



Volume 28, No. 9

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

July 9, 2014

Dennis Hicks, Minority Health Coordinator



Toledo Lucas County Health Department

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“We have a mandate here in my office to end health disparity. What I mean by health disparity is that my office is committed to addressing differences in the health status and outcome between minority groups and whites in Lucas County.”

Prayer and Protest

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.
The Truth Contributor

I will always protest against the double standard of morals.

- Mary Church Terrell



The moral discourse of the Religious Right is often readily welcomed by those fatigued of the non-stop rhetoric of violence and vulgarity of values that takes place in the public domain. While religion, I believe, should play a major role in shaping values and public policy, much talk about "religious values" from the high-profile religious elite is not only misleading but also a dangerous misrepresentation of morality.

"The error of many moral thinkers," wrote ethicist Walter Fluker, "is the failure to acknowledge the presence of masses of disinherited and dispossessed groups." A Christianity that is focused on wealth and power rather than the least, the lost, and the left behind certainly is not biblical.

The greatest danger however, may lie in the cooptation, devaluation and exclusion of the great moral and ethical voices emanating from the historically oppressed and marginalized religious communities. With the possible exception of the post-civil rights era, the black church has always played a significant role in shaping the moral language, social mores and public policies of this nation.

The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, however, represents a much-needed resurgence of the religious role of the black church in the public square. This week, I am sharing Proctor's statement on the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision with The Truth's readers:

Let Freedom Ring: A Day of Prayer & Protest July 13, 2014

"The streets on which African American civil rights activists and leaders marched, died and shed blood to advance the cause of justice, cried out in angst this week after the Supreme Court Hobby Lobby 5-4 ruling allowed businesses to opt-out of federal requirements to pay for workers' contraceptives. What an insult to the legacy of the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. What a call to the question asked by Frederick Douglas, "What is the 4th of July to Me?" As an alliance of intergenerational pastors of the Gospel, interfaith American leaders, and people of a great and abiding faith committed to tangible and transparent progress to those whose sacred memories made freedom possible, we vehemently denounce the court's decision and call for a national day of protest and prayer on **Sunday, July 13th, 2014.**

We the people—the workers, the disenfranchised, those who have played by the rules and have been ignored—in order to form a more perfect society must not let our historic legacy of civil rights and social justice be co-opted by the religious right to fit into their particular brand of Christianity and their particular variety of democracy. In a recent panel at the Southern Baptist Convention involving Rick Warren of Saddleback Church and Samuel Rodriguez, a

fundamentalist mega church pastor, gave their support to the Hobby Lobby legislation, which destroys basic constitutional rights of self-determination and equal protection. In doing so, they compared their views to Dr. Martin Luther King's fight against racism, a most insulting likening to those who peacefully gave their lives for liberty and access to the pursuit of happiness.

We the people are people and not corporations. We think, feel and have the capacity to reason. Corporate entities don't have the ability and shouldn't have the right to use sectarian beliefs to violate the rights of the individual. We would remind those who have similar views, that it was our 3rd President, Thomas Jefferson, a Deist, who put a firewall between church and state by saying that government is a democracy and not a theocracy. The right to one's religious belief is just that, a right, and a constitutional one. Religious leaders have the right to practice convictions and impose them on their followers, but it is a leap of incredible faith and stretching the imagination to support the Hobby

Lobby ruling, giving corporations the right to discriminate against persons in the corporate and secular world in the name of religious freedom.

As civil rights activists, who fought 50 years for the African Americans vote, we have a duty as prophetic leaders to call for a day of prayer and protest. We have a duty to stand up for justice and civil public policies to ensure freedom, justice, equality and equal opportunity for basic health care for all who are in need. It is disturbing that the Supreme Court and those from the religious right have not understood the basic concept of religious freedom, something even comedian George Carlin got right when he said, "Religion is like a pair of shoes...find one that fits you, but don't make me wear your shoes."

There are people who know the real mind of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., what he would support and for what he stood. It would not be pastors Warren and Rodri-

... continued on page 4

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

July 7-11

St. Paul AME Zion Vacation Bible School: 5:50 to 8:30 pm nightly; "Wilderness Escapes;" Classes for 3 years old to adults; Crafts, music, outdoor recreation as well; Dinner nightly: 419-243-1065

July 13

Third Baptist Church Holland Annual Old Fashion Service and Cook Out: 11 am
United Church of God Initial Service: 10 am; 701 Phillips Ave
Black Catholic Ministry of Diocese of Toledo Presents The Sacred Heart Chorale Ensemble: 6 pm; St. Martin de Porres; Under the direction of John Thorne: 419-244-4544

July 19

Second Baptist Church Walk-a-Thon: 9 am; Secor Metro Park; Picnic to follow: 419-944-8106

July 22

Glass City Toastmasters: 5:30 to 6:45 pm; United Way of Greater Toledo: 419-266-7474

July 26

St. Stephen's COGIC Annual Community Festival: "Building Bridges in the Community;" 11 am to 5 pm; Fun and food for the family; Gospel DJ, face painting, mime, TFD, Swanton Area Railroad Model Train Club

August 12

NAACP General Membership Meeting; 7 pm

So, You Want More Money...Eh?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

I read the recent Toledo Blade article in which Romules Durant, Ed.D, superintendent of the Toledo Public Schools, was in full dress mode as to stating his case to the voters to pass a new 5.8 mill tax levy for the public schools.

Of course, the usual and expected arguments were vocalized as to the need for more money since the last school tax levy was back in 2001.

However, contra to his valid points are two looming and grimacing behemoths that were threatening to throttle his arguments: (1) voters saying "been there...done that and no appreciable results of school academic improvements" and (2) tired homeowners paying more and more taxes while the business community gets a reduced "free pass" as to their school tax assessments.

As to point one, taxpayers are seemingly frazzled with repeated campaigns and slogans to get them to shell out more and more dough for a school system that seems chronically incapable of ridding itself of the academic stain of the labels of academic emergency or academic watch.

So, now after a multi-million dollar physical plant improvement of many of the public schools that was supposed to be the catalyst to make students and parents proud of their schools and to engender winning school report cards, there have been negligible improvements so far.

