



# COVID-19 A Nightmare for Nursing Homes

By Shelby Carroll

Contributing Writer

For nursing homes and other senior living facilities, the COVID-19 disease has become an absolute nightmare. According to the CDC over 400 of the 15,000 nursing facilities in the U.S. have had an outbreak of the coronavirus as of March 30. These numbers account for residents and staff. The statistics also include the recently occurring numbers within facilities in the community of West Georgia.

The city of Carrollton is home to almost 20 nursing homes and senior living facilities combined. The close knit area of Carroll County as a whole is home to far more. Elderly residents of facilities that offer long-term care like such have been declared as being the most vulnerable to serious illness or death from this disease. This is especially true due to the fact that many unrelated residents often share rooms, encouraging the unintentional spread of it.

This goes hand in hand with the larger numbers of congregational gatherings necessary by residents and staff in day or dining rooms. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has since issued new guidance for nursing facilities responding to coronavirus, suggesting ideas such as separate units for each group.

To try and contain the spread, many facilities have been closed to visitors for weeks and will be for potentially months to come. These visitors include family, friends, and volunteers. For some of these residents visits were all they had to look forward to.

Jacob Carroll has been a CNA at Carrollton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for the past two years. So far this center has remained virus free by following procedures.

"We have been really proactive and we have good infection control procedures, so we have been able to stay safe from the virus so far," Carroll said. "We're not let-

ting outside visitors in and we're keeping most of the patients quarantined from other patients that are being tested or patients that are new."

Candy Warren has been with the staff of Carrollton Manor Nursing Home for almost 9 years and has been actively working through the difficult situation. The Manor currently has close to 20 cases of COVID-19

"It's hard on the residents and their families not being able to see them," Warren said. "I think they're doing all they can to keep the virus from spreading."

It is fair to say that all living facilities and nursing homes are facing one of the biggest challenges yet within the history of pandemics. Staff, residents, and families are simply doing all they can to get through this time. That is why it is imperative that all civilians contribute to the greater good of humanity by following safety and sanitary precautions at all times.

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Photo Courtesy of Pittsburgh Post Gazette



# LOVE IS BLIND

Photo Courtesy of IMDb

## Netflix's *Love is Blind*

**By Amber Bell**

*Contributing Writer*

As reality-dating television shows pop up all across the world today, one of the most popular ones to be released was Love Is Blind. Streamed on Netflix, roughly 1.5 million people worldwide have viewed this dramatic reality show. The whole 11 episode series is based on one thing, which is finding true love.

Much like Netflix's other popular show The Circle, roughly 30 men and women aren't able to see the others, but can communicate in the same room with a wall in between them. Through various conversations with each person involved in the show, the contestants much find their perfect match. Once the two people find an emotional and mental connection, the

men then have the option to propose to the women without seeing them. This provides challenges for both sides, as neither gender can physically lay eyes on one another. Some couples end up getting engaged after only a couple "dates", while it takes some other couples quite a bit longer. The dates only last 10 total days which puts pressure on both the singles to choose the fit that they think is best for them. Once the couples are officially engaged, they will then see each other for the first time.

Naturally this creates drama throughout the show. Some singles can't decide on which person they like more, so it often takes time to figure out their best fit.

After long days of meeting the opposite gender, all the women meet in the same room and con-

verse on what they wrote down on their notepads. Throughout the show, it was very common for multiple people to generate feelings for the same person. This led to drama and lies being spread throughout the riveting series.

Following the 10 days of dates, the couples are then sent on a couple's retreat in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. Once the couples are there, they are able to get to know each other and connect more on a both emotional and physical level. After the couples go on their retreat, they then move into the same apartment units in Atlanta, GA. This is the real true test to see if each person is able to cope with his or her significant other. Although some problems arise, the majority of the couples work through them and thoroughly enjoy living with one another.

The season finale consists of each couple having their wedding ceremony. As you can expect in any television reality drama show, some things take a turn for the worst. Two couples in particular realized they weren't marrying the person they were supposed to be with and ultimately decided to split up before the ceremony. Love is Blind was originally filmed in late 2018, but air in 2020. To this day, three of the couples are still together. Two of them have married while the other couple is still in a relationship.

As the show went on, many singles had their doubts on whether or not they would find their perfect match. For the three lucky couples that did remain together and find their soul mates, Love is Blind definitely worked out for them.

### THE WEST GEORGIAN

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# The Marvelous Ms. Maisel Breaks Ground in Season Three

By **Brittany Shivers**

*Contributing Writer*

Amy Sherman-Palladino has done it again. As the creator of the famous dramedy series *Gilmore Girls* (2000-2007), Sherman-Palladino is known for writing rapid-fire dialogue, all while combining pop culture references and quick wit in her shows. Although *Gilmore Girls* is her most widely known work by the general public, her newest television series, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, has gained her the most critically acclaimed success.

All four of her Prime-time Emmy Awards—Outstanding Comedy Series, Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series, Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series and Outstanding Music Supervision—have been for the Amazon Prime hit *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, and in season three Miriam “Midge” Maisel, played by Rachel Brosnahan, keeps paving the way to her own destiny.

This season the show continues to perfectly bundle American mid-century society, hilarious wit and revolutionary character arcs to create a show that allows viewers to escape from the real world. Now that isn’t to say that the characters are perfect because they are far from it. Midge’s transgressions, for example, include an arrest for public indecency in season one, an ongoing “friends with benefits” tryst with her ex-husband, and the matter of outing singer Shy Baldwin (Leroy McClain) to his hometown in season three. Midge, it seems, still has a lot to learn about being a standup comedian and a stand-up person.

And that is just

what season three is about, Midge and her manager Susie, played by Alex Borstein, navigating their way through the big leagues of show business. But the slight failures along the way really show us that the characters are human. The characters are somehow like us. Midge doesn’t just get to stardom overnight, but she fails and tries again. She has one of the biggest flops of her career in the beginning of season three, when she opens for Shy Baldwin in Vegas. This is completely new territory for her, and if she didn’t flop it would just seem unnatural and unbelievable.

