



INSIDE

QUESTION

What do you think is the American dream now?



EDITORIAL/NEWS

MALCOLM X... ANYBODY?



REMEMBERING A KING

A TRIBUTE TO DR. KING

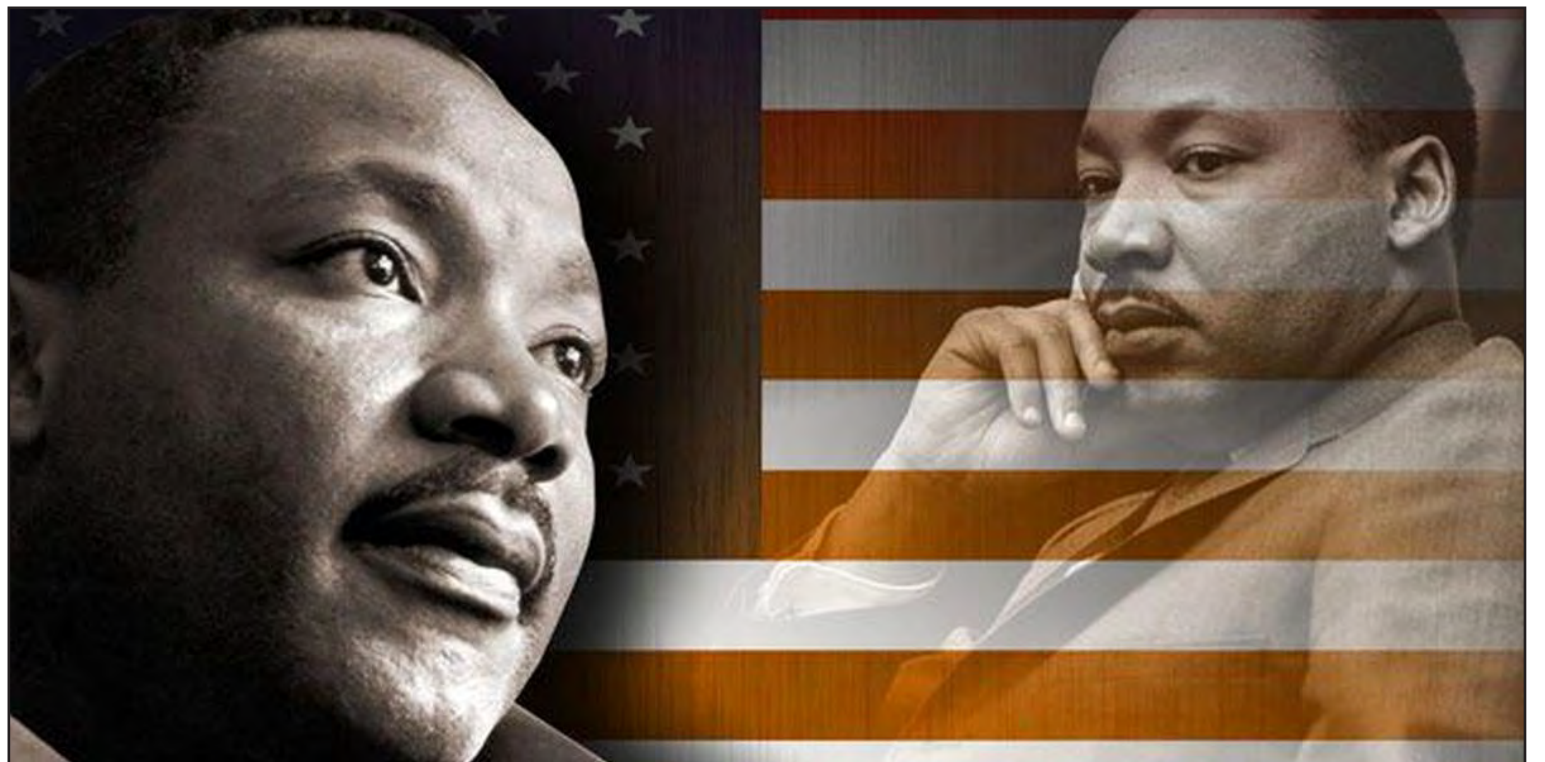


AUTO/SPORTS

Bianca Smith as First Black Woman Coach



EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY IN THE TOLEDO JOURNAL



As Nation Honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Diocese of Toledo Bestows Drum Major Awards



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL
Award recipients: From left, Earl Mack D. Mack, Suzette Cowell and Anita R. Madison with presenter, Bishop Daniel Thomas.

By Kelly Donaghy
Senior Director of Communications at Diocese of Toledo

Three African Americans receive Drum Major Awards

Bishop Daniel Thomas of St. Joseph Parish in Sylvania, Ohio, recognized and honored three individuals, who have kept the legacy of Dr. Martin

Luther King alive, Sunday, January 17, 2021.

This annual event is sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo.

Nominations were sought for individuals whose lives demonstrate Dr. King's call for service, peace, justice and racial equality. The three recipients openly and actively, sup-

“The three recipients openly and actively, support social justice causes, call for peace where there is conflict, serve the disenfranchised in their community, and strive for racial equality.”

port social justice causes, call for peace where there is conflict, serve the disenfranchised in their community, and strive for racial equality.

The 2021 Drum Major Awardees are Suzette Cowell, Earl D. Mack and Anita R. Madison.

Suzette Cowell

As the founder of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union in 1996, Ms. Suzette Cowell has made significant contributions to economic justice for Toledo's financially underserved Black community. Ms. Cowell's dreams for financial parity for Blacks align with Dr. King's in this realm.

The credit union has grown from a basement office to its own freestanding building and a branch office. When it began, its board of trustees served as volunteer staff. It now employs 12 staff.

It is the first community credit union to open in Ohio. It faced opposition from opening from the Federal oversight body – the National Credit Union Administration, but prevailed and gained 700 members in its first year. It currently has almost 4,000 members and assets of \$7.2 million. The credit union achieved a rare 4-star rating (excellent) in the fourth quarter of 2012 from BauerFinancial, a leading na-

tional bank research firm that rates banks and credit unions

In 2004, Ms. Cowell organized Toledo's African American Festival – which celebrated its 15th year in 2019. The 2020's festival was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Earl Mack

Mr. Earl Mack is a lifelong resident of the city of Toledo. He is a graduate of Jesup W. Scott High School. He earned a degree in Law Enforcement from the University of Toledo. He and Annette Mack have been married for 49 years and are the parents of three children, two of whom survive.

Mr. Mack has nearly four decades of law enforcement experience including the Ohio Liquor Control and Ohio Homeland Security. He is a US Army Veteran having served in the Vietnam War conflict.

Mr. Mack is the president of the Toledo chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers. Buffalo Soldiers is a motorcycle club, which provides many community services, largely focused on helping children. It organizes a Veterans Day “Operation Shut-In Meal Delivery”, the Christmas Angel Tree and other charitable causes across the region.

Continued on page 9.

Area Office on Aging Answers the Call of Those Age 80+ Needing the Vaccine

The Area Office on Aging has been assisting the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department by answering the calls of residents age 80+ who need the vaccine but who are not sure how to get scheduled for the vaccine on-line. In Lucas County alone, there are over 16,000 residents age 80+. Over the last week, the Area Office on Aging has increased their staffing capacity to be able to schedule these vaccine appointments as call volume has more than tripled due to calls about the vaccine. Callers are asked to be patient as the Area Office on Aging helps vaccine callers in as timely a manner as possible.

“For many older adults who have been quarantining since the beginning of the pandemic, getting the vaccine is their ticket to be able to see friends and family again for the first time in a long time. The Area Office on Aging has been busy connecting older adults with this important and potentially life-saving help,” said Area Office on Aging President/CEO, Mrs. Billie Johnson.

For those that have no other means of transportation for these appointments, the Area Office on Aging is working with its provider Black & White Transportation to help as many Lucas County seniors as possible to get to and from their vaccine appointments.

Those who are able to go to register themselves, can find the link to schedule their vaccine appointment on-line at AreaOfficeOnAging.com

Those needing assistance with scheduling an appointment may call the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624. The Area Office on Aging is able to help with scheduling vaccine appointments as long as vaccine appointments are available. There are a limited number of appointments.



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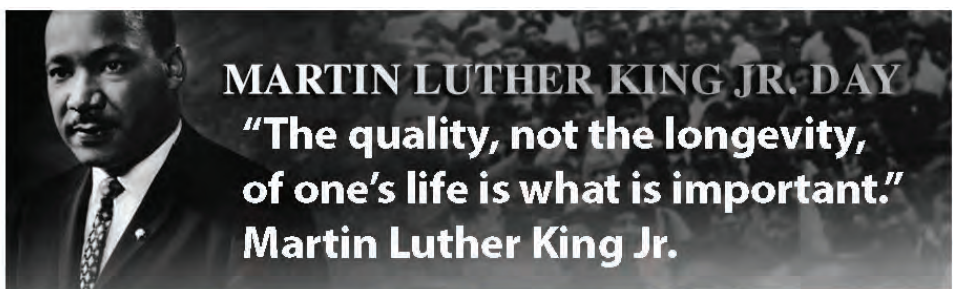
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Bill Harris, Board Chairman



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Billie Johnson, President/CEO

After the events that occurred at the Capitol in Washington DC, on January 6, what do you think is the American dream?




