

# The Annapolis Times

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## Soledad O'Brien documentary focuses on Homeless in first days of COVID-19

By Nadine Matthews @deeniemedia

In the Bible, Cain lobs a sarcastic, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” in response to God’s query about Abel’s whereabouts and indirectly, his well-being. Before the appearance of COVID-19, many Americans, in the face of homelessness, lack of health care, and other public policy issues effectively had the same attitude. In her new documentary, renowned journalist and producer, Soledad O’Brien’s illustrates the pandemic has, if not changed hearts, certainly changed some minds.

“Pandemic In Seattle,” airing and streaming on WORLD Channel platforms September 7, 2020 at 9 p.m. EST, provides a glimpse at the shift in attitudes wrought by one of the most consequential events the modern world has ever experienced; and it happened quite by accident she tells The Baltimore Times.

O’Brien was shooting in Seattle in early 2020 as the nature and scope of COVID-19 unfolded, but the story wasn’t about COVID-19. “We were shooting a story on homelessness,” O’Brien explains.”Then it became very clear early on, that Seattle was going to be the tip of the spear and we were going to have to shift dramatically the way we were telling the story.”

*Continued on page 8*

**Soledad O'Brien, renowned journalist and producer.**

**Photo Courtesy Soledad O'Brien**

# Take the Wheel

By Nikki Abraham, Nucleus Team Member, Positively Caviar, Inc.

Do you feel like you're going through the motions in life with no destination? Now, may be your time to assume control of your situation. Take the wheel today and start moving with intention to create a plan to order the steps for your future—deciding what you're going to do and who you're going to be.

A wise friend once told me, "Everyday you have a decision to make." It's important to take that statement literally and move with intent and purpose in every aspect of your life. As a result, you will find yourself in places destined to achieve the greatness ordained over your life.

R&B singer, Bryson Tiller, struck a chord when he said, "Sometimes my life is moving so fast that I forget what's going on." Too often we move at such a quick pace that we forget about what we actually achieved and fail to set a definitive plan. While it's important to live in the moment, it's twice as important to take a second and set the pace for your future.

Be specific across the board making sure your desires are clear and understood. Whether it's through prayer, jotting down a plan in your journal, or asking people who can help you achieve a goal, it's important to always be specific about your needs. When you are not explicit about what you expect, you can leave room for the unknown. However, when you know what you want and what you deserve, ask for it and the door will be opened to you.

Comparison creates discouragement, which is the thief of joy. Don't miss out on your destiny because you're afraid your vision will be compared to someone else's. You will also be doing a disservice to your future by holding on to your past—comparing the person you are today with the person you used to be. When you compare yourself with who you were yesterday, you attempt to go back to who you were instead of embracing who you are called to be.

Take control by making peace with your past and letting go of anything that may be stifling your growth, so you can



Nikki Abraham  
Nucleus Team Member  
Positively Caviar, Inc.  
Courtesy Photo

genuine and empathetic engagement; it also has the potential to increase positive emotions. Communicating clearly is one of the most effective skills you can cultivate as a leader.

If you look at a map you may be confused as to exactly how to get to your destination but once you turn on the GPS the step-by-step directions will give you a clearer guide. Life is the same way. When you step back and look at what you desire you know that it's possible to get there you just have to be intentional about taking the necessary steps to order your life on the road to success. It's also okay if you take a wrong turn, as long as you get back on the road to the path designed for you. Start today by putting your life in drive and taking control over your destiny.

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move on daring to live boldly.

Being intentional with effective communication is key when it comes to building healthy relationships, learning more, and improving your life at work and at home. When you practice active listening, you will open your mind to ideas, new perspectives and new possibilities. This is not the only key to

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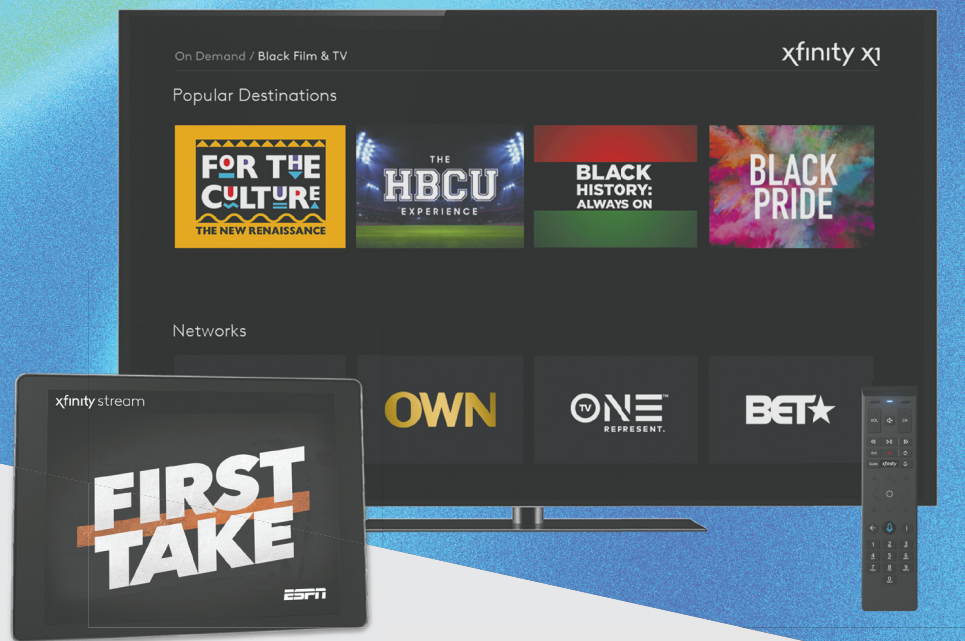
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# Guest Editorials/Letters

## Black Riders Matter

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President and CEO  
National Newspaper Publishers Association

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) is the nation's oldest and largest trade association of Black-owned newspapers and media companies. Our NNPA member publishers hire employees, but we also hire a large number of independent contractors across America to accomplish the work and success of the Black Press.

