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QUESTION

Concerned about
'Stand Your
Ground' law?



LIFESTYLES/NEWS

Hero Officer

Eugene Goodman
from DC



RELIGION/FAMILY

IN MEMORIAM:
Baseball Icon
'Hank' Aaron



EDUCATION

Amanda Gorman
Poet Laureate



EVERYBODY IS
SOMEBODY IN
THE TOLEDO
JOURNAL



Leverette Elementary School Host a Free Community Family Shop



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Parent Bennie Johnson shops for shoes for his daughter at the Leverette Free Community Family Shop.

By Michael Daniels
Journal Staff Writer

On January 21-22, Leverette Elementary School at 455 E. Manhattan hosted its Free Community Family Shop at the school. The purpose of the Community Family Shop is to help the students and families of the Leverette school community obtain items they may need but do not have. The shop offers a wide variety of items including regular clothing, coats, underwear, shoes, personal hygiene items for boys and girls, of all sizes, and much more. Family members were able to fill two grocery bags full of available items

that they needed for free.

Normally, the store is available throughout the school year, but due to the pandemic and no students physically attending school, the store was opened for two days so that parents could still utilize this service. All together about thirty families visited the store and during the hours of operation strict COVID-19 protocol measures were in practice.

The Free Community Family Shop was the idea of Leverette Elementary School 3rd-grade teacher Bailey May. She said, "Originally we started what we called a resource closet because we noticed that some students needed school uniforms. So we would

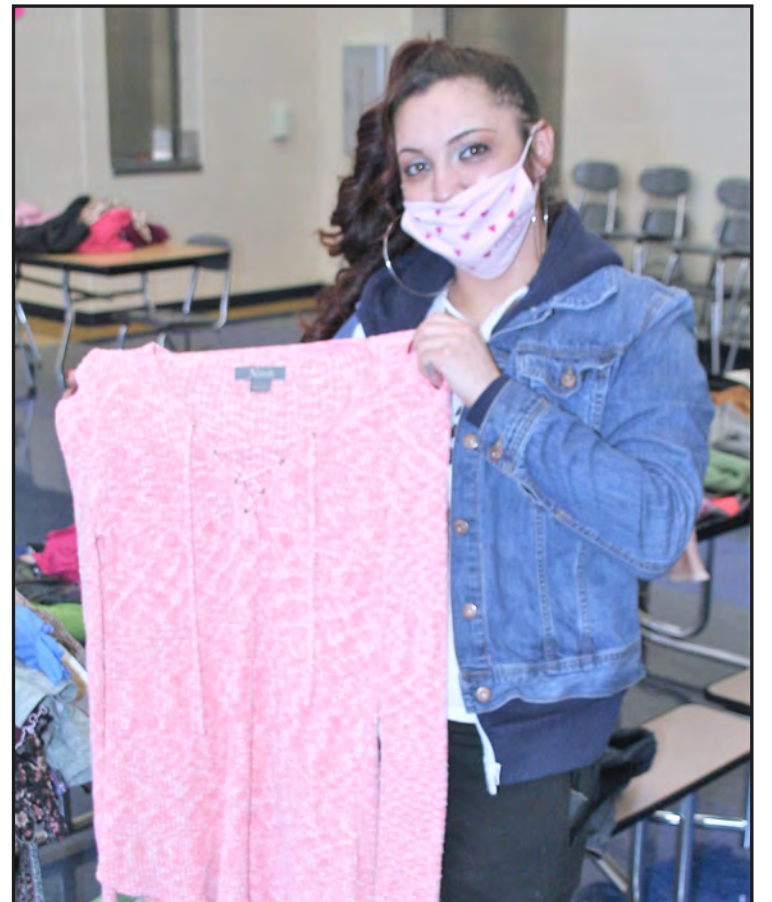


PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Parent Abigail Cap displays a nice top she found while shopping at the Free Community Family Shop.

go to the closet and get them a uniform. As time moved on we saw that some students needed other items, as well, such as personal hygiene items and other articles of clothing."

Fortunately as the need continued to grow so did the donations to the closet which is now a store. The community has stepped up to meet the need including the school principal, teachers, and other outside organizations, such as churches have donated to the

store. In addition, the school nurse regularly writes grants to get free personal hygiene products for the store.

Looking toward the future, Ms. May said, "Our ultimate goal is to get the things our customers need in their hands and offer this service four times a year."

To donate to the Leverette Elementary Free Community Family Shop, call 419-671-6200.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

(L-R) Leverette Elementary School 3rd grade teacher Bailey May who started the Free Community Family Shop is shown here with Taria Blanchard: Assistant Principal, and Satoria Houston: CPO (Campus Protection Officer) working on the shoe display at the Leverette Free Community Family Shop.

API Outlines Affordable and Accessible Energy in State of American Energy Report

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

American Petroleum Institute (API) President and CEO Mike Sommers said there's growing confidence that America's future will be brighter and cleaner because of today's natural gas and oil abundance and an adapting, evolving industry.

"Today, I'm going to outline a path, a vision, for an affordable, secure, reliable cleaner energy future one marked by a shared commitment across many industries to innovation, action, and problem-solving," Sommers avowed.

The remarks kicked off API's annual State of American Energy address. Sommers outlined actions the natural gas and oil industry is taking to support the nation's economic recovery and a vision for an affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy future.

The virtual event drew more than 2,000 attendees.

It featured young professionals and energy leaders, including a New Mexico teacher, a Pennsylvania-based union trade leader, and the National Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO, Dr.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

"We've become conditioned to pitting using energy against making environmental progress, yet history has shown that this is a false choice," Sommers expressed.

"Both developing energy and reducing emissions are essential to advance our society and protect the environment without energy and environmental progress."

The State of American Energy report revealed that the natural gas and oil industry remains a reliable foundation for America's economic recovery.

The industry stands ready to help the country build – today, tomorrow, and in the future – through innovation and new technologies, to supply affordable, dependable energy while continuously improving environmental performance, Sommers outlined.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED
API President and CEO Mike Sommers Speaks During State of American Energy/API

"Natural gas and oil are both supporting our nation's recovery, and eventually come back from the Covid-19 pandemic," Sommers maintained.

"Our products served as critical building blocks for millions of face masks, surgical gowns, and other PPE worn by frontline workers. Our crews worked long shifts to make those products and power hospitals and plants."

He noted that the industry had refrained from political

battles and focused on the essential work the nation depends upon in producing and delivering American energy, which contributes to national security, answering the climate changes with action and ingenuity while keeping energy affordable.

"Thanks to American technology and innovation, the United States is now the world's leading producer of natural gas and oil," Sommers told the gathering.

"Securing America's energy future has long been a point of unity since the 1970s, and nine US presidents have focused on American energy security and advocated for reducing our nation's dependence on foreign oil."

He insisted that energy affordability is more important than ever as the country recovers from the pandemic.

"A government that's fo-

cused on recovery for all should reject policies that could drive up energy costs and hurt those who can least afford them," Sommers said.

"That is the case we're making, and we are working with President Joe Biden and his administration. Our country has a lot of economic ground to make up, millions of more jobs to recover, and when the business at hand is the economic revival, no industry can help more than this one. The pandemic offered reminders of just how crucial the natural gas and oil industry is to everyday life."

Dr. Chavis, a longtime environmental justice advocate, said the more than 230-member NNPA, which represents the Black Press of America, has enjoyed a great partnership with API and expects to continue as both strive to ensure that all residents have access to affordable energy.

"There are energy poverty places in America where we don't get access to energy and natural gas that's affordable," Dr. Chavis declared. "We need to make sure that natural gas is accessible to all communities. We want to overcome

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW SITE



CommunityEnergyCenter.org will Educate the Public about Energy Empowerment among Diverse Communities







Diverse communities not only will be shaped by an evolving energy sector, they will shape it. Our new website – CommunityEnergyCenter.org – welcomes perspectives from commentators and journalists from publications in diverse communities to promote a deeper understanding of how energy and economic matters play a role in daily life. This new content hub will educate diverse communities to explore job opportunities and participate in the energy sector's growth and vitality.

Visit www.communityenergycenter.org to learn more.



The Community Energy Center, a cooperative with the National Newspaper Publishers Association and National Association of Hispanic Publications Media, will provide information and perspectives on the integral role of the energy sector in daily life for American families in a wide range of communities.

