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By Candice L. Harrison, TPS
External Communications
Manager

Saturday, February 9, three Toledo Public Schools administrators were recognized by the Toledo Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Inc. at the inaugural “Women of Achievement” breakfast and scholarship fundraiser. More than a hundred people joined at the Radisson hotel for the event honoring Heather Baker-Executive Director of Pupil Placement; Treva Jeffries-Director of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion; Teresa Quinn- Principal of Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls.

Heather Baker has been an educator with Toledo Public schools for 22 years. She graduated with a Bach-

elor's Degree in Communications and went on to earn a Master's in Elementary Education in 2000 and an Education Specialist Degree in 2007. She has served in various positions including elementary teacher, dean of students, assistant principal, hearing officer and her current positions as the principal of the Juvenile Detention Center as well as the Executive Director of Pupil Placement. Within the past two years, she was responsible for bringing in over one million dollars in grant funds yearly for truancy prevention and the education of TPS' homeless students. She wrote and implemented the Get Connected Truancy Prevention Program exclusively for TPS. One of the keys to the program's success is its

five Attendance Champions, which are used to reconnect truant students back into the education system. Heather was tapped to lead the district in the re-writing and implementation of the student's new discipline code, which includes more interventions, positive language and less exclusionary discipline. She has been a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. for 23 years. She is extremely grateful for the support of her husband of 23 years Dexter Baker, her son Dexter Jr. and her daughter Lauren.

Treva Jeffries has served in the TPS district for 20 years and has served in various capacities. Most recently, Ms. Jeffries was the Assistant Transformational Leader of High Schools, following her eight-year tenure

as the Principal of Jesup W. Scott High School. A 1992 graduate of Jesup W. Scott High School, Ms. Jeffries received her B.S. in Biology from Kentucky State University in 1997 and M. Ed in Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development from Bowling Green State University in 2000. Ms. Jeffries has studied as a doctoral student at Bowling Green State University in Educational Administration & Leadership Studies. As a teacher at Scott High School, Ms. Jeffries was the Cheerleading Coach as well as Head Volleyball Coach. After teaching, she worked as Science Curriculum Director for Toledo Public Schools. In 2008, she returned to Scott

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PHOTO CREDIT / ABYRDSEYEPHOTO PRODUCTIONS

Seated in the front row, from left to right, keynote Dr. Patrice McClellan of Lourdes University, Teresa Quinn, Treva Jeffries and Heather Baker with the Toledo Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Inc.

Get the most out of your return at Get Max Tax



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

The friendly staff at Get Max Tax are ready and more than happy to make sure you get the maximum refund on your 2018 tax return. (L-R) are tax preparers Tierra Sutton, Owner and Operator, and tax preparer Tiara Roberts and tax preparer Mariah Robinson.

Submitted

It's time to file your taxes, are you ready, and are you aware of the changes in the new tax laws and how these changes may affect you? Ask the professionals at Get Max Tax, a new tax preparation service located at 3345 Monroe St.

Minority-owned and operated the friendly, honest and accurate tax preparers at Get Max Tax will make sure you get the largest amount you are due on your tax return. Get Max Tax specializes in both personal and business tax preparation and their customer's satisfaction is their goal.

Unlike some other tax preparation companies, whose main objective is to get you in and out as fast as possible, Get Max Tax is more personal and concerned when it comes to preparing your taxes.

Owner operator, Tiara Roberts a

Wilberforce business graduate guarantees that she and her experienced staff at Get Max Tax will take all-time necessary to make sure you get back the largest amount you are due

“We as African American people need to spend more of our dollars within our own community when possible. Most of the time we'll get better service, as well as, strengthen our own community at large.”



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Get Max Tax is located at Monroe St. and Auburn Ave. in the Valero gas station plaza and is African American owned and operated.

on your tax return.

She said, “The average person may not understand the many opportunities available to them and how to use these opportunities when it comes to getting money back on the taxes. Such things as earned income credits and many other deductions may be available to you if you qualify. Here at Get Max Tax, after reviewing your information and your personal situation, we know exactly what to do and how to get you the maximum tax return as legally possible. That is our priority and why our name is Get Max Tax .”

Ms. Roberts added that, some of the other larger impersonal companies charge outrageous fees to prepare your taxes. “At Get Max Tax our fee is generally much lower, plus we have the liberty to work with our customers, on an individual basis, on the cost of their tax preparation,”

she explained.

Ms. Roberts opened a Get Max Tax franchise location in Toledo because she felt it is needed because outside corporate companies come into our community and exploit us.

“We as African American people need to spend more of our dollars within our own community when possible. Most of the time we'll get better service, as well as, strengthen our own community at large,” she said.

Get Max Tax is a nationally minority-owned company that also offers franchise opportunities.

The local store is located in the Valero gas station plaza at Monroe St. and Auburn Ave. Hours of operation are Mon-Fri 10:00 am-7: 00 pm, Sat. 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm, and closed on Sunday. For more information call Get Max Tax at, 567-315-8220.



Black Women Have Gone Missing but Few Seem to Care

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

Victoria Shaw, a Black girl approximately 15 years old, went missing Monday, Feb. 11, in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Teandah Slater, Black and also only 15 years old, was reported missing on Thursday, Feb. 7, from Noble Square in

Chicago.

Areall Murchinson, a 16-year old Black girl, was last seen near the 200 block of West 111th Place, according to a community alert from Chicago police.

The three are the most recent to make the dubious and heart-breaking list of missing Black girls – particularly teens.

It's a list that's quite

long and there remains no update on their status.

Recently, the nonprofit Black & Missing Foundation compiled statistics from the FBI which noted that in 2016 alone, 242,295 individuals of color were reported missing in the United States.

A stunning 36.7 percent of those missing

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TPS administrators honored as “Women of Achievement”

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High School as the Director of Small Schools. During her first year as Director, she coordinated and implemented the plan for a smooth transition for her staff and students to a “swing space” while full \$42 million renovation of Scott High School took place.

Two notable moments in her career were hosting President Barack Obama’s visit to Jesup W. Scott High School on Labor Day 2012 and serving as the Centennial Principal of Scott High School, and working on the planning committee for the centennial celebration and related events. Ms. Jeffries has consistently devoted her time and effort to her community and school district.

Treva is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and her greatest joy is being the mother of Blake, Zachary and Antoinette.

Teresa Quinn has worked for TPS for 21 years and is the Principal at Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls and a member of the Intern Board of Review for Toledo Public Schools. Teresa earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education and an Associate degree in Fine Arts from Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio where she

graduated cum laude. She received her Master's in Education, Administration and Supervision from the University of Toledo and her Superintendent Licensure from the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio.

She began her career as a first grade teacher at Mt. Vernon Elementary School. She spent three years teaching then transitioned to Dean of Students at Spring Elementary, DeVaux Jr. High School and Waite High School, as well as Principal at Lincoln Academy for Boys and Interim Director of Pupil Personnel and Child Adjustment Services.

Teresa serves as Coordinator and Executive Committee member of Young Women of Excellence for Toledo Public Schools and as a Girl Scout Leader for Troop 15002. She remains dedicated and actively involved in her community with the Toledo Chapter of the Links and as Director of Education at Perfecting Church Toledo.

The Women of Achievement Breakfast will be held annually and recognize women in Toledo and surrounding areas who exemplify Achievement - the motto of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

Ongoing Events

Wild about Art at the Toledo Zoo: Call for Artists

Calling all artists! oo! Wild about Art is a two-day art fair taking place Saturday, August 3 and Sunday, August 4, 2019 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. both days. This unique show, set in the wild beauty of the number one zoo in the nation, features local and regional artists with various mediums on display for thousands of Zoo visitors! Artists may sign up by visiting toledozoo.org/wildaboutart to be directed to our online application through ZAPP©. Applications must be submitted on-line 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.

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.

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
Wednesday Feb. 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Location: Toledo Heights
Celebrate Black History Month with the fantastic sound of Ms. Karen Harris as she sings the classic Motown Hits!

Thursday Feb. 21 at 4:00 p.m.
Location: Locke
Elev8ted Productions presents “Dances from the Motherland.” Learn the meanings behind the movements and the fine art of African Dance.

Monday Feb. 25 at 5:00 p.m.
Location: King Road
Celebrate Black History Month with the fantastic sound of Ms. Karen Harris as she sings the classic Motown Hits!

Thursday Feb. 28 at 4:00 p.m.
Location: Sylvania
Elev8ted Productions presents "Dances from the Motherland." Learn the meanings behind the movements and the fine art of African Dance.

Wednesday Feb. 27 at 4:00 p.m.
Location: Locke

Never tasted Soul Food before? Here is your opportunity to sample some of Toledo's finest! J'Mae's will have the quintessential dish, baked Macaroni and Cheese, to sample at Locke Branch!

February 26, 2019
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.

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 Bashsheer 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.

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. 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 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.

February 21st
All African American Films to Screen at the University of Toledo

The first ever University of Toledo African American Film Festival (UT – AAFF) will be held at the University of Toledo's main campus. Screenings will take place Thursday, February 21st, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the UT Center for Performing Arts (CPA), 1910 West Rocket Drive, Toledo, Ohio. The inaugural event is co-sponsored by the UT Black Student Union, the UT Department of Theatre and Film and the UT Office of Multicultural Student Success. Admission is free and open to the UT community and beyond. Seating is limited in CPA 1039. Doors open at 7:20 p.m. Tickets or RSVP's are not required. Please contact Holly Hey, Head of Film, Department of Theatre and Film at holly.hey@utoledo.edu with questions.

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

TOLEDO, Ohio — 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

February 24, 2019
Jerusalem M.B. Church Black History Fellowship Dinner

Jerusalem M.B. Church, 445 Dorr St., Toledo, OH 43604, #3 Ushers Ministry will have a Black History Fellowship Dinner on 2-24-19 from 1pm-4pm held at the African American Legacy Building, 1326 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo, OH. Adults: \$12.00, children under 12 \$7.00. Call Diane Benton (419-705-0909) for tickets. Rev. Dr. Willie L. Perryman Jr., Pastor.

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 21st
Lake Erie Center Upcoming Event

Please join us on Thursday, February 21, 7:00 pm (LEC Room 155) for our next public lecture. This month we are featuring Matthew Shumar, Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative, Program Coordinator. He will give the talk titled, “It takes a village: Community-level solutions to wildlife conservation in an increasingly urban landscape”. We will also be awarding our photo contest awards at the start of this lecture.

This is an opportunity for students. This program is open to undergraduates at universities across the country. For more information or to apply, please visit: http://www.utoledo.edu/nsm/lec/REU/main.html.

February, 22th & February 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.

2/22/19, 6:00 PM Soul Food Potluck Theme: Preserving Our Heritage" Panel and discussion on institutionalized Discrimination. FREE.

