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EDITORIAL

Legal double standards keep us in shackles



LIFESTYLES

Flora Bell Brown celebrates turning 85



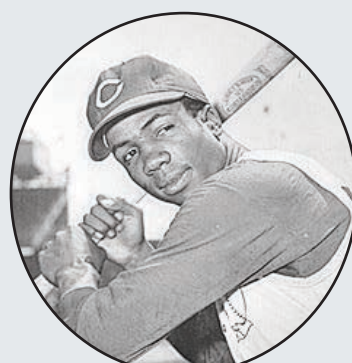
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SPORTS

Frank Robinson Dead at 83



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EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY IN THE TOLEDO JOURNAL



DeAndre Ware wins three middle weight boxing titles in New York



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

DeAndre gives a shout of victory after the round.

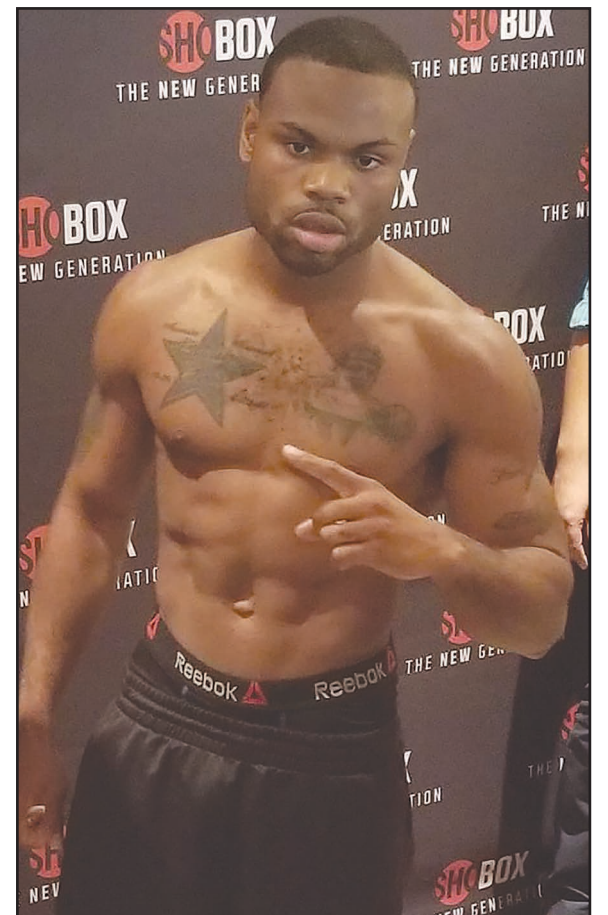


PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

DeAndre weighs in the day before the fight.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

DeAndre poses with his NABA, WBC CONTINENTAL, and USBO/IBO BELTS.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

DeAndre takes a swing at his opponent, Ronald Ellis.

By Michael Daniels
Journal Staff Reporter

A champion is a champion, what more can you say about the winning local Boxing Icon DeAndre Ware. The Only thing that you might want to add to his story is, he's also a dedicated EMS Toledo Firefighter, and devoted husband and father.

All this is a hard scale to balance, but DeAndre Ware does it and he makes it work. Combining two careers plus being a family man and succeeding at all of them, is no small feat. as well as, making it work together, makes him a true champion.

The 31-year-old sports-

man has a "I will not be defeated" attitude and a driving desire to succeed in all of his life's pursuits.

After graduating from St. John's, an academically demanding high school, he went on to play football at the University of Toledo. Unfortunately, he suffered a knee injury and was unable to continue playing that sport. Being a true athlete in his heart he sought out another sports he could participate in. "I couldn't imagine myself not playing any sports. I've always been an athlete," he said.

And, "I didn't want to be just a normal everyday person, I needed to be participating in some sort of sport

so I started boxing. The more I boxed the more I liked it, so I continued to do it. Soon I realized I wasn't too bad at it, in fact, I was pretty good," he explained.

Meanwhile a childhood interest was about to surface and present itself. As a child Mr. Ware considered becoming a fireman one day. Now many years later a real opportunity to do so came his way, not only once but twice. The first time he passed on the idea, but the second time he jumped on it. Like a true champion in the making he went for it, passed the test, completed the training and became a City of Toledo Firefighter.

With this important and

demanding new job one would think he might quit boxing. If that's what you thought, you got the wrong answer. Even though he loved being a firefighter and it was one of his dreams come true, his other

Unable to choose one over the other there was only one choice for the champion in the making. That choice was to do them both, and so he did and so he has, he does them both.

When he's not fighting fires, he's training and boxing. When he's not boxing, he's fighting fires. A delicate balance, but he has worked it out.

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Civil Rights Groups Sue Texas over Voter Citizenship Question

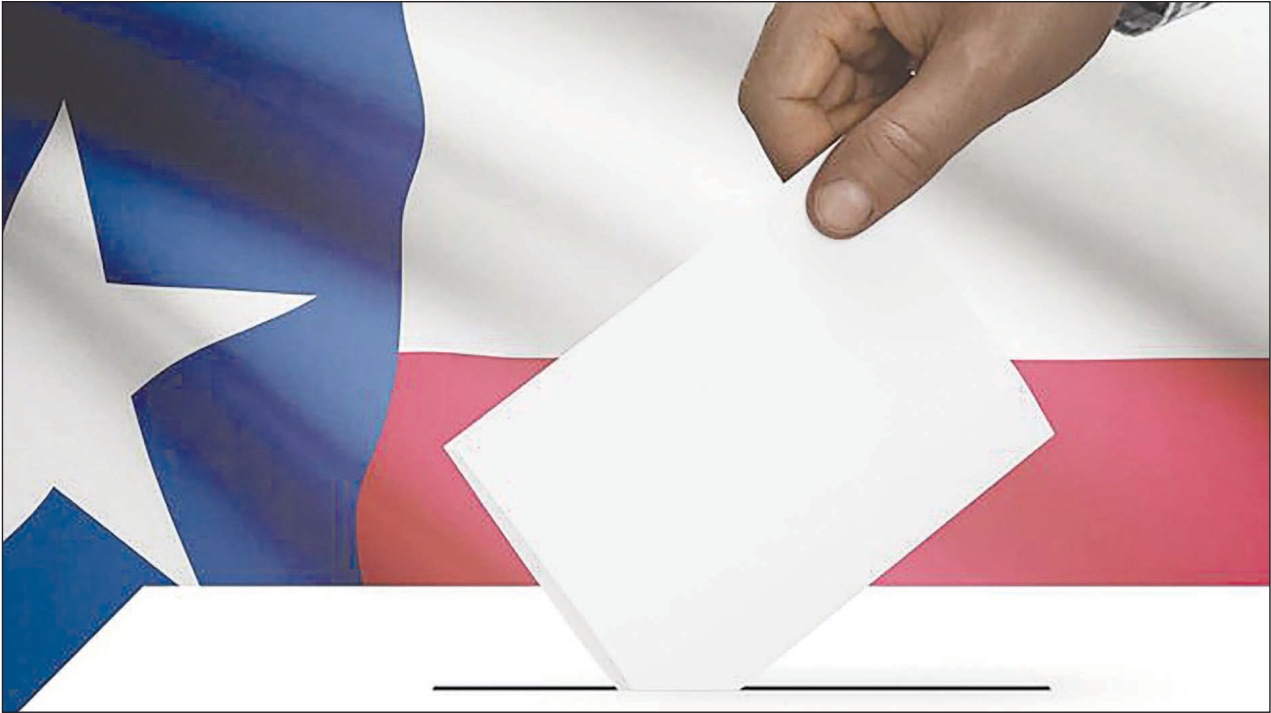
“This exercise is a thinly veiled attempt to advance the voter fraud myth to justify restrictive voter requirements and suppress voting rights,” said Sophia Lakin, staff attorney with the ACLU’s Voting Rights Project. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

Civil rights organizations are suing Texas officials about alleged plans to purge thousands of naturalized citizens from its voter rolls, a move that intentionally targets minority voters, according to their lawsuit.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, the national ACLU, the Texas Civil Rights Project, Demos, and the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law filed a lawsuit against Texas Secretary of State David Whitley and Director of Elections Keith Ingram over the creation and rollout of a flawed voter purge list that discriminates against naturalized citizens.

The lawsuit also includes election officials from Galveston, Blanco, Fayette, Caldwell, and Washington counties for sending out notices threatening to cancel voter registrations based on the list, according to CBS News, which first reported



the lawsuit.

“The right to vote is sacrosanct. Yet, the Texas Secretary of State has engaged in a sloppy exercise that threatens to unfairly strip people of the opportunity to participate in American democracy,” said Andre Segura, legal director for the ACLU of Texas.

“Even after we told Texas officials that this would happen, they doubled down on this failed experiment and left us with no other recourse but to take this to court. We look forward to ensuring that all eligible Texas voters can make their voices heard on election day.”

The lawsuit claims that Texas officials created and sent a flawed advisory to counties that flagged tens of thousands of registered voters for citizenship reviews, despite knowing that the list included naturalized citizens eligible to vote.

“There is no question that Secretary Whitley released a flawed and inaccurate advisory that risks throwing thousands of eligible voters off the rolls,” said Beth Stevens, Voting Rights Legal Director with the Texas Civil Rights Project.

“Our lawsuit seeks to put the brakes on this voter suppression by rescinding the flawed advisory. Not one single eligible Texan should lose the right to vote because state officials have decided to pursue a radical anti-voter agenda.”

Whitley said his office has identified 95,000 non-citizens who are currently registered to vote in of Texas — 58,000 of whom have voted in one or more election.

Texas Secretary of State spokesman Sam Taylor says they “are very confident” the citizenship data used is current. But the organizations who have filed suit disagree.

“The Texas Secretary of State simply chose to

assume the worst,” said Brendan Downes, Associate Counsel with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law’s Voting Rights Project.

“The idea that nearly 100,000 non-citizens knowingly and willfully registered to vote, thereby risking deportation and threatening the well-being of themselves and their families, is an absurdity.

“That assumption is now endangering the voting rights of thousands of qualified voters. It’s a hell of a welcome mat for people who have recently become citizens of this country.

“You have to question why the Secretary didn’t do more to ensure that everyone who should be on the rolls stays on the rolls.”

The case was filed on behalf of four nonprofits — MOVE Texas Civic Fund, Jolt Initiative, League of Women Voters of Texas, and NAACP of Texas, CBS reported.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are seeking that the court declare that the Secretary of State’s advisory violates the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act and that it block all Texas counties from sending notices to individuals requiring them to prove their citizenship on the basis of the purge list, or from removing any registered voter from the voter rolls based on a failure to respond to such letters.