Toledo taxpayers were expecting that with so

many millions spent on physical plant improvements and technological embellishments that we would have competent high school graduates who could read and write at a high school level and could attend a two-year or a four-year college without the need for remedial coursework.

For me, as a lawyer who also engages in juvenile court work, I still wince when I hear students from the local high schools torture the English language and display so much difficulty reading and writing.

Without a sound education, so many of those kids are simply fodder for further court entanglements or a promising career in hospital dietary or housecleaning.

As to point two, when you compare who pays for these school levies, the heaviest burden falls on the homeowner. However, the businesses who benefit from an educated workforce, escape the blade of the tax man.

Bad policy...clueless politicians.

Yes, it is a tough sell to ask a homeowner to hand over more money for education for Toledo public schools when you realize that parents who have the financial wherewithal can opt out and send their kids to private or parochial schools.

Yet, for the life of me, I cannot understand this glaring omission by the Toledo Board of Education and the superintendent. Why are they intentionally passing up the opportunity to get more

monies by not requiring all teachers, administrators, board members and staff members who have kids of school age to mandate as a requirement for employment that those kids must be enrolled in a Toledo public school. No exceptions.

The last time I checked, for each enrolled student, TPS receives a subsidy of

\$5800.00. Imagine the money that Toledo Public is leaving on the table when they refuse to confront this issue and yet they claim that they need money!

Why is this issue so combustible? You know why. Those above stated parties who do not or don't want to live in Toledo but want to draw a paycheck from Toledo Public would revolt if they had to have their child in a failing or near failing school.

Or, is it a class issue that such TPS employees do not want their child enrolled at a Scott or a Leverette or a Glenwood or a Fulton or a Cherry or a Mount Vernon school?

Is it OK for them to draw their sustenance from Toledo Public but not OK for them to have their kid(s) sit in a classroom next to a Shanneoquia or a Tay'tone?

I know...I know. You are saying that I should not introduce the twins of class and race into the discussion, but I just did.

Imagine for the all past decades and all of the

... continued on page 4

Statement from President Alicia Reece

On the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, A New Civil Rights Movement Needed


To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President and State Representative Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) released the following statement last week:

"Today we commemorate a landmark day in history, the anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. 50 years later, the United States has come a long way in righting the wrongs of the past. But over time, new adversities have dramatically impacted the ability of all citizens to achieve the American Dream.

"We must revive our call for a new civil rights movement to protect minorities, women, college students and senior citizens from voter



suppression. All over the country, the fundamental right to vote has been under attack by extremist lawmakers. We cannot stand idly by and watch these attempts to disenfranchise and minimize voices of difference. As we reflect on the struggles, triumphs and challenges of those who bravely came before us, we, too, must fight for our democracy and for the fundamental right for all Ohioans and all Americans to vote."



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Perryman.. continued from page 2

guez, but those who have been on the frontlines of history such as: Rev. Samuel "Billy" Kyles, Dr. Dorothy Cotton, Dr. Julius C. Hope, Rev. Willie Barrow, Rev. C. T. Vivian, Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney and Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr., who also went to jail, former Ambassador Andrew Young, who was Dr. King's lead executive assistant; Dr. Amos C. Brown another leader who went to jail with Dr. King and one of the only eight students he taught in his lifetime and, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery, a veteran iconic civil rights leader and many other men and women, whose names we may never know.

Standing in their legacy, the men and women of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference Board of Trustees invite all other clergy and lay leaders to join us in your place of worship on July 13th, 2014 and make your voice heard. Bow your heads in prayer, then vow to fight, for the struggle continues.

With Hope,
Dr. Iva E. Carruthers, General Secretary, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III Pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church & Board Chair of Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc.; Dr. Amos Brown, Chair of Civil and Human Rights Commission, National Baptist

Convention; Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, President, National Baptist Convention; Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore, President, Progressive National Baptist Convention; Dr. Stephen J. Thurston, President, National Black Convention of America; Dr. Samuel Berry McKinney, Pastor Emeritus, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Seattle, WA; Dr. Otis Moss, III, Pastor, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL; Dr. Raphael Warnock, Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Gina Stewart, Pastor, Christ Missionary Baptist Church, Memphis, TN"

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Tolliver.. continued from page 3

hundreds of past and present Toledo Public employees and teachers and administrators who talked about you sending your kid(s) to TPS but their kids(s) were allowed and are allowed to quietly skip out and run off to a suburban school or a parochial school. Is that right? Is that fair?

Think of all of the lost millions of subsidy monies that were lost to Toledo Public due to this wretched and selective segregated arrangement.

So, if Durant wants to pound the drum for more monies and he wants to be credible while doing so, he needs to impose upon the school board to pass emergency legislation that is akin to the following:

Be it enacted as an emergency act that:
Effective for the school year 2015-2016, all employees of Toledo Public

Schools who draw a paycheck or are salaried and board members who have child(ren) of school age are to place said child(ren) in a Toledo Public School.

All employment contracts and contracts for employment renewal for the school year 2015-2016 shall require all Toledo Public employees to enroll their child(ren) in a Toledo Public School.

All employees not covered by the above paragraphs shall be allowed continued employment due to their current employment contracts and upon expiration of same, all new contracts for

employment shall have the above enrollment requirements.

Romules Durant. Toledo Public. Are you serious about improving the education in the public schools or are you just dithering and dabbling and hoping that the tax payer will bail you out... again?

If the employees of TPS do not believe enough in their employer and the quality of their own teaching confederates to enroll their kids in the system that provides them with a roof over their heads and food on the table, let's quit kidding each other and tell the parents that TPS engages in a double standard.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tolliver@Juno.com

African Art Has Arrived!!

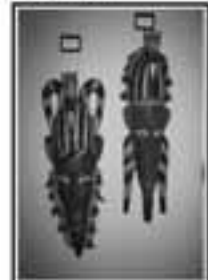
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Interview with Dennis Hicks, Minority Health Coordinator Toledo Lucas County Health Department, Part 1

By Eleanor A. Hutton
The Truth Contributor

The Sojourner's Truth sat down with Dennis Hicks several weeks ago to discuss his work as minority health coordinator for the Toledo Lucas County Health Department and the issues facing local minority communities.

