

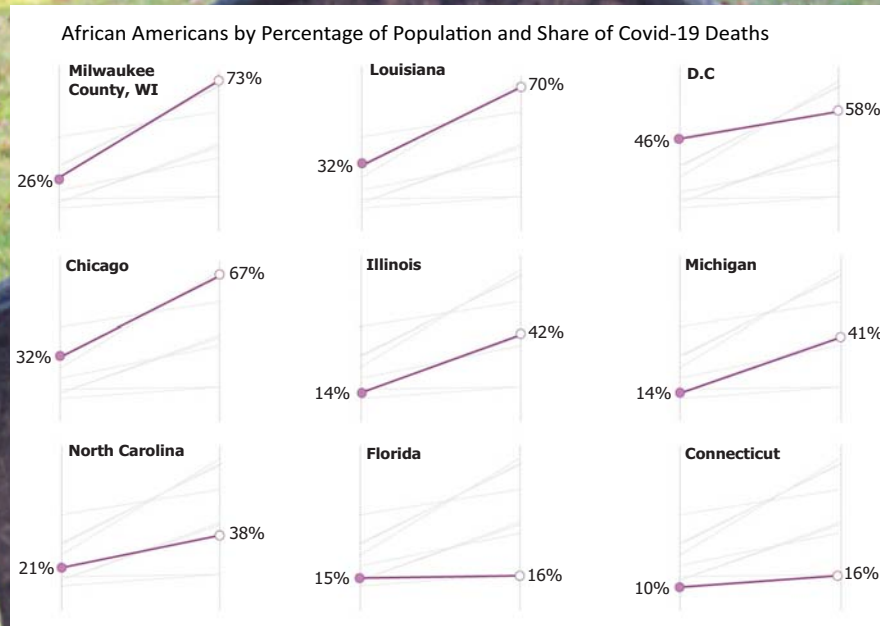
# The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 61, No. 2

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

April 15, 2020

## Black Lives Matter ... But Are Lost



Sources: Johns Hopkins University, state health departments, American Community Survey

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# No Regrets: John Rudley's Story (Part Three)

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

*We need leaders – neither saints nor sparkling television personalities – who can situate themselves within a larger historical narrative...who can grasp the complex dynamics of our peoplehood and imagine a future grounded in the best of our past, yet who are attuned to the frightening obstacles that now perplex us.*

- Cornel West



John Rudley left Toledo University as a successful student-athlete but bearing the wounds of race, class and culture inflicted by the generational strife he had encountered there. Rather than playing the “blame-shame game,” however, Rudley – as he had always done, viewed the negative life-experience as an occasion to step in to fill voids in leadership wherever an opportunity presented itself.

Nevertheless, even after over 50 years since his conflict with late UT coach Bob Nichols, the generational clash between modernity and traditionalism would continue to stalk Rudley showing up, sometimes, in unexpected places.

I caught up with John Rudley to discuss the impact of racial and generational strife on his leadership and life. This article is the conclusion of a three-part series.

**Perryman:** Your professional career began with Coopers & Lybrand. Later you worked at the highest levels in the field of education. Please talk about your experience in this later season of your life.

**Rudley:** These were all predominantly white situations and so I was deft at dealing with that. Toledo gave me a great education in that regard. The University of Toledo didn't have many black students at the time, so I took that experience and was able to work with Secretary Lamar Alexander in D.C. and then the Tennessee Board of Regents came knocking and hired me to be their Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the system, the sixth largest in the country. From there, I went to the University of Houston, a predominately white institution, as a CFO and they hired me because I had this Washington D.C. experience. So, I was doing pretty well because I was in the right place at the right time to be able to use the skillset I learned when I worked at Coopers & Lybrand and other higher education institutions.

**Perryman:** So, you leave the University of Houston and take the job as president at Texas Southern University (TSU). How did this experience differ?

**Rudley:** TSU was a totally different experience because now it's dealing with all black people, essentially. It took me nine years to realize that that probably wasn't the best thing that I should've done, but I worked as hard as I could.

**Perryman:** Why do you feel that TSU, an historically black institution, was not best for you?

**Rudley:** There, I found that a lot of issues in the black community are there because we shoot ourselves in the foot. Many of our problems are not always somebody else's fault and you have to look at yourself and do a self-evaluation. But you live and you learn.

**Perryman:** How did your early experiences with Bob Nichols and the University of Toledo shape your leadership at Texas Southern?

**Rudley:** It taught me that you have to get your act together, be competent and then once you get into a position where you can make decisions the Nichols incident also taught me that everybody has strengths and weaknesses and it really doesn't matter what color you are. Just like when I was playing guard, you've got to identify the best people who can do the job.

**Perryman:** You have been quoted somewhere saying that your tenure at Texas Southern was “tumultuous.” Do you think some of the problems were indicative of higher ed problems in general or do you think they were specific to HBCU's?

**Rudley:** Both, because all schools are going to have a problem with financing. At the University of Houston or University of Tennessee at Chattanooga or Tennessee Board of Regents, we focused on getting quality students and the highest standards. Because we all need enrollment, we have to also make sure that we had quality faculty, quality research, quality students, the whole nine and the campus needs to look great.

In the black institutions you have the same problem, but often the team does not come together to work in a focused manner on solving problems. That's my biggest criticism, the difference between HBCU's and predominantly white institutions is the lack of collegiality, lack of respect for the mission of the university and the lack of respect for leaders who are doing the things to make sure the mission is acted upon.

Another difference is there is not as much concern for the outer appearance at HBCU's as there is for a predominantly white institution and you invest in the things you believe in. So, at Texas Southern, one of my initiatives was to clean the campus up and make it look like a university that if a parent came there and saw that facility, physical environment, they would say this is a place I want to send my child to as opposed to sending them to a place where trash and papers are everywhere.

I was out of, I guess, step with some of the people at Texas Southern, who didn't understand the best practices of predominantly white institutions so I made decisions to improve the campus regardless of what they were saying. I made my decision to increase the standards. They were an open admission school and I changed that right away. They didn't like that. So, these are fundamental differences I had with the faculty at Texas Southern and their alumni as well, but I made the changes anyway. I said these are the best practices at predominantly white institutions and I'm here to make sure this school is go-



John Rudley

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# African Americans Suffering Disproportionately from Coronavirus Pandemic

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

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# The Congressional Black Congress Calls for Racial Data Reporting for COVID-19

Special to The Truth

In a letter sent by the Congressional Black Caucus on April 7 to Robert Redfield, M.D., director for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Congressional Black Caucus is calling for immediate racial data reporting for COVID-19 in every state, amidst rising trends in infections and mortality of black people with coronavirus.

