

The Sojourner's Truth

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Volume 62, No. 3

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

June 24, 2020

A Toledo Celebration of Juneteenth!



Washington Muhammad and Ruth Leonard

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Serious About Change?

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD

The Truth Contributor



In Africa you never say, "I am my brother's keeper." You just keep him.

- John Henrik Clarke

It was close to a perfect storm. It began when a 17-year-old teen's video of the killing of a handcuffed black man named George Floyd while in police custody went viral. The recording captured the attention of a swelling multitude of racially and economically diverse young people around the globe who have declared a boisterous but peaceful, contemporary War against Racism.

Why now?

Some point to the void created by "bourgeoisification" of the Black Church. This term illustrates its shift in focus from civil rights to commercialism, individualism, and prosperity as a primary goal of faith. Silent during the death of Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland and others, the Black Church lost its authenticity and influence and has, possibly until now, been irrelevant in developing strategies against structural racism and white privilege. In the meantime, non-traditional and non-institutional faith and non-faith groups have stepped in the gap to promote social justice and provide a prophetic voice for diverse contexts, especially for those on the margins. It remains to be seen if the Church, which has been long absent from "the streets," can again obtain credibility with "the streets."

Others, meanwhile, fear that the presence of the darker or more antagonistic and self-interested sides of human nature are also appearing in institutions. Systems such as state and local governments, educational systems and criminal justice systems with their massive infrastructures including police departments, prisons, courts, judges, prosecutors and even public defenders are often (explicitly or implicitly) narcissistic, psychopathic or Machiavellian bastions of hatred, racism, and lawlessness operating as cover for white supremacy or black self-hate. These closed-minded neurotic structures reveal themselves when their representatives mouth complementary slogans but assault people of color and look the other way as others perpetuate acts of hate.

The bottom line is that people, in the words of the late Fannie Lou Hamer, are truly "sick and tired of being tired."

What Do We Get for our Money?

Following the George Floyd death by police and the resultant protests, many corporations, businesses, governments, and individuals have shown

support for Black Lives Matter and the fight for racial equality. Money has been donated, public statements of solidarity have been announced, racism has been openly denounced, and the affirmation of black lives has been publicly proclaimed.

Yet, if change is to occur, it will take more than a few donations, public pronouncements, or slogans.

"Whites are 60 percent of the population but: 90 percent of Congress, 96 percent of the governors, 1000 percent of top military leaders, president and vice president; 93 percent of television executives, 83 percent of teachers, 84 percent of college professors," says Louisville pastor Kevin Cosby. They also get an obscene disproportion of the construction and social services contracts awarded in Toledo and Lucas County.

The truth is that black-led organizations have the ability to solve the problems that the white establishment has not been able to move the needle on despite investing billions into white public governmental spaces. Black-led organizations continue to be treated like black people, undervalued and underfunded. Black communities have been defunded as society has invested massive financial capital in punitive-based criminal justice systems, public safety and mass incarceration rather than prevention and diversion.

Do You Want To Get Well?

If we are truly committed to real change, we should, first of all, defund white organizations who have an innate need to perpetuate their own existence rather than bring their clients to an actual state of wellness, which they feel will eliminate the need for their services. Instead, invest in black-led organizations that can produce the powerful positive results to actually solve the problems which result from the deep-seated structural inequities in our society.

Finally, someone told me recently, that Toledo is still stuck in the 1950s from a policy, funding, and racial equity standpoint. Many folks (or their exact template) are in the same positions doing the same things they were decades ago – erecting barriers and impediments for minorities; playing favoritism games in funding, policy, and personnel decisions, handing out discipline in a biased way. This suggests that we are too far gone to

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The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

Churches Reopening

Mt. Pilgrim – Open Now

Eastern Star MBC – Open Now

New Psalmist – Open Now

Corinth Baptist – Open Now

Faithway Church – Open Now

Second Baptist – Open Now

St Paul MBC – Open Now

Garden of Prayer – Open Now

Mt. Nebo Baptist – First Sunday in July

United Baptist – First Sunday in July

Mt. Ararat Baptist – First Sunday in July

Jerusalem Baptist – First Sunday in July

True Vine Baptist – Second Sunday in July

Warren AME – Fourth Sunday in July

July 11 and 18

The Flanders Road Church of Christ, 5130 Flanders Road, will be hosting a clothing giveaway from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

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Congressional Black Caucus Statement on Trump's "Police Reform" Executive Order

Last week, President Trump announced an Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities in response to national calls for law enforcement reform. The president's Executive Order falls woefully short of the long overdue demands for accountability and transparency in our police departments.

During the announcement, the president claimed the Executive Order would set standards "as high and as strong as there is on Earth" on the use of force, and that he would prioritize federal grants to police departments that met those standards, yet this order excludes a ban on chokeholds, which killed Eric Gardner and George Floyd.

