



INSIDE

QUESTION

How are you honoring your dad on Father's Day?



EDITORIAL/NEWS

Where is America? Will It Fade Into Yesterday?



SPECIAL SECTION

Juneteenth
Pages 8-10



RELIGION/FAMILY

Indiana Avenue
Missionary
Baptist Church



EVERYBODY IS
SOMEBODY IN
THE TOLEDO
JOURNAL



TouchaDream Dance Company amazes crowd with end of year performance



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Hip hop, contemporary, jazz, tap, ballet and tumbling are the styles taught at TouchaDream Dance Company.

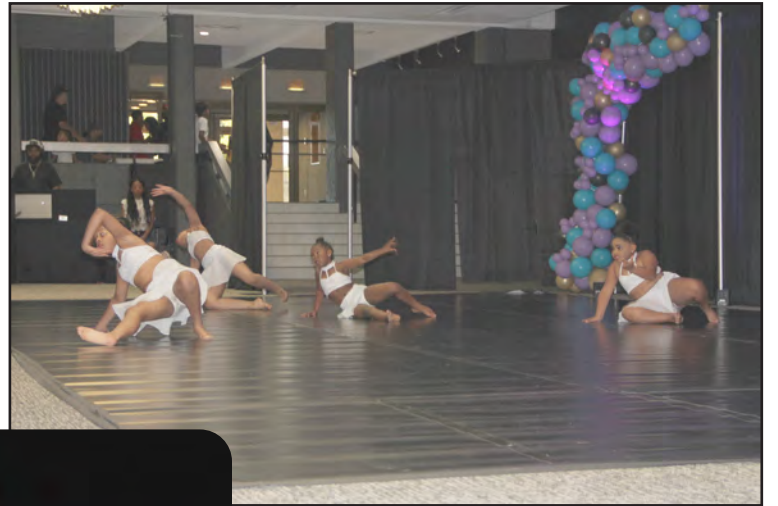


PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Students performed various styles of dance for the audience present at the performance.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Students of all ages were showing great skill as they moved to the music.

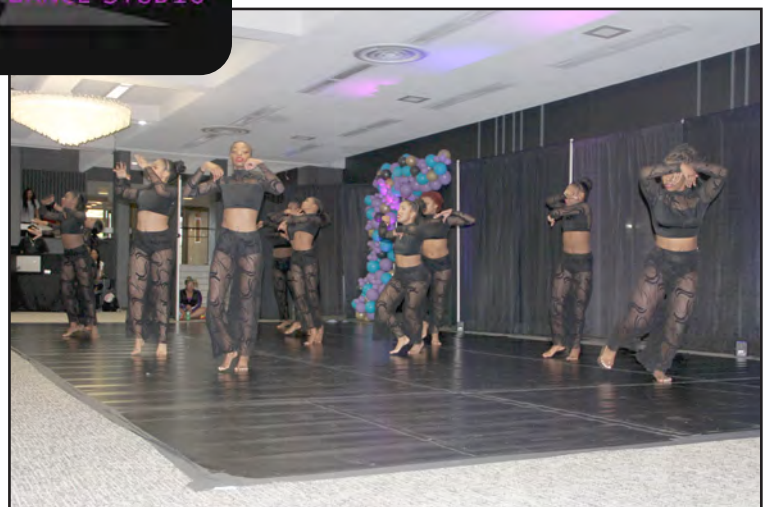


PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Performers wore fun, flowy, and jazzy costumes while up on the stage.

By Jurry Taalib-Deen
Journal Staff Writer

The Great Hall of the Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns, was filled with parents, family members and other guests as they watched the performers of TouchaDream Dance Company perform their end of the year dance recital, on Sunday, June 13. Helping to bring into life the dream of performing in 2021 for all the dancers, was the sponsor of the event, The Shelmon Group, LLC; Theodis Shelmon, owner and president.

“

I've learned all the dance styles, but my favorite is contemporary. I've learned to manipulate my body into different positions since joining.

”



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

The talents of these young performers kept audience members captivated for the entire performance. The dancers performed jazz, tap, hip hop, ballet, contemporary and tumbling at their event at Stranahan.

Jazz, tap, hip hop, ballet, contemporary and tumbling, were all a part of the performance which had dancers as young as three years of age participating.

Behind the artistic per-

formance were the mother and daughter team of Terri and Tanisha Shelmon, both co-owners and former dancers, as well as Tanisha Shelmon being a former Detroit Pistons Dancer. “It's been about a year and half since we last had

a recital because of the Covid pandemic; so everyone was really excited about today's event,” Tanisha Shelmon told The Toledo Journal

She added that every danc-

Continued on page 2.

TouchaDream Dance Company amazes crowd



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL
(L-R) Raniyah Williams, owners, Terri and Tanisha Shelmon, Kania Matthews and front, Sarayh Shelmon.

Continued from page 1.

er gets to perform, no matter how new to the company.

“I’ve learned great work ethics since joining TouchaDream; that’s something needed in the real world.”

Terri Shelmon said that although the newer or younger

dancers may be shy, that overtime, they begin to develop more confidence, especially from the help of the more seasoned dancers, which helps them dance in front of an audience.

Two graduating high school seniors, Kenia Matthews and Raniyah Williams, performed their last routine with TouchaDream Dance Company, but both will continue dancing in college.

“I’ve been dancing with TouchaDream for seven years,” Kania Matthews said, who graduated from Central Catholic High School. “I’ve learned all the dance styles, but my favorite is contemporary. I’ve learned to manipulate my body into differ-

ent positions since joining.”

Ms. Matthews will continue dancing at Central State University as a majorette.

After trying out for the Rockettes and making the squad, Raniyah Williams, a graduate of Toledo School of the Arts, will be attending the University of Toledo in the fall. Like Ms. Matthews, she too loves contemporary dance more than the other styles. “It’s very expressive, emotional, and smooth; more angel like than anything else,” she said.

“I’ve learned great work ethics since joining TouchaDream; that’s something needed in the real world,” Ms. Williams said.

Responsibilities of Black Fathers Have Increased in the Face of Racism

The NAACP Steps in the Help Parents Teach Their Sons and Daughters

Submitted

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Police officers and racism have forced Black fathers to have an added responsibility to their parenting. Black fathers must have a conversation with their children about how to survive when encountering a racist civilian or police officer. Infamous incidents such as George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Philando Castile are just a few examples in which their deaths resulted from a deadly encounter with racism. Former officer Derek Chauvin was convicted on all three charges against him in the killing of George Floyd. However, police officers who conduct similar controversial actions do not always get the appropriate justice.

Even then, Black parents across America now have a responsibility to try to teach their children how to avoid such encounters in the first place if at all possible. In that regard, on this Father’s Day, Black fathers are having to double down on teaching their kids how to stay alive in a racist atmosphere; especially since their killers may not always receive justice. The lessons being taught are universal.

Quincy Williams, a Black father of a 23-year-old son from Laurel Hills, Calif., told his son that interactions with law enforcement are “not the time to prove that you are right.” Williams has told his son to “remain calm and make no quick

legally, but you must first survive the encounter.” Lintz’s two sons are 25 and 20 years old.

Ben-James Brown, a Black Father from Los Angeles has talked to his 16 year old son about racism. Brown said, “in dealing with racism it’s important to understand where it stems from individually. Typically, when we are able to identify that we are able to break down walls and barriers that allow us to meet on neutral grounds.” Brown’s son encountered racism at the early age of 7 years old. One of his son’s peers called him the ‘n word’. Brown says that his son was super embarrassed over the incident.

Carlisle, a father to two sons who are 34 and 7 years old, tells his sons “bear in mind this officer will not see you as a regular person but as a treat or a person beneath him as such reasoning with them or expecting fairness should not be done.” Carlisle also told his oldest son, “as for racism, understand its definition and know everyone can be prejudiced but not everyone can be racist. Racist referendums and doctrines have greater consequences and knowing the persons responsible for this narrative allows you...better knowledge in response and dealing with these acts.”

Carlisle tells his youngest son that “If he has any encounters with police when not with me ask that they contact his father because he’s a child.”

Keith Moody, a Black father, gave advice to his son about how to deal with the police. Moody says, “the primary thing is that I’ve expressed to him is that his goal is to make it home and do not worry about what ticket you are getting, what



PHOTO: RICK DEMOPOLIS/FLICKR

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How are you honoring your father on Father’s Day or how would you like to be honored?

