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What have you been doing to stay active this winter?



EDITORIAL/NEWS

Birth of a Nation... Redux?



SPECIAL FEATURE

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RELIGION/FAMILY

First Church of God Vaccinates 200 against COVID-19



EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY IN THE TOLEDO JOURNAL



Area Office on Aging spearheads vaccination campaign to help fight against Covid-19 for 65+



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Billie Johnson, President/CEO of the Area Office on Aging, led by example by receiving her first dose of the vaccine; Senior Airman, Hannah Haveland, medic for the 180 Fighter Wing, administers the vaccine.

By Jurry Taalib-Deen
Journal Staff Writer

On February 10, the Margaret Hunt Senior Center, 2121 Garden Lake Place, was bustling with traffic; over 200 people spread out during the course of the day. All who visited were wearing facemasks, and proper distancing was observed.

The occasion was seniors, 65 and older, were receiving vaccinations for Covid-19. The event was hosted by the Area Office on Aging, the Lucas County Health Department, the Ohio Department of Aging, the Ohio Air National Guard, and had the assistance of Black & White Cab.

In addition to seniors receiving vaccinations at the Margaret Hunt Senior Center, all of the sponsoring associations blitzed other sites such as the Northgate Apartments, UAW Hall on Ashland Ave., and Glendale Manors, just to name a few, to administer the vaccine to those most vulnerable to catching Covid-19.

Billie Johnson, President/CEO of Area Office on Aging, told The Toledo Journal the target audience was specifically those 65 and over and was being offered free.

"We want to ensure the

population most at risk can be protected from the virus," she said. "So in addition to the senior population, we want to make sure older African Americans receive the vaccination."

As well as ensuring others receive the vaccine, Ms. Johnson led by example and also received her first of two injections.

Maj. Jordan Hickey of the Ohio Department of Aging New Regional Rapid Response Assistance Program, said, since they've been helping administer the vaccine throughout the state, they've been receiving positive feedback from those lining up to get the vaccine.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Sgt. Molly Powell, medic for the 179 Air Lift, out of Mansfield, Ohio, administers the first dose to Leonard Gregory.

"We're really trying to get those seniors most at risk; either with preexisting conditions or on the low income range."

"We're really trying to get those seniors most at risk; either with preexisting conditions or on the low income range," she said. "We're using the Moderna vaccine, and those who received their first dose today, will return on the 14th of March to receive their second shot. We couldn't have been as successful as we were if it wasn't for Black & White Cab

providing free transportation to those seniors needing a ride."

Leonard Gregory was one of the many who received his first dose. He said he doesn't have any preexisting conditions, but said it's better to be safe, then sorry.

"If past Presidents of the United States can receive the vaccination, then so can I," he said.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

After receiving their injections, people were asked to sit and wait for 15-20 minutes to make sure there were no adverse side-effects.

Social Isolation Impacting the Well-being and Health of Older Adults During the Pandemic

Social isolation is a problem that is affecting the health and well-being of older adults. This was true pre-COVID and the problem has only been exacerbated by the pandemic.

The Area Office on Aging has been focusing its efforts to reverse this disturbing trend locally. The agency has conducted over 113,000 well check calls to older adults to check on them to make sure they are safe and to give them a friendly conversation and reminder that someone cares enough about them to call.

The agency and its network of providers have also provided over a million home-delivered meals, which often involve a driver checking on the older adult to make sure they are okay.

Those who are comfortable going out have been able to receive grab and go meals from senior centers.

The pandemic has also left many older adults who have not yet crossed the digital divide feeling especially lonely since

they are not able to socialize on social media, via FaceTime, Zoom, etc. in the same way their peers have crossed the digital divide have been able to socialize.

The Area Office on Aging has launched a tablet initiative to help address this problem among older adults who have little to no access to technology and could benefit from some additional socialization.

On the agency's Website, there is a list of virtual programs that are live, local, and geared toward older adults. The programming includes virtual events provided by senior centers, the YMCA, the Metroparks, Toledo Arts Commission, the Area Office on Aging, and many others.

Those wanting more information about any of these programs, services, or virtual events, can call the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624 or visit the agency's Website at AreaOfficeOnAging.com. The agency has been recognized nationally for this effort.

Don't Hesitate to Vaccinate

The Area Office on Aging is leading a campaign along with community leaders to encourage older adults to get vaccinated.

Aging Board Member, Anita Madison said, "These days the mottos at the Area Office on Aging is this: Don't hesitate to vaccinate.


Ms. Madison along with Former Lucas County Sheriff and Former Area Office on Aging Advisory Board Member, John Tharp appear in a commercial to let those age 60+ who are ready to get vaccinated but who are not able to do so on-line to call 419-382-0624.



Area Office on Aging Board Member Anita Madison and former Lucas County Sheriff and former Area Office on Aging Advisory Board Member John Tharp received their second vaccines.




Laurie from Mercy St. Vincent's gives Area Office on Aging Board Member, Barbie Harrison, her second vaccine.



Research shows that loneliness and social isolation are as damaging to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.
Source: Holt-Lunstad, (2015). *Loneliness and Social Isolation as Risk Factors for Mortality*

More than 1-in-4 older adults age 60+ report being *lonely*.



What have you and your family been doing to stay active, this winter, given we're in a pandemic and must maintain social distancing?

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|  | <p>Tyrone Hampton Retired</p> <p>My house is the business center of my church, as well as, my family and some of my friends. I do a lot of paperwork for them, so that's how I've been keeping busy. As far as my wife, she works for hospice and does a lot of traveling to homes; so working is how we've been keeping busy.</p> |  | <p>Eric Summers Factory Worker</p> <p>The only thing I've been doing is working and going to the grocery store. If I don't have to go out, I won't go out. I've had Covid three times, and my dad died of it, so I'm very reluctant to do anything.</p> |
|  | <p>Donald Scott Police Officer</p> <p>I'm not doing much of anything, with the exception of following the Governor's mandates, as well as, what the CDC has been putting out. I haven't seen my mother or grandchildren in a year, so I want to play it safe as possible so I can visit them.</p> |  | <p>Lisa Bonds Realtor</p> <p>Being that I'm an essential worker, I can't stay at home. In my line of work, if I don't sell, I don't make money; so my work has been keeping me busy during this pandemic.</p> |
|  | <p>Charlene Miller Retired</p> <p>To keep busy, I've started an early spring cleaning. I also take drives and go to the grocery store, while wearing my face mask, and practicing social distancing. Since I don't have visitors, I have to find a way to keep busy.</p> |  | <p>JuanCarlos Morton Project Manager</p> <p>Recently, my daughter had a seizure during all this, which made us all become closer. We eat as a family, every Sunday, and do more spiritual oriented things as a family. And on Fridays, we have a study session for the kids. Also, during the pandemic, the adults in my family went from being computer illiterate, to computer literate.</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.

Rental Assistance Programs for Homeless Toledo Public Schools' Students

The City of Toledo – partnering with the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board, Toledo Public Schools, Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio, and financial opportunity centers – has launched two new safety net grant programs to assist homeless families of students currently attending the school district, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz announced this month.

Up to \$2 million of Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act funding will be used to help approximately 300 families with rent payments for up to three months, rent deposits, and utility payments. Families at or below 60 percent of the area median income may qualify and will be rapidly re-housed into permanent living situations.

The Tenant Based Rental Assistance program will use \$100,000 provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HOME Investment Partnership funding, to provide 12 months of rental assistance, rent security deposits, utility payments, and utility security deposits to an additional 10 homeless families that have household incomes

at or below 60 percent of the area median income. A case worker will work with grant recipients on the benefits of a financial opportunity center, and provide resources such as budgeting, credit repair, job searches, and educational opportunities. The funds will be paid directly to landlords and utility companies. The housing unit must be safe, decent, and sanitary, and successfully pass the City of Toledo's housing quality standards inspection.

Toledo Public Schools has approximately 23,000 students. Of those, about 1,700 are identified as homeless.

NWO's Only Open-Air Ice Rink Now Open

Corner of W Bancroft St. & Parkside Blvd. in Toledo. Visit toledo.oh.gov/icerink for info. 35 skaters max will be allowed during open skate times due to COVID-19 guidelines. The open skate sessions last 90 min to 2 hours, Mon-Sun. Check the schedule at toledo.oh.gov/icerink or call 419-936-2997. For information on facility rental call 419-936-2700. Regular Admission: \$4, Senior Admission: \$2.50, Children under 3: free, and Skate Rental \$2. Individual season pass: \$28, Senior season pass: \$16, Family season pass: \$95.

All visitors must have their temperature taken upon entry. 100° temp or higher will be denied entry. Masks must be worn at all times, indoors and out.

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

Feb. 24th & Feb. 25th
Alzheimer's Association Virtual Educational Program on Variety of Topics for the Community and Families Impacted by the Disease
Maumee, OH - The Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio Chapter will be presenting a variety of virtual educational programs to help the community and families impacted by the disease. All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is required. To register for the program, call 800.272.3900
Feb 24-11am 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
Feb 24-6:30pm Effective Communication Strategies
Feb 25-3pm Living with Alzheimer's - Younger Onset

Mar. 1st YWCA's 21 Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge

The 21 day racial equity and social justice challenge is a free tool designed to create dedicated time and space to build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership. You will be presented with challenges such as reading an article, listening to a podcast, reflecting on personal experience and more. Participation in an activity like this helps us to discover how racial injustice and social injustice impact our community, to connect with one another, and to identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination. This is an exciting opportunity to dive deep into racial equity and social justice. We hope you will join us on this journey!