Last Monday, the House and Senate Democrats led by the Congressional Black Caucus unveiled the Justice in Policing Act, renamed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. This bill is the first-ever bold, comprehensive approach to hold police accountable, change the culture of law enforcement and build trust between law enforcement and our communities.

The Justice in Policing Act is calling for real reform including banning chokeholds, banning the no knock warrant, limiting the transfer of military-grade equipment to state and local law enforcement, requiring body cameras, reinvesting in our communities by supporting critical community-based programs to change the culture of law enforcement and empowering our communities, makes lynching a federal crime, and creates a nationwide police misconduct registry to prevent problematic officers who are fired or leave one agency, from moving to another jurisdiction without any accountability and much more. These are just some of the provisions of the new bill.

For perspective, if the Justice in Policing Act had been law last year Breonna Taylor would not have been shot to death in her sleep because no-knock warrants for drug offenses would have been illegal. This May, Tamir Rice would have graduated from High School because the officer who killed him would not have been working as a police officer because he was previously listed in the national registry for misconduct. President Trump's Executive Order calls for none of this. We need proactive solutions such as the Justice in Policing Act and not timid responses to a national crisis.

President Trump continues to dismiss the needs of Black America and the importance of effectively dismantling institutions of systemic racism. To him, it doesn't exist. COVID-19 continues to severely impact Black America and when the CBC demanded for the racial data on coronavirus cases, the Trump Administration refused to release the comprehensive data. He chose Tulsa, Oklahoma, the city where the worst act of racial violence was committed when Black Wall Street was burned down by white supremacists, as the location to kick off his re-election campaign rally. Black Wall Street in Tulsa was a thriving and established Black community that consisted of Black owned businesses and over 1,200 homes occupied by Black families. The rally was also originally scheduled for Juneteenth - the day African Americans celebrate emancipation. President Trump only decided to change the date of his rally to the 20th after extensive backlash.

At a time when communities across the world are joining the American people in solidarity to call for change, President Trump has opted for fake reforms that will not change anything. America needs the Justice in Policing Act because it calls for real reform and will ensure police officers are held accountable. It also provides an opportunity to reimagine what just and equitable policing looks like and begin the process of rebuilding.

Perryman... continued from page 2

plant a few cute, shiny initiatives and think that we can harvest success in public safety, education or the criminal justice system.

Put up or Shut Up!

What is clear, is that if local leadership is serious about change, then the time is over for lip service, talks, and meetings. What we need is top to bottom systemic reform. We need change. It needs to be drastic. And, We need it now!

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@centerof-hopebaptist.org

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Center of Hope Family Services Summer ELEVATE Program

By Brigitte Burnett
Special to The Truth

Wherever you were on this universe, I bet you can vividly remember what you were doing when COVID-19 took over the globe and caused non-essential workers to shut their doors, stay inside and glue their eyes to the television screens watching numbers increase day after day.

The world was not ready for COVID-19 and especially not our school systems. In the space of uncertainties and social distancing, Center of Hope Family Services decided to take their literacy and youth development programs into each home of their students enrolled in their ELEVATE Program.

Tracee Perryman, PhD, CEO of the Center of Hope, said, "August will be here before you know it, and it will be time for our children to return to school. Whether they return to the traditional classroom or are learning from home, we are prepared. Center of Hope and its ELEVATE staff have been working with national experts to make sure our children have access to every advantage so they can learn under the most optimal conditions."

This local non-profit has created free virtual classes for children enrolled in Martin Luther King Academy for Boys, Old West End Academy, Robinson Elementary and Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls. Students will enjoy Music Mondays with Dr. P and theater and drama classes on Celebrate ME Tuesdays. The young participants will tap into their inner peace and relax on Wellness Wednesdays, show their dance moves and groove on Thursdays, and end the week in the kitchen cooking and crafting with Willetta Perryman, Tracee's mother.

Dr. Perryman secured talented experts from around the Midwest to teach weekly classes that will benefit children in our community. One of the instructors is Dr. RAS a/k/a Mikey Courtney, an acclaimed dance professional. Courtney's life mission is to share his gift of the expressive arts by spreading universal understanding to communities and cultures across the globe. He has collaborated with artists and companies worldwide, including Pilobolus, Raven-Symoné, and the Marley family, to name a few.

The Center of Hope ELEVATE Program provides literacy, youth development, and coding programs to help students perform better on standardized tests, avoid delinquency, and become marketable to enter the

workforce upon high school graduation. Before COVID-19, students in grades k-4 would enjoy weekly enrichment activities and free dinner and snacks from Monday until Thursday.