In the tradition of African American business development, many independent contractors in our communities subsequently become the proprietors of their own businesses.

The point here is that today, across the state of California—and for seemingly counterproductive reasons—public policies, laws and regulations are being passed to prevent companies such as Lyft and Uber from having independent contractors drive and conduct related business across the state.

This is another glaring example of good intentions causing bad consequences, specifically for Black Americans, Latinx Americans and other people of color who are trying to work as independent contractors on a legitimate path to becoming sustainable and profitable entrepreneurs.

Systemic racism in America today has many varied and debilitating manifestations that keep a knee on the necks of people of color striving to achieve success, empowerment and lift themselves out of poverty. In my view, the proposed California law, Assembly Bill 5, is unconstitutional and racist. Other states should become aware and alarmed by these non-progressive and regressive regulations.

We have a fundamental right to participate in the emerging gig-economy. Black independent contractors who drive as a means of entrepreneurship do matter.

In fact, all Black Riders Matter. There are hundreds of thousands of people of color riders who depend daily on Lyft, Uber and other ride share companies to provide transportation and other vital services in particular during the devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

A court in California just issued a temporary “stay” on restricting rideshare operations in the state over the independent contractor issue. The court ruling should be made permanent while civil rights and business leaders work together to undo the unjust and unfair rideshare regulations that may negatively impact millions of people throughout America.

The quality of life needs and aspirations of Black Americans and others should not be relegated to the political or exclusive whims of those who do not really care about the empowerment of our families and communities in California and across the nation. This is a growing national issue and I cannot and will not remain silent. #BlackLivesMatter, #BlackVotersMatter, and #BlackRidersMatter.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached at [dr.bchavis@nnpa.org](mailto:dr.bchavis@nnpa.org)

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## Letters to the Editor:

**Editor:**

**Re: Chaos Consumes White House**

Commander-of-Chaos Trump has hired some questionable people to fill government positions, and his poor judgment has created chaos in the White House.

Michael Flynn, National Security Adviser, lied to the FBI and he was fired. Tom Price, Secretary of Health and Human Services, resigned because of use of government aircraft for private business. David Shulkin, Secretary of Veteran Affairs, was fired because of lavish travel costs. Scott Pruitt, EPA Administrator, resigned because of lavish travel costs. Ben Carson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, was in trouble due to extravagant furniture expenditures.

Since Trump's inauguration 35 high level officials have left the White

House, including huge turnover of National Security officials. Thomas Bossert, Homeland Security Adviser resigned. Ricky Waddell, Deputy National Security Adviser; Nadia Schadow, Senior NSC official; and Michael Anton, NSC Strategic Communications left the administration.

The ongoing chaos in the White House translates into chaos and violence in the streets of our country.

The Commander-of-Chaos threatens our security with his blundering decisions, and the White House chaos with its lack of leadership has led to over 180,000 deaths and six million coronavirus cases in the U.S., which is 25 percent of worldwide cases with only 4 percent of the world population.

**Donald Moskowitz**  
Londonderry, NH

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## Report: COVID-19 now third leading cause of death among Black people

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire  
Senior National Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia

America's economic situation has substantially deteriorated since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, and families across race and ethnicity feel the pain, according to a new report from the Brookings Institution, which notes that the coronavirus now stands as the third leading cause of death among African Americans.

"If I told you on January 1 that a new virus that we did not even know about would, in August, be the third leading cause of death for Black Americans, our hair should have been set on fire and we would have an extensive public policy response to this unprecedented pandemic," noted Trevon Logan, professor of economics at the Ohio State University.

Logan co-authored the report titled, "The Hamilton Project, Racial Economic Inequality Amid the COVID-19 Crisis," with Bradley L. Hardy of the American University in Northwest,

Washington D.C.

"In 2020, more Black Americans will die of COVID-19 than will succumb to diabetes, strokes, accidents, or pneumonia. In fact, COVID-19 is currently the third leading cause of death for African Americans," Logan and Hardy concluded.

Among the reasons for the disparity is

Additionally, on average, African Americans share their living quarters with more people. While only 48 percent of white households have three or more members, more than 58 percent of Black households do, the authors noted, citing a 2013 Pew Research Center study.

"This increases the scope for exposure to COVID-19 in living quarters for

since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the gross domestic product fell at an annualized rate of 32.9 percent from April to the end of June 2020. It's the most significant decline on record.

Families across race and ethnicity are feeling the pain, but African Americans are generally in an even weaker position to absorb this economic adversity, the authors said.

Further, Black families face a range of economic risks without the buffer from stable employment, adequate earnings, or sufficient savings and wealth accumulation.

"Amid substantial economic and policy uncertainty, there is the potential for this crisis to have negative, long-term economic and educational consequences. COVID-19 has exposed and further highlighted existing racial inequality across economic and health status," the authors wrote.

They continued: "As a result, these preexisting factors have left many Black families at greater risk to bear the consequences of this historic economic crisis. Inadequate, additional federal economic relief, such as legislation that does not provide enough unemployment assistance and supplements to the safety net, potentially threatens Black families' economic security.

"Ultimately, robust, reliable fiscal policy responses to the crisis will help to reduce the negative impacts of the pandemic on families. If the economic and public health crisis continues at its current pace, many American families will require such assistance, including a disproportionate share of Black families."

