than 1,200 stores across seven south-eastern states.

"It was the last straw," said Mize, 57, an advertising copywriter from Orlando whose youngest twin daughters are now 19. "Insurrection at the Capitol, images of the police officer with his head being crushed, individuals dressed as Vikings on the floor of the Senate ... we're not going to call this normal. [Publix] are a private company and it is their business how they want to contribute their money, but it's also my right to decide where I want to spend my dollars."

Publix is an institution in Florida, the company growing from Depression-era roots in the 1930s to a regional behemoth with 225,000 workers today, and its founding Jenkins family now worth \$8.8bn, according to Forbes. It prides itself on a family-friendly image, luring customers with prominent buy-one-get-one deals and a range of popular sub sandwiches and boasts of being the largest employee-owned company in the US.

Yet the company and its founders have donated often and generously to partisan, conservative causes, including more than \$2m alone by the Publix heiress Julie Jenkins Fancelli, daughter of the late company founder George Jenkins, to the Republican National Committee and Trump's failed re-election campaign.

In a brief statement on 30 January, to date the company's only comment about Fancelli, Publix attempted to distance itself from her. Yet her funding of the Trump gathering that formed the insurrection's opening act and revealed by the Wall Street Journal to have been channeled through the rightwing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, was just the latest in a series of controversies and missteps that left some shoppers holding their noses as they filled their carts, or others like Mize pulling out altogether.



*Publix donated \$100,000 to a political action committee looking to secure Ron DeSantis's re-election in 2022*

By: TERRY HUGHEY

Three years ago, in the aftermath of the high school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17, Publix temporarily halted political donations after an outcry over its bankrolling of Adam Putnam, a self-confessed "proud National Rifle Association sellout", for state governor.

Parkland survivors, led by the activist David Hogg, and their supporters staged "die-ins" at Publix supermarkets in several locations, protesting against the company's donation of \$670,000, through its political action committee, to Putnam's campaign. Putnam, as Florida's commissioner of agriculture, had strongly opposed stricter gun laws following the shooting.

He was also the state official responsible for regulating Publix's 800 stores in Florida but ended up losing the Republican primary to the current governor, Ron DeSantis, a staunch Trump ally and another recipient of the company's political benevolence.

Earlier this year, Publix donated \$100,000 to a political action committee looking to secure DeSantis's re-election in 2022. Soon after, the governor awarded Publix a lucrative and exclusive contract to distribute Covid-19 vaccines in numerous stores. The governor's office, which denied impropriety, has since added other retailers, including Walmart and Winn Dixie, to its approved distribution chain. But the controversy did not sit well with some observers.

"This is, plain and simple, dirty pay-to-play politics, corruption made possible by having a manipulative governor who kept Covid-19 infection data secret and is now doing the same with vaccine distribution," the Miami Herald columnist Fabiola Santiago wrote.

"He isn't working for us, but on behalf of his re-election campaign. And this is exactly the type of politician Publix aids and abets by financing their careers."

Others point to the juxtaposition of Publix being at the forefront of vaccine distribution in Florida while failing to enforce in-store mask-wearing in some areas of the state and defending a damaging wrongful death lawsuit from the family of an employee in Miami who died of Covid complications after being told not to wear a mask.

A judge in Tampa last week threw out the company's demand to reduce the lawsuit to a worker's compensation claim after the company asked for 70-year-old deli worker Gerardo Gutierrez's death last April to be classified as a workplace accident.

Gutierrez's family insists he contracted the infection from a colleague after employees were banned from wearing masks by workplace regulations later reversed. Publix has said it does not comment on pending litigation and did not respond to other questions from the Guardian for this article.

"They were very slow adapting to the pandemic, and the new pandemic rules," said Craig Pittman, author of several books on Florida culture who has chronicled Publix's rise to become the state's premier grocery retailer. "But the thing with Publix is it does lots of little things that people like, they make a big deal of the fact they will carry your groceries to the car and won't accept the tip, they give free cookies to the kids in the bakery, if you ask for a sample, they'll give it to you no questions asked.

"So, for a long-time people have been willing to overlook some of the less savory aspects of the story, a number of sexual and racial discrimination lawsuits filed by employees, and this whole thing about them or their heirs donating to various politicians."

