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EVERYBODY IS
SOMEBODY IN
THE TOLEDO
JOURNAL



City of Toledo Flying The Pan-African Flag For Black History Month



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Rev. Dr. W. L. Perryman Jr. of Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church surrounded by (L-R) Brother Washington Mohammad of CSRN, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, and Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken, offered the welcome speech saying, "The ceremony of raising this flag which is our flag represents what Black History month really means to us and it symbolizes the contributions that so many African-Americans have made to this community and as well as to the nation abroad."

By MICHAEL DANIELS
Journal Staff Writer

We all know that February is Black History Month and for the first time in history the City of Toledo is flying the Pan-African Flag designed by Marcus Garvey in 1920, with the Lucas County flag for the entire month of February. This is in honor of Black History Month.

On February 3, 2020, there was an official ceremony attended by African-American community leaders and city

and county government officials to dedicate the flag, and raise it for the first time at One Government Center. Bro. Washington Mohammad, one of the founding members of CSRN (The Community Solidarity Responses Network) who helped to organize the Pan-African Flag Raising Ceremony, started things off with a bang as he shouted from the podium saying, "Raise this flag!"

Then Rev. Dr. W. L. Perryman Jr. of Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church

gave the welcome speech saying, "The ceremony of raising this flag, which is our flag, represents what Black History month really means to us. It symbolizes the contributions that so many African-Americans have made to this community and, as well as, to the nation abroad. On this day, we are extremely proud and grateful to our civic leaders for this ceremony who also understand how important this event is."

Following his opening remarks, Rev. Dr. Perryman

was followed by a host of civic leaders who also expressed their feelings about the flag raising event and Toledo.

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz stepped up next and said, "I want to welcome everyone here today at the beginning of Black History Month. This is the right opportunity to show that Toledo is a welcoming city and that we celebrate the rich contribution that all people have made to our community over the years. Today is a small gesture and support for our brothers and

sisters in the African-American community. We recognize this place would not be the place it is without the contributions of Jack Ford, Ella P. Stewart, Paula Hicks Hudson, and so many other African-Americans in this community. That's what today is all about, remembering the contributions that were made in the past and the ones that will be made in the future. I and the City of Toledo are happy to be a part of today's celebration."

The Lucas County Commissioner, Pete Gerken announced, "For Black History Month the Lucas County Board of Commissioner plan

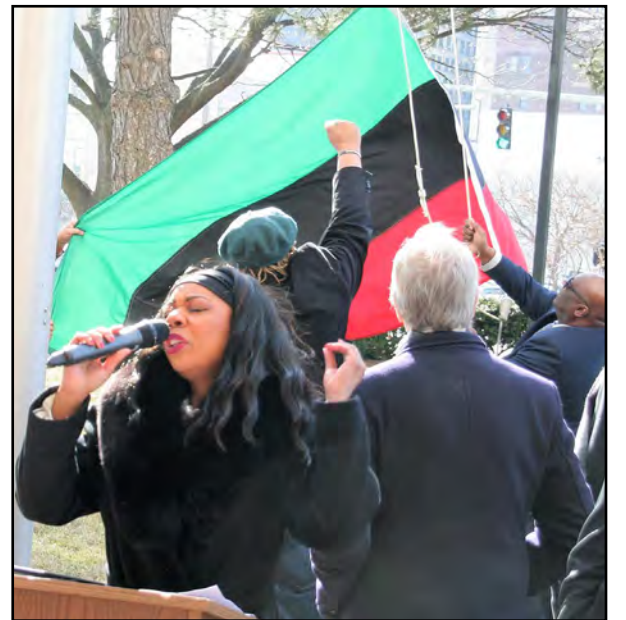


PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Dr. Tracee Perryman from the Center of Hope led the audience in a rendition of 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' the African-American National Anthem as the flag was being lifted up the flag pole for the first time.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Local African-American leaders gather at One Government Center on February 3, 2020, for the Red, Black and Green Pan-African Flag Raising Ceremony to commemorate Black History Month in The City of Toledo.

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The Dance Theater of Harlem At The Valentine Theater Feb.15th



By Michael Daniels Toledo Journal Staff
Reporter All photos submitted

Coming on Saturday, February 15th, 2020, at 8:00 pm the world-renowned Dance Theater of Harlem will grace the stage of the elegant Valentine Theater in downtown Toledo. This is certainly a fitting venue for what is guaranteed to be an exquisite performance by the internationally famous dance troupe.

This year, the dance company continues to celebrate 50 years of dance by the organization. It was founded in 1969 by Arthur Mitchell, the first African-American principal dancer in a major ballet company (the New York City Ballet), and his teacher Karel Shook in Harlem. Mr. Mitchell's vision was to expose the children in the neighborhood, where he grew up, to the classic art of ballet dancing. His ambition was to change their lives forever, as well as, show the world that African-Americans could dance classical

“
The Dance Theater of Harlem will give you a new way to experience classical ballet like you have never seen anywhere else in the world. The performance is extremely exciting, extremely relevant, and beautiful. This is a show that you should bring the entire family to see.

”



ballet, as well as, anyone else.

He knew his quest was successful after their debut performance at New York's Guggenheim Museum. The New York Times called the Dance Theater of Harlem, 'One of ballet's most exciting undertakings.' The Time was obviously right because for the next 50 years the dance company toured all over the United State and the world. Today, they are recognized as one of the most distinguished ballet companies in the world and a globally acclaimed dance institution.

According to Virginia Johnson, the artistic director of the Dance Theater of Harlem, the company's current production is a must see because, "The Dance Theater of Harlem will give you a new way to experience classical ballet like you have never seen anywhere else in the world. The performance is extremely exciting, extremely relevant, and beautiful. This is a show that you should bring the entire family to see. The program is inspiring and surprising. There are many different styles of dancing and in this performance, and there is something for everyone."

"Two really exciting parts of the program are a segment danced to the music of Diana Washington and a piece called Passage. This piece Passage is about the year 1619 when the first African slaves were brought to America," said Ms. Johnson. "It's a compelling story set to dance that you will appreciate and enjoy."

The mission of the Dance Theater of Harlem is to, 'Present a ballet company of African-Americans and other racially diverse artists, who perform the most demanding repertory, at the highest level of quality.'

Tickets for the Dance Theater of Harlem can be purchased online at the valentinetheater.com or in person at the box office at the Valentine Theater located at 410 Adams St.

For more information call the Valentine Theater box office at 419-242-2787.



Ongoing Events

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

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

Every Saturday
Glass City Church of Christ Free Meal

Soup kitchen now open at 901 Hoag. Hours: 1:00-2:00 pm every Saturday. We are reaching out to individuals and families in need of a free meal. Please see our Facebook page for menu items and any updates.

Now Thru Feb. 7th
WGTE Presents Our
Annual Share A Story

Join WGTE Public Media as we present our annual Share A Story. Sponsored by the Conda Family. Children between the ages of four to 12 can enter their story of what courage and heroism means to them in four easy steps. Contest winners will be invited to a celebration event at WGTE studios and win great prizes. Prizes will also be awarded to teachers that have the most classroom entries. The entry process is simple and easy for students to enter, contest rules, details and entry forms are available online at www.wgte.org/share.

Feb.6th
The Padua Center
Kwanzaa Park Neighbors' Meeting
The next Kwanzaa Park Neighbors' meeting is to be



held on Thursday at 12:00 Noon. With the warm weather and the 'itching' to get into the garden the Kwanzaa Park Neighbors are looking to our gardening season. Thomas Jackson, Urban Farmer will be the guest speaker at the February meeting and will tell of his story as an Urban Farmer. In additon the Blockwatch report will be given and plans for the neighborhood will be discussed. The community is welcome to attend and enjoy conversation and complimentary refreshments. Monthly meetings are held at the Padua Center at 1416 Nebraska Ave which has ample parking in the parking lot off Junction Street. The Kwanzaa Park Neighborhood is bordered by Dorr, Hawley, Brown and Campbell Streets, but all interested persons ae welcome. For more information call: The Padua Center 419-241-6465.

Feb. 8th
Thurgood Marshall Law Association Legal Symposium Announcement

If you are interest in a career as a lawyer, the Thurgood Marshall Law Association and the University of Toledo College of Law is sponsoring an informational workshop for students! Saturday, from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm, University of Toledo College of Law, near the Secor road entrance. FREE lunch is being served. Interested in attending?

