



Local and National News

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Volume 33, No. 4

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

May 13, 2015

Honoring Scholars



TPS Vals and Sals



AKA Scholarship Recipients

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Sistas "Unbought and Unbossed"

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

You are young, gifted, and black.

- James Weldon Johnson



The celebration of Mother's Day this past Sunday caused me to reflect on the rising political presence, power and influence of young women of color. Rather than complaining, or sitting back and waiting for the baton to be passed to them, these "sistas" have instead, seized the mantle of leadership without asking permission, as we transition from a post-Civil Rights to a post-Drug War era.

One such young professional is Tamaya Dennard who currently serves as the political director for youthful 2016 U.S. senatorial candidate P.G. Sittenfeld. I was able to sit down with Dennard, a 36-year-old Cincinnati native, to discuss contemporary public policy perspectives for, and by, a new generation

Perryman: Tell me a little bit about Tamaya Dennard.

Dennard: I'm from Cincinnati, born and raised. I graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in finance and international business; raised by my mom, who was an amazing single mom with three children. After I graduated from college I went to work with Duke Energy, and worked in the real estate department. Basically, I bought and sold real estate on behalf of the company; did a lot of research, and things like that for Duke, and found that it wasn't really fulfilling, so I started getting involved in the community.

The 2000 Bush versus Gore presidential election had been disappointing for me, how that ended with the Florida and the Supreme Court, and the race was kind of stolen, but it fanned my love for politics. A lot of people were discouraged then but, for me, it actually did the opposite and showed me that more people, good people, honest people and fair people needed to be involved in the process.

Growing up, I was the beneficiary of a lot of programs, and initiatives that were publicly-funded, and they worked for me, and they worked for my mom, and I thought maybe going into politics would be a way for me to let people know that safety nets still work and help make sure that these initiatives stayed around. And so, I volunteered for President Obama's first campaign and then I left a really high-paying salary at Duke Energy to do something I loved, which is politics and to work with PG Sittenfeld.

So, now we're here on our second term on City Council, and just really wanted to impact the state a little bit more, and like I said, talk about the issues that people aren't talking about. I think a lot of times, things are playing in different cities, but the energy and fresh eyes that may be in one place need to be



Tamaya Dennard

carried state-wide to show people that there are issues that need to be talked about, and not just talked about, but there are conversations that need to happen, and actions that need to take place. So, that's a little bit about me.

Perryman: A generation ago, much of the black church's role in the community was defined and shaped by the Civil Rights

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The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

May 13

Bethlehem Baptist Church Project Homeless Connect: 9 am to 2 pm; A one-day, one-stop shop for the homeless providing services, support and quality of life resources: 419-241-9360

May 16

Free Beginner Swimming Lessons: For seven-16 years old; Sponsored by The Josh Project; St. Francis de Sales High School: 419-530-8590

May 17

United Church of God Spring Cleaning Clothing Drive: Collecting unwanted clothes, toys, shoes: 567-312-7360
St. Stephen AME Annual Pew Rally: 3 pm: 419-244-0402

June 20

Annual Block Party/East Side Reunion: Edgar Holmes Park; Free food, family games, entertainment, vendors and raffles; All day - opening ceremony at noon: 419-309-4021 or 4567-395-0363

Perryman... continued from page 2

Movement. The church has also shaped the lives and perspective of generations of activists, legislators, and others. Has the black church had an influence on your worldview and work?

Dennard: Absolutely. I have belonged to New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Cincinnati for about 20 years now, and the church has shaped me a lot of different ways. When you're a kid the first time you give a speech in church. You know what I mean?

Perryman: Absolutely.

Dennard: The first time you understand community is in church. Church is very important, and my faith is very important to me, and Pastor Damon Lynch, Jr. and his wife have been phenomenal in helping me shape my faith, and to see what my mission is. And something that he once said to me; I had asked, "What would you be doing if you weren't a pastor? And what's your mission?" And he said, "Every day when I leave my house, I always know who I'm going to out help - the least, and the lost." And that's something that has always stuck with me, and every day, as I do my job, as I'm just doing things, and passing legislation, it's a mission for me, to just make sure, like I said, that it is about the least of us, and also to serve people with dignity.

People feel like the government should work for them, but government hasn't worked for them. When I say "people," I mean the people who feel like they've been forsaken. So, my faith keeps me grounded, and when you're working politics, and when you're successful, you always have to know not only who you are, but whose you are, and that's very important to me.

Perryman: So, you went on to work for Duke Energy earning big money, mad cheddar?

Dennard: Yes. It was a pretty substantial salary.

Perryman: And your income didn't affect your outlook towards the less privileged?