Corporate messaging experts say Publix is walking a tightrope in its handling of the Fancelli crisis.

"What Publix does is take the middle path, they minimize responsibility, and by noting that Mrs Fancelli's actions were essentially those of a private citizen not involved in the company, they're saying, 'Look, we don't have control here,'" said Professor Josh Scacco of the University of South Florida's department of communication. **(continued on page 4)**

## Charges dismissed against Amy Cooper, white woman who called 911 on Black bird-watcher



By: **CHERYL HUGHEY**

Charges were dismissed Tuesday against Amy Cooper, the white woman who called police on a Black bird-watcher in Central Park last May after she completed a psycho-education and therapy program focused on racial equity, prosecutors said.

Cooper was facing a misdemeanor charge of falsely reporting an incident to police after prosecutors said she twice called 911 claiming that Christian Cooper was threatening and tried to attack her.

Christian Cooper, who is not related to Amy Cooper, said he asked the woman to leash her dog in an area of the park that requires dogs to be on leashes. He filmed the incident and posted it on Facebook. The video went viral and led to Amy Cooper being fired from her asset management company.

Assistant District Attorney Joan Illuzzi told a judge Tuesday that Cooper completed five therapy sessions that "focused on the ways in which Ms. Cooper could appreciate that racial identities shape our lives, but we cannot use them to harm ourselves or others."

Illuzzi asked that the misdemeanor charge be dismissed, citing Cooper's cooperation in the program, and the judge granted the motion. Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance had said Cooper "engaged in racist criminal conduct" when she reported Christian Cooper to police.

An attorney for Cooper, Robert Barnes, praised the decision and the district attorney's office after "a thorough & honest inquiry."

"We thank them for their integrity & concur w/ the outcome. Others rushed to the wrong conclusion based on inadequate investigation & they may yet face legal consequences," Barnes tweeted.

In the video, Amy Cooper was seen calling 911 and frantically pleading "Please send the cops immediately" as she claimed Christian Cooper had threatened her and her dog.

The incident occurred the same day George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis as a white police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck. Video of Floyd's death was also first shared on social media and sparked months of unrest across the country demanding racial justice and changes to policing.

Prosecutors first announced in July that they were pursuing charges in the Cooper case. The class A misdemeanor Amy Cooper had faced could carry up to a year in prison.

Illuzzi said the office opted for the therapy program instead because of Cooper's lack of a criminal history.

Cooper apologized shortly after video of the incident spread on social media. But her employer, Franklin Templeton, fired her the next day. The video garnered national media attention, and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio condemned Cooper's actions, saying they exemplified hatred that has "no place in our city."

Christian Cooper, however, declined to participate in the prosecution.

"I think it's a mistake to focus on this one individual," he wrote in an opinion piece for The Washington Post in July.

"The important thing the incident highlights is the long-standing, deep-seated racial bias against us Black and brown folk that permeates the United States – bias that can bring horrific consequences, as with the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis later the same day I encountered Amy Cooper, or just small daily cuts."

Cooper had told NBC New York that he started filming because "we live in an age of Ahmaud Arbery, where Black men are gunned down because of assumptions people make about Black men, Black people, and I'm just not going to participate in that."

The incident occurred in the Ramble, an area of Central Park known for its bird-watching. Christian Cooper said dogs off leashes can disrupt birds, so when he saw Amy Cooper with her dog, he asked her to leash it.

When she refused, Christian Cooper said he pulled out dog treats and offered them to the pet, knowing that many dog owners do not want a stranger to feed their animal, so they immediately restrain it.

Amy Cooper instead called police. "I'm going to tell them there's an African American man threatening my life," Amy Cooper said in the video.

As the video continued, Cooper's pleas to the 911 operator became more frantic, and she gripped her dog's collar tighter as the animal appeared to gasp for air. The video ended when Christian Cooper stopped filming immediately after Amy Cooper put the leash on her dog.

Prosecutors revealed in October, however, that Amy Cooper called 911 a second time. In the second call, she claimed that "an African American man 'tried to assault' her," according to a criminal complaint against her.

