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To all moms,
we hope you enjoy
your special day!



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EVERYBODY IS
SOMEBODY IN
THE TOLEDO
JOURNAL



Better Together Host Nationwide Day Of Second Chances Job Fair At Wayman Palmer YMCA

By Michael Daniels
Journal Staff Writer

On April 29th, Better Together Hosted their second annual Nationwide Day Of Second Chances Job Fairs all across the country. Here in Toledo, the event took place at the Wayman Palmer YMCA. 'Better Together' is a national faith-based non-profit, that brings together churches and other community groups, along with the private sector, to accomplish their goals, which are to help those, who are less fortunate in our society, for whatever reason. One

enough except to start anew you need a job and that's the hard part. Once a prospective



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Standing (L-R) Megan Stretarski: Workforce Initiatives Specialist for The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce is with the dynamic Impact Employment Solutions Team Sabrina Tabors, Curt Church, and Monica Cardenas at the Better Together Nationwide Day of Second Chances Job Fair at the Wayman D. Palmer YMCA greeted potential job seekers with a basket of sweet treats.

such goal of the Organization is to help people who've been convicted of a crime and successfully served their time in

employer finds out you have a criminal record, most times the answer is no! How long will it take and how many no's can



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Looking for a job, We can help said Jeremiah McNutt: Harbor's Career Services, and Steven Whales: Harbor's Yes Program.

jail start anew after prison. Starting anew sounds easy

a person endure before the dream of starting anew disappears? Thus, The Nationwide



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Stanley Smith :LCFC, Dantae Norton, Pastor Rick Morris: Restore and The Hope of Glory Church, and Richard Quinary: One Drop Fellowship.

Day Of Second Chances Job Fair was started by The Better Together Organization to help those who are just getting out of prison.

In Toledo, one of the people who can correctly answer all the above previously asked questions about going to jail, is Pastor Rick Morris of The Hope Of Glory Church. Rick Morris not only went to jail he was convicted of a violent felony and did some hard time behind bars. Through God's grace, he successfully navi-

gated his way through prison and was released after serving his time. He was fortunate again and a friend found him a good construction job which he kept for years to come. Today, through his church, Pastor Rick Morris is affiliated with Better Together and has dedicated his ministry to helping other ex-cons find their way back into the world outside.

He said. "Today's job fair is for what I call bruised bananas like myself to go and seek employment. This job fair is background friendly, and we are trying to help people who've been in jail get a job. By helping them succeed. We not only help them, but we also help their families and ultimately the community, as a whole.

Across the country, approximately some 600,000 Americans will be released from prison this year. All these people need job opportunities just like everyone else. Even though there is a lot of help wanted signs around not every employer is background friendly. I know from my own experience that even though I wanted to change my life there were so many hurdles and obstacles in the way. Prayerfully and hopefully events like this will eliminate some of those barriers that stand in the way of those who are trying to change", said the pastor

"Along with the live event, there was also a virtual job fair with Koch Industry one of the largest employers in the coun-



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Peggy Parken of The Zepf Center accompanies Gary Jones and Jeffery Pack as they talk to Renhill Employment Agency Recruiter Andrew Skiakas(seated) about a new job and the possibility of a career in the field of their choice.

try going on at the same time. They have consented to give job seekers a second chance," said Pastor Morris. Live in Toledo Pastor Morris reached out to various employment agencies and companies to participate in the local job fair including Impact Employment Solutions Toledo, Renhill Employment, and Harbor Toledo. The Hope of Glory Church is located at 1127 Noble St. at Lagrange St.

Toledo Museum of Art welcomes Rhonda Sewell as first director of belonging & community engagement

Sewell to advance Museum’s culture of belonging and community outreach strategy

Submitted

Rhonda Sewell was selected as the Toledo Museum of Art’s first director of belonging & community engagement, a role that will report to the Museum’s director. Her appointment started on Monday, April 26.

“Rhonda brings a wealth of talent and experience to this role,” said Adam Levine, the Museum’s Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey director and CEO. “She is a leader who is passionate about community and understands the imperative to make diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion integral to all we do at TMA. Rhonda will aid greatly in the execution of our strategic plan and help us reimagine our approach to community outreach.”

Sewell most recently served as the director of governmental and external affairs for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, where she worked with local, state and federal legislators as well as community stakeholders in the areas of library funding, advocacy and systems change. Prior to her 15 years at the Library, she worked 18 years as an award-winning journalist for The Blade newspaper, which included assignments in six countries. Sewell also served as an adjunct instructor in ethnic studies and mass communications at Bowling Green State University.

Sewell is a proven community leader, founding in 2012 Real Men READ-y, an ongoing mentoring and early literacy program designed for underrepresented African American boys in Kindergarten and first grade. She was recognized as a top 10 Jefferson Awards finalist for this mentorship initiative. She is the current president-elect of The Arts Commission Board of Trustees; a member of the Board of Trustees representing Special Districts and Authorities for the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG); a member of the Community Outreach and Social Justice committee for the Toledo Opera; a cabinet member and donor of Girl Scouts of Western Ohio; and

ly titled Toledo Children’s Hospital Foundation Board, where she served as chair. Sewell also served on the boards of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio, the American Heart Association, Toledo Ballet and the Art Tatum African American Resource Center, among others. A self-described servant leader, Sewell also stays deeply engaged with the community through her active membership in various leading women’s service organizations.

“My new Toledo Museum of Art role in belonging and community engagement is a career capstone position embodying all that I believe in and stand for. Working for such an important, historic, anchor institution is an honor and an opportunity to include everyone related to the Museum, and in our community, in transformational change and impactful growth,” said Sewell.

Sewell holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Michigan State University; she also completed Graduate Studies in International Journalism at the City University of London in England.

she previously served on numerous key corporate boards, including a maximum six-year tenure on ProMedica’s former-



Ronda Sewell

PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Civil Rights Groups’ Issue Solidarity Statement on Wave of Hate Crimes Against Asian Community; Other Communities of Color

The National Action Network, headed by the Rev. Al Sharpton, is among 207 organizations that issued the anti-hate statement.

By Hazel Trice Edney
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) — More than 207 national civil rights organizations have released a unified statement condemning the recent wave of hate crimes against the Asian community; including the massacre in Atlanta where eight people were murdered. Six were women of Asian descent.

The March 23 statement, signed by many Black civil rights organizations, including the NAACP, the National Urban League and the National Action Network, marks a new precedent for communities of color uniting behind each other during a season of rising race hate crimes.

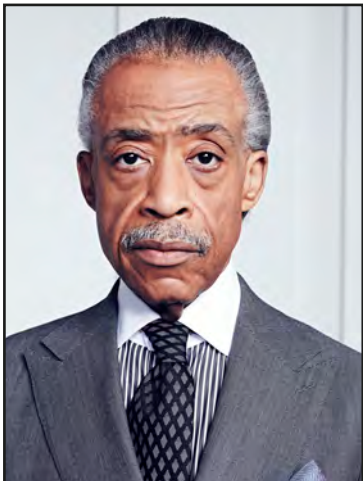
“White supremacist vio-

lence against communities of color continues to escalate, especially in recent years. The deadly shootings in the Atlanta area on March 16 follow an alarming 150 percent increase in violence and harassment against Asians and Asian Americans, with women reporting incidents at twice the rate as men, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is no coincidence that the horrific attack targeted women of color working low-wage jobs, as women of color are the most likely to suffer the consequences of racism, misogyny, and white supremacy,” the statement says.