But she does, and her manager Susie makes her get back on the smaller stage in the gambling room to get her “juice back.” This relationship between entertainer and manager is at the center of the show, but what it really signifies is two women empowering each other at a time in history, where women weren’t seen as powerful. In the 1960s, women were seen as housewives and caretakers. Here, Midge is defying the norm, which is what makes her character arc so delightful. She starts as a housewife and caretaker in season one but soon decides to take charge of her own life. She is “weird” as her mother Rose Weissman, played by Marin Hinkle, says in the Catskills episodes.

However, one thing that adds grit to this season is that everyone in Midge’s life is being inspired by her boldness, and all are deciding to take charge of their lives as well. Midge’s father, Abe Weissman, played by Tony Shalhoub, quits his job as a Columbia professor to become a political activist, and Rose turns down money from her sexist family in the midst of her and Abe’s finan-

cial crisis. Midge is so confused by her parent’s sudden attitude changes that she asks them what is going on. “You are what’s wrong with us,” said Rose. “I was very happy being me. I didn’t need to be equal or stand up for myself. I was fine. I’ve gone my entire life with other people making all my decisions, and I loved it. You put this in my head. You made me passionate and independent and broke.”

In addition to her parents’ attitude shifts, her changing life has impacted her ex-husband Joel Maisel, played by Michael Zegen, as well. In everything, Joel is still there to support Midge. Of course, they do have two kids, so they are basically glued together for life, even though they are divorced. Joel starts to support Midge from the sidelines as she embarks upon her first tour as a comedian. He starts to see first-hand the sexism that occurs, and it gets under his skin. He doesn’t like it when people tell Midge she won’t be successful because she is “too pretty,” or when they sexualized her in the “Panty Pose” episode without her knowledge. He begins to understand sexism, in a way he wasn’t able to before. Of course, avid viewers of the show know all too well that Joel will always love Midge, and many viewers are waiting to see where that storyline will lead in season four.

Although there are the delightful character arcs that come with season three, there is one overarching problem according to numerous critics. The characters, situations and overall show are low stakes, but what these detractors of the show are forgetting to realize is that the majority of television shows are in the

low stakes category. Most people are just used to seeing the high stakes shows be successful, and although some may argue there isn’t much at stake, they have to look through the eyes of the characters in the context that they are living.

Time period plays a big role in the things at stake in *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. For a housewife to become a stand-up comedian in the 1960s is a move that shows risk and independence. It is Midge telling the world that women should stand up for what is best for them. It may not be the high stakes that critics are used to, but it is still a bold move.

Of course, she does still live in a white world of finance and privilege in the Upper West Side, but that shouldn’t negate all of the other qualities of the show. Also, we see that Midge is trying to understand her privilege and she is slowly learning how the world works, while she is on tour. She doesn’t take her privilege for granted, and she still faces the hardships of sexism in American mid-century society.

Moreover, that low stakes feel is perfect for the 1960s because that was the American culture during that time period. In the 1960s, most things were kept light-hearted and swept under the rug, so the low stakes feel adds to that mid-century mood.

A show shouldn’t have to be high stakes to be considered well-executed. After all, people use television and movies to escape reality, and that is exactly what the blissful universe of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* allows its viewers to do—get lost in a world of dream chasing, hilarious wit and empowerment.



Image Courtesy of Amazon



# Money Heist Review

By **Haleigh Stone**

*Contributing Writer*

Coming in at sixth place out of Netflix's top ten is Money Heist this week. Money Heist was originally released as a 2-part television series written solely in Spanish and aired only on Spanish networks. After 2017 Netflix scooped the series up and the series became a worldwide binge series. Not only did the series become one of the highest viewed television shows in 2017, 2019 and 2020 but Netflix also released a Money Heist: The Phenomenon. The Phenomenon focuses on a documentary series focusing on how the show was made and the worldwide success it is gaining.

On April 3, 2020 Netflix released part four of the series for people to binge during the pandemic.

Money Heist follows a group of nine criminal misfits who are all brought together by a genius with a plan to target the Royal Mint of Spain for a grand heist. The group of criminals take on names of countries as their aliases in order to keep the amenity amongst the group. The rules of the heist were the only simplistic thing about the plan.

Rule one is to never tell anyone your real name, rule two is to never get emotionally or physically involved with another team member and rule three is no killing of anyone during the heist. In parts one and two viewers

are shown how the Professor, the leader of the group teaches the gang for five months on how to successfully pull off the biggest highest in history at two billion euros.

After exhausting every plan, losing some team members and hostages escaping the crew managed to steal just shy of two billion euros and escaping unscathed. The professor divides the group into even pairs, some of which have broken the cardinal rule and have fallen in love with each other and hostages. The pairs split off with new identities, places in plan if they ever get caught and enough money to set them straight for the next eight lifetimes. However, the plan of paradise is crushed with two team members contact each other through satellite phones and are compromised. After one team member is detained and tortured illegally by the government, the crew decides to pull off

one more major heist robbing the Bank of Spain.

After epic battle scenes and new hatched plans viewers are left clinging to the edges of their seats waiting anxiously for the resolution of the second heist during part five. Overall, Money Heist is a 10/10. The one that hangs up with the show is the mismatching of the mouths of the characters to the English translation sometimes but that is to be expected. Hands down this series will have viewers watching from sunup until sundown.

Money Heist does a great job with character development which is key to holding onto the fan base. Viewers learn the robbers struggles and grow with them throughout the heist forming an emotional connection between the characters and viewers. Just when you think you know what to expect, the plan has changed.

# Bachelor Peter Weber, Finally Speaks Out after Wild Season



By **Amber Bell**

*Contributing Writer*

Peter Weber recently spoke out two months after the dramatic ending of his season of The Bachelor. After the airing of the finale, Weber neglected doing any press which is unlike typical bachelor behavior. The 28 year old pilot served as the lead of ABC's 24th season of the popular reality show. Through the dramatic journey Weber narrowed down his options to two women,

Madison Prewett and Hannah Ann Sluss. Prewett and Weber's relationship was far from perfect, and she ultimately decided to leave him in the final week. Weber continued dating Sluss and asked for her hand in marriage, to which their break-up follows.