Eleanor Hutton: Please describe for our readers where you work.

Dennis Hicks: I work with the Toledo Lucas County Health Department. Actually my office, the local Office on Minority Health, has two bosses, I'm a county employee for the Health Department, and I also work for the Ohio Commission on Minority Health through a grant from that office in Columbus Oh. Without both of those entities working together I would not be able to do what I am doing.

EH: Who are you when you go into work? And who are you on an average day when you leave?

Hicks: When I go to work, I am minority health coordinator, and all that that entails. I try to be active in the community, I pore over data, I look for grant opportunities, I work very hard to end these health issues, I feel that responsibility very deeply. It is something that is a preoccupation of mine.

It is a very serious issue and I do take it seriously. I would like to ultimately see a world where we don't subdivide people by majority/minority and create these hierarchies where who is entitled and who is not in what life has to offer.

Intellectually it is kind of a Cassandra-type experience. Cassandra is the woman who was fated to know the future but to have no one believe her. When I look around at the 43620 zip code in the Old West End Historic District, but it is just one block away from crack houses, the big boom box cars come by my house and that zip code it happens to be over 70 percent African American. And so I am right there in the middle of all these issues on a daily basis and in my personal life.

I look around at all of this and I see these patterns of people living a life where they have been told, ever since they can imagine, that they have no self-worth and they are playing out that understanding of what their life is supposed to be about. And I want to take the moment and say, "No that is not the way it is. That's a myth that we've inherited."

It is hard because you can't blame it on any one individual because all those individuals have been dead for hundreds of years. It is part of a system that we have inherited that is kind of a tribute to the power of that myth.

The level of the challenge that it is going to take to eliminate that myth, I don't see that happening in my life time. But I so deeply want it to happen, because every day, hour by hour, I see the human cost – intellectual, productivity, the money,

Let's make money the most important issue, the human cost is most important, but the trillions of dollars we are spending on perpetuating this myth. We need a community where everyone feels equal and everyone feels part of the solution, and everyone feels part of the whole not separate, not less than. It is kind of heart-breaking to see it happening and not being able to do anything about it and knowing in my life-time it is not going to go away.

I am rather task oriented and the tasks in front of me are rather huge and so I don't generally have a lot of time to get emotional about the issues. There is too much to do and too little time. There are times when I am home and I am in the community and I see the toll that this is all taking especially knowing what I do about the data and the history. Looking into a world of hierarchy, there is something that we call social determinants of health that I work with a lot. Things like education, access to public

Transport. Income for instance. For each dollar of wealth in this country, an African-American family has three cents. I think of it as a feed-back loop of disparity. Trying to get insurance, the exposure to lead because of the because of the buildings African Americans live in ... these things reinforce themselves over and over and over again

Like a spinning wheel. It is like that wheel spinning on gravel kicking out health disparities. How could those health disparities not affect someone's health especially when they are highly concentrated, in such a small portion of the community?

Whatever I do, I am trying to interrupt that feed-back loop of social determinants.

EH: What are some of the key issues facing your department?

Hicks: We have a mandate here in my office to end health disparity. What I mean by health disparity is my office is committed to addressing differences in the health status and outcome between



Dennis Hicks

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Library Recommends *Ellison's Juneteenth*

Special to *The Truth*

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library recommends the novel *Juneteenth* by the late Ralph Ellison (1914-1994), who is widely known for his acclaimed masterpiece *Invisible Man* (published in 1952). *Juneteenth* was published posthumously in 1999.

When Ellison died in 1994, he left behind a manuscript he had been working on since the 1950s. John Callahan's introduction to this long-awaited edition explores Ellison's life and the history of this second novel (after, of course, the classic *Invisible Man*), cataloguing such disasters as the near-finished manuscript being destroyed in a fire in 1967.

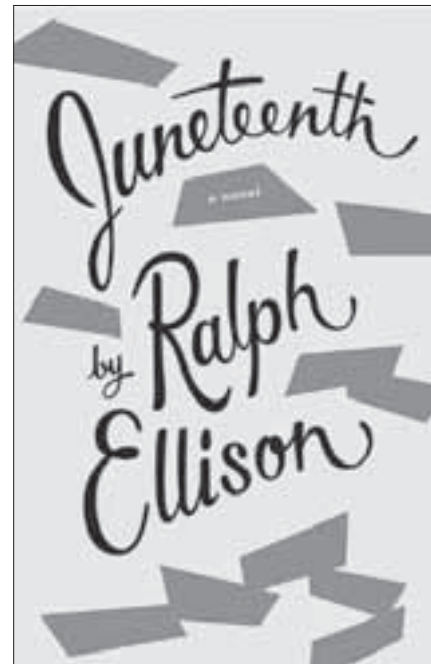
The novel *Juneteenth* turns out to have survived the many obstacles to its birth for, after a rather windy beginning, Ellison writes beautifully, in the grand, layered Southern tradition. The narrative begins in 1950s Washington, D.C., with Adam Sunraider, a race-baiting senator who is gunned down on the Senate floor while a man named Hickman watches in the gallery.

Rushed to the hospital, Sunraider re-

quests Hickman's presence, and the story of the two men's agonized relationship is told in flashbacks as Hickman attends the dying senator. Decades before, Alonzo Hickman was an ex-trombone player turned circuit preacher raising a young boy of indeterminate race named Bliss.

The boy assists Hickman in his revivals, rising out of a white coffin at a certain moment in the sermon. Bliss grows up to change his name to Adam Sunraider and, having passed for white, has gone from being a flimflam artist and movie maker to the U. S. Senate. Always, however, he is in flight from Hickman.

These flashbacks showcase Ellison's stylized set pieces, among the best scenes he has written, especially as his incandescent images chart the mysteries and legacies of slavery. Bliss remembers his courtship of a black woman in a piercingly sweet reverie, and he revisits a revival meeting on Juneteenth (June 19), the date in 1865 on which slaves in Texas were finally informed of the Emancipation Proclamation. The sermon in this section is perhaps the highlight of the novel, sure to achieve classic status on its own merits.