Mar. 5th Thru Mar. 7th
56th Annual Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee
(Selma, Ala.)official schedule of activities for the virtual event taking place. While the event typically takes place in Selma, AL all of this year's activities will be broadcast virtually, making it a truly global evnt. The star-studded lineup is a fitting wasy to share the commemoration of equity and justice with the world. We have music speeches, photography, panels, films and of course, the actual bridge crossing. No matter who you are, there's an activity here that will help you celebrae the important history behind the Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee." Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee activities are educational, inspirational and entertaining for people of all ages. Pre-register for free at www.selmajubilee.com.

Birth of a Nation ... Redux?



By Lafe Tolliver,
Attorney

If you are too young to recall the virulent racist film, Birth of a Nation, which was the first filmed aired in the White House during the tenure of the arch segregationist President Woodrow Wilson, who believed that it accurately portrayed the alleged vileness and sexual depravity of black people, you need to see it if you are going to be able to contextualize the recent Capitol failed coup.

Birth of a Nation was a blatant rallying call for white people to take back "their" country from the hordes of menacing black people who were out to "get them".

Birth of a Nation was unrepentant racist propaganda in all its decadent glory. It promoted a "Big Lie" about the nature and character of black people and warned white men to stand up and protect, to the death, the virtuous flower of white womanhood.

Birth of a Nation, without a filter, shouted from the rooftops that if black people, and black men in particular are not kept in their place, by any means necessary, America would regress and the white race would be polluted by integration and race mixing.

Birth of a Nation championed the Klu Klux Klan as the valiant vanguard that would be the needed buffer zone between black upward mobility and the hegemony of the

white race.

The KKK was America's hope to keep in check any advancements of people of color in America and to ensure that only Nordic whites could rule and reign supreme in American politics, finances and to continuously hold the reins of power.

Now, fast forward to the impeachment hearings of Herr Trump. The feckless GOP, which has sold its birthright for a mess of pottage in order to maintain control and incur the favor of Herr Trump, has already signaled that at least forty-four of them are tone deaf to any idea of convicting Herr Trump of inciting an insurrection at the Capitol.

Repeatedly, year in and year out, Herr Trump has poisoned the wells of truth and critical thinking by promulgating the Big Lie that if he did not win the 2020 election, it had to be rigged.

Despite any evidence that any court in the land would accept as valid and on point, Herr Trump and his cast of misfits have bellowed in unison with Fox News and other friendly media outlets that the election was stolen, and Herr Trump won by a massive landslide.

Forty-four GOP senators with their heads in the sand, deny, against a tsunami of evidence, that Joe Biden won the election. For them to say otherwise, Herr Trump's base would howl to the moon and threaten them with either a primary challenger or worse.

Understand that the underlying genesis of this Big Lie is that people of color in certain urban swing states illegally voted and their votes were the singular margin of victory for Joe Biden.

The assault on the Capitol was their expression of outrage that a duly elected president should not take office because in their corrupted thinking, Herr Trump had the election stolen from him and his followers.

Those brawlers at the Capitol were ginned up for a reckoning with anyone who was not on their side and if that included threats of lynching Vice President Mike Pence, so be it.

“
*Birth of a Nation
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”

If that including executing Nancy Pelosi or anyone else who stood in their way, that was OK with them. Some of them believed that they were on a divine mission!

They wanted a return to the good ol' days where the warped thinking of Herr Trump would be the order of the day in order to make America great again.

A corollary to that alleged greatness would require people of color to again be subordinated to a second-class status; and their acts monitored by white militia groups who would serve as "de facto" watchmen or modern-day overseers.

Yes, the Capitol insurrection was inspired, in part, by past and present racial phobias of "you" people ascending to become the dominant ethnic group in America.

To overturn the validated 2020 election results would necessitate erasing from the vote tallies, millions of votes cast by people of color.

The mob that ransacked the Capitol, some carrying Confederate Flags, saw it as their duty to obey the call to arms given a few minutes earlier by Herr Trump in a bombastic speech that said they must fight, or they would lose their country.

The marauders thought

they were carrying out a divine order to correct a wobbling America that they believed was color struck; and they felt that their white ethnic standing was soon to be downgraded to a minority population status.

Herr Trump gladly stroked their racial demons for his own political good and continued to feed the Big Lie that he was a victim of a nationwide conspiracy to deny him a second term.

The brain-dead GOP has no intentions to convict Trump, regardless of the copious amounts of caustic evidence that demonstrates that he violated his oath of office and sanctioned a coup against the America that he so professes to love.

For those craven politicians, it is a simple story of retaining their power and fat pay checks as opposed to evaluating the evidence and saying to Herr Trump, "We gotcha... you are in fact, the real enemy of the people!"

If the first director of the incendiary film, Birth of a Nation was able to read the screen play written by Trump since 2015 to present date, he would have done a sequel to that film, and done so in vivid living color. The assault on the Capitol, in the understated name of white supremacy, is that sequel.

In America, there is never a bad time to stop the progress of black and brown people and if the occupant of the Oval Office can lend his stature and aura to any efforts to snare and trap black people in moving forward, Herr Trump would gladly do so.

Would I place pointy Klan hoods on any GOP senator that throws in their lot with Herr Trump and refuses to listen to the overwhelming evidence, and not convict him of violating his oath of office and aiding an insurrection?

What do you think?

Lafe Tolliver, Attorney
Comments to: tolliver@juno.com

Guest Editorial
by June Boyd

As we celebrate Black History Month, we must celebrate the fact that the Black Lives Matter movement has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, much to the chagrin of white supremacists and Donald Trump. Now we know who the true patriots are.

January 6, 2021, a day we will never forget; it was an invasion of the white supremacists, the proud boys, the Qanons; all those who had no regard for our political leaders or our government. The bottom line let Donald Trump know the invaders were not from the Black Lives Matter movement.

The year 2020 led off with COVID 19, and swept away so many good people, loved ones who deserved better. The good news of 2020 was Stacy Abrams, Latosha Brown and the other political leaders in Georgia who succeeded in combatting voter suppression and were a major force in electing Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States respectively. They did not stop; on January 5, 2021, they successfully elected Rev. Raphael Warnock and John Ossoff to the United States Senate, a first for both, and another successful notch for Black History.

We are not through; this is just the beginning of a political revolution implemented by the black men and women in this nation. This writer proudly acknowledges labeling cards for Rev. Warnock and John Ossoff and sent to Georgia through one of our local unions.

The power of registration and voting. We must respond to the white supremacists, Qanons and others who only want to disrupt rather than embrace.

We must do better; the thought of "my vote does not count" is no longer acceptable, or an option.

February 2021 can be the beginning of a continued movement relative to voting power. For every young person age 17 or 18, please register to vote and carry the torch of black power.

In closing, please note, former convicted felons in the state of Ohio, you can register for the first time, or re register after you have served your time. There are those who do not want you to know this. Let your voice be heard. Also, stay alive, wear your mask and get your vaccine. I have gotten mine.

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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.

White Terrorism - The Enemy Within Must be Dismantled



By Dr. Barbara Reynolds
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The mob in the streets, the Republican mob in the Senate, and assorted police are partners in the coup at the Capitol.

The glue holding this band of brothers together is black disenfranchisement and a pledge to white Supremacy. Remember Tulsa, the Black Wall Street massacre of 1921. Police deputized white thugs to destroy this black town, burn and lynch hundreds of black people because they were gaining economic and political security. The courts never punished them for their crimes. In the 1960s, civil rights activists knew they were fighting the Klan, who often took their sheets off and donned police uniforms.

In like manner, the white terrorists who took part in the insurrection at the Capitol were almost treated like they had been invited to a tea party.

Thousands of angry Trumpers were gathering and marching toward the Capitol. No large platoons of police were present, but when much smaller groups of Black Lives Matter protested peacefully well-armed police were everywhere. Moreover, there were scores of detailed plans on the Internet flaunting the mobs' anger at those who would not go along with the Big Lie of Trump winning the presidency.

Inside the Capitol with the terrorists chanting slogans about murdering Vice President Pence and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and with scores of legislators cornered, massive numbers of police were missing in action. The protestors showed no fear of the police during or after the assault, even though no similar assault on the Capitol had occurred since the British burned it in 1812.

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When Will Workers Get a Break?



By Julianne Malveaux
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Now that the impeachment trial of the 45th President is over, perhaps our legislators can turn their attention to working people, or more accurately, those who used to work and are not now working. There were 18 million unemployment insurance claims now than a year ago, and nearly 10 million fewer jobs than before the pandemic. The first Friday report that the unemployment rate has dropped is misleading when the number of people fleeing the labor market is alarming. Most disturbing, of course, is the departure of women from the labor force. Last month alone, more than 250,000 women left the labor market, compared to 71,000 men.

Further, many of those working, especially in meat-packing, manufacturing, and most service occupations, don't have the luxury to physically distance at work. Some of these folk earn appallingly low wages, in some cases hovering near the \$7.25 minimum, the same rate it has been for more than a decade. To be sure, minimum wages are higher in some cities and states, with the District of Columbia, San Francisco, and Seattle establishing a \$15 minimum. Other jurisdictions have passed legislation gradually moving the wage to \$15.

