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BREAKING NEWS: LA Deputies arrest suspect in Nipsey Hussle killing

A DAY BEFORE HE WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET WITH POLICE ABOUT GANG VIOLENCE

RAPPER NIPSEY HUSSLE SHOT IN LA



Nipsy Hussle (R) and his daughter Emani Ashgedom arrive for the 61st annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on February 10, 2019. File Photo by Jim Ruymen/UPI | License Photo

By Daryle Coote
UPI

Ermias Ashgedom -- better known as rapper Nipsey Hussle -- was shot dead in Los Angeles

late Sunday, a day before he was set to meet with police to discuss gang violence.

The Grammy-nominated rapper was shot outside his clothing store, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said. The entertainer died of his

injuries at a hospital, officials said.

Two others were injured in the gunfire, but not seriously.

Nipsey Hussle was set to meet Monday

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'Black Panther' wins big at the NAACP image awards
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El Paso nonprofit to shelter migrants in converted warehouse
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House judiciary committee votes to subpoena full Mueller report

By Nicholas Sakelaris
UPI

The House judiciary committee voted Wednesday to subpoena special counsel Robert Mueller's full report despite objections from Republicans that doing so could compromise national security.

The committee voted 24-17 to subpoena the report from the Justice Department. Now, it's up to Attorney General William Barr to comply. Barr summarized the report last week by saying Mueller found no evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russians working to interfere in the 2016 presidential election.

Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., said he

doesn't want to take Barr's word for it.

"We don't know that. That's why we want to see it," Cohen said. "I want to find out if I was wrong and I want the public to see it, too."

House judiciary committee Chairman Rep. Jerrold Nadler, a Democrat, said he would give Barr time to voluntarily turn over the 300-plus-page report before issuing the subpoena.

Rep. Debbie Lesko, R-Wis., said the subpoena asks Barr to violate the law by disclosing grand jury material without a court order.

"This is just a continuation of an attempt to undermine the president of

See REPORT, page 3



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Britain's political class failed nation with Brexit disaster

By Andy Price, Sheffield Hallam University
UPI

For all the complexity that surrounds how (and, crucially, if) the United Kingdom leaves the European Union, the story of how it got into its current situation is actually incredibly simple. The Brexit that Prime Minister Theresa May has tried to engineer, a product of the internal tensions of her own party, was doomed from the start.

Coming to power as she did in the aftermath of the referendum, May made the one decision from which all her other missteps of the last few years would stem: She chose to represent one side, and one side only, of the Brexit debate and used this as the guiding star for her entire approach to Brexit.

From the moment she took office, she drew the reddest of red lines. At her Conservative Party conference speech in 2016, she introduced the mantras that would come to define her. We heard that "Brexit means Brexit", that Britain would have a bright future as a sovereign nation outside of the EU.

A few months later at Lancaster House, she told the country she aimed to end the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in the United Kingdom. That essentially meant committing to leaving the single market and the customs union. Across these speeches she also introduced into the political lexicon the phrase that has haunted most politicians since -- that the "losers" of the 2016 referendum must respect the result as the "will of the people."

Later still, as prime minister, May called a snap election in the name of helping her deliver Brexit. She openly dismissed anyone opposing Brexit -- which at the very least meant the 16.5 million who had voted remain -- as "playing games with politics." In hock to the hard-line Brexiteers within her own party, May pushed a for a version of Brexit that would make this small group of around 100 or so individuals happy, regardless of what millions out in the country thought. The impact of this approach should not be underestimated. It not only polarized the national debate, entrenching the fissures brought forth by the referendum, but it bound May to an approach to Brexit negotiations that rendered her deal dead on arrival. Her commitment to essentially a pure Brexit meant a border between the U.K. and the EU in Ireland, or a softening of the very parameters she had staked her entire project on. It's not hard to see how this would end.

May's own mishandling of the entire project should form the center of any analysis of how the UK got where it is now. However, she had many handmaidens helping her along the way. Indeed, almost all MPs were blindsided by the result of the referendum. They were then rapidly cowed into submission by the "will of the people" mantra. The overwhelming parliamentary support for triggering Article 50 in February 2017 is a great example of this. But there are individual MPs, and smaller groupings, who would help dye May's red lines even redder. Of course, the European Research Group has been key. Vocal ideologues like Iain Duncan Smith and Jacob Rees Mogg have kept the pressure up, hoping for a hard Brexit. For all their protestations, such a plan has never come close to carrying majority support in parliament.

In addition to the ERG, there are individual politicians who appear to view the whole exercise as one great political game. Boris Johnson is the example par excellence. He amends his position on May's deal according only to how it seems to apparently benefit his own leadership aspirations. And Nigel Farage -- the most arch of the arch Brexiteers, who played a major role in the Brexit campaign, even if not an official one -- continues to make great personal headway out of the whole farrago. He has radio shows, TV appearances, transport in private jets. He has most recently even been seen enjoying jolly japes with his supposed enemies in the EU.

But perhaps the greatest helping hand May has had in limping toward the sad end of her Brexit project has come from the opposition. Blindsided by the fact that many of their constituencies voted Leave, and led by a man who is historically a eurosceptic,

OPINION

A Northam-Smollett America

The media is baring its rancid teeth again.

We have more people whose lives we can now rip apart. In the latest frenzy of outrage and recrimination, the collective disdain and finger-pointing and "how could they-ism" of the media establishment has fresh meat: the wealthy, sometimes famous and sometimes powerful parents who were involved in a scheme to bribe and cheat to get their children into college.

Let me be clear: What these parents did is wrong. What the coaches did is wrong.

What the test-proctor cheaters did is wrong.

But let's also consider this: The whole college admissions system is rigged and wrong. Instead of simply tsk-tsking these people who allegedly illegally paid to help their kids, maybe we should also consider why people who seem to be otherwise good and upstanding would be driven to engage in this kind of behavior.

The fact is the whole college admissions system is rigged in one way or another to give unfair advantages.

It is rigged to give preference to black students, even if their parents are wealthy, their schools are comfortable, and their lives are privileged.