After police arrived, she backtracked and told an officer the man did not try to assault her or touch her.

No arrests were made at the time, but prosecutors said that the call could have endangered Christian Cooper. "Certainly, he would have been held and held forcibly if he resisted," Illuzzi said Tuesday.

Illuzzi said the prosecutor's office pursued charges because Amy Cooper's actions posed a threat to the community if they went unchecked.

The therapy program was sought as a solution, rather than a criminal sentence, "not just to punish but to educate and promote community healing," Illuzzi said.

# ADVERTISEMENT

**TEMPREST KING PRESENTS**  
  
**beeYOUtiful Hair & Co.**

I humbly appeal to my friends and family in raising money to help **beeYOUtiful Hair & Co.** give FREE WIGS to cancer patients in need!!

Being a Cancer survivor myself, I know how it feels to not feel BeeYOUtiful. I started this nonprofit business in hopes of making someone else's journey a little easier

**With your help, we can make someone feel BeeYOUtiful again!!**

CashApp: \$TemprestKing

(772) 400-1562  Beeyoutiful Hair & Co  beeyoutiful\_hair

*Florida Orange Clique*  
 ENTERTAINMENT™

[lilgreef24@gmail.com](mailto:lilgreef24@gmail.com)

iSell Beats

BeatsByGreef

**Dinner FOR TWO** | ONLY **\$39.95\***

**SHARE AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT**  
 Choose from a Cactus Blossom® Grilled Shrimp, Fried Pickles, or Strawberry Cheesecake


**CHOOSE TWO ENTREES FROM BELOW**  
 Each served with your choice of two sides.

<b>8 oz. SIRLOIN &amp; GRILLED SHRIMP COMBO</b>	<b>6 oz. SIRLOIN &amp; RIB COMBO</b>	<b>GRILLED BBQ CHICKEN &amp; 6 oz. SIRLOIN COMBO</b>	<b>12 oz. FT. WORTH RIBEYE DINNER</b>	<b>12 oz. PRIME RIB DINNER</b>
---	--------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------	--------------------------------

\*Sided entree selections only, no substitutions. Offer valid on select days at participating locations only. Not valid with other offers or discounts. MAY BE COMED TO ORDER CONCERNING BARI OR UNDERCORKED MEATS, POULTRY OR SEAFOOD MAY INCREASE YOUR PRICE IF FOODSOME LINES, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE CERTAIN MEDICAL CONDITIONS. ©2021 A&R LLC

*Ready To Write Your Book?*

I Can Help You Turn Your Vision Into A Story



**Services Provided By TC Royalty Publishing:**

- Publishing
- Book Writing Mentoring
- Copyrights Will Be Registered Through The Library of Congress
- Book Cover Design - Clients Approval
- Book Formatting - Clients Approval
- Book Editing
- Website Exposure
- Audio Book
- Marketing

**BOOK PUBLISHING IS OUR PASSION**

Visit Our Website @ [TCRoyaltyinc.com](http://TCRoyaltyinc.com) For Your Sample Contract

**DUFFY'S®**  
 SPORTS GRILL

**772-924-3565**

**1608 NW COURTYARD CIRCLE**  
**PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA**  
**34986**



**772-800-7328**

**1600 NW Courtyard Circle**  
**Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986**

**RJS**

Telephone: 786-443-5346  
 Email: [info@rjsconstructs.com](mailto:info@rjsconstructs.com)  
 Website: <http://www.rjsconstructs.com>

**We are a well established general construction company in South Florida**



**Sam's CLUB**

**JETSON**

APPLIANCES • ELECTRONICS • MATTRESSES

[www.ShopJetson.com](http://www.ShopJetson.com)

Families Boycotting Publix (continued)



“Publix assesses the situation as: ‘We don’t have responsibility, or responsibilities beyond guilt by association.’ [But while] there is separation between the person at the checkout, the person behind the deli counter, the manager of a store, the CEO, and then the political action committee, ultimately they all come under the umbrella of Publix.”

Scacco also believes the furor mirrors the increasingly partisan nature of corporate America, where even the purchase of guava and cheese squares from a Publix bakery has become a political statement.