President Biden promised to support new minimum wage legislation, and Senator Bernie Sanders is pushing hard. The Raise the Wage Act of 2021



was introduced on January 26, and House Speaker Pelosi has said a version of the bill will be sent to the Senate for approval. There is likely to be pushback, especially from states that have not raised their wage above the federal level. It is useful to note that in Florida, where the former President enjoys popularity, a ballot measure supporting a \$15 minimum wage passed. Even conservatives have to eat!

Senate Bill 53, the Raise the Wage Act, would gradually raise the federal minimum wage from the current \$7.25 level to \$15 by June of 2025. The first increase would happen this year, raising the wage to \$9.25 this year. In subsequent years the wage would rise to \$11.00 in 2022, \$12.50 in 2023, \$14.00 in 2024, and \$15 by June of 2025. The most significant bump is 31 percent, from the current \$290 per week (for a full-time week) to \$380 per week. Even with that increase, though, a family of four is living below the poverty line of \$26,500. The minimum wage for a family with one worker won't exceed the poverty line until 2024 when the wage is

\$14 an hour.

Some households with minimum wage workers have more than one person contributing to household expenses. But many minimum wage workers work part-time, not full time, and don't work part-time by choice. Many employers offer less than a 40-hour workweek to avoid paying benefits.

Raising the minimum wage gives at least 27 million workers a raise. Most of them are women. A third are Latino, and 40 percent are African American. Raising the wage would reduce inequality and poverty. Senator Sanders is prepared to push this legislation through by reconciliation if he can't get Republican support. If Republican Senators value their constituents' voices, they will support legislation that brings relief to some of them.

There may also be some assistance coming to working people via the Protecting the Right to Organize, or PRO Act. This legislation protects workers' rights to form unions, limits employers' right to interfere with union activities, and strengthens other workers' rights.

With several dozen new provisions, the PRO Act represents the first attempt to overhaul the National Labor Relations Act in more than seventy years. The legislation passed the House in 2020, passing mostly along party lines, but the Republican-controlled Senate declined to deliberate. This time, Democrats control the schedule, and the legislation will receive some review and deliberation. But Chambers of Commerce and other business groups are likely to oppose it. Research shows that the presence of unions in the workplace increases wages. Equally importantly, it protects workers from unsafe working conditions.

Perhaps legislation will provide workers with some relief this year. It is also possible, though, that working people, especially those near the bottom, will get caught up in partisan squabbling. Workers need a break, need a raise, need safe working conditions. Can Washington deliver?

Julianne Malveaux is an economist and author. She can be reached at julianne@malveaux.com

The Enemy Within Must be Dismantled

continued from page 4

While some overpowered Capitol police fought valiantly, there were also reports of some taking selfies with the rioters.

So, we are supposed to believe that Washington, the home of the world's most powerful governmental body and the most powerful military presence could not have prevented the assault nor arrested the rioters on the spot. . One FBI official said his hands were tied in monitoring the mobs' actions because legislatively they were not considered "terrorists." Yet reports show the FBI had no problems playing a role in neutralizing and killing scores of Black Panthers, as well as playing a role in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,

When the smoke of this disgrace clears, the same old demons will be found. Trump, the mob and the GOP Trumpers

are fighting to maintain white privilege and supremacy. They understand that in the recent elections black voters rescued America from a corrupt, evil empire, where black and brown people are rising in influence and representation. So, the bloody war is on, where five people, including a capitol police officer were murdered, joining the hundreds of black people who have been killed by white cops and protected by white legislators.

Unless this band of brotherhood is broken, much more bloodshed will follow. Security, no doubt will be efficiently organized to protect President Biden and Vice President Harris. But will the police be there if the white terrorists, who the President called "patriots," turn their attention to black voters, churches, and their communities. It is time white America look in the mirror and see what is rising in their backgrounds.



Black Woman Opens Factory That Produces 1,500 Bricks a Day, Made From Plastic

Black News - Meet Nzambi Matee, an entrepreneur from Kenya who is the founder and owner of Gjenge Makers, an innovative company that transforms plastic waste into bricks that are more durable than concrete!

Matee, a materials engineer, founded the company in 2018 out of frustration with what the government was doing (and not doing) with the problem of plastic pollution. "I was tired of being on the sidelines," she told Reuters. Matee gets the waste that cannot be recycled from recyclers for a minimal amount. She also gets the waste from packaging factories without any cost.

Her factory processes different kinds of plastic waste such as high-density polyethylene, used in milk and shampoo bottles; low-density polyethylene, often used as



bags for cereals or sandwiches; and polypropylene, used for ropes, flip-top lids, and buckets; except polyethylene terephthalate or PET, commonly used for plastic bottles.

With her expertise in the field, she designed her own machines that mix plastic waste with sand, heat it, and compress into bricks in different thickness and color. Matee proudly claims that their product is "almost five to seven times stronger than concrete" yet sustainable and affordable.

Since it was founded, her factory has recycled over 20 tonnes of plastic waste, producing 1,500 bricks each day. She said she hopes to add another bigger production line that could triple capacity.

For more information about Gjenge Makers, visit gjenge.co.ke

Black Farmer's Antibiotic-Free Meat Products Now Available in Grocery Stores and Online

Black News - Meet Ricky Dollison, a fourth-generation African American farmer who is the owner of Dollison Farms located in Poulan, Georgia. He is also the owner of a company called Warrior Creek Premium Meats that produces responsibly raised, antibiotic-free bacon, sausage, ground beef, ribeye steaks, pork tenderloins, and chicken leg quarters.

The family-owned and operated business also produces a multitude of leafy greens, peanuts, cotton, soybeans, and



corn for their livestock. They also raise cattle and their signature swine, "The Georgia Dolly", in which their premium sausage, country cut bacon, and ham are derived.

Their high-quality meats are Georgia born and raised, without added hormones, by-products, nitrates, or antibiotics. Warrior Creek Premium Meats can be found at various grocery stores

throughout Southwest Georgia such as Towson Meats, Snipes, Publix, and Piggly Wiggly.

Small farmers have always been the major food producers of the world, even before COVID-19. Now during a pandemic with scarce equipment and limited financial resources, creating value-added products and extending harvest offerings directly to customers is imperative for their survival beyond the next generation.

This Black-owned family farm operation is on the list of very few who are certified and

able to sell nationwide. Dollison is also the CEO of AG First Community Co-op and a farmer advocate for the state of Georgia. He recognizes that bringing his company's premium meats and their vegetable harvest directly to market is necessary for their survival.

Warrior Creek Premium Meats ship nationwide directly from the farm to your freezer. Monthly subscriptions are also available.

For more details and/or to place an order, visit WarriorCreekPremiumMeats.com

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COVID-19: Have You Figured out Face Masks Yet?



By Glenn Ellis
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Will the vaccine slow down the rate of transmission of Covid-19? This is one of the key questions that scientists will be seeking to answer over coming weeks. The vaccines now being administered are designed to protect people from severe side-effects of the disease. They were not developed to block transmission of the virus. They are meant for you to be protected against serious illness but still carry the virus and spread it to others. However, scientists believe (and are hoping) that the vaccines should reduce viral load in those inoculated and there should then be a reduction in transmission. In the meantime, face masks will continue to be the order of the day.

Getting use to everybody wearing masks is certainly a new experience for us grownups, and one that we probably never imagined. It looks like wearing face masks will be a way of life for us for the near future. But can you imagine how confusing, scary, and even traumatizing face mask wearing is for kids and young people? I honestly don't know how I would have handled it when I was a kid. Adults and parents in the lives of our young people must be vigilant about providing the information and support they will need.

For starters, what kind of masks are best for protection? Sure, any mask will have some effect, but cloth masks are less than half as effective as surgical masks at protecting the person wearing the mask. Surgical masks are two to three times as effective as cloth masks. Remind young people that it is important that teachers, postal workers, delivery people, cashiers, restaurant workers, and anyone they come in contact with whose work involves regular contact with other people should be wearing a mask.

I know we've heard all about N95 face masks. They are tested to show they are 95 percent effective. However, not only are they more expensive, but the research has also found that there is no evidence that the N95 face masks are better at protection than the simple green or blue surgical masks. There is a reason it is standard, required gear in hospital operating rooms!

By the way, make sure we show young people know how to wear their face mask properly, a mask helps block large-particle droplets, splash-

es, sprays, or splatter that may contain germs, viruses, or bacteria), keeping it from reaching the mouth and nose and infecting you. The whole point of surgical masks is to help reduce exposure of your saliva and respiratory secretions to others. In medical history, the surgical mask was invented not to protect the surgeon, but to protect the patient from the surgeon; you know, coughing into the open surgical wounds and causing infection in the patient. So, it doesn't protect the doctor from the patient. Keep that in mind when you need motivation to maintain social distancing.

So how good is a good cloth mask? Single- and double-layer cloth masks made from lightweight, low-thread cotton are the least effective. I know they have some very stylish, cute cloth ones out there, but the researchers also found that gaps at the edges of an ill-fitting, flimsy cloth mask can reduce filtration efficiency by 60 percent. If you walk around any city in the U.S., some people are wearing masks over their noses and other ones are wearing them hanging off one ear. But cloth masks are far from useless; they are the best alternative to the more expensive N95, and they offer almost the same protection. Even the CDC says that when surgical masks are unavailable, cloth masks are a more suitable option for use in the general public.