It is rigged to give preference to athletes.

It is rigged to give preference to Hispanic students who write admissions essays (read by liberal college admissions officers) arguing

that their family has been oppressed.

It is rigged to give preference to people who can donate \$20 million to a school, have a building named after their family or have "helpful" calls made on behalf of their children when they apply.

Is any of that fair? Parents love their children. They want to do right by them. Most parents would gladly give their lives for their children.

Believing that admission to a particular college is crucial for their child's success -- or imagining that it is the fulfillment of a dream -- these parents looked at a system that is, by any fair account, rigged to favor a few, and they tried to make their children part of those few.

Now here's where this gets hard: My bet is that 98 percent of the people involved in this scheme are upper-middle-class white people.

Their children, I bet, are mostly good people: involved in the community, good students.

And the fact is college admissions are rigged against white and Asian students, who often have to have better test scores and better qualifications to gain college admittance.

The reality in many of these universities is that

by the time you subtract preferences for minorities, athletes, children of donors and children of the well-connected, college admissions is a process in which the only people seemingly "guaranteed" spots are people who have the system rigged in their favor. It's clear from reading some of the emails that many of these parents were trying to "rig" a guaranteed spot for their kid.

Think about this: Being on the board of trustees of a college, donating \$20 million and talking to the college admissions officer about your kid or a friend's kid is legal.

Being a black student with lower test scores than other applicants and still getting special preference is legal.

Being a Hispanic student with lower test scores than the average applicant and writing an essay about the prejudice your family has faced, playing to the sympathies of the admissions committee, is legal. All of it plays to getting a special advantage in admissions. And all of it is legal.

What these parents did was clearly illegal. It is not justifiable.

It is wrong. But for anyone who has ever loved their child, it is understandable.

I'm not justifying their behavior, but I understand it. If you love your kid, wouldn't you do anything for them?

And when you look at a system that is so clearly

rigged, why wouldn't you try to rig it in your kid's favor?

It's easy to blame the parents. And they should be blamed. But let's also not let the colleges completely off the hook.

Everyone knows that the system they've set up is rigged. So, let's unrig it. Make all admissions blind. Instead of names on applications, substitute anonymous numbers. No information should be included about race or gender. No contact should be allowed between rich, well-connected donors and college admissions officers.

Applications should be evaluated in the way that some law school classes are evaluated -- blindly -- based on their quality. Let's unrig the way that America admits young people to colleges.

What these parents did is wrong.

But the system itself is wrong. Let's see if the liberal media, the celebrities and the college admissions officers are willing to ask hard questions about the very system they all support.

Armstrong Williams is manager and sole owner of Howard Stirk Holdings I & II Broadcast Television Stations and Executive Editor of American CurrentSee online magazine. Watch our Right Side Forum every Saturday on NewsChannel 8 TV 28, 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., with repeats at 6:30 p.m. EST.

Promises kept? Trump's appeal to rural voters will be key in 2020 race

By: J. Edwin Benton,
University of
South Florida
UPI

February was a good -- albeit controversial -- month for discussions about race in this country. Not only was it the traditional Black History Month, but two race-centric bombshells rocked the country within the same news cycle. First, newly elected Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam admitted that he was the blackface character featured in his medical school yearbook page. Not surprisingly, he later changed his position and stated that he was not the blackface character. Likely as a result, he still remains governor of Virginia. As Virginia and the nation were reeling from the Northam scandal, it was also discovered that Jussie Smollett, star of the FOX TV show "Empire," had fabricated what was initially deemed a racially charged assault upon himself in a pathetic attempt to increase his salary. Instead, his cowardly actions only served to prey on America's knee-jerk paranoia when it comes to racial issues and acts of overt racism.

These two episodes are fantastic case studies of how Americans have pivoted far off the course of healing and reconciliation around race. Furthermore, it is worth pointing out that episodes like these -- particularly one that involves a totally fabricated, racially motivated attack -- undo years of racial progress and only serve to further damage race relations and deepen the divide within

our country.

Let's examine these two vignettes which, on paper, could not be more different -- a tale of two men who would never meet in a lifetime of lifetimes. On one hand, there is Northam, who clumsily, perhaps even stupidly, entered the court of righteous public judgment and was deemed guilty before his statehouse press conference was even over. On the other, you have Smollett, whose case was a beautiful example of the racial hatred that continues to stain this nation and President Donald Trump only encourages -- or so it seemed. News commentators, Hollywood actors and politicians alike were all quick to blindly offer support to Smollett, despite his questionable account of events, simply because his "story" fit perfectly into their anti-Trump narrative.

For Northam, on the day of his atonement, his answers were awkward and clumsy.

He looked more clueless than calculating in his public defense. Yet those around him were unmerciful. Yet somehow, he remains, to this day, governor of Virginia while Smollett, rightfully, was indicted on 16 felony charges.

In the aftermath of all of this, I wonder, How do we begin a new level of discussion and, hopefully, healing in America? As a society of many colors, not just black and white, are we not able to -- or perhaps not allowed to -- openly admit that mistakes dealing with race -- and prejudice of many other

ills -- are -- as in Northam's case -- most often driven by insensitive foolishness and prejudice rather than maniacal hatred? Perhaps rather than defaulting to "mob-rule" in instances like the Northam case, we should use these difficult times as teaching moments. If we don't, we're likely to encourage more Smolletts who see opportunities to profit financially and politically from America's current paranoia and mob-rule insistence on a lifetime of politically correct behavior. Perhaps Northam and Smollett and cases like theirs can be catalysts that usher in awareness and understanding.

When examined separately from each other, the stories of Northam and Smollett may simply be two different and isolated examples of race and racism. Yet a closer look reveals how similar these two events are. At their core, they both represent a mob-style reaction to accusation. We've come to the point in America where everything can be lost and destroyed in a media-fueled frenzy of hatred. Sometimes, as in Smollett's case, the accusers can be caught and their lies exposed. Sometimes, those who falsely accuse and prosecute are found to have been the true criminals.