ELEVATE has achieved results in line with promoting students' development, school attendance, and positive behavior. Three years ago, MLK's suspension rate dropped from 31.7 percent between 2017-18 to 5.9 percent the next school year. Almost half of the regular participants maintained or reduced their total number of unexcused absence hours between the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school year. Additionally, 100 percent of MLK parents and 92 percent of OWE parents reported that the ELEVATE program helped their child at least somewhat with getting along with other students. They agreed that the ELEVATE



Tracee Perryman

... continued on page 7

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Interpretation of Basic Covid-19 Data for Lucas County, Ohio: Part 2

By Dr. Houston Johnson, MD, and Sammie Giles, PhD

Institute for Innovation and Transformation

An Affiliate of The African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio

The Institute for Innovation and Transformation is a "Think Tank" borne out of the need to begin to address systemic issues facing communities of color. This "Institute" - operating under the banner of The African American Legacy Project - was established to study, make recommendations, report on and ultimately serve as the African American community's "NorthStar."

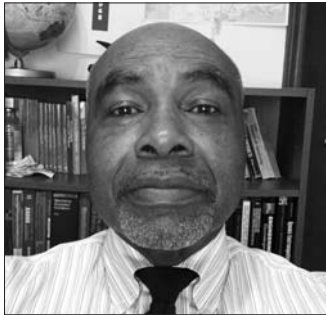
Below Dr. Houston Johnson and Sammie Giles, an electrical engineer - two of the institute's founding members - discuss the impact of COVID - 19 on the African-American community and Lucas County as a whole.

This is part two of an article that started in our June 17 issue.

The novel coronavirus is spreading in a more scattered fashion in the selected countries. Lucas County looks more and more like Spain. Hawaii has a May 26 effective virus reproduction rate of 0.59, Alaska 0.70, Montana 0.71, Vermont 0.71; New York has 0.80, and Ohio has a

Table 1: May 26, 2020 Covid-19 Data of Selected Regions

Region	Population	Cases Per 100K	Deaths Per 100K	Death Rate (%)
World	7.78710 B	71.143	4.469	6.28
USA	330.81 M	516.90	30.19	5.84
New York	19.7 M	1854.85	148.19	7.99
Ohio	11.8 M	261.25	15.28	5.85
Spain	46.8 M	503.85	61.54	12.21
Russia	145.9 M	248.06	2.61	1.05
Japan	126.5 M	13.144	0.673	5.12
South Africa	59.2 M	39.890	0.813	2.04
New Zealand	4.9 M	23.62	0.43	1.82
China	1.4388 B	5.768	0.322	5.58
Nigeria	206.1 M	3.915	0.113	2.89
Taiwan	23.8 M	1.85	0.029	1.59
Lucas County	431 K	456.15	42.92	9.41



Sam Giles, PhD



Dr. Houston Johnson

rate of 0.94 which is much closer to the 1.00 borderline. Lucas County has far more per capita cases and deaths than Ohio, and Lucas County cases are increasing faster than Ohio cases. Should Lucas County re-open fully? It is questionable.

We in the USA have been in a slow-motion explosion defused by widely adopting 19th century health practices. We are still not out of trouble. On the other hand, China got its situation under control during the first week March—without a cure or a vaccine. According to Wikipedia online, only one new case was reported from China on May 7 while the USA reported 27, 535 new cases and China reported zero cases on May 22 when we reported 23,310 new cases. Taiwan also reported zero new cases on several days during the month of May.

The following are calls for action. Hospitals in Lucas County must replace triage practices with life-saving practices including lung transplantations totally at government expense. The Health Department must increase testing and tracing to include the use of mobile testing units in minority communities. The State of Ohio must prepare to employ a system of mandatory quarantines, if a cure and a vaccine are not found soon. The USA must learn from this pandemic quickly while preparing for the next one.

The underserved people of the USA must take action to defuse our pending catastrophe because the disease affects us disproportionately. We must wear facemasks to cover our mouths and noses when in public. Even in our homes, we should wear a mask when a family member is sick. Wash our hands frequently. Stay away from people not in our immediate families. Shop only for necessities. Take no unnecessary trips. Follow the (leaked) CDC and the Food and Drug Administration guidelines. Continue to disinfect surfaces. Lastly, do not inject or ingest disinfectants. Do not drink any cool-aid that says everything is going to be alright in the reopened economy.

Stay safe and pray for our families—and country!

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Local Black Community Leaders Hold Meeting to Discuss Racism

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The death of George Floyd and subsequent police brutality protests have sparked a series of community conversations and political action concerning racism. During the month of June, federal, state and local governments have responded in varying degrees to community concerns. In response, local Black leaders organized a meeting on June 18 to discuss those topics.

