



Volume 30, No. 8 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* November 19, 2014

Blessed Blossoms Flower Shop



Stacey Turner, Proprietor

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Oh...What Could Have Been!

By Lafe Tollicer, Esq
Guest Column

Well. It is time to turn the porch light on and call it a day. Time to call in the dog and the cat from outside and settle them down for the night. Time to put your hair in curlers (women only please) and find that soft pillow spot and go off to dream land.

For all practical purposes, the presidency of Barack Obama has ended. I know...I know. He still has two more years to try to hurdle the fence and to scratch out a viable legacy, but, come on folks...the fat lady is singing and it is a blues song.

The gloomy tune goes something like this: "If I hadda known this was to happen I woulda stayed away..If I hadda known this was to happen, I would have stayed away...If I hadda known this was to happen I would have stayed away and found another job for my payday."

That's the song that President Obama must be singing at midnight when he finally realizes that he just goofed six years of promise and the next two years will not be kind to him.

Who would have thought that back in 2008 when the junior senator from Illinois, who showed so much promise, at least in his soaring rhetoric, would land with a thundering dud six years later.

Undoubtedly, lengthy books and Ph.D. dissertations will be written long after he and Michelle leave the White House as to what happened to so much potential and promise.

Why didn't the acts match the progressive pronouncements of a man who seemingly could capture any crowd and wow them with his intellectual acumen.

What potholes did he not see when he crisscrossed the country delivering speech after speech that appealed to such a large and broad-based coalition of voters hoping for change and that he was the agent of change.

At what time did Barack Obama leave his transcript of hope and governmental transparency and go off into uncharted waters of being a passive president whose best days were on the campaign trail and not in the White House.

I believe that historians will be unkind and brutal to this president who for reasons known only to himself and his wife, Michelle, chose a path of least resistance when he had to fight the dragon of a belligerent Republican Congress.

And much less the hostile leadership of both John Boehner and the recalcitrant Senate leader, Mitch McConnell, and his host of yapping minions who were more than glad to attack simply for the sake of attacking.

Where does one start to recite the missed opportunities that President

Obama had to excite the populace to demand that Congress back off and back him up?

Why did this intellectual president believe that he could act as a college professor and by dint of sheer intellectual firepower, win over his critics and advance a national policy that was progressive and fair to all?

When it was time to take his naysaying bullies by the throat and chastise them, all we got was garden tea party niceties instead of telling his critics to prove it or stand down!

It almost seemed that President Obama had an acute aversion to rolling up his sleeves (except in campaign photo opps) and slugging it out with the Senate or the Congress.

It is as if he believed that if he just would look presidential and smile his winsome smile, all would be well in Camelot and he would win the day.

Sadly, that was not true. What is becoming true is that Barack Obama was literally over his head as being ready for the White House.

The immensity of its power and the power of its immensity took his breath away and what he thought he could or would in the White House quickly evaporated when he had to face the heat and glare of intense scrutiny of the press and a hostile Congress and Senate.

Was he caught off-guard by such bellicosity and venom from his attackers?

Yes. He was both shocked and quieted by their relentless attacks on his person and his policies but yet the advisors around him, including Valerie

... continued on page 3

Community Calendar

November 22

Christian Community Church Youth Alive Talent Show: For youth ages 13-18; 4 pm; Prizes for winners

United MBC Food Giveaway: 10 am to noon; Parking lot entrance; First come/first served

November 23

Macedonia Baptist 13th Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Clifford L. Mayes; 10 am service: 419-320-2379

Beulah Baptist Junction Street Project Church Service: 6 pm; Guest preacher Pastor Harold Stegall of Kingdom Life Church Ministry: 419-944-5262
St. Paul AME Zion 4th Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor and First Lady Dwight L. and Mia Gutridge; Morning service at 11 am; Evening services at 5 pm: 419-243-1065 or 419-246-0790

Ebenezer MBC 20th Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor and First Lady JL Jordan Jr; 4 pm; Guests Rev. John Williams and Eastern Star MBC; "Step by Step - Order My Steps in thy World:" 419-242-2581

November 25

Temple of Praise Church 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Community Feeding: 6 to 7 pm; Free-will donations welcome: 419-754-0325

November 26

Ebenezer Baptist MBC Free Annual Need to Feed Thanksgiving Dinner: Noon to 2 pm: 419-729-1466

November 27

Thomas Temple Church of God in Christ 11th Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner: 1 to 3 pm

December 4-5

Christian Community Church Winter Empowerment Revival: 7 pm; Prophet Daniel Smith of New Orleans

December 7

Bethlehem Baptist Church 97th Anniversary: 9 am service; Guests Rev. Aaron Brown and the Unity MBC: 419-241-9360

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word - Publisher and Editor
Marticia Hurst - Office Manager

Tricia Hall - Reporter
Carla Leonard - Social Editor
Rev. D.L. Perryman - Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz - Webmaster
Kathy Sweeny - Graphic Designer
Jessica Crans - Layout

A Certified MBE

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Medicare Open Enrollment

What Will You Find During Medicare Open Enrollment? October 15 - December 7

Your health needs change from year to year. And, your health plan may change the benefits and costs each year too. That's why it's important to review your Medicare choices each fall. Compare your current plan to new options and see if you can lower some costs or to find a plan that better suit your needs. Open Enrollment is the one time of year when ALL people with Medicare can see what new benefits Medicare has to offer and make changes to their coverage.