To date, only nine states and the District of Columbia have released data based on race, which represents less than 20% of the country. With the limited data of coronavirus deaths out of cities and states across the nation such as Milwaukee (73 percent), Chicago (67 percent), Louisiana (70 percent), D.C. (58 percent) it is already evident that the death rates are disproportionate to the black population in these areas hardest hit. We need full disclosure of racial data to identify and prioritize the areas of greatest impact.

In the letter, the Congressional Black Caucus urges the CDC to prioritize the collection and reporting of vital public health data which will include race and risk factors. With this information, Congress and the Administration must work together to prioritize all efforts to ensure every person in America has equitable access to COVID-19 testing and treatment regardless of their race or ethnic background.

Healthcare disparities in our country have been a long standing issue and concern for the Congressional Black Caucus. The spread of the coronavirus has compounded these issues, leaving black people even more vulnerable. We need to urgently address these disparities with a targeted response to our community," said Congresswoman Karen Bass (CA-37), chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The spread and outcome of COVID-19 in the United States has simply

brought the issues of healthcare disparities to the forefront of national attention. But it did not catch us by surprise. The Congressional Black Caucus Healthcare Braintrust, chaired by Rep. Robin Kelly (IL-20), focuses on identifying the areas of grave concern as it relates to health and healthcare for Black people and advocating for equitable legislative responses.

Obtaining the data from every state in America is critical to a targeted response that ensures ample resources, including funding and testing, are deployed to the communities hardest hit. The data we are seeing from the few states that are reporting shows that black people are the most vulnerable and the distribution of resources must reflect this. Without this data, we will continue to risk the lives of people in this country," said Rep. Robin Kelly, chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus Healthcare Braintrust.

What we are seeing is more than just an overstretched healthcare system, but instead the result of years of systemic racism, disenfranchisement, and oppression of Black people in America. The reason more blacks are dying from COVID-19 is a result of a history of structural racism, environmental injustice, income inequality, and the lack of resources in black communities, which have led to the prominence of health related risk factors such as diabetes and hypertension. With this data along with targeted testing and funding the CBC is confident this will be a more effective approach to overcoming this health crisis in our community and saving black lives.

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

ing to improve and so I also changed the facility, how it looked, added new buildings, a new dormitory, new library, cleaned up the campus, got a new football stadium for them to play in, the Dynamo Stadium, and new academic programs.

**Perryman:** Do you think that you might have compensated or even over-compensated at TSU for your early experiences at Toledo and that, possibly, the current generation of young black kids might have seen you in the same vein as you previously saw Coach Nichols a half-century ago?

**Rudley:** Oh yeah, I think that is the case. That's a very astute observation in that this clash between traditionality and modernity happens all the time and when I was a student, I was part of the trying to be modern crowd. We don't like discrimination, we want fair and equal housing, the whole nine yards and so even when I had those feelings, they remained when I worked at the black college. I said, 'okay, if a lot of people don't know what to do, I do know what to do.' Just like you were saying that I used to take over the game in the third or fourth quarter if I felt like we needed to do so, well that also is how I approached Texas Southern. I said well let me just take over this thing, they will be mad at me, but this is how I run the game. I realized that that was going to be a problem in the long run, but I said if I work hard and fast enough, by the

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# Protecting Against COVID-19

COVID-19 Ask the Expert: Anthony J. Armstrong, M.D., MPH, FACOG, President of the Ohio State Medical Association on Minority Health

The Ohio Department of Health sat down with Anthony Armstrong, M.D., MPH, FACOG, president of the Ohio State Medical Association, to discuss COVID-19 and minority health. Dr. Armstrong has shared his expertise on this important topic.

Dr. Armstrong, a board-certified OB-GYN in private practice, has served as medical director for specialty care and obstetric services of Bon Secours Mercy Health in northwest Ohio. He previously worked at Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center where he held various roles including chairman of the OB-GYN department, director of medical education, and chief of staff. Dr. Armstrong is a past president of the Toledo and Lucas County Academy of Medicine.

**Q: The information at this point is largely anecdotal across the country but it appears the COVID-19 fatality rate is disproportionately impacting the African-American and Latino communities. Why do you believe this may be the case?**

A: As you said, the information is largely anecdotal but from the start of this crisis, before coronavirus took hold in the United States and before it became global pandemic, there was a myth among many in the African-American community, in particular, that Black people could not get this virus or, worse, die from it. I'm sure that mentality exists in Ohio and it has to change.

**Q: With April being Minority Health Month, where might that myth or mentality be rooted?**

A: Dating back many generations in our country, many African-Americans have always held a general distrust of the medical system and a distrust that medical professionals had their best interest and best health in mind. That mentality is rooted in our country's prior history of racial inequality. However, without question, things are better now but these are myths and long-held beliefs that have not fully subsided.

**Q: Should individual states, or the federal government – in particular, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) – track COVID-19 data according to race and ethnicity?**

A: Absolutely. Because if this virus is truly spreading disproportionately among minority communities across the country then it is likely true here in Ohio, as well. We need this data to better understand how the virus spreads and to develop more effective strategies to mitigate the spread while we continue to For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov develop effective ways to treat this disease for those who are already sick or will become sick. It's clear, we've seen significant spikes in cities with higher minority concentrations – New York, Detroit, New Orleans, and Chicago. And Ohio, as we know, also has large American cities with higher concentrations of minorities which could warrant our attention.

**Q: We know that this virus has a more devastating impact on individuals with other underlying conditions. Could that be a factor in**

**what we are seeing the minority communities?**

A: Yes, to the point that I addressed earlier. African-Americans, for example, have higher rates of diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure and other public health ailments and statistically we are less likely to regularly see or be under the care of a physician. African-Americans live with these public health conditions for a longer period before getting medical care, which could exacerbate our overall care. What we know about COVID-19 is that if your body is already weakened by other severe medical concerns then this virus is likely to have a more devastating impact on you.