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio, Toledo NAACP Unit and Lucas County Children Services organized the June 18 meeting. "The meeting came as a result of the city of Toledo and Lucas County passing ordinances declaring racism as a public health crisis. Acknowledgment of the crisis is great, but what are we going to do about it?" asked Lisa McDuffie, president/CEO of YWCA.

Representatives from the faith-based community, local unions, government offices, education, scholarly research, healthcare services, mental health agencies and grassroots community action agencies discussed the cause and effect of racism in the community that were described as overarching themes. The group plans to continue holding discussions in the coming weeks.

"We applaud the individuals and the organizations working hard in this space. There has been 400 years of oppression and now that the world and community is 'woke,' where do we begin to address inequalities. Police reform is vitally important but so is equity of education, employment, health care, etc." said McDuffie.

The executive and legislative branches of government have crafted three different actions in response police brutality and racism. President Trump signed an executive order in early June 2020 to call attention to chokeholds and excessive force, increase de-escalation training, and increase authority of a national database to track terminated or decertified officers.

The Senate introduced in June the JUSTICE Act which stands for Just and Unifying Solutions to Invigorate Communities Everywhere. The bill would discourage chokeholds and increase the use of body-worn cameras, increase de-escalation training methods and duty to intervene tactics, encourage community policing, require reporting of officer weapon discharge or use of force, define lynching as a federal crime, and commission two studies about issues faced by black men and boys and also the entire criminal justice system.

The Lucas County Commissioners and Toledo City Council issued resolutions declaring racism as a public health crisis in June 2020.

The House of Representatives introduced in the month of June, the Justice in Policing Act that would grant authority to issue subpoenas and investigate bias, establish a federal registry of police misconduct complaints and disciplinary actions, require body-worn cameras and dashboard cameras, reduce police issued military equipment, require law enforcement agencies adopt anti-discrimination policies and train-

ing programs, ban chokeholds or other carotid holds, prohibit the issuance of no-knock warrants, and mandate that federal officers use deadly force only as a last resort. "The slow, torturous murder of George Floyd by a uniformed police officer was an outrageous, tragedy and embarrassment of our country in front of the whole world. Members of Congress, we have the opportunity in front of us right now, to examine police practices in America and legislate reform to police practices," said Congresswoman Karen Bass the Congressional Black Caucus Chair during the Act hearing last week.



Lisa McDuffie

Elevate... continued from page 5


program staff cared about their child and wanted to see them succeed. One hundred percent of school staff members reported that the ELEVATE program helped students at least somewhat with social skills and interacting with others.

The Ohio Department of Education awarded Center of Hope two of the four grants allocated to Toledo in 2017. In 2019, Center of Hope was the only Toledo agency to secure an Ohio Department of Education 21st CCLC grant, which they acquired for their ELEVATE at Robinson Elementary School site.

With those funds and other grants and in-kind donations from companies and individuals in the Toledo community, Tracee Perryman said they plan to continue "serving our families and our communities with dignity and respect. We know when families and communities are at the center of what we do, and when we genuinely provide services that close gaps in opportunity and access, then our families and our communities will rise to the occasion and will thrive."

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Life From A Different Perspective: Meet Timothy Anderson

By Mariah Hicks, Brothers United Coach
Special to The Truth

"Before BU, I can say that I was lost on a lot of stuff."

Timothy Anderson was 24 when he first became a father.

"It taught me to be more responsible in life and move forward to be a better man. It taught me a lot about being a father. It's more than just buying your children stuff. I do more with my kids and am with them a lot."

Timothy has six co-parents and he expressed they've always had pretty good relationships. His relationships with his kids have always been good as well.

Timothy heard about Brothers United from Willie Knighten.

"I liked the whole concept about it. Any man should admit where he needs help. I liked the opportunity and wisdom, so I joined."

While in the program, Timothy learned many things that changed his perspective in life. He began looking at life more seriously, which allowed him to connect with his family better and understand his relationships with his kids and co-parents. He became more aware of his spending habits and gained better control over his finances.

When he started the program, he had fines on his license that amounted to over \$6,000. He now has it down to \$1,600 and is about to get his license for the first time in his life. Not to mention, Mr. Anderson is also all caught up on his child support payments.

Brothers United truly made a change for Mr. Anderson.

"I learned how to sit down and interact with my significant other because that really matters."



"That being a father is really important and so is being a man. We are the protectors, the breadwinners. I really like that because it made me a stronger man. I used to be so tied up in the streets, but now I see my kids every day. I spend time with my grandson. I haven't been living like I used to out here in the street. It helped me sit down and be a real man to my family!"

