

# THE CAPITAL NEWS

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The Untold Stories

## An Icon of Civil and Human Rights, Decency and Justice for all

### REPRESENTATIVE JOHN R. LEWIS

By: Barbara J Thompson

Representative John Lewis did what all of us must do. He fought for the rights of all and respected the uniqueness of every individual. For someone who was born and raised in the south, I learned the value of self and received encouragement to develop my innate talents, from loving and supportive parents who taught me and my siblings the importance of working hard and getting good grades, respecting ourselves and respecting others. These values were reinforced by who I believed were the best teachers in the world, and neighbors who were like-minded individuals.

In my home state of Georgia, schools were integrated when I was promoted to the 11th grade but that act did not improve our self-worth and education. It allowed us to share what we had learned and knew was equal to and many times better than the myths about the false superiority of other groups. I grew up reading about John Lewis, Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Jr. Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, Sr., Julian Bond, Rosa Parks, Medgar and Myrlie Evers, James Baldwin, and countless others who were and are still defenders of civil rights. These accomplished African Americans fought for human rights, self-dignity, self-respect and opportunities for everyone to live their dreams.

As a long-standing member of the House of Representative and a Civil Rights Leader who championed the rights of all, Representative Lewis worked tirelessly, as a “Big Six” leaders, and a “Freedom Rider” who organized historic marches and participated in events that promoted racial integration, that led to his head injury on “Bloody Sunday” in the 1965 civil rights march from Selma, Alabama to the Capitol of Montgomery. But this did not stop his passionate quest for racial equality, for higher standards of living, economic parity and the rights of African Americans to be treated as human being whose enslavement and second-class citizenship could not diminish their outstanding contributions to the development of the United States of America.



2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom to Rep. John Lewis presented by President Obama (Carolyn Kaster/AP)



Representative Lewis on Black Lives Matter Plaza DC.  
Photo credit: Gary Williams Twitter

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# THE CAPITAL NEWS

## THE UNTOLD STORIES

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## The Path Forward

By: Veda Rasheed

Over the last few months, we have seen protest take place across the United States and around the world seeking to bring attention to the systemic racism suffered by African Americans and demanding immediate change. We are seeking redress for over four hundred years of economic disadvantage and injustice for our community members that have been killed with impunity. But it's not just Black people or people of color protesting. The current movement for racial justice has garnered support across racial lines. Religious organization, non-profits, large corporations, celebrities, and others have all joined the call for change. But, as we strive to make lasting changes, we must advocate and set legal precedents and enact legislation to do just that.

As the past has shown us, wealth disparities are rooted in historic injustices and carried forward by practices and policies that fail to reverse inequitable trends. Public education, which has often been underfunded in African-American majority schools, limits skill acquisition and upward mobility for Black people. In the labor market, African Americans often suffer from both explicit and implicit discrimination, making it more difficult for Black families to escape from poverty or build wealth in their community. This must change. Homeownership and high-quality affordable rental housing are vital tools for wealth building and financial well-being in the United States.

Lawmakers have long sought to expand the capacity for property ownership and provide affordable rental housing, but these efforts have more or less exclusively benefited white households to people of color's detriment; frequently, people of color are removed from their homes, denied access to wealth-building opportunities, and relocated to isolated communities. If we are to confront the racial wealth gap then we must create an equitable and secure future, shifting away from public



*The Capital News The Path Forward  
 Columnist Veda Rasheed pictured*

policies that propel and exacerbate racial disparities in wealth. These differences are so entrenched that if current trends continue, it could take more than two hundred years for the average African-American family to accumulate the same amount of wealth as white families. We need to significantly look at policies that have impact on education, labor and housing and change this trajectory.

If we want public policy to genuinely address the needs and concerns of the public, then we, "the public," need to be involved and communicate our priorities to our leadership. On the path forward, we must continue to build strong relationships with elected officials and actively engage in policy discussions affecting our community. We must never let up on informing our elected officials of what is significant our community, and we must hold them accountable if they don't listen. It is then that we can work together to find a solution that is enduring, timely, and addresses our priorities.

## An Analysis of United States High School Dropouts

By: **Raymond Kashangaki**

For many adolescent individuals, the phenomenon of going through different school grades, subsequently graduating with a high school diploma, and finally moving on to college is often taken for granted. Furthermore, societal expectations have somewhat made this the norm, so it is reasonable to assume that one may feel obligated to move down this road. However, for a sizable amount of youth in the United States, this is not the case. There is a notable number of 15-19-year-olds who, for one reason or another, are no longer enrolled in middle or high school and have no intentions of furthering their education. This may cause one to question what the root cause(s) is, if there is anything that can be done about this, and more importantly, if anything should be done about this- in other words, if this is necessarily a bad thing at all. As one may expect, the answers to these questions are not as simple as they seem.

On a countrywide scale, there are 1.2 million high school dropouts in the United States annually. Between October 2016 and October 2017 for example, The National Center for Education statistics stated that the percentage of grade 10-12 dropouts was about 4.7% (“High School Dropout Rate”, Education.org). However, when one looks at the dropout rate on a state level, the percentage of students who drop out is quite different. For example, the rate of students who graduated with a high school diploma within four years of starting 9th grade in the 2017/2018 school year in the District of Columbia and the states of New Mexico, and Arizona was 69%, 74%, and 79% respectively (“Public High School Graduation Rates”, National Center for Education Statistics). This means that at a state-wide level, more than 20% of high school students in each of those states did not graduate in that year, compared to the nationwide 4.7% of the previous year, indicating that some specific locations within the United States have higher instances of dropouts than others.

