



THE TOLEDO JOURNAL

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INSIDE

QUESTION

Is the task force response warranted?



EDITORIAL/NEWS

What Do You Have to Lose? Your Health or Your Job



LIFESTYLES/NEWS

Campaign to Memorialize Tulsa Race Massacre



EDUCATION

Colson Whitehead wins Pulitzer for "The Nickel Boys"



EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY IN THE TOLEDO JOURNAL



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Specialist Jacque Elama of the 148th Infantry Regiment, makes sure everyone receives the necessary items to help sustain a family.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Specialist Kinnis White, of the 148th Infantry Regiment, loads a food box into the trunk of a car.

Toledo NW Ohio Food Bank, Infantry to the rescue

By *JURRY TAALIB-DEEN*
Journal Staff Writer

Milk, fresh produce, pasta, and meat, were amongst some of the items that made up a food box that was given to over 130 people. The Toledo NW Ohio Food Bank, 24 East Woodruff Ave., and the Ohio National Guard's HHC 1-48th Infantry Regiment, on Saturday, May 9 help fulfill a need for food items, during a time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Barbara Hofstetter, human relations for the Toledo NW Ohio Food Bank, told The Toledo Journal it was their first time distributing food from their location since the start of the pandemic, but their other affiliate sites have been making sure residents in the area have the supplies they need. Those wanting a food box had to preregister, but she said they were taking people on the spot.

Quickly, and orderly, people simply pulled their vehicles up to the designated spots, and members of the military would load the boxes into the cars, or vans. Social distancing was

totally implemented to insure safety.

"We've been blessed to be able to help out people during this time of need, and uncertainty. We wouldn't have been this successful if it wasn't for the National Guard," Ms. Hofstetter said.

Sgt. Richard Torres of the 148th Infantry Regiment, out of Walbridge, Ohio, said that, not only has the National Guard helped locally, by delivery food to churches, and other organizations, but they've been helping throughout the State of Ohio.

"This has been a very fulfilling job. To help people in a time of need lifts your spirits. We're all happy to be involved," he said.

Ms. Hofstetter said in addition to having another giveaway on Saturday, May 16 at their main location, there will be a food distribution at the James Caldwell Community Center at 3201 Stickney Ave. on Friday May 15. For more information about dates, as well as future sites and times, call 419.242.5000 ext. 213/215.

This Saturday, May 16, NWO Food Bank hosts drive-through food distribution

Submitted

In an effort to continue the fight against hunger, The Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, with support from the

Ohio National Guard, will host a drive-through food distribution event, Saturday, May 16, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The non-contact event, for pre-registered families,

will take place at the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank located at 24 E. Woodruff Avenue Toledo, OH, 43604.

Pre-registration info:

- Registration is open Now until Friday May 15th at 2p.m
- Call the Toledo Food Bank at 419-242-5000 ext. 213 Or
- Call the Toledo Food Bank at 419-242-5000 ext. 215



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Pfc. Patrick Valentine, of the 148th Infantry Regiment, and Sgt. Sean Bergman of the Ohio Military Reserve, quickly and orderly load up food boxes in cars.

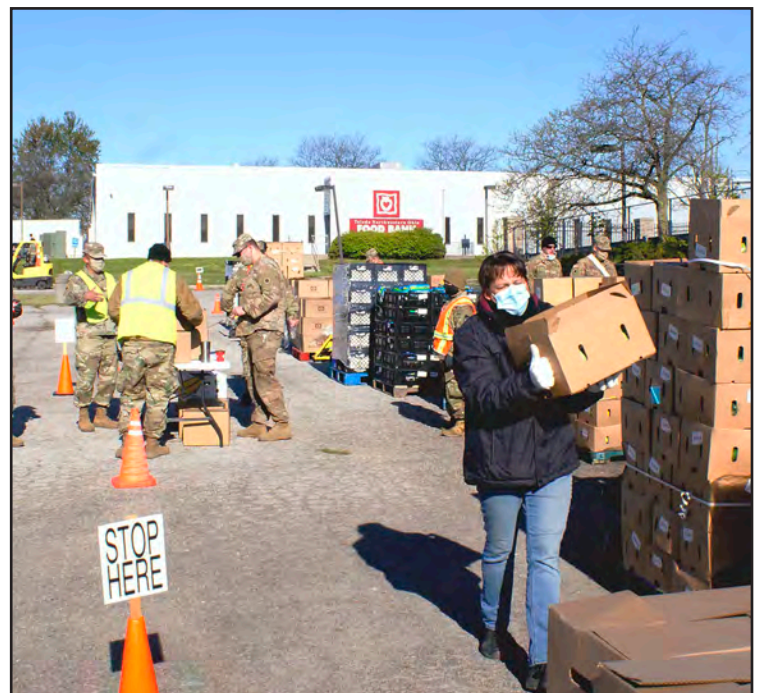


PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Barbara Hofstetter, making sure everything is ordered to be safely placed inside the vehicles.

Savannah Fire Dept Hires First Ever Black Woman Chief Fire Marshall

Submitted

Black News - The Savannah Fire Department has welcomed Whitney Williams-Smith as it's newest Chief Fire Marshal. She is the first African American and the first woman to hold the position. As a certified firefighter, she began her career with the Albany Fire Department in 2004.

Her new role as the Chief Fire Marshal will include overseeing all issues pertaining to building occupancy, permitting, fire inspections, fire codes, fire ordinances, fire investigations and fire zones in the city of Savannah.

In 2005, Williams-Smith took a position with East Point Fire. She

worked as a firefighter, EMT and fire prevention officer under Rosemary R. Cloud, the first black woman fire chief in the nation, and Deputy Fire Chief Toni Barnes Washington, a native Savannahian who went on to become City of Decatur Fire Chief.

She holds the following certifications: NFPA Certified Plan Review Examiner, Fire and Life Safety Plan Review, Fire Inspector I, Fire and Life Safety Educator with Daycare Provider, Asbestos Abatement Supervisor, Hazardous Materials Technician, Firefighter II and EMT-Intermediate.

Her husband, Ronald Smith, Jr., is a firefighter and assist



Whitney Williams-Smith

PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

First black woman judge appointed to Washington State Supreme Court



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Judge Whitener

Submitted

Whitener is known for her commitment to justice and equity. She serves as co-chair of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission and as a member of the Civil Legal Aid Oversight Committee. She continues to garner recognition for her work to advance the cause of justice.

In 2019, she was awarded the Washington State Bar

Association's C.Z. Smith Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award, the King County Washington Women Lawyers President Award, the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association's Diversity Award and the Seattle University School of Law's Woman of the Year Award.

Judge Whitener is very active locally, nationally, and internationally and speaks often on human rights, access to justice,

and the rights and responsibility of the judiciary in ensuring the rights of all that appear before the court to basic dignity and respect in judicial proceedings.

Originally from Trinidad, Whitener moved to the United States as a teenager to attend college. She earned her bachelor's degree from Baruch College in New York, and her law degree from Seattle University School of Law.