- (1) Sign up with your Guidance Counselor OR
 - (2) Email Twila Ferguson at twilaf3@gmail.c with your name, school name, phone numbers, and age.
- Questions? Email - Twila Ferguson at twilaf3@gmail.com

Feb. 8th
National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
The Ann Wayson Locher Memorial Fund for HIV Care Presents: International HIV Activist & Humanitarian. Hydeia Broadbent reclaiming our Narrative: Ending the Epidemic, hydeiabroadbent.com. FREE and Open to the Public, Saturday 4:00 PM-6:30PM, The University of Toledo Medical Center Collier Building Room 1000 A & B, 3000 Arlington Avenue - Toledo, OH 43614.

Feb. 8th, 18th, 21st, 25th, & 29th
The University of Toledo will pay tribute to this year's theme, "Celebrating Resilience," with several events during Black History Month.
Saturday, Feb. 8 — "Reclaiming Our Narrative: Ending the Epidemic," 4 p.m., Collier Building Room 1000 on Health Science Campus. International HIV activist Hydeia Broadbent will speak in honor of National Black

HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The free, public program is presented by the Ann Wayson Locher Memorial Fund for HIV Care and the UToledo Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Tuesday, Feb. 18 — Black Career Night, 6 p.m., Thompson Student Union Ingman Room. This event sponsored by the Black Student Union will bring together local community members who will talk about their businesses and organizations and allow students to network and learn about career opportunities.

Friday, Feb. 21 — Black Student Union Fashion Show, 7 p.m., Thompson Student Union Auditorium. Ticket prices to be announced. Proceeds from the 51st annual event go to a student scholarship that aids in the retention of black students.

Tuesday, Feb. 25 — "Honing in on Triple Negative Breast Cancer: Improving Health Outcomes for Women of African Ancestry Using Precision Medicine," 5:30 p.m., Health Education Building Room 105 on Health Science Campus. The free, public forum is hosted by the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women.

Saturday, Feb. 29 — Ujima Day of Service, 10:30 a.m. Volunteers will meet in Thompson Student Union Room 2500 for breakfast and then volunteer at the MLK Kitchen for the Poor, the Ronald McDonald House and the Beach House Family Shelter. Ujima is one of the seven principles of Kwanza and stands for collective work and responsibility. "Ujima means to build and maintain our community together and to make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together," Young said.

Feb. 11th
The Toledo Base Submarine Veterans Meeting

Holds it's monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at The Genesis Village Events Center 2429 S. Reynolds Road Toledo Ohio at 18:00 hours (6 PM). Our next meeting will be on Tuesday. For further information you can contact or base Commander John Fleitz at 419-868-6514 or at johnandmarcia13@bex.net.

Feb. 15th
Health & Wellness Information
COMING TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU! Saturday, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, Warren AME Church, 915 Collingwood Blvd, Toledo, OH 43604, Wheelchair Accessible. RSVP to 419-243-2237, for a Free Lunch. LEARN HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE: FREE Health Services, FREE Prescription Assistance, FREE Flu Shots, FREE Dental Care, FREE Vision Coverage. Note: Some Services may be based on a sliding fee scale. Hosted by Christian Education/Young Peoples Department. Rev. Otis J. Gordon, Jr., SR Pastor.

Feb. 16th
Third Baptist Church 32nd Annual Black History Musical
Third Baptist Church 9775 Angola Rd., Holland, Ohio on Sunday. Special Guest: Third Baptist Male Chorus (Toledo), Ebenezer Baptist Church Choir, and The Spirit of Truth @ 4:00 p.m. All welcome to come on out. Madison Gregory III Pastor.

Feb. 16th & Feb. 23rd.
The Indiana Ave. Missionary Baptist Church
74th Church Anniversary
Theme: "My Church, My Rock" Matt 16:18
Sunday, February 16, 2020 4:00 p.m. Reverend Dr. Jerry Boose, Pastor Second Baptist Church, Sunday, February 23, 2020 4:00 p.m., Reverend Dr. Willie Perryman, Pastor Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. All services will be held at 640 Indiana Ave., Toledo, OH. Because of Christ, Chairpersons - Deacon Robert and Deaconess Jackie Jackson, Reverend Dr. John E. Roberts, Pastor

Feb. 23rd
Calvary Missionary Baptist Church 31st Pre-Anniversary of Pastor Floyd Smith Jr.
With the fellow shiping of Bishop Duane C Tisdale and Friendship Baptist Church on Sunday @ 4:00 pm., 702 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo, OH 43604. Please come out and help us celebrate this wonderful occasion.

Sympathy to the Bryant Family



On behalf of the following chess clubs from Toledo, Ohio, we would like to send our condolences to the family of Kobe Bryant from the Youth Training Center chess club, the Martin Luther King chess club and The Jones Leadership Academy chess club. Kobe is now and forever our role model.

February 22, 2020
Dramatically Inspired Works Sounds of Black History

Saturday 4:00 P.M., 2340 N. Holland-Sylvania Rd., Toledo, OH 43615. In honor of those leaders who fought and died for us to come together in unity as a country; Dramatically Inspired Works and St. Mark Drama invite you to come and celebrate the legacy they paved for us and support the generation that now holds the awesome re-sponsibility of carrying out the dream!! Celebrate with us in Poetry, the "Who Am I" game, Dramat-ic Skits, Songs from the Dramatically Inspired Works Vocals and more... Together We Stand, Divided We Fall. FREE EVENT. See You There! St. Mark Baptist Church, Rev. C.L. Johnson.

Feb. 27th
Sylvania Franciscan Village 9th Annual "Have A Heart Restock Drive"
Kicks off Monday, collecting unused personal care items for seven human service agencies and outreach programs: Bethany House, Claver House, Family House, Helping Hands of St. Louis, Our Lady of Lourdes Outreach Soup Kitchen, Sylvania Area Family Services and Toledo Street Newspaper.

The collection drive runs through Feb. 6, and items will be distributed on Feb.7. Individuals are encouraged to drop off unused personal care items in donation boxes on the campus of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania and Lourdes University, Sylvania St. Joseph's Elementary, Sylvania Public Schools, St. John's XXIII church and select local businesses. A complete list of collection sites can be found at www.sylvaniafranciscanvillage.org. To make a monetary donation, contact Sophia Lloyd at 419-824-3533 or slloyd@sistersosf.org.

Feb. 27th
Lourdes University
The Annual Black History Month Celebration
The Power Within Us: Acknowledging the Past, Recognizing the Present, Focusing on the Future. Program begins at 4:30 p.m., 6832 Convent Blvd., Sylvania, OH 43560. For more information, contact Tonya Colbert, Coordinator of Multicultural Services and Director of Upward Bound, at (419) 824-3866. FREE and open to the public.

Feb. 29th
Justice: Through a Different Lens
The African American Legacy Project in collaboration with City Councilman/Attorney Tyrone Riley 10:00 am, Saturday, at Jerusalem Baptist Church, 445 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43604. Justice: Through a Different Lens seeks experienced voices who come in contact with youth offenders at various points in a juvenile's experience with the justice system. This is the third in a series of ongoing engagements entitled: I Dream... The series is designed to seek real solutions to issues facing this community. For more information about this event contact: Robert Smith, Director, The African American Legacy Project Phone: 419-720-4369, Email: rsmith@africanamericanlegacy.org, or Tyrone Riley, Toledo City Council Phone: 419-250-1050, Email: tyrone.riley@toledo.oh.gov

Detractor-in-Chief Overstates Economic Progress



By Julianne Malveaux
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Donald John Trump has been impeached, and to let him tell it, that isn't bothering him, and we'd believe him if he hadn't posted more than tweets in just one day. But his persistent overuse of the word "hoax," both to refer to impeachment and to anything else he doesn't like (see: climate change), proves otherwise.

45 delivered remarks during a keynote speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland but then declined to participate in the scheduled question and answer session afterwards. During his speech, Trump behaved in character, providing his audience with "the big brag." As usual, he had some trouble with the truth, complaining about the economy he inherited.

"America's economy was in a rather dismal state," he said. These comments clearly ignore the work that President Barack Obama did to pull us out of the Great Recession. Of course, to let 45 tell it, President Obama did nothing right. But as the unemployment rate fell during Obama's tenure, 45 dismissed the progress, arguing that the statistics were wrong. Now that the unemployment rate is at a 50-year low, he is happy to quote the Bureau of Labor Statistics same data to tout the improvement he has supposedly made in the economy.