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***"For example, African Americans are more likely to have cancer, be obese, have diabetes, and have kidney disease relative to White Americans. African Americans also have higher rates of lung disease than White Americans, which is particularly pertinent for respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19."***

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that African Americans are more than twice as likely as the average worker to be employed in the healthcare support service industry, which has been decimated by COVID-19 in assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

African Americans are also significantly overrepresented in the personal care and service and food preparation industries, which are disproportionately essential worker industries, the authors discovered.

"Black Americans also comprise more than a quarter of the meatpacking industry's frontline workforce, which has seen several outbreaks of COVID-19. Among those out of the labor force, the outbreak of the virus among the incarcerated has a disproportionate racial impact as well, given the overrepresentation of African Americans in the prison population," Logan and Hardy wrote.

Black households. For nearly all of the health conditions that increase the likelihood of serious COVID-19 complications, African Americans have higher rates of prevalence, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," Logan and Hardy said.

For example, African Americans are more likely to have cancer, be obese, have diabetes, and have kidney disease relative to white Americans. African Americans also have higher rates of lung disease than White Americans, which is particularly pertinent for respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19.

Death rates among African Americans due to diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, and obesity are all higher than among White Americans, according to the CDC.

The authors summarized the report by noting that America's economic situation has substantially deteriorated

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# In Memoriam: Chadwick Boseman

By Nsenga Burton, Ph.D.  
 NNPA Newswire Culture and  
 Entertainment Editor

The world is reeling from the loss of iconic actor Chadwick Boseman, who died Friday, August 28, 2020, after losing a private battle to colon cancer. Boseman died at home surrounded by his family.

A statement released by his family said Boseman was diagnosed with stage-three, colon cancer in 2016 and the disease progressed to stage 4. Boseman endured countless surgeries and treatments as he continued to make films from *Marshall* (directed by Reginald Hudlin), *Da 5 Bloods* (directed by Spike Lee) and August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (directed by George C. Wolfe and produced by Denzel Washington).

Washington and Boseman were first introduced when Washington paid for Boseman and several other Howard University students to continue their theater studies by taking a theater course in Oxford.

The Howard University-educated thespian was the star of Marvel's *Black Panther* franchise, bringing to life one of the most important and revered superheroes in American film history.

Directed by Ryan Coogler, *Black Panther* was the first superhero movie to be nominated for a best picture Oscar and one of the highest-grossing films of all time, bringing in over \$1 billion.

*Black Panther* became more than a movie, morphing into a celebration of Black culture, art, history, achievement and intellect in addition to highlighting the Black cultural presence and influence in comic book culture.

Boseman was no stranger to playing iconic characters, bursting onto the big screen in 2013's *42* as baseball legend Jackie Robinson, who broke the color



*In addition to acting and producing, Chadwick Boseman was also an activist and philanthropist supporting social justice initiatives like Michelle Obama's #WhenWeAllVote. (Above) Chadwick Boseman speaking at the 2016 San Diego Comic Con International for "Black Panther," at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California. Photo Credit: George Skidmore/Wikimedia Commons*

barrier in major league baseball.

Boseman went on to star as Soul legend James Brown in 2014's *Get On Up* and Thurgood Marshall in *Marshall* in 2017.

Boseman brought a quiet dignity and powerful presence to these characters, with performances reflective of the weight they hold in world culture.

Prior to breaking into film, Boseman lived in New York, teaching at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture while cutting his teeth on small roles on shows like *Law & Order*, *Third Watch*, *ER* and *Lie to Me*, eventually landing recurring roles on *Lincoln Heights* and *Persons Unknown*.

It was Boseman's turn as Jackie Robinson that cemented his film star status and his performance as T'Challa in Marvel's *Black Panther* that catapulted him to superstardom. *Black*

*Panther* grew beyond the big screen and became a cultural phenomenon.

Boseman, who hails from Anderson South Carolina, gave moviegoers a king who was stoic, powerful and captivating, as he led warriors with love, intellect and strategy, as they fought to maintain control of their powerful, technologically superior nation, ripe for poaching by outsiders.

Much like the Gullah culture of his home state, Boseman was able to effortlessly blend African and American culture to help create a fantastical world on screen that was inspirational and recognizable. Boseman led an all-star cast including Angela Bassett, Michael B. Jordan, Danai Gurira, Daniel Kaluuya, Letitia Wright, Sterling Brown, Winston Duke and Academy award-winning actors Lupita Nyong'o and Forrest Whitaker, holding his own and fortifying

his status as a Hollywood superstar.

Boseman, who also appeared as T'Challa/Black Panther in *Avengers Infinity War* and *Avengers: End Game*, starred in and produced the films *21 Bridges*, *Marshall* and *Message from the King*, which he served as Executive Producer. At the time of his death, Boseman was in pre-production as producer on *Yasuke*, a film about the world's first Black Samurai in which Boseman was slated to star.

In addition to acting and producing, Boseman was also an activist and philanthropist supporting social justice initiatives like Michelle Obama's #WhenWeAllVote and celebrating fellow Bison Kamala Harris' history making selection as the Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee for the 2020 U.S. Presidential election, which was his last Twitter post before his death.

In 2018, the wunderkind performer delivered a powerful commencement speech at Howard University encouraging students to rise above traumatic experiences and applauding their campus activism. Boseman, who was mentored by fellow Howard University alum, Phylicia Rashad and helped financially by Denzel Washington as a student, donated \$100,000 to #Change4Change, which supports HBCUs in November 2019.

The private public figure spent time visiting children suffering from cancer at St. Jude's Research Center. In April 2020, the actor donated \$4.2 million worth of PPE equipment to hospitals serving Black communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The youngest of four, Boseman is survived by his parents, Leroy and Carolyn; siblings Kevin, Dionne and Derrick; and wife Taylor Simone Ledward. Boseman was 43.