 <p>Mr. McCoy Real Estate</p> <p>The best way I see being honored on Father's Day is to honor my children, as well as honor other children. Being able to honor them, with activities or some type of event, will make me really feel good.</p>	 <p>Billy Fulks Entrepreneur</p> <p>Being that I work so much and try to spend as much time with my child, I'd simply like to rest on that day, so I can get up on Monday and continue what I always do.</p>
 <p>Ebony Gregory STNA</p> <p>I plan on honoring my father because he has always been there for me and my three siblings. We plan on cooking dinner and getting him what he likes</p>	 <p>Reuben Clark Independent Artist</p> <p>I see it from a different angle than others. I don't have biological children, but I am a stepdad, so the only thing I see as worthy is the love from my child. Being a father is everyday and I don't need a trophy or an award. I just want to be the best dad I can be; that's all I need for Father's Day.</p>
 <p>Vatella Fields RMA</p> <p>I'm honoring my dad. Many men don't get the thanks they deserve for being good fathers, but my father has been good to me and his grandchildren. So, my siblings and I are sending him to a spa to get the works.</p>	 <p>Angel Ward Children's Therapist</p> <p>I'm honoring my dad. He had seven children and did a good job providing for us. He worked a lot and rarely bought himself anything; so for his sacrifices, we're going to celebrate him.</p>

Ongoing Events

- Toledo Lucas County Public Library Connecting Kids to Meals**

Children 18 and younger are invited to pick up a FREE summer lunch, each day at 13 of our library locations. Times vary by location: Birmingham, Heat-herdowns, Holland, Kent, LaGrange, Locke, Main, Mott, Oregon, Reynolds Corners, South, Toledo Heights, Washington, West Toledo toledolibrary.org
- Every Tues Food, Clothing and Personal Needs The Bridge at Monroe St. UMC 11:30 am - 1 pm**

So you've hit a rough patch: lost job, illness, or other difficult transition that's making it hard to make ends meet. We provide the following assistance at no cost to all who come through our doors: State IDs and birth certificate assistance (Documents are important! Let us help you with them) Blood pressure monitoring and health Q&A.

For more info call Monroe Street Neighborhood Center at 419-473-1167 Ext 333 or 317.
- Every 4th Saturday Memorial Lutheran Church - Free Bagged Lunch**


Memorial will begin providing a PB&J sandwich, a bottled water, fruit and a cookie on the 4th Saturday or 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 or call (419) 472-2161.
- Free Food Pantry Every 1st & 3rd Sat. of the month**

The Redeemed Christian Church of God Mount Zion Chapel Toledo holds a food pantry, at 2239 Cheyenne Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614
- Say Yes To Summer Employment**

The Y.E.S. program at Harbor, in partnership with Toledo Public Schools, Washington Local Schools and the City of Toledo, will provide summer work opportunities for youth 14-21 this summer. Youth will earn money for work, job training, tutoring and other supportive services. If you are interested in earning money this summer and learning new things, call 567-203-4040 or visit www.harbour.org.

July 30, 31, & August 1, 2021

Pickett Elementry School Reunion



Tickets are going fast for the upcoming one of its kind "Pickett Elementary School Reunion" a 3 day event! July 30, 31, and August 1, 2021. Don't wait.

Get yours today, call Cassandra Moore at 419-450-7227.

- FREE FUN DAYS!** Some of the best and coolest places to go in the City are always free or will be free (at least ONE day) this summer! Make a day of it and have an adventure Fun for all ages.

MONDAYS: Toledo Zoo is FREE. www.toledozoo.org

ALL DAY EVERY DAY: Toledo Museum of Art is FREE. www.toledomuseum.org

FRIDAYS this summer: all YMCA locations are FREE. www.ymcatoledo.org

SATURDAYS this summer: Imagination Station is FREE. Including MOVIES at the new Key Bank Discovery Theatre. www.imaginationstationtoledo.org
- Toledo Lucas County Public Library Outdoor Games**

Visit any library locations to try some fun outdoor games, including Mini frisbee golf, outdoor bowling, ring toss, tic tac toe, scavenger hunts and more. Some games rotate to various locations and may not be available during your visit. All summer, all ages, FREE. Any Library Location, during library hours toledolibrary.org.
- Toledo School for the Arts Hip Hop Camp Intensive**

Ages 10-17, FREE,

June 16 -17, Navarre Park, 10-11am

June 22-24, Willys Park, 10-11am

June 29-July 1, Wilson Park, 10-11am

Registration: toledo.oh.gov/summer

- Warren Sherman Area Council Office Has Moved**

The Warren Sherman Area Council Office is now located at 3 East Bancroft St. Ste 3. All Warren Sherman residents, formal residents and those interested in improving and the up building of the Community are invited to participate on the Council and volunteer to work in the office. Although they are volunteer - positions currently, there will be a screening process before appointment! Also volunteers will be needed for upcoming events. Please contact the office by calling 419-250-7944. Dates for upcoming meetings.

Wanda Love, President & Jose Montavo, Vice President.
- Toledo Lucas County Public Library Learning Kits**

Borrow a themed bundle of books with matching activity sheets to keep and work on at home.

All Summer, grades k-3, FREE

Activity pick up: all locations toledolibrary.org
- "Metro Beet", an Urban Farm and Community Garden Tours**

Join local gardening organizations and enthusiasts on the Metro Beet, a self-guided tour of urban farms and community gardens in the Metro-Toledo region. Tours will take place the weekends of July 9-10, and August 13-14. Fri 5-8pm & Sat 10am-2pm, The 2021 Metro Beet Urban Farm and Community Garden tour is sponsored by a coalition of organizations that support and promote gardening, framing, and local foods. A map of participating urban farms and community hardens on the tour can be found at tinyurl.com/MetroBeet2021Facebook.
- !! Call for Vendors & Artists!!**

Holistic Hands Wellness Gallery

20/20 Art Expo and Small Business Showcase

June 17 event 11am-3pm - entry is FREE!!!

We are in search of artists that use ANY medium. Artists will display their work during the event and encourage their family and friends to attend and vote for their piece. Follow the link to apply: https://form.jotform.com/toniquinnfit/2020expo More info: HolisticHandsWellnessGallery@gmail.com
- City of Toledo Independence Day Fireworks Scheduled for July 2**

The City of Toledo's Independence Day fireworks

Continued on page 16.

Where is America? Will It Fade Into Yesterday?

By H. J. Harris
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - While the world is coming out of the pandemic, the Republican party is attempting to turn back the clock on truth, freedom, and justice.

It is attempting to take America back to the good old days that conservatives long for.

Republicans are making a three-fold attack on the heart and soul of America.

First: Republicans are perpetuating the BIG LIE – that the 2020 presidential election was stolen.

Second: The Republican party is attempting to restrict voting rights of black Americans.

Third: The Republicans are institutionalizing the denial of racism in America.

Let us look deeper into these three assaults on truth, freedom, and justice.

First: Certain leaders and their enablers refuse to accept that the 2020 election was fair and free of election fraud. They ignore the findings of the US Supreme Court, the Attorney General, the Election Security Agency, and virtually every other court and state election board in the country.

It is a blow to the heart of America when the validated vote of the American people – the cornerstone of the American democracy - is disputed by baseless, false, unsupported allegations of election fraud.

This assault on the sanctity of the vote of the American people is confirmed by the anticipated ouster from Congressional Republican leadership of Liz Cheney - an otherwise party loyal - for standing up for truth and contradicting the BIG LIE.

Second: The Republican Party is committed to restrict voting rights of Black Americans.

An article by Amy Gardner in The Washington Post (3/11/2021) reveals that Republican

lawmakers in 43 states have proposed at least 250 laws that would restrict voting rights.

Georgia and Florida have already enacted legislation that will restrict voting rights.

This current national assault on voting rights is taken from the racist playbook of voter suppression.

The playbook for voter suppression was an outcome of the only coup that occurred on American soil – “the Coup of 1898 in Wilmington,



PHOTO CREDIT / TOM COE via UNSPLASH

North Carolina.”

After the legitimately elected government of Wilmington, North Carolina was overthrown in the “Coup of 1898,” white legislators in the state government enacted “Jim Crow” laws that would suppress the rights of black voters.

A direct result of the effectiveness of the voter suppression campaign in North Carolina made it impossible for George Henry White, the last black American in the US Congress after the reconstruction, to be re-elected.

After Congressman White’s term ended in 1901, it was nearly 92 years before another black American was elected to the US Congress from the state of North Carolina. Eva Clayton – a black American – was elected to Congress from North Carolina in 1992.

As a result of voter suppression laws enacted after the Coup of 1898, no black people served in Congress for the next 28 years, and none represented any Southern state for the next 72 years.

In 1898, the goal of the state legislators was to prevent the re-occurrence of the 1898 liberal political victory that had been destroyed by the “Coup of 1898.”

The true goal of today’s national assault on voting rights – the “New Jim Crow” - is the same as in 1898. Republicans want to ensure that the victories by the democrats in winning the presidency and control of the US Senate would never be repeated in upcoming elections.

Third: The denial of the existence of systemic racism in America.

The republican claim that America is not a racist country clearly ignores the history and present reality that most black Americans live every day.

According to The Washington Post on April 28, 2021, there are “... GOP efforts across the country to push similar legislation that would ban critical race theory, which examines the way policies and laws perpetuate systemic racism.

The injustice and impact of historical racism will never be resolved if political and religious leaders continue to deny that America has been and continues to be infected by systemic racism.

The denial that American is a racist nation provides a cover for attempting to re-enact a 21st Century version of the Black Codes, Jim Crow, and voter suppression. It also undermines the spiritual solution to the issue of racism set forth in the Bible. Without acknowledging the wrong of slavery and racism, there will be no reason to ask forgiveness, or make atonement.

Political, religious, and spiritual leaders cannot stand by in silent acquiescence as American Democracy is constantly attacked.

If these three assaults on our democracy are not addressed, the sins of racism and injustice in the past will be relived in the present and perpetuated in the future.

Abraham Lincoln said, “America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

We have a choice. We can be the “better angels” that Abraham Lincoln described in his First Inaugural Address. We can reaffirm the words set forth by the founding fathers – “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Or we can continue in the darkness of untruths and bitter division.

Where is America? Will it fade into yesterday?

To paraphrase William Shakespeare, the answer is not in our stars, but in ourselves.