The reasons behind these dropout rates varies from individual to individual. A recurring theme that seems to come up is that students who fail multiple courses feel discouraged from continuing in their studies. This is especially true if they have to repeat a school year or are unable to keep up with the curriculum. Others simply find the courses uninteresting, or can't focus on their homework because of the environment at home. Others still, have more pressing issues, such as domestic violence, teen pregnancies, and necessary part-time jobs that force them to drop out of school. For instance, the rate of teen births per 1000 females aged 15-19 in the District of Columbia and New Mexico in 2017 were 21.0 and 27.9 respectively (“Trends in Teen Pregnancy and Childbearing”, HHS.gov). These two states also had two of the lowest graduation rates in the 2017/2018 school year (69% and 74%), possibly meaning that the high pregnancy rates may have been a factor at play that caused this to occur.

So, for those students who have ended up dropping out, does it mean that they've now hit a dead end, since graduating and obtaining a degree would be considered the be-all and end-all? It seems as though it's entirely up to the student themselves. There are some dropouts who find that they may be more successful as entrepreneurs instead of pursuing academics. For example, Hayden Bowles, a social media influencer and E-commerce businessman, has stated that he personally found his own passion and motivation to succeed outside of the classroom. He used his spare time outside of classes to do research on the stock market, particularly E-commerce, and would spend a very minimal amount of time on schoolwork. Thanks to investment and support from his grandfather, he was able to launch his first e-commerce business that was so successful, he ended up dropping out of high school at 16 in order to continue supporting his business. Bowles currently runs “Ad Academy”, a program that is used to teach individuals to optimize Facebook ads for their Ecommerce needs (“Ad Academy”, Hayden Bowles).



*Getty Image Copyright*

Hayden Bowles is not the only successful high school dropout either. A simple Google search will tell you that many household names, like Richard Branson and Quentin Tarantino were high school dropouts as well. That being said, the number of Americans who regret dropping out should not be neglected either. Kenny Buchanan, an aluminum processor for the US Air Force, states that he regrets his decision to drop out of high school. When Buchanan was 18, he dropped out and supported himself by working at fast food restaurants. It was fine at first, but overtime he found that jobs began to request that applicants had a high school diploma, which made it difficult for him to find work. In 2009, Buchanan got his GED, and has stated that he is glad he did so because this would open more doors for him. He also claims that dropping out of high school was one of the biggest mistakes of his life (“A High School Dropout’s Midlife Hardships”, Morning Edition, 2001).

By and large, the topic of high school dropouts is a thought-provoking one, and leads to many questions that might not have immediate answers. It's unlikely that the solution to this “problem” (if it is indeed a problem) would be the same for every person, so the de facto decision maker would be the person themselves. They may carry out their own research, ask their parents for advice, take up tutoring to raise their grades, or ask others who have made the decision to drop out what their advice would be. But ultimately, the choice to open the door that leads to dropping out of high school is up to them-and since few things are certain in life, one can only hope that that door will lead to more doors opening in the future.



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## black African businesses being overlooked by white US investors

AMERICAN VENTURE CAPITAL AND PRIVATE EQUITY IS DOMINATING AFRICA, BUT IT'S MOSTLY FUNDING OTHER WHITE FOREIGN FOUNDERS AS BLACK ENTREPRENEURS STRUGGLE TO RAISE FINANCING



Jesse Ghansah: ‘The yardstick used to judge African founders is really different. Most of the investors are white, so having a white founder on your team helps.’

**Photograph: Jesse Ghansah**

**By: Larry Madowo**  
**Special to The Capital News**

“Sorry for asking, but do you understand that the money belongs to the company and is not your personal fund?”

When Jesse Ghansah saw this question in an email from a prominent white investor in San Francisco while fundraising for his first startup four years ago, he refused the deal.

The 28-year-old Ghanaian entrepreneur and his co-founder found it condescending when they were already in Silicon Valley’s prestigious startup development program Y Combinator. “I really doubt that a white founder would be asked the same. There are a lot of systemic issues as a black founder raising money abroad,” he says.

His experience is not uncommon.

While many were wary of speaking publicly, African entrepreneurs told the Guardian about humiliation, discrimination, stereotyping and sometimes racism that they endure in interactions with some of the world’s most prominent investors.

North America-headquartered investors accounted for 42% of all African venture capital deals in the last five years, according to the African Private Equity and Venture Capital Association. Only 20% of venture cash came from Africa-based investors, forcing the continent’s entrepreneurs to seek support from westerners.

Of the top 10 African-based startups that received the highest amount of venture capital in Africa last year, eight were led by foreign-

ers, the Guardian’s analysis of public data revealed.

In Kenya, for instance, only 6% of startups that received more than \$1m in 2019 were led by locals, a Viktoria Ventures analysis found. In Nigeria, 55% of the big money deals went to local founders and 56% for South Africa.

Global heavyweights such as Goldman Sachs, Stanford University, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Andreessen Horowitz and Sequoia Capital have all invested in startups started by white founders in Africa more frequently than they have invested in firms led by black Africans.

### White privilege

Advantages that white entrepreneurs have include having a safety net to take time off to travel to Africa, backgrounds in elite education and better access to US-dominated funding funnels.

“It’s obvious that I come from a privileged standpoint,” says Matt Flannery, a white American behind two Africa-facing startups, Kiva and Branch International, which have collectively raised more than \$270m, according to the industry website Crunchbase. “I grew up in a relatively wealthy place, I went to Stanford University, I live in the Bay Area. I have dozens of venture capitalists as friends, and obviously that helped me raise money,” he told the Guardian from his home town in Colorado.

Flannery said he has always been concerned about the funding gap in Africa and is working to expand access to financing for African entrepreneurs. Across the east African region, only 10% of all funding for startups went to local founders, according to a 2017 study by Village Capital.