As parents, we have a lot of impact on the meaning that children attach to their experiences. From about the age of 8 months, children look at others' reactions to see how they should respond. Psychologists call this "social referencing." For example, when

kids see a dog for the first time, they look at the dog, then look up at their grown-ups to see, "Should I be scared, here?" If the grown-ups are calm or positive, it makes it easier for the kid to be calm or positive.

The same thing applies to masks: If we are calm and positive about wearing masks, it will be easier for our kids to be calm and positive about them, too. On the other hand, if our words or reactions say, "This is terrible! This is unbearable! You can't possibly tolerate this!" we put an extra burden on our children.

The most important tips to continuously share with children and young people about face masks is: Don't leave your nose or mouth uncovered. Don't remove the mask while around others in public. Don't share your mask with family members or friends. And remember, a mask is not a substitute for social distancing. Let's continue to take care of our young people!

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one! Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly.

Glenn Ellis, MPH is a Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Bioethics Fellow. He is author of Which Doctor? and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics.

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THE CONVERSATION

Who was the first Black child to go to an integrated school?

By: Russell Ellsworth Lovell II
Professor Emeritus, Drake University Law School, Drake University

When people think about the time when Black people first began to integrate America's public schools, often they think back to the 1960s.

But history shows the first court-ordered school integration case took place a hundred years earlier, in the 1860s.

We believe good journalism is good for democracy and necessary for it.

In April of 1868, three years after the end of the Civil War, Susan Clark – a 12-year-old girl from Muscatine, Iowa – became the first Black child to attend an integrated school because of a court order.

The Supreme Court of Iowa issued that court order when it made its historic ruling in a school desegregation case brought by Susan's father, Alexander Clark. This was 86 years before the U.S. Supreme Court issued the



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Do you have a question you'd like an expert to answer? Ask an adult to send your question to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com.

landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision, which ordered the desegregation of the nation's public schools.

In the Iowa case, a judge named Chester Cole ruled that the Muscatine School Board's racial segregation policy was illegal. The Iowa Su-

preme Court was the first court in the nation to say that segregation was unlawful.

Up from slavery

Susan Clark's parents were Alexander Clark and Catherine Griffin Clark. Alexander's father, John – this would be Susan's grandfather – was born to a slave owner and an enslaved woman. Both John and his mother were freed after John's birth. Alexander's mother,

Rebecca Darnes, was the daughter of emancipated slaves, George and Leticie Darnes. Alexander was born free in Pennsylvania in 1826. Catherine Griffin was born a slave in Virginia in 1829, and was freed at the age of three and taken to Ohio.

Alexander and Catherine married in 1848, and set up their home in Muscatine, a small, prosperous town on the Mississippi River. Alexander was a barber and a successful businessman. He was an outstanding speaker and was so active in the Underground Railroad – a secret network that helped slaves escape to freedom – and other civil rights causes that he has been recognized as "one of the greatest civil rights leaders of the 19th century."

School board wanted segregation

The Muscatine School Board didn't try to hide the reason it rejected Susan's application to attend Grammar School No. 2, which was the school closest to where she lived. The school said its decision to keep Black and white students segregated was in line with "public sentiment that is opposed to the intermingling of white and colored children in the same schools." The school board argued that its schools were "separate but equal." This argument worked in a lot of other courts at the time, including the highest courts in

Continued on page 16.

“Justice Cole pointed out that the very first words in the Iowa Constitution say “equal rights to all.””

TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Toledo Public Schools’ mission is to produce competitive college and career ready graduates through a rigorous curriculum. From kindergarten through high school, TPS teachers and administrators support students as they strive to reach their academic potential.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Black History in Science: Remembering Dr. George Carruthers

By Stacy M. Brown
Wire Writer

He built his first telescope at the age of 10, and by age 25, George Carruthers earned a Ph.D. in aeronautical and astronautical engineering. Upon graduating from the University of Illinois, Dr. Carruthers started work at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. His telescope and image converter identified molecular hydrogen in space, and his ultra-violet spectrograph was used by the Apollo 16 crew in their flight to the moon. "In March 1610, Galileo Galilei reported the first use of a telescope to view mountains and maria on the moon," Dr. Carruthers wrote in 1972. Many reported that his project collaborator, Thornton Page, a White man, acknowledged Carruthers' brilliance and allowed him to lead on the project. After all, just three years earlier, Dr. Carruthers was awarded a patent for his groundbreaking "Image Converter for Detecting Electromagnetic Radiation Especially in Short Wavelengths." Following that, the scientist's UV telescope and image converter provided the first proof of molecular hydrogen in interstellar space. His invention was used on Apr. 21, 1972, during the first lunar walk of the Apollo 16 mission. It marked the first-time scientists examined the Earth's atmosphere for concentrations of pollutants and saw UV images of more than 550 stars,



Dr. Carruthers receives the National Medal of Technology and Innovation from U.S. President Barack Obama on Feb. 1, 2013. / Department of the Navy's Information Technology Magazine

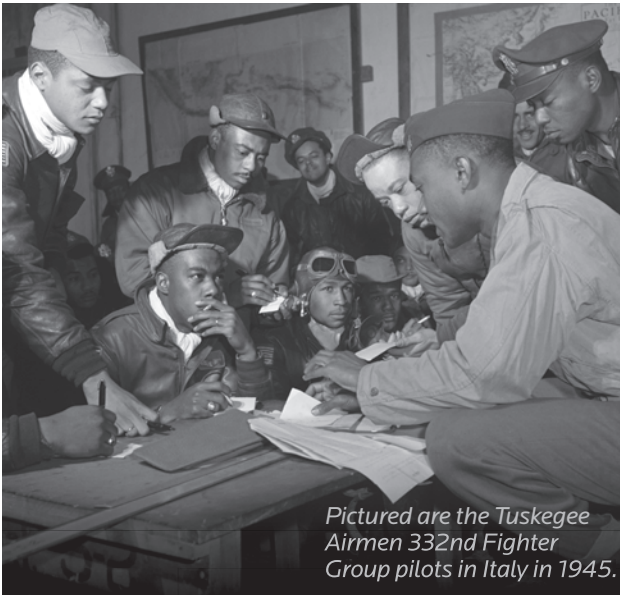
nebulae, and galaxies. Dr. Carruthers earned NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal for his work on the project. "On Apr. 21, 1972, the Apollo 16 commander positioned a somewhat more complex optical instrument at the Earth from the moon and obtained several remarkable photographs showing atmospheric features," Dr. Carruthers wrote. One of the first and few Black scientists of his time, Dr. Carruthers died on Dec. 26, 2020, in Washington. He was 81. Born Oct. 1, 1939, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Carruthers had three siblings. His

father, George Sr., was a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Air Corps. and reportedly encouraged his son's interest in

science. According to his biography, the elder Carruthers died when Dr. Carruthers was just 12. After his death, the family moved to Chicago, where Dr. Carruthers' mother, Sophia, went to work for the U.S. Postal Service. But Dr. Carruthers continued pursuing his interest in science. "As one of only a handful of African-Americans competing in Chicago's high school science

fairs, he won three awards, including first prize for a telescope that he designed and built," his biographers wrote. In 1957, Carruthers graduated from Chicago's Englewood High School and entered the engineering program at the University of Illinois' Champaign-Urbana campus. While an undergraduate, Carruthers focused on aerospace engineering and astronomy. After earning a bachelor's degree in physics in 1961, Carruthers remained at the University of Illinois, where he earned a master's in nuclear engineering in 1962. In 1964, he earned a Ph.D. in aeronautical and astronautical engineering.

Continued on page 16.



Pictured are the Tuskegee Army 332nd Fighter Group pilots in Italy in 1945.

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The newly redesigned 2021 Hyundai SANTA FE.

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Starting at a Black Newspaper, Dana White Is the First Black Woman to Run Comms at a Major Automaker

By: Troy Schulz
Zenger News

As Hyundai North America's first black chief communications officer, Dana W. White knows what it is like to have two feet in two worlds.

"Growing up I always knew about the power of communication, the power of words," she said, talking about her childhood in Charlottesville, Virginia. "My grandfather, who was born in 1896, founded the oldest black newspaper in the state. I used to cut ad sheets every month and write copy and process black-and-white photos [at the paper]. The entrepreneurial spirit runs deep in me and my family."

While the weekly black newspaper, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Tribune, is gone, the family's entrepreneurial spirit lives on. "The environment I grew up in, my

family, was that there was never just a pot of gold waiting for me at the end of the tunnel," she said. "It's in my DNA – to make it happen for yourself."

Dr. Ben Chavis runs the trade group for African American newspaper publishers. "The National Newspapers Publishers Association salutes Hyundai for its decision to elevate an African-American woman leader to the position of Chief Communications Officer. In this year where the focus is on the empowerment of all women, Dana White represents

“ Growing up I always knew about the power of communication, the power of words...”

and embodies the best of Black America," he told Zenger News of White.

She studied hard in college, taking the toughest courses on purpose even if they were scheduled early in the morning and required long walks across Chicago wind-chilled campus.

