



Dr. Taiwo Ngo

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"I would never turn anyone away who needed dental work just because they didn't have the money or insurance to pay for it."

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Just how important is your vote during this off-year election cycle?

Our political columnist, Jack Ford, has written a series of articles in the run-up to this year's election about the impact of voting results on the state and national scenes and on all three branches of the government – executive, legislative and judiciary. Let's recap some of those thoughts.

First, we live in Ohio, a state in which all three branches of the government have been controlled by one party for the past decade and a half. And that party, the Republican Party, has in the last two presidential elections, held the key to the outcome of those races. They have held that key through the power of the incumbency in a state that turns out to be the key battleground because, in fact, voters could go either way.

That's the important matter. Ohio's voters, even though they have trended Republican for a few years now, are still pretty much a middle-of-the-road electorate, unlike a New York, for example, or a Texas which seem stuck on the liberal and conservative paths, respectively, until the end of time.

This year's election in Ohio, of course, has all of the key statewide offices up for grabs – governor, secretary of state (which oversees election procedures), attorney general, auditor and treasurer. In addition, two Ohio Supreme Court seats are in play as is the U.S. Senate seat held by Mike DeWine.

In that short paragraph, we have mentioned three branches of government on two different levels. That's the kind of impact voters can have in this so-called off year.

Now, let's assume, just for discussion's sake, that all falls into place for the Democrats. If there is a virtual sweep of the statewide offices, those are the people who will be hosting the Democratic nominee for president in 2008, no matter who she might be. That alone presents a sizeable advantage for the nominee.

And those who give money to the parties obviously love winners. Donations will increase markedly for the Democratic Party on a national scale if potential donors see that Ohio is controlled by Democrats and that their money will be well spent here.

Let's look at the short view, however. The short view is that Mike DeWine's seat may well represent the seat that decides which party is going to have a majority in the Senate for the next two years. If the House, as expected, falls to the Democrats, and the Senate follows suit, the U.S. Congress will be able to stonewall every program and initiative that the Bush administration has in mind. Whether they do so wisely is another matter. We would guess they will probably blow it, but they would have the opportunity at least to enhance the Democratic Party's credibility and good fortune for 2008 at the expense of the Republican Party's.

And, of course, we have the judiciary. On a state level, the governor names court replacements. Once judges are in office, no matter how they got there, they have an enormous advantage when they run for election.

On the national level, federal judges are appointed by the president, and approved by the Senate. A Democratic-controlled Senate puts the halt on Bush plans to stack the Supreme Court, and the lower federal courts, with conservative judges.

So a Democratic sweep of the important races in Ohio can mean a sea change in local, state and federal courts. It can enhance the chances for a Democratic presidential win in 2008 and it can mean a Democratic U.S. Congress for the next two years.

On the other hand, should Republicans carry the day, the U.S. Senate remains in their control and the Ohio statehouse can implement all kinds of maneuvers to assist the 2008 Republican nominee for president, no matter who *she* might be.

The federal courts will continue in the direction Bush has established, directly impacting such critical areas as affirmative action, the individual rights of U.S. citizens and enemy combatants and the relationship between labor and business.

Still unimpressed by the difference your vote can make in an election, even an off-year election? Well, after you have had a chance to chew over the consequences of this year's contests, remember Florida 2000. After almost six million votes had been cast in that state, Bush eventually won by 537.

Or did he?

Community Calendar

October 20

- Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral: Appreciation banquet for Bishop Marjorie Holt: 419-514-4477
- Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge #4; 11 am to 5 pm; Deliveries available on orders of 3 or more: 419-531-7079

October 20-22

- N-His Name Ministries: "Freedom in the Heart of Holiness" second annual conference; Open Arms Cathedral Temple: 419-290-8106

October 21

- First Annual Shynerra Grant Memorial Cheerleading Competition: BGSU Perry Field House; Presented by Shay's for Life Foundation and the BGSU Women Center; 9 am

October 22

- Annual Men's Day Celebration: Braden United Methodist Church; Guest Speaker Vince Davis; 10:30 am

October 21

- UAW Local 12 Presents: Motown & Jazz Night Out; Fundraiser for UrbaneKnights; 7 pm to midnight; Live entertainment, food, champagne, cash bar: 419-461-2461 or 419-241-5852

October 22

- Senior Usher Board's 90th Anniversary: "The Joy of Worship;" 4 pm

October 24

- Fourth Annual HBCU Tour Informational Meeting: Sanger Branch; 6 to 8 pm; Sponsored by Maumee Bay Club of NANBPWC: 419-478-7844 or 419-478-4268
- Rehearsals for 100 Voice Women's Chorus: St. Paul AME Zion: 7 pm: 419-241-7332

October 25

- Observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month: "Learn How to Protect Your Breast Health;" 7 to 8:30 pm; St. Luke's: 419-893-5923
- Lucas County CASA(Court Appointed Special Advocates for abused children): Public Informational Meeting; Reynolds Corner Library; 5:30 to 6:30 pm: 419-213-6753

October 27

- End Time Christian Fellowship: 2 Holiness Concert; 7 pm; Featuring Tiffanie Campbell & TCM and Louis Self II: 419-472-5993
- Collingwood Arts Center: Haunted House Rock Show; 8 pm to midnight: 419-244-2787

October 27-29

- Boy Scouts of America Erie Shores Council: Annual Halloween Party; Camp Miakonda on Sylvania Avenue; Friday and Saturday from 6 to 8:30 pm; Sunday from 2 to 4:30 pm: 419-241-7293

October 28

- St. Paul Missionary Baptist: Faith Friday Celebration; 11 am to 3 pm; Open and free to the public: 419-246-2886
- Citywide Christian Trustee Association: Seminar on child abuse prevention and protection; United Missionary Baptist Church; 10 am to noon

October 29

- Collingwood Arts Center Jazz Concert Series: Claude Black with Clifford Murphy and the Jean Holden Quartet; 6 pm; Pre-show reception at 5 pm: 419-244-2787

October 30-November 1

- St. Paul Missionary Baptist "Fall Revival:" Every night the revival begins at 7 pm; Guest Evangelist Rev. Timothy Brinkley of Mt. Hermon: 419-246-2886

November 2

- Fifth Annual Women's Conference: City of Toledo's Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance

November 3

- Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge #4; 11 am to 5 pm; Deliveries available on orders of 3 or more: 419-531-7079

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

Every campaign season has its surprises and "jolts from out of nowhere." Who would have projected the Foley, Ney and Noe debacles one year ago and the impact they have had on the Republicans chances to maintain control? Yet, we see time after time seismic political quakes each and every year. I've experienced it first hand but this year looks like a doozie!

Marcy Kaptur is on the cusp of becoming one of the most powerful women in the U.S. political world if her party captures the House as is now expected. She would be catapulted into the ranks of the "Cardinals," a chairman of one of the Finance Committee's powerful subcommittees. Marcy is the top female Democrat on Finance now. When her party is in the majority, she will literally control billions of dollars.

If I am Mayor Carly Finkbeiner or Commissioner Tine Skeldon Wozniak or president of one of our local universities, it's an early Christmas if the Dems capture the House. Marcy has

already built up roads and bridges, parks, senior programs and helped veterans on many fronts. She will be able to do so much more for this area.

And the Congressional Black Caucus can be expected to be restored to its previous strength that it held before the GOP revolution in 1994 stripped the CBC of its budget and staff. John Conyers, Democratic congressman from Detroit, will be the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. We can expect some shifts on the reparations movement and hearings on everything from conduct in Iraq to the killings in Darfur.

Congressman Charles Rangel will take over Ways and Means, the powerful tax-writing committee in the House. Someone such as Jim Clyburn of South Carolina or Eleanor Holmes Norton will be picked to be part of the House Democratic leadership team.

It will also be nice to see the leaders of the Hispanic Caucus emerge with powerful committee roles. If both the black and Hispanic cau-



Jack Ford

cuses work together, they will swing nearly 70 votes out of 435 in the House. That will make for a powerful tandem for progressive policies.

Here in Ohio, it looks like a big year for Democrats. When a party starts pulling its ads, the insiders know what's up. They try to salvage what they can with whatever money is available. Maybe the Democrats will shift some money to African-American Democrat Ben Espy in his race for the Ohio Supreme Court.

The Republicans may try to keep a solid lock on the Supreme Court in case Ted Strickland wins and begins a pro-labor administration.

Big business, particularly insurance interests and the

Business Roundtable (a powerful group of business entities in Ohio) have pushed tort reform and reduced worker compensation levels for years in Ohio. The last thing big business wants is a liberal Supreme Court in Ohio. I doubt if they would stomach even one liberal voice replacing the outgoing Alice Robie Resnick. Candidates William O'Neill and Espy are the best choices for someone to represent the "little guy" on the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Did you know that for every 10 votes on Election Day, nearly three will forget to vote for judge? That is a loss of nearly one third of our voting power. When you go to vote in November, vote for our judges first and I hope you will remember Ben Espy and William O'Neill.

Did you also know that, on average, the black voter turnout drops by 14 percent in a non-presidential year such as this one? So you see the kind of battle Espy faces in trying to win a seat on the Supreme Court. Fewer blacks voting coupled with people forgetting to vote for judges, and on top of this, the business community is heavily supporting the pro-business guys on the court. It is about time that Ohioans had the heart and wisdom to place at least one black on the Ohio Supreme Court, especially one of Espy's quality.

Finally, if I were Larry Kaczala, I would be very fearful of Anita Lopez. Larry barely won his re-election contest several years ago. Lopez is really kicking into gear. I expect her to catch Kaczala in one of the bog upsets in Lucas County history. Anita is tough, competent and not taking anything for granted in this campaign.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

City Council Committee and TUSA Unite to Enhance Local Job Opportunities

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo City Council's Neighborhood and Community Development committee held a meeting last week to gauge community reaction to a proposed ordinance that would require companies relocating to Toledo who receive tax incentives to hire Toledoans first.

The proposed ordinance has been backed by the Toledoans United for Social Action (TUSA), an alliance of several dozen area churches who focus on trying to implement change in a number of areas of concern to residents of the city.