Atypically, 45 seemed to stick to his script during his speech, avoiding the adlibs and ad hominem attacks he often makes headlines for. Since he was booed after his post-speech Q&A at Davos in 2018, I suppose he was not eager to repeat the experience. Still,



he was unable to stick to basic facts, exaggerating his successes and minimizing his failures.

Take the growth rate, for example. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, when President Obama left office in the last quarter of 2016, the US had a growth rate of 3.5 percent. During the third quarter of 2019 (the latest data available), growth was not much higher at 3.8 percent.

Growth rates, however, fluctuate. While during some quarters 45 has presided over an economy growing at nearly six percent, he had also seen growth rates as low as 3.8 percent, and economists project the growth rate is slowing. In contrast, President Obama experienced growth rates, after the great recession ended, ranging from as low as three percent to higher than five percent. He also did so without the stimulus of a tax cut that favored the wealthy.

The Trump growth rates are both a result of ill- advised, deficit-expanding tax cuts, and an inherited record-breaking Obama-era expansion.

45 said he would expand manufacturing jobs. Really? In 2019 fewer than 46,000 manufacturing jobs were created, compared to 264,000 the previous

year. The decrease in manufacturing jobs is likely due to his recently imposed tariffs.

So why was 45 boasting in Switzerland? Mostly because his impeachment trial started at the same time as the World Economic Forum. Too bad that strategy didn't work. The news was focused on impeachment, all the time, while the World Economic Forum is getting far less attention. His upbeat and exaggerated claim of economic success was designed to deflect both from impeachment, and from his party's shenanigans.

When 45 talks about the US economy, he never talks about poverty or people at the bottom, largely because he does not much care about them. His administration frequently shows this disdain for the poor by implementing new rules targeting the disadvantaged. Thanks to a policy change on SNAP eligibility, 700,000 people will no longer be able to receive food stamps. Is this a necessary byproduct of economic growth? Further, the Department of Agriculture has taken us all the way to the Reagan days when ketchup was declared a vegetable! Now, many of the changes that First Lady Michelle Obama advocated for have been

rolled back under this administration. Schools will be able to cut the amount of fruits and vegetables that students are served, increase allowable sodium content in foods and get away with offering burgers and pizza as full meals. This is a leap backward, especially when you consider that most of the children who consume school lunches are low and moderate income.

While world poverty is a challenge, 45 is hardly likely to even mention our domestic poverty to an audience full of world leaders. Thus, he was complimented for his "optimism" which is a far off idea and outright joke to many Americans who are hurting under this administration.

Deflection, deflection, deflection. 45 may have run away from impeachment in Davos, but he can't hide from it. And while the Senate is likely to acquit 45 on the charges against him, the majority of the House of Representatives voted for impeachment. It is part of his legacy.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.julianne-malveaux.com

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

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2145 East Scott Park Drive
Toledo, OH 43606 : (419) 472-4521
Scott Park Campus Faculty Annex
P.O. Box 12559, Toledo, OH 43606
Sandra S. Stewart Myron A. Stewart
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A Call to Action



By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Es
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – The life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is universally recognized as hav-

ing been remarkably inspirational. The world recognizes that the beacon of his life expands beyond geographic boundaries. Our community has come to honor the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday as a day to celebrate his message of peace and human dignity – an immortal message that is proving itself to be transgenerational. In that spirit, this year, as in years past, many of us found a variety of activities designed to honor and commemorate his life and works.

This MLK Birthday, I celebrated with hundreds of others. We reveled in song and a sincere spirit of unity. We listened to eloquent speakers who spoke to the virtues and accomplishments of Dr. King. The joy and enthusiasm of the assemblage was clearly apparent, but I felt something was missing.

We had clearly celebrated Dr. King as a "Drum Major for Jus-

tice," but we had failed to elevate him to the position he most often occupied, leading the Vanguard against the evils of racism, discrimination and exploitation. While I know that this was not the case in all observances, one instance of this omission is one too many. I find no fault in the feel-good spirit of our observances, but we must never forget or omit the fact that, although peaceful, Dr. King was a relentless warrior against injustice.

In our current national emergency of corruption and divisiveness, I can only believe that Dr. King would be in the forefront of sounding the alarm for action. I believe that he would be proactive in the fight against the current occupant of The White House and his Wild-West Administration. Even in his

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United States Postal Service – A Prehistoric Mess



By Harry C. Alford & Kay DeBow
Wire Writers

When we were growing up the mail service was something, we could take for granted. As the American population grew and towns became cities and worldwide business was linked and business came at the “speed of thought”, the demands for punctuality and accuracy became oh so important. Most business is done by mail. But as business speed becomes more and more important alternatives are being created to meet the new demand. Federal Express, Amazon, UPS, DHL, emailing, etc. are becoming a growing alternative to “snail mail”.

A typical letter carrier is only human and that means there are flaws that makes certainty or accuracy not necessarily an automatic function. Carriers make mistakes and when they do our business may suffer. Checks get “lost” in the mail. A letter may come within two days or it may take five days depending on the human factor in the process.

Our latest relocation has made us familiar with the current state of our postal service. We moved from northwest Washington, DC to downtown. Online we put in a change of address notice and a request to forward all mail to the new address. Judging from previous moves we thought that would be a simple process. But “No More”! It now takes a letter to be forwarded across town average of 14 – 25 days. There is a certain percentage that will become

“lost” never to be seen again. Since our move we have “lost” significant checks, credit cards, billings and other important business matters.

What happened to the efficiency? The instructions on forwarding our mail says that if we don’t receive the forwarding mail within 10 days we should call and voice a complaint. Patiently, we waited 20 days before doing that. We were ensured that it will be corrected within 24 hours. However, it was never corrected in fact it became worse, so we placed another complaint. After waiting an hour plus on another phone call, they gave us another case number and assured us that the situation will be changed. Not true! We are in the last week of January and mail that is postmarked in early December is just now reaching us. We had an important legal document become lost in the forwarding and had to spend an amount of money to have it re-sent.

One time about a year ago, we went out of town and our security guard told our letter carrier to just leave the mail in the box and we would pick it up at the end of the week. The carrier refused and proclaimed that it was a “vacation hold” and that we would have to come to the postal center to sign a return status and receive the collected mail. OK, we thought we could simply drive to the post office down the street and sign off and get our mail back to routine status. But no!!!! We came to find out that the “postal center” was not the neighborhood post office but a



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Such is our current United States Postal Service. It doesn’t help to complain as the postal workers’ union will protect those carriers and preserve their inefficiencies. Each year we see the same news on television: USPS loses billions of dollars due to inefficiency and waste.”

huge warehouse on the Maryland border about an hour away. We had to drive over there and arrive before 8:00AM to sign the form and get our mail. What a waste of time and inconvenience!

Such is our current United States Postal Service. It doesn’t help to complain as the postal workers’ union will protect those carriers and preserve their inefficiencies. Each year we see the same news on television: USPS loses billions of dollars due to inefficiency and waste. Meanwhile, FEDEX, UPS, Amazon, etc. are racking up billions of dollars

in profit and their stock continues to soar high.

There is no doubt in our minds that the time has come to privatize our postal service. President Trump has that on his “To Do List” but we want to speed that process up. Our postal system should be regionalized and competitive with alternative ways of delivery. It probably will not cost us any more than the pricing today. Cost should be on a measurable rate: the more you mail; the more you pay. Various companies should compete for your choice in mail service and the markets should drive their worth and value.

We don’t want to lose any more mail which means money, business performance and anxiety. We envision a new postal service or services that are accountable to the public and its investors. Private corporations will beat government in performance every time. Our mail is no exception. It is Neanderthal to think that the way we did something decades ago should remain the same.

Come and join us in this movement. It is time to privatize our postal system!!!

Mr. Alford is the Co-Founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce ®. Ms. DeBow is the Co-Founder, Executive Vice President of the Chamber. Website: www.nationalbcc.org Emails: halford@nationalbcc.org kdebow@nationalbcc.org

A Call to Action

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most generous disposition, I cannot see Dr. King tolerating the volume of lies that impact negatively on the lives of millions of Americans. Chief among them is 45’s ego-based opposition to everything Obama, especially the ACA (Obamacare) which, most notably, provides health insurance for millions and protects insurance eligibility for pre-existing medical conditions.