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

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.

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What is "Blackness" you say...?



By Lafe Tolliver, Attorney

Presidential Democratic candidate Kamala Harris recently has been facing some social media flack revolving about and around her, "blackness" or allegedly, the lack thereof.

I daresay that such provocative attacks come from people who either oppose her politically or wish to gain a name for themselves if they can force Kamala Harris to stumble in answering a cultural/ethnic question that has the arms of an flailing octopus.

For those who are memory challenged, remember similar types of attacks came against Barack H. Obama regarding his, "blackness" as to being raised by white grandparents and who was born of a union of a white American woman and a man from Kenya.

Also, you need to understand that within the minority or black community there are those who are self-appointed "anointers of blackness" and whose commentary is the supposed gold standard as to what qualifies for getting and keeping your "black card."

The mental traps that black people must assiduously avoid is being tempted to malign our political candidates with badges of dishonor and lack of being credible, "In Da Struggle" because they may have a spouse of a different ethnic grouping or their jargon sounds a bit too "white" or they have political pronouncements that may seem sketchy and thus are not viewed as being of importance to the black community.

Gladly, there is no tried and true top twenty "black" questions, that if even graded on a curve, if you miss four or five, you are deemed racially suspect and thus unable to fully identify with, "Da Struggle."

I mean....listen. Frederick Douglass, an unassailable champion for the black



PHOTO CREDIT / WASHINGTON POST

Senator and Democratic Presidential Candidate Kamala Harris.

race, was married to a white woman. Who questions the street cred of the light skinned Black Panther, Angela Davis, who can spin philosophical loops around even the most learned debaters?

The famed pugilist, Jack Johnson, was known to cavort with white women and the early religious leader, Father Divine was married to a Caucasian.

Does anyone throw shadow at either the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., because of his pronounced and perfect use of the English language or that of the late Senator Barbara Jordan from Texas who was an oratorical genius?

One thing we do not need as black people is a litmus test to determine who is or who is not "black enough" to engage in the civil rights struggle.

If you do not own a dashiki, do not like the twisties hairstyle, prefer Bach to Miles Davis and would not be caught dead, in public or private, chowing down on chitlins or Hoppin John, you have nothing to apologize for.

"Our" tent has enough canvas to give everyone sustenance and cover as long as you reject racial foolishness and do not stab each other in the back.

Yes, even the much maligned Omarosa can find shelter in "Our" tent!

The only miscreants that need to be watched and checked are those who blatantly and intentionally cause havoc or a ruckus because their politics or social commentaries reveal a mindset or an attitude that denigrates people of color in order to benefit their handlers, white people who have a malignant agenda against us.

Yeah, we have stumble bums in "Our" tent along with those criminally minded who engage in black on black crime and those whose ambitions are not high minded but nonetheless, "Our" tent is still intact and our resolve is to keep it going in the right path and direction in spite of their distractions.

"Our" tent boasts of brilliant educators, politicians, musicians, architects, doctors, craftsmen and craftswomen, housewives, firemen, artisans, athletes, mechanics, pastors, inventors and others whose gifts and callings populate the sciences and the arts.

It includes those who see themselves as gate keepers of "Our" tent, but they too must give ample leeway for those who political persuasions are different but not harmful. Including those are people who choose to wear the "R" or the "D" and even the "I" political affiliation.

Yes, and it even encompasses those who prefer a vacation in Austria versus a safari in Botswana or attending an opera as opposed to sitting in a jazz club listening to the geniuses of a Sonny Rollins or a Art Tatum.

If we let cosmetic appearances and

personal taste cause division and duress within "Our" tent, it means that we have succumbed to the inane gibberish of political foxes and carnivores who mean us no good.

Regardless if your worship facility is a humble storefront that seats a maximum of twenty or a airy sanctuary in which five thousand can run the aisles with room to spare, it still remains, "Our" tent.

We need to protect and cherish "Our" tent as important, needful and which has a great recorded history initially embedded in the ancient bedrock of Africa.

"Our" common ancestors did not originate from the Scottish Highlands or from the plains of the Danube River or the steppes of Outer Mongolia or from the Canadian Rockies.

"Our" common ethnic denominator or ancestral homeland is Africa and the myriad of peopled hues, shades and shared experiences that we gifted to America when we were involuntarily transported to these United States.

So, the next time Kamala Harris is called on the carpet to defend the color of her marriage spouse or the originations of her parents or the style of her hair or her enjoying latkes instead of back eyed peas and cornbread, slowly pump your cultural brakes...pause and remember, she is in "Our" tent!

Lafe Tolliver, Attorney

The Toledo Journal

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All Events, announcements, obits, memorials, displays and classified ads, can be sent to:
toledo411@aol.com

Editor's Note:
The beliefs, opinions and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and participants do not necessarily reflect the beliefs, opinions and viewpoints of The Toledo Journal or official policies of this newspaper.

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OP-ED: Why the New York City Council Proposal to Ban Menthol Cigarettes is Wrong

By Major Neill Franklin (Ret.),
Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)

I dedicated 34 years of my life to public safety, enforcing the laws that our legislators placed before me. That's what cops do, and we trust that those laws are well thought out, studied and based upon sound data and evidence. Later in my career, I realized that this is not always the case, as some of our laws have little to do with sound evidence and are emotionally driven by feel-good politics. That's why I hung up my badge to advocate for sound public policy as the Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership.

Recently, the emotional tobacco

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Losing Your Driver's License to Debt: 43 States Allow Suspensions Due to Unpaid Court Debt



By Charlene Crowell
Wire Columnist

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Today, personal vehicles transport parents to work, take multiple family generations to school, access medical and/or business services, and more. With a car and a driver's license, consumers gain mobility to go about their daily lives in all of its multiple dimensions.

But what happens when that driver's license is revoked or suspended?

In 43 states and the District of Columbia, driver's licenses can be suspended because of unpaid court debt. In most locales, once a driver's license is suspended, it can retain that designation indefinitely. Only four states currently require an "ability-to-repay" or a "willfulness" determination. Otherwise, nonpayment of driver-related charges can lead to the loss of a driver's license for years.

That leaves consumers in 39 other states in a financial quagmire. Whether a license is suspended or revoked, the likelihood is that the driver will incur a range of fees that many consumers find unaffordable. Without a driver's license to reliably get to a job and its earnings the ability to repay assessed fees becomes nearly impossible.

The fees and fines that lead to the revocation of drivers' licenses strikes the hardest among consumers of color. In 2017, according to the Federal Reserve, Median family incomes by race and ethnicity reveal \$215,000 for Whites, \$35,000 for Latino families, and only \$14,400 for Black fam-

ilies. Further that same year the Fed found that nearly 1 in 5 Black families have zero or negative net worth — twice the rate of White families.

According to the Legal Aid Justice Center in Virginia, nearly a million people with a suspended license — 1 in 6 — could not pay their fines. If caught driving on a suspended Virginia license, consumers can be incarcerated for up to a year and also incur a \$2,500 fine. Those who are either late or short in paying traffic fines can have their driver's license suspended. The Commonwealth's courts and judges can take this action through the assistance of computers — not people, leaving many consumers unaware.

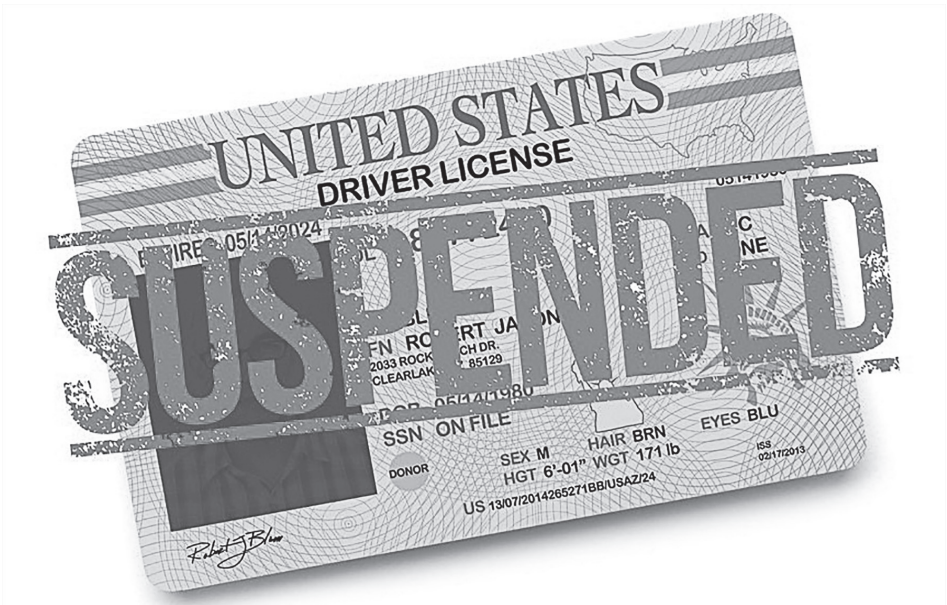
The State of Illinois offers another insightful example:

- Nearly 50,000 Illinois licenses are suspended each year because drivers cannot pay their tickets, fines, or fees — including non-moving violations that have nothing to do with driving; and

“*In 43 states and the District of Columbia, driver's licenses can be suspended because of unpaid court debt. In most locales, once a driver's license is suspended, it can retain that designation indefinitely.*”

- In Cook County, home to Chicago, people arrested for driving on a suspended license spend an average of 14 days incarcerated at a cost to taxpayers of \$5.5 million annually.

Fortunately, a growing number of organizations and consumer advocates are now dedicating resources to address this largely unreported trend. These advocates include but are not limited to: National Consumer Law Center's (NCLC) Racial Justice & Economic Opportunity Project, Harvard Law School's Criminal Justice Policy Program, the North Carolina Justice Center, California's Back on the Road Coalition, Southern Pov-



erty Law Center, and the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL). These advocates oppose these punitive policies and practices, particularly for the financial hardships imposed on the poor.

In North Carolina, the Second Chance Alliance has developed a change strategy that is largely based on the real-life experiences of people impacted by these injustices. Further, their strategy combines reforms directed to local courts as well as legislative initiatives. On 2017, according to the Alliance, over 1.1 million North Carolinians had their driver's licenses suspended indefinitely for failure to either appear in court or pay fines.

“Excessive fees and fines pose a fundamental challenge to a fair and effective criminal justice system,” said Larry Schwartz, executive director of Harvard Law's Criminal Justice Policy Program. “At their worst, these practices can lead to a two-tiered system of criminal justice, exposing indigent defendants to especially harsh outcomes.”