The statement continues, “The civil and human rights community condemns these misogynistic and racist attacks and is united with our local allies in demanding community-centered responses to better support Asian women and elders, who have been disproportionately impacted by the increase in violence. These responses must include increased culturally informed support for survivors and the broader community; meaningful physical and mental health care access, including for all immigrants; and economic assistance that focuses on those who need it most.”

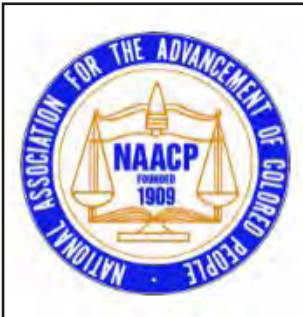
Among other civil and women’s rights organizations on the list of 207 signatures to the letter are the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the lead organization, which has a diverse membership of 220 national organizations.

Other organizations that signed the statement are African Communities Together; American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC); Anti-Defamation League; Association of Asian Pacific Community; Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino; Chinese American Citizens Alliance; National Center for Civil and Human Rights; National Council of Negro Women; National Federation of Filipino American Associations; National Organization for Women; People For the American Way; Planned Parenthood Federation of



Rev. Al Sharpton

PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED



Continued on page 16.

Vice-president, Kamala Harris, recently agreed with Tim Scott, the only Black republican Senator, that America isn't a racist country. However, she added that America has to speak the truth about the history of racism and its existence today. Do you agree with her comments and why or why not?



Jojuan Amour
Program Manager, City of Toledo

It sounds somewhat contradictory by saying America isn't racist and then mentioning America must acknowledge the history of racism and its current existence. It's hard not saying America isn't racist especially when we look at the justice system, as well as, other systems that enforce discriminatory practices. In order for America to get past racism, all people must have empathy and promote true justice.



Jalen Jefferson
Team Member

I wouldn't say it's a racist country either. It's not like racism is being taught, but we all have different perspectives of what's going on. So I think it's more about perception, rather than factual.



Robert Taylor Jr.
High Performance Operator

I agree with half her comments, particularly about America not being a racist country. The reason why I think America isn't a racist country is the fact I'm doing better than all my white friends. I know a lot of people won't like what I'm about to say, but why can't we, black people, just let it go and move on. I don't understand why we are the only race that still holds on and constantly talks about the past.



Ebony Robinson
Executive Director

I partly agree with her. America still has racism, but it's not completely racist. We need to acknowledge the past, but not dwell on it. We have to focus more on the positive in order to truly heal.



Shemane Marsh
Community Administrator

She's speaking from her own personal lens or experiences. America is supposed to be land of the free and the brave, but with all the recent shootings, by police against unarmed African Americans, we see that freedom is different for us. I understand why she made the comments, but too many systems in our country, like the education system, exhibit racism. It's definitely going to take some time to fix the problems that currently exist.

Ongoing Events

OhioMeansJobs Lucas County to hold virtual resume and interview & Classes to prepare job seekers for In-Demand Jobs Week

Online Resume Writing webinar: Tues, 11 a.m. - noon May 18, June 1 & June 15. To register, please go to <https://bt.ly/3wCNOfh>

The online What to Do and Not Do of In-Person and Virtual Interviewing webinar

Wed from 11 a.m. - noon, May 5, May 19, June 2, & June 16 to register, please go to <https://bit.ly/3rSkQIN>

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. 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 Blood pressure monitoring and answers to health questions

For more information, please all Monroe Street Neighborhood Center at 419-473-1167 Ext 333 or 317.

Every 4th Saturday Memorial Lutheran Church - Free Bagged Lunch

Memorial provides a PB&J sandwich, a bottled water, fruit and cookie monthly on the 4th Sat for anyone who stops by between 12-2pm. Where: 3215 Douglas Rd., Toledo, OH 43606. More info: email.office@memorial-lutheran.org or call (419) 472-2161.

Senior Centers Closed

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

Free Food Pantry

Every 1st & 3rd Sat. 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

2021 Engage Toledo Free Drop off Refuse and Recycling Events

Acceptable items include electronic waste; up to

10 tires, no commercial tires; documents; houseware goods; clothing; toys; bulky items, and refuse. Latex paint will be accepted for \$1 per gallo. Major appliances will not be accepted. Residents should follow all signs and directions. For questions, call Engage Toledo at 419-936-2020 or visit the Engage Toledo website at toledo.oh.gov/engage-toledo.

The events will be held as follows:

11 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 8 at Robinson Elementary, 1075 Horace St.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 15 at Rogers High School, 222 McTigue Dr.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 22 at Point Place Plaza, 5109 Suder Ave.

May 6th

First Thursday presents

Our Southern Border: What's Going On?

Patricia Y. Hernández, Senior Attorney with Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) in Toledo, will discuss what's going on at our southern border at the May 6 First Thursday series. The presentation starts at 12:30 p.m. as a zoom event.

We are hearing and seeing so much these days about the situation at the southern border. Some are calling it a crisis. The First Thursday series is prepared by a coalition of local peace and justice advocates and organized by St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

The zoom link for the presentation is included below. There is no charge for the zoom presentation, but anyone wishing to make a donation to help defray the costs of the series may send a check to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 428 N Erie Street, Toledo, OH 43604, with "First Thursday" in the memo line.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/3tivovt>
Meeting ID: 956 2089 9582
Passcode: 634742

The Arts Commission Announces Return of The accelerator Grant - Program for Local Artists

Eligible categories of support include: equipment, supplies, professional development and

project support. Grant amounts are not to exceed \$1500. Full guidelines and application online. The 2021 deadlines are: May 24, June 28, July 26, August 30, and September 27. An online information session will be held on Tues, May 11, at 6 PM with The Arts Commission's Artist Services Manager Jordan Buschur. The agenda includes tips for creating a competitive application and Q&A. Interested parties should pre-register at the following link: <https://forms.gle/BsQ13C2jiCw1uanHA>

The Arts Commission Launches The Momentum Festival Mural Project Call for Artists

The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo's Art in Public Places Program is soliciting qualifications from artists who specialize in producing large-scale murals to beautify sections of Water St and the Downtown Toledo concourse tunnel system as part of the fifth year of the Momentum Festival. The project is open to all artists (18+) that are US residents regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability. May 29 deadline via the online portal: https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=8322, All submissions must be received by 11:59 pm on Tues, May 29

For further information, please contact Jesse Heider-Ayling, Art in Public at 419-254-2787, Ext. 1020 or at jayling@theartscommission.org.

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- Assistance with College Application Fees
- Scholarship Search Assistance
- And much, much, more...

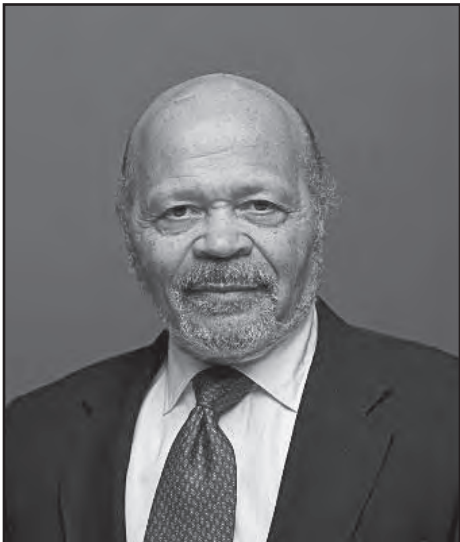


Students MUST have completed the 8th grade, be at least 13 years of age, have a need for academic support in order to pursue a program of postsecondary education. All students must be either from low-income families or be potential first-generation college students.

