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EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY IN THE TOLEDO JOURNAL



# Charles Veley bicycles across U.S. for social justice

By Jurry Taalib-Deen  
Journal Staff Writer

Charles Veley has come face to face with members of the Ku Klux Klan, who threatened to kill him. He has been robbed. He has been hit in the back of the head with a bottle, causing him to fall off his bicycle, which resulted in being rushed to the hospital by a stranger. Time and time again, Mr. Veley has faced unimaginable odds, but yet, has not let any of those

what's his objective.

During the video interview, Mr. Veley said he was biking to Las Vegas, Nevada and was staying with someone who believed in his cause and wanted to house and feed him for as long as possible. During his past rides, he would sleep on the side of the road, or pitch a tent. His cause goes unnoticed by mainstream media, because if it was known, he would have financial supporters; currently,



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

**Charles Veley said, at times, he would sleep on the side of the road during rides in which the temperatures could be hot during the day and very cold at night.**

incidents stop him from biking for social justice for all people and more importantly, he hasn't developed a hard heart towards anyone.

On Sunday, March 21, The Toledo Journal interviewed Mr. Veley, via Facebook video, about why he rides, when he started and

he comes out of pocket.

"I ride for ending gun violence, ending human trafficking, giving convicted felons more rights and other issues that aren't normally discussed amongst most people," he said.

His first ride was in 2014 when he rode from Toledo, to Los Angeles,



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

**Charles Veley, second from the left, talks and sleeps with homeless people on one of his treks across the country.**



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

**Charles Veley holding a sign that reads, "Convicted Felons Lives Matter," while on one of his many journeys.**

California. He was riding to end gun violence and he was riding for the family of a young man who was killed by one of his sons.

"I rode to ease the pain; there was a lot of

Florida. The ride took him 63 days and along the way he encountered the Ku Klux Klan.

"I was on the side of the road fixing my bike tire, when a pickup truck with about six men

I can change the way someone sees others negatively, then I was successful," Mr. Veley said.

His journeys stretched out to Nebraska, Seattle, Washington, New Orleans, Louisiana, Las Vegas, Nevada, Wisconsin, Boston, Massachusetts and San Diego, California.

"I take these rides to bring awareness to all the causes I support and to inspire people to help one another," Mr. Veley said.

In 2016, his son Kenneth was killed by gun violence. Mr. Veley said he almost gave up riding, but realized people need inspiration.

"Many times on those long and lonely bike rides, I cry and I cry a lot. But I realize that there are others who need inspiration and may not be as strong as I am, so I keep riding," he said.

Chris Kyriacou, the man who invited Mr. Veley into his home to rest and eat, insisted on talking to The Toledo Journal.

"What Charles is doing is amazing. He has inspired me to do more for people," he said.

Mr. Veley closed out the interview with the message of, "Live your dreams, but reach out to help and inspire other people; particularly strangers."



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

**Charles Veley said, at times, he would sleep on the side of the road during rides in which the temperatures could be hot during the day and very cold at night.**

pain at that time," Mr. Veley said.

The long bike ride was grueling, he explained. "It was 110 degrees and I didn't know anyone and I'd sleep on the side of the road. When people found out what I was doing, they would give me food. I eventually had to be hospitalized for dehydration," Mr. Veley said.

In 2015 he rode from Toledo, to Key West,

pulled up. They called me the N word and threatened to hang me. They eventually left, but later returned and this time, there were only two men. Again, they emphasized how there were no black people in the area and they would kill me. Somehow, the intensity died down and we got to talking. Oddly, one of them offered me to stay at his home for the night; which I did. If



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The other guy that was president, before President Biden, promoted racism, hate and violence, all of which has impacted people of color, more recently, the Asian community. Do you think this type of damage to people of color can be repaired, if so, how?



**Carl Polk**  
Self-Employed

Yes, the damage can be repaired, by giving what's owed to us; reparations. There doesn't need to be a massive study done to determine if Black people are in favor of it, or need it; it's owed to us. Whites continue to benefit from the free labor of the former slaves, and White people continue to throw a web out to trap us in all their injustices. If current White people aren't in favor of reparations, they're no different than their forefathers who perpetuated it.



**James Kenney**  
Factory Worker

Yes it can be changed, but it's going to require all people of all color uniting and realizing there's one race and that's the human race. Knowledge has to be shared for all humans to progress. I sense there's something big coming to challenge all people and if we're not united, we won't be ready. The earth is all of our turf and we all have to work together to solve that problem.



**Bryan McELya**  
Self-Employed

If the government puts more effort into solving the problem, then it would change; because the government has the last word. When Black people speak out against racism, we're looked at as being wrong. So it'll take the government to really get involved to change the problem, because again, they have the last word and the most powerful word.



**Lamar Kenney**  
Factory Worker

We can't solve the problem, but we can help minimize the damage. Racism is taught, so we have to start teaching our children right. I have two children that are of mixed race; White and Mexican. So we have to start teaching them to love and not hate each other, at a young age and that will greatly minimize the problem.



**Charles Rucker**  
Factory Worker

I think it's too late to solve the problem. We see how bold and direct the racists are and the fact they don't pay for their crimes, which, says to me, it's too late. Asians are just now feeling what we've been going through forever. So to me, the best thing to do is stay with our own people and build amongst ourselves.

Ongoing Events

TARTA Announces New Vaccine Ride Program

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) is announcing a new free Vaccine Ride Program with services available in Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Rossford, Sylvania, Sylvania Township, Toledo and Waterville. The Vaccine Ride Program offers several options to residents needing transportation to a vaccination site:

Vaccine Xpress - A direct TARTA route from the downtown Toledo Transit Hub to the Lucas County Recreation Center (Rec Center) began, March 23, 2021. This route will operate on days when the state recognized mass vaccination site, Rec Center, is hosting events. It will offer hourly service. For specific details, visit [www.tarta.com](http://www.tarta.com).

The Vaccine Xpress was developed in partnership with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department.

Toledo Elementary Athletics Movement Presents 2021 Baseball & Softball

K-6th grade \$40/player, Opening Day May 1  
Registration Open Now at [teamelementarysports.org](http://teamelementarysports.org)  
Register your child to play for their Elementary School's Team  
For further information contact [TEAM@team-elementarysports@gmail.com](mailto:TEAM@team-elementarysports@gmail.com).

Every Tuesday  
The Bridge at Monroe St. UMC

So you've hit a rough patch: a lost job, illness, or other difficult transition that's making it hard to make ends meet. Life changes can be hard. We've been there. And we want to help. The Bridge helps you cross over those challenging waters with love, dignity, and the practical support you need. We provide the followig assistance at no cost to all who come through our doors:

Tues. 11:30am-1pm

Food Pantry, Clothing, Personal Needs, State IDs and birth certificate assistance (Documents are important! Let us help you with them), Blood pressure monitoring and answers to health questions  
For more info call 419-473-1167 Ext 333 or 317.

Mt. Nebo Mary and Gail's Closet  
Free Clothing: Mt. Nebo launches clothing ministry in Mary and Gail's Closet.

Mary and Gail's Closet, named in honor of two

church members who passed away in 2020, is a new clothing ministry to benefit men and women in need of business attire, including job and job interview - appropriate outfits. It's stocked with donations from Macy's, New York & Company and the Rotary Club, among others. Appointments are currently required. Call Mt. Nebo at 419-246-8561.

Senior Centers Closed

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

Every Tuesday  
Toledo Masjid Al-Isalm Through Tarbiyyatul Haqq Ministries Food Pantry  
Located at 722 E. Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43608.  
Available Tues. 11 am - 1 pm every week. Free

Free Food Pantry  
Every 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month  
The Redeemed Christian Church of God Mount Zion Chapel Toledo will hold a food pantry, at 2239 Cheyenne Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614

Mar. 24th  
Nuestra Gente Community Projects, Inc  
Nuestra Gente 96.5 FM, Toledo NorthWestern Ohio Food Bank, Ohio National Guard  
COVID - 19 Community Respond 6 Wednesday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Supporting The Old South End & Surrounding Communities. Food Basket donations, Nuestra Gente Community Center 1411 Broadway Street. Toledo.