Do you think African Americans should be concerned about Governor DeWine signing ‘Stand Your Ground’ into law and why or why not?

	<p>Michael Neal Material Handler</p> <p>Yes we should be concerned about the law. Although Stand Your Ground can give all people, even African Americans, a way of defending themselves, it also opens the door to more Blacks being shot by Whites; so it's a catch 22.</p>		<p>Mercedes Veal RN</p> <p>Yes we should be concerned about Stand Your Ground. Even though Trump is no longer in office, racism is really bad and that could trigger more gun violence against African Americans.</p>
	<p>Angela McCoy Accounts Payable</p> <p>Yes we should be concerned about that law. I can see more acts of violence being perpetrated against us. The only thing we can really do to protect ourselves is to legally arm ourselves.</p>		<p>Al Hickman Registered Barber</p> <p>Yes black people should be concerned. I believe with the law in place, Ohio could turn into a free-for-all, in which White people are shooting Blacks over nothing. The only thing we can really do is pray and hope that doesn't happen and legally arm and protect ourselves.</p>
	<p>Chris Reese Registered Barber</p> <p>Look what happened to Trayvon Martin in Florida, where Stand Your Ground is law; so yes, we should be concerned. We, as Black people, should protect ourselves by buying legal firearms. Prior to Stand Your Ground becoming law, I wasn't thinking about buying a gun, but now, I feel like I have to purchase one.</p>		<p>Kendrick Mitchell Quality Engineer</p> <p>It definitely is a concern. Prior to Stand Your Ground, the person with the firearm had to consider all options before firing his weapon, now consideration of escaping isn't necessarily an option. This can be beneficial to African Americans when we have to defend ourselves. But being that two justice systems exist, one for Blacks and one for Whites, we know favorability will swing in the direction of Whites.</p>

Ongoing Events

2021 Scholarship Applications for Natural Gas Careers

Applications are due no later than March 1st. Scholarships are awarded to students interested in pursuing careers in the natural gas and oil industry, such as petroleum engineer, finance, equipment operator, mechanical engineer, welder and many more. To qualify for a \$1,000 scholarship, a student:

- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- Must have a career goal in the natural gas and oil industry.
- 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 oogeeep.org/teacher-students/scholarships.

NWO's Only Open-Air Ice Rink Now Open

At the corner of West Bancroft Street and Parkside Boulevard in Toledo Visit toledo.oh.gov/icerink for information. A maximum of 35 skaters will be allowed admission during open skate times due to COVID-19 guidelines. The open skate sessions last 90 minutes 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.

Help tell the story of Greater Toledo Compassion MLK 40 Days of Service

Compassionate Community - Compassion Games Once again the Multifaith Council is participating in the MLK 40 Days of Service Compassion Games. We need to record at least 1,000 volunteers doing local compassionate action. We ARE a Compassionate Community! We know that our faith groups and other organizations are continuing to do safe, compassionate outreach in Greater Toledo during the challenges of the pandemic. Please register your service project Direct questions and report data to David Longacre.

Senior Centers Closed

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

Every Tuesday

Toledo Masjid Al-Islam Through Tarbiyyatul Haqq Ministries Food Pantry

Located at 722 E. Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43608. Available Tues. 11 am - 1 pm every week. Free

Food Pantry

Every 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month

The Redeemed Christian Church of God Mount Zion Chapel Toledo will hold a food pantry, at 2239 Cheyenne Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614

Jan. 30th

Toledo Excel 37th Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth

Saturday, at 10 a.m. Keynote Speakers: Valerie Jarrett former senior advisor to the Obama administration, and Sybrina Fulton author and mother of Trayvon Martin. Visit utoledo.edu/success/excel to register. The Universtiy of Toledo

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APRI Condemns Stand Your Ground Law and DeWine's Signature

Will Lead to Increased Gun Violence

Submitted

The leadership and members of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) were deeply concerned to learn that Gov. Mike DeWine has signed Senate Bill 175, the "Stand Your Ground" legislation passed by the Ohio legislature this past December that will undoubtedly lead to more gun violence in our state. As a long-standing labor organization, APRI fights for the rights of the all workers and the equality of all mankind. APRI also fights for justice for those who have lost their lives due to the excessive use of force such as John Crawford, Timothy Russell, Malissa Williams, Tamir Rice, Casey

Goodson and Andre Hill. And because we recognize the climate we are in, witnessed by the loss of life of individuals such as Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, we need comprehensive gun laws to help quell the increasing violence we see in Ohio and across the nation. The fact that Senate Bill 175 is now law is disheartening, not just for the members of APRI, but to many African Americans in this state. We hope to meet with Governor DeWine to express our concerns and to lobby for change in Ohio's gun laws. We encouraged all individuals and organizations that support this change join us in our efforts.



Capitol Insurrection Reveals 'Cancer' Of Racism Within Law Enforcement Establishment



By Marc H. Morial
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - "The Capitol coup is the mirror we needed to overcome our warped sense of American exceptionalism. Becoming a truly equitable democracy requires work. It requires actively working against ideological forces that try to make America great for only a few. It means realizing that the American Civil War and Nazi Germany began just like this. It means being courageous to admit that what happened at the Capitol is who we are as the United States. It means realizing that being silent on this issue is accepting the side of white supremacy. So, if you are worried, scared, or fearful, you should be. How will we respond to fight for the soul of America?" -- Rashawn Ray, University of Maryland Sociology Professor.

This week I was called to testify before the Congressional Black Caucus at an emergency hearing entitled "January 6, 2021: U.S. Capitol Insurrection: White Supremacy on Display."

I used the opportunity to shine a light on the stark disparity between law enforcement response to attack on the Capital and the response to Black Lives Matter protests over the summer.

On June 2, 2020, racial justice protesters peacefully gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to protest the death of George Floyd and other Black Americans at the hands of police. They were met with row upon row of military police in fatigues and armor lining the Memorial's steps.

The day before, on June 1, at least nine



military and police aircraft hovered in the sky. Two helicopters eventually swooped low in a tactic usually reserved for combat zones, battering the protesters with tropical storm-level winds.

Park Police infamously unleashed tear gas and fired rubber bullets to clear a nonviolent crowd from Lafayette Park so President Trump could stage a photo-op.

D.C. Metropolitan Police arrested 316 protesters on June 1, 2020

"The FBI knew that extremists were preparing to travel to Washington to commit violence and "war" on January 6. The insurrection was openly plotted on social media. One post on the platform 8kun declared "We will storm the government buildings, kill cops, kill security guards, kill federal employees and agents."

There were no National Guard troops in riot gear awaiting them. No military helicopters. There was no tear gas deployed as the mob shoved its way past barricades. Vastly outnumbered police stepped aside and allowed the mob to storm the Capitol.

D.C. Metropolitan Police made only 61 "unrest-related" arrests on January 6. U.S. Capitol Police arrested just over a dozen.

Many Capitol Police executed their duty bravely and with honor. Officer Eugene Goodman, for example, is being hailed as a hero for luring a mob away from the Senate Chamber. However, another offi-

cer did exactly the opposite, offering the rioters directions around the building as he donned a "Make America Great Again" cap.

January 6th may have been one of the most egregious examples, but it was certainly not the first. Again and again and again: In the eyes of far too many law enforcement officers, Black people are considered a threat simply for existing, while violent white people are cosseted, protected, pampered and indulged.

Even the author of the FBI report warning of the mob's murderous intent worried that a show of force might encroach on the rioters' free speech rights. Lt. Gen. Walter E. Piatt, director of the Army Staff, rebuffed requests for National Guard assistance because he didn't like "the visual" -- a concern nowhere in evidence during Black Lives Matters protests.

In fact, much of the violence at racial justice protests over the summer was instigated by white supremacists and far-right extremists, yet this violence was used to rationalize military-level crackdowns on peaceful protests.

"Operation Relentless Pursuit" and "Operation Legend" -- cynically named for a 4-year-old killed in a shooting that had no link to racial protests, sent federal officers to override local law enforcement in Black communities.

Far from trying to contain a violent insurrection where the symbols of white

supremacy were on full display, police officers are under investigation for actively participating.

On January 6, we witnessed a violent mob motivated by racial resentment, by a conspiracy theory rooted in the effort to invalidate Black votes. The mob was met with empathy and deference from a law-enforcement and military establishment that harbors white supremacists among its own ranks.