If you are interested in joining The Brothers United Program or have someone you want to refer : Call us at (419) 279-6297 or www.pathway-toledo.org



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The CSRN Juneteenth Celebration

The Community Solidarity Response Network celebrated Juneteenth on Friday, June 19 by organizing a march from Swayne Field to the Frederick Douglass Community Association – a 1.1 mile trek that was not only a celebration of the event in 1865 when Union soldiers in Texas informed the enslaved that they were free, but also an acknowledgement of the painful events of recent weeks.

“It’s all about love today,” said the event master of ceremonies, Washington Muhammad, as he and the other CSRN speakers, Ruth Leonard and Julian Mack, recognized the efforts of the current Black Lives Matter moment, but focused on Juneteenth and its significance.

“It’s a day of celebration for the Black community,” said Leonard. “Texas finally got the word, a year and a half after the Emancipation Proclamation was written, that slavery was over.”

The Juneteenth march was a collaboration between CSRN and 3 Heart Learning Institute and Child Care. Alexicia Sims, co-owner of 3 Heart, also addressed the marchers about the need to instill in youth the right way to be heard while being respectful and peaceful.



Washington Muhammad



Julian Mack



(Left to Right) Shantel Gray; Rev. Willie Peryman, VP Family House Board of Directors; Tonia Pace, Family House Executive Director; Rev. Shirley Sparks, Chaplain IMA; Rena Ramsey, Brothers United; Rev. Cedric Brock, President IMA
The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance recently donated \$1,000 to Family House to support their good works in the community.

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*** The gift offer is good for first time respondents who provide a valid email address. Respondents will be sent an email to confirm the gift. All respondents in IL, IN, MI and WI who do not provide an email address are not eligible to receive the gift. The gift offer is not available in AL, DC, HI or PA, but members may still request a quote. The gift is available only as a limited time offer. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Supply not guaranteed. If you are age 50 or older, once you're insured through the Program for at least 60 days, you cannot be refunded (except as long as applicable premiums are paid when due). Also, you and other customers/drivers of your vehicles must not have been, within 12 months, and monthly outside of operating an automobile (not applicable in HI), have been convicted for driving while intoxicated and must not have obtained your policy through national reinsurance. Benefit currently not available in HI, MI, WI, DC and VA.
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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: taphioandreaprice@gmail.com
Call toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227
Website: www.improveirs.org

COVID Tax Tips and 2019 Income Tax Return deadline is July 15 IRS 2020-65 and 118

There are many easy-to-use tools on available on IRS.gov. Even better, they are available 24 hours a day. These tools help people file and pay taxes, find information about their account and get answers to tax questions.

Here are a few things that people can do with a quick visit to IRS.gov.

Filing a tax return

Taxpayers who earned \$69,000 or less in 2019 can file using free brand-name tax software with IRS Free File. People who earned more and want to do their own taxes can use Free File Fillable Forms. These are the electronic version of IRS paper forms. Either way, everyone has a free electronic filing option on IRS.gov/freefile.

As the July 15 tax-filing deadline – postponed from April 15 – draws near, the Internal Revenue Service is reminding all taxpayers who have yet to file their 2019 federal tax return to file electronically now, choose direct deposit for their refund, or pay any tax owed electronically.

Taxpayers who owe for tax year 2019 or need to pay 2020 estimated taxes originally due for the first quarter on April 15 or the second quarter on June 15 can schedule an electronic payment up to the July 15 due date.

Schedule a payment electronically

Taxpayers can file now and schedule their federal tax payments up to the July 15 due date. They can pay online, by phone or with their mobile device and the IRS2Go app. When paying federal taxes electronically taxpayers should remember:

- Electronic payment options are the optimal way to make a tax payment.

- They can pay when they file electronically using tax software online. If using a tax preparer, taxpayers should ask the preparer to make the tax payment through an electronic funds withdrawal from a bank account.

- IRS Direct Pay allows taxpayers to pay online directly from a checking or savings account for free, and to schedule payments up to 365 days in advance.

- Taxpayers can choose to pay with a credit card, debit card or digital wallet option through a payment processor. No fees go to the IRS.

- The IRS2Go app provides the mobile-friendly payment options, including Direct Pay and Payment Provider payments on mobile devices.

- Taxpayers may also enroll in the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System and have a choice of paying online or by phone by using the EFTPS Voice Response System.



Andrea Price

View federal tax information online

Taxpayers can go to IRS.gov/account and securely access information

...continued on page 13

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Rep. Hicks-Hudson: House Republicans Vote to Protect the Confederate Flag

Says Symbols of Racism, White Supremacy, and Treason have no Place in Ohio

While Ohioans were sleeping, House Democratic lawmakers were offering two amendments on the House floor late Thursday and early Friday that would have prohibited the sale, display, possession or distribution of Confederate memorabilia at county and independent fairs, following a similar rule instituted by the Ohio State Fair in 2015. The motions came during floor debate on House Bill 665, which made several other changes to laws on local and county fairs. The U.S. Marines recently announced similar bans on Confederate memorabilia. Republicans rejected the amendments largely along party lines, voting instead to protect the sale of the Confederate flag.