One exemplar is Twiga Foods, a seven-year-old startup that connects food producers and vendors to markets that has raised \$67m. It was co-founded by Peter Njonjo, a Kenyan who was a senior Coca-Cola executive and an Oxford-educated American. Grant Brooke, the co-founder, who is originally from Texas,

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# REAL ESTATE NEWS

## What Will Homes Look Like In A Post-pandemic World?



Getty Image

By: Rosalind Jimason  
Special to The Capital News

A lot has changed in just a few months, and for many that includes the idea of what a 'dream home' looks like. Not long ago, buyers were showing preference toward smaller homes and open concept spaces conducive to gathering. After a few months cooped up inside, those features don't seem so appealing - and developers have taken note.

"While the coronavirus still rages on, it's hard to predict what post-pandemic abodes might look like," according to Barrons. "Yet, developers around the U.S. are already rethinking projects, anticipating residents' needs and preferences that Covid-19 would spur. In doing so, they are re-evaluating current in-unit aesthetics and in-demand amenities."

Here are just a few areas of home design where trends may shift in the coming years:

### Home size

Homes had been trending smaller, but that may be over. With so many families spending (way) more time around the home lately, there's never been more need for personal space. Expect homes to grow in size accordingly.

### Prioritizing the home office

As more and more businesses relax work-from-home policies, or shift to full-time remote work entirely, the home office will become a near-essential for many buyers. A space that was once an after-thought now will need to offer privacy, good lighting and be pre-wired for telecommuting.

### Return to the closed-floor plan

For some buyers, the appeal of the open-floor plan was already trending down prior to 2020, and the past few months have only made the reasons why more evident. Sharing more time and space at home demands privacy for school work, hobbies, and entertainment. With more meals being cooked at home, an open concept kitchen becomes noisy epicenter practically all day long. Builders expect a rise in demand for closed floor plans, where rooms are partitioned for purpose.

### Smart technology

This is already one of the fastest growing trends in home design, but smart home technology will soon move from a 'plus' to a 'must'. Temperature and lighting control can now be voice or motion-activated. Touchless faucets, once thought superfluous, are now an inexpensive and health-conscious upgrade. Systems that filter air and monitor air quality will become more common and affordable.

### The Hot Trend of the Summer: Stock Tank Pools

For many of us, summer means pool time. But if you usually visit a community pool or recreation center, that might not be an option right now. Building a traditional pool at your home is a big and expensive project. That's where the stock tank pool comes in.

"These inexpensive farm staples were originally designed as water troughs for livestock," said Country Living "but that's part of their country-chic appeal. Nowadays, stock tank swimming pools have been popping up in backyards across the country."

Here's how to make a splash with a stock tank pool in your own backyard.

### Pick your size

Round stock tanks come in 10ft, 8ft, and 6ft diameters. As popularity has grown, the larger sizes have become more challenging to secure. There are also oval options, but they don't necessarily provide the same kind of swimming experience.



Getty Image

### Pick your spot

Where you're going to put your stock tank pool is just as important as the pool itself. Without a level foundation, you'll have leaks. "Job one is obviously selecting the site for your stock tank pool. You'll need to prepare the area by creating a solid, level base," said Tractor Supply. "You could use compacted sand, or even crushed granite. But, it's very important to ensure that it's a smooth surface, free of any rocks or sharp edges."

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*black African business from pg. 5*

said he is aware of “a lot of underlying biases and advantages” of his background.

## IF A BLACK AFRICAN FOUNDER WERE TO MAKE A MISTAKE, THEY WOULD SEE HIM AS IGNORANT AND JUDGE HIM DIFFERENTLY

### GRANT BROOKE

“I’ve seen this in real time. When I talk to a venture capitalist who looks like me and has the same educational background, even when I mess up something, they’ll just correct me and write it off as a conversation among colleagues,” he said. “If a black African founder were to do the same, they would see him as ignorant and judge him differently. I don’t even think that’s conscious, but they do it.”

Brooke blames the tough conditions for outsiders on those who run funds and the investment committees that make final decisions. In 2018, there were just seven black decision-makers at the 102 largest investment firms in the United States, a survey by the Information showed. Only 1% of venture-backed founders in the US are black, according to the review website RateMyInvestor.

At 500 Startups, “the most active early stage venture capital firm in the world”, black people are largely underrepresented. It estimates that only 92 founders identified as Black or African American out of the 2,400 companies it has invested in worldwide. “We look for companies that are globally focused and can scale beyond their home country,” Clayton Bryan, a black Venture Partner at the firm said in a statement. 500 Startups had two African startups out of 29 in its most recent cohort.

### Gap-year entrepreneurs

Senegalese technologist Marième Jamme accuses outsiders of bringing a neo-colonialist mentality to the African startup ecosystem and exploiting naive first-time entrepreneurs.

“Many Africans have had their intellectual property stolen so they don’t own their ideas or their companies,” says Jamme, the UK-based founder of the non-profit iamtheCODE. She says some have nicknamed her an “angry black woman” for calling out the power imbalance.

Twiga’s Brooke, who met his Kenyan co-founder while studying for his doctorate degree at Oxford, understands why it is easy for expa-

triate to set up shop in Kenya. “There’s a lot of young westerners who can afford to take off a year or two of their life and not have income and try to start something because their parents will support them,” he says. “Kenyans can’t even move to America without having a job, yet Americans can move to Kenya legally.”

Stephen Gugu, a co-founder of ViKtoria Angel Business Network in Kenya, has followed the flow of capital into the so-called Silicon Savannah but noticed that foreigners sell their vision better. “In all honesty, the expatriate founders pitch better than we Kenyans do. They’re able to paint this picture of an Africa that is full of opportunity,” he said. “Local founders are not as aggressive in their pitches.”