Kweisi Mfume returns to Congress



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

U.S. Rep. Kweisi Mfume

Submitted

(BlackmansStreet) - Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, last Tuesday, swore in 71-year-old Kweisi Mfume as a member of the House of Representatives, succeeding Elijah Cummings who died in office.

Mfume defeated Republican Kimberly Klacik in a special April 29 election

in which many residents voted by mail because of the coronavirus.

Cummings represented Maryland's 7th Congressional District in Baltimore.

During the swearing-in ceremony, Mfume wore a mask which he removed before raising his right hand so Speaker Pelosi

could administer the oath of office.

He is expected to win the June primary for the Democratic nomination to Congress to serve a full two-years.

Mfume's swearing in is a return to his old job. He served in the House from 1987 to 1996. Cummings succeeded him.

Mfume resigned from Congress to chair the NAACP. He led the NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization, until 2004.

His victory speech focused on his determination to fight the coronavirus which has ravaged residents of his Congressional district which includes large areas of poverty as well as Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Mfume was born October 24, 1948.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

The late U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings

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Rent Based on Income
 Equal Housing Opportunity

A covid-19 task force, composed of members from the health department, and Toledo Police, has been formed by the mayor. Once businesses fully reopen, if they violate the guidelines of preventing the spread of the virus, such as violating social distancing, or having more than 50% of their total occupancy, the task force will shut them down on the spot. Due to the current situation with covid-19, do you think the response by the task force is warranted, or do you think some businesses may be coincidentally shut down?




Lynette Lewis
Nurses Aid

There are too many, uncontrolled factors, involved with this entire situation; so I'm not for just shutting a business down. How will people make money once the business is shut down? Even if it's a temporary shutdown, to destroy a business isn't good for business. There's no cure for a virus. Our best defense to a virus is building up a natural immunity to it; that means getting out and moving in the public. We can still practice social distancing, and wearing masks, but we have to build up immunity, until a vaccine is made. And the problem isn't necessarily the virus, on why people are dying, especially black people. The problem is neglect by the medical community. It has been establish that black people are dying at a higher rate because we're being neglected by medical staff.



Omari Betts
Pharmacy Tech

I can see this move being very detrimental to businesses. Many times, it's not the business that violates the mandates to keep people safe; it's the customers. Where I work at, we'll ask them to practice social distancing, but many times they won't. Customers will do what they want to, and won't listen to the businesses; now those businesses are being faulted for something that's out of their control. To me, our response to this virus is like any other virus. You're always supposed to stay back from people, and practice proper hygiene to avoid getting sick.




Patrick Dent
Roofer

I understand the need to keep people safe, but if this task force shut the businesses down, who supposedly violate the mandates, people will be without jobs. That means how will they live, if they're not making money; so I'm not in agreement with this method.



Mashani Hampton
Manager

I'm split between the two. I understand trying to keep people safe, but I question shutting a business down on the spot. I really believe shutting them down on the spot, will be bad for business.



Henry Machado
Journeyman

I see the good and the bad in this approach. Keeping people safe is a good thing, but shutting businesses down isn't a good thing. As citizens, we have basic rights, and the government should be careful not to violate those rights.

Ongoing Events

The Toledo African-American Chamber of Commerce - One-On-One Group Services

Is providing free one-on-one as well select group services to newly-established, as well as, seasoned businesses to help them achieve their business goals. Additionally, the program also involves developing strategies to help businesses increase revenue via the Program's services that will include:

- Internet Domain Name and Registration
- Corporate email setup with registered Domain Name
- Business Applications Suite Training & Software Licensing (Microsoft Office 365 or Google G-Suite) and Quickbooks Online
- Referrals to Business Growth Collaborative (BGC) Partners
- Assistance w/ Website Development and Hosting

All sessions will be held online. Small businesses in the Toledo, OH and surrounding areas can book appointments at <https://ycnotllc05.setmore.com/> and select the "TAACC" category. Referrals of other entrepreneurs from the Toledo, OH and surrounding areas are also gladly accepted. If there are questions, contact Amber Hawkins at 419-304-4564.

Lourdes University Appold Planetarium presents the Dome from Home Club

Lourdes University Appold Planetarium presents the Dome from Home Club. Members will experience a new show every week right from home! Nothing can really compare with the immersive experience of traveling through space in the Appold Planetarium, but watching a version formatted for your flat screen at home is the next best thing.

"The Dome from Home Club is a new STEM-

education offering made available free to the public because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Free to sign up. For more information or to sign up for the Dome from Home Club, visit www.lourdes.edu/outreach/appold-planetarium.

BGSU

Math Education students offer help to community

As parents school children at home during Ohio's stay-at-home order, one challenge persists: math. Bowling Green State University students are stepping up to help.

Math Education students in the College of Education and Human Development, who are also members of the Bowling Green Council of Teachers of Mathematics, are offering free help. The council is a University student organization that promotes professional development for aspiring mathematics teachers.

By tweeting council members at @BGSU_CTM, anyone – students, parents and others – can get their math questions answered.

Grace Community Center - Food Pantry

In an effort to continue to serve our community during these trying times.....Grace Community Center has expanded its Food Pantry operations. The hours of service are M-F, 10 am – 3 pm. Children may also receive grab & go lunches from the hours of 11 -1 M-F. Eligible Seniors in need of food assistance please call for delivery options at 419-248-2467. Elaine Page, Executive Director, Grace Community Center, 406 W. Delaware.

Senior Centers Closed

At the advice of the local health commissioners, the following senior centers are closed to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus:

- Lucas County senior centers

- Sandusky County senior centers
- Williams County senior centers
- Wood County senior centers

The AOoA/Toledo Police Department's Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol Program has cancelled all home visits. The Area Office on Aging is recommending that all senior centers contact their participants and determine if anyone needs home-delivered meals, medical or personal supplies or any assistance during the period of closure. Additionally, the Area Office on Aging is recommending that a core team remain accessible to older adults and caregivers as needs arise.

Every Tuesday Monroe Street Neighborhood Center's Free Food Pantry

Open from 11:00am-1:00pm. Everyone is eligible to benefit from this service regardless of income or circumstance. No identification required, no appointments necessary. Protein, canned goods, fresh produce and baked goods are available. Items may vary weekly.

Every 3rd Saturday River of Life Church

Hosts "The Storehouse" free food distribution from 11:00am to 1:00pm, 3611 Upton Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43613. Ephesians 6:7 - NLT - Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Now - Until

WGTE Public Media Home Learning
WGTE Public Media in collaboration with all of the Ohio Public Broadcasting stations announces AT Home Learning, at 7:00 a.m. WGTE change its

What Do You Have to Lose? Your Health or Your Job



By Julianne Malveaux
Wire Columnist

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - A little less than four years ago, the president tried to get Black votes with the question, "What do you have to lose." The coronavirus offers a bleak answer. Trump was notified of the danger of the pandemic in January, but didn't begin to address the issue until late February. Hospitals ran short on supplies like gowns, masks and tests. Governors had to ask, then plead with the president for ventilators and other supplies. And in the beginning, the president dismissed the seriousness of the virus, claiming it would "go away." And after weeks of "staying in place" and wearing masks, the daily death toll has not yet stabilized.

