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EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY IN THE TOLEDO JOURNAL



## Mike Colbert spearheads giveaway during trying times of pandemic



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Dave Sutton, helps Marissa Sibbersen, take her food box to her car.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Michelle Borowicz, right, helps LaShanna Hanney carry her thing to the car.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Erma Colbert, wife of Mike Colbert, helped pass out one of the many bags of coats being given away

By Jurry Taalib-Deen  
Journal Staff Writer

Armed with facemasks, hand sanitizers, and social distancing, Mike Colbert, salesman at Franklin Park Lincoln, along with the sponsors of the event, Franklin Park Lincoln, Word of Faith Ministries,

cussed whether we should have the event this year; I'm glad we decided to proceed forward," he said. "It's all about giving back, and what better time to help others than during a pandemic."

Bishop Kevin Sutton, senior pastor at Word of Faith Ministries, explained that, during



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Mike Colbert checks the temperatures of Brittney Revesz, as Megan Hughes waits to be screened.

and Salon Rose', made sure the 10th annual, Haircuts for Humanity, still happened without any problems.

Held on Friday, December 11 at Word of Faith Ministries, 2911 Stickney, the giveaway consisted of food boxes, and coats. Typically, free haircuts, manicures, and hot food would be a part of the food boxes and coats, Mike Colbert, organizer, told The Toledo Journal. But due to the Covid-19 pandemic, only the two items were distributed in a type of, grab and go fashion.

"We, the organizers, dis-

cussed whether we should have the event this year; I'm glad we decided to proceed forward," he said. "It's all about giving back, and what better time to help others than during a pandemic."

Michelle Borowicz has



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Mike Colbert, left, prepares to check the temperatures of those entering.

been assisting with the event for four years, and said she wasn't going to let Covid-19 stop her from helping others.

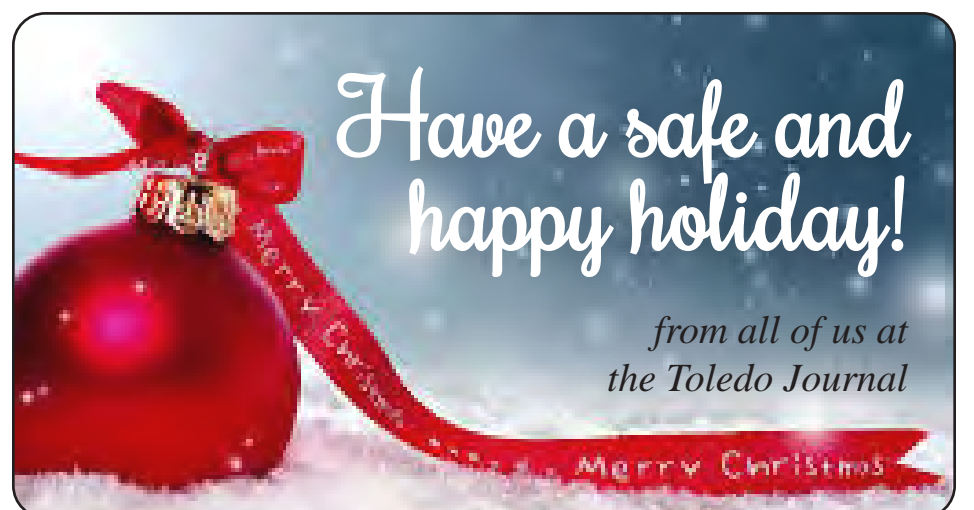
"Not only do I get to help others, but I get to meet new people; I wasn't going to let Covid-19 spoil that for me," she said.

Margo Jones attends Christian Temple Baptist. She was there getting food boxes for eight families, including a person in the hospital.

"Although someone from

those families will be here tonight to get the boxes and coats, just in case they don't show, I'll get the items for them; this is just too important to pass-up. I'm just thankful to be in a position to help others; it's a wonderful, and a blessed feeling," she said.

"This event is great for single mothers, or those not working. I'm thankful I was able to get these items," said LaShanna Hanney.





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With an African American woman, Kizzmekia Corbett, being one of the lead developers of the Covid-19 vaccine, as well as other African American scientists closely working on it, are your fears/apprehensions, if there were any, at ease knowing this fact?



Shawnte Andrews  
Advanced Outpatient Specialist

No, I'm not at ease, because the vaccine was developed in less than a year. Just because Black people are helping to develop it, doesn't mean it's safe. This isn't a Black or White thing, because every race is catching Covid-19. I just believe there wasn't enough time put into studying the long-term effects. There's no cure for many of the major ailments that have been around for decades, so it's really hard to believe that a vaccine was developed in less than a year for something so serious.



Dorine Mosley  
Educator

No I'm not at ease because it always takes years to perfect a vaccine. I can't be convinced that the Covid-19 vaccine has been perfected within months.



Ivy Bey  
Retired

No, I'm not at ease. First, the testing for Covid-19 really scared me, because how far up my nose they had to take a sample; that was really scary. So, I rather wait to see how the vaccine works on the first wave of people before I take it.



James King  
Factory Worker

Yes, I am at ease because African Americans are helping to develop it. All people, no matter what race, are being affected by Covid-19, and everyone should take the vaccine. The developers are aware everyone is affected, and needs help, so I don't think African Americans have to worry.



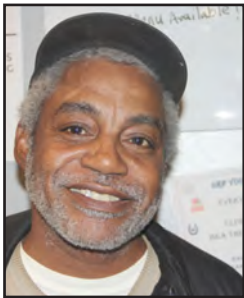
Jamar Hardiman  
Illustrious Potentate

I'm torn between yes and no. The fact an African American helped develop it, does, somewhat, put me at ease. But simultaneously, I'm not at ease simply because I'm not keen on the Covid-19 vaccine. I've never taken a flu shot, so, I probably won't take the Covid-19 vaccine.



Erica Livingston  
Factory Worker

No, I'm not at ease. There are a lot of long-term side-effects that come with the development of any vaccine, and there's not enough information of those side-effects. People die from the flu vaccine, so what's going to happen after taking the Covid-19 vaccine; that's what makes me fearful. I just think the vaccine was rushed and I don't believe a safe one can be developed in such a short time.



Marcrease Kemp  
Business Owner

Yes, I am somewhat at ease. I really think the developers want to help people, since so many have been dying. But I think Trump should've told the people one of the lead developers was an African American woman; maybe more people would be inclined to take it. As a business owner, I'm inclined to take the vaccine for the protection of my employees, and customers.

# New Website Will Highlight Contributions for Diverse Community Empowerment and Affordable Energy

Submitted

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and National Association of Hispanic Publications Media LLC (NAHP Media) together launched the 'Community Energy Center,' a new website project to provide information and perspectives on the role of the energy sector throughout African-American and Hispanic communities. Featuring the broad impacts of the energy sector – including in industries like agriculture and manufacturing as well as individual businesses or family households – the Community Energy Center will provide a forum to elevate awareness, understanding, and discussions about the sector's importance to everyday life. Diverse communities not only will be shaped by an evolving energy sector, they will shape it. The new website – <http://www.CommunityEnergyCenter.org> – welcomes perspectives from commentators and journalists from publications in diverse communities to promote a deeper understanding.

Continued on page 7.