In A Pound of Flesh: Monetary Sanctions as a Punishment for the Poor, a book written by Dr. Alexes Harris, a professor of sociology at the University of Washington, over seven million Americans are either incarcerated, on probation, or on parole. Further, court-ordered monetary sanctions that compel criminal defendants to pay fines, fees, restitution or other court-imposed costs, bring more difficulty to those seeking to reenter society.

“Because they cannot be held fully accountable for their offending when they are unable to pay, the poor ex-

perience a permanent punishment,” wrote Dr. Harris in the book's preface. “Because they cannot be held fully accountable for their offending when they are unable to pay, the poor experience a permanent punishment. Nevertheless, non-elected court bureaucrats enforce this system and assess debtors' remorse for their crimes based on their own ideas about personal responsibility, meritocracy, and accountability.”

This trend of ‘punishing the poor’ gained additional momentum in the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis. With plummeting tax collections, many cities, counties and states sought ‘revenue enhancements’ to fund governments. The unfortunate result is that the same communities that were targeted for millions of unsustainable mortgages that led to foreclosures are now being financially hit again.

“Black and Brown communities already unjustly bear the disproportionate burden of inequities in our criminal justice system,” noted Lucia Mattox, CRL's Western States' Policy and Outreach Associate. “The suspension of drivers' licenses follows the same trend lines.”

“States and local governments have a critical role to play in reversing these trends and policies that unfairly trap people in debt cycles,” added Mattox. “Any entrenchment of racial inequalities denies freedom.”

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

Why the NYC Council Proposal to Ban Menthol Cigarettes is Wrong

continued from page 4

co topic has drawn my attention. As cigarette taxes soar, like those from California's Proposition 56 where taxes rose from 87 cents to \$2 per pack, so do black markets that fund criminal gangs and crews. Prior to the passing of Proposition 56, a third of California's cigarette sales came by way of the black market. Now with a \$2 per pack tax, that percentage will certainly increase and the localized banning of menthol-flavored cigarettes will help to drive this number even higher.

The raising of taxes and banning of menthol-flavored smokes begins

a very dangerous move to the days of alcohol prohibition, when it wasn't illegal to drink alcohol, but it was criminal to manufacture, transport and sell it. Driven underground, the alcohol industry fueled violent crime and corruption while making very little difference in the consumption of alcohol. As we begin to mirror the days of alcohol prohibition with tobacco bans, expect the violence and corruption that comes with the black market and add something else, the over criminalization of the black community.

Seventy-eight percent of the cigarettes consumed in the Black community are menthol-flavored. As the

selling of menthol products become prohibited within Black communities, do we honestly believe that people will stop smoking them? It doesn't take the brilliance of Albert Einstein to recognize the financial opportunity of smuggling in a new supply of menthol products from another state or country. The perfect smuggling model is already in place that of smuggling lower-taxed cigarettes.

Because of high cigarette taxes in New York City, smuggled cigarettes make up 58% of all cigarette sales and the New York City Sheriff's Office has created a special taskforce to fight the unwinnable battle of crushing this smuggling market. As the

black market expands in California, expect a similar enforcement action by California law enforcement. Their orders will be to arrest the smugglers and eliminate the black market. Will it be carried out in affluent California, or will war be waged in poor Black communities?

I was once on the front lines of a similar war where the Black community caught the brunt of enforcement. We know it as the failed war on drugs. Will this be a third attempt of the twice-failed public policy of prohibition, or will we defeat the harms of tobacco consumption with the proven methods of education and treatment? I vote for the latter.

NAACP President Derrick Johnson and political strategist Donna Brazile discuss “Where do we go from here”

By Lauren Poteat,
NNPA Washington Cor-
respondent

NAACP President and CEO, Derrick Johnson joins political strategist Donna Brazile, for “Where Do We Go from Here,” a discussion on the state and future of race in America held at the Howard University Interdisciplinary Building. Following the aftermath of President Donald Trump’s State of the Union address, NAACP President Derrick Johnson and Political Strategist Donna Brazile took part in a special “State of Black America” forum in search of the answer to, “Where do we go from here?”

Held at the Howard University Interdisciplinary Building, Johnson utilized the event as an opportunity to give his rebuttal to what some deemed a “contentious presidential address” and issued a call to action.

“It’s unfortunate that [Trump’s State of the Union speech] was a distraction from Stacey Abrahams’ ‘State of the Union,’ that served as a reality for African Americans who weren’t accepting the fact that the current president has been one of the best galvanizing forces to turn out the Black vote,” Johnson said.

Recalling the 2008 presidential elections and the nostalgia that it left behind, Johnson

went on to reference the wakeup call that all Americans were handed — post President Barack Obama — during the Trump era.

“If you remember in 2008, we celebrated what we thought was impossible,” Johnson continued. “Commentators then began to talk about a post-racial society, and here we are some 11 years later, recognizing that the occupant of the White House gives us a daily reminder of why we as a people must stick together and stay together.”

“What the president has done has opened up the eyes of so many people,” Johnson continued. “This nation has still not dealt with race and its appeal to the lowest common denominator of us as a community. We really need to take a step back and focus on what’s important, particularly in this era.”

Moderating the discussion, Donna Brazile gave reference to Trump’s statement that we as a nation “could choose greatness” but in doing so, would also need to choose his ide-

als and values.

Following this statement, Brazile posed the question to Johnson, “How would you, choose greatness for America in the 21st century?”

“Greatness in this country is when we ensure that we take care of our elderly people,” Johnson said. “That we prepare our young people so that they can have a brighter future. That we protect the rights of the disadvantaged, however we place the label. That is what makes a healthy society. That is what makes us great.”

“We need to strengthen free public education, so that in the global economy, our children won’t get left behind. We need to examine the issue of healthcare and how many individuals are using a substantial amount of their income on healthcare, and we need to be a nation that is of one nation and not allow for individuals to divide us.”

Closing out the session, focused on the NAACP, Donna Brazile proudly posed the timely question: “What role do women still play within the NAACP organization?”

“Women have a huge role,” Johnson said. “Women, just like the church, make up the backbone of the organization. We’ve had six Black female presidents before consolidating titles and roles, so perhaps it’s time now [that] we have a first female President and CEO.”

In support of the “State of Black America” discussion, Howard University President Wayne A.I. Frederick also gave remarks during the meeting.

“This is a very interesting time in our nation’s history,” HU’s

Johnson said. “And the event tonight, continuing Black History Month ‘Where Do We Go from Here,’ is a very appropriate topic.”

“I recently did an interview for CNN,” he continued, “and one of the things that I pointed out to them was that I don’t believe there is a monolithic ‘Black Vote.’ “If these people came on my campus and polled all of the students on a variety of topics, they would get a variety of opinions... That is an example of why discussions such as these are so important. We need a clear idea as to where we are and where we should be going.”



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Derrick Johnson, NAACP president, left and Donna Brazile, right during the discussion.



GenoaBank announces new stock price

Submitted

GENOA, Ohio — GenBank, Inc., the holding company for GenoaBank, has announced that the new GenBank, Inc. stock valuation as of January 31, 2019 increased from the current market fair

price of \$43.25 to the new price of \$46.80. This is an 8.20% increase in stock value.

“GenoaBank continues to demonstrate solid financial performance due in large part to an effective partnership with our customers, employees and shareholders,” stated Martin P. Sutter,

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of GenoaBank. “Due to the commitment of our entire team, GenoaBank continues to grow and prosper and is able to reward our dedicated and loyal shareholders.”

About GenoaBank

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Four tips to get your heart in good health



PHOTO CREDIT / AGUNG PANDIT WIGUNA | Pexels.com

By Dallas Post Tribune Staff

About 610,000 people die of heart disease in the United States every year. But that doesn't have to be your fate.

Some risk factors like your family history, sex or age you can't control. But there are some lifestyle changes you can make to decrease your risk.

Keep reading for four heart disease prevention tips to get you started.

1. Start moving!

Just getting 30 minutes of exercise each day can reduce your risk of heart disease. Physical activity can help strengthen your heart which is helpful in preventing high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes.

Don't let the idea of exercising scare you. It can really be as easy as walking. Try taking a 30-minute brisk walk most days of the week. Consider getting a pedometer and make a goal of 10,000 steps per day.

If these goals are tough for you, don't give up. Even breaking the workout into smaller chunks can offer heart benefits. Take 10-minute walks during your lunch break or do

jumping jacks during commercial breaks while you're watching television.

2. Cut out smoking

Smoking is the number one cause of preventable disease and death. Heart disease is no exception. Smoking or using tobacco of any kind is one of the most significant risk factors for developing heart disease.

Smoking damages the lining of your arteries, leading to a buildup of fatty material (atheroma) which narrows the artery. This can cause a heart attack or a stroke.

Carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke replaces some of the oxygen in your blood. This forces your heart to work even harder to supply enough oxygen.

No amount of smoking is safe. But, the more you smoke, the greater your risk. So decreasing the amount that you smoke can help improve your heart health. Remember, even smokeless tobacco, low-nicotine cigarettes, and secondhand smoke can be risky. Eliminating smoking and tobacco products from your life is your safest bet.

Your risk of heart disease significantly reduces one year after

quitting smoking. Your risk of coronary heart disease drops almost to that of a nonsmoker in about 15 years.

3. Eat for your heart

Paying attention to what you put in your body plays a large role in preventing heart disease. Eating heart-healthy foods don't have to be too restrictive, small choices can amount to a healthier lifestyle.

Use smaller plates when preparing your meals. This is a small tip that will prevent you from overloading your plate and filling up on unhealthy items. Eat larger portions of low-calorie, nutrient-rich food like vegetables.

A diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains can help protect your heart. These foods are usually low in calories and rich in nutrients. This all works to give you better cardiovascular health overall.

4. Know your Numbers

When it comes to your cardiovascular health, there are a few important numbers that you should know. Those numbers are your blood pressure, cholesterol and A1C (diabetes) levels.

Regular screening can tell you what your numbers are. This will

help you know when you need to take action to decrease your risk. Here's why those numbers are important.

Blood pressure. Aim to have your blood pressure checked at least once every two years. High blood pressure is a risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

If you're age 40 or older, or have a high risk of high blood pressure, get your blood pressure reading every year. Optimal blood

pressure is less than 120/80 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg).

Cholesterol levels. Your body naturally builds up from your liver. But when there is too much cholesterol, it builds up in the walls of your arteries, causing a form of heart disease. You should have your cholesterol measured at least once every five years starting at age 18.

Diabetes screening. Since diabetes is a

risk factor for developing heart disease, you may want to consider being screened for diabetes. Visit your doctor to have a fasting blood sugar test or hemoglobin A1C test to check for diabetes. If you don't have any specific risk factors for type 2 diabetes, the American Diabetes Association recommends starting screening at age 45, and then retesting every three years.