Of course, the Black community, along with Native Americans and

Latinos, are hardest hit because of differences in spatial location, income, and age. With some of the nonsense Trump has spouted, one might also think that he is deliberately targeting the Black community for damage. What do we have to lose? Our jobs or our lives.

Consider the United States Postal Service (USPS), which has been a staple employer in the African American community. Back in the day, my mom used to talk about "Ph.D.s working at the post office," because academic employment was scarce and segregated, and the Post Office paid decently. Many a Black family made it to the middle class with postal wages. And now the president is declaring war on the USPS.

Why? 45 has incorrect-



ly said that fees for mailing packages are "too low," that USPS is subsidizing internet companies (he means Amazon) with low package fees. But studies have shown that the prices paid for mailing packages more than cover their actual costs. Twenty-one percent of the USPS' roughly 625,000 employees are African American, and nearly 17 percent are other people of color. Might this be one of the reasons that 45 keeps lashing out at the USPS? He says that unless the USPS raises its fees for package delivery, he will deny the USPS any COVID-19 aid. I'm not suggesting that his animus toward the USPS in general, and Jeff Bezos and Amazon in particular, is precisely because so many people of color work for the Post Office. Still, I do not think that his attitude toward Black people is unrelated to his ire at the USPS.

What do we have to lose? Some Black women have found their lives at

risk because Trump's touting of hydroxychloroquine as a "game-changing" coronavirus cure. People with lupus also need hydroxychloroquine for their disease, but Trump's unseemingly huckstering a drug

lupus is more likely to hit Black women at an earlier age, Black women also risk complications from pregnancy because of lupus.

Did Trump enthusiastically embrace hydroxy-

recognize the disproportional impact the shortages of hydroxychloroquine have had on Black women.

These impacts of disparate impact are one of the many reasons that race matters and that data on health, income, employment, wealth, and other factors must be collected and reported by race. At the same time, there are too many who resist gathering and reporting data by race, facetiously claiming we are all "one nation." And the myth of "one nation" holds if data are not collected.

When the threat of the coronavirus has receded, perhaps a year or so from now, we will be able to measure who carried the higher burden of this coronavirus. But we already know that Black folks are dying, losing their jobs, or being exposed to the virus because of the jobs they hold (as an example, Black women are 6 percent of the labor force but 20 percent of medical support staff). We don't need detailed statistical analysis to conclude that poorer, urban, Black and brown communities are hardest hit.

What do you have to lose? Your job, and maybe even your life. The lack of leadership 45 has exhibited during this pandemic disqualifies him for a second term. And those disproportionately impacted who choose to vote for 45, choose to vote against their own interest.

For more information please visit www.juliannemalveaux.com or email booking@juliannemalveaux.com

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”

that is not likely to cure the coronavirus has created shortages for hydroxychloroquine. Black women get lupus twice as frequently as white women, and we get it younger and with more complications than white women. Because

chloroquine because Black women are more likely to get the disease, and he wanted to punish us? Does he have investments in hydroxychloroquine-producing companies? You don't have to believe in conspiracies to

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In America the Choice Death, Coronavirus or the Economy

By Roger Caldwell,
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Under the direction and management of President Donald Trump and his coronavirus pandemic task force, there has been mass death. With over 80,000 deaths, and over one million cases of the virus, there are still no masks, limited ventilators, limited gowns, limited tests-kits and massive corruption.

Instead of President Trump's weekly briefing solidifying and bringing the country together to fight a common enemy, the nation is more divided and broken. President Trump's briefings have become a comedy show, where officials tell lies, there's no coordinated national plan, and made up facts. Recently, the president has made a

mockery of the country by suggesting that citizens could cure COVID-19 by injecting bleach, or tanning.

Here are Trump's strange remarks, "And then I see the disinfectant, where it knocks out in a minute, one minute. Is there a way where we can do something like that, by injection? Almost a cleaning. So, it would be interesting to check that," Trump said.

As a result of President Trump's statements, major companies have put out statements to customers to not follow the president's instructions or advice. This strange behavior is bizarre, and the president's numbers are getting worse instead of better. After this debacle, many Americans are forced to ask the question, "Do we trust our president and the government?"

The failure is national, and our president sees the coronavirus pandemic in personal and political terms. He is forcing Republican governors to open up the country with limited thought, no strategic plan, and everyone on their own. Trump sees the coronavirus pandemic as a "temporary speed bump," that will magically disappear, and things will go back to normal.

America will not be just back in business, the virus is highly contagious, and there will probably be more than one wave. With the Republican governors opening their states, we can expect more carnage and death, because there is no drug or vaccine.

"The virus should have united America against a common

continued on page 5

Without More Help, Black-Owned Businesses Might Not Survive the Pandemic



By Eugene Cornelius Jr.
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Black communities in the United States not only represent a disproportionate share of casualties from coronavirus, but they have also been deeply affected by the economic impact of the disease. Longstanding racial discrimination in economic and housing policy has increased their risk for exposure to the virus, as well as the resulting financial crisis.

The economic effects of the pandemic on Black communities can be explained by several factors. Almost half of Black-owned businesses are in industries - such as administrative and support services, health care and social assistance and retail

- that are bearing the brunt of this pandemic. These industries not only pose a health risk because of the interaction between workers and customers, but they are also especially vulnerable to lower consumer demand due to social distancing measures.

Over 90 percent of small businesses in majority Black communities hold cash reserves of fewer than 14 days, so they are more likely to run out of operating funds when customers stay at home. And the most recently available Federal Reserve data shows that Black business owners are denied loans at twice the rate of white owners, so they are more likely to have trouble finding

capital to survive the pandemic.

In the face of large-scale shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 crisis, there is a clear need for policies to support small business. But the spending programs passed by Congress thus far have ignored the challenges of capital access facing Black-owned firms.

During the first round of funding provided for small businesses, borrowers seeking Paycheck Protection Program loans were required to work with

sible Lending, these conditions may have prevented 95 percent of Black-owned businesses from receiving loans.

The second round of small business funding assistance specifically set aside \$60 billion for community banks and credit unions that are traditionally a key source of capital for minority-owned firms. However, the measure did not stipulate that minority-owned businesses would have priority access to those funds.

Addressing these

es and Black workers.

We can begin by taking three key steps:

- First, federal and state governments should enact robust credit enhancement programs for minority borrowers. These programs provide incentives for banks to lend to businesses in low- and middle-income areas, allowing more firms to remain open and refrain from laying off workers.