“President Trump, for example, would tweet out support for a particular company and brand approval immediately polarized, Republicans like that company,

” he said. “That is the risk that companies face being so closely tied to a particular leader or set of leaders.

“It’s also partly why there was such a rush immediately after 6 January for many of these companies to say, ‘We are not donating to individuals in Congress who voted to overturn the election result, we’re just not going to do it.’”

Mize, and her family, meanwhile, are working through their Publix break-up with a mixture of grief and relief.

“This time I just thought, ‘Enough. It’s not going to be business as normal.’” \*\*\*

Honoring Cicely Tyson, Harlem’s “Trueborn Queen”



Tyler Perry and Bill and Hillary Clinton were among the attendees of a private memorial service for Cicely Tyson at Harlem’s famed Abyssinian Baptist Church.

Gospel singer Bebe Winans sang “Stand” — a request from Tyson before her death — and a letter was read by rocker Lenny Kravitz, who was a close friend.

“The ceremony was beautiful. It was very Cicely Tyson: It was formal, it was humorous, it was sad, it was glorious,” said Larry Thompson, Tyson’s manager for more than 40 years.

Reporters were not permitted inside but several mourners stopped to share their thoughts afterward.

Tyson’s service fell during Black History Month, giving us another illustration of some of the great people who have contributed to American arts and culture.

The memorial service Tuesday came a day after hundreds of admirers of the pioneering Black actor lined up outside the church for a public viewing.

Some said they had come from as far as Atlanta or Los Angeles to be there.

During the ceremony, the sun broke through the clouds and the temperature rose past 40 for the first time in the snowy city more than a week.

Her casket was carried to a hearse by six pallbearers in white tie and tails.

Tyson died Jan. 28. The New York-born actor was 96.

Also in attendance was Valerie Simpson of the duo Ashford & Simpson, stylist Ellin LaVar and Emmy-nominated choreographer George Faison, who said he knew Tyson through her former husband, Miles Davis.

“Now they are joined together in heaven and I’m glad I was here to bid her a farewell,” Faison said. “She was a wonderful woman.”

Tyson was the first Black woman to have a recurring role in a dramatic television series, the 1963 drama “East Side, West Side.

Joseph Joubart played piano during the service and said it was a moment he would never forget. “It was a really moving experience and was a tribute to what a great lady she was — an icon, a legend.”

Just My Opinion



“An era whose effects are still with us today”

BY: TERRY HUGHEY

As with the historic civil rights movement of the 1950s and ’60s and the political gains at the turn of this century, African Americans made great strides during the Reconstruction period following the defeat of the bloody and divisive Confederacy.

We should look back during this year’s Black History Month and remember black pioneers such as Hiram Revels and Blanche K. Bruce, who were elected to the U.S. Senate in 1870 and 1874, respectively.

We should also look back at Solomon G. Brown, a Republican member of the then-House of Delegates for the District of Columbia from 1871 to 1874 and the first African American employee of the Smithsonian Institution. Today, we can take pride in the fact that the secretary of the Smithsonian is Lonnie Bunch, an African American educator and historian.

Reconstruction was a time when enfranchised black men could be found in Southern state legislatures and the U.S. Congress. But that racial progress was soon forced to give ground to a violent backlash led by the Ku Klux Klan and other gangs that worked to reverse the recent political changes and restore white supremacy in the South.

The halcyon days of black freedom lost out to “black codes” imposed in Southern states to restrict black participation in public life.

And black suffrage suffered. Registering to vote, and then actually voting, was made virtually impossible by white elections staff whose goal was to disenfranchise blacks.

Black History Month offers moments to praise the past. But the observance also provides an opportunity to recall the harm and perniciousness of, “AN ERA WHOS EFFECTS ARE STILL WITH US TODAY.”



## Woman Fatally Shoots Boyfriend Outside Walmart on Valentine's Day



Chilling footage shows 'jealous killer stalking ex-girlfriend on Tinder date

BY: CHERYL M. HUGHEY



Louisiana woman has been arrested after authorities say she fatally shot her boyfriend outside a Walmart on Valentine's Day.

Alexis King, 20, of New Orleans, was booked into custody on a second-degree murder charge, the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office said in a news release on Monday.