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Reduction in the number of days between issuances for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

TOLEDO, OH. — As a result of the February Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits being issued early in January for recipients, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is adjusting the issuance of March benefits.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has confirmed that it will provide full funding of SNAP benefits

through March 2019 even if a second shutdown occurs.

February benefits were distributed early to SNAP recipients due to the government shutdown in January. In many cases SNAP recipients in Lucas County and Ohio were issued their food assistance benefits on their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card on January 16.

For March, eligible SNAP families will re-

ceive half of their March benefits on February 22, 2019. The remainder of their benefits will be made available on their EBT cards on the normal March issuance date. The two-stage installment is designed to mitigate the impact on SNAP recipients by lessening the number of days between the early issuance of February benefits in January and the upcoming March issuance.

Desegregating blood: A civil rights struggle to remember

THE CONVERSATION
By Thomas A Guglielmo
Associate Professor of American Studies, George Washington University

In December 1941, a few days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entry into World War II, a Detroit mother named Sylvia Tucker visited her local Red Cross donor center to give blood.

Having heard the "soul-stirring" appeals for blood donors on her radio, she was determined to do her part. but when she arrived at the center, the supervisor turned her away. "Orders from the National Offices," he explained, "barred Negro blood donors at this time."

"Shocked" and "grieved," Tucker left in tears, later penning a letter of protest about the whole ordeal to first lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Today, this discriminatory blood program and African-Americans' determined opposition to it are long forgotten, despite the fact that a few scholars, including Spencie Love, Susan E. Lederer, Sarah E. Chinn, and myself, have explored the topic.

This history is worth remembering. It provides an antidote to facile, feel-good stories about the "Good War," stories that scholars such as Michael C. C. Adams and Kenneth D. Rose having long refuted but that live on in museum exhibits, blockbuster films, best-selling books and war memorials.

The story of how blood got desegregated also reminds Americans that, as novelist Ralph Ellison wrote nearly a half-century ago, "The black American...puts pressure upon the nation to live up to its ideals."

Historian Robin D.G. Keley puts it more broadly: "The marginal and excluded have done the most to make democracy work in America."

In an age of resurgent racism, Ellison's and Kelley's words are especially important and timely.

'A tremendous thing'

The Red Cross Blood Donor Program began in early 1941 - and went on to collect blood from millions of Americans that the military shipped to soldiers fighting overseas.

"If I could reach all America," asserted General Dwight D. Eisenhower at the end of the war, "there is one thing I would like to do - thank them for blood plasma and whole blood. It has been a tremendous thing."

Tremendous indeed: The blood program saved many lives. But it also initially excluded African-American donors like Sylvia Tucker. When it did accept them, in



January 1942, it did so on a segregated basis.

Never mind that scientists saw no relationship between race and blood and that one of the world's leading authorities on blood banking at the time, and the director of the Red Cross's pilot blood program, was an African-American scientist named Dr. Charles Drew. Never mind that Nazi Germany had its own Aryan-only blood policy or that America's principal rhetorical war aims concerned democracy and freedom.

To what extent military commanders segregated blood in the field was, during the war and afterwards, a matter of some debate. Officially, at least, the distinction between bloods remained in place for years. It was not until 1950 that the Red Cross stopped requiring the segregation of so-called Negro blood. And it was not until the late 1960s and early 1970s that Southern states such as Arkansas and Louisiana overturned similar requirements.

A forgotten civil rights struggle

In one internal memorandum, the Red Cross called its donor program democratic, since "the point of view of the majority..." -which its leaders assumed demanded blood segregation - "must be taken into account in a democracy."

But many blacks and their allies had a very different idea about democracy, one that required all citizens be treated equally and without regard to race. They fought tirelessly throughout the war years to make that idea a reality, not simply in the military, in the workplace and in Hollywood films but also in the blood program.

These many battles constituted a nascent, surging, and, today, too-often-overlooked civil rights struggle that helped pave the way for the more famous movement of the postwar years.


Nearly all the major civil rights organizations of the day, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the March on Washington Movement and even the upstart Committee (later, Congress) of Racial Equality, made changing blood policy a top priority. One statement from a group of the nation's most prominent black leaders put it this way.

"In justice to what we know to be the practically unanimous sentiment among Negroes in America, we affirm the need for alteration of the segregated blood plasma policy."

Continued on page 10

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Sarah Rector, 11, became the richest girl in America in 1913

Submitted

Sarah Rector was born in 1902 in Taft, Oklahoma. She came from very humble beginnings, but later became the wealthiest Black girl in the country at the young age of 11. Her family were African American members of the Muscogee Creek Nation in Indian Territory.

Her grandparents had been enslaved by Creek Tribe members, but after the Civil War, they were entitled to land allotments under the Dawes Allotment Act of 1887. When Indian territory integrated with Oklahoma territory to form the state of Oklahoma in 1907, hundreds of Black children referred to back then as “Creek Freedmen minors,” were each granted 160 acres of land.

Rector's allotment was located in the middle of the Glenn Pool oil field and was initially valued at about \$550. In 1911, her father decided to lease his daughter's piece of land to a major oil company to help pay for the property taxes. And then in 1913, everything changed.

According to Searching for Sarah Rector: The Richest Black Girl in America by Tonya Bolden, an independent driller



struck oil that started bringing in 2,500 barrels or 105,000 gallons per day. Rector, still being the owner of the land, began earning more than \$300 a day (the equivalent of about \$7,500 a day in our time).

Suddenly, she began getting a lot of national attention from newspapers all over the country. For example, The Kansas City Star published the headline, “Millions to a Negro Girl – Sarah Rector, 10-Year Old, Has Income of \$300 A Day From Oil.” Meanwhile, another newspaper, The Savannah Tribune, published the headline, “Oil Well Produces Neat Income – Negro Girl's \$112,000 A Year.”

Rector quickly became famous and naturally started

receiving all kinds of request for loans, donations, and even marriage proposals.

Sadly though, there was a law at the time that required wealthy Native Americans and African Americans who were citizens of Indian Territory to be assigned a “well-respected” white guardian. As a result, Rector's guardianship was turned over to a white man named T.J. Porter.

But reportedly W.E.B. Du Bois and the NAACP got involved to protect her wealth and well-being, and were able to successfully do so. She later went on to own one of the first Black-owned auto dealerships in the country, and reportedly enjoyed her wealth until the day she died!



California Was Named After Black Queen Calafia

Submitted

Many people regard California as a land of golden opportunity, where people go to make dreams come true in the fields of entertainment, technology, agriculture, and industry. However, many Californians would probably be surprised to know that their home state was named after a strong and self-sufficient Black queen named Calafia (sometimes spelled Califia) who ruled over a golden island in Muslim mythology.

Amazonian Archetypes

There are many stories, from many different cultures, about isolated communities made up entirely of women who live in a matriarchal society and often banish or kill men who attempt to infiltrate their civilization.

One such story in the Muslim tradition is about a legendary is-

land inhabited by fantastic beasts and populated entirely by women. The ruler of this island is Queen Calafia, whose name derives from Khalif, an Arabic word for “ruler.”

Spanish Influence

A specific group of North African Muslims called Moors invaded Spain in 757 and ruled until 1492. They must have brought their legends with them because in the 1500's, a Spanish author named Montalvo published a romance novel which told a story about an island near Eden ruled by women who crafted tools and weapons of gold because there was no other metal available and fed men and boys to their hungry griffins.

Spanish explorers were familiar with these stories, and when they discovered the Mexican peninsula of Baja California, they named it after the mythical island and its legendary Black queen.



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Desegregating blood:
a civil rights struggle

Continued from page 8

Black newspapers, enormously popular and important at time, also protested blood segregation and exclusion, regularly featuring front-page stories, boldface headlines and blistering editorials on the subject..

In January 1942, for example, the African-American weekly the Cleveland Call and Post published an "editorial in rhyme":

"The cross of Red, that burned so bright

In fire, storm and flood

Is now the crooked Nazi sign

That spurns a Negro blood!"

Wide-ranging activists.

The most widespread form of protest, however, came from thousands of ordinary African-Americans who refused to donate blood and money to the Red Cross.

While roughly 10 percent of the U.S. population at the time, blacks made up less than 1 percent of all blood donors.

African-Americans contributed generously to the Treasury Department's Defense Bonds: It is not a lack of patriotism that explains their halfhearted response to blood drives. The reason was a determined opposition to race-based exclusion and segregation.

Expressing these feelings best was a high school student



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Dr. Charles Drew, one of the world's leading authorities on blood banking became the director of the Red Cross's pilot blood program

Activism on this issue extended well beyond these traditional places.

Labor unions, Christian and Jewish groups, local interracial committees, scientific organizations and the New Jersey State Legislature al spoke out against blood segregation.

The Communist Party of Cuyahoga County in Ohio held a rally of 3,500 people, condemning blood policy as "Barbarian Hitlerism."

An interracial group of precocious junior high schoolers at Harlem's Public School 43 tested (with the help of their science teachers) the blood of a black student and of a white student. Finding no difference , they wrote an article in the school paper, made and distributed hundreds of posters, and held a public meeting - all in opposition to the Rerd Cross policy.

The most widespread form of protest, however, came from thousands of ordinary African-Americans who refused to donate blood and money to the Red Cross.

from Cleveland named Geraldynes Ghesse. Her poem appeared in the local black newspaper:

*Had I wealth, I'd burn it all;
Not one cent for the Red Cross call.*

Our money is good...our blood is bad.

But, still that shouldn't make us mad.

Are they afraid they'll all turn black?

Is that why our blood they lack?

Their skins are white as snow... it's well.

Their souls are tarnished, black as hell.

In the end, this wide-ranging activism may have failed to democratize the blood program fully - at least during the war.

But African-Americans did - in the end - force the Red Cross to include them as donors.

Full-fledged integration, which took a few more years, owed everything to their work.

Editor's note: this is an updated version of a story originally published Feb. 12, 2015.

Black Women Have Gone
Missing but Few Seem to Care

Continued from page 2

were Black teens under the age of 18.

In total, statistics show more than 75,000 young Black Americans are currently missing.

What's more, officials at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline said they've received more than 18.4 million reports, most of which led to apparent child sexual abuse images: online enticement (including "sextortion"), child sex trafficking and child sexual molestation.

Those statistics, and the seeming lack of media interest, have led to cries of racism and neglect, particularly when it comes to Black girls.

It has also led La'Tasha D. Mayes to pen the essay, "Why the Crisis of Missing Black Girls Needs More Attention Than It's Getting." Mayes' March 2017 essay was published at Ebony.com where she noted that an academic study analyzed news coverage of missing children and found that only 20 percent of reported stories focused on missing Black children. This, despite the fact that Black children account for 33 percent of total missing children cases.

"In other words, missing Black youth are grossly underreported in the news. For missing girls, it's even worse. When Black girls go missing, far too many people don't know or don't care," Mayes wrote.

