



'King Richard' shows what happens when a family works together

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Four generations of family members work at Paul Beale's Florist. The flower shop is staffed by Paul David Beale Jr., from left, Naeem White, Paul David Beale Sr., Altermese Beale, Carolyn Beale and Paulette Beale Harris.

—TRIBUNE PHOTOS/ABDUL R. SULAYMAN

Florist in West Oak Lane marks 50 years of serving community

Beale's flower shop is a true family business

Ayana Jones

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Paul Beale's Flowers has marked 50 years of serving as a community staple.

The business was launched May 1, 1971, by Paul Beale Sr. and his wife Altermese. He worked as a manager for Stein's Florist for 15 years before branching out on his own.

Altermese Beale recalled the days when she and her husband manned the West Oak Lane-based flower shop by themselves.

"My husband and I started out and it was just he and I in here," Altermese Beale said as she reflected on her early days in the business. "I didn't know one flower from another, but I learned."

"We had struggles but we worked through them," she continued. "It was tough but we made it. It was a wonderful journey."

She's seen how the



Paulette Beale Harris is the owner of Paul Beale's Florist. Her father founded the business in 1971.

Ogontz Avenue commercial corridor has changed throughout the years. As other businesses on the avenue closed their doors, the flower shop remained as a community mainstay.

Altermese Beale, who is 90, still works at the shop at 7220 Ogontz Ave. She is joined by four generations of family members.

Paul Beale Sr.'s daughter, Paulette Beale Harris

said he taught them all about the flower business and the importance of working hard. He died in 2020.

BEALE » 4A

Officials see benefits for Blacks in infrastructure law

Stephen Williams

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Whether it is expanding child care, making sure that children have access to clean water or investing in broadband and public transportation, most everything in the \$1 trillion infrastructure law will benefit African-American communities, according to some federal lawmakers.

"If you talk about investing in public transportation, Black fathers and mothers take public transportation to go to work," said Cedric Richmond, senior adviser to President Joe Biden, who is also director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. "If you are talking about safe bridges and roads, yes, we drive on them. We have to level the playing field, so we are not leaving rural communities behind, we are not leaving poor people behind and we are not leaving African-American communities behind."



SEPTA is expected to benefit from the new infrastructure law. —AP PHOTO/MATT ROURKE

U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty, of Ohio's D-3rd District and chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, said the caucus helped the president craft the bill, which he signed Monday.

They made their comments in a Zoom meeting this week with members of the African-American news

media to highlight the benefits of the law.

"The president asked for our opinions and thoughts," Beatty said. "We delivered and we were at the table. It makes a difference when we are in the room."

Beatty listed some of the important parts of the legislation and the dollar

amounts associated with them, including: \$555 billion for climate change; \$400 billion for child care and universal pre-kindergarten; and \$55 billion for access to clean drinking water for homes, businesses and schools.

INFRASTRUCTURE » 4A

Three men found guilty of murder in Arbery case

Richard Fausset

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — Three white men were found guilty of murder and other charges Wednesday for the pursuit and fatal shooting of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, in a case that, together with the killing of George Floyd, helped inspire the racial justice protests of last year.

The three defendants — Travis McMichael, 35; his father, Gregory McMichael, 65; and their neighbor William Bryan, 52 — face sentences of up to life in prison for the state crimes.

The men have also been indicted on separate federal charges, including hate crimes and attempted kidnapping, and are expected to stand trial in February on those charges.

The verdict suggested that the jury agreed with prosecutors' arguments that Arbery posed no imminent threat to the men and that the men had no reason to believe he had committed a crime, giving them no legal right to chase him through their suburban neighborhood.

"You can't start it and claim self-defense," the lead prosecutor argued in her closing statements. "And they started this."

Although the killing of Arbery in February 2020 did not reach the same level of notoriety as the case of Floyd, the Black man murdered by a white Minneapolis police officer three months later, Arbery's death helped fuel widespread demonstrations and unrest that unfolded in cities across the country in the spring and summer of 2020.

The case touched on some of the most combustible themes in American criminal justice, including vigilantism, self-defense laws, the effects of widespread gun ownership and the role of race in jury selection.

Like many other recent episodes involving the killing of Black people, the confrontation was captured on video that was eventually made public. Unlike many of the others, the video was made not by a bystander but by one of the defendants, Bryan.

From the beginning, Arbery's family and friends raised questions about local officials' handling of the case. The three men who were later charged walked free for several weeks after the shooting and were arrested only after the video was released, a

ARBERY » 4A

Union council chooses first Black leader

Boyer to replace longtime chief after federal bribery conviction

Ayana Jones

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Ryan N. Boyer is making history as the first African American to be elected business manager of the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council.

Boyer's appointment comes after longtime leader John Dougherty resigned from the labor organization's top role after a jury found Dougherty guilty of federal bribery charges.

Boyer, 50, is business manager of the Laborers District Council of Metropolitan Philadelphia and Vicinity, which represents four locals comprising the only majority Black building trades union in the region.

He was appointed to lead the politically influential Building Trades Council on Wednesday afternoon.

"As a child of the labor movement, I know, firsthand, the ways in which labor and our unions change lives," Boyer said in a statement. "By fighting for our members, we are fighting for working families and fighting against poverty, and these are battles we must win."

His appointment comes as President Joe Biden signs



Ryan Boyer calls himself "a child of the labor movement."

a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure plan.

"With the recent passage of the Biden infrastructure plan, there will be opportunities for labor and our members that we have not seen in generations," said Boyer, who formerly served as chairman of the Delaware River Port Authority. "The Philadelphia Building Trades will have a major seat at the table and a loud voice in the room when infra-

BOYER » 4A