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What are you doing with your stimulus check?



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CELEBRATING WOMEN

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HEALTHY AWARENESS

AOoA Helps Older Adults



EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY IN THE TOLEDO JOURNAL



Ms. Stephanie Boutté & Ternion Training and Education Center – Impacting Lives by Changing Underestimated Communities for the Better

By Michael Daniels
Journal Staff Writer

Too often we see commercials selling the educational dream about getting ahead in life by furthering your education. While the basic dream message may be true, the one thing they often leave out is how much this dream will cost. "You can't afford it," many of these institutions say, "no problem, we will get you a student loan."

Now all this sounds fine and dandy at the time, until you graduate and then you realize its time to pay that loan back. And if you don't, there goes your credit rating - down, down, down.

"These types of commercials most often target the underserved, low-income, and minority populations," says Ms. Stephanie Boutté, the President of Ternion Training and Education Center.

"They don't care about the personal debt you will accumulate while in school, their only concern is getting a classroom full of students."

She went on to explain, "This is the difference between Ternion Training and Education Center and the other schools. Our objective here is to graduate exceptionally trained, well-educated, and work-ready students, who are debt free, with an emphasis on job placement after graduation. Our ultimate goal is for our students to achieve the success they dreamed of minus the regrets."

Stephanie Boutté grew up poor in a small town in Louisiana, where she was raised by her grandparents, who both only had an elementary



school education. Her family had a history of four generations of poverty. She knew getting an education was important but in her present situation, mere day-to-day survival took precedence over everything else. "We were people who lived off the land. I knew I was poor, but I also knew I didn't want to be poor all my life. I had dreams of moving to the city and making it big," she said.

At the age of seventeen, she moved to Houston to live with her mother and was able to attend a vocational training

school. A day before graduation, the school got her a good job working at the courthouse

She went back to school and earned her four-year degree. Upon graduating, she



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Ternion Training and Education Center is located at 5212 Hill Ave. (on the corner of Hill Ave. and Reynolds Rd.), for more information call 419-214-1333.

with a decent salary. This was a life-changing event. She refers to it as "being exposed", in other words, she was exposed to things she had never experienced.

Ms. Boutté said she had never seen black people like that before. "All the women wore nice business suits to work and the only place I had seen black women dressed that way was in church. They were all so articulate and sophisticated. I watched them buy new cars and pay their bills. Witnessing all these ladies' lifestyles made me want it too and I wanted to be just like them. I had been exposed to something different, something new, and it was a lifestyle far away from poverty," she said.

went back to the vocational school where she started seeking employment. She got hired to teach a business class called Micro Computer Technology, which was great, except there was no curriculum, no books, or other tools of learning in the classroom. The school put her in a classroom of thirty-five young black and Hispanic girls and told her to teach. Most likely these young girls had taken out student loans to be there.

"The school had changed over the years, they no longer cared about their students, their only concern now was to fill classrooms," said Ms. Boutté. "As I surveyed my class of all black and Hispanic girls,

Continued on page 2.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Executive Administrative Assistant Lisa Flemmings and School President Ms. Stephanie Boutté display TTEC (Ternion Training and Education Center) school banner.

Ms. Boutté & Ternion Training and Education Center

Continued from page 1.

I had a sense of Déjà vu and I took it personally. I remembered when one of those little girls was me. From that point on, it became my mission to make sure all these girls would be successful. At the time I was married to a pro-athlete who gave me all the money I needed to buy books and other materials for my class. I designed my curriculum and off to the races I went. I worked hard and trained them in everything they needed to know. When they finished my class, they were all work-ready and I was able to place every one of my students in a job position.”

“As time passed, I witnessed the same cycle being repeated, minority populations being targeted by these schools, and disadvantaged students being saddled with student loan debt as they attempted to improve their situation through education. This really bothered me.” said Ms. Boutté.

“A friend of mine had suggested I should start my own school, so I took her advice and did just that.

I started my own school in Houston, Texas in 1998. When I started my school, my main objective was to help people get off welfare. I wanted to



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

School President Ms. Stephanie Boutté supervises two students in the Medical Assistance Program at Ternion Training and Education Center.

give them exposure. I came to work dressed up as I did at the courthouse. Utilizing exposure, I wanted my students to aspire for better, as I did. I wanted to open their minds to the possibilities that lay ahead for them. I ended up teaching a whole variety of programs, plus things I knew they needed to know in the real world, like life skills, budgeting their money, and how to use credit. These were things I knew they had not been exposed to. By the time they graduated, they were prepared and ready for the world.” she said.

Ms. Boutté went on to say, “As my school grew and became successful, every graduating class I had I was able to offer my students 100% job placement after graduating.

We became so popular with employers they started coming to us looking for new potential employees.” During this period, she also did some extensive research on ways a disadvantaged student could further their education without going into debt with student loans. She discovered a program called WIOA (Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act)

a resource that is available in every state of the union. In Ohio it’s called, “Ohio Means Jobs”. Using this resource combined with other local resources a student could pursue a post-secondary education free or at a minimal cost. Effective use of these resources was one of the of things that made Ms. Boutté’s school in Houston so successful.

It wasn’t long before the corporation that owned Ternion Training and Education Center approached her about coming to work for them. They wanted her to start schools like the one she started in Houston, across the country. First stop: Toledo, Ohio. The company realized they both had the same goals and objectives, which are: To offer a superior education, provide graduation and job placement to the underserved, without the enormous debt of student loans.

Ternion Training and Education Center offers training in the following professional fields: Fiber Network Technician, Medical Assistant certification, Phlebotomy Technician, Computerized Accounting Specialist, Computerized Office Administration, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration (HVAC-R), and Network & Computer System Administrator.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

School President Ms. Stephanie Boutté says she wants to be a part of the solution and not the problem when it comes to vocational education.

Black history is an essential part of the history of our nation, our communities, and our company. Black associates have been key members of the Rudolph Libbe Group team since our earliest years. In a series of articles this year, we are celebrating the contributions of current associates and retirees and expressing our gratitude to them for being a part of the Rudolph Libbe Group.

—Bill Rudolph, Chairman, Rudolph Libbe Group

Kenetta Kay Jones was born in Toledo in 1954, a decade before the Civil Rights Act became law in 1964.

“When I was born, minorities lived in certain areas because they were discriminated against in renting, buying a home or applying for a mortgage. If you didn’t live in the projects or low-income housing, you lived in segregated areas of Toledo. After the Fair Housing Act passed in 1968, minorities were then able to move out of the segregated areas where they lived.

“Mom worked part-time, and spent her time not working taking care of us. Dad was a supervisor in a factory. Growing up, I was surrounded in school and otherwise by predominantly Black people. There were a few whites in the neighborhood who moved out. There was a German girl in the neighborhood who I used to play with; her parents told her she couldn’t play with me anymore. Then they moved out.”

But Black communities were strong. “Black people had each other. We supported each other. Life was good as far as I knew. My parents always taught me to treat people how I want to be treated. They never taught me about discrimination or hatred of others; it was never brought up in our home.”

Discrimination was rampant in some workplaces. “There were subtle things like when I would walk down the hall, greeting other employees, and Caucasian people didn’t say anything back or looked at the floor or at the wall, but then they would greet other Caucasians. You learned to just accept that things were like that. That’s society. I thank God that I never became a bitter person because of how white people treated me and my family members.”

Code switching is a way to adapt when people can’t bring their authentic selves to work. “Black people may straighten their hair or change how they talk, so they can fit in. I never felt that I had to code switch at the Rudolph Libbe Group.”

Kay went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in human resource management from the University of Toledo and professional certifications in human resources. In 1997, she joined Rudolph Libbe Group as human resource manager. “Bill Rudolph hired me, and I knew Bill supported me and my knowledge and what I could bring to the organization. I could bring my authentic self to work every day, and had the highest-level person in the company supporting me and my abilities.”

In 2018, she was promoted to human resources director of the Rudolph Libbe Group. In 2019, she was named HR Professional of the year by the Northwest Ohio Human Resources Association.

“My number one strength is learner,” Kay said. “I’m a Certified Gallup Strengths Coach; Rudolph Libbe Group paid for me to go to the classes to obtain the certification. They’re very supportive. If you don’t want to develop, that’s on you. You can have a great career in construction with nice benefit programs and great wages, whether you are a professional or a tradesperson.”

On March 31, she will retire and use her 40-plus years of career experience to start a consulting career.