Many of us forget or ignore that before his assassination in Memphis, Dr. King was in the midst of an economic campaign for fair wages for city garbage collectors. I cannot be convinced that today he would not be leading a campaign against income inequity and for a living-wage for minimum wage workers. He understood that the consequences of low wages and poverty led to self-perpetuating social disparities.

I am sure that Dr. King would place

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I am sure that Dr. King would place great emphasis on issues of voting rights. He, like most who pay attention, would know that the current trend of voter suppression is the only option for a political party that cannot achieve policy objectives by allowing free, fair and open elections.”



great emphasis on issues of voting rights. He, like most who pay attention, would know that the current trend of voter suppression is the only option for a political party that cannot achieve policy objectives by allowing free, fair and open elections. He would be vigorous in his vocal protest of gerrymandering, closing polling places, purging voter lists and other pernicious methods of suppression.

I can see him benignly unforgiving of those who would relinquish their right to vote with the excuse, “My vote won’t

count anyway.”

To the satisfaction of a majority of Americans, I can see Dr. King promoting a thorough and complete impeachment trial of 45. He would recognize the threat of the current administration to our Constitutional way-of-life and guarantees. He would perceive the run-amok, “do the bidding of Trump” Republican Senate led by “Moscow Mitch McConnell” as a clear and present danger to our democracy.

If he could speak to us from his rest, I believe Dr. King would admonish us as he did in life. “He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetuate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.”

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women. She’s also host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WP-FW-FM 89.3 radio.)

Black America's Housing Crisis

More Renters Than Homeowners, Homeless Population Jumps 12%

By: CHARLENE CROWELL
Center for Responsible Lending's
Communications Deputy Director

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - No matter who you are, or where you live, there's a central concern that links consumers all over the country: the ever-rising cost of living. For many consumers, the combined costs of housing, transportation, food, and utilities leave room for little else from take-home pay. From Boston west to Seattle, and from Chicago to Miami and parts in between, the rising cost of living is particularly challenging in one area - housing. Both homeowners and renters alike today cope as best they can just to have a roof over their families' heads.

The nation's median sales price of a new home last September in 2019 was \$299,400, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Even for an existing home, the St. Louis Federal Reserve noted its median price in December was \$274,500.

For renters, the cost of housing is also a serious challenge. Last June, the national average rent reached \$1,405, an all-time high. But if one lives in a high-cost market like Manhattan, Boston, Los Angeles, or San Francisco, a realistic rental price is easily north of \$3,000 each month.

Now a new report from Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) finds that the American Dream of homeownership is strained even among households with incomes most would think adequate to own a home. From 2010 to 2018, 3.2 million households with earnings higher than \$75,000 represented more than three-quarters of the growth in renters in its report entitled, America's Rental Housing 2020.

"[F]rom the homeownership peak in 2004 to 2018, the number of married couples with children that owned homes fell by 2.7 million, while the number renting rose by 680,000," states the report. "These changes have meant that families with children now make up a larger share of renter households (29%) than owner households (26 percent)."

To phrase it another way, America's middle class is at risk. Consumer demographics that traditionally described homeowners, has shifted

to that of renters. And in that process, the opportunity to build family wealth through homeownership has become more difficult for many -- and financially out of reach for others.

"Rising rents are making it increasingly difficult for households to save for a down payment and become homeowners," says Whitney Airgood-Obrycki, a JCHS Research Associate and lead author of the new report. "Young, college-educated households with high incomes are really driving current rental demand."

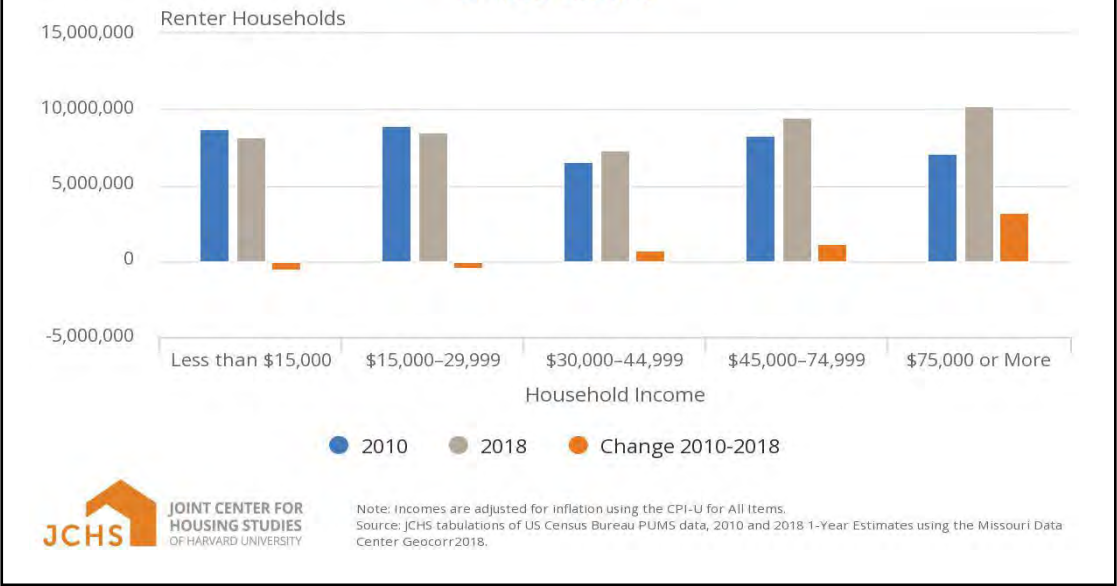
Included among the report's key findings:

- Rents in 2019 continued their seven-year climb, marking 21 consecutive quarters of increases above 3.0 percent;
 - Despite the growth in high-income white renters, renter households overall have become more racially and ethnically diverse since 2004, with minority households accounting for 76 percent of renter household growth through 2018; and
 - Income inequality among renter households has been growing. The average real income of the top fifth of renters rose more than 40 percent over the past 20 years, while that of the bottom fifth of renters fell by 6 percent;
- "Despite the strong economy, the number and share of renters burdened by housing costs rose last year after a couple of years of modest improvement," says Chris Herbert, Managing Director of the Joint Center for Housing Studies. "And while the poorest households are most likely to face this challenge, renters earning decent incomes have driven this recent deterioration in affordability."

This trend of fewer homeowners has also impacted another disturbing development: the nation's growing homeless population.

Citing that homelessness is again on the rise, the JCHS report noted that after falling for six straight years, the number of people experiencing

Across the Country, Most of the Growth in Renters Is High-Income Households: United States



homelessness nationwide grew from 2016-2018, to 552,830. In just one year, 2018 to 2019, the percentage of America's Black homeless grew from 40 percent to more than half - 52 percent.

That independent finding supports the conclusion of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's report to Congress known as its Annual Homeless Assessment Report.

While some would presume that homelessness is an issue for high-cost states like California, and New York, the 2019 HUD report found significant growth in homeless residents in states like Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, and Washington as well.

According to HUD, states with the highest rates of homelessness per 10,000 people were New York (46), Hawaii (45), California (38), Oregon (38), and Washington (29), each significantly higher than the national average of 17 persons per 10,000. The District of Columbia had a homelessness rate of 94 people per 10,000.

And like the JCHS report, HUD also found disturbing data on the disproportionate number of Black people who are now homeless.

For example, although the numbers of homeless veterans and homeless families with children declined over the past year, Blacks were 40 percent of all people experiencing homelessness in 2019, and 52% of people experiencing homelessness as members of families with children.

These racial disparities are even more alarming when overall, Blacks comprise 13 percent of the nation's population.

When four of every 10 homeless people are Black, 225,735 consumers are impacted. Further, and again according to HUD, 56,381 Blacks (27 percent) are living on the nation's streets, instead of in homeless shelters.

The bottom line on these research reports is that Black America's finances are fragile. With nagging disparities in income, family wealth, unemployment and more -- the millions of people working multiple jobs, and/or living paycheck to paycheck, are often just one paycheck away from financial disaster.

Add predatory lending on high-cost loans like payday or overdraft fees, or the weight of medical debt or student loans, when financial calamity arrives, it strikes these consumers harder and longer than others who have financial cushions.