Are we brave enough to seek and speak the truth?

Dr. Herbert (H J) Harris is author of “Solving The Race Issue In America”. More information: www.solvingtheraceissue.com Email: info@solvingtheraceissue.com.


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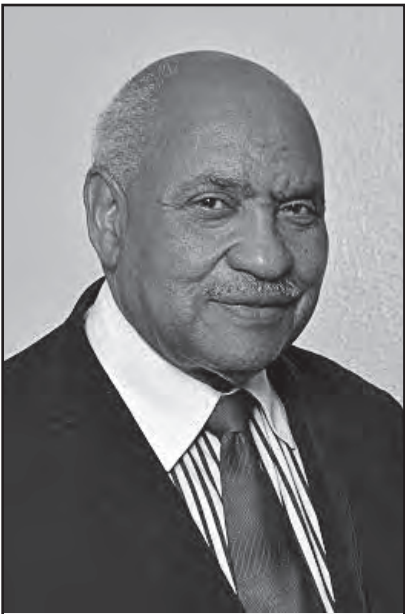
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The Republican Senate, The Filibuster and Racism



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

The American people need to realize that the real issue in the United States Senate is not the “Filibuster” but racism. Former President Obama clearly stated this in his recent interview with Anderson Cooper of CNN. The fact that the U.S. Senator Joe Manchin is meeting or has met with national Civil Rights leaders as if he is interested in what they have to say, is no more than a media stunt in an attempt to soften the blow of his racist attitude concerning the filibuster.

Yes. It is racist to see that you are one of the two people in the U.S. Senate attempting to re-institutionalize “Jim Crow” segregation through supporting the filibuster which would require 10 Republican votes in the Senate instead of a simple majority, which could allow passage.

Everytime the American people hear the term “Filibuster”, the word “Racist” should be inserted in its place. Those members of the Senate who support the filibuster over debate and legislative consideration of the public policy issues facing this great nation, should be labeled for the racists they are.

When one considers the 22 states that have already passed voter suppression laws, which eliminate hours and locations for polling places, that require voter identification cards for those with the greatest issues of getting such cards, like our Black and Latino seniors who have already been voting since the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the very fact that the John Lewis “For the People Act” would render null and void the voter suppression

continued on page 5

A year of COVID-19 brought record consumer debt and collection complaints



By Charlene Crowell
Wire Writer

After more than a year of COVID-19, the nation's collective ability to cope with dual public health and economic crises has diminished many consumers' ability to remain financially stable. While this February's national employment report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed a net gain of 379,000 jobs and White unemployment dropped to 5.6%, there was no corresponding improvement for Black and Latino workers. Instead, unemployment was respectively higher at 9.9% and 8.5%.

Workers without jobs typically receive unemployment benefits that vary across the country in the amount and duration. Although the U.S. Department of Labor finds the 2021 national average for state unemployment benefits to be \$346.46, fifteen states have weekly benefits less than \$300 and include locales with substantial workers of color, including: Arizona (\$238.23); Florida (\$233.59); Louisiana (\$192.98); Mississippi (\$190.27); Missouri (\$253.87); North Carolina (\$222.14); and Tennessee (\$222.89).

Further, as most workers receive their health insurance through their employers, unemployed workers often lose that insurance as well as their incomes. It's one thing to become ill, but it's a compounded difficulty when you're sick and out of a job at the same time.

As Black America faces yet again

another unequal economic recovery, a recent annual report to Congress on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) substantiates this claim. This consumer law governs debt collection practices, legally prohibiting debt collection companies from using abusive, unfair or deceptive practices to collect past due bills for mortgage, credit cards, medical debt, personal or other household debts. It does not include protections for business debts.

Released in early March, the 2020 report, jointly prepared by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) reveals stark findings of consumers' financial stress. In the first quarter of last year, consumer debt grew to \$14.3 trillion. By the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020, non-housing debt respectively reached increases of \$15 billion and \$37 billion.

Credit and consumer reporting complaints accounted for more than 58% of complaints received, followed by debt collection (15%), credit card (7%), checking or savings (6%), and mortgage (5%).

Beginning in April 2020, consumers began to submit more than 3,000 complaints mentioning coronavirus-related keywords nearly every month. Consumers submitted approximately 32,100 complaints mentioning coronavirus or related keywords in 2020. In all of 2020, 70 million consumers – one in three with a credit file – was contacted by at least one creditor or collector trying to collect one or more debts.

The 2020 tally for all CFPB complaints – across all credit areas – was approximately 542,300, a nearly 54% increase over the approximately 352,400 complaints handled in 2019.

"The pandemic has been among the most disruptive long-term events we will see in our lifetimes," said CFPB Acting Director Dave Uejio. "Not surprisingly, the shockwaves it sent across the planet were felt deeply in the consumer financial marketplace... In 2020, the Bureau received more than 540,000 consumer complaints. For seven of the nine months since March 2020, the Bureau managed record complaint volume."

Acting FTC Chairwoman Rebecca Kelly Slaughter also characterized her agency's efforts over the past year. "The FTC acted quickly to take down

a number of illegal COVID-related scams, sued to block or unwind an unprecedented number of mergers, and took a number of other strong enforcement actions across its missions," said Slaughter.

Last year, the FTC filed or resolved seven debt collection cases against 39 defendants and obtained \$26 million in judgments. Similarly, two CFPB judgments ordered nearly \$15.2 million in consumer redress and \$80,000 in civil money penalties.

In addition to CFPB and FTC, the Asset Funders Network (AFN), an alliance of philanthropists pledged to equitable wealth-building and economic mobility, also recently published a policy brief that found one-third of households with medical debt also have student loan debt and 43% of families with legal debts also have medical debt.

Entitled, Medical Debt and its Impact on Health and Wealth: What Philanthropy Can Do to Help, the brief closely examines medical debt and who is most impacted by it. AFN also identified three specific drivers of medical debt: unpredictable medical emergencies, insufficient health coverage, and high out-of-pocket expenses.

According to AFN, more than one in five adults experiencing an unanticipated medical expense in a year. When medical emergencies arise, household spending averages \$3,000 per person per year, with more than one-third of that expense attributable to out-of-pocket medical costs for the insured. For the uninsured, medical debts amass even more quickly, and often in states that did not expand Medicaid coverage for low-wage workers.

In part the brief states, "Medical debt disproportionately impacts communities of color, perpetuating and exacerbating the racial wealth gap by draining cash flow that other households without medical debt can save or invest. Racial inequities in income, wealth, and insurance coverage play a role in the prevalence and burden of medical debt... Black non-elderly adults are 1.5 times more likely, and Latinx and Native American non-elderly adults are 2.5 times more likely, to be uninsured than non-elderly White adults. With less access to insurance, people of color are more likely to face higher medical costs and challenges paying their medical bills."

"In many southern states, people of color disproportionately lack health insurance coverage in large part because their state did not implement Medicaid expansion," the brief continues. "Individuals in the South are also more likely to work in agricultural jobs or other low-wage jobs that do not provide employer-sponsored health insurance... Of the 13 states where more than one in five adults has medical debt in collections, seven states have not implemented Medicaid expansion, and in 11 states, people of color represent more than a quarter of the population."

Earlier this year, the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) also took a public stance on debt collection – in particular wage garnishment and bank levy protections.

"Systemic racism has fostered a debt collection landscape in which people of color are more likely to be contacted by collectors and more likely to be impacted by lawsuits resulting in wage garnishment and bank levies," states CRL. "State laws differ in terms of how much money is "protected," or is unable to be seized by a debt collector, to leave money for a family's basic needs. Federal protection is urgently needed."

The current federal poverty level of \$17,240 for a single adult with one dependent child has not changed since 1969. Nor does this official poverty level take into account regional differences in the cost of living, or the cost of childcare that represents a major budgetary cost for all working parents.

To remedy debt collection seizures of all available financial resources, CRL advocates that families be shielded from debt collectors by allowing consumers to retain \$12,000 in a bank account over a three-month period to cover food, housing, transportation and medical care.

"The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in high levels of unemployment around the nation and recovery will take months, if not years, states CRL. "The federal government must protect \$12,000 in a bank account, and approximately \$1,000 in wages per week, to help families establish and build financial security."

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

The Republican Senate, The Filibuster and Racism

continued from page 4

acts now in all of 47 states, it becomes clear that the whole idea is to prevent people of color from voting so that we do not have a repeat of the Black voter victories in Georgia that placed a Black and a Jew in the U.S. Senate.

Donald Trump has become the symbol of the Republican Party because he gives body and voice to the fears that old school whites have about the "browning" of America.

The same wave of righteous indignation that swept America after the "murder" of George Floyd and that placed Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris in the Presidency, should be continued with all the same passion. "We The People" must demand the abolishment of the "filibuster" and the racism it represents. It is not a part of our Constitution. We must remain a nation of laws and not outdated racist tradition.

Joe Manchin and your Democratic colleague, Kyrsten Sinema, your actions support the racist behavior of the



PHOTO CREDIT / ANDY FELICIOTTI VIA UNSPLASH

“
Yes. It is racist to see that you are one of the two people in the U.S. Senate attempting to re-institutionalize “Jim Crow” segregation through supporting the filibuster which would require 10 Republican votes in the Senate instead of a simple majority
”

Republican Senate and the Republican Party which is leading this national attack on blocking legislation that supports all of America and people of color in particular.