Sheriff James Pohlmann said deputies had responded to a call about shots being fired in the parking lot near the entrance of a business in the 8100 block of West Judge Perez Drive in Chalmette around 7 p.m. on Sunday.

The shooting took place outside the Walmart located on the block.

When deputies arrived at the scene, they found a man with a gunshot wound lying on the ground in the parking lot.

He was transported to University Medical Center in New Orleans, where he was pronounced dead, according to the sheriff's office.

Officials did not release the name of the victim, however, it said investigators had identified the man as an employee of the business through video surveillance.

Criminal Investigations Bureau detectives identified King as the shooter and the sheriff's office said the slain man was the father of King's child.

King admitted to her involvement in the shooting when questioned in custody, the sheriff's office said. It was not immediately clear what prompted the shooting.

No-one else was injured in the shooting, the sheriff's office said, and the case remains under investigation.

The St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office and Walmart have been contacted for additional comment.

A shooting also took place at a Walmart in Pennsylvania on Sunday.

Police are searching for the man who shot a round at an employee at the Walmart, located at 50 North MacDade Boulevard in Glenolden, following a dispute that morning.



On Monday, the Darby Township Police Department identified the suspect as Devante Dixon and warned the public he should be considered armed and dangerous at that time.

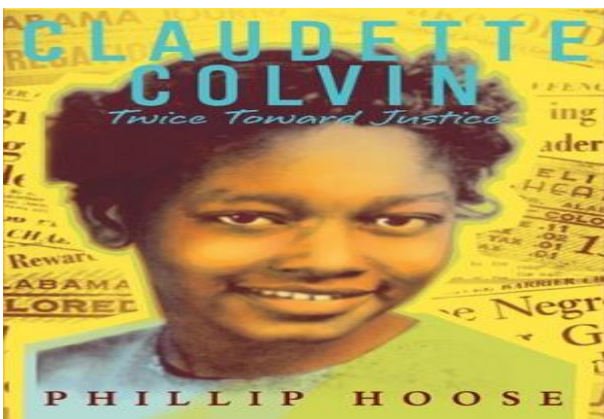
The department said its officers, with the help of assisting law enforcement agencies, have attempted to locate Dixon at his known addresses, but had not yet managed to track him down.

## Celebrating Black History Month – Things you probably didn't know:

History is often reduced to a handful of memorable moments and events. In Black history, those events often include courageous stories like those of The Underground Railroad and historic moments like the famous "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. But these are only a few of the significant and important events to know and remember.

In an effort to honor this expansive and growing history, Black History Month was established by way of a weekly celebration in February known as "Negro History Week" by historian Carter G. Woodson. But just as Black history is more than a month, so too are the numerous events and figures that are often overlooked during it. What follows is a list of some of those "lesser known" moments and facts in Black history.

### Before there was Rosa Parks, there was Claudette Colvin.



Most people think of Rosa Parks as the first person to refuse to give up their seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. There were actually several women who came before her; one of whom was Claudette Colvin.

It was March 2, 1955, when the fifteen-year-old schoolgirl refused to move to the back of the bus, nine months before Rosa Parks' stand that launched the Montgomery bus boycott. Claudette had been studying Black leaders like Harriet Tubman in her segregated school, those conversations had led to discussions around the current day Jim Crow laws they were all experiencing. When the bus driver ordered Claudette to get up, she refused, "It felt like Sojourner Truth was on one side pushing me down, and Harriet Tubman was on the other side of me pushing me down. I couldn't get up."

Claudette Colvin's stand didn't stop there. Arrested and thrown in jail, she was one of four women who challenged the segregation law in court. If *Browder v. Gayle* became the court case that successfully overturned bus segregation laws in both Montgomery and Alabama, why has Claudette's story been largely forgotten? At the time, the NAACP and other Black organizations felt Rosa Parks made a better icon for the movement than a teenager. As an adult with the right look, Rosa Parks was also the secretary of the NAACP, and was both well-known and respected – people would associate her with the middle class and that would attract support for the cause. But the struggle to end segregation was often fought by young people, more than half of which were women.