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# Joel Gamble Foundation concludes summer with giveaway event as school year begins

By *Demetrius Dillard*

As a culmination of summer-long giveaways, the Joel Gamble Foundation partnered with Comcast to award more than a dozen technological devices and free internet to Baltimore City students as the new school year approaches.

The event took place on the morning of August 26, 2020, at Federal Hill Park, where about 15 students from elementary, middle and high schools in Baltimore were gathered with their families and received free Chromebooks and tablets, courtesy of the Joel Gamble Foundation— a local nonprofit that has made bridging the technology gap one of its primary focuses throughout the summer.

“What I always look to do is make an impact and hopefully it will be long-lasting to the effects of students remembering this opportunity that we gave them, and then when they’re successful they could also return the favor and give back to students who may need as well,” said Gamble, a West



*(Left to right) Monique Kennedy, Comcast representative; Moriah Smalls, Gwynns Falls Elementary representative; Joel Gamble; and Margaret Powell Matthew Henson representative after both schools were awarded free Internet service, thanks to Comcast NBCUniversal and The Joel Gamble Foundation. Courtesy Photo/The Joel Gamble Foundation*

Baltimore native who excelled as a football tight end at Carver Vocational-Technical High School, Shippensburg

University and the Cleveland Browns, Philadelphia Eagles and Tennessee Titans in the NFL. “Everything I do in the community, I always want kids to remember it so that they get in the position that I’m in then they’re able to give back as well.”

The 15 electronic devices that were presented to students on August 26 brings the total number of donated technological resources to approximately 111 for youth in the Baltimore community.

The criteria for receiving an electronic device was simple: students who were interested were required to write an essay explaining how technology can help them succeed academically. Numerous applicants submitted essays, but few were chosen.

Zion Williams, a ninth grader at Mount Saint Joseph High School, was one of the recipients of a Chromebook. He said that having the device will mean a lot, taking into consideration that academic instruction is being conducted virtually.

“It feels nice. I was one out of like 300 people to win so it was pretty good,” said Williams, who has plans on either playing in the NFL or being a dentist once he is out of school.

As children’s names were called, they

walked up to get either their Chromebooks or Amazon FireTablets, then took a photo with Gamble.

Additionally, Matthew A. Henson Elementary and Gwynns Falls Elementary schools were the two schools selected to receive free Internet service for a year thanks to a \$2,500 grant the Gamble Foundation was given from Comcast.

A total of 10 students from Gwynns Falls and Matthew Henson (20 total) will be recipients of the internet services and were selected by their school administrators based on need.

Monique Kennedy, a Comcast NBCUniversal representative, presented the Joel Gamble Foundation with a check to conclude the morning.

Margaret Powell, a retired school teacher, was in attendance to receive the internet gift on behalf of Matthew Henson Elementary and Moriah Smalls, a community schools coordinator, was there on behalf of Gwynns Falls.

“We are so appreciative of the technology that we’re going to receive because there are so many students in our community that don’t have it,” said Powell, who taught at Henson for 16 years and is still heavily involved in the school community. “Sometimes parents have to make choices, whether they’re going to [invest] in technology or take care of another responsibility so this is definitely going to help families out with this gift, and we really, really appreciate it.”

Since Gamble stepped away from professional football, he has prioritized community service and engagement going on a decade. Also, Gamble is a special education teacher at Patapsco High School. He is entering his eighth with the Baltimore County Schools system.

The Joel Gamble Foundation, founded in 2014, hosts a variety of art supply and sports supply giveaways in addition to providing career opportunities and exposure, college tours, health and wellness programs, and sports camps/leagues.

Furthermore, the organization has garnered recognition for the immense contributions to the youth in Baltimore City, striving to fulfill its mission to create productive citizens in society through college readiness, academic mentorship and athletic success initiatives.



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# Soledad O'Brien documentary focuses on homeless in first days of COVID-19

*Continued from page 1*

The story, says O'Brien went from, what do you do about a community in crisis to, "What do you do for a community already in crisis when a crisis hits?" Compounding the issue for Seattle was the fact that there was no map showing in which direction to go. The Obama administration had erected an office to deal with pandemics, but that was scrapped by the trump administration.

"A lot of the people who we talked to on the ground in Seattle," said O'Brien, "were very sympathetic to people who are homeless and really struggling, but until there was a crisis they never thought about, where do you wash your hands? How do you have sanitary conditions when you are living in your vehicle, when sanitary conditions become essential?"

Pandemic in Seattle follows the lives of three Seattle area women dealing with a crisis unprecedented in its magnitude in the modern era: Patty Hayes, the Seattle and King County public health director, Stevie Habedank, a homeless woman living in a car with her family. Then there is Katherine Kempf, whose elderly father resides in the Kirkland Life Care Center, a nursing home that was considered the "epicenter of the coronavirus."

Without a doubt, coronavirus has brought many lessons. One of those is, we are in fact our brother's keeper if only to ensure our own health and safety. "With the pandemic people understood," explained O'Brien, "that your neighbor's sanitation and your neighbor's health is related to your own health."

Many homeless learned that they had been effectively gaslighted by public officials. They were told of the exceedingly limited abilities of local government to provide basic shelter for the least among us. COVID-19 exposed the lie.