“This exercise is a thinly veiled attempt to advance the voter fraud myth to justify restrictive voter requirements and suppress voting rights,” said Sophia Lakin, staff attorney with the ACLU’s Voting Rights Project.

“We’re suing Texas for rolling out this error-ridden voter purge program that unlawfully targets and threatens the voting rights of eligible and duly registered naturalized citizens.”

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J. Bernie Quilter
Lucas County Clerk of Courts

Ohio tax structure contributes to racial inequity

Submitted By Zach Schiller

Ohio’s upside-down tax system takes an especially heavy toll on black and Latino residents. That’s the finding of new research from the Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy (ITEP), a national nonprofit research group with a sophisticated model of the tax system, that was just released.

Lower-earning Ohioans pay a greater share of their income on average in state and local taxes than high-income Ohioans do. Long-standing structural barriers in education, housing and at work add up to black Ohioans and Latinos being more likely to have lower incomes than white residents. Therefore, they are more likely to pay higher state and local taxes. Conversely, white people are more likely to earn higher incomes — and affluent Ohioans average lower taxes.

ITEP found that 27 percent of black Ohioans and 40 percent of

Latinos are in the poorest fifth, who earned less than \$19,000 in 2018 and whose total state and local taxes amounted to 12.3 percent of their income. Only 8 percent of black residents and 7 percent of Latinos are in the top fifth of all earners, who earned at least \$92,000 and average just a 7.7 percent tax rate. By contrast, 18 percent of whites are in the poorest fifth and 22 percent are in the richest fifth.

“This underscores the need for an overhaul of Ohio’s state and local tax system,” said Zach Schiller, Policy Matters Ohio research director. “We can raise the revenue we need to fully fund public schools, public transportation and other important services while breaking barriers that still remain for many Ohioans of color. A good place to start is boosting the income tax on the state’s top earners.” Policy Matters proposed one way to do that in a June report.

Ongoing Events

Wild about Art at the Toledo Zoo: Call for Artists

Calling all artists! The Toledo Zoo is seeking all the creative minds and skilled craftsmen in the area to take part in our art fair. Keep reading for all the wild and wonderful details. Feel the roar, feel the rush at Wild about Art at the Toledo Zoo! Wild about Art is a two-day art fair taking place Saturday, August 3 and Sunday, August 4, 2019. Artists may sign up by visiting toledozoo.org/wildaboutart to be directed to our online application through ZAPP®. Applications must be submitted online through ZAPP® by Friday, April 5, 2019. Please note: art does not have to be animal related. Any questions, please contact artfair@toledozoo.org or call 419-385-5721 ext. 2110. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. both days.

Now Thru March, 2019 Ohio Development Services Agency and Pathway Help Ohioans Stay Warm this Winter

Pathway Inc. and Ohio Development Services Agency will help Ohioans stay warm during the cold winter months. The Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program provides eligible Ohioans heating assistance if they are disconnected from their heating source, threatened with disconnection or if they have less than 25 percent supply of bulk fuel. More information call: Pathway at 419-242-7304.

Scott High School Class of 1969

We are planning a great event Aug. 9, 10, and 11, 2019 for our 50th class reunion. Please contact Evelyn Wilson and Mary Lockett with your email or home information. Evelyn's number is 419-490-6851 and Mary is 419-536-9544. Come on Bulldogs we need your info. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Every Tuesday The Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir

Will begin its 2019 season @ 7:00 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 702 Collingwood. Brothers and Sisters you are invited to come out and be a part of this music ministry. For more information, please call 419-241-3330, or 419-241-7332. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays.

Every Third Wednesday Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition and Social Justice Institute

Anyone interested in joining meet, at Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd., from 9:15 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Every 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the Month The Redeemed Christian Church Food Pantry

662 Philips Avenue in Toledo from 10 AM - 12PM.

3rd Saturday of Each Month Widows Empowered Strengthened & I Inc. (Affectionately known as W.E.S & I Inc.)

Are you a Widow? Come share with us. We cordially invite you to join us at our next meeting: 1-3pm. Reynolds Corners Branch Library, 4833 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43615. To learn more about WES & I, Inc.: Call 419-359-4001, Email: w.e.s.andlinc@gmail.com, Website: www.widowsempowered.com.

February, 2019 Celebrate Black History Month at the Toledo Library

Join the Toledo Lucas County Public Library during Black History Month, paying tribute to the generations of African-Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

Read-In:
Feb. 1-28

Celebrate African-American authors! Visit any Library location and read, listen to or watch ANY title from ANY African-American author and add your name to the banner at your favorite branch. All ages and branches.

Share Your Migration Story:
Feb. 1-28

Trace your country of origin, region or another city that led you to Toledo, Ohio and examine the path that others have followed. Available at various Library locations. All ages.

A Day with Lady K - Karen Harris Sings Motown:

A Day with Lady K means the Motown sound is down! Join TLCPL for a musical program featuring Karen Harris, who will sing Motown Hits.

Dances from the Motherland:

Elev8ted Productions presents "Dances from the

Motherland," a tribute to African dance. Join us for a performance by Phylicia Hills, who will demonstrate the fine art of African dance and the meaning behind the movement.

The DJOBI Wake Up Ensemble

Enjoy the masterful sound of West African music and the roots of African-American music with Emmanuel Djobi and his ensemble. All ages.

(Sat) Feb. 23 1 1 p.m. West Toledo

Soul Food Sampling from J'Mae's Home Cooking:

One of Toledo's finest soul food Restaurants, J'Mae's, will have the quintessential dish, baked macaroni and cheese, to sample. All ages.

For more information on Black History Month visit <http://www.toledolibrary.org/blackhistory>

UT Black History Business mogul to speak at UT for Black History Month

Dr. William F. Pickard will share his story of being the first person in his family to graduate from college and working to become one of the top businessmen in the country when he visits The University of Toledo as part of UT's celebration of Black History Month. He will speak 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26 in Doermann Theatre.

In addition to Pickard's talk, the University will celebrate this year's theme, "Embracing Our Power - Honoring Our History," with several events during Black History Month. Listed by date, events will include:

Thursday, Feb. 14 - Dr. Derek Alderman, professor of geography at the University of Tennessee, will give a talk titled "The Maps Behind the Movement: African-American Freedom Struggles as Geographical Work" at 2:30 p.m. in Snyder Memorial Building Room 2110.

Thursday, Feb. 14 - Black History Month Film series: "Creed," 7:30 p.m., Center for Performing Arts Room 1039.

Thursday, Feb. 21 - Black History Month Film series: "Pariah," 7:30 p.m., Center for Performing Arts Room 1039.

Friday, Feb. 22 - Black Student Union Fashion Show, 6 p.m., Thompson Student Union Auditorium. Ticket prices to be announced.

Monday, Feb. 25 - "Black Girlz Rock," 6 p.m., Thompson Student Union Ingman Room. The National Pan-Hellenic Council will honor women on campus who have made an impact on UT students.

Thursday, Feb. 28 - Black History Month Film Series: "Get Out," 7:30 p.m., Center for Performing Arts Room 1039.

All events are FREE unless otherwise noted.

February 17th St. Mark drama & Dramatically Inspired Works Presents Sounds of Black History

In Honor of the late Founding Pastor, Rev. I.J. Johnson, Dramatically Inspired Works would like to remember the leaders who fought and died for us to come together in unity as a country. Come and celebrate the legacy they paved for us and support the generation that now holds the awesome responsibility of carrying the dream on!! Sunday, at St. Mark Baptist Church @4:00 p.m., 2340 N. Holland Sylvania Rd., Toledo, OH 43615. Celebrate with us in Poetry, the "Who Am I" history game, Drama and songs from the Dramatically Inspired Works Vocals, Illumin8 "Illuminating Christ" and more. Together we stand, divided we fall. See you there !!!

February 17th Third Baptist Church 32nd Annual Black History Musical

Sunday at 4:00 p.m., 9775 Angola Road (Holland). All are welcome to come on out and help us lift the name of Jesus Through song. Madison Gregory III, Pastor. Information: 419-865-7559.

February 17th, 22th, and 27th Braden UMC Black History Month

Theme: Preserving Our Heritage: Embracing Hope for the Future. Located at 4725 Dorr St., Toledo, OH 43615. www.BradenUMC.org- 419-386-2700, Rev. Cecil J.F. Thompson, Pastor. 2/20/19, 9:30 AM Round Table: "My Soul Has Got To Move", 10:30 AM community Pioneer Honors: Celebrating Braden members whose public service has inspired hope for our community. Jr. Church (ages 5-12) during worship, 12:30 PM - Teen Cafe (ages 13-18) Facing discrimination and bullying in school and keeping the faith.

2/17/19, 9:30 AM Round Table "Wake Up Everybody", 10:30 AM Jr. Church (ages 5-12) during morning worship and "Holy Baptism"

2/22/19, 6:00 PM Soul Food Potluck Theme: Preserving Our HAIRitage" Panel and discussion on inst-

February 24, 2019 Toledo Masjid Of Al Islam Open House

Hosted by Imam Ibrahim Abdul Rahim @ 2PM. The color of Contribution "We Do Make America Great". **Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Ba-sheer Jones of Cleveland Ohio.** This event is in Commemoration of African American History. FREE light dinner will be served. **Location: 722 E. Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43608. Phone: 419-241-9522.**

tutionalized Discrimination. FREE.

2/27/19, 9:30 AM Round Table: "Can You Imagine?" 10:30 AM "Celebrate Our Heritage!" (wear African Attire).

February 17th and February 24th TIAMBC 73rd Church Anniversary

Theme: "Don't Worry About Anything Instead Pray About Everything" Philippians 4:6. @ 640 Indiana, Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43604. Sunday, February 17, 2019 4:00 p.m. Reverend Dr. Jerry Boose Pastor Second Baptist Church. Sunday, February 24, 2019 4:00 p.m. Reverend Dr. Willie Perryman Pastor Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend Dr. John E. Roberts, Pastor.

February 20th Annual Mayor D. Michael Collins Blood Drive

Toledo's annual Mayor D. Michael Collins Blood Drive will be held Wednesday, Feb. 20 at the Toledo Police Patrolman's Association union hall, 1947 Franklin Ave.

The blood drive honors the memory of Mayor Collins, who died four years ago - Feb. 6, 2015. The blood drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donors may register at redcross.org.

Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements. Donors can help even more people by inviting a family member, friend, or co-worker to donate too.

February 21st Zuzu African Acrobats to Perform at Lourdes University

Lourdes University Campus Life presents Zuzu African Acrobats, Thursday, at 5:30pm in the Franciscan Center, 6832 Convent Blvd. in Sylvania. Featured on the TV series America's Got Talent, their performances are a blend of circus style acrobatics and popular dance moves. This event is open to the public. \$5 per person. For more information, contact Ashley Jackson, (419) 517-8413.