The revival meeting is interrupted by a white woman who claims Bliss is her son, after which Bliss begins his odyssey for an identity that takes him, by degrees, away from the black culture of his youth. Gradually, we learn of the collusion of lies and violence that brought Bliss to Hickman in the first place.

Editor Callahan, in his informative afterword, describes the difficult process of editing Ellison's unfinished novel and of arranging the massive body of work into the unwieldy yet cohesive story Ellison wanted to tell.

The difficulties he faced are most obvious in the ending, which is Faulknerian to a fault, even to the overuse of the word "outrage." Nonetheless, this volume is a visionary tour de force, a lyrical, necessary contribution to America's perennial racial dialogue, and a novel powerfully reinforcing Ellison's place in literary history.

Source: *Publisher's Weekly*



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Tips to Keep Kids Learning and Prevent 'Summer Slump'

Special to The Truth

"No more pencils, no more books" is a familiar summer refrain. But make sure your youngster doesn't take those words too seriously.

All students -- regardless of socio-economic status -- lose approximately 2.6 months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation over summer, according to a Johns Hopkins study. The study also concluded that low-income students experience significant losses in reading comprehension and word recognition while on break.

This pattern of academic regression has been dubbed "summer slump." Fortunately -- for proactive parents -- these quick-and-easy tips can help stem its tide.

Watch Your Language

You've probably admonished your son or daughter with this phrase, but when it comes to summer learning, take heed of it yourself. When kids are enjoying vacation, they may not want to hear

the spirit of exploration and adventure captured by traditional summer camps.

After registering at www.Wonderopolis.org/camp, kids can wend their way through six science-themed tracks and 42 individual lessons, all of which can help combat the dreaded "summer slump." For parents who want to keep kids active during the summer months, Camp Wonderopolis also features hands-on offline activities.

"The key is to make learning feel like an extension of their vacation," says NCFE Vice President Emily Kirkpatrick. "Camp Wonderopolis seeks to tap into a child's natural feelings of wonder and curiosity, allowing learning to occur organically."

Learn Together

Why should kids spend the summer learning while mom and dad get off the hook? It's easier to get cooperation when learning is a shared experience, so dust off some books you never got

around to reading and share them together.

Power of Choice

Oftentimes, kids rebel against schoolwork simply because it's obligatory. Their teachers assign books to read and problems to solve without their input, and set hard deadlines for when such work must be completed. Put your child in the driver's seat over summer by letting them tell you what they'd like to learn.

Instead of mapping out a strict plan, take a trip to the bookstore and let kids pick out books. Many young people are invigorated by this sort of freedom and may even choose something more challenging than you would have selected.

There are plenty of strategies that will keep your kids learning over summer. Approach the subject tactfully and your youngster will have a leg-up when it's time to head back to school.

Courtesy StatePoint

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library and the Library Legacy Foundation present



The Wizards of Pop: Sabuda and Reinhart

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The Wizards of Pop with Matthew Reinhart In Observance of the 10th Anniversary of The Robert L. and Posy Huebner Collection

By Rhonda B. Sewell, Library Media Relations Coordinator

In observance of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's 10th Anniversary of The Robert L. and Posy Huebner Collection, celebrated children's book author, illustrator and paper engineer **Matthew Reinhart** is scheduled to make a Toledo stopover from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **July 8** in the McMaster Center of Main Library, 325 Michigan St.

Main Library officials will feature the works of Reinhart and **Robert Sabuda**, three-dimensional designers who create pop-up masterpieces, in a gallery exhibition titled **The Wizards of Pop: Sabuda and Reinhart**, on view during Main Library regular hours of operation from **July 7 through the end of August**. Reinhart's scheduled appearance and exhibition are **FREE** and open to the public.

Reinhart's local presentation will be followed by a book signing, and books will be available for purchase on site from Whale of a Tale. Come and meet the



award-winning paper engineer whose creations have made the *New York Times* Best sellers' list.

"As a kid, I only ever owned one pop-up book. It made a huge impression on me – one that would not resurface until much later in

my life," states Reinhart on his official website www.matthewreinhart.com

His latest design work is "Game of Thrones: A Pop-Up Guide to Westeros" – a pop-up book based on the popular HBO series Game of Thrones. Reinhart worked on this book with Michael Komarck, illustrator.

Reinhart's local stopover includes one of his Star Wars pop-ups - Darth Vader's helmet, from his "Star Wars: A Pop-Up Guide to the Galaxy." The exhibit also includes works from "Dinosaurs: A Pop-Up Book," "The Jungle Book: A Pop-Up Adventure" and more!

The Wizards of Pop ex-

hibit and Reinhart's appearance are sponsored by the generous support of The Library Legacy Foundation in observance of the 10th Anniversary of the Robert L. and Posy Huebner Collection. Established in 2004 through a generous bequest from the late Mr. Huebner (1922-2004) and sustained by Mrs. Huebner (1923-2014) until her very recent death.

Located in the Children's Library, the Collection blends the late couple's passion for art and children, and is one of the largest collections of art from children's books housed in a public library.

The Collection comprises over 200 illustrations, many by regional and award-winning artists.

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Kids Ages 12-17 \$5/Person * Kids UNDER 12 years old FREE

Tickets available online @ www.eventbrite.com (African American Music Festival)

Tickets also available at Toledo Urban Federal C.U. * 1339 Dorr Street

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TPS to Ask Voters for Tax Hike in November

By Kevin Milliken
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Toledo Public Schools board of education will go to the voters in November to seek another tax levy, but this year's version would involve new money for the school district.

The TPS board voted unanimously to put a five-year, 5.8-mill levy on the Nov. 4 ballot, which would raise approximately \$13.3 million per year: an estimated \$10 million for operating expenses and just under \$3.4 million devoted to capital improvement costs such as new buses, upgraded technology and building maintenance.

School board members stated the bulk of the new money would go toward resuming bus transportation that was cut in recent years due to the economic recession. Board member Lisa Sobecki lamented that this year's harsh winter, which caused the district to use 13 calamity days, only increased the board's long-term desire to restore bus service.