Prewett is then met by producer Chris Harrison, where he informs her that Weber is single again. The two meet up and decide to give a relationship a shot. The cast comes back together again on a spe

between him and Prewett.

Weber touches on his decision on breaking up with Sluss shortly after their engagement. He says that he was not ready to move on after Prewett abruptly left, struggling with a lack of closure. He then touches on the drama surrounding he and Prewett's relationship. During the final weeks of his season, both girls met Weber's family. His family did not feel that Prewett was a good fit for Weber, because they lead very different lifestyles, with the main difference being focused on religious boundaries. Weber said that difference alone did not have a deciding factor in their breakup.

Weber also touches on his recent love life. He was recently seen out with another woman from his season, Kelley Flanagan, as reported by TMZ. Weber had sent Flanagan home mid-season, but Bachelor fans were not surprised to see them together, as she was a favorite. The two were also thought to be quarantining together, after the recent shut down in California due to COVID-19. Weber fired back to rumors saying they are not dating, although he would not be against it in the future. He says that he is taking it slow, especially after his whirlwind of a season.

Image Courtesy of WCF Courier  
cial one-hour episode after wrapping the production.

The drama continued, and the new couple left many unanswered questions, including family drama that had occurred along the way. Two days later, the pair announced that they had decided to split. Two months later, Weber finally spoke out. He joined Nick Viall, a former lead for the franchise, where he shares some insight from his last few months off camera and what actually went down



# RZA and Premo Face Off in Epic Battle

By **Joey Walraven**

*Contributing Writer*

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the live stream feature on Instagram simply referred to as IG live has taken over Social Media. One of the most popular IG live trends are the beat and song battles between several legendary hip-hop producers and songwriters in the music industry. It was started by iconic producers, Swizz Beatz and Timbaland.

The battles consist of playing songs that each producer or songwriter has produced or written and seeing which one the viewers think are the best of each round. While there have been several battles so far, perhaps none were as anticipated as the duel between producers of two legendary hip-hop groups; Gang Starr's DJ Premier, or Premo and Wu-Tang Clan's RZA. After Swizz and Timbaland

arranged the battle, both participants announced on social media and it sent the hip-hop community into a frenzy. Both were known to be two of the most important producers in hip-hop during the 1990's, especially in New York.

Premo worked with nearly every big rapper in the 1990's, including The Notorious B.I.G., Jay-Z, Nas and several others. RZA was the head of the Wu-Tang Clan, which helped sprout the careers of several rappers as well as creating an entire new wave of hip-hop in several facets. Given their track records, the battle was expected to be of epic proportions. The battle began on Saturday, April 11 at 9 p.m. When Premo started his live video, hundreds of thousands of followers flooded to it. By the time RZA joined the video, there were nearly 200 thousand people viewing the video.

Several notable hip-

hop artists, producers, and people of importance were blowing up the comments and weighing in on nearly every song played. RZA opened up playing "Liquid Swords" from the GZA. Premo replied with a strong jab, playing "A Million and One Questions" by Jay-Z. From that point, it was obvious that this battle would be a classic moment in hip-hop history.

At first, according to the reactions in the comments, it seemed as if RZA was at a major disadvantage due to the poor sound quality his music had, which was mainly due to him being in an open living room. Some viewers even said "it was not going to be close." However, RZA paid no attention to the negativity and continued to play some of the most classic rap songs ever made, mainly from his work with Wu-Tang.

While he played countless classics, one of Premo's biggest advan-

tages was his work with a larger range of artists, which was even acknowledged by RZA. Premo played songs from over 16 different artists, which surprisingly included pop-legend Christina Aguilera. Some of the notable songs played between the two were "NY State of Mind," by Nas, "C.R.E.A.M.," by the Wu-Tang Clan, "Kick in the Door," by the Notorious B.I.G. and countless others.

While the two were supposed to play the standard 20 songs a piece, something different happened. The battle ended in a consensus draw and both of them ended up playing 30 songs a piece. It was a truly amazing moment. No one was keeping score, for they were just watching and admiring their impact on hip-hop. With nearly a million total viewers and the entire hip-hop community watching, it was obvious that there was a winner: hip-hop.



Image Courtesy of Disney

## Onward Movie Review

By **Haleigh Stone**

*Contributing Writer*

Due to the pandemic Disney fans and children worldwide can stream Onward worldwide now. Onward follows the story of two adolescent elves named Barley and Ian who live in a magicless world. Their world was once filled with great magicians, but magic was not easy to master and eventually fell to the wayside. Once both Ian and Barley have turned 16 their mother gives them a gift left by their deceased father. Their father who

was once a magician leaves them a magical staff and a spell that will allow their father to spend one last day with them. Barley barely remembers his dad before he got sick and Ian never got to meet his father, so this is truly the chance of a lifetime.

Barley who has always been obsessed with magic tries his hardest to fulfill his father's magical footsteps but is unable to bring him back, but Ian is. However, there is a learning curve that comes with magic and Ian only restores his Dad halfway. With 24 hours on the clock Ian and Barley must race to restore the rest of their father before sunset. After being sent on a quest for the phoenix gem by the Manticores, Ian and Barley run into many obstacles with their father in tow. Their

mother and the manticores also endure their own quest to save the boys from the phoenix gem's curse.

Throughout many trials and tribulations Ian and Barely both undergo major character development. Ian who is unsure and nervous about everything blossoms into a decisive and strong magician. Barley who is a rebellious kid with no sense of purpose, learns to grow up and be a role model for his brother. Their mother also grows into her own idea of a hero and exchanges her apron in for a sword.