The national reckoning over racially-motivated police misconduct and brutality that began this summer cannot move forward until the institutions entrusted with public safety and national security rid themselves of the cancer within. We cannot heed the hollow cries for "unity" from the very collaborators who fanned the flames of insurrection and promoted racist lies. You cannot cure cancer by ignoring it. It must be cut out and burned away.

Reform efforts such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act are a necessary step, but only one part of the solution. We must use every means at our disposal to shine a light on racial injustice and fully commit, as a nation, to a zero-tolerance policy with regard to white supremacy in law enforcement and the military.

We are truly at a crossroads in America. The precedent we set here will have a profound impact on future generations. The world is watching.

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3450 W. Central Avenue,
Suite 107, Toledo, OH 43606
(419) 472-4521

Sandra S. Stewart
Publisher

Myron A. Stewart
Editor

Member of National Newspaper Publishers Association,
NNPA News Service, and an MBE Company.

Biden's Inauguration Gives Us New Hope and New Energy

By Jesse Jackson
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - On Monday, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's 91st birthday; on Wednesday, Joe Biden was inaugurated as president, promising change after a

dark period of division. Dr. King's relationship with John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson offers instructive lessons for today's movement for justice. Kennedy, inaugurated after eight years of Republican Dwight Eisenhower, brought new energy to Washington.

Kennedy favored action on civil rights but was terribly worried that trying to move a civil rights bill would get in the way of the rest of his legislative agenda. During his campaign, his call to Coretta Scott King when Dr. King was jailed, helped him capture immense Black support in a razor-thin election.

Yet, he was wary of King, unhappy that King and the movement kept demonstrating and forcing change. King appreciated Kennedy but understood the conflicting pressures he faced. The movement continued independently. The Freedom Riders in Montgomery, the dogs and

water cannons in Birmingham, the sit-in in Jackson forced Kennedy to act. Even then the legislation -- and much of Kennedy's agenda -- was stuck in the legislature.

Kennedy's assassination brought Lyndon Johnson, the master of the Senate, to the presidency. Johnson decided to push civil rights legislation and put his enormous skills behind passing it. King conferred with Johnson and helped put pressure on legislators who were reluctant. King wasn't simply interested in protest; he wanted a change in policy and was prepared to work with LBJ to get it.

Johnson, like Kennedy, was wary of King. He often besmirched him in private, angry that King would not stop the demonstrations. Again, the movement -- this time the dramatic scenes at Selma -- forced action, and Johnson rose to the moment, leading to the passage of the Voting

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Consumer advocates push President Biden in his first 100

By Charlene Crowell
Wire Writer

As President Joe Biden begins his term of office, the nation and much of the world are waiting and watching to see how his promises become policies and practices that relieve long-term and widespread suffering.

In his January 20 inaugural speech, President Biden said, “The American story is about the slow, yet steady widening of opportunity...Make no mistake: Too many dreams have been deferred for too long. We must make the promise of the country real for everybody — no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity, or their disability.”

The 2021 inaugural also made history as former California Senator Kamala Harris took the oath to serve the nation as its Vice-President. No woman has ever served in this key role, nor has an HBCU graduate.

Yet in the aftermath of an administration that will likely be recorded as the worst in American history, a suffering nation is anxious for promises to become policies and programs that provide overdue relief.

Following his inauguration, President Biden signed a series of executive orders, many of which repealed a range of issues from his predecessor. For example, on the international front, the 46th President ended the Muslim travel ban, rejoined two global efforts — the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the World Health Organization. Other executive orders focused on domestic issues like ending the border wall construction and extending the current pause on student debt payments and interest, as well as moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures.

Still, many advocates raised their voices in pushing the Biden Administration to do even more.

“It’s not enough to have an election and put new people into office,” Rev. Dr. William Barber II, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign recently told the New York Times. “We must push and continue to push for the kind of public policy that really establishes justice.”

A still-ravaging pandemic that has taken more than 400,000 American lives is intertwined

with an economic recession that added 1.15 million workers to the ranks of the unemployed in the first week of 2021, according to the Department of Labor. These updated unemployment figures also revealed that Black and Latina women have been hit hardest by unemployment. This increase adds even more financial stress to the more than seven million people who in the last week of December continued to rely on unemployment insurance.

“We applaud the extension of the eviction, foreclosure and student loans moratoriums, the institution of a 100 day mask mandate, and the rejoining of the World Health Organization, and are ready to work with President Biden, Vice President Harris, and our Senate partners to build on these measures with the swift passage of a comprehensive and bold relief package that meets the scale of this crisis,” said Washington Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. “We have no time to waste.”

Scores of other advocates are focusing on ways to provide immediate relief in several ways.

For example, student debt now totaling \$1.7 trillion affects more than 44 million borrowers of varying ages. The combination of the pandemic with a recession have together worsened the ability of borrowers to manage loan repayments.

More than 325 organizations, including the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), called upon the Biden administration to use its executive authority to cancel federal student debt on its first day. Originally sent this past November, the letter was updated on January 15 with 85 additional signers.

In part, the letter advises, “The disproportionate impact of student debt on borrowers of color exacerbates existing systemic inequities and widens the racial wealth gap. Black Americans—and particularly Black women—are more likely to take on student loan debt and struggle with repayment. This burden is particularly acute for those Black students who are targeted by for-profit institutions, which also target veterans and



often deliver poor instructional quality and outcomes at a high cost, causing a high proportion of students to drop out.”

It is important to acknowledge that President Biden has called on Congress to cancel \$10,000 of federal student loan debt per borrower and included reforming income-based repayment and loan forgiveness for borrowers in public service jobs in his higher education plans. However, these actions will help only some — not all — of the borrowers now holding federal loan debt.

“Cancellation will help jumpstart spending, create jobs, and add to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP),” said Ashley Harrington, federal advocacy director and senior counsel at CRL. “Short-term payment suspension alone is not enough to help struggling borrowers who are unemployed, already in default, or in serious delinquency.”

Curbing widespread and abusive debt collection practices in the first 100 days is another issue that should be an early priority. This \$11 billion industry thrives on taking profits from financially distressed consumers, affecting an estimated 71 million consumers each year.

Long before the pandemic and its accompanying recession, debt collection complaints consistently topped the list of consumer concerns at the Federal Trade Commission and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Although laws like the Federal Debt Collection Practices Act set guidelines for debt collectors, the lack of enforcement during the Trump years effectively green lit financial abuses in both lending and collection.

Payday loan regulation, promulgated by CFPB’s first director, was rescinded during the Trump Administration. And in many ways this agency acted as an opponent of regulation, aiding businesses despite being created to serve as consumers’ financial watchdog. Consumers duped by unscrupulous lenders and creditors could no longer count on CFPB to hold bad actors accountable and make consumers financially whole.

President Biden has announced that he will appoint Rohit Chopra as the agency’s new CFPB Director and Kathryn Kraninger, the Trump-appointed CFPB Director, resigned on January 20th.

Consumer advocates are encouraged that this important financial regulatory body will return to its original and vigorous efforts — to protect consumers across a wide range of lending. Previously, and under the agency’s first director, Chopra served as its Assistant Director, focusing on student loans. Since the spring of 2018, he has served as a Federal Trade Commissioner.

Reactions to a newly-proposed CFPB Director were swift and positive.

Lisa Rice, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), stated, “Unlike CFPB directors selected by Donald Trump, Mr. Chopra will steadfastly adhere to the agency’s founding mission of protecting consumers and effectively providing oversight of the country’s financial sector.”

“I am confident that Mr. Chopra will not only return the CFPB to its central mission — protecting consumers — but also ensure the agency plays

a leading role in combatting racial inequities in our financial system,” said U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio. Brown is expected to chair the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, which will convene confirmation hearings for this position.

Similarly, another federal regulatory body, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), also promulgated rules during the Trump administration that supported banks taking a major role in payday lending. The OCC’s actions had substantially contributed to the predatory lending that led to the foreclosure crisis, and ultimately to the Great Recession, including the draining of a trillion dollars in wealth from communities of color.

On December 18, a friend of the court — or amicus — brief was filed to challenge OCC’s rule that protected banks from state laws banning usury. Organizations joining the brief were: CRL; National Consumer Law Center; East Bay Community Law Center; National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders; and National Coalition for Asian Pacific Americans Community Development.