"We have some of our youngest kids—five-year olds going into kindergarten—that are walking some very long distances and crossing some very busy roads," she said. "Not every parent has the funds to for a bus pass to put a kindergartener on a bus."

"If kids are having to travel multiple miles as well as provide unsafe conditions, a lot of times they're not going to get themselves there," echoed Romules Durant, Ed.D, TPS superintendent. "So safety is a priority, based on the winter we just saw. Kids went through treacherous conditions."

"It's not just for our district. It's for the entire city of Toledo," said TPS board member Chris Varwig, citing state law, which requires the school district to provide the same bus service to students who attend charter schools or other schools on state vouchers.

School board members also cited the need to be able to recruit and retain talented teachers and administrators, many of whom are trained by TPS and leave for more lucrative career opportunities in suburban school districts. Part of the levy would be used to restore past contract concessions, as well as provide flexibility for pay raises.

"We're trying to make a step—just a step—toward restoring some of that compensation," said Bob Vasquez, TPS board vice president. "This is not going to totally do it. It is only a step in that direction.

It's only a step towards being competitive. It is not going to make us totally competitive."

"Other districts can hire them, including in other states, that can pay a signing bonus, something of which we don't have in Toledo Public Schools," said Sobecki. "They actually have moving expenses they can pay folks to come and work in their district, which we don't have. It's imperative we have competitive wages for our employees."

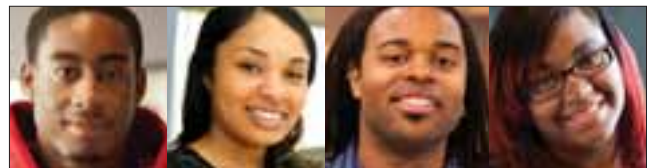
Durant also cited "multiple innovations" that district leaders intend to bring forward, including the Leadership Academy, which would place single-gender academies in separate wings of the former Samuel E. Jones at Gunckel Park elementary school.

Events will be held, the superintendent explained, that would allow young men and women to participate "in appropriate interactions," such as debates, business and entrepreneurial clubs, among others. Durant stated that such innovations are planned with the intent of bringing students back to TPS.

The district has lost an estimated 11,000 students in recent years: more than 9,000 attend charter schools and the state's school voucher program makes up the remainder of the losses. But TPS leaders, despite the continued drain on district finances, maintain they've been able to stem the tide of defections to other educational opportunities by offering more choices.

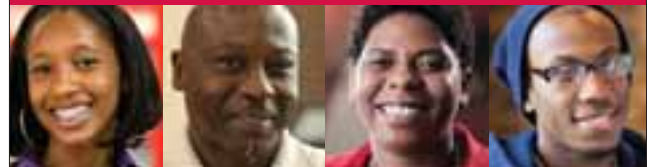
TPS has not received new levy dollars since 2001. The proposed

... continued on page 13



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By the Youth; Of the Youth; For the Youth; With the Youth

The Youth Visions Park – A Call to Action in Full Color

Special to The Truth

Opening on July 11 at 1:00 p.m. in Wilson Park, the Youth Visions Park is a youth-centered, youth-planned, youth-built, youth-maintained park within which the insights and shared visions of neighborhood youth are heralded to the public through creative expression. This park stands as a permanent monument celebrating the creative leadership potential of our most precious natural resource—our youth.

Young people from Toledo's 2014 YouthBuild cohort have invested time, talents, and energy in creating a space within which the visions of hundreds of their peers can be displayed. These youth have cut a symbolic walking path, built reflection benches and helped with the installation of

the murals.

Further additions and enhancements to the park are currently being planned. Ideas have already been generated for additional murals that will be painted on the park buildings. The park will serve as a safe gathering place for youth, an outdoor gallery, a site for reflection and dialogue, a recreational space, a canvas for showcasing the talents of neighborhood youth, an educational field-trip site and a historical land-mark.

Murals for the park were produced over a period of several years in partnership with many local organizations including the Youth Opportunities Program, the

Toledo Police Department, the Neighborhood Association of North Toledo, Adelante, and the Teen Outreach Program.

The signature Creative Peaceful Resistance (CPR) © approach—described below, has been used to produce murals besides those that will be installed in the reflection park. Murals on the Cherry Street Mission building, in the Juvenile Detention Center Main lobby, in the Summit YMCA Youth Center, in the Kwanzaa Park (Nebraska), and on Summit and Lagrange Street buildings have all been produced using the CPR approach.

Conceptual Background: Since the spring of 2006, listening and learning sessions were initiated with hundreds of youth in Toledo's urban areas. The very first sessions were organized to help young people in North Toledo to process their thoughts and feelings following a Neo-Nazi intrusion. In the wake of this incident, many youth felt violated and they expressed feelings of intense anger and even despair.

Over the course of several weeks, the youth were introduced to creative peaceful resistance as a strategy for peacefully protesting injustices and sharing visions for hope and renewal with the public. Intrigued and excited by the idea of CPR, youth re-

sponded with great enthusiasm. This approach seeks to harness the creative energy of youth, and channel it away from destructive actions and towards self and community transformation.

During the process of trying to identify ways to practice and promote CPR, the production of murals was clearly the most popular option. The process of producing CPR murals has helped hundreds of youth to learn how to constructively share their sentiments, insights, and visions for change. Specially trained artists sketch out the insights of youth and work closely with the latter to create full-color murals reflecting the visions of participating youth. All CPR murals are youth-informed, youth-guided, and youth-approved.

For more information, contact Lorna Gonsalves, Ph.D., architect of the CPR Program, at lornagonsalves@yahoo.com; John Page, youth specialist, YouthBuild, at jmpage@wsos.org; Dennis Garvin, commissioner, City of Toledo Parks, Recreation and Forestry, at dennis.garvin@toledo.oh.gov; Charlie Johnson, program manager, Community Integration and Training for Employment at cjohnson@co.lucas.oh.us

This event is free and open to the public



Toledo Public Schools and Lucas County Head Start are hosting a Recruitment Fair for families interested in registering or continuing the registration process for their child for preschool for the 2014-2015 school year.