Overall, Onward receives a 7/10. Although this movie has spectacular high-quality graphics and animation, the plot lacks in the beginning. The beginning of the movie is a slow buildup of the boy's life and the later

half is the quest which allows the entire plot to be consumed by a wild goose chase. Throughout the entire movie viewers are pining for the moment where the sons will reunite with their father who will praise them for conquering the quest, but viewers are left with the lackluster version of that. Ian never gets to meet his dad and allows his brother to see his father in his last fleeting moments. Viewers are unable to see the father and hear the wisdom that is imparted on Barely which could leave viewers feeling short changed. However, the moments and wisdom shared amongst the brothers is heartwarming. Overall, this is another Disney movie success, but it will not be named a Disney classic.





Image Courtesy of Rap-Up

# Tory Lanez Drops Mixtape *New Toronto 3* as Final Project with Label

By **Damani Smith**  
*Contributing Writer*

Canadian rapper and singer Tory Lanez dropped his last project with his record label, Interscope Records, at midnight on April 10. This is the artist’s fifth album since being signed to Interscope in 2015, with his most recent project being dropped five months earlier, Chixtape 5, Lanez has shown no signs of slowing down and also dropped singles weekly before releasing New Toronto 3. Before releasing it, Lanez would frequently play his unreleased music in the background of his Instagram live videos, “Quarantine Radio”, which he

used as a platform to promote his mixtape. In the few days his mixtape has been released, Lanez has around 55-60K unit sales. It should be noted that Unit sales are down by 20% for any artist, according to Noah Miller (@iamnoahmiller) on Twitter. However, he has seen a 90% boost in his Instagram subscribers since starting his Instagram live series, which was smart considering the purpose was a marketing tool. Lanez told his followers prior to the release of the mixtape that there would be something for everyone on this project. Many could listen to this mixtape and get some enjoyment out of one of the sixteen

songs on the tracklist. Lanez opens up his album with the first track, “Pricey and Spicy”. In this song, the message he sends to the listeners is that he’s going to be independent for the foreseeable future. He raps about how he’s been in the game for over 10 years and plans on being in the rap game a lot longer. Lanez’s favorite track on his mixtape, he talks about his life and childhood. His past relationships and his life back home in Toronto, Canada are referenced. Lanez has been through a lot in his life, moving to Atlanta and Miami as a kid, dropping out of school and being sent back to live with his grandma back in Canada

before she kicked him out and he was homeless before his music career took off. It’s no wonder that’s the rapper’s favorite song on the mixtape. One of the singles Lanez dropped before the official release of the mixtape was “Who Needs Love?”. This song implies that the rapper’s past left him with a changed perspective of women and relationships. He raps about money making him happy over anything else. Overall this album is forty-four minutes long, despite having sixteen songs on it. One could easily listen to the whole mixtape-album during a gym workout as extra motivation. Or for a road trip. This project turned out pretty well and Tory Lanez has a pretty decent discography, with this being his latest addition. New Toronto 3 is worth checking out for any hardcore rap fans and even casual music listeners.

# PARTYNEXTDOOR Returns with *PARTYMOBILE*

By **Shelby Carroll**  
*Contributing Writer*

After an unexpectedly long retreat the Canadian singer and songwriter PARTYNEXTDOOR, or Jahron Anthony Brathwaite, released his third studio album PARTYMOBILE on March 27, 2020. Along with releasing solo music, he has featured and combined his vocals with almost every A-list rapper in the industry. He has typically appeared to stay in the spotlight, collaborating and penning hits with artists like Rihanna, Beyoncé, Big Sean, Jeremih and others. Over the past couple of years PND seems to have taken a break that some would say has acted as a palate cleanser in reference to his typical style.

There are three singles released to date recently that remind fans of what has made him such a hit - “The News”, “Split Decision”, and “Loyal” featuring Drake. Aside from these, PND has given fans new ideas of what to expect from him in regards to future projects. There is the possibility that he will experiment with a new style entirely, but he could always attempt to recapture the enchantment of his first two hit projects, PARTYNEXTDOOR and PARTYNEXTDOOR TWO. These projects are undoubtedly considered his classics. While PND’s most recent album may not be the fan’s favorite, he presents a consistency within his portrayed potential. He

has always been an excellent writer and an artist within the sound of electronic-infused R&B. His first project was released to iTunes back in 2013, so as an artist he has had and still has time to experiment within the realm of his capabilities and style. He earned his first number-one song as a songwriter in 2016 when Rihanna released the lead single “Work”. For 9 consecutive weeks this song maintained its spot at number one on Billboard Hot 100 and helped advertise his name and career in the industry. PND has always proven to be a vulnerable and passionate artist that channels his heartbreaks and other relatable emotions. It is this connection that has always enticed listeners and made them appreciate the way he passionately writes and organizes the sounds of his music. Whereas PND has

seemed to strive for companionship throughout his music in the past, his current album release displays a more focused journey of embracing his self-worth. He admits past moments of toxicity, but sings of his optimism for loyalty. PND is an artist that may have gone Hollywood, but never lost who he is in reference to caring what the public eye thinks of him. PND’s authenticity is a special power to possess and he illustrates that throughout his various experiments with sound. Many fans and critics have been divided in their opinions on the direction he is currently headed with his music. He seems to be taking the time necessary to perfect whichever direction he is going, and will always have what originally made him a mastermind in his bag.



# Remembering Bill Withers

By Cynthia Harris

*Contributing Writer*

Bill Withers, an American soul singer with a series of hit singles in the 1970s, recently passed away on March 30, 2020. Despite having instantly recognizable songs, such as “Lean on Me”, “She’s Lonely” and his signature hit, “Ain’t No Sunshine”, Withers went mostly overlooked in the pantheon of popular culture. It is unfortunate that most are beginning to take his legacy seriously in death, but Withers’ career is very much something to hold in high regard.

Withers had humble beginnings. Born on July 4, 1938 in the small town of Slab Fork, West Virginia, Withers had a stutter growing up and admitted it was hard for him to fit. After serving in the United States Navy for nine years, With-

ers entered into the music business with the hit “Ain’t No Sunshine”. Despite the early success, Withers never refused to rest on his laurels, still maintaining his job as an assembler.