Che' Couch
Retired

To be treated as equals is still the American dream. Black people aren't at the point where our American dream is having a house and moving into the middle-class with all our problems disappearing; because that doesn't happen. Sadly, we're at the point where our American dream is just to survive in this world.




Martina Conner
Phlebotomist

I'm so pissed at what happened in DC. If it had been black people attacking the Capitol of the United States, there would've been a lot of dead bodies. So at this time, the American dream is better educating ourselves and being the best we can be so we're prepared to protect ourselves.



Aaron Harris
Maintenance Technician

The American dream for all people should be about equality, but that hasn't happened; I believe it could happen. I hope it starts to happen under the Biden Administration, but it could've just as easily happened under the Trump Administration.



Chalvic Simmons
Manager

Do we consider the American dream to be having a house, a car and having a family? What is the American dream for African Americans? It seems the American dream changes throughout the years based on the leadership in Washington DC. And can the American dream be achieved without racism; I guess we have to see.



Delorean Thompson
Medical Billing

I think for all people of color, we need to find out what our dream is; because our American dream isn't the typical dream that's conveyed. I guess that American dream was having a house and increasing our wealth, but that dream really doesn't exist for us. Our American dream is more about simply surviving and that's scary.



Clerissa Criswell
Leasing Agent

Anyone who practices discrimination can't truly experience the American dream because they'll have to work with those people who they discriminate against. People of color are in every field. We're bankers, contractors, housing agents; we're everywhere. So those who practice discrimination, at some point have to run into us, in which case, many of them will hide their racism just to get ahead in life. So the American dream can't fully be achieved until we're all on equal footing.



Tamika Mitchell
Self Employed

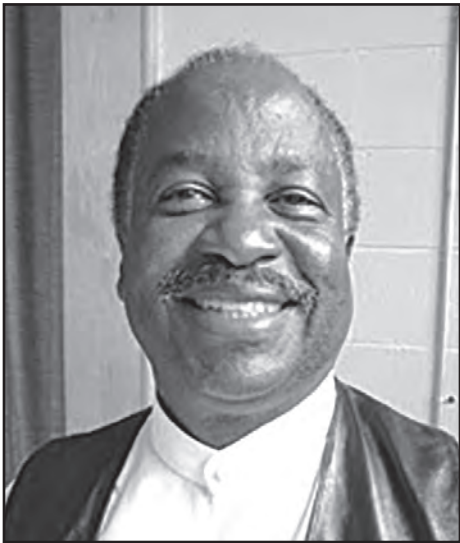
I don't feel like there is an American dream for Black people. Our dream has always been about being treated as equals. But what happened in DC proves there's a double standard in America. Some people may say get a better education, but even with that we're still not treated as equals. The most educated Black person who had the best GPA will still get overlooked for a less qualified white person. At the core of all this racism and discrimination is the 13th Amendment not truly being applied because we're still killed, discriminated against and treated unjustly by every system in America as if we were still slaves. We shouldn't have to say Black lives matter; it should be a given.



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Classes start in
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MALCOLM X...ANYBODY?



By Lafe Tolliver
Attorney

It is time for a little time travel. So, please put on your plexiglass bubble helmets, take a comfortable seat and SWOOSH.... away we go!

We are going back, way back to the time when Malcolm X was prophesying about American hypocrisy.

He was loudly chronicling the double standard of the US government when it was lamenting the inadequacies of foreign governments and their inability to hold on and maintain a semblance of a democracy; and while at the same time, we learned of the intrigues of our government's covert operations against foreign leaders who were sometimes quietly dispatched by forces unknown.

Malcolm X was opining about the tragic shooting of President John Kennedy by Lee Oswald during the president's trip to Dallas.

Malcolm X, not being one who was subservient to the niceties of the protocols on matters of assassinations as ostensibly done by our government agencies, stated that, "The chickens have come home to roost."

He statement was a tongue in check monologue about Kennedy being killed in the US while our own government was involved in clandestine activities in overseas countries.

His proclamation caused an uproar in both white media and with the leader of the Muslim sect led by the Honorable Elijah Mohammed.

Malcolm X was chastised by Mr. Mohammed and suffered a suspension from the religious organization.

Malcolm X gauged the hypocrisy of the US government feigning that their

government was superior to others and that we did not engage in such despicable acts of killing our political leaders and that we were a cultured society that eschewed governmental overthrow.

However, if you have been a consumer of the most recent political events in the Capitol, you have witnessed a cult going amok at the directions of their cult leader, Donald Trump.

President Trump was openly and notoriously brazen in his egging on the demonstrators, some of whom quickly turned to ransacking and violence when they entered the Capitol Building.

Not only did they march, en masse to the Capitol but they bum rushed the pathetically understaffed Capitol Hill Police and the D.C. police forces and breached the security barriers and, like drunken sailors, entered the Congressional chambers and wreaked havoc.

The planned mayhem including damaging some of the interiors of the building and mobbing the front of the Capitol where scaffolding was being set up for the January 20th inauguration of President Biden and V.P. Harris.

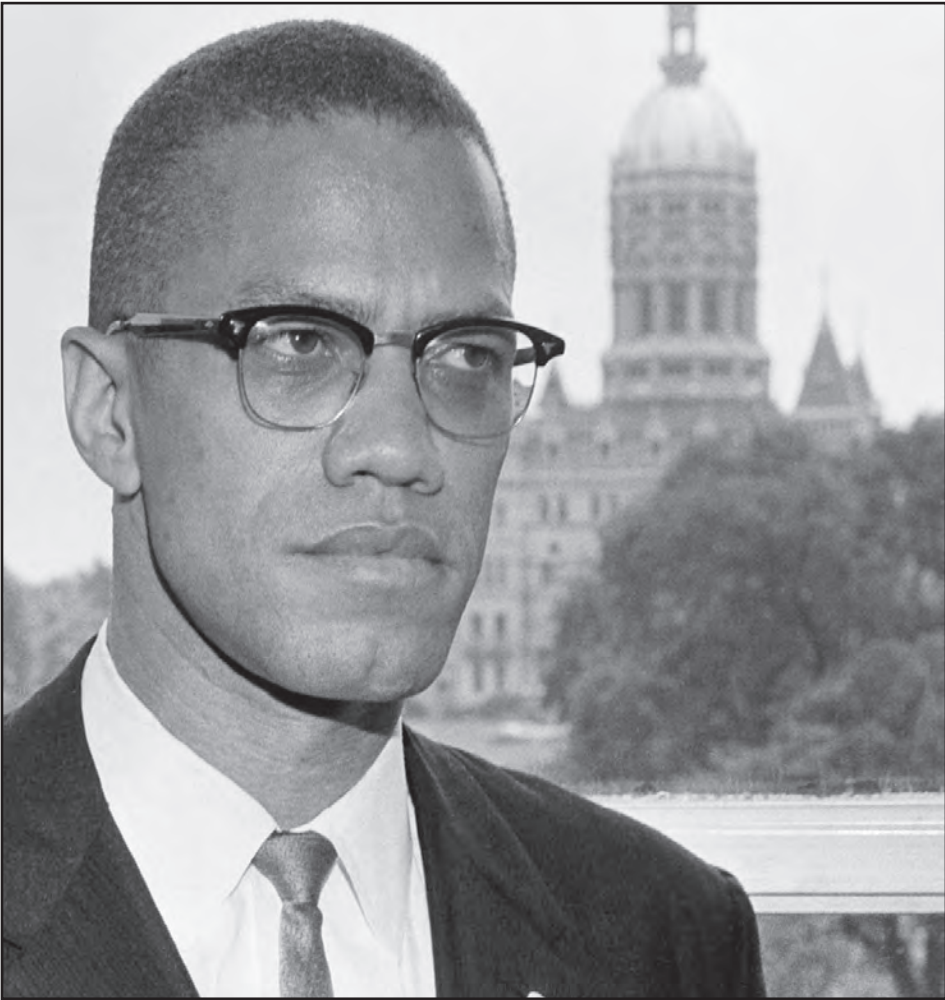
This hyped-up crowd of white people (numbers are given anywhere from 40-50 thousand appeared on the Capitol grounds) were enraged that the House and Senate were about to confirm the Electoral College votes and thus confirm the legitimate status of President-Elect Biden and V.P. Elect Harris.

The marauders threw off all restraint as they pillaged the Capitol Building with their flags and made a mockery of civility and any respect for the established democratic norms and niceties that have been relied upon since 1801 regarding a peaceful transference of power after an election.

The mob, bent on stopping the tallying of the Electoral College votes, were acting at the hope and bequest of Herr Trump who told them to march to the Capitol and he would lead them (of course, he did not lead, he left for safer grounds with his Secret Service entourage).

Herr Trump, the originator of the Great Lie that the election was stolen from him and repeatedly denying all overwhelming evidence to the contrary, acted like a spoiled brat and verbally "turned the keys" over to the mob and probably chortled to himself while they busted up the Capitol Building.

One rioter lost her life doing perverted homage to Herr Trump and his



“ We continue to witness the erratic ravings of a lunatic who lives in a parallel universe consisting of alternative facts; and populated by a coterie of lapdogs and brain damaged politicians who rode the Trump gravy train for all its worth. ”

swamp gas induced dream of serving another term as President.