"Our churches represent 20,000 members and our members are concerned with jobs and job growth and job availability for the people of the City of Toledo," said TUSA spokesman Rev. Otis Gordon, pastor of Warren AME Church.

The purpose of the ordinance would be to direct employers to those in the local job pool by forcing them to utilize The Source - the Lucas County employment training and search agency.

"We have placed over 5,000 individuals in two and a half years," said The Source Executive Director Eric Walker, in his address to the committee. "And at least \$1 million annually goes into direct training. We care about

what we do on a daily basis to help job seekers." Walker also noted that his agency has over 20,000 job seekers listed in its data base.

"Those businesses coming into Toledo seeking tax abatements will be required to first seek employees from the pool of Source lists," said Gordon explaining how the law will work. "Similar ordinances have been successful in Portland (OR) and Minneapolis. Studies show that employers are initially resistant but have come around. It's a win/win for the City of Toledo, for employers and for those seeking employment, since we will provide a trained workforce."

Several other members of TUSA echoed Gordon's sentiments about the ordinance benefiting all involved, as did the Committee Chairman Michael Ashford: "When companies come to the city and accept significant tax dollars I believe, as do many in this room, that the citizens of Toledo who are qualified for some newly created positions should have a shot at the jobs that are created."

Ashford said that his intention was to move the legislation out of committee by this week for a vote by the council as a whole.




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For further information you may refer to our website at www.lmha.org

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Dear Editor,

Last May, after years of debate, the Ohio General Assembly passed S.B. 185, the Ohio Homeowners' Protection Act. It's a good law that protects us all from the bad mortgage lending practices that have taken their toll on communities all over Ohio. Unlike many laws, this one reflected true bipartisan cooperation from many legislators, including Senators Gardner and Fedor, and Representatives Latta, Wagoner, Redfern, Ujvagi, Brown and Perry.

We are now entering the implementation phase of this historic legislation. The Attorney General and the Department of Commerce are preparing rules based on the law for JCARR (a panel of legislators) to review. The rules should remain consistent with the intent of the law: to protect consumers against unfair and deceptive practices by the mortgage lending industry; and to tighten down regulations on mortgage brokers, lenders and appraisers.

Industry lobbyists are making their way through the halls and offices of the statehouse to push for the rules to be weakened. Some are arguing for the law itself to be changed before it even takes effect. One would expect this from an industry that has always enjoyed a long leash in Ohio, but it's time now for industry to stop griping and clean up shop, or move out of Ohio.

We urge our legislators to stand in support of strong rules and to not cave to industry pressure. We worked together for six years to build a strong foundation upon which Ohio homeowners can feel safe and prosper. Let's not let it crumble now.

Bill Faith, Executive Director
COHIO
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Columbus, OH

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Ben Konop: High-Tech Job Creation Priority One

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Endorsed Democratic candidate for Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop believes the commissioner's office needs to play a larger role in creating jobs for its residents.

Konop, an attorney and law school professor at The University of Toledo, has proposed several initiatives to help stimulate economic growth and development in the county, including a high-tech incubator.

"A high-tech incubator is where you get an old abandoned office space, and there is plenty of that in Toledo, the county offers that office space to start-up businesses in a chosen high-tech field, and what you'd do is have the university [of Toledo], the Regional Growth Development, the Toledo Chamber of Commerce all come together to figure out what we already have in our community that's already sort of a niche, one area is alternative energy as a possibility, but as commissioner I wouldn't decide that, but what you do is you find a niche within high-tech...so Lucas County needs to find that niche," said Konop.

According to Konop, "if you get about 10 or 20 high-tech businesses all in one place sharing technology, sharing information, you create a synergy by having all of these businesses in one place, [so] you also create cost savings by having them share technology."

Another important initiative to Konop is his proposal

to have the county sell land that it currently owns and then use the proceeds to subsidize small business loans through the economic development fund of the county; which he says would help small businesses create jobs and get their businesses off the ground.

These loans would not exceed \$50,000 and, as a condition, Konop says he would expect the county commissioners to administer who gets the money, and also to have the final say on the project.

"One of the things that I would expect [from a small business] is, number one, it has to create jobs for Lucas County residents and, number two, I would want to see that it would be administered with diversity in mind, said Konop.

"I'd like to see minority small businesses get a piece of the pie and also make sure that all business hiring practices are fair, and [that] they're including minorities and socially and economically disadvantaged folks in the equation of their hiring," he added.

Konop explained that the jobs created under his plan are not likely to be outsourced, because they are not the traditional jobs that the United States seeks to move to foreign soil.

"It can create jobs that are going to be here for the 21st Century and it could help minorities to get their businesses off of the ground, which is often the hardest part of business. So the

county will have maybe even a million dollars in relative short order here, to be loaned out in short-term, low-interest, below market-rate loans to small business, so I want to see that program implemented."

Konop, who graduated from Emory College in Atlanta and earned his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School with a specialization in public interest law, re-emphasized his belief that about 20 percent of Lucas County residents are losing their opportunity to get a leg up by not applying for the earned income tax credit.

"There are predominately 20 percent that don't claim it and, predominately, it's minorities," said Konop. "So, it really affects the minority community because what you have then is about six million dollars that could be coming back to Toledo, helping minority families who are working [to] pay their gas bills, be able to pay for food, education, etc. but, instead, because people don't know about the credit, and haven't had the opportunity to fill out the right forms, it's sitting in Washington, DC, waiting for them basically."

"So, what I proposed was that the county play an active role in making sure people, especially in the central city, know about this tax credit, first of all you could market it. Second of all [Lucas County] could team up with accounting firms and tax preparation firms in Toledo

and offer free services to people to make that they fill out their income tax [forms]."

"There has to be a proactive program in place at the county level to make sure that people know about the earned income tax credit and have help filing," said Konop. "And that's one of the few social programs that has not been gutted, frankly, by the Republicans in Washington over the last decade."

Konop believes that he has an advantage over his opponent in that he has come up with "substantive job creation plans that can be implemented and will work to create jobs."

If elected, Konop says he'd have no problem working with his fellow Democratic commissioner's citing his belief that they all possess the same "fundamental approach to government, [willingness] to fight for the little guy, and a commitment to civil



rights under the law."

"We have some basic shared ideologies that I think that will be valuable and we can work together. But, I am definitely not going in there to be a rubber stamp."

This is Konop's second campaign for elective office. In 2004, he ran for U.S. Congress against Republican incumbent Mike Oxley of

Ohio's 4th District. Konop garnered 41 percent of the vote in that race, the highest total for any challenger in an Ohio contest for the House of Representatives. A poll released this past Sunday by The Blade showed Konop with a substantial lead over his Republican opponent Toledo City Councilman George Sarantou.



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George Sarantou: Economic Development Most Important Issue Facing Toledo

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The race for Lucas County commissioner could be a very close election says Republican candidate George Sarantou, citing the positive responses he's received during his door-to-door campaign.

Sarantou, an at-large Toledo City Councilman, has been employed by Brennan Financial, LTD., since 1982.

If elected, Sarantou says his top priorities will be to carefully go through Lucas County's \$138 million budget to eliminate waste and overspending, to create a "hit list" of 100 businesses in an attempt to persuade them to relocate to Lucas County. He also plans to continue his fight against utility price gauging.

"In my nine-point plan to turn Lucas County around, one of the issues that I've identified is economic development, said Sarantou. "And one of the things that I will do is, I'm going to identify 100 companies that are not currently in Lucas County that are good potential possibilities to bring them into Lucas County to relocate their businesses here, and ...that will bring additional jobs into the county, Sarantou added.

Sarantou said he believes there are a lot of companies, particularly in the Midwest, that may want to relocate to Lucas County for a variety of reasons, including more space and cheaper operation costs.

As a city councilman, Sarantou says he has supported development loans for people to start [small] businesses, as well as to expand existing companies. He also says as commissioner he'd like to consolidate, and then sell about 150 properties that Lucas County owns or controls to create small business start-up loans.

"What I'm going to do is do a lot of direct economic development, where I am going out and talking to different companies, identifying those companies [likely to relocate to Lucas County] and I think that's important because economic development is the future of this community.

"We're at a real serious crossroads right now in our history in Lucas County, and the concern I have is...my concern is that manufacturing jobs are going down because of a number of factors,



automation is one factor, and technology is another factor. It takes less people to manufacture cars than it did 10 years ago, and certainly 20 years ago, says Sarantou.

"Factors such as the North American Free Trade Agreement also could be a factor, and also as the Japanese automakers share of the American market continues to grow, Daimler Ford, and General Motors are, of course, losing market presence. So, we have to be prepared to bring in non-manufacturing jobs, high-tech is very important, and I believe that we have laid some very good groundwork in that area."

Sarantou believes the merger between The University of Toledo and Medical University of Ohio will attract more research dollars for incubator programs and high-tech research thereby developing new jobs in the high-tech area.

Shifting focus to his second priority should he become county commissioner, Sarantou says he has the experience needed to properly allocate various funds of the county's budget.

"We are now in an age where every dollar counts in government. I've had five years on City Council where I've had to deal with tight budgets ... so I believe fiscal responsibility is more important than ever in the county commissioner's office."

"When I'm elected, I will be the only commissioner of the three, with any professional financial experience. And I've been in the financial services business the last 24 years [and] ... if we do well financially and tighten up the budget and make sure that we're fiscally sound, that will also open up the door for more opportunities, and more jobs, more companies coming in town."

Although Sarantou and his Democratic opponent dif-

fer when it comes to whether or not earned income tax credit is automatically refunded, Sarantou says he is all for people taking advantage of the earned income tax credit.

"My opponent is calling for a whole new bureaucracy of a county tax department, which we don't need, we just need to make sure that through the schools, the churches, the libraries ... that's where we need to make sure that we get the message out, because it's a great program and I don't dispute the fact that it will add to the economy and help people."

Sarantou who has served on numerous community boards including The Neighborhood Health Association, where he served as president of the board from 1998 to 2001, and the Frederick Douglass Community Association, where he served as board president from 1996-1998, says he has "a strong record of service in the central city, so obviously this [Earned Income Tax Credit] is just an extension.

When asked if he had any reservations about possibly becoming the lone Republican in the commissioner's office, Sarantou said he expects to work pretty well along side Tina Skeldon Wozniak, and Pete Gerken.