In states with existing loan programs that provide credit enhancement, treasury officials should make loans more flexible, easier to access and increase loan guarantees. In others, where credit enhancement programs do not yet exist, treasury officials should create loss reserve funds and collateral support mechanisms, as well as a marketplace to pair pre-qualified lenders with borrowers in need of working capital. State governments can also authorize one-to-one matches for philanthropic funding to expand the pool of available capital.

- Second, credit enhancement programs should also be used to support place-based investment, with a priority on housing and infrastructure in low-income areas. For example, officials can increase loan guarantees to support construction of housing for individuals earning

from 80 percent to 200 percent of the local average median income, or offer special collateral guarantees for minority-owned businesses with revenues under \$5 million to invest in long-term assets.

- Third, place-based investments should emphasize environmental quality in low-income and minority communities through special support for projects with higher air and water quality standards -including the remediation of outdated water infrastructure. Using federal and state loan guarantees to fund these investments will simultaneously support improvements to the health of minority populations and reduce their vulnerability to future health crises.

As we look beyond the pandemic, these steps are crucial for ensuring the American dream is within reach of minorities across the country. By addressing fundamental inequities in our economic system, we can begin to pave a new avenue toward a more prosperous future.

Eugene Cornelius Jr. is senior director for the Milken Institute Center for Regional Economics. He previously served as a senior official in the U.S. Small Business Administration. This commentary first appeared on CNN.com.



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banks already participating in the US Small Business Administration's (SBA) primary loan program, thereby excluding firms that worked with smaller community banks. Moreover, Congress allocated just \$10 million to the Minority Business Development Agency. According to the Center for Respon-

short-term lending gaps is crucial to ensuring that Black-owned businesses will stay in business long enough to survive the pandemic. But we must also plan for a long-term recovery that emphasizes inclusion. This will require us to remove historic inequities through targeted support for Black-owned business-

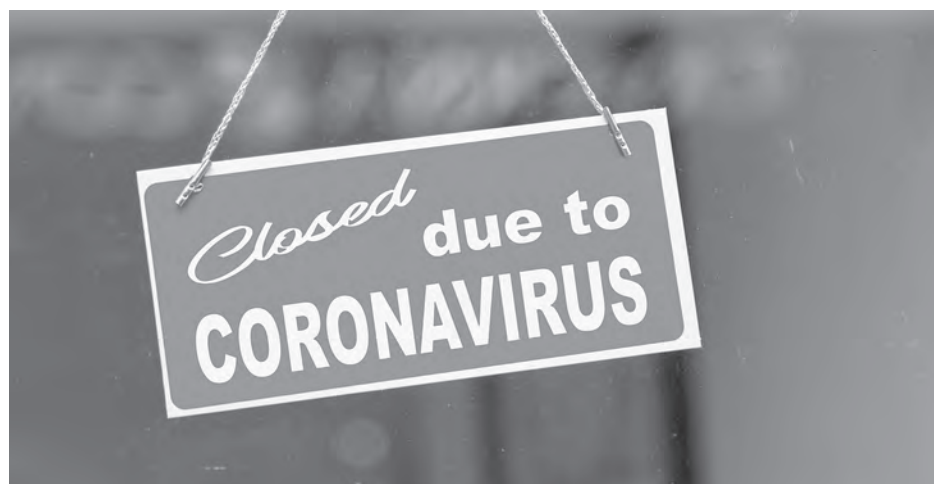
In America the Choice Death, Coronavirus or the Economy

continued from page 4

threat. With different leadership, it might have. Instead, even as it spread from blue to red, attitudes broke down along familiar partisan lines. The virus also should have been a great leveler. You don't have to be in the military or in debt to be a target - You just have to be human," says George Parker - reporter for The Atlantic.

But under the Trump and Republican regime, they have decided that compassion, integrity, and truth were character faults that should never be practiced or exemplified. Trump and the Republicans are only interested in making money and the healthcare system and economy is set up for the rich to keep winning.

There is something wrong with a healthcare system that is expecting Americans to die, and don't care if only less than 2% of the population



have been tested. The Republican leaders only care about opening up the economy and get as many people as they can off unemployment. The president never talks about death and families suffering, because "hap-

py talk" makes Americans feel better. The universe is speaking, and all our president can do is lie, lie and lie. "He never even pretended to be president of the whole country, but pitted us against one another along lines of race,

sex, religion, citizenship, education, region, and - every day of his presidency - political party. His main tool of governance was to lie," says George Parker.

History is bound to repeat itself, and the second wave of a pandemic is usually the most fatal and deadly. America is at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, and very few Americans are thinking. It is very easy to lie, but covid-19 will force you to tell the truth.

"The fight to overcome the pandemic must be a fight to recover the health of our country and build anew. Under our current leadership nothing will change," - George Parker.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of BlackPressUSA.com or the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

City Pools Will Remain Closed, No July 4th Fireworks Display This Summer

Submitted

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz has announced that the city's six pools and the splash pad at Savage Park will not open this summer and the planned Independence Day fireworks display is cancelled.

Traditionally, the city of Toledo provides lunches for children every day from late May to early August at our public pools," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said. "Even though pools will be closed, we will continue to provide this service. We are looking for different locations in our city parks where lunches can be distributed, and where we can also provide some appropriate socially distanced activities."

The cost to operate pools this year would have been about \$290,000. Due to the COVID-19 impacts on the economy.

He also indicated that, the annual fireworks display over the Maumee River is canceled Independence Day because of the COVID-19 threat that will still be present in July.

Mayor Kapszukiewicz reminded the public that COVID-19 testing sites are open and accepting appointments in Lucas County. "You must have an appointment at all of the locations. Go to [LucasCountyHealth.com/CoronavirusUpdates](https://www.lucascountyhealth.com/CoronavirusUpdates) and search under 'community testing' for more information," he said.



PHOTO CREDIT / PIXABAY.COM

Tulsa Organizations Announce Campaign to Memorialize Tulsa Race Massacre



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

For more information on the Memorial visit blackwallstreetmemorial.com.

Submitted

The Black Wall Street Memorial committee and Tulsa Community Remembrance Coalition are launching the "10,000 Brick Campaign" throughout May to build a memorial to Black Wall Street in honor of those lynched during the 1921 Race Massacre.

Beginning May 1, the month-long campaign will allow individuals to personally take part in building this powerful space and to raise funds for these important organizations. Individuals are encouraged to purchase

one of 10,000 commemorative bricks that will surround a memorial. The brick will feature the purchaser's name, business or quote.

"Tulsa has a legacy that we have been silent about for too long and it is time to end the silence," said Dr. Tiffany Crutcher, the founder of the Black Wall Street Memorial committee. "Our coalition is committed to ensuring that the legacies of hundreds of African Americans murdered at the hands of racial violence is permanently woven into the scrolls of American history."

Black Wall Street was a thriving hub of Black entrepreneurship, and was bombed and burned to the ground between May 31 and June 2, 1921. Scores of white mobsters came from the southern part of the city in trucks and airplanes to carry out the violence. The Black Wall Street Memorial will honor the history and legacy of the community and all those who lost their lives in the massacre.