Any loss of life by his supporters was probably deemed expendable to Trump for she died in a good cause: The Second Lost Cause (Question? What was the First Lost Cause in American history?).

We continue to witness the erratic

ravings of a lunatic who lives in a parallel universe consisting of alternative facts; and populated by a coterie of lapdogs and brain damaged politicians who rode the Trump gravy train for all its worth.

Compare the overwhelming police presence at the Capitol when the Black Lives Matter demonstrators protested the killing of black people as opposed to the sketchy presence of police during this attempted coup of the Capitol...but, I digress!

This attempted coup is an international sensation with some other countries taking the US to task for their effrontery in bemoaning how they operate their governments versus what they saw on CNN.

Malcom X was right. Countries that throw stones at the glass houses of other countries who do questionable political acts should not be outraged when those same countries pick up the same stones and rain them on America's political glass house.

Lafe Tolliver, Attorney
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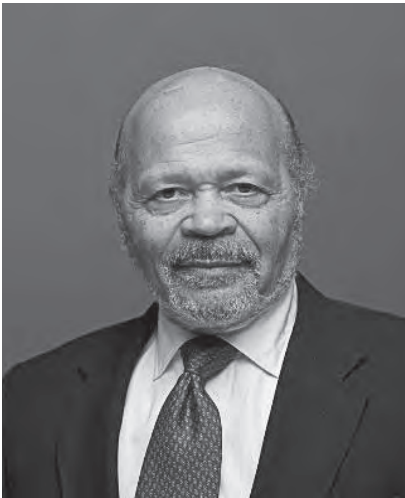
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AMERICA IS CHOKING



By Oscar H. Blayton
Wire Writer

Two weeks after Donald Trump's 2016 inauguration as president of the United States, I wrote a commentary titled "America Chose Donald Trump, Now It Will Choke on Him." It has been four years in coming, but America has finally choked.

On Jan. 6, 2021, as the U. S. Congress was on the verge of ceremoniously certifying Joe Biden as the winner of the 2020 election and attesting that he would become the 46th president of the United States, Trump incited a violent mob of thugs to riot and attack the U.S. Capitol for the purpose of effecting a coup that he hoped would allow him to remain in office.

There is no question that Trump sought to void a lawful election using violence and intimidation when he whipped this mob into a destructive frenzy that resulted in an insurrection.

But while Trump lit the match that ignited the flames of insurgency, it must be kept in mind that the rioting mob was comprised of Americans who claimed to be aggrieved for one imagined reason or another.

It is no surprise that a majority of white voters wanted to give this human dumpster fire another four years in order to drive this country further into rack and ruin. But it

should be surprising that a large percentage of white voters who did not vote for Trump enabled him to rise to the highest seat of power in America.

While our white friends did not vote for this dangerous bigot, too few of them said anything or did anything to try to dissuade their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, neighbors and co-workers from voting for him.

It is time for our white friends to stop standing on the sidelines with sad faces as their loved ones and neighbors cheer Trump as he spews his most hateful and racist rhetoric. It is time for those white friends to confront these bigoted people and demand that they be better citizens and better people.

It is also time for people of color to stop tiptoeing around those of our white friends who give their friends and relatives a pass when it comes to bigoted behavior.

This is an uncomfortable conver-

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\$900 Billion Federal Stimulus: What's In it, What's Not, What Remains



By Charlene Crowell
Wire Writer

Although a New Year has begun, many American consumers and small businesses continue to feel a financial hangover from the challenges of 2020. As the global pandemic reveals a still-soaring American infection rate, the nation has also surpassed 400,000 related deaths, added more workers to the ranks of unemployed, and growing debts place millions more in financial crisis.

To make matters worse, a \$900 billion federal stimulus package passed on December 22 by Congress did not receive a presidential signature until December 27, thereby delaying access to additional federal aid for a nation in need. The delayed aid, a fraction of the \$2.3 trillion aid package passed in March 2020, and the \$2.4 trillion HEROES Act that House Democrats passed last June, will tackle greater needs with fewer revenues spread over a wide range of categories affecting consumers, education, small businesses, public health, transportation and more.

For consumers, there are three main types of direct assistance through the new funding bill.

First, for an estimated 14 million former workers who exhausted their respective state unemployment benefits in 2020, \$286 billion will extend and expand unemployment assistance through March 2021. These federal payments will also include non-traditional employees like those who are self-employed or classified as gig workers. Unemployed workers who by March 14 exhaust their full state unemployment benefits will continue to receive this federal assistance until April 5.

Second, for consumers, a one-time, direct payment of \$600 will go to workers whose tax status as either a single person or head of household in their 2019 tax returns showed an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less. For joint filers earning that same year an adjusted gross income of \$150,000 or less, the single payment increases to \$1,200. Further, households

meeting these income guidelines and who also have children under the age of 17, will receive an additional \$600 per child. Those earning adjusted gross amounts above \$75,000 but less than \$87,000 will receive reduced stimulus checks, discounted by \$5 for every \$100 earned above the guidelines. Paper checks and debit cards will be delivered by mail over the next few weeks.

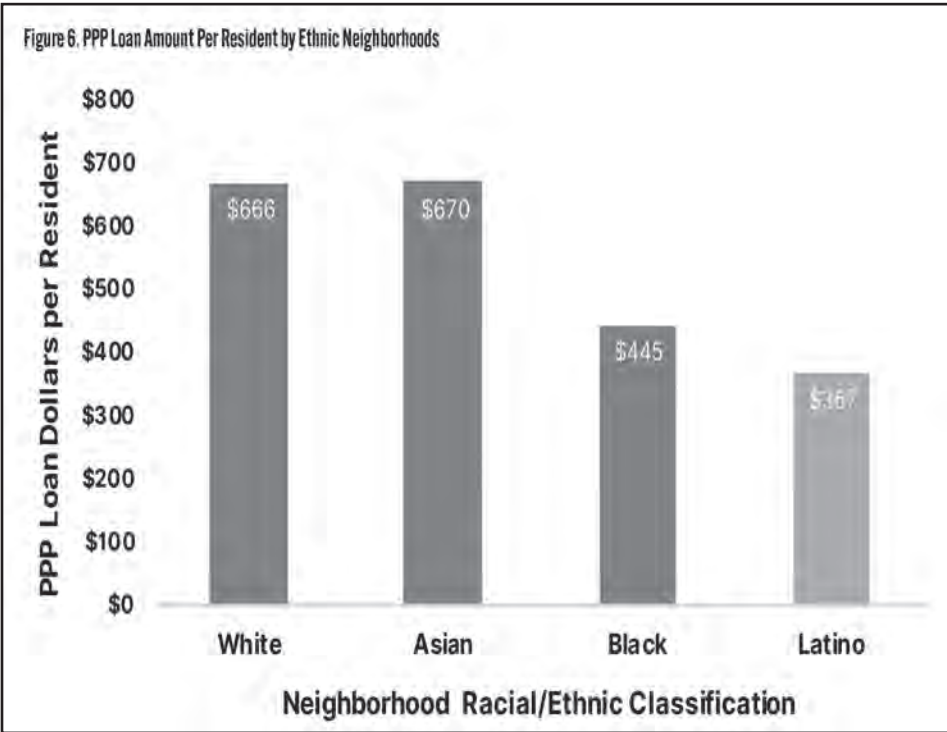
Third, other consumer-directed assistance includes an additional \$25 billion in federal rental assistance to be administered by state and local officials for consumers who have fallen behind on their monthly payments. These funds are also approved to help pay future rent, utility bills, prevent their shut-off. It is estimated that up to 17 million struggling renters who are disproportionately Black and Latino already owe an estimated \$70 billion in back rent. For these consumers, the threat of eviction is imminent. However, the bill only extends the current eviction moratorium through January 31 and provides no relief or assistance for struggling homeowners.

By comparison, the bill's combined \$324 billion that reflects direct consumer benefits, allots only \$82 billion to stretch across K-12 schools and higher education. The vast majority of these monies - \$54.3 billion -- is dedicated to elementary and secondary school relief, while relief for all higher education totals \$22.7 billion. The higher education monies include \$1.7 billion for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), tribal colleges and Minority-Serving Institutions. Unfortunately, funds to relieve the nation's burdensome \$1.7 trillion student loan debt were not included, nor was an extension of the pause on student loan payments that has helped millions of consumers over the course of the crisis.

Meanwhile, just as with earlier packages, small business relief was a centerpiece in the new bill and includes \$284 billion in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans and \$20 billion in Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance program. From its inception in March 2020, flaws in the PPP program structure and implementation prevented tens of thousands of Black and Latino business owners from accessing relief.

Now, a new research report released jointly by UCLA's Center for Neighborhood Knowledge and its Latino Policy and Initiatives, shares how the first version of the PPP program shortchanged Black and Latino neighborhoods on a per capita basis compared to predominantly White areas.

For example, PPP supported far fewer jobs per resident in Black and Latino neighborhoods (5.8 and 4.9 jobs per 100 residents respectively) than in white neighborhoods (8.1 jobs per 100 residents), according to the UCLA report. Latino and Black neighborhoods also received fewer



PPP dollars per resident than White and Asian neighborhoods. Latino and Black neighborhoods received \$367 and \$445 per resident respectively, compared to \$666 and \$670 received by businesses in white and Asian neighborhoods.