## THE LUCAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS NOW HIRING CORRECTIONS OFFICERS



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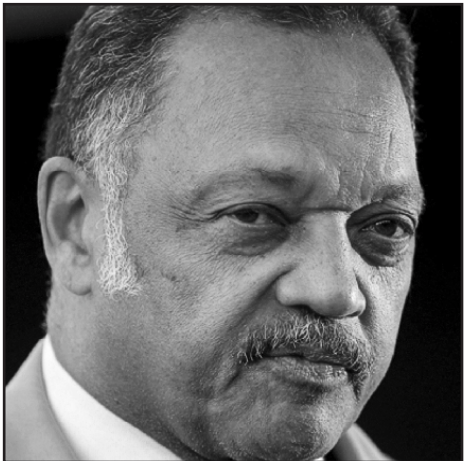
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Get Ready for Donald Trump’s Shadow Government



By Jesse Jackson  
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Leave it to Donald Trump to run brazen subversion — refusal to accept the decision of the voters in the presidential election — as a clown show, marked by wingbat lawyers, delusional tweets, and hailstorms of lies. The noise, however, should not delude us: Trump is leading an American counterreformation right to the edge of secession, if not beyond. And at the core of this is America’s continued struggle with race. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, the president’s lapdog, who just survived a challenge by an African-American Democrat, gave the game away when he declared — on Fox TV, naturally — “If we don’t challenge and change the U.S. election system, there’ll never be another Republican president elected again. President Trump should not concede.” Trump’s defeat revives the horrors Republicans felt with the election of Barack Obama: the stark realization that a party built on racial division as the party of white sanctuary could not survive in a multiracial democracy. Beginning with Barry Goldwater, Republicans grounded their party in the South, building a majority with race-bait politics to divide working people. Trump was the extreme expression of the strategy, rising to notoriety by questioning Obama’s citizenship, winning with a campaign raising racial fears of lawless immigrants, and governing in the interests of the wealthy, the country club and the special interests. Trump has sought to undermine this election from the start. For years, he and his party engaged in systematic voter suppression — using gerrymandering, voter intimidation, purges



of the voting rolls, restricting the time and places for balloting, imposing new ID requirements and more. Then, even before a vote was cast, Trump charged there would be massive electoral fraud. If Trump had won, he would have said it was against the odds. Having lost, he claimed it was rigged. Then he unleashed his clown lawyers to paper the courts with lawsuits challenging votes without evidence. When even Republican judges rejected his claims, he continued to claim the election was stolen, even as he uses his lame duck period to deepen the crises he leaves Biden. He has withdrawn from the open skies agreement with Russia. His Treasury secretary has closed down loan facilities for small businesses that the head of the Federal Reserve says are important in fighting the recession. He’s done nothing to get the Republican Senate to pass a rescue package to aid the millions still unemployed. Legislators fear he will shut down the government unless he gets big money to build his wall. Trump won’t succeed in maintaining power, but he is already succeeding in

“What Trump has made clear is that this subversion won’t end when Biden is inaugurated. It is likely to get more turbulent rather than less. The stakes are very high.”

convincing his followers that the Biden presidency is illegitimate. The last time the election of a president was contested — with race at the center of the dispute — was in 1860 with the election of Abraham Lincoln, when the slave states seceded and the country descended into the Civil War. The Jefferson Davis of this time, Donald Trump is not likely to lead a formal secession. Instead he seems intent on using this lame duck period to undermine the incoming administration. As a lame duck, he is essentially unaccountable, particularly with the Re-

publican Senate not willing to provide a check on his misfeasance. Clearly, there should be a bipartisan committee drawn from both houses of Congress to oversee the lame duck period and limit the damage a bitter untethered president can do. After he leaves office, Trump is likely to set up a sort of shadow government, using his tweets and media appearances to denounce the Biden administration. Republicans, in fear of the wrath of his supporters, will obstruct Biden at every turn. What Trump has made clear is that this subversion won’t end when Biden is inaugurated. It is likely to get more turbulent rather than less. The stakes are very high. Will the multiracial majority be able to build a governing coalition that can begin to address the fundamental reforms that Americans so desperately need? Or will the embattled minority sabotage that possibility, divide the country or even move toward secession once more? In rejecting the verdict of the voters, Trump is charting a road to division. Americans must find a way to reach out, come together and go a different way.

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Applying Pressure Politics When It Counts the Most

By Norman and Velma Murphy Hill  
Wire Writers

One of the greatest advantages of not being recent arrivals to history is that context and perspective are often great ladders to clarity. Yet, in the curious case of Donald J. Trump, and his even more curious ascent to the White House four years ago, our 120 years of combined experience as a married couple working in the American civil rights and labor movements is severely tested. However, explaining Trump’s rather Humpy Dumpty crash from a wall of his own making, is another matter altogether. Moreover, seeing our way to a post-Trump near future as Trump’s handlers and hangers-on try to pick up the pieces of a dangerously autocratic chief executive, is even more transparent. With this month’s election of Jo-

seph R. Biden, Jr. to the land’s highest office, along with his history-making Vice-president-elect, Kamala Harris, the existential threat to our democracy and long cherished national values has been averted. At least, for now. The spontaneous celebrations of the Biden-Harris victory that swept the U.S. and broke out in some of the world’s major cities, are a testament to a great exhalation, a huge heave of genuine relief. Historian and author, Jon Meacham, recently called this a period of “restoration, calm and reason.” But it is, more importantly by our experience, a time to map out a plan of action to slam the door on Trumpism as its namesake leaves, one way or the other, the White House. In our best view, that means putting in place mechanisms to help ensure that a Biden administration

lives up to its better possibilities. To do that the incoming administration must feel the weight of its supporters at its back. While Franklin D. Roosevelt was hammering out a New Deal in the depths of the Great Depression of the 1930s, he implored the American public to join him, to, in effect, push him, to use enormous federal powers to save and restore the nation’s failed economy and wounded soul. While president, Barack Obama made similar calls for him and his administration to be urged to enact plans and policies his constituency called for during his campaigns to office. But as powerful as Obama’s vaunted coalition that delivered him the White House – twice, there was little evidence of it during his administration as a consistent, organized

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# Stimulus, Politics and the Risk of More Lives Lost Ahead of Georgia's Senate Runoff

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

Before the November election, politics prevented successful negotiations for a new coronavirus stimulus package.

One month later, politics continue to play a central theme in the still failing talks between Democrats and Republicans, with many on Capitol Hill pointing to the all-important Senate runoff elections scheduled to occur in early January that could tip the balance of power in the chamber.

"If both Georgia seats go Democrat, then I think the question then becomes not just how big is this bill, it's how many additional big bills do we get?" Tom Porcelli, the chief U.S. economist at RBC Capital Markets, recently told Fortune.

"So much really relies on what's going to happen on January 5."

On the other hand, if Republicans win one Georgia seat, there could likely be significantly less economic aid, Fortune noted.

After the election, the White House's \$1.9 trillion offer effectively died as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell took the reins for Republicans in the stimulus talks.

The runoffs include Republican Kelly Loeffler against Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican David Perdue against Democrat Jon Ossoff.

Both races went to a runoff after each candidate failed to garner 50 percent of the vote.

Wins by Warnock and



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

**"We know there are COVID-19 health disparities for minorities manifested in higher case rates in some areas, and greater fatality rates in nearly all areas," said Lindsey Cormack, an assistant professor of Politics at Stevens Institute of Technology. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)**

Ossoff would cause a 50-50 Democrat and Republican split in the Senate, but the new Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris would have the tie breaking vote on any legislation.

This week, Republicans led by Mitt Romney of Utah offered a \$908 billion stimulus package, far short of the \$2 trillion Democrats have proposed in negotiations with the White House, and much cheaper than the \$3 trillion Heroes Act passed by the House in May.

Still, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called the Romney package "the basis for immediate bipartisan, bicameral negotiations."