### Esther Jones was the real Betty Boop



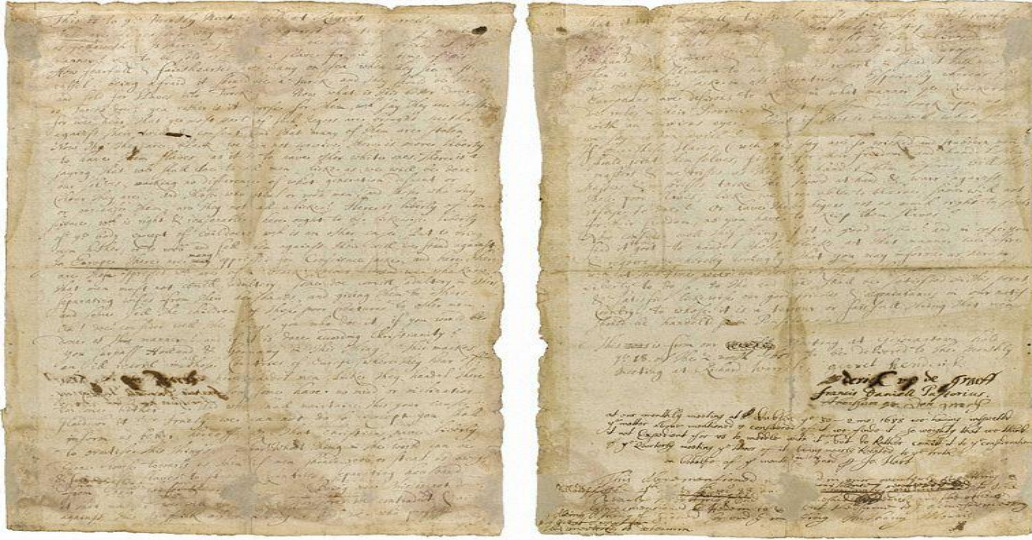
The iconic cartoon character Betty Boop was inspired by a Black jazz singer in Harlem. Introduced by cartoonist Max Fleischer in 1930, the caricature of the jazz age flapper was the first and most famous sex symbol in animation. Betty Boop is best known for her revealing dress, curvaceous figure, and signature vocals "Boop Oop A Doop!" While there has been controversy over the years, the inspiration has been traced back to Esther Jones who was known as "Baby Esther" and performed regularly in the Cotton Club during the 1920s.

Baby Esther's trademark vocal style of using "boops" and other childlike scat sounds attracted the attention of actress Helen Kane during a performance in the late 1920s. After seeing Baby Esther, Helen Kane adopted her style and began using "boops" in her songs as well. Finding [\(continued on next page\)](#)

fame early on, Helen Kane often included this “baby style” into her music. When Betty Boop was introduced, Kane promptly sued Fleischer and Paramount Publix Corporation stating they were using her image and style. However video evidence came to light of Baby Esther performing in a nightclub and the courts ruled against Helen Kane stating she did not have exclusive rights to the “booping” style or image, and that the style, in fact, pre-dated her.

Baby Esther’s “baby style” did little to bring her mainstream fame and she died in relative obscurity but a piece of her lives on in the iconic character Betty Boop.

### The earliest recorded protest against slavery was by the Quakers in 1688.



Quakers, also known as “The Society of Friends,” have a long history of abolition. But it was four Pennsylvania Friends from Germantown who wrote the initial protest in the 17th century. They saw the slave trade as a grave injustice against their fellow man and used the Golden Rule to argue against such inhumane treatment; regardless of skin color, “we should do unto others as we would have done onto ourselves.” In their protest they stated, “Pray, what thing in the world can be done worse towards us, then if men should robb or steal us away, & sell us for slaves to strange Countries, separating housband from their wife and children....”

Their protest against slavery and human trafficking was presented at a “Monthly Meeting at Dublin” in Philadelphia. The Dublin Monthly Meeting reviewed the protest but sent it to the Quarterly Meeting, feeling it to be too serious an issue for their own meeting to decide. The four Friends continued their efforts and presented at the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, but it wasn’t until 88 years later that the Society of Friends officially denounced slavery.

Over the centuries, this rare document has been considered lost twice. Most recently it was rediscovered in 2005 and is now at Haverford College Special Collections.