And lest we forget, housing discrimination in home sales, rentals, insurance and more continue to disproportionately affect Black America despite the Fair Housing Act, and other federal laws intended to remove discrimination from the marketplace.

The real question in 2020 is, 'What will communities and the nation do about it?'

For Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, an assistant professor of African-American studies at Princeton University and author of the new book, "Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership", federal enforcement of its own laws addressing discrimination and acknowledging the inherent tug-of-war wrought from the tension of public service against the real estate industry's goal of profit, there's little wonder why so many public-private partnerships fail to serve both interests.

In a recent Chicago Tribune interview, Professor Taylor explained her view.

"You don't need a total transformation of society to create equitable housing for people," said Taylor. "We have come to believe that equitable housing is just some weird thing that can't happen here, and the reality is that we have the resources to create the kinds of housing outcomes that we say we desire."

"The way to get that has everything to do with connecting the energy on the ground to a different vision for our society -- one that has housing justice, equity and housing security at the heart of it," Taylor continued. "The resources and the money are there, but there's a lack of political will from the unfortunate millionaire class that dominates our politics... I think, given the persistence of the housing crisis in this country, we have to begin to think in different ways about producing housing that is equitable and actually affordable in the real-life, lived experiences of the people who need it."

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Preventing Contact Burn Injuries: Tips from the State Fire Marshal

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – With one American suffering a burn injury every 60 seconds, State Fire Marshal Jeff Hussey wants to remind Ohioans of some simple steps they can take to avoid the most common causes of burns – both in and out of the home.

National Burn Awareness Week runs from Feb. 2-8, and this year's theme is "Contact Burns — Hot Surfaces Damage Skin." Touching hot objects – like tap water, stovetops or grills – caused contact burns serious enough for roughly 700,000 people to seek treatment at a hospital in 2018.

"Failing to test tap or bath water or forgetting to cover your hands before reaching in the oven can put us at risk of a serious burn injury," said Marshal Hussey. "Avoiding distractions in the home and being cognizant of hot objects before touching them can go a long way in preventing an unnecessary hospital visit."

Marshal Hussey offers tips to stay safe and avoid common contact burn injuries:

- Maintain a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around a stove and/or grill.
- Supervise children around hot objects at all times.
- Use the back burners of your stove to prevent children from touching hot cookware.
- While you're at it, turn pot handles away from the stove's edge.
- Use long oven mitts when

reaching into the oven or over other hot surfaces.

- Assume all pots and pans are hot, and handle with caution.
- Unplug all hair products when not in use. Keep them away from children.
- Talk with your children about

items that are hot or not.

- Test bath water before allowing children into the tub.
- Face young children away from faucets when in the bathtub.
- Turn heating pads and blankets off before going to sleep.
- Treat burns with cool water

for 3-5 minutes, cover with a clean, dry cloth, and seek medical help right away.

For more information on Burn Awareness Week, or for additional safety tips, visit the American Burn Association website.


Preventing Burns & Fires

What causes most kitchen burns?

- Scalding liquids
- Spattering grease
- Hot cooking utensils

Most kitchen fires are caused by:

- Malfunctioning electric appliances
- Carelessness around hot surfaces & open flames




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Hydeia Broadbent

This event is free and open to the public.

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SUBMITTED

Carter G. Woodson was born in 1875 in New Canton, Virginia. One of the first African Americans to receive a doctorate from Harvard, Woodson dedicated his career to the field of African-American history and lobbied extensively to establish Black History Month as a nationwide institution.

Young Woodson was the fourth of seven children and worked as a sharecropper and a miner to help his family. He began high school in his late teens and proved to be an excellent student, completing a four-year course of study in less than two years.

After attending Berea College in Kentucky, Woodson worked for the U.S. government as an education superintendent in the Philippines and undertook more travels before returning to the U.S.

He earned his bachelor's and master's from the University of Chicago and went on to receive a doctorate from Harvard University in 1912—becoming the second African American to earn a Ph.D. from the prestigious institution, after W.E.B. Du Bois. After finishing his education, Woodson dedicated himself to the field of African-American history, working to make sure that the subject was taught in schools and studied by scholars. For his efforts, Woodson is often called the “Father of Black History.”

In 1915, Carter G. Woodson helped found the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Pictured above is a young Woodson

(which later became the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History), which had the goal of placing African-American historical contributions front and center. The next year he established the Journal of Negro History, a scholarly publication.

Woodson also formed the African-American-owned

Associated Publishers Press in 1921 and would go on to write more than a dozen books over the years, including A Century of Negro Migration (1918), The History of the Negro Church (1921), The Negro in Our History (1922) and Mis-Education of the Negro (1933). Mis-Education—with its focus on the Western indoctrination system and African-American self-empowerment—is a particularly noted work and has become regularly course adopted by college institutions.

Woodson lobbied schools and organizations to participate in a special program to encourage the study of African-American history, which began in February 1926 with Negro History Week. The program was later expanded and renamed Black History Month. (Woodson had chosen February for the initial weeklong celebration to honor the birth months of abolitionist Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln.)

To help teachers with African-American studies, Woodson later created the Negro History Bulletin in 1937 and also penned literature for elementary and secondary school students.

Woodson died on April 3, 1950, a respected and honored figure who received accolades for his vision. His legacy continues on, with Black History Month being a national cultural force recognized by a variety of media formats, organizations and educational institutions.

Frederick Douglass Historic Newspapers are Now Available Online

SUBMITTED

The Library of Congress is publishing for free online digitized copies of the Frederick Douglass Newspapers that date from 1847 to 1874.

The papers are North Star, Frederick Douglass's Paper and the New National Era. There are 137 issues of The North Star, 220 issues of Frederick Douglass' Paper and 211 issues of the New National Era.

The North Star, published from 1847 to1851 in Rochester, New York, is the most famous of Douglass's newspapers.

Douglass was an abolitionist and The North Star was anti-slavery newspaper. The North Star referred to Polaris, the bright star that helped slaves escape to the North and Canada.

At different times Douglass used his papers as an anti-slavery platform, as well as urging black men to fight for the Union during the Civil War, to fight the rise of the Klu Klux Klan and to champion Reconstruction.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

North Star paper pictured above

Douglas, who escaped slavery while being held in bondage in Tuckahoe, Talbot, Maryland, strongly believed in the importance of the black press.

He founded The North Star on December 3, 1847 in Rochester, New York. Rochester was a city on the Erie Canal that also was one the last stops for blacks escaping slavery before crossing over to the freedom in Canada.

One fugitive was Josiah Henson. He walked from Kentucky to Canada, with his wife and two children. He kissed the ground when they reached Canada.

North Star newspaper

He was known as Uncle Tom because of his association with Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of “Uncle Tom's Cabin.” The book helped spark the Civil War.

In this instance, “Uncle Tom” was a strong black man, not the head down shuffling “yes sir” boy afraid of whites. That Uncle Tom is a creation of whites, and unfortunately blacks use the disparaging name to insult other blacks.

Henson built a settlement of black homeowners in “Dawn” a village he named near Dresden, Ontario, Canada.

Douglass raised money to support The North Star by speaking in England, Ireland and Scotland from August 1845 to April 1847. The North Star's first publisher was abolitionist William Cooper Nell. British abolitionist Julia Griffiths moved to Rochester to help get the paper on more solid financial footing.

In June 1851, The North Star merged with Liberty Party Paper under the name The Frederick Douglass Paper. It also was published in Rochester.

Frederick Douglass newspaper

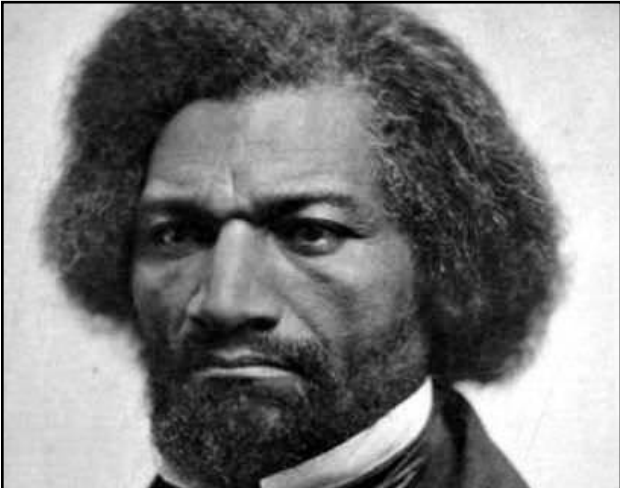


PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Douglas pictured above

While at the Frederick Douglass Paper, Frederick Douglass attended in July 1848 the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. He was one of 32 men and 68 women to sign the declaration stating “all men and women are created equal.”