McConnell also jumped

into the fray, offering a less robust \$500 billion package.

While Democrats want aid for states and direct payments to Americans, Romney's package doesn't include stimulus checks.

It's still unclear if McConnell's deal includes stimulus payments to Americans.

As posturing on a stimulus deal continues, the clock runs out on an earlier CARES Act bill that brought relief to citizens, small businesses, states, and the overall economy.

Economists have noted that as the virus has worsened, the need for a comprehensive stimulus has only hastened.

About five million people will lose jobless benefits at the end of December, and millions of others could

face evictions from their homes because a federal moratorium that was part of the CARES Act will expire on December 31.

More than 21 million people also will have to start repaying student loans after a federal moratorium expires at the end of the month.

Further, companies will lose the ability to defer payroll taxes and take deductions for business losses, and more than \$150 billion in aid to state and local governments will expire.

"As a person who has taught personal finance to the minority community for the past 13 years, this entire situation frightens me. For instance, I have seen minorities have a 500 or lower credit score due to

missing a cell phone payment of \$150 or from failing to pay a cable bill of \$325," remarked Jaquetta T. Ragland, the owner of <http://www.YoungandFinance.com>.

"With unemployment on the rise and no coronavirus relief package, I believe this will set some individuals – especially minorities – back by seven to ten years because that's how long it will take negative entries to be removed from their credit. Taking this into consideration, for seven to ten years, a lot of minorities will be unable to purchase homes, finance cars, not qualify for certain job opportunities or open utility accounts without a deposit."

Lindsey Cormack, an assistant professor of Pol-

itics at Stevens Institute of Technology and manager of DCinbox, a database of all official Congress to Constituent e-Newsletters, called the failed stimulus negotiations troublesome.

"We know there are COVID-19 health disparities for minorities manifested in higher case rates in some areas, and greater fatality rates in nearly all areas," Cormack stated.

"But specifically, on the idea of helping minority-owned businesses, the HEROES 2.0 bill invests lenders that have a demonstrated history of loaning capital to minorities and other underserved communities which could go a long way in reducing the crunch on businesses."

## Applying Pressure Politics When It Counts the Most

*continued from page 4*

force for progressive change.

We are not surprised. The nature of powerful coalitions is often akin to a massive sea wave. It can come sweeping in with tremendous force, and then recede.

Biden's coalition famously contains major elements of Obama's broad-based coalition. Its most prominent components are Blacks, Hispanics, women, millennials, moderates, gays, labor and independents. Biden and Harris also expanded its big tent to include a surprisingly high number of older voters – likely a consequence of that group's stern disapproval of Trump's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Perhaps one of the most tragic hoaxes played on America was Trump's persistent characterization of those who raised alarm about the seriousness of the deadliest pandemic in a century to strike the nation as perpetrators of a hoax. Even while begrudgingly acknowl-

edging the devastation of Covid-19, he regularly undercut national efforts to address the health crisis.

On the other hand, we applaud Biden's early action in naming the leadership of his newly formed coronavirus task force. We similarly support word that he plans to, upon entering office, reverse some of the most egregious elements of the Trump agenda. Among these initiatives are having America rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, and the World Health Organization, repealing the travel ban principally aimed at Muslim countries, and returning protections to the DREAMers program.

We are further encouraged by Biden's policies of inclusion in stark contrast to the policies and pronouncements of exclusion that marked much of the Trump White House.

Nevertheless, we are calling for the creation of an independent coalition, one built on the same winning coalition that drove Trump from office, to

serve as a well-tuned mechanism to pressure – when necessary – the Biden administration to live up to its promise and promises. Basically, this coalition could be thought of as a sort of political GPS to help keep the Biden agenda on track.

The role of this coalition is not only to elect, but to collect.

It is tremendously important in this post-election period, to keep the coalition engaged while expanding grassroots lobbying in support of the issues the Biden candidacy raised, including his support for workers and commitments to addressing systematic racism and reforming criminal justice while curbing income inequality.

America cannot afford to have this emerging agenda for change to become sidetracked.

This effort becomes increasingly vital as the Democratic capture of the U.S. Senate looms possible if Democratic Senate candidates, Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, prevail in run-off elections in Georgia

this January. And there is a fighting chance that they both may win.

With Democratic control of the White House and both houses of Congress, a standing coalition – existing outside the power structure but having access to it – could have enormously beneficial influence on the Biden administration to stay true to its political commitments and vision. Having a legislative purpose would also help energize, focus and unify the coalition, as advocacy of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 did for the civil rights coalition of the early 1960s.

There is, however, the question of who leads this coalition.

We believe a national leadership with a broad-based constituency would be an excellent choice.

This could include figures like Stacy Abrams, a political superstar and voting rights activist, the Rev. William Barber, veteran civil rights activist and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, Black Lives Matter, Al Sharp-

ton's National Action Network, and the labor movement.

One certainty is that such an independent coalition, regardless of who leads it, would be an expression of the eternal vigilance that is the price of liberty, economic justice, and political freedom. And that might be just enough to usher in a new day for America as Trump and his Trumpism goes – if not quietly, but goes, nonetheless – into the night.

Norman Hill is a co-founder of the A. Philip Randolph Institute in Washington, D.C., of which he is president emeritus; Velma Murphy Hill, like her husband, was a leader in the Congress of Racial Equality in the 1960s, then held major positions in the United Federation of Teachers where she helped unionize 10,000 teacher's assistants in the New York City public school system. Their memoir, Climbing the Rough Side of the Mountain: A Movement Marriage Through Six Decades of Love and Activism, is scheduled for publication next year.



# Toledo Community memorializes Jack's Men's Wear owners, Jeffrey and Linda Kay Conn



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Community members wait in front of Jack's Men's Wear for a memorial service to start to honor deceased owners Jeffrey and Linda Conn.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Over 50 members of the Community gathers in front of Jack's Men's Wear to honor deceased owners Jeffrey and Linda Conn at a memorial service where everyone practiced social distancing and wore a mask, while some stay in their cars.

By Michael Daniels  
Journal Staff Writer  
On Sunday, December 13, approxi-

mately fifty people gathered in front of Jack's Men's Wear store at 3314 Dorr St. to participate in a memorial service for the store's owners, Jeffrey (nicknamed Jack by customers) and Linda Kay Conn. Sadly the couple passed away over the Thanksgiving holiday from COVID-19 complications. Mr. Conn passed away, first on November 24, in the hospital and his wife died on November 27, at home. The couples final rights were

performed on December 4, at a private service,  
"Beloved and endeared by many in the African American community, Jack's Men's Wear was the go-to store, for decades, for African American men, who sought to be in style and fashionably correct."  
This was not a coincidence, according to many, who attended the memorial, many said it was because of his fair prices, superior customer service, and his generosity to African American organizations such as churches and schools.  
Vivian Butts, a thirty-plus years employee at Jack's Men's Wear and Mistress of Ceremony at the memorial said, "I had a great career at Jack's. I worked as a seamstress and a salesperson. As a salesperson, he gave us a lot of leeway and freedom. The price on the ticket was never the

treated everybody the way he wanted to be treated and I think that's why so many people liked him. He served all his customers the same, no matter if they were rich or poor, they all received



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Pastor Perry Harris III said, "He was always very supportive, encouraging, and he would meet us where we were when came to buying his clothes, He looked out for us as men of fashion. The City of Toledo has suffered a great loss when comes to men's fashion, there was only one person like Jack in town."




PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Vivian Butts a thirty-plus years employee at Jack's Men's Wear standing in front of a photo of Jeffrey (nicknamed Jack by customers) and Linda Kay Conn owners of Jack's Men's Wear was Mistress of Ceremony at the memorial for the deceased couple.

the same level of service from Jack. There was no other store like Jack's in town," she said.  
A former customer attending the service also testified to Jack's kindness. Sherese Williamson said, "When my step-father passed away we could not afford a nice suit to bury him. Jack told us to come in and get what we needed and to pay him when we could. I'm here today to honor his life, because he was a very nice person in the community, who helped out a lot of people in the African-American community, especially."

Pastor Perry Harris III of United Vision Baptist Church added, "Jack's Men's Wear has been a staple in the community for as long as I've been

Continued on page 7.




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# Community memorializes Jack's Men's Wear owners

*Continued from page 6.*

alive and wearing dress clothes, most of them come from Jack's Men's Wear. I'm 37 years old and Jack was good to my grandfather, my father, my son, and to me. He was very supportive, encouraging, and he would meet us where we were when it came to buying his clothes. He always looked out for us as men of fashion. The City of Toledo has suffered a great loss when it comes to men's fashions, there was only one Jack's Men's Wear and there was only one person like Jack."

Also attending the me-

morial was the daughter of Jeffrey and Linda Kay Conn, Julie Conn Brown. As she was growing up she worked part-time at the store, on some weekends, as did her brother and her aunt. "It was a family affair," she said. "My uncles operated sim-

*"The death of my parents came as a shock to everyone. They will be missed by their family, friends, store family, the community, and everyone."*

ilar stores in Michigan and my father learned the busi-

ness from them. He was an honorable man, who gave respect to everyone, therefore he got a lot of respect back."

"The death of my parents came as a shock to everyone. They will be missed by their family, friends, store family, the community, and everyone. I really urge everyone to take COVID-19 seriously and protect yourself. The recent events in my family have been very hard to endure."

The Conn family memorial was organized by former Jack's Men's Wear employees Theresa Harris and Vivian Butts.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL  
Some of those attending the memorial service for the Conn family were (L-R) Jeff Conn's daughter Julie Conn Brown, former customer Harrison Hutchinson, former Seamstress Theresa Harris, former employees Tawonia Morrow and Vivian Butts.

## TARTA Announces New: Chief Financial Officer and Director of Paratransit

*Submitted*

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) announces new members of the Authority's executive team: David Robinson as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Patricia Talbott as Director of paratransit. Robinson and Talbott were selected from a national search based on their professional achievements and extensive experience.

**David Robinson, TARTA CFO**

In his role as CFO, Robinson is responsible for managing all aspects of TARTA's financial condition including pursuing cost-efficient strategies, managing the annual budget and financial reporting, coordinating internal and external audits, and leading



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL  
New TARTA CFO, David Robinson

the Authority's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) activities.

Previously, Robinson served as CFO of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio in Cincinnati.

His public finance experience includes roles as Treasurer/CFO with Jefferson Township Local School District and Finance Director with the Butler County Children Services.

Robinson has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Finance from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Patricia Talbott, TARTA Director of Paratransit**

As Director of Paratransit, Talbott will oversee the long-term planning and day-to-day operations of the Toledo Area Regional Paratransit System



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL  
New TARTA Director of Paratransit, Patricia Talbott

(TARPS) which is a door-to-

door transit service provided in seven Northwest Ohio communities for people with disabilities who have physical and/or cognitive challenges.

Talbott brings over 15 years of experience in paratransit operations and a track record of implementing cost-effective services that also strengthen customer and community relations. At her previous role with First Transit in Northern California. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California.

## Diverse Community Empowerment

*Continued from page 3.*

ing of how energy and economic matters play a role in daily life. This new content hub will educate diverse communities to explore job opportunities and participate in the energy sector's growth and vitality.

"Today's Community Energy Center launch is an exciting step forward in minority community development and education. The energy industry has proven itself as a catalyst for economic activity and has long supported our communities' members. Partnering with the NNPA adds critical perspective to

improve community outcomes through energy," stated Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., President and CEO of NNPA.

Ricardo Hurtado, media chair with NAHP Media, added, "By fostering new discussions and drawing attention to the value of the energy sector on minority communities, the Community Energy Center can lead the way towards creating new career and professional development opportunities while also informing the public at large. We look forward to exploring synergies alongside NNPA in these efforts."



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# Former Gang Member Wins Missouri's Teacher of the Year Award

Submitted

**BLACK NEWS** - Darrion Cockrell, who had a rough childhood and became a gang member before he turned 10-years old, turned his life around and has now been named as Missouri's 2020 Teacher of the Year.

As a child, Cockrell said he took education for granted and joined a gang when he thought he had no other choice.

"We were just already in it because of our family," he told Good Morning America. "I didn't care about books. I had to go home and figure out what I was eating. I had to figure out if my lights were going to be on."

He didn't have a stable home then, transferring between a foster center and some relatives. When his grandmother lost custody of him, his counselor, principal, and teachers fought in court to let him stay at school.

Eventually, his 7th-grade football coach and his wife took him into their home, where he lived until graduating from high school. A few years later, he earned a degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Now, Cockrell works as a physical education teacher



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED  
Darrion Cockrell is a physical education teacher in St. Louis

at Crestwood Elementary in St. Louis County's Lindbergh

As long as you understand those building blocks of fitness and health and taking care of yourself, then you can do anything you want in the world.

School District. Aside from teaching, he also helps to discipline and guide his students

with empathy.

The school district's superintendent told the St. Louis American that the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education chose Cockrell as their Teacher of the Year because "he has this ability to bring a smile to your face and connect with people and he does amazing things in that building and with his kids."

"PE is just as important as social studies and science and math," he told GMA. "As long as you understand those building blocks of fitness and health and taking care of yourself, then you can do anything you want in the world."

# Twins Graduate with Highest Honors & Pay Tribute to Late Mother



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED  
Khaliyah and Aaliyah White posing with their mother. The twin sisters graduated #1 and #2 in their class at GAMP High School in Philadelphia, PA.

Submitted

**BLACK NEWS** - Khaliyah and Aaliyah White, twin sisters from Philadelphia, graduated this year as the number one and two students of their class at GAMP High School.

Despite the hardships they faced, Khaliyah graduated valedictorian and Aaliyah graduated salutatorian with their drive and motivation.

The twins dedicate their success most especially to their mother who passed

We're still doing everything even though it is not the same as before. We're going through this and we will be stronger and more prepared for anything that comes in the future.

away last year. "She was proud of us for everything that we were doing," the twins told a news station about their mother.

Aside from their academics, the two sisters were also occupied with participating in track and field and theater plays.

Due to the pandemic, they will be having their graduation virtually wherein they are set to address their fellow graduates.

"We're still doing everything even though it is not the same as before. We're going through this and we will be stronger and more prepared for anything that comes in the future."

Both of them are pursuing premed but Khaliyah plans on attending Delaware State University, while Aaliyah is going to the University of Pennsylvania. It will be the first time they will be separated for long and they are excited about what is ahead of them.

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# UTMC Offers New Precision Outpatient Treatment for Prostate Cancer

Submitted

The University of Toledo Medical Center is offering an innovative new outpatient treatment for prostate cancer that uses ultrasound waves to precisely target and destroy cancerous areas while leaving nearby healthy tissue untouched.

Prostate cancer is the second most common form of cancer in men, affecting roughly one out of nine American men during their lifetimes.

Because prostate cancer is often slow-growing, many patients diagnosed with localized cancer take a wait-

and-see approach in which the cancer is closely monitored but not immediately treated.