March 27  
Free Bagged Lunch  
Memorial Lutheran Church  
Memorial will begin providing a PB&J sandwich, a bottled water, fruit and a cookie on the 4th Saturday of each month for anyone who stops by between the hours of 12pm to 2pm  
Where: 3215 Douglas Rd., Toledo , Ohio 43606  
More info: email [office@memorial-lutheran.org](mailto:office@memorial-lutheran.org) or call (419) 472-2161

March 27th  
Electronics Recycling Drive  
Round up your old computers, gaming systems, phones, tablets and more and bring them to the Lu-

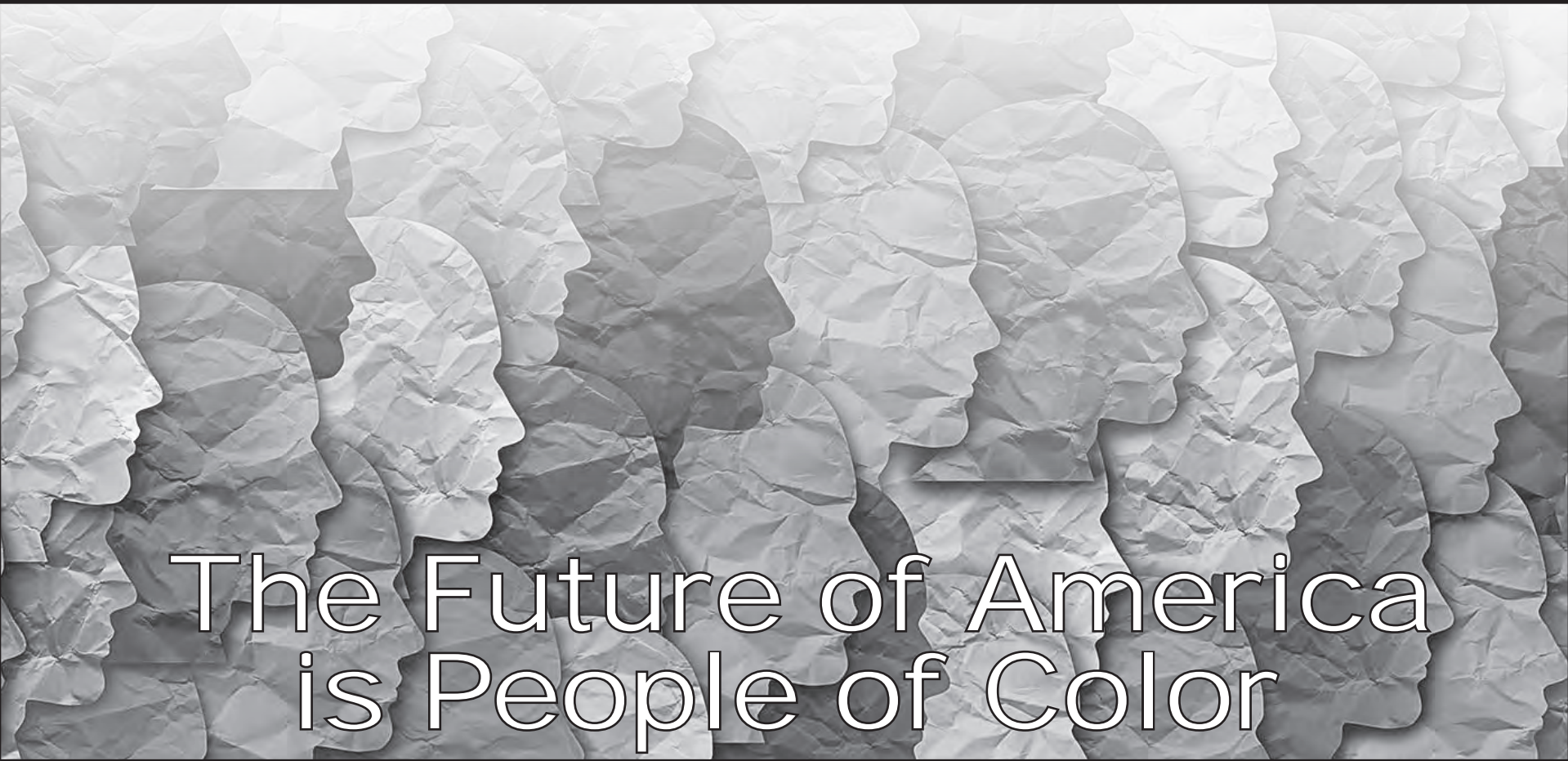
cas County Rec center. All data is securely destroyed and items are fully recycled. (TV's NOT Accepted)  
\$10 donation to Nature's Nursery per car load.  
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Now thru March 31  
Contactless Egg Hunt at Levis Commons  
Special 17th anniversary eggs have been scattered in multiple locations throughout The Town Center, each with a special name written in Sharpie. Use the hints on the Entry Form to find the locations, and write the egg names alongside the location hint. Scan/upload to [cbest@hillpartnersinc.com](mailto:cbest@hillpartnersinc.com) or mail to 3201 Levis Commons Blvd Perrysburg OH 43551. This Egg Hunt is open to all ages.  
Visit <https://bit.ly/3rfapIA> to download the entry form. Follow the instructions, and submit your completed form before March 31st to be considered for the Grand Prize (a \$100+ value!).

April. 2nd  
Greater St. Mary's Baptist Church  
Good Friday Service  
Greater St. Mary's Baptist Church with Pastor Robert Lyons, Sr. will be holding a 7 Last Words of Jesus Christ Good Friday Service on Friday, at 6pm. We are located at 416 Belmont Avenue Toledo, OH 43604, contact us a (419) 244-2663, if you have any questions.

May 30th  
3rd Annual Coach P Summer Games  
Location: Centdral Catholic High School, 2550 Cherry Street Toledo, OH 43608  
Host: Toledo Alive Track Club  
Registration: online registration at [CoachO.com](http://CoachO.com)  
Entry Deadline: May 27, 11:59 p.m.  
Fee: \$15 per athlete - must pay online. No on-site registration  
Age: 4 - 18/Open/Masters  
Admission: \$5 (6 & under Free)  
Time: 12pm Field Events-1:00pm Running Events  
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By Roger Caldwell,  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

As America struggles with the challenges of Covid-19, and a depression/recession, there is sunshine and a belief of tremendous success with people of color (POC). Truth, integrity and factual information are the foundation that President Biden and Vice-President Harris are building their administration upon. The past four years were based on corruption, lies and textbook racism. But Democracy — and America’s voice: the vote — won again.

Many Republicans and political pundits may see the new administration as a mistake, but 84 million people, the most in the history of America, voted with their hearts and their souls. So, this is the new truth. America has shifted, and Republican foolishness and corruption will be exposed and destroyed on a daily level.

There is dangerous behavior being exhibited in the Republican Party, with Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene. On Thursday, 2/4/21, Congresswoman Greene was stripped of her committee posts, in education and budget. The House Democrats joined by 11 Republicans felt she was a danger to the integrity of the body, and many are calling for her to resign her position as a Congresswoman.

“Mostly, the headlines have been about her (previously held) conspira-

torial QAnon beliefs, claims that 9/11 did not happen, that school shootings such as the one at Sandy Hook 2012 in Connecticut that killed 26 children and adults were staged and more,” says Andrew Buncombe – reporter for The Independent. This is an indicator that millions of Americans think like her, and they are caught up in a delusory reality.

As the Republicans remain in gridlock, the Democrats have learned that they cannot wait for them to make up their minds, nor wait to see which way they will go. The Democrats have majorities in the Senate/ House, and they are preparing to move forward.

There is a diversity explosion taking place across the country, in the White House, in Congress, with women and with people of color. The new census reports confirm the importance of racial minorities as the primary demographic engine of the nation’s growth.

“The new census projections indicate that for youth under the age of 18, the post millennial population, minorities will outnumber Whites in 2020,” says William Frey, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program. This is amazing data for people of color, because Whites are not replacing themselves with babies. Soon there will be an inflection point, and there will be more people of color than White people in America.

“

*There are now more than 40% of the residents in the country, who identify themselves as people of color (POC). The future of America is with people of color, because they are an interchangeable member of a shared group, and also has a unique identity such as Black or Hispanic.*

”

William Frey is projecting in 2045; America will become “minority White.” There is nothing Americans can do about this scientific fact. As the Biden administration begins to address criminal justice and prison reform, the killing of Black and Brown people must end. There are many organizations across the country, fighting in solidarity to change policing in America.

There are now more than 40% of the residents in the country, who

identify themselves as people of color (POC). The future of America is with people of color, because they are an interchangeable member of a shared group, and also has a unique identity such as Black or Hispanic.

Public discussion often overlooks the fact that groups called minorities can choose from several identities. A person of color can call themselves Black, Latino, Asian, Mexican, Jamaican, Chinese or any other culture they are comfortable with. Depending on the circumstances, this is a new identity that will get larger as people refuse to call themselves White.