Yet, even if the truth comes out in time -- or in a court of law -- those who find themselves attacked in the media suffer greatly.

They have to endure the destruction of their reputations and deal with hardship at home as their family reels from relentless media

harassment, and -- whether they must pay to defend themselves in a court of law or merely in the court of public opinion -- they are often stung with a financial cost that can exceed millions of dollars.

Beth Baumann
Where do we turn for help -- and for hope? I think we need to turn to people who have gained the wisdom that can sometimes come only from suffering. Consider, for example, how former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell is now serving us all. McDonnell's story, in case you don't remember it, represents one of the true miscarriages of justice in recent American political history. Hounded by the media and opposition politicians and prosecutors, McDonnell was charged with felonies on flimsy evidence and false reasoning. He was convicted. His family was put through years of media harassment and stung with millions of dollars in debt. Ultimately, McDonnell's case made its way to the Supreme Court of the United States of America, where they found -- unanimously -- that McDonnell was innocent. Yes, you read that right. A governor was charged, convicted, harassed and humiliated for years, and he was innocent all along. Imagine how you or your family would feel in a case like that? Well, McDonnell could have engaged in his own pity party and portrayed himself as yet another victim of politics. Instead, today, he's leading a much-needed honest and heartfelt conversation on race and reconciliation.

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Hussle

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Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners President Steve Soboroff “to talk about ways we could help stop gang violence and help us help kids.”

“Our hearts are with the loved ones of Nipsey Hussle and everyone touched by this awful tragedy,” Garcetti said. “L.A. is hurt deeply each time a young

life is lost to senseless gun violence. My Crisis Response Team is assisting families coping with shock and grief.” The 33-year-old rapper had spent years in his youth as a member of the Rollin’ 60s gang in Los Angeles. He grew up in South Los Angeles and remembers “being young, riding your bike through the hood getting shot at,” he told VladTV in a 2014 interview. “I grew up in gang culture,” he told the Los Angeles Times last

year. “We dealt with death, with murder. It was like living in war zone.” His first studio album last year, Victory Lap, was nominated for Best Rap Album at the 2019 Grammy Awards.

Los Angeles police have not yet identified a suspect. Hours before he was shot Sunday, Nipsey Hussle tweeted, “Having strong enemies is a blessing.”

Friends, fans and mourners gathered at his store in Hyde Park late Sunday and early Monday.

Report

continued from page 1

the United States. This is absolutely not true,” Lesko said. “I really wish that we could work on big issues instead of continuing this circus. This is all about the 2020 election.”

Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., said no one should be above the law.

“Our democracy was attacked by a foreign adversary,” Cicilline said. “This committee has the right to see the full context of the report.” Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, said the

House of Representatives has a history of issuing subpoenas, including during the Clinton administration. She said, Barr “attempted to swat away the idea of any Russian coordination.” She said Congress isn’t a grand jury but has to be “fair and balanced.”

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LA deputies arrest suspect in Nipsey Hussle killing

By Sommer Brokaw and Daniel Uria UPI

A Manhattan judge on Tuesday sentenced a New York woman to probation and community service for climbing the Statue of Liberty's pedestal in July to protest President Donald Trump's immigration policies.

The judge sentenced Therese Patricia Okoumou, 45, to five years of probation and 200 hours of community service for the protest on the Fourth of July.

She appeared in court with clear tape wrapped around her face, a metaphor, her friend told the New York Daily News, for the suppression of free speech.

Okoumou also wore a headband with the words "I care" written across it.

Manhattan Federal Court Magistrate Gabriel Gorenstein told Okoumou to take off the tape to proceed with the hearing.

He found her guilty in December of three misdemeanor counts, including trespassing, interference with government agency functions and disorderly conduct. She faced up to 1 1/2 years in jail. During her Lady Liberty climb, she forced the evacuation of the tourist attraction on one of its busiest days of the year.

"She did not climb the Statue of Liberty to rescue a child who was in danger," Gorenstein said Tuesday.

"The law that prevents people from climbing the



Fans gather around a makeshift memorial for Ermiyas Ashgedom, better known as rapper Nipsey Hussle, in the parking lot of his clothing store in the Crenshaw area of Los Angeles on Sunday. Photo by Jim Ruymen/UPI | License Photo

Statue of Liberty is not unjust.