Patients who do elect treatment have traditionally had two options — radiation therapy or surgical removal of the prostate. Those aggressive treatments are effective but often bring serious side effects, including incontinence and sexual dysfunction.

By focusing ultrasound waves on areas as small as a grain of rice, physicians at UTMC can now destroy tumors while minimizing the potential for harming

important structures such as nerves responsible for erections, the urinary sphincter, glands responsible for producing semen and non-cancerous prostate tissue.

"In very few cancers do we take out the whole organ rather than removing the cancer itself," said Dr. Puneet Sindhvani, a board-certified urologist at UTMC and chair and Kenneth Kropp Endowed Professor of Urology at The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences. "Combining more precise biopsy techniques

with high-intensity focused ultrasound provides us an opportunity to treat only the area where we found the cancer and spare the rest of the prostate, reducing the risk of side effects."

High-intensity focused ultrasound, commonly known as HIFU, has been available in Europe for nearly two decades but is relatively new in the United States.

UTMC is the first and only medical facility in the Toledo region using the state-of-the-art Sonablate device to treat prostate cancer.

"Unlike radical surgery of the prostate where patients

may need to be admitted to the hospital, or radiation treatment which requires repeated visits for treatment, another advantage of HIFU is that it can be done in an outpatient setting in one visit," Sindhvani said. "It is very important in the face of COVID-19 that we minimize patient exposure and also save important care resources for patients who need admission with life-threatening conditions."

While the technology is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for destruction of prostate tissue, approval specifically

for treating prostate cancer is pending U.S. trials. At this time, Medicare covers only part of the treatment and most private insurance providers don't cover the treatment expenses. Individuals should check with their insurance provider.

To help make the treatment available in Toledo, the University received a generous grant for urologic innovation from Dr. Ashok Kar, a California-based urologist who completed his surgery and urology training at the former Medical College of Ohio.

## Five Reasons We Must Increase Diversity in Medical Research



(StatePoint) For better or worse, the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the devastating impact health inequities have on people of color; especially members of the Black and Hispanic/Latino communities.

Mentions of medical studies are at an all-time high, given the focus on the search for a COVID-19 vaccine; but it's important to understand that research has existed since the advent of modern-day medicine. It is through research that we learn if a treatment is safe and works as it is supposed to.

Participation in medical research is particularly important if you are from a racially and/or ethnically diverse background because these groups have been historically underrepresented. Here are five reasons why this matters and what you can do for yourself and others.

1. Shifts in Population. According to U.S. Census data, Black/African Americans represent 13% and Hispanics/Latinos make up 18% of the U.S. population. However, from a clinical research perspective, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reports that Blacks only

represent 5-7% and Hispanic/Latinos 1-6% of the volunteers in medical research. Caucasians account for 67% of the population, but 83% of research participants.

2. Treatments proven to work for everyone. Medical research, and the people who volunteer for it, are essential to the development of ways to fight illnesses. Research has shown that certain populations can be at higher risk for different diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease. That's why it's important for studies to include diverse volunteers who represent the population most likely to be treated with the medicines or devices being studied.

3. Equal access to care. Everyone deserves quality healthcare but, unfortunately, not everyone has equal access to it. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, members of the Black/African American community are 30% more likely to die from heart disease than Caucasians. Additionally, The Center for American Progress reports that one in five Hispanics/Latinos in the U.S. don't seek medical care due to language barriers.

4. Knowledge is power. Research shows that by putting your health first, you may fare better. As you learn more about your health risks, it's important to consider learning about medical research that may benefit you. By volunteering, you might gain access to cutting-edge treatments and ensure your condition will be closely monitored. Talk to your doctor about the studies underway and search for clinical trials by visiting [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov).

5. Safety for all study volunteers. It's understood that there's a level of mistrust in medical research based off historical abuses experienced by women and people of color. That does not happen in today's research as it is closely monitored to ensure protection of all volunteers. When volunteering for a study, you will be given information explaining what will take place and before anything happens, you must give your approval to participate. If at any time you're not comfortable, you have a voice to express your concerns with your physician.

One initiative working to improve inequities is the Boston Scientific Close the Gap

program, which aims to help all patients understand their medical condition and different therapies available to help them live better lives. This includes broadening clinical trial participation. More information can be found at [knowyourhealth.com](http://knowyourhealth.com).

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# THE BLERDBINDER: AfroComicCon 2020

## Black Nerds of the World, This Con's for You!

By Noah Washington,  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The Blerd Binder covers nerdy news for the Black nerds of the world. We welcome you to take the journey with us as we talk about subjects ranging from movies to music to tech to toys.

If you're a Blerd (Black nerd) that's been living in Oakland, California for the past few years, your living space would have to be located under a rock for you to have not heard of the area's seminal annual event for Black nerds: AfroComicCon (www.afrocomiccon.com).

The annual con, which was co-founded by Michael James and Hally Bellah-Guther, explores themes that go far beyond comics to include music, film, science, technology, gaming and writing.

"2020 has been a long strange journey for everyone. As a live event organizer, the learning curve was steep and our community has suffered but will not be deterred, which is why we made it happen virtually," said AfroComicCon Co-Founder Hally Bellah-Guther.

As a result of the pandemic, planning for this year's AfroComicCon event was shifted away from a physical space to the virtual space — which turned out to be a good thing! The change in venue not only meant that more people could attend and share in the experience, but it also enabled organizers and planners to engage a wider array of participants (nobody had to leave the comfort of their home).

Another tremendous advantage that online cons present is that the content, once it's made available, remains accessible forever — or as long as it's owners consent to do so.

With approximately 60 panels and a film festival that viewers were able to engage with across a number of channels and platforms, there is more content to see than a typical visitor can consumer in one day.

While the primary preferred destination for visitors is the AfroComicCon website at afrocomiccon.org, a partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) meant that content can also be accessed via the NNPA's BlackPressUSA's YouTube page (BlackPressUSA TV) and on the YouTube and Instagram pages of AfroComicCon.



With so much to offer to visitors, AfroComicCon panels are organized according to one or more of eight categories: Writing, Gaming, Comic Book, Animation, FLASH (fit like a superhero) Hollywood Production, Social Justice and Special Sessions.

It's all good stuff but if you're like The Blerdbinder and appreciate helpful hints to point you in the direction of AfroComicCon gold, fear not fellow traveler. The panels are all pre-recorded sessions. So, if you need to pause something you're watching, you can do so and resume from where you left off.

Start with these standouts:

"Entrepreneurial Journey into Animation, Advertising, Design, And Tech" — The motivation, the ways and the means to get there may be varied but is there a set of prerequisites to make it in the world of high tech and creative design?

"The First Steps of Visual Storytelling — Storyboarding is the Foundation Of Animation" — The Copeland Brothers, film and game industry superstars, share some of their insights — and tales of their lives and times — as storyboard artists. Find out how two brothers who loved to draw became directors of Marvel and DC animated films and are now directors at DreamWorks. At the same time, learn the basics of storyboarding!

"Producers of TV and Film" — Four Giants of Film and TV help us understand the routines of writers, producers, and

managers on projects as varied as Spike Lee masterpieces, The Boondocks to Heroes and The Jamie Fox Show.

"The Road from A-Z. Becoming a Successful Tv Writer in Today's Crowded Landscape" — Join professional writers Liz Benjamin, Bianca Sams, Mercedes Valle, Maya Houston and Kate McCarthy for a fun and frank conversation about what it really takes to survive and thrive in the high-stakes world of Film and Television. How they got in. How they stayed in. How they're building bridges for lasting success.