In September 1870, Douglass moved to Washington, D.C. to become editor-in-chief and part owner of the New National Era. Douglass used the paper as platform to attack the rise of the Klu Klux Klan and to champion Reconstruction.

He later turned the running of the paper to his two sons Lewis and Frederick Jr. The paper operated from 1870 to 1874.

Flag Raising

Continued from page 1.

to focus on local black history. Every Tuesday in the Commissioner Chambers we will present a presentation on local black history. In addition, we will display the Pan-African Flag with the other flags in our chambers. We plan to start with a tribute to Hines Farm.”

Tina Skeldon Wozniak Lucas County Commissioner President, said, “We are so proud to be here with our community leaders today.

As we stand next to each other when the flag goes up, let us reflect on those, who have strived for equality before us, and renew our resolve that all members of our community are treated equally.”

Gary L. Byers spoke last but not least saying. “We are better as a community when we remember and celebrate all aspects of our community. Black History Month is an opportunity to do just that and it makes us better people and a better community. Today is the first part of that celebration.”

Following was CSRN member, Jodie Summers said, “Marcus Garvey created this flag because we were a people without a flag. He said a people without a flag are a people without pride. When we raise this flag it’s not just for Marcus Garvey, it’s for every protester who has held up a sign for something they believe in. This path did not come easy and it takes a long time to make progress, but slowly it will come.” He finished his presentation with a Black History poem called, ‘Beat the Drum.’

Next CSRN member, Julian Mack, continued explaining the flag saying, “In 1920 the on August 13, the Declaration of Rights of Negro People of the world declared that red, black, and green would be the sovereign colors of all those of the African race. The three colors of the flag were chosen to represent the blood, the soil, and the prosperity of Africa and its people. Many have fought and died for this flag and our people. We must continue to fight for the

liberation of our people because it has not yet been achieved. I challenge you all here today to play a part in our liberation in the future.”

The final speech was from Ray Woods, President of the local NAACP, he said, “This day and this event was ordained long before we even imagined it because God does not make mistakes. What this flag symbolizes is a sense of pride and respect, flags make a difference not just here but around the world, and today all of the Toledo’s city government is here with us to honor our history and our flag.”

After all the inspiring speeches were done it was time to lift the flag to the top of the poll. Bro Washington said the word and it was done. While the flag was being lifted Dr. Tracee Perryman from the Center of Hope led the audience in a rendition of ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing’ the African-American National Anthem. At last, it was done, the Pan-African flag was flying high over the City of Toledo for Black History Month.

Bro. Washington said, “Today’s ceremony was arranged by CSRN with the help of the NAACP, the African American Legacy Project, the Lucas County Port Authority, The Lucas County Commissioners, and the Mayor and his office and we thank them all for this day.”



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

African-American community leaders and city and county officials attending and participating in the flag-raising ceremony were (L-R) City Councilman Tyrone Riley, Rev. Dr. W. L. Perryman Jr., Lucas County Commissionaire Gary L. Byers, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, and Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken, NAACP President Ray Woods, CSRN’s Julian Mack, and Standing front Lucas County Commissionaire President Tina Skeldon Wozniak.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

NAACP President Ray Woods said “This day and this event was ordained long before we even imaged it because God does not make mistakes. What this flag symbolizes is a sense of pride and respect, flags make a difference not just here but around the world and today all of the Toledo’s city government is here with us to honor our flag,

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FEBRUARY 27, 2020
BLACK ISSUES CONFERENCE
BOWEN-THOMPSON STUDENT UNION
LENHART GRAND BALLROOM | 10 A.M.

Register now at bgsu.edu/beyondthedream

Parks’ Papers Reveal the Woman behind the Legend

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By the People, the Library of Congress’ crowdsourced transcription project powered by volunteers across the country is launching a campaign to transcribe Rosa Parks’ personal papers to make them more searchable and accessible online, including many items featured in the exhibition, “Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words,” started yesterday, February 4th, the 107th anniversary of her birth.

Through By the People, anyone can explore, transcribe and tag digitized Library collections through open-source software developed by the Library to give all Americans new ways to connect to the treasures the Library of Congress holds. Anyone can contribute through the project website at crowd.loc.gov.

“Inviting, including and honoring the contributions of people from every walk of life is such a fitting way to honor Rosa Parks,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. “By the People is all about individuals exploring, reading and understanding for themselves the significance of each item we have. These items are just as much about the day-to-day experience of one woman as they are about a world-changing civil rights movement, and that’s why we’re thrilled to invite everyone to join this project.”

Participants will learn about the relationships and events that shaped Rosa Parks’ lifetime of activism, her life as an individual and her experiences as an icon of the civil rights movement. Available for transcription are notes and fragmentary writings from the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Through powerful prose, these pages reveal a woman who was strong, courageous, clear-eyed and grounded in her core ethical beliefs, but not immune to pain inflicted by racial discrimination. The campaign also includes programs, invitations, flyers and other publicity material from Parks’ speaking engagements and events, demonstrating the evolving way Parks was remembered and honored by the American public.

Also available for transcription are letters to and from Parks’ mother, Leona McCauley; letters from her brother, Sylvester; a poignant letter from her father, James, and a large selection of letters to her husband, Raymond. Living apart as they looked for paying work in 1957 and 1958, Raymond and Rosa Parks coped at a distance with the fallout from her bus protest and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Participants can read for themselves loving, compassionate letters that reveal who Rosa Parks was as a woman. Other

Continued on page 11.

Canada Post Issues Stamps that Honor Black Hockey League



PHOTO CREDIT / BlackmansStreet.Today

SUBMITTED

(BlackmansStreet.Today) - Canada Post, the country's equivalent to the U.S. Postal Service, has issued a stamp, honoring the country Coloured Hockey League, which was established in 1917, 22 years before the National Hockey League.

The stamps feature images of the players from the Colored Hockey League, which operated from 1865 to the 1930s. Canada Post produced

about 1.4 million stamps for 140,000 booklets that contain 10 stamps each.

The unveiling of the stamps was held during a ceremony in Halifax, Nova Scotia, birthplace of the Maritimes Coloured Hockey League.

The league was based in Nova Scotia's black churches, providing an outlet for Nova Scotia's black players who couldn't skate in the all-white local leagues.

The league also dispelled the widely

held belief by whites blacks did not like hockey because they had weak ankles and didn't like cold weather, said George Fosty co-author of the 2004 book "Black Ice: The Lost History of The Colored Hockey League of the Canadian Maritimes, 1825 to 1925."

At its peak, the all-black league boasted more than a dozen teams with hundreds of players.

Some hockey scholars credit the all-black league with establishing the slap

shot to employing the butterfly style of goaltending that's popular today, Canada Post reported.

Few photos remain of the league. When they appeared, skeptics said they were publicity shots from minstrel shows or vaudeville acts.

Fosty said the stamps validate decades of research he and his brother conducted for the book as well as other historians who advocated for greater recognition of the league.

Parks' Papers

Continued from page 10.

items, including a unique pancake recipe, shed light Parks's day-to-day life.

Since By the People launched in October 2018, more than 12,000 volunteers have completed over 50,000 transcriptions. More than 8,000 have already been published on loc.gov. By the People transcriptions will make letters to President Abraham Lincoln, writings of suffragists, reports of baseball scout Branch Rickey, notebooks belonging to folklorist Alan Lomax, and Clara Barton's diaries keyword searchable by the public online for the first time. Transcriptions also open these documents up to be read by individuals who utilize accessibility technologies like screen readers.



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Three Ways Our Faith May Increase Our Happiness



By Pastor W. Eric Croomes
Wire Writer

Several years ago a study was conducted to measure the so-called “Happiness Index” of men

and women. Pollsters asked several hundred people of both sexes to name activities they routinely did, whether it was running errands at the grocery store or picking up kids from school. Additionally, the respondents were asked to describe how they felt as they executed each activity. One of the activities common to both groups was spending time with parents. Men enjoyed the activity more than women, the former seeing it as “bonding”, and the latter as “feeling like work”.