Many argue that the stories of young Black girls and women who are missing don't get the same degree of local, national and global attention as that of an Elizabeth Smart or Natalee Holloway.

Smart, a 14-year-old white girl, was kidnapped in 2002 from her home in Salt Lake City, Utah. After an intense search that included relentless media coverage, Smart was rescued by police nine months later and, among other activities, she's become an analyst for ABC

News.

Holloway disappeared in 2005 while on a high school graduation trip in Aruba.

The white Alabama teen's story drew global media coverage and, although her remains were never found, she was declared dead in 2010.

Many maintain that African Americans aren't afforded the intense police investigations or the media coverage given to whites that go missing.

"Black girls are magical and should be noticed, uplifted and acknowledged, both within and outside of the Black community," said Ginger Lavender Wilkerson, a licensed marriage and family therapist in Los Angeles.

"To recognize Black girls as magical means defining them as precious, unique and valued. When society recognizes their worth and value, I believe that more attention will be paid to this matter. In addition, it will call for all people to recognize this as an epidemic and cause for action," Wilkerson said.

Child Rights activist Kat-erina Canyon said she's been researching cases of missing Black girls for years and there are several unknowns, including that many go missing without any witnesses. "This leads me to believe that the kidnappers are either very good at what they're doing, or the girls left on their own," Canyon said.

"We need to make sure black girls have readily accessible help from adults in a safe environment such that they do not fall victim to homelessness or trafficking. A lot of times, with the proper interventions, we can prevent black girls from leaving home or falling prey to traffickers," she said.

The mystery of the disappearances also has heightened since 2016 when Donald Trump won the presidency and the subsequent rise in nationalism and white supremacy.

Some of the disappear-

ances have proven more suspicious than others.

A recent report highlighted the case of Amber Evans, who disappeared in 2015.

Evans had been a key player and driving force behind state and local juvenile justice reform in Ohio — work for which she'd been rewarded when the organization she worked for, the Juvenile Justice Coalition, put her in charge.

In a Facebook post on her first day as executive director, Evans, 28, displayed her track and field medals.

"Ohio is for champions and I used to be something of a track star," Evans wrote.

"Wearing my old medals before starting day 1 as executive director of the Juvenile Justice Coalition was a nice reminder of that."

Three weeks later, Evans disappeared.

Her car was found, purse in the trunk, her last known whereabouts, a stop at the pharmacy. Her last known words, a text to her mother saying, "I love you and I'm sorry."

"There never seemed to be a sense of urgency for our missing African American girls," said Nashima Harvey, an educator and founder of Girls of Decision, a youth empowerment group that seeks to assist girls in making better choices in all stages of their lives.

"The sad thing that I have encountered has been that many of the young girls I have interacted with on my journey are young women who were former human trafficked young ladies," Harvey said.

"These women went missing at the ages of 12 to 14 and are now adults living in toxic situations looking for a better life and all seemed to feel no longer welcomed by their family. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with this population, but I do believe that we need to be diligent and outspoken when it comes to saving our girls," she said.

Slavery: The Economic
Engine of the New Nation

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Contributor
@StacyBrownMedia

"And America, too, is a delusion, the grandest one of all. The white race believes — believes with all its heart — that it is their right to take the land. To kill. Make war. Enslave their brothers. This nation shouldn't exist, if there is any justice in the world, for its foundations are murder, theft, and cruelty. Yet here we are." — Colson Whitehead, The Underground Railroad

Once they reached the Americas, enslaved Africans were sold to the highest

bidder at slave auctions and, once they had been purchased, slaves worked for nothing on plantations without any rights at all.

Often punished harshly, some slaves committed suicide, according to historians and pregnant women — many impregnated by their white slave masters — preferred abortion.

The historic accounts of the transatlantic slave trade, only worsen as they're told.

From the earliest stages of the transatlantic slave trade 500 years ago and

Continued on page 11

Slavery: The Economic Engine of the New Nation



Continued from page 10

throughout that most ignominious period, many enslaved Africans tried to reduce the pace of their work by pretending to be ill, causing fires and by breaking tools, according to historians.

Though few were able to escape, most who attempted to flee were caught and beaten and some even murdered.

“Slavery is one of the foundational pillars of American society, propping up the nation starting in the earliest days of the Republic and touching the lives of everyone in America,” said Hasan Jeffries, a history professor at Ohio State University.

“And, its legacy has been long lasting,” said Jeffries who specializes in African American history and contemporary black history, which includes the institution of slavery and its effect on African Americans in the United States from the founding era through the Civil Rights movement and today.

“The deeply rooted belief in white supremacy that justified slavery survived its abolition in 1865 and undergird the new systems of African American labor exploitation and social control, namely Jim Crow, that sought to replace what had been lost as a result of emancipation,” Jeffries continued.

“Slavery may have ended in 1865, but a slaveholder mentality persisted, shaping the contours of American life for decades to come. This legacy of slavery is very much what African Americans have been fighting against from the moment of emancipation through the present.”

James Madison’s Montpelier, the home of the Father of the Constitution, an institution that examines slavery during the Founding Era and its impact today, re-

cently commissioned a study that examined how Americans perceive their Constitutional rights.

Research found that African Americans (65 percent) are less likely than whites (82 percent) to believe that their Constitutional rights are regularly upheld and respected.

The study also revealed that African Americans (62 percent) are more likely than whites (36 percent) to believe that civil rights is the most important Constitutional issue to the nation; findings that make it clear that race continues to play a major role in determining how Americans perceive Constitutional rights.

“Enslaved people were considered property during the Founding

Era, therefore the Constitution’s declarations of ‘we the people’ and ‘justice’ excluded them, protecting one of the most oppressive institutions in history,” said Kat Imhoff, president and CEO of James Madison’s Montpelier.

“While the words ‘slave’ and, or, ‘slavery’ are never mentioned in the Constitution, they are referenced and codified in a variety of ways throughout the document,” Imhoff said.

“The founders compromised morality – many were recorded as being opposed to slavery, but on the other hand many were not – and power – in some cases, states bowed to slaveholding counterparts to ensure the Constitution would be ratified in the name of

economics,” she said.

Imhoff continued: “Slavery, when all was said and done, was incredibly profitable for white Americans – and not just in the South. It was the economic engine of the new nation. While Madison and his ideas remain powerful and relevant, they also stand in stark contrast to the captivity and abuse of Madison’s own slaves. At Montpelier, on the very grounds where Madison conceived ideas of rights and freedom, there lived hundreds of people whose freedom he denied.”

Indeed, Madison’s story is one of the first in

the continuing journey of Americans who struggled to throw off bonds of oppression and exercise the fullness of what it means to be free, Imhoff added.

Working at James Madison’s Montpelier provides Imhoff and others a view of race and slavery’s legacy through the eyes of those who descended directly from the enslaved individuals who lived at Montpelier and other estates in the nearby Virginia area.

“As a leader of this cultural institution engaged in the interpretation of slavery, I believe to truly move forward, it is essential to engage the

descendants to help us interpret slavery in real terms and illuminate their ancestors’ stories,” Imhoff said.

“Our country continues to grapple with the effects of slavery. Some of us feel it in deeply personal ways. Others only know of it historically or academically, as part of the distant, long-ago past.

“These differences make it all the more important to engage in worthwhile discussions with each other. We must have a more holistic conversation about freedom, equality and justice, and ensure we are inclusive of those people who it affects most readily.”

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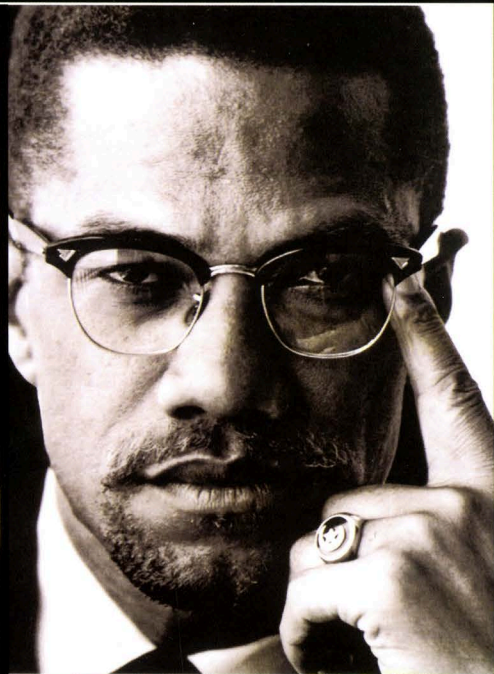
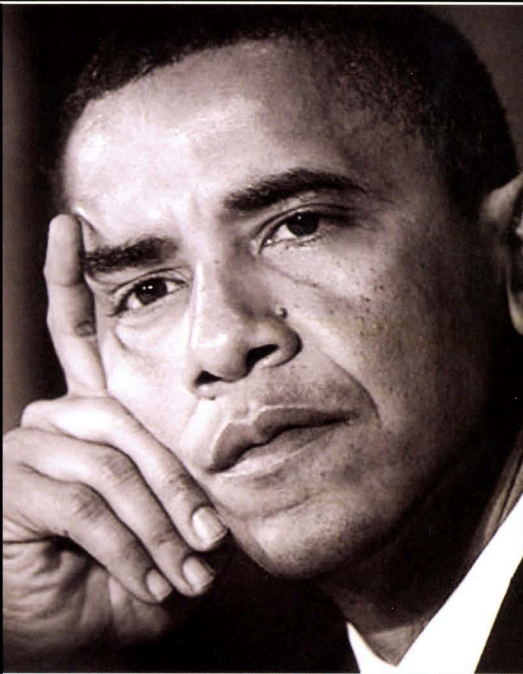
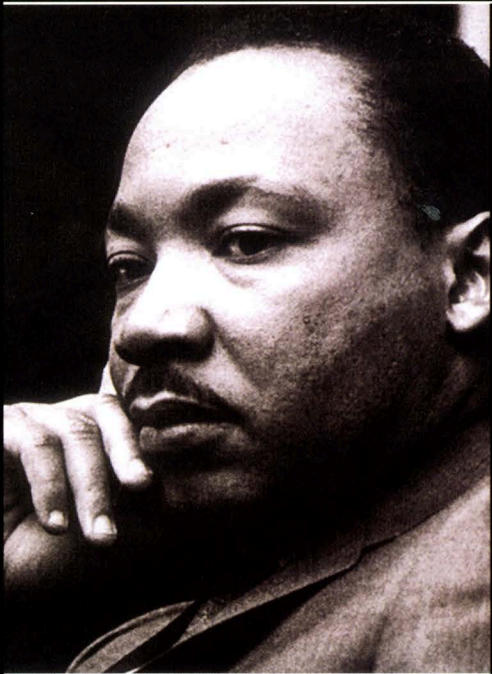