As America shifts under the administration of Biden, the majority in the Democratic Party will be people of color (POC). This makes sense as it reflects the commonality of America, and the fight is for racial equity, and respect for people as human beings.

As anti-racist efforts and organizations continue to grow and unfold, the battle will be coordinated and organized by people of color. People of color will no longer be the minority, they will become the majority, and this will happen before 2045.

The responsibility of people of color is to stand up and be counted. To relax and wait for change is no longer an option. If you want change, remember you are no longer the minority as people of color, and register and vote.

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Plus

In Support of Black Votes Matter

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

By now all of America, and Blacks in particular, are aware of the “Voter Suppression” legislation introduced in more than 28 states with more than 108 and legislative proposals introduced to restrict voter participation aimed at African Americans in particular. These legislative proposals introduced and passed already in some states are the products of Republican controlled state legislative bodies. The New York Times has already said that these efforts represent the worst attack on voter participation since Reconstruction and Jim Crow. Those measures led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which was gutted in part by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013.

It appears that the call for ac-



tion against these efforts is coming out of the State of Georgia, just as it gave us the two U.S. Senators needed to give control of the U.S. Senate to President Biden and Vice President Harris as the tie breaking vote in the senate. The answers appear,

in part, to rest with the newly created “Black Voters Matter” campaign. This effort is placing pressure on some of the largest corporations in America to stop funding those members of the

continued on page 5



# Rescue: Reminiscent of those old Cliffhangers



By Dr. E. Faye Williams  
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – I know there are some who remember the film shorts called “Cliffhangers.” They were serial shorts designed to lure viewers back into theaters for each weekly episode. These serials had common characters: a hero, a heroine, the hero’s loyal sidekick, a villain, minions to the villain, and a seemingly impossible challenge(s) the hero must overcome. Facing the ongoing challenge, the hero would experience episodic, insurmountable doom, surely leading to death. The episode would end leaving the viewer to wonder how the hero would get out of the fix he was in – the Cliffhanger.

Entertaining and suspenseful, in retrospect, these Cliffhangers were sexist, misogynistic, racist, and contained an inaccurate multitude of cultural stereotypes. Those attributes were consistent with the then contemporary standards of filmmaking. One could argue that a change to those standards has only occurred within the past few years, but that’s a discussion for another time.

Passage of the COVID Rescue bill and its subsequent signing into law by President Biden was reminiscent of one of those old Cliffhangers. As I made that mental comparison, I realized there were lessons to be learned from the genre. Similarly disposed characters exist in the legislative process and the weekly serial.

In this instance, the financial res-



cue of millions of Americans could be considered the impossible challenge. Because they live “where the rubber meets the road” and are most dramatically impacted by the COVID disaster, 70% of Americans who were polled favored its enactment. Although long-overdue and insufficient in direct support to most citizens, it is as welcomed as a sip of water to someone stuck in Death Valley. Few will benefit from all elements of the new law, but it is certain that those who do will breathe a temporary sigh of relief.

If divided by the 365 days of the declared pandemic, the total \$3200 awarded to a single adult in both COVID disbursements yields roughly \$8.80 per day. This amount is less than anemic, but long-awaited nonetheless. In addition, the plan includes unemployment aid, tax credit expansions, mortgage/rent relief, eviction moratoria, funds to facilitate school openings, vaccine distribution funds and state and local government relief, among a range of other provisions. This was a weighty challenge for our hero.

Our hero is imbodyed by both Pres-

“ We have come to the end of one episode and, again, the hero still prevails. How long can he succeed? ”

ident Biden and VP Harris. The loyal sidekick is embodied by the Democratic members of the House and Senate. If you’re following my analogy, you know that the villain and his minions are embodied by McConnell, McCarthy, and republicans in the Senate and House. Analogies generally oversimplify, but, in this case, I doubt it.

Rather than being dismissive of the analogy, how else can we characterize legislators like McConnell, Graham, Cruz, Hawley, Rubio, McCarthy, Scalise, Greene, and the 250+ republicans in both houses who cared so little for the American public that they unanimously voted against this “Rescue Legislation.”

They have shown that their lust for power and allegiance to the trump/republican line exceeds their commitment to the people they serve. They have distorted the legislative process into a serve the rich and winner take all competition. In the midst of a viral pandemic, an economy in meltdown, and a social/cultural disruption unlike any in the history of this country or the world, republicans who are constitutionally bound to the provide and protect the general welfare have abrogated their responsibility. Their actions contradict their words. They claim loyalty to the American people yet allow immeasurable suffering through their benign neglect.

We have come to the end of one episode and, again, the hero still prevails. How long can he succeed? We must remember this episode and that, in the future, our votes can eliminate the number of villains our hero must face.

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is President of the National Congress of Black Women and host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-89.3 FM.)

## In Support of Black Votes Matter

continued from page 4

legislature ba and to use th influence na support from support vote The compani clude: Coca ( pot, just to na being added Voters Matte nizers believ these and oth tune 500 com can force cha withholding fi support and against such Black Vot should sprea country just Lives Matter d is not one of c cotts” but ratl those who su



on’t always have words. Press, who have r 194 years, can re story of those ing and support in each of the live and vote; we voter registration ch defeated Don-ember 2020; and ve can ensure by doing so that with the 2022 elections the Re-publicans, White lationalists and icks of those who red the U.S. Cap- n January 6, 2021 nce again defeat- t the ballot box. get involved if we not already and stay involved.



# Black Women's Organizations Matter



By Dr. Julianne Malveaux  
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - March is Women's History Month, and this month is the perfect time to lift the Black women's organizations that make such an essential difference in our lives. Last year, both the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women (NANBPW) celebrated their 85th anniversary. Thanks to COVID, neither organization had the opportunity to celebrate in the way they planned; now they are celebrating by Zoom. The differently scaled celebration does

not diminish the importance that these organizations have. When I think of NCNW, I think of the late Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, who used to say, "If I tap you with my finger, you may or may not feel it, but if I combine these five fingers into a fist, you will definitely feel it." Dr. Height was not a pugilistic woman, but she was a fervent believer in the power of the collective. And NCNW, an "organization of organizations," certainly fits that bill. Too many times, in modern history, NCNW, the collective, has been present. Many of us, for example, attended Labor Secretary Alexis Herman's confirmation hearings, many wearing the crimson and cream colors of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Ms. Herman's sorority (and also mine). Deltas were not the only people in the house. Other Divine Nine sisters joined us, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Zeta Phi Beta, and Sigma Gamma Rho. We made an impression, and those senators prepared to grill Herman had to think twice because we were there. Black women had a tremendous impact on this current election. I think of LaTosha Brown, a Black Votes Matter leader, and the tireless work

she did to get voters out. I think of Melanie Campbell and the sisters of the Black Women's Roundtable. There are so many more Black women and Black Women's organizations that made a difference in this election. President Biden has acknowledged the Black community and Black women in particular. It is crucial, though, that our coalition continues to stay active and connected. One Black woman, Kristen Clarke, has been nominated to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Already the right-wing is going after her with their usual smear campaign tactics, taking comments out of context and blowing them up. The same coalition that worked to get the vote out now must work to support this exceptional woman. Similarly, two other women of color are being smeared. Vanita Gupta, President of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, has been attacked by rabid right-wingers. Another woman of color, Neera Tanden, who leads the Center for American Progress, has been attacked for her tweets. Really? Her tweets, some say, are vi-

cious. When have tweets adhered to a civility protocol? The coalition of Black women who have always made a difference must step up to support these women, too.

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune,

“ Thanks to COVID... The differently scaled celebration does not diminish the importance that these organizations have. ”

the founder of NCNW, was a firm believer in diversity and inclusion. She reached out to white women who shared our values and worked in coalition with them when she could, given the constraints of the time. She would approve supporting sisters Gupta and Tanden, women of color just like us. While we might not be on the same page as these sisters on everything, we have enough in common to be passionate in their defense. The smear tactics that the rabid right uses to smear these women are unacceptable. They are the same tactics that these people use against Vice President Kamala Harris. We need to make sure they don't work.

I often wonder what motivated Dr. Bethune to form an organization in the middle of the Great Depression, when overall unemployment rates soared to 25 percent and Black unemployment was two or three times higher. In 1935, food lines snaked around city blocks and down dusty roads in rural communities. Too many Black folks were pushed to the back of the line or denied assistance altogether. The indignities were innumerable, but Bethune shrugged them off to build a powerful organization with unprecedented access to President Roosevelt. She walked into Roosevelt's office with the collective strength of Black women in her fingers or her fist. Black women's organizations don't get the credit they are due, so these organizations must be lifted in this Women's History Month. What would our nation be without these organizations who get out the vote, raise money for scholarships, provide social and civic services, and do so much more? I don't want to know the answer. All I know is that Black women's organizations matter. We must celebrate them!