After tabulating the results, pollsters came across some surprising results: there is a growing “happiness gap” between men and women.

Are men “happier” than women? And if so, why? I decided to look at that question from a counter-cultural perspective; that is, if one inserts faith as a barometer of happiness, how would the sexes fare? Happiness, though, is an elusive quality and, obviously, is relative to not only how one perceives happiness, but where one experiences happiness via their social and economic location.

So, to narrow the question, I wondered: Are Christian men happier men? There are not tons of research from which we can deduce an answer, but there are studies that point to increased levels of happiness among people of faith as opposed to the “religiously unaffiliated”.

Here is one thing for certain: Faith is an undeniable factor in how we respond to the challenges of life. The better (or more efficiently) we respond to our challenges as men, the higher our “happiness quotient”, according to studies.

Yet secular studies are not the only source-proofing in this regard.

It has been noted, and research conducted by the author Patrick Glynn, appears to prove that a faith-based, spirit-grounded lifestyle is good for both our physical and mental well-being. In other words, as men, we tend to respond better to our life challenges when we do so from foundation of faith and belief.

“Order, design and life in the spirit are the pillars of faith in the unknown. The faith we are in possession of – indeed which possesses us – is the stuff we use to make sense of what is not always evidentiary. What we ‘believe’ may actually conspire to increase our level of happiness.”

Patrick Glynn is the author of God, The Evidence: The Reconciliation of Faith and Reason in a Post-Secular World, published in 1999.

Glynn persuasively argues that “at its heart is the dawning realization that the universe, far from being a sea of chaos, appears instead to be an intricately tuned mechanism whose every molecule, whose every physical law, seems to have been designed from the very first nanosecond toward a single end – the creation of life.”

Order, design and life in the spirit are the pillars of faith in the unknown. The faith we are in possession of – indeed which possesses us – is the stuff we use to make sense of what is not always evidentiary. What we ‘believe’ may actually conspire to increase our level of happiness. ‘Faith’ spoken of here is not denomination, it is personal creed, it is personal devotion and it is grounded in a personal relationship with a Higher Power.

Life is first and inner experience. All of the peace and security we are seeking is within us, writes Susan L. Taylor, former Editor-At-Large at Essence Magazine.

This ‘inner experience’ has its fair share of benefits; thus, when we engage it, we come out of it

better men.

Here are three ways our faith may increase our happiness.

We Handle Stress Better

Life in the spirit equips a person to handle stress more effectively. According to Glynn, high levels of faith commitment correlate with lower levels of depression and stress, and give us a greater ability to cope with stress.

When we live in the Spirit, we tend to see our

“Attaching oneself to a larger cause can be one of the most fulfilling experiences in life. Why? Because when we do so, we discover it’s not all about our self-contained, whimsical desires. One of the areas of my life where I’ve found this to be especially true is in worship and praise.”

struggle differently than those who do not. We see the end before the beginning; we see success where others may see only failure; we see ourselves a growing through our challenges as opposed to merely just going through them.

We Have Something to Believe In

Established ways of believing contribute to a meaningful experience; when you believe in something – faith, creed, and principle – you extract meaning from it. Indeed, Glynn opines that believers with well-grounded belief systems consistently report greater overall happiness and satisfaction with life and are generally more positive about life.

Faith affords us a dimension of life that flows from direct communion with a Higher Power, a communion nurtured by prayer, ritual, meditation and worship. Faith gives us the centered experience.

We Are Part of Something Bigger

Attaching oneself to a larger cause can be one of the most fulfilling experiences in life. Why? Because when we do so, we discover it’s not all about our self-contained, whimsical desires. One of the areas of my life where I’ve found this to be especially true is in worship and praise. What an experience to come together with others and perform such a beautiful act as worship! Your outlook on your challenge is immensely impacted when you worship with others who face their own obstacles. Indeed, we are able to worship within the confines of home on any given day of worship, but I would argue there’s something missing when we neglect the “assembling of ourselves together”.


In fact, according to Glynn’s findings, people who did not attend church were four times as likely to commit suicide than were frequent attendees. That’s huge. That means we share a not only a common faith, but a common destiny, as well.

The evidence is overwhelming: the greater our faith, the more victorious we live our lives.

Personally, I believe it is crucial to be as consistent as possible in our daily faith walk as men. We’ve got to do the work; we must pray, we must meditate, we must engage in reading and study of Holy Scripture and we must engage in praise and worship communally. So often, as men, we isolate ourselves from others, attempting to rely on our individual strength and acumen.

We are not islands. We are social creatures. We serve a Higher Purpose and calling as leaders of our families and communities. We must nurture our faith daily.

Faith is an undeniable factor in facing the challenges of life.



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BLACK HISTORY

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February 9, 1906: Paul Laurence Dunbar, the first
African American to gain national eminence as a poet,
dies.
February 7, 1926: Negro History week originated
by Carter G. Woodson is observed for the first time.
February 5, 1934: Henry “Home Run King” Aaron,
baseball superstar, born.
February 8, 1968: Three South Carolina state stu-
dents are killed during segregation protest in
Orangeburg.

Portraits of President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama will begin 5-city tour in Chicago



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED
Portrait of President Barack Obama.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED
Portrait of First Lady Michelle Obama

By Frederick Lowe.

Portraits of former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama will go on display at the Art Institute of Chicago as the first stop in a five-city tour beginning in the summer of 2021.

Chicago is where the Obamas began their historical ascension to the White House.

The paintings, on loan from the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, are Kehinde Wiley's painting of President Obama and Amy Sherald's portrait of Michelle Obama.

Portrait of First Lady Michelle Obama

The former First Lady, a Chicago native who grew up on the city's South Side, visited the museum with her family. The Art Institute also was the site of the couple's first date.

Wiley and Sherald are the first African American artists commissioned by the National Gallery to create official portraits of a President and a First Lady.

Wiley placed President Obama in a chair against a backdrop of flowers, including chrysanthemums, Chicago's official flower. Sherald painted the First Lady against a light-blue ground, gazing directly at the viewer.

After the Art Institute, the portraits will travel to The Brooklyn Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, High Museum of Art in Atlanta and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

From the Desk of Felicia

Dating as a FT Creative & Entrepreneur Interview with Tomayia Colvin



Being a full-time entrepreneur and creative is different and sometimes difficult in some ways in the dating world because of the non-traditional career choice. Also, most entrepreneurs work from home and are not engaging with people daily in physical locations such as in an office setting or within rush hours commuting to and from work and their only social life is typically when they are attending an event or conference. This is a part of entrepreneurship that people don't often get to see. I had the honor of interviewing Tomayia Colvin is a full-time photographer and entrepreneur with two beautiful children and she is currently dating. Below is the interview with Tomayia:

FTS: Being a full-time entrepreneur, would you say that it has enhanced or affected your dating life?

TC: It has definitely enhanced my dating life be-

cause I have the freedom of time during the day to go on dates (ex., lunch dates while the kids are at school) and I have a flexible schedule that doesn't disrupts my home life with my children.

FTS: Are you opened to dating men who are also entrepreneurs or have a 9-5? What is your advice for someone dating a creative?

TC: I'm open to dating both, an entrepreneur or a man that has a 9-5. Dating another creative is usually a good thing. My advice is that whoever you date, make sure that they understand your schedule.

FTS: What's the craziest thing you experienced dating?

TC: Nothing really crazy but I will say the funniest thing would be when you meet a guy and he becomes your client.

Tomayia mentioned to me that her dating life is partially based on a goal sheet that she created with the help of her dating coach, Tracey Ready, who also offers Dating Masterclasses. I thought that was very interesting to have in your arsenal, a dating coach and a goal sheet for dating! On her goal sheet, she lists her non-negotiables, what she defines that's important

to her and the things that she's not willing to compromise on. Now those are real relationship goals. Her goal sheet template is set up in two categories that she always refers back to when needed: (1) What do you want? (2) Why do you want it? Her confidence was felt through the phone when I asked her this last question to conclude our interview:

FTS: Are you open to having a long distance relationship?

TC: NOPE!

Being a creative or a full-time entrepreneur is a journey in and of itself. A lot of times you're dealing with being frustrated, crying tears of sadness and happiness, making sacrifices and so much more. Finding a person who can understand your non-traditional lifestyle is great to have. When asked for any final advice to someone who may be starting out dating as an entrepreneur and have no direction or just need some encouragement, Tomayia stated the following, "Stay true to who you are even on the difficult days."