Whether you have Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan, you'll still have the same benefits and security you have now:

- Certain preventive benefits – including cancer screenings – are available at no cost to you when provided by qualified and participating health professionals. The annual wellness visit lets you sit down with your doctor and discuss your health care needs and the best ways to stay healthy.
- Medicare will notify you about plan performance and use its online Plan Finder to encourage enrollment in quality plans.
- In 2015, if you reach the “donut hole” in Medicare’s prescription

Tolliver... continued from page 2

Jarrett, were equally flummoxed by the constant political drivel that they had to fight off and respond to, if at all possible.

No, my friend, Barack Obama was not a political fighter who knew how to throw a combination left hook and uppercut. He was not skilled in close hand to hand political combat. He did not have the political background to throttle his featherweight opponents...and they smelled it and went in for the kill.

One cannot be president when one governs from the shadows and from behind the drawn curtains. The political circus that we have developed in this country requires a president that is willing to both present a flower and also, when needed, to at least show a dagger. Obama repeatedly favored the flower.

A president can only govern from his personality but should have the intuition to gather around him players who can fill in for his faults and not those who will only accentuate them.

Now that the Senate and the Congress have won the midterm elections, Barack Obama is going to have a sad and lonely two more years before his political nightmare ends with he and Michelle gladly leaving town to recuperate in Chicago.

How sad and how sadder it is to know what could have been with this first black president will never be repeated again. If only Barack Obama was not willing to play the tragic Shakespearean Othello in the greatest play of his life.

Years from now when the tally is still being taken as to what could have been accomplished with Barack Obama's presidency, one of the more lucid and enduring statements will be, “Oh, what could have been!”

President Obama, “Why oh why did you not first put on your big boy pants and go out on the playground and take it to the hoop!?”

Who wants to read your memoirs and you bemoan what happened to you and what you would have done differently.

You have two years to seek redemption. Quit the GQ styling and start flaring your nostrils and take the White House and not let the White House take you.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tolliver@Juno.com

tion drug benefit, you'll get a 55% discount on covered brand name drugs and see increased savings on generic drugs.

It's worth it to take the time to review and compare, but you don't have to do it alone. Medicare is available to help.

- Visit Medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare your current coverage with all of the options that are available in your area, and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day/7 days a week to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Review the Medicare & You 2015 handbook. It's mailed to people with Medicare in September.
- If you have limited income and resources, you may be able to get Extra Help paying your prescription drug coverage costs. For more information, visit socialsecurity.gov/i1020 or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.
- Get one-on-one help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Visit Medicare.gov/contacts or call 1-800-MEDICARE to get the phone number.

This message is brought to you by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Thank you for passing The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board Renewal Levy!



With the passage of Issue 8, more than 26,000 friends, neighbors and family members will benefit from programs funded by the levy. The voters of Lucas County have once again proven that they support and care for those in their communities who may be unable to care for themselves. We are truly humbled and honored to have the support of Lucas County voters. Our work educating the public about Lucas County's Community Mental Health and Recovery System is not done. We will continue to engage and educate the public about mental health and recovery issues and the resources that are available because wellness and recovery are possible! Feel free to send suggestions about community events we can participate in to Kristal Barham at kbarham@lcmhrsb.oh.gov or call 419-213-4600.

Just what Will Your Levy Dollars Buy for TPS Students and Staff?

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Transportation, technology, recruitment and retention of students and staff, facility upkeep – that's what the additional dollars will provide Toledo Public Schools.

For the first time in 13 years, Toledo voters approved a levy calling for additional tax funds for TPS. In fact, just recently, in 2012 and 2010, the voters rejected such requests – by an overwhelming margin in 2010.

This year, TPS requested a new spending measure in the amount of 5.8 mills over a five-year period. The levy was approved by just over 53 percent of the voters in spite of the fact that the district has not yet shown noticeable improvement in its overall state report card grades.

The district has, however, generated enthusiasm for several significant improvements in certain categories on the report card and for other significant achievements. This year the district received high marks for adding value for students and it appears that a 20-year decline in student population has ended.

In addition, there are various bright spots and offerings such as Toledo Early College High School, Toledo Technology Academy, the single-gender academies – MLK for Boys and Stewart for Girls, the commitment to early childhood education, for example.

This year's successful campaign can also be attributed, at least in part, to the enthusiasm generated by Superintendent Romules Durant, Ed.D and his staff.

"A superintendent shouldn't just campaign during election season," says Durant. "They should campaign every day." Which, of course, he does ... tirelessly. The hardest working man in education is everywhere, all the time, in his TPS Proud campaign.

The levy victory is expected to bring approximately \$13.3 million into TPS coffers to cover operational costs. The district estimates that \$4.4 million will go to restoring transportation to 2010 levels when TPS stopped busing high school students and reduced elementary student busing.

As Durant explains, the money will not only aid students and their families but will also produce additional jobs. "We need 55 drivers between us and TARTA so we are developing a program to find and educate drivers thereby generating capacity," says Durant.