## IF I WAS WHITE, MY IDEA WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN AT FACE VALUE. BUT BECAUSE I’M BLACK, I NEED TO GO THE EXTRA MILE

### NOMAHLUBI NAZO

A white founder is 47,000% more likely to be funded in Kenya than in the US, the Seattle-based author and entrepreneur Roble Musse calculated based on 2018 disclosures. White people make up less than 1% of the population. He discovered that 65% of expatriate founders – mainly from the US, the UK, Italy, Denmark and Germany – had not even lived in Kenya before they started their companies.

The ignorance about the African market by the deepest-pocketed investors has stunted many indigenous youths on the continent with promising ideas. “If I was white, my idea would have been taken at face value. But because I’m black, I need to go the extra mile, I need to make sure that my education level is right, that my product actually does what I say it does,” says South African polymer technologist Nomahlubi Nazo.

She quit her job and took a cosmetic formulation science course before launching her start-

up, Foi Science. But three years later she is still bootstrapping and looking for seed funding to carry out clinical trials before she can get approval to sell her products.



Iyinolowa Aboyeji. The 29-year-old Nigerian co-founded two of the continent’s best-known +startups. **Photograph: Iyinolowa Aboyeji**

Iyinolowa Aboyeji blames the structural issues with capital on the continent on local banks and pension funds that have not embraced venture capital. The 29-year-old Nigerian is one of the most successful African entrepreneurs of his generation, having co-founded two of the continent’s best-known startups, the payments company Flutterwave and Andela, which outsources African software developers to global companies. “I think it is too easy for people to make this a white or black issue but that only benefits privileged Africans with Ivy League degrees and MBAs who believe funding should be given to them on a platter just because of their skin color,” emailed E, as he is known.

“Two of my six co-founders for Andela might have been white but I actually think it hurt our earliest fundraising almost as much

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## Add your accessories

And by accessories, we mean design and function.

Function first. A stock tank pool isn't as easy to set up as a kiddie pool. You could just fill it with water and call it a day, but you'll end up swimming in gunk. Take a cue (and detailed instructions) from the Hey Wanderer blog, and keep your pool clean all summer long with proper pumps and chlorine.

Once you've got your stock tank set up, it's time to make it fancy. While the tank alone has its own distinct vibe, it can be dressed up in any number of ways. Paint the metal, build deck seating around it, hang lights, and incorporate tikis to create a tropical getaway feel—the sky's the limit!



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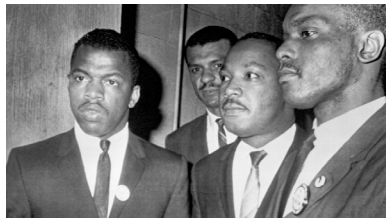
*black African business from pg. 7*

as it might have helped us. It is not easy to believe a white man or woman will know what they are doing in Africa. Our presence actually helped assuage a lot of investors that they weren't throwing money into some white savior project."

His financing initiative, called Future Africa, allows anybody to fund the continent's innovators with at least \$10,000. The first deal was fully funded within 72 hours, the second in six hours, both for over \$100,000. "If we in Africa keep denying young people opportunities to make mistakes and impact and then go on to blame racism for the discrepancies in funding, we are only interested in point[ing] fingers, not in the deep structural changes that are in our power to make to turn

*Representative John Lewis an ICON from pg. 1*

In my home state of Georgia, schools were integrated when I was promoted to the 11th grade but that act did not improve our self-worth and education. It allowed us to share what we had learned and knew was equal to and many times better than the myths about the false superiority of other groups. I grew up reading about John Lewis, Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Jr. Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, Sr., Julian Bond, Rosa Parks, Medgar and Myrlie Evers, James Baldwin, and countless others who were and are still defenders of civil rights. These accomplished African Americans fought for human rights, self-dignity, self-respect and opportunities for everyone to live their dreams.



*left to right, John Lewis, C.T. Vivian MLK Jr., and Lester McKinnie (Photo by Bettmann /Getty Images)*

As a long-standing member of the House of Representative and a Civil Rights Leader who championed the rights of all, Representative Lewis worked tirelessly, as a "Big Six" leader, and a "Freedom Rider" who organized historic marches and participated in events that promoted racial integration, that led to his head injury on "Bloody Sunday" in the 1965 civil rights march from Selma, Alabama to

the situation around," he wrote.

Jesse Ghansah has recently just closed a round of funding from both African and foreign investors for his second startup and believes the tide is slowly turning. He is now the founder and CEO of financial technology company Swipe but the Ghanaian knows there is still work to do. "The yardstick used to judge African founders is really different. Most of the investors are white, so having a white founder on your team helps," he said.

More local venture capital funds and angel investors are getting started on the continent to address the absence of patient capital and the funding disparity.

Ingressive Capital by Maya Horgan Famodu, a 29-year-old Nigerian American, is one

the Capitol of Montgomery. But this did not stop his passionate quest for racial equality, for higher standards of living, economic parity and the rights of African Americans to be treated as human being whose enslavement and second-class citizenship could not diminish their outstanding contributions to the development of the United States of America. So, you would think that in 2020, we would be beyond the foolishness of hatred, disrespect and name-calling, and a fascination with skin and its color, emanating or encouraged, oftentimes, from the White House and across this country and exhibited by people who believe in the false narratives that they created for themselves. Instead, there is civil unrest against injustices and hate and many Americans have had enough of this nonsense and the devolution of the human race.