Contact the office for an application (419.530.3811), download or apply online at <https://www.utoledo.edu/success/upwardbound/onlineapplication.html>

Questions? Email us at www.upwardbound.office@utoledo.edu

Serving America in what context?



By Oscar H. Blayton
Wire Writer

In 1735 when the French colonists of Louisiana pursued the Natchez War against Native Americans, they mustered free and enslaved African Americans into two military companies that came to be known as the Corps D'Afrique.

The soldiers of the Corps D'Afrique fought against Indigenous People as well as against Africans who had fled slavery to live in freedom among the Natchez.

The paradox of Black folk in America standing on both sides of a conflict where white supremacy plays a part spans the entire history of this nation.

During the American Revolution, Lord Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment, comprised mostly of freed slaves, fought on behalf of the British, while John Glover's integrated Marblehead Regiment and the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, also known as "The Black Regiment" because of the large number of Black soldiers in its ranks, fought against the British.

In the War of 1812, the British Colonial Marines — comprised of Black men who had escaped from slavery — burned down the White House and were in the vanguard of the British forces at the Battle of Bladensburg where the Americans were routed. During that same war, the Corps D'Afrique fought on behalf of the United States against the British in the Battle of New Orleans. General Andrew Jackson, who commanded the American forces at New Orleans, even wrote to then-U.S. Secretary of War James Monroe that it was a "free man of color" in the Corps D'Afrique who shot and killed the commanding general of the British forces. Both Jackson and Monroe were slave holders.

During the Revolutionary War and the



War of 1812, Black combatants fighting for Britain were motivated by a promise of freedom, while those in America's ranks were fighting for a country they knew would continue the practice of enslaving Black people.

When the American Civil War broke out, the Corps D'Afrique was organized in 1861 as the 1st Louisiana Native Guard to fight on behalf of the Confederacy. But when Union forces captured New Orleans, the unit was disbanded, and it is reported that as many as 10 percent of their number enlisted in the Union Army to fight against the Confederacy.

The involvement of Black folk in the violent history of the United States is complicated and complex, with many aspects that are unseemly today. In the Black community, there is still a huge compilation of human detritus left over from the American War in Vietnam — men and women broken in body and spirit from a war of white supremacy against people of color half a world away minding their own business.

There were reasons why African Americans took part in the War in Vietnam, but it can hardly be said that those reasons were justifications. No African American who took part in that war can say that they had "no choice." Choices were evidenced by Black folk who left the country to avoid the draft, or who, like Muhammad Ali, simply refused to take part in a racist war.

To many Black Vietnam vets, the words, "Thank you for your service," ring hollow because there was no service for the good of our community, or our loved

ones or even for this country. In fact, our participation was only in service of a global agenda of white supremacy.

African Americans must keep in mind that our actions should be taken on behalf of governmental policy only when we understand the context in which our participation is situated. This understanding is required not only for our participation in the military, it is required for our participation in law enforcement as well — and then, perhaps even more so.

Soon, the courts of justice will judge Alex Kueng, the Black former Minneapolis police officer, for his participation in the death of George Floyd. But the Black community is judging him now. It was Kueng who held down George Floyd's back while Floyd, with his hands cuffed behind his back, was pressed against the pavement with Derek Chauvin's knee in his neck. After only three days as a full-time police officer and only his second day on the street, Kueng forever will be associated with the public lynching of a Black man in broad daylight on a street in Minneapolis.

It has been reported that Kueng had said he wanted to be a police officer in order to protect people of color from police abuse. His reasoning was that diversity could change the Minneapolis Police Department, which has a long history of demonstrated racism. Now, because of his participation in George Floyd's murder, Kueng has been confronted by hostile strangers while grocery shopping and his sister reportedly has said that she plans to change her last name out of em-

barrassment over what he has done. But most significantly, he is facing the very real possibility of a murder conviction and spending many years in prison.

Alex Kueng's dilemma, as painful as it is, can be a valuable teaching moment for people of color in America. For more than 400 years, we have thirsted for justice. We have ached for it. And often, any glimmer of hope that we can move our country towards becoming a more just society creates a very strong attraction to satisfy that thirst. But without consideration given to the context in which our actions will be taken, we may be rushing towards a mirage in a scorching desert and will only end up with sand in our mouths.

We need to accept that we must fix this country before we can truly serve it in the name of justice. Given all the wars in which Black folk have bled and died, this country has barely inched down the road of fairness, equality and respect for all human life and dignity. For all the Black men and women who have donned police uniforms to serve their communities, and all too frequently lost their lives, too many Americans still believe Black Lives Do Not Matter.

Whether you grieve for Alex Kueng or despise him, we all must push hard to heal the society that has brought him to this point. We cannot blindly agree to participate in the agencies of America's violence without weighing the consequences.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.

The Toledo Journal

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The Census, Redistricting and The Republican Conspiracy

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

Forty years ago, those who wanted to amend the U.S. Constitution to eliminate the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, along with any other provisions that extended democracy to "we the people," were calling for a Constitutional Convention. Today, that approach is no longer necessary since those who still want to make those stated changes have found new ways to accomplish the same old goals.

Thomas Jefferson was always about "States Rights" with less Federalist (or federal government influence). Today, the Republican Party is carrying out Jefferson's vision with three

approaches: (1) Voter Suppression legislation, which is now in 43 of the 50 states and with over 500 bills pending, collectively, to make it harder to vote; (2) Former President Trump's efforts to change the Census 2020 count by questioning whether people in households were legal; and (3) The resulting loss of Congressional seats in at least 6 states, including the one seat from California (a Blue state), and the addition of

2 seats to Texas (a Red State). Texas happens to be one of the states with a complete Republican legislature and governor with major voter suppression legislation pending.

The bottom line is that the Census determines the number of

seats in the Congress per state. Since the Congress is fixed at 433 seats, seats are reallocated following the ten year census. Now the change in number of seats requires a change in how congressional districts are drawn up in each state. The drawing of those boundaries to strengthen one party's voter influence over another is called "gerrymandering". Where republicans control state legislatures, they will also control the appointment of the people who draw the boundaries. Such boundaries can determine the allocation of voting precincts and equipment. The whole idea is to ensure that never again do we have the kind of democratic vote among "we the people" that

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Attorney Yusef Jackson Joins Correctional Technology Company as Senior Advisor

By Hazel Trice Edney
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Attorney and entrepreneur Yusef Jackson is joining the executive team at Aventiv Technologies, according to a company announcement. Jackson is the son of Rainbow/PUSH founder Jesse Jackson and has been a longtime advocate for civil rights alongside his family.

Jackson's role is being described as helping to facilitate external partnerships with the civic, educational, and corporate communities and ensuring a more diverse workforce at the company.

Aventiv is the parent company to Securus Technologies, which is best known for providing telecommunication services to prisons and jails around the U.S., including phones and digital tablets. The company, along with others in the indus-

Son of Jesse Jackson to Help Deal with High Costs of Prison Phone Calls



“ Jackson’s role is being described as helping to facilitate external partnerships with the civic, educational, and corporate communities and ensuring a more diverse workforce at the company.

”

try, has come under fire in recent years for the high prices charged to family members of the incarcerated for use of their services in some jurisdictions.

A number of advocacy groups have been calling for policy changes to lower the price of calls and other services for the incarcerated, including by prohibiting government agencies from collecting revenue off of these contracts. Others, including some who are currently incarcerated, argue that the opportunity that comes with these previously unavailable technologies is worth the cost of the service.