"I am so proud of this community for coming together during this uncertain time to pay homage to the souls we lost to the 1921 Race Massacre," said national civil rights Attorney Benjamin Crump. "We must never let America forget."

Over the course of the past year, the Tulsa Community Remembrance Coalition has also worked alongside the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, to honor the history and the lives of this sacred land through a series of soil collections. Each soil collection serves to memorialize the life of a 1921 Tulsa Massacre lynching victim. The jars of soil will be housed inside the Historic Vernon AME Church on N. Greenwood as a part of the memorial.

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13-Year-Old Paris Brown Recalls Her Coronavirus Awakening

Submitted

My name is Paris Brown. My parents are NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent, Stacy Brown, and the awesome Shenay Brown.

I am 13-years old and am privileged to be a member of the National Junior Honor Society. But more importantly, I am privileged to have such a beautiful family.

My oldest sister, Rikki, lives in Las Vegas with her husband Marc, and my niece, Nina. I have a brother, Jordan, who lives in Maryland, and my two sisters who live at home with me, Talia and Olivia.

The glue that holds everything together is my parents.

But the coronavirus nearly ruptured us in a way that would have been indescribably devastating.

Four months ago, I barely knew what the coronavirus was, and I had no clue it would change everything so drastically.

At the end of December and the beginning of January, all I heard about the virus was memes and people joking around about washing your hands. I didn't realize just how serious it was.

And even when more and more reports of deaths from the virus came piling up, I still didn't take it seriously enough. Then one day, mom said she wasn't feeling good, and that was the start of

it all.

In my head, I thought that's just mom being mom. She sometimes doesn't feel well.

Then when dad got sick, mom stayed in her room, and dad stayed in the basement. I, of course, thought this was unnecessary.

But then they had to rush mom to the hospital because she couldn't breathe.

Then a switch flipped in my head: "This is real, and I need to be taking it seriously."

At first, I didn't know what to do, so I tried to stay away, but that just made me feel guilty.

So, I did the best I could to help them get better. I was okay and getting used to our "system," but I knew deep down, I was terrified.

I didn't have time to be scared because I had a ton of schoolwork to do (and I still do now), and I had to help take care of them.

You never realize how hard it is to live without the people you love until they're gone. So, when people ask me if I'm bored, I tell them I'm not. All of the schoolwork and cleaning and cooking have kept me distracted in a good way, so I don't freak out and get overwhelmed.

This was definitely an experience I'll never forget because I haven't been able to hug my

parents or speak more than a couple of words to them face-to-face.

But it's almost over — they get to come out of quarantine next week. And hopefully, with all of me and my sisters' excitement, they'll feel better than ever.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Paris and her family.

Help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community



**YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A
WARRIOR
DON'T STOP FIGHTING NOW!**

- Practice social distancing.
- If possible, stay at home.
- Wash your hands, often, warm water and soap will do.
- When outdoors, wear a mask.
- If you don't feel well, call your doctor.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

13-year old Paris Brown (at left, pictured with her mother, Shenay) is the daughter of NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent, Stacy and Shenay Brown. She's also a member of the National Junior Honor Society.



If you don't have a doctor or can't afford to pay for one call the Neighborhood Health Association at [419-214-5700](tel:419-214-5700).

IN MEMORIAM: Little Richard, One of the Most Influential Founding Fathers of Rock n' Roll, Dies at 87



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Little Richard was a founding father of the genre of Rock n' Roll from its inception. His influence included The Beatles, who opened for Little Richard as he toured Europe in 1962. He also advised Paul McCartney on his distinctive vocalizations. Little Richard influenced Otis Redding, James Brown, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, John Lennon and Cliff Richard and those influences frequently showed up in their music.

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Richard Wayne Penniman, better known as Little Richard, was one of the most influential singer songwriters in popular music. He was one of the founders of Rock n' Roll in the 1950s and one of the most memorable performers in rock history. Little Richard was born in 1932 in Macon, Georgia.

"Tutti Frutti" (1955), one of Richard's signature songs, became a hit reaching the No. 2 on the Billboard chart. Another hit, "Long Tall Sally" (1956), hit No. 1 on Billboard. "Tutti Frutti" was added to the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress in 2010 and cited for its "unique vocalizing over the irresistible beat announced a new era in music". Two of his songs, "Tutti Frutti" and "Good Golly, Miss Molly" were listed on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and

Roll.

Little Richard's music was covered by several artists thereafter and his influence included The Beatles, who opened for Little Richard as he toured Europe in 1962. He also advised Paul McCartney on his distinctive vocalizations. Little Richard influenced Otis Redding, James Brown, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, John Lennon and Cliff Richard and those influences frequently showed up in their music.

Legend has it that James Brown came up with the Famous Flames debut hit, "Please, Please, Please", after Richard had written the words down on a napkin. Redding started his professional career with Little Richard's band, The Upsetters. Bob Dylan performed covers of Little Richard's songs on piano during a high school talent show with his rock and roll group, the Golden Chords. In 1959, Dylan wrote in his yearbook under "Ambition": "to join Little Richard."

Many Rock critics noted the similarities between Prince's androgynous look and vocal style to Little Richard.

In 1963, Richard agreed to assist a failing tour effort by The Everly Brothers, Bo Diddley and The Rolling Stones and was given his own TV special after the tour ended.

Little Richard received all the honors possible in music. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as part of its first group of legendary inductees in 1986. He was also inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Little Richard is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Recording Academy and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rhythm and Blues Foundation. In 2015, Richard received a Rhapsody & Rhythm Award from the National Museum of African American Music for his key role in the formation of popular music genres and helping to bring an end to the racial divide on the music charts and in concert in the mid-1950s changing American culture significantly.

At the suggestion of Lloyd Price, Little Richard sent a demo to Price's label, Specialty Records, in 1955. Producer Robert "Bumps" Blackwell, who worked at Specialty Records, thought Little Richard was Specialty's answer to Ray Charles, but was told by Little Richard he was a fan of the sound of Fats Domino. In 1955, he recorded "Tutti Frutti" in three takes and it was released as a single in November 1955.

Penniman's performances, like most early rock and roll shows, resulted in integrated audience reaction during an era of strict segregation in the South. On tours that included groups of music stars, Little Richard and other artists such as Fats Domino and Chuck Berry would allow audiences Black and white to enter buildings via the same door but sit in

"An Angel With A Badge"



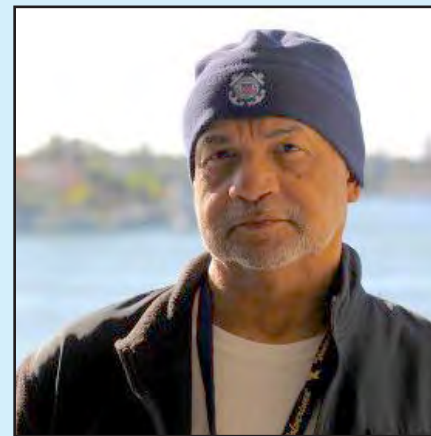
Carol Yvonne Steward
September 13, 1947 ~ May 5, 2020

Carol was preceded in death by parents, Geneva and Curley Cooks; brothers, James and Charles Cooks, Sr.; and granddaughter, Kimberly Lopez-Steward.