In part, the brief states, “Today, the rent-a-bank scheme is making a comeback. Primarily through installment loans, lenders are charging up to 274% APR in states that do not permit those rates.”

Now, while a new President begins the considerable task of righting what went wrong by his predecessor, it is crucial for those who believe in equality, fairness, and justice to stand up and speak out.

“All Americans deserve ladders of opportunity to create and sustain economic prosperity—not just a select few,” noted Mike Calhoun, CRL President. “We look forward to continuing to work with the Biden-Harris team on these and many other challenges.”

As National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman so poignantly stated in her inauguration poem, The Hill We Climb, “The new dawn balloons as we free it. For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

Biden’s Inauguration Gives Us New Hope and New Energy

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Rights Act. The collaboration of Johnson and King, however, soon ended. The Watts Riot angered Johnson who thought blacks should be grateful for what he had done.

When Dr. King went public with his opposition to the Vietnam War, the relationship was severed. The FBI under J. Edgar Hoover continued its efforts to discredit and intimidate King. Today the situation is different. Black voters were critical to Biden’s election victory. He chose Kamala Harris as his vice president. He has reaffirmed his commitment to criminal justice reform, to addressing the continued disparities in education, housing, health care and opportunity.

“The movement for justice must continue to organize nonviolent protest, challenging the entrenched systemic racism that still pervades our institutions.”

What African Americans still seek is an even playing field. On economic justice issues, our agenda speaks to all: the right to a job, the right to health care, the right

to a high-quality education, retirement security. To drive reform, the lessons of the 1960s still apply. The movement for justice must continue to organize nonviolent protest, challenging the entrenched systemic racism that still pervades our institutions. It must continue to build, as Dr. King did, a poor people’s campaign across lines of race and region. The movement can’t follow Biden’s timetable; it must continue to build on its own agenda.

There should be no reluctance to work with Biden to help pass critical reforms, but at the same time, the pressure for outside must continue to build for there to be any hope of change. The 1960s offer another caution: the war on poverty, the progress on civil rights, was lost in the

jungles of Vietnam, as that war consumed resources and attention as well as lives. While Biden’s domestic pledges offer hope, he inherits a country mired in endless wars and gearing up for a new cold war with both Russia and China. Once more, follies abroad may sap the energy needed to rebuild at home.

Once more, the movement for justice must not be silent about the administration’s priorities. Biden’s inauguration offers new hope and new energy. He inherits severe crises — the pandemic, mass unemployment, extreme inequality, the climate crisis, racial upheaval. He’ll need all the help he can get. And the best way the movement can help is to keep on keepin on.

Hero Capitol Officer Eugene Goodman Hails from Washington, DC

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

U.S. Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman is a hero from Washington, D.C., who deserves the Congressional Gold Medal for bravery and quick thinking.

That statement sits at the heart of a resolution introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Lawmakers are seeking to honor Officer Goodman for his actions that may have saved the lives of many people, including members of Congress, during the deadly insurrectionist attack at the U.S. Capitol on January 6.

“He’s a hero. The United States Capitol was under attack by armed, violent extremists, and Officer Eugene Goodman was the only thing standing between the mob and the United States Senate,” Florida Democratic Congressman Charlie Crist declared.

“I shudder to think what might have happened had it not been for Officer Goodman’s fast thinking and commitment to his duty and his country. While some will remember [that] Wednesday for the very worst in our country, the patriotism and heroics of Officer Eugene Goodman renew my faith and

remind us all what truly makes the United States great.”

Congressman Crist, Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO), and Nancy Mace (R-SC) announced H.R. 305, a bipartisan bill to honor Officer Goodman.

“This will show our gratitude to Officer Goodman for saving countless lives and defending our democracy,” Congressman Cleaver added.

Many watched in horror as the mob of Trump-supporters confronted Officer Goodman near a stairwell inside the Capitol.

It first appeared that officer Goodman was retreating in fear, hesitating because no other law enforcement seemed nearby.

The amazing video shows Officer Goodman engaging the mob, at times raising his nightstick to keep them at bay as they gave chase.

“I shudder to think what might have happened had it not been for Officer Goodman...”

But it all proved strategic, and a close look at the video revealed that Officer Goodman merely was offering a distraction because Congress

members were nearby and moments from harm’s way.

After reaching a landing, Officer Goodman intentionally draws the mob to the left of the stairway.

What the violent mob did not know was just to the right was a gaggle of lawmakers seeking safety.

“When he was the only thing standing between Members of Congress and the violent mob, he quickly and selflessly redirected their fury upon himself, so those Members could escape,” Congressman Mace stated.

“Thanks to his valor, we are here today. From the bottom of my heart, I cannot thank him enough for his bravery and his dedication to the call of duty.”

The resolution to award Officer Goodman with the Congressional Medal reads, in part, “Officer Goodman alone, delayed the mob’s advance towards the United States Senate Chamber and



Eugene Goodman is an American law enforcement officer and U.S. Army veteran serving as the acting Deputy Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate as of January 20, 2021.

announced the location of the incursion. Upon reaching the second-floor corridor, Officer Goodman noticed the entrance to the Senate Chamber was unguarded. As the mob approached, Officer Goodman intentionally diverted attention away from the Senate entrance and led the mob to an alternate location with additional awaiting officers.”

Officer Goodman, 40, served in the Army from 2002 to 2006, deploying with the 101st Airborne Division to Iraq for a year.

His awards include a combat infantryman badge, indicating

he was in ground combat. During the assault on the U.S. Capitol, five people, including a police officer, died, and dozens more were injured.

Officer Goodman’s courageous action probably saved the lives of others, including members of Congress.

“In moments of crisis, there are always individuals who rise to the occasion and put themselves in harm’s way in defense of others. On January 6, 2021, Officer Eugene Goodman was one of those individuals,” Congressman Cleaver said.

Lucas County CARES Act Supports Internet Access For Low Income Families

Submitted

In 2020, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners made CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) funding available to local organizations to cover the cost of expenditures incurred due to the unprecedented COVID-19 public health emergency.

Lucas Metropolitan Housing received a generous grant of \$297,787 to support enhanced cleaning, modifications to community rooms and internet connectivity for our residents and programs. Participants included the residents at Collingwood Green and Parquood Apartments.

“During the pandemic, internet access has become a top priority for all – whether to continue education, obtain telehealth services, seek employment or meet other needs. LMH used the grant funds to obtain internet hotspots for homes with school age children and families. Priority was granted to families who have been unable to obtain a hotspot through the educational systems,” stated President and CEO, Joaquin Cintron Vega.

The distribution was carried out through LMH’s Information Technology and Resident Services Departments. During the distribution process, LMH

representatives connected with residents and helped some set up their hotspots. What follows are some of the most memorable quotes heard from residents:

“This really came just in time! I have four kids doing online school and my other internet source was terminated.”

“My grandkids are finally going to be able to stay over on school days!”

“This hotspot will help me continue my education and make things better for my family.”

LMH remains grateful for the partnership with the Board of Lucas County Commissioners and for their support of this important initiative. Commissioner Pete Gerken, when referring to the grant stated, “During this time of crisis, the ability to have access to the internet is critical for families and individuals in our community, especially those with limited resources and support. The digital divide between those who can easily access the internet and those who can’t became even more glaringly clear in the pandemic as schools went online and businesses and social agencies closed or reduced operations. Internet access through Wi-Fi hotspots will help families and individuals with a wide range of activities, from schoolwork to job searching to paying bills.”