"If you look at the facts I've worked with them when they were on City Council, and we got a number of things done. "One of the biggest projects that I worked with them on, and I was supportive [of] those the waterways initiative where the voters of Toledo accepted the EPA settlement, and we're rebuilding the entire water and sewer sanitation system for about \$450 million dollars, I've worked with Pete on that, I've worked with Tina on a number of neighborhood issues when she was a District 5 councilwoman, because she

Continued on page 8

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Taiwo Ngo DDS: Bringing Grass Roots Mobile Dentistry to the Community

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Although she was born into a family of medical professionals, it was a family medical emergency that first drew Nigerian-born Dr. Taiwo Ngo to consider the practice of dentistry.

"I always wanted to be in a medical profession," recalls Dr. Ngo, who was born in Lagos in 1969. "When I was still very young, my brother fell off his bicycle and broke his tooth. Because there was no one in Nigeria with the necessary qualifications to treat him, he was sent to London, England to get it fixed. Everyone else wanted to extract his broken tooth, but my father knew he could save the tooth and get a root canal done. Witnessing all that was the turning point for me in my choice of a career."

Her father, Edwin, is a pediatrician who received his education in Germany. Her mother Irene is a radiologist. Although both are now also US citizens, they live in Nigeria.

Dr. Ngo is a twin, her sister Kehndic is a pediatrician in Red Bluff, California, and their older sister Isi lives in Dayton where she is a pharmacist.

Dr. Ngo's three brothers live in London: Efe is an ENT (ear, nose and throat) surgeon; Osat is a telecommunications engineer, and Uwa works in the computer field.

So what brought Dr. Ngo from Nigeria to Ohio? "I came here to further my education," she replies. "I came to the United States in August 1996. My twin sister came here a few months before me to attend the University of Toledo College of Pharmacy."

Dr. Ngo was living in Cleveland where she met her husband Gift — who is also from Nigeria. He earned his MBA in finance from Case Western Reserve.

Dr. Ngo graduated from the University of Michigan Community Dental Health Program. Why U of M? "Because it was the closest dental public health program to Toledo," she explains.

Dr. Ngo came to Toledo to work for the Toledo Correctional Institution as dental director, a job she held for six years.

Operating under the umbrella of Midwest Dental Center LLC, Dr. Ngo opened her Alexis Road dental office in May 2002. Earlier this year, she opened a second practice at 2915 Lagrange Street.

"I started my practice from scratch," she says. "Most people buy an already established dental practice."

Ngo opened her innovative Mobile Dental Service this year, bringing grass roots dental services to the community at nursing homes, retirement homes, adult and

children daycare centers, schools and MRDD homes. "Many of my patients are home bound and unable to get out, so I bring the mobile dentistry to where they are," she says.

Dr. Ngo says she loves treating children. "I like to go out to the schools to talk to kids, and I always try to include their moms and dads."

Dr. Ngo's mobile dentistry van travels as far south as Lima. She says they have a very active practice in Bowling Green.

She will do dental procedures on site such as surgical extractions. Much of her work comes to her from referrals from groups like the Christian Medical Ministry at Solid Rock Church on Broadway and South in Toledo.

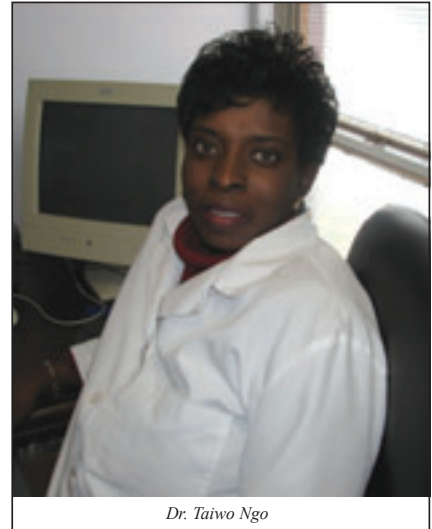
One referral she received was of an elderly woman who needed to have major dental work done because she would be attending the wedding of her daughter. However, the woman could not afford the work and didn't have dental insurance. Dr. Ngo performed all of the necessary procedures in time for the woman to attend her daughter's ceremony. "I told the woman that this was my wedding gift to her," says Dr. Ngo. "I would never turn anyone away who needed dental work just because they didn't have the money or insurance to pay

for it," she says.

Unfortunately, Dr. Ngo often runs into prejudice from would-be patients. "People see my name and call the office because they see my name and think I am Asian. Then very often someone will arrive here, open the door, see me or my husband and just close the door and leave without ever coming in," says Dr. Ngo. She estimates 95 percent of her patients are African-American.

Dr. Ngo is a strong advocate of the preventive function of dentistry. "Everybody needs to make sure they get their teeth cleaned regularly. They should not come to a dentist only for extractions."

"I provide all my patients with oral hygiene instructions as well as dietary information. Dentistry isn't just about oral health. It is about your whole well be-



Dr. Taiwo Ngo

ing," says Dr. Ngo.

"Parents should try and get their children to the dentist as often as they can. Most importantly, they need to make sure they brush, brush, brush," adds Dr. Ngo.

"I believe in giving everyone self-esteem, and in being able to put a smile on everyone's face."

Dr. Ngo and her husband are the parents of four children, three girls and a boy: Diyeferiye; Jack; Jennifer and Amanda. The oldest is seven.

Does Dr. Ngo see any of them following in the family tradition? She smiles and says, "My seven-year-old says she wants to be a dentist — and a singer too."

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Minority Construction Firm Buffeted by Winds of Discontent

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"We've been under attack," says Raymond Henry, vice president and director of business development for JL Judge Construction Services, LLC of Detroit, in response to a question of why he is finally ready to answer the charges of his company's critics concerning the quality of the work done in this area on the Toledo Public Schools' building program.

"And we have legitimate concerns with all that's brewing that they may take our other contracts," he continues. "We need to make the community aware of the underhanded attacks that have a substantial amount of inaccuracy."

JL Judge was hired by TPS in the fall of 2005 as a prime contractor for the construction of Robinson Middle school. The school, soon to be completed and opened, will have a total cost of about \$12 million.

But the original completion date was set for August, just before the new school year. That delay, along with several other incidents on JL Judge projects in the area, have led to questions about the black-owned construction company's job performance.

For Henry, as he sits down to tell his story, it's important to start at the very beginning to explain the difficulties his company has had navigating the previously unknown landscape of Toledo politics and labor unions.

Initially, as critics of the

minority firm have pointed out, JL Judge, the low bidder for the Robinson project, was not recommended by the Building for Success project manager, Lathrop/Gant/Barton Malow (LGB) to receive the contract.

After an analysis of JL Judge, LGB reported to the district that the firm, among other issues, had had 10 safety violations in the previous five years, had not handled a project of the size of the Robinson one and had lost money in the previous two years. That recommendation, or non-recommendation, led to a series of meetings with TPS officials, in particular Dan Burns, then-business manager who oversaw the entire Building for Success program, and Gary Sautter of Burns' staff. (Both men followed former Superintendent Eugene Sanders, Ph.D. to the Cleveland Municipal Public Schools district before the current academic year began.)

When Henry and Joseph Judge, president and CEO, had the opportunity to make their case to TPS officials, all of LGB's concerns were allayed, at least for the officials who would make the final decision. For example, there had been 10 safety violations, but over a period of 10 years, not five, according to Henry.

While the company had handled many sizeable projects over the past few years, LGB had requested information for just the previous two on the application.

Going back a little further, Henry and Judge would point out, they had managed three projects that exceeded the size of the Robinson one. And as for the company's finances, they had had no problem in obtaining sufficient bonding for a project of this magnitude.

Burns, who spoke with The Truth from his office in Cleveland, confirmed Henry's account.

"We looked at their financials, their capacity and their references," says Burns. "They had good references. SSOE, one of our architects, for example, gave them a very good reference."

According to Burns, the district gave the Detroit firm a very hard look because they were from out of the area.

"We called in Ray Henry and Joe Judge and asked them to do a couple of things," says Burns. "We asked them to establish themselves locally and to do as much as possible locally, that is, show a presence, use as much local labor as possible."

As Henry notes now, that is exactly what the company set out to do, but from the standpoint of the project itself, friction between JL Judge and LGB, the project managers, continued well after the district had not taken the LGB recommendation.

"It was clear to us that the process of LGB was not to be an evaluation," recalls Henry. "It was clear that it was to be an elimination. TPS saw that there was a different stan-

dard of evaluation and even before we started the job, we had a stacked deck."

One highly-placed TPS official put it more bluntly: "They're from out of town, they're black and they're non-union," he says holding up three fingers—three strikes—for emphasis. "That's baseball."

The school-building project does not require union labor, but in Toledo—such a union town—it would be practically impossible to complete a project of the magnitude of a school building without union labor. That would not, however, make the selection of JL Judge, which has not been signatory to bargaining unit agreements, any more palatable to local unions. "Being non-signatory gives us the flexibility to be able to work with non-union minority contractors," says Henry.

In Detroit, says Henry, their non-signatory status has not been a problem as far as labor relations. They do have a labor company, W & G LLC, their hourly workers are members of unions and they use primarily union labor on their projects—as they would do, in fact, in Toledo. "We have about 85 percent union participation," says Henry, "about the same as other contractors."

But the hostility of the unions, the animus of LGB and the stranger-in-the-strange-land-of-Toledo status put the company behind the eight-ball before the project started.

"Then it gets worse," says Henry.

They found the Robinson site to be unprepared, which put them 30 days behind schedule before they started. According to Henry, there was no water and no power ready for them. "We start to do the dig and discovered there was an active main. Then it gets worse still."

After a few days on the job, the JL Judge project supervisor, a young man of Mid East origins, began receiving threatening phone calls on his cell phone. "A young man with a family... he quit," says Henry.

"Maybe we should have been better visionaries of what we could have encountered," he admits now. Break-



Raymond Henry

ins on the site made matters more complicated especially since the break ins, says Henry, resulted only in damage or theft of JL Judge equipment and that of one non-union painter.

The friction with LGB continued and that animosity inspired district officials to monitor the LGB/JL Judge relationship more closely, says Burns. The Truth's attempts to reach LGB for comment were unsuccessful.