She retired from the Lucas County Sheriff's Department after 26½ years.

Left to cherish her memory are: sons, Bryan and Kevin Steward; sisters, Joan Moore, Vivian Butts, and Ardellia Cooks; six grandchildren, and a host of family and friends.

Floyd "Skip" Steward



July 26, 1947 ~ May 7, 2020

"Skip" was the biological son of Portia Russell and adopted son of Bernice & Leon Steward of Bridgeton, NJ. He is survived by four children; Bryan, Lisa, Kevin, and Patrick; twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. "Skip" worked as a pharmacist until retirement in 2014. He will be greatly missed by family and friends. Donations may be sent in his honor/memory to: Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

separate places — but everyone would dance.

Vocal supremacist groups such as the North Alabama White Citizens Council warned that rock and roll "brings the races together." The universal popularity of Little Richard killed the myth that black performers could not successfully perform at white-only venues.

Little Richard's high-energy performances while playing the piano included dancing on top of the piano, running on and off the stage and throwing souvenirs to the audience. He also dressed flamboyantly onstage. Some of what is taken for granted now in popular music was invented by Little Richard.

Little Richard was ranked eighth on its list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time and Rolling Stone listed three of Little Richard's recordings, "The Girl Can't Help It", "Long Tall Sally" and "Tutti Frutti", on their 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

Little Richard was the third of 12 children of Leva Mae and Charles Penniman. His father was a church deacon and his mother was a member of Macon's New Hope Baptist Church.

ASK YOUR FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

Dear Mr. Brown:

My mother, who's a widow, has been admitted to a care facility. She is also receiving a certain federal medical assistance. My family is being told we have to reduce mother's assets down to no more than \$1500.00 and her insurance policies will have to be cashed in and the money turned over for her medical care. Thus does not sit well with my family due to the sweat and labor her and dad went through to gain their home and raise money for their family. Is it true she has to give away everything they earned over the years?

Emma

Dear Emma:

In most cases it is true that assets be reduced to no more than \$1500.00 in order to receive certain federal medical and health care benefits. However, the cashing in of her insurance policy is not necessary. You can establish a pre-need funeral contract, which is a simple task to do, with the funeral home. If there are ample cash funds, you can also reduce the cash funds in the same manner. Thanks for your question.

C. Brown

Send your question to: The Toledo Journal
P.O. Box 12559, Toledo, Ohio 43606
c/o Ask Your Funeral Directors

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At Eight-Years Old, She Was Already Speaking 8 Languages and Playing 8 Instruments

Submitted

In 2015, when Mabou Loiseau from Queens, NYC was just 8-years old, she was already speaking 8 languages - English, Kreyol, Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic, Mandarin and American Sign Language. She was also learning Japanese.

When Mabou was barely two years old, her mother noticed that she was speaking some words in French, but her mom didn't even speak French. Her mom immediately began to realize that her daughter had been born with a gift. So, she started teaching her different languages, and would even hire nannies that spoke different languages.

But learning languages was not her

only talent

At 8-years old, Mabou also had already learned to play a wide variety of instruments: the piano, the violin, the clarinet, the flute, the drums, the guitar and the harp. Not only that, she began giving piano lessons. In addition, she was also studying and fully comprehending college-level algebra.

In 2020, Mabou turned 13-years old and added a few more talents to her roster - dancing, painting, and singing. She's already developing a following on YouTube for her amazing singing and dancing performances

She says that in the future she wants to be a lawyer, a brain surgeon and a singer.

This girl is history in the making!



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

8 year old prodigy, Mabou Loiseau.

Jay Cameron's New Book, "Fatherless Fathering," Helps Men and Women Who Grew Up in Broken Families

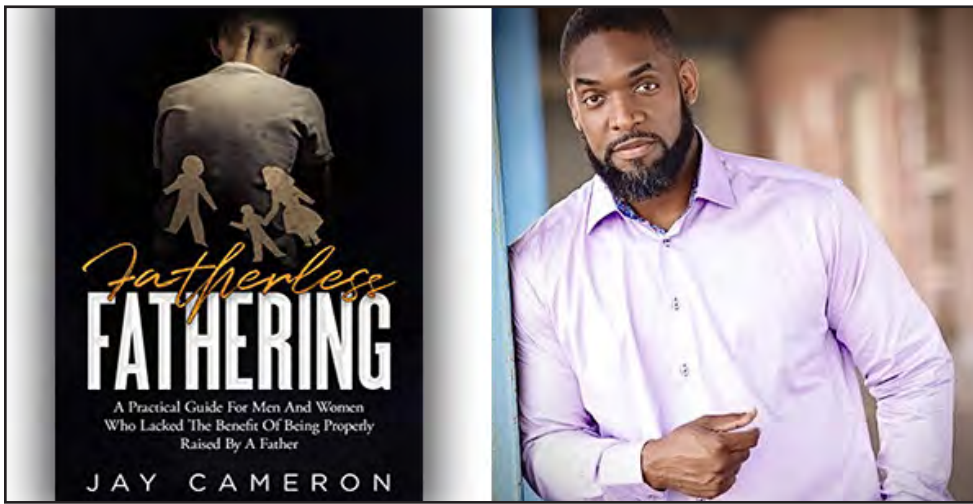


PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Jay Cameron enjoys a multi-faceted career that has spanned nearly 30 years as an entrepreneur, speaker, playwright, community leader and philanthropist. His mission is to educate and inspire through entertainment.

Submitted

Philanthropist, entrepreneur and author Jay Cameron has released a new book entitled Fatherless Fathering – A Practical Guide For Men & Women Who Lacked The Benefit of Being Properly Raised By A Father. The book aims to help those who grew up in a vicious cycle of broken family dynamics and despair so they can become the father or mother their children need.

Available on Amazon, Fatherless Fathering shares wisdom and hope with parents who lacked healthy fatherly guidance and are now struggling to find their way. He walks readers through his powerful, intense

and graphic journey.

Fatherless Fathering uses lessons from Cameron's own story to share how to discover your true identity and pass it on to your children. He outlines how to take the good and leave the bad from your own childhood and break generational cycles to leave a legacy of strength and hope.

Yet he grew up with an absentee father and an overworked mother. Burdened by questions of how he could be a good father himself, he began to seek a better life. Fatherless Fathering will empower and equip readers to make wise, grounded choices that will impact their family for generations to come.

Colson Whitehead wins Pulitzer for "The Nickel"

Submitted

Author Colson Whitehead's "The Nickel Boys," a book about a brutal reform school for black boys in the Jim Crow South, on Monday won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

It is the second time in three years, Whitehead has won this prestigious literary award for fiction.