Last year, Aventiv announced an effort to change some of those business practices and respond to criticism of the industry. To date, the company has provided more than 40 million free phone calls through

that effort, according to company data. Jackson's hiring is being positioned as a continuation of that effort. The company announcement said Jackson would be involved in the development of job and reintegration tools for those who are incarcerated, and partnerships focused on eliminating the post-incarceration stigma. In a release announcing Jackson's new position, Aventiv CEO Dave Abel said that Jackson would “play a vital role not only in expanding our reform efforts, but also in broadening our view as we look both inward and outward with respect to em-

“ Jackson also said that his approach to this reform effort would be driven by both data and conversations with families of the incarcerated.

”

ployee, customer, and community stakeholders.” Jackson acknowledged the history of problems inherent to correctional contractors, saying “the correctional services industry provides critical technology products and services to incarcerated Americans, but the business practices employed by the industry have been rightly criticized and are long overdue for reform.”

Jackson also said that his approach to this reform effort would be driven by both data and conversations with families of the incarcerated. “While I know Securus has undertaken a similar effort, it is important that I understand not only the data, but hear first-hand from affected individuals,” Jackson said.

African Americans and Hispanics make up 32 percent of the U.S. but 56% of the incarcerated population, according to the NAACP. African Americans in particular are incarcerated at over than 5 times the rate of white Americans.

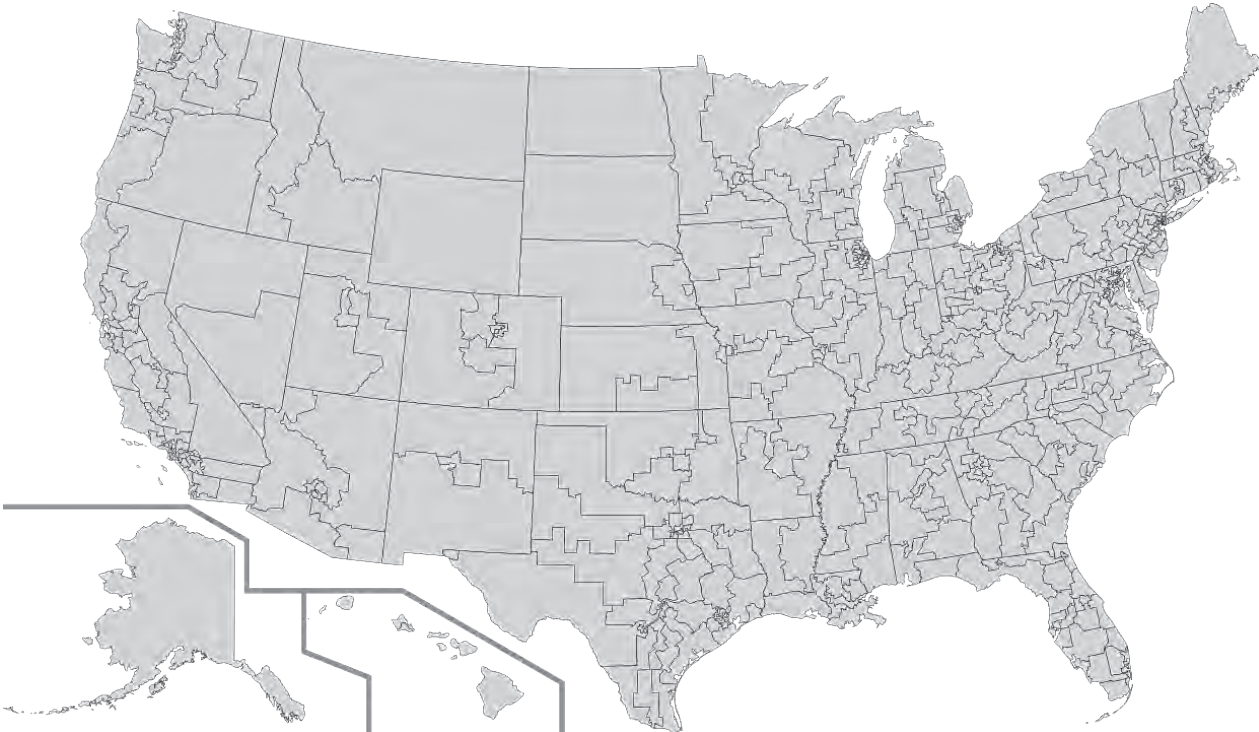
These numbers have remained high even as overall crime has declined. Over the last two decades the rate of violent crime in the U.S. has fallen by about 20 percent, while the number of incarcerated individuals has grown by 50 percent.

The Census, Redistricting and The Republican Conspiracy

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put President Biden in the White House.

The Republican conspiracy against democracy can only work if we sleep and become inactive during this multifaceted effort. We must prepare now for 2022 by: (1) Boycotting the corporations that refuse to support “Black Votes Matter” and who continue funding legislators that give to those state legislators engaged in supporting voter suppression; (2) Finding candidates now that we can run and finance against the very republicans supporting and sponsoring voter suppression legislation;



and (3) Watching very closely the Redistricting Commissions charged with redrawing political districts so that the votes of people of color are not weakened. We must attend Redistricting Commission meetings whether on Zoom or in person. The damage they do will last for another 10 years.

“We The People” can defeat the Republican conspiracy on all fronts if we get started now and stay vigilant. It is ironic that Thomas Jefferson was the one who said, “Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom.” Are you willing to pay that price?

Gateway for Peace launched by Human Relations Commission



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

People of varying races and ages attended the event.

By Jurry Taalib-Deen
Journal Staff Writer

One neighborhood at a time is the approach by the Human Relations Commission of Toledo, when it comes to spreading love and establishing relationships to combat the ills of society. Their mission was no different on Sunday, May 2, at Ottawa Park Pavilion on Kenwood Blvd, when they spearheaded the, “Gathering for Peace” event. The purpose of the event

was to encourage people in the vicinity of the park to, “Take a breath, and love one another and promote peace,” as explained by Erin Baker, chairperson for the Human Relations Commission. The government entity prides itself with working with grassroot organizations. Therefore, to help choose love and promote peace, working with them were, the Community Solidarity Response Network, the local chapter of the NAACP, the Multifaith Council of NW Ohio, the YWCA of NW Ohio, and the Toledo Symphony and Toledo Opera. “The mission of the Human Relations Commission is to build safe, energetic communities that combat prejudice of all kinds, while establishing respect for one another,” Ms. Baker said. “We even encourage neighbors to be able to peacefully resolve disputes with love.” The Ottawa Park event isn’t the first by the Commission. Over the past year, the entity has been in various neighborhoods spreading the same message.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Members of the teen organization, Greater Generations, who spoke highly of the event, are from left, Damar Smith, Ja’mereon Jones, Te’Mone Floyd, Bre Jones, Kai Fisher and Christi’ana Brenson.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Ebone Waweru of the Toledo Opera, sings the Black National Anthem while some in attendance raise a fist in the air.

“We want people to cherish life and develop empathy for one another; these are keys to solving the problems within the city,” Ms. Baker explained. “Any event that promotes peace is essential,” said Diana Patton who, was in attendance. “More collaborations like this needs to happen in order to establish peace and justice.” “I’m very optimistic about the event because anytime people can come together and respect one another and appreciate humanity, then nothing but good happens,” said Jonelle Massey. Also in attendance were several youth from the teen organization, “Greater Generations.” Two of them offered their opinion about the event. Bre Jones said, “This is a good event because it helps us see another side

of what we’re used to seeing.” Kai Fisher said, “This event shows us there’s more to life other than project life or violence; so that’s a good thing.”



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Preparing to hand out bags with food snacks, as well as information about the Human Relations Commission, is Erin Baker, chairperson.