Now that millions of Americans are receiving the \$1400 stimulus package check, do you think it's best to spend it, thereby strengthening the economy, or save it for a family emergency?



I think people should either save it or invest in their future. They could use the money to make more money by buying stock, or use the money to invest in their hobby that can be turned into a business. People could use the money to get ahead in life by taking care of any maintenance problems on their car or house. It's better to pay off debt, than create debt.



I think people should either save it for a rainy day or invest in starting their own business. Either one is better than buying clothes or shoes.



Save it for that family emergency; why spend it on frivolous things. The money could be used to get ahead, such as paying off debt or a bill for example; either way, just make sure it's a wise move.



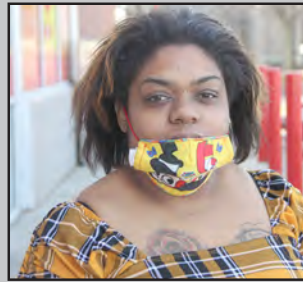
I think people should spend it. The stimulus is meant to be spent, so the economy can be stimulated, which in turn helps create jobs. People need to go back to work and spending that stimulus money will help create jobs. We need to create a new life in this economy and money will do it.



We need to save it and combine it with our tax return; we already spent the previous stimulus money on things. The economy will get better again just as soon as businesses start opening back up.



I think we should all do a little of both; save the money for emergencies and take the rest and invest it in self, or into something that can make us more money.



That's the big question. We really don't know if we should spend or save because we don't know if the economy will be stable or not. But we should save a little and take the rest and invest in our personal future.

Ongoing Events

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

Location: Central Catholic High School,
2550 Cherry Street Toledo, OH 43608
Host: Toledo Alive Track Club
Registration: online registration at
CoachO.com
Entry Deadline: May 27, 11:59 p.m.
Fee: \$15 per athlete - must pay online.

University of Toledo students, are you experiencing hardship due to COVID-19? Stop by Holistic Hands across from Lot #13 on Thur Mar. 11 & 18 from 11-2 to receive a FREE meal. Bring your UT ID. Masks must be worn. Meals are limited, so come early. Want more info? Email: holistichandswellnessgallery@gmail.com.



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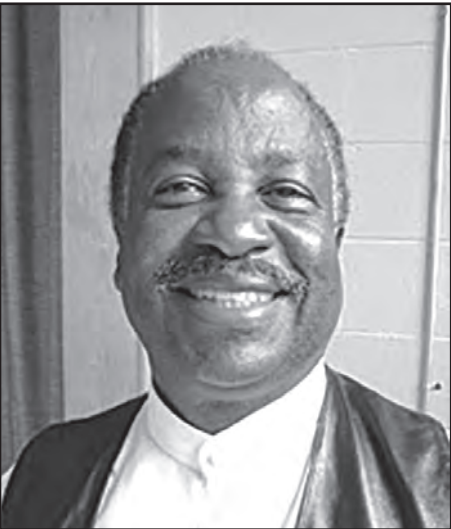
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Jim Crow...Still Flying High



By Lafe Tolliver,
Attorney

If you are still a dues paying member of the “America Is Color Blind” club, the director of memberships will be calling you about an astronomical hike in dues.

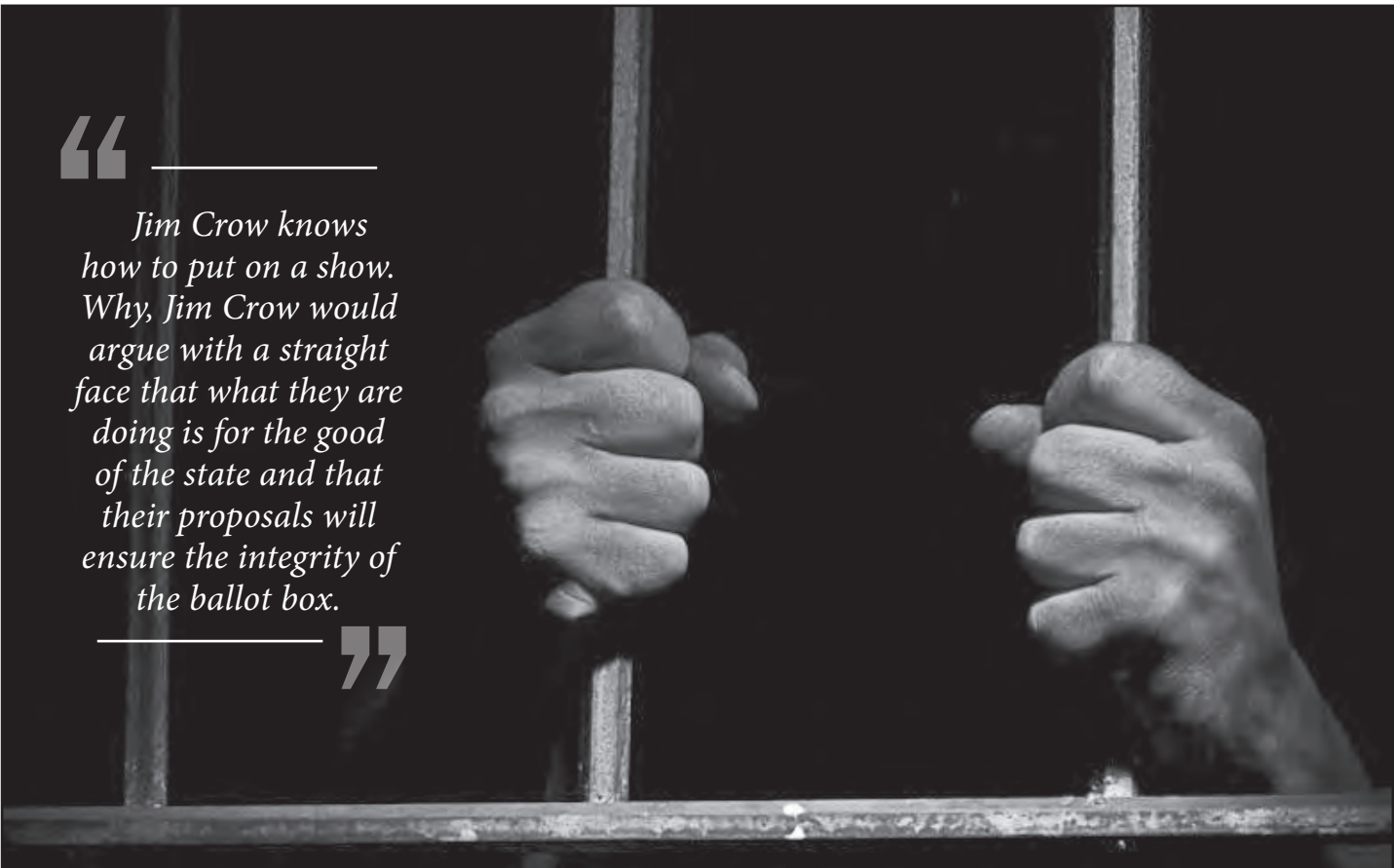
And if you can't pay it or successfully fight the increase, your membership will be terminated; and you will be asked to return your rose-colored lens glasses.

After the recent national elections and especially in The State of Georgia which went from red (GOP) to blue (Democratic), the Jim Crow crowd (now composed of GOP members) that populates the Georgia House and Senate went apoplectic when they lost both the governorship and both US senate seats.

So, following unwritten protocol and a nod to their sordid racial history, The Jim Crow crowd called an emergency meeting and announced to the whole world that unless they bring this out of hand black and brown voting under control, they were in dire danger of losing future elections.

The Jim Crow boys know that the power of the ballot box can make you or break you and by golly, they were not about to be broken by hordes of black and brown people flipping governor chairs and US Senate seats.

If it is one thing Jim Crow learned when he was flying free in the wind since post slavery, is that you cannot afford to have “others” who do not look like you, vote and vote as a block.



“
Jim Crow knows how to put on a show. Why, Jim Crow would argue with a straight face that what they are doing is for the good of the state and that their proposals will ensure the integrity of the ballot box.
”

Jim Crow knows that if you have had to reluctantly give up the whip and the lynching tree (Ahhh...those were the good 'ol days when black folks knew their place!) to intimidate the black vote, then you gotta update your stratagems and what better place than the voting booth!

If you craft your argument and language exactly right, you can circumvent those pesky voting rights laws and so bedevil the black voter, that he or she will throw in the towel and trust good governance to the goodwill of white people.