For more information, visit <http://www.capitolint.com/Fairs/mapapa/mapapa.htm>

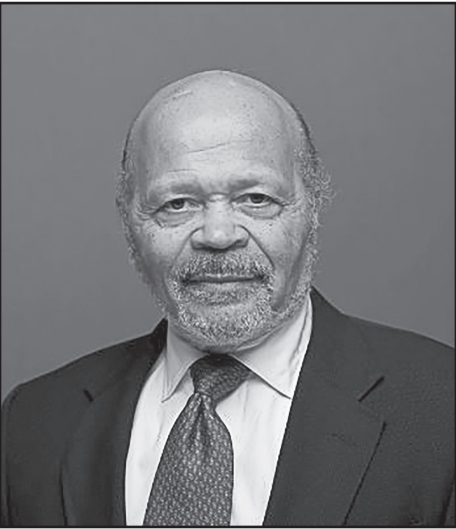
February 21st Toledo Zoo To Host Climate Change Symposium

Explorer, Robert Swan, once said: "The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it." Join the Toledo Zoo to learn what together we can do to limit our carbon footprint and the effects of global warming at the Climate Change Symposium on Thursday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Malawi Event Center. The Symposium is geared toward middle and high school students and teachers but all are welcome. Attendance and parking are free but pre-registration is required. To register, please visit toledozoo.org/programs and scroll to the bottom of the page. Complimentary parking is available in the Zoo's main lot off the Anthony Wayne Trail. Questions about the Symposium can be addressed at 419-385-5721 x2048 or mitch.edu@toledozoo.org.

February 23rd Warren AME Church Gospel Extravaganza

Calling All Youth And Young Adult, Choirs & Praise Teams, Dance & Step Ministries, Soloists & Musicians, Poets & Spoken Word, Gospel Rap Artists, we invite YOU to come and Share your Ministry Gifts. Changing Minds, Changing Lives, Ecclesiastes 11:9. Saturday @ 915 Collingwood Boulevard, Toledo, OH 43604 4:00 to 7:00 PM. To participate in the program, contact: Ms. Sawyer at 419-324-4189. Vendor Tables - A limited amount are available to display artwork, jewelry, purses, baked goods or educational information. Contact Ms. Palmer at 419-450-0165. Hosted by the Christian Education Department Warren AME Church, Rev. Otis Gordon, Jr., Senior Pastor, Debra Jelks, Chairman.

Legal Double Standards Keep Us In Shackles

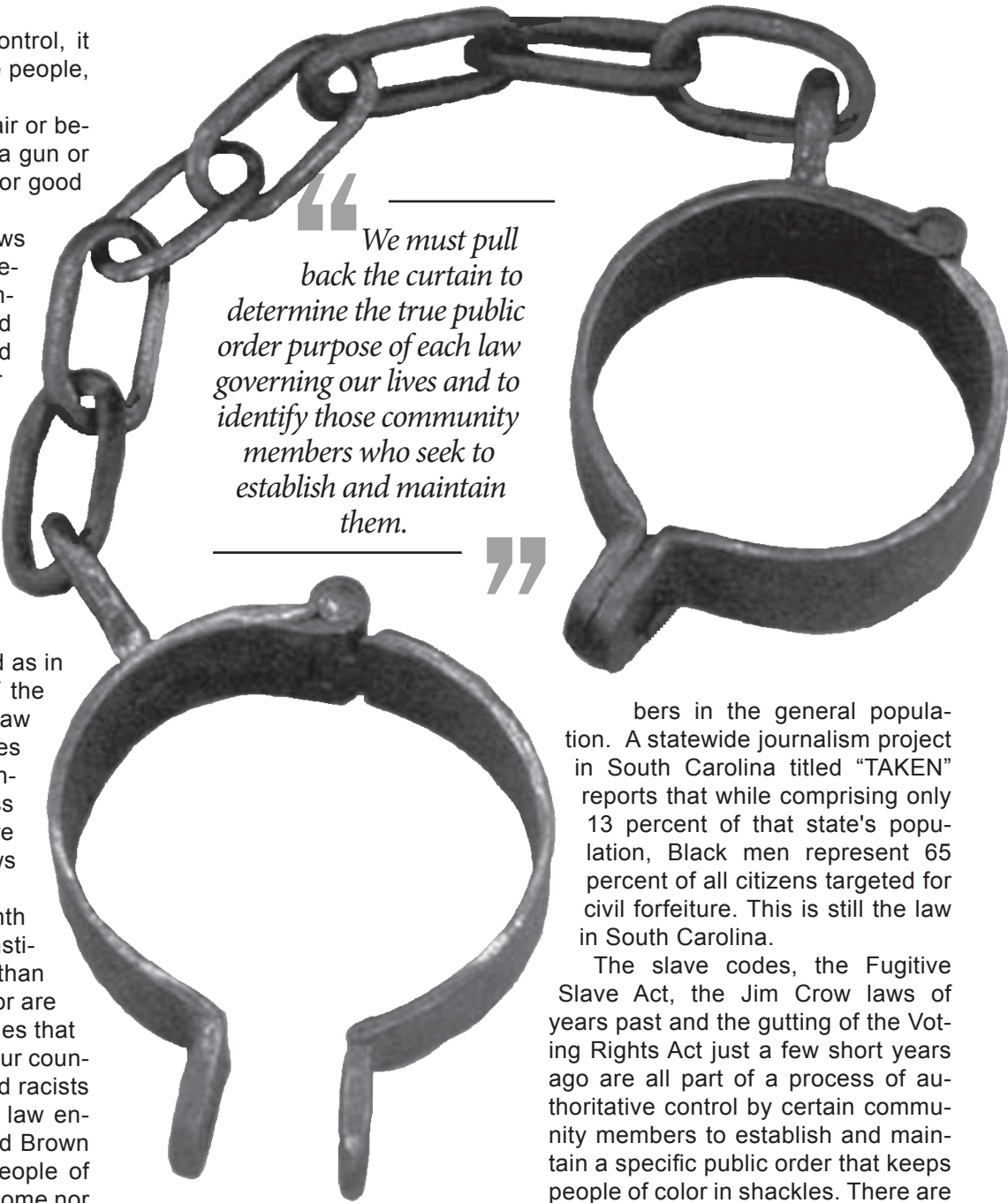


By Oscar H. Blayton
Wire Writer

It's time we stop lying to ourselves. The lying has gone on much too long and every time the lie is repeated, we are all the worse for it. The lie is that in America, everyone is equal under the law. It's time to pull back the curtain on this lie, but in order to do so, first we must have an understanding of what "Law" actually is. In its most basic form, law, is a process of authoritative control whereby certain members of a particular community establish and maintain a specific public order. This definition may seem like a mouthful, but history can help us unpack it. Nazi Germany had anti-Jewish laws, the racist regime of South Africa had apartheid laws and the southern states in this country had Jim Crow laws. The Nazis, the Afrikaners and the Southern segregationists all had authoritative control over their respective national and state communities. And with that control, they each ordered their societies in the manner they desired. In each of these instances, it is not difficult to identify those community members who sought to maintain a specific public order, nor is it difficult to identify the "specific order" they sought to maintain. For Blacks in South Africa and the segregated southern United States, subjugation was the public order where they lived. And in the case

of Jews living under Nazi control, it was extermination. For these people, those were the laws. A law need not be just or fair or benign to be the law. Law, like a gun or any other tool, can be used for good or for evil. To disguise the fact that laws can be cruel, unjust and designed to harm certain members of our community, "Blind Justice" was the myth created to foster the notion of a fair legal system in America. But observations in most American courtrooms will instruct us that what passes for justice in this country is not color-blind. Our laws are written with high-sounding words, full of dignity and sensibility but words are not deeds. And as in courtrooms, the long arm of the law, embodied in the form of law enforcement officers, reaches out into the streets and neighborhoods where we witness the double standards that are applied in enforcing our laws written in lofty language. Even though the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ended slavery more than 150 years ago, people of color are still forced to wear the shackles that are the double standards in our country's legal system. Bigots and racists use our system of laws and law enforcement to police Black and Brown bodies, making it clear to people of color that we are neither welcome nor expected to exist in white spaces. Ohio maintains a specific public order that allows whites to walk the streets with automatic rifles unmoled by the police, but justifies gunning down a Black man who is purchasing a BB rifle in an open carry state. And it finds no fault in a police officer executing a 12-year-old Black boy for playing with a toy gun in a park. This is the law in Ohio. Many cities and states maintain a specific public order that targets people of color for fines and the confiscation of property in order to

fund local and state governments. Ferguson, Mo was proven to use the disproportionate levying of fines on people of color to fund their municipal activities. That was the law in Ferguson. The state of South Carolina's civil forfeiture law allows police to confiscate money and property from people merely suspected of having committed a crime. This is often done without a trial, and in some instances, without even an arrest. Black men are subjected to this law at a rate vastly disproportionate to their num-



“ We must pull back the curtain to determine the true public order purpose of each law governing our lives and to identify those community members who seek to establish and maintain them. ”

bers in the general population. A statewide journalism project in South Carolina titled "TAKEN" reports that while comprising only 13 percent of that state's population, Black men represent 65 percent of all citizens targeted for civil forfeiture. This is still the law in South Carolina. The slave codes, the Fugitive Slave Act, the Jim Crow laws of years past and the gutting of the Voting Rights Act just a few short years ago are all part of a process of authoritative control by certain community members to establish and maintain a specific public order that keeps people of color in shackles. There are many more laws that do this, but the list is too long to discuss in this short commentary. We must pull back the curtain to determine the true public order purpose of each law governing our lives and to identify those community members who seek to establish and maintain them. Once we do this, then we can ask ourselves, if this is the America we want for ourselves. And if not, what are we going to do about it? Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.