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Bladder Cancer Doesn't Stop for a Pandemic, Here's What to Know



Submitted

(StatePoint) For over a year we have been living in a prevention mindset, avoiding coronavirus exposure at all costs. Un-

fortunately, for many, this new way of life has also meant avoiding health-care settings and delaying medical care for other serious health threats, including bladder cancer.

Experts warn that bladder cancer, one of the least-discussed types of cancer, often goes undiagnosed. Many people ignore its most common symptoms, and this reality has been intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. As this often-overlooked cancer becomes more of a focus during Bladder Cancer Awareness Month in May, it will be an opportunity to remind people that cancer doesn't stop for a pandemic and appropriate healthcare measures must be taken promptly and not delayed.

Bladder Cancer is Common

This year, an estimated 64,280 men and 19,450 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with bladder cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. Bladder cancer is the fourth most common cancer in men, and while the disease is less common in women, everyone should speak to their healthcare provider

“

Unfortunately, for many, this new way of life has also meant avoiding healthcare settings and delaying medical care for other serious health threats, including bladder cancer. Experts warn that bladder cancer, one of the least-discussed types of cancer, often goes undiagnosed.

”

when experiencing signs and symptoms.

The most common sign of bladder cancer is painless but visible blood in the urine. Other common symptoms include:

- Pain during urination
- Frequent urination
- Feeling the need to urinate many times throughout the night
- Feeling the need to urinate but not being able to
- Lower back pain on one side of the body

What to Do When

Symptoms Arise

Bladder cancer has a high risk of recurrence, a fact that experts believe may be due to doctors being unable to see—and therefore remove—all of the cancer during surgery. The good news is that there are technology advancements being used during diagnosis and surveillance that can help improve detection and lead to more complete removal of the cancer.

If your healthcare pro-

vider or urologist believes you may have bladder cancer, be sure to ask about Blue Light Cystoscopy. In addition to a physical exam and several other tests, the cystoscopy is a standard medical procedure that allows a doctor to look directly into your bladder for suspicious tissue. Historically, cystoscopy has been done under white light. However, now, there's a procedure called Blue Light Cystoscopy that is becoming more and more available throughout the United States. To learn more and for additional patient resources, visit <http://rebrand.ly/Pandemic-BladderCancerBasics>.

Remember, if you experience any signs or symptoms of bladder cancer, don't delay care. Speaking to your healthcare provider as soon as possible can help you get an earlier diagnosis, expand your treatment options and improve your chances of saving your bladder.



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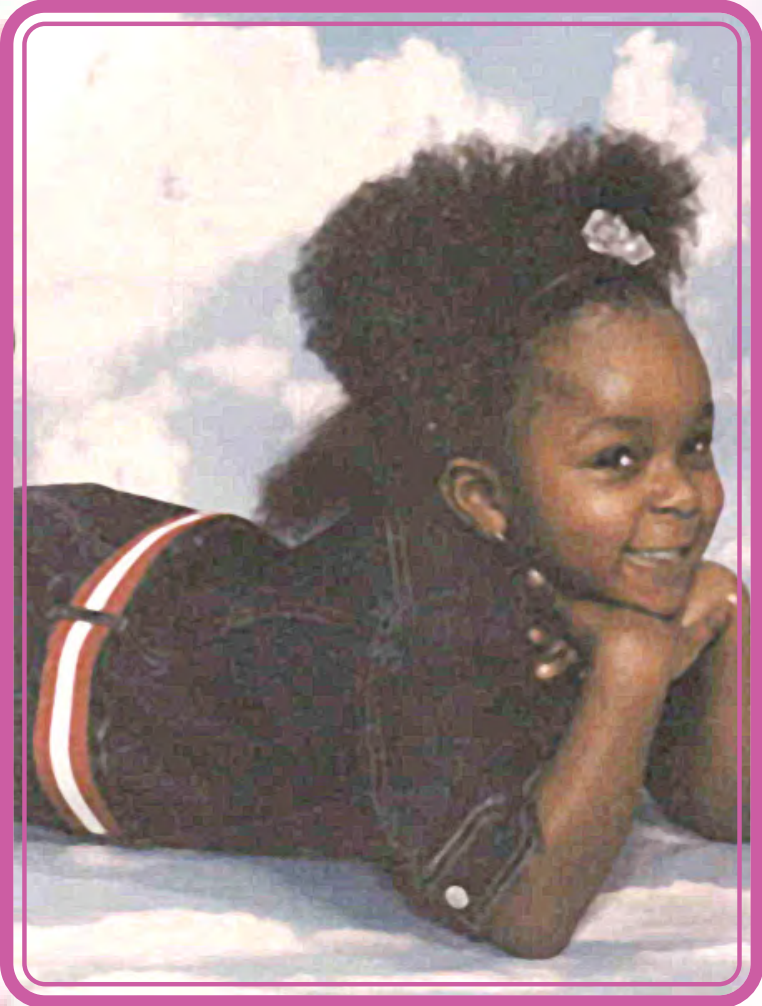
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Happy Birthday
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In Loving Memories we celebrate you
today each and everyday.
Telayah from the time you were born you
were the most beautiful baby and became
the most beautiful young lady.
My heart still aches with the pain of you not
being here, but the joy of the memories of
you fill me with joy.

“Telayah you left here looking
like a Barbie Doll”
Fresh out of the Box.

I can hear you having a conversation
with your grandma “Tut”
Said to you Telayah I’m coming to get you,
we are going home, and Telayah responds
back saying Can we stop and get my
granddad Jerome Brooks and grandmom
Annette”Nana” Hughes.



WE love and miss you so much,

Mom Alaka, Dad Tellus and
your baby sister Tellissa Hughes
Grandmother Mama 2

A special thanks to
LeRoyna Drayton, Harriet Hardy
Big Thanks to Coach Hersey
(Bowsher Track Coach)

Telayah said I’m Ok
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young life

I’m Telayah grandmother MaMa 2 Candy
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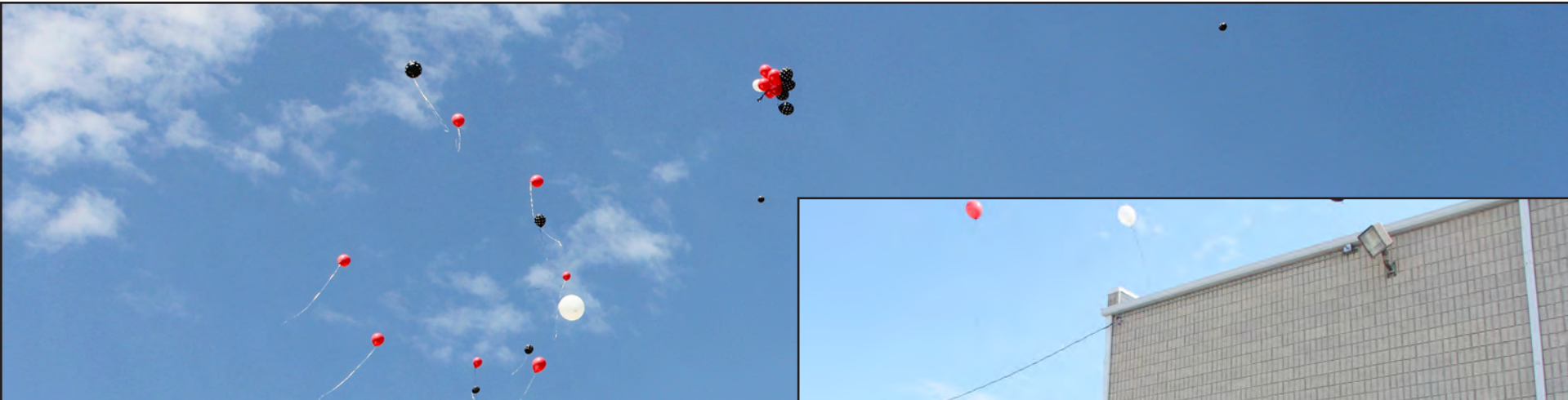
We, the family thank **EVERYONE** for being there in our time of need.
Special thanks to my sister LeRoyna Drayton
and Harriet Hardy and Karen Hoskins.