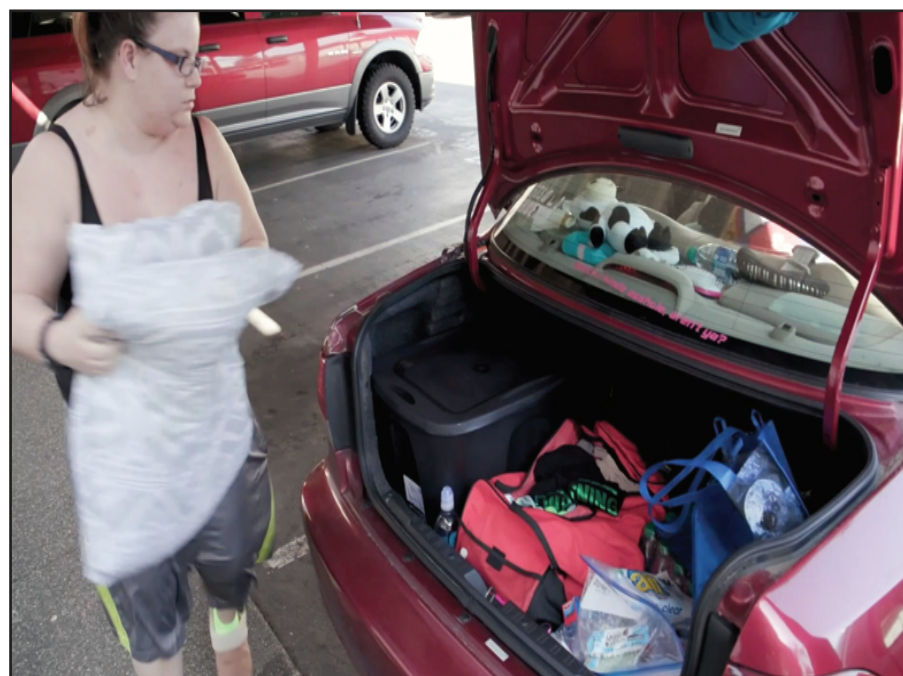
*A screen grab from Local USA Pandemic in Seattle.  
Image Courtesy of WORLD Channel*

Pandemic In Seattle graphically illustrates how quickly housing went up for Seattle's homeless after coronavirus arrived. So-called "tiny houses" which often took months to go up, went up in days. Hotel rooms and other contingency housing was speedily made available. "We heard from a lot of homeless people, saying where was this like two months ago?" explained O'Brien.

O'Brien hopes viewers will come away, "Understanding exactly how much of a struggle coronavirus has been for people who are homeless wherever they are, not just in Seattle."

She also hopes it will spur viewers into coming up with solutions, "that protect the homeless and protect the greater community as well." O'Brien sees this as an opportunity for all of us to be more compassionate. "How do we make these changes for homeless people when we're not in a pandemic?" asks O'Brien.

Though O'Brien admits that there have been failures in red states as well as blue states, she insists, "The bigger takeaway is not that everybody should be thinking about public health individually. It doesn't work that way. Public health should be an American priority. Our priority is to make sure we don't kill the



*Film subject Stevie Habedank in a screen grab from Local USA Pandemic in Seattle.  
Image Courtesy of WORLD Channel*

economy, and we don't kill 180,000 people."

O'Brien sees public health response as a litmus test for the decency and health of a society as a whole. "Communities, cities, countries are judged by how they care for the needs of their citizens, and I think it's really clear that when it comes

to dealing with people who are struggling, we really haven't done a very good job as a country."



# Vaile Leonard chosen as 2020 New Thought Walden Awards Honoree

*LTC Center Founder Honored for Social and Environmental Activism*

*By Ursula V. Battle*

The Rev. Vaile Leonard's life is the one that read's like a story book. For years, she battled a heroin addiction. After decades of addiction, she overcame her habit to found what many consider one of the most successful recovery centers in the country –Light of Truth Center, Inc. (LTC). The residential therapeutic treatment program has been credited with helping dozens of women overcome drug addiction. Her story now includes another remarkable chapter. She is a 2020 New Thought Walden Awards Honoree.

The prestigious award honors those who use empowering spiritual ideas and philosophies to change lives and make the planet a better place. Nominations were received from the public, and each was considered carefully by a selection committee comprised of representatives from partner organizations.

Rev. Leonard was among 20 honorees chosen in six categories: New Thought Wisdom, Interfaith and Intercultural Understanding, Social and Environmental Activism, Creative Arts and Entertainment, Next Generation (under 40), and Mind/Body Connection and Healing. Rev. Leonard was selected for the Social and Environmental Activism category.

“My mind could not grasp how it happened,” said Rev. Leonard. “I thought someone was pulling my leg. It’s just been an incredible experience. It’s an honor, and I am really humbled by it.”

Each honoree is being profiled in the September/October 2020 issue of Unity Magazine and listed in the September 2020 issue of Science of Mind magazine. Honorees are also being featured in a podcast series on Unity Online Radio (unityonlineradio.org).

“The honorees include both well-known individuals and relatively unsung heroes alike, each of whom has made a valuable contribution to furthering the ideas at the core of New Thought,” says Unity Magazine ® editor Katy Koontz, a member of the selection committee.



*The Rev. Vaile Leonard, Founder of Light of Truth Center, Inc. is a 2020 New Thought Walden Awards Honoree. Photo by Ursula V. Battle*

“Our goal with the Waldens is not only to honor these fine people and spotlight their notable accomplishments but also to inspire others to follow in their footsteps.”

The New Thought Walden Awards partner organizations include Unity, Centers for Spiritual Living, Association for Global New Thought, Agape International Spiritual Center, Divine Science Federation International, Universal Foundation for Better Living, and Affiliated New Thought Network.

Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village, Missouri, publishes *Unity*

offers support 24/7 (receiving nearly 1.4 million prayer requests annually). Unity was founded in 1889 and helps people of all faiths apply positive spiritual principles in their daily lives. Unity Worldwide Ministries supports Unity ministries, their leaders and congregants around the world.