After being well received by Clarence Avant, Withers was signed to Sussex Records where he promptly began recording his debut record. The record, *Just As I Am*, was released in 1971 with two singles. The album’s artwork was simple and humbly straight to the point, a good way to describe Withers as a whole; it depicted him standing outside of his job. *Just As I Am* became a huge success and propelled Withers into the limelight. In promotion of the record, Withers went on tour with another band of the 70s. 1972 was a big year for Withers as he won a Grammy Award for “Ain’t No Sunshine”

and his record achieved Gold Status in September.

The next three years were consistently successful for Withers as he continued to release successful records, including the widely popular “Lean on Me”. The hit became his second single to be certified Gold. Despite being achieving commercial and critical success, Withers never strayed away from his audience, which was every day middle class working people.

The more success he achieved, he began to notice his record company wanting to have more control over his musical sound. As a result, he began to develop a dislike for the music business entirely, ultimately making the decision to retire in 1985, after only 15 years in the business.

Although Withers made music for just 15

years professionally, he still managed to achieve an exceptional amount of success in such a short time. His string of several widely popular hits still continued to be played throughout the late 80s and 90s and are still classic staples today. Withers’ voice is one that is simply endearing. Although he is not usually listed among great legendary voices such as Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder or David Ruffin, his songs still hold up and are relevant solely because of his ability to pour his feelings into each of his songs. Every time Withers sang, he sang like he meant every word and as if he could see each one of his fans physically.

Bill Withers passed away at the age of 81 on March 30, 2020. Although Withers may not have been one of the household names that comes to mind when we think of classic soul singers, he still left a major impact on the music industry. His passing has brought down the curtain on a very underrated yet wonderful career, but his influence will continue to be felt in his great body of work.



Photo Courtesy of The Sun



# Speech Pathology: A Closer Look



# MORE THAN JUST WORDS

Photo Courtesy of The Odyssey

**By Terrion Newton**

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*Contributing Writer*

At a local elementary school, there is a new job opening for someone to come in and observe young children while they communicate. One day, an excited college student comes in to fulfill the observation. The classroom is a typical one. There are children running around, screaming and playing. One child catches the student's eye.

The little boy is near a secluded corner, playing with a toy truck by himself. The student quietly walks over and tries talking to the boy. "What's your name," the student asked. After several attempts, the little boy still did not utter one word. The teacher soon walks over and tells the student that the boy is ashamed about his stuttering issue, that is why he barely talks.

A speech pathologist specializes in the field of speech language pathology. They begin studying various speech impediments and ways to cure or improve them. As they dive deeper into the field, they begin working more closely with individuals who have these impediments for a more hands on experience. The average person does

not consider how “fortunate” they are to be able to communicate effectively without any assistance from a professional. Also, in many circumstances for example, a patient becomes “mute”, meaning they have lost their ability to speak from their mouth altogether or they simply choose not to do so.

"I love this major," Jamaya Adams, University of West Georgia student says. "It's very interesting." She reveals that she didn't always know that speech pathology was her calling, but after switching her major from accounting, she quickly realized that she had made the right choice. "Speech pathology is a wonderful field," Adams says. "It's very diverse, you can do so much. You can work in hospitals, private practices, schools, and rehabilitation centers."

Adams is very specific about working with young children, because for her, they have so much potential. "I love kids," Adams says. "I want them to grow up and be able to communicate properly." However, she says that if it came down to it, she would not avoid working with elderly adults. "We also work with older patients who have aphasia and dysarthria," Adams

says. Aphasia is a disorder in which a patient is not able to comprehend or formulate language because of damage to the brain. On the other hand, dysarthria is a speech disorder in which a patient's speech is slowed or slurred.

Speech pathology is a great institution for improving human language. However, the process of getting there can be tough for some. Adams expresses how she would handle a potentially unpleasant situation. "If a parent or guardian was in denial about their child's speech issues, I would sit them down and let them know that it can improve over time," Adams says.

Much like a parent, a child who is dealing with a speech impediment can also become upset, or irritable. "You have to be patient," Adams says. "Even if the patient is crying or being stubborn, we talked about that in my counseling class. 'I want to specifically work with kids who have fluency issues,'" Adams continued. "I want them to know they aren't the only one."

Adams admits that the academic side of speech pathology is quite difficult. "The hardest part for me is getting into grad school," Adams says.

“I have to pass the GRE in order to be accepted into a grad program, it’s very competitive.” Adams explains that even if she “passes” the GRE, it does not necessarily guarantee that she will be accepted into grad school. A lot of graduate programs require high scores, Adams has yet to meet this requirement.

However, she has an optimistic view on her journey to becoming a successful speech pathologist. "Even if I don't get into grad school right away, I can be an assistant to the SLP," Adams says. "They basically help with things like patient room set up."

Like many other college students, Adams knows what her passion is, and she is determined to get there. Speech pathology gives her that extra boost to further her education, even after she receives her bachelor's degree. It is quite difficult now for her personally, but she is aware that if she wants to be a part of a positive change within the speech pathology community, she must stay focused.

The many details and the issues it entail are rarely talked about, Adams and those who share her passion have the ability to change that and bring more awareness to it.



# “Something Like Out of a Movie” The State of Grocery Stores During COVID-19



Photo Courtesy of CNBC

**By Cynthia Harris**

*Contributing Writer*

The current issue that is on everyone’s mind is COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus. In just a timespan of roughly seven months, the virus has become a global pandemic, with hundreds of thousands of cases and a cure still being searched for. As more cases continue to plague the United States rapidly, certain states are being affected drastically.

The state of Georgia has been under severe threat as numerous cases continue to pop up. As a result, most counties in Georgia have been advised to begin social distancing. While people may have their own personal feelings about the orders aside, what has become clear over time is that the way people shop in stores has now been drastically changed. As COVID-19 began to

circulate in Georgia, it started slowly with only a few cases reported. Still fear ran rapidly, and the first concern for stores were running out of essential supplies. Items such as toilet paper, paper towels and air freshener were gone in flashes, leaving many shelves in a lot of stores empty. It seemed that the only reason anybody in Georgia was on the streets was to go to the stores. And all the people that came in after early hours were completely out of luck.