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<sup>2</sup>Property must be located in a census tract within the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, and Wood. Actual amount applied at closing.

## Picture of Black Mom and Her Twin Daughters Goes Viral — Who's Who?



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

The three are even starting to get invitations from radio and TV stations around the country to be on their show. Most notable is an invitation from, you guessed it – The Ellen Degeneres Show!

**BLACK NEWS** - Kaylan Mahomes (@kaylan\_17) recently posted a photo/ video of herself with her twin sister, Kyla (@kylalllaaaaa), and her mother on her Twitter account, but she had no idea just how viral the post would go. The three of them, from Indianapolis, Indiana, look completely identical, and it really is hard to tell which one of them is the mom. Because of the amazement of the photo, the photo/video has been retweeted and shared thousands of times on both Facebook and Twitter, and the hashtags #BlackGirlMagic and #BlackDontCrack have become an international trend. Not only that, news programs all over

the world, from Denmark to England to the Bahamas to Nigeria, are talking about it, and even Kaylan's Twitter followers have increased to more than 8,000. She has since started an already popular Instagram account at [www.instagram.com/momtwinandme/](http://www.instagram.com/momtwinandme/) So who exactly is who? Well, the mom is actually the one on the far left. The two on the right are the twin sisters. Here's what people are saying on social media: "FLAWLESS!! I just had a debate about who mom was" — Andrea Pack "You are all blessed to be so lovely. Stay beautiful girls" — Hugh Tellin "Multigenerational Triplets. Flawless. #DontCrack" — LowKeyLeftEye "Beautiful family!! You look like sisters, not mother and daughters" — Peace Diva "Well, I saw it on the news here in Denmark." — Tennis Bolden "You all are exceptionally beautiful! Stay humble and level-headed amidst this new celebrity. But By All Means #UseEveryBitOfIts" — Andre H.

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# COVID Scams on the Rise Amid Chaotic Vaccine Rollout and Distribution Delays

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Scammers are taking advantage of the confusion surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine distribution and using it as an opportunity to prey on consumers anxious to get their shots.

Because distribution varies state by state and changes are announced almost daily, there's not a lot of clarity on when and how people can get vaccinated, explained Karen S. Hobbs, Assistant Director, Division of Consumer & Business Education at the Federal Trade Commission. "Officials are doing what they can, the best they can, but no state is immune to confusion and scammers are ready to take advantage," she said.

"This is one of those schemes that, like the pandemic, is affecting literally everyone, everywhere," she added.

Hobbs said the FTC has received numerous reports of vaccine scams, though none so far have involved large numbers of people. The complaints involve scammers posing as federal and local officials, as well as hospital staff, clinic workers and healthcare providers.

"People are pretending to be someone you can trust in order to get money or information," she said, adding that victims have reported being asked to provide sensitive information like social security numbers, medical information and driver's license numbers.

On its website, the County of Merced reported that scammers posing as clinic workers contacted Merced residents and offered them COVID-19 vaccines for an upfront \$100.00 fee. After the money was paid, the victims were referred to a vaccine site where they did not have appointments.

Prepaid schemes have also appeared in Ventura County, and in Skagit County, WA., local news outlets GoSkagit.com and KGMI.com have reported that scammers claiming to be Skagit County representatives called residents and offered them vaccine appointments and then asked for personal information such as a mother's maiden name or social security numbers to confirm the appointment.

"The general message people are hearing [about vaccines] is scarcity and the lo-

put you on a list or reserve a spot in line, is a scammer. Other signs of a scam include:

Advertisements to buy the vaccine. You can't buy it anywhere, it's only available at federal- and state-approved locations.

Requests for personal, financial, or health information. No one from a vaccine distribution site, healthcare provider's office, pharmacy, or your insurance company or Medicare will ask for personal information or your Social Security, credit card, driver's license or bank account number to sign you up to get the vaccine.

Unexpected or unusual texts and emails containing links about the COVID vaccine. Do not click on links or open attachments from sources you don't recognize as you could download dangerous malware onto your device.

"Our advice to people is that you should contact a trusted source, so you'll be checking with local and health departments to learn when and how to get the vaccine and you can also talk to your healthcare providers directly," Hobbs said.

Hobbs also encouraged people to sign up for for the latest information on a variety of consumer issues, including COVID-related scams, and noted that if you have been scammed, it's important to contact authorities right away.

"Getting money back from scammers is a challenge because scammers ask people to use certain payments and these methods have certain characteristics: quick, anonymous, difficult to reverse," she explained.

One popular method involves instructing victims to buy gift cards and then asking them for the numbers on the back. Scammers also ask for payments via cash-reload cards and money transfers such as Western Union and MoneyGram.

"They choose these methods because they're like cash – once the money is gone, it's gone. That's why it's important to act quickly. It's the only way to increase your chances of getting your money back."

Reporting scams to the FTC




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# Great-Grand-daughter of Tuskegee Study Victim Gets Vaccine

By Shelia Poole  
AP via Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Voice and Viewpoint

Peggy Fitzpatrick Tatum recently spent two weeks trying to book an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine before eventually landing a date.

Tatum's decision to get the vaccine may raise some eyebrows.

The 65-year-old retired federal employee is the great-granddaughter of one of hundreds of Black men in Macon County, Alabama, who were part of a controversial U.S. Public Health Service study on syphilis, commonly known as the Tuskegee Study or Tuskegee Experiment, which began in 1932 and lasted 40 years.

Blacks and Latinos have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus in terms

of hospitalizations and deaths, according to health experts.

Yet, they're also receiving COVID-19 vaccinations at significantly lower rates than whites.

A big reason is lack of trust in medical research systems and the government. Some list the Tuskegee Experiment as reason for their hesitance.

According to a June 2020 Pew Research Center study, Black adults were more hesitant to trust medical scientists, embrace the use of experimental medical



**Peggy Fitzpatrick, 65, stands for a portrait holding an image of her great grandfather, Willie Fitzpatrick, at East Lake Park in Atlanta's East Lake community , Thursday, Feb.11, 2021. Willie was a victim of the Tuskegee Experiments, which was an unethical medical study that targeted Black men for more than 40 years. Despite this experiment being a part of Peggy's family legacy, she is still seeking to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination.**

PHOTO CREDIT / ALYSSA POINTER

with the AJC  
In a recent Atlanta Journal-Constitution poll, 30% of Black respondents said the main reason they wouldn't get the COVID vaccine is they distrust the health system. About 22% were concerned about side effects. Thirty-seven percent said they wanted to know more about the vaccines' effectiveness.

Those facts are not lost on many in the community , as Black physicians, civic organizations and faith-based groups work to educate Black people about the vaccines.

"We're at a different place from Tuskegee and also from other injustices and unethical medical behavior as far as research goes on human subjects," said Dr. Lilly Immergluck, a professor at the Morehouse School of Medicine.

National and international guidelines have come from lessons learned in history.

"The protections that humans have in clinical research, to me, evolved from that sit-

treatments and sign up for a potential vaccine to combat the disease.

"I do think they are using Tuskegee as an excuse, and it brings about fear and some anxiety for people," said Tatum, who was raised in Tuskegee and now lives in metro Atlanta, in a recent interview

Continued on page 12.