Rev. Leonard said the Walden Award shines a national spotlight on LTC.

“Folk never hear about us,” said Leonard. “This awards gives us the opportunity to be exposed to a larger community. The hope is that someone will hear something that moves them to support the work that we do.”

LTC has recovery houses on Wheeler Avenue, Lafayette Avenue, N. Patterson Park Avenue, and Payson Street, and also operates a training center. Women living in the homes work on a self-improvement plan while living as a family unit to support their own and each other's recovery process.

The New Thought Walden Award is among a long list of honors Rev. Leonard has received. She is also a recipient of The Positive People Awards, an honor given to individuals who work to improve their quality of life and that of their community.

For more information about Rev. Leonard and The New Thought Walden Awards, visit <https://www.unity.org/walden>.

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# Baltimore Times receives PayPal grant

By Stacy M. Brown

The Baltimore Times is among the latest Black-owned businesses to have received a generous \$10,000 grant from PayPal.

Earlier this summer, the Internet giant issued a \$530 million pledge to provide support for Black-owned businesses.

"I'm grateful for the PayPal grant for \$10,000, which is intended to help you pay your mortgage, taxes, and other bills," said Baltimore Times Publisher Joy Bramble. "The grant came at the right time for us."

In partnership with the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO), the PayPal Empowerment Grants for Black Business Program awarded up to \$10,000 to more than 1,000 African American-owned businesses affected by COVID-19 and civil unrest.

The funds are earmarked to help companies avert layoffs, repair any property damage, cover operational costs, purchase new products and services, and assist with marketing.

"We recognize the critical challenge of access to capital that Black-owned businesses face.

Please know that this grant program is part of a larger commitment from PayPal to invest in Black and minority-owned businesses and communities," PayPal officials said in a statement.

In June, PayPal announced a \$530 million pledge to provide support for Black-owned businesses and start-ups. Part of the pledge included the \$10,000 grants to 1,000 businesses.

"For far too long, Black people in America have faced deep-seated injustice and systemic economic inequality," Dan Schulman, president



*In partnership with the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO), the PayPal Empowerment Grants for Black Business Program awarded up to \$10,000 to more than 1,000 African American-owned businesses affected by COVID-19 and civil unrest. The Baltimore Times is among the latest Black-owned businesses to have received a generous \$10,000 grant from PayPal. Courtesy Photo/PayPal*

and CEO of PayPal stated. "Black lives matter and we need to drive transformative change. We must take decisive action to close the racial wealth gap that sustains this profound inequity."

Schulman continued: "PayPal is uniquely positioned to help in this area, and we are committed to doing our part to address the unacceptable racial divide by advancing a more just economy and society.

"We've listened to leaders in the Black community about the challenges facing Black business owners and the support and investments needed to sustain Black-owned businesses and create long-term economic opportunity."

The company's commitment includes

short-term, medium-term, and long-term investments in the community, including:

\$10 million fund for empowerment grants to Black-owned businesses impacted by COVID-19 or civil unrest. These grants will provide direct support to business owners to cover expenses related to stabilizing and reopening their businesses.

\$5 million fund for program grants and employee matching gifts for PayPal's nonprofit community partners that are working to strengthen Black business owners by providing them with microloans, technical assistance, information, mentoring and access to

digital solutions to speed their recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

The company said it would expand the PayPal Gives Employee Matching Gifts program. PayPal will match \$2 for every \$1 employees donate and \$10 for every volunteer hour dedicated to racial and economic justice efforts in local communities, up to \$500,000.

\$500 million commitment to create an economic opportunity fund to support and strengthen Black and underrepresented minority businesses and communities over the long term, and designed to help drive financial health, access and generational wealth creation.

"AEO advocates for economic inclusion and works to create transformational change in the marketplace for small businesses," said Connie Evans, the president and CEO of AEO. "Now, more than ever, it's critical to invest in Black-owned businesses, create a more equitable system and break through the barriers that have historically challenged Black business ownership and wealth creation."

PayPal also is committing \$15 million to strengthen its internal diversity and inclusion programs to foster greater awareness, build equity, and support recruiting, hiring and career advancement of Black and minority employees.

These initiatives build on the extensive financial health and small business empowerment programs PayPal already supports.

They will "add a particular emphasis on Black-owned businesses, sharpen the focus of that work, accelerate the deployment of PayPal's resources and fuel employee engagement," the company wrote in a news release.

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# Dr. Jacqueline Stone named first chief clinical officer at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Baltimore— Kennedy Krieger Institute, a non-profit organization internationally known for providing a wide range of health and education services for children, adolescents and adults with diseases, disorders or injuries that impact the nervous system, announced the promotion of Jacqueline Stone, PhD, MPA, PT to be the inaugural chief clinical officer, a new senior leadership position at the Institute.

In this newly expanded role, Stone will oversee the Institute's clinical operations of non-medical clinical services, and work closely with the CEO and COO in strategic planning and implementation for the organization.

"Dr. Stone has provided stellar leadership in a variety of areas over her 24 years with Kennedy Krieger including directing our clinical programs, managing business development and contracting; guiding community programs and medical provider relations; her recent work with our telehealth expansion efforts; and our



*Dr. Jacqueline Stone  
Chief Clinical Officer  
Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Courtesy Photo*

diversity and inclusion initiatives," said Dr. Brad Schlaggar, president and CEO of Kennedy Krieger Institute. "Her impact reaches across departments and programs to benefit all of our patients, students and their families and we look forward to the valuable contributions we know she will make as a key member of our senior leadership team."