Jim Crow knows how to put on a show. Why, Jim Crow would argue with a straight face that what they are doing is for the good of the state and that their proposals will ensure the integrity of the ballot box.

And you know what? Jim Crow and his best buds are winging it in over forty other states that are also sponsoring hundreds of bills that affect voting rights.

All of these Jim Crow highfliers looked around the nation and saw that they were facing the same problem with their “colored” voters: Uppity and

willing to upset the political apple cart.

No matter that there were no findings of any significant voter fraud. No matter that over sixty court cases have been filed in the federal and state courts alleging voter irregularities; and all the judges in those courts ruled that such presented evidence had no merit.

No matter that in certain states, recounts were done and redone and with the same finding...no voter fraud!

So, what does a principled Jim Crow person do in those situations? Simple!: You lie and lie again and repeat the same lie over and over and when you are called upon to prove it, you say, “Why, everybody knows it!”

Jim Crow’s America is making no pretense of their intentions to thwart the power of the black and brown voter.

I am surprised that Jim Crow has not simply come out and stated to the world that people of color in America are still second-class citizens when it comes to full-fledged citizenship.

Jim Crow’s best bud, former president Donald Trump, worked up a fever pitch lying to America about voter fraud and his political hacks and

goons reiterated the same slime balls, and it worked!

White America is in a tizzy about garroting the black vote but they must do it in very circumspect terms or they run the risk of engaging in racist behavior (Yes, it is racist behavior!) and stand to lose some white liberals as their allies.

Instead of accepting the recent election results as the will of the people (remember: in the US Constitution, blacks were regarded as three-fifths of a person!), the Jim Crow element wants a return to an America where they do not have to always worry about black and brown people out voting them; and thus getting access to what they have exclusively enjoyed for hundreds of years...privileges, power and the perks of full citizenship.

So, if you forgot everything about America’s sordid racial history and its pathetic protection of the voting rights of its fellow citizens, remember this: Jim Crow is alive and well and will be soon visiting a polling booth near you.

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

The Toledo Journal

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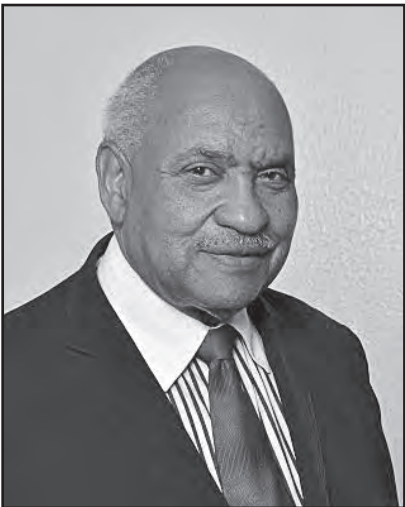
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Publisher Editor

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Black Americans Must Now Fight on All Fronts



By Dr. John E. Warren,
Publisher of The San Diego Voice
& Viewpoint

While some of us are spending our time watching the news or wondering how we are going

to survive the pandemic, now is the time to understand the battles we are in and determine what we must do individually and collectively.

Here are the issues: (1) We must be clear that we support a conviction in the George Floyd murder trial. Nothing less is acceptable. We must voice our call for a conviction in all our media outlets. There can be no cover up or acquittal. (2) We must look closely at each state that has a Republican Governor or legislative majority seeking to pass voter suppression laws such as limiting days and times of voting, reducing ballot drop boxes and the number of precincts available in our communities. We can't wait to litigate. We must follow the example of the state of Georgia and register every voter possible, secure voter identification cards or help voters

obtain them in advance of the state laws that are going to pass with Republican majorities in the legislatures and organize voters against Republicans seeking office or re-election in 2022 so that they don't get a majority in the U.S. Congress or the U.S. Senate. Georgia set the example, now let's follow it in every state. (3) We must urge the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, H.R. 1.

The Bill has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, we must now find the five or 10 votes needed in the Senate to add to the Democratic votes necessary for passage. Every Senate and Congressional District has people seeking to replace the incumbent. We must find those people and support them if they support us. The late Julian Bond once said,

continued on page 5

Black, Hispanic and Asian Group Hosts Panel on Menthol Ban

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

For more than three decades, Deputy Chief Wayne P. Harris served in law enforcement with the Rochester Police Department in New York.

Harris, now retired and serving as board chair of the Law Enforcement Partnership (LEAP), said his vast experience in witnessing up close the interaction between police and African Americans gives him great concern about proposed menthol bans popping up in state legislatures throughout the country.

"If you consider that for those African Americans that indulge in tobacco products, between 85 percent and 90 percent of them prefer menthol," Deputy Chief Harris stated.

"So, understanding that you're taking something that has been legal for a century at least, just for the sake of conversation, and criminalizing it to the point where now a police officer could approach a person who is smoking on the streets and begin inquiries as to where they got it, how it was purchased. This creates an engagement opportunity that is only ever going to be seen as negative."

A former National Executive Board member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), and vice president of the Board of Directors for the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, Deputy Chief Harris appeared on a panel discussing "Unintended Consequences Menthol Cigarette Ban: Fake News vs. The Facts."

The discussion was presented by the New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislators Inc.

State Sen. Jeremy Cooney (D-NY) sponsored the event.

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., hosted and moderated the panel discussion that included Retired New York City



“
So, understanding that you're taking something that has been legal for a century at least, just for the sake of conversation, and criminalizing it to the point where now a police officer could approach a person who is smoking on the streets and begin inquiries as to where they got it, how it was purchased. This creates an engagement opportunity that is only ever going to be seen as negative
”

Police Sgt. Anthony Miranda, Retired New York City Deputy Inspector Cory Pegues, and Trooper Elliot Boyee.

"I'm hoping the people receive the truth about flavored tobacco use, menthol tobacco use, as opposed to the narrative that the opposition is putting forth," said Deputy Chief Harris.

Deputy Chief Harris holds a Bachelor of Science degree, a certificate in Criminal Justice education, and a graduate of the 244th session of the FBI National Academy.

"But I'm also hoping that everyone at least begins to think about the consequences of policy and legislation that our lawmakers put forward and how it can negatively impact our community. Bad policy leads to bad relationships. Bad policy leads to bad governance."

After he retired, Deputy Chief Harris founded CommGage Consulting.

The firm has allowed him to continue community engagement and see a world that peacefully addresses issues.

"CommGage stands for community engagement, and I did it because

my last assignment in policing was as deputy chief of community relations and engagement," Deputy Chief Harris stated.

"That came about because of some issues that had occurred here in Rochester, New York, which required me to, by order of the mayor, go out into the community and identify gaps in the relationship between the Rochester Police Department and the community that it serves.

I then came back with some recommendations on how to improve it."

"And honestly, that usually entailed some very difficult conversations because it's a passionate subject," he said.

Deputy Chief Harris continued:

"It's a topic that people want to talk about, but they have some pretty strong feelings about. I thought, coming out of law enforcement and having this experience of trying to help. So, why not kind of take it to that next step and create a forum for people to have these conversations and put myself in a position where I can facilitate these conversations and try to improve the relationship between police and the community."

Black Americans Must Now Fight on All Fronts



continued from page 4

"No permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interest."

We must study the White Nationalists, and the Republicans who no longer care about the American people, only maintaining their "White Privilege" at the expense of the rest of America. In the midst of this, we must reassess our spending habits and our loyalties. We must know who financially supports those who are against voter participation, those who support police unfair treatment of Blacks, in particular, and people of color in general and those who oppose America helping the most needed and most vulnerable among us. It sounds like a big task, but we start where we live and build from there. Let's get busy.



Ms. Dorothy Townsend celebrated on her 85th Birthday



Ms. Dorothy Townsend mother of nine children (seated in the second row with a crown on her head holding white flowers) celebrated a happy 85th birthday with her extended family Saturday, March 13, 2021, at the Octagon.

By Michael Daniels
Journal Staff Writer

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Longevity has its place.” This phrase certainly rings true when you meet Ms. Dorothy Townsend who just turned 85 on March 15, 2021. To celebrate this

milestone the family matriarch’s children held a wonderful birthday party for her at the Octagon on N. University Ave. in Toledo, Ohio on Saturday, March 13. Over 50 people attended the party with the majority of them being a part of the family. Ms. Townsend is the

mother of nine children, six boys, and three girls. She also has a host of 28 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Ms. Townsend who is originally from Missouri moved to Toledo in 1955 because her mother lived here. She was employed by TPS for 26 years as a food service supervisor and the lead custodian at Pickett Elementary School. She was married but her husband who was twenty years older than her is deceased. When asked about their age difference she said, “Age is not important when you are in love. We were in love. He would be 105 years old if he was alive today.” A true believer in God she said, “I believe in God 100%, I’d be foolish not to, after all the things he’s done for me.” Ms. Townsend is a member of Mt. Zion Church on City Park and Vance.