The Toledo Journal

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State of the Union: Trump Calls for 'Choosing Greatness' as Black Leaders Say His 'Racist Rhetoric' Overshadows Hope for Change

By Hazel Trice Edney
Wire Columnist

Former prison inmate Alice Johnson, with hand-raised, had been serving a mandatory life sentence without parole for charges associated with a nonviolent drug case. She was incarcerated for 22 years before she was released by President Trump last June based on new bi-partisan criminal justice policy. PHOTO: Cheriss May/Trice Edney News Wire (TriceEdneyWire.com) - President Donald B. Trump's 2019 State of the Union speech, delivered Tuesday night, following a government shutdown that left many people irreparably damaged, was taken in stride by

African-Americans and Democratic leaders who express little hope for change. "We meet tonight at a moment of unlimited potential. As we begin a new Congress, I stand here ready to work with you to achieve historic breakthroughs for all Americans," Trump said in the speech in which he never mentioned the hardships of the historic shutdown which, for weeks, put thousands of Americans either out of work or caused them to work without pay. "Millions of our fellow citizens are watching us now, gathered in this great chamber, hoping that we will govern not as two parties but as one Nation. The agenda I will lay out this evening is not a Republican agenda or a Democrat

agenda. It is the agenda of the American people." The lofty words of the President resonated little with Democrats and Black leaders as he ignored the pain of the shutdown for which he initially claimed credit. Besides that, America had heard it all before. Even during his inaugural address, he promised to be President for all the people after which his administration has become one of the most racially and culturally divisive in history. Former Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams pointed to Trump's sins of omission as the official Democratic respondent to his speech.

continued on page 5

CFPB Makes Move to Support Payday Lenders During Black History

Consumer Protection Set to Take Effect in August May Be Denied



By Charlene Crowell
Wire Writer

Each February, Black History Month commemorates the unique American experience of Blacks in America. This year marks the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown, Virginia arrival of captured and shackled Africans.

In the ensuing years, as slavery grew, so did the wealth of those who claimed our forefathers as ‘property’. By April 12-13, 1861, the wealth built on slave labor was forcefully protected with the Battle of Fort Sumter, considered by historians to be the start of the Civil War that lasted until 1865 and the war’s end.

Slavery’s iron shackles that bound women, children and men may be gone. But in today’s America, the iron has been replaced by a different kind of shackle, just as debilitating as iron: predatory debt.

Abundant research has shown that

payday and car-title lenders trap people in debilitating debt that can trigger a series of negative consequences: overdraft fees, the loss of a bank account, loss of personal vehicles and even bankruptcy. People struggling to repay these loans have been reported to forego daily living needs or needed medical treatments.

So it is indeed troubling that in 2019, that under the Trump Administration, the federal agency with a designated mission to provide consumer financial protection took an about-face to protect predatory lenders instead of consumers on February 6. Kathy Kraninger, the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced the agency’s plan to repeal a rule aimed at stopping the payday lending debt trap.

Promulgated by CFPB’s first director during the Obama Administration, the rule requires payday and other small-dollar lenders to make loans only after determining borrowers’ ability-to-repay. That now-suspended rule followed years of public hearings, rulemaking sessions, and research that ultimately found that triple-digit interest rates on loans were virtual debt traps for borrowers. Further, the people targeted for these predatory loans are those who could least afford interest or fees that exceeded the principal borrowed: the poor, the elderly, communities of color, and military veterans.

The Bureau’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) announced by the CFPB offers a two-part plan. The first is to needlessly delay the effective date of a common-sense consumer protection rule. The second is to rewrite and likely gut the substance of the rule itself. The likely cumulative effect will allow payday and other predatory lenders to continue to ply their wares, and continue financially exploiting consumers of color.

Reactions to CFPB’s announcement were as strong as they were plentiful.

“With little accountability for their actions, payday lenders have long preyed upon communities of color and drained them of their hard-earned savings,” noted Hilary O. Shelton, NAACP’s Washington Bureau Director and Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy. “Stripping the key protections of this rule is a disservice to the public,” he added.

Similar comments came from other civil rights organizations.

“This decision will put already struggling families in a cycle of debt and leave them in an event worse financial position,” said Vanita Gupta, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. “This administration has moved the CFPB away from protecting consumers to protecting the very companies abusing them.”

When given the chance at the bal-

lot box, Americans overwhelmingly vote to impose a 36 percent or less rate cap. Today, 16 states and the District of Columbia have these rate caps in place, providing strong protection from payday loan sharks. In remaining states – those without a rate cap – interest rates run as high as 460 percent in California, over 400 percent in Illinois and 662 percent in Texas.

According to Rebecca Borne, a CRL Senior Policy Counsel, Kraninger’s announcement ignores five years’ worth of input from a broad group of stakeholders: faith leaders, veteran and military organizations, civil rights groups, consumer advocates and consumers across the country.

“But over the past year, payday lenders have spearheaded an in effort with Mick Mulvaney and now Kraninger’s help, to take consumer protections away from financially vulnerable Americans,” said Borne. “We urge Director Kraninger to reconsider, as her current plan will keep families trapped in predatory, unaffordable debt.”

Let us all hope and work for a different kind of emancipation: financial freedom.

Charlene Crowell is the Communications Deputy Director with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Trump Calls for ‘Choosing Greatness’ as Black Leaders Say His 'Racist Rhetoric' Overshadows Hope for Change

continued from page 4

“Just a few weeks ago, I joined volunteers to distribute meals to furloughed federal workers. They waited in line for a box of food and a sliver of hope since they hadn’t received paychecks in weeks. Making livelihoods of our federal workers a pawn for political games is a disgrace. The shutdown was a stunt, engineered by the president of the United States, one that betrayed every tenet of fairness and abandoned not just our people but our values,” Abrams said.

Trump’s speech got intense applause from Republicans, especially as he mentioned his quest for a “border wall” which has become widely known as a dog-whistle to his base and a core race issue. As he pushed the need for the wall in the speech, he never mentioned his campaign promise that “Mexico will pay” for the wall.

“In the past, most of the people in this room voted for a wall, but the proper wall never got built. I’ll get it built,” he said.

But, Abrams was clear on how millions of others view the wall.

“Democrats stand ready to effectively secure our ports and borders,” she said. “But we must all embrace that from agriculture to healthcare to entrepreneurship, America is made stronger by the presence of immigrants, not walls.”

Trump laid out some key bi-partisan goals such as research to end childhood cancer and HIV/AIDS as well as successes, including economic gains, infrastructure, and criminal justice reform. Guests in the gallery included formerly incarcerated



offenders who he had pardoned under new bi-partisan criminal justice reform. Those guests included Alice Johnson, who had served nearly 22 years of a life sentence as a first-time drug offender and Matthew Charles, sentenced to 35 years for selling drugs now “the first person to be released from prison under the First Step Act,” Trump said.

Despite the bipartisan highlights in the speech, Black leaders note that his “racist” views and policy omissions far outweigh the positives.

“Once again the President used the State of the Union as an opportunity to spew the same racist rhetoric, that does nothing but bolster his detachment and

disinterest towards the real issues that plague our nation,” NAACP President Derrick Johnson said in a statement. “While President Trump rallied for a wall on the border and credited his presidency for lowering unemployment numbers, which he touted after the longest government shutdown in our nation’s history, he conveniently overlooked the voter suppression, over policing, gun violence, and detrimental and xenophobic immigration policies that his administration has instituted that disproportionately affect communities of color.”

Johnson continued in his statement, “As racism continues to permeate

through every level of our society, it’s clear from his failure to protect the right to vote and civil rights for ALL, that this President’s agenda represents nothing but pain and suffering for communities of color, the poor, the LGBT community, women and immigrants. Because of this, the state of our union is not strong.”

Jim Clyburn, the most powerful Black member of Congress as House majority whip, pointed out that Democrats are ready to work with the President, but their disagreement on the meaning of “greatness” is a major barrier.

“We welcome his words of comity and are hopeful there will be issues like infrastructure, prescription drug costs, and defeating the spread of HIV where we can find common ground. However, as House Democrats, we know the role we were elected to play and, as my faith teaches me, we know we will be judged on our deeds not our words.

“The President’s theme tonight was ‘Choosing Greatness,’ but I question how he defines that term. I believe that America is already great, and, like historian Alexis de Tocqueville wrote in Democracy in America, the country’s greatness ‘lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.’ Democrats stand ready to work with the President when possible, but in strong opposition when necessary, to repair our faults so we may become a more perfect union.”

Flora Bell Brown celebrates turning 85



More than fifty family members and a few close friends gather at the Pilgrim Port Senior Living Apartments community room for Mrs. Flora Bell Brown's 85th birthday party.

By Michael Daniels
Journal Staff Reporter

It was a special occasion at the Pilgrim Port Senior Living Apartments on Saturday February 9, 2019 for resident Flora Bell Brown. Over fifty family members and a few close friends were gather in the community room for an 85th birthday party for her given by her children. Born Flora Bell Wiggins on February 1, 1934, in Toledo, at home, she turned 85 this year and is still looking good, with her mind is very much in tack and she has a great sense of humor. Entering the community room escorted by three family members she made her way to the head table to sit down. On the

way there, she passed a magnificent tall three-layer birthday cake with the number 85 and a Christian Cross on top. Placed on a long table, the cake was surrounded by white chocolate dipped strawberries, glittery candied apples and other tasty sweets. Once seated, Mrs. Brown greeted her guest, one by one, and sometimes in groups as they came up to her to wish her a happy 85th birthday. During the party quest enjoyed various games, socializing with each other, and a home cooked dinner provided by Mrs. Brown's children and, as well as, a piece of the beautiful birthday cake. They also sang the Happy Birthday song to Mrs.

Brown. Loved and honored by everyone at the party, Mrs. Brown's heart was full of happiness and joy as she socialized with everyone while she sat there and watched her grandchildren. When asked how many grandchildren she had, she replied, "I don't know. I stopped counting a long time ago." Nevertheless, she knows them all and they all know and love her. Her party was almost like a family reunion, except this time, they came together to celebrate her birthday. Living in Toledo all her life, Mrs. Brown attended Gunckel Elementary school, Robinson Jr. High and Libby High school. In the eleventh grade she



Mrs. Flora Bell Brown at her 85th birthday party with five of her six children, (Back L-R) are Dale Doublin, Julia Townsend and Joel Doublin, (Front L-R) Jeanne Townsend, Mrs. Brown, and Flora Patton.



Mrs. Flora Bell Brown with some of her grandchildren and great grandchildren at her 85th birthday party.

decided to quit school because she was tired of it. "I was young and I wanted a job. So, I got a job as a housekeeper," she said. This was a profession she continued for many years to come until an injury with her right hand forced her to quit. At this point, she then decided to stay home and raise her children with her second husband, James Arthur Brown. All together she had six children, three girls and three boys. Always willing to help another person, while she was working as housekeeper, she took it upon herself to teach other young girls how to do housekeeping. "Some of the young girls really didn't know how to do anything,"

Mrs. Brown said. She wanted the girls to a skill to be able to get a job. She is thankful that her mother taught her how to cook and how to do housekeeping, so, she passed it on. Flora Bell Brown is a member of the Bibleway Church and is strong in the Spirit of the Lord. If you meet her you will sense that instantly. When asked what advice she has for the younger generation today she said, "Seek the Lord, go to church and try to make something out of your life. One day you will have to stand before God, and you want Him to say, 'Well done my good and faithful servant enter into the joy of the Lord. If you

don't make the Lord your life you will wind up in the other place looking at the devil and his demons and you will burn forever." She confirmed, "I got to be 85 because the Lord has blessed me and I am grateful for that." Toward the end of the evening one of Mrs. Brown's daughters, Flora Patton commented and said, "It's a blessing and beyond special that God has kept our mother with us for 85 years. She's in good health and she looks good for her age. All the family is here today and we're all happy and blessed to be here today with our mother, Mrs. Flora Bell Brown."