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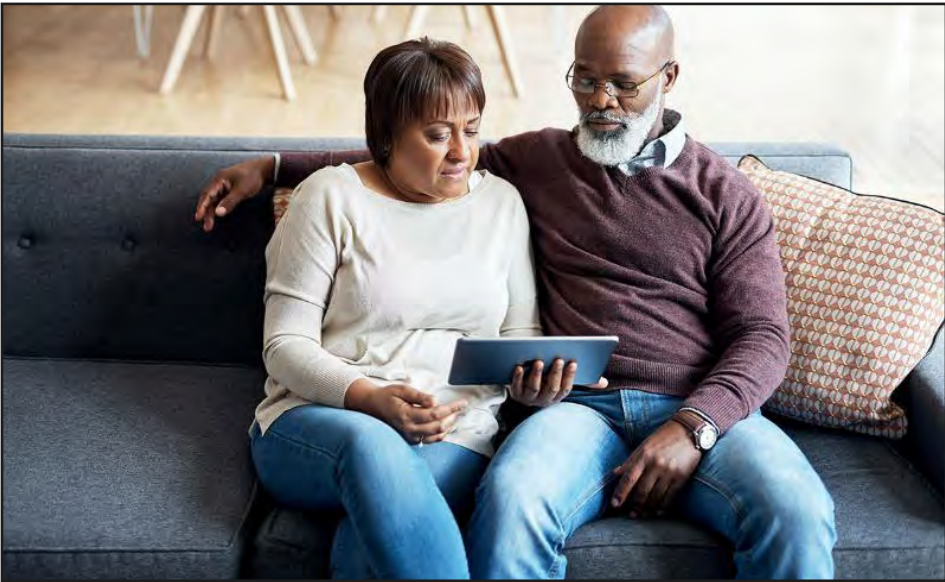


PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Submitted

Dear Rusty: I have a big 65th birthday coming up mid-March and would like your advice on registering for Social Security and Medicare. I am now unemployed, but I am seeking another gig to get me to age 67 before taking Social Security. Signed: Wondering Senior

Dear Wondering: You do not need to “register” with Social Security in advance. You don’t need to do anything with Social Security until you are ready to claim your benefits. Since you were born in 1956, your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is 66 plus 4 months, and that is when you will be entitled to 100% of the benefit you’ve earned from a lifetime of working. But you can, if you wish, also wait beyond your FRA to get an even bigger benefit. For each month you delay after your FRA you’ll earn Delayed Retirement Credits of .667%, which is 8% additional benefit for each year you wait. That can continue up to age 70 when your maximum benefit will be reached. In your case that would mean an age 70 benefit 29% more than your FRA benefit amount. But whenever you’re ready, you can apply for Social Security online at www.ssa.gov/retire (you must first create your “My Social Security” account to apply online).

Medicare is an entirely separate program and, unless you have “creditable” employer healthcare coverage from a new job, you should enroll in Medicare a bit prior to your 65th birthday (“creditable” coverage is a group plan with at least 20 participants). This would be during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), which is a 7-month window starting 3 months before the month you turn 65 and ending 3 months after the month you turn 65. If you don’t enroll in Medicare during your IEP

and enroll later, and if you didn’t have creditable employer healthcare coverage after age 65, you will be subject to a late enrollment penalty, which will permanently increase your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premiums.

Medicare Part B is coverage for doctors & outpatient services, and Part D is prescription drug coverage, both of which require a premium; Medicare Part A is hospitalization coverage which is free if you’re eligible for Social Security. If you have “creditable” employer coverage when you turn 65, you can simply delay enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer coverage is about to end, or until after it ends during an 8 month Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare Part B without penalty. But for Part D prescription drug coverage, you must enroll in a private plan within 63 days of your 65th birthday, or the end of your employer drug coverage, or you will incur a Part D late enrollment penalty for enrolling later. And remember that Medicare late enrollment penalties never go away – they are recurring for the rest of your life.

The bottom line is this: you don’t need to pre-register for either Social Security or Medicare. You can simply enroll when you are ready for benefits to start (keeping in mind that for Medicare, you must have “creditable” alternative coverage after age 65 to avoid late enrollment penalties).

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Answering the Call of Those 75+ Needing the Vaccine

Submitted

While the Area Office on Aging is not a vaccine clinic, the organization has been assisting the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department by answering the calls of residents age 75+ who need the vaccine but who are not able to get scheduled for the vaccine on-line on their own. In Lucas County alone, there are over 27,000 residents aged 75+. Those that are able can go to www.lucascountyhealth.com to schedule an appointment. 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. The Area Office on Aging’s phone lines are very busy, so callers are asked to be patient as the Area Office on Aging

helps vaccine callers in as timely a manner as possible. If callers leave a voicemail message, they should leave their name, age, and phone number.

“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 age 75 and over that do not drive and do not have friends or family to transport them

to 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.



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Why Has God The Father Given His Son Power Over Everything?

By Cary Kinsolving & Friends
Wire Writer

“Jesus deserves all the power,” says Kianna, 9. “He died on the cross to save us from our sins. This is cool for me to believe in him. He created everything, so he should have power over everything. I think he totally deserves it!”

In the Apostle John’s vision of heaven, he sees angels, living creatures, elders and a host of thousands united in a song of praise to the Lord Jesus Christ: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12).

The praise song continues with every creature in heaven and on earth united in song: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” (Revelation 5:13).

When Pontius Pilate told Jesus that he had the power to release him or crucify him, Jesus said: “You could have no power at all against me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered me to you has the greater sin” (John 19:11).

The most amazing non-use of power is when Jesus laid down his power willingly and submitted to the abuse, ridicule and agony of being crucified as a common criminal. All of recorded history has



never witnessed this kind of non-use of power.

Pilate represented all the might and authority of the world’s greatest empire. Compared to the power that Jesus possessed, Rome was nothing. It’s like a child with a pea shooter threatening someone who has a nuclear bomb.

“Jesus knows what it is like here,” says Anna, 10. “He came so we would know he has been here and walked on this earth. As God, he knows what is best for us.”

“A good man always knows his limitations,” said Clint Eastwood in one of his movies.

As much as people like to boast about life without limits, finite beings face limitations. To put your life into the hands of a God who is all knowing and all powerful, takes the pressure off. This doesn’t mean Christians shouldn’t use the brains and ability that God gave them, but they should use them with humility.

Even though advances in science have achieved what people couldn’t even imagine 100 years ago, our ignorance always outpaces our knowledge. The more we learn, the more we realize we don’t know. Like unlocking successive doors, one discovery

leads to another. Not so with God. He knows everything, and he also has the power to act on what he knows.

“God gave his son Jesus power over everything because he loves him,” says Sarah-Ann, 8.

That is exactly what the Bible says, “The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand” (John 3:35).


The Bible presents Jesus Christ as the creator of this world and the heavens as well (Colossians 1:16). As the rightful heir of this world, he humbled himself. His birth, ministry, death and offer of eternal life as a free gift clearly demonstrate the power of his love.

Think about this: Whether or not we recognize it, the Lord Jesus Christ is rightful heir to this world. His taking our sins on himself has made a way for us to be right with God.

Memorize this truth: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Ask this question: Have you experienced the power of God’s

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IN MEMORIAM: Baseball Icon Henry ‘Hank’ Aaron Dies at 86

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

Baseball’s recognized home run king and an African American hero, Henry “Hank” Aaron, has died at the age of 86.

Aaron, who broke Babe Ruth’s all-time home run record on April 8, 1974, was not just a baseball legend but a hero to superstars.

“He’s the one man that I idolize more than myself,” the late boxing legend Muhammad Ali once said about Aaron.

While with the Atlanta Braves, Aaron tied Ruth’s mark of 714 homers on April 7. A day later, he slugged No. 715 against the Los Angeles Dodgers’ Al Downing.

Before and throughout his chase of Ruth’s longstanding record, Aaron was subjected to racism and hate. Death threats were common, and even some teammates and those throughout baseball despised Aaron as he approached their white hero’s record.

Despite beefed up security at Atlanta’s Fulton County Stadium, some fans breached the outfield walls as Aaron trotted around the bases following his record-setting dinger.

Legendary footage shows at least two fans were able to physically greet Aaron as he rounded second base and fireworks ex-

ploded in the Atlanta night.

“A Black man is getting a standing ovation in the Deep South for breaking a record of an all-time baseball idol,” Dodgers announcer Vin Scully, who called the game, proclaimed as Aaron’s mother, family, and teammates greeted him at home plate.

Born Henry Louis Aaron on February 5, 1934, in a poor Black section of Mobile, Alabama, called “Down the Bay,” Hank Aaron was the third of eight children born to Estella and Herbert Aaron. Aaron’s father made his living as a tavern owner and a dry dock boilermaker’s assistant.

According to biography.com, Aaron and his family moved to the middle-class Toulminville neighborhood when he was eight years old.

Aaron, who became known as



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Henry Louis Aaron, nicknamed “Hammer” or “Hammerin’ Hank”, was an American professional baseball right fielder who played 23 seasons in Major League Baseball, from 1954 through 1976.