Dr. Anthony Armstrong

**Q: If there was concern before about seeing a doctor, it's likely heightened during this pandemic. How can we be sure minorities and others are still seeking medical care?**

A: One thing we are learning to use more where I work, and I know this is true for physicians across Ohio, is telehealth. This allows us to consult with our patients face-to-face via computer, laptops or smartphones. And if you do not have video capabilities, then you need to know that we can still provide effective care via a telephone call. What are your symptoms? How are you feeling? What is your prior medical history? These are all questions that can be answered via telehealth and help us as physicians provide a necessary level of care. Telehealth has the potential of remaining a significant part of the medical delivery system long after we have defeated COVID-19.

**Q: What is the message we must convey to the minority communities?**

A: The message is no different than what you and Gov. DeWine have effectively and appropriately communicated for more than a month. Without a vaccine or known cure, our most effective strategy is to win the war against the spread of the virus which buys healthcare professionals and medical scientists more time to work on effective treatments and cures that will save lives. I implore all Ohioans – regardless of your race or ethnicity – to adhere to the 'Stay-At-Home' and social distancing orders and if you are traveling to Ohio from outside our state, please be courteous and self-quarantine for at least 14-days before interacting with others. Might I add, I also believe that we in the medical profession can also do more to be sure that we make our services more accessible and inviting. We have to look for ways to make healthcare more accessible to everyone, especially those who the most vulnerable among us. We know that early intervention of care can significantly lower the chances of chronic medical care later

**Q: Thank you, Dr. Armstrong. That is an especially strong mes-**

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*Perryman... continued from page 4*

time they catch up with me, I will have made the changes that need to be made regardless of what they're saying.

**Perryman:** Let's go back to the snub you have received by Toledo's Hall of Fame committee. Why do you feel you are worthy of the Hall of Fame?

**Rudley:** As an example of what you expect student athletes will accomplish, I am that example. You expect student athletes to charge off into a profession and become superlative in what they do, represent the university proudly and help the brand of the institution because every time you have a stellar candidate or a stellar student who gets a great job somewhere, we all kind of toot our horns and say that's what the university is all about, isn't it? It's supposed to be about producing graduates who excel. I believe I'm a graduate who excelled, I just also happen to have played basketball.

So, if you look at my credentials in terms of even when I went through that struggle at Toledo, I was able to finish my degree. I did that, in spite of the controversy and in spite of what I went through in terms of the athletic program and in terms of some of the people who made mistakes in handling me, but if I look at all the other students who were non-athletes that go to the University of Toledo and graduated and stack my career side by side and my resume side by side with everybody in the Hall of Fame, I think I would be well represented when you make a comparison. So, I think from that standpoint, I represent what you would hope all student athletes would do - come to your school and graduate. I won't even bring up the question of how many student athletes don't graduate, but I graduated and went on to work for the Secretary of Education and Department of Education and college president at two major institutions and one system, Tennessee Board of Regents System. I don't know what else I'm supposed to do career-wise, what else do I have to do? That's one side of the coin.

From the standpoint of my experiences as an athlete, you can look at the history of the basketball program at the University of Toledo and as you go

through everybody that came through that program, our team has to be singled out as one of the best that ever played for the University of Toledo. It has to be, hands down. I had two guys, actually three guys that should've been in the NBA, maybe four, think about this. John Brisker went to the NBA, right? Steve Mix went to the NBA. Bob Miller should've gone to the NBA and I'm certain that Calvin Lawshe would've been in the NBA had he not busted his knee. I have to say to you that that team was a special team in the history of the whole school and I was a part of that team. So, from an athletic standpoint I would think that because I was on that team and was a factor in its success, that should also take my statistics and line it up against anybody else given the role I had to play and I was a role player for that team. Instead of being the leading scorer I really sacrificed that for the success of the team. That's what team is all about.

**Perryman:** If you could go back in time and do anything different, would you?

**Rudley:** In my whole life?

**Perryman:** From the journey beginning at the University of Toledo to Texas Southern University.

**Rudley:** I look back on that team and said, 'Everybody's kind of looking at what happened, they don't know what could've happened.' We beat a lot of teams, so I'm looking at what opportunity we lost and that's where I think that if we could do it all over again, I should have spoken up sooner about making sure the team stayed together. I should've talked to Coach Nichols, giving him my opinion about what we should be doing. I would've tried to be more of a reconciler and trying to get the coach and the players to understand this is our opportunity for all of us to advance and we can't act as though this is going to last forever, we've only got a certain period of time, only four years to do this.

I look back on my experiences I think people overlook what we could've done and I'm the person in the best position to see that. I've always regretted that we didn't beat the hell out of Virginia Tech that next game, cause we could've beat Dayton. I think Dayton ended up coming out of that bracket.

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*Protecting Against COVID-19... continued from page 5*

**sage given that our friends in Michigan are experiencing an outbreak and strain on their healthcare system in Detroit. Detroit is very close to your city of Toledo. What concerns do you have about what is occurring in Detroit?**

You are correct, our proximity to Detroit is a concern. I have colleagues and friends in the medical profession who work both in Ohio

and Michigan or live in one state and work in the other. Our proximity to Detroit means it is a normal, daily occurrence for people to straddle the line and go back and forth between the two cities, two states. My message would be as I stated before: Please respect our 'Stay-At-Home' and social distancing orders and please self-quarantine. Let's all assume that we have the virus and must act in ways so not to infect our dearest loved ones.


**Q: And while we as physicians and healthcare professionals are doing what we always trained to do, this pandemic has been hard for you and your colleagues, as well, hasn't it?**

A: Yes and thank you for that question. If you work in the medical profession then you trained and gained experience for just these types of moments. But, like the people we care for and our neighbors, we, too, have families. We're employers, so we employ individuals who depend on jobs we provide for their livelihood. Those of us who have still been able to see patients during this crisis worry everyday about being infected and then unknowingly bringing it home to our families. As president of the Ohio State Medical Association, I've assured that we remain a resource for physicians across Ohio, providing regular updates and information about ways to help medical professionals stay safe and still be able to provide high-quality care for our patients.

**Q: Final thoughts?**

A: Just to reiterate the messages that have already been encouraged. Practice good hygiene. Stay home. If you have to go out, practice social distancing. Be kind to one another. This is a significant challenge for healthcare but it is not insurmountable. I truly believe that most Ohioans are adhering to these rules and guidelines and are truly making a difference in our efforts as medical professionals to combat this virus. And, finally, I want to send a special thank you and gratitude of appreciation to all of my physician colleagues, nurses, and other medical professionals on the frontlines of this pandemic.