In response to the backlash surrounding the earlier iterations, significant structural improvements were made to PPP this time around. Hopefully, these changes will ensure that the PPP better serves Black and Latino business owners.

For example, the bill has dedicated PPP monies for the smallest businesses (10 or fewer employees) and smaller loans to entities in low-and-moderate-income communities. There is also a set-aside for loans originated by community development financial institutions (CDFIs), and minority depository institutions (MDIs). A minimum origination loan fee to support small loans, increased transparency, and streamlined forgiveness of loans under \$150,000 are also included. It also allows some hard-hit businesses that already received PPP loans to apply for second ones.

"This bill is welcome relief for the millions of small businesses that are days or weeks away from closing permanently," said Senator Ben Cardin in a statement, the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. "In addition to tackling the root of the problem, this bill targets small business aid to the hardest-hit, most vulnerable small businesses -- including Black, Native, Hispanic, Asian, and women-owned businesses -- as well as small businesses that have been most affected by COVID-19."

Despite the consumer relief provisions and PPP reforms, additional relief is still needed to help families get through this

crisis. Advocates applauded the bill's passage while also noting that far more is needed to help families survive this pandemic.

"Congress finally presents us with a relief package that is sorely needed," said Ashley Harrington, Federal Advocacy Director at the Center for Responsible Lending. "But it is not expansive enough to bring necessary relief and stability to our nation especially for Black and Brown communities that are experiencing the worst health and financial impacts of this unrelenting global pandemic."

"The Biden-Harris Administration must extend the pause on student loan payments," continued Harrington, "and must keep its promise to provide substantial, across-the-board debt cancellation to prevent further financial devastation for economically marginalized borrowers and communities. Congress must commit to immediately providing robust relief monies, especially to those who have no choice but to put their lives at risk as essential workers in order to survive."

"We have the resources; this is the time to deploy them," concluded Harrington. "Congress has a duty to provide relief that is equal to the enormity of this ongoing catastrophic emergency."

Maxine Waters, a California Congresswoman and Chair of the House Financial Services Committee echoed the need for more help.

"The negotiations were difficult; they were tough and I wish we could have done even more," noted Waters. "But I'm pleased we have done as well as we could have done to provide relief for so many in desperate need for their Government to come to their aid...Let me be clear: much more is needed, but this bill is a most important first step."

AMERICA IS CHOKING

continued from page 4

sation that no one wants to have because it lays bare the failure our friends to support our right to be treated equally as human beings while indicting ourselves for enabling them to ignore our mistreatment in America.

Once we begin this pushing, if our white friends are willing to allow people of color to be abused by acts of white supremacy for the sake of harmonious relations with their white friends and family members, then it will be clear their friendship with us has limitations. It is as clear as when the white friends of our Southern childhood would play with us in their yards but not dare to allow us to enter their homes.

There are those who may try to normalize what happened during the Trump years as "just politics." They may try to tell us that the Muslim ban was not really a ban against any one religion or even that locking children in cages was not as bad as it appeared to be. They may try to convince us that they did not know that Trump was as bad as he was. They may try to explain that Trump's calling NFL players "sons of bitches" for taking a knee during the playing of the National Anthem was just his reaction to what he saw as an attack against our national symbol. But that does not square with his calling the insurrectionists who vandalized the U.S. Capitol while attempting to carry out a coup against our government "very spe-

cial people" and telling them that he loved them.

On Jan. 6, we got a good hard look at the enemies of America, and the enemies are us. The enemies are certainly those who attacked democracy by assaulting the seat of our national government. But the enemies are also those of us willing to give a pass to their loved ones who are the haters and killers that go berserk at the thought of racial equality. And the enemies are those of us people of color who subsume our best interest for the sake of harmonious friendships with people who are willing to allow us to be hung from the gnarled tree of white supremacy.

As Ibram X. Kendi points out in his book *How To Be An Antiracist*, "The opposite

of 'racist' isn't 'not racist,' it's 'antiracist.'" And we are choking as a nation because Donald Trump has shoved racism down America's throat and America will continue to choke on it until we all become antiracists.

It is time for people of color to put our white friends on the spot and call out their complacency with the bigotry and racial hatred of their loved ones. We cannot move forward as a nation if we are content to stay tucked away in our separate comfort zones. This country will move forward only when each one of us steps forward.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.

LHM Awarded HUD Grant to Help Families Become Self-Sufficient

By Joaquin Cintron Vega
LHM President & CEO

Lucas Metropolitan Housing has been awarded a HUD 2021 Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Grant in the amount of \$263,400. The award supports the salaries for 4 FSS Coordinators who will continue to assist public housing and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants with achieving their self-sufficiency goals. "Self-sufficiency" is defined as a household's ability to maintain financial, housing, and personal/family stability. LMH assists families with employment, training, post-secondary education, financial literacy and much more.

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program supports the Department of Housing and Urban Development's strategic goal of increasing economic opportunity for HUD-assisted families. FSS Program Coordinators develop local initiatives to connect participating families to public and private resources to increase their earned income and financial empowerment, reduce or eliminate the need for welfare assistance, and make progress toward economic independence and self-sufficiency.

"The LMH Housing Choice Voucher Programs Department is delighted to

have received the renewal grant funding for our Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency (HCV-FSS) Program. This renewal allows us to continue aiding our HCV-FSS participants and their families in successfully achieving the goal of self- and economic-sufficiency," stated Shanetta Moye, Vice President of Housing Choice Voucher Programs.

"We love the Family Self-Sufficiency Program and the opportunity it gives our residents to establish an escrow through their earned income. This grant will allow us to continue seeing the success stories from our residents and to remain an integral part in their lives as they take action to change for the better," said Vivian Crawford, Interim Vice President of Resident Services.

"Since the initiation of our Family Self-Sufficiency Program, LMH has proudly watched as 70 participants have graduated and made better lives for themselves by either improving their level of educational attainment, improving their credit scores, start saving for a home or by becoming homeowners," expressed Joaquin Cintron Vega, LMH President &CEO. "This grant will help us sustain this program and help others gain their independence."

Toledo's Doni Miller to receive MLK Commission award

Submitted

Toledo resident Doni Miller will be recognized Thursday by the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission during its 36th annual Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration. Miller is among seven individuals and one organization to be honored for their work to serve others and lift the oppressed in communities across Ohio. Typically held at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Columbus, this year's event was prerecorded and can be viewed at das.ohio.gov/mlk beginning Thursday at 11:45 a.m.

"As governor, I believe that we must keep the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King of equality, unity, and justice at the forefront of everything we do," said Governor Mike DeWine "It is a privilege to recognize the outstanding service and achievements of Ohioans whose deeds and actions are consistent with Dr. King's teachings of non-violent social and economic change."

"It is an honor to serve on this commission dedicated to keeping Dr. King's dream alive in Ohio," said McKinley Brown, chair of the commission. "After a year of such great social change and needed conversations about where we stand in advancing toward equity and understanding, I am especially pleased to recognize these Ohioans who are advocating for a better future."

Miller will receive the Governor's Humanitarian Award, which recognizes those who have given their time and service to those in need and promote the welfare of humanity and elimination of pain and suffering through their selfless service.

She is Chief Executive Officer of the Neighborhood Health Association, one of the largest community health center systems in Northwest Ohio with medical and dental clinics in Lucas County. The clinics provide



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED
Doni Miller to receive Governor's Humanitarian Award

health services to under served populations, predominantly Black and Latino patients. Miller has nearly three decades of experience in the health care profession, holds a law degree from the University of Toledo and is currently pursuing a Master of Laws in Health Care.

In addition to managing the non-profit health association, she hosts a community action show for the Toledo ABC affiliate highlighting issues of importance to people of color and the community in general. Outside of work, Miller has been a supporter of women's rights and inclusion for women of color, serving on a board that helps minority women entrepreneurs.

Miller's nominator applauded her work and her ability to champion the cause of Black health and wellness.

"Black health is finally getting some semblance of the attention it deserves, thanks to people like Doni who've been rallying the troops and making progress even when society didn't take note," said her nominator.

Miller was recognized with the Ohio MLK Commission Health Equity and Awareness Award in 2016.

Heating Assistance Available through HEAP Winter Crisis Program

By Jay Black Jr.
Pathways, Inc. CEO

The Ohio Development Services Agency and Pathway Inc. want to let Ohioans know that assistance is available to help with their heating bills this winter. The Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program started November 1 and helps income-eligible Ohioans pay their heating bills and can assist with fuel tank placement, fuel tank testing, and furnace repair. The program will be open until March 31, 2021.