About \$5.5 million will go towards technology and the recruitment and retention of teachers and principals. "We are moving away from textbooks and more into handheld technology," says Durant. "That will be more effective in the long run. We want online access for everyone which will broaden our scope and enable us to produce college and career-ready graduates."

Durant notes that, of the eight Ohio metropolitan areas, Toledo cur-



Romules Durant

... continued on page 9

African Art Has Arrived!!

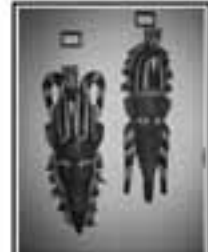
Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes! All at unbelievably low prices!



The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM



See more art online at www.thetruthtoledo.com



The Truth Gallery
1811 Adams Street
419-242-7650

Rwandan Genocide Survivor Shares Her Story with Maritime Academy of Toledo Cadets

By Matt Zaleski

The Truth Contributor

Twenty years ago, Norah Bagirinka, somehow survived the Rwandan Genocide that claimed the lives of 800,000 men, women and children, in 100 days. Last Friday, at The Maritime Academy of Toledo, she shared her story with cadets who weren't even born when the atrocity unfolded.

According to the United Human Rights Council, in 1994, Rwanda's population of seven million was composed of three ethnic groups: Hutu (approximately 85 percent), Tutsi (14 percent) and Twa (1 percent). In the early 1990s, Hutu extremists within Rwanda's political elite blamed the entire Tutsi minority population for the country's increasing social, economic and political pressures.

Tutsi civilians were also accused of supporting a Tutsi-dominated rebel group, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). Through the use of propaganda and constant political maneuvering, Habyarimana, who was the president at the time, and his group increased divisions between Hutu and Tutsi by the end of 1992.

On April 6, 1994, a plane carrying President Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down. Violence began almost immediately after that. Tutsi and people suspected of being Tutsi were killed in their homes and as they tried to flee at roadblocks set up across the country during the genocide. Entire families were killed at a time. Women were systematically and brutally raped. It is estimated that some 200,000 people participated in the perpetration of the Rwandan genocide.

In the weeks after the violence started, 800,000 men, women, and children perished in the Rwandan genocide, perhaps as many as three-quarters of the Tutsi population. At the same time, thousands of Hutu were murdered because they opposed the killing campaign and the forces directing it.

Bagirinka, a member of the Tutsi Tribe, says she was supposed to die but that her husband, who was Somali, was able to protect her.

"It was hard and I am not sure how I managed to survive and stay alive. But I believe I survived because maybe there is something that I need to finish. That is what I tell the children," she said.

Bagirinka worked as a translator on the documentary "God Sleeps in Rwanda" which documented the Rwandan genocide. When filming moved to the U.S., Bagirinka sought asylum. Bagirinka has be-

come an Asset Development Coach with the Economic and Community Development Institute working with other Rwandan genocide survivors in Columbus. Over the past 20 years, central Ohio has become the asylum to more than 150 refugees especially Rwandan, Congolese and Burundi women and their families.

She says she has addressed several high schools and universities and reaching young people who were not alive when the genocide took place is a challenge.

"It is tough and hard. But I tell them about how it was for me growing up. I tell them that they have to work at being a better person and about being prepared because you never know when things can be taken from you," she said.

Bagirinka says when she talks to students the biggest question she faces is "why did this happen"?

"I tell them it was greed ... and hatred. There was lots of greed. I tell them people came and took houses, cars and family. Leaders had a lot to do with it. They told people it was okay to do this," she said.

Bagirinka says she knows that while it is difficult to get the story of the Rwandan genocide across to young people she will continue to tell her story.

"I'm planting a seed in the hopes that it will make a difference," she said.

When asked if the events of 20 years ago seem like a long time ago, she said, "it seems like only yesterday and I still get tears in my eyes thinking about it."



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Being Aware of Fraud Is Your First Step to Avoiding It

By Phil Walton, Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH
Guest Column

With all of the holiday shopping going on this time of year, both in stores and online, there is no better time to remind you to beware of fraud—you never know where it is lurking.

When it comes to doing business with Social Security online, there is little to worry about—all of our online services are protected by strong Internet security protocols and you should have confidence that they are safe and secure. But, there are other ways identity thieves and criminals can obtain your personal information and cause you significant harm. Here are some tips to help keep that from happening.

If someone contacts you claiming to be from Social Security and asks for your Social Security number, date of birth, or other identifying information, beware. Don't provide your personal information without first contacting Social Security to verify if Social Security is really trying to contact you. It could be an identity thief phishing for your personal information. Call Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

If you receive a suspicious call, report it by going to <http://oig.ssa.gov/report>. Or call 1-800-269-0271 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You should provide as much of the following information as you know:

- The alleged suspect(s) and victim(s) names, address(es), phone number(s), date(s) of birth, and Social Security number(s);
- Description of the fraud and the location where the fraud took place;
- When and how the fraud was committed;
- Why the person committed the fraud (if known); and
- Who else has knowledge of the potential violation.

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in America. If you or anyone you know has been the victim of an identity thief, contact the Federal Trade Commission at www.idtheft.gov, or 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338); TTY 1-866-653-4261. Another form of fraud that people fall victim to: businesses using misleading advertisements that make it look as though they are from Social Security. These businesses often offer Social Security services for a fee, even though the same services are available directly from Social Security free of charge. By law, such an advertisement must indicate that the company is not affiliated with Social Security.