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Thinker

P E A C E

P O W E R

R E S P E C T

COMMENTARY: President Trump: Destroying the American idea

Submitted
By Pastor Rasheed Baaith

“Therefore thus saith the LORD: Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbor: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the LORD, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.” (Jeremiah 34:17)

By Rasheed Z. Baaith
While it has not been surprising, it has been

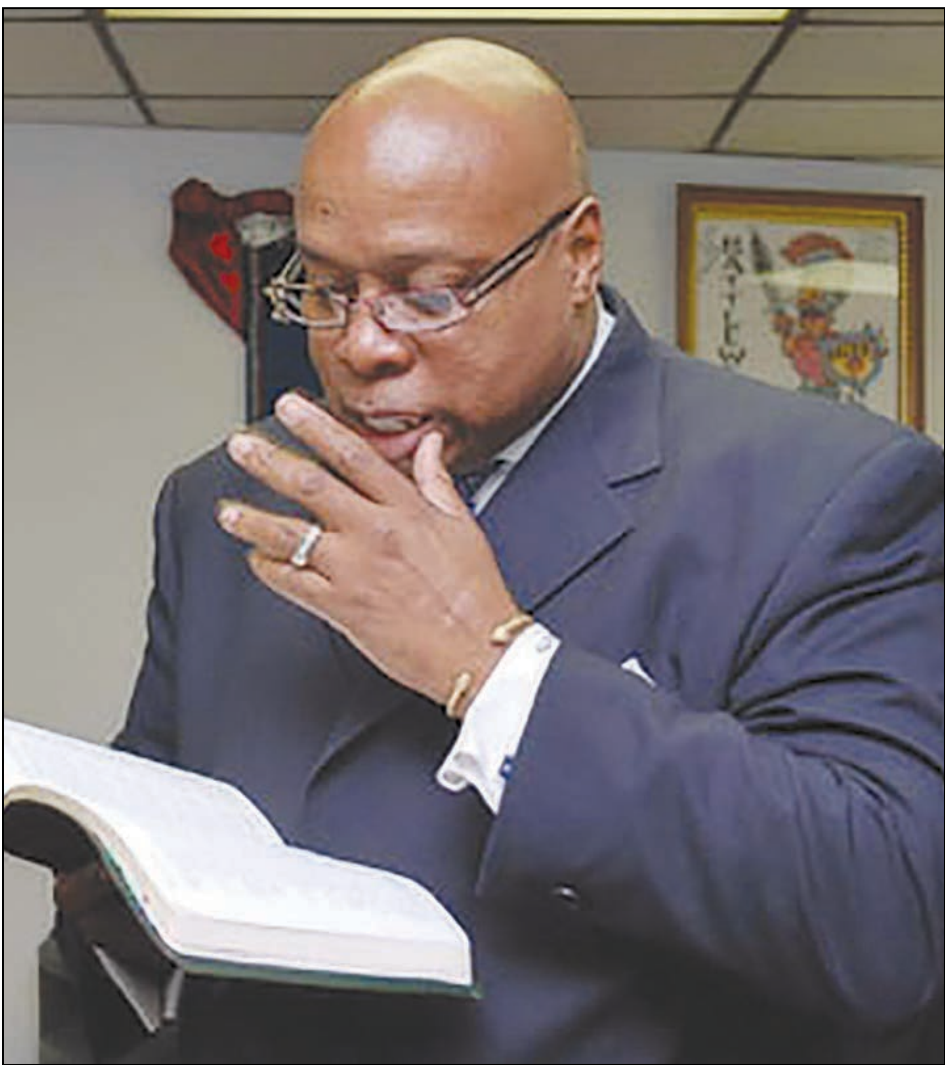
interesting to watch President Trump do all that he can to destroy the dream of America’s Founding Fathers. At least destroy it for those who do not look like, behave like or think like him. He does not want his supporters to just label those unlike them. He wants his supporters to hate them. He believes the foundation for your political activism should be the deepness of your hate for someone.

His core supporters, like him, have decided to close off America both from within and

without. They have decided to make this happen employing the political process and unleashing as much verbal hatred as they can. Faces contorted with anger, voices raised as loud as possible, and fists punching the air, they believe they are making America great.

It is clear that it does not matter how many people are assassinated, how many buildings are invaded by some deranged person who believes he is doing the will of the President or how many letter bombs are put into our mail delivery system. He has shown the ranting and lies will continue. Simply put, President Trump does not care what he looks and sounds like. Nor do those who imitate what he says and behave as he does. There is on his behalf, a complete aversion to decency and veracity.

President Trump has made it undeniably clear he does not represent all American people nor does he want to. He is not interested in broadening his political base, or closing political divides. Neither does he want to unify America. His goal to govern through a policy of “them vs. us.” All who are considered “them” in the minds of President Trump and



his supporters, deserve as much odious vilification as his lips can utter.

We are living in a very dangerous time. People believe it is within their right to question the legitimacy of Black people to shop, eat dinner in public, lease an apartment, wait for tow trucks or enjoy a park. Let alone be in the environment of good col-

lege. Even our children are not excluded from this race based behavior.

It is not just the depiction of a caravan of desperate people as “invaders” or his refusal to even mention the Black people shot down in Kentucky, which happened the same week as the mail bombs and the Synagogue murders that should scare

us.

What should scare is how welcome many Americans are of accepting the vision of an intellectually diminutive man whose vision is like that of a kindergarten. He only sees in colors.

Be Sociable, Share!
This article originally appeared in The West-side Gazette.

“Najaboo”

Naja C. Pickett

September 8, 2005-
February 20, 2010



*Sista, I love and miss u soooooo much.
Daddy Nashid said, “Don’t forget to
brush your teeth”
And memba when you would say to
our Memom, “Whatever Grandmom”*



Nadia (twin)

*We thank God for you
We love-n- miss you
You’re one of God’s angel
of love. Now present with
God above singing your favorite song;
“Jesus, how I love calling your name”*

*Siblings; Nadia, Nashaela, Brandon, Deanna,
Elijah, Ja’Niaha, Naya, Isaiah, Shawn,
Mikey, Desiree, family, friends, Children
Angelic Choir, & Church Family*



C. Brian Brown

ASK YOUR FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*A word from C. BROWN and
C. BRIAN BROWN DIRECTORS*

What recourse does a consumer have for poor service or overcharging?

While most funeral homes provide outstanding services, sometimes things can go wrong. Funeral service is regulated by the Federal Trade Commission and state licensing boards. In most cases, the consumer should discuss problems with the funeral director first. If the dispute cannot be solved by talking with the funeral director, the consumer may wish to contact the FTC by contacting the Consumer Response Center by phone, toll-free, at 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357); TDD: 1-866-653-4261; by mail: Consumer Response Center, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580; or on the Internet at www.ftc.gov, using the online complaint form. You may also choose to contact the local Better Business Bureau, or your state consumer protection office.

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P.O. Box 12559, Toledo, Ohio 43606
c/o Ask Your Funeral Directors

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Toledo Library Hosts Writing Contest for Local Students

Submitted

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is hosting the annual Writing Contest, with this year's theme: “A Day with My #BFF (Book Friend Forever)! Students can spend the day with their “BFF” by choosing a character and exploring their world or bringing that character into the student’s world.

Hogwarts, Wakanda, Wonderland - the only limit to this year’s writing contest is imagination!

Guidelines:

-The story must be an original work, which comes solely from student’s imagination

-Story should include three parts – a beginning, middle, and end
- 500 word maximum

- Hand written or typed entry accepted

- Winners must have parent/guardian permission to receive prizes

Grade Categories:

K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

1st Place: \$150

2nd Place: \$100

3rd Place: \$25

4 Honorable Mentions: \$25

Prizes will be awarded in each grade category from all entries. Stories must be turned in by Saturday, March 23, 2019. No entries will be accepted after March 23.

The winners names are searchable as authors in the Library catalog.

To enter stop by any library location or visit: toledolibrary.org/writing-contest.

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communications with
staff, members of the
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nors, funding entities,
and others. The position
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LUCAS COUNTY
ENGINEER
PERMITS
MANAGER

Lucas County Engineer,
is accepting applica-
tions to fill the **Permits
Manager** position. Ap-
plication deadline is
March 15, 2019 at 4:30
pm. Additional informa-
tion regarding the duties
is available on the
Lucas County web site
(www.co.lucas.oh.us).
Click on "Apply for a
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the list to read more or
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NATURAL RESOURCES
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Metroparks Toledo has openings for seasonal Natu-
ral Resources Conservation Assistants. Must be 18
or older with high school diploma or equivalent and
valid driver's license. \$11.00/hr. Some training or
coursework in environmental sciences or natural
resources management preferred. Some outdoor
work experience with natural systems, forestry or
horticulture preferred. Go to [http://
www.MetroparksToledo.com](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) to view detailed posi-
tion description and job requirements. Must apply
online. EOE

LEAD NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo has openings for Lead Natural
Resources Conservation Assistant. Must be 18 or
older with high school diploma or equivalent and
valid driver's license. \$12.25/hr. Up to 40 hours per
week. Some training or coursework in environmen-
tal sciences or natural resources management re-
quired. Some outdoor work experience with natu-
ral systems, forestry or horticulture required. Go
to <http://www.MetroparksToledo.com> to view de-
tailed position descriptions and job requirements.
Must apply online. EOE

HELP WANTED

GROUPS MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo has a great opportunity for you
to join our team! We currently have openings for
seasonal maintenance staff. If you are going to
work, why not do it in the beautiful outdoors. Must
be 18 or older with high school diploma or equiva-
lent and valid driver's license. Graduating high
school seniors may apply if 18 years of age or older.
\$9.00/hr. Duties include cleaning and facility and
grounds maintenance. Employment varies through
December based on need. Must enjoy working
outdoors and be able to learn to use power tools
and equipment. Go to [http://
www.MetroparksToledo.com](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) to view the job de-
scription, position requirements and apply online.
EOE

BLACK HISTORY FACTS

February 24, 1864: Rebecca Lee Crumpler be-
comes the first black woman to receive an M.D. de-
gree. Graduating from the New England Female
Medical College.

February 22, 1911: Activist and social reformer
Francis Ellen Watkins Harper dies.

February 26, 1926: Carter G. Woodson started Ne-
gro History Week. This week would later become
Black History Month.

February 21, 1956: Dr. King is indicted with other
figures in the Montgomery bus boycott on the charge
of being party to a conspiracy to hinder and prevent
the operation of business without "just or legal
cause."

February 21, 1965: Malcom X, leader of the Orga-
nization of Afro-American Unity and former Black
Muslim leader, assassinated in New York City.