The delays that JL Judge experienced, Burns says, "were not all that uncommon, at one point Mosser was way behind schedule at Rogers [High School]."

The district allowed JL Judge to put together a recovery schedule.

Part of the complications with recovering, however, say both Burns and Henry, are the inevitable change orders. "Change orders were a concern district-wide," says Burns. "At one point change orders were taking 120 days between the construction manager and the architect. We decided to work on a significant reduction in the change order process."

Robinson, however, which will probably open for school just after the Christmas break, was not the only area project that JL Judge would be awarded. The firm was subsequently awarded—having been the low bidder—two other TPS school projects—Jones Middle School (on the old Gunkel Elementary site) and Leverette Middle School. In addition, the company is also at work on the new Sebo Ath-

letic Center at Bowling Green State University.

In August at BGSU, a wall in the structure began to crack weeks after concrete block was placed. The work was performed by a subcontractor on the job—Viktor and Sons of St. Clair Shores, MI. Earlier, in June, a wall at the Leverette site collapsed. JL Judge has accepted responsibility for both mishaps.

"JL Judge takes responsibility for that," says Henry of the BGSU incident. "Period... end of story. But it's not going to cost the university anything."

But as with most stories, there really is no clear cut end to either of these accidents. Subcontractors do virtually all of the work on site and the prime contractor, JL Judge in this case, is responsible for oversight. But most of JL Judge's subcontractors are the same ones who are utilized time after time on area projects, says Burns.

The Leverette incident has raised a lot of eyebrows recently, notes Henry. He was particularly incensed over the coverage the matter received in Toledo's daily newspaper and on local radio talk shows. He called such reports "irresponsible" especially since there were no attempts made, he says, to contact the company.

Several matters are of note in the Leverette wall collapse. First, the wall was being built with eight-inch block. Critics have noted that the wall should have been built with 12-inch block, as it subsequently was when it was re-

(Continued on Page 9)

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The Last Frontier, Business Ownership, Choosing the Right Business

By Vince Davis
Guest Columnist

George C. Fraser (not the boxer) is a former executive now turned speaker, writer, and entrepreneur. He wrote the best selling book titled *Success Runs in Our Race*. In his book Fraser discusses THE TEN BEST BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACKS IN AMERICA. Let's discuss one of them.

Banking and Financial Services

On page number 101 Fraser talks about insurance. This discussion falls under the chapter on finance and banking.

He tells the story of Linda Burchett, an agent for State Farm, who opened one of the first national insurance company branches in Harlem. She is on 301 Cathedral Parkway Across from Central Park West & 110th St. Clearly Linda had a first-mover advantage. She is serving a need in a previously underserved market place. She has a huge market in which to offer her goods and services.

Both Linda and I are independent contractor agents. Ironically I was the first agent for a national insurance property and casualty company to offer our goods and services to the urban market. I opened our first urban agency on 2116 Madison Ave in back of

Mercy Hospital.

Since then there have been a number of followers. Most of them have been started by people who formerly worked for me. I wish them all well. However I moved to the central city 15 years prior. That gives me a clear and obvious "first mover advantage."

We have represented people in this community for 20 years in the insurance and financial service business. During that 20 years our office has never closed other than on major holidays.

We did close last Monday on October the 11th (Columbus Day) for the memorial service for my deceased brother Leslie C. Davis. Despite my grief we were open the very next day. I was there selling life insurance and financial services while my staff handled the rest. Once you build a business and earn the trust of the community it is important to act accordingly.

What the Community Expects

You are in a fiduciary position. That means that you must act in the best interest of your clients. You are in a public trust. Therefore you must never commingle funds, or act in any way that does not serve your customers ethically;

You need to have a professional setting;

You must maintain a

competent staff who are capable of conducting business in your absence;

You must maintain consistent, competitive business hours.

Expectation for Growth

There is little to no growth expectation in the insurance business in the Toledo metro area with the possible exception of Monclova Township. However, there will be a substantial number of agents retiring over the next three decades so therefore there will be replacement opportunities available. However Toledo metro is transitioning from an industrial base to tech and service.

Therefore growth in the immediate future will remain static in Toledo metro.

If I were younger I would open a business in an area with high expectations for population and business growth.

Who Makes a Good Candidate?

A college degree with an emphasis on business is advisable. However not all companies require a degree. Your level of education will dictate the level of expertise that you will "bring to the party." OK, you got me, Bill Gates does not have a degree and he is arguably the richest man in the world. Brother/sister, everyone can not be like Bill Gates, particularly

black folks. Most of the times we need 10 times the creditability to even get in the door. Better prepared is better than under prepared. Besides, it does not make sense to have half your educated clientele communicate on a level that "you can not understand."

Come lean or well off. We do not collect a salary or a pension. We work like an insurance broker or independent agent. We are paid commission based on our sales. We hire other agents in our offices to market for us. We hire representatives licensed by the State of Ohio to sell life, health insurance, property insurance and casualty insurance. Additionally some companies like State Farm sell bank products. However it is all virtual. **There are no bank funds at the office.**

Honest, integrity, hard working and reasonably articulate are other attributes that might be helpful.

Our next move should to



Vince Davis

own more banks and insurance companies. We will talk about other business opportunities next week. Maybe I will cover owning the property in our community

That's my time. I'm out.
Ed. Note: Vince Davis is

the owner of Vince Davis State Farm Insurance Agency located at the corner of Sherman and Cherry Streets. He is also a partner in the Captain D's Seafood Franchise at 2060 W. Laskey

Sarantou...

Continued from page 5

was my councilwoman because I lived in West Toledo," said Sarantou.

"So, I look forward to working with them. What I will bring to the

commissioner's office is 24 years of financial experience, Tina has a master's [degree] in social work, Pete his expertise is working for Daimler-Chrysler, and then being a union ex-

ecutive with the UAW, so I think having business, labor, [and] social work backgrounds for the three of us is very positive, [so] that's what I'm going to bring to that office."

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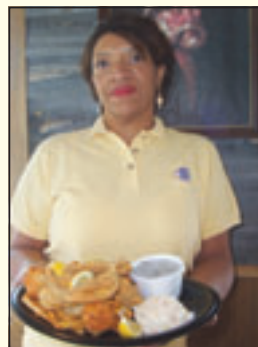
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Two New African-American Businesses Hold Grand Openings

LeRoyna's School Apparel & Fancy Footwear

Sojourner's Truth Staff

LeRoyna Hardnett-Drayton opened her school/uniform apparel and shoe shop on September 2, the culmination of a dream come true for the recent graduate of ASSETS Toledo.

"I intend to offer the shoe for the lady who is going out of town, the shoe for the lady who is going to church on Sundays," said Hardnett-Drayton on the occasion of her graduation in early August.

And she has done just that at 1011 Monroe Street, once the site of Ms. Lizzie's.

She also has a wide



range of school uniforms – from size four children's size to triple x in adult's. She has half sizes as well and adjustable waists – "that's my signature item," she says.

And so far, business has been good for the fledgling retailer. "Schools I never

heard of are coming in," she says.

The shop hours are Monday through Friday, 11 am to 6 pm; Saturdays – 11 am to 7 pm.

For any inquiries about LeRoyna's products, call 419-241-5800.

Sew Faithful's Grand Opening

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"This has been a long time dream... finally coming to pass," said Brenda Lee Mitchell at the grand opening ceremony last week of Sew Faithful by Brenda Lee. Her new salon, located at 3550 Secor (by the Clarion Hotel), is now ready to accept clients for alterations, custom garments and monogramming, ministerial apparel, interior design and bridal consulting.

"I am so blessed," she said last week. "My dream started 37 years ago. In fact, I have the first thing I ever made – in the seventh grade, for a style show."

Brenda Lee's specialty is ministerial garments, she said, showing off a few garments she



has stitched over the years before the salon became a reality.

Sew Faithful will have one full-time employee initially – Brenda Lee herself. But Melvin Mitchell, her husband, will be an integral part of the operation. "He's my right-hand man," she said. "I'm so grateful to have a husband who is so supportive."

The ASSETS Toledo graduate will have her salon open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. She will be available on Mondays by appointment.

Some services can be performed while you wait. For more information call 419-536-0SEW (0739).

Minority Construction Firm Buffeted by Winds of Discontent

(Continued from Page 7)

built. But, says Burns and Henry, there was a reason for the error.

There was a conflict in the two sets of drawings that the subcontractor had. The architect's plans called for eight-inch block; the structural engineer's plans called for 12-inch block, says Burns.

"The subcontractor was installing what was in the specs," says Burns who was still in Toledo at the time. But, according to Burns, the problem had been detected well before the storm, with

its high winds, hit the wall.

Both Burns and Henry say now that it hardly mattered whether the wall had eight-inch or 12-inch block by the time the winds hit – either way, since the winds hit before the subcontractor had a chance to brace it, it would have collapsed. And, either way, whether the wall collapsed or not, the block would have been replaced.

"If they want to blame anyone, they ought to blame me," says Burns. "I was the business manager. I was never called."

Burns left his Toledo post seven days after the wind hit and until The Truth called him last week, he says, no other media, critic or commentator had called him to ascertain what happened with the Leverette wall.

Burns is the business manager now of the Cleveland district where, because of the state-wide initiative of several years ago, vast numbers of school buildings will be replaced just as in Toledo.

Would he hire JL Judge to work on projects there if

they bid and were the low bidder?

"Once again, I would do my due diligence as with any contractor," he says referring to the same process that the company underwent to obtain the Robinson bid, and subsequent ones. Burns acknowledged that information of the delays was certainly a concern and he would need an explanation for those problems during that process of completing that due diligence. But he also says that JL Judge would be given a fair chance to bid on any such project.

Henry points to one other situation that complicates the school building process. JL Judge is a prime contractor, not the general contractor. There are five prime contractors – such as electrical and plumbing – at work on the facility. This arrangement is provided by Ohio ordinance because eliminating a general contractor saves the state money on mark-ups on the work of subcontractors.

"We have responsibility for coordinating the project," says Henry, "but [the other prime contractors] don't report to us." As outsiders, JL Judge did not have established relationships



Robinson Junior High School

with the other prime contractors, he adds.