If you receive what you believe is misleading advertising for Social Security services, send the complete mailing, including the envelope, to: Office of the Inspector General, Fraud Hotline, Social Security Administration, P.O. Box 17768, Baltimore, MD 21235. Also, advise your state's attorney general or consumer affairs office and the Better Business Bureau. If you see or hear what you believe is misleading advertising related to Social Security, you can report it at the address above, by calling 1-800-269-0271 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, or by visiting <http://oig.ssa.gov/report>.

Protect your investment in Social Security and do your part to report potential fraud. We rely on you to let us know when you suspect someone is committing fraud against Social Security. Reporting fraud is a smart thing to do—and the right thing to do. Visit Social Security's Office of the Inspector General at <http://oig.ssa.gov>. Learn more about identity theft and misleading advertising by reading our publications on the subjects at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

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THE TOLEDO JOURNAL 

Energy & You

By Karl A. Parker, MBA, P.E
 President & GM, Parker Family of Businesses

Greetings from the Middle East! Welcome to the fifth Energy & You column! As a reminder – these columns share a variety of information to help our readers understand the energy and sustainability landscape and provide guidance on how to REDUCE energy costs.

REMINDER: First Energy is suspending its energy efficiency program December 31, 2014!! This means that First Energy will no longer offer rebates and incentives for small and medium sized customers in 2015. Mercantile customers (large energy customers) will continue to enjoy a variety of rebates and rate discounts. However, First Energy will HONOR and provide REBATES on ENERGY PROJECTS that are PRE-APPROVED before DECEMBER 31, 2014!! This means that energy assessments and projects that save energy will be funded if carried over into 2015, as long as they were approved before 12/31/2014.

Call 419-297-6139 or 419-486-9273 to receive assistance with getting your project pre-approved before December 31, 2014.

Why are gas prices so low now? Answer: Global Energy Economics

Northwest Ohio residents are enjoying gas prices at \$2.70/gallon and below! According to AAA, the average gasoline price in the U.S. last Thursday was \$2.92, the lowest since December of 2010. What in the world is going on?

Well, it is a direct result of basic supply and demand. Adam Sieminski, administrator of the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the Energy Department's statistical arm, attributed the lower pump prices to lower prices for crude oil and weak fuel demand. The global price of crude oil has fallen by \$35 a barrel, or 30 percent, since late June and closed at below \$80 per barrel @ \$75.16!! This is amazing for consumers and the upcoming holiday retail market.

Again, why is this happening?

Oil production around the world has been exceptionally strong in recent years. A boom in the U.S. has pushed domestic production up 70 percent since 2008 as a result of the shale oil revolution. Production is expected to reach 9.4 million barrels a day in 2015, an increase of 4 percent over this year and the highest domestic crude oil production since 1972. Additionally, Saudi Arabia and other OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) members continue to produce oil at high levels thus increasing oil inventories. At the same time, demand for fuels is growing slower than expected in Asia and Europe because of weak economic growth. Japan, specifically, one of the world's leading oil importers, has slipped into a recession.

The US remains the largest consumer of oil. However, domestic gasoline demand is trending lower as a result of changing driving habits and influx of more fuel-efficient cars in the market. This surprises me a little since I continue to see a plethora of new SUVs & big pick-up trucks rolling around!

I just hope that US citizens do not allow the current reduction in oil prices to put them to sleep and foolishly think that we should not continue to embrace energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies.

To learn more about global energy economics, please visit www.eia.gov.

Introducing: The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE)

In NW Ohio we are not exposed to the many African-American organizations that are developing talent to transform the landscape and

complexion of several industries in the USA. One of those organizations is the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE).

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) is a national association of energy professionals founded and dedicated to ensure the input of African Americans and other minorities into the discussions and developments of energy policies & regulations, R&D technologies, and environmental issues in USA.

- AABE was conceived by Clarke Watson of Denver, Colorado in the spring of 1977 in response to President Carter's appointed special energy task force, in which persons of color and other minorities were not represented, and also to expand economic opportunities for minorities.
- The intent was to create a structure or mechanism by which African Americans and other minorities with expertise, knowledge, and understanding of the U.S. energy situation could impact the energy policy-making process.



... continued on page 9

Thank You, Lucas County!!

Carol Contrada, President Board of Lucas County Commissioners

"We're taking a positive, collaborative approach in order to address the issues facing Lucas County!"

"I would like to thank the voters for their support! I greatly value those shared partnerships we have formed over the past four years and I look forward to continuing and expanding them in the future for the benefit of all the residents of Lucas County!"

Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section

Voters Poll - The Best Black-Owned Businesses: Blessed Blossoms Flower Shop

Sojourner's Truth Editor

As the 21st Century approached, Stacey Turner faced a dilemma. Her professional life, thus far, had been in banking and insurance but she was unsatisfied working for others. She wanted to start her own business.

She wanted to open her own florist shop but there was one obstacle – she had no experience as a florist. It was a “step of faith,” she says

To overcome that obstacle, she attended floral school and, to boost her business savvy, she enrolled in the first ASSETS Toledo class that Olivia Holden conducted.