Let's not waste more precious time on the Republicans. Let's get rid of the filibuster now by any means necessary. The future depends on it.

“Zy’ Grace Faithful Flowers & Hopeful Gifts” Toledo’s black owned florist now open online

By Michael Daniels
Journal Staff Writer

When God created the world he also created things that are pleasing to our eyes such as flowers. Can you image paradise or the garden of Eden without flowers? They are a gift from God, made for our pleasure and the delight of our eyes.

One person who enjoys this heavenly gift ,every day, is Toledo’s only African American Florist, Pilar Powell-Ware. Mrs. Ware owns and operates an online floral shop she started in 2013.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL
Call 419-467-5196 or go to [zygracefaithfulflowershopefulgifts.com](https://www.zygracefaithfulflowershopefulgifts.com) to order your flowers today.

In high school, she studied Floral design at the Toledo Nat-



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL
Available online at [zygracefaithfulflowershopefulgifts.com](https://www.zygracefaithfulflowershopefulgifts.com).

ural Science and Technology Center, where she learned the art of designing floral arrangements. She was drawn to floral design because “I like creating things” she said. “A beautiful floral design also makes some people happy, and I like making people happy.”

After high school, she had learned her craft so well she was hired by one of Toledo’s major florists where she worked for three years,. As time moved on, she started to feel like the Donna Summer’s song, ‘She works hard for the

money.’ She felt she wasn’t getting paid enough for the amount of work she was producing. That’s when she said to herself, “I can do this same thing for myself and by myself.”



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL
Zy’ Grace Faithful Flower

With her plans for the future firmly implanted in her mind, she quit her job and formed her own LLC (Limited Liability Company). Unable to acquire a brick and mortar space for her new business, she did the next best thing, she opened her floral shop online. Next, she was smart and savvy and used Social Media and word of mouth to bring the customers to her website, Facebook, and

Instagram.

Today Mrs. Ware works from home, creating her floral designs in her basement workspace while doing double duty as the mother of her four children.

The name of her floral shop is Zy’ Grace Faithful Flowers & Hopeful Gifts. The name is based on the name of her children. Mrs. Ware says, “I do flower designs for every holiday, vase arrangement, garden planter, gift baskets, silk



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL
Gifts for all occasions, call 419-467-5196 or visit her site and browse the selection.

flowers and flower for any occasion.” Mrs. Ware’s website is very easy to use, you simply type in <https://www.zygracefaithfulflowershopefulgifts.com> in your search engine

and when it pops up click on it. Now browse the pictures of the flowers on display at your leisure and pick what you like. Then order it and pay for it, and you are done. Most orders are fulfilled on the same day. If you don’t see what you want, give Zy’ a call at 419-467-5196 and see if Mrs. Ware can accommodate your needs. She also has floral arrangements on display at Powell Beauty Supply for sale.

Remember, the next time you need flowers for any reason, check out Zy’ Grace Faithful Flowers & Hopeful Gifts. A locally black-owned and operated company.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL
Zy’ Grace Faithful Flowers & Hopeful Gifts

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PATHWAY

Supplemental security income benefits for children with disabilities



By Erin Thompson
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist
in Toledo, OH

Social Security's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides cash payments to children with disabilities whose families have limited income and resources. A child must meet the following medical requirements to be considered disabled under Social Security rules:

- The child must have a medical condition, or a combination of conditions, that results in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) must seriously limit the child's activities.
- The child's disabling condition(s) must last for at least 12 months, or the condition(s) must be expected to end in death.

We also help children through our Compassionate Allowances program. Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security's standard for disability benefits. The list can be found at www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm. Compassionate Allowances help us reduce waiting time to reach a disability determination for children with the most serious disabilities. Thousands of children receive benefits because they have a condition on this list, but children with

conditions not on this list can still qualify for SSI.

A child must meet additional eligibility requirements for low income and limited resources to qualify for SSI. To qualify, a child:

- Who is blind must not be working or earning more than \$2,190 a month in 2021.
- Who is not blind, must not be working or earning more than \$1,310 a month in 2021.

Earnings amounts usually change every year. Some older teenagers may have part-time jobs or be involved in work programs, which Social Security will count for financial eligibility.

In addition, if an unmarried child under age 18 is living at home, Social Security may consider some of the parents' income as the child's income. We make allowances for the parents and their other children living in the home when we consider the parents' income. You can read more about children's benefits in our publication, Benefits for Children with Disabilities at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf.

If you are a parent or know a parent, guardian, caregiver, or representative of a child you think may be eligible, visit our Disability Benefits-Apply for a Child (Under Age 18) at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html to learn more and begin an application.

Ask Rusty – When Can I Get Benefits from My Ex-spouse?

by National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation,
the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I know that I am able to get Social Security from my ex-husband. We were married for 16 years and I have not remarried. I will be 60 soon and he is 63. I do not know if he is retired yet, as we do not speak. Please advise when I can collect and how to go about the process.

Signed: Divorced Lady

Dear Divorced Lady: Since you were married to your ex for more than 10 years and haven't remarried, you may be able to collect a spousal benefit from your ex-husband when you are 62 years old. Your eligibility will depend upon the amount of your own personal Social Security (SS) benefit compared to your ex's benefit amount, but you cannot collect an ex-spouse benefit before age 62. To be eligible for a benefit from your ex-spouse, you must also claim your personal SS (from your own lifetime work record), and when you claim your own benefit an ex-spouse benefit will be given, if you are entitled to one.

To be eligible for a benefit from your ex-spouse, your personal Social Security retirement benefit at your own full retirement age (FRA) must be less than 50% of the benefit your ex-husband would get at his FRA (note that FRA amounts are used for this determination, regardless of the age at which either of you claim SS). If your FRA benefit amount is less than half of his FRA benefit amount, then you will be entitled to a "spousal boost" to bring your total payment up to your spou-

sal entitlement. But taken at age 62, both of those amounts will be reduced.

Your full retirement age is 67, and if you claim any SS benefit before that it will be reduced. At 62, your personal SS retirement benefit will be cut by 30% and your spousal boost will also be reduced. So, at age 62, the total amount of benefit you could get (your own benefit plus your spousal boost) would be about 32.5% of your ex-husband's FRA benefit amount. Nonetheless, if you are comfortable with these benefit reductions, you can claim at age 62 (or any age thereafter) by contacting Social Security or, when the time comes, apply online at www.ssa.gov/locator. You will need to provide SS with a copy of your marriage certificate and your final divorce decree, and you will need to know your ex-husband's Social Security number (SSN). If you do not know his SSN, you'll need to provide his parents' names and his date and place of birth.

If you wish to find out in advance whether you're entitled to an ex-spouse benefit and how much it is estimated to be, you can contact Social Security at 1.800-772-1213, or call your local SS office (find the local office number at www.ssa.gov/locator). Please note that all Social Security offices are temporarily closed to public access due to the pandemic, so calling them is your best current option to get an estimate of your spousal benefit.

One final caution: if you claim SS before your full retirement age and you are working, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before they take back some of your benefits.

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Walk-In Schedule: **Week of June 14**

Monday, June 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toledo-Lucas County Health Dept., 9a-3p 635 N. Erie St., Toledo (Pfizer/J&J/Moderna)• Toledo Zoo, 10a-2p Malawi Event Ctr, Toledo (J&J)• TARTA Bus: Zia's Restaurant, 2p-5p 20 Main St., Toledo (Pfizer)	Thursday, June 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toledo-Lucas County Health Dept., 9a-3p 635 N. Erie St., Toledo (Pfizer/J&J/Moderna)• Lucas Co. Rec Ctr, 8a- 5p 2901 Key Street, Maumee (Pfizer/J&J/Moderna)
Tuesday, June 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toledo-Lucas County Health Dept., 9a-3p 635 N. Erie St., Toledo (Pfizer/J&J/Moderna)• TARTA Bus: Brightside Academy, 10a-1p 2300 Lagrange., Toledo (Pfizer/J&J)• Lucas Co. Rec Ctr, 9a- 7p 2901 Key Street, Maumee (Pfizer/J&J/Moderna)	Friday, June 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toledo-Lucas County Health Dept., 9a-3p 635 N. Erie St., Toledo (Pfizer/J&J/Moderna)• TARTA Bus: Pa Jolly's, 4p-7p 2106 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo (Pfizer/J&J)• Lucas Co. Rec Ctr, 9a- 3p 2901 Key Street, Maumee (Pfizer/J&J/Moderna)
Wednesday, June 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toledo-Lucas County Health Dept., 9a-3p 635 N. Erie St., Toledo (Pfizer/J&J/Moderna)• TARTA Bus: TenEyck Towers, 10a-3p 240 21st Street, Toledo (Pfizer)• TARTA Bus: United Epworth Church, 4p-7p 4855 Central Ave., Toledo (Pfizer)• Lucas Co. Rec Ctr, 12p- 7p 2901 Key Street, Maumee (Pfizer/J&J/Moderna)	Saturday, June 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucas County Rec Ctr., 9a-1p 2901 Key Street., Maumee (Pfizer/J&J/Moderna)• TARTA Bus: Frederick Douglass, 11a-3:30p 1001 Indiana Ave., Toledo (Pfizer/J&J)• Juneteenth Freedom Day, 11a-4p 1500 Dorr St., Toledo (Pfizer/J&J)• TARTA Bus: Rock the Block, 5p-11p 300 Farnsworth, Waterville (Pfizer/J&J)

Updated June 11, 2021

Lawmakers push for national holiday

Submitted

(AFRO Staff)The “Juneteenth” celebration marks the date (June 19) in 1865, when enslaved Black Americans in Galveston, Texas were told they were free. They were the last community of enslaved people to be informed of their liberation, more than two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863. For more than a century and a half Black communities have celebrated the occasion with various festivities including parades, cook-outs, fireworks, beauty pageants, house parties and other activities to acknowledge a seminal moment in Black American history. In recent years, Juneteenth has garnered national recognition and celebrations in

wider American communities and national recognition.