Nevertheless, Henry is proud of what JL Judge has accomplished, and will continue to accomplish, on northwest Ohio projects. The company, as Henry told us during a conversation a year ago, made a business decision to enter the Ohio market because of the downturn in the construction business in Michigan, particularly in the Detroit area.

"With all we have been through, especially the union pressure, we should be getting a medal," he says. "Instead we have all these innuendoes and rumors in the media."

"We're not perfect, we're not pristine," he admits. "But why are these people in such a brutal attack mode?"

As outsiders, he says, the

company has gone out of its way to accommodate local concerns. In addition to the 85 percent usage of union labor, says Henry, JL Judge has employed local workers rather than bringing their own down from Detroit and has purchased "100 percent of materials from northwest Ohio."

"We have added value here," he says. "For anyone to think that we have pulled money out of here, other than a share of the profits, is ridiculous."

And he speaks of the fact that the company has been a good corporate citizen by their involvement in the community through sponsoring scholarships, for example.

And it's all on paper, according to Henry. "I've said nothing that can't be supported by documents."

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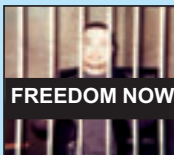
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Taking Responsibility for Retirement: How Today's Scary Headlines Can Help Your Retirement Plan

By Bill Harris

First, it was the combined whammy of the tech wreck and the post-9/11 recession that battered our 401(k) accounts. Next was inflation in health care and education costs that further diverted indebted consumers from concentrating on retirement. Now come the headlines that any company facing tough times—or intense shareholder pressure—can pull the rug out from under its retirees hoping for the traditional three-legged stool of retirement—pension, Social Security and savings.

All three legs are in trouble—we aren't saving enough, Social Security is under attack and traditional pensions are disappearing—fast.

For retirees facing a sudden loss of pensions and benefits, there are really very few options save going back to work or turning home equity into a personal bank. So the time to start taking on the lion's share of your retirement responsibility is now, whether you're five, 10, or 20 years away from hanging it up, if that's your plan.

One general tip. If you're not really certain where you stand, get some help. If you've never sat down with a financial adviser it may be time to get a second opinion on your retirement readiness.

The meeting may yield some ugly news, but it's better to know the options than cross your fingers.

Here are some things you may want to discuss:

What does 'retirement' mean to you? It's arguable that traditional retirement is going to be dead for many of us. So you may want to start thinking about a second part-time career or new ways to earn.

Think about a fixed annuity: Annuities are investments that provide fixed payments to the investor over a set period of time. The collapse of traditional plans is putting new focus on the fixed annuity business, and it's worth talking about with an expert.

Do a retirement spending dress rehearsal: In the last few years before retirement, see how much you can live like you're already retired. Give up the lattes and the pricey clothes and dinners; see if you can live with a smaller car or a used one. Retirement is easier if you can downshift into it, both from a monetary and activity standpoint.

Get in shape—physically: It may be strange to hear health advice tied to your financial wellbeing, but

it should be one of the first things you consider. That's because the numbers on a bathroom scale, blood pressure monitor or cholesterol report can dramatically affect the cost of your healthcare and insurance premiums going into retirement. You'll find that pre-existing conditions can boost your premiums—or possibly deny you coverage. That's a very ugly surprise going into the years when you're going to need healthcare coverage the most.

Consider a career shift: It may be a bit extreme to switch careers just because a particular employer has better benefits and savings options. But if the job appeals to you and you can make a move without endangering what you've already accrued, why not consider it?

Use your catch-up options: Various IRA and 401(k) options allow you to make additional contributions over standard savings limits above the age of 50. Make sure you know what those additional amounts are and take full advantage of them.

Don an investment inventory: In a 30-to-40-year career, an individual may have gathered bits and pieces of pension benefits and personal savings and invest-

ments along the way. Likewise, there might be insurance policies, savings bonds and other small investments that may have slipped one's attention. A re-evaluation of retirement options should begin with a full accounting and reorganizing of all investment and savings assets, preferably in an organized outline that's easy for you and your adviser to access.

Think about health savings accounts: Today, there are strict limits and spending rules for health savings accounts, but if some lobbyists get their way, there might be a day when health savings accounts can become a long-term savings solution similar to a 401(k) plan. Getting into the pre-tax savings habit with health care dollars is a good habit to get into in case there's more flexibility awarded to these accounts in the future.

This column is produced by the Financial Planning Association, the membership



Bill Harris

organization for the financial planning community, and is provided by Bill Harris, Financial Advisor and a local member of the FPA. Bill Harris is a financial advisor with Informative Financial Services of Toledo, Ohio. Securities and advisory ser-

vices offered through Mutual Service Corporation, member NASD/SIPC. Informative Financial Services is not affiliated with Mutual Service Corporation. For seminars and speaking engagements, Bill can be reached at 419-885-8384.

THE COMMUNITY CLUB

Who Are We?

The Community Club is a non-profit faith-based organization comprised of a diverse group of men from our community who recognize the unlimited potential and benefit to the community as an organized entity. The Club is led by President and Owner Clifton Beasley and Vice President Andreas Wilson. Other core members include Curtis McDuffy, a Mid-City coach for several years, Eric Hill and Dwayne Payton of Blue Collar Bonding and long-time community residents Kevin Stewart and Rick Shores.



Front Row: Curtis McDuffy, Dwayne Payton, and Kevin Stewart
Second Row: President & Owner Clifton Beasley, Vice President Andreas Wilson, and Eric Hill

What Are We Currently Doing?

We are excited about the services we offer to parents and students of our community. For example, club members and other community volunteers meet on Monday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. at the clubhouse to provide students with homework assistance. We are structuring a program under No Child Left Behind and hope to be included in the IPS list of area providers by next fall.

We offer space to community organizations for group meetings and celebrations. Our clubhouse has meeting rooms that accommodate from 2 to 75 people depending on your occasion.

How Can Others Join the Action?

Our membership drive is underway. Interest forms are available for individual or group memberships. The fee is only \$25 for an individual membership. Residents and organizations are invited to stop by any Sunday during football season as we gather with family and friends to enjoy good food and wholesome conversations.

On Saturdays we host a John Madden Tournament from noon to 9 pm and on Sundays, an NFL Ticket Time from noon to 9 pm. Monday Night Madness starts at 8 pm.

You may also send your request for an interest form by email to communityclub@bes.net.

Our club house community calendar of events includes an open house on Halloween night. We want to be a safe haven and rest stop for area children on that evening and will have law enforcement officers available to check candy.

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Zeb Jackson Promoted at Fifth Third Bank

Special to The Truth

Zeb I. Jackson has been promoted to Private Client Officer in the Investment Advisor Division of Fifth Third Bank, according to Robert W. LaClair, president and chief executive officer, Fifth Third Bank (Northwestern Ohio).

Jackson's responsibilities include consulting with clients in the Private Client Group to assist them in creating, managing and monitoring their investment portfolios and ensuring adherence to their stated goals and objectives for risk. He is located at Fifth Third's Financial Center at 5520 Monroe Street, Sylvania.

He joined Fifth Third

in 2002 and has 10 years of related financial experience. Jackson holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Bowling Green State University. In the community, he volunteers with the Greater Toledo Urban League and the YMCA-JCC of Greater Toledo.

Fifth Third Bank (Northwestern Ohio), the area's leading financial institution, is an affiliate of Fifth Third Bancorp and has \$4.3 billion in assets. It currently operates 51 full-service banking centers in the greater Toledo area, Findlay,

Tiffin, Bowling Green, Fostoria, Fremont, Gibsonburg, Sandusky, Defiance, Bryan and Wauseon, plus Lambertville and Monroe in Michigan, including nine Bank Mart® locations inside select Kroger stores.



African-American Strength Coach Keynote Speaker for Lott Industries 50th Anniversary Celebration

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Fifty-year anniversaries only come once in a lifetime. Symbolized by the rich sparkle of gold, they represent the resilience of any institution: a marriage, a company or an agency dedicated to providing opportunities for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Lott Industries, the non-profit corporation that is a component of the Lucas county Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and also has enclaves at several businesses in various locations in the community, celebrated its 50th anniversary with an elegant black-tie affair at Gladioux Meadows, Friday, September 29, 2006.

Tall vases filled with sprays of flowers accented with green foliage and golden ribbons and stems on mirror squares illuminated by white votives decorated tables draped in white. The flickering lights added a romantic glow to the sophisticated table setting that took on Park Avenue elegance with chairs covered in white and festooned with large, expansive

bows.

Everything about the room and those who attended this gala affair indicated that this was indeed a 'special' occasion.

Among the dignitaries attending were of ARC of Lucas County President Frank Spinelli; President of Maumee Valley Civitan Martin Ramirez; People First of Toledo President Wanda Huber; Lucas County Board of MR/DD Superintendent John Trunk; Assistant Superintendent Rick Koehler; LCBMR/DD board member Martin Ramirez; Director of Adult Options Nancy Soper; Vice-President of Lott Board Ron Volk; former Lott Board President Dr. Bob Huss; Lott Business Manager Jeff Holland; Lott Production Director Tony Powell; Preferred Properties Director Frank Ellis; AFSCME Local 3794 President Sandy Coutercher and AFSCME Vice-Presidents Ursula Akers and Phyllis Brazier.

"I've been asked to do a brief recap of the history of this program," said Lon Mitchell, public relations director for LCBMR/DD. "Mrs. Lott had an experiment back in 1951 to give some of the older students some employment opportunities. Many of the jobs were very menial in the beginning. We've come a long way from cleaning diaper pails to doing Ford parts."

Mitchell acknowledged employees of Lott Industries attending the event, pointing out that Lott Industries has 98 percent name recognition in the Toledo-Lucas County

community.

"Lucas County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities is really unique that we have a self-advocate," he said. "That's Rueben Garcia. [Garcia attended the celebration.] We're here to celebrate not the success of Lott Industries, but the people who work at Lott industries."

Lott Industries employs 1,200 individuals with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities at three locations: Telegraph Road, Hill Avenue and Holland Road in Maumee.

"We were the first sheltered workshop in the country to get that Ford Q1 rating," said Volk. Volk introduced members of the board present, as well as a past president of the board, explaining that there are 11 board members who volunteer their time. All have business backgrounds and various connections with MR/DD.