With banker Juanita Greene, Turner toured the city looking at floral shops that were for sale. She found a mentor in the business - another flower shop owner.

Eventually she established Blessed Blossoms Flower Shop in 2000 at 3365 Lagrange. Fourteen years later, Blessed Blossoms is still thriving.

Nevertheless, Turner is guiding the business into another direction. Much of her business currently is of the off-the-street retail type – customers who drop in and pick up a flower or a bouquet – along with the larger orders for weddings,

funerals and other such events. Turner, however, is steering her operation into more technologically-advanced territory – online and telephone orders.

Through her website or by telephone customers can arrange delivery to any spot in the area or virtually anywhere in the United States.

Need a Mothers Day bouquet delivered to Fargo, North Dakota or Rockville, Maryland? Turner can do just that for you.

Call her at 419-248-2537 or go to the website to place an order –



www.blessedblossoms-flowers.com

Ed. Note: Over the next 12 months The Truth will feature continuing results of the Reads Poll on the Best Black Owned Businesses



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Levy Dollars... continued from page 4

rently offers the seventh lowest salary and benefit package to teachers and principals. The levy dollars will help to address that disparity and enable the district to become more competitive in its recruitment efforts, he says.

It seems as if the Toledo district is just completing its school building program and all decked out with sparkling, brand-new facilities. As Durant points out, however, that program began 14 years ago and there are already facilities built before iPhones, and other innovative

technologies, were introduced to the world.

In addition to the need to modernize certain facilities, there is also a need to make as many as possible community friendly, says Durant, so that neighborhood residents can maximize their use. Approximately \$3 million will go to such capital expenses.

TPS now enters an era in which the administration, staff and teachers will focus on improving Ohio report card results, increasing student population, enhancing early childhood education and offering a variety of educational products and choices. The additional funds will be put to good use, says Durant.

Energy & You... continued from page 7

- Purpose: A) Ensure African Americans and other minorities have "a place at the table" where energy matters are discussed and decided upon; B) Encourage minority students to follow courses of study leading to careers in the energy field; C) Promote better understanding of energy-issues amongst African Americans and other minorities.

- Vision: 1) Make AABE a preeminent organization addressing energy and environmental issues and creating potential business opportunities; 2) Establish AABE as the leading public policy advocate for African-Americans, low-income and minority organizations on energy and environmental issues; 3) Establish a cadre of experts on energy and environmental issues.

- AABE currently has 37 chapters across the nation with over 1,300 members.

Ohio has chapters in Columbus, Cincinnati and the Cleveland area.

- The AABE membership pool consists of individuals from the managerial and professional ranks of the energy field:

- Owners of energy-related businesses (PES is one!)
- Employees of energy-related businesses
- Consultants
- Educators
- Governmental officials
- Students in technical fields of study

The AABE's principles guide the organization's involvement and positions on energy policy. In December 2012, the AABE board of director's adopted principles on the following topics:

Climate Change, Cyber Security, Energy & Environmental Justice, Energy Delivery, Energy Efficiency, Federal Income Taxes, Fossil Fuels, Nuclear Energy, Renewable Energy, Smart Grid Technology, Supplier Diversity

My favorite aspect of AABE is its passion for creating future energy leaders to ensure that our future generations have a seat at the table and have an opportunity to enjoy the many lucrative benefits associated with the energy industry. Since its inception, AABE has awarded millions of dollars to potential African-American energy leaders.

To learn more about AABE, please visit www.aabe.org.

The next article will review and introduce the integration of the Energy and Innovation economies.

Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section • Economy Section

Three Simple Ways to Trim Monthly Expenses

Special to The Truth

Everyone seems to be looking for ways to save more money, especially as the cost of living is on the rise. By trimming expenses on the things you need, you can devote more toward the things you want, as well as save more for the future.

The discount experts at Dollar General are sharing some money-saving tips to help reduce your monthly bills.

Home Maintenance

If you're paying a professional to perform simple home maintenance tasks and keep up the lawn, consider doing it yourself. From pest prevention to raking and watering the lawn, many such duties are simple to perform with inexpensive tools and a free afternoon.

You can also lower your monthly utility bills with a bit of maintenance and a few modifications.

By frequently changing your heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) filters, you may be able to lower your electric bills by improving your unit's performance, as well as help keep it free from pollution and debris. A dirty filter may cause your unit to work harder to heat your home in the winter and cool it in the summer. A new filter can cost as little as a dollar, whereas a new HVAC unit will come with a heftier price tag.

Also, consider swapping your traditional incandescent bulbs for LED light bulbs, which typically use 85 percent less energy, saving you potentially over \$130 in energy costs over the life of the bulb.

Healthy Habits

Healthy habits can save you money down the line, from lost work

time to doctor visit copays.

Start with a well-balanced diet, daily exercise and a good night's rest. In the cooler months consider soups and hot tea.

Also, make sure your home is well-equipped to keep the whole family feeling their best. Stock up on vitamins, minerals, hand soap and disinfected wipes and sprays to help prevent a cold or flu. Preventive medicines can also fend off any pending illness during allergy seasons.

Disinfecting wipes make it easy to clean commonly-touched household items, such as door knobs, telephones, refrigerator door handles and TV remotes. Use disinfectant sprays to protect your family from germs and freshen up your home.