We are afforded one life that should be lived to the fullest extent; a life that should value all living creatures and the planet; and a life that is meaningful. Representative Lewis embodied the meaning of a valuable and meaningful life. As we go forward, let's elect leaders like the late Representative John Lewis who valued himself and others; not greedy, self-absorbed reprobates who pretend to love this country but enact laws that only serve the few among us. Let's replicate John Lewis, a man who had the highest integrity and worked for the benefit of everyone. ■

of them. It just doubled the size of its three-year-old fund to \$10m to invest in "early stage tech-enabled startups" in Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Egypt and South Africa. "There are so many brilliant youths across the continent who just need a little bit of access and introduction or seed financing to build the next billion-dollar business," she says of her mission. ■



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## US Postal Service takes major step toward privatization

By: Shuvu Batta

Management at the United States Postal Service (USPS) has taken a big step toward privatization with the July 10 release of an internal memo stating that mail deliveries would be delayed due to cost cutting and a subsequent directive prohibiting overtime and promising “more to come.”

The first memo, titled “Pivoting to the Future,” declared, “Right now, we are at a critical juncture in our organization and must make immediate, lasting, and impactful changes in our operations and in our culture. This operational pivot is long overdue and today, we are talking about the first step in a journey we must take together, for the health and stability of the Postal Service.”

“The initial step in our pivot is targeted on transportation and the soaring costs we incur, due to late trips and extra trips, which costs the organization somewhere around \$200 million in added expenses.

“One aspect of these changes that may be difficult for employees is that—temporarily—we may see mail left behind or mail on the workroom floor or docks (in P&DCs), which is not typical.”

COVID-19 and the economic devastation it sparked has further accelerated the crisis of USPS, with former CEO Megan J. Brennan telling Congress in late May that without support it would run out of cash to pay its over 600,000 employees by September. Brennan requested \$75 billion in financial assistance from Congress. No assistance was given, however, and the USPS is surviving off of its remaining cash reserves and a \$3 billion loan from the US Treasury, placing it further in debt.

While the Postal Service decays, it is also under increased pressure from its competitors, namely Amazon and United Parcel Service (UPS), which have recorded record revenue



*Pictured: USPS Truck [Credit: Flickr/Lisa Brewster]*

and are under the process of expanding their logistics networks after increases in shipments have left them with surplus revenue. Just one example of Amazon’s growth has been the acquisition of 2,300 trucks to expand its delivery network. UPS has announced a \$138 million expansion of its Atlanta facility.

The move to cut workers’ overtime is part of the US capitalist class’s decades-long drive to dismantle USPS, a public entity that occupies a valuable portion of the logistics industry.

According to its website, the USPS handles 48 percent of the world’s mail volume, generated \$71.1 billion in revenue in 2019 and—if it was fully privatized—would be number 44 in the Fortune 500 list of the world’s largest companies. This is a massive source of profit that the financial oligarchy is attempting to take over completely. This was outlined clearly by

President Donald Trump’s 2018 plan calling for the privatization of USPS either through the launch of an Initial Public Offering on the stock market, or sale to an existing company.

The drive to fully privatize the USPS started in 1970. President Nixon transformed the postal service from a department of the executive branch into a public corporation in a move that provoked a powerful national strike by postal workers. In the 1980s, the postal service was cut off from federal funding, and in 2006 it was obligated to fully fund retirement obligations and benefits up front, beginning its budget crisis. This year, major Trump donor and former Wall Street executive, Louis De Joy was installed as the new Postmaster General, and has continued this decades-long sabotage by announcing the end of overtime

*continued on pg. 11*

*Postal Service privatization from pg. 10*

and delays in shipping.

Alongside privatization, the wages, benefits, and work conditions of postal workers have long been under assault, with the collusion of the postal worker unions. According to USPS, its peak number of full-time postal workers was 797,795 in 1999. By 2019, it was 496,934, a reduction of over 300,000 full-time employees. While USPS' total number of employees today is about 650,000, about 20 percent work part-time and are essentially low-paid and disposable.

Injuries are commonplace and often rewarded with layoffs, as a lawsuit earlier this year revealed, with 44,000 workers fired after getting injured on the job. Postal workers work with faulty and outdated equipment; according to documents obtained by Motherboard, USPS delivery trucks burst into flames at a rate of one truck every five days. In addition to horrific work conditions, the USPS has deliberately hidden COVID-19 cases from the workforce.

Logistics and delivery workers are among the most powerful workers on the planet, and their power has grown as COVID-19 renders their services all the more essential. Among this group, USPS workers are especially powerful, as without their labor great portions of the economy would shut down. However, the trade unions have signed deal after deal taking away their wages, turning them more and more into a temporary workforce, and putting their hard-earned benefits in jeopardy.

The four unions responsible for this are the American Postal Workers Union, National Association of Letter Carriers, National Postal Mail Handlers Union and National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. The Teamsters have played the same role at United Parcel Service. Meanwhile, the Teamsters, the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and other unions have attempted to strangle opposition by non-union workers at FedEx and Amazon by trying to convince them to join and pay dues to these pro-company unions.

The dues extracted from each worker go toward funding the bloated salaries of leading union bureaucrats and to the Democratic Party, through funding PACS and direct donations. The American Postal Workers Union has consistently wasted millions of dollars in each election cycle, funding primarily the Democratic Party, but has recently started to increase funding for Republicans. The politicians supported through these funds have gone on to launch vicious attacks on USPS workers. In 2011, President Barack Obama announced the closure of 3,700 post offices.

Postal workers throughout the world are facing the same struggle. Privatization of the postal service has been achieved in Germany, the UK and Japan with disastrous results for the workers and a shower of profits for the capitalist class.

Autoworkers in the US have taken the first step in fighting back against austerity and unsafe working conditions during the pandemic through the formation of rank and file committees, independent of the corporatist unions. USPS and all logistics workers should follow suit to organize a common fight against the privatization of USPS and to defend jobs and living standards and guarantee safe working conditions for all logistic workers.