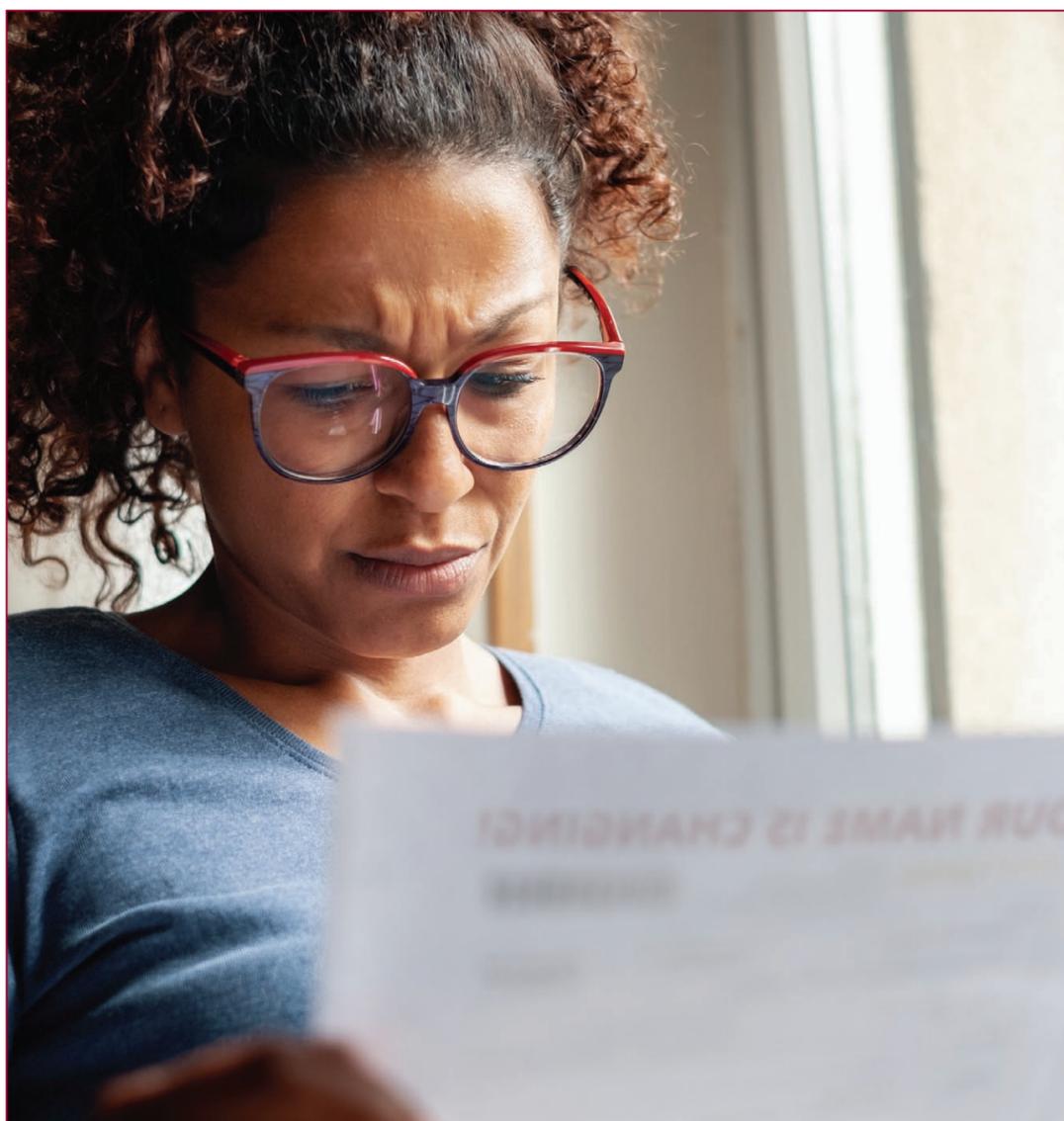
"The defendant apparently thinks because

her cause is important, it doesn't matter the danger she causes others."

Speaking to reporters

after the sentencing, Okoumou's lawyer, Ron Kuby, said he wouldn't rule out similar stunts in the future.

"I'm happy I'm not in prison or I'm in jail," Okoumou said. "I refuse to go to prison because I'm not a criminal."



CBC, Women and People of Color 'Fight to Regain the Soul of America'

By Hamil R. Harris Trice Edney Wire

Empowered with a record 55 members on Capitol Hill, the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus has teamed up with a coalition of Civil Rights groups to mobilize African-Americans across the country behind a progressive legislative agenda to write a new chapter of American History that is now being led by women and people of color.

When she was sworn in as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.), said the occasion marked the beginning of "correcting the trauma that we have all experienced on a daily basis for the last two years."

Recently on Capitol Hill, Bass teamed up with her female colleagues and a coalition of Civil Rights activists, led by the Black Women's Roundtable, to expound upon that effort.

"Women are confronting the discrimination that represents the intersectionality of being Black and being a woman," said Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-N.J.), one of several CBC members who spoke at the March event about their legislative priorities. "We stand up for Voting Rights and the re-enfranchisement of individuals who have paid their debt to society. We stand up for social justice and comprehensive criminal justice reform."

Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-Mich.), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, said "we are

in a fight to close the wage gap," and Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Ca.) said with the record number African-Americans and females in Congress, she is constantly reminded that "It is African-American women who will help us to regain the soul of America."

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Tx), a member of the House Judiciary Committee, said that after years of trying in vain to get any type of gun control legislation through Congress, this year it might finally happen. "It's our time for change and we are mobilizing through your efforts Sister Melanie: Black American women across the country."

Jackson-Lee was referring to Melanie L. Campbell, President/CEO, of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and National Convener of the Black Women's Roundtable. She hosted a five-day gathering that brought more than a dozen female activists to the steps of the U.S. Capitol as just one of the BWR events that marked Women's History Month in March. Thousands of young and pioneer leaders participated in the 7th Annual BWR Women of Power National Summit, themed, "Time for A Power Shift!!!" Campbell, whose organization is dedicated to organizing voters and fighting against voter suppression said, "We are determined to make sure that we save our Democracy from peril," and echoing those sentiments were a number of speakers from across the country.

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\$62 Billion in education cuts proposed, key college aid could be slashed

By Charlene Crowell
Trice Edney Wire

Every budget defines priorities and values. To put it another way, what's really important in life gets supported financially. For many families, having a home, food, and utilities usually rank pretty high.

Then there are other budgetary concerns like saving for college or having a 'rainy day' fund to cover less frequent costs that can be much higher than the size of the next pay check.

Government budgets, built on taxpayer dollars, also reveal priorities.

At the federal level, budgets are proposed by the executive branch, but it is the legislative branch that passes and funds budgets.

What is in the best interest of the nation is supposed to be the guiding force in government budgets.

But as Sportin' Life sang in the folk opera Porgy and Bess, "It ain't necessarily so". The White House's FY 2020 proposal cuts Education funding by \$62 billion compared to that of FY 2019.

Even worse, as the cost



of higher education continues to climb, federal student aid would be seriously slashed while other programs would be totally eliminated.

Some of the most disturbing college federal cuts affect programs that lessen the amount of student loans that need to be borrowed for every academic term. As rising college costs have worsened the financial challenge faced by many Black and other low-wealth families, the availability of grant programs that do not have to be repaid and/or work-

study programs are key sources for many college students and their families. Among its many revisions, the Trump Administration stands ready to risk a sizeable portion of the proposed \$7.25 billion in Pell Grant funding next year.

This program is the single largest source of grant aid for low-income households for post-secondary education. On March 26, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Education budget was the focus of a hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor-Health

and Human Services-Education. Secretary Betsy DeVos delivered testimony that expanded upon previously released materials from the Trump Administration.