Digital Coupons

Coupons can save money every day, but they can be time consuming to clip. They are also often forgotten at home. However, digital coupon programs can help you avoid these hassles. For example, by signing up for Dollar General's new Digital Coupon Program online or at check-out, you can load relevant coupons to your profile for everything from groceries and cleaning supplies to seasonal items. Digital coupons are then automatically applied when eligible items are purchased.

With a bit of planning, maintenance and savvy consumerism, you can save more on the items you purchase frequently.

Courtesy StatePoint

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Girl Scouts Host “Keepin’ It Real”

Last weekend, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio hosted “Keepin’ It Real,” a youth conference for girls in grades six-12. Topics were chosen by girls and reflected subjects of interest and critical issues facing teen girls today.

Workshops included career exploration, the outdoors, STEM, healthy living, culinary, body image, physical activity, travel, and more. The weekend event, held at Camp Libbey in Defiance County, was designed specifically for older Girl Scouts (Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors) and included an overnight stay.

Girls also participated in games, hikes, a camp fire, and a hand-crafted newspaper fashion show. Girl Scouts partnered with a variety of local businesses and professionals to develop and facilitate the workshops. It also gave the girls a change to interact with women in careers they may be interested in pursuing later in life.



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Darling, You Can't Do Both, And Other Noise to Ignore on Your Way Up by Janet Kestin & Nancy Vonk

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Ladies should always speak quietly.

They should never interrupt, never exhibit anger or be impolite. Ladies should always gently defer to their superiors. They should never ask for anything, but should be grateful for what they get. Ladies should know their limits.

And, as you'll see in the new book *Darling, You Can't Do Both* by Janet Kestin & Nancy Vonk, women in business should pay no attention to any of the above.

The headlines come at no surprise. Men make more than women for doing the same job, and it's been ongoing for eons because yes, gender bias does exist in

c. 2014
HarperCollins
\$19.99 / \$24.99 Canada
304 pages

many workplaces. Our feminist foremothers tried to fix that, but, say Kestin & Vonk, "we still have work to do" and rules to break.

One of the rules says that we'll never be successful unless we work constantly. That's a rule to ignore, say the authors; break it, and you'll learn that the best thing you'll do for your career is to give yourself occasional time away from it. Decide what you need and "strike your own deal."

Women are connectors, instilled with a reticent politeness that can backfire, especially when we heed the "good things come to those who wait" rule. Truth is, once we've become accustomed to asking for mentors, we *learn* more; once we learn to ask for what we're worth, we *earn* more: research suggests that a woman can leave between \$350,000 and a half a million bucks on the table during her

working years if she doesn't know how to negotiate a salary.


Another rule demands that we be "nice" and assumes we'll nurture, which could lead to perceptions of softness that might disqualify us for top jobs. Assertive behavior, say the authors, is essential in the workplace. You don't have to be aggressive, but learn how to toot your own horn - and if you can't make music, learn a good work-around.

Know when to ask for help, know what you need, and put the word "no" back into your vocabulary. Own your accomplishments. Look for role models who know how to take risks. And if you want to "have it all," remember that becoming a mother can make you a better employee.

I began to feel like a bobble-head doll as I was reading *Darling, You Can't Do Both*. Yep (nod-nod), yes (nod-nod), uh-huh (nod-nod-nod). Yes, (nod-nod), it's that kind of book.

Like their career, authors Janet Kestin & Nancy Vonk begin their book with a tale of soap, moving forward with personal anecdotes, cautionary tales from other women, and advice. The former serves to underscore the latter, which is written with breezy, offhand informality, yet is curiously authoritative. That mixed mien makes this helpful, whether you sit in the farthest cubicle or the fanciest corner office.

If you're tired of career obstacles and need guidance now, this is a book that'll make you itchy to act and ready to go. *Darling, You Can't Do Both* proves that, in business, you just don't have to do it quietly.



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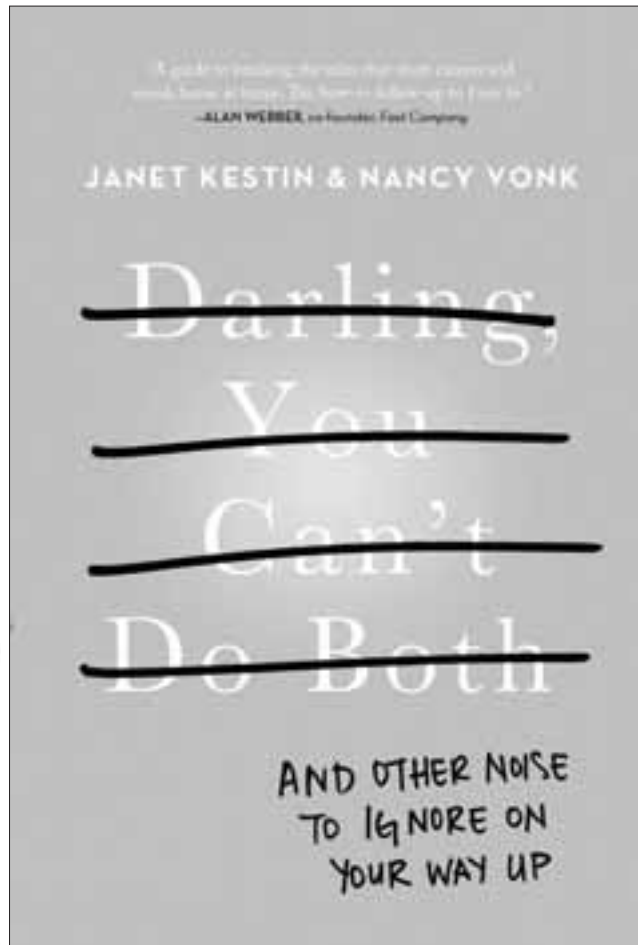