Those courses included learning to read, write and speak Mandarin, the mostly widely used of the Chinese-language dialects. She majored in Chinese history at the University of Chicago.

After college, she moved to Washington, DC without a job and worked as an intern and a temp to pay the bills while she applied for jobs on Capitol Hill.

Now Dana White runs North American communications for Hyundai Motor Company, a South Korean car maker that builds more than half of its vehicles at its plant in Alabama and employs some 25,000 people in the United States. She joined the Zenger News advisory board in 2019.

White sees herself as a cross-cultural bridge. At Hyundai Motor North America, she is the Chief Communications Officer—a first for Korean automaker in the U.S. She oversees communications for Hyundai Motor North America headquarters and all of Hyundai's North America Affiliates including Canada and Mexico, Hyundai Motor Manufacturing



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Dana W. White began her professional life helping her grandfather run an African American newspaper. (Carol Larsen/Zenger)

Alabama, Glovis (Hyundai's Logistics Operations), Mobis (Hyundai Parts Operations), Hyundai Capital and the Washington, DC Office. White also has strategic oversight of Hyundai's luxury automotive brand Genesis, the first SUV for the industry's newest luxury brand.

"When I joined Hyundai a year ago, I knew I needed someone who understood decision making at the highest levels, storytelling and how to work across cultures seamlessly to deliver results. So, I called Dana," said Jose Munoz, Global COO of Hyundai Motor Company and Pres. & CEO of Hyundai Motor North America. "It's rare to find one

Continued on page 16.



Hyundai recognizes the value of community. Learn more at HyundaiDiversity.com. Art by Ronnie Phillips. RonPhillipsArt.com.

Hyundai Celebrates Black Excellence

The journey and societal contributions of African Americans is an epic tale worthy of retelling time and again. Their traditions and rich heritage combine for a legacy to remember. Hyundai is proud to join in on the celebration of Black History, this month and all year long. We salute contemporary Black artists like Ronnie Phillips, who firmly believes that children are the future, stating, "I like the idea of connecting images of present-day Black children to their past as a way of honoring the continuity in our culture." Hyundai and Ronnie Phillips, building upon the past together while constructing a better future for all.



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From: Mattie Taylor

Black History Month Debuts Award-Winning Documentary Exposes U.S. Government For Oppressing Black Communities

Submitted

Betrayal of a Nation, an award-winning documentary, indicts the U.S government on 18 charges committed against Black and Brown citizens. It premieres during Black History Month on February 26, 2021. The documentary intertwines scripted courtroom dialog with out-of-court real-life interviews used as trial testimonies and evidence.

Director Brandi Webb suggests these interviews highlight oppressive acts such as the destruction of Black Wall Street in Tulsa, OK, and the execution of civil rights leaders. She wants viewers to gain knowledge about these events and imagine a world where the government is held responsible. Testimonies include interviews from the mothers of Eric Garner and Tamir Rice, Dr. Tiffany Crutcher (Twin sister of Terence Crutcher), Ajamu Baraka, Rev. Dr. Robert Turner, Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper, and several others.

Betrayal of a Nation educates viewers via a front-row seat to the social injustices and pain inflicted on African-Americans by government agencies that have been dismissive to their communities at large. The documentary is available to rent at BetrayalofaNation.com using the Vimeo platform. Rentals are \$17. Pre-orders allow viewers to rent before the film’s release date and gives them 72 hours of access from the date of release.

Betrayal of a Nation won an Award of Merit at the IndieFest Film Festival and a Special Mention award in the African-American Category.

“Betrayal of a Nation speaks to the awakening of all America’s tricks that have kept a knee on our necks. The film must be seen by all newly woke-minded people who say America wrote a check and now it’s time to cash,” stated radio personality, Tamera Fair, (iHeart Radio) who advocates for reparations in the documentary.

“It’s just so powerful to see that people are putting a spotlight on the injustices that are perpetuated not just today but you know, throughout history... As she (Director Brandi Webb) does this documentary, Tamir Rice’s blood still speaks, Eric Garner’s blood still speaks, Terence Crutcher’s blood still speaks,” says Activist, Dr. Tiffany Crutcher, twin sister of Terence Crutcher.

Promotional content can be viewed on the documentary’s social media platforms. Visit Facebook.com/betrayalofanation and follow @BetrayalofANation on Instagram.

Following the 2016 murders of



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Visit BetrayalofaNation.com for more info. Also follow Brandi Webb on Facebook and Instagram.

Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, Director Webb became frustrated and furious with countless acquittals and non-indictments of police officers. She created Betrayal of a Nation to explore the social injustices in America.

Recent outcries and protests surrounding the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and others made clear the need for a real-life indictment on U.S government policies and practices. Director Webb believes anything is possible.



This month, we honor those who fought to serve their communities — while making local history.

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She Bought Freedom for Herself & Other Slaves Today a Park is Named in Her Honor

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

In her early years, Alethia Browning Tanner sold vegetables in a produce stall near President's Square – now known as Lafayette Square – in what is now Northwest Washington, D.C.

According to the D.C. Genealogy Research, Resources, and Records, Tanner bought her freedom in 1810 and later purchased several relatives' release.

She was the first woman on the Roll of Members of the Union Bethel AME Church (now Metropolitan AME Church on M Street), and Turner owned land and a store at 14th and H Streets, which she left to her nephews – one of whom later sold the property for \$100,000.

Named in her honor, the Alethia Tanner Park is located at 227 Harry Thomas Way in Northeast DC.

The park sits near the corner of Harry Thomas Way and Q Street and is accessible by foot or bike via the Metropolitan Branch Trail, just north of the Florida Ave entrances.

"The first Council legislative meeting of Black History Month, the Council took a second and final vote on naming the new park for Alethia Tanner, an amazing woman who is more than worthy of this long-delayed recognition," Ward 5 Councilman Kenyan McDuffie said in 2020 ahead of the park's naming ceremony.

"[Her upbringing] itself would be a remarkable legacy, but Ms. Tanner was also active

in founding and supporting many educational, religious, and civic institutions," McDuffie remarked.

"She contributed funds to start the first school for free Black children in Washington, the Bell School. Feeling unwelcome at her predominantly segregated church, she & other church members founded the Israel Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. When the church fell on hard times and was sold at auction by creditors, she and her family stepped in and repurchased the church."

Born in 1781 on a plantation owned by Tobias and Mary Belt in Prince George's County, Maryland, historians noted that Tanner had two sisters, Sophia Bell and Laurena Cook.

"Upon the death of Mary Pratt (Tobias had predeceased his wife) in 1795, the plantation, known as Chelsea Plan-



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Alethia Browning Tanner worked to purchase the freedom of more than 20 of her relatives and neighbors, mostly the family of her older sister Laurana including Laurana herself, her children, and her grandchildren.

with a sibling of Rachel Pratt's while Sophia and Alethia were to stay at the Chelsea Plantation."

Tanner sold vegetables at the well-known market just north of the White House in Presidents Park. It is possible – and probable – she met Thomas Jefferson there as he was known to frequent the vegetable markets there along with other prominent early Washingtonians, according to historians at attacksadams.com.

"There are also White House records

suggesting she worked for Thomas Jefferson in some capacity, likely doing various housework tasks," the researchers determined.

Tanner saved enough money to purchase her freedom in 1810. "The total amount, thought to have been paid in installments, was \$1,400. In 1810, \$1,400 was a significant amount; about the equivalent of three years' earnings for an average skilled tradesperson," attacksadams.com researchers surmised.

"Self-emancipation was not an option for all enslaved peoples, but both Alethia and her sister Sophia were able to accomplish this, almost entirely through selling vegetables at the market," the researchers continued.

"Alethia Tanner moved to D.C. and became one of a sig-

nificant and growing number of free Black people in the District. In 1800, 793 free Black people were living in D.C.

By 1810, there were 2,549, and by 1860, 11,131 free Black people lived in D.C., more than the number of enslaved peoples."

Historians wrote that beginning at about 15 years after securing her manumission, Alethia Tanner worked to purchase the freedom of more than 20 of her relatives and neighbors, mostly the family of her older sister Laurana including Laurana herself, her children, and her grandchildren.

All in all, Tanner would have paid the Pratt family well over \$5,000. All accomplished with proceeds from her own vegetable market business, they concluded.

"Alethia Tanner, it's an amazing story of resilience, hard work, and perseverance," D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation Director Delano Hunter said at the park's dedication.

"I just learned about this history through this, so it shows how when you name a park, you really educate people on the historical significance."

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IN MEMORIAM: Frederick K.C. Price, Black Megachurch Founder, Dies at 89

Submitted

(NNPA Newswire) Frederick K.C. Price, the televangelist who built his Los Angeles ministry into one of the nation's first Black megachurches, has died. He was 89.

Price died Friday, according to a statement his family posted on the Crenshaw Christian Center's Facebook page. His daughter said in an earlier post that her father had been hospitalized due to complications from COVID-19.

Price founded the church in 1973 with about 300 members, according to the church's website. He expanded his reach, first through radio broadcasts, then televised services, and grew the ministry to over 28,000 members.

The services were famously held at the FaithDome, a 10,000-seat sanctuary housed in a large geodesic dome built on the former campus of Pepperdine University. The sprawling property also includes schools, a ministry training program and a prison ministry.