"Since President Trump took office, Congressional appropriations for U.S. Department of Education programs have increased

dramatically – in spite of the Administration's call to slow spending," said Secretary DeVos. "We are not doing our children any

favours when we borrow from their future in order to invest in systems and policies that are not yielding better results."

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NAACP Black congressional leaders call for full release

By Hazel Trice Edney
Trice Edney Wire

A two-year wait for the results of an investigation into whether then presidential candidate Donald Trump and/or his campaign staff colluded with Russia has now fizzled down to four pages.

Special Counsel Robert Mueller finally released his findings this week – but not to the general public; nor to the U. S. Congress.

Instead, he sent his full report to Trump-appointed Attorney General William Barr, who reduced the findings to a four-page letter to leading members of Congress.

That letter, Barr said, outlined Mueller's "principle conclusions".

The first of the conclusions stated that Mueller "did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities".

This is the finding that came as a shock to those who had hoped for clarity on why so many Trump associates either lied about meetings or conversations with Russians.

It is also a mystery why Trump refuses to criticise Russian President Vladimir Putin and why he is so secretive about their private conversations.

With no clear answers the NAACP and Congressional leaders are demanding the release of the full report.

"The nation must consider the Mueller report in

its entirety.

Anything short of complete transparency is unacceptable," NAACP President Derrick Johnson said in a statement March 24.

ceptable," NAACP President Derrick Johnson said in a statement March 24.



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Ike Johnson retired at the rank of Major (LDO) from the United States Marine Corps after 27 years of service. He was a corporate executive who managed employees throughout the East Coast. Ike Johnson is a community resource. Ike leads by example through a continued life of service - whether it is as "Deacon Johnson" within his church or as the founder of Magnanimous Mentoring, guiding at-risk youth toward a promising path. He is an encouraging and moral leader.



Ike's Experience

- 27 years as a United States Marine, enlisted and officer
- Vice-President of East-Coast Operations, Sodexo-Marriott
- Marine Federal Credit Union Board Member
- Chair of the Deacon Board, JT Kerr Missionary Baptist Church
- Vice-Chair of the Montford Pointe Marine Association Chapter #10
- Founder & President of Magnanimous Community Mentoring
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Lori Lightfoot elected Chicago's first black female mayor

By Daniel Uria and Darryl Coote
UPI

Lori Lightfoot was elected Chicago's mayor in a landslide victory Tuesday night, becoming the city's first African-American female mayor as well as the first openly gay person to lead the city.

Lightfoot, a former federal prosecutor and president of the Chicago Police Board, earned a decisive victory over Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle in a runoff election with 74.2 percent of the vote to Preckwinkle's 25.8 percent, with 70.7 percent of the precincts reporting.

Voter turnout was forecast to be a record-low 32 percent. "Today, you did more than make history, you created a movement for change," she told supporters following her election. Lightfoot is the third African American to be elected mayor of Chicago, the second woman and the first ever LGBT person, making Chicago the larg-

est city in the United States to be led by an openly gay mayor. She told her celebrating supporters Tuesday night at the Hilton Chicago that 11 months ago when their campaign began, no one gave them much of a chance to win given they were up against "powerful interests and a powerful machine."

But faith "in this city, in its people and its future" kept her motivated. "We let our faith overcome our fears, and look at where we are today, just look at us," she said. "We still have faith, we're still determined and with this mandate for change we're going to take the next steps together."

She said now that the election was over, she looks forward to working with Preckwinkle for the city "we both love."

Meanwhile, at a night club in Hyde Park, Preckwinkle told her supporters that the election results may not be what they were after and while she may be disappointed, she's not disheartened.

"For one thing, this is



Lori Lightfoot became Chicago's first African-American female mayor as well as the first openly gay person to lead the city. Photo courtesy of Lori Lightfoot/Facebook/UPI

clearly a historic night," she said. "Not long ago, two African-American women vying for this position would have been unthinkable.

And while it may be true we took different paths to

get here, tonight is about the path forward."

Lightfoot also won the general election in February, edging out Preckwinkle by a point and a half to come out atop a field of a dozen other candidates to

force the runoff election.

She will succeed outgoing Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who announced last summer he wouldn't run for the office again in 2019.

Tuesday's result follows a harsh campaign cycle, in

which the two candidates traded public barbs with Lightfoot positioning herself as a needed change to the city's government and Preckwinkle touting her decades of experience in public office.

Threat to close border puts El Paso on edge

By Patrick Timmons
UPI

Businesses, educational

institutions and people who live and work on both sides of the border in El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad

Juárez, Mexico, are on alert if President Donald Trump follows through with his threat to close the southern border.

"I'm frustrated with what we are having to deal with," Dee Margo, El Paso's Republican mayor, said during an interview in his City Hall office. "Closing the border would be detrimental to El Paso and the nation at large."

He added: "We are the 10th or 11th largest port of entry. We have \$103 billion per year of trade going through this port.

There are 115,000 jobs on this side of the border tied to manufacturing in Juárez.

There are more than 20,000 pedestrians and 35,000 private passenger vehicles that cross each day.

Closing the border



Migrants walk to the Border Patrol processing center after crossing the Rio Grande River into the United States in El Paso, Texas, on March 27. Photo by Justin Hamel/UPI | License Photo

would be a crippling for this city, for Texas and for the nation as a whole."

El Paso's business leaders said they share the mayor's frustration.

"Shutting down the border would be devastating for the entire country," said

Jon Barela, CEO of the Borderplex, a binational and regional trade organization focused on Las Cruces, N.M., El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

"There is \$557 billion of trade between the United States and Mexico each

year. It is estimated that there's \$1 million of trade with Mexico every minute. American businesses from agriculture to auto parts would be negatively impacted," Barela said.

The possible border closure coincides with U.S. Customs and Border Protection reassigning 750 officers to process apprehended migrants.

They had been performing regular port of entry duties, such as searching vehicles and checking travel documents. The officers' reassignment has caused wait times to surge to up to five hours for lawful travelers at ports of entry from Ciudad Juarez into El Paso.