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Lucas County Children Services Kicks Off 2014 Holiday Gift Drive Annual Campaign "Gives the Best Gift Ever" to 2,500 Lucas County Children

Special to The Truth

The holiday season is upon us, and Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is once again asking area residents to "Give the Best Gift Ever" this holiday season!

The agency is kicking off its annual Holiday Gift Drive, which is co-sponsored by the Friends of Lucas County Children Services (FLCCS) and several community partners. The community-based campaign is expected to provide gifts to as many as 2,500 children who are victims of abuse and neglect. Gift collection begins November 12 and runs through December 19, 2014.

The drive provides gifts for children living in foster care, with relatives or with their families under LCCS supervision. "Children continue to be affected by abuse or neglect in Lucas County. Giving them a reason to smile at the holiday season is really important. Lucas County residents have been very generous in the past, and we hope they will continue that tradition of giving," says Sherry Dunn, LCCS campaign coordinator.

The gift drive provides toys for children from birth to age 18. While we are seeking gifts for all age groups, the agency is in particular need of gifts for children of all ethnic groups who are newborn to 3 years old, and gift cards for teenagers.

Several generous community partners are again stepping up to support the gift drive: Allshred Services; Bennett Management Corp., a franchisee of BURGER KING Corporation®; Brondes Ford; Kroger; Family Video; Toledo Auto Care; Toledo Free Press; radio station WRVF 101.5 The River; WTOL-TV, Woodcraft and the Yark Automotive Group. Local residents are encouraged to drop a new, unwrapped toy in the collection boxes located around the community:

* Allshred Services, 3940 Technology Drive in Maumee (which is offering up to five bags or boxes of shredding free when you donate a toy or gift card at its offices December 1st, or on December 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Burger King, 4870 Monroe St., Toledo).

* Brondes Ford, 5545 Secor Rd. in Toledo and 1511 S. Reynolds Rd. in

Maumee.

* All Toledo-area BURGER KING® restaurants in Holland, Maumee, Oregon, Perrysburg, Toledo, and Lambertville, Mich.

* All Toledo-area Family Video locations in Holland, Maumee, Oregon, Sylvania, Toledo, and Temperance, Mich.

* Kroger stores in Holland, Maumee, Oregon, Swanton, Sylvania, Toledo, and Sylvania.

* The Town Center at Levis Commons, 3201 Levis Commons Blvd., Perrysburg.

* Toledo Auto Care, 4544 Monroe St., Toledo, which is hosting several prize drawings for customers who donate a toy.

* Woodcraft, 5311 Airport Highway, Toledo.

* WTOL, 730 N. Summit St., Toledo.

* All Yark Automotive Group locations in Toledo and Whitehouse, which are offering special discounts with a toy donation.

The Barnes & Noble Booksellers at 4940 Monroe Street in Toledo has designated the LCCS Holiday Gift Drive as the recipient of its 2014 holiday book donation campaign, which encourages customers to purchase books to be donated to the gift drive. Anyone can also support the gift drive using their smartphone by texting BESTGIFT to 41911 and making a \$5, \$10 or \$50 donation (messaging and air time charges apply).

Levis Commons Tree Lighting

Join LCCS at Levis Commons' annual tree lighting ceremony, Saturday, November 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. Family-friendly entertainment is planned, Santa will be on hand, and a family nominated by LCCS will be honored as the "First Family of Levis Commons." LCCS representatives will be on hand to collect donations of new, unwrapped toys and gift cards.

WTOL Live at Barnes & Noble

WTOL will broadcast live from Barnes & Noble, 4940 Monroe Street, on December 3 from 5 to 7 p.m. Patrons are encouraged to stop buy and purchase a book to donate to the holiday gift drive. Other WTOL live broadcasts will be announced in coming days.

"Shred for a Toy" Day Scheduled

On Saturday, December 12, 101.5 The River morning show hosts Mary Beth Zolik and Rick Woodell will continue their tradition of broadcasting live from the BURGER KING® at 4870 Monroe Street (across from Westfield Shopping Center) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Allshred Services will be on hand to provide free shredding for up to five bags or boxes of documents when you donate a new, unwrapped toy. The public is encouraged to stop by and support the gift drive during that time. "Allshred Services is proud to be part of the Lucas County Children Services' Holiday Gift Drive for the fifth year in a row. We hope the community uses this opportunity to safely dispose of confidential materials, and at the same time help children who might not have much to be happy about this time of year," says Staci Bailey, marketing manager for Allshred Services.