In 2017, he won the Pulitzer for "The Underground Railroad," which takes place during the Civil War.

William Faulkner and John Updike

have won more than one Pulitzer but not for books that immediately followed each other.

"The Nickel Boys" is based on a real school for boys that closed in Florida in 2011 after more than one hundred years.

Set in the 1960s, "The Nickel Boys" is a portrayal of racism and inequality.

The Pulitzer ceremony was scheduled for April 20 but because of the coronavirus, it was rescheduled to give board members more time evaluate the finalists.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Whitehead wins second Pulitzer for Fiction

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²Property must be located in a census tract within the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, and Wood. Actual amount applied at closing.

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COMING EVENTS

Continued from page 3

programming to educational programming to help students ranging from high school to early learners. This programming is designed for students who may not have computer and online access. This new programming will be available until schools resume. For more information contact Theresa A. Bush, Marketing Communications Manager at theresa_bush@wgte.org.

Area Office on Aging Postpones Its Senior Prom and Spring Fling Events

Due to the Coronavirus crisis, the Area Office on Aging (AOoA) is postponing its Senior Prom and Spring Fling events. The AOoA and Toledo Public Schools' Senior Prom event originally scheduled for **May 8th** at The Premier, 4480 Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614 has been tentatively rescheduled for a date yet-to-be-determined in the fall at the same venue. Those who already purchased tickets for the sold out event have the following three options:

1. Hold onto their purchased ticket, which will be accepted on the rescheduled date.
2. Mail tickets to the following address along with the name and return address for the refund check to be mailed to you:
Area Office on Aging
Attn: Fiscal Dept.
2155 Arlington Avenue
Toledo, OH 43609
3. Donate the cash from their purchased ticket to the AOoA's Coronavirus Emergency Fund. The AOoA's Spring Fling event originally scheduled for **May 19th** at the Sylvania Tam-o-Shanter, 7060 Sylvania Ave. in Sylvania has been tentatively rescheduled for a date yet-to-be-determined at the same venue. Organizations that have already purchased a booth for the event have the following three options:
 1. Have their payment applied to a booth at the May 19th event.
 2. Contact the AOoA at 419-382-0624 for a refund, or
 3. Donate the cash from their purchased booth to the AOoA's Coronavirus Emergency Fund.

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Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is accepting applications to fill the positions of Director of Finance until position is filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select Director of Finance from the list to read more or apply.

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May 13th and May 20th Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers: Middle Stage Educational Program Offered Free Virtually in May

The Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter will be presenting a two-part virtual educational program, "Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers: Middle Stage," on Wednesday May 13 and May 20. Each session is from 3:30- 5 p.m. Pre-registration is required. It is suggested that individuals attend the first session before attending the second session, but it is not required. The free workshops, which are open to the public, will utilize video conferencing to allow individuals to participate in the convenience of their homes. To register for the programs, call 800.272.3900. Local staff is available during business hours at 419.537.1999.

June 7th The Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church Will Be Celebrating The 55th Pastoral Appreciation & The 70th Wedding Anniversary
Rev. Dr. John E. & First Lady Mother Bernice Roberts Sunday at 10:50 AM and 3:30 PM. Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. John Williams, Pastor will be our afternoon guests. Please come help us celebrate the angel the Lord has given us!

2020 Crosby Festival Of The Arts Rescheduled The 55th Crosby Festival of Arts
Scheduled for **June 26-28**, will not take place as planned at Toledo Botanical Garden. due to limitations surrounding large group events, Crosby Festival of the Arts has been moved, the event is rescheduled for **October 10 and 11** at the Lucas County Recreation Center indoor facility in Maumee, OH. Further details, including show hours, artists, amenities, and tickets will become available later this summer. For more information contact Yvonne Dubielak, Executive Director, at 419-720-8714 or visit our website: toledogrows.org

SOCIAL SECURITY Q & A

By Erin Thompson, Public Affairs Specialist Toledo, OH

Question:
My father receives Social Security retirement benefits and I will be in charge of his estate when he dies. Should that occur, do I need to report his death to Social Security or will benefits automatically stop?

Answer:
When your father dies, please notify Social Security as soon as possible at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Another person, such as a spouse, may be eligible for survivors benefits based on his record. Also, we might be able to pay a one-time payment of \$255 to help with funeral expenses. We suggest reading a copy of our online publication, *How Social Security Can Help You When A Family Member Dies*, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10008.html.

Question:
I'm trying to decide when to retire. Can Social Security help?

Answer:
The best place to start is with a visit to the online *Social Security Statement*. The *Statement* provides you with estimates of benefits for you and your family as well as your earnings record and information you should consider about retirement and retirement planning. It is easy to access your statement online by creating a *my Social Security* account. To create an account, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. The "right" time to retire is different for everyone and depends on your individual situation. To help you make your own decision, we offer an online fact sheet, *When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits*, that highlights some of the factors to consider. Find this publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html.

Question:
I've decided I want to retire. Now what do I do?

Answer:
The fastest and easiest way to apply for retirement benefits is to go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline. Use our online application to apply for Social Security retirement or spouses benefits. To do so, you must:

- Be at least 61 years and 9 months old;
- Want to start your benefits in the next four months; and
- Live in the United States or one of its commonwealths or territories.

Question:
Can I delay my retirement benefits and receive benefits as a spouse only? How does that work?

Answer:
It depends on your date of birth. If you were born on or before 01/01/1954 and your spouse is receiving Social Security benefits, you can apply for retirement benefits on your spouse's record as long as you are at your full retirement age. You then will earn delayed retirement credits up to age 70, as long as you do not collect benefits on your own work record. Later, when you do begin receiving benefits on your own record, those payments could very well be higher than they would have been otherwise. If your spouse is also full retirement age and does not receive benefits, your spouse will have to apply for benefits and request the payments be suspended. Then you can receive benefits on your spouse's Social Security record. If you were born on or after 01/02/1954 and wish to receive benefits, you must file for all benefits for which you are eligible. Social Security will determine the benefits you are eligible for and pay you accordingly. For individuals born on or after 01/02/1954, there is no longer an option to select which benefit you would like to receive, even beyond your full retirement age. Widows are an exception, as they can choose to take their deceased spouse's benefit without filing for their own. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question:
I'm reaching my full retirement age and thinking about retiring early next year. When is the best time of year to apply for Social Security benefits?

Answer:
You can apply as early as four months before when you want your monthly benefits to begin. To apply, just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire.

Top 10 R&B, Hip Hop and Reggae Songs About the Coronavirus Pandemic



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Alicia Keys, Cardi B, Doug E. Fresh, and more

Nationwide — During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some of the world's biggest Black musicians are utilizing their talents to create anthems that call for unity and offer musical lyrics that the global community can resonate with. There are actually more R&B, Hip-Hop, and Reggae songs about the coronavirus pandemic than most would believe.