"We are engaged in the business of supporting our consumers as best we can," Volk said. "We're going to be a little busier in coming years."

Volk mentioned the impending closing of the Ford Stamping Plant in Maumee. "We have some challenges ahead of us," he admitted. "Last year, we adopted a new slogan before we knew we were going to lose this business. That is 'Lott is a whole lot more.' We're going to have a chance to prove we're a whole lot more than Ford."

Volk said one of the alternatives Lott will explore is "entrepreneurial business models that will provide entrepreneurial business opportunities for our consumers." Looking forward, Volk seemed cautiously optimistic. "I wouldn't want to try to predict what Lott will look like in the next 50 years," he said, adding that there are several things he does expect to happen.

"Broadening our customer base - we have to do that. We're going to be expanding our customer alliances. We're going to increase our community-based employment opportunities. And we're going to develop a better understanding of what our consumers and their families want."

LCBMR/DD Superintendent John Trunk recognized board member Ramirez as he began his brief speech. "Fifty years - 1956 - some of us weren't even born yet in 1956!" he said. "The Yankees were beating the Dodgers in the World Series in 1956. While Yul Brynner was winning an Oscar for his role in 'The King and I,' while Martin Luther King's home was being bombed, while teenagers were listening to Elvis Presley in 1956, people like Josina Lott were laying the groundwork for a new vision and a new reality."

Trunk went on to say that Mrs. Lott championed the rights of all people to be educated, work and live. "Not only is this a celebration of an organization," he said. "It's really a night to celebrate a movement - a movement that started 50 years ago and is

still a journey."

Trunk acknowledged the contributions of all of those who've had a role in creating the organization. "We do want to celebrate what can be accomplished when parents mobilize at a grassroots level," he said. "And mostly when we recognize that every person has value." Trunk said that the greatest inspiration for the last 50 years has been the employees of Lott Industries.

"I look forward to seeing everybody back here in 2056 for Lott's 100th anniversary!"

Following a dinner that featured Chicken Kiev with cheesecake for dessert, keynote speaker Greg Smith had everyone present hanging on his every word during an inspirational oratory. Host and founder of the nationally syndicated radio talk show, "On A Roll," Smith has been heralded as one of the most dynamic voices in the disability movement today.

Smith was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at the age of three and had to have surgery at the age of 13 when his curving spine was starting to damage his internal organs. His spine was broken, and then straightened by being fused with three metal rods. After this surgery, Smith could no longer walk and began using a power wheelchair.

After graduating from high school and college, Smith started working in radio as a research and sales promotion director and, later, as the host of "Cardinal Talk," a call-in program that aired after all of the NFL



Greg Smith

Cardinals games.

In addition to his busy career, Smith is the father of three active nondisabled children, who embrace their 65-pound dad without question and love to ride on the back of his power chair. "I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be here to speak to you!" exclaimed Smith. "But not nearly as thrilled as I'll be in 2056 when I'm invited back!"

Instead of parking his motorized wheelchair at the podium, Smith moved it around the dance floor, at various times focusing on each side of the room and making eye-to-eye contact with his audience. "People tend to think that people with disabilities are advocating their rights and things for themselves. I like to think that people with disabilities have a lot to offer. We deal with challenges every day."

A documentary about Smith's life has been shown on PBS and he advised those attending the event to see it. When the film was made, he said, "I thought 'I'm really going to be able to make a difference and help people;' then I got congestive heart failure." His film was showing in Atlanta the next week and he told his doctor he had to be there. He was.

Smith suggested three ways for those attending the celebration to get inner strength: through diet, exercise and discipline. "First, a diet of positive mental nourishment on a daily basis," he said. "Read something positive every day - can you do that?" Smith talked about positivity in relation to Lott Industries. "It's amazing what this organization has accomplished and it's amazing what the employees accomplish on a daily basis."

Next, Smith encouraged everyone to 'lift weights,' taking on difficult challenges regularly. "We all get stronger when we lift the weight of life's challenges," he said, adding that he has MD and he is 42 years old and was supposed to be dead by now.

"It's amazing when you look at challenges with this attitude. It's like you wel-

(Continued on Page 14)



Greg Smith

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Mt. Pilgrim Brings Seniors Together Weekly for 'Morning Glory'

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"A morning glory at my window satisfies me more than the metaphysics of books," wrote Walt Whitman in *Leaves of Grass*. Morning glory is a common name for a number of species of flowering plants in the family of Convolvulaceae, belonging to the following genera: *Calystegia*, *Convolvulus*, *Ipomoea*, *Merremia* and *Rivea*.

As the name implies, morning glory flowers, which are funnel-shaped, open at morning time, allowing them to be pollinated by hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and other daytime insects and birds. The flower lasts for a single morning and dies in the afternoon. The morning glory flower could very well be used to symbolize human life: each of us awake at birth, opening up ourselves to the world that proceeds to enrich and enliven us, but our youth and vitality lasts but a fraction of our life (the morning) and then we begin to decline with age and reach our inevitable demise (the afternoon).

Perhaps that's why Mt. Pilgrim chose the name of this flower for a group of seniors who meet at the church on Monday mornings for lunch and fellowship. Or perhaps, the group is so named due to the heartiness of this particular flower.

The tenacity of the fragile flower that climbs to great heights to provide protection and that is so diverse in appearance could very well symbolize those who have aged with wisdom, grace and the ability to survive and who watch over the rest of us with a watchful and wary eye.

Whatever the reason, this name fits the group, which has 54 registered members and approximately 20-32 seniors attending weekly. The group meets Mondays at Mt. Pilgrim: the first and third Mondays are for arts and crafts; the second and fourth Mondays are for games and movies and on the fourth Monday, birthdays for the month are celebrated. The fourth Monday is also when lunch is provided by soul-food restaurant, Ruby's Kitchen. "We meet here every Monday from 10-12, except for holidays and inclement weather," says ministry leader, Augusta Baggett. "Everyone's welcome."

The seniors also conduct a letter-writing campaign every quarter. "We have a sick and shut-in list for the church and we write them letters," says Baggett. "We'll

be going on our first outing on October 9, at Ruby's."

In the meantime, Ruby's Kitchen comes to them. "She serves us free lunch," says Baggett. "Nothing small." One week Ruby served neck bones, another fried fish. However, Monday, September 25, 2006, the menu was oxtails and potatoes, cabbage, cornbread and butter pound cake.

"I give them the food they like," says proprietor, Ruby. "Cooked the way they cook it." When the seniors arrived, September 25, they had a brief devotion centered on books of the Bible.

"Does anyone know anything about Joshua?" asked Baggett. "He fought the battle of Jericho," answered one of the dozen or so women present at the start of the program. "I know he did something in Jericho," quipped another senior.

"When he marched around the wall, what happened?" asked Baggett. "It came down!" Baggett continued to quiz the Bible scholars on several other books in the Old Testament, including Judges and Ruth. Bringing the discussion full circle, Baggett ended the session talking about how Ruth cared for Naomi.

"Let's not forget to take care of our older people," she said. A little physical exercise followed the intellectual calisthenics.

"Everybody back there moving?" Baggett asked as she led the group of women, which had grown to nearly 20, in a few stretching exercises. I'm moving something!" said one of the seniors. "Where's Mary?"

asked Baggett. "She's good at this. 'Cause I'm tired." One of the volunteers for the Morning Glory group, Mary Jaynes, told the ladies they were going to practice a 'dance' they plan to do for their African-American History program.

Other volunteers are Althalene Harrison, Junie Williams, Lillie Palmer, Marilyn Hawthorne, Elizabeth Lewis, Rosemary Burton, Mildred McKinnis, Sheila James and Brenda Mitchum. Rev. Raymond G. Bishop is the pastor of Mt. Pilgrim, which sponsors the senior outreach program and is in affiliation with eight other area churches.

The outreach also includes the physically disabled and veterans. During the brief 'dance' rehearsal, Jaynes instructed the ladies on a move involving turning at the waist and cautioned them to be careful with the move. "Don't turn too much," she said. "You'll get a catch."

The physical activity ended with the women walking in a circle. Afterwards, they played table bowling, using a small beach ball and some rather large 'pins.' They had a riotous good time as one after another tried her luck at knocking down their pins. "The only prize you're going to get is lunch!" announced Baggett at the onset. "That sounds good!" joked several 'bowlers.' "We're not bowling for dollars?" another asked jokingly.

The joviality and fellowship of the participants reached a fever pitch when one of the tables was cov-

ered with plastic and the women engaged in a water relay.

One lone man who showed up during this activity cheered them on as opposing sides (one on each side of the table) raced to pass a cup of water to each other and fill their container before the other team. One team kept winning, so the other team kept challenging them to game after game — each one rollicking fun for participants and onlookers.

Finally, ministry leader Baggett came to the rescue of the losing team. When she sat down, she explained that the volunteer standing by the bowl of water used to fill each team's cup was supposed to fill both cups, not team members as they'd been doing prior to her instructions.

Once the rules were in play, the team that had repeatedly lost finally won a game. But on a re-match, the repeat winners re-claimed their title. A couple more games were played and each



team won once, although disputes over which team was the overall winner continued. Everyone agreed that the water relay race was a lot of fun, then dried off the water soaked table and mopped the floor to get ready for the big birthday celebration and lunch.

While waiting for lunch to be served, they resumed playing table bowling. One competitive senior, Ethel Mae Jaynes knocked down three 'pins,' then one after another, the other ladies followed suit, knocking down three 'pins.' Jaynes was skeptical when a member of the opposing team from the water relay race was reported to have knocked down three

'pins.' "I didn't see three pins knocked down!" Jayne said, chuckling. "Then you better get your eyes checked!" countered her former opponent, volunteer Mildred McKinnis who proudly wore a Scott Bulldogs t-shirt.

Realizing that none of the seniors present had a September birthday, the group sang "Happy Birthday" to this writer, whose birthday was two days earlier. Then it was time for lunch.

