



LEISURE

NEW AAMP EXHIBIT HONORS THE ANCESTORS



RELIGION

AFRICAN RECRUITS LESSEN PRIEST SHORTAGE IN U.S.

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VOICE OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY



Ken Westphal, center, an officer with the Lacey Police Dept. and an instructor at the Washington state Criminal Justice Training Commission, works with cadets LeAnne Cone, of the Vancouver Police Dept., and Kevin Burton-Crow, right, of the Thurston Co. Sheriff's Dept., during a training exercise July 14, 2021, in Burien, Wash. — AP PHOTO/TODD S. WARREN

States diverge on police reforms after Floyd killing

Colleen Slevin

DENVER — Maryland repealed its half-century-old Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights. Washington state reformed use-of-force policies and created a new agency to investigate when officers use deadly force. And California overcame objections from police unions to make sure officers fired in one jurisdiction couldn't be hired in another.

Those are some of the far-reaching policing changes passed this year in response to the 2020 killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. But the first full year of state legislative sessions since his death sparked a summer of racial justice protests produced a far more mixed response in the rest of the country.

A number of states implemented incremental reforms, such as banning chokeholds or tightening rules around use of body cameras, while several Republican-led states responded by



In this July 25, 2020, file photo, police pepper spray protesters, near Seattle Central College in Seattle, during a march and protest in support of Black Lives Matter. — AP PHOTO/TODD S. WARREN

granting police even greater authority and passing laws that cracked down on protesters.

The state action on both sides of the debate came as Congress failed

to implement policing reforms aimed at boosting officer accountability. The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

REFORM » 5A

PHA looks at its 2021 accomplishments

Agency hopeful Build Back Better will provide aid

Stephen Williams
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The Philadelphia Housing Authority had several major accomplishments this year, but the top executive said he is most proud of the 6,441 units the agency built or renovated in 2021, along with its partners.

These new units were part of PHA's "six-in-five" plan launched in 2014, which referred to developing or preserving 6,000 units of housing in a five-year period. The progress was



The Philadelphia Housing Authority has completed the Norris Apartments on 11th Street near Norris and Berks. They replaced the Norris Homes. — SUBMITTED PHOTO

delayed for two years, as a result of the pandemic.

"We feel a deep sense of accomplishments in meeting our goals, but we live in a city with such tremendous

need that it feels as though our work has really only just begun," said PHA President and CEO Kelvin A. Jeremiah. "What makes our program so successful is that,

in addition to the construction and neighborhood rebuilding we have done, we have funded and worked with extremely committed non-profit housing organization whose mission matched our own."

According to PHA, a major area for renovation has been its scattered site inventory, or individual properties that have fallen into disrepair and have been vacant and uninhabitable for decades. Under the plan, PHA renovated 1,745 of these units, many in neighborhoods being gentrified, thereby preserving affordability in some of these communities.

PHA » 5A

U.S. children hospitalized with COVID in record numbers

Martha Bellisle
Terry Tang

SEATTLE — The omicron-fueled surge that is sending COVID-19 cases rocketing in the U.S. is putting children in the hospital in record numbers, and experts lament that most of the youngsters are not vaccinated.

"It's just so heartbreaking," said Dr. Paul Offit, an infectious-disease expert at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. "It was hard enough last year, but now you know that you have a way to prevent all this."

During the week of Dec. 22-28, an average of 378 children 17 and under were admitted per day to hospitals with the coronavirus, a 66% increase from the week before, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday.

The previous high over the course of the pandemic was in early September, when child hospitalizations averaged 342 per day, the CDC said.

On a more hopeful note, children continue to represent a small percentage

COVID » 4A



Medical tents for vaccinations are set outside the Children's Hospital Los Angeles, on Dec. 18, 2020. — AP PHOTO/DAMIAN DOVARGANES

Biden, Putin talk as alarm rises over Ukraine

Aamer Madhani
Vladimir Isachenkov

WILMINGTON, Del. — Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin spoke frankly for nearly an hour late Thursday amid growing alarm over Russia's troop buildup near Ukraine, a crisis that's deepened as the Kremlin has stiffened its insistence on border security guarantees and test fired hypersonic missiles to underscore its demands.

Putin's foreign affairs

adviser said Biden reaffirmed the U.S. threat of new sanctions against Russia in case of an escalation or invasion, to which Putin responded with a warning of his own that such a U.S. move could lead to a complete rupture of ties.

"It would be a colossal mistake that would entail grave consequences," said Yuri Ushakov. He added that Putin told Biden that Russia would act as the U.S. would if offensive weapons

PUTIN » 4A



In this image provided by The White House, President Joe Biden speaks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the phone from his private residence in Wilmington, Del. on Thursday. — THE WHITE HOUSE PHOTO VIA AP/DAMIAN SCHULTZ



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