“Going into Walmart after the quarantine was put into place, it was just completely different. I was shocked,” says Darius Troy, an airline worker who frequents his local Walmart. “It was almost completely empty.” Troy continued. In addition to toiletries being constantly out of stock, food began to become hard to find. Meats

were at the top of the list to begin selling out. Popular meat like steaks, bacon and most notably chicken were being fought over and taken home by few people, leaving many either waiting or having to go without poultry for a while.

Those were mostly the only major strains a trip to the grocery store had to offer for a few months. Until recently, with the new stay at home orders placed on many counties, many grocery stores are now changing up their operations.

Lately, what many stores are asking are for a lot of customers to come in only if they are wearing masks. Now anytime one enters a Walmart, or a BJ’s or any other grocery store, the majority of everyone inside is wearing masks as well as gloves. There are also strict instructions for employees too. Many employees of the stores

could be seen wearing gloves and masks as well.

In addition to asking customers to wear masks, Walmart is recommending that all of its customers stay at least six feet away, even marking the floor with directions marking the exact distance. Stores like BJ’s on the other hand, are offering cleaning services inside of the stores and changing carts in the parking lots outside of the stores.

With all of these drastic changes being made, it just seems that we are very far away from being able to have a normal shopping experience once more. “It just seems like it’s something out of a movie, what we’re going through,” says Troy. “I have hope that it will get better, but it seems that we have a long way to go.” Troy adds.



Photo Courtesy of Forbes



# Valor of the Medical Ward: Behind the Scenes of Covid-19



Photo Courtesy of Philip Montgomery

**By Justin Hodges**

*Editor-in-Chief*

One day, in the hopefully non-distant future, people will flood sidewalks and coffee shops with grins again and tell stories about how one bat could change the world. Those tales will show a ripple of realities that Corona forced on different people, some far more devastating than others. Reality for most Americans means staying in the confines of home with loved ones battling the mental wraths of isolation. Others are camped behind cashiers, drive-thru windows, restaurant kitchens and anywhere deemed essential trying to keep reality going, not knowing how far the disease is from them and their families. Then they will hear stories from medical professionals, and realize the true reality of Covid-19 was beyond anything they could ever comprehend.

“Unfortunately, my first encounter with a covid patient, resulted in pronouncing a 24 year old patient,” an Emergency Medical Technician in the New York City area told me. “As a first responder, I’m exposed to all sorts of illnesses and diseases. That’s the job we signed up for. We find people in the worst of circumstances, and at times the most exciting moments of their lives like childbirth. However, in the past few weeks it’s been a different dynamic. The war on COVID-19 is a battle like no other. “If there’s anything I wanted to bring into perspective that most people might not have thought of, is that most first respond-

ers have contracted covid, and are still forced to work through it; because of the high demand for personnel,” he continued. “The ER should be the last place anyone should ever want to be right now and people should understand what categorizes a ER visit. It’s literally a cesspool of covid, and should you or any other loved one go to the ER for something non-critical, you in turn risk exposure and contracting covid as a result.”

Over 700,000 cases of Corona across the United States have pumped hospitals full of anarchy with medical staffers operating through a purge. Thousands of people perish as the president denounces public pleas for ventilators by doctors, donations of homemade face masks have become a necessity, workers sleep in their scrubs on desks and break-room chairs in areas that should be coated in plastic. Nurses watch as isolated fathers say their final goodbyes to their sons and daughters over the phone. With the ailing fates of mothers, brothers and sisters in the hands of doctors they barely have enough gloves. Even those not in the craters of emergency rooms face life-threatening obstacles.

“I visit patients in their homes or in nursing facilities/hospice. So I’m not necessarily on the ‘front lines’, but the thing that has been the scariest for me is the resource shortages,” said a Physician Assistant working in Los Angeles. “We couldn’t get our hands on medical grade masks until about two weeks ago, I

was reusing the same disposable mask and sanitizing it every day for a couple weeks before that. It’s exhausting and stressful to abide by universal precautions in someone’s home, where you have to assume nothing is sanitized and everyone has been exposed to COVID.

“Some facilities still don’t have proper protocols for PPE and for visitors, and being in such a big city [Los Angeles], the possibilities of exposure are limitless,” she continued. “I’ve seen facilities that don’t require masks because they can’t provide enough masks. I’ve seen even more facilities wearing homemade masks, good for things like the grocery store, but in a medical setting probably don’t really help much. I wish more companies would step up and make accessible medical-grade PPE.”

The lack of Personal Protective Equipment has paramedics covering up with torn-off pieces of hospital gowns as they use their hands to flip patients over on their stomach in “swimming position” to clear their breathways because there aren’t enough rotating beds to go around. With so little still known about the disease physicians do their jobs on a trial-and-error routine, learning from each intubation while keeping in mind they can only use so much equipment to protect themselves.

“Half of my patients are positive for covid. The hardest part has been trying to limit exposure and try to not go in the rooms as much to save PPE and supplies,” said a Patient

Care Technician in Acute Care Areas, working in Douglasville, GA. “Upper management is really strict on how much you use but this is hard to do if your patient requires you to be in and out of the room often. Staffing has also been a big issue and we’ve been short staffed a lot lately. It’s really draining honestly and we’re not getting extra or hazard pay either.”

Even when the shift ends for the day there’s no semblance of normality for these heroes, going home to loved ones they can’t hug and praying their touch doesn’t force onto others the nightmares they’ve witnessed first hand. While the scrubs are on, people on the sidewalk move to the other side of the street out of fear. “People kinda treat you like you’re radioactive if you go into the stores in your scrubs,” said a Registered Nurse in Savannah, GA. “I went to get coffee after work one morning and there was a couple I could overhear saying they have to leave ASAP because he’s probably infected and spreading it.” The sandstorm of Covid-19 will leave behind deep shards of residue in everybody, some the size of wedding rings, others further than baseball bats. They will leave scars of depression and reform the outline of life as we understand it. At the end we will live to tell the story, encapsulated with the valor of those in this article and the countless others who serve for the people’s right to live.