WHEN:

Tuesday, July 15
Wednesday, July 16
Thursday, July 17
from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day

WHERE:

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Documents needed are:

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Please call the Early Childhood Office (419) 671-8756 with any questions or to schedule an appointment

The first day of preschool is Tuesday, September 2.



Undecided: Navigating Life and Learning after High School by Genevieve Morgan

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

If your great-aunt asks you One. More. Time, you might scream.

“What are you going to do after graduation?” It’s all she wants to know. It’s all anybody wants to know – including you.

You don’t have a lot of high school left. You’ve got some decisions to make, but you feel stuck. So read *Undecided: Navigating Life and Learning after High School* by Genevieve Morgan, and see if it doesn’t help.

Your best friend is heading for college.

So, in fact, are two-thirds of your classmates, but maybe not you. You know what’s expected, but you don’t know if that’s what you want so it’s time to ask yourself some hard questions – now, “not in twenty years.”

The first step is to learn more about what “makes you tick.” What’s your temperament, motivation, personality? Are you ex-

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troverted or introverted? What do you love to do and, in a perfect world with no impediments, would you do it for a living? How much money will you need and how can you finance it? Will your parents support your plan or would you have to find a way to do it yourself?

Then, decide what you’d want out of a college education.

You already know the arguments against it – even former Secretary of Education William J. Bennett questioned the need for college for all – but remember that education is “still the most important investment you can make in yourself.” What’s best for you, *when* is it right, and what will work for your personality: two- or four-year college, Ivy League or state school, tech school or online university?

And if you get grief for that last one, remember that “it only matters what you know how to do, not where you learned it.”

Then again, what if the idea of *more school* makes you a little queasy? Morgan says to look into volunteering or military service, if that’s how you feel. Check out the Peace Corps, civil servant jobs, an internship or apprenticeship. Travel, if you can. Or, if you’ve got the funding, try your hand at entrepreneurship.

Just know that, as long as what you do is not “stupid or criminal,” this uncertainty is normal. Everything will work out, “just not right now.”

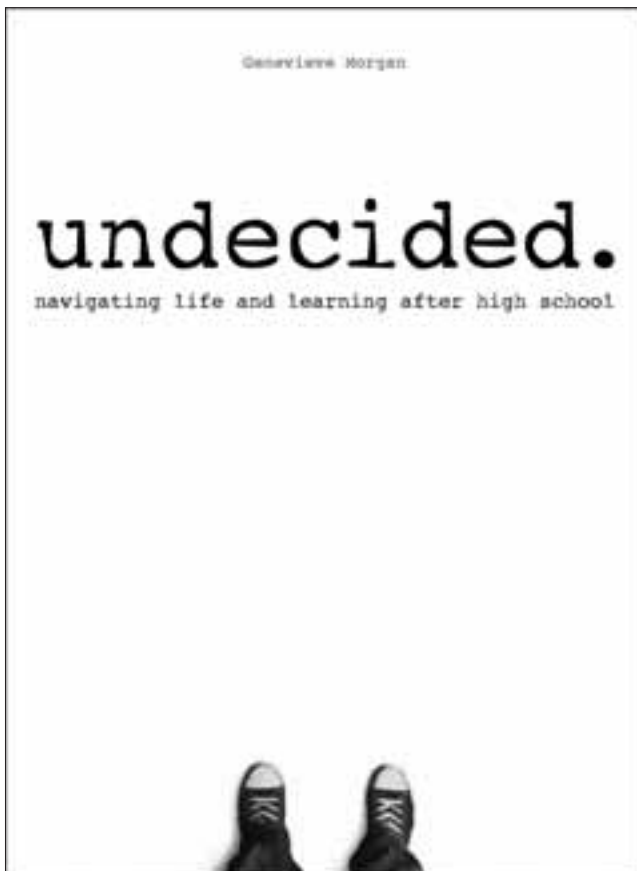
Your parents obviously want you to go to college. You’ve been thinking about it, though, and you’re having second thoughts. *Undecided*, can help you un-

derstand your options – but if you’re looking for permission to goof off, look elsewhere.

It’s true that chill-time isn’t a bad thing and author Genevieve Morgan admits that - but she wants her readers to further their education. Step-by-step and through worksheets, she lays out the pros and cons of profs and classes, but she’s also thought of other post-high-school ideas that many people ignore.

That includes some things your parents might not like...

You’ll learn to deal with that here, as well as other hurdles you might encounter, and I liked that comprehensiveness. For any student who knows (and needs) direction like that, finding *Undecided* is an easy choice.



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Dennis Hicks... continued from page 5

minority groups and whites in Lucas County. In almost every case we are looking at an illness or a medical condition or a case or a health outcome. For instance, mortality rates among African Americans, Hispanics as well, and in some cases Asians and also some cases Native American. Native Americans have the worse outcomes from health intervention and they also have more illness and more disease. It is a population that is sicker and they live shorter lives. So that's the main issue that I am working with, there are a lot of related issues but that is primarily what I do.

EH: What issues are you facing day-to-day. What is the most complicated issue? What is the simplest issue?

Hicks: Day to day my job changes dramatically. There are so many facets to this job.

My plans usually don't reflect what I've collectively done at the end of the day. There are a number of requirements in my job that I work with: data, collecting it and I work with community groups to build coalitions and collaborations. The goal there is to try to empower the community and to provide them with catalysts for making change. I also deal with policy issues. Those policy issues can be very wide ranging. I find that very often the ultimate solution to health outcomes is disseminating information. What's going on with the health status with minorities and those disparities is policy related.

EH: Could you tell me about a significant, current policy issue and if that is especially significant one or if you know of a policy coming up?

Hicks: A current policy issue, one that I am dealing with is the infant mortality rate. Actually it is related to our national infant mortality rate.

The United States is not one of the world leaders in keeping our babies alive through the first year. When we talk about infant mortality we are talking about birth through

the first year. So we are dealing with that, first of all, and in that respect the African-American infant mortality rate in the United States is much worse than the white infant mortality rate.