Anyone who's ever eaten at Ruby's knows the restaurant serves authentic soul food, the kind your Mama cooks — greens, neck bones, black-eyed peas (brought over from Africa on the slave

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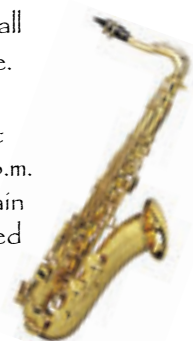
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Reel Review

Gridiron Gang

The Rock, Xzibit

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Sports dramas. I don't know where they came from or who thought them up but they are the quintessential necessary evil when it comes to Hollywood risk-taking.

I remember when I was in high school and flicks like *Above The Rim* and *Sunset Park* came out. *Sunset Park* especially crafted out a niche as a young, hip-hop film.

And also as a sports/drama type film.

On top of all that, it was also one of those "kids in the hood earn some self respect" type of movies, which always comes off kinda corny to me. That happens when you take a bunch of urban youth and treat them like a onscreen subject.

At one point that was me, and when you're in that environment you don't feel like a Hollywood plotline—you just feel like you're you. And next thing you know you got Michelle Pfeiffer or Whoopi Goldberg walkin' in the classroom ready to reform ya ass!

Credibility. It's big in hip-hop so of course it's big in the culture of those of us who were raised on hip-hop.

Gridiron Gang sounds corny if you think about the title.

Even the premise, in and of itself, might raise an eyebrow or two.

But you know what? There ain't a damn thing corny about this film (well, maybe the score—more on that later). Even though I wish ya boy X-to-the-Z could've received a larger speaking role (never seen such a quiet co-star), his presence along with The Rock does a lot to add major credibility to this film.

It's not too much of a stretch, you feel me?

They make it easy to believe that some correctional officers brought an activity to their imprisoned youth that they really believed would benefit them.

I'm not an athlete by any stretch of the imagination, but I can't front.

Movies about football are usually guaranteed hits.

They are some of the most reliably satisfying films that come out of Hollywood.

Just as in real sports, I still prefer basketball slightly ahead of football.

But nothing proves a point like a movie centered around the pigskin.

Remember The Titans should be a classic film.

Friday Night Lights should be a classic film.

And one element that makes me want to say the same thing about *Gridiron Gang* is something that the previously mentioned films have in common as well... it's based on actual events. South Central Los Angeles.

Yeah, we had the gang truce however many years ago—but obviously it's still pretty violent out there. And if you're a young minority male on those inner city streets,

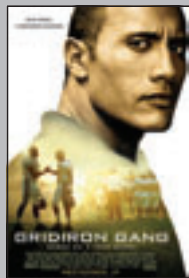
chances are you're gonna end up locked up for who knows what.

The whole macho tone of sports movies is usually just silly to me, but one thing about this film is it plays apart in dealing with the reality of life for these young men.

You did something stupid. You got caught. Shut up and stop crying about it.

That's what's up. That is the attitude with which Sean Porter (The Rock) and Malcolm Moore (Xzibit) approach these young men with and it's perfect.

Not too caring and all in



their face trying to love them into being better people.

Not all detached and power crazy like REAL corrections officers can sometimes be when dealing with teens.

The only talk is real talk.

Among all the gang talk, fights and obligatory "hardened thugs start learning to trust and look out for one another" steelo—there is the shining star of the team who couldn't care less about being the star of the team. Jade Yorker plays Willie Weathers.

Decent kid. Gang member. Running back.

His acting is exceptional. I guess it would have to be, since this isn't his first sports drama.

Young Jade played a younger Jesus Shuttlesworth in Spike Lee's *He Got Game*.

Gridiron Gang has substance, meaning, heart and soul.

At times, it feels like you're watching an episode of "Full House" because the orchestra lets the sappy strings rip at an obviously emotional moment. Movies are manufactured emotion. For that part, most art is designed to put you in touch with some emotion.

If you ignore the score, you will feel completely natural as you get taken along for the ride with the *Gridiron Gang*.

As always, I purposely didn't tell you too much because I want you all to go and see it.

Trust me—there's hardly anything good at the movies.

This is just about the only thing worth your money and it's guaranteed to satisfy.

Gridiron Gang gets a B+.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Yes, yes ya'll—retirement has come to an end for ya boy Jay Z.

I'm sure everyone already knows by now, but for anyone late to the party now hear this:

Jay Z's official comeback album *Kingdom Come* will be on shelves by mid-November.

As you will remember, that is his favorite time to release albums. Any of my music industry hopefuls out there BETTER know why that is (and you know at least that much of the Roc Dynasty had Dame's business sense all over it).

Maybe someone else knows, but I have no idea when that Nas is gonna drop.

See, all the major DJ's in the 419, I've tried to get cool with all of y'all—y'all gotta help a brava out because I need to know these things!

Production wise, expect the usual peeps: Kanye, Just Blaze, Rick Rubin, Pharrell (funny how no one even bothers to say The Neptunes anymore), Eminem, etc.

I know Def Jam has dropped some albums lately that didn't receive any significant push from the label.

The Roots and Method Man have both had albums drop in recent weeks.

Guess Jay Z is doing the typical rapper/CEO thing and saving all that promotional budget for his... I mean, the label's most important project.

Google has just bought YouTube.com for over \$1 billion in stock.

I know YouTube.com was receiving a lot of heat for uncensored material being broadcast to millions upon millions of viewers earlier this year but that hasn't stopped folks like me from logging on to watch old school hip-hop videos that end up on my Myspace page. And even though there's plenty of nonsense on that site, if you wanna see an Amel Larrieux or Erykah Badu performance from overseas or you wanna re-

live hilarious moments like Michelle of Destiny's Child falling on her face... YouTube.com is the best thing that could've ever happened to your spare time.

Flavor of Love 2 concluded this past Sunday.

Who y'all think it's gonna be? Deelishus? New York?

Wouldn't it be crazy for NY to lose two years in a row?

Did y'all see New York's mother? Lookin' like Rafiki from *The Lion King*?

The first season, all I could think about was how this was affecting Flav's legacy in hip-hop. This season, what keeps coming to mind is how reality TV exploits some women's worst sides. No—I'm not talking about the whole sexual thing.

I'm talking about the constant fighting, yelling, cussing, pushing, lies and contradiction.

How silly is it to lie while on camera? LOL!

Confessing their love one minute, then as soon as their kicked off you find 'em on Myspace in their natural habitat... modeling or whatever.

But I can't let Flav off the hook either.

He's judging these girls on whether or not they have ulterior motives for being on the show but if you've watched ANY of his shows on VH1 you've heard some of the music that will be featured on his upcoming album.

He wants them to love him for who he is yet he mainly judges them on the physical and doesn't even call them by their names. Not to mention he shuffles females like a deck of cards. But hey—it's fun to watch!

This is a for real bizarre ride to the far side as they say.

October 17, 9 pm on VH1 Hip-Hop Honors!

Well, with everything that has been destroyed by the average video and hip-hop legends like Flav and even Ice T taking on some very



Flavor Flav

un-hip-hop pursuits on reality shows...

there's still some hope for our culture.

Afrika Bambaata is a pioneer, if you don't know that—you need to watch this.

Ice Cube wasn't always an actor/director. If you don't know that—you need to watch this.

Hip-hop wasn't always about jewelry, cars and goin to the club.

If you didn't know that—you haven't been paying attention, and you MOS DEF need to watch this.

As a way of giving back to the architects and legendary figures of the most dominant youth culture on the planet, VH1 makes the past relevant again by using popular artists in the here and now to pay homage to those who came before.

Like last year, having Nelly pay tribute to L.L. and Snoop pay tribute to Ice T... it was all such a sight to see and this year guarantees to reach even higher.

As far as things right here at home.

Looks like Rhythm and Dre P are gonna be on Amateur Night at The Apollo.

I'm gonna try and catch up with both of those cats as they go and do the damn thing.

I'm also gonna have another interview with another important figure in the Glass City's entertainment world, coming soon.

So in the meantime enjoy the fall by going to some of these haunted houses.

There's a couple right at Franklin Park Mall on the Sylvania Ave. side.

The Nautical Nightmare haunted riverboat has once again docked on the banks of the Maumee River Downtown. I did it a couple years ago and it was slick.

Of course there's always Terror Town at the Lucas County Fairgrounds too.

So have some fun Toledo. Hit me up www.myspace.com/undergodzent

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African-American Strength Coach Keynote Speaker for Lott Industries 50th Anniversary Celebration

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come them." Smith promised that when the first two steps are followed – read something positive and do something difficult every day, your life would change.

"The third way of building inner strength is discipline," he said. He then told a story that took place during his bachelor days when he

was living in Phoenix, Arizona, and was getting ready to watch a football game one Sunday afternoon. He'd ordered a pizza and a two-liter bottle of Pepsi, but had forgotten to have the delivery person loosen the bottle top.

Unable to use his hands to get the tab top open, he tried rolling it on the edge of the

kitchen counter, running it under hot water from the tap and various other inventive ways to open the bottle, until an hour later, he went out into his garage and grabbed a pair of pliers and a wrench. Still unable to get the no longer cold bottle open, he took his tools back to the garage and saw some-

thing on the garage floor that lifted his spirits.


"I looked down and I knew I was going to be enjoying a nice beverage," he said. What he saw was a dart, which he picked up and took back to his kitchen and used to punch a hole in the bottle. "I stabbed the best lukewarm Pepsi I've ever had in my life!" Smith

said the difficulties in life should be faced like he faced the challenge of opening a Pepsi bottle. "What is your Pepsi bottle?" he asked.

"The next time you come across your Pepsi bottle, think about those three things. What were they?" "Diet! Discipline! Exercise!" An enthusiastic audience

applauded Smith as he beamed, his smile and spirit far stronger than his fragile body. Hopefully, in the months and years to come, those three things will come to mind as Lott Industries faces its own Pepsi bottles and looks around for darts to stab holes in problems, releasing solutions.

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Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, a teaching affiliate of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) seeks quality applicants for full-time Clinical Nurse Specialist in expanding mental health network. Primary responsibilities include providing ambulatory patient care in a multi-disciplinary setting. Competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Preferred candidates will possess an MSN in a mental health care field and certification from an accredited training program.