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6 Tips from Doctors for a Healthier Heart



(StatePoint) February is American Heart Month, and an excellent reminder that there are many easy steps you can take to improve your heart health.

Unfortunately, nearly half of all U.S. adults are living with high blood pressure, putting them at an increased risk of heart attack and stroke, according to the American Medical Association (AMA).

"During American Heart Month, we urge all Americans to take control of their heart health by knowing and monitoring their blood pressure levels and making

healthy lifestyle changes that can significantly reduce the serious health consequences associated with high blood pressure," says Barbara L. McAneny, M.D., president of the AMA. "We know that by empowering more patients to monitor and control their blood pressure, we will continue to help improve the health of patients, while reducing health care costs."

To help you get started, Dr. McAneny and the experts at the AMA are offering six tips for this American Heart Month and beyond.

1. Know your blood

pressure numbers. Visit LowerYourHBP.org. The site contains tools, resources and information for both patients and physicians, and was launched by the AMA as part of an effort to reduce the number of Americans who have heart attacks and strokes each year. Having a better understanding of your numbers and taking necessary steps to get your high blood pressure, also known as hypertension, under control will reduce your risk of heart attack or stroke.

2. Commit to manage high blood pressure. Work with your doctor

to create an individualized treatment plan that includes healthy lifestyle changes that you can realistically stick to long-term to help you maintain a lower blood pressure and lower your risk for negative health consequences.

3. Be more physically active. Regular physical activity can help reduce the risk of developing high blood pressure. It is recommended that healthy adults 18 to 65 years of age get at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.


4. Eat a healthy diet. Making simple dietary changes can help you manage or prevent high blood pressure. These changes should include eating less sodium, reducing the amount of packaged and processed foods you consume (especially those with added sodium and sugar), reducing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and eating foods that are rich in potassium.

5. Maintain or achieve a healthy weight. Being overweight can put you at an increased risk for developing high blood pressure. Take steps


to maintain a healthy weight.

6. Drink in moderation. When consuming alcohol, do so in moderation as defined by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans -- up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men, and only by adults of legal drinking age.

American Heart Month serves as an important reminder that living a heart-healthy lifestyle is possible. By paying attention to risk factors like your blood pressure, weight and more, you can reduce your risk for heart disease.



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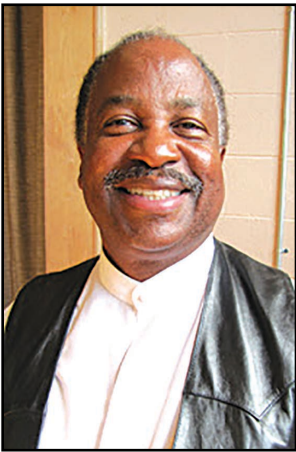
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Submitted
By Lafe Tolliver

I do not know about you but I am ready to bust into a chorus of "Mammy!" at any moment. Don't push me! I am already at the edge!

I mean...what is it with this current political drama of white politicians expressing their inner personality urges and they wanna be black or brown caricatures of people of color? I mean...really! I would bet you two fried catfish to a Po'Boy sam-mich that if you were to take the lid off of white politicians and good ol' boy white fraternities you would find a hidden cache of black face cream and boot polish in their attics and basements. I mean...what is the fascination of white folks, young or old, wanting to sing a tear producing song of,

"Mammy!" or do a Moonwalk or dance a jig like Stepin Fetchit used to do with the late Shirley Temple? I mean...First of all, white society denigrates and demeans black men and women with racist caricatures and images of African-Americans eating watermelons with overblown red lips, black people adorning the boxes of food (remember Aunt Jemima and Uncle Ben?), and of course pictures of black men with huge bucking eyeballs and grinning with bloated lips. I mean... wasn't it enough to relegate black people to slavery (we came to America

as people with dignity and a history and then were beaten and subjugated into slavery...a big difference!) and to whip and kill slaves on the plantations and to deny them any wages for their sweat equity. I mean...why the day and night time terrors of hundreds of years of slavery via mental and physical abuse and belittlement, the condoning of the terrorist group, the KKK and the White Citizens Council? I mean...why the daily abuse and punishment and denial of basic human rights including the right to form a cohesive family and to earn a paycheck by honest labor when both the North and the South benefited from the fruits of peonage slavery. It was slavery that allowed capitalism to get a foothold in America and to flourish and to dominate the world. I mean...why the past blessings of the highest courts in the land regarding black people having no rights that a white person had to respect (Dred Scott decision from the US Supreme Court) and the government turning a blind eye when slavery ended so that the emergent Jim Crow laws could practically re-enslaved black people... and get away with it!

And yet. The country goes through all of the above and yet they still want to call black people the N****r word and find every which way to put stumbling blocks in their ability to vote, ob-

tain housing, get a fair education and find employment but then have the temerity or audacity

“
White folks still want to have the white privilege option of using old racial mnemonics as a way for them to remind themselves of a good ol' time in the past when they ruled with an iron fist and the lynching of black people was a public spectator sport.
”

to say that black folks are lazy! I mean...why are we still giving comfort to people and to places which hold dear allegiance to Confederate flags, the lionization of General Robert E. Lee and the continual enshrinement of white womanhood as being virtuous? The answer is simple: White folks still want to have the white privilege option of using old racial mnemonics as a way for them to remind themselves of a good ol' time in the past when they ruled with an iron fist and the lynching of black people was a public spectator sport. White folks who still trot out despicable images of black people and who bring out their KKK robes are reminding black people that it could all start up again...they are ones with a subconscious mindset that finds no offense in dressing up as Mammies, or using black shoe polish on their faces to mock and profane people of color. It is of strong significance that the current occupant of the White House has said enough racist statements that one could believe or infer that it is now OK to attempt to do a moonwalk at a critical press conference called by the now embattled Vir-

ginia governor. Herr Trump has given implicit permission and approval to his base, and to others, to act the fool and show out; and then they wonder why there is a blow back to their racist antics? Are they that clueless or tone deaf? Some are...some aren't. Some do it for the anticipated laughs and guffaws that will come their way. Others do it because it reminds them of a prior happy time in which they were unchallenged in their abhorrent treatment of black people and Native Americans (Chief Wahoo of the Cleveland Indians baseball team anyone?). So, when we see the current governor of Virginia try to wiggle out of the horrible pictures which purportedly represent him either as in full black face costume or wearing a pointy KKK robe, you gotta wonder and think, do those depictions influence or control their professional life and their interactions with people of color as it regards: fair housing, equal employment, competent medical care, fair social policies, police powers or even a white clerk demeaning a black customer? America has never come clean as to its sordid racial history and much less the issue of reparations or the accountability for thousands of lynched black men, women and children (yes children!) who lost their lives on a whim or a lie. Now, the Attorney General for the State of Virginia has recently confessed that he too wore a wig and browned his face back in 1980 to imitate a black rapper. The Attorney General! Can you imagine what decisions, if any, that may have been "colored" by his biased perception of black men and women. Too many white folks have no historical understanding of slavery in America and its continuing aftermath... and they do not want to learn because of the intense pain and angst that it would uncover and their fear of "retribution" for what they did to black people. I mean.....

Lafe Tolliver, attorney
comments to: tolliv-
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A Slave’s African Medical Science Saves the Lives of Bostonians During the 1721 Smallpox Epidemic

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA
Newswire Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

“I didn’t know I was a slave until I found out I couldn’t do the things I wanted.” — Frederick Douglass

“I am not ashamed of my grandparents for having been slaves. I am only ashamed of myself for having at one time been ashamed.” — Ralph Ellison

As another Black History Month approaches, the observance of Black Excellence, Black Girl Magic, Black Power and other invigorating movements of the African American begins to take center stage.

From Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to Malcolm X and also many of the world’s greatest Black athletes and entertainers, the country celebrates their achievements.

While some may never tire of hearing about the greatness of Civil Rights leaders, famous black athletes and renowned entertainers, Black His-

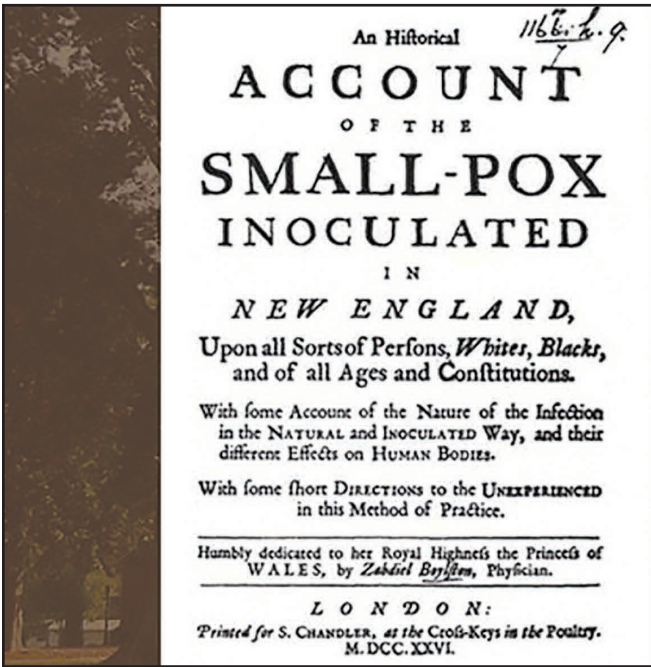


PHOTO CREDIT / FACE2FACEAFRICA.COM

Onesimus and his inoculation account.

tory Month also represents a time to focus on the unsung.

“I’d like to read about people who made impacts but are not entertainers, musicians, and those we hear about every Black History Month,” said Kisha A. Brown, the founder and CEO of Justis Connection, a service that connects the top le-

gal talent of color to local communities.

“The Black Press is an aspect of the fabric of the Black existence in America that is not getting enough attention or support from the community. We rally to support athletes and artists who are ‘wronged’ by the system, but we fail to honor is the voice of the Black Press

that has been capturing our stories for centuries,” Brown said.

“Long before Black Twitter and online blogs, and so the Black Press is not only an essential voice but it is also a historical and cultural archaeological goldmine that we must preserve,” she said.