For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov). For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line by texting the keyword "4HOPE" to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.








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## COVID-19 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES



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<h4>HAND SANITIZER</h4> <p>If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.</p>	

For more info, visit: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)

Updated March 18, 2020

# Caring for Someone with Alzheimer's Disease with COVID-19 Restrictions

*Special to The Truth*

Deneen Day's mother and uncle live in the same assisted living facility. As a caregiver for both, she misses the personal level of care she used to provide before the coronavirus pandemic.

Her mother, Tillie Day, who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia, is under hospice palliative care. Two weeks before visitors were banned, she started a decline. She's got a picture of her mother from March 10 – the last day she saw her in person.

"The biggest fear for me is her declining and her being by herself. It is just devastating, and it is just hard," Day said. The facility has set up videoconferencing, Day said, but videoconferencing does not work for everyone. "They are confused, they don't understand, they can't hear, you can't touch them, you can't console them, and you do it, but it does not give you any solace," Day said.

While the COVID-19 pandemic threatens the health of millions in this country and around the world, the novel coronavirus presents unique challenges for more than five million Americans living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. For Ohio's 600,000 Alzheimer's caregivers, the coronavirus outbreak and the stay at home order issued by the Ohio Department of Health and the governor's office impacts the heart of day-to-day care for loved ones whose minds and bodies are diminished by the ravages of this fatal brain disease.

Most notably, public health strategies aimed at limiting contact with others is nearly impossible for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, who rely on family caregivers and others to live their daily lives. This reality affects these individuals across all settings, including home, adult day services, residential and assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

"Caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other dementias is exceptionally demanding," said Eric VanVlymen, who oversees all of Ohio's Alzheimer's Association chapters. "The level of assistance provided by caregivers of people with Alzheimer's tends to be extensive, compared with caregivers of other older adults, and caregiving responsibilities often persist for many years – even decades."

To support caregivers during COVID-19, the Alzheimer's Association offers dozens of virtual caregiver support groups throughout the state, care consultations and education programs that can be accessed via telephone or through online videoconferencing at home. The Association's 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900 provides around-the-clock support.

## *The Impact of Alzheimer's on African Americans*

Terri Littlejohn has been caring for her mother, Dorothy Crane, 86, ever since her mother moved into her home in 2002. Alzheimer's disease took Terri Littlejohn's grandmother. Eight siblings of her grandmother – out of a total of 13 kids - had Alzheimer's. Mrs. Crane also has the disease. "My mother has been living with us 18 years. I've been taking care of her as long as she had been taking care of me as a child. Now the roles are reversed and she's the child," Littlejohn said.

African Americans are about twice as likely as whites to have Alzheimer's or another dementia. Even though African Americans are more likely to get Alzheimer's, studies show that African Americans are less likely to have a diagnosis and when African Americans are diagnosed, they are typically diagnosed in the later stages of the disease, when they are more cognitively and physically impaired.

As soon as her mother was diagnosed in 2008, Day connected with the Alzheimer's Association. "There is just a huge underrepresentation of people of color (accessing services) and that is just maddening to me," she said. "You have to have help, if not you will isolate yourself."

## *Family and Friends Provide Most of the Support*

Eighty-three percent of the help provided to older adults in the United States comes from family members, friends or other unpaid caregivers, according to the Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report. Nearly half of all caregivers (48%) who provide help to older adults do so for someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

"I do basically everything," Littlejohn said. "Self-care, bathing, I have to pick out her clothes because if not, she will wear the same



*Deneen Day and her mother Tillie Day*

clothes. She does not cook, and I help with her medication."

"Being a caregiver, I have struggles with it," Littlejohn said. "I've always had to take care of her. Should I be mad? Should I be angry? Should I be happy? It's a struggle at times," she said. "You've got to do it out of love so that you won't be mad, angry or sad. If you do it out of love, it gets easier, but it's still hard."

## **Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Services**

The Alzheimer's Association in Ohio provides around-the-clock support for individuals dealing with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through community-based services, 24/7 Helpline and resources available at [alz.org](http://alz.org)

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*African Americans... continued from page 3*

shared, attributing her past 20 years as a medical assistant as the reason for her patience and empathy with overrun medical professionals.

With a disproportionate number of black people dying from the coronavirus in Michigan, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced Tuesday the creation of a task force to tackle racial inequalities.

Black people make up 13.6 percent of the state's population, but represent one third of the infections and 40 percent of the deaths. But the numbers may be a lot higher because there's no data on 35 percent of those infected and 24 percent of those who have died.

Health officials also say the infection rates are higher because contagious diseases often spread faster in lower-income areas. This makes sense when considering the higher numbers of people relying on public transit, who live in close quarters, many who have "essential service jobs." There's a history of lower-income Americans working in the service industry, where employees are in close contact with the public.

The governor of Michigan is not waiting around for inflated numbers before acting on her community's behalf. She's created a Covid-19 task force which is responsible for gathering feedback from the most impacted communities and recommending ways to combat health care and economic disparities.

Most states have not released data by race. For those that have — Illinois, Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina — there's been a disproportionately high ratio of black residents to white residents who have tested positive for the virus and died.

Detroit, where the population is 83 percent black, has a higher death rate from the coronavirus than New York City, the epicenter of the outbreak in the U.S. Thus far, 272 Detroiters have died from Covid-19 and more than 6,000 have tested positive.

Many debate that it's not about black vs white, rather, it's about rich versus poor.

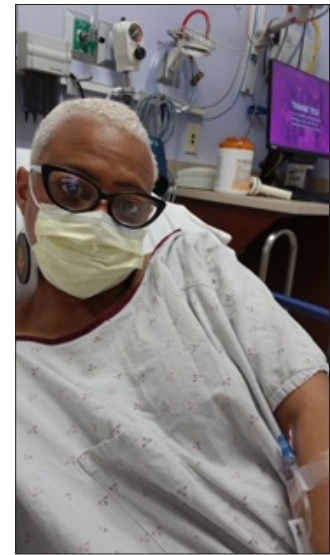
Those commenting via social media observe that race and poverty are inseparable in the U.S. therefore, it's only natural that the impacts of a health crisis of coronavirus's magnitude mirror its system's design.