“Moma I would like you to know”
I have good memories of you.
Your Girl Candy
Love you



Legacy of Elder Elgin Summers continues to live on

Building renaming, balloon release held



By Jurry Taalib-Deen
Journal Staff Writer

"The balloon release represented our dad returning to Heaven where it all started," Eric Summers told The Toledo Journal.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

A picture of the late, Elder Elgin Summers was on display during the ceremony.

Sunday, May 2, at Southern Missionary Baptist Church, 1222 Indiana Ave, the balloon release, commemorating the memory of Elder Elgin Summers, who passed on April 17, 2020, was held. The day also entailed more than a balloon release; it encompassed the renaming of a church wing in Elder Summers' name.

Deacons, who all learned under his tutelage, would share memories of Elder Summers, before the official renaming and balloon release.

"It feels great seeing my father being honored today, especially since he dedicated 50 years of service to the church as the superintendent of Sunday school," Eric Summers said. "Besides mentoring so many Deacons he encouraged me to always strive for greatness."

Joslyn Jones, daughter of Elder Summers said, "Watching the impact my father had on so many peo-



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Eric Summers and his sister, Joslyn Jones release balloons symbolizing their father returning to Heaven.

"Elder Summers was an excellent teacher," said Ray Wood, Deacon and past President of the local chapter of the NAACP.

"Once a month, the teachers of Sunday school would meet and formulate lesson plans. Elder Summers could've

easily intervened during our planning, but instead, he allowed us to work everything out; that's a sign of a good teacher," he said.

Rev. Perry Harris, of United Vision Missionary Baptist Church, began learning the scriptures under Elder



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Deacon Tony Williamson expressed how Elder Summers believed in him and he took the Sunday school teaching to another level.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Eric Summers and his sister, Joslyn Jones release balloons symbolizing their father returning to Heaven.

Summers at the tender age of six.

"As I grew up in the church, Elder Summers would take me to every event across the country. I learned so much from him. And, as I got older, I prayed I'd make him happy and after I became a Reverend, he told me how proud he was of me; that really made me feel good," he expressed.

"He dedicated his life to Southern, so we had no problem renaming the multipurpose area, the Deacon Elgin Summers Educational Wing," said Roger Carson, senior pastor at Southern Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Jones closed out by saying, "I'm thankful God allowed him to be our dad. Everyone's testimonies about our father are infused in me and my brother."

ASK YOUR FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

Who Holds The Right To disposition?

Twenty years ago, a husband moved out of his wife's residence and obtained a legal separation. He moved in with his girlfriend. The husband dies, and both the wife and girlfriend claim the right of disposition. Who wins?

The wife. Spouses lose the right of disposition if they are divorced or in the process of being divorced when the death occurs. However, under Ohio law legal separation is not divorce. Therefore, in this case, the wife would retain the right of disposition, and the funeral home should deal with the wife.

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ple taught me the importance of having good interactions with others."

Then, one by one, the Deacons of Southern Missionary Baptist Church, testified to the greatness of their late teacher.

"My mom was the superintendent of Sunday school before Elder Summers. She did a good job while in that position, but Elder Summers took it to another level," said Tony Williamson, Deacon. "I learned so much under him and I thank him for believing in me."

The New Face of Poverty and the Mass Incarceration of America's Children

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Part Two of the comprehensive Children's Defense Fund's The State of America's Children 2021.

The number of children arrested and incarcerated has declined over the past decade, primarily due to positive changes in policy and practice. However, America's children continue to be criminalized at alarming rates, and disparities have persisted, according to the Children's Defense Fund's The State of America's Children 2021.

Many children—particularly children in poverty; children of color; children with disabilities; children with mental health and substance abuse challenges; children subjected to neglect, abuse, and other violence; children in foster care; and LGBTQ children – are pushed out of their schools and homes into the juvenile justice or adult criminal justice systems.

The comprehensive State of America's Children 2021 also found:

In 2019, 530,581 children were arrested in the U.S.

A child or teen was arrested every 59 seconds despite a 67 percent reduction in child arrests between 2009 and 2019.

During the 2015-2016 school year alone, over 61,000 school arrests and 230,000 referrals to law enforcement were largely overrepresented by students with disabilities, Black students, and Indigenous students.

"Throughout the tumult of 2020, two of my most valued thought partners were the late writer and activist James Baldwin with whom I share a deep intellectual resonance and a



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

that times of reckoning and crisis call us to 'do our first works over,'" Dr. Wilson stated."

Dr. Wilson continued: "This is an invitation to re-examine our foundational commitments, values, and stories to faithfully craft a future. The Children's Defense Fund is walking this path of examination. The board and staff entered the year in discernment about the first leadership transition in our history.

"After having made the decision, we initiated a process of organizational, programmatic, and operational planning holding our 'first works' and children's needs in conversation. As a result, even in what President Biden has called a 'dark winter' considering the pandemic, the Children's Defense Fund envisions a nation where marginalized children flourish, leaders prioritize their well-being.

"Communities wield the power to ensure they thrive. From where we currently stand, this is a radical vision. Yet, we are committed

lescent behavior and fuels the school-to-prison pipeline.

Today, 14 million students attend schools with police but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker, but the number of children in the juvenile justice system has been cut in half since 2007.

The report revealed that 43,580 children and youth were held in residential placement on a given night in 2017.

Nearly 2 in 3 were placed in the most restrictive facilities, while another 653 children were incarcerated in adult prisons on any given night in 2019 – down from 2,743 in 2009.

Despite research showing that young people's brains continue to develop and mature through their late teens and into their mid-twenties, young adults do not often have access to the age- and developmentally- appropriate policies and resources they need,

the report further revealed.

Adolescents and young adults often "age out" of offending; however, as of 2021, 46 states and the District of Columbia automatically prosecute 18-year-olds as adults.

Three states automatically prosecute 17-year-olds as adults – Vermont is the first and only state to expand juvenile court jurisdiction to 18.

All states also allow or require younger children charged with certain offenses prosecuted in adult court.

Even as child arrests and detentions have fallen, extreme racial disparities have persisted across the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.

Children of color, particularly Black children, continue to be over-criminalized and overrepresented at every point – from school discipline and arrest to sentencing and post-adjudica-

tion placements.

Although 63 percent of children arrested in the U.S. were white, American Indian children were 1.5 times more likely to be arrested, and Black children were 2.4 times more likely to be arrested than white children.

In 2017, the residential placement rate for children of color was two times higher than that of white children nationwide.

Hispanic children were 1.4 times more likely, American Indian children were 2.8 times more likely, and Black children were 4.6 times more likely to be committed or detained than white children.

In 18 states and the District of Columbia, the residential placement rate for children of color was four times higher than that of white children.

Two-thirds (67 percent) of children in the juvenile justice system were children of color: 41 percent were Black, and 21 percent were Hispanic.

Children of color are also disproportionately transferred to the adult criminal justice system, where they are tried and prosecuted as adults.

In 2018, Black youth represented less than 15 percent of the total youth population, but 52 percent of youth prosecuted in adult criminal court.