A strong advocate for the fight against COVID-19 she encourages everyone to get the COVID-19 shots saying, “Too many people have died from this and a lot of people don’t want to get the shots, but the sooner they do, the

sooner this will be over. I already got both of mine and it didn’t bother me at all. Everyone should get vaccinated.”

When she looks at the world today, she has one wish, she said, “All I want is for my children to be happy, I’ve lived a good life and anytime you live to be 85 you can only thank the Lord for that, and if I live to the age of 90 I will be satisfied.”

The atmosphere at Ms. Townsend’s party was upbeat, pleasant, and soulful thanks to the live DJ who was playing some of R&B’s greatest hits. Halfway through the event, a lavish home-cooked soul food dinner with all the favorites was served. Everyone ate and socialized as they enjoyed

the delicious dinner. After dinner, Ms. Townsend’s birthday cake, which was a sheet cake with her picture in the center, was cut. Then everyone crowded around her and sang a joyous happy birthday to the head of the Townsend family. She also received plenty of hugs and kisses, well wishes, and gifts from her family and friends.



Ms. Dorothy Townsend turns 85



Ms. Dorothy Townsend (center) who celebrated 85 years of living and is still going strong is shown here with four of her nine children (L-R) Henry Townsend, Rochelle Jackson, Harvey Townsend, and Bernadine Townsend at her 85th birthday party.



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PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Heleen Sheets of Lourdes University

Journal Staff Writer

As director of marketing & communications for Lourdes University, Heleen Sheets has worked for them for 20 years. Ms. Sheets is a Lourdes graduate with a masters in Organizational Leadership, has a BA from the University of Toledo and an Associate of Arts from Davis College.

In her department they are responsible for public relations, traditional media, social media, publications, website, advertising, the university magazine and communications.

The Toledo Journal asked her why did you decide on your current career?

Her first job, as a teenager, was volunteering at Riverside Hospital where she was assigned to the marketing department. “I really loved everything about marketing and public relations and knew it would eventually be my career.”

The Toledo Journal wanted to know what did it take to accomplish your goals?

“Dedication and perseverance. I worked full-time while pursuing my education, so it was definitely took some time, but it has paid off personally and professionally.”

What do you like about your career with Lourdes University and why?

“The best part of my job is meeting and sharing the stories of Lourdes students, alumni and employees.”

Why you recommend Lourdes University for obtaining a degree/degrees?

Lourdes University offers a more personalized education. There aren’t any lecture halls. If you walk down the hall, someone will say “hi” and many will know you by your first

name. It’s a beautiful campus, has a great athletics program, and the price is really reasonable. While Lourdes is a private Catholic university, the overall cost is reasonable. Many of the students choose Lourdes because it offers them the opportunity to be part of a welcoming university community.



What advice can you offer to encourage other young women about pursuing their dreams/career paths?

“Stay the course. Observe and keep learning. Be confident in your abilities and respect yourself and others.”

Did the pandemic cause any changes with your current responsibilities?

“Because our department is responsible for communications, the work load has been busier than ever. My experience is a little different as I’ve continued to work at the university rather than remotely. As the world transitioned from in-person to virtual, I have definitely learned and honed new skills. One of them is video editing!”

Ms. Sheets future plans are to keep learning and evolving – both in her personal and professional life.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Sandria Brown of the Minority Business Assistance Center

Submitted

During the month of March, we celebrate women’s contributions to history, culture and society. Since 1987 within the United States we have celebrated formidable women working to change their communities and the world around them.

Sandria Brown is a Certified Business Advisor (CBA®) with the Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) Program, which is housed within the Nitschke Technology Commercialization Complex (NTCC), at The University of Toledo. MBAC serves the needs of Northwest Ohio’s small, minority and disadvantaged businesses by providing important business services to local entrepreneurs, at no cost. In addition to her position with MBAC, Ms. Brown owns LBoss Business Services, a website design agency with an office in Uptown Toledo and a member of the TechTown Detroit entrepreneurial community.

Ms. Brown was born and raised in Toledo and has earned all three of her degrees from local educational institutions. “I take great pride in being able to say that I’m a Rocket & Falcon. My parents indulged my every educational endeavor, I’m grateful to them for the opportunities they allowed me.” Sandria earned her Bachelor of Arts from The University of Toledo and a Master of Education (Special Education) and a Master of Technology Management (Construction Management) from Bowling Green State University. “I’m a life-long learner and understand my role in sharing information and assisting people within my current role. I’m also keenly aware that as a woman

of color that is also an active entrepreneur, many biases exist in the business world and a severe lack of representation, especially from black businesswomen presents unique challenges, that will need to be continuously addressed, by the women that are being impacted, as well as, the entire business ecosystem.”

As a MBAC advisor, Ms. Brown has worked with many local entrepreneurs and assisted with working on marketing planning, securing certifications, business financing, and a host of other business services.

“I’ve been counseling since the Fall of 2018 with the MBAC, our clients are incredibly resilient and work hard locally to have a successful business. When it comes to our female clientele, they have even more challenges and are maintaining households and often raising children or primary caretakers for an elderly parent(s). Despite all of that, they are still out here trying to start or manage a business, I find that type of tenacity to be inspiring and empowering from women in business.”

Ms. Brown also gives credit to her sister Sarita Brown, a local businesswoman that owns the commercial property which houses her business. “Back in 2006 my sister paid her attorneys to establish and set up my businesses and counsel me through the process. She was my first client and to this day an excellent client that refers me and has helped to expand my business even while I worked full-time. I realized recently how that investment in me changed the course of my entire life and now I’m able to do the same thing in my job with the MBAC. It is full circle moment in a way.”



Dr. Tiffany Preston Whitman, At-Large Toledo City Councilwoman

Submitted

Early in my life, I drew strength and inspiration from a large extended family of courageous women who persevered through hardships to provide for their families and advance into opportunities previously denied to them. Even amid their struggles, they always encouraged me to pursue my dreams. As an educator and a councilwoman, I am grateful to have the opportunity to do the same for future generations.

I encourage young women to do the following in pursuit of their dreams:

1. In the words of Voting Rights

- Activist Stacy Abrams, “Do not edit your desires.”
- a. Don’t let anyone stop you from dreaming big! As young women, it is okay to be ambitious. There will be setbacks and unexpected detours but don’t limit your journey before it even starts.
 2. Seek wise counsel early and often
 - a. Wisdom is gold! As a little girl growing up in church, the value of wise counsel was ingrained in me. Identify people in your life who care about you and can provide constructive criticism, direction, and feedback to keep you on the right path to fulfill your dreams.
 3. Support other young women as they pursue their dreams
 - a. I serve on City Council with five other dynamic women—I am continuously reminded that collaboration always takes you further than competition. Your gifts and talents can be used to help your peers reach their goals.
 4. Make plans to leave a legacy
 - a. “We drink from wells we did not dig; we are warmed by fires we did not kindle” (Deut. 6.11). We are the direct benefactors of those who came before us; make sure to pave the way for those who will come after you.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED
Dr. Tiffany Preston Whitman

Black Teen Earns More Than \$1M in Scholarships From 18 Colleges



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

(Black News) - Shanya Robinson-Owens, a 17-year old high school student from Philadelphia, is excited after getting accepted into 18 colleges and receiving more than \$1 million in scholarships.

“I was really shocked. I didn’t know what to do,” she said. “I didn’t know if I should cry, laugh. I didn’t know what to do.”

Aside from getting accepted from schools including La Salle University, Temple University, Moravian College, Lincoln University, and Cabrini University, she also received \$1,074,260 in total scholarships.

“We are overjoyed,” her aunt Christine Owens told Good Morning America. “I knew she wouldn’t have a problem getting into colleges, but we didn’t know they would award her this much money in scholarship funds.”

Shanya, who currently studies at George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science, has a 3.2 GPA. She said her favorite subject is chemistry and she plans

to study psychology in college.

She has so far been accepted to 18 out of the 20 colleges she applied to. She said she’d take some time to wait to hear back from the two other schools before checking out the campuses and finally deciding which college to attend.