“Hammering Hank,” developed a strong affinity for baseball and football at a young age and focused more heavily on sports than his studies.

During his freshman and sophomore years, he attended Central High School, a segregated high school in Mobile, where he excelled at football and baseball.

Aaron first starred in the Negro Leagues in 1952 and again in 1953, batting .366, with five

Continued on page 12

THE TOLEDO JOURNAL

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on Wetland Restoration for Metroparks Toledo, Oak Openings Preserve Expansion, Village of Swanton, Lucas County, Ohio will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 Friday, February 12, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. local time.

HELP WANTED

OUTDOOR SKILLS INTERPRETER

Metroparks Toledo is looking for an individual to be our Outdoor Skills Interpreter at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. The person in this position will connect people to parks through the development, production, and presentation of high quality park programs, special events, and experiences. Bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and work experience. Moderate experience in educational and public program development, production, and evaluation and presenting public or educational programs. Some outdoor skills-specific experience required. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Full time position with benefits. \$18.45/hr. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com<<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com>>/careers to view the job description, position requirements and apply online by Feb 5th. EOE

HELP WANTED

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER Toledo Municipal Court

The Toledo Municipal Court Judges Division is seeking an enthusiastic, high-energy, people-serving individual for the position of Human Resource Officer. Knowledge of general employment law and excellent written and oral communication skills, required. Ability to correctly interpret and apply personnel policies and good organizational skills, required. Ability to establish effective working relationships with others in a demanding and fast-paced environment, required.

Bachelor degree in business, public administration, human resources or a related field, required. Three years of intensive human resource experience, required. An advanced degree in business, public administration or law may be substituted for one year of experience. Prior experience with the court system or criminal justice, preferred but not required. Potential candidates must pass a background check. Starting salary is \$65,883.17. Full salary is \$73,203.52.

Submit cover letter describing how you meet the qualifications outlined above and a resume by 4:30 p.m., February 8, 2021 to the Court Administrator's Office, (Attn. HRO), Toledo Municipal Court, Judges Division, 2nd floor, 555 N. Erie Street, Toledo, OH 43604 or by email to tmchiring@tmcourt.org. Equal Opportunity Employer. For complete job description go to www.toledomunicipalcourt.org/docs/.

COVID-19 UPDATE: In the event the office is not staffed to receive early, hand-delivered bids, bidders may drop off sealed bids to the aforementioned office address through the front door slot. Staff will be present at the Fallen Timbers Field Office for one hour prior to bid opening. If social distancing becomes problematic due to bid-opening turnout, the opening will be held outside or in an adjacent larger facility. Masks are required.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of wetland construction including grubbing, sediment trap construction, site layout, site grading earthwork, topsoil stockpiling, topsoil amendment with owner wood chips, topsoil redistribution, and temporary erosion control measures. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$15 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA

David D. Zenk, Director

HELP WANTED

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is now hiring for an Accounting Clerk. Excellent opportunity to perform diversified duties involving moderately complex accounting functions, maintenance of records, accounts and computer entries. We offer a competitive compensation and a comprehensive benefits package. Please visit our at www.lucasdd.org. All candidates must submit a resume and cover letter along with an employment application via the online application process by February 5, 2021. We are an equal opportunity employer. If in need of ADA accommodations, contact us directly at 419-380-4033.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): **Maintenance Mechanic I, Information Technology Specialist, Safety and Security Patrol Officer, & Housing Specialist.** For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. **Deadline: 02/07/21.** This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS.** Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



SPECIAL NOTICES

SPECIAL NOTICES

The **Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHR SB)** seeks to fund and invites proposals from qualified individuals or organizations for consultation and training services to provide diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) services. Proposed services will support the sustainable achievement of MHR SB goals throughout the next phase of its DEI efforts. Proposals are to be delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on February 26, 2021. Submit all questions to crs@lcmhrsb.oh.gov. Find details regarding the upcoming bidder's conference, project deliverables, and submission criteria in the RFP Framework located on the MHR SB's website <http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/>.

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PROPOSALS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PHYSICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND ENERGY AUDIT
RFP#21-R001

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive proposals for **Physical Needs Assessment and Energy Audit for the Housing Authority /RFP#21-R001**, Received in accordance with law until **February 17, 2021 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.



Yes, It Is Quiz Time Again!

By: Lafe Toliver
Attorney

So, I think that my not giving quizzes on a regular basis has made my readers very, very lazy and they have allowed their brains to take a rest. There is no rest! You must be always vigilant and be on the watch for the slacker virus to attack you when you least expected.

With that said, you have five minutes to answer the below quiz questions. Remember the rules: [1] no collaborations with others [2] no resort to outside news sources and [3] there could be more than one correct answer, so remember to circle all the possible answers.

Ready? Go!
QUESTION ONE: Which person has shown the most hypocrisy about voting to challenge the verified electoral college votes?
[1] Ted Cruz
[2] Josh Hawley

[3] Kevin McCarthy
[4] Snoop Dog
QUESTION TWO: If a black person were found on camera mercilessly beating a cop with an American flag, what would happen to him or her?

[1] Would be nicely told to stop it.
[2] Would be gently escorted out of the room.
[3] his body parts would be unable to be found after sixty slugs brought him down.
[4] he could say he was a patriot and his actions would be excused.

QUESTION THREE: Who would be called out if thousands of black folks descended upon the Capitol with BLM flags and they bum rushed the buildings?
[1] local police with riot gear and shot guns.
[2] the National Guard with armored trucks
[3] 82nd Airborne paratroopers dropping onto the White House lawns.

[4] four battalions of battle tested Marines with loaded AR-15's.

QUESTION FOUR: If black people invaded the Capitol and shouted about hanging the Vice President or shooting the Speaker of the House, what would happen?
[1] all exit doors blocked off and everyone arrested and charged with treason and insurrection.

[2] told that they were simply exercising their First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and allowed to continue.
[3] each protestor stripped down and searched and arrested on the spot and taken to detention centers.
[4] each protestor jailed with no bond due to the severity of their acts.

QUESTION FIVE: If the black people were jailed and they said that they could not eat jail food for religious rea-

sons but demanded soul food to eat, what would happen? (clue: one of the arrested white protestors told the judge that he could not consume food that was not organic!).

[1] They would be told, "Eat it or nothing!"
[2] The police would frantically scour the local restaurants and bring take out soul food meals to the jails for the protestors.
[3] The ACLU would file court cases protesting inhumane treatment of not giving the black inmates corn bread and greens and fried pork chops with cucumbers and tomatoes on the side.

QUESTION SIX: What would be the final fate of any convicted black protestors?
[1] President Trump would grant a blanket pardon for all of them and say that he loved them!
[2] They would lose their jobs.
[3] They would be placed on

a no-fly list.
[4] They would be hailed as patriots and heroes and sher-oes!

QUESTION SEVEN: If black folks were found taking property out of the Capitol Building, what would be their fate?
[1] cheers of they were simply liberating property wrongfully held by, "Da Man".
[2] photos taken of smiling liberators and they being charged with minimal crimes.

[3] hundreds of bodies strewn on the Capitol grounds with the statement by President Trump: "When the looting starts, the shooting starts!"
Well, there you have it. Read the questions first and answer the best you can and when finished, send me a non-traceable money order for \$19.79 (shipping and handling included) c/o this newspaper and I will send you the secret decoder for the correct answers. Do it today!

Actress, Influencer Lends Voice to Domestic Violence in Black Communities



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED
Samantina Zenon is a mental health care advocate, educator, and actress.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

In 2019, Zenon, a Haitian-born mogul, was named one of the most influential content creators by Shape Magazine.

But the glitz, glamour, and the overall spotlight she's earned hasn't stopped Zenon from reaching back and reaching out to help others.

A survivor of parental abuse, Zenon sought mental help while in college after what she called a life-changing emotional meltdown.

Now, she's offering help to other sufferers by having a dialogue with survivors, hoping to help people in need heal so that they can also experience their dreams.

In an interview with NNPA Newswire, Zenon spoke of the dark and often hidden domestic violence problem in the African American community.

"I am a child abuse survivor. I was raised in a domestic violence home," Zenon notes pragmatically.
"I suffered in silence for many years because child abuse is under-reported and also because it's the norm in the Black community. Often time, people belittle or dismissed my story, not knowing or trying to understand the pains I endured."