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Send resume or apply to:

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
Human Resources - APN
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Website: unisonbhg.org

EOE

Mental Health Board Member Sought

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHRSB) is seeking adult applicants who reside in Lucas County and have and/or had a family member receive publicly funded mental health services to fill a vacancy on the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County. The MHRSB exists to enhance the well-being of Lucas County residents by promoting mental health, preventing substance use and gambling disorders, and facilitating a process of recovery for persons experiencing mental illness and/or addiction disorders.

The MHRSB meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 4 PM. More information regarding the MHRSB and its operations can be found at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/MHRSB>.

The MHRSB of Lucas County actively seeks to recruit volunteers that reflect the diversity of our community. Any person interested in being considered for this vacancy should submit a letter of interest highlighting how the interested party meets the qualifications, to the MHRSB of Lucas County, C/O Scott A. Sylak, Executive Director, 701 Adams St., Suite 800, Toledo Ohio 43604. Letters of interest can also be sent via email to ssylak@lcmhrsbsb.oh.gov. Letters of Interest will be accepted through December 5, 2014.

EOE

Director Wanted

Small Non-Profit Neighborhood Center has opening for Part-Time Director. Submit Resume in person to 330 Oak Terrace Blvd. Holland, OH 43528. Monday through Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

FAMILY PRACTICE ADVANCE PRACTICE NURSE (2 Openings)

Full-time (would consider part-time) opportunities available for Family Practice Advance Practice Nurses with prescriptive authority to provide diagnosis, treatment, coordination of care and preventive services to adults, adolescents and children with a mental illness or substance abuse diagnosis.

Applicants must be comfortable working in a community mental health center, have two years of relevant professional experience to include previous clinical experience with demonstrated leadership ability.

Current Advance Practice licensure including a RN - Certificate of Authority and Certificate to Prescribe in Ohio and DEA registration. Current certification as a Family Practice Clinical Nurse Specialist or Family Practice Clinical Nurse Practitioner is required. Excellent interpersonal communication skills and proficiency in computer use and experience working with an electronic health record and electronic prescribing software are essential.

Send resume or apply to:

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
Human Resources - APN/FP
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Website: unisonbhg.org

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Positions Available:

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellowships with the Immigrant Children's Defense Corps

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit regional law firm that provides high-quality legal assistance to low-income persons and groups in western Ohio, and agricultural workers statewide, seeks a dynamic, bright, hardworking attorney to serve as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellow. The Fellow will provide civil legal assistance to immigrant children eligible for asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or U-visa status, and represent the children throughout Ohio in related juvenile, asylum, and immigration proceedings. The term of service will begin in December of 2014 for one year (with a possible renewal). Two positions are available. At least one of the positions will be in our Dayton office; the other will be in Dayton or Toledo.

Qualifications:

The Fellow is required to have excellent oral and written communication skills, as well as interpersonal, organizational, and negotiation skills, and the ability to work as a team member. The ability to communicate in Spanish is required. Knowledge of immigration law and/or experience with immigrant children preferred. Diverse economic, social, and cultural experiences are preferred. The Fellow must be admitted to practice law in Ohio and have graduated from an Equal Justice Works member law school.

Compensation:

The Fellow will receive an AmeriCorps living allowance of \$24,200 plus supplemental benefits paid of \$16,800 for housing; student loans; relocation; professional dues; and other allowable expenses. Other benefits include: \$5,645 Segal Education Award upon successful completion of service; childcare assistance; professional development and training assistance; student loan forbearance during services and interest accrual payment for eligible loans upon successful completion of service; participation in Equal Justice Works training opportunities and conferences, as applicable; and fringe benefits, including health insurance (medical, dental, vision, Rx), disability insurance, and life insurance.

To Apply:

Send resume as soon as possible, electronically preferred in Microsoft Word format, to:

Email: jobs@ablelaw.org

Subject: Immigrant Children's Defense Corps

Or

Immigrant Children's Defense Corps

c/o ABLE Recruitment Coordinator

525 Jefferson Ave. | Toledo, Ohio 43604

Equal access to ABLE's office is available. Applicants requiring accommodation to the interview/application process should contact the recruitment coordinator at the address listed above.

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Padua Center Receives Gift of a Van

Special to The Truth

A grant from the Anderson's Community Giving and a gift from Brown Automotive have given The Padua Center a much needed van for transporting children for their various programs. The mini-van, a Toyota Sienna, will allow The Padua Center to provide transportation primarily for students in the Padua Possibilities Program, an alternative to suspension for children from four Toledo Public Schools.

The Padua Possibilities program provides several hours of academic assistance, a coaching conversation and a unique time of peace education for children in grades K-6, who would benefit from being removed from the classroom for several days. The program is an alternative to suspension and assures that the student remains academically engaged while dealing with behavioral challenges that resulted in being referred to the Padua Possibilities Program.

In addition the van will be used for outings scheduled as part of the after-school tutoring program. Monday through Thursday the Center provides an opportunity for children to attend an after-school program to finish homework and participate in various activities. With the van transportation will be much easier.



The Padua Center also offers six weeks of free summer camps involving trips to local recreational, cultural and educational venues. The mini-van will assure that the children can attend these various venues throughout the city and county.

For more information contact:
Sister Virginia Welsh
Executive Director
The Padua Center
419-241-6465



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Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)
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Frederick Douglas Community Association
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