"Wait times at our ports of entry are unpredictable," Barela said. "Just the threat of closing the border affects wait times. Small businesses in El Paso are adversely affected."

BID REQUEST

RPC Contracting is requesting bids from any interested NCDOT Certified DBE firms for Contract DA00451 in Hyde Co. bidding on 4/17/19. There will be a pre-bid conference at 3:00 PM on Monday 4/8/19 at the office of RPC Contracting, 934 W. Kitty Hawk Road, Kitty Hawk, NC. Plans and specifications are available for review at the same location or may be downloaded from NCDOT's Project Letting website at

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Division1Letting.aspx>. For more information, please call 252-261-3336, ask for Jay. RPC Contracting is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

An Angel Lost

Our most sincere condolences
Mr. Ernest T. Reeves, Faye Reeves,
Calvin Reeves & Family



Our sister is Christ has found her wings and will be severely missed. Truly Reeves, sister of candidate Ernest T. Reeves has been called Home and her loss is felt in her home town of Greenville, NC where she attended C.M.Eppes along with her adopted home of Queens, N.Y., we hold the entire family in prayer.



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Paid for by Ernest Reeves for U.S. Congress

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'Black Panther' wins big at the NAACP image awards

By Susan McFarland
UPI

ABC's sitcom black-ish and the Marvel movie Black Panther were the big winners at Saturday's NAACP Image Awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

The family show was named Outstanding Comedy Series, while its stars Anthony Anderson, Tracee Ellis Ross, Marcus Scribner and Marsai Martin won in the respective comedy categories of Outstanding Actor, Actress, Supporting Actor and Supporting Actress.

Martin was additionally honored in the Outstanding Performance by a Youth competition. Anderson also hosted the gala at Loews Hollywood Hotel. Starz's Power was voted Outstanding Drama and its lead Omari Harwick won the Outstanding Actor in

a Drama trophy.

Taraji P. Henson went home with the prize for Outstanding Actress in a Drama for her work in Fox's Empire.

Jesse Williams from ABC's Grey's Anatomy won for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama and Lynn Whitfield scored the statuette for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama for her performance in OWN's Greenleaf. Marvel's big-screen blockbuster Black Panther earned the accolades for Outstanding Movie, Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Actor in a Movie for Chadwick Boseman, Outstanding Supporting Actor for Michael B. Jordan, Outstanding Supporting Actress for Danai Gurira, Outstanding Breakthrough for Letitia Wright, Outstanding Director for Ryan Coogler, and Outstanding Writing for Coogler and Joe



Left to right, "Black Panther" stars Winston Duke, Carrie Bernans, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Chadwick Boseman, Danai Gurira, Sterling K. Brown, Letitia Wright and Ryan Coogler appear backstage during the 50th annual NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles on Saturday. Photo by Jim Ruymen/UPI | License Photo

Cole. Amandla Stenberg won the Outstanding Actress award for her work

in 20th Century Fox's The Hate U Give. Beyonce was named Entertainer of the

Year, while Bruno Mars won for Outstanding Male Artist.

The Outstanding Female Artist prize went to H.E.R.



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Kofi Kingston, Daniel Bryan sign WrestleMania contract

By Susan McFarland
UPI



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Kofi Kingston and WWE Champion Daniel Bryan made their match at WrestleMania 35 official on Smackdown by signing a contract.

Bryan, who was accompanied by his follower Rowan, said that Kingston has been complacent over his 11 year career and that this WrestleMania match was the best he was ever going to achieve.

Kingston, joined by his New Day partners Xavier Woods and Big E, took exception to Bryan's comments and detailed how the champ has no idea what he has been through to get to this moment.

"You're scared as hell and you should be because you know what comes next," Kingston said.



Pardon Our Progress!

While GUC's Main Office, at 401 S Greene Street in Uptown Greenville, is undergoing renovations, we are still here to serve you! We'll be open for business during our regular hours, 8am-5pm, Monday through Friday.

For the next several months, the Greene Street entrance will be blocked, but our parking lot will be available. Please follow the signs directing you to the entrance on the Washington Street side of the building.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause as we build a better customer experience for you. We're excited about the changes being made because they will allow us to serve you better. Thanks for your patience!



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Community Calendar



Spring is a great time to re-set your health

Free screening for cancers of the head and neck
Saturday, April 6, 8 am – noon, Vidant Cancer Care at Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Tower, 524 Moye Blvd.

It's quick, painless and best of all, it can find cancer of the head and neck earlier when it's easier to treat. Call toll free 855-MYVIDANT (855-698-4326) or visit VidantHealth.com/Events to register (required).

Your wishes, your way

Monday, April 8, 10 am to noon, Vidant Wellness Center, 2610 Stantonsburg Road

Bringing up end-of-life issues with your family can be challenging. Making your wishes known in legal documents can be even tougher. Yet, having the conversation now, while you are well and not in a crisis, will help ensure that your wishes are honored. For details call Vicki Dougherty at 252-341-3986.

Bone Marrow Drive at Pitt Community College Health Fair

Wednesday, April 10, 9 am – 3 pm, Goess Student Center, 169 Bulldog Run, Winterville

Join the bone marrow registry and commit to being someone's cure. A simple cheek swab is required. Donors between the ages of 18 and 44 are needed. Come and learn more. For details call Nikki Hyatt at 252-847-9507.

Learn about your weight loss options

Wednesdays, April 10 and 17, noon – 1 pm and 5:30 – 6:30pm, Vidant Wellness Center, 2610 Stantonsburg Rd.

Having options is important when you want to lose weight. Join us and learn about our weight loss programs. Visit with dietitians, personal trainers and other professionals dedicated to your success.

Countdown 2: Drive for parents of teen drivers

Wednesday, April 10, 6:45 – 8 pm, D.H. Conley High School Cafeteria, 2006 Worthington Rd.

A nationally known speaker will share how his life was impacted by distracted driving. You may remember him, Reggie Shaw, from Oprah, Dr. Oz and the Today Show. For details call Jennifer Wobbleton at 252-847-6298.