"Pursuing the dream: Stage, TV and Film, the life of Actors, Writers and Producers" — A panel discussion featuring film and TV actors who have enjoyed long and successful careers in LA and NYC

"Black Comic Convention Creators Panel" — From the early Pioneers to AfroComicCon: Black Comic Cons past present and future!

"One on One with Godfrey" — Stand-up comedian and actor, Jay Washington sits and talks with fellow comedian actor and iconic personality Godfrey Danchimah.

Among the panels not listed above: The legacy of Chadwick Boseman; Special guest celebrity Blerds like Sinbad (in one of his last publicly recorded sessions before his tragic stroke last month), Godfrey, Miles Brown and Diallo Riddle (creator of HBO Max's "SouthSide" and AMC's "Sherman's Showcase").

The 2020 AfroComicCon Virtual Short Film Festival, which was sponsored by the NNPA, The BurtonWire, and Pixar, was hosted by Dr. Nsenga Burton. This year's festival, which was also virtual, showcased monumental achievement in film by upcoming and veteran filmmakers.

The Festival's winning selections are:

- Best Film and Cinematography: "Far From Casablanca" by Youssef Rhanem (1st place) and "The Dark Strums" by Steven Russel (2nd place)
- The Audience Award Winner: "What Could Have Been" by Semmi Cole:
- Best Film and Best Director: "Outcast" by Royce Adkins

There was also an awesome cosplay contest! The winners' Instagram handles:

- @Hellspawned cosplay
- @Sotogrant Cosplay
- @coko\_galore

AfroComicCon is also a non-profit event that not only provides amazing content, entertainment and fun but also raises funds for programs like its Moonshot Junior Collaboration for leveling young girls of color up in a 12-month innovation program.

For more info and to register for this free event, sign-up at Eventbrite — AfroComicCon 2020 Reloaded Sign up now or visit AfroComicCon.org. You can also follow like and share @AfroComicCon on Instagram and Twitter or Afro Comic Con on Facebook!

# California Judge Tosses Sexual Assault Suit against Russell Simmons

By Stacy M. Brown,  
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

A California judge has tossed out a \$10 million lawsuit, alleging sexual assault, against hip-hop icon and business mogul Russell Simmons.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Mark Epstein granted Simmons' attorneys' motion to dismiss the lawsuit after the alleged victim, who has chosen to remain anonymous. The judge said that he found that the woman's claims were legally time-barred since the alleged the incident occurred in 1988, and her suit wasn't filed until March 2018.

"Plaintiff has incontrovertibly admitted that the alleged incident occurred in 1988," the judge wrote in the ruling released this week. "In calculating the limitations period...she would have had to file her action in 1998."

"Having received no response from plaintiff during the two weeks following the entry of that minute order ... judgment is hereby entered in favor of the defendant, Russell Simmons," Epstein wrote.

Simmons, who faced several allega-



tions of sexual assault dating back to the 1980s, has always maintained his innocence, and his representatives routinely have held up the Def Jam Records founder's lifelong contributions and advocacy for women's rights.

After starting Def Jam Records, Simmons hired Carmen Ashurst as the label's president.

Ashurst's hiring as the only woman to head Def Jam, made history as no other

major music label employed a woman as its president.

Simmons' spokeswoman, Thomasina Perkins, of Capitol Public Relations in Washington, D.C., said her client was pleased with Epstein's decision.

"We are grateful for the ruling made in this case, although it was dismissed on a technicality, my client has always maintained — and upon review it is clear — he has never met this woman; nor has

she produced anyone with whom she has told the story in over 33 years," Perkins remarked.

"Mr. Simmons continues to be in full support of women and what they bring to the world. There have been generations and generations of trauma and injustice ... it is time for constructive dialogue and healing to begin. This particularly important dialogue will help move the women's movement to its next phase," Perkins added.

Perkins continued, noting that "Russell Simmons has stated God whispered in his ear; that one day he will be an active part of the healing and the necessary bridge-building process. He is praying for a healthier world for his daughters to inhabit."

She further noted that Simmons remains focused on promoting a post-pandemic lifestyle for those dying of preventable pre-existing health conditions.

"As he has stated to me on numerous occasions, there is so much work to be done," she offered. "My job is to ensure Mr. Simmons goes about doing the work of promoting the lifestyle changes that I'm sure will save lives."



# S.T.A.R.S, Unity United Methodist Church gives away free dinners

By Jurry Taalib-Deen  
Journal Staff Writer

Standing Together Against Real Slavery, S.T.A.R.S and Unity United Methodist Church, held a dinner giveaway on Wednesday, December 9, at Unity United Methodist Church, 1910 E. Broadway. People in need simply drove up to the church and a volunteer, wearing a face mask, handed the meal to the motorist.

EleSondra DeRomano, ex-

ple escape human trafficking, she told The Toledo Journal.

"Just before the pandemic, we were feeding 150 people, twice a month. Now we do 300 meals, three times a week," she said. "I'm thankful for two of our sponsors; the Hyatt family and the Toledo Community Foundation."

Unity United Methodist Church isn't the only place Ms. DeRomano ensures food is delivered to the public. Clark Methodist Church, 1131 Clark, will be passing out food be-

as a future site.

"That future site, I have to thank Curtis Jackson, Sr. He said I can have the building as long as I use it for good; so I truly thank him for that opportunity," Ms. DeRomano said.

Pastor Jim Nevel, senior pastor at Unity United Methodist Church, has been helping the homeless for 12 years, and saw that the work Ms. DeRomano was doing perfectly aligned with what he was doing. Plus, he lived for six years in an orphanage: something he says drives him to help others.

"EleSondra is like a sister to me, and I want to do as much as I can to help others," he said.

Also assisting was Brenda McKitric Jackson. "Volunteering is a great opportunity," she said. "This is from my heart, and it motivates me."

"When my father recently passed, she was the main person helping me get through it," said Raven Cleveland, about her stepmom, Ms. DeRomano. "I wanted to return the favor to her by assisting wherever I



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

The team who helped make the day a success are, from back left, Raven Cleveland, EleSondra DeRomano, Pastor Jim Nevel, and his daughter-in-law Samantha, and son Jeremiah. Front, from left, Brenda McKitric Jackson, and Dakota, and Dominic Nevel.

could, but, the more I got involved, the more I just loved it; now I do it to help others."

To assure as many people can have a fulfilling Christmas, S.T.A.R.S and Unity United Methodist Church will be accepting all types of donations on Saturday, December 19, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. at

the church. Although there's a designated day to drop off items, they'll receive items before and outside of that date.

For more information on the specific wish list for December 19, or to find out about upcoming food drives, call Ms. DeRomano at 419.280.2451, or Pastor Nevel at 567.938.9816.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

EleSondra DeRomano, and Pastor Jim Nevel quickly gave some dinners to one of the many people who drove through.

ecutive director of S.T.A.R.S, has been involved in various charitable contributions for 16 years, including helping peo-

ginning January 1, 2021 on Tuesday and Thursdays, from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. and another location, in the Collingwood and Bancroft area, is also set

ing me get through it," said Raven Cleveland, about her stepmom, Ms. DeRomano. "I wanted to return the favor to her by assisting wherever I



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December 18, 1865:

The 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery, ratified.

December 16, 1870:

Colored Methodist Episcopal Church organized in Jackson, Tennessee.

December 19, 1875:

Carter G. Woodson founder of Black History Month, born.

December 22, 1883:

Arthur Wergs Mitchell, born in Lafayette, Ala. 1st African American to be elected to congress.

December 19, 1899:

Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. born in Stockbridge, Ga.