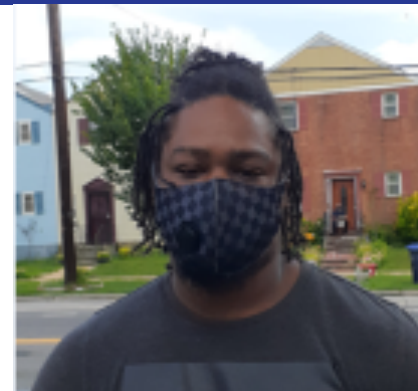


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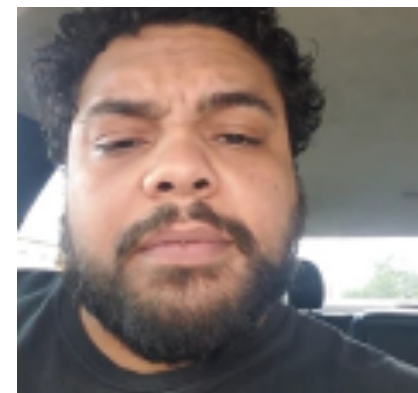
**WORD ON THE STREET**

**What do you think of the Mayor's mask mandate?**



I am okay with the Mayor's decision. She wants everyone to be safe because of the increase in the Covid-19 numbers.

**Wonell Jones – SE Washington, DC**



I think it's extreme. The mayor wants to make sure she seems like she's doing something so she can run for President one day.

**Daniel Pax – Washington, DC**



I think it is smart. Working in the restaurant industry, it bothers me that the people who dine are so nonchalant about wearing a mask!

**Monique Kennedy – NW Washington, DC**

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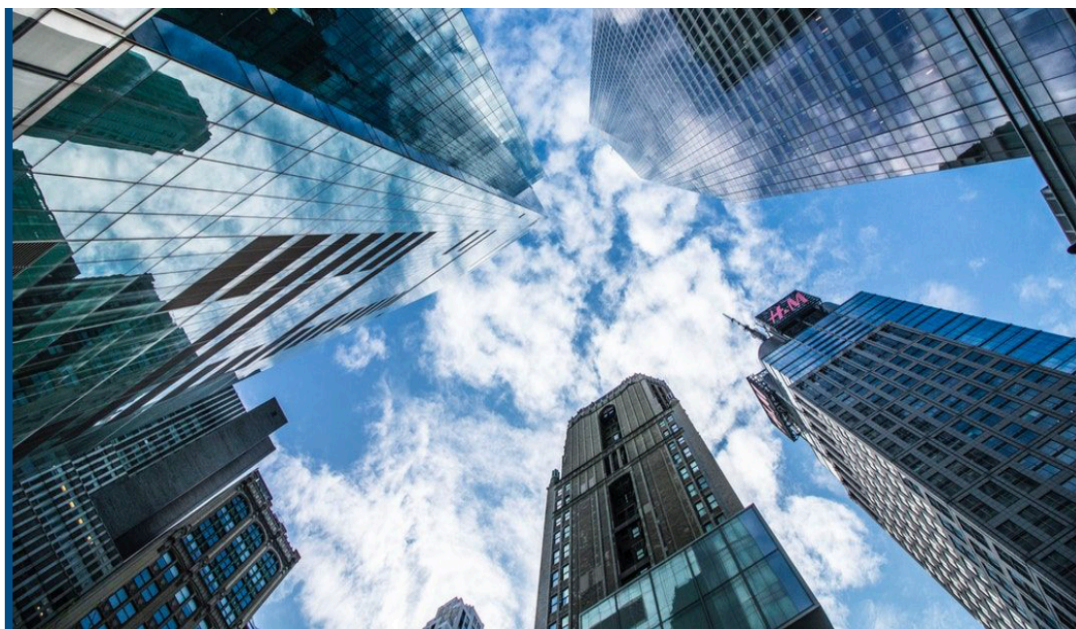
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**LEO**

(July 23 to August 22)

This is your month to shine! You are the star, the producer and the director of the Zodiac dear Lion. When it comes to love, generosity of spirit and an open heart, you're a natural. You're easy to spot in any crowd with that big Cheshire grin from ear to ear. It's time to celebrate you and celebrate life, especially around August 18. When you decide what you want to create, ask yourself two important questions: Is this fun and can I express more of me? And if you can answer a resounding yes to both questions, then GO FOR IT... whatever it is.

**VIRGO**

(August 23 to September 22)

You know you can sometimes feel inadequate and that you're not doing it right when despite your every effort, things don't seem to turn out perfectly. Well, dear Virgo, you Good Samaritan of the zodiac, this is not one of those times. It's time for you to cash in and reap what you have sown over the last twelve months. Believe that everything you touch can turn to gold, especially after the August 10. This is the time to become one with your desires. It's o.k. to be selfish now, dear Virgo, as you use this energy to courageously pursue new and exciting ways to be of service.

**LIBRA**

(September 23 to October 22)

In August 2020, it should be clear now what is important in your relationships... what brings you pleasure and what doesn't. How you share love in your one-on-one connections with others will become apparent. Are you adding an energy that is happy and uplifting to those around you? And are they adding a positive energy to your life? At the very least, your deeper understanding of the value of your relationships brings you great joy now. Your relationships, whether with lovers, family or close friends encourage deeper connection that comes from greater sensitivity and vulnerability.