Price is survived by his wife, Betty, and their four children.




PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Frederick K.C. Price, televangelist passed Feb. 12, 2021

First Church of God vaccinates 200 against Covid-19

By: Jurry Taalib-Deen
Toledo Journal Staff Writer

In a joint collaborative between First church of God, 3016 Collingwood Blvd, Pro-medica, and the Toledo Health Department, 200 people, 65 and older, received the first of two Covid-19 vaccinations, developed by Phizer, on Sunday, February 21 in the activity area of the church.

Juanita Greene, church administrator, told The Toledo Journal that the 200 people pre-registered to receive the first of two injections. They'll return on March 14 to receive the second.

"We've received nothing but positive feedback from those who've attended," she said. "They've been expressing appreciation not only for the vaccine, but the fact they can receive it in their neighborhood, at a place they feel comfortable. Bishop Robert Culp, and the members of First Church of God always try to help fulfill the needs of the community."

"I rather be safe than sorry; that's why I'm here getting vaccinated," said Bobbie Gipson. "I've had friends who passed away because of this virus, including a friend of 50 years. We have to trust the scientist and get vaccinated."

Clavin Webster said, "I can't socialize. I can't travel. I can't go see my grandchildren who live out of town. So if I don't get the vaccine, what's the alternative? That's why I'm here; I want a normal life again."

Mr. Webster added that, in the past, if he had friends who were sick, he could visit them and keep them comfortable; if they died, he was there with them. But Covid-19 has stopped him from visiting sick friends and if they die, they die alone; "That's no way to go," he said.

Local jazz artist, Ramona Collins also received the vaccine. "I'm glad I was able to get the vaccine in my community and see faces I'm familiar with. Also, I know the hesitation many African Americans are expressing about getting vaccinated."



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Calvin Webster, left, and Bobbie Gipson expressed they were happy about getting vaccinated for Covid-19.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Dr. Razik Oumeddour administers the vaccine to Sheila Fleming. Dr. Oumeddour said, "Twelve percent of the population of Ohio have received the vaccine and there has not been one fatality."

Continued on page 16.

In Loving Memory of Regina (Gina) Willis July 9, 1964 – February 8, 2021



Mrs. Regina Willis is beloved and was a mother, sister, aunt, and support to many. She will be dearly and deeply missed. Her family will host a Celebration of Life & Legacy and a Candlelight Vigil in her honor on Sunday, Easter Day, April 4, 2021.

Regina (Gina) Willis, born July 9, 1964, finished her race and went to be with the Lord on February 8, 2021. Gina Willis is the daughter of Lula (Revels) Willis and Henry Willis, II, and is survived by three daughters; LaFonda Willis, Sharonda Willis, and Angel Pate; two grandsons, Eduardo (Champ) Adams, III and Isaac (I.J.) Harvin, Jr.; one sister, Doristeen Willis; and three brothers; Lawrence Earl Willis, Alvin Willis, and Henry Willis, III. They will all miss her more than words can say.

Gina Willis was preceded in death by her mother, father, two sisters, four brothers, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins, and the love of her life, David Pate.

Gina and her three girls attended Libbey High School in Toledo, Ohio. Gina was a Homemaker upon her passing and was known and admired in the Toledo community for her cooking, nurturing, warm hospitality, generosity, kind spirit, and great sense of humor. Gina was especially gifted with children and was recognized by the Head-start Program and Toledo Public and Catholic Schools for her involvement with the education and development of her two grandsons, I.J. and Champ. Gina was also known, respected, and praised for her exceptional planning, organizational, cleaning, and interior decorating skills. She did not like a "speck of dust" in her house.

People who met and interacted with Gina adored her and called her a "very sweet lady."

First Church of God

Continued from page 15.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

The most vulnerable community of 65 and over, patiently wait to receive the first of two vaccinations.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Prior to receiving the vaccine, people were screened to ensure they could receive the injection.

ting the vaccine, but I'd advise them to get it and protect themselves. When I was growing up, we all had to get various types of vaccines and even then, people were reluctant about getting them, but we're a safer society because of those vaccines. And I'm here to tell you, I haven't been injected with a chip in which the government can track me. If the government wanted to track us, they could simply just use our cell phones."

First Church of God will be hosting another vac-

cination clinic on Sunday, February 28, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call the church at 419.255.0097 to pre-register for the event.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

After receiving the vaccine, people were asked to sit for about 20 minutes to make sure there were no adverse side-effects. They were offered light refreshments such as fruit or juice.

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Naja C. Pickett

September 8, 2005 - February 20, 2010




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



Nadia (twin)

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

Siblings; Nadia, Nashaela, Brandon,
Deanna, Elijah, Ja’Niaha, Naya, Isaiah,
Dad Nashid, Mom Christina, Grandmoms:
Memom, and Mamaw (RIH) Host of aunts,
uncles and cousins, and others including
step sister and brothers, Family, Children
Angelic Choir & Church Family



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Continued from page 11.

person with all the skills, talents and experiences that she has. And she has proven track record of success. In few short months, Dana has already made a big difference in how we operate, communicate and tell the Hyundai story.”

Ultimately for White, she said her passions are education, excellence and empowerment. "I can still hear my grandfather's gruff voice saying, 'Mouse, I want you to be a smart little girl. Learn everything you can.' I think about everything he survived, all the limits placed on his life and how if he could see me now—a man who was proud to put pictures of my nursery

school graduation in the paper—I know he'd say... 'So, Mouse... what's next?'"

"The thing about me is that I'm propelled by history and obsessed with the future. I'm passionate about ideas and a mission. I want to see people move forward—know their past and explore their future," she said. "It's in my family—this spirit of perseverance. I feel like they handed me a baton. They ran hard and ran fast. They carried the baton as far as they could go. Now, it's my turn to run faster and farther and pass the baton to the next generation. I say, 'When you stand on the shoulders of slaves, there's no slouching.'"

Continued from page 9.

In a 1992 interview with the American Institute of Physics, Dr. Carruthers was asked whether it takes anything different to get an African American student interested in science instead of a White child.

“One of the things that most people agree on is just giving them lectures is not really very effective. In other words, if you say that you are going to give a lecture on space science, that is too much like what they already get in school, so it is not going to make a lasting impression on them or neces-

sarily attract them to the field," Dr. Carruthers stated.

"So, what we have been trying to do is give them hands-on activities, use videos and demonstrations that get across information in a way that's more like entertainment, because certainly students are interested in seeing science fiction movies on television, they like to see 'Star Trek' and 'Star Wars' and 'Battlestar Galactica.' So, what we're trying to do is cast real science in a way that's as attractive to them as science fiction is."

Continued from page 8.

Massachusetts, New York and California. But the argument didn't work in the Supreme Court of Iowa.

Justice Cole pointed out that the very first words in the Iowa Constitution say “equal rights to all.”

First black graduate

Susan Clark didn't experience threats and taunts like Black children did when they integrated schools in the 1960s. There were only 35 Black children in Muscatine at the time.

Susan Clark went on to become the first Black graduate of a public school in Iowa – Muscatine High School – in 1871 and served as commencement speaker.

The Muscatine Journal praised Susan's commencement address, "Nothing But Leaves," for its "originality," observing it was "unpretending in style" and had "many excellent thoughts."

Susan married the Rev. Richard Holey, an African Methodist Episcopal minister, and their ministry took them to Cedar Rapids and Davenport, Iowa, and Champaign, Illinois. Susan lived a long life, passing in 1925 at age 70, and was buried in Muscatine's Greenwood Cemetery.

Iowa led the nation

You might wonder why and how the

Iowa Supreme Court ruled against segregation at a time when other courts were not doing so.

Each of the four justices on the lowa Supreme Court was a Republican – the party of Abraham Lincoln – and each had been a strong supporter of the Union cause. Chester Cole was an early advocate for giving black men the right to vote because of their service in the Union Army during the Civil War.

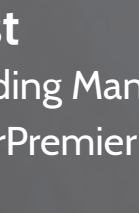
It is important to note that the Iowa Supreme Court never overturned the *Clark v. Board of School Directors* decision, even after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1896 that segregation was legal under the U.S. Constitution.

Fifty-eight years after ruling that segregation was legal, the U.S. Supreme Court issued the 1954 *Brown v. Board* decision that desegregated the nation's public schools. The *Brown* decision showed how far ahead the lower Supreme Court was when it said segregation was illegal nearly a century earlier.

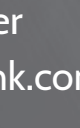
You can learn more about the stories of Susan Clark, Alexander Clark and Justice Chester Cole in this 2019 Drake Law review article, titled *Clark v. Board of School Directors: Reflections After 150 Years*, and from the electronic study guide on the Clark decision and its historical context.

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4 Characteristics of Toxic People



By Pastor W. Eric Croomes
Wire Writer

If we have learned anything from the year of the lockdown – 2020 – it is this: Toxic people are everywhere! They are in relationships. They are in family. They are in our social networks. And, if you are not careful, they can be in you!

While it did not take a pandemic to introduce us to the concept of toxicity in people, the pandemic introduced more opportunity to see the unsavory in so many family and friends and loved ones.

What is a toxic person? It is like the individual who has entered a dark room and cannot find the light switch.