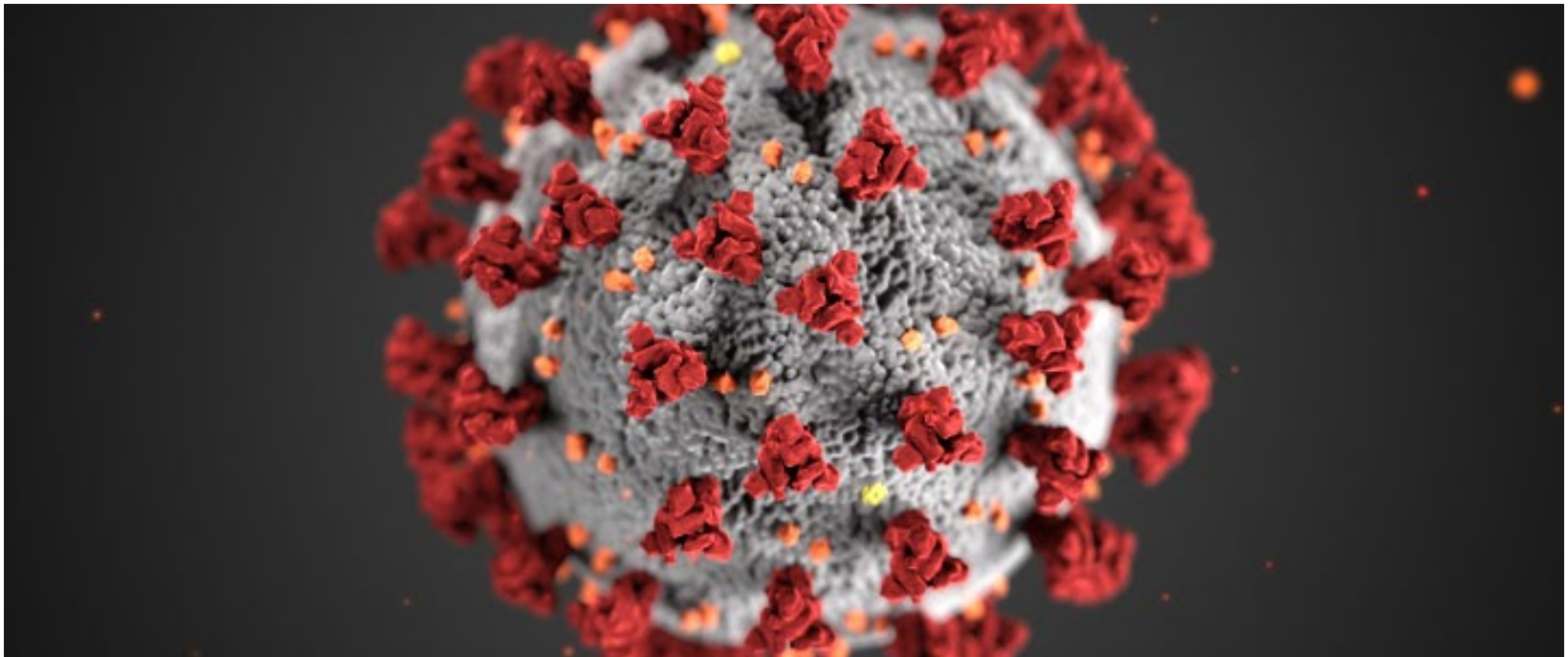


Photo Courtesy of National Institute of Infectious Diseases

# Fighting Coronavirus

By **Kennae Hunter**  
*Contributing Writer*

While in the midst of working towards goals and new year’s resolutions and enjoying the freshness of new beginnings in a new year, who would have thought an evil, vicious virus would strip away normal routines, personal growth and happiness of daily interactions with our loved ones? Something as unpredictable as Covid-19 has us scared and isolated us from each other.

This global pandemic has citizens from all countries watch new findings, research, and destruction unfold in front of them on their television screens and from their windows. No one would ever expect people to be acting so frantically from people jumping from the sounds of coughs and clearing the shelves of toilet paper.

On March 16, I was stripped away from daily campus life and activities. Being forced to move out of the dorm I knew as home, leave my job, leave my friends and partner and go back to my hometown and just isolate myself in the house with my family all happened so quick.

It was as much as it sounds and happened too fast to the point where it doesn’t all catch up to you until days and days go by. Then, as you look at the news and see the number of Covid-19 cases rise and the death toll increasing, what originally felt like an extended spring break began to feel like indefinite house arrest.

It takes communication and understanding to figure out how to maneuver efficiently in a household and keep everyone’s health in mind along with their sanity. In my home-

town, before statewide protective guidelines were being issued and enforced, a curfew and restrictions for businesses was put in place to contain the spread of the virus in Athens, Ga. All residents were expected to shelter-in-place by 9pm every evening and limiting daytime travel to essentials, like work and the grocery store. All non-essential businesses closed down completely while all essentials closed at 9pm. That meant no more late-night food runs, no more nail dates with friends, or just riding around viewing the city. All the things that brought daily pleasures and stress relief from daily activities like school and work. No one had the perfect plan for how not to let anxiety levels rise which could lead to bickering between family members.

That is where the communication part comes in. For example, in my home we all get and start our day as we would if the restrictions were not in place. We alternate cooking breakfast for one

another and get dressed. My father works at a factory that is still considered essential, so he has to risk contracting the virus every day and potentially expose my mother and I. It is dangerous considering my mother is more vulnerable to the virus due to her having hypertension. She is the most understanding during this time. She is sure to plan an outdoor activity everyday because she is aware of how hard the transition has been for me. I am used to being free, living the college life. She tries to duplicate some of my experiences at home such as Taco Tuesdays.

I believe if everyone works together to social distance and follow the guidelines set for our state we can together overcome the virus. It has been hard to transition, but finding a quarantine routine that is right for you and communication about feelings can help everyone cope with a time that is difficult and surprising for everyone globally. We have to remember that it is not a personal matter.