Black youth are nine times more likely than white youth to receive an adult prison sentence, American Indian/Alaska Native youth are almost two

Continued on page 16.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

In 2019 alone, 530,581 Children were arrested in the United States.

birthday and Princeton professor Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr.," said the Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, the president and CEO of the Children's Defense Fund.

"Dr. Glaude reflected powerfully on 'Jimmy's' life in his 2020 book, Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for our Own. A revelation of critical import to me is Dr. Glaude's highlighting Baldwin's insight

to working – with you – to make it happen."

The State of America's Children 2021 report noted that the prioritization of police over mental health professionals in schools often leads to the criminalization of typical ado-

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BLACK HISTORY

May 10, 1775:

Black patriots helped capture Fort Ticonderoga

May 6, 1787:

First black Masonic Lodge founded Prince Hall, Boston

May 7, 1867:

Ride-ins staged by black demonstrators to protest segregation on New Orleans streetcars

May 9, 1899:

John Albert Burr patented an improved blade for the lawn mower.

May 5, 1905:

The Chicago Defender was founded on this date, one of the first African-American newspapers in this country.

May 8, 1950:

Jackie Robinson, first time an African American is featured on the cover of Life.

May 11, 1981:

Hoyt J. Fuller (57), literary critic and editor of First World magazine and former editor of Black World, dies in Atlanta.

The first black athlete to win a medal at any Winter Olympics was **Debi Thomas**. She also was the first and only African American Figure skating in the US.

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.

Just 10 years ago **Mike Carey** was the first African-American to referee a Super Bowl game.

Doug Williams was the first African-American quarterback to win a Super Bowl. He won the big game with the Washington Redskins in 1988.

Alice Coachmen was the first black woman to win an Olympic Gold Medal at the 1948 Summer Olympic Games in the high jump competition. She was also the first African-American woman selected to the US Olympic Team.

Isaac Murphy was probably the greatest jockey of all time. His career lasted 19 years and included 3 Kentucky Derby wins. Every year he won at least a third of his mounts.


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nament and in the US Ryder Cup was **Lee Elder**. He had 12 wins on the PGA and Senior Tours.

The first black president of the United States Olympic Committee was **Dr. LeRoy T. Walker**. He was also the first African-American to coach a US team.

Benjamin Banneker taught himself astronomy and math to become America's "First Known African American Man of Science.

Shirley Chisholm's life was endangered as she vied for our nation's highest office. The representative won a total of 28 delegates during her run. After stepping down from Congress, Chisholm taught at Mount Holyoke and Spelman College, both all-women colleges. She died in Daytona Beach, FL at the age of 80.

Matthew Henson was a key member of the first successful expedition to the North Pole and made seven separate voyages to the Arctic.

After a long career as an actress and singer, **Pearl Bailey** earned a bachelor's degree in theology from Georgetown University in 1985.

An African American performer **Josephine Baker** ex-patriated to France, she famously smuggled military intelligence to French allies during World War II. She

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Dana Toledo Axle Plant Parking Lot Expansion project located at 3044 Jeep Parkway, Toledo, Ohio 43610, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, to the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604. The engineer's estimate for the base bid is approximately \$510,000.00.

Sealed bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices, 1st floor reception area at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604 until Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud via conference call. Conference call dial-in information will be shared in addendum no. 1.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, OH 43615, phone 419.385.5303, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Becker Impressions, via their website www.beckerplanroom.com at the cost of reproduction.

Please note there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM. This meeting will be held online via Go-To-Meeting video and conference call audio. Prospective Bidders interested in joining the Pre-Bid meeting should contact Jeff Myers via email (JMyers@manniksmithgroup.com) Mannik & Smith Group, prior to 5:00 PM on Friday, May 7, 2021, for a copy of the meeting invitation. The invitation will be distributed via email on Monday, May 10, 2021, and will provide all necessary log-in and call-in information to join the meeting. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Tina Perkins, at TPerkins@Toledoport.org by Monday, May 17, 2021 at 9:00 AM, local time. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

did this by pinning secrets inside her dress, as well as hiding them in her sheet music.

Anna Murray was the first African-American woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest.

Five Things Every Black Dad Should Know



By Pastor W. Eric Croomes
Wire Writer

Every black dad on this planet is powerful beyond measure. Remember this Scripture from the Apostle Paul, Listen, stay alert, stand tall in the faith, be courageous, and be strong. (I Corinthians 16:13 NRSV)

In our struggle against the demonization of who we are and what we represent, here are five (among many) things every black dad should know.

It is Not How Much Time You Get It is What You Do with It That Really Matters

Kids spell love T.I.M.E. It is urgent that we as dads learn that great truth and do what is necessary to secure the necessary time with our offspring. Do not be the dad who complains about lack of time yet fails to make the best of the time he has. Make time and time will make you – make you better, make you stronger and make you wiser.

Let us make time – not excuses! And remember, every no-show, every missed phone call on a special day, is building a wall that will only grow higher and higher over time.

Every Day is a Good Day When You Know the Lord

Know God. Know peace. No God. No peace. Knowing God does wonders for your body, mind, and spirit wellness. It is known that having a well-developed faith lowers depression and other mental challenges. Do dads have tough times? Of course! Just like anybody else, we struggle through days of adversity and challenge. The key is mindset. Get into the habit of seeing the possibilities of each day. Do not waste time focusing on the bad. Fix your attention on the potential of each struggle you face. Do not think about all those things you fear as a dad, just be glad and open for the experience.

Black Dads Matter

You matter. You are not who the world says you are. You are powerful, not pitiful. You are faithful, not fearful. You are resourceful, not resentful. Despite a persistently negative culture that has managed to convince millions that black dads do not matter,



we do matter! We matter to ourselves. We matter to our families. Most of all, we matter to our children. We rise from our circumstances every day for the task at hand.

Hiding Your Weakness Does Not Make Your Children Strong

Our society punishes the weak and rewards the strong. Our society says 'don't show your vulnerabilities. Do not buy into this culture's false hype that to see you cry does a weak

child make. You are only as strong as you accept your weaknesses. Your kids must not be shielded from the mistakes you make. Your children must see your setbacks and how you transformed them into comebacks. They must become intimately acquainted with those mistakes, so that they will grow and learn from them. Kids will make mistakes on their own as they mature. But what value could they bring to owning their mis-

takes when they see how you have bounced back from your own?

Remember the Three P's

Patient. Persistent. Positive. These three words can make or break you – to the degree you fail to cultivate them into your perspective. Patience is the ultimate virtue. We cannot bum rush our development or that of our children. Plant the seeds and remain persistent in your daily care. Think

success, talk success, be success. Above all, remain positive. Stay focused on what is possible. Yes, you will get down on yourself. But that is the time to reverse your wrong-thinking and begin to extract from yourself the greatness that is in you.

Black dads are powerful! Pastor W. Eric Croomes can be reached at info@pastorwericcroomes.com and on Facebook at Pastor W. Eric Croomes Ministries.

By Lauren Victoria Burke,
NNPA Newswire Contributor

On April 27, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Mark Young dismissed a lawsuit brought by one of two men alleging that the late music legend Michael Jackson sexually abused them. The man, Wade Robson, was featured in the contested and controversial documentary, "Leaving Neverland."

Michael Jackson's nephew, Taj Jackson, 47, has led the family against the allegations regarding his late uncle. Judge Young's decision held that MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures, Michael Jackson's estate, cannot be held financially liable and have "no legal ability" in the regarding allegations made by accuser Wade Robson. Michael Jackson died in 2009 at 51.