That translates as well to the state level. As a matter of fact we just got some disturbing data that was updated only last week that shows that in Ohio we are last in the nation as far as black infant mortality. So it is not the South – Alabama, Louisiana or Mississippi – that has the worst infant mortality rate.

So the worst place for a black baby to be born is right here in Ohio. In Ohio, Lucas County is among the top 10 highest infant mortality rates of any community in this state. So we are dealing with the United States which does not have a great record and then we have Ohio which as far as black infant mortality is among the worst. And then we have Lucas County which is the worst in the state.

It is something that can't be addressed simply by the health care system. The health care system in Lucas County is actually doing a pretty good job. Because, among the state's worst communities in the state of Ohio, Toledo/Lucas County is actually the best of the worst. We've got some good maternal and child health intervention going on here. We've got a program called Pathways that targets women of childbearing age. So that we can wrap services around them and it has been very successful in preventing negative birth outcomes.

So it is not the health care system as a problem, it is more of a set of policy issues, in Lucas County and in the state, that affect the infant mortality rate.

EH: What significant information you are gaining about blacks/Hispanics?

Hicks: Let me talk about Hispanics first because that is kind of a complex issue. In the United States we have a large, growing Hispanic population who are first generation in the country. Interestingly enough, the first generation Hispanic infant mortality rate is similar to the white rate. As the generations of Hispanics continue to live here in the United States their infant mortality rate increases and becomes more like the African-American rate.

So we have a first generation effect that's improving the Hispanic infant mortality rate. And also one other factor is that Hispanics smoke very little when they are pregnant.

Whites smoke about 22 percent during their pregnancy so. Hispanics smoke at a rate of two percent.

Smoking is a risk factor for infant mortality. So we have that and the first generation effect that are driving down the Hispanic infant mortality rate. While at the same time the smoking rate is driving up the white mortality rate. The result is that those two rates appear to look similar for different reasons. Where we have a disparity is the African-American infant mortality rate.

We are involved in a state-wide response to Ohio's terrible infant mortality rate right now.

It is called the Ohio Equity Institute. Each community that is involved in the OEI has its own team – maternal and childhood health experts of community leaders and community activists who are concerned about this issue. They have gotten together first of all to collect data and understand what's going on

in here Lucas County locally.

We spent a year doing that and what the data has told us are two things: first of all, we have a problem here with safe-sleep issues. There is a history of parents putting their babies to bed on their stomachs. If you ask any grandmother in Lucas County she'll say, "Yeah that's the way to do it."

We have new information that says that's not the way to do it, that that's a risk factor for SIDS. So we have got a job to do to get that new information out, to reduce the chance of SIDS among our infants. It is not just positioning; it is the stuff that people like to put in the crib. The stuffed animals and the baby bumpers and the plush blankets and the stuff that people like to put in with the baby all of those things put the baby at risk for smothering.

The best way to put a baby to bed is on their back in their crib with nothing in it. The baby can just wear a onesie and that's it, because anything else in the crib increases the chance of SIDS.

Also related to safe sleep is co-sleeping with parents. Parents sometimes fall asleep with the baby in bed with them, so they don't look at the positioning and the baby can fall asleep on its stomach, they can roll over on the baby, the baby can roll over between the wall and the bed. Those are the kind of things that are avoidable. So that's what the data has told us.

So we can improve the infant mortality rate here in Lucas County by teaching safe-sleep practices. That's one thing. Another thing is to address pre-conception health.

Women in Lucas County – and nationwide – are not in the best of shape. So what we found here in Lucas County are issues like diabetes and hyper-tension, smoking as I mentioned before, and obesity. Those are the things that create a risk for the baby.

A healthy mom is the best way to have a healthy baby. And so this is an issue that we are going to have to pay much more attention to and to improve the health of women of child-bearing age. The time to get healthy is not after you're pregnant it is before you're pregnant.

And there is one other thing that we are looking at related to national data, and that has to do with race, because we've got some confounding issues here. Very often when I talk to people about infant mortality they talk and quickly leap to one answer that they think is going to solve the problem: "Education is the thing that will fix it. If we encourage people to get a job to improve their lives or improve their socio-economic status than that's going to solve the problem."

But what we find is that when we control for genetics, when we control for education-socio economic status, we find that we still have racial and economic-health disparities. So for instance, an African-American woman with a college degree has a higher infant mortality rate than a white woman who hasn't graduated from high school. That is the kind of things we are looking at. We can't eliminate race as an independent factor



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... continued on page 13

Tax Hike... continued from page 9

tax issue would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$203 annually. Voters rejected a levy in 2012 that would have meant additional tax revenue. School districts in Ohio have traditionally had a difficult time getting voters to approve new-money levies, especially as homeowners bear a greater burden in funding local schools because of state government budget cuts.

"Superintendents should be campaigning every day of the year. I go to churches every Sunday. I go to multiple events and stay connected in regard to what's going on in the community with regard to faith-based and business," said Durant. "I've been to every Rotary, every chamber of commerce and every association. I'll just be coming to do a second round to those locations as well. When the community feels a connection to the schools, then they feel there's a buy-in, a

vested interest in support of schools."

"I think that we've demonstrated that we really should have the support of the community because we're well into the transformation plan and we have some priorities that we need to address. I think we can talk with the community and get the community's support," said Vasquez, while also calling tax levies "unpopular" but "something we have to do."

"I'm hoping the voters will be informed, engaged, and listen," said Sobceki.

However, the TPS levy may be just one of four levies facing Toledo voters in November. Three other agencies also are seeking levies, two of which would be funding increases:

- The Lucas County Mental Health Recovery and Services Board is looking to voters to renew a 10-year, 0.50-mill levy to serve

an estimated 26,000 people facing mental illness or addiction;

- The Lucas County Children Services Board is seeking to replace a five-year, 1.4-mill levy with a seven-year, 1.9-mill tax issue, two years before it is set to expire;

- The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio wants a five-year renewal of a 0.45-mill levy set to expire at year's end, with an increase of 0.15 mills to serve the county's senior population, which has grown by double-digits since 2010.