"As the pandemic continues into the winter, it is important that Ohioans are able to stay safe and warm in their homes," said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. "The Winter Crisis Program can ease the burdens of families. Ohioans who need help with their en-

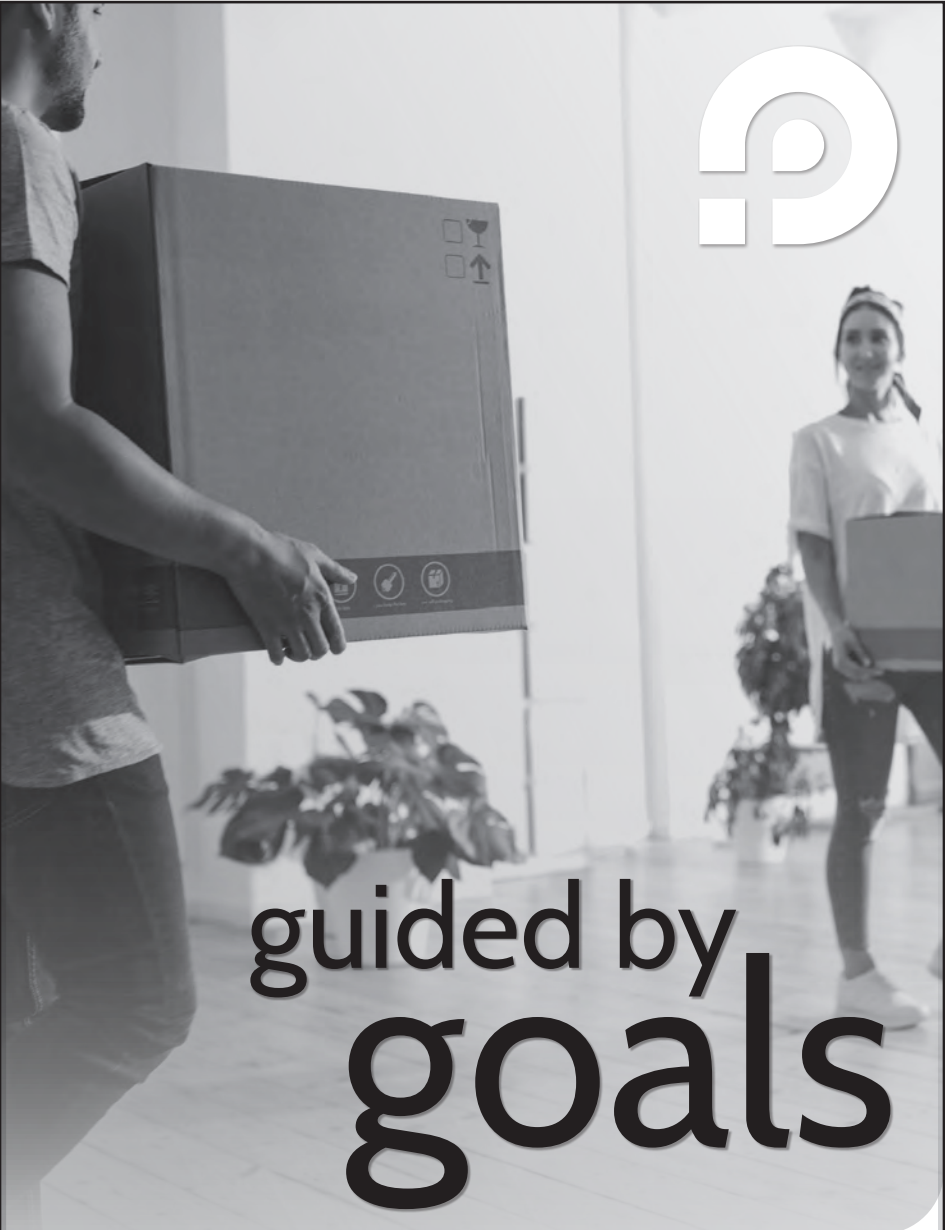
ergy bills should visit energyhelp.ohio.gov to learn more about the program."

The Winter Crisis Program assists low-income households that have been disconnected (or have a pending disconnection notice), need to establish new service, need to pay to transfer service, have 25% (or less) of bulk fuel supply remaining, or have a household member who was diagnosed with COVID-19 in 2020 to help stay warm this winter.

Ohioans can visit energyhelp.ohio.gov to start their application prior to their required appointment. This year appointments will be held over the phone. To schedule a phone interview appointment call, 567-803-0010.

Eligible households can receive a payment for their main heating source


Continued on page 15.



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Make Heart Health Part of Your Self-Care Routine

By: Family Features
Wire Writer

Devoting a little time every day to care for yourself can go a long way toward protecting the health of your heart. Simple self-care, such as taking a moment to de-stress, giving yourself time to move more, preparing healthier meals and not cheating on sleep, can all benefit your heart.

Because heart disease is largely preventable, focusing on improving your heart health is important. Heart disease is a leading cause of death for women and men in the United States, and many Americans remain at risk, according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). People with poor cardiovascular health are also at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

“Studies show self-care routines, such as taking a daily walk and keeping doctor’s appointments, help us keep our blood pressure in the healthy range and reduce our risk of heart disease and stroke,” said David Goff, M.D., NHLBI’s director of cardiovascular sciences.

It may be easier than you think to “put your heart” into your daily routine. Each Sunday, look at your week’s

schedule and carve out 30 minutes for heart-healthy practices. Take an online yoga class, prepare a heart-healthy recipe, schedule your bedtime to get at least seven hours of

blood pressure or blood sugar if needed. Keep an eye on your weight to make sure it stays within or moves toward a healthy range.

TASTY TUESDAY



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

“Put your heart” into your routine and stay healthy.

sleep or make a medication checklist. Then seek out support from others to help you stick to your goals.

Consider these self-care tips to try each day to make your heart a priority:

SELF-CARE SUNDAY

Find a moment of serenity every Sunday. Spend some quality time on yourself.

MINDFUL MONDAY

Be mindful about your health and regularly monitor your

Choose how you want to approach eating healthier. Start small by peppering your meals with a fresh herb or spice as a salt substitute. Get adventurous and prepare a simple, new, heart-healthy recipe. Or go big by trying a different way of eating, such as the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) eating plan, which is scientifically

proven to lower blood pressure. DASH is flexible and balanced, and it includes plenty of fruits and vegetables, fish, poultry, lean meats, beans, nuts, whole grains and low-fat dairy products.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

Don’t waffle on your wellness. Move more, eat a fruit or vegetable you’ve never tried, make a plan to quit smoking or vaping or learn the signs of a heart attack or stroke. You could be having a heart attack if you have chest and upper body pain or discomfort, shortness of breath, cold sweats, nausea or lightheadedness. You might be having a stroke if you experience numbness in the face, arm or leg; confusion; trouble talking or seeing; dizziness; or a severe headache.

TREAT YOURSELF THURSDAY

Treats can be healthy. Try making a dessert with fresh fruit and yogurt. Then stretch your imagination beyond food. Host a family dance party, take a few minutes to sit and meditate, go for a long walk or watch a funny show. Whatever you do, find a way to spend some quality time on yourself.

FOLLOW FRIDAY

Follow inspiring people and pages on social media, or text a friend to help you stick to your self-care goals. Remember to take care of your mental health, too. Two of the main hurdles to self-care are depression and a lack of confidence, according to a study published in the “Journal of the American Heart Association.” If your mental health is taking a toll, take action to show your heart some love. Reach out to family and friends for support, or talk to a qualified mental health provider.

SELFIE SATURDAY

Inspire others to take care of their hearts. Talk about your self-care routine with loved ones or share a selfie on social media. Having social support and personal networks can make it easier to get regular physical activity, eat nutritious foods, reach a healthy weight and quit smoking.

Learn more about heart health and heart-healthy activities in your community, and see what others are doing for their heart health, at nhlbi.nih.gov/ourhearts or follow #OurHearts on social media.

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UToledo Announces Speakers for Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth

By: Christine Billau
UT Media Relations Specialist

Valerie Jarrett, former senior advisor to the Obama administration, and Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, will speak at The University of Toledo's 37th annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth.

This year Toledo Excel, a longtime scholarship incentive program at UTo-

ledo, partnered with Owens Corning to offer the free event on Saturday, Jan. 30, for seventh- and eighth-graders, high school students and parents. The event is virtual because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Owens Corning was one of the original corporate supporters for Toledo Excel when we were founded 32 years ago. I could not be happier about us re-



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Valerie Jarrett, former senior advisor to the Obama administration newning our relationship in 2020," said David Young, director of Toledo Excel and Special Projects.

"One of the critical paths on that journey will always be education, investing in our young people and supporting the goals of vital organizations like Toledo Excel."

Established in 1988, Toledo Excel helps underrepresented students, including African, Asian, Hispanic and Native Americans, achieve success in college. Through summer institutes, academic retreat weekends, campus visits and guidance through the admission process, students increase their

self-esteem, cultural awareness and civic involvement.

This year's speakers have connections to two through lines of 2020: politics and race.

Jarrett is a senior distinguished fellow at the University of Chicago Law School and a senior advisor to the



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin

Obama Foundation. She serves as board chair of When We All Vote and co-chair of The United State of Wom-

Continued on page 11.

Honoring

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Drum Major Award

Continued from page 1.

Last year, the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers provided coronavirus kits and school supplies for the community during a voter registration event. A recent initiative is their “What To Do When Stopped By The Police Workshop” held for children in partnership with the Junction Coalition, Restorative Justice Program and TPD’s Community Service Section.

Anita Madison

Ms. Anita Madison is the proud mother of Brandon, and Tonielle, and grandmother to their five children. She received her high school diploma from Jesup W. Scott High School in 1977 and earned a BA degree in Commercial Art from Ohio State University. She holds a BA and Master’s degrees in Criminal Justice from Phoenix University. Currently, she works as an adjunct professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Toledo.