However, other commenters propose framing this as a racial problem, as opposed to an institutional problem, which perpetuates the war of race which seems like the root of the problem.

If what DuBois believed is true, 'the line' is inherently hierarchical and black America is ready to step over it. Ensuring that white people receive better treatment, services, and opportunities, while black people receive the inferior version—or nothing at all will no longer suffice - not even in a Pandemic.

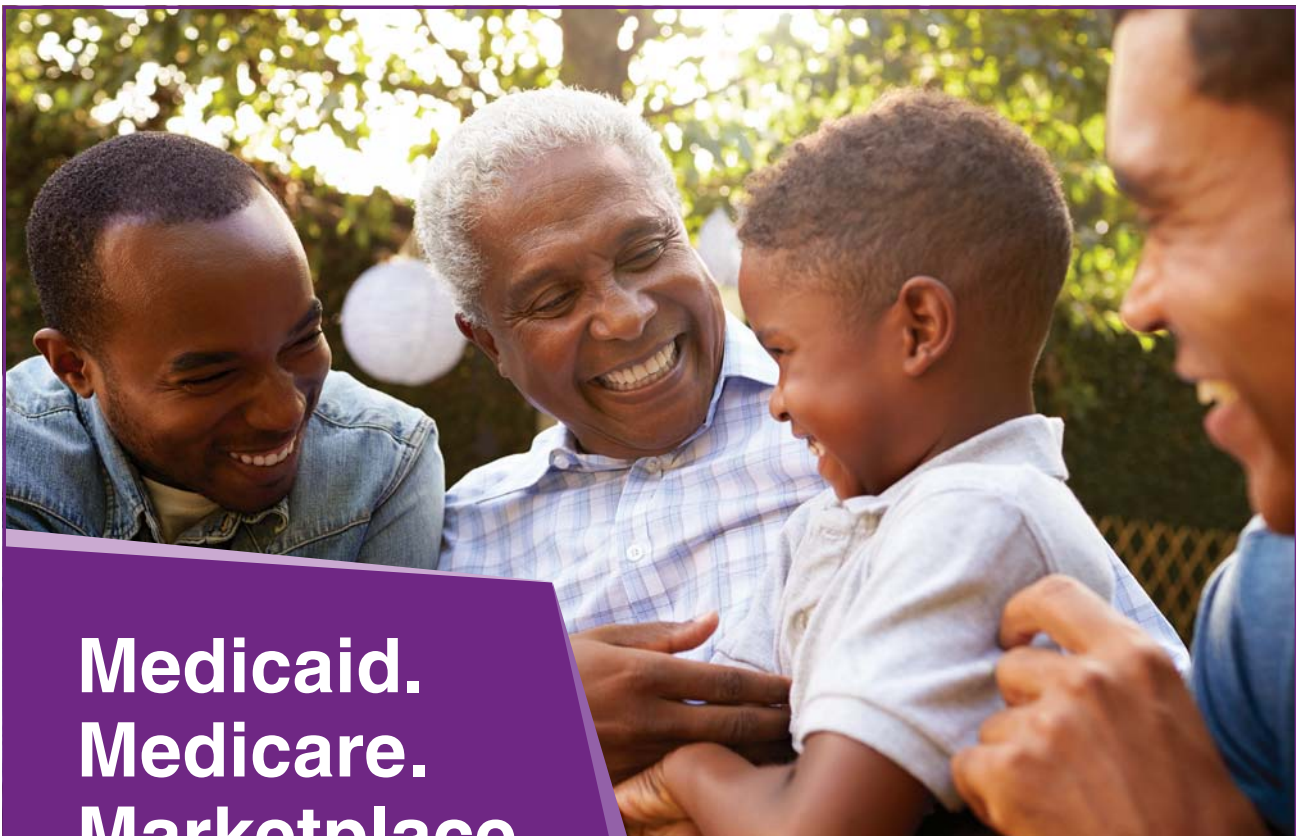
In a letter sent by the Congressional Black Caucus on April 7 to Robert Redfield, M.D., director for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Congressional Black Caucus states they are "Calling for immediate racial data reporting for COVID-19 in every state, amidst rising trends in infections and mortality of Black people with coronavirus."

To date, only nine states and the District of Columbia have released data based on race, which represents less than 20 percent of the country. With the limited data of black coronavirus death rates out of cities and states across



Ronda Coger

*... continued on page 13*



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# The Primary Election scheduled for March 17, 2020 has been extended until April 28, 2020

Because of potential confusion related to changes in the date of the primary election the League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County would like to remind Ohio voters of the steps necessary to participate in the primary election. We are urging news outlets to remind voters, who have not yet voted, that they still can vote in the primary. They must however request an application for a ballot from the board of elections, return the application to the board, receive their ballot and then return that ballot by April 28, if they return it in person or it must be postmarked by April 27 if returned by US Mail.

All voting will be by absentee ballot except for voters with a disability who require in-person voting and voters who do not have a home mailing address.

See detailed instructions below on how to receive the application and the ballot and the pertinent deadlines.

All voting will be **Vote By Mail using an absentee ballot** except for voters with a disability who require in-person voting and voters who do not have a home mailing address. **Do nothing if you have already voted in this Primary Election.** Your vote will be counted. **You must have been registered to vote by February 18, 2020** to vote in this Primary Election. **Voting by Mail is a two-step process.**

**Step 1: Request an absentee ballot application from your local Board of Elections by calling them or by going to their website and printing out an application or by sending a letter requesting an application that includes your name, address, date of birth, and the last four digits of your social security number of your drivers license or Ohio Id number. Mail your completed application, postmarked on or before 04/25/20.**

Lucas County Board of Elections 419 213 4001, One Government Center, Suite 300, 640 Jackson St. Toledo, OH 43604

Fulton County Board of Elections, (419) 335-6841, 135 Courthouse Plaza, Wauseon, OH 43567 this board has a dispenser outside its office with absentee ballot applications.

Wood County Board of Elections 419-354-9120, Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, OH 43402.

**Step 2: Complete and mail your ballot postmarked on or before 04/27/20. Or hand deliver it to your local Board of Elections. The office**

**will be closed but there will be either a locked box outside of the office in which to place your completed ballot or you can arrange an employee to come out and pick it up curbside no later than 7:30 pm on April 28**

## Other Important Information

**Limited In-Person Voting is on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 6:30 AM – 7:30 PM.**

In-Person Voting is limited to voters with a disability who require in-person voting and voters who do not have a home mailing address. In person voting will be at the county board of elections not at a neighborhood polling place.