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Scott K. Ober, MD, MBA
10701 East Blvd.
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Youth Advocate

Hourly, p/t positions serving children and their families throughout Lucas Co. Must be dependable and able to serve as a positive role model for children. Experience working w/children and families is a must. Flexible hours, weekly pay, and activity reimbursement. EOE

Send/Fax cover letter and resume to:

Gilda Mitchell, Administrative Manager
One Stranahan Square, Suite 550
Toledo, OH 43604

Phone: 419-255-3880
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gmitchell@yapinc.org

Help Wanted - CPA

Local start-up company is seeking a certified public accountant. Retiree or new graduate would be welcome.

Send resume to thetruthreporter@buckeye-access.com or mail to 616 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for mentoring services.

The goal is to provide school age children who are at risk of disrupting with services that will:

- Reduce the risk of negative behaviors that have an impact on placement/school stability;
- Maintain placement and/or prevent removal or re-entry into foster care;
- Prevent interruption in children's educational experience;
- Increase communication and coping skills of children.

LCCS is seeking proposals from governmental units, private for profit entities/agencies and non-profit entities/agencies who have unique information, knowledge and experience working with children age 6-17 who are exhibiting behaviors that put them at risk of disrupting from their home or substitute care placement. RFP materials will be available from October 16, 2006 to October 23, 2006 at LCCS, 705 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43604 between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. To make arrangements to pick up a RFP packet, call 419-213-3658. An applicant information session will be held at LCCS on October 23, 2006 at 10:30 A.M. in Room #913. The deadline for completed proposals (NO FAX) is 4:00 P.M. on November 6, 2006. No proposals will be accepted after the deadline.

Employment Opportunities!!

Director, Senior Center. A 35-hour per week position, which is responsible for planning program development, program activities, and program evaluation and to provide administrative leadership for day-to-day operations. B.S. in Social Work or an equivalent field is strongly preferred or 2-5 years experience in managing programs or working in the Social Work field. Excellent writing, oral and computer skills are required. Salary range \$24K-\$32K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 23, 2006.

Executive Assistant. A 1.0 FTE position, which provides Administrative support to the President/CEO. Must have extensive computer skills and business acumen. Ability to handle confidential work with tact and discretion. A Bachelor's degree is highly recommended and/or 3 years experience in an administrative position. Salary range \$27K-35K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 23, 2006.

Job Developer/Job Coach. A 1.0 FTE position responsible for development of employment and work experience sites. Collect and maintain data on clients and monitor participants on work sites. Experience in job placement and follow-up (retention) is a plus. Excellent writing, oral and computer skills are needed. An A.S. or B.S. in business or relevant field is preferred. Salary range \$21K-29K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 23, 2006.

Job Trainer. A 1.0 FTE position responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of curriculum. Excellent organizational, planning, computer, writing, and oral skills are requested. B.S. in Business or Education or relevant field is needed. Salary range \$22K-30K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 23, 2006.

Outreach Coordinator. A 1.0 FTE position working in program to assist adults who have been sanctioned or placed on monthly monitoring or referred by D.H.S. or Child Support Enforcement Agency. B.A. or Masters in Social Work or an equivalent field is strongly desired. Excellent writing, oral and computer skills are needed. Knowledge of Lucas County's social service delivery system is a plus. Salary range \$26K-\$30K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 23, 2006.

Secretary. A 1.0 FTE position, which provides Clerical Data Entry support to staff and performs reception duties. A.S. in a related field and/or two years experience in a clerical position is preferred. Excellent computer skills needed. Salary range \$18K-\$22K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 23, 2006.

If interested in any of the positions, send information to:

Johnny M. Mickler, Sr., President/CEO
Greater Toledo Urban League, Inc.
608 Madison Avenue, Suite 1525
Toledo, Ohio 43604

Single Family Home

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Asking \$32K

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**Place your classified ad in
The Sojourner's Truth
Call Aida at 419-243-0007**

Legal Notice

Sealed bids will be received by the Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services (LCDJFS) office, 3210 Monroe Street, Toledo, Ohio, until **4:00 P.M.**, (local time), **November 7, 2006**, and opened immediately thereafter for the selection of a **Sole Provider to Provide Weatherization Services under Title XX Services to families with minor children, seniors (age 60 and older) and disabled adults in Lucas County.** Submitted bids must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the **Request for Proposal.** The contract period will be from **December 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007**, with an option to renew for an additional year.

On October 18, 2006, the **Request for Proposal** will be released and is available for pick up by potential bidders at the LCDJFS office during regular working hours or download the bid by going to the site: <https://apps.co.lucas.oh.us/bids>.

A Bidder's Conference will be held on October 24, 2006 from **2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the LCDJFS office. **ATTENDANCE IS OPTIONAL.** If any changes are made to the RFP as a result of the Bidder's Conference, an addendum to the RFP will be **will be posted on the website address noted above.**

ANY BIDDER WHO PLANS TO RESPOND TO THE RFP MUST SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT WITH PERTINENT INFORMATION SUCH AS NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO THE LCDJFS OFFICE BY October 24, 2006. Attention: Yulanda L. McCarty-Harris, Esq., Procurement Administrator.

Prior to the November 7, 2006 **4:00 P.M.** (local time) deadline each bid upon submission must be stamped for the time and date and placed in our bid box. The bid box is located at the Security Desk on the first floor of the LCDJFS office. No bids will be accepted after **4:00 P.M.** (Bids that are time-stamped at the Document Center will not be accepted.)

This notice is posted, as of October 18, 2006 at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/supportservices/bidnotices.asp>

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Tina Skeldon Wozniak - President
Margaret B. Thurber - Commissioner
Pete Gerken - Commissioner

Image Is Important – Clothes Make the Man

So who are the best-dressed men in the Toledo area?

If there is someone you think should be nominated for that honor, contact us at 419-243-0007 or email thetruthreporter@buckeye-access.com with your insight

Results will be published in late November

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Attention Landlords or Property Owners, if you have abandoned cars (in any condition) Bad Boyz Towing will remove it for free.
Call 419-810-5879



Judge and Lera Doneghy with campaign supporters

Judge Charles J. Doneghy Fundraiser

A fundraiser was held for the re-election campaign of Judge Charles J. Doneghy. Doneghy, who is facing his first opponent in a re-election effort since becoming a judge on the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, was greeted by a number of elected officials, friends and supporters during the event held at the Peacock Café last Thursday afternoon.

Doneghy is running against attorney Mark Davis.

The results of the Toledo Bar Association's members' election recommendations were recently released. Of the 430 local lawyers who answered the poll, 378 recommended or highly recommended the incumbent, compared to 68 who recommended or highly recommended his opponent.

Warren and Yolanda Woodberry Host Art Show

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Live performance by the Northcoast Theatre Group,
Musical performances by Steve Karla & Tony

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Hope you can make it.

Holt LifeLine Center Offers Wide Array of Services for Children and Families

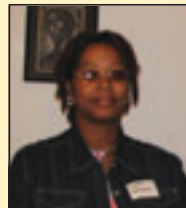
Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Holt LifeLine Center held its grand opening last Thursday afternoon and introduced its wide variety of services to the residents of the north Toledo area the facility will serve.

The center, located at 2902 Elm Street, will provide services such as tutorial assistance, computer literacy, a youth entrepreneurial program, women's and men's support groups, mentoring and job coaching, parental support, enrichment seminars, a school of leadership, drug and alcohol referral services and vocational/trades enrichment.

"I think that there is a generation that some say has been lost but I say they are in line to impact lives," said Bishop Marjorie Holt, pastor of Bethesda Christian Center and executive director of the center. "Instead of waiting for them to find us, we want to find them. That's the goal of the LifeLine Center, we will reach out to the young and the families of those young people."

The center's rooms have



Lavern Marshall, one of the center's volunteers



Bishop Marjorie Holt



Terry Glazer, executive director of the Lagrange Development Corp (l.) and Beth Lewandowski, president of the Lagrange Village Council, welcome Rev. Marjorie Holt to the neighborhood

been named for well-known African-American personalities. The large classroom-style, first-floor area, for example, is the Rosa Parks Corridor.

Others honored by having a room named after them are: Jack Ford, Condoleezza Rice, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Oprah Winfrey and Shirley Chisholm. Lining the south wall of the Rosa Parks Corridor are about two dozen framed photos containing different aphorisms

penned by Holt to inspire those who use or simply visit the facility. Any one of the pithy sayings could serve as the motto for the Holt LifeLine Center.

"Excellence: Excellence is setting a standard that challenges an individual to always produce a work of art."

The Holt LifeLine Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. To contact the center, call 419-727-0820

Mt. Pilgrim Brings Seniors Together Weekly for 'Morning Glory'

(Continued from Page 12)

ships), pig feet – the real deal. Ruby's food is not just good, it's slap yo' Mama good! So good, you want to suck the meat off the neck bones, sop up the pot likker (that's the broth from the greens or beans or peas, for those who don't know) and crumble up some cornbread in your black-eyed peas and eat until you start bursting buttons on your shirt and your pants.

Having been nourished on this kind of food, then raising their own families on 'down home cooking,' the seniors of Morning Glory look forward to

Ruby's Kitchen's lunches every fourth Monday. Sandy Hicks, Ruby's daughter, is proud of the food the family-owned business serves, as well as the restaurant's clientele.

"The pastors come in on Tuesdays," she said. "I know what every one of their orders." While enjoying their lunch, the Morning Glory seniors discussed everything from cleaning chitluns to their various and sundry ailments. Laughter, chatter and some very dainty lip-smacking filled Mt. Pilgrim's Coleman room as some very happy seniors were filled with good food,

warm fellowship and the truest expression of Christ's love, helping one another.

As they prepared to leave, the recent rivalry was revisited once again. "Ethel cheats!" said McKinnis. "Mildred come in here with a Bulldog t-shirt on, thinking everybody gonna be scared of her!" exclaimed Jaynes.

Unlike the flower, these Morning Glories showed no signs of wilting as morning turned to afternoon and twelve o'clock approached. But just like the flower, they climbed very high in a very short time, providing the 'shade' of their wisdom and



Church volunteers

their positive outlook on life to each other and to those who were blessed to be in their company.

Whitman was right. Morning glories bring far more spiritual satisfaction than any words printed on a page,

because, as their name implies, they brighten our mornings and open up to the sun.