Author and therapist Dr. Nancy Irwin has characterized a person with toxic qualities as anyone who is abusive, unsupportive, or unhealthy emotionally – someone who brings you down more than up.

The Holy Bible refers to Satan as the ‘accuser of the brethren’. That is an apt descriptor of a toxic individual. They are accusers; thus, they rarely, if ever, have anything good to offer because they are always looking for the wrong in others.

How do we deal with toxic people, especially moving into a New Year as we pursue new levels of greatness?

Here is the pivot: Toxic relationships can kill you. Be aware of these traits (among many) in toxic people.

Insecure
Toxic people are insecure. They may have been victimized at some point in their lives or they may have faced an insurmountable challenge from which they lost confidence. Whatever the reason, they do not really believe in themselves anymore. They have reached a point at which they longer see the need to grow. As such, toxic people become highly argumentative and attempt to assassinate your character.

People of the Lie
Toxic people are ‘people of the lie’. People of the Lie was a book written by the late

psychiatrist, M. Scott Peck in 1988. Peck advocated that ‘evil’ should be classified as a mental disease. He was a pioneer in that regard. We now know more about human evil than in Peck’s day to realize that toxicity can morph into evil.

Toxic people are pathological liars; they have built a system of prevarication from which there is no escape. The only recourse is absorbing others into their system of fabrication.

Create the problem. Shift the Blame.

Toxic people create the problem and then shift the blame. Because they are of the ‘lie’, toxic people must always obfuscate in a desperate attempt to avoid blame. Once blame has been placed at their feet, toxic people are traumatized. They must always pin the conflict, chaos, and pandemonium on someone else.

Stay Out of the Light
Toxic people do not like the light being shone on them. When that happens, toxic people are quick to deflect. When the light comes on, they scatter, like roaches. They immediately become defensive and highly argumentative.

So, what to do about toxic people? Pray for them. Be careful – be incredibly careful – that you do not become toxic yourself. Adapt the current protocols in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic when it comes to dealing with these people: Watch your spacing. Wear your spiritual protective gear. “Wash your hands” of toxic people. Chances are they were toxic when you met them. Understand the nature of the spiritual warfare involved.

Some battles only God can fight.

The Holy Bible is full of warnings about wicked people but perhaps the most ominous is a clause in the book of Proverbs in describing the folly of walking with the treacherous in spirit: “For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong, they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble” (Proverbs 4:14)

Toxic relationships can kill you.

Pastor W. Eric Croomes can be reached at info@pastorericcroomes.com and on Facebook at Pastor W. Eric Croomes Ministries.

Waiting on Appeal Verdict, Cosby Committed to Helping Fellow Inmates

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

Since his 2018 conviction on charges of aggravated indecent assault, Bill Cosby has maintained his innocence, even vowing never to “admit to something I didn’t do” during a potential parole board hearing.

“My conviction is bigger than me,” stated Cosby, who calls Black History Month “The Month of Our People.”

“It’s about every Black man and woman in America — if this judicial system can wrongfully convict me without any evidence of a crime and without any proof but he/she said it happened, then the average Black person with no means and/or resources don’t stand a chance to get a fair trial.”

Cosby, 83, declared that he’s using his voice and celebrity to bring light to his fellow residents at SCI-Phoenix, the Pennsylvania prison where he is housed.

He said he wants to help others who have been wrongfully convicted, due to prosecutorial misconduct, witness tampering and by other means.

Cosby’s longtime publicist Andrew Wyatt called it remarkable that the comedian has taken a backseat to his own legal woes to help others, while waiting for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to render an opinion on his appeal.

The Court heard compelling testimony in December related to Cosby’s claim that the ex-Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor granted him “immunity” from prosecution in the case where former Temple University employee Andrea Constand accused him of assault.

Castor, who is now representing former President Donald Trump in his impeachment proceedings, told the Black Press that Cosby should never have been charged in the case.

The high court also heard arguments from Cosby’s lawyers that he warranted a new trial because Judge Steven O’Neill allowed five women to testify to previously uncharged, unproven accusations of wrongdoing from decades ago.

The women who testified at Cosby’s trial could offer no evidence or proof that made their allegations credible, Cosby’s attorney argued.

The ‘Cosby Show’ star is now blind and doesn’t have the ability to review filings of fellow inmates, but many at SCI-Phoenix have told Cosby that they also are innocent.

“For this reason, Mr. Cosby heard the same story from a fellow resident that he immediately took a liking too. Anthony “Benny-Do” Sutton, who has served 38 years of a mandatory life sentence for murder,” Wyatt told the Black Press.

Cosby has leaned on his outside legal team and publicist/crisis manager to review Sutton’s Post Conviction Relief Appeal – or PCRA.

He noted the claims of potential prosecutorial misconduct and that a witness in Sutton’s trail recanted his testimony.

Wyatt said Cosby isn’t claiming Sutton is innocent, but he does believe that if the evidence doesn’t meet the conviction, then Sutton deserves a second chance at freedom.



On Saturday evening, Sutton spoke to the Black Press about Cosby and why the entertainer is fighting for him and others when Cosby has his own legal issues.

In the discussion with the Black Press, Sutton appears as concerned about Cosby’s freedom as his own.

“The old man has had a huge impact on us men here inside, and a lot of people didn’t think that he would have the influence that he’s had,” Sutton, who respectfully refers to Cosby as “The old man,” remarked in a phone call from SCI-Phoenix, the sprawling 128-acre prison complex just outside of Philadelphia where he and Cosby are jailed.

“The way he’s enlightened us, the way he’s encouraged us to stand up and be men in the community ...and he shouldn’t even be in here,” added Sutton, who also has a son incarcerated at SCI-Phoenix.

Despite his near lifelong contributions – financially and otherwise – to religious leaders and organizations that promote social and economic justice for all kinds of people, Cosby has received little public support from those whom he has bankrolled.

But Sutton and other inmates have in many ways filled that void. And Cosby continues to enjoy the support of the Brothers of Sh’ma Yisrael Hebrew Israelite Congregation in New York.

Cosby paid tribute to the Sh’ma Yisrael congregation in a tweet this week.

“I would like to personally thank these great men and teachers of God’s scriptures for standing by and supporting me with the truth and the facts,” the comedian tweeted about the Brothers of Sh’ma, particularly singling out Na Hasi and Prince Nat.

“Please watch these brothers ... Shabbat Shalom to my brothers and sisters Dina, and her mother, Verita, and her sister. Thank you very much, and I can feel your prayers,” Cosby wrote.

At SCI-Phoenix, Sutton helps lead Mann Up, a prison program designed to help change African American men’s lives with long sentences.

The program empowers and encourages Black males to be better fathers, husbands, and community members.

Cosby, who is not a member, has provided a significant boost to the program, Sutton told NNPA Newswire.

“The old man got us together and told us that a man is judged by how he treats his mother and how he treats his wife and family. He has

instilled in us that a man cannot be considered a man if he doesn’t provide,” Sutton continued.

“He comes in here, and he doesn’t act like he’s better than anyone. He keeps it simple. Look, he is a political prisoner. He is in here not for a crime, but adultery. But he does not look for favors, and with all his money and resources, he has nothing more than what we have, no extras when he could easily have extras.”

Sutton has endeared himself to Cosby, who directed his team outside to assist Sutton in preparing the inmate’s appeals.

Since Cosby’s 2018 conviction, the debate has raged on whether the star’s legacy and his hit 1980s sitcom, *The Cosby Show*, was worth preserving.

But a May 11, 1992, Los Angeles Times article noted that Cosby is personally responsible for the employment, encouragement, and artistic support of more Black writers than anyone in television history.

Cosby confirmed that we could genuinely raise and educate our kids to be racially proud and socially responsible human beings, the article continued.

“Cosby showed blacks could be well-to-do and possess commensurate class. He showed that a black man could not only get a job but also that he and his wife can have thriving professional careers,” the Los Angeles Times published.

At SCI-Phoenix, Sutton recalled meeting Cosby behind bars for the first time.

“I said to him that I wanted to ask a favor. I said I need you to give me your word that you would come over on a Saturday and sit in on the Mann Up organization. And he told me, ‘Benny-Do, if God let me live, I’ll be there,’” Sutton recollected.

“I told him we were putting an organization together where we could change the narrative, that we could go home and be decent people, decent citizens, and decent neighbors and change our way of thinking in our way of living. So, Mr. Cosby came over, and he heard me MC the program.”

Sutton continued:

“I introduced him, and there were 420 people there, and we all gave him a standing ovation. He is a man who went through the Jim Crow Era and the marches for civil rights of the 1960s. He mentioned that he is blind and said he could not see us, but he created such an atmosphere for us to enlighten us with his wisdom. He had everyone’s attention. He’s had a hell of an impact.”

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POLICE EXAMINATION

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.

SERVICE & SUPPORT SPECIALIST (case manager)

Large local government agency is seeking a Service and Support Specialist (case manager) to assess needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, develop and monitor service plans, and ensure that services are effectively coordinated and provided. The candidate for this career opportunity must possess a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Counseling, or related area, plus one (1) year of experience in coordinating, assessing, and linking services and supports and/or developing, and assessing habilitation programs and activities for individuals with DD or in a related area.