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# The State of Black Education During COVID-19: the Good, the Bad, and the Promising

By Letisha Marrero  
Wire Writer

No doubt, the news about educating our children during a pandemic has been dire as of late, filled with doom and gloom. But to Black families, this is a familiar story. “Who was public education built for and who is it not?” asked Sekou Biddle, vice president, advocacy, and student professional development programs at UNCF. “Even what Thomas Jefferson said, ‘Education is an opportunity to rake the muck from the geniuses.’ We really haven’t moved far from that.” Biddle was part of a panel of esteemed educators and leaders who gathered for a roundtable discussion on the state of Black education during COVID-19. The problem of systemic racism in public education has existed for centuries — it’s just now being exacerbated by things such as the digital divide and the lack of resources. The media likes to tout it as “learning loss,” to make the problem sound even worse, but some people are actively trying to counter the narrative. “I don’t call it learning loss. I call it interrupted learning,” said

Dr. Tanji Reed Marshall, director of P-12 practice at The Education Trust. “I want to make sure we don’t rest with the negative thinking that children are falling behind. They are standing on the precipice of possibility. They are eager to learn. We want them to not just be on track, but above the track.” Parents right now are making critical decisions about whether to put their children back into buildings that may not be safe. While it’s true that some children are struggling with remote learning, others are actually thriving without having to deal with negative school climates, being bullied in school, or facing discipline disparities or implicit bias. Sharif El-Mekki, founder and CEO of the Center for Black Educator Development, says that his focus is on teacher diversity, professional development, pedagogy for Black students that have been used for hundreds of years. “What we’ve seen is really an exacerbation of injustices for Black people. This pandemic on top of layers and layers of a racist endemic. The Black student experience and the Black



teacher experience are intertwined.” His center just announced a new \$3 million national educational justice campaign to dramatically increase the number of Black teachers entering the teaching profession. Black teachers close educational achievement and opportunity gaps, decreasing dropout rates and increasing college enrollment of Black students by more than 30%. Given that Black teachers only comprise 7% of the teacher workforce, we need more of them. Black teachers understand what’s at stake for Black students and

teachers given this crisis. “We need to build trust in our students,” said Magala Bien-Amie, a Black middle school special education teacher in Brooklyn. “I have all my kids on speed dial so if they’re absent, I’m right there. When I show up, I show up, and I never let them down.” She added that teachers need to be given the freedom to teach, because real-world problems need real-world solutions — and it’s not about teaching to the test. “I know we live in a high-stakes testing environment, but some kids are just not great test takers. You can’t let that be a bar-

rier.” When COVID-19 hit, teachers were “thrown into the deep end of the pool,” said Sal Khan, founder and CEO of Khan Academy. But now, teachers are embracing technology more and willing to use it moving forward. “I think we’re at a moment that no one would deny that everyone needs to have suitable internet access in this country. Instead of viewing it as gaps, I say start at grade level, and if you need to go back, do it at the same time. But that’s where digital tools like Khan Academy Kids can be valuable.” The degree of unfinished learning caused by the pandemic will differ by student, subject, and grade —affecting math more than reading, younger grades more than older, and students already lacking adequate supports more than others. Marshall previewed some of Ed Trust’s upcoming research on three ways schools can give students the opportunities and supports they need to complete unfinished learning: targeted intensive tutoring, expanded learning time, and building strong relationships between students and strong

school staff. Biddle, who’s been a classroom teacher and is now a dad to a high schooler, says while parent engagement is a nice-to-have, this isn’t reality for a lot of Black parents who are essential workers. “Parents are the frontline. We’re asking parents to be counselors, and teachers are trying to do that remotely. We need to think about acceleration.” Moving forward, educators will need to administer high-quality assessments to determine where learning must be accelerated and provide high-quality instruction to ensure students can reach high standards. Students will need access to opportunities, supports, and strong and supportive relationships. And targeted actions from school and district leaders and policymakers are needed to ensure stretched budgets do not result in policies and practices that harm the students who face the most injustices. Said El-Mekki, “Black people have led in carrying the banner for educational and racial justice — two areas that are inseparable.” And so, the march goes on.



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# KeShaun Bailey receives student caddie college scholarship

Submitted By: Zoe Spilker  
Dittoe Public Relations

KeShaun a Toledo resident and a senior at Central Catholic High School is a caddy at Inverness Club. He was recently awarded the Evans Scholarship to The Ohio State University where he'll start this fall. The Evans Scholarship a full, four-

year housing and tuition scholarship and the nation's largest privately funded scholarship program. The full tuition and housing college scholarship is valued at an estimated \$120,000 over four years. KeShaun is passionate about animals and plans to study veterinary medicine in college and

minor in business. After he graduates from Ohio State he plans to attend veterinary medicine school to become a veterinarian. He has caddied for three years at Inverness Club. Each caddie has a unique story, reflecting the scholarship's four selection criteria: a strong caddie record;

excellent academics; demonstrated financial need; and outstanding character. "Each of these deserving young students epitomizes what our Program has been about since its creation in 1930," said WGA Chairman Kevin Buggy. "Their dedication, hard work and sacrifice is humbling, and we are honored to be able to help them pursue their dreams." The Western Golf Association, headquartered in Glenview, Illinois, has supported the Chick Evans Scholarship Program through the Evans Scholars Foundation since 1930. One of golf's favorite charities, it is the nation's largest scholarship program for caddies. Currently, a record 1,045 caddies are enrolled in 19 universities across the nation as Evans Scholars, and more than 11,320 caddies have graduated as



Evans Scholars since the program was founded by famed Chicago amateur golfer Charles "Chick" Evans Jr. "These young students all have shown excellence in the class-

room and in their communities, as well as on the golf course," said John Kaczowski, WGA President and CEO. "We welcome them to the Evans Scholars family."

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## 12-Year Old Black Girl Enrolls at Arizona State University to Study Chemistry and Engineering

Submitted

Black News - Tempe, AZ — At just 12-years old, Alena Wicker is set to start college at Arizona State University, majoring in astronomical



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Alena Wicker

and planetary science and chemistry. She plans to be an engineer for NASA someday. "I always dreamed of being an engineer because throughout my life I liked the building," Alena told 11Alive about her goal to work at NASA. Since she was 4-years old, it had always been her dream as she was building NASA-sized Legos. "She just had a gift for numbers and Lego and science so I started nurturing that gift," said her mother Daphne McQuarter. When Alena finished high school through homeschool classes, she began pursuing that

dream and will be starting classes at ASU this summer. She expects to finish college at the age of 16. "I'll be driving in one of those future space mobiles by the time that I graduate college," Alena said, adding that she wants to build rovers that could be sent to other planets as well. More than that, Alena is also very active on her Facebook page where she plans to launch a podcast to share her journey. "I'm just planning it all as I go. It doesn't matter what your age or what you're planning to do. Go for it, dream, then accomplish it," she said.

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All the love shown during our time of sorrow will be cherished forever.

Our dad will truly be missed.  
Special thank you to the Toledo Hospital ICU unit, C. Brown Funeral Home, those families, friends who traveled afar to join us in dads homegoing celebration.  
**We Love you all!**

Children: Mark, Chris (Brenda), Vincent, Monica Riley  
Sisters: Geraldine Perry  
Idella (Clois) Smith  
Marilyn Riley

*“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints” -Psalm 116:15*

## MHRSB of Lucas County named 2021 ADAMH Board of the Year Award

Submitted

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHRSB) is proud to announce that this year, the NAMI Ohio Board of Directors has chosen MHRSB of Lucas County as the 2021 ADAMH Board of the Year Award recipient. This award will be presented in person on Wednesday, March 24 at 9:30 AM in our offices at 701 Adams Street, Suite 800. The in-person presentation will be recorded and then presented later statewide during NAMI Ohio's Annual Meeting, held virtually on April 22.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, those living with mental illness have been devastated due to isolation and the inability to access the services they desperately need. Anytime NAMI Ohio contacted the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County for assistance, they always immediate-

ly stepped in and helped their county's residents get through this terrible time. This Board also helped in the procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) to all of the county's congregate living facilities that were considered extremely high risk to COVID-19 spread.

"We present this prestigious award to the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County due to their tremendous commitment to the citizens of Lucas County living with mental illness..." - NAMI Ohio Award Announcement

Award to be presented by:  
Terry Russell, Executive Director NAMI Ohio  
Luke Russell, Deputy Director NAMI Ohio  
Christine Wierman, NAMI Ohio Board Member

Robin Isenberg, Executive Director Suite 800, Toledo, OH 43604  
NAMI Greater Toledo  
Accepting the Award:  
Scott Sylak, Executive Director, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board  
Jim Stengle, MHRSB Board Chair  
Sena M. Friedman, MHRSB Vice Chair  
Michael Carter, Manager of Community Engagement & Client Rights  
Charletta Slaughter, Manager of Recovery Services  
When: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 9:30 a.m  
Where: 701 Adams St


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*A word from C. BROWN and C. BRIAN BROWN DIRECTORS*

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# Energy Policies and Potential Impacts on Household Budgets

R. Dean Foreman, Ph.D.  
Chief Economist, American  
Petroleum Institute

(NNPA Newswire) - Most people are concerned when energy costs rise, especially prices at the pump. It's understandable since the average household spent nearly \$4,100 on energy in 2019, per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Consumer Expenditure Survey.