## Suggested Best Practices: Do It Now

Mail your application in early April. Don't wait until the deadline.

Mail your completed ballot a week before the deadline of 04/27/20.

## Resources to check your request & ballot or to check your registration status

Lucas County Board of Elections, 419-213-4001, [www.lucascountyvotes.org](http://www.lucascountyvotes.org)

Fulton County Board of Elections 419-335-6841, [www.fultoncountyoh.com/](http://www.fultoncountyoh.com/)

Wood County Board of Elections, 419-354-9120, [www.co.wood.oh.us/BOE](http://www.co.wood.oh.us/BOE)

The League of Women Voters is a volunteer, non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Both men and women are welcome as members in the League of Women Voters.

Contact: Audrey Berning-Matell

President LWV-Toledo Lucas County

Phone: 419-540-3487

[lwv\\_tlc@yahoo.com](mailto:lwv_tlc@yahoo.com)

[www.lwvtoledo.org](http://www.lwvtoledo.org)

April 9, 2020

## Perryman... continued from page 6

We could've beat them because they only had one player. The one thing I'd say is what I said in that bus station, first coming to Toledo. I said 'I know I made a mistake but I'm going to make the best damn thing I can out of this mistake. I believe I've done this, that I've tried to make the best out of all my mistakes.

The truth is that I'm really not pursuing this Hall of Fame on my own, there are a lot of people who

are doing this and if you look at my background and my career, do you really think I would try to go in there and fight with the committee again if they don't want to give me the recognition I'm due? I have been at some hallowed grounds in this country in my career and I would love to have the honor of my alma mater, but people need to understand that I really don't want people to think that I'm...

**Perryman:** Begging anyone?

**Rudley:** That's what I wanted to say, you helped me out with that!

Well, I'm looking at all these plaques I have on my wall here and I've got plaques from legislators, John Cornyn and Lamar Alexander and here in

Houston, Texas almost all of the legislators sent me acknowledgments of my accomplishments. When you go back to Tennessee, I have great friends there, so every place I've had an opportunity to work or meet with people, they thought pretty positively of their experience with me and it's mutual.

Calvin Lawshe told me the year that he died that he had tried to talk to some people about getting the whole team in the Hall of Fame, but I said, 'Calvin don't worry about it, don't stress out. We've got other things to worry about.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

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Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP)

# Want to improve the IRS? SPEAK UP

By Andrea Price, TAP member representing Ohio

Guest Column

The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is comprised of civic-minded citizen volunteers from all walks of life representing each state, D.C., Puerto Rico and an international member (citizens living, working or doing business abroad). TAP is a Federal Advisory Committee whose mission is to listen to taxpayers, identify taxpayers' issues and make suggestions for improving the IRS service and customer satisfaction.

Everyone has something to say about taxes and the IRS. **Please take a moment to give us your suggestions** for TAP to consider by contacting one of the following:

TAP Ohio member: [tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com](mailto:tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com)

Call Toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227

Website: [www.improveirs.org](http://www.improveirs.org)

**Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this issue will focus on questions regarding the economic impact payments: IR-2020-61**

**Who is eligible for the economic impact payment?**

Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child.

If your income was over the limit for 2019 and your income dropped because you lost your job, you will be eligible to go back to IRS in 2021 to get your payments.

**How will the IRS know where to send my payment?** For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed. For those people who get their refunds through prepaid debit cards should make sure that the account is active. Fifteen days after the payment is processed, the IRS goal is sent a letter to confirm that the payment was received.

The IRS does not have my direct deposit information. What can I do?

In the coming weeks, Treasury plans to develop a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately as opposed to checks in the mail. If you do not have internet access since the public libraries are closed, you will have to find someone with access to help you.

I am not typically required to file a tax return. Can I still receive my payment?

Yes. People who receive Social Security payments will automatically have their refunds deposited as usual.

Where can I get more information? The IRS has a reduced staff (many working from home and many on temporary leave) in many of its offices and you probably will not be able to get through the toll-free phone lines. Check for updated information on [IRS.gov/coronavirus](http://IRS.gov/coronavirus) rather than calling IRS assistants who are helping process 2019 returns. The IRS offices are closed to taxpayers during this pandemic crisis. IRS issues warning about Coronavirus-related scams; watch out for schemes tied to economic impact payments

"We urge people to take extra care during this period. The IRS isn't going to call you asking to verify or provide your financial information so you can get an economic impact payment or your refund faster," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "That also applies to surprise emails that appear to be coming from the IRS. Remember, don't open them or click on attachments or links. Go to [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) for the most up-to-date information."

The IRS reminds taxpayers not to fall prey to scammers and avoid the following:

If someone emphasize the words "Stimulus Check" or "Stimulus Payment." The official term is economic impact payment.



Andrea Price

... continued on page 13

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# Who Got Game? Baseball: Amazing But True Stories! by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by JohnJohn Bajet

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Everybody's supposed to stay home now.

It's probably not the "home" you're thinking about though. The home you want to see involves running around a diamond, cheers in your ears, ahhh, you wanna hear that again. For now, though, you may have to make do with a home run like *Who Got Game? Baseball: Amazing But True Stories!* by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by JohnJohn Bajet.

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172 pages

Every day's a great day for baseball, right? But this year, you may have to wait to watch your favorite players, so why not learn about the game in the meantime?

For starters, there was once a time when baseball was "for white men only," and so black players and women made their own leagues. Even so, baseball wouldn't be baseball without guys like Andrew "Rube" Foster, who's known as "the father of the Negro Leagues"; or Hammerin' Hank Greenberg, who became the first Jewish Hall of Famer; or immigrants like Ozzie Virgil from the Dominican Republic, or Sadaharo Oh from Japan.

Through the years, there've been lots of changes to the game. For one, the spitball was outlawed in 1934, but not before a player was killed by one. Women have been invited into the game, first by women's leagues at various times in history, and later, by the first female baseball executive. African American players were denied a chance to play so they made their own leagues, too, and eventually broke the color barrier in the majors.