In an email, Laurie Endicott Thomas, the author of “No More Measles: The Truth About Vaccines and Your Health,” said the most important person in the history of American medicine was an enslaved African whose real name we do not know.

“His slave name was Onesimus, which means useful in Latin. The Bib-

lical Onesimus ran away from slavery but was persuaded to return to his master,” Thomas said.

“The African-American Onesimus was the person who introduced the practice of immunization against smallpox to North America. This immunization process was called variolation because it involved real smallpox. Variolation led to sharp decreases in the death rate from smallpox and an important decrease in overall death rates,” she said.

Thomas’ thoughts jelled with a Harvard University study and a Boston WGHB report from 2016 which noted that after 150 years, Jack Daniels finally came clean that its famed whiskey recipe came courtesy of a Tennessee slave.

“This is – of course – by no means the only example of a slave’s contribution to American industry and culture being, at worst, stolen and, at best, minimized or completely forgotten.”

Continued on page 10

A TIME TO REFLECT ON
THE PLACES WE’VE BEEN.
AND WHERE WE’RE GOING.

During Black History month, we remember the past in order to create a prosperous future. We salute and acknowledge the innovations, accomplishments and culture of African-Americans. From scoreboards to boardrooms and from concerts to congress, you are making differences that can be felt every day. Toyota salutes those who are driven to succeed because determination can lead to elevation.

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COMMENTARY: Origin of black politics in America

Submitted
By Conrad Worrill

Since the end of the Civil War in 1865, when African Americans were granted the right to vote, through the 15th Amendment in 1868, electoral politics has played a dominant role in the African American Community. African Americans have been participating in electoral politics for 154 years.

With the North winning the Civil War and chattel slavery being abolished, under the Emancipation Proclamation, and as we were given the right to vote, through the 15th Amendment, many Black leaders began to feel that maybe conditions would change in America. Therefore, most leaders started urging Black people to join the Republican Party, the Party of Lincoln.

This period in history from 1863 to 1876 is called "Reconstruction" and the first time Black people began to participate vigorously in electoral politics.

During the late 1860s and early 1870s, many African Americans were elected to Congress and an African American Senator, Hiram Revels, was elected from Mississippi. The Political Abolition Party and the

Equal Rights Party ran Frederick Douglass for Vice President of the United States in 1856 and 1872.

Many Black colleges were established during this period through the land grant act that called for public education at the college level. Because of these responses on the part of the government many African American leaders felt that Black people's situation could be resolved in America through governmental intervention and effective voting.

The presidential election of 1876 brought into focus the real agendas of the white ruled Republican and Democratic Parties. Rutherford B. Hayes was the Republican candidate who was supposed to

be representing the vital interests of the North and Samuel Tilden was the Democratic candidate alleging to represent the real interests of the South.

In a very close election, the South actually won the popular vote; however, during the Electoral College proceedings, neither candidate received a majority of electoral votes. The Southern representatives made it clear that their interests did not include winning the presidency of the United States, but reclaiming full autonomy for the South. Through much wrangling, a decision was made by those present that later became known as the "Great Compromise."

The Compromise of 1876 resulted in the

Republican Hayes being announced the winner of the presidential election and both sides received what they basically wanted in the first place. Obviously neither side was interested in the liberation of Black people. The emerging northern industrialists wanted entry and new markets into the South and the southern plantation owners wanted their land back.

The net result for African Americans was the repealing of some of the voting rights laws that immediately began to wipe out Black elected officials and made it virtually impossible for Black people to vote in the South again until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1964.

Through all of this,

Black leaders, and those African Americans who voted, remained loyal to the Republican Party even though their voting rights had been sold down the drain.

As pointed out, after Reconstruction, many Black people still remained loyal to the Republican Party and tried to fight for change within it just as some Black people are still fighting for changes in the Democratic Party today. This loyalty lasted until the 1930s when African Americans began to switch their allegiance to the Democratic Party and the so-called "New Deal Era" of the Roosevelt Administration. Essentially, since the 1930s to the present, African Americans have voted for Democratic Party candidates in large measure.

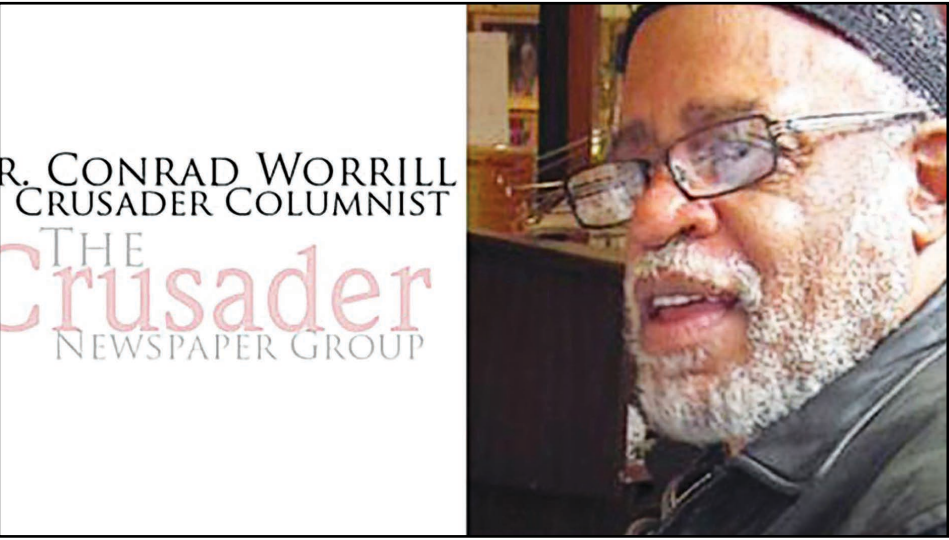
There have been a small group of African Americans who have historically called for a Black Political Party in response to the domination of the white ruled Republican and Democratic Parties. In fact, in 1972 in Gary, Indiana 10,000 Black people participated in the National Black Political Convention in which the call for the development of a Black

Independent Political Party was a prominent discussion at this meeting. However, the allegiance of Black elected officials to the Democratic Party prevented any real movement toward the development of a Black Political Party or independent Black Political Organization. Instead, a strategy of the third force inside the Democratic Party was developed.

In Chicago, for example, since the death of the late Mayor Harold Washington, African American leaders have been divided over strategy and tactics to continue the movement for Black political empowerment. This trend can be observed around the country.

There is no question that we need our own political party, or at best, our own political organization. But this must occur in a manner that truly represents the best interests of the African American Community.

Dr. Conrad Worrill, Professor Emeritus, Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS). New office location is at 1809 E. 71st Street, Chicago, Illinois 60649, 773-592-2598. Email: c-worrill@niu.edu Website: www.drconradworrill.com.



A Slave’s African Medical Science Saves the Lives of Bostonians During the 1721 Smallpox Epidemic

Continued from page 9

There was Baltimore slave Benjamin Bradley's steam engine.

"And a Mississippi slave known only as Ned's cotton scraper." And then, there was Boston's own Onesimus.

"While Massachusetts was among the first states to abolish slavery, it was also one of the first to embrace it. In 1720's Boston, buying a human being was apparently an appropriate way thank to your local man of God."

"He was presented to Cotton Mather by his congregation as a gift, which is, of course, extremely troubling," Brown University history professor Ted Widmer told WGHB.

Cotton Mather was a true puritan. A towering if controversial figure, especially following the Salem witch hysteria to which his preaching and writings greatly contributed.

"Mather was interested in his slave whom he called Onesimus which was the name of a slave belonging to St. Paul in the Bible," explained Widmer.

Described by Mather as a "pretty intelligent fellow," Onesimus had a small scar on his arm, which he explained to Mather was why he had no fear of the era's single deadliest disease: smallpox.

"Mather was fascinated by what Onesimus knew of inoculation practices back in Africa where he was from," said Widmer.

Viewed mainly with suspicion by the few Europeans' of the era who were even aware of inoculation, it's benefits were known at the time in places like China, Turkey and Onesimus' native West Africa.

"Our way of thinking of the world is often not accurate," said Widmer. "For centuries Europe was behind other parts of the world in its medical practices."

Bostonians like Mather were no strangers to smallpox.

Outbreaks in 1690 and 1702 had devastated the colonial city. And Widmer says Mather took a keen interest in Onesimus' understanding of how the inoculation was done.

"They would take a small amount of a similar disease, sometimes cowpox, and they would open a cut and put a little drop of the disease into the bloodstream," explained Widmer.

"And they knew that that was a way of developing resistance to it."

The Harvard University report further cemented what Onesimus accomplished after a smallpox outbreak once again gripped Boston in 1721.

Although inoculation was already common in certain parts of the world by the early 18th century, it was only just beginning to be discussed in England and colonial America, according to researchers.

Mather is largely credited with introducing inoculation to the colonies and

doing a great deal to promote the use of this method as standard for smallpox prevention during the 1721 epidemic, Harvard authors wrote.

Then, they noted:

"Mather is believed to have first learned about inoculation from his West African slave Onesimus, writing, 'he told me that he had undergone the operation which had given something of the smallpox and would forever preserve him from it, adding that was often used in West Africa.'"

After confirming this account with other West African slaves and reading of similar methods being performed in Turkey, Mather became an avid proponent of inoculation.

When the 1721 smallpox epidemic struck Boston, Mather took the opportunity to campaign for the systematic application of inoculation.

What followed was a fierce public debate, but also one of the first widespread and well-documented uses of inoculation to combat such an epidemic in the West.

"A few people who got inoculated did die. But roughly one in 40 did, and roughly one in seven members of the general population dies, so you had a much worse chance of surviving small pox if you did nothing," according to WGHB's research.

Mather and Boylston both wrote about their findings, which were circulated at home and impressed the sci-

entific elite in London, adding invaluable data at a crucial time that helped lay the groundwork for Edward Jenner's famed first smallpox vaccine 75 years later.

"Even though most of the city was on the wrong side and didn't want inoculation to happen they were smart enough to realize afterward that they had been wrong," Widmer said. "And so, there was a higher level of respect for science going forward."

The scourge of slavery would continue in Massachusetts for another 60 years, but as for the man whose knowledge sparked the breakthrough...

"Onesimus was recognized as the savior of a lot of Bostonians and was admired and then was emancipated," Widmer said. "Onesimus was a hero. He gave of his knowledge freely and was himself freed."

Thomas, who has worked as an editor in medical and academic publishing for more than 25 years, added that it's important for African Americans to understand that immunizations were originally an African practice that Africans brought with them to America.

"Since then, African Americans played an important role in making vaccines safer and more effective," she said, noting that an African American woman scientist named Loney Gordon played a key role in the development of the vaccine against whooping cough – or pertussis.