Dennard: When I graduated high school, I was voted 'most likely to change the world,' and then I was like going back and forth, traveling a little bit for work, and I realized that I wasn't really impacting the world. I was helping this corporation, which there's nothing wrong with the corporation; business is great. I love business. I majored in business, but I feel like there was something greater and bigger for me to do, and when PG first said to me, "Will you come to City Hall, and work with me?" I looked at the salary that was before me, and what I was currently being paid, and I was like, "There no way I'm going to leave this job." But then when you're chosen, when you're doing what you're supposed to do, when you're doing what God needs you to do, he'll equip you. So, the money didn't matter, and the Lord provided, and that's one thing that I knew.

Perryman: There are obvious contrasts

between PG, and his opponent Ted Strickland. From your perspective as a young person, how can the current generation of young people - many of whom have been apathetic to the process - play a greater role in politics, what would attract them, and what do you see as maybe a reason for their lack of participation?

Dennard: A good question. I'd say the easiest and the best example I can give for why young people should be involved is the things that are happening around our country, the unjust killing of unarmed black men and women. But, just look at what happened last week with Marilyn Mosby in Baltimore, a 35-year-old elected Baltimore City Prosecutor, and she brought charges against the police officers that were involved in the death of Freddie Gray.

Mosby was elected; she wasn't appointed. So, we must recognize the importance of voting down ballot. I love President Obama. He inspires me to this day. I think he will go down as the greatest president of all time, and people like really sit back and look at what he's done, but people voted for President Obama, and they didn't vote down the ticket which hurt us. And they don't really understand that politics are local, and that President Obama, as awesome as he is, it was actually Marilyn Mosby who brought those charges against those police officers, and not President Obama. And Marilyn Mosby was elected.

So, a lot of young people are in the streets, and they're protesting; they want to be heard, and one of the best ways your vote can be heard is through your vote. One of my favorite quotes, and this is why you talk about apathy, and why people haven't been eager to vote, because they haven't always felt like it has been effective. Government hasn't been working for them. A lot of young people are graduating from college with ridiculous amounts of student loans. They're still having to live at home because they can't afford to pay their student loans, and they're not getting a job that they need to cover both. And so they need someone who's going to talk about those issues, and not just talk about them, someone who has experienced them. They want someone to present ideas and put forth legislation to address issues like police brutality.

People have to understand that they can be heard, but one of my favorite quotes is for some people, they want to be heard so bad, or they feel so cold, that they'll burn down a village just to feel its warmth. I'm not sure where that proverb originates from, but people just want to be heard, and people out there, they're struggling. We have a neighborhood in Cincinnati, called Avondale, which has recently got an infusion of cash from the feds, but it's a majority African-American community, experiencing 40 percent unemployment. So, the opportunities aren't there.

To me the biggest thing about young people getting involved is, we talk about opportunity and what's being presented to them, and a lot of times the opportunities aren't there. But, the opportunities aren't there, because they don't have people engaged in the process, so people just don't care, not realizing that they don't have to look like you, but if they understand where you're coming from, and your generation, then they're more apt to speak for you.

For us, with Governor Strickland, and our opponent, we try to be clear that we are running against Rob Portman, but we have to go through Governor Strickland in the primary. But, in our effort to unseat Rob Portman, it's not so much a question of age for us, as it is experience, fresh energy, and new eyes on existing ideas. Policy-wise, PG and Governor Strickland have a lot in common, but there are certain things that we're going to differ on, but the main thing is I'm not sure Governor Strickland will attack police killings, and student loans with the same ferocity or veracity - that we will, because we not only represent young people who are told to wait their turn; we also represent young people whose turn will never come. And people like me that come from where I come from, they feel like their turn will never come, so it's my job; it's my responsibility to make sure that we continue to push the conversation, and get more people involved. Sometimes, you have to see someone who looks like you to want to be more involved. Sometimes it works; sometimes it doesn't, but if you speak their language, and talk about things they want to talk to, and relate to them, they're more apt to get involved.

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

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The African King of Comedy Comes to The Glass City

Interview with Michael Blackson

By Monique Ward

Monique Ward: You are originally a native of West Africa and you promote that proudly. When did you move to the States? Do you think that being African made it harder or easier for you to get noticed?

Michael Blackson: I came to the states when I was 13 years old in the late 80's. It made it easier for me because I was different and I stood out from everyone else.

MW: How you do feel being in the game 20 years?

MB: The longer you do it, the better and wiser you get. I think I'm going to get even better as time goes on.

MW: What was it like featuring in movies like *Friday* and starring in comedy specials on HBO?

MB: It was fun doing *Friday* because even though Ice Cube was the director, he allowed me to be myself and do what I wanted. That was all me in that movie. HBO was good too because being on such a large stage helped to greatly increase my fan-base.