"The Confederate flag is a banner of white supremacy and a reminder of our nation's original sin of slavery," said Rep. Juanita Brent (D-Cleveland), the Ranking Democrat on the Agriculture Committee and sponsor of the floor amendments. "That Republicans in the Ohio House cannot bring themselves to vote to condemn and prohibit these displays of white supremacy and outright racism at our local and county exhibitions—the places where we go to celebrate the best of Ohio—is a real shame, and a black eye on this institution. If you don't stand up to white supremacists, you stand with them."

The amendments come amid continued demonstrations in dozens of cities and towns across Ohio where protesters have called for an end to police brutality, white supremacy and racism in the United States following the police-involved death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

"Ohio was a part of the Union. The failure to oppose a symbol of treason is absurd," said Minority Leader Emilia Strong Sykes (D-Akron). "The symbolism that the Confederate flag represents is racism and oppression of Black and indigenous people. The Republican-led legislature should not be using taxpayer funds to promote hate and treason. Ohioans deserve better. The fact that Republicans are unwilling to listen to the diverse voices of Ohioans requesting to respect Black lives goes to show the disconnect between what the people want, and what the Republican-led legislature is willing to do."

One of Brent's amendments would have cut state funding to county and independent fairs who allow the sale of Confederate memorabilia. Republicans tabled that amendment as well.

House Bill 665 passed the House and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Here is what other Democrats said on the amendments:

"31,000 Ohio Union soldiers sacrificed their lives to fight that flag and everything it represents. To fly it here or anywhere in Ohio is a flagrant disrespect of those men," said Rep. Casey Weinstein (D-Hudson). "When the Allies defeated the fascist Nazi regime, they banned the public display of the Nazi flag, a flag that like the Confederate flag represented the systematic destruction of human life. For Nazism to die, the flag had to die. That same understanding has been coming for a long time in the United States and in Ohio, but that time has come."

"The [Confederate] flag isn't just a piece of cloth to make a political statement or to show pride, it's a tool to instill terror in minority populations. It's not an issue of history or white pride, it's a statement of white power," said Rep. Jeff Crossman (D-Parma). "This is the same flag that's been adopted by extremist groups, and proudly displayed by racist organizations like the KKK... It's too little and too late for lip service about healing divisions—it's time to show it with your actions...Enough is enough."

"I represent an urban district, but my roots are rural. I understand that fairs are the fabric of our community. I believe the Confederate flag is a symbol that glorifies white supremacy, slavery and treason," said Assistant Minority leader Rep. Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus). "We need to be done talking and take action."

"We have a handful of times in our lives that we can make a difference, that we can do what's right, that we can stand up for ourselves and future generations. Let it be said we did the right thing," said Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson)

"We have an opportunity to set a new standard, create a new legacy, one in which we are taking a bold step," said Minority Whip Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo). "I stand as a descendant of the original sin of this country, and I stand and pledge allegiance to a flag that sometimes I don't feel gives justice for all. Today, last week, tomorrow, the tide is turning. We can make a change."

"As elected officials at every level of government...we are fiscal agents responsible for the good stewardship of taxpayer dollars...I don't think it is at all appropriate to use taxpayer dollars in a way that will allow vendors to perpetuate white supremacy," said Rep. Erica Crawley (D-Columbus). "Hiding behind an argument that possibly infringes on the first amendment rights... is hypocritical when this legislature passed a bill that clearly infringed upon constitutional rights and yet the majority passed the bill anyway."

"What we're trying to do is not a little thing...it's the single step we're doing here today that means something, just like the stool in the Woolworth, the seat in the school, or the bus seat in Alabama," said Rep. David Leland (D-

Columbus). "You can vote against this, you can say that you don't like it, but this is exactly what this legislature did in the 132nd General Assembly [in HCR 10]. You can't hide behind the First Amendment because this is the exact same thing we did in the 132nd General Assembly."

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Careful What You Click For by Mary B. Morrison

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Left, left, right, left again.

You'd never date that one. Or that one. Yes to him, no, no, yes, and WOW yes. Meeting folks on a phone isn't something Great-Grandma ever did, and in the new novel *Careful What You Click For* by **Mary B. Morrison**, Granny never dated like this, either.

Not many people could afford to retain the services of Jordan Jackson.

The lovely Ms. Jackson was a lawyer who commanded big money to get her clients out of trouble, but power and influence didn't love her. She hadn't had a man in her bed in many months. It was time to do something about that.