In Texas, the day has been observed as a state holiday for 40 years but it is not recognized or celebrated on a national level. With this year’s Juneteenth a few days away, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) and Senators John Cornyn (D-Texas) and Edward Markey (D-Mass) are revisiting the issue.

There have been many conversations among lawmakers about officially making Juneteenth the 12th federal holiday, but last year the group introduced legislation around the matter. Although there wasn’t much movement on the bill, even with almost 100 supporters, that legislation is now being re-introduced.



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TAKING YOU PLACES

D.C.’s Emancipation Day celebration before National Juneteenth

Submitted

(AFRO While the national holiday of Juneteenth commemorates the official day enslaved African Americans were freed and the announcement in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, Washingtonians celebrate true freedom in the spring, when slaves were emancipated in the District of Columbia on April 16, 1862.

Three years before Juneteenth and eight-and-a-half months before the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the D.C. Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862, which freed over 3,000 enslaved African Americans.

The day he signed the D.C. Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862, President Lincoln was sure he was making a historic and strong decision. “I never in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right than I do in signing this paper,” Lincoln said. “If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it.”

Centuries later, City leaders still uplift the importance of Emancipation Day. “It’s important to tell the story of the 3,100 enslaved African-Americans freed in the District before the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation,” Angie Gates, director of the Office of Cable Television Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME) told the AFRO in 2018, before that year’s Emancipation Day Celebration.

The District generally makes a big deal out of the day enslaved Washingtonians were freed. Emancipation Day

celebrations have been taking place on some level in D.C. since 1866. Then, in the late 1980s, long time D.C. resident Loretta Carter Hanes began a campaign to make Emancipation Day an official holiday. In 1998 the first wreath laying ceremony was held at the Emancipation Memorial in Lincoln Park. Since then the holiday has grown into a signature event for the District of Columbia.

Pre-pandemic, OCTFME, which was established in 2015, would host a large in-person concert commemorating the emancipation of enslaved Washingtonians in 1862. Concerts have included headlining guests such as D.M.V. native and Grammy winning singer Mya, Rhythm and Blues superstars such as Brandy and Angie Stone, and Go Go bands such as Rare Essence.

This year, the District virtually commemorated Emancipation Day with a conversation looking at D.C.’s next step in freedom- Statehood.

On April 15 D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser hosted a virtual discussion, “From Enslavement to DC Statehood – Representation, Identity, and Diversity,” which featured an interfaith panel engaged in a conversation about what has prevented the District from obtaining statehood. “Statehood has been connected to racism,” said Rabbi Hannah Goldstein of Temple Sinai in D.C. “This is a racial justice issue and we have to help White people see it.”

The post D.C.’s Emancipation Day celebration before National Juneteenth appeared first on Afro.

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Juneteenth...Meet Your New America!



By Lafe Tolliver
Attorney

A time traveler returning from viewing the celebrations of the newly freed slaves in Texas in June of 1865 and which joyous occasions morphed into the Texas holiday of Juneteenth, would probably crash their time machine if they were to now monitor the recent Republican political knifings of

voting rights in America. True enough, the passed and the yet to be passed voter suppression bills in overwhelmingly Republican legislatures will apply to white voters as well. But you are sorely deluded if you believe that the passages of such “earmarked” legislation was without a sordid racial component. A current undertaking of voter suppression laws that are being concocted and widely promulgated by white GOP politicians whose intentions are to hamstring minority voters for the upcoming and all-important 2022 midterms, is in full bloom. At the outset, our time traveler would have read and studied the morning after election charts and surveys which have strongly evidenced that

there was no voter fraud in the recent national election which turned out to pasture the originator of the BIG LIE, Donald Trump. Our astute time traveler would have marveled at reading news events which show a divided nation in an uproar over a crafted lie that Donald Trump was the victim of a stolen election. And when the flummoxed time traveler dug deeper into the news, he would have been aghast to learn that the former president was using the race card as his means to gin up his rabid base to hoodwink them into thinking that, they too, were victims of a political crime. If Juneteenth meant the arrival of good news of freedom to slaves in Texas, the time traveler would have noticed

that in present day America, the political freedom of the descendants of those former slaves was again in imminent jeopardy. White America's preoccupation with the voting rights of African Americans was unabated both then after 1865 and now insofar as this intense assault has a disproportionate impact upon people of color. Juneteenth was the final freedom declaration to the Texas slaves who were initially prevented from hearing about the fall of the confederacy and the subsequent end of their tyranny. Yet, elements of that same confederacy, now cloaked in and under different names, is manifesting its racial vitriolic dogma via the cultural wars of the GOP.

The GOP, now home to discontent groups of white nationalists, white supremacists and other discordant and alienated white people, has become the ideological battering bullhorn to repeat the falsehood that former President Donald Trump was a victim of a political hijacking.

Our astute time traveler, being a voracious reader of American history, would have discovered that throughout the history of this country, lies about people of color regarding their intellect, sexual appetites and supposed inability to form viable communities were constantly propagated in the news media. The current historical beneficiaries of Juneteenth are suffering the same fates of their forebears at the hands of defeated Southerners who used the Jim Crow laws to try

to recapture black people and place them back in their place, to wit: chronic and debilitating servitude. The practitioners of Jim Crow laws employed every device known to man to portray the newly freed slave as an imminent danger to the economy of the South, to the purity of the white race and a demonized sexual predator of white women. The time traveler, reading the newspapers and watching entertainment programming of that time, would have been led to believe that black people were the sole impediments to progress for the South and as such, they needed to be corralled and politically neutered for their own good. As it was then, so it is now being attempted by the GOP and their core base, to devise schemes by which the minority voter will be disengaged from the political process and in that vacuum, white politicians with their race-based agendas can step in and rule the roost. Jerrymandering and “packing the courts” with marginally qualified white judges does the bidding of the GOP; and if any GOP leader should stray from the provided talking points, that deviator is termed a traitor or a distraction and thus is banned from the party or is pilloried for any statements that question the wisdom of the GOP leadership. In exasperation, our time traveler would possibly wonder when America, if ever, would live by its lofty words of freedom and liberty for all, or was such jargon, simply sparkling words that tickled the fancy of the uber rich who initially drafted that lofty preamble to the US Constitution? When last seen, our time traveler was heading into the Capitol to watch the craftiness of GOP senate leaders bob and weave at their attempts to show their frail allegiance to the flag while still holding out pieces of political cheese for the former president to continue to nibble on and find support for his egregious conduct.



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BLACK HISTORY

Sheryl Swoopes was the first female athlete to have an athletic shoe named after her.

In 2004 **Robert L. Johnson** became the first African-American principal owner of a major league sports franchise in the US.

Don Newcome was the first African-American to win the Cy Young Award as the top pitcher in MLB in 1956.

In 1988 **Johnny Grier** became the first African-American NFL referee.

William Pinkey was the first African-American to sail solo around the world around the southern tips of South America and Africa.

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Dawn Marr Reed & Talma “Tammy” Marr

Thank You!



Responsibilities Black Fathers Have

Continued from page 2.

you being charged with, or what is being said to you. I've told him that we would deal with that later." Moody also said, "if they ask you for your license and registration. Ask for their permission to get the requested item before reaching to get anything that is in your wallet or glove compartment." Moody's son is 20 years old and lives in Leesburg. VA.

Black parents' responsibilities have

increased when it comes to teaching their children how to survive. But they have help. Here is a guide from the NAACP on ways that sons and daughters can survive when stopped by police:

Ten Rules of Survival if Stopped by the Police:

1. Be polite and respectful when stopped by the police. Keep your mouth closed.
2. Remember that your goal is to get home safely. If you feel that your rights have been violated, you and your par-

ents have the right to file a formal complaint with your local police jurisdiction.

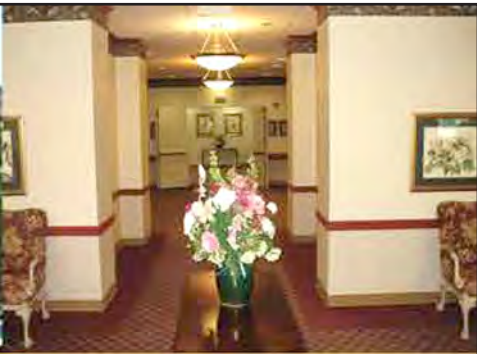
3. Don't, under any circumstance, get into an argument with the police.
4. Always remember that anything you say or do can be used against you in court.
5. Keep your hands in plain sight and make sure the police can see your hands at all times.
6. Avoid physical contact with the police. No sudden movements, and keep hands out of your pockets.
7. Do not run, even if you are afraid

of the police.