Her goal of reaching out and making a difference is magnified by her more than 50,000 social media followers.

Zenon, who lives in New York, also earned feature profiles in Shape, Thrive Global, Medium, and other notable publications.

"Black people should bring more awareness to this matter, so the kids who were raised in these homes don't end up repeating the same pattern. That's how the story always goes," Zenon interjected.

Statistics validate Zenon's

concern about domestic violence abuse in the Black community.

A 2020 report from the Black Burn Center, which advocates against domestic violence, noted that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 10 men in the United States would experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

Each year, domestic violence is estimated to affect 10 million people in America, the report highlighted.

For Black women, the numbers are even more alarming.

More than 40 percent of Black women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, according to the Institute of Women's Policy Research's status of Black Women in the United States.

By comparison, 31.5 percent of all women will experience domestic violence. A report from the National Center for Victims of Crime found that 53.8 percent of Black women had experienced psychological abuse, while 41.2 percent of Black women had experienced physical abuse.

More disturbingly, Black women are 2.5 times more likely to be murdered by men than white women.

"It's important for Black women to learn to take care of their mental health and to know their self-worth in any situation from intimate relationships to the workplace," Zenon explained.

"Part of the work is to unload the baggage we carried on our back for many years. We need to understand our lives for

what it truly is. That part is the most painful and yet the most rewarding."

Zenon noted that many in the Black community had been trained to believe that child abuse is "tough love."

However, she argues, it could be the beginning of even more severe problems down the road.

"So many of us rationalize that being hurt by domestic partners is part of the love language. The reality is many Black parents are predators to their kids. When they are having a bad day, their kids pay for it," Zenon asserted.

"When they are not getting along with their spouses, the kids become part of the problem. Based on my own experience, I was not allowed to make mistakes as a child, and when I did, it was the end of the world.

"The crazy part is, I went in the real world and dealt with people that were just like my mother because life is a circle,

unfortunate outcomes.

As a result of her breakthrough, Zenon noted that she has identified self-care rituals imperative for the recovery of people who are coping with childhood traumas.

She offered that she dedicates her time to opening dialogues with other survivors hoping that the gesture will help them heal so they can go out there and make their wildest dreams come true.

"Black people need to learn to take care of their mental health. Many people think mental health is for 'crazy people,' and we choose to suffer in silence instead of asking for help," Zenon aired.

"We also need to hold ourselves accountable for the kind of role model we want to be for our kids. When a woman stays in a domestic violence relationship, this behavior tells their kids that domestic violence is normal and okay."

There are challenges to taking care of households alone, but Zenon demanded that everyone must make time to care for their mental health. "It affects everything we do. It affects us emotionally and physically," Zenon asserted.

"I want our generation, and the generation to come, to make mental health a part of their normal life so we can live a healthier lifestyle.

"Not consistently being victims in situations, and most importantly have healthier relationships with our children, because children always look up to their parents."

“I suffered in silence for many years ...”

and when we do not have that sense of awareness, we can't notice the red flags."

Throughout her therapy sessions, Zenon said she addressed her past traumas and the source of her unconscious behavior that often leads to

10-Year Old Entrepreneur Converts Bus into Food Truck



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED
Micah Harrigan, a 10-year old entrepreneur from Philadelphia who started selling lemonade on the sidewalk last summer, is ready to upgrade his business. In fact, he just purchased a school bus that he plans to convert into a food truck.

Submitted

Micah, a 5th-grade honors student, thought of the lemonade business idea last winter. Since it wasn't ideal at that time, he was only able to work it out last March before the stay-at-home orders were executed.

He started packaging the lemonade and iced tea in bottles and bags but it wasn't cost-effective. Three months after, he discovered 16-ounce clear plastic cups with lids and used those to pack lemonade he sold at his sidewalk stand. On the first day, his company, Micah's Mixx, instantly sold out.

With the help of social media promotion from Micah himself and other people who shared his story, his sales continued to increase. He eventually began doing pop-up events and sold more than 1,500 bottles. He saved up from his profits and also received donations in cash and in-kind from people who believed in him.

His mother, Danielle, first thought of purchasing a trailer to attach to her car but realized that it wouldn't be easy to drive that in the city. That's when they began searching for mini school buses online. Eventually, they found and purchased a yellow minibus for \$4,000 that was previously owned by a private school.

Now, they have started a GoFundMe page to help raise the funds needed to convert the bus into a food truck with counters and refrigeration, which would cost

around \$10,000. So far, they have raised over \$1,700 of their goal.

Once Micah is able to officially launch his lemonade food truck business, he says that he hopes to sell more bottles of lemonade to pay his mother back and give away free lemonade to the homeless people who live in his city as well.

Amanda Gorman, African American Poet Laureate, Performs at Inauguration

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

Amanda Gorman was born in Los Angeles and studied sociology at Harvard University.

In 2017, the now 22-year-old became the first national youth poet laureate.

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, Gorman, an African American, was the youngest poet to perform at a presidential inauguration.

Gorman performed alongside Lady Gaga, who sang the national anthem, and Jennifer Lopez.

The young poet delivered "The Hill We Climb," which included lines about the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

"We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it, / Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy. / And this effort very nearly succeeded. / But while democracy can be periodically delayed, / It can never be permanently defeated," Gorman has written.

It is not the first time Gorman will have a national stage. In 2017, she read at the inauguration of the 22nd U.S. poet laureate, Tracy K Smith. She has also



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

"America is messy. It is still in its early development of all that we can become. And I have to recognize that in the poem. I cannot ignore that or erase it. And so, I crafted an inaugural poem that recognizes these scars and these wounds. Hopefully, it will move us toward healing them," said Amanda Gorman.

performed for Al Gore, Hillary Clinton, Malala Yousafzai, and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Reportedly, Dr. Jill Biden selected Gorman to perform during President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris' inauguration.

"I wasn't trying to write something in which those events were painted as an irregularity or different from an America that I know," Gorman told the Los Angeles

Times.

"America is messy. It is still in its early development of all that we can become. And I have to recognize that in the poem. I cannot ignore that or erase it. And so, I crafted an inaugural poem that recognizes these scars and these wounds. Hopefully, it will move us toward healing them."

STRIVING TO BE THE BEST TODAY; TRAINING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOMORROW!

The Toledo Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) is committed to providing an educated, well-trained workforce through a cooperative labor-management education program, as well as helping workers develop the complex skills, knowledge and abilities needed to retain highly paid, prestigious jobs in the electrical construction industry.

We offer three Apprenticeship Programs:

- Telecommunications
- Residential
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Quality training programs such as these provide workers with the skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary to maintaining license and certification as a professional electrician, leading to a high standard of living.

Please visit our website tejatc.org for information on requirements and how to apply.

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Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee

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IBEW INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

TOLEDO EXCEL 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR ASPIRING MINORITY YOUTH

SATURDAY Jan. 30 | 10 a.m.

VALERIE JARRETT
former senior advisor to the Obama administration

SYBRINA FULTON
author and mother of Trayvon Martin

Visit utoledo.edu/success/excel to register.

UT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

API Outlines Affordable and Accessible Energy

Continued from page 2.

these so-called energy poverty places in America.”

Chavis continued:

“One of the things we’ve enjoyed over the years is the close working relationship between the American Petroleum Institute and NNPA. As we begin 2021, the outlook is how to make progress, how to expand opportunities.

“I’m hopeful that 2021 would not only be a year of transition, but a year where we focus on diversity and inclusion not only in terms of words but with deeds, and I think there are so many opportunities

in the oil and natural gas industry in America. And, of course, API is leading the [way].”

During the event, Sommers announced the launch of API Energy Excellence, which establishes benchmarks on safety, security, and environmental protection that every API member will be expected to pursue and reach.

API Energy Excellence defines superior and ever-improving performance that will unify the industry’s future progress in critically important areas to the nation, local communities, and ourselves, Sommers remarked.

Core elements range from safety culture and community en-

gagement to employee training and equipment design and aim to accelerate safety and environmental progress by sharing best practices and new technologies and annual progress reporting.

“With this new program, we’re creating a roadmap for accelerating performance across all segments of our industry,” Sommers said.