During her tenure at Kennedy Krieger, Stone has served in various positions including acting director of physical therapy, co-director for the Center for Diversity in Public Health Leadership Training and as a key faculty member in the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) program at Kennedy Krieger. For the past 18 months, Dr. Stone has served as vice president for clinical programs.

A New Jersey native, Stone graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore with a Bachelor of Science in physical therapy. She received a master's degree in public administration from the University of Baltimore and a

doctoral degree in organizational leadership from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Originally from Elizabeth, N.J., Stone currently resides in Ellicott City, MD.

Internationally known, Kennedy Krieger transforms the lives of more than 25,000 individuals a year through inpatient and outpatient medical, behavioral health and wellness therapies, home and community services, school-based programs, training and education for professionals and advocacy.

Kennedy Krieger provides a wide range of services for children, adolescents and adults with diseases, disorders or injuries that impact the nervous system, ranging from mild to severe. The Institute is home to a team of investigators who contribute to the understanding of how disorders develop while at the same time pioneer new interventions and methods of early diagnosis, prevention and treatment.

For more information, visit: [KennedyKrieger.org](http://KennedyKrieger.org).

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# Ravens continue evaluation process without benefit of preseason

By Tyler Hamilton

The process of sorting through a group of 90 players and narrowing the list to 53 is always a rigorous undertaking. This season, things are a bit tougher because the preseason games were eliminated.

The Baltimore Ravens have a roster full of talent, including 12 pro-bowlers, which ties the 1973 Miami Dolphins for the most selections ever on an initial roster. This is an example of how well the Ravens evaluate talent.

Baltimore will need every bit of their talent for evaluation this year, as they get closer to roster cut down day.

“I think [executive vice president and general manager] Eric DeCosta and his staff are always in constant communication with the coaching staff, and they are always ‘gazing into their crystal ball,’ trying to stay ahead of the curve with things. They do a great job of that. So, I definitely think these are things that are discussed very openly and constantly,” offensive coordinator Greg Roman said. “It’s our job to make the most of everything we can.”

Roman said the scrimmage the team had recently was like the first preseason game. It gave the players a chance to have a more live atmosphere that would be more similar to game day. That’s critical for the front office as they sort through what players they think will help contribute to a winning season.

Defensive coordinator Don “Wink” Martindale was pleased with the play of



**Baltimore Ravens cornerback Tavon Young #25 and other players stretch as the team gets ready for practice.**

Photo Credit: AP/Patrick Semansky

2020 third-round pick Malik Harrison during the scrimmage.

“I think in the scrimmage the other night, he [Harrison] really started coming downhill and started showing some of his physicality. That just comes from getting more and more groomed in the system and understanding his responsibilities, and then just playing football. He’s going to be a force to deal with. He’s got length, he’s got power and he can play physical. So, he’s started to show that. I thought he really flashed that on Saturday,” Martindale said.

There are starting jobs on the line. There are roster spots on the line also. Some players are literally playing for

their football careers. Martindale said it’s a unique experience for everyone.

“Obviously, it’s different. There are guys who’ve made this team, undrafted free agents who’ve made this team off the fourth preseason game. Right there at the end, it was neck and neck with somebody else,” Martindale said.

Martindale complimented how head coach John Harbaugh made the scrimmage as close to a game situation as possible. In his opinion, that helped everyone since they did special teams, offense and defense situations. But the evaluation process is going to be taxing due to other unprecedented variables.

“It’s going to be difficult; the cuts always are. I think it’s different this year, because you have a larger practice squad,” Martindale said. “You’ve really got to have guys with this virus that’s here, be ready to play, because you just don’t know what’s going to happen.”

There is a degree of mystery since the Ravens weren’t able to play against another team in an actual game. The players are ready to see someone with a different color uniform on. The monotony can make days drag but Harbaugh feels good about where the team is.

“Without the preseason games and any kind of ‘measuring stick,’ I think the coaches would tell you—and I think the players would tell you the same way—we feel really good about where we’re at. We feel we’re as far along—from a football standpoint—that we could be,” Harbaugh said.

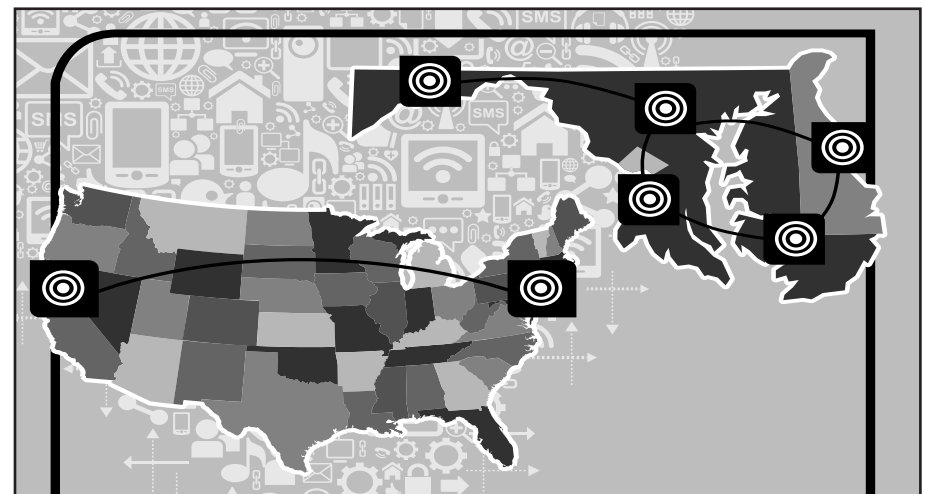
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## Maryland State Board of Elections encourages eligible residents to register to vote in November's General Election

Annapolis— The Maryland State Board of Elections is encouraging eligible residents who have not yet registered to vote in the November 3, 2020 general election to do so online.