Jordan knew Victoria, Chancellor, and Kingston from Hope for All Church; they were the usher team. Victoria, 60-something but looking far younger, was the mistress of a much older man. Chancellor was in love with a woman who only paid her bills with sugar daddies. Kingston was a rich and famous former athlete who was cheating on his wife, and Jordan was tired of all their complaints. She challenged them to go online to find the love they claimed they really wanted.

For Victoria, pleasure from a younger man was an excellent idea; her long-time lover, Willy Copeland, didn't even know what he couldn't do anymore. She adored Willy, but her body needed what he couldn't give her.

Though he hated Tracy, Chancellor hated seeing her flirt with other men more. Didn't he give her thousands of dollars in their first weeks together, supposedly for a funeral for her mother? Yeah, and Mom was

c.2020
Kensington Dafina
\$26.00 / \$35.00 Canada
304 pages

alive and well. Chancellor couldn't decide if he wanted to kill Tracy or love her. Maybe a new woman was a good idea.

As for Kingston, he lied to his friends. He told them he wasn't married to his baby-mama, Monet (he was). He said he might be interested in dating a woman from the ATL (he wasn't).

No, what he really wanted was an ATL man.

Picture this: if you were to take your average decently-plotted thriller-mystery, plus one romp-com, and smush them into a hard-core porn film until they mixed well, *Careful What You Click For* is pretty much what you'd get.

Author Mary B. Morrison starts out with more mating than murder, and it's laid on so thick that there's your romp, complete with humor, drama, and characters that are rich, gorgeous, and never time-constrained. Beware that these parts of this book are explicit.

Say it again: explicit.

But just before a reader gets tired of so many bedrooms, Morrison sneaks in the thriller parts. Things take big turns for the worst. Folks get comeuppances. There's a hidden real-life warning here that is put-on-a-sweater chilling. And, of course, there's more spice and more sex with – believe it or not – a heroine inside this story.

Start this book and be willing to laugh with it. Be willing to go along with its outrageousness. Beware: explicit. Race to the end, and you might find *Careful What You Click For* to be just right.

TAP... continued from page 11

about their federal taxes. They can view the amount owe, access their tax records on-line, review their payment history, and view tax return information for the current year's tax return as originally filed.

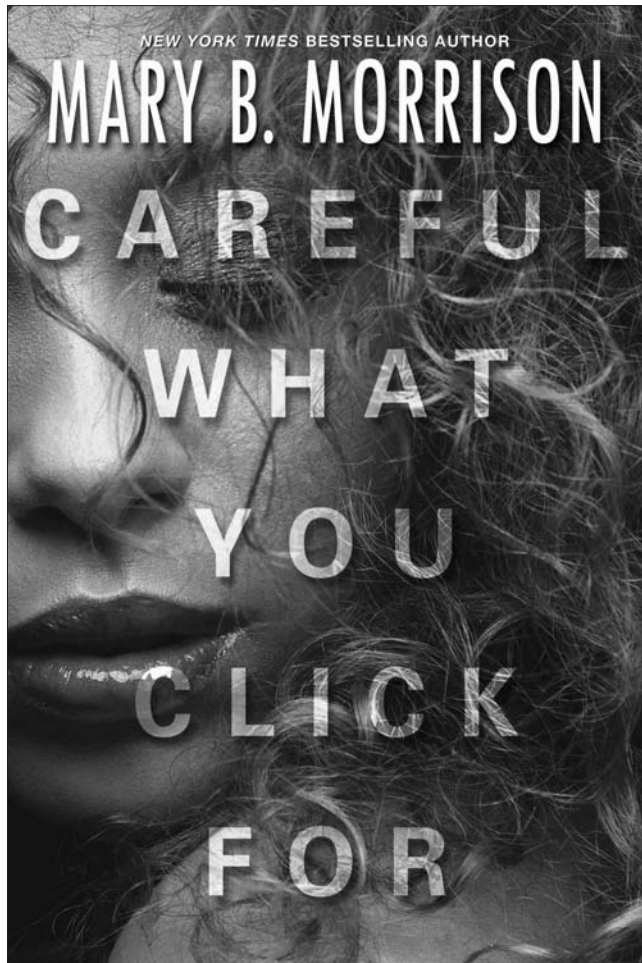
Get answers to tax questions

The Interactive Tax Assistant tool can help taxpayers get answer many tax questions, a tax law resource that works using a series of questions and responses. IRS.gov has answers for Frequently Asked Questions,

Get answers to Economic Impact Payment (stimulus checks) questions

There is a special section of IRS.gov where taxpayers can find information about their Economic Impact Payment. Both of these tools are available in English and Spanish.