"Both Wade Robson and James Safecuck's cases have been separately thrown out of court again and again. Facts and Evidence ACTUALLY MATTER in court. When will the media finally look into these 2 men and all their provable lies? Lies Run Sprints But The Truth Runs Marathons," Taj Jackson wrote on social media after news of the latest dismissal broke on April 26.

Robson sued in 2013 and Michael Jackson's estate requested a mo-



Judge Dismisses Another Lawsuit Regarding Michael Jackson "Neverland" Accusers

tion to dismiss, which has now been granted. Family members of Michael Jackson have long fought against the allegations which were featured in the controversial and widely contested documentary "Leaving Neverland."

The suit was brought in 2013 by Wade Robson and alleged abuse by Michael Jackson in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In October 2020, the judge dismissed a by James Safecuck, the second accuser featured

in HBO's "Leaving Neverland." In 2005, Michael Jackson was acquitted in Santa Barbara County Superior Court of various allegations against him. The Jackson estate sued HBO over the documentary and the parties are now in private arbitration to resolve the matter.

In 2017, the Robson and Safecuck suits had been previously dismissed because the statute of limitations had expired. But a new law in California extended

the time accusers could bring legal action. In 1993, Michael Jackson was accused of abusing 13-year-old Jordan Chandler, which Jackson denied. Chandler's case was settled out of court for \$23 million with no charges were filed after a criminal investigation displayed a lack of evidence or testimony from Chandler.

In 1996, Michael Jackson paid an out-of-court settlement to the mother of Jason Francia for over

\$2 million though in 1993, Francia told police that Michael Jackson never molested him. Several actors who knew Michael Jackson as children defended him against the allegations including Aaron Carter, Macaulay Culkin, Corey Feldman and Joey Fatone of NSYNC.

Jonathan Steinsapir, the attorney for the Jackson estate, reacted saying, "Wade Robson has spent the last 8 years pursuing frivolous claims in different lawsuits against

Michael Jackson's estate and companies associated with it. Yet a judge has once again ruled that Robson's claims have no merit whatsoever."

"Leaving Neverland," debuted at the Sundance Film Festival in 2019 to widespread controversy. Michael Jackson's brothers Tito, Jermaine and Marlon, along with thousands of fans, defined the production as one-sided that ignored any evidence or truth verifying that Michael Jackson was innocent.

"Let's cut the BS, wrote Tito Jackson's son Taj Jackson on twitter on February 28, "Over 30 YEARS to present one SINGLE piece of real evidence or fact against Michael Jackson. The FBI, Santa Barbara AND Los Angeles County Law enforcement, wiretaps, raids, a demoralizing trial, a biased media, a 4-hour hit piece, a one-hour special. NOTHING!"

Fans online reacted with the hashtag #Michael-JacksonWasFramed as news of the latest dismissal against Jackson's accusers spread.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

Renee Montgomery Makes History in Purchasing WNBA’s Atlanta Dream

Stacy M. Brown
Wire Writer

Renee Montgomery, a two-time WNBA champion and vice president of the Atlanta Dream, has purchased a stake in the franchise and is now co-owner.

Montgomery is the first retired player to own and serve as an executive of a WNBA team.

The superstar and her two partners, Larry Gottesdiener and Suzanne Abair of Northland Investment Corp. take over the team that was once co-owned by former U.S. Sen. Kelley Loeffler (D-Ga.).

“With the unanimous WNBA and NBA [board] votes, marks a new beginning for the Atlanta Dream organization, and we are very pleased to welcome Larry Gottesdiener and Suzanne Abair to the WNBA,” Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said in a statement.

“I am also thrilled that former WNBA star Renee Montgomery will be joining the ownership group as an investor and executive for the team. Renee is a trailblazer who has made a major impact both in the game and beyond,” Englebert added.

Selected fourth overall in the 2009 WNBA draft, Montgomery appeared in 364 games. She played in 37 play-off games and twice won the WNBA title as a Minnesota Lynx member.

She matched the WNBA regular-season record with eight made three-pointers in 2018 and notched her 500th career trey in 2019 – mak-

ing her just the 13th player in league history to accomplish that feat.

Last November, Montgomery proved a champion in another venue: political activism. She joined Stacey Abrams and other women of color to push voter participation and inclusion, ultimately helping President Joe Biden win Georgia and the White House.

Those efforts also led to Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff



Renee Montgomery

PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

winning the Senate and grabbing the majority in the upper chamber.

“My dream has come true,” Montgomery declared. “Breaking barriers for minorities and women by being the first former WNBA player to have both an ownership stake and a leadership role with the team is an opportunity that I take very seriously.”

Van Brooks, the founder and executive director of the nonprofit SAFE Al-

ternative Foundation for Education, also praised Montgomery.

“Back in March, at the beginning of the pandemic, we reached out to Renee Montgomery to join our Together, We Can virtual program as a host,” Brooks wrote in an email. (You can watch her class here.)

“She was ecstatic to help because the Virtual Program was created to help people. It provided people of all ages with a fun and educational, social outlet to combat the isolation brought on by nationwide quarantine,” Brooks continued.

“Renee Montgomery’s amazing work ethic, WNBA accomplishments, and passion for helping people have positively impacted the lives of many. “From a star player on the team to co-owner, she is a woman making history that serves as an inspiration for many, and that includes our students.

“Many of our students love sports and have an aspiration to become professional sports players. Renee Montgomery’s path has started a conversation around other career options associated with their favorite sport by focusing on their academics.

“Thank you, Renee Montgomery, for serving as an amazing role model for our students and many more.”

How to Drive Safely with Pets

Submitted

(StatePoint) Pets are beloved members of many families. In the U.S alone, about 85 million families own a pet. According to the American Pet Products Association, many of us also drive with our furry friends, from quick trips to the veterinarian’s office to longer road trip adventures.

A recent national survey by Erie Insurance found that more than half of its respondents plan to take at least one road trip this year and 4% plan on traveling with pets. However, traveling with an animal can be dangerous if appropriate safety measures are not taken.

Celebrated in May, this National Pet Month is a good time to brush up on a few safety precautions:

Tips for traveling with a dog:

1. Restrain your pet. A proper restraint will protect your dog if an accident should occur. The Center for Pet Safety recommends using a quality crash-tested harness to keep your dog safe.
2. Rein in your pooch. Allowing your dog to stick their head out the window is more dangerous than it seems. It can cause road debris to get into their eyes, nose and mouth and potentially lead to serious injuries.
3. Minimize distractions. Erie Insurance found in its recent national survey that 5% of respondents are distracted by their dog when driving. To avoid disruptions, keep them in the back seat and never allow your dog to sit on your lap. Use a barrier to avoid a dog making its way to the front, and avoid feeding and playing with your dog while driving.

Tips for traveling with a cat:

1. Use a proper carrier. Cats become

Continued on page 16.

Shaquir O’Neal to Play at an HBCU



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Shaquir to play at Texas Southern University

Submitted

Shaquir O’Neal, the youngest son of NBA Hall of Famer Shaquille O’Neal, has announced that he will be attending Texas Southern University (TSU) – an HBCU in Houston, Texas. By doing so, he joins Master P’s son, Hercy Miller, and the sons of Deion Sanders who have also committed to supporting HBCUs instead of other colleges and universities.

During a recent interview, he commented, “I just wanted to change the narrative of culture and do something new. A lot of people are going to follow me. You can expect a lot of buckets. I’m trying to get to the [NBA].”

Shaquir also says that he is following the lead of his brother, Shareef, who also plays basketball for Louisiana State University, an HBCU located in Baton Rouge.

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