Shanya shared that to achieve educational goals, it’s important to be patient and stay focused. She added, “If you need to have some time away, it’s OK. You can tell your teachers that because they know you’re stressed.”

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Tina Butts: businesswomen, social justice advocate, philanthropist

By Jurry Taalib-Deen
Journal Staff Writer

Tina Butts, owner of T-Bonds/ Tina Butts Bail Bondsmen, motions to The Toledo Journal to enter her office, which is located in downtown Toledo, 1709 Spielbusch, directly across from the county jail and have a seat. It's early Thursday evening, March 11 and she's on the phone informing different people that they can go and get their Covid-19 vaccination.

By trade, she's a bail bondsman dealing in all types of bonds from guardianship, janitorial, travel checks and those dealing with being released from jail, just to name a few. But at that particular moment, Ms. Butts was wearing one of her other "hats," which was social justice; making sure those people most at risk of catching Covid-19 receive their vaccination.

For nearly nine years, Ms. Butts has been writing all types of bonds. But perhaps being a bail bondsman is what she's most recognized as throughout Toledo.

Certified by the Ohio Department of Insurance, Ms. Butts said she didn't expect her business, as well as the things that have spun off from her business, to grow into what it has grown into.

On the bail bondsman side, she proudly said, "In the years I've worked in this field, I've never had to take collateral from no one, nor have I taken anyone to court."

"At the end of the day, this is still a job, but it gives me the opportunity to talk to and help the people that we bond out of jail; I'm really proud that I'm able to help people," Ms. Butts said.

A few of the ways she's able to help the people she bond out of jail, is connect them to a variety of social programs and register them to vote.

"I couldn't do all this by myself," Ms. Butts quickly adds. "My team, the other bondsmen also write bonds."

Another venture Ms. Butts is passionate about is The Movement, which is a collection of energetic grass root advocates formed to empower the community through voter education and registration, according to their website.

Over the years, The Movement has registered people to vote and transported those who needed a ride, to the voting polls.

Even still, the reach of Ms. Butts extends into the realm of helping people battle substance abuse, helping supply children with



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Tina Butts

school supplies, help people start businesses and become homeowners.

Her future plans are to be able to continue to help people in those avenues, as well as help other grass-root advocates, who are trying to help people.

"I'm glad I'm in a position to help people, especially children, the elderly and young single mothers," Ms. Butts said.

Where there's a need, she quickly tries to find a way to fulfill it.

Tina Butts holds up Biden Harris signs. Over the years, she has helped register people to vote, understand the power of that vote and has transported countless people to the voting polls.

Cerssandra McPherson: Council-woman At Large

Submitted

My words to young women of today would be "dream big" think out the box. Look around at the progressive and influential woman of the world. Read their stories, of how they overcame life's obstacles.

We all have dreams; the problem comes' you when think the dream is un-attainable. People will sometime discourage you to go after your dreams. You must let those people go.

To have your dream become a reality, it's going to take work.

I would encourage young woman to take their academic studies seriously. Go after your dream with persistence, determination and stay focused. It won't come easy. You may struggle with developing your dream, but don't give up!

I am a woman of faith. I asked God to show me my purpose. I prayed for clarity, guidance and then I asked God to put people in my life that will guide me, and prepare me for living out my purpose. It didn't happen overnight, but I continued to trust God's word. Scriptures says, "...all things work together for the good of them who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose..."

My final words of encouragement are; Seek God, He will order steps. Your dream will become a reality.

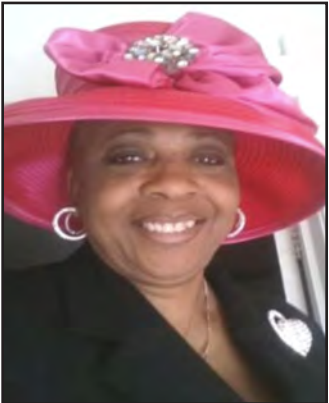


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Cerssandra McPherson



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Area Office on Aging Helps Hundreds of Older Adults Reach Milestone

On Road Back to Normal with Second Vaccination

Journal Staff Writer

Three hundred older adults reached an important milestone on the road to a new normal by receiving their second COVID-19 vaccine on Tuesday, March 10th, 2021

While the Area Office on Aging is not a vaccine clinic, the AOoA has been assisting the Neighborhood Health Association, the Ohio Department of Aging and the National Guard in getting older adults the vaccine. The agency's latest efforts have centered around getting the most vulnerable older adults living in senior apartment complexes their second vaccination.

sponsor a Vaccine Clinic in Ohio's senior community of Toledo held on March 10th. The clinic operated three neighborhood locations with participants scheduled from 13 different residential facilities. The Area Office on Aging is assisting with setting up and scheduling older adults for appointments at three vaccine clinics. The clinics at the UAW, the Margaret Hunt Senior Center and Northgate Senior Apartments are largely for senior apartment complex residents.

"The Area Office on Aging is thrilled to be able to help 300 older adults with having this additional level of protection from COVID-19 so they can



Some of those who assisted in the successful second Vaccination roll out for area seniors were (L-R) Aretha Hollie: Aooa, Chief Warrant Officer Nathan Haas from the Ohio Department of Aging Regional Rapid Response Assistance Program,Justin Moor: Aooa VP of Planning & Program Development, Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak Aooa President/CEO: Mrs. Billie Johnson,Mathew Madison: NW Ohio Platitude Sargent Ohio National Guard, Joyce Aldriege: Aooa, and Regina Russell: Aooa



First in line to get their second vaccination shot were Leroy Alcovr and Max Green Jr.

"This is terrific, when The Area Office on Aging is involved, people have a lot of confidence that it's going to be something good for them, that they will be treated well and that the process will work just fine."



Liana Lyons who got her second shot said, "If Aooa had not arranged all of this I couldn't have gotten my second shot because I don't have any means of transportation. I'm very appreciative to Aooa for making today possible."



Senior Margie Reynolds gets assistance from an Ohio National Guard member filling out the information sheet at the second Vaccination roll out for seniors, coordinated by Area Office on Aging, She said, "The day is going very smoothly, thanks Area Office on Aging."

Chief Warrant Officer Nathan Haas from the Ohio Department of Aging Regional Rapid Response Assistance Program (R3AP) is working with the Area Office on Aging, Black and White Transportation of Toledo, the Neighborhood Health Association, and the Ohio National Guard to

take the next step toward establishing a new normal for their lives," said Area Office on Aging President/CEO, Mrs. Billie Johnson.

Also, Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak, who was on hand at the vaccination site added, "This is terrific, when The Area Office on

Aging is involved, people have a lot of confidence that it's going to be something good for them, that they will be treated well and that the process will work just fine. I have been given the opportunity to see first hand how these vaccine clinics are working for our Lucas

County citizens and it seems to be getting better and better each week as we learn more. What I love about The Area Office on Aging being involved is that our older population has the highest risk of getting really sick or dying from COVID-19. When The Area Office on Ag-

ing is involved people have the confidence to follow through get vaccinated and take care of their health. I'm also impressed with the diversity here today and how people are actively being a part of the solution, I think that's very good."



Doctors' Tips About the COVID-19 Vaccine

(StatePoint) More than 500,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 and there have been more than 28 million cases nationwide. Doctors say it's vital that Americans get vaccinated when it's their turn, and continue to take precautions against infection.

"Vaccinations are safe, effective, prevent illness and save lives. They offer an incredible opportunity for us to help defeat COVID-19 and regain normalcy," says American Medical Association (AMA) president, Susan R. Bailey, M.D. "But with more contagious variants of the virus circulating throughout the U.S., now is not the time to let your guard down or scale back on the measures that we know will work to prevent further illness and deaths, such as wearing masks, practicing physical distancing, and washing hands."

To protect yourself and your loved ones, the AMA offers the following guidance:

- At some point, likely in the next few months, it will be your turn to get the vaccine. Talk to your physician about the vaccines, and ask any questions you may have.
- Any and all COVID-19 vaccines authorized will meet the highest standards of quality, safety and effectiveness set by the FDA's rigorous regulatory review process.
- Be prepared to get vaccinated. Know that vaccines can have minor side effects, including lethargy, mild fever, body aches and pains. When these side effects occur, they typically last a few days. If you have any questions or concerns about side effects, contact your physician.
- Understand that public health measures like masks and physical distancing will still be required until the population is broadly vaccinated.
- Science and ingenuity have given us an opportunity to control or even defeat COVID-19, but wide acceptance of the vaccine is necessary for it to be effective. Encourage loved ones who are eligible for the vaccine to schedule an appointment.