Beethoven, the Most Famous Classical Musician of All Time, Was a Black Man



Submitted
By Black News

Ludwig Van Beethoven is arguably the most famous and well known classical musician and composer in all of history, but his true identity and ethnicity has been a falsehood and obscurity for many, many years. Society has depicted him as a white male with either blonde or brunette colored hair, being shown in drawings, paintings, and illustrations all over the world.

But in reality, Beethoven was labeled by many as a “Mulatto”, or “Black Spaniard”. But why? Well, according to Gabriel Scott, historian and author of *The Chosen Ones: Perception of Malcolm and Martin*, his father was a white German and his mother was a “Moor”.

At the time, the term “Moors” was used to refer to a group of Muslim Northern Africans... or generally speaking, people who were of African descent or even Negroes. In society, with the Black gene being the most dominant, he was referred to as a Black man often by his friends and people that he associated with. In fact, several people are documented as saying that he had brown skin, black frizzy-wooly hair, a thick-wide nose and a short neck.

Some resources claim that Beethoven was often forced and/or pressured to wear white powder on his face to hide his ethnic origin when out in public. He allegedly also used body doubles for portraits, and “euro-centric” historians,

hiding the truth of his genetic heritage.

Nevertheless, Beethoven's story is very interesting and inspirational. At the young age of 21, he moved from Germany to Italy and began studying composition and quickly gained a reputation as a virtuoso pianist. However, during his late 20's, his hearing began to deteriorate, and he eventually became almost completely deaf.

But his disability did not end his music career. In fact, during the last 15 years of his life, he composed and published many of his most admired works in classical music. All in all, his compositions include nine symphonies, about a dozen pieces of "occasional" music, seven concerti, as well as four shorter works that include soloists accompanied



by orchestra. His only opera was *Fidelio*. But most interesting is that this musical genius who people have thought for centuries was a white man, was actually in fact... Black.



10 You Didn't Know About Mary McLeod Bethune


Submitted

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955) was a highly favored and influential educator who spent her life teaching and educating African Americans. However, most people don't know what U.S. President made her special advisor on minority affairs, or what her and James M. Gamble of the Procter and Gamble Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, have in common.

Here are 10 little-known things about this amazing woman:

- #1 - Mary was one of 17 children born to former slaves in Mayesville, South Carolina.
- #2 - She was 11-years old before she started attending school. She had to walk 5 miles to get there.
- #3 - Later, she received a scholarship to attend Scotia Seminary, a school for African American girls in Concord, North Carolina.
- #4 - She loved dancing and music. She was a good student, and other classmates looked up to her as a leader.
- #5 - She wanted to be a missionary in Africa, but at the time African Americans were not allowed to do this.
- #6 - When the railroad came, hundreds of African Americans came looking for work.

- She saw a need to teach their children, so she established a school for African American girls in Daytona Beach, Florida in 1904. She convinced James Gamble of the Procter and Gamble Company to contribute to the school, and he served as chairman of its board of trustees until his death.
- #7 - The school had no equipment or supplies and started with 5 girls and one boy; the boy was her own son. They made and sold pies and homemade ice cream to make money for the school.
 - #8 - The school prospered, and in 1923 merged with Cookman Institute of Jacksonville, Florida, a school for boys. The new school became known as Bethune-Cookman Collegiate Institute and later renamed Bethune-Cookman College. Bethune served as president of the college until 1942 when she retired.
 - #9 - Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her director of African American affairs in the National Youth Administration and a special adviser on minority affairs. She also served as special assistant to the secretary of war during World War II. During this time she became a close friend of Eleanor Roosevelt.
 - #10 - She was an adviser to several American Presidents.



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Ask Alma



Dear Alma,

This may be a silly story, but I need some advice. My boyfriend and I have been dating about six years now. We've had our ups and downs and all, but this by far has been the worst I've ever felt. He cheated on me with my BFF. I found out five months later because my "BFF" (who is no longer a friend) decided to text me and tell me. So when I confronted him about it, he kept lying, saying she came on to him first, but she would say he did first. I didn't want to believe it at first because I trusted him SO much, but then I got a couple other calls from a few other women saying that he's been messing around with them as well. That's when I knew he HAD to be cheating. Of course, I was heartbroken and all that, but I just don't know what to do ... I wanted to get married, have kids, etc. I wanted this relationship to work, talk out our problems, but at the same time I'm not letting no man cheat on me. I need some advice!

Hey Sweetpea: This isn't silly. You're a bright girl, and you already know what to do.

Like so many others, you could wait until after you're married and after you've had kids, while he continues to mess around on you, if you'd like. Marriage doesn't prevent someone from cheating. You don't get married and then all of a sudden become honest. And TBT, I've got a feeling that part of your relationship will never change.

For the past six years, you seem to be comfortable parked on the road of deception. Enough is enough. When he crossed the line with your BFF, that was your cue. It doesn't matter who initiated it. Both are liars. Don't just drop her; drop him, too.

If you can find it in your heart to forgive him, offer her the same courtesy. It will bring you peace of mind. They both are equally to blame. Stop, rewind, play it again. I think my sistah's need to hear me one more time — they are BOTH equally to

blame!

And for the sake of Krispy Kreme doughnuts, girl, Let-Him-Go! You may not feel it today, but after you've moved on, you'll be on your knees shouting a prayer of thanks, wondering why you stayed so long.

Chalk this up as a life lesson. In your next round of relationships, you'll recognize those red flags immediately! Different names, same games, but no worries for you. Professor Experience has taught you well.

You don't need my advice — you need confirmation. So here it is. I'm giving you permission to walk away. Believe that you're able and capable of being a part of a lifelong, loving relationship, filled with honesty and respect. You're so close; take that leap of faith. Don't look back.

Over time, as your heart is mending, I can't begin to tell you how grateful you'll be with this decision. It's a blessing you've got to feel for yourself.

— Alma

Dear Alma,

My husband and I have been married for eight years. He was my first love, and I love him dearly. We have four children, ranging in age from 10 years to 8 months. I am dedicated to my husband and our children. While I was pregnant with our last child, he had an affair and fathered a child with that woman. He and I have worked through our problems and are determined to make our marriage work. We have opened our home and will raise the other child with our children. My sisters and my girlfriend say I'm crazy and that I should not forgive him. Every time we are together, they make me feel stupid and say things that hurt my feelings. I don't want to stop seeing them, but how can I get them to leave it alone and stop making me feel bad?

— Signed, iforgivehim

Hello I forgive him,

Infidelity is extremely heartbreaking, and to have it happen while

you're pregnant rates as a super-sized undeserving blow. But that's not the question you asked. As for regaining the respect of your sisters and girlfriend, that might be harder than the reconciliation between you and your husband. A best friend and/or sister-girl can be a tough nut to crack. You know how we are — wobble-neck and all, LOL. Truth be reminded, though, they are coming from a place of love, concern and protection. I'm sure it was hard for them to witness your fears and tears of heartache and pain. Now that you and your husband have retied the ties that bind, you want them to be forgiving of him as well. Come on — you know that's not how this ball is dunked. It's much easier for a spouse to forgive, forget and move on than it is for an extended family member.

Continue to remain strong in your faith and decision to hold on to your husband and the unity of family. As long as you both are at peace with your decision, it doesn't matter what others think or say, including me. Only you and your husband know the details of what goes on in your prayer closet. If your best life includes standing by your man, stand tall, chest out, feet firmly planted. Explain to your sisters and girlfriends how much their support means to you. Ask them to respect your decision to stay, just as they would have respected your decision to leave. Remind them to refrain from using words that are damaging and hurtful. When the conversation leads to negative comments, defend yourself and especially your husband with a positive response. Redefine how you allow others to speak about your family. It will take a while for them to come around, so be patient. Keep your head up! You are an excellent reflection and supreme example of the ability to forgive.

Email questions to: alwaysaskalma@gmail.com, follow her on Facebook at "Ask Alma" and Twitter @almaaskalma.

Hattie McDaniel First African American Oscar Winner

Hattie McDaniel/Courtesy Classic Movie Hub
By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

@StacyBrownMedia

Long before Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and the Internet, Hattie McDaniel knew what it meant to "clap back" against her haters.

Upon hearing backlash for film roles where she portrayed a servant — during a time when servants were the only available roles for African Americans in Hollywood — McDaniel remarked, "I'd rather play a maid in the movies than be one in real life."

A trailblazer who opened the doors for blacks in Hollywood, McDaniel was the first African American to win an Academy Award when she was recognized for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Mammy, a black maid, in the 1939 classic, *Gone with the Wind*.

The ceremony, the 12th Academy Awards, was held at the segregated Ambassador Hotel and producer David Selznick had to petition for McDaniel to enter the hotel's glitzy Cocoanut Grove nightclub.

When she took the stage at the 1940 Oscars, she was the only Black woman in the room.

According to *Entertainment Weekly*, co-stars Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable sat together while the 46-year-old McDaniel, clad in a blue dress and gardenias in her hair, sat at a separate, segregated table in the back of the venue.

After hearing her name announced, McDaniel eschewed the speech Selznick had prepared for her, and delivered one she'd written with the help of Ruby Berkley Goodwin, a Black writer and close friend, *Entertainment Weekly* reported.

"It has made me feel very, very humble, and I shall always hold it as a beacon for anything I may be able to do in the future," McDaniel said. "I sincerely hope I shall always be a credit to my race and to the motion picture industry."

Little did she know, McDaniel's win paved the way for 38 Black film industry professionals, including actors, musicians and directors to win an Academy Award or to receive an honorary distinction. Winners



have included Sidney Poitier, Denzel Washington, Louis Gossett Jr., Forest Whitaker, Octavia Spencer and Lupita Nyong'o.

Born on June 10, 1893 (with some sources listing her year of birth as 1895), in Wichita, Kansas, McDaniel was her parents' 13th child, according to *Biography.com*.

Her father, Henry, was a Civil War veteran who suffered greatly from war injuries and had a difficult time with manual labor. Henry was later described by one of his sons as a minister, though this was a fictionalized account. McDaniel's mother, Susan Holbert, was a domestic worker.

In 1901, McDaniel and her family moved to Denver, Colorado, where she attended the 24th Street Elementary School, and counted as one of only two black students in her class. While at East River High School, McDaniel started professionally singing, dancing and performing skits in shows as part of *The Mighty Minstrels*.

Her natural flair for singing — in church, at school and in her home — was apparent early on and gained her popularity among her classmates, according to *Biography.com*.

In 1909, she decided to drop out of school in order to more fully focus on her fledgling career, performing with her older brother's troupe.

In 1911, she married pianist Howard Hickman and went on to organize an all-women's minstrel show.