Ms. Madison is a lifelong member of People’s Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as the Administrative Assistant to the Pastor. She is actively involved in several community organizations including: STRIVE- a summer youth camp, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She is the Vice President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; and is a coordinator of the Toledo district voter registration of the Ohio Unity Coalition.

Though Ms. Madison retired from law enforcement after 30 years of service, she volunteers for numerous causes including Community Coordinator for the Toledo Police Department (TPD) community review board and Vice Chair to the Police Reform Task Force. She also leads a program sponsored by the African American Police League, which mentors and assists applicants of color and other applicants through the TPD hiring process. Many of those applicants have become TPD officers.

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VALERIE JARRETT
former senior advisor to the Obama administration

SYBRINA FULTON
author and mother of Trayvon Martin

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Martin Luther King, Jr. Was Arrested 29 Times For These So-Called Crimes

Submitted

Everybody knows who Martin Luther King, Jr. is, and what he did as a civil rights hero to contribute to freedom and equality for African Americans. But few people know that MLK was arrested almost 30 times fighting for what he believed in. His so-called "crimes" varied, and his arrests took place in various different cities in the south.

Here are just a few occasions when he was arrested and why:

January 26, 1956 -- He was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama as part of a "Get Tough" campaign to intimidate the bus boycotters. Four days later, on January 30, his home was bombed.

March 22, 1956 -- King, Rosa

Parks and more than 100 others were arrested on charges of organizing the Montgomery Bus Boycott in protest of Parks' treatment.

September 3, 1958 -- While attempting to attend the arraignment of a man accused of assaulting Abernathy, King is arrested outside Montgomery's Recorder's Court and charged with loitering. He is released a short time later on \$100 bond.

September 5, 1958 -- King was convicted of disobeying a police order and fined \$14. He chooses to spend 14 days in jail, but is soon released when Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers pays his fine.

October 19, 1960 -- He was arrested in Atlanta, Georgia during a sit-

in while waiting to be served at a restaurant. He was sentenced to four months in jail, but after intervention by then presidential candidate John Kennedy and his brother Robert Kennedy, he was released.

May 4, 1961 -- He was arrested in Albany, Georgia for obstructing the sidewalk and parading without a permit.

July 27, 1962 -- He was arrested again and jailed for holding a prayer vigil in Albany, Georgia.

April 12, 1963 -- He and Ralph Abernathy were arrested in Birmingham, Alabama for demonstrating without a permit. During his time in jail, he wrote what is now known as his historic "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

June 11, 1964 -- He was arrested for protesting for the integration of public accommodations in St. Augustine, Florida.

February 2, 1965 -- He was ar-



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Dr. King was arrested 29 times during his lifetime.

rested in Selma, Alabama during a voting rights demonstration, but the demonstrations continued leading to demonstrators being beaten at the Pettus Bridge by state highway patrolmen and sheriff's deputies.

Sadly, King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968 while visiting the city to fight for economic justice for the city's sanitation workers who wanted better working conditions and higher pay. His legend, however, continues to live on.

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RainbowMe Approved books to celebrate MLK Day with the kids

Submitted

Enjoy these books written about the giant of a man whose birthday we are celebrating today. Both of these books were written by black authors and are RainbowMe Approved.

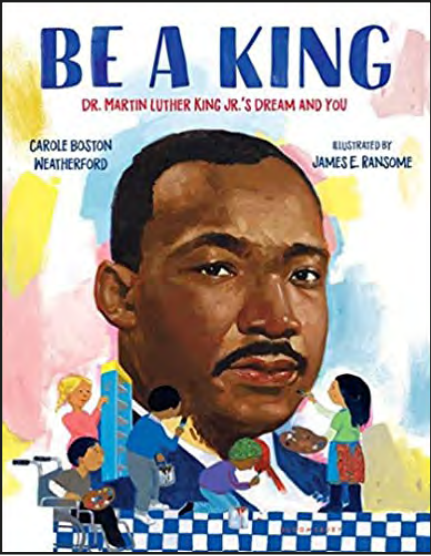


PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

By Carole Boston Weatherford (Author), James E. Ransome (Illustrator) “You can be a King. Stamp out hatred. Put your foot down and walk tall. You can be a King. Beat the drum for justice. March to your own conscience.”

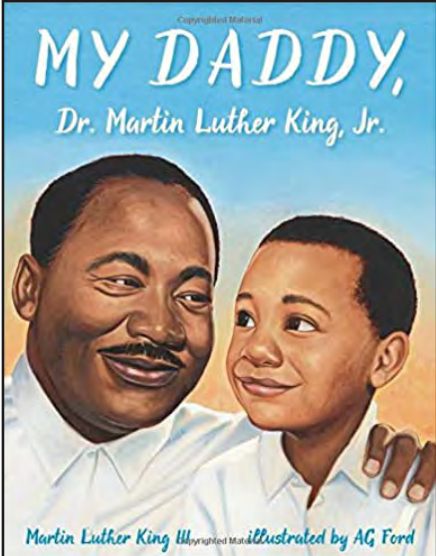


PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

“What was it like growing up as a son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? This picture book memoir, My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Martin Luther King III, provides insight into one of history’s most fascinating families and into a special bond between father and son.”

UToledo Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth

Continued from page 8.

en. Her New York Times bestselling memoir, “Finding My Voice: When the Perfect Plan Crumbles, the Adventure Begins,” was published last year.

Jarrett served as the chief executive officer of The Habitat Company, chairman and chief executive officer of the Chicago Stock Exchange, chairman of the Chicago Transit Board, deputy chief of staff for Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, and practiced corporate, real estate and finance law for 10 years.

“Politics is very much on the mind of this nation with 2020 seeing such hotly contested races,” Young said. “Ms. Jarrett, with her wealth of experience as senior advisor to President Obama for eight years, is a perfect voice in this climate. She also has a passion for strengthening communities.”

Fulton has dedicated her life to transforming family tragedy into social change since her 17-year old-son Trayvon Martin was shot by George

Zimmerman in 2012. Her book co-authored with Tracy Martin, “Rest in Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin,” shares the story of her son’s life and the rise of a movement that awoke a nation’s conscience.

Fulton worked for the Miami-Dade County Housing Development Agency for more than 25 years. A Miami native, Fulton graduated from Florida Memorial University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in English.

“The tragedy Sybrina Fulton faced with the murder of her son Trayvon Martin is unfortunately the reality mothers in our community have faced at an alarming rate,”

Young said. “Many of the students who will be in attendance have lost brothers or sisters, cousins, friends and classmates. Ms. Fulton can speak to that pain and, of course, the questions about race and its role in her son’s death and the aftermath.”

Details on how to register for the free, public conference will be released next month.



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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING . . .

Walking is So Much More Than Just Exercise

By James A. Washington Jr.
Wire Writer

If I haven't before, let me ask you now. Can somebody explain a "faith walk" to me? I frequently refer to my own spiritual transformation that way and I've had others describe this "thing" that I'm on ...'as you go down this road'...'as you complete this walk.' I've even used the faith walk phrase when trying to explain a new and different view of the world as now seen by someone who believes being saved is more than just some trite saying.

This, whatever it is, is serious and I have to admit, very tangible. I really can feel it.

I was just curious about the walk reference. I suppose when you think about it, many in the bible had truth revealed to them on a walk, on a journey, while going from one place to another at God's direction and even during the subconscious traveling in a dream.

It's a simple analogy and if you think about, what is more meaningful than a walk with someone you respect, admire, love and can learn from?

One of the most memorable

I guarantee, if you go deliberately looking for God just one day, you won't be alone for long.

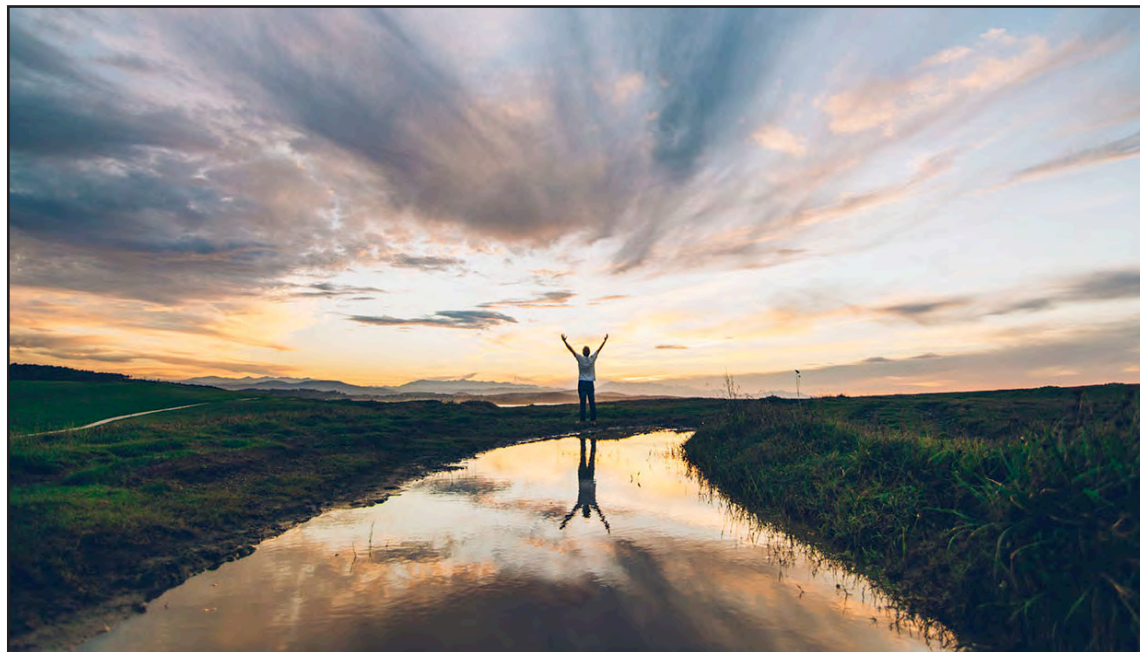


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When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness; but will have the light of life." John 8:12

experiences I've ever had was to walk with my children when they were toddlers. There was something about them exploring and discovering the world

around them without fear, because they knew Daddy was right there.