In this book, you'll read about forgiveness for a fan. You'll read about an influential doctor who saved careers, and players who never let a little disability stop them from the game. You'll read about "a stinking mule" who was a mascot, a guy who was hit by 287 pitches during his baseball career, and a player who had to make good on something he said.

And if you think age matters in the major leagues, read about a forty-two-year-old rookie, a seventeen-year-old strikeout pitcher, and baseball's youngest major leaguer...

For a kid who lives and breathes baseball, this lock-down must be hard.

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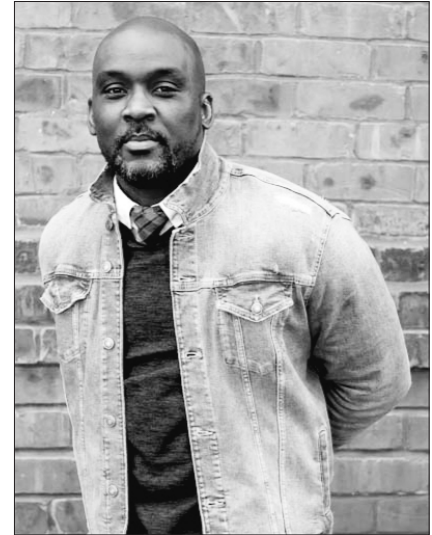
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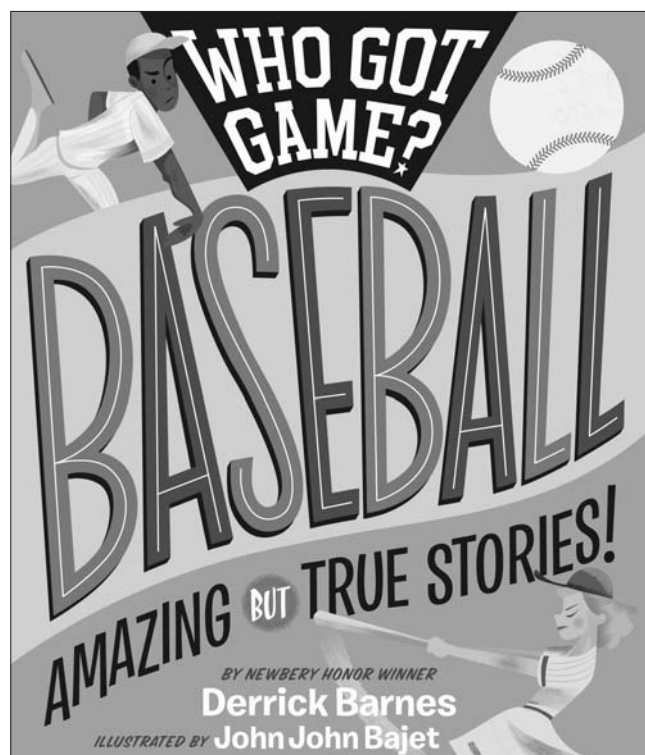
But dreaming about getting on the ball field isn't all they can do at this time. They can also read *Who Got Game? Baseball: Amazing But True Stories.*



Who Got Game author - photo courtesy Victoria Blackshear

The thing your child will love most is that this book isn't filled with things he or she already knows. Author Derrick Barnes and illustrator JohnJohn Bajet dug out tales from the dugout, sure, but they also include stories of support staff and non-players who influenced the game. Young readers will learn about the game from its very inception, as well as modern stories of baseball, and there's some science hidden in side-bars. Even just browsing the illustrations inside this book will invite young players in, and keep them in their (bleacher) seats.

Absolutely, a true baseball fan will love this book, especially if they're Little Leaguers or kids ages eight to 15. For them – and you – *Who Got Game? Baseball: Amazing but True Stories!* will be a big hit.



# Greater Toledo Community Foundation Working To Help Community During Pandemic

Special to The Truth

Greater Toledo Community Foundation is pleased to announce that local philanthropists, family foundations, corporations and businesses continue to add to the COVID-19 Response Fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. GTCF's program department and Board of Trustees are reviewing applications and approving grants at record pace, and 100% of the donations made to this fund will be granted out to our local nonprofits as they deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in our communities.

The Board of Trustees of Greater Toledo Community Foundation recently approved seven grants totaling \$61,450 from the COVID-19 Response Fund to support northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan nonprofit organizations, bringing the total distributed in three weeks to more than \$200,000. Another \$18,000 in grants has been recommended and are in the approval process.

The following seven grants totaling \$61,450 were recently approved through the fund.

Bittersweet Farms: to purchase personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies to support services for residents with intellectual disabilities.

The Cocoon: to provide crisis support services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence by increasing staff time, providing communication devices and basic needs items.

Heartbeat of Toledo: to support additional costs for formula and diapers for clients.

Ohio Living: to support additional staff hours and personal protective equipment to continue to support elderly residents living in its northwest Ohio locations.

St. Martin de Porres - The Claver House: to support transitioning an in-person feeding program that serves the homeless, veterans and other adults to a grab-and-go system.

Sunshine Foundation: to purchase medical supplies and personal protective equipment.

United Way of Greater Toledo: to increase the hours of staff who operate the 211 service and manage data collection.

Greater Toledo Community Foundation created the COVID-19 Response Fund to support northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan nonprofit

## African Americans... continued from page 8

the nation such as Milwaukee (73 percent of the deaths are in the African-American communities), Chicago (67 percent), Louisiana (70 percent), D.C. (58 percent) it is already evident that the death rates are disproportionate to the black population in these areas hardest hit. We need full disclosure of racial data to identify and prioritize the areas of greatest impact.

The color line was instituted and solidified by slavery, yet has survived Emancipation and takes many forms. Although the color line may seem overwhelmingly powerful and unbreakable, Du Bois suggested that it might be unstable saying, "There is only so long that two races can live alongside one another in close but highly unequal proximity before the line between them is broken."

It's safe to say, this is a 'break' black America is ready for.

organizations as they assist in responding to the spread of COVID-19 in the community and experience financial challenges in doing so.

Donations to the COVID-19 Response Fund at GTCF are urgently needed to meet the huge demand for aid to Toledo Region residents affected by COVID-19's economic consequences.

Donations can be made online at <https://toledocf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list>

GTCF will continue to make grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund as long as donations are received. GTCF will provide grants to northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan nonprofits and will not be giving money directly to individuals. GTCF is distributing 100 percent of funds raised.