For more information about COVID-19 and getting vaccinated, visit [ama-assn.org](https://ama-assn.org/getvaccineanswers.org) or getvaccineanswers.org.

While the roll-out of the vaccine is encouraging, doctors say we're not out of the woods yet. Continuing to practice COVID-19 safety measures and getting vaccinated as soon as it's your turn will help protect you and your loved ones from illness.

3 ways to fight scammers who target your Social Security benefits

Erin Thompson
Social Security Public
Affairs Specialist in Toledo

Scammers are always finding new ways to steal your money and personal information by exploiting your fears. The most effective way to defeat scammers is to know how to identify scams and to ignore suspicious calls and emails.

One common tactic scammers use is posing as federal agents and other law enforcement. They may claim your Social Security number is linked to a crime. They may even threaten to arrest you if you do not comply with their instructions. Here are three things you can do:

- Hang up right away or

- do not reply to the email.
- Never give personal information, money, or retail gift cards.
- Report the scam at oig.ssa.gov immediately to Social Security's law enforcement team at the Office of the Inspector General.

You should continue to remain vigilant of phone calls when someone says there's a problem with your Social Security number or your benefits. If you owe money to Social Security, we will mail you a letter explaining your rights, payment options, and information about appealing.

There are a few ways you can identify a scam call or email. Remember that we will never:

- Threaten you with benefit suspension, arrest, or

- other legal action unless you pay a fine or fee.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Require payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card.
- Demand secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.
- Send official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.
- If you do not have ongoing business with our agency, it is unlikely we will contact you. Again, if you get a suspicious call claiming to be from Social Security, you should hang up and report it right away to our Office of the Inspector General at oig.ssa.gov.

Increased Risk of Accidental Poisonings in COVID Times

Submitted By: Lori Mitchell
Dixon, PhD (Toledoan)
Chairman, National Poison
Prevention Week Council

Each year, more than 2 million poisonings are reported to the nation's poison control centers, which can be reached through the toll-free Poison Help line, 1-800-222-1222. To help mitigate these poisonings congress designated the third full week of March as National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW).

Dr. Dixon (President of Great Lakes Marketing, of Toledo) has been working to reduce accidental poisonings for over 40 years by testing the safety features of products with Toledo's seniors and toddlers.

National Poison Prevention Week is March 21, 2021 – March 27, 2021

Avoiding accidental poisonings—especially among children—has only become more difficult with the increased amount of cleaning/disinfectant products in the home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



One major issue is with hand sanitizers. Manufacturers raced to produce more hand sanitizer as it flew off the shelves and to do so, skipped a vital step in production. This step (adding denatured alcohol) makes the hand sanitizer bitter and less appealing to consume. The FDA has put out warnings after seeing a 79% increase in the number of calls to the National Poison Data System related to hand sanitizer (from March 2019 to March 2020). These warnings came with a reminder that hand sanitizer and

other potentially harmful products need to be appropriately stored. Adults need to supervise the use of hand sanitizers since most packages do not have child-resistant safety features.

"Hand sanitizers, cleaning products, and hand wipes are everywhere—in cars, in handbags, on tabletops. The National Poison Prevention Week message has never been more needed. We all have to be diligent and keep hazardous products out of the reach and sight of young children," says Lori Dixon.

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President Bill Clinton: ‘Vernon Jordan Was in the Freedom Business’ Biden says he knew the ‘Soul of America’

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Vernon Eulion Jordan Jr., a titan of the Civil Rights movement, who rose from an Atlanta public housing project to become a brilliant legal mind, confident corporate executive and president of the National Urban League, was eulogized on the campus of Howard University as a friend to people from all walks of life.

Jordan, 85, who died March 2, was groomed by his mother to appreciate business and entrepreneurship because she went from poverty to become one of Atlanta’s top caterers at the height of segregation. And she pushed her son to blazing new trails in terms of activism and business.

Jordan went to DePauw University in Indiana, and upon graduation in 1957, he was accepted to the Howard University School of Law in Washington DC.

“Vernon Jordan’s life embodied Howard’s motto of truth and service from his early beginnings as a lawyer to his work in the civil rights movement and later as an advisor to Presidents Reagan, Bush, Carter and most prominently as a friend and advisor to President Bill Clinton,” said Dr. President Wayne A. I. Frederick on Monday March 8, after Howard’s Board of Trustees voted to name the school’s law library after Jordan.

“Mr. Jordan is the kind of person who never met a stranger and who enjoyed helping students succeed. He often told a story about spending his summers in college working

as a chauffeur for Mr. Robert Maddox, a former Mayor and retired banker in Atlanta, GA,” Frederick said in a statement. “One night at the dinner table, Maddox proclaimed to his family, ‘Vernon can read!’ Mr. Jordan never forgot that experience and it became a pivotal moment in his vast narrative of triumph over controversy. Therefore, it is most fitting that we name one of Howard’s libraries in his honor.”

On Tuesday former President Bill Clinton and D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, President Frederick and several others joined Jordan’s family to eulogize Jordan at Howard University in a private service that came after the re-show of the PBS documentary on Jordan.

Dr. Bernard Richardson, began the funeral for Jordan by saying “A mighty oak has fallen but what he left us will live forever.”

Mayor Bowser said, “I called him Mr. Jordan. We have been challenged to produce a sense of hope (because) He was a man who was expected to provide a sense of hope.”

President Biden remembered Jordan as a foot soldier for civil rights. “Vernon Jordan knew the soul of America, in all of its goodness and all of its unfulfilled prom-



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED
Vernon Eulion Jordan Jr. passed at 85.

ise. And he knew the work was far from over,” Biden said in a statement.

During the funeral Marc Morial, National Urban League President and CEO, said Jordan was much more than the 5th President of the National Urban League. “He was bold. He was a blunt...He was authentically Black...How should I remember Vernon Jordan, whose legacy was from K street to Wall Street,” Morial asked.

“He was a man for others,” Morial said, repeating that refrain several times.

President Obama reflected on his deep friendship with

Jordan, saying in a statement, “Michelle and I benefited from Vernon Jordan’s wise counsel and warm friendship—and deeply admired his tireless fight for civil rights. We hope the memory of his extraordinary presence and the legacy of his work bring comfort to Ann, Vickee, and his family.”

In 1961, Jordan became Georgia field secretary for the NAACP. During his two years in the role, Jordan built new chapters, coordinated demonstrations and boycotted businesses that would not employ Blacks.

Jordan moved to Arkansas in 1964 and went into private practice. He also became director of the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council.

Jordan became a clerk for civil rights attorney Donald Hollowell, who successfully represented Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter — who attempted to integrate the University of Georgia.

But Jordan took a different path than other Civil Rights leaders. He went into law instead of elected office and he became a senior partner with the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, where he served as senior counsel. He practiced general,

corporate, legislative and international law in Washington, D.C and New York.

Before his tenure at Akin Gump, the positions held by Jordan included president and CEO of the National Urban League, Inc.; executive director of the UNCF, Inc.; director of the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council; attorney-consultant for the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity; assistant to the executive director of the Southern Regional Council; Georgia field director of the NAACP; and an attorney in private practices in Arkansas and Georgia.

Jordan’s friendship with Clinton took them both to the White House.

“Vernon Jordan was a man worthy of our Love...He never felt a need to be driven with anger. He reminded me of Nelson Mandela,” said Clinton adding that he found it so hard to watch Jordan’s casket close. “Vernon Jordan was in the freedom business. He realized like Nelson Mandela that if you hate you can’t be free.”

Clinton noted the fact that he spent nearly 100 days in a hospital recovering from an assassination attempt, he accepted a hug from George Wallace and he was always working to bring the races together.

“Vernon tried to help us all be free,” Clinton preached. “God we were lucky that he was here. Lucky that he was our friend.”

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Metroparks Toledo has openings for two part time Building Serviceperson's. One at Oak Openings Preserve, and one at The Manor House at Wildwood Preserve. The person's in these positions will be expected to perform a variety of housekeeping, janitorial, and basic maintenance functions at the Cannaly Treehouse Village and The Manor House. Up to 35 hours per week. \$11.73/hr. High school diploma or equivalent required. Must have valid driver's license. May include evenings, weekends and holidays. Go to www.metroparkstoledo.com <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply.