Have you ever witnessed this? Have you ever been a

part of the experience of walking and talking with someone

you were totally in sync with? That must be one of the reasons people refer to discovering God as faith walking.

The effort to get closer to God requires movement. I believe the walk reference is probably an attempt (an excellent one), to describe the experience of following, or trying to follow, the path laid down by Jesus Christ.

The best example we have is Enoch. "Enoch walked with God: then he was no more, because God took him away." Genesis 5:24. The bible talks about walking humbly, walking in the light, walking with the wise, walking together and

yes, walking on water. The point seems to be that life is a journey and if the truth be told, the journey is infinitely better if God goes along for the ride.

We want and at times need to talk to God along the way. Maybe, if we're truly blessed, He'll talk back. Searching for Him here on earth is fundamentally a spiritual experience. To walk with the Lord can only be described as "stepping out on faith." Once taken, life changes. You change. You have to. I know I did.

So, I guess I've kind of cleared up my own dilemma. This faith walk is merely an acknowledgement that you are

letting God order your steps, lead you through, guide you in this world. When you do this, God will direct you straight to Him.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness; but will have the light of life." John 8:12. So this walk thing suggests by doing so, you can directly connect with God. You can do what Enoch did. You can hope and pray like Enoch that God will take you to Him also. That's the point isn't it?

So, when you get up tomorrow, think about this and let God order your steps consciously for one day. Make a concerted effort to listen and hopefully hear what He is telling you on that day. The bible says faith comes by hearing. What better way to hear than by taking a deliberate stroll with the Lord? Try it. You might find God showing up in the strangest places and in the strangest faces. But you've got to look.

I guarantee, if you go deliberately looking for God just one day, you won't be alone for long. You see He has this marvelous way of showing up right on time when He knows somebody is indeed seeking Him out. Remember, however, the first step is up to you.

May God bless and keep you always.

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January 23, 1858: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, pioneer in surgery, born.

January 22, 1882: Lewis H. Latimer is granted a patent for the process of manufacturing carbons.

January 26, 1906: Willa Brown-Chappell, pioneer, aviator, born.

January 20, 1908: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the first organization of black Greek sisterhood was founded.

January 21, 1938: First African Americans, Teddy Wilson on piano and Lionel Hampton on vibraphone performs at Carnegie Hall.

January 26, 1956: Dr. King is arrested on a charge of traveling 30 mph in a 25 mph-zone in Montgomery, Ala. He is released on his own recognizance.

January 24, 1960: The King family moves to Atlanta, Ga., to allow Dr. King to devote more time to the SCLC. Dr. King becomes co-pastor, with his father, of the Ebenezer Baptist Church

January 22, 1966: Dr. King moves into a Chicago slum tenement to attract attention to the living conditions of the poor.

January 25, 1966: Constance Baker Motley, the first african american woman to be apponted a federal judge.

January 24, 1969: UCLA names building after Ralph Bunche.

January 20, 1986: First national celebration of Dr. King's birthday as a holiday.

January 20, 2001: Colin Powell appointed U.S. Sec-

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The Rudolph Libbe Group is seeking a Director of Continuous Improvement. Reporting directly to the CEO, the Director of Continuous Improvement will leverage their knowledge, experience, and relationship-building skills to foster a culture of continuous improvement within the Rudolph Libbe Group organization; from improving our operational effectiveness to enhancing the client experience. At the Rudolph Libbe Group, continuous improvement is about the mentality and cultural commitment that creates a new type of capacity within the organization; a capacity to make relationships and projects safer, more efficient, more productive, more profitable, and more enjoyable.

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retary of State by President George W. Bush. He becomes the first African American to serve in the post.

January 20, 2009: Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States

Coming Events

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Must be an OHIO resident OR a student attending, or planning to attend, an accredited OHIO college, university, technical or trade school.

Must have and maintain a grade point average (G.P.A.) of 2.5 or higher.

Students can access the scholarship application and view additional information at oogEEP.org/teacher-students/scholarships.

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HELP WANTED



For current openings and to apply, visit <https://www.utoledo.edu/jobs/>

UT/UTMC is an EOE/Veterans/Disabled/LGBTQ+ employer and educator

HELP WANTED



The Sylvania Township Fire Department is seeking candidates for a Full-time Administrative Assistant to provide the department with a variety of confidential, administrative support service, including, but not limited to: the preparation of monthly reports and Agenda items for the Board of Trustees meetings; coordination of repairs and maintenance for all fire stations; preparation and monitoring of budget accounts; and coordination of the hiring process of fire department personnel.

Additional information concerning this position at www.sylvaniatownship.com. Three -Five (3 - 5) years' executive administrative experience is preferred. An Associate Degree in Business Administration, Accounting, or a closely related business field is also preferred.

Please submit cover letter, resume, references and salary expectations by 4:00 pm Friday, January 29, 2021 to: Human Resources, Sylvania Township 4927 N. Holland-Sylvania Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560 to: HR@sylvaniatownship.com.

Sylvania Township, an Equal Opportunity Employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, political beliefs, marital/family/parental status, or other protected classes under state or federal law. Sylvania Township is committed to an inclusive welcoming work environment with cultural diversity and a drug-free, nicotine-free workplace.

NOTICE OF CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

PATROL OFFICER CITY OF FREMONT

The Fremont Civil Service Commission will be holding an entrance exam for the position of Patrol Officer on Saturday, April 10th at 9:00 am or Wednesday, April 14th at 6:00 pm. This will be held at the Fremont Community Recreation Complex at 600 Saint Joseph St. Fremont, Ohio 43420. Applications for the test can be completed by visiting the National Testing Network and clicking on Fremont, Ohio. Applications are due by April 2, 2021. For questions, please contact the Office of the Safety Service Director at 419-334-2687 or e-mail Amanda Sears at asears@fremontohio.org.

utes to 2 hours, Monday through Sunday sessions Check the schedule at toledo.oh.gov/icerink or call 419-936-2997. For information on facility rental opportunities, please call Dawn Cousino at 419-936-2700. Admission is \$4 and skate rental is \$2. Senior admission is \$2.50. Children under 3 skate free. An individual season pass costs \$28. Seniors pay \$16 for a season pass. A family season pass is \$95. All visitors must have their temperatures taken upon entry. Any one with a fever above 100 degrees will be denied entry. Masks must be worn at all times, indoors and out.

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA
Newswire
Senior
National
Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

Prince's 'Sign o' The Times': A Timeless Masterpiece

"In France, a skinny man died of a big disease with a little name
By chance his girlfriend came across a needle and soon she did the same..."
That's how one of the greatest albums in history opened.

The title track to Prince's "Sign o' the Times" was greeted by critics and fans alike: pure excitement.

Thirty-three years ago, with hit singles like "You Got the Look," "Adore," "Housequake," Prince did the unthinkable.

His "Sign o' the Times" outperformed on every level, "Purple Rain," and "1999." In short, "Sign o' the Times" was a certifiable masterpiece.

It was Prince's "Thriller," his "Sgt. Pepper," or "Mona Lisa."

And, what sets Prince apart, no one thought Michael Jackson could top Thriller, and even the King of Pop knew he never exceeded his best. No one expected the Beatles to beat "Sgt. Pepper," and they never did.

And, indeed, Leonardo da Vinci couldn't replicate the artistic genius of the Mona Lisa.

Prince twice topped what many believed was his artistic crescendo. Many thought the Minneapolis-born superstar would never top the 1999 album he released in 1982.

Less than two years later, he did as "Purple Rain" was released and topped the charts worldwide.

With hits like "When Does Cry," "Baby I'm a Star," and "Take Me with You," Purple Rain became the first to win Best Album Grammy

and Best Original Score Oscar.

A groundbreaking tour and blockbuster film followed the release of Purple Rain.

After releasing "Around the World in a Day" in 1985 and "Parade" in 1986, to little excitement (compared to "Purple Rain"), critics and some fans opined that Prince had reached his creative peak.

Then came "Sign o' The Times."

The opening song and title track begin with a convincing bass and synthesizer and approval from Prince, "Oh Yeah," he screeches before launching into a tour de force of artistry.

The entire album is ear-candy.

On "U Got the Look," Prince, with a guest from Sheena Easton, sings, "Here we are folks

The dream we all dream of

Boy versus girl in the World Series of love

Tell me, have you got the look?"