For more than a decade, expanded U.S. energy production helped lower energy costs, giving consumers more disposable income to afford other essentials like food, education and healthcare, which rose by 27%, 38% and 75%, respectively, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

However, with U.S. natural gas and oil production down recently, energy costs



PHOTO CREDIT NNPA NEWSWIRE / iSTOCKPHOTO

**Higher costs for housing, vehicles and energy could ultimately require making sacrifices in the American way of life. Energy policies that could raise these costs should be discussed clearly and in the context of what is affordable to American households.**

30% year over year (y/y), and consequently gasoline prices were up 14% y/y as of March 8, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration

price inflation so far in 2021. Further energy cost increases could result from the Biden administration's decision to halt new federal natural gas and oil leasing, potentially reducing domestic production, as well as other possible actions that could limit drilling or hydraulic fracturing. These could put upward pressure on energy costs that then could ripple across the broader

what you pay for a gallon of gasoline or your monthly electricity bill.

For example, imagine trying to make ends meet if U.S. energy policies raised the costs of housing and vehicles, in addition to the energy they require. Housing, vehicles and energy represent more than half of a typical household's expenditures.

While spending on energy since 2009 fell 10% to 15% across every income bracket, Americans' non-energy spending on housing, vehicles, maintenance and insurance rose the fastest among those who could least afford increases. Real housing expenditures (excluding energy) by the lowest 40% of U.S. households by income increased about 10% between 2009 and 2019 – roughly three times the rate among wealthy households. Over the same period, real

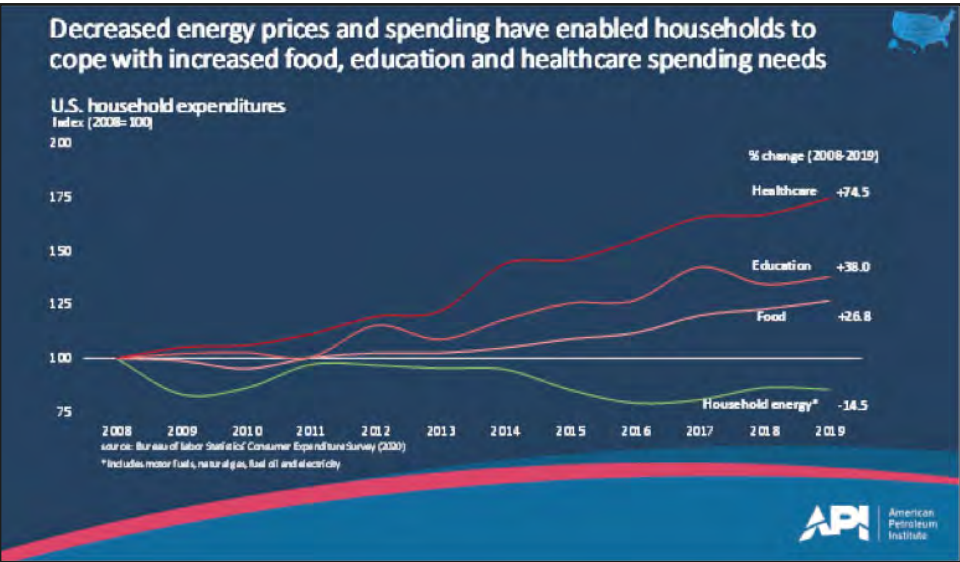
household spending on vehicles, insurance and public transit rose 35% among the lowest 20% of households by income, more than twice the rate of wealthier households.

These concerns loom over an economy where vehicles and housing have recently become even more expensive for some.

Now consider the potential costs of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, which the administration is signaling it wants the nation to transition to and build; the ratcheting up of fuel economy standards, which the auto industry suggested in January would cost more than \$1 billion annually; plus incentives and/or state requirements like California's which mandate residential solar panels on new construction, estimated to add \$8,400 to the cost of a single-family home. Each of these would add upfront costs that disproportionately impact the 60% of U.S. households earning \$53,123 or less in 2019, per BLS.

To be clear, the industry supports higher energy efficiency where it is cost effective. However, policies that undermine domestic energy production and blanket regulations that favor certain technologies over others for vehicles or homes could harm consumers.

Higher costs for housing, vehicles and energy could ultimately require making sacrifices in the American way of life. Energy policies that could raise these costs should be discussed clearly and in the context of what is affordable to American households.



have been on the rise. The price of crude oil, historically the biggest factor in the cost of gasoline, has risen nearly

(EIA). Electricity and natural gas bills also have increased faster than overall consumer

economy. Yet, energy policy choices could affect far more than just

## Great-Grand-daughter of Tuskegee Study Gets Vaccine

*Continued from page 8.*

uation (Tuskegee) along with some others.

"The way to be empowered is to get correct information," she said. "We're asking people to go to the people they trust in their communities, their circles, their networks and their health care providers."

But she made it clear that it's not just vaccine hesitancy that could account for lower numbers.

"Is the root cause for the low number truly because people don't want it or is it an access issue, a distribution issue or an inequality of distribution issue that needs to be addressed?"

Tatum is a board member of the Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation, a non-profit which was formed in 2014 to bring together Tuskegee Experiment descendants,

provide scholarships, educate people about the study and tell the story of the men and their legacy.

Several group members have spoken out recently about the COVID vaccines and shared that they plan to take them. Their work has been in the spotlight more as people debate whether to take the vaccines.

Recently, Tatum and other descendants were part of a panel discussion on the syphilis study for a Chicago-based talk show when someone asked why, given their family histories, they would take the COVID vaccines.

She told them she was raised by her grandparents and when she was younger,

whenever a vaccine became available whether for mumps or chickenpox, they would go down to the community clinic and get the shots.

*“My grandmother never thought about any harm the vaccine would do to us, but she trusted in the Lord that it would do us all the good.”*

"My grandmother never thought about any harm the vaccine would do to us, but she trusted in the Lord that it would do us all the good," Tatum said.

Many times, people on social media harken back to the syphilis study.

Tatum doesn't go as far as to encourage others to take the

vaccines; she just wants them to educate themselves before making a decision.

"Back then, they didn't understand what was going on," she said. "Now you can ask questions. You can watch experts on the news 24/7."

Tatum admits that she was hesitant at first, but the more she researched the vaccines, the more comfortable she felt.

She was only 2 years old when her great-grand-father died and can only piece together what he was like from other family members.

Papa Willie, as he was known, was a hard - working family man and sharecropper who lived right outside of Tus-

kegee in a community called Cotton Valley.

Lillie Tyson Head's father, Freddie Lee Tyson, was also part of the study. Today, she advocates for people, particularly Blacks, to get vaccinated.

In Macon County, the men were not treated or informed they were in a study, said Head, 78, president of the Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation and a Virginia resident. "We, on the other hand, in this time and age, we have more information at our disposal about the vaccine."

"I do hope my African American brothers and sisters will take the vaccine if they are able to do it," Head told the AJC. The retired educator and her husband are scheduled to take their second COVID vaccine dose in March.



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BLACK HISTORY

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**Emmanuel Steward** went 94-3 in his amateur boxing career, and was a National Gold Gloves Champion. As a trainer, he managed 25 world champions and four Olympic gold medalists.

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The Village of Ottawa Hills is accepting applications for the full-time position of Administrative Assistant for the Police Department.

Required Qualifications and Experience:

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Pay Range: \$48,960-\$59,660

HELP WANTED

RUDOLPH LIBBE INC  
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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. RLG is headquartered in Toledo with offices in Cleveland, Columbus and Lima, Ohio; and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit [RLGbuilds.com](http://RLGbuilds.com).

Rudolph Libbe Inc. is seeking a Survey Specialist for its Walbridge, OH location. The Survey Specialist stakes out a variety of surveying assignments to facilitate the completion of buildings, building sites, roads, property/boundary limits and site control. This is project level work that requires the knowledge of surveying principles, processes, equipment and software.

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INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD APPLY ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.RLGBUILDS.COM/CAREERS](http://WWW.RLGBUILDS.COM/CAREERS).

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DATA ANALYST

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is seeking a professional to evaluate/design systems to structure and access databases; supports department operations to ensure appropriate use and performance of computer technology (software data).

For more details on this position and benefits, please visit [www.lucasdd.org](http://www.lucasdd.org).

All candidates must submit to the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities by April 2, 2021, a resume and cover letter along with an employment application, which is available at [www.lucasdd.org](http://www.lucasdd.org). If in need of ADA accommodations, contact us directly at 419-380-4033. EOE.

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER/ PRODUCTION MANAGER


WGTE Public Media seeks a full-time, Multimedia Producer/Production Manager to manage video production services, develop and edit short and long-form videos and produce live studio and field productions.