8. Even if you believe that you are innocent, do not resist arrest.
 9. Don't make any statements about the incident until you are able to meet with a lawyer or public defender.
 10. Stay calm and remain in control. Watch your words, body language and emotions.
- These 10 steps and other information is available at https://www.pbs.org/black-culture/connect/talk-back/10_rules_of_survival_if_stopped_by_police/.



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Tiffany Haddish to embody Florence Griffith Joyner in upcoming biopic



By Michael “Ice-Blue” Harris
Wire Writer

Tiffany Haddish is about to put her comedic talents to the side and reveal her athleticism to portray Olympic champion Florence Griffith Joyner in an upcoming biopic.

Joyner, also known as Flo-Jo, was an American track and field athlete and is the fastest woman of all time. She set the world records in 1988 for both the 100m and 200m, both of which still stand. Joyner made her Olympic debut in the 1984 Olympics, held in her hometown of Los Angeles, winning a silver medal in the 200-meter distance. She then returned for the 1988 Olympics where she won three gold medals in her signature events — the 100m, 200m and

4x100m. The renowned track star died in 1998 at the age of 38 in her sleep as the result of an epileptic seizure.

“I am looking forward to telling Flo-Jo’s story the way it should be told. My goal with this film is making sure that younger generations know my ‘she-ro’ Flo-Jo, the fastest woman in the world to this day, existed,” stated Haddish in a statement to Variety.

Haddish and Joyner’s husband, Al Joyner, are among several of the producers of the upcoming film, which includes Game1 Content. Al Joyner will also serve as a creative consultant on the project and has already begun training Haddish to play the role, using methods that his late wife deployed during her career.

“I am so elated to team up with Game1 and Tiffany Haddish on this project. Working with Tiffany has been a great pleasure — she is incredibly dedicated, focused, and committed to portraying the spirit of Florence accurately, whose legacy of making a difference in the world will live on for generations to come. I hope that this film touches all who see it and inspires people to BE the change the world so desperately needs right now!” said Joyner in the statement.

Haddish and Game1 are also partnering on a documentary series and a podcast related to the feature film as well.

The post Tiffany Haddish to embody Florence Griffith Joyner in upcoming biopic appeared first on Rolling Out.

Omari Hardwick to star alongside Halle Berry in upcoming sci-fi drama



By Michael “Ice-Blue” Harris
Wire Writer

Halle Berry and Omari Hardwick will be starring in the upcoming science-fiction drama The Mothership.

Berry is executive producing the film, which will also feature John Ortiz and Molly Parker. According to the film’s synopsis released to Deadline, Berry will play Sara Mose, a woman who has to navigate her life following the disappearance of her husband from their farmland the previous year. She soon discovers an extraterrestrial object under her home. Sara and her children race

against time to find out just what the link is between this object and the disappearance of the head of their family.

Hardwick’s role hasn’t been revealed yet in the movie but the “Power” star is making it a point not be typecast as he sets himself apart from the fictionalized drug dealer. Hardwick is currently starring in the Netflix zombie film, Army of Dead, along with Dave Bautista, which was released to limited theaters in May and is now streaming on Netflix.

The film follows a zombie out-

break in Las Vegas where a group of mercenaries take the ultimate gamble, venturing into the quarantine zone to pull off the greatest heist ever attempted. Hardwick plays one of the mercenaries named Vanderohé.

“Meet the chainsaw wielding, zombie killing, philosopher.... #Vanderohé. But most importantly....hear me say: On behalf of my incredible cast-mates, our crew, our producers, #Netflix & our incomparable director #ZackSnyderthank YOU, the fans for enjoying the journey as MUCH as we did #ArmyOfTheDead,” Hardwick posted on Instagram last week as it premiered on the streaming service.

Hardwick also bulked up for the role, adding 20 pounds of muscle to his physique. Normally walking around at 180, the former football star hit the gym hard to blend in with his weightlifting cohorts and is now a ripped 200 pounds. Check out the trailer of Army of Dead on the following page.

The post Omari Hardwick to star alongside Halle Berry in upcoming sci-fi drama appeared first on Rolling Out.

Kimora Lee Simmons fires back at lawsuit from Russell Simmons



By Michael “Ice-Blue” Harris
Wire Writer

Kimora Lee Simmons has fired back after Def Jam Records founder and hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons filed a lawsuit against his ex-wife and her new husband Tim Leissner. The record executive is suing the pair, claiming they stole stock shares from his Celsius Energy Drink company to pay for attorney fees for Leissner. Russell claims that his shares are being used as collateral to pay a bond in connection with criminal charges filed against Kimora’s new husband by federal authorities.

“*Kimora and her children are shocked by the extortive harassment coming from her ex-husband, Russell Simmons, who has decided to sue her for shares and dividends of Celsius stock in which Kimora and Tim Leissner invested millions of dollars.*”

Kimora ferociously answered back through her lawyers on Friday, May 21, and seems to have put their blended family image in jeopardy.

“Kimora and her children are shocked by the extortive harassment coming from her ex-husband, Russell Simmons, who has decided to sue her for shares and dividends of Celsius stock in which Kimora and Tim Leissner invested millions of dollars. This is an ill-advised attempt by Russell to use the legal system to access funds he is in no way entitled to, and which his own legal team confirms Russell did not pay for,” the statement obtained by Complex read.

Kimora’s statement also accused Russell of emotional abuse and took a dig at the sex abuse allegations that are currently huge issues in her ex’s life.

“Russell’s continued aggressive behavior not only blatantly distorts the facts, but is simply a desperate PR ploy ignoring the years of mental and emotional anguish, gas lighting, and ongoing harassment he has inflicted on Kimora. Russell will be held accountable for his serial abuse and we will confront his baseless claims that he is warranted Celsius stock dividends despite his self-admitted zero contribution,” Kimora’s letter from her attorneys continued.

“This extortion attempt is especially egregious given that Russell remains contractually in debt to Kimora for millions of dollars in unpaid business loans. Our team is actively working to put a firm end to his harassment, which continues despite Russell having fled the country — he will face his own reckoning in the U.S. court,” the statement concluded.

Simmons has been accused of sexual misconduct and assault by 20 women and previously stepped down from his companies. He’s reportedly living in Bali, Indonesia since 2018 where there is no extradition treaty to the U.S.

The post Kimora Lee Simmons fires back at lawsuit from Russell Simmons appeared first on Rolling Out.

THE TOLEDO JOURNAL

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County has FY21 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant funds available for local projects. Interested applicants can download forms and instructions from www.lucascountycjcc.org. Applications must be submitted by July 9 at 4:00 p.m.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

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EXPERIENCED MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union is seeking an experienced Mortgage Loan Originator. The MLO performs all mortgage loan processing activities including receiving, evaluating, and reviewing loan applications; obtaining and verifying necessary information; preparing documents for underwriting and closing review; and communicating loan status to all involved parties. A successful candidate will be dependable, an approachable team player with a personable and professional demeanor, a desire to learn and driven to achieve outstanding results. Previous experience with a Credit Union is preferred. To apply, please email your resume to ZCollins@ToledoUrban.net with the subject line MLO Applicant.

BLACK HISTORY

June 21, 1859:

Henry Ossawa Tanner, born in Pittsburgh, PA. His most notable painting The Banjo Lesson was painted in 1893.

June 18, 1862:

Slavery is abolished in U.S. territories by Congress.

June 17, 1871:

James Weldon Johnson, African American composer, lyricist, publisher, lawyer, and educator, born.

June 20, 1894:

Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, pioneer in food chemistry, born in Illinois.

June 18, 1953:

Martin Luther King, Jr. marries Coretta Scott.

June 18, 1966:

Samuel Nabrit is the first African American to serve on the Atomic Energy Commission.

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We are in search of a **Field Operations Manager** with a detailed, customer service oriented spirit who can successfully organize, and oversee the operations of the multiple offerings we have, as well as enhance customer relationships.

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JOB POSTING

GEM Service provides comprehensive services and technologies to keep facilities operating at peak efficiency for occupants. Services include HVAC and plumbing, testing/balancing, electrical, ductwork cleaning, facility management, energy procurement and building automation controls. Based in Toledo, Ohio since 1999, GEM Service is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group, serving customers in the Toledo, Cleveland and Lima, Ohio markets as well as southeastern Michigan. For additional information, visit RLGBuilds.com.

GEM Service is seeking an Accounting Clerk. The Accounting Clerk will perform accounts receivable duties for GEM Service Division and GEM Facility Management Division.

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JOB POSTING

Based in Toledo, Ohio since 1982, GEM Inc. is a singular contracting resource providing mechanical, electrical, structural steel and boiler work for process manufacturing and industrial customers. GEM is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group with offices in Cleveland, Columbus and Lima, Ohio; and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit RLGBuilds.com.

We are seeking a **Collections Specialist** at our GEM Inc., Walbridge, OH office. This individual will be responsible for communication with customers to ensure payments for both construction and the service division.

High school diploma required, excellent customer service skills, professionalism, and strong accounts receivable and collection experience required, construction/service industry a plus.

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JOB POSTING

Based in Toledo, Ohio since 1982, GEM Inc. is a singular contracting resource providing mechanical, electrical, structural steel and boiler work for process manufacturing and industrial customers. GEM is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group with offices in Cleveland, Columbus and Lima, Ohio; and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit RLGBuilds.com.