December 21, 1911:

Josh Gibson the home run king of the Negro Baseball League is born.

December 21, 1956:

Montgomery bus boycott ends

December 16, 1961:

Dr. King is arrested at an Albany, Ga., demonstration. He is charged with obstructing the sidewalk and parading without a permit.

December 20, 1988:

Max Robinson, first African American news anchor for a major television network dies.

As a child, Muhammad Ali

was refused an autograph by his boxing idol, Sugar Ray Robinson. When Ali became a prizefighter, he vowed to never to deny an autograph request, which he honored throughout his

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NOTICE FOR BOARD VACANCY

LEGAL NOTICE

The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is seeking to fill a vacancy on its Board of Directors. Applicants shall be residents of Lucas County, citizens of the United States, interested and knowledgeable in the field of intellectual disabilities and other allied fields, and, to the maximum extent possible, have professional training and experience in business management, finance, law, health care practice, personnel administration, or government service. The appointment will be to serve a 4-year term beginning January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024. Interested applicants will need to complete an Application for Public Volunteer located on website [www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us) and attach resume. Please submit materials to Benjamin Pushka, Board of Lucas County Commissioners, One Government Center, Suite 800, Toledo, OH 43604, by Wednesday, December 30, 2020.

ferred to a sexual act.

During the 1930s,

painter Charles Alston founded the 306 group, which convened in his studio space and provided support and apprenticeship for African American artists, including Langston Hughes; sculptor Augusta Savage; and mixed media visionary Romare Bearden.

Before Wally Amos

became famous for his "Famous Amos" chocolate chip cookies, he was a talent agent at the William Morris Agency, where he worked with the likes of The Supremes and Simon & Garfunkel.

Martin Luther King Jr.,

was assassinated on friend Maya Angelou's birthday, on April 4, 1968. Angelou stopped celebrating her birthday for years afterward, and sent flowers to King's widow, Coretta Scott King, for more than 30 years, until Coretta's death in 2006.

During the days of rest, some slaves

would hold quilting bees, with both men and women. It was also sometimes tradition that slaves could keep the money they earned for the sale of goods during the holiday.

While the holiday season was meant to be a joyous occasion, slaves that worked inside the house would be worked hardest during Christmas,

as many owners and their families would host Christmas parties.

The Christmas holiday

would also be a time that some slaveowners gave wine and alcoholic beverages to their slaves. With business still in mind, the effects of alcohol were something unknown to many slaves, and most would overindulge. The increased lounge and slumber would discourage runaways during the break. This was a theory held by abolitionist "http://www.blackamericaweb.com/tag/frederick-douglass" Despite, some slaves were given passes to see nearby relatives during Christmas time and allowed visitors from neighboring plantations.

Another celebration known as Jonkonnu, or a Christmas masquerade, took place on the plantations. It was a basic traveling show in which the slave would put on makeshift costumes and go from house to house to perform for gifts and money.

Ali, the self-proclaimed "greatest (boxer) of all time," was originally named after his father, who was named after the 19th-century abolitionist and politician Cassius Marcellus Clay.

Allensworth is the first all-Black Californian township, founded and financed by African Americans. Created by Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth in 1908, the town was built with the intention of establishing a self-sufficient city where African Americans could live their lives free of racial rejudice.

Jazz, an African American musical form born out of the blues, ragtime and marching bands, originated in Louisiana during the turn of the 19th century. The word "jazz" is a slang term that at one point re-



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THUR-FRI 9-noon & 1-5 Closed Wed  
Deadline Friday 4:30 pm

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Coming Events

Senior Centers Closed

Lucas County  
Sandusky County  
Williams County  
Wood County

Every Tuesday

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

FREE FOOD

Every Tuesday and Saturday  
Toledo Masjid Al-Isalm Through Tarbiyyatul Haqq Ministries Food Pantry  
Located at 722 E. Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43608. Available Tues. 9-2 and Sat 11-3 every week.

Starting January 1, 2021

Clark Street United Methodist Church  
Every Tuesday and Thursday  
Food Giveaway  
Clark Street United Methodist Church, 1131 Clark St., Toledo, Ohio 43605, will be passing out food beginning January 1, 2021 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. For more information call 419-280-2451, or 567-938-9816

Dec. 19th

S.T.A.R.S and Unity United Methodist Church  
Accepting Donations  
To assure as many people can have a fulfilling Christmas, S.T.A.R.S and Unity United Methodist Church will be accepting all types of donations on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the church, 1910 E. Broadway St., Northwood, OH 43619. Although there's a designated day to drop off items, they'll receive items before and outside of that date. For more information on the specific wish list for December 19, or to find out about upcoming food drives, call Ms. DeRomano at 419-280-2451, or Pastor Nevel at 567-938-9816.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Toledo announces the availability of federal funding for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) for the 2021 Program Year (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022).

CDBG applications will be accepted for the following programs/activities:

Programs/Activities	Available Funding
Housing Preservation	Approximately \$1,000,000.00
Blight Removal	Approximately \$800,000.00
Public Facilities and Infrastructure	Approximately \$800,000.00
Neighborhood Revitalization Target Areas	Approximately \$500,000.00
Public Services (15%)	Approximately \$1,135,526.00

Eligible applicants: 501 (c) 3 organizations, other nonprofits and government agencies.

HOME applications will be accepted for the following projects that demonstrate a gap in financing, address the City of Toledo's affordable and special populations housing needs, and leverage HOME funds with other funding sources. The maximum per project award will be:

Project	Maximum Award
Construction/Rehabilitation of Rental Units	\$500,000.00
Construction/Rehabilitation of Homebuyer Units	\$350,000.00
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	\$300,000.00

HOME NOFA Funding Priorities

- Owner occupied housing rehabilitation by a not for profit entity.
- New construction or rehabilitation of rental or for sale housing projects serving households at or below 30% AMI.
- New construction or rehabilitation of rental or for sale housing projects serving seniors and the disabled.
- New construction or rehabilitation of permanent supportive rental housing.

HOME eligible applicants: Not for profit and nonprofit housing development organizations.

TO APPLY FOR FUNDING, APPLICANTS MUST PICK UP THEIR APPLICATION MATERIAL ON THE FOLLOWING:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)  
(for Non-Homeless Service Providers)  
Friday, January 22, 2021  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
One Government Center (1st Floor Lobby)  
640 Jackson Street  
Toledo, OH 43604

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)  
(for Homeless Service Providers)  
Friday, January 22, 2021  
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
One Government Center (1st Floor Lobby)  
640 Jackson Street  
Toledo, OH 43604

NOFA for HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) issued Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Available on the City of Toledo website at: [www.toledo.oh.gov/](http://www.toledo.oh.gov/)

CDBG Application Zoom Training  
Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.  
Zoom Link: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/89790425109>

ESG Application Zoom Training  
Friday, February 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.  
Zoom Link: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/82450520795>

HOME NOFA Workshop (via Zoom)  
Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.  
Zoom Link: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/84194410141>

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CDBG AND ESG APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021 AT 4:45 P.M.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE HOME APPLICATION IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 AT 4:45 P.M.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH ZOOMGRANTS

FOR CDBG: For reasonable accommodations or additional information, please contact Monica Brown, Administrative Analyst IV, at [monica.brown@toledo.oh.gov](mailto:monica.brown@toledo.oh.gov).

FOR HOME: For reasonable accommodations or additional information, please contact Tiffanie McNair, Housing Commissioner, at [tiffanie.mcnaair@toledo.oh.gov](mailto:tiffanie.mcnaair@toledo.oh.gov).