In the 1920s, McDaniel worked with Professor George Morrison's orchestra and toured with his and other vaudeville troops for several years.

By mid-decade, she was invited to perform on Denver's KOA radio station, according to *Biography.com*. Following her radio performance, McDaniel continued to work the vaudeville circuit and established herself as a blues artist, writing her own work.

In 1931, McDaniel scored her first small film role as an extra in a Hollywood musical. Then in 1932, she was featured as a housekeeper in *The*

Golden West.

The pinnacle of McDaniel's career, *Gone with the Wind*, premiered in 1939 amid controversy. Though the role would eventually lead to an Oscar win for McDaniel, she was banned from the premiere. In fact, none of *Gone with the Wind*'s Black actors were allowed to attend the film's Atlanta premiere.

McDaniel continued to land parts here and there, but as roles for black actors were hard to come by, she was again forced to take odd jobs to make ends meet.

During World War II, McDaniel helped entertain American troops and promoted the sale of war bonds, but she soon found the film offers to be drying up. She responded by making a strategic return to radio, taking over the starring role on CBS radio's *The Beulah Show* in 1947.

In 1951, McDaniel started filming for the television version of *The Beulah Show*. Unexpectedly, she suffered a heart attack around the same time, and was forced to abandon her career upon being diagnosed with breast cancer.

Responding to criticism over her maid roles, McDaniel said it was her prerogative to accept whatever roles she chose. She also suggested that characters like Mammy proved themselves as more than just measuring up to their employers.

McDaniel lost her battle with cancer in Los Angeles, California, on October 26, 1952.

After her death, the groundbreaking actress was posthumously awarded two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1975 and honored with a commemorative U.S. postage stamp in 2006.

A well-received biography on her life was published in 2005—*Hattie McDaniel: Black Ambition, White Hollywood*, by Jill Watts.

Last year, it was announced that producer Alysia Allen had obtained the film rights to the book and was looking to develop a biopic.

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BLACK FACTS

February 14, 1867: Morehouse College organized in Augusta, Georgia.

February 16, 1923: Bessie Smith makes her first recording, "Down Hearted Blues,".

February 13, 1957: Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized at New Orleans.

February 18, 1957: Dr. King is featured on the cover of Time magazine.

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Advocates for community representation for medically underserved individuals and works towards solutions that address personal, family, and community health problems experienced by minority populations.
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BLACK HISTORY FACTS

February 17, 1960: A warrant is issued for Dr. King's arrest on charges that he falsified his 1956 and 1958 Alabama state income tax returns.

February 15, 1968: Henry Lewis becomes the first African American to lead a symphony orchestra in the United States.

February 18, 1973: Palmer Hayden, Harlem Renaissance artist, dies.

IN MEMORIAM: Baseball Trailblazer, Civil Rights Icon Frank Robinson Dead at 83

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire
Correspondent

@StacyBrownMedia
Frank Robinson, a trailblazing figure who was Major League Baseball's first African American manager and one of its greatest players during a career that spanned 21 seasons, died Thursday after a prolonged illness, according to pro baseball's premiere website, MLB.com.

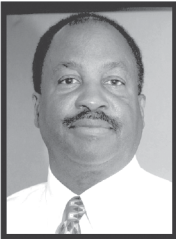
Robinson was 83.
The Hall of Famer hit 586 home runs and appeared in 14 All-Star games over the course of his illustrious career, starting with the Cincinnati Reds and the Baltimore Orioles.

Robinson is the only player to win MVP honors in both the National and American league – in 1961 with the Reds and five years later with the Orioles. When he earned those




PHOTO CREDIT / WHITE HOUSE NEWS & POLICIES / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

President George W. Bush presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom to baseball legend Frank Robinson in the East Room Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005. Winning the Most Valuable Player awards in the National and American Leagues, he achieved the American League Triple Crown in 1966. Mr. Robinson became baseball's first African-American manager.



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honors in 1966 with the Orioles, Robinson won the Triple Crown when he hit 49 home runs, drove in 122 runs and had a .316 batting average.

Despite the so-called Steroid-era of the late 1990s and 2000s where statistics were greatly inflated, Robinson's 1966 campaign remains widely viewed as one of the greatest in the history of the sport.

Even as a star in a sport that was still struggling with integration years after Jackie Robinson (no relation) broke the color line, Robinson often spoke out for civil rights even publicly aligning himself with leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1975, Robinson made history before nearly 57,000 fans at Cleveland's Municipal Stadium when he began managing the Indians making him baseball's first ever Black manager.

MLB.com noted that, just as Jackie Robinson's breaking of baseball's color barrier in 1947 had opened doors for Frank Robinson, Hank Aaron and Willie Mays and many others to play in the Major Leagues, it was Frank Robinson who paved the way for every minority manager who has followed.

"He changed the game, no doubt about

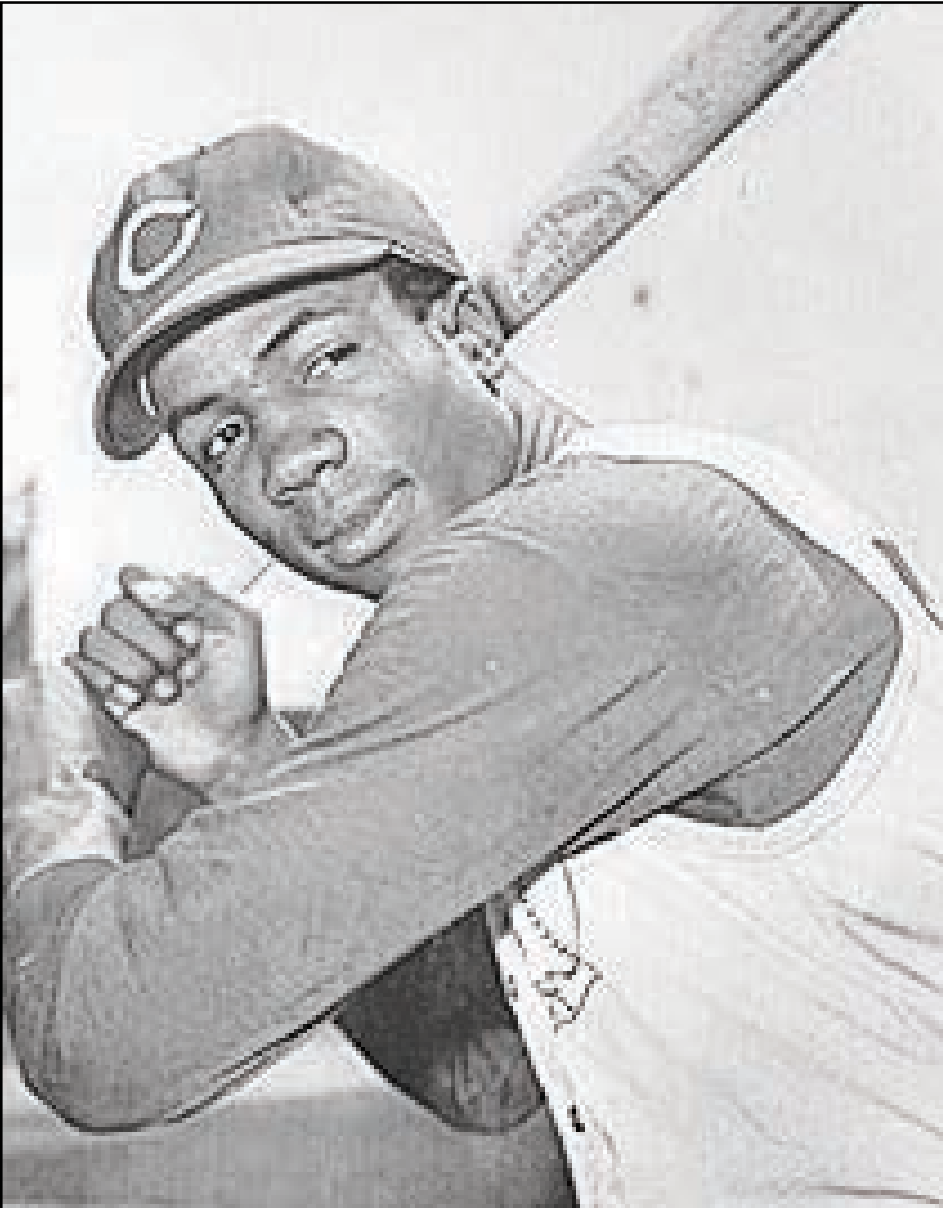


PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Robinson at bat when he was younger at one of his many games.

it," Orioles great Jim Palmer said in a statement about Robinson's death.

"Very sad day here in Baltimore with the passing of Frank Robinson, the greatest Oriole of all time in my estimation and a true baseball legend who dedicated his life to the game," said Jason La Canfora, who

hosts a podcast in Charm City.

"He overcame the segregation of the 1950s to spend seven decades in the game as a player, coach, and executive," La Canfora said.

Robinson is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Barbara Ann Cole.

DeAndre Ware wins big in New York

Continued from page 1

choice for the champion in the making. That choice was to do them both, and so he did and so he has, he does them both.

When he's not fighting fires, he's training and boxing. When he's not boxing, he's fighting fires. A delicate balance, but he has worked it out.

Already the winner of three vacant super middleweight regional title, Mr. Ware's ultimate goal is to make it all the way to the top and become a world championship boxer.

"I want to win a world championship and be able to take care of my family and live comfortable and not have any financial worries. I want to be safe and happy and enjoy life.

Everything I do today is working toward that end result" DeAndre stated.

When asked, if you win a world title will you continue to be a firefighter', his answer was, yes, I will continue to be a firefighter because I love my job. I love taking care of people and I love saving lives. I still want to stay with the fire department and serve the community. I believe I can do them both and I look forward to all of it, because the sky is the limit'.

His wife, Pilar Ware added, "He's a wonderful person and a wonderful man and I believe a person can do anything. If you work hard and strive for it you can achieve anything. I believe in him and I support him all the way."



DeAndre stands in the fire station to display his many belts. When he's not boxing, he's fighting fires with the Toledo Fire Department.



Snapshots of DeAndre's training and moments of victory.



DeAndre Ware and his wife, Pilar Ware, believe the sky is the limit.



Wife, Pilar, and their children, Grace, in arms and son, Zion with DeAndre.

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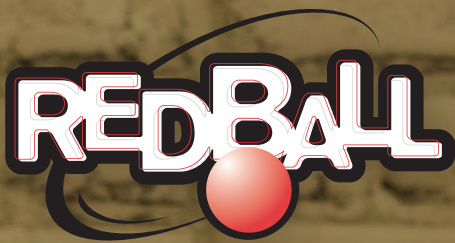
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