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Full time position at Monroe County Community College providing learning opportunities for students within the areas of business, economics, computer information systems, accounting, graphic design, culinary management, and related fields. Additionally oversees short-term, non-credit contract/ customized, occupational licensing, certification and professional development and continuing education programming delivered through the offices for workforce development and employment services and lifelong learning. Plans, organizes and administers divisional activities; develops and recommends scheduling of classes; assures compliance; supervises staff and faculty. Qualifications include Master's degree in discipline or field related to division; 5 years related teaching/administrative experience or equivalent; Ph.D. preferred; teaching experience in a community college preferred. Salary \$80,864 - \$98,469. If interested, please apply online at <https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/monroeccc/> . EOE

BLACK HISTORY

March 20, 1852:

Uncle Tom's Cabin, a novel by Harriet Beecher

March 18, 1877:

President Hayes appointed Frederick Douglass marshal of District of Columbia

March 22, 1882:

African American Shakespearean actor Morgan Smith dies in Sheffield, England.

March 17, 1919:

Nat King Cole, singer, born.

March 19, 1939:

The New Negro Theater is founded in Los Angeles, California.

March 21, 1960:

The first lunch counters were integrated in San Antonio, Texas

March 21, 1965:

Selma-to-Montgomery Freedom March, led by Dr. King, begins



JOB POSTING

The Rudolph Libbe Group is a one-stop provider of construction and consulting services that range from site selection and financing to ongoing facility management. RLG, comprised of Rudolph Libbe Inc., GEM Inc., GEM Energy, Lehman Daman and Rudolph Libbe Properties, operates as one team.

The Rudolph Libbe Group is seeking an HR Generalist. This position is responsible for providing generalist and administrative support to the Human Resources/Organizational Development (HR/OD) department.

Associate or Bachelor's degree in human resources or business, with two or more years of HR administrative experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience required. SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) or HRCI Professional Human Resources (PHR) credential preferred.

For additional details and to apply, please visit www.rlgbuilds.com/careers

The Rudolph Libbe Group is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING COORDINATOR

Full time position at Monroe County Community College, under the supervision of the Dean of Applied Science and Engineering Technology (ASET) oversees the College's experiential learning program. Responsibilities include: recruiting students and business and industry partners for apprenticeships, internships and other experiential learning opportunities; advising students and coordinating participation and completion of programs; managing business and industry participation through sponsorship of apprenticeship and other experiential learning; assists with inquiries about programs; liaison with US DOL Offices, Colleges, Michigan Works! and college divisions. Supports Perkins grant and other externally funded grants. Requirements include: BS degree; degree in technology areas of division preferred; five years of experience with apprentices and other learning programs/opportunities, grants and budgets. If interested, please apply online at <https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/monroeccc/> . EOE

March 21, 1965:

The Selma-to-Montgomery March sets off again. Protected by federal troops and lead by Dr. King,, about 3,200 marchers set out from Selma. By the time they reach the capitol in Montgomery four days later they are 25,000-strong.

March 23, 1985:

Patricia Harris, cabinet member and ambassador, dies.

Mary McLeod Bethune:

Mary McLeod Bethune knew that education was key, but she also knew it was difficult for young Black children to achieve, particularly in the segregated South. After struggling to go to school and working on a plantation to help support her family, she became an educator and, in 1904, founded the Daytona Educational and Industrial Institute for Girls, according to PBS.

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 26, 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

NOTICE FOR BIDS

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB21-B010 Casualty loss 2 units (Group 2A)

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive sealed bids from General Contractors for the renovation of 2 Casualty loss units located in the City of Toledo. Received in accordance with law until **April 6, 2021, 3:00 PM ET**. see documents: www.lucasmha.org 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



Claudette Colvin: Though we've all heard the story of Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on the bus in Montgomery, Alabama, most of us don't know that

Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan: Oprah Winfrey was the Star of that Interview



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

According to the Wall Street Journal, 17.1 million people got an opportunity to see why Oprah Winfrey is still the Queen of talk, interviewing Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan Markle on CBS. The Royal Family has been the center of tabloid fodder for centuries and Harry and Meghan's break from the tight-knit clan left many wondering what had gone wrong. The narrative of why the relative newlyweds left the monarchy a mere two years after their highly anticipated royal wedding was framed mostly by the public relations arm (the firm) of what Markle called, "the institution" during the explosive interview.

Many believed Markle was at the center of the tension with the Royal Family, with stories being spun about Markle's diva and outlandish behavior to such an extent, Markle allegedly made the beloved Princess Kate cry.

In the recent Sunday night interview broadcast on CBS, Markle debunked many untruths "the firm" failed to correct, including the story about making Princess Kate cry, letting the world know it was actually Princess Kate who in fact made Markle cry. While Markle acknowledged that media can get things wrong, "the firm" never tried to correct the story or the narrative as was the case in many instances.

Markle being blamed from Harry's rift with the Royal family is nothing new – women are often held responsible for families breaking up and "falling out," with each other. As complicated as the Royal Family is, wealth

does not preclude them from having fractured relationships and tenuous circumstances to resolve.

In a gasp heard all around the world, Meghan and Harry both acknowledged that what they experienced had to do with Meghan's biracial identity – the Black half. The anti-Black racism reared its ugly head in a myriad of ways. The Royal Family refused to give their son, "Archie" a title and did not want to continue to provide protection for Prince Harry or his growing family including the Duchess and Archie. They both revealed that unnamed

“
Life in the Royal Palace has not been a crystal stair for Duchess Meghan and learning that your family is racist...
”

members of the Royal Family were concerned about Archie's skin color and who he would look like. A Tweet by dr. b.h. scallywag captured the moment exquisitely tweeting, "Do you know how racist you have to be to be worried a ¼ black child with a light skint (sic) mama and pale ginger father might be too brown to be royalty?" I would add how racist does a country have to be for a Prince and a Duchess to have to flee to America for a more racially tolerant experience?

Many are clear about the rampant racism experienced by people of color across the

globe, particularly the United Kingdom and evidenced by the brutal colonial practices of the Monarchy, especially in Black and Brown countries, but I suppose some thought with the Royal Family's public "support" of Prince Harry's partner, things had changed. Oprah Winfrey's interview Sunday night revealed not only had things not changed, but they were so horrible for Markle that she considered suicide and received no support from the family or "institution" other than from her husband Prince Harry. Who knew the Royal Family had a Human Resources Department? Who knew media mogul Tyler Perry offered them cover when they were denied protection by the Royal Family?

I'll save the remaining spoilers and encourage readers to watch the two-hour Sunday night interview as well as Winfrey's Monday morning interview with Gayle King on CBS This Morning. If you want a "master class" on interviewing, then pay close attention to Winfrey's keen ability to pull out information that had previously been unknown to many, from the openly distressed pair. Winfrey's reaction to Prince Harry's claim that he was trapped in a system, before allowing him to further explain, is priceless.

Life in the Royal Palace has not been a crystal stair for Duchess Meghan and learning that your family is racist, petty and punitive has been "hurtful" to Prince Harry, but the two seem to be rebounding nicely. The real star of this interview is Oprah Winfrey's staying power and reestablishment of her reputation as the Queen of television and talk.

The First Black Queen of England



(Meghan Markle Was Not the First Black Woman in the Royal Family!)

Meghan Markle made international headlines when she married Prince Harry of the British royal family and became a Duchess in 2018. Millions tuned into watch the 3-hour ceremony. However, Meghan is not the first Black woman to have lived in the Royal Palace. In 1761, Sophie Charlotte married King George III and became the first ever Black Queen of England.

But Queen Sophia Charlotte, a descendant of a Black Portuguese family that lived in Germany, wasn't just the Queen of England; She was also the Queen of Ireland as well. Even more interesting, they got married at the age of 17 and they went on to have 15 children. She was the queen for 57 years.

According to Gabriel Scott, historian and author of The Chosen Ones: Perception of Malcolm and Martin, people

have tried to discredit and whitewash the significance of her history and contributions to England for many years. However, the truth can not be denied.

A very unique and intelligent woman Queen Sophia Charlotte spoke several languages including English, German and French. She was good friends with accomplished classical composer, Johann Bach and his wife. And she once received a composition in her honor from Wolfgang Mozart.

In addition, the city of Charlotte, North Carolina in the United States is named after her in her honor.

But most notably, history confirms that she was, in fact, the great-great-great grandmother of the current queen, Queen Elizabeth.