### Of the 12.5 million Africans shipped to the New World during the Transatlantic Slave Trade, fewer than 388,000 arrived in the United States.



In the late 15th century, the advancement of seafaring technologies created a new Atlantic that would change the world forever. As ships began connecting West Africa with Europe and the Americas, new fortunes were sought and native populations were decimated. With the native labor force dwindling and demand for plantation and mining labor growing, the transatlantic slave trade began.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade was underway from 1500-1866, shipping more than 12 million African slaves across the world. Of those slaves, only 10.7 million survived the dreaded Middle Passage. Over 400 years, the majority of slaves (4.9 million) found their way to Brazil where they suffered incredibly high mortality rates due to terrible working conditions. Brazil was also the last country to ban slavery in 1888.

By the time the United States became involved in the slave trade, it had been underway for two hundred years. The majority of its 388,000 slaves arrived between 1700 and 1866, representing a much smaller percentage than most Americans realize.

### The diverse history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



While Jewish and African American communities have a tumultuous shared history when it comes to the pursuit of civil rights, there is a chapter that is often overlooked. In the 1930s when Jewish academics from Germany and Austria were dismissed from their teaching positions, many came to the United States looking for jobs. Due to the Depression, xenophobia and rising anti-Semitism, many found it difficult to find work, but more than 50 found positions at HBCUs in the segregated South.

Originally established to educate freed slaves to read and write, the first of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities was Cheyney University in Pennsylvania, established in 1837. By the time Jewish professors arrived, the number of HBCUs had grown to 78. At a time when both Jews and African Americans were persecuted, Jewish professors in the Black colleges found the environment comfortable and accepting, often creating special programs to provide opportunities to engage Blacks and whites in meaningful conversation, often for the first time.

In the years that followed, the interests of Jewish and African American communities increasingly diverged, but this once-shared experience of discrimination and interracial cooperation remains a key part of the Civil Rights Movement.

### One in four cowboys was Black, despite the stories told in popular books and movies.



In fact, it's believed that the real “Lone Ranger” was inspired by an African American man named Bass Reeves. Reeves had been born a slave but escaped West during the Civil War where he lived in what was then known as Indian Territory. He eventually became a Deputy U.S. Marshal, was a master of disguise, an expert marksman, had a Native American companion, and rode a silver horse. His story was not unique however.

In the 19th century, the Wild West drew enslaved Blacks with the hope of freedom and wages. When the Civil War ended, freedmen came West with the hope of a better life where the demand for skilled labor was high. These African Americans made up at least a quarter of the legendary cowboys who lived dangerous lives facing weather, rattlesnakes, and outlaws while they slept under the stars driving cattle herds to market.

While there was little formal segregation in frontier towns and a great deal of personal freedom, Black cowboys were often expected to do more of the work and the roughest jobs compared to their white counterparts. Loyalty did develop between the cowboys on a drive, but the Black cowboys were typically responsible for breaking the horses and being the first ones to cross flooded streams during cattle drives. In fact, it is believed that the term “cowboy” originated as a derogatory term used to describe Black “cowhands.”

## This Week in Sports

### NBA ALL-STAR GAME TO BE HELD IN ATLANTA



BY: TERRY HUGHEY

The NBA and its players union are closing in on an agreement to hold an All-Star Game for the 2020-21 season, with Atlanta set to host the star-studded exhibition and skill competition events on March 7.

The 2021 All-Star Game was originally supposed to take place in Indianapolis, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was postponed, and the league decided to give the city the 2024 All-Star Game instead. Heading into the season, it was assumed the league would pass over holding an All-Star Game, but in the last few weeks the NBA and NBPA began to seriously talk about the prospects of holding a scaled-down version of the event.

The league is expected to hold a midseason break between March 5-10, and while nothing has been finalized yet, it sounds as though only a few things need to be sorted out in order to make this official. Atlanta has been zeroed in as the host city due to logistical reasons. One of the league's broadcast partners in Turner Sports is also located in the city.

At halftime of the actual game, the league is planning to hold the Slam Dunk Contest. The 3-Point Shootout and Skills Challenge are also expected to take place at some point so that it resembles what we're used to seeing during the NBA's annual weekend of events. Holding the All-Star Game will also allow the league to raise money for HBCUs and COVID-19 relief.