- Get My Payment – People should use this to check payment status and see the payment type. In some cases, taxpayers may be able to provide bank account information for direct deposit.
- Non-Fileers: Enter Payment Info Here – This free tool allows eligible people who don't normally file taxes to easily and quickly provide information to register for their payment. Do not use this tool if you are required to file a 2019 tax return.



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June 24, 2020

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ASSISTANT MANAGER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Lucas County Children Services is seeking an Asst. Mgr. of Human Resources and to assist in creating a work environment that promotes personal growth and excellence of LCCS employees. Additional requirements can be viewed at www.lucaskids.net. No Phone Calls Please. EOE valuing diversity.

PARK TECHNICIAN

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a full time Park Technician to provide maintenance of grounds, facilities and equipment at assigned park.

HS degree or equivalent required. Entry level experience in general turf, grounds and building maintenance. Valid driver's license required. Work schedule may include evenings, weekends and holidays. 40 hrs/week. \$13.50/hr. Full benefits. Go to www.metroparkstoledo.com or <http://www.metroparkstoledo.com> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply. EOE



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CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Status: Independent Contractor

Date: May 28, 2020

ABOUT US:

Center of Hope Family Services, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1997. Our mission is to improve the life outcomes of adults, children, and families in urban settings.

SUMMARY:

The Clinical Director is an independent contractor who will collaborate with the Executive Director, the Management Team and the Clinical Services Team. The Clinical Director is responsible for designing and implementing client services that address Center of Hope Family Services' mission and are provided in a manner consistent with Agency vision and values.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Recommends a system of clinical programming for achieving budget goals and assuring quality of care by adhering to relevant best practices and State mandated requirements.
2. Ensures that clinical decisions are made in the best interest of the client.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

1. The Clinical Director must have a master's degree from an accredited college or university in social work, psychology, or other closely related human service field.
 2. Must be licensed to practice in the State of Ohio in psychology, social work or professional counseling.
 3. Must have demonstrated extensive experience in the treatment and care of individuals who have mental health, substance abuse or trauma related issues and/or children who have experienced these issues or child abuse / neglect.
 4. They must have prior supervisory experience.
- To apply, please email your resume to jobs@cofhs.org.**

A Ride for Justice

In support of the National Buffalo Soldiers and Troopers MC, the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers hosted a "Ride for Justice" motorcycle ride on Sunday, June 14. The ride began at 10 a.m. after a blessing by Pastor Randall Parker and the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers along with individuals and club members from various area clubs rode from Toledo to Napoleon Harley-Davidson in Napoleon, OH.

The ride was meant to show solidarity in the community for justice reform. This was not a protest, emphasized the organizers, simply a show of support for reform in the justice system.

Many of the Buffalo Soldiers are ex or current law enforcement officers, and the national organization was founded by a Chicago police officer.

Riders received a free breakfast provided by Off The Rails food trolley that morning at the staging location.

Earl Mack, TBS president, and Fred LeFebvre, public information officer for TBS, served as the primary organizers. The TBS members were joined by several dozen guests.



Fred LeFebvre and Earl Mack



Ryan Rollison and Tirrell Brenneman



Judge Josh Lanzinger and Earl Mack



Gamma Phi Deltas Commemorate George Floyd's Murder

The members of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority spent eight minutes and 46 seconds on the MLK Bridge last Saturday evening starting at 8:46 p.m. to commemorate the murder of George Floyd at the knee of a Minneapolis police officer last month.

The sorority members stood in solidarity with the rest of the Gamma chapters in the Northern Region who held similar ceremonies at the same time.



Faith Leaders United for Change Honor George Floyd

On Sunday afternoon, June 14, at the Lucas County Common Pleas Courthouse, women from all walks of life gathered to express their concerns about the George Floyd murder. This was organized by the Faith Leaders United for Change: Pastors Marquisa Horton.; Shalonda Thurmond; Evangelist Diane Haynes; First Lady Regina Mack; Kellie Jones and others. Local pastors present were: Perry Harris III, Willie Perryman, Chris Rowell, Randall Parker, Robert Culp, along with city officials Lindsay Webb, County Treasurer; Tina Wozniak, County Commissioner and Yvonne Harper, City Councilwoman.

Several mothers gave their testimonials about the deaths of their sons. Ronell Ferrell shared her heartfelt story of losing her son to two gunshot wounds in the back in 2017.

Many faith leaders spoke about the need for change.

Lisa Dubose, who has experience with human resources, spoke on the issues of equality and justice for Black Americans and on human rights indicating proper training and policies to avoid excessive force and police brutality.

The purpose of the Praytest/Protest against police brutality and injustice was to inform the community that "we hear your call and are ready to respond."



Donnetta Carter, Cheryl Phillips, Katina Johnson, Lisa Dubose and Richelle Watkins



Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc



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