Dec. 26th Thru January 1st

OHIO CELEBRATES KWANZAA 2020 ON LINE

It will be a statewide celebration charting our culture and legacy. Kwanzaa is an African American harvest celebration. In Kiswahili, the words "matunda ya kwanza" mean first fruit. Kwanzaa is a non-religious and non-heroic celebration. The intent is that African American people of different ages, faiths and beliefs come together to celebrate the harvest or successes, achieved during the year, based on the seven principles of Kwanzaa known as the Nguzo Saba. Kwanzaa is celebrated for seven days December 26th - January 1st. The schedule for each day of the

Ohio Kwanzaa celebration will be as follows on <https://gnj.media/> under the Kwanzaa 2020 tab: For more information email [Ha2tim@gyenyamejourney.com](mailto:Ha2tim@gyenyamejourney.com) or call 1-330-207-4710.

Dec. 31st

Alexander Zonjic's New Year's Eve Gala 2020  
Spend an Intimate Evening with Alexander Zonjic and Friends Jeff Canady, Kris Kurzawa, Demetrius, Nabors & Mike Harrington. Due to COVID restrictions only 60 tickets will be sold! Only \$60 per ticket. Thursday, doors open at 9:00 concert 10:00P to midnight. Champagne toast at midnight, gourmet des-

serts & coffee. P.L.A.T. (Pontiac's Little Art Theatre) 47 North Saginaw Street Pontiac, MI 48342 Call Phyllis (419) 280-1073 for tickets and more info. All COVID regulations will be observed!

Enjoy Happy and Safe Holidays - Stay COVID Free



# Covid-19 Claims Tiny Lister, Charley Pride and Carol Sutton

By: Nsenga K. Burton Ph.D.  
Wire Writer

The Internet is weeping over the Covid-19-related deaths of beloved character actor Tiny Lister, country music legend Charlie Pride and veteran theater and tv actress Carol Sutton.

**Tommy “Tiny” Lister, 62**

The character actor best known for his performance as Deebo in the cult classic Friday (1995) was found dead in his California home Thursday (12/10/20) after friends and business associates could not reach him, authorities said. Lister, who was blind in his right eye since birth, appeared in 220 television and film roles. In early 2020, he had been diagnosed with Covid-19 and thought he had overcome the virus. Friends worried about him as he struggled to breathe and make it through a livestream Monday and canceled an appearance at a TV festival. When friends were alarmed by his appearance Monday, he stated, “God’s Got Me.”

The actor, who was born



We are sad to say goodbye to more people due to the COVID-19 Crisis. Pictured above is (L to R) Tommy “Tiny” Lister, Charley Pride, and Carol Sutton.

with an eye defect that was an important part of his signature facial expression, famously wrestled Hulk Hogan in the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) after appearing in the film No Holds Barred with the wrestling legend. He also had a short stint in the World Championship Wrestling (WCW)

wrestling as Z-Gangsta. Lister, who also was a WWF wrestler named “Zeus” and played president of the United States in 1997’s The Fifth Element, pled guilty to committing mortgage fraud to the tune of \$3 million in 2014. Lister’s acting roles were plentiful, such that he had three completed films for 2021, five films in post-production and was in the process of filming two films.

**Charley Pride, 86**  
Country music’s first Black superstar passed away from Covid-19 complications. The

son of sharecroppers, also served in the U.S. Army and played in the Negro Baseball Leagues, received the Country Music Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award last month in Nashville. The award was presented to him by Jimmie Allen, a young Black country star. Pride and Allen performed a duet at the awards show. Show producers said they followed Covid-19 protocols but some in attendance did not wear masks.

Joseph Hudak of Rolling Stone writes: “Born in Sledge, Mississippi, in 1934, Pride picked cotton, played baseball in the Negro leagues, served in the

U.S. Army, and worked in a smelting plant in Montana before moving to Nashville and becoming country music’s first black superstar. He scored 52 Top 10 country hits, including 29 Number Ones, and was the first African-American performer to appear on the Grand Ole Opry stage since Deford Bailey made his debut in the 1920s. Pride became an Opry member in 1993. In 2000, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.” Pride is survived by his wife, Ebby Rozene Cohran Pride, and his children, Carlton, Charles and Angela.

**Carol Sutton, 76**

Veteran actress Carol Sutton of Steel Magnolias and “Queen Sugar” fame has died of Covid-19 complications. The New Orleans native and theater legend, whose career spans over 50 years, died in the hospital in her hometown.

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell confirmed Sutton’s death and

remembered her in a statement posted Friday (12/11/20) on the government website. Mayor Cantrell wrote:

“Carol Sutton was practically the Queen of New Orleans theater, having graced the stages across the city for decades. The world may recognize her from her performances in movies and on TV — whether it’s ‘Treme’ or ‘Claws,’ or ‘Run-away Jury’ or ‘Queen Sugar’ — but we will always remember her commanding stage presence, her richly portrayed characters, and the warm heart she shared with her fellow cast and crew in productions such as ‘4000 Miles’ and ‘A Raisin in the Sun.’ May she rest in God’s perfect peace.” Covid-19’s death comes just days after the passing of another major New Orleans theater figure, Sherri Marina, also due to COVID-19.

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# Toledo Bowling Senate Juniors Week 9 Scores

USBC#	NAME	GAMES	TOTAL	AVG.	HIGH GAME	HIGH SERIES
18-47975	Allison, Joz'Lynn	9	470	52	80	167
18-47977	Baucom II, DeAndrae	18	2215	123	156	413
16-131783	Bethany, Dana	18	1922	106	164	394
17-26852	Burks, Ja'Nay	21	1838	87	117	309
17-28659	Burks, Jania	21	1290	61	94	247
7914-40772	Burks, Jayla	21	2531	120	168	427
19-61455	Caffey, Nasir	24	1249	52	88	211
11-574545	Cannon, Roshad	21	2640	125	187	498
17-82077	Hardy, Lukas	15	1399	93	120	328
7914-28382	Mays Jr., Ramon	21	2367	112	159	394
	Middlebrooks, Pearl	24	920	38	62	151
7914-28390	Moore, Michael	9	1080	120	155	394
15-99342	Poindexter, Ronnie	24	3417	142	213	464
16-146908	Porter, Jurnee	15	1148	76	114	270
17-28665	Sains, Brandon	21	2740	130	170	474
18-47902	Talley, Makhi	21	2462	117	174	412
	Williams, Makenzie	12	303	25	37	94
7914-28404	Williamson III, Robert	24	3366	140	184	479
15-99243	Wilson, Mirakel	15	1698	113	139	362
11-562299	Wilson, TaShawn	9	993	110	129	364

## Dick Allen, baseball player, has died



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED  
Richard Anthony Allen (March 8, 1942 – December 7, 2020) was had a 15 season MLB career.

By: Frederick Lowe  
Wire Writer

Dick Allen, who fought with fans and teammates who made racist comments, nonetheless became one of the greatest home run hitters of all time. He died Monday. He was 78.

Allen, was a fearsome hitter and a seven-time all-star. He batted .292 with 351 home runs. He played with the Phillies, Los Angeles Dodgers, Saint Louis Cardinals and the Oakland A's.

When played with the Phillies against the Chi-

cago White Sox, Harry Caray, the play-play announcer for the White Sox, sarcastically said on-air that Allen didn't have a brain, expressing contempt for Allen's determination to be treated fairly.

Besides enduring comments like Caray's, Allen fought back against fans who tossed trash at his helmet and against teammates who flung racial slurs at him during game play.

His fights with teammates and fans kept him out of the Hall of Fame.



Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp

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