“For nearly a century, API’s standards have supported the safe and environmentally responsible development, production, and transportation of natural gas and oil operations. API Energy Excellence is the next big step.”

IN MEMORIAM: ‘Hank’ Aaron

Continued from page 8.

home runs and 33 RBIs in 26 official games. He began his Major League Baseball career in 1954 with the Milwaukee Braves and spent 23 seasons as an outfielder with Milwaukee – the franchise eventually moved to Atlanta.

Aaron finished his career with 755 home runs, a record topped by Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants in 2007. However, many baseball purists recognize Aaron as the true record holder, alleging that Bonds used performance enhancing drugs to bolster his power.

Bonds has denied those allegations.

Aaron’s biography at the Baseball Hall of Fame, where he earned induction in 1982, noted that he was “a consistent producer both at the plate and in the field, reaching the .300 mark in batting 14 times, 30 home runs 15 times, 90 RBI 16 times and captured

three Gold Glove Awards enroute to 25 All-Star Game selections.”

The Hall biography notes that 1957 was arguably Aaron’s best ally to the players with the best overall offensive performances in each league.

Aaron received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, from President George W. Bush in 2002.

According to the New York Times, the Baseball Hall of Fame opened a permanent exhibit in 2009 chronicling Aaron’s life. His childhood home was moved on a flatbed truck to the grounds of Hank Aaron Stadium, which was the home of the Mobile BayBears, a former minor league team, and opened as a museum in 2010.

“Through his long career, Hank Aaron has been a model of humility, dignity, and quiet competence,” former Atlanta Mayor and U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young noted in a statement. “He did not seek the adoration that is accorded to other national athletic heroes, yet he has now earned it.

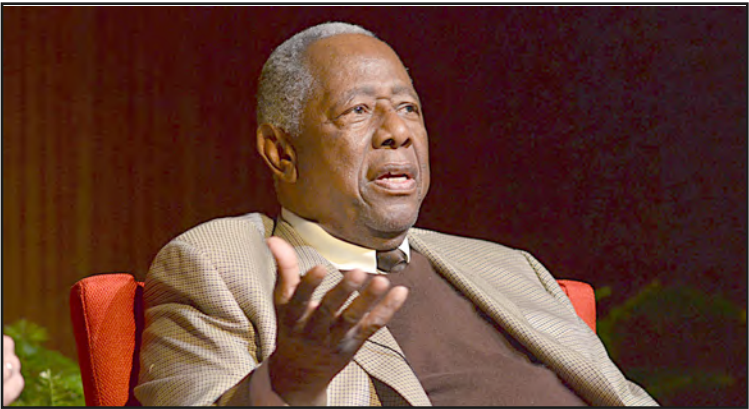


PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Aaron died on January 22, 2021 at age 86.

season. He hit .322 that year with 44 home runs and 132 RBI, captured the National League MVP Award, and led the Braves to their first World Series Championship since 1914.

The U.S. Postal Service once honored Aaron for receiving nearly 1 million pieces of mail, more than any non-politician.

On the 25th anniversary of Aaron’s 715th home run, Major League Baseball created the Hank Aaron Award, given annu-

Dog Licensing Deadline Extended, due to COVID-19, to July 1, 2021

Submitted

Dog Licensing Deadline Extended, due to COVID-19, to July 1, 2021

Citizens can purchase tags through the extended deadline and pay no penalty.

Dog licensing renewal is extended to July 1, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Auditor encourages all Lucas County Dog owners to renew their licenses as soon as possible. You must register your dog for their safety and our community if you did not register your dog last year. Registration early protects your dog earlier and supports the operations of the Lucas County Canine Care Shelter. After re-

viewing HB 404 and discussing with the Lucas County Prosecutor (legal advisor to the Auditor), both offices agree that HB 404 extends the deadline to register to July 1, 2021.

Dog License Prices:

- 1 Year - \$25.00
- 3 Year - \$75.00 (available online ,at the Lucas County Auditor’s Office or Lucas County Canine Care)
- Permanent - \$250 (available online, at the Lucas County Auditor’s Office or Lucas County Canine Care)
- Vicious Dog Licenses - \$50 (available only

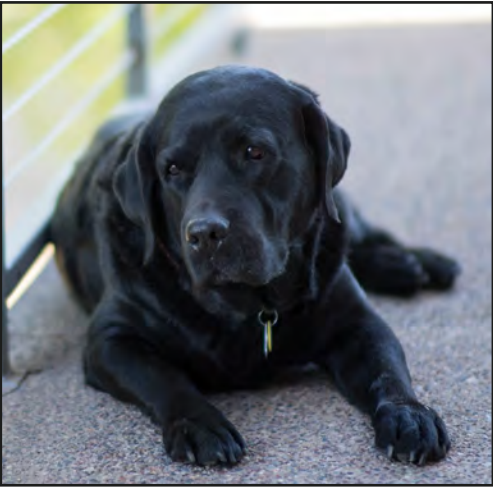


PHOTO CREDIT / PIXABAY

Ongoing Events

Continued from page 3.

Feb. 1st

World Interfaith Harmony Week Universal Worship - Patience

Facebook Event - Watch Facebook Live Here at 6 PM

Eight faiths will share readings and music or poetry on the theme Patience from their traditions. The monthly services are hosted by the Multifaith Council of NW Ohio and lead by Cherag Judy Lee Nur-un-nisa Trautman, Cherag in Training and Music Coordinator Lauraine Carpenter, and Technology Specialist Crystal Taylor. Contact Judy Trautman for the Zoom Link at jltrautman@sbcglobal.net.

Feb. 1st Thru Feb. 11th

Alzheimer’s Association-Virtual Educational Program on Variety of Topics for the Community and Families Impacted by the Disease

These presentations cover a variety of topics and occur at different times during the day and evening via videoconferencing to allow individuals to participate in the convenience of their homes. They will discuss topics such as what is Alzheimer’s disease, warning signs to look for, how to manage behaviors, and to strategize about how to have difficult conversations. We will even help you have a healthy brain! The programs are very helpful for anyone experiencing signs of memory loss, their family members who may be concerned, and the community members looking for more education. All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is required. To register for the program, call 800.272.3900

- Feb 1 - 3pm: Healthy Living for Brain and Body
- Feb 1 - 6pm: Living with Alzheimer’s - Younger Onset
- Feb 2 - 2:30pm: Dementia Conversations
- Feb 3 - 11am: Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia
- Feb 4 - 3pm: Effective Communication Strategies
- Feb 4 - 6:30pm: Living with Alzheimer’s for Caregivers, Late Stage - Part 1
- Feb 8 - 11am: Dementia Conversations
- Feb 8 - 3pm: Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia
- Feb 9 - 10am: Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior
- Feb 9 - 2:30pm: 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s
- Feb 10 - 11:30am: Effective Communication Strategies
- Feb 10 - 4pm: 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s
- Feb 11 - 1pm: Healthy Living for Brain and Body
- Feb 11 - 6:30pm: Living with Alzheimer’s for Caregivers, Late Stage - Part 2

Feb. 3rd

World Interfaith Harmony Week Annual Clergy - Faith Leader Breakfast

Wednesday, 9 - 10:30 AM, Free on Zoom, Free Breakfast Coupon from Black Kite.

Our Annual Clergy - Faith Leader Breakfast, a registered World Interfaith Harmony Week event, will be held on Zoom this year in order to keep us safely connected.

Breakfast - a takeout coupon from Black Kite Coffee will be emailed to registrants for a cup of coffee or tea (donated by Black Kite) and a pastry (compliments of MFC.). Opening Prayer - Pandit Anant Dixit, Hindu Temple of Toledo. A multimedia overview of the Multifaith Council of NW Ohio’s Programs to draw together the very diverse faith groups of NW Ohio. Guest Speaker: Nicki Gorny, Toledo Blade Religion Editor.

Feb. 7th

World Interfaith Harmony Events Sunday Service at First Unitarian Church of Toledo

The Multifaith Council of NW Ohio will conclude its observances of World Interfaith Harmony Week with this service, conducted by guest minister Judy Lee Trautman. The sermon “Gateways to Joy will explore how Joy can find us, even in difficult times of pandemic, personal tragedy, and political unrest. Service pieces and music will reflect diverse faiths. Watch live or recorded on YouTube Toledo Unitarians Channel at 11:00AM.