**SCORPIO**

(October 23 to November 21)

You'll be feeling the magic of rebirth all through this month. It's time to come out of the cave you've been. It has been a time of healing and regeneration for you, dear Scorpio. As the month goes on, it should become clearer where you are with true power versus control in your relationships. You've had five months to take inventory of your special talents and abilities, consequently, you'll feel more in charge of your professional destiny as the New Moon in Leo on the 18th falls in your house of career. This is a great time to ask for the raise and apply for that promotion. You know when you are clear and focused on what you want, it's hard for anyone to say no.

# August Horoscopes

Source: [www.yearly-horoscope.org/](http://www.yearly-horoscope.org/)**SAGITTARIUS**

(November 22 to December 21)

It's been a bit challenging for you this year, because you prefer the BIG picture. You have probably honed certain skills and learned new techniques in your job. The adventure for you is in the details now. You're really are unstoppable as you become more comfortable with expressing your power. Relationships may have given you quite a run for your money, but not to worry, your natural optimism and philosophical nature help you see the meaning and purpose in every encounter.

**CAPRICORN**

(December 22 to January 19)

Normally invulnerable and reserved by nature, dear mountain goat, your relationships require you to show your feelings and your sensitivity now. It may be a stretch at first but you'll get the hang of it. Just don't take it on as another obligation, should or have to. And although usually reserved, disciplined and somewhat business-like in nature, you may even like it. Allow your softer side to emerge as you nurture others and allow yourself to be nurtured. On the 18th, decide on which levels you want to merge more deeply with others... psychologically, intellectually, philosophically, sexually and financially.

**AQUARIUS**

(January 20 to February 18)

There are probably lots of folks pulling at you and wanting your attention. The important question is what do YOU want to create in your relationships now and an opportunity to plant the seeds for that which you desire will be on the 18th. As good as that sounds, you may not know exactly what you want. That means that your lifelong search for authenticity and individuality requires you to pull back from your world as you reflect and contemplate who YOU really are and then, and only then, can you begin to figure out what you want from others.

**PISCES**

(February 19 to March 20)

The spotlight has been on your connections with others. If you know of a workshop or seminar on relationships, sign up for it! The more you can learn about what attracts you and why, the happier you'll be. If a committed romantic partnership is something you desire, and as an idealistic, romantic, it's time for you to cash in because you deserve it. You are now reaping the seeds that you have sown over the last twelve years. Believe that you can have the true give and take in a spiritual relationship that you have always desired.

**ARIES**

(March 21 to April 19)

Dear Ram. Like Star Trek, you're going where you've never been before. "Lead, follow or get out of my way" is your mantra, this month. Once you've met the challenge, it's on to the next thing. Details and efficiency are usually not your forte. August 10 you'll need to slow down, so you can catch up with yourself. You get this chance once every two years to dot all your I's and cross all your T's to make sure that your desires manifest. You'll find new excitement and challenge in taking time to make sure what you've created is useful and of service to others, that can make your dreams come true.

**TAURUS**

(April 20 to May 20)

You finally have clarity about what you really love, value and appreciate and what brings you pleasure. It's been a long haul, and has taken every bit of your patience, persistence and determination to hang in there with yourself. New talents in speaking and writing may have emerged lately. On August 7, you'll want to spend time with family and close friends. This is the time to connect with siblings to smooth over any rough spots in your relationships.

**GEMINI**

(May 21 to June 20)

Finances/personal values undergo change. Ouch! Your relationships have turned you every which way but loose, in the last five months. As an air sign, you usually prefer to keep things on the light side, and digging deep into your partner's psyche and feeling the intensity of them wanting more from you is not really comfortable for you. If things have felt out of control and the word 'powerless' comes to mind, know that it's about trusting and surrendering to a power greater than yourself. If you do, then by month end, you will have discovered a deeper, more rewarding and meaningful connection in your significant relationships.

**CANCER**

(June 21 to July 22)

You've been learning a lot about where your true security and safety come from, dear Moon child, and that it's high time to be your own very best mommy and daddy. You are the most emotional sign in the zodiac and you feel a greater self-discipline and can be more responsible for ALL your feelings. You can learn to love and appreciate your nurturing and sensitive side without feeling that sense of overwhelm that often goes along with a strong emotional nature. Your relationships get a real shot in the arm as new and exciting people come into your life around August 13. Be open to new ways of being, as you open to new avenues of creative self-expression.



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Visit our website: @  
[www.brighterdaydc.org](http://www.brighterdaydc.org)  
A.P. Shaw Campus  
2525 12th Place, SE,  
Washington, DC 20020  
11am Sunday Worship  
Congress Heights Campus  
421 Alabama Avenue, SE,  
Washington, DC 20032  
8:30am Sunday Worship  
Office: 202/889-3660 • Fax: 202/678-5213  
Email: [churchoffice@bdmdc.org](mailto:churchoffice@bdmdc.org)

Campbell A.M.E. Church  
2568 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. SE, WDC 20032  
(202) 678-2263  
Sunday Worship 8:00am & 11:00am  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Prayer Service Wednesdays 6:30pm  
Bible Study Wednesday 12noon  
Bible Study Thursday 7:00pm

Christ Ministries  
30 Atlantic Street, SE WDC 20032  
Services: 11 am and 3pm

Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ  
Dr. Dennis and Christine Wiley, Co-Pastors  
3845 South Capitol St. SW WDC 20032  
(202) 562-5576  
“Ministries for the Mind, Body and Spirit”  
Sunday Worship 10:00am  
Wednesday Bible Study 12noon & 6:30pm  
[www.covenantbaptistucc.org](http://www.covenantbaptistucc.org)