All candidates must submit to the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities by March 5, 2021, a resume and cover letter along with an employment application, which is available at www.lucasdd.org. If in need of ADA accommodations, contact us directly at 419-380-4033. EOE



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Rudolph Libbe Inc. (RLI) offers a complete range of project delivery methods including general contracting, design/build and construction management. For additional information, visit www.RLGBuilds.com

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Interested parties should apply on our website at www.rlgbuilds.com/careers.

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POLICE EXAMINATIONS



POLICE OFFICER Sylvania Township, Ohio Entrance Examination Announcement

Sylvania Township is testing to establish a pre-eligibility list for the position of Police Officer. The Township will be using National Testing Network to administer this test. Starting salary \$30.07 per hour. To review the requirements, qualifications and to schedule a test, go to www.nationaltestingnetwork.com/publicsafetyjobs

Testing centers are located around the country; you can choose a date, time, and testing center of your choice. Home/virtual testing is also available. You must complete the test and have your scores sent to Sylvania Township Police by March 19, 2021.

Please visit www.sylvaniatownshippolice.com for more information on the application process. All potential employees will be required to pass a physical fitness test, interviews, background investigation, physical examination, drug and nicotine screens, and psychological evaluation. The Sylvania Township Police Department is an equal opportunity employer.

HELP WANTED

PARAMEDIC CITY OF MAUMEE, OHIO

The City of Maumee, Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire, is accepting applications for the position of Paramedic in the Fire Division Ambulance Bureau. Responsibilities include responding to calls for medical assistance and providing direct emergency medical care.

Requirements are high school diploma or equivalent; licensed by State of Ohio as Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic; ACLS certification and current CPR/AED certification; Candidate must have completed 12 Lead EKG Interpretation and Capnography courses. Candidate must have the ability to remain certified and current in all continuing education requirements as mandated by the Medical Directors of Lucas County Emergency Medical Services and Maumee Fire; current and valid State of Ohio driver's license and eligibility for coverage by the City's vehicle insurance provider. Preferred candidate will have State of Ohio Firefighter certification. Such individual shall also be required to pass a physical examination and drug screen.

Salary: Entry level base salary is \$54,247 annually with excellent benefits.

Applications: Available online at: www.maumee.org

Submission: Qualified candidates must submit notarized application and resume with employment and wage history to: Commissioner of Human Resources, City of Maumee, Finance Office, 400 Conant Street, Maumee, OH 43537 by 4:00pm on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

The city of Maumee is an Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer.

Palace in Manhattan in New York City; president of the African Union Company, Inc.

1892-1916: Ball, Alice Augusta - Chemist - Extracted chaulmoogra oil for the treatment of Hansen's disease (leprosy)

HELP WANTED

NATURAL RESOURCES TECHNICIAN 3

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a Natural Resources Technician 3 East position at Pearson Metropark to maintain the natural areas throughout Metroparks. Experience in land management/natural areas stewardship required. HS Diploma or equivalent required. \$16.74/hr. Full time position with benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com <<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com>>/careers to view the job description, position requirements and apply online. EOE

PARK SERVICES ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a Park Services Assistant Supervisor at Pearson Metropark. The person in the position will assist in the management of maintenance and law enforcement operations, park facilities and grounds to the highest professional standards. Minimum of an Associate Degree or work experience equivalent in Parks and Recreation Services, Natural Resources, Grounds Management, Criminal Justice Services or related field and Park or outdoor operations experience including leadership responsibilities. \$21.75/hr. Full time with benefits. Go to [Metroparks Toledo.com](http://MetroparksToledo.com) to view complete job description and to apply

BLACK HISTORY

1825-1918: Bailey, Leonard C. - Inventor - Folding bed (debatable - another source says it was Sarah Goode in 1885.)

1832-1905: Boone, Sarah - Inventor - Ironing board allowing sleeves of women's garments to be ironed more easily

1838-1918: Miles, Alexander - Inventor - Invented electric elevator doors that automatically open and close.

1867-1923: Turner, Charles Henry - Zoologist - First person to prove that insects can hear and can distinguish pitch, that cockroaches can learn by trial and error, and that honeybees can see color.

1872-1941: Chappelle, Charles W. - Electrician, construction, international businessman, and aviation pioneer - Designed long-distance flight airplane;

the only African-American to invent and display the airplane at the 1911 First Industrial Air Show held in conjunction with the Auto Show at Grand Central

Black-Owned Baseball League Launches New Line of Apparel to Empower Others

Submitted

A Black-owned baseball league called A League of Our Own (ALOOO) has announced the launch of their new pro-Black clothing line of apparel that is meant to empower and sustain their league.

These items may be viewed and purchased by way of their website at ALOOO247.com with the proceeds being used to benefit and sustain future growth of our league. A League of Our Own is a professional fall urban independent developmental baseball league for players 17-years old and older that have completed high school or college baseball and/or have not been afforded the opportunity to be a part of a high school or college team.

This league is dedicated to those players who were denied the opportunity to play baseball because of factors other than their ability to play the game. The league operates between October through November for six weeks of non-stop baseball, 4-6 teams, 6 games per week. A registered 501(c)(3) Not for Profit Corporation, their vision is to promote diversity in baseball, and develop economic, social, and educational programs and promote entrepreneurship.

They are reaching out to all to join forces with us as we are seeking to develop a network of donors, sponsors, boosters, and well-wishers to assist with the funding of this endeavor.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

To learn more and/or to purchase your gear, visit ALOOO247.com

Homeless Teen From Texas Gets Signed to Play College Football



18-year old Leslie Adindu

PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Submitted

18-year old Leslie Adindu, a Nigerian native who is currently a homeless high school student from Fort Worth, Texas, has been recruited to play college football. He was able to achieve that feat despite all his challenges.

Adindu said he couldn't even properly throw a ball before he actually learned about football in 2019.

"I couldn't throw it, normally you have to hold the ball at the letter part, I didn't know you had to do that I just flung it and it didn't go far," Adindu

told Fox News.

However, Charles Perry, the team's coach at Arlington Heights High School, saw potential in him and convinced him to try the sport. Adindu eventually got the hang of it.

Last year, he played two games on the Junior Varsity team before the pandemic began. The team continued workouts virtually and eventually noticed that Adindu wasn't showing up anymore.

As it turns out, Adindu had become homeless. After getting into an argument with his father, he moved out of the state and lived in a shelter.

More than that, he was told he couldn't play football at Arlington Heights anymore because of his age. Still, his coaches helped him make it into college football. They made a highlight video of him in practice games and several universities reached out with scholarship offers.

Adindu ultimately chose to sign with Southwest Baptist University where he would play college football. He said that although it may seem that he is not showing his emotions, he is very grateful and he still can't believe it.

Black Broadway, Madame Lillian Evanti and DC's Black History

Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

According to Cultural Tourism DC, African Americans were 25 percent of the population in 1800, and most of them were enslaved.

While most were free by 1830, slavery was still in practice.

On April 16, 1862, nine months before President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863, the U.S. Congress passed the District of Columbia Emancipation Act, making the District of Columbia's slaves the first freed in the nation.

African Americans flocked to the District, where the nightlife became famous, and U

Street was the thriving center for Black culture and social exchange.

Reportedly, iconic figures like Zora Neale Hurston and Mary McLeod Bethune found refuge in what became known as Black Broadway. Performers like Louis Armstrong and Billie Holliday were regulars.

And so was Madame Lillian Evanti.

Born Lillian Evans in D.C. in 1890, Evanti was the first African American to perform with a major European opera company.

A Howard University graduate, she made her professional debut in Nice, France, in 1924 and adopted the stage name Evanti.

Continued on page 20.

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Black Broadway

Continued from page 19.

According to whitehousehistory.org, Evanti returned periodically to the District and performed on Lafayette Square several times in the 1920s and 1930s.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED
There's little question that African Americans have been a significant part of Washington, DC's civic life and identity since the city was first declared the new national capital in 1791.

At the Belasco Theater, a six-story building had a soaring facade, Evanti performed before a desegregated audience.

During one 1926 appearance, Marian Anderson joined Evanti for a performance before a football game between Howard and Lincoln universities.

Later, Evanti performed for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. "She made me feel right at home," Evanti reportedly said after chatting with the First Lady.

"That was a time when colored peo-

ple – as we were known – could feel good, could have some hope that the world wasn't all bad," Cleveland McFadden, a Northern Virginia-based art collector and "sometimes historian" noted.

"We hadn't 'made it' by any means, but you could feel D.C. was more home than just about any place in the United States," McFadden offered. "Singers and performers like Madame Evanti helped to take us different places in our minds and spirits. And, because she was from here, from the area, her impact was probably felt deeper than the superstars who visited and performed on Black Broadway."

Whitehousehistory.org historians wrote that, on August 28, 1943, Evanti made her most acclaimed performance in the capital, portraying Violetta in the National Negro Opera Company's La Traviata, which was staged on a barge floating in the Potomac River.

"Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, she traveled to Latin America as a good-will ambassador on cultural outreach journeys organized by the State Department and received decorations from the governments of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Liberia, and Nigeria," the historians wrote.

"Beginning in the mid-1930s, Evanti was an advocate for the establishment of a national cultural center in Washington for classical and contemporary music, drama and dance – legislation establishing such a center was approved in 1958."

Evanti, a composer and a collector of works by African American artists, died in 1967 in Washington, DC.

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