Here are our top 10 picks:

#1 – “Good Job” by Alicia Keys

As a nod to essential workers, Alicia Keys dedicates her voice to acknowledge their hard work and dedication. In her song, she thanks all the health care workers who have worked through this pandemic and helped keep America in motion.

#2 – “Coronavirus Song (The Rona Song)” by The Undiscovered Artist

This song, fused with a blend of R&B, Hip-Hop and autotune, is a first hand look into our new reality. The artist sings about how a once normal trip to the grocery store has transformed into a virus guessing game. The song is based on the artist's personal experience with his son who was refused a COVID-19 test.

#3 – “I Believe We Will Win” by Pitbull

Mr. Worldwide himself has harnessed his party starter energy into

a motivational track reassuring citizens of their strength. Pitbull uses his organic rap cadence to provide a motive to keep pushing through it all.

#4 – “Coronavirus Song” by Cardi B & iMarkKeyz

This viral video turned song was the breakout hit of the COVID-19 pandemic. The viral producer iMarkKeyz took ten minutes of his time to remix one of Cardi B's rants and the rest is history. This catchy tune is guaranteed to leave you randomly screaming. CUHRONAVYYRUSS.

#5 – “Six Feet” by Doug E. Fresh and Novant Health

Novant Health partnered with legendary rapper and entertainer Doug E. Fresh for a play on his famous “6 minutes” lyric into a fun message on social distancing.

#6 – “Corona Clap” by Dee-1

This rap song with an infectious beat combines everything to create a bounce track filled with comedy and truth-filled verses. In the song, he shouts out countries most affected by the virus and also speaks out on the suspended NBA season, schools being closed, toilet paper hoarding, churches being closed, and more.

#7 – “Coronavirus” by Gmac Cash

This rap song is a self-isolation and social distancing anthem that

highlights the importance of proper hygiene in this time of great uncertainty. It has been endorsed and shared by the likes of Snoop Dogg, Joe Rogan and more.

#8 – “Corona Virus Alert” by Bobi Wine & Nubian Li

This song, by Ugandan pop star and opposition leader Bobi Wine, urges Africans to wash their hands to stop the spread of the new coronavirus. The song also criticizes various African governments for not maintaining better health care systems.

#9 – “Corona Virus (Dancehall Song)” by Ras Strika

This reggae dancehall song by Ras Strika, who was born in Jamaica but currently resides in the UK, cleverly puts together a plethora of information regarding the current epidemic that is taking over the globe today.

#10 – “Corona Virus (COVID-19)” by Sizzla Kalonji

In this song, recorded to raise awareness, reggae artist Sizzla talks about the virus' spread and, above all, for cleanliness and prevention. His lyrics tell listeners: “Dem a chat bout Corona Virus de about, better be careful, no better make it go in your house (...) protect the little children, don't put your hand in your mouth...”

IN MEMORIAM: Andre Harrell, Legendary Music Executive, Dies at 59

By Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D., NNPA Newswire Culture and Entertainment Editor

THE BURTON WIRE — At Uptown, Harrell signed Heavy D and the Boyz, Marly Marl, Al B. Sure, and Guy among others. It is at Uptown Records where Harrell famously discovered future music mogul Sean “P Diddy” Combs, who started at the company as an intern and rose to the ranks of a Vice-President of A&R signing such acts as Mary J. Blige, Jodeci and Father MC.



Photo: Instagram/Uptown Records

The Twitterverse is in mourning after reports legendary music executive Andre Harrell was found dead today in his Los Angeles apartment. The Bronx native was one half of the rap duo Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde. In the early 1980s, Harrell joined Russell Simmons at Def Jam Records, eventually becoming Vice President and General Manager. In 1986, Harrell left Def Jam Records to start his own label, Uptown Records at MCA, which became the sound of 1990s Hip-Hop Soul.

At Uptown, Harrell signed Heavy D and the Boyz, Marly Marl, Al B. Sure, and Guy among others. It is at Uptown Records where Harrell famously discovered future music mogul Sean “P Diddy” Combs, who started at the company as an intern and rose to the ranks of a Vice-President of A&R signing such acts as Mary J. Blige, Jodeci and Father MC. Harrell also served as an Executive Producer for the FOX television hit New York Undercover (1994-1989). Harrell fired Combs, who left to form Bad Boy Records bringing Hip-Hop legend Notorious B.I.G. with him and signing Total, Faith Evans, 112, Craig Mack, and a host of other artists. Despite the breakup, Combs and Harrell remained lifelong friends.

After Combs' departure, Mary J. Blige and Jodeci also left the label, leaving Uptown with declining sales. In 1995, Harrell left Uptown Records to join iconic record company Motown Records with Heavy D becoming CEO of Uptown. Harrell, who had been paid \$20 million to sign with Motown, was fired two years later in 1997, taking a \$5 million payout with him.

In 2014, Andre Harrell and Combs reunited, with Harrell becoming Vice-Chairman of Revolt TV & Media, Combs' multi-platform music network. Harrell was also a producer on Revolt's wildly popular show “State of the Culture.” At REVOLT, Harrell oversaw the REVOLT Music Conference (RMC) and produced and hosted the show, “Music Talks” where he interviewed music legends like L.A. Reid, Babyface, Nas, Queen Latifah and Sean Combs. At the time of his death, the entertainment powerhouse was working on a 3-part-series about Uptown Records for BET Networks. A pioneer of Hip-Hop Soul and a major figure in black R&B music and television soundtracks, Harrell was 59.

From the Desk of Felicia

Are You and Your Partner Working Towards the Same Goals?



It's so easy to get so caught up in the love at first sight theory while dating in this fast paced society. Regardless of the timeframe that you've been in your relationship, you should still ask yourself, “Are we working towards the same goals?” The goals that I'm talking about are the goals you set as a couple not your own personal goals. Maybe your goal as partners are to

own your own home in two years. Today, are both of you working towards that goal or is it one-sided?

Many couples create goals together in the beginning of their relationships but fail to put actions behind them once they become comfortable in the relationship, causing the goals to sit for some time. I encourage you to go back and resurrect some of those goals and put actions behind them together. You both have to make the commitment to work on those goals together. It has to be a total partnership and cheer each other on throughout your journey's while you accomplish your goals. This will stimulate both of you to reach even higher goals together.

Let's say again your goal together was to purchase a home by a specific date and time. You accomplished that goal and now, you're ready to

set a higher goal to accomplish together such as purchasing a rental property. You have already established the habits and discipline that you will need from purchasing your home, now you have the monetary tools you need to put in place to work towards the same goal of purchasing the rental property.

Usually what we see are two people headed in opposite directions and struggling to make things work because they never discussed their goals together! Think about the couple that's been dating for two years and the man wants to get married and have three children. Well the woman doesn't believe in marriage and has zero plans to have children. Obviously, these two never discussed their goals and are not working towards the same goals in life, together.



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