The board is also urging those who have already registered to go online to confirm that their mailing address and other registration information is up to date.

The deadline to register to vote in the general election and to verify voter registration information online is October 13, 2020.

Voters wishing to register to vote or to check their registration status should visit the following web page:

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>.

While there are multiple ways to participate in the 2020 Presidential Election, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Maryland State Board of Elections is encouraging all eligible Marylanders to cast mail-in ballots. Voting by mail is a safe and secure way of voting.

To cast mail-in ballots, Maryland residents must request a mail-in ballot from the State Board of Elections or their local board of elections. The Maryland State Board of Elections will automatically send all eligible voters an application for a mail-in ballot by first-class U.S. Mail.

Voters who have already requested a ballot and receive a ballot application in the mail should go online to verify their application has been processed. It is not necessary to send in two ballot requests. Ballot applications come with a postage-paid return envelope to make it easy and free for voters to request ballots.

Any eligible voter who does not



*Elections officials urge anyone already registered to vote to verify their registration information online at:*

*<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>.*

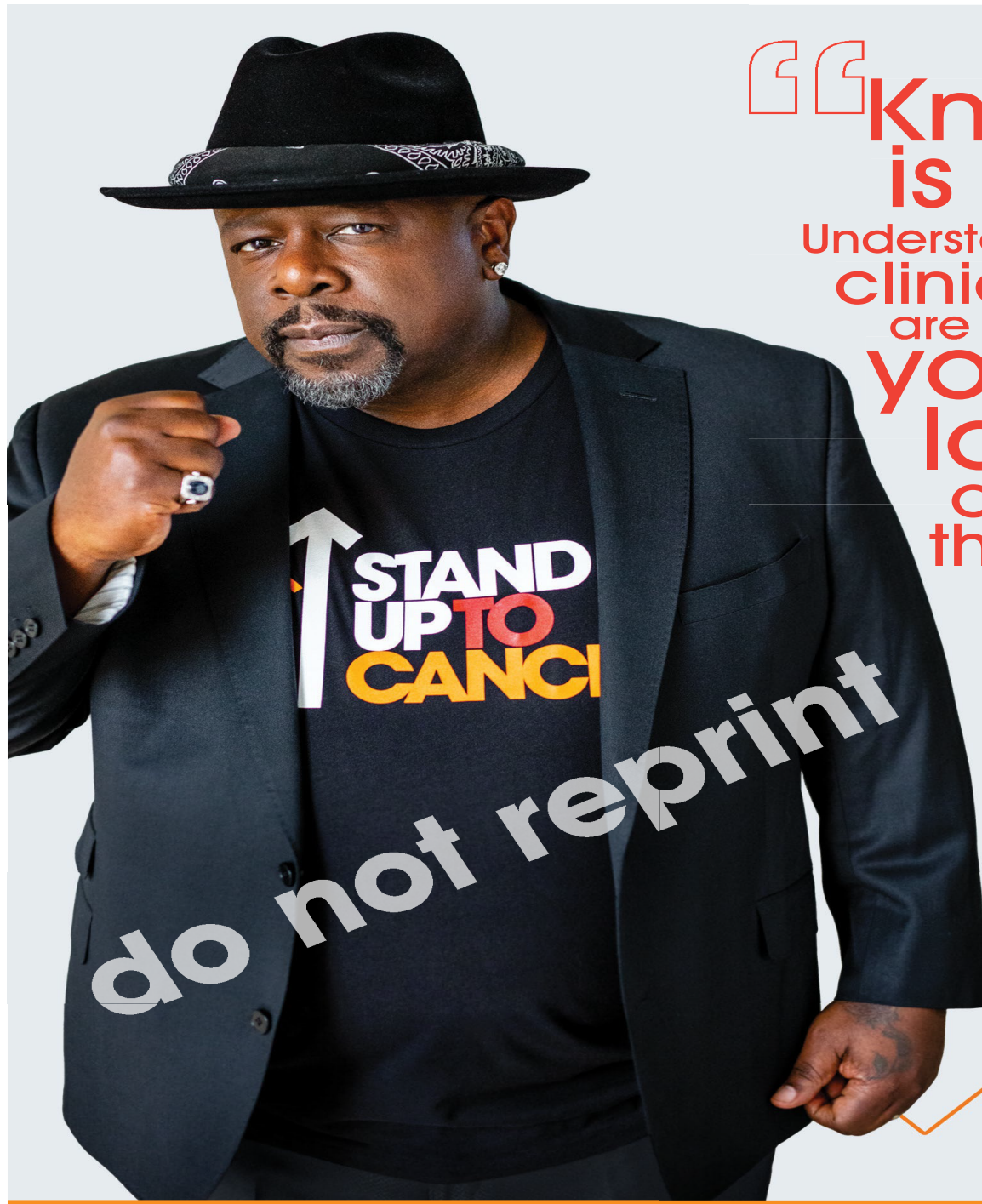
automatically receive a ballot application by mail may request a ballot online or by printing and returning by mail or fax the request form on the State Board of Elections' website.

All requests for a mail-in ballot must be received by October 20, 2020. When requesting a ballot by mail, voters should leave at least five business days for the United States Postal Service to deliver the application to the local board of elections.

Mail-in ballots will be sent via first-class mail to the address the voter provides on the ballot request.

"It is essential that all eligible Maryland residents have the opportunity to participate in the general election being held November 3," said Maryland State Board of Elections Administrator Linda Lamone. "For those who have not yet registered to vote, we strongly encourage you to do so. If you have already registered, please take this opportunity to review your voter registration information online and make any necessary updates. This will help ensure you have a seamless voting experience."

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