Mobile Free Pharmacy coming to Greenville

Saturday, April 13, 9 am – 2 pm, St. James United Methodist Church, 2000 E. 6th St.

Take home free over-the-counter medications and participate in free health screenings. For details visit MedAssist.org.

Safe Kids Day focused on making your home safe

Sunday, April 14, 2 – 5 pm, Greenville Convention Center 303 Greenville Blvd. SW

Join Safe Kids Pitt County at the Maternity Fair to learn about home safety for you and your family. An interactive display and door prizes will be available. For details call Ellen M. Walston at 252-847-8532.

Diabetes Prevention Program

52 weeks starting April 20, 10 – 11 am, Vidant Wellness Center, 2610 Stantonsburg Rd.

In a dynamic group setting you'll learn small but impactful lifestyle changes to help you prevent or delay Type 2 diabetes. Registration required by April 15 by calling 252-847-1436.

An afternoon cruise to Paradise for cancer survivors

Friday, April 26, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Paradise Cruises, 712 Harbor Rd., Wanchese

You won't snooze on this cruise. If you are a cancer survivor, take part in this free dolphin cruise on the Outer Banks. For details and to register, call Jenny Higgins, 252-714-3905.

Health education programs especially for seniors

Join us on Thursdays at 10:30 am at McConnell-Raab Hope Lodge, 930-A Wellness Drive. For details call Mary Hall at 252-847-0550.

April 4 – *B.E.F.A.S.T. – Make Your Brain Cells Last*, presented by Samantha Styron, ECU intern

April 11 – *The Impact of Stress on Your Health*, presented by Kiarrah Foster-Barrow, ECU intern

April 18 – *The End Game*, a movie and discussion about hospice care, presented by Mary Lou Infinito

April 25 – *Vidant Gives to the Community*, presented by Kahla Hall

Pickleball clinic

A pickleball clinic will be held from 1-3 p.m. April 4 and 9 at the Elm Street park tennis courts, 1055 S. Elm St. The game combines tennis, badminton and ping-pong. The clinic will teach basic technique, strategies and rules of the game. For more information, contact John Barrow at 252-329-4573.

A Night to Paws

The Humane Society of Eastern North Carolina will hold A Night to Paws from 6-10 p.m. on April 6 at the Hilton Greenville, 207 S.W. Greenville Blvd. Tickets are \$65 each and include wine and beer from 6-7 p.m., a seated three-course dinner, a large silent auction, three raffle items and live music with the Built for Comfort band. Tickets are available at <https://one.bidpal.net/antp2019/ticketing>. For more information contact antnight-topaws2019@gmail.com or visit <https://www.hseccarolina.org/>.

Emma Dupree Day

Fountain Presbyterian Church will celebrate the annual Emma Dupree Day from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 6. The event will include a workshop on herbs at 10 a.m. with Joni Torres, Pitt County Community Garden Coordinator; a cooking demo at 11:30 a.m. with Josie Walker, Partners in Health & Wholeness, N.C.; and a noon potluck in the church fellowship hall. Bring a healthy favorite dish to share (not required). Also on hand at the event will be music, health screenings, energizing street exercise, bee keepers and honey and kids' activities. The event will also include a walk at 2 p.m. on Pitt County's newest trail at Trevathan's Pond in Fountain. Call the church at 749.5821 or visit the church on Facebook.

NAMI conference

"Weathering the Storm of Change" will be the topic of the National Alliance on Mental Health-Pitt County Eastern Regional Conference to be held from 9 a.m. to 4 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 2000 E. Sixth St. The conference will address many mental health care issues such as current public policy initiatives, Medicaid transformation, the opioid crisis and others. Register online at naminc.org/event-expresso. NAMI members register for \$20, non-members for \$35. Lunch is included. CEUs are also available for an additional administrative fee of \$20. For more information call Millie at 341-1999 or Christine at 531-3603.

QAR open house

The Queen Anne's Revenge Lab will hold its fifth annual open house from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 6 at the QAR Conservation Lab, 1157 VOA Site C Road. This event will have demonstrations on how conservationists and archaeologists use chemistry, physics, technology and other disciplines to conserve 300-year-old artifacts. It will include hands-on activities and educational demonstrations. For more information, visit www.qaronline.org/visit/qar-lab-open-house.

Boy Scouts benefit

Jack Farnior's Wild Game and Seafood Feast is at 6:30 p.m. April 11 at the May-Lew Farm, 5130 W. Wilson St., Farmville. The event will feature a silent auction, raffles, games, door prizes and a blue grass band. Cost is \$60 a person and \$100 a couple. Tables for eight are \$500. Sponsorship levels are also available. To purchase a ticket or become a sponsor, call 252-522-1521 or email grady.mullis@scouting.org. Proceeds to benefit the Boy Scouts of America East Carolina Council, which serves 20 counties.

Riley's Army fundraiser

The Riley's Army Pirate Treasure Night will be from 6-10 p.m. on April 11 at the Murphy Center on ECU's main campus, 9999 Pirates Walk. The event will feature a silent auction, entertainment, dinner and a reverse raffle drawing totaling \$5,000. The Teed Off at Cancer golf tournament will be April 12 at the Greenville Country Club. Flights are at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more information or to register, email kimber@rileysarmy.com.

Med give-away

N.C. MedAssist, HealthAssist and the Vidant Foundation have partnered to provide free over-the-counter medicines to the residents of Pitt County from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. April 13 at St. James United Methodist Church. Incorporated in the event will be a hearing screening, physical therapy and a foot clinic to look for diabetes pathology. Volunteers are needed to assist with setup/break down, client shopping, sorting, translation and providing consultation (doctors, pharmacists, nurses). Donations of gently-used shoes to accompany the free foot clinic provided by the ECU medical students are needed. Sign up at www.medassist.org/volunteer or call 847-2821 with questions.