All three agencies recently presented their proposals to the Lucas County Citizens Levy Review Committee, which will make recommendations to Lucas County Commissioners, who, in turn, will have final say over whether those levies will be placed on the Nov. ballot.

Care Act... continued from page 16

comprehensive, affordable, high quality primary health care services in the communities that need it most. Later today, Secretary Burwell will also visit a Community Health Center in Decatur, Georgia to talk with its health care professionals about the important work they are doing to connect the community with high quality primary care.

"In communities across the country, Americans turn to their local Community Health Center for vital health care services that help them lead healthy, productive lives," said Secretary Burwell. "That's why it's so important that the Affordable Care Act is supporting the expansion of health centers."

The investment announced today will add to the more than 550 new health center sites that have opened in the last three years as a result of the Affordable Care Act. Today, nearly 1,300 health centers operate more than 9,200 service delivery sites that provide care to more than 21 million patients in every State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Basin. Health centers are also playing a critical role in helping the public learn about new coverage opportunities under the Affordable Care Act, by conducting outreach and enrollment activities that link individuals to affordable coverage options available through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

"Since last fall, health centers have provided enrollment assistance to more than 4.7 million people across the country," said HRSA Administrator Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N. "We are pleased that the Affordable Care Act is supporting the establishment of additional health center sites to provide expanded opportunities for the newly insured to receive care."

To learn more about this funding opportunity, visit <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/apply/assistance/nap/>.

To learn more about the Affordable Care Act, visit www.HealthCare.gov.

To learn more about HRSA's Health Center Program, visit <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/index.html>.

To find a health center in your area, visit <http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>.



Dennis Hicks... continued from page 12

in the birth outcome.

When we look at genetics we find there is no such thing as an infant mortality or low birth weight gene it doesn't exist. When we talk about Hispanic or first generation Africans their babies have a birth rate that is very similar to white babies. But their children when they have their babies their birth rate is very similar to African Americans.

So there is something about being in America that causes these birth outcomes that is independent that is independent of education or socio-economic status. So that is another thing that we are looking at.

Ed. Note: This was part one of our interview with Dennis Hicks. The second and concluding part will be published in next week's issue. Hicks will further discuss the impact of race and poverty on minority communities.



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CLASSIFIEDS

July 9, 2014

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EFNEP Program Assistant (Youth or Adult) Bilingual

OSU Extension, Lucas County is hiring for a Program Assistant (Bilingual) position with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP). The position will work 40 hours per week. This position will teach food and nutrition topics to low income adults, youth and/or families in a variety of community settings. This person should be indigenous to the community and proficient in English and Spanish. For complete position description and online application instructions, please go to www.jobsatosu.com and search by Job Opening Number **383067**. To assure consideration you must apply by **July 13, 2014**. To build a diverse workforce, Ohio State encourages applications from individuals with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women. EEO/AA employer.

Legal Notice

Bids will be received by Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) until **3:00 p.m., August 14, 2014** for the selection of Vendor(s) to provide **Non-Emergency Medicaid and Title XX Transportation Services** for eligible LCDJFS clients. Submitted bid packets must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Qualifications. The contract period will be from approximately **October 1, 2014** through **September 30, 2015**.

No bids will be accepted after **3:00 p.m., August 14, 2014**; bids that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFQ will not be accepted.

The Request for Qualifications will be available on **July 17, 2014**. It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

An Electronic Question & Answer (Q&A) process will be from July 17, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. to July 30, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. **PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.** Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing and received via email, at lucas_contracts@jfs.ohio.gov by July 30, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.; the posting of the Q&A will be on August 6, 2014. If any changes are made to the RFQ as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RFQ will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted, as of **July 17, 2014**, at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

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

Carol Contrada - President
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Bid 48-15-RFQ-01

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Hardscape Improvements, Secor Metropark National Center for Nature Photography, Berkey, Ohio** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of hardscape improvements adjacent the existing National Center for Nature Photography located at Secor Metropark. The project includes concrete sidewalk demolition and replacement with stamped decorative concrete walks & patio, concrete curbing, asphalt repairs, catch basin adjustment, stone wall/column masonry & footings, wood fence/ pergola construction. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Tuesday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$15 is required for each set of documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA
Stephen W. Madewell, Director

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The Best Black-Owned Businesses in Toledo??

Special to The Truth

Just what and where are the best black-owned businesses in Toledo – great service, great performance, great prices???

The Truth is asking our readers to let us know just who and where these businesses are. Drop us a line via email – business@thetruth-toledo.com – or facebook – SojournerTruth Newspaper - and leave a message --- comments, questions, opinions ...

Got a great business and want to make your case – email or facebook us!!!

We will be letting you know how the voting turned out in September and what other readers had to say about various businesses!



HHS Announces the Availability of \$100 million in Affordable Care Act Funding to Expand Access to Primary Care Through New Community Health Centers

Special to The Truth

HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell announced this week the availability of \$100 million from the Affordable Care Act to support an estimated 150 new health center sites across the country in 2015. New health center sites will increase access to

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The 10th Annual African American Music Festival
Sunday, July 20, 2014 *Gates open at 1PM*
 University of Toledo - Scott Park Campus
NEBRASKA AVE. @ PARKSIDE BLVD.

FREE RIDES FOR KIDS Sponsored by State Farm
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 Also featuring... The Abundant Life Ministries Choir


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THE NEWSON FAMILY SINGERS

V.I.P. Tickets \$15.00/Person; Preferred Seating Provided
General Admission Tickets \$10/Person; Bring your own chair
V.I.P. Weekend Pass \$40/Person; Preferred Seating Provided
General Admission Weekend Pass \$25.00/Person; Bring your own chair
Seniors Ages 65+ Tickets \$5/Person * College Students with Valid I.D. \$5/Person
Kids Ages 4-18 \$5/Person * Kids UNDER 4 years old FREE


Tickets available online @ www.eventbrite.com (African American Music Festival)
 Tickets also available at Toledo Urban Federal C.U. * 1339 Dorr Street
 For more info please call TOLEDO URBAN FCU @ 419-255-8876
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