Previous experience with directing and video switching along with videography and digital editing required. Candidate must have strong writing skills and be able to handle multiple, time-sensitive projects. Supervisory experience and experience with Adobe Premiere, After Effects, and Final Cut Pro, preferred. Candidate must be willing to work a flexible work schedule, including occasional evenings and weekends. Bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university in a field such as liberal arts, radio & television broadcasting or journalism preferred; or a minimum of an Associate's degree in liberal arts, radio & television broadcasting or journalism, with two years related experience and/or training required. A valid driver's license is required. Send your cover letter and resume to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614, or [employment@wgte.org](mailto:employment@wgte.org). EOE/ADA

NOTICE FOR PROPOSALS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND MIXED  
FINANCE ACCOUNTING SERVICES  
RFP#21-R006

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive proposals for **Financial Accounting Consulting Services and Mixed Finance Accounting Services RFP#21-R006**. Received in accordance with law until **April 14, 2021 3:00 pm**. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.





# How to Reconnect in a Disconnected World



By Pastor W. Eric Croomes  
Wire Writer

I recently read a Facebook post that lamented how the high number of ‘fake people’ causes one to withdraw from socializing with others. I chimed in on the post and suggested that withdrawing from such people may offer a certain transitory peace, but likely at the expense of social skills. Think about a world where virtually everyone is to themselves; they do not want to be

bothered and they cut themselves off from everyone else. Now imagine the same world in the middle of a pandemic. So many people are lonely. In the United Kingdom, I recently read that the government there appointed a ‘Minister of Loneliness’. The tide of disconnect among humans is rising; I do not think it is going to reverse itself soon, given the volatile state of political affairs we are now witnessing and despite the promise a vaccine offers. What to do? Scripture says, A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:17) Amid a global pandemic, we must attempt to reconnect on three important levels: self, family, and community. **Reconnect with Your Self** Notice I did not mention reconnecting with God first. That is because when we reconnect with ourselves, we by extension reconnect with our Higher

Self. We are divinely created; a piece of heaven and a chunk of earth, as the writer Thomas Moore put it. We must reconnect to our own inherent good. That means we must overcome our addiction to “things” – cell phones, tablets, computers, games, and other gadgets that keep us sequestered from the rest of humanity and prop up this culture of the lonely. Find a way to secure quiet time. Spend some time in the chamber of silence. Put away your cell phone for a day. **Reconnect with your Family and Friends** Most of us pride ourselves in family; we say family is everything. But how true is that statement? How many family members are not on speaking terms? How many sibling rivalries have progressed into all out wars? Too many. Now throw in the effects of a lockdown culture due to the pandemic. While it is true that family

forms the bedrock civilized society, it is also true that disconnect among family members is a constant source of society chaos. Family disputes and disagreements are normal, but when people begin to experience psychological and physical pain from family dysfunction, something different needs to happen. Find a way to move past family conflict. Use a family member as a mediator to resolve festering disputes. Some family pain goes back decades, but that does not mean it has to be a genera-

tional curse. **Reconnect with your Wider Self** By ‘wider self’ I am speaking of the community. Our communities are in dire need of reconnect; we need people who desire to make a difference. It used to be that the ‘community’ was down the block. Not anymore. Technology, transportation advances and social media has transformed the term community into a borderless phenomenon. Find a way to be more responsive; to show friendliness toward others. We have lost that sense of cordiality and mutual respect. I recall watching a film several years ago called Once Upon a Time When We Colored. It was a different day back then before integration robbed us of our community ethos and compassion. Today, find a way to reconnect to yourself, your family and to your wider self.

“ Amid a global pandemic, we must attempt to reconnect on three important levels: self, family, and community.”

# Golden Globe Winner Idris Elba Signs Multi-Book Deal With HarperCollins Children’s Books

Submitted

In a major UK/US co-publication deal, world rights were acquired by Ann-Janine Murtagh, Executive Publisher, HCCB UK, and Suzanne Murphy, President and Publisher, HCCB US, from Crystal Mahy-Morgan at OWN IT! Entertainment Ltd. Publishing will include picture books and fiction featuring a character and world imagined and developed by Idris and his writing partner Robyn Charteris, who has written numerous live-action drama, pre-school and animation programmes for BBC, Channel 4, the Jim Henson Company and Endemol as well as educational theatre for schools. Idris Elba said, “I feel privileged to have the opportunity to bring stories inspired by my daughter to life with my incredible partner Robyn Charteris, and the powerhouse team at HarperCollins.” Executive Publisher HCCB UK, Ann-Janine Murtagh said, “Idris Elba is one of the most iconic and multi-talented creatives of his generation and I am delighted that he is joining the HarperCollins Children’s Books list. From the outset, Idris had a very clear vision of the characters and stories he has imagined, and is passionate about creating books that will appeal to all children. Robyn Charteris has a fantastic track record in writing for children, working with some of the biggest producers of children’s entertainment, and I am hugely excited to also welcome her to the world of children’s books. I feel privileged

that Idris has entrusted us to bring his stories to life and I cannot wait to share them with children across the globe.” President and Publisher HCCB US, Suzanne Murphy said, “Idris Elba is a creative force, who has many wonderful stories to tell. We are honored to be working with him and with Robyn Charteris to bring Idris’s rich and imaginative storytelling to the world of children’s books, and we are thrilled to welcome them to the HarperCollins family.” **IDRIS ELBA** Golden Globe and SAG winning Idris Elba captivates audiences as an actor, producer and director, and continually secures his position as the one to watch in Hollywood. He is the first actor to receive dual SAG awards in one evening. Idris’s career skyrocketed on the small screen in some of the UK’s top-rated shows. Soon after, he landed the role of Stringer Bell in HBO’s critically acclaimed series The Wire (NAACP Image Award nomination). In 2010, Idris landed the title role on the BBC mini-series Luther, which earned him a Golden Globe, SAG Award and four Emmy nominations. In 2005, he began his film career; his credits include American Gangster (Golden Globe nomination), Mandela: The Long Walk to Freedom (Golden Globe nomination), Beasts of No Nation (SAG Award, Golden Globe nomination) and the Oscar-nominated film Molly’s Game. He can be seen this April in the Netflix film Concrete Cowboy, which he also produced, and this summer

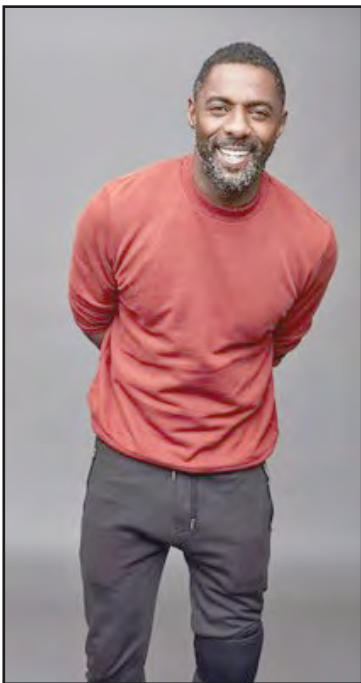


PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

**Iconic and multi-award-winning actor, musician, filmmaker, and activist Idris Elba has signed a global multi-book deal with HarperCollins to publish a range of children’s books launching in 2022.** will be starring in The Suicide Squad 2. Other upcoming films include The Harder They Fall and Three Thousand Years of Longing. Behind the camera, Idris made his feature-film directorial debut at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival with Yardie. In 2013, he founded his production company, Green Door Pictures, to champion diversity of thought. With Green Door, Idris released the documentary Mandela, My Dad and Me, produced the TV mini-series Guerrilla for Showtime and created, produced and appears in the Sky comedy series In the Long Run. He also

created, produced and starred in the Netflix comedy series Turn Up Charlie. **ROBYN CHARTERIS** Robyn began her career writing educational theatre for schools and charitable organisations internationally before graduating to television. For television she has written on numerous live-action drama, pre-school and animation programmes for the BBC, Channel 4, the Jim Henson Company, Channel 5, Initial Kids (Endemol), Carlton TV, Gullane, Hit Entertainment, Granada, SABC, Urban Brew, Disney and M-Net. Her credits include a BAFTA-winning children’s drama series for CBBC, creating and writing one of the first original 52-episode pre-school series for the launch of the digital channel CBeebies, creative consultancy for Mattel Toys and Lego, and a master’s degree in Playwriting. **ABOUT HARPERCOLLINS** HarperCollins UK is a division of HarperCollinsPublishers, the second-largest consumer book publisher in the world, with operations in 17 countries, and was named Publisher of the Year at the British Book Awards 2018. With over two hundred years of history and more than 120 unique imprints around the world, HarperCollins publishes approximately 10,000 new books every year, in 16 languages, and has a print and digital catalogue of more than 200,000 titles. Writing across dozens of genres, HarperCollins authors include winners of the Nobel Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the