East Washington Heights Baptist Church  
Rev. Kip Bernard Banks, Sr., Pastor  
2220 Branch Ave. SE WDC 20020  
(202) 582-4811- Office  
(202) 58202400- Fax  
Sunday Worship 11:10am  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Devotional Service 10:45 am  
Bible Study Wednesday 6:30pm  
Children’s Church 2nd & 4th Sunday 11:00am  
[www.ewhbc.org](http://www.ewhbc.org) [ewhbc@aol.com](mailto:ewhbc@aol.com)

Emmanuel Baptist Church  
Christopher L. Nichols, Pastor  
2409 Ainger Pl., SE WDC 20020  
(202) 678-0884-Office • (202) 678-0885- Fax  
“Moving Faith Forward”  
Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:45am  
Family Bible Study Tuesdays 7:00pm  
Prayer Service Tuesday 6:00pm  
[www.emmanuelbaptistchurchdc.org](http://www.emmanuelbaptistchurchdc.org)

Greater Mt. Calvary Baptist Church  
Archbishop Alfred D. Owens, Pastor  
Evangelist Susie Owens, Co-Pastor  
610 Rhode Island Ave. NE WDC 20002  
(202) 529-4547  
“It doesn’t matter how you feel,  
God is still worthy to be praised”  
Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:45am  
Super Sunday Service 3rd Sundays of month 6:00pm  
Wednesday Night Prayer 6:30pm  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30pm  
[www.gmchc.org/](http://www.gmchc.org/)

Israel Baptist  
Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin, Pastor  
1251 Saratoga Ave. NE WDC 20018  
(202) 269-0288  
“We Enter to Worship, We Depart to Serve”  
Sunday Worship 10:45am • Sunday School 9:15am  
Senior Bible Class Tuesday 10:30am  
Wednesday Prayer Noon & 6:30pm  
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm  
Holy Communion First Sunday 10:45am  
<http://www.israelbaptistchurch.org/>

Johnson Memorial Baptist Church  
Rev. Henry A. Gaston, Pastor  
800 Ridge Rd. SE WDC 20019  
(202) 581-1873  
Sunday Worship 7:45a. & 11:15am  
Church School 9:30am  
Bible Study Wednesday 8:00pm  
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:00pm

Kingdom Care Senior Village  
Place of Worship:  
Greater Fellowship/Gospel Baptist Church  
814 Alabama Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20032  
Phone: 202-561-5594

Macedonia Baptist Church  
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Sunday School 9:00am  
Prayer & Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm & 7:30pm  
Saturday Sacrificial Prayer 7:00am  
[www.macedoniadc.org/](http://www.macedoniadc.org/)

Matthews Memorial Baptist Church  
Dr. C. Matthew Hudson Jr., Pastor  
2616 MLK Ave. SE WDC 20020  
(202) 889-3709 Office  
(202) 678-3304 Fax  
“Empowered to love and Challenged to Lead a  
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Church School 9:30am  
Prayer, Praise & Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm  
Bible Study Saturday 11:00am  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday 10:45am

New Life Ministries DC  
Reverend Ernest D. Lyles, Sr.  
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<https://newlifeministriesdc.org/>  
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Email: [joinus@nlmdc.org](mailto:joinus@nlmdc.org)

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Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry  
3000 Pennsylvania Ave. SE WDC 20020  
(202) 581-1500  
“Committed to the Cause of Christ”  
Sunday Worship 10:45am • Sunday School 9:30am  
Adult Bible Study Mondays 7:00pm  
Young Adult Bible Study Tuesdays 7:00pm  
Bible Study Wednesday 6:30pm  
<http://www.pabc-dc.org/>

St. John C.M.E. Church  
Reverend John A. Dillard III  
2801 Stanton Rd. SE, Washington DC 20020  
(202) 678-7788  
Sunday Worship 11:00am  
Sunday School 9:00am  
<http://www.stjohncmecdc.org/>

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4701 Georgia Ave NW

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Raymond Recreation Center  
3725 10th Street NW

Petworth Library  
4200 Kansas Ave, NW

Starlight Foods  
5425 5th Street NW

Senbeb Natural Foods  
6234 3rd Street NW

Shell Gas Station/ 7 Eleven  
4000 Georgia Ave, NW

Takoma Park DC Library  
416 Cedar Street NW

Yes! Organic Market  
4100 Georgia Ave, NW

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415A Rhode Island Ave. NE

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2377 Rhode Island Ave. NE

American Quality Home Care Services Inc  
2312 Rhode Island Ave, NE

Barbershop  
3506 12th St NE

Department of Human Services  
920-A Rhode Island Ave. NE

Department of Veteran Affairs  
1500 Franklin St. NE

Fish King  
403 Rhode Island Ave NE

Good Old Reliable Liquor Store  
1513 Rhode Island Ave NE

Israel Baptist Church  
1251 Saratoga Ave. NE

Jet Set Hair  
3530 12th St. NE

Lucky 7 Liquor  
2317 Rhode Island Ave. NE

M&S Barber Services  
2900 12th NE

Murry's & Paul's  
3515 12th St NE

Neighborhood Market  
1611 Rhode Island Ave. NE

Newton Food Mart  
3600 12th St. NE

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1800 Rhode Island NE

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3935 Benning Rd. SE

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5001 Central Ave SE

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3200 Camden St SE

New 7 Market  
1406 Good Hope Rd. SE

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Andrews Federal Credit Union  
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3016 MLK Jr. Ave. SE  
3707 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

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2730 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

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2515 Alabama Ave. SE

Secrets of Nature  
5923 South Capitol St. SW

St. Elizabeth's Hospital  
1100 Alabama Ave. SE

Southeast Tennis and Learning Center  
701 Mississippi Ave. SE

SunTrust Bank  
1340 Good Hope Rd. SE

Secrets of Nature Health Food Centers  
3923-B South Capitol St SW

UDC at Congress Heights  
3100 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

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