February 23, 1966: Dr. King meets with Elijah
Muhammad, leader of the Black Muslims, in Chi-
cago.

February 25, 1978: Daniel James, first African-
American four-star

February 20, 1991: Eight Grammy's were won by
African Americans.

February 21, 1992: Eva Jessye choral director for
the first Broadway production of Porgy and Bess dies.

NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, EASTERN DIVISION

In re: Chapter 11, Case No. 18-50757 (AMK)
FIRSTENERGY SOLUTIONS CORP., et al.,¹ (Jointly Administrated)
Debtors. Hon. Judge Alan M. Koschik

NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE STATEMENT HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. On February 11, 2019, the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") filed the *Disclosure Statement for the Joint Plan of Reorganization of FirstEnergy Solutions Corp., et al., Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* (as may be amended, modified or supplemented, the "Disclosure Statement") [Docket No. 2119] with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio (the "Court"). The Debtors submitted the Disclosure Statement pursuant to section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code for use in the solicitation of votes on the *Joint Plan of Reorganization of FirstEnergy Solutions Corp., et al., Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* [Docket No. 2120] (as modified, amended or supplemented from time to time, the "Plan").² The Debtors reserve the right to amend, supplement, or modify such documents prior to the Disclosure Statement Hearing (as defined below).

2. A hearing is scheduled before the Honorable Alan M. Koschik, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, for **10:00 a.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 19, 2019** (the "Disclosure Statement Hearing") at the John F. Seiberling Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, 455 U.S. Courthouse, 2 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308, to consider the entry of an order approving, among other things, (i) the Disclosure Statement as containing "adequate information" pursuant to section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code; (ii) procedures for soliciting, receiving and tabulating votes on the Plan and for filing objections to the Plan; (iii) the form of ballots, notices, and certain other documents to be distributed in connection with the solicitation of the Plan; (iv) the deadlines contained in the solicitation and confirmation procedures; and (v) the procedures for notice of the confirmation hearing and filing objections to confirmation of the Plan.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT HEARING MAY BE CONTINUED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE COURT OR THE DEBTORS WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OTHER THAN BY SUCH ADJOURNMENT BEING ANNOUNCED IN OPEN COURT OR BY A NOTICE OF ADJOURNMENT FILED WITH THE COURT.

3. Copies of the Disclosure Statement and Plan may be obtained (i) from Prime Clerk LLC (a) at www.primeclerk.com/FES, (b) upon request by mail to FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. Ballot Processing, c/o Prime Clerk LLC, 830 Third Avenue, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10022, or (c) upon request by calling the FES restructuring hotline at (855) 934-8766, or (ii) for a fee via PACER at <https://ect.ohnb.uscourts.gov/> (a PACER login and password are required to access documents on the Court's website and can be obtained through the PACER Service Center at www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov). A copy of the Disclosure Statement and the Plan is also on file with the Office of the Clerk of Court, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio, John F. Seiberling Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, 2 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308 and may be examined by any party in interest during normal business hours.

4. **EQUITY ELECTION RECORD DATE.** Holders of certain classes of Claims against FirstEnergy Solutions Corp., FirstEnergy Generation, LLC, FirstEnergy Nuclear Generation, LLC, and FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company, as applicable, may be eligible to elect to receive equity in the Reorganized Debtors, rather than Cash, in satisfaction of their Claims (an "Equity Election") under the Plan. **The date of record for purposes of making an Equity Election was January 23, 2019, or such later date as agreed by the Debtors with the consent of the Requisite Supporting Parties and the Committee (each as defined in the Plan (such date, the "Equity Election Record Date").** All Holders of General Unsecured Claims wishing to make an Equity Election with respect to eligible Claims will be required to certify on their ballots to accept or reject the Plan, or by such other method acceptable to the Debtors with the consent of the Requisite Supporting Parties (as defined in the Restructuring Support Agreement (the "RSA") and the Committee, that they were (i) the beneficial holder of such Claims as of the applicable Equity Election Record Date and have not sold, transferred, or provided a participation in such Claims, or directly or indirectly agreed to do so following the Equity Election Record Date or (ii) are otherwise a party to the RSA and the beneficial holder of such Claims and such Claims were subject to the RSA as of the applicable Equity Election Record Date.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no Holder of a General Unsecured Claim shall be prohibited from selling its General Unsecured Claim at any time after the Equity Election Record Date, *provided* that the trans-
feree of any such General Unsecured Claim will not be eligible to receive an equity distribution unless such Claim is subject to the RSA.

5. **SETTLEMENT, RELEASE, INJUNCTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS.** The Plan contains cer-
tain release, injunction, and exculpation provisions, including third party releases, which are subject to
approval by the Court and may be found at Article VIII of the Plan and Article VI of the Disclosure Statement.
ARTICLE VIII OF THE PLAN CONTAINS RELEASE, INJUNCTION AND EXCULPATION PROVISIONS,
INCLUDING THIRD PARTY RELEASES IN ARTICLES VIII AND VIII. THUS, YOU SHOULD REVIEW AND
CONSIDER THE PLAN CAREFULLY BECAUSE YOUR RIGHTS MIGHT BE AFFECTED THEREUNDER WITH
RESPECT TO THE DEBTOR PARTIES' AND OTHER RELEASED PARTIES' THIRD PARTY RELEASES.

6. **THIRD PARTY RELEASES.** The Third Party Releases under the Plan comprise (i) the FE Non-Debtor
Parties' Third Party Releases and (ii) the Debtor Released Parties' and Other Released Parties' Third Party
Releases.

All Holders are bound by the FE Non-Debtor Parties' Third Party Releases and do not have the
option to opt out of the FE Non-Debtor Parties' Third Party Releases.

Any Holder of a Claim that (i) votes to accept the Plan, (ii) is deemed to have accepted the Plan,
(iii) is entitled to vote, but fails to vote to accept or reject the Plan, or (iv) rejects the Plan but
does not elect to opt out of the Debtor Released Parties' and Other Released Parties' Third Party
Releases, shall be deemed to have granted the Debtor Released Parties' and Other Released
Parties' Third Party Releases.

Holders may elect to opt out of the Debtor Released Parties' and Other Released Parties' Third
Party Releases contained in Article VIII.F of the Plan only if they check the box on their Ballots and
vote to reject the Plan.

7. Responses and objections, if any, to the approval of the Disclosure Statement or any of the other
relief sought by the Debtors in connection with approval of the Disclosure Statement, **must** be filed
together with proof of service, with the Clerk of Court, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern
District of Ohio, Eastern Division, John F. Seiberling Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, 455 U.S.
Courthouse, 2 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308 and served so that they are received by the follow-
ing parties: (i) counsel for the Debtors; (ii) the Office of the United States Trustee; and (iii) all other
parties in interest that have filed a notice of appearance in accordance with Rule 2002 of the Federal Rules
of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules") in the Debtors' chapter 11 cases on or before on
before **4:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 12, 2019**.

8. IF ANY OBJECTION TO THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS NOT FILED AND SERVED STRICTLY AS
PRESCRIBED HEREIN, THE OBJECTING PARTY MAY BE BARRED FROM OBJECTING TO THE ADEQUACY OF
THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND MAY NOT BE HEARD AT THE HEARING.

9. Upon approval of the Disclosure Statement by the Court, holders of Claims against the Debtors who
are entitled to vote on the Plan will receive a copy of the Disclosure Statement, the Plan, and various docu-
ments related thereto, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

If you have any questions related to this notice, please call the Debtors' restructuring hotline at
(855) 934-8766 or email fesballots@primeclerk.com.
Please note that Prime Clerk LLC is not authorized to provide, and will not provide, legal advice.

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases"), along with the last four digits of each
Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: FE Aircraft Leasing Corp. (9245), case no. 18-50759;
FirstEnergy Generation, LLC (0561), case no. 18-50762; FirstEnergy Generation Mansfield Unit 1 Corp.
(5914), case no. 18-50763; FirstEnergy Nuclear Generation, LLC (6394), case no. 18-50760; FirstEnergy
Nuclear Operating Company (1483), case no. 18-50761; FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. (0186); and Norton
Energy Storage L.L.C. (6928), case no. 18-50764. The Debtors' address is: 341 White Pond Dr., Akron, OH
44320.

² Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Plan or
Disclosure Statement, as the context so requires.

February 23, 1995: Bass Singer Melvin Franklin of
The Temptations dies.

In 1634, French Catholics provided education for all
laborers regardless of race in Louisiana, despite the
belief and laws taht blacks should not be educated.

Not only did **George Washington Carver** research
300 products made from peanuts and 118 products
from the sweet potato, but 75 from the pecan as well.

Xavier University, a historically black college in
Louisiana, has one of the highest success rates in
the country getting their graduates into medical
school.

Spelman College in Atlanta is NOT the only histori-
cally black college for women, Bennett College in
Greensboro, North Carolina is the other one.

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was born in Pennsylvania
and attended medical school in Chicago, where he
received his M.D. in 1883. He founded the Provident
Hospital in Chicago in 1891, the oldest free-standing
Black-owned hospital in the United States. Dr. Will-
iams was also the only African-American in a group
of 100 charter members of the American College of
Surgeons in 1913.

Victor Blanco was the Black mayor San Antonio
in 1809, before slavery was abolished, while Texas
was still part of Mexico.

Ask Alma



Dear Alma, I have made the mistake of a lifetime and I just don't know how to get over it. I was out with friends, met a guy at the club and we hooked up. He was never anyone I'd ever want to get in a relationship with. He didn't have a steady job and was still living with his mom. He is cute, but doesn't have anything going on right now. I recently found out I was pregnant. Yep, I'm having a girl. I sent him a text for us to meet, so I could tell him, but didn't show up. I called and we talked and decided to meet. AGAIN, he didn't show up. I have my own job and my own place. I don't know why he won't step up and take responsibility. He won't even answer my text messages anymore or answer the phone. I don't understand how he could act this way, when I meet all the requirements of being a good woman; he is just throwing it all away. I could go back to the club and see him. I know where he hangs out. How in the world can I raise my baby by myself? Alma, what can I do to get him to do the right thing?

Signed,
One-Time Hookup, Lifetime Responsibility

Dear One-Time,
Stop blaming him for your baby blunder. That's right, I said it. He wasn't "good father" material when you met him. What were you thinking, if you watched "Daddy's Girls" and clicked your heels three times, things would work in your favor? You put yourself in a position to become a single mom, so rise above the foolishness and handle your business. Do what you gotta do to build a home for you and your daughter. Plan, budget, save. You can do it.

Stop depending on someone, who isn't dependable. Stop reaching to rely on someone, who is not reliable. Stop reacting to someone, who is not dealing with the reality of having a child. I could see if he had a job, could pass a drug test and scheduled regular yearly teeth cleanings, but that's not who you're dealing with. The truth of the matter is, you don't even know this guy.