Newbery and Caldecott Medals and the Man Booker Prize. HarperCollins UK has offices in London, Glasgow, Honley and Manchester and can be found online at [www.harpercollins.co.uk](http://www.harpercollins.co.uk). **HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN’S BOOKS, UK** HarperCollins Children’s Books, unprecedented three times winner of Children’s Publisher of the Year (2014, 2015, 2016), is one of the leading publishers of children’s books, recognised for nurturing new talent as well as boasting a reputable list of established bestselling authors. Respected worldwide for its tradition of publishing quality, award-winning books for young readers, HarperCollins is home to many children’s classics, including The Chronicles of Narnia, Mary Poppins, the Paddington stories, The Cat in the Hat and The Tiger Who Came to Tea, and to some of the biggest names in children’s literature past and present, including Judith Kerr, David Walliams, Lauren Child, David Baddiel, Oliver Jeffers and Michael Morpurgo. **HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN’S BOOKS, US:** HarperCollins Children’s Books is one of the leading publishers of children’s and teen books. Respected worldwide for its tradition of publishing quality, award-winning books for young readers, HarperCollins is home to many timeless treasures and bestsellers such as Charlotte’s Web, Goodnight Moon, Where the Sidewalk Ends, and so many more.



# Wrongly Convicted Man Spent 5 Years in Prison Because Hertz Didn't Provide A Receipt That Proved His Alibi



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

The Lansing Journal said that Alford had used his credit card at the Lansing airport location at 3 p.m. Oct. 18, 2011 — just six minutes after Adams was shot and killed in the 3400 block of Pleasant Grove Road.

**Black News** - Herbert Alford, an African American man who spent almost 5 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted for a murder he didn't commit, is now suing Hertz for failing to promptly provide the receipt that would have had confirmed his innocence.

In 2015, Alford was arrested after police suspected that he was responsible for a 2011 murder. A year later, he was convicted of second-degree murder even though he maintained his innocence, saying he was renting a vehicle several miles away from the scene.

Alford said he was renting a car from the airport in Lansing, Michigan just minutes before the murder

of 23-year old Michael Adams happened at a strip mall 20 minutes away from the airport, making it physically impossible for him to be the gunman.

However, Hertz wasn't able to turn over that evidence in a timely manner. They were only able to provide the receipt in 2018, which lead to his exoneration. Alford filed a lawsuit against Hertz and is seeking compensation of at least \$25,000.

"Had the defendants not ignored and disobeyed numerous court orders requiring them to produce the documentation that eventually freed Mr. Alford, he would not have spent over 1,700 days incarcerated," Alford's attorney Jamie

White said, according to CNN.

Meanwhile, a Hertz representative said the company is "deeply saddened" about what happened to Alford. Spokeswoman Lauren Luster said, "While we were unable to find the historic rental record from 2011 when requested in 2015, we continued our good faith efforts to locate it. With advances in data search in the years following, we were able to locate the rental record in 2018 and promptly provided it."

The charges against Alford were finally dropped in December 2020 but it won't change the fact that he was imprisoned for 5 years for a crime he did not commit.

# TARTA Announces New Vaccine Ride Program

Laura Koprowski  
TARTA Chief Communications  
and Customer Experience Officer

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) is announcing a new free Vaccine Ride Program with services available in Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Rossford, Sylvania, Sylvania Township, Toledo and Waterville. The Vaccine Ride Program offers several options to residents needing transportation to a vaccination site:

- Vaccine Xpress – A direct TARTA route from the downtown Toledo Transit Hub to the Lucas County Recreation Center (Rec Center) beginning Tuesday, March 23, 2021. This route will operate

on days when the state recognized mass vaccination site, Rec Center, is hosting events. It will offer hourly service. For specific details, visit [www.tarta.com](http://www.tarta.com).

The Vaccine Xpress was developed in partnership with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department.

"We are proud to be partnering with TARTA to give residents a green light to their best health. This will assist in removing a significant barrier to ensuring every Lucas County adult can be vaccinated," said Health Commissioner Eric Zgodzinski.

- Call-A-Ride for Vaccines – TARTA's door-to-door service is now available to take

residents to vaccination sites within their community Monday through Saturday. Reservations are required and can be made up to three days in advance by calling 419-243-7433. The service is available in Maumee, Ottawa Hills,

en days in advance by calling 419-382-9901. Pre-qualification of the service is required. Service is available seven days per week.

Funding for these free services is made possible by a recent grant award of \$266,713 from the Ohio Department of Transportation through Governor Mike DeWine's Rides for Community Immunity program. A total of \$7 million will be distributed to all 88 counties to help get Ohio's most vulnerable populations transportation to vaccine locations. Service costs will also be covered by federal funds through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

"This is just one more opportunity to showcase that public transit plays a critical role as a pillar in the community," said TARTA CEO Kimberly Dunham. "TARTA reacted quickly to the Health Department's call for transportation assistance and will be able to use this new grant funding to help move people to vaccination sites."

TARTA will continue to follow its COVID-19 Rider Safety Guidelines which include requiring passengers to wear a facial covering, limiting the number of passengers per vehicle and no fare collection. For a complete list of the Rider Safety Guidelines, visit [tarta.com/coronavirus](http://tarta.com/coronavirus).



# Black History

**Charlotte Ray** (Jan. 13, 1850 - Jan. 4, 1911): Charlotte Ray has the distinction of being the first African American woman lawyer in the United States and the first woman admitted to the bar in the District of Columbia.

**Marsha P. Johnson:** Johnson was a Black transgender woman and activist most known for her involvement with the Stonewall Inn riots - a 1969 uprising against police brutality by New York City's LGBTQ community.

**Shirley Chisholm:** Chisholm made history by being the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1968. She served as a representative from New York for 14 years, advocating for early education and child welfare policies.

**Janet Mock:** Mock is a New York Times bestselling author and respected activist. She's also a producer, director and writer for the hit FX series "Pose." Since coming out as transgender in 2011, she has advocated for the rights and representation of fellow transgender individuals, while also holding top editorial positions at Marie Claire and People magazine.

**Amanda Gorman:** Much of the world met Gorman on Inauguration Day 2021 - and quickly learned why she was both the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate, and the youngest poet to ever read her work at an inauguration. Her performance yielded international acclaim, skyrocketing book sales and a modeling contract.

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# Yes, There Were Black Slaves in Mexico and One of Them Changed History

Submitted

Gaspar Yanga, or Nyanga, was a Prince in the country of Gabon that was later captured and taken to work as a slave at a sugar and alcohol farm in Mexico. Because Mexico is located in Central America, he is considered to be one of the first liberators of America because he led a successful rebellion there against Spain's government.

During the Colonial Era, sugar plantations began to surface and as a result, hundreds of thousands of slaves were captured from various African countries and sold to the United States and nearly every country in Central and South America including Mexico. In 1570, after being enslaved for many years, Yanga fled and took refuge with a group of cimarrones (which means run-away slaves in Spanish) near the city of Cordoba in the state of Veracruz. By 1609, this powerful group of ci-

marrones had surpassed 500 members and successfully led a rebellion against the Spanish government, which had colonized Mexico at the time. In 1631, the land they inhabited was officially recognized as the free town of San Lorenzo de Los Negros, now Yanga; the first independent settlement of New Spain.

Yanga's deal with the Spanish was that he and his descendants would rule the town and the inhabitants would be completely free. Meanwhile, they had to pay an annual tribute and accept the entrance of Franciscan priests to evangelize.

Three centuries later, on November 5, 1932, Gaspar Yanga was named as its liberator. To date, hundreds of thousands of people of African descent can still be found throughout Mexico - mostly in Veracruz and it's surrounding areas. There are often called Afro-Mexicans (or Afro Mexicanos in Spanish).

# COVID Scams

Continued from page 7.

also helps the FTC and law enforcement prevent future fraud, Hobbs noted.

"When victims report scams, the information goes into a database that our 3000 law enforcement partners read too," she explained. "The information helps the agency spot trends, alert communities about potential scams, and informs the FTC's education, messaging and policy priorities."


"We've redesigned our report intake

system to be really easy, and we also have a version of the site in Spanish," which, Hobbs noted, is important for many communities served by EMS. "We want to hear from these communities, we really want outreach to them and part of the way to do that is through the reports they file."

People can file anonymously, she said, adding that the FTC does not ask or care about immigration status. "There is no required information [to file a report], people can tell us as little or as much as they like," she said.

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