On "Housequake," he rocks: "We're gonna shake, we're gonna quake/'Cause we got the baddest groove that we could a make."

Turning to his sexual side on "If I Were Your Girlfriend," Prince pleads:

"If I was your girlfriend, would you let me dress you

I mean, help you pick out your clothes before we go out? Not that you're helpless But, sometimes,

sometimes those are the things that bein' in love's about."



Then, on "Hot Thing," he demands:

"Hot thing, maybe you should give your folks a call

Hot thing, tell them you're going to the Crystal Ball

Hot thing, tell them you're coming home late if you're coming home at all."

And, on one of the most memorable love songs ever written, Prince introduces "Adore."

On that track, Prince croons:

"Until the end of time, I'll be there for you

You own my heart, and mind/I truly adore you

If God one day struck me blind, your beauty I'll still see

Love is too weak to define, just what you mean to me."

"Boys are cocky. Sign O' the Times was an album made by a grown man," Susan Rogers, Prince's

sound engineer from 1983 to 1987, told the BBC.

"The charts had moved on, and hip-hop was taking over. There was a world outside his door; there was restlessness; there was curiosity; there was the Aids epidemic," Rogers recalled.

BBC wondered whether "Sign o' The Times" was the greatest album ever made.

Michaelangelo Matos wrote for Rolling Stone in 2004 that the album was "the most complete example of Prince's artistry's breadth, and arguably the finest album of the 1980s."

Music critic Stephen Thomas Erlewine wrote that "Prince utilizes a palette of genres, from bare-bones electro-funk and smooth soul to pseudo-psychedelic pop and crunching hard rock, touching on gospel, blues, and folk along the

way."

Don McLeese of the Chicago Sun-Times proclaimed Prince's performance on the "Sign o' the Times" album as "a one-man show, a tour de force, and a combination that pop's former prodigy has come of age."

And Robert Christgau of the old Village Voice in New York heaped this praise on "Sign o' the Times":

"The most gifted pop musician of his generation proving what a [man] he is for two discs start to finish. "Prince's one-man-band tricks and multi-tracked vocals make Stevie Wonder sound like a struggling ventriloquist. The objects of his desire are also objects of interest, affection, and respect."

[Writer's note: Take a break from the pandemic and do yourself a favor and revisit "Sign o' the Times."

SEVEN (7) HARAMBEE'S (LET'S PULL TOGETHER)

The local Kwanzaa committee and those around the state have marked the first virtual Kwanzaa Celebration. "Ohio Celebrates Kwanzaa" was a huge success.

Kwanzaa is a non-religious, non-heroic celebration. The intent is that African American people of various ages, faith, and beliefs come together to celebrate the harvest or successes achieved during the year based on the seven principles of Kwanzaa known as the "Nguzo Saba". The value and practice of ingathering the people is the first and foundational aspect of the Kwanzaa celebration. Kwanzaa promotes community, sharing and renewal of bonds, guiding principles and plans for the new year. From Cincinnati-Cleveland-Dayton-Akron-Columbus-Toledo, we reached communities all over the world. We shared the Celebration via gnj.media with over 20,000 from across the United States, as well as Nigeria, Ghana, and Brazil.

Our plan is to stream content about



Kwanzaa 2020 on Gye-Nyame Journey Media, Facebook, and Toledo Kwanzaa House Facebook page. We will seek to create or support Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) events such as Marcus Garvey Day on August 17th and Black & Indigenous Liberation Day October 12th, etc.

We want to say Asante' Sana (Thanks a Lot) to those who supported our effort: The Sojourner Truth/Toledo Journal/WTOL 11/WTVG 13/gnj.media/Powell Beauty Supply/Sam Hamer – Light of Sam, Inc./Lynne Hamer – PH.D Teach Toledo/Perfect Image Brands, LLC – PPE & Fragrances.

The Toledo Kwanzaa Committee: Diane Gordon (Founder), Kewape Peterson, Elsie Harbour, Oscar Shaheer, Rahwae Shuman, Gracie Williams, Prince Alezar, Washington Muhammad, Twana Boyd, Rev. William Davis, Antwan Oxner, Autumn Gineen-Atelier, and Don Lynn.

Contact: Oweso (Don Lynn)

Boston Red Sox Hire Bianca Smith as First Black Woman Coach in Baseball History

By Stacy M. Brown
Wire Writer

Bianca Smith, an African American woman, has made baseball history.

Smith, who most recently served as an assistant baseball coach and hitting coordinator at Wisconsin's Carroll University, was named a coach in the Boston Red Sox minor league system.

Smith, 29, becomes the first Black woman to coach in professional baseball.

She will work with the team's infielders at the Red Sox minor league facility in Fort Myers, Fla.

"She was a great candidate coming in," Red Sox vice president of player development Ben Crockett told the Boston Globe.

"She's had some really interesting experiences and has been passionate about growing her skillset and development herself."

That Smith's historic hiring happened in Boston, a city

where angry mobs violently attacked school buses carrying Black children to previously all-white schools in the 1970s, could be a sign of racial progress.

The Red Sox have had a history of racism at Fenway Park.

In 2019, four fans hung a banner that read "Racism is as American as Baseball," from the famed Green Monster.

Last year, retired baseball star Torii Hunter told ESPN that he was called the N-word several times by fans as young as "little kids."

He later said that he had heard more racist remarks in Boston than any other city.

"When I went to Boston, it was so consistent. After a while, I just kind of shoved it off, and I went out and played. I played with aggres-

sion, though," Hunter relayed.

He added that he felt uncomfortable with the idea of his family living in Boston if he had signed there.

"That's why I got t h e n o -

trade clause, the list of teams, and I put Boston in there," Hunter added.

"I love Boston. I wanted to

play there. It just hit me that I can't have my wife and my kids in this area," he continued.

"There is no way I can do that because I don't ever want them to go through that, and if they do, I don't know what I would do, and I would be the angry Black guy, and that wouldn't be good."

Hunter's comments prompted the Red Sox to issue a statement acknowledging his experience.

The team noted that, in 2019, there were seven reported incidents of fans using racial slurs at Fenway Park.

In 2017, Baltimore Orioles star outfielder Adam Jones

said he was on the receiving end of racial slurs at Fenway Park no less than 100 times.

Fans even threw bags of peanuts at him, Jones said.

But the hiring of Smith is barrier-breaking. She joins a list of female professional baseball coaches, including Rachel Balkovec of the New York Yankees, Rachel Folden of the Chicago Cubs, and Christina Whitlock of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Last year, Alyssa Nakken of the San Francisco Giants became the first on-field female coach in Major League Baseball.

She once served as an intern for the Texas Rangers and Cincinnati Reds.

Smith also played softball at Dartmouth from 2010-12 before working as director of baseball operations at Case Western Reserve University from 2013 to 2017 and as an assistant coach with the University of Dallas in 2018.

"It's a meaningful," Crockett said of Smith's hire. "Meaningful thing for the organization."



HEAP Winter Crisis Program

and/or their secondary heating source (electric). The program can also assist with fuel tank placement, fuel tank testing, and furnace repair. Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines to qualify for assistance. For a family of four, the annual income must be at or below \$45,850.

Individuals interested in receiving Winter Crisis assistance must have a phone interview with Pathway, the local HEAP provider. Customers must provide the following items at the time of their appointment:

- Proof of U.S. citizenship/legal residency for all household members
- A copy of the applicant's social security card and numbers for everyone in the household regardless of age
- Valid, government-issued photo identification (i.e., a driver license)
- Proof of total income for the last 30 days for everyone 18 years of age and older.
- Self-Employed households must provide 12 months of income documentation (e.g., ledger, prior year tax transcript).
- Seasonal income households must provide 12 months of income documentation.
- If the household states zero income or falls below 30 % of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG), tax transcripts and verification of non-filing of returns for all 18

years of age and order are required.

- If the household states zero income or falls below 30 % of the FPG; Social Security printout(s) child support printouts(s) ODJFS food and cash printout(s) for everyone in the household.
- Letter of support if required.
- Current utility bills for gas and electric regardless of account status
- Documentation of co-payment if required
- Proof of disability A copy of the applicant's lease is required, if the utility services are off or being transferred to another address.

Pathway offers WCP services at:

Pathway, Inc. Office at 505 Hamilton Street, Toledo OH 43604.

All Appointment Methods will be conducted via phone interview.

1. Schedule an appointment using the 24/7 automated phone line: 567-803-0010.
2. Schedule a same-day appointment – Wednesdays and Thursdays - 567-803-0017
3. Schedule a PIPP re-certification ONLY – Call Friday

to receive a Mon-Tues timeslot - 567-803-0017

4. Apply online: www.energy-help.ohio.gov

Pathway, Inc. Same-Day appointments. Households must call the Pathway HEAP same-day, walk-in line at 567-803-0017 between 8 a.m. and

11 a.m. in order to receive a same day walk-in slot. Same-day slots are between 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays ONLY.

Households with PIPP re-certification ONLY can call Friday's at 567-803-0017 between 8 am to 5 pm to receive

a 15-minute slot either Monday or Tuesday. Clients will need to be prepared to complete a paper application. Households needing a payment, a transfer, or assistance with a Winter Crisis application must contact the regular appointment line, 567-803-0010.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MLK!



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