Unlike in previous seasons, attending the All-Star Game may not be mandatory for players if they are chosen to compete. So, if a player wants to instead use that break in action as a way to rest up before the second half of the season, or simply chooses not to compete due to the health and safety risks involved, that may be a possibility. That's still being negotiated by the players.

As idealistic as this all sounds, though, there are reportedly some players and team executives who have voiced concerns about holding this event. Those who are concerned think it's an "unnecessary risk for the league, players and support personnel." The thought of having players from different teams, coaches, team personnel and all those needed to put on this television spectacle isn't the safest idea during the middle of a pandemic. The NBA just recovered from a sizable COVID-19 outbreak that impacted every team in the league in some way, so you would think trying to limit a repeat of that would be at the front of the league and players' minds.

While it won't be as extravagant as typical All-Star Weekends are for the league due to the lack of fans in attendance and the short duration of the event that usually lasts the span of three days, it's still a sizable risk with the current state of things. However, holding the All-Star Game can be seen as one way for the league to recoup some of its financial losses its sustained over the course of the pandemic. \*\*\*

### Usman successfully retained his welterweight title on Saturday with a TKO win over Burns



UFC welterweight champion Kamaru Usman is on a quest to prove that he will one day be remembered as the best welterweight fighter of all time. That journey

took another step forward on Saturday night at UFC 258 as Usman successfully defended his title in the main event with a third-round TKO victory over former teammate Gilbert Burns.

The win also helped Usman pass the legendary Georges St-Pierre for the longest winning streak (12) in UFC history.

Burns jumped out to a quick start in the first round by rocking his friend with a few stiff strikes, but Usman would quickly rebound and take control the rest of the way.

After piecing the challenger up in the second round, Usman put it into overdrive in the third round as he eventually walked out of the UFC Apex facility still in possession of the 170-pound belt.

In the co-main event of the evening, 22-year-old Maycee Barber suffered her second straight setback as she was outboxed by Alexa Grasso.

While the young Barber tends to grab all the headlines, Grasso is starting to make some waves of her own now as she picked up her second-straight win at 125 pounds.

The debate for pound-for-pound king can typically feel like the hierarchy of a royal family. There's the one wearing the crown, and then there's everyone else.

Jon Jones' prime run at 205 pounds certainly felt that way. As did Khabib Nurmagomedov's recent unbeaten streak at lightweight before abruptly announcing his retirement (despite UFC president Dana White refusing to accept this fact).

Entering 2021, however, the winds of change are upon us. Jones, who is set to move up to heavyweight later this year, seems to be barely hanging on to his crown following a series of close decision wins which could have gone either way.

Middleweight champion Israel Adesanya has also benefitted from Nurmagomedov's departure as he sets to move up in weight and challenge for the light heavyweight title with a legitimate argument for best in the sport.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Thanks to development projects Port St. Lucie residents could see 30,000 new jobs



Port St. Lucie has grown in recent years, recently surpassing a population of 200,000.

But despite its growing population, the city's job market is not keeping up.

The city has the lowest jobs-to-population ratio in the region. There are only 24 jobs per 100

residents, according to city data. So, to jumpstart the local job market, the mayor and council are working on two major projects on separate ends of Port St. Lucie that could bring 30,000 new jobs.

The Village Green Drive Corridor Revitalization Project, which would happen near the MidFlorida Event Center, is intended to kickstart eastern Port St. Lucie's long-awaited renaissance and vision for a revitalized gathering place with a downtown feel.

The project began in the Fall 2020 and is expected to be completed in early Summer 2021. The City of Port St. Lucie is hosting its second public meeting to provide information and gather input from businesses and residents on the Village Green Drive Corridor.

The Feb. 18 meeting will include a brief presentation on design concepts/examples for this corridor.

Southern Grove is the second major project that's now underway. It's a unique job opportunity area for large-scale manufacturing, logistics and retail development.

Potential development includes manufacturing, distribution, warehousing, corporate office, medical office, research and development, retail, multi-family residential, hospitality and educational uses.