Tomayia Colvin
Tomayia Colvin Education (TCE)
(832) 429-5190
Website: www.tomayiacolvineducation.com

Social Security Ask Rusty – We took benefits early; can we get more now?

Submitted

Dear Rusty: My birth date is 1947. My wife is 1950. We both took our Social Security years ago at age 62 due to health concerns because we questioned if we would live to age 78 to equalize the extra payout if we would have waited to age 66. Taking early at 62 may have been a mistake and I am wondering if there are any options available to maximize my and/or my wife's monthly payment with a restricted application or any other available options? My gross monthly is \$946.60, and my wife's is \$543.60 before the deduction for Medicare. Together our gross monthly is about equal to the per person individual average monthly payment of \$1479. Signed: Regretful we took SS early.

Dear Regretful: I'm afraid the options for either you or your wife increasing your benefit at this point are extremely limited. You cannot file the restricted application you mentioned because that can only be done by someone applying for the first time (and who was born before 1/2/1954), and only by someone who has not yet reached age 70. Neither can you suspend your benefits to earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) because DRCs are only earned up to age 70. Your wife has a very small window until she reaches 70

in March during which she could suspend her benefits, and by doing so immediately she could perhaps earn, at most, an additional 1% in DRCs (about \$5 more per month). That leaves only two other things which could increase your benefits: 1) Annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) granted each year depending upon inflation, and 2) returning to work and having substantial current earnings which may replace the earnings in a lower-earning year in your lifetime work record (SS uses the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime to compute your benefit amount).

If you have some years in that 35-year history with no or very low earnings, working now could replace one or more of those years. I have no way of determining whether that is a possibility; you would need to get your lifetime earnings record from Social Security and see if that is possible by examining your earnings for each year over your lifetime. But remember, all early years of earnings are adjusted for inflation, so for example, \$10,000 earned in 1990 would be equal to about \$25,000 in today's dollars, and you'd need to earn more than the higher amount to have any effect on your benefit.

I wish I had better

news for you, but the unfortunate reality is that once someone claims their Social Security, the benefit amount is quite fixed. Although it's possible to withdraw an application within 12 months of initial filing, and it's also possible to suspend benefits once FRA is reached, neither of those is available to you. And your wife only has a very short window to suspend her benefits, which will reach maximum when she reaches 70 in March. So, except for the COLA increases and returning to work options I've discussed above, I'm afraid you have no other opportunity to increase your Social Security benefit amounts.

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PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

How Kobe Bryant Turned \$6 Million into \$200 Million

SUBMITTED

Retired NBA star Kobe Bryant has already proven that his greatness transcends from the basketball court to the business world. Through his investment firm, BryantStibel, he made his first investment in the sports drink BodyArmor. And within just 4 years, his return on investment has multiplied by more than 30 times - one of the the biggest investment returns for an athlete in the business world.

In March 2014, Bryant invested roughly 10% share in the beverage company, BodyArmor, putting in about \$6 million. Last week, Coca-Cola purchased a minority share in BodyArmor and based on its valuation deal, Bryant's stake appears

to now be worth approximately \$200 million.

BodyArmor, marketed as a healthier alternative to Gatorade, was only generating about \$10 million in annual sales when Bryant invested in it four years ago. The brand topped \$400 million in sales in 2018, and almost \$450 million in 2019.

Bryant, who is the fourth largest investor in BodyArmor, is also the owner of Kobe Inc. His investment firm, BryantStibel, is a venture with his partner Jeff Stibel, that manages \$100 million in assets. Moreover, he owns Granity Studios, a production company that produced the Oscar 2018 winner for Best Animated Short titled Dear Basketball.

For more details about Kobe's investment firm, BryantStibel, visit www.bryantstibel.com or follow Kobe Bryant on www.facebook.com/Kobe.

Browns Name Youngest President of Operations in NFL History

SUBMITTED

The Cleveland Browns on Tuesday named Andrew Berry, executive vice president for football operations and general manager, making him the youngest person to achieve that position in the NFL history and only the second African American to currently hold the job in the league.

The 32-year-old Berry returned to Cleveland after holding a similar position with the Philadelphia Eagles.

"We are thrilled Andrew will lead our football operations," Dee and Jimmy Haslam, the Browns' owners, said in a statement. "We have always been profoundly impressed with him as a consummate professional who has meticulously studied his craft every

place he has worked and is extremely dedicated to utilizing every resource to improve the organization and enhance his own knowledge."

“We have always been profoundly impressed with him as a consummate professional who meticulously studied his craft.”

The team will introduce Berry to the press February 5 at the Browns' facility in Berea, Ohio.

This is Berry's return to the Browns. He joined the Browns in 2016 as vice president of player personnel. He helped lead all talent evaluation efforts for the club, including college prospects and NFL free agents. In addition, he helped oversee the Browns' scouting department and he worked closely with other high-ranking members of the front office.

During his three seasons with the Browns, the team selected at least one Pro Bowler every year.

Berry is the second African American named general manager of an NFL team. Chris Grier is general manager of the Miami Dolphins. Serena and Venus Williams are part owners of the Miami Dolphins.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Andrew Berry, executive vice president of football operations and general manager of the Cleveland Browns

No Parking, No Kidding

There's a reason there are "no parking" signs in front of a fire hydrant. It's self-evident to most drivers, but one driver in Camden, NJ had to learn it the hard way, says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. No, he or she did not just get a ticket. Instead, firefighters responding to a call simply broke both the passenger's side and driver's side windows and ran their hose through the car in order to deal with a nearby blaze.

ATM? No, APM

A London chain of drinking establishments opened a new pub, known as the Vagabond, in a building that used to be a bank. The owners apparently decided that the ATM out front gave the saloon a unique look and so they kept it where it stood, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. But, instead of dispensing cash, they rigged it so that it would dispense, Proseco, a sparkling Italian white wine, thus converting the ATM into what may be the very first Automated Proseco Machine or APM.

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HIV/AIDS activist speaks at National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Hydenia Broadbent to speak Feb. 8 at UT

International HIV/AIDS activist and humanitarian Hydenia Broadbent is the featured speaker at The University of Toledo Medical Center's National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day event at 4 p.m. on **Saturday, Feb. 8**, in the **Collier Building Room 1000 A and B** at the **University of Toledo**

Health Science Campus. The free event is open to the public.

As part of the first generation of children born HIV-positive, Hydenia Broadbent was diagnosed with AIDS at age 3. The prognosis was that she wouldn't live past age 5.

Broadbent began her work as an HIV/AIDS activist and public speaker at 6 years old. By 12, she had appeared on national television programs including "Oprah," "20/20," "Good Morning America" and "A Conversation with Magic Johnson" on Nickelodeon.

Now, at age 34, Broadbent is a distinguished motivational speaker and activist who shares her message of HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention to audiences of all ages. Her mission is to avoid at-risk behaviors through self-examination and informed decision-making.

She promotes abstinence, safe-sex practices and HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

"With all that we know about the virus, it is clear to me that contracting HIV/AIDS today is a choice and we can't allow anyone the power to make that choice for us," Broadbent said.

NAACP Division Director to Speak at UToledo for Black History Month



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

NAACP Division Director, Tiffany Loftin, to speak Feb 6 at UT

Activist Tiffany Loftin, director of the NAACP Youth and College Division, will talk about advocacy and empowerment for communities of color when she visits The University of Toledo for Black History Month.

She will speak **7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6** in **Doermann Theatre**.

For the NAACP, Loftin serves more than 700 youth councils and high school and college chapters fighting for civil rights. She is known for her passion for membership-based organizing at the local, state and national levels.

She believes her mission is to develop students into leaders who can stand up for what they believe in.

"My first value in this work is to

make sure that our young people are treated as respectable young adults," Loftin said during an interview with The Crisis Magazine. "Our young folks are more woke, taking more risks, and having more important conversations at a younger age that a lot of us didn't have to have when we were young."

"We are excited Tiffany Loftin is coming to campus to give our keynote address during Black History Month," David Young, UToledo director of Toledo Excel and Special Projects, said. "She is a dynamic leader, and we expect her to fire up our students to get involved and make a difference in the fight for equality."

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