We are seeking a Senior VDC Technician at our GEM Inc., Walbridge, OH office. Job responsibilities include: Lead other VDC technicians to develop accurate BIM models based on project requirements, capitalize on prefabrication opportunities, and use AutoCAD and other CAD programs to create plans, elevations, sections, and isometric drawings for installation and prefabrication.

The ideal candidate will be proficient in AutoCAD - 2D and 3D, have prior Autodesk Plant3D and Revit experience, and knowledgeable in Microsoft Office suite. Minimum 5 years of piping design/BIM experience, 4 year engineering degree or completion of pipefitter apprenticeship.

GEM Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Interested candidates may apply at www.rlgbuilds.com/careers.

PART TIME TELLERS

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union is seeking part time Tellers to join our team. The ideal candidate will assist members by performing a variety of teller responsibilities including - cash transactions, withdrawals, deposits, money orders and loan payments, and opening new accounts. A successful candidate will be dependable, an approachable team player with a personable and professional demeanor, a desire to learn and driven to achieve outstanding results. Previous experience with a Credit Union is preferred. To apply, please email your resume to ZCollins@ToledoUrban.net with the subject line PT Teller Applicant.

Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church Celebration

Pastor Dr. John E. Roberts and First Lady Mother Bernice Roberts 56th Pastoral Anniversary



The honored couple, Pastor Dr. John E. Roberts and First Lady Mother Bernice Roberts who were honored at the celebration. The celebration was held Sunday, June 6, 2021 at Indiana Ave Missionary Baptist Church.

By Michael Daniels
Journal Staff Writer

On Sunday, June 6, 2021 was a big day of celebration at Indiana Ave. Missionary Baptist Church. After a long painful year for everyone with the church doors being closed due to the COVID-19 Virus that sweep the nation, at last, at last, the church doors

finally reopened. “Hallelujah and praise God,” said Barbara-Jones Robinson, Celebration Committee Chairperson. Even though COVID-19 periodicals were still in effect, this minor inconvenience did not steal anyone’s joy on that day. The church was packed and everybody was pleased to be back home in the house of the Lord

once again. In addition to all that on this first day back in church, the congregation celebrated the 56th Pastoral Anniversary of their esteemed leader Rev, Dr. John E. Roberts, and his First Lady Mother Bernice Roberts. Pastor Roberts has stood tall not only in his church but also in the community. One might say that he was full filling his destiny when God placed him in a seat as a teenage boy at the organizational meeting of Indiana Ave. Missionary Baptist Church on February 20, 1946. Over the years, God in his time raised him up to become one of the most powerful



A few of the many pastors who attended Rev. Dr. John Roberts Pastoral Anniversary were (L-R) Rev. Dr. Willie Perryman, Rev. Dr. Cedric Brock, Rev. William Smith, Rev. Marvin Barns, Bishop Larry Mack, Overseer Jerry L. Boose, Pastor Gerald Fletcher, Rev. David Williams, Rev. Dr. R D Carson Jr. Rev. AARon Murray and Pastor Perry Harris. A significant number of other pastors who were in attendance at the anniversary service were unavailable at the time of this photo.



Rev. Dr. John W. Williams of Eastern Star Baptist Church delivered The Word of God to the church on this Pastoral Anniversary Sunday. He said “Everything rises and falls on leadership, Dr. Roberts followed God and Indiana followed him. What made him a great leader was his connection with God!

ASK YOUR FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

WHY SHOULD WE HAVE A PUBLIC VIEWING?

There are many reasons to view the deceased. It is part of many cultural and ethnic traditions, and many grief specialists believe that viewing aids the grief process, by helping the bereaved recognize the reality of death. Viewing is even encouraged for children, as long as it is their desire to do so, and the process is explained well.

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P.O. Box 12559, Toledo, Ohio 43606
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Local political who were on hand to pay tribute to Dr. John E. Roberts on his 56th Anniversary were (L-R) Paula-Hicks-Hudson: former Toledo Mayor and current Minority Whip of the Ohio House of Representatives, Rep, Marcy Kaptur: U.S, Representative for Ohio 9th District, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, former Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, and Cersandra McPherson: Current Toledo City Council Member-At-Large.

and influential pastors in the city of Toledo. Always willing to lend a helping hand and a compassionate ear, he has guided many souls out of the darkness into the light. He is a man whose main

objective is to save as many souls as possible. He is truly a certified and Boniface Shepard of the Lord. Likewise, he is one who leads by his words and by example. To many he’s not only their pastor, he’s also a father figure as well. It is said by many, “He has the ability to give sound and truthful advice as well as guidance based on wisdom when it is needed.” Also while building a mighty fortress at Indiana Ave. Missionary Baptist Church, he managed to train over a dozen young men in the ministry. Many of these young men, who he refers to

Continued on page 16.

Professional sports unions shine spotlight on the eternal labor versus management fight

By Mark Hines
Wire Writer

(Reprinted with permission By:ThyBlackMan.com) This season will be the first 17-game regular season in National Football League history. Despite the physical toll and grind each NFL game can be for the participants, the NFL is adding an additional extra regular season game while subtracting one preseason game. Understandably, numerous NFL players complained on social media earlier this year about the additional regular season game but the NFL Players Association agreed to add another game when it reached its new 10-year collective bargaining agreement in 2020. It was an important example of the agreement made by the NFL and the NFL Players Association. The different players associations and unions for the “Big Four” professional sports leagues of the NBA, NFL, NHL, and Major League Baseball have some significant differ-



ences than other labor unions across America but there are some similarities as well. Oftentimes, in free agency or salary disputes, sports fans are conditioned to root against professional athletes who make several millions of dollars in order to view their favorite sports team's success in terms of financial frugality and cost efficiency. It is rooting for the team that allows many sports fans to forget that they are much more like the multi-million-dollar professional athletes who

represent the labor than the billionaire owners of the sports teams who represent the management. Weeks ago, players associations from the four major North American professional sports leagues issued a statement of support for the passage of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, or The PRO Act. The statement from the MLB Players Association, The National Basketball Players Association, NFL Players Association and the NHL Players Association said, “Now is the time

to overcome decades of increasing obstacles to working people who choose to exercise their right to organize a union and bargain collectively. We have all experienced first-hand the benefits a union can bring, and believe all workers should have the same fair chance to work together to improve their pay, benefits and working conditions. We urge passage of the #PROAct without further delay.” Clearly, these associations are not just advocating for the passage of this bill for their

own gain and it is powerful seeing professional athletes collectively put some support around the workers and working class of this country. This pandemic has greater highlighted the mistreatment of workers across the globe. In 2020, unions and working people in India held a mass nationwide strike that was organized by several trade unions across the country. It was arguably the largest general strike in the world with over 200 million workers and was followed by a farmers’

protest march to the capital of India, New Delhi. Many people were aware of the Bessemer Amazon Union Drive in Bessemer, Alabama in which created one of the rare times in the history of Amazon that workers had the opportunity to vote in a union election. In December of 2020, the National Labor Review Board charged Amazon with illegally firing a warehouse worker who organized to improve working conditions during COVID-19. Unfortunately, Amazon secured enough votes last month to defeat the unionization drive at one of its Alabama warehouses even though there are accusations that Amazon used illegal tactics to intimidate employee voters. Professional sports unions and players associations aren't quite identical in size, actions, and goals as other labor unions but it is noteworthy that they took a stance for workers unions across the country. Staff Writer; Mark Hines

Safe Summer Driving Ensure your tires are ready for the road

Submitted

(Family Features) During the warmer months, additional travel and hot roadways can put added stress on your vehicle and its tires, in particular.

Normal driving, turning and braking on hot roads can pose safety risks to your vehicle and tires. Whether you are simply commuting or planning a road trip this summer, these tips from the experts at your neighborhood Discount Tire store can help keep you safe on the road this summer.

Get Pressure Right and Check It Often
Low tire pressure can lead to many issues for your tires, like decreased steering and braking control, poor gas mileage, excessive tire wear and the possibility of tire failure. Temperature changes can also impact tire pressure; for every 10 degrees in temperature change, your tire pressure changes 1 PSI (pound per square inch). To stay safe on the road, check your tire pressure at least once a month when the tires are cool. The impacts of bumps and turns from everyday use can lead to normal air loss, so be sure to check regularly and before any road trips. You can find the manufacturer's recommended tire pressure on a sticker in your car's door jamb or in your owner's manual.

Check Your Tread
Tread depth refers to the amount of tread on a tire, which can impact a vehicle's handling, traction and safe stopping distance. More tread equals better road grip and shorter stopping distances while cars with lower tire tread can take significantly longer to stop. To easily check your tread depth, stick a penny upside-down in a tread groove. If you can see President Lincoln's entire head, your tread is worn down and it's time to replace your tires.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Rotate Tires Often
Tires should be rotated every 6,000 miles or earlier if you notice any uneven wear. Rotating your tires increases tread life and helps ensure a smooth and safe ride.

Double Check Your Trunk
Many newer vehicles have replaced spare tires with tire inflation kits. These kits include tools to keep you on the road, like puncture-coating sealants, air com-

pressors and run-flat tires. Check to see what is included with your vehicle and consider adding a roadside assistance plan in case you experience a flat tire or other issues.

Ask an Expert
Stay educated on your tires and what you need to do to keep them safe. Consider booking an appointment for a free tire safety check at a local store like Discount Tire. You can

even stay in your car while service is performed as part of the touchless experience. If it is time to replace your tires, an option like the Treadwell online tire guide can help you find personalized tire recommendations for your specific vehicle, where you live and your driving habits.