## Improve IRS... continued from page 11

Ask the taxpayer to sign over their economic impact payment check to them.

Ask by phone, email, text or social media for verification of personal and/or banking information saying that the information is needed to receive or speed up their economic impact payment. IRS mail letters to taxpayers.

Suggest that they can get a tax refund or economic impact payment faster by working on the taxpayer's behalf. This scam could be conducted by social media or even in person.

Mail the taxpayer a bogus check, perhaps in an odd amount, then tell the taxpayer to call a number or verify information online in order to cash it.

Forms No. 11-A Prescribed by the Secretary of State (08-17) print clearly

R.C. 3509.03

### Absentee Ballot Application

**1** Voter Name Required: First, Middle, Last, Suffix

**2** Date of Birth Required: Date of Birth (do not write today's date here)

**3** Address at Which you are Registered to Vote Required: Street Address (no P.O. boxes), County, City/Village, ZIP

**4** Mailing Address Required: Street Address (or P.O. box), City/Village, State, ZIP

**5** Identification Required:
 

- Your Ohio driver's license number (2 letters followed by 6 numbers) OR
- Last four digits of your Social Security number OR
- Copy of a current and valid photo identification, military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that contains your name and current address.

**6** Election Required: Date of Election (do not write today's date here)
 

- General Election  Special Election
- Primary Election For a PARTISAN primary election only, you must choose the type of ballot:
  - Political party ballot Name of Political Party
  - Issues only ballot

**7** Affirmation Required:
 

- I wish to have an absentee ballot mailed to me at the address listed above.
- I understand this request must be received by my board of elections no later than noon on the Saturday before Election Day if by mail or by 2 p.m. the day before the election if in person.
- I understand that if an absentee ballot is mailed to me and I change my mind and go to my polling place to vote on Election Day, I will be required to vote a provisional ballot that cannot be counted until at least 11 days after Election Day.
- I understand that, if I do not provide the required information, my application cannot be processed.
- I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, that I am a qualified elector and the statements above are true.

 Signature X  
 Today's Date

To assist the board of election in contacting you in a timely manner if your application is incomplete, please provide the following information.  
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# CLASSIFIEDS

April 15, 2020

Page 15

## SPECIAL NOTICE

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted March 30, 2020 – April 3, 2020 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over,
2. Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
3. Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Housing Services Corporation (LHSC), an affiliate of Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position: **Assistant Community Development Program Manager**. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org/219/Careers>. **Deadline:** 03/16/20. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS**. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



## DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES/EMA DIRECTOR LUCAS COUNTY

Lucas County Emergency Services is accepting applications to fill the position of Deputy Director of Emergency Services/EMA Director until filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Deputy Director of Emergency Services/EMA Director" from the list to read more or apply.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

## BUILDING SERVICEPERSON

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for part time Building Servicepersons to perform a variety of housekeeping, janitorial, and basic maintenance functions at the Tree House Village, Oak Openings Preserve. Up to 35 hours per week. \$11.73/hr. High school diploma or equivalent required. Must have valid driver's license. May include evenings, weekends and holidays. Go to [www.metroparkstoledo.com](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com) to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply.

## SYSTEMS ANALYST LUCAS COUNTY

Lucas County Emergency Services 9-1-1 is accepting applications to fill the position of Systems Analyst position until filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Systems Analyst" from the list to read more or apply.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

## FEEDBACK NEEDED

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHR SB) is seeking Lucas County Residents to participate in a short survey.

Please take a few minutes to provide feedback for the development of our 3-year strategic plan that will be focused on the direction, impact, and responsiveness of MHR SB's work in the communities we serve. Your candid feedback and insight will be used to develop the final strategic plan for the next three years. Complete the survey online in English or Spanish by visiting: [docs.google.com/forms/d/1FAIpQLSfJN6abJNj\\_NSqee\\_sHFZIFMX.../viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FAIpQLSfJN6abJNj_NSqee_sHFZIFMX.../viewform)

Printable versions of the survey are available in Arabic, English, and Spanish on our website: [www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/](http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/) We appreciate your willingness to participate in this process and look forward to the honest feedback.

## MANOR HOUSE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo is looking for an outgoing individual to provide excellent customer service for park visitors and program participants through positive and engaging experiences. The Manor House Programs and Events Assistant position is located at Wildwood Preserve Metroparks. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Must have completed some college course work in history, education, communication, or related program or equivalent work experience. Some experience in customer service, and public speaking. Experience leading public programs preferred. Seasonal position through December. May include some weekends, holidays, and evenings. Up to 35 hours per week. \$9.47/hr. Go to [www.metroparkstoledo.com](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com) to review complete job description and to apply. EOE

## ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$25,200.00 for one person or \$28,800.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan, one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at [abundantlifeperrysburg.org](http://abundantlifeperrysburg.org).



Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

# Sunday Services Go on ... Empty Pews or Not

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Calvary Baptist Church has been broadcasting Sunday services on the Buckeye Cable Channel 69 for about five years so the church's first Sunday without a congregation – this past Sunday – was fairly effortless.

“He Is Risen” was the Easter Sunday message Pastor Floyd Smith brought to his congregation – Matthew 27-28.

While the church will not be open for services, Pastor Smith will be passing out communion to those who drive to the church.



*Rev. Floyd Smith*

Jerusalem Baptist Church held its first online service on Zoom on Easter Sunday and Pastor W.L. Perryman's message for his flock came from Matthew 28: 1-6 – “It's Sunday.

“For America it's been a tough week,” said Pastor Perryman. “For Christ, the week leading up to Resurrection Sunday was a tough week also – just as it's been a tough week for our community.”

However, noted Perryman, “when Sunday comes, He brought a sense of victory.”



*Rev. W.L. Perryman*

ProMedica is

# HERE FOR YOU



In times like this, we are inspired by the heroics of the caregivers and support staff who work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – no matter what is going on in the world around them. And, as they take care of our community, we have been working to take care of them as our employees.

We are honored to be a community-based organization, and we are extremely proud of our community's caregivers, support staff and first responders. Their dedication is truly inspiring. During this crisis, we will continue to do what we do best – work together, communicate clearly and deliver unmatched care.

 **PROMEDICA** | Your Health. Our Mission.

FOR THE LATEST UPDATES, GO TO:  
[promedica.org/covid19](https://promedica.org/covid19)

#HereForYou