Your daughter is a blessing, so act like it. This sweet baby can't make your one-nighter all of a sudden become mature, love or want to be with you, so remove her from that role. It won't be easy cause life ain't easy but your days can be full of love and laughter. Why don't you focus and commit yourself to being the best mother you can be. This isn't the end Sweet Pea, it's the beginning. The beginning of a new love called parenting. Give her the amazing future she deserves and, in turn, she'll be the motivation you need to be the greatest you can be. Why don't you chose to make the rest of your life the absolute best of your life. I know you can do it!

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

At 94, The Legendary Cicely Tyson Remains An 'Optimist'

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

At 94, the legendary actress and freedom fighter, Cicely Tyson, absolutely stuns on the cover of TIME.

Clad in an elegant Michael Couture dress and stylish Taffin earrings by James de Givenchy with hair and makeup by Armond Hambrick, Tyson graces Time's cover this month in celebrate of the magazine's second annual "Optimists Issue."

In the issue, Tyson talks openly about her more than six-decade acting career, from her film debut in "Carib Gold" in 1956, to her most recent role as Annalise Keating's mother in ABC's "How to Get Away with Murder."

"When I made the decision to use my career as a platform, to try to make a dent in some of these injustices that I witnessed and experienced in life, I said if I just reach one person, one person, then I will be happy," Tyson told TIME.

Born in Harlem New York City on December 19, 1933, Tyson's parents were immigrants from Saint Kitts and Nevis in the West Indies, according to her biography at BlackPast.org, the website that records African American history.

After graduating from Charles Evans High School in Manhattan in 1951, Tyson landed a position as a secretary for the American Red Cross. Unsatisfied with the work, she enrolled in the Barbara Watson Modeling School to pursue a career in modeling, according to her biography:

By the late 1950s, Tyson had become one of the top black models in the United States. Her face appeared on the cover of black-oriented



PHOTO CREDIT / DJENEBADUAYOM | TIME

Cicely Tyson, actress and freedom fighter was featured on Time magazine.

magazines, such as Ebony and Jet.

While waiting in the offices of Ebony Magazine, she was encouraged to audition for a role in the film, The Spectrum, which discussed conflicts between dark- and light-skinned blacks.

Tyson won the role but The Spectrum was never completed due to financial problems. This experience however, persuaded Tyson that she should pursue a career in acting.

Tyson began her career on the stage.

In 1961, she appeared in the original cast of French playwright Jean Genet's The Blacks, which became the longest running non-musical of the decade with over 1,400 performances.

In 1963 at the insistence of Academy Award-winning actor George C. Scott, she became a part of the cast of East Side/West Side of which Scott was the star.

By the mid-1960s and early 1970s, Tyson was a frequent guest star on television appearing in I-Spy, Naked City, The Nurses, The Bill Cosby Show and a number

of other programs. Her movie career progressed more slowly. Like many black performers of her generation, Tyson was leery of the "blaxploitation" films of the era and held out for a film that promoted positive images of African Americans.

That film came in 1972 when she was cast in the role of Rebecca Morgan in Sounder.

The film examined the life of a Black family in the Depression-era South with dignity and compassion. Tyson's performance garnered positive reviews from critics and she was nominated for both an Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award.

In 1974, she broke new ground for black actors when she received an Emmy Award for her portrayal of the character Jane Pittman, based on a novel written by Ernest J. Gaines.

Her performance made her one of the premier actresses of her generation.

Tyson appeared as Coretta Scott King in the 1978 movie King opposite actor Paul Winfield.

Other acclaimed movie roles included Roots, The Marva Collins Story, When No One Would Listen, and The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All.

"There isn't a day - I'm grateful to say - that when I walk out of my doors, I don't run into somebody who says, 'I can't tell you what you've done for me. 'You changed my life,'" Tyson shared with TIME. "It just confirmed for me that I was on the right track and I stayed on the right track."

A Kennedy Center Honors recipient who also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from former President Barack Obama, Tyson said she has no plans to retire.

In keeping with the article's theme of optimism, she said, "Look at the world today, you better be an optimist."

"You really do have to have faith and belief and understanding in order to survive. And know that you will not be defeated if you really think positive, about yourself and the life you've chosen to live."

Investigation Raises Questions About James Brown's Death



By The Florida Star

James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul", was 73 when he died in Atlanta, Georgia, on Christmas Day 2006. He was said to have passed of natural causes, congestive heart failure to be exact. A new CNN investigation, however, raises the possibility that Brown could have been murdered.

For the three-part investigative piece, writer Thomas Lake interviewed nearly 140 people over two years. At least 11 of them, including Brown's former manager, widow and several friends and associates, have stated they want an autopsy and would like to open a criminal investigation into Brown's death.

Dr. Marvin Crawford, who signed Brown's death certificate, says he never truly believed the influential artist died of natural causes.

"He changed too fast," Crawford said. "He was a patient I would never have predicted would have coded. ... But he died that night, and I did raise that question: What went wrong in that room?"

Crawford claims he recommended an autopsy in the hours after Brown's death, but the singer's daughter Yamma Brown declined. When questioned by CNN about her decision, she didn't offer an explanation.

The investigation began in 2017 after circus singer Jacque Hollander called a reporter claiming to have information about Brown's death.

This article originally appeared in The Florida Star.

NFL Settles Collusion Case with Kaepernick



Colin Kaepernick (right) kneeling during the National Anthem before a San Fransisco 49er’s game.

PHOTO CREDIT / CBS

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

Colin Kaepernick’s more than two year battle with the NFL has come to an end.

The former NFL quarterback and the league have reached a financial settlement in Kaepernick’s collusion complaint against football’s owners.

The settlement comes just one day after it was revealed that the former San Francisco 49er, who led the team to a Super Bowl in 2013, turned down a contract offer to play in a new developmental league.

Terms of the settlement, which also included a payout to Carolina Panthers star safety Eric Reid, were not made public.

Kaepernick was effectively blacklisted from the league after kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality and other social ills.

Yahoo Sports reported that Kaepernick and Reid would only settle the complaint if a lucrative financial agreement was reached between the players and the NFL.

The league and Kaepernick’s attorneys released a statement Friday saying the matter had been resolved confidentially.

As part of that confidentiality, it is believed both sides signed a non-disclosure agreement agreeing not to speak publicly about details of the case or settlement.

“For the past several months, counsel for Mr. Kaepernick and Mr. Reid have engaged in an ongoing dialogue with representatives of the NFL,” the statement said.

“As a result of those discussions, the parties have decided to resolve the pending grievances. The resolution of this matter is subject to a confidentiality agreement so there will be no further comment by any party.”

The agreement comes as Kaepernick’s case against the NFL was to set to be heard before arbitrator Stephen Burbank later this month.

Kaepernick had alleged that since 2016, the league conspired to keep him out.

Multiple NFL players adopted Kaepernick’s protest in 2017, hoping to draw attention to social justice and racial inequality issues.

The actions sparked a political firestorm from President Donald Trump and the furor became such a central issue for the league for nearly one year that it instituted a rule that banned protests

during the national anthem.

That rule has since been shelved by the NFL and now appears to be dead, according to the Yahoo Sports report.

The NFLPA also released a statement Friday, supporting the settlement between the league and players.

“Today, we were informed by the NFL of the settlement of the Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid collusion cases,” the NFLPA said.

“We are not privy to the details of the settlement

but support the decision by the players and their counsel. We continuously supported Colin and Eric from the start of their protests, participated with their lawyers throughout their legal proceedings and were prepared to participate in the upcoming trial in pursuit of both truth and justice for what we believe the NFL and its clubs did to them.

“We are glad that Eric has earned a job and a new contract [from the Carolina Panthers], and we continue to hope that Colin gets his opportunity as well.”

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Toledo Repertoire Theatre Presents African American Play 'Fences'



Everett Collier (Troy Maxon) and his brother Liam Ellis (Gabe Maxon) discuss Gabe's living situation.



The cast of Fences is (back L-R) Charles Crockett (Bono) Crystal Lynn (Rose Maxon), Justin Petty (Cory Maxon) Liam Ellis (Gabe Maxon), and (front) Everett Collier (Troy Maxon) with Kaiya Hoskin (Rayneil Maxon), not pictured Jason Raynor.

By Journal Staff Reporter

Beginning March 1, 2019, for two weekends in a row, The Toledo Repertoire Theatre will present the Pulitzer Prize and seven Tony Awards winning Broadway play, 'Fences'.

Written by renowned playwright, August Wilson, the drama takes place in 1957 Pittsburgh and tells the story of 53-year-old Troy Maxson, who migrated, from the south to the north, for a better life only to find that even though some things change, some things remain the same.

A former star of the Negro baseball league, Maxson also comes to realize that he's not going to advance his baseball career any further after he is rejected by the major leagues because of his age. He ends up working as a trash-collector struggling to survive and support his family. These facts of life among others leave him bitter inside, and it's a bitterness that affects his relationship with his wife and his son. A son, who has his own dreams, of

becoming a professional baseball player.

Fences is one of ten plays written by August Wilson that chronicle the 20th-century African-American experience. Each play is set in a different decade, and collectively became known as the Century Cycle. Put them all together and you have a comprehensive look, at not only African-American life, but also American life in general, and a history lesson. After a successful run on Broadway, the play was made into a movie starring Denzel Washington and Viola Davis.

Cast member, Everett Collier, who plays Troy Maxon, said of the play, "This is a multilevel play that shows African-American life in the fifties, in a big northern American city and the different things they encountered after coming north from the south."

Charles Crockett whose character is Bono in the play added, "This play also shows us that no matter what color you are, we basically all have the same type of prob-

lems and issues. We all have to make our way in the world and do the best we can to better lives and try to get ahead, African-Americans are no different than anybody else."

Crystal Adams who portrays Rose Maxon also said, "This play has a universal theme and it

doesn't matter what walk of life you come from, its all about families and the love between them that keeps them together."

The play's director Irina Zurov had nothing but praise for the cast and the play saying, "I'm so

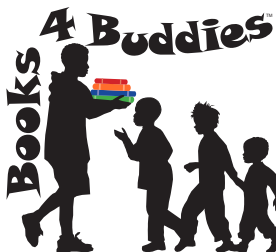
proud of this cast. They are fabulous actors and it is a privilege to work with them and to direct this wonderful play. It doesn't matter what race you are, this play is about life experiences, and any race or anybody could have

the same experience."

The Toledo Repertoire Theatre is located downtown at 16 10th St. on the corner of Washington and 10th, and parking is available. For ticket information and showtimes, call 419-243-9277.



Everett Collier (Troy Maxon) standing with baseball bat reminisces about his baseball days with friend Charles Crockett (Bono).



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