For additional tire safety tips, to locate a store near you or schedule a tire inspection appointment, visit DiscountTire.com.

Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church

Continued from page 15.

Baptist who was the Master of Ceremony introduced Mother Helen Kelly who offered the Welcome. This was followed by a selection from the Eastern Star Baptist Church Choir and Words of Gratitude from some of the Sons of Pastor Roberts. After that, there was another selection by the Eastern Star Baptist Church Choir. Then local Dignitaries in the audience paid Tribute to Dr. Roberts After this, the speaker, Rev. Dr. John Williams from Eastern Star Baptist Church was introduced.

He said, "Everything rises and falls on leadership, Dr. Roberts followed God and Indiana followed him. What makes him a great leader is his connection with God. Years ago, when I was a young man, Dr. Roberts asked me to be his pastor and I want to say today, thanks for the privilege to serve as your pastor. Dr. Roberts and Indiana Baptist Church have demonstrated what leadership and fellowship is all about."

Ms. Barbara-Jones Robinson, thanked everyone for coming out and praised her committee members for stepping up to the plate and putting the 56th Pastoral Anniversary program together.

The service ended with closing remarks and the Benediction by Rev. Dr. John Williams. At the service, a few people

has been right there for me every time I called. He's a great guy, and may God bless him on his 56th Pastoral Anniversary.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Pastoral Anniversary Chairwoman Barbara Jones-Robinson thanks Dr. Roberts for his years of service and her Celebration Committee for answering the call to put Anniversary program together.

ple in attendance also offered their own personal testimonials to Dr. Robert's greatness. Rep, Marcy Kaptur said, "Rev, Dr. John E. Roberts is a man who keeps his word and his life has inspired others in all walks of life,"

Pastor John Walthall of Mt. Ararat M. B.C. Said, "Rev. Roberts is my pastor, and he

sary." Church member Marie Balthazar added, "Pastor Roberts he has done so many wonderful things for me, he's been like a father and grandfather to me, he has counseled and ministered to me. He has steered me up in the right way in the Lord with his teaching. I really enjoy his teaching on

sanctification and the fruits of the spirit. I've grown spiritually because of his teaching and I respect this man of God and his wisdom and I wish him well."

Overseer Rev. Dr. Jerry Boose of Second Baptist Church said, "I'm here today to celebrate my father in the gospel, Rev, Dr. John E. Roberts for all his years of service. I'm one of his sons, and I'm elated to be here and to be a part of this great occasion. I also want to ask everyone to keep Rev. Roberts and Mother Roberts and this church in your prayers."

Rev. Dr. Cedric Brock, President The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo and Pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, stated, "I'm here to celebrate Dr. Roberts and his wife for their many years of service. They are well deserving. Pastor Roberts is a Godfather in this community, and we will miss him, but he will still be here to give us advice. I congratulate him on his retirement and the next assignment in his ministry."

Cerssandra McPherson Current Toledo City Counsel Woman said, "I came here today because Dr. Roberts and mother Roberts are close to my heart. They've been a part of my family for many years. I

also came as a representative of the City Council to recognize their 56 years in the ministry with a resolution from City Council. Dr. Roberts is not only a pastor, but he was a mentor to many political leaders here in the city. He's been an adviser and a friend and has played numerous roles in the Toledo community. For me, he was my father figure after my own father passed away. There is only one Rev, Dr. John E. Roberts and his legacy is unmatched, and I was honored to be at this service today!"

Members of The 56th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration Committee was, Barbara-Jones Robinson, President of Mass Choir Celebration Committee Chairperson, Bro. Stacy Brown, Choir Director, Co-Chairperson and Bro. Mac Neyland, Co-Chairperson. Program Sis Dorothy Edwards and Bro, Larry Jones. Finance Sis Ethel Scott, Sis. Sharon Jones, Dea. Marvin March, and Trustee Gene Kelly. Publicity Sis Marie Dunlap-Ali, Sis Sydney Starks, and Sis. Cynthia Hitt. Souvenir Booklet Sis. Lisa Gutthrie, and Trustee Keith Mathis-Smith. And Decorations Sis Jadqueline Jackson and Sis. Mayon Hogue.

Ongoing Events

Continued from page 3.

will occur downtown over the Maumee River on Friday, July 2. So, there will be a proper celebration in downtown Toledo on the 4th of July weekend. Toledo City Council today approved a \$30,000 expenditure toward the cost of the fireworks display.

Free Disposal Day at Hoffman Road Landfill and Free Engage Toledo Drop Of Refuse and Recycling Event

The Hoffman Road Landfill will be open for free disposal to city residents from 8am-1pm, Sat. The other free landfill disposal days this year are July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 11, Oct. 23, and Nov. 27. Residents are permitted to bring a truck/trailer load of bulky solid waste items for free disposal to the landfill, 3962 Hoffman Rd., subject to terms and conditions. Proof of Toledo residency is required. Acceptable bulky waste items include excess trash, furniture, carpeting, mattresses, wood waste, and scrap metal. No commercial waste or haulers will be permitted. More Info: 419-936-2020 or visit our website, toledo.oh.gov 9-1p.m., June 19 at Scott High School, 2400 Collingwood 9-1pm, June 26 at Start High School, 2010 Tremainsville Rd.

Monroe Street Church and Neighborhood Center Freedom School

During this Free program, young scholars will spend six weeks participating in reading classes taught by local college students. We partnered with local organizations to provide enrichment activities in addition to reading. Children will enjoy gardening, singing, dancing, acting, Tai Chi, cardio drumming, swimming, cooking, art, and local field trips. Kids also will receive a healthy breakfast and a healthy lunch at no cost each day. Monroe Street Neighborhood Center is delighted to offer Freedom School as a free program for families. In order to make the program as successful as possible, we ask parents to volunteer in the classroom and attend a weekly

workshop. Now-July 23, 8am-3:30pm, FREE. Registration: call 419-473-1167, Ext. 213

The Padua Center Free Featured Summer Camps

The Padua Center summer camps: June 21-25 campers will participate in a MetroParks sponsored camp. Daily trips to Pearson park will give the youth a chance to do hands-on science projects, pond study, canoeing, and much more.

July 5-9 campers will participate in a Peace Camp. They will learn how to achieve peace within, make peace with others, and learn Yoga.

Vacation Bible School will be July 19-23. The theme is "Animal Crackers," (by Heifer International). Campers will study animals, relate them to Bible Stories, do activities and develop ways raise chickens for a 3rd World Country. A Gardening Camp - Padua Potters - will also be conducted from July 12-16.

Other camps will focus on racism. Info: call Avery Cooper at The Padua Center 419-241-6465.

Free Summer Jazz in the Park Series

Toledo's free, family-friendly Jazz in the Park Series, which is part of the city's summer youth programming, Students from Toledo School for the Arts will perform for residents in smaller neighborhood parks for the jazz series. Special guests will join the students for the performances. All of the Jazz in the Park shows will run from 7-9 p.m., weather permitting. Upcoming shows scheduled this summer are:

- June 24 at Birmingham Park
- July 1 at Oakdale Park
- July 2 at Asbury Park
- July 8 at Copeland Park

TARTA Seeks Community Feedback at Virtual Public Meeting on June16th

TARTA will host a virtual public meeting on June 16, 6pm-7pm. The forum is open to the public and all TARTA riders including those who use the Toledo Area Regional Paratransit Service (TARPS) and Call-A-Ride. The webinar-style public meeting will discuss Pandemic related changes made in the past year and receive feedback on the following topics: A review of fare elimination, reduced service hours and

frequency and express service elimination due to the coronavirus pandemic. Spring service changes to eight of TARTA's fixed route services including routes 2, 5, 19, 51, 52, 12, 14 and 31. Service changes related to TARTA's fixed route 10L.

The virtual public meeting will include a q&a session with TARTA staff. Registration and additional details are available at www.tarta.com or by calling 419-243-7433. Submit comments/questions to customer-relations@tarta.com by 12pm on June 16, 2021.

June 19th Father's Day EXPO

EXTRAVAGANZA will be held on Saturday, June 19th from 10:00am - 3:00pm at the Tremainsville Hall 2439 Tremainsville Rd. Toledo, OH 43613. There will be Local Vendors, Cobblers On the Move Food Truck, DJ Steven Wolfe and Door Prizes. For more info: Contact Ms. Carter, Event Coordinator at (419) 367-9765. FREE ADMISSION

June 19th Toledo Lucas County Public Library Sippin' in Summer

Chef Rob shows you how to make some smoothies and shakes - perfect for summer. Saturday, 9:30am-10am, ages 6-10, FREE. Online Programs: YouTubetoledolibrary.org

June 19th Community Celebration Pop-Up Shop
Juneteenth Freedom Day, Saturday 11am-6pm, 1500 Dorr St. (The grounds between Detroit & Smead). Sponsored By: The Junction Coalition Community Connections JC 2020. More information: 419-408-0998.

June 23rd NAACP Toledo Branch 1st Job Fair 2021
Wed, Noon-5p.m. Mott Branch Library 1010 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43607.
Hiring: Corrections Officers, Fire Fighters, Teachers, Social Workers, Nurses (RN, LPN, & STNA). Services: Covid-19 Vaccine, Narcan Training, Resource Agencies, Gift Card Giveaways. President Rev. Dr. W.L. Perryman Jr. www.naacptoledo.org