IGCC Day

The 12th annual Inter-generational Community Center Day will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 13 at the L.W. Gorham Inter-generational Community Center, 1100 Ward St. This event is free and open to the public and will include food, youth activities, health screenings, music, karaoke, giveaways and prizes, games and health awareness and education opportunities. For more information, contact 252-328-5800.

Bullying forum

Pitt County Schools, the Greenville Police Department, Parents for Public Schools of Pitt County and Pitt County Students Against Drunk Driving will sponsor a meeting to highlight county responses to bullying at 6:30 p.m. April 16 at Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 1001 Hooker Road. Representatives from the listed groups will be available to discuss this issue and how community members can work together to help students feel safe and supported. RSVPs are encouraged, but not required, at <https://bit.ly/2HC2Nga> or by calling 252-758-1604 ext. 201.

Art is Good Medicine

Emerge Gallery & Art Center, 404 S. Evans St., will offer a free "Art Is Good Medicine" workshop from 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 18. The workshop is free to those affected by cancer, including patients, survivors, caregivers and family members older than 16. Advance registration is helpful, but not required. Visit www.emergegallery.com/education/classes/art-is-good-medicine or call 551-6947.

Taste of Greenville

The Seventh Annual International Taste of Greenville charity event will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on April 18 at the Hilton Greenville, 207 S.W. Greenville Blvd. The event is a fundraiser for the James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital at Vidant Medical Center and Children's Miracle Network. This culinary event will showcase food tastings from more than 30 area restaurants and beverage providers while musical entertainment will be provided by Ruffin Keys, Jr. A silent auction will be featured throughout the evening with WITN's sports director Billy Weaver as emcee. Individual tickets are \$100 and tables of ten are \$750. To purchase tickets and for more information visit www.TasteGville.com.

This page is sponsored by Vidant Health and The Daily Reflector. It is published each first Monday to list fundraising events and volunteer efforts for nonprofit organizations. Vidant is not responsible for all of the content. Submit information to community@reflector.com.

La Voz Latina

El Paso nonprofit to shelter migrants in converted warehouse

By Patrick Timmons
UPI

A converted warehouse will soon shelter hundreds of migrants as U.S. immigration authorities release more than 4,000 people who are seeking asylum into El Paso each week,

according to city officials and the shelter.

Those releases are straining city resources and the shelter, Annunciation House, officials said.

"Our nonprofit is overwhelmed," Dee Margo, El Paso's mayor, said in an interview in his City Hall office. When more than

500 migrants are released daily, there's a "capacity problem," the mayor said, but it's now at "saturation point" with more than 700 releases each day.

At a special City Council meeting last week, officials and Annunciation House director Ruben Garcia discussed converting a ware-



El Paso's nonprofit shelter Annunciation House will convert a warehouse to a new hospital-ity center with space for 500 cots to deal with the migrant surge of 4,000 people released each week into the city by immigration authorities, said its director Ruben Garcia at a press conference on Monday, April 1. Photo by Patrick Timmons/UPI

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house to shelter released migrants, saying that one location would be more efficient for coordinating volunteers and transporting the migrants to the bus station and airport.

Hardly any migrants stay longer than two nights in El Paso, instead heading to family and friends elsewhere in the United States.

"We are about to consolidate the shelters into one location because currently Annunciation House has to manage about 26 shelters and they have a hard time coordinating all their volunteers," Margo said.

To solve the problem of coordinating the nonprofit's volunteers, the city and county of El Paso will

fund a full-time coordinator position at United Way.

"It will be great to have another source of volunteers," said Ruben Garcia, Annunciation House's director at a press conference Monday, noting that volunteers and a venue for a central shelter are his primary concerns.

"This new hospitality site will be functional in the not-too-distant future," Garcia said. Although Annunciation House has yet to sign a release, Garcia said, the rent for the first three months will be paid by the Abundant Living Faith community in El Paso.

The converted warehouse will have space for 500 cots.

El Paso's migrant releases have surged because

U.S. immigration authorities have for weeks been apprehending hundreds crossing each day illegally from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Most migrants are Central American families who cannot be detained and must be released into the interior of the United States pending court hearings, according to immigration officials.

On an official visit to El Paso last week U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan called events on the southern border "an unprecedented humanitarian and border security crisis."

He added: "And nowhere has that crisis manifested more acutely than here in El Paso."



FREE CANCER SCREENING

April is Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month

Head and Neck cancers start in the tissues and organs of the head and neck. People who use tobacco or alcohol, or have an HPV-related disease, are at an increased risk for head and neck cancer.

Screening for head and neck cancer is quick and painless, and can find cancer earlier, when it is easier to treat. Join us to be screened and learn more about HPV and how to stop smoking.

Join Us

Saturday, April 6, 2019
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Tower
Vidant Medical Center
524 Moye Boulevard, Greenville NC

Register Today!

This event is FREE, but registration is required. To register, call 855-MYVIDANT or go to www.vidanthealth.com/events.

If you are concerned about your risk for cancer, you may also visit our Cancer Prevention Clinic by calling 252-816-7000.



524 Moye Boulevard
Greenville
252-816-7000
VidantHealth.com/Cancer

Chargers' Joey Bosa to appear in 'Game of Thrones'

By Alex Butler
UPI

Los Angeles Chargers defensive end Joey Bosa is adding an acting credit to his resume by appearing in the upcoming season of Game of Thrones.

A source told NFL Network that the Chargers' star pass-rusher will make a cameo appearance on the HBO show.

The eighth and final season of the show premieres April 14.

Bosa, 23, was the No. 3 overall pick in the 2016 NFL Draft. His brother

Nick Bosa is also expected to be a top five pick in the 2019 NFL Draft.

Bosa made his first Pro Bowl in 2017 after picking up 70 tackles, 12.5 sacks, four forced fumbles, a fumble recovery and a pass defensed in 16 starts for Los Angeles.

The 6-foot-5, 280-pound defender had 23 tackles and 5.5 sacks in seven games last season for the Chargers. Bosa's appearance won't be the first for an athlete on the show. New York Mets star pitcher Noah Syndergaard made an appearance on the show in season seven.

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