## SPORTS

### Interview with Rising NASCAR Cup Series Star Tyler Reddick

By **Damani Smith**  
*Contributing Writer*

Rising NASCAR star Tyler Reddick is expected to turn many heads this year as he emerges into the NASCAR Cup Series as an emerging Rookie who hopes to win races, impress his sponsors, and stay out of trouble on track. A native of Corning, CA, Reddick was tabbed to drive the #8 Chevrolet Camaro in NASCAR’s top division for Richard Childress Racing this year after winning back-to-back NASCAR Xfinity Series championships. Reddick is no stranger to racing, having been close to cars way before his NASCAR days.

“Before I ever sat in a race car for the first time, my parents worked at a dealership that was

owned by my grandfather, and when I was about a week old, I was at the shop with my mom right after she had me.” Reddick recalls. “My love for cars came from that, and I grew up playing racing games, including NASCAR. Watching my dad race his modifieds really kick-started my passion for racing, and that’s really where the drive came from. At four and a half years old, I was able to start racing go karts. It was just a natural fit, and we just kept on rolling.”

NASCAR drivers are fully aware that driving a race car is no easy task. A lot of mental and physical preparation takes place before drivers climb into the seat every weekend, as races typically last 3-4 hours on average with no major

breaks during the races. “There are many things to prepare for, whether it be a hot and slick race, a six-hundred mile race or a five-hundred mile race that’s physically demanding. The physical and hydration aspects mean you have to take a lot more time to focus on those things, but now in today’s day in age people take a lot more time to study films, the analytics and probabilities before every race.” Reddick analyzes. “Technology allows us to let us know where we run every lap, how much throttle we’re using, how much brake we’re using, our steering input and engine speed, and ground speed. We use all of those resources before we even hit the track for practice, knowing that there’s never too much time to prepare and you have to pick and choose what you want to focus on.”

Driving a Racecar is physically demanding. Drivers are athletes who have to be at the top of their game at all times.

Unlike other professional sports, they don’t get a bench to sit on and no real rest time during a race, which can last hours.

“The first time you do the Daytona 500, the Coca-Cola 600 or even the Southern 500, which are the crown jewels of our sport, mentally you can make yourself exhausted before you even complete your first lap if you’re too anxious. It’s really important to make sure you have confidence in your car and your team. You never want to overwork yourself before your first lap. Reddick expresses.

“During some of the more casual races, I might lose around 6 pounds. During one of the extreme races, you’ll lose up to 12-15 pounds, all depending on how hot it is inside the race car. During the races, a lot of things can happen beyond your control and it is important to get your heart rate back down for the rest of a 3-hour race.



# Oh, Rudy: Rudy Gobert, HORSE, 2k Player’s Tournament, WWE, UFC and ESPN’s New Normal



Photo Courtesy of Itoro N. Umontuen

**By Mason Ayers**  
*Contributing Writer*

Basketball, football, baseball and soccer. Long ago, the four sports lived together in harmony. Then everything changed when the pandemic attacked. Only ESPN, the master of all four sports, could save us. But, when the world needed them most, they vanished. By vanished I mean they absolutely ran out of content. Poorly timed Avatar reference aside, sports have long been used as an escape from reality. When real-world stress became too much to handle, people could always turn on ESPN to take their minds away for the moment.

For many, sport is one of the purest forms of art and entertainment. No matter what was going on in the world, through sport people could unify. However, during this most unusual time, even sports aren’t here to take the stress away. More than a month ago now, an NBA game between the Utah Jazz and Oklahoma City Thunder was cancelled right before tipoff. As the teams fin-

ished warmups, and prepared to start the game, a team trainer rushed onto the court to deliver the news that Jazz all-star center Rudy Gobert had tested positive for the coronavirus. After this news, the crowd was asked to leave the arena as the players were placed under quarantine for testing. This was a defining moment, not just for the NBA, but for the entire country.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver decided on that night that the NBA would suspend its season indefinitely. The next day it seemed as if every major American organization followed Silver’s lead. Not only did every major sports organization, other than the WWE and UFC (which has since postponed all events) suspend action, but Donald Trump declared a national state of emergency. After the NBA suspended play, America changed for the foreseeable future.

Schools closed, non-essential business were shut down and social distancing became much more than the world’s new favorite buzzword. Shelter-in-place orders were

made, and normal life became a distant memory. People across the country, and the greater world at large, have had to adapt to a different way of living. In America specifically, the NBA’s shutdown is viewed by many as the turning point. It’s as if the US government and major organizations were playing one giant game of chicken to see what domino would fall first.

In a world without live sports, major sports networks such as ESPN have had to come up with creative ways to present content. I use the word “creative” quite loosely. In the early days of the sports drought, major sports networks were rescued by NFL free agency. Tom Brady and others gave them plenty to discuss, but the same conversations and debates could only keep people’s interest for so long before it was time to move on.

In an effort to diversify, one day ESPN ran a 24-hour WWE WrestleMania replay. Another day, they ran 9 consecutive hours of UFC replays. They even pulled some of their ESPN+ pre-

mium content such as “Peyton’s Places,” onto their regular programming. Recently, they’ve shifted back toward professional athletes playing sports... video games. ESPN aired an NBA 2k20 players tournament featuring Kevin Durant, Trae Young, Devin Booker, Donovan Mitchell, Zach Lavine, Andre Drummond and Demarcus Cousins among a field of 16 total NBA stars. Yes, that is correct. On primetime ESPN, they played footage of grown men playing a video game.

After the 2k players tournament ended, ESPN partnered with the NBA and WNBA to air a H-O-R-S-E competition. The competition included Chris Paul, Trae Young, Zach Lavine, Paul Peirce, Chauncey Billups, Mike Conley Jr., Tamika Catchings and Allie Quigley playing the famous backyard basketball game. It’s not exactly must-see TV by any stretch, but it’s all they have. The world of sports, for the first time, is not immune to the world outside of sports.