Wow! Who would've ever thought that the royal family had Black ancestry in their lineage?

Arizona State University Renames Film School to Honor Sidney Poitier

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

Arizona State University has named its new film school after legendary actor Sidney Poitier.

According to a USA Today report, the decision to name the school after Poitier, 93, is about much more than an emphasis on diversity.

In an interview ahead of The Sidney Poitier New American Film School's unveiling, University President Michael M. Crow said Poitier embodies everything that one would look for in an icon.

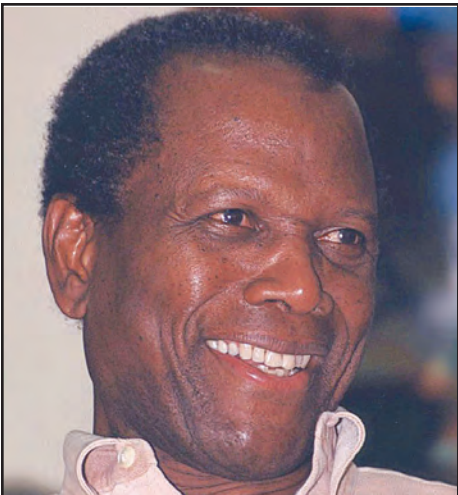
"With Sidney Poitier, it's his creative energy, his dynamism, his drive, his ambition, the kinds of projects he worked on, the ways in which he advanced his life," Crow asserted, according to USA Today.

The legendary actor filmed his Oscar-winning "Lilies of the Field" in Arizona in 1963. Poitier became the first Black person to win an Oscar for lead actor in a motion picture.

Crow noted the unusually scandal-free life that the superstar has lived despite being in the public limelight for decades.

"Look at his life: It's a story of a person who found a way," Crow added. "How do we help other young people find their way?"

As noted in his biography at Oscar.com, Poitier is both an esteemed actor



Sidney Poitier (Photo: John Mathew Smith & www.celebrity-photos.com from Laurel Maryland, USA / Wikimedia Commons)

and a respected humanitarian.

In addition to his Oscar for Best Actor, he received an Honorary Award in 2001. Born in Miami, he grew up both in the Bahamas and the United States and became a noted actor both on the stage and in such films as "The Defiant Ones" in 1958, which he earned his first Oscar nomination.

Throughout his career, Poitier provided some of the most legendary performances ever on the Silver Screen.

Among the most memorable were "A

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Boxing Great ‘Marvelous’ Marvin Hagler Dies at 66

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

Marvelous Marvin Hagler, who ruled the middleweight boxing division in the 1980s, yet never received the recognition he deserved as an all-time great, has died.

Hagler was 66. Before Hagler's death, former boxer Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns posted on Instagram that the legend had "taken ill."

"A real true warrior," Hearns wrote.

Later, Hagler's wife appeared to confirm his death in a post to the boxer's Facebook fan club page.

"I am sorry to make a very sad announcement," Kay Hagler wrote.

"Today, March 14, unfortunately, my beloved husband Marvelous Marvin passed away unexpectedly at his home here in New Hampshire. Our family requests that you respect our privacy during this difficult time."

A member of the boxing hall of fame, Hagler had a career record of 63-2 with 52 knockouts — many of them of the devastating variety.

He turned pro in 1973 and was arguably the most feared fighter in the 160-pound middleweight division. Although the media and fans showered much love on fighters like Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, and

others, Hagler was largely ignored.

Even inside the ring, judges appeared to view Hagler with a skewed eye.

That was no more apparent than his bouts with Vito Antuofermo.

Despite Hagler brutalizing the then-champion in their first bout at the old Boston Garden in 1979, judges declared the lopsided contest a draw.

The decision allowed Antuofermo to retain his WBC and WBA Middleweight titles.

Antuofermo subsequently lost the titles to Alan Minter, whom Hagler destroyed in a September 1980s bout.

In the 1981 rematch with Antuofermo, Hagler punished his foe, scoring a fifth-round TKO.

Still, Hearns, Leonard and Duran — each a welterweight that would ultimately move up in weight class to challenge Hagler — were the media darlings and the sport's favorites.

Hagler agreed to a 1983 bout with Duran, who was coming off his infamous "No Mas" loss to Leonard. Duran went the distance with Hagler, who won the decision, but the media still scolded him.

"Hey, how about giving me some credit?" Hagler pleaded after beating Duran. "I beat a legend. I thought I did a good job. I have to give myself a pat on the back."

The 1983 Ring Fighter of the Year, Hagler had little competition in his division and contenders too afraid



to offer up a challenge.

Then came the fight that finally earned Hagler the recognition he rightly deserved.

Hearns, the tall and powerful puncher from the Motor City, challenged Hagler for the Middleweight Championship on April 5, 1987.

It was billed as "The Fight," but in boxing lore, it remains known as "The War."

Although the match lasted only three rounds, it was arguably one of the most violent fights in boxing history.

Hearns and Hagler traded vicious blows, never taking a break.

Both fighters were bloodied and, after an accidental head-butt that caused the ring referee Richard Steele to consider stopping the fight in Hearns' favor, Hagler unleashed a nonstop flurry to

finish his foe.

After several more title defenses, Hagler sought the biggest of paydays, and there was just one name that could fulfill that desire for the Broxton, Mass.-based warrior, and to quench his thirst for acceptance as the sport's premiere superstar.

That person was 'Sugar' Ray Leonard, who had retired in 1982 after suffering a detached retina.

Always calculating, Leonard had intently watched and even served as a commentator for HBO during several of Hagler's bouts.

Last year, Leonard told NNPA Newswire that he spotted Hagler's weakness and wanted to fight him.

"I called my business partner, Mike Trainer, and told him I wanted to fight Marvin Hagler, and he asked me had I been

drinking," Leonard reminisced about the time leading up to his April 6, 1987 bout with Hagler.

"When I told my brothers that I wanted to fight Hagler, they couldn't believe I would even think of it," Leonard recalled.

"They asked, 'Who would be my tune-up (for Hagler)?' and I told them, 'Hagler.' I fought Kevin Howard before fighting Hagler, and he knocked me down, and people thought Hagler would kill me. Back then, I was on the wrong side of the street, doing cocaine and drinking heavily," Leonard revealed.

Hagler was regarded as a brawler with incredible power and the sport's most dominant slugger. Leonard needed Hagler to believe that he had to prove to the world that he could also box.

However, Leonard went

on to win a 12-round decision over Hagler and claim the world middleweight championship.

Hagler, who never fought again after the Leonard loss, was still named the Boxer of the Decade.

In retirement, he finally received a measure of acclaim that escaped him during his memorable career.

Hagler is survived by his five children, Charelle, Celeste, James, Marvin Jr., and Gentry. He and his widow, Kay, met in Hagler's adopted hometown of Milan, Italy.

"Marvelous Marvin Hagler has gone, a true great, a chin made from granite, the winner of the greatest fight of all time. RIP Champ," Hagler fan Robert Kelly posted in a Twitter tribute that featured a video of Hagler's demolition of Thomas Hearns.

ASU Renames Film School after Poitier

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Patch of Blue" in 1965, "In the Heat of the Night" in 1967, and "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" in 1967.

Poitier also directed and starred in a series of 1970's hits with Bill Cosby, including "Let's Do it Again" and "Uptown Saturday Night."

He went on to direct nine feature films.

In 2000, Poitier published the autobiography "The Measure of a Man" and earned a Grammy Award for the best-spoken word album for the audio version of "The Measure of a Man."

He followed up his autobiography eight years later when he published "Life Beyond Measure: Letters to My Great-Granddaughter."

A recipient of numerous awards and honors throughout this career, Poitier was knighted in 1974 by the British government.

President Barack Obama awarded Poitier

the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009, and in 2011, he earned the Film Society of Lincoln Center's prestigious Chaplin Lifetime Achievement Award.

According to USA Today, Arizona University reportedly has invested millions of dollars in technology to create what's intended to be one of the largest, most accessible, and most diverse film schools.

Crow said the film school would measure success not by exclusivity but by inclusivity.

"If it has my Dad's name on it, it has to be inclusive because that's the foundation of who he is and what he stands for," Anika Poitier, the legend's daughter, remarked.

"And it's important to not only have inclusion but to have diversity, and to give people the opportunity to tell their stories. I think it's imperative to cast a wide net and allow anyone who's called to tell their story to learn how to do that."

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