1. MW: "Modasucka," do you ever get tired of saying it and do you remember the first time you said it?

MB: I was backstage, at my 30-minute comedy special on Comic View in 1998, it just came to my mind. I went on stage, said it and the fans loved it so it stuck.

2. MW: "Ugly Is The New Cute" is the name of your latest comedy Tour. What inspired that title?

MB: My followers on social media inspired me to use that title. I have the most awesome, crazy and realest followers who are partially haters (laughs) but it's all love.

3. MW: Where can your fans find out more about you?

MB: They can go to my website www.michaelblackson.com or follow me on IG @therealmichaelblackson & FB Michael Blackson.

Michael Blackson will be performing live at the Toledo Funny Bone on Thursday, May 14. You can purchase tickets at toledo.comedyreservations.com or by calling 419.931.3474 to reach the Funny Bone box office. There will be an after-party immediately following the show at Caribbean Breeze Restaurant & Lounge at 1830 W. Bancroft Street in Toledo, Ohio.



Michael Blackson

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A Celebration of Excellence: The Vals and Sals of 2015

Special to The Truth



Vals front row (l. to r.): Michelle Klingsberg; Taylor Adolph; Jazmyliena Martin; Derek Cory-Goodman; Superintendent Romules Durant, Ed.D.; Tala Abou-Dahech; Kaylee Loofbourrow; Hannah Hartford; Maya Olive
Sals—standing (l. to r.): Jacob Stewart, Layla Vehue, Zaynab Alfaham, Jack Smolenski, Ngoc Mai, Rosa Celestino, Jerrica Slawski, Shyanne Crawford

Once again Toledo Public Schools celebrated its highest achieving scholars – the valedictorians and salutatorians of the Class of 2015 with a gala banquet at the Toledo Club on April 29. Each of the eight TPS high schools was represented by a pair of outstanding students:

Bowsher Valedictorian Michelle Klingsberg

During her academic career, Michelle is proudest of having

served as the treasurer of the National Honor Society, winning the Paul Miles Award and earning a I rating for vocal solos in the OMEA Solo E Ensemble.

Michelle is a member of Bowsher's famous Rebelaires, as well as the concert and honors choir. She also played JV and varsity volleyball and was a member of the spring musical cast.

She found it very humbling when she served food at a soup kitch-

... continued on page 6

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Vals and Sals... continued from page 5

en with her youth-to-youth group.

Michelle plans to attend the University of Toledo and major in chemistry.

Bowsher Salutatorian Jacob Stewart

Jacob is proudest of having received a Ray Kest Memorial Scholarship, of earning a President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence and for being nominated to be a National Youth Delegate.

During his career at Bowsher, he received the Student Award for Anatomy and Physiology and served as a member of both the Student Council and the Physics Club.

Jacob does volunteer work at Camp Miakonda and his most memorable service project was working on a trail service crew at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. He says, "It was redeeming, tough work in the beautiful Sangre de Crosta Range of the Rocky Mountains that paid for itself with the experience."

Jacob plans to attend either the University of Michigan or the University of Toledo to study Health Sciences.

Rogers Valedictorian Taylor Adolph

Taylor's pick for his top high school honors are being named BCSN Student of the Month for December, playing in the Jazz Band and being a member of the Drama Club and the National Honor Society.

The most memorable service project was when he volunteered last year for the TPS Special Olympics. Taylor says, "It was meaningful to me to see the community's support for persons with disabilities."

Eastern Michigan University is Taylor's next stop, where he plans to double major in creative writing and psychology.

Rogers Salutatorian Layla Vehue

Kay is president of the National Honor Society, a recipient of the Coaches Award and a Student of the Week in the Toledo Blade.

The three activities Kay is most involved in are the National Honor Society, the Girls' Tennis Team and school dances. She works at Subway in her spare time.

Kay's most memorable service project was raising money and then buying Christmas presents that were donated to homeless shelters. "It was a great experience because we gave them a second chance at Christmas."

Her educational goals include getting a master's degree in social work at Bowling Green State University.

Scott Valedictorian Jazmyliena Martin

She lists her top three high school honors as serving as vice president of her class this year and earning the Academic Excellence TRIO and Most Conscientious in Math awards.

The activities Jazmyliena is most involved in at Scott are playing trumpet in the marching band, the Teen Outreach Program, serving in the Student Body Government and being a member of Young Women of Excellence.

Her most memorable community service project was volunteering at Tent City "because I was able to give to those in need. Tent City gave me a sense of self awareness and made me want to help out more by opening a shelter in the future."

At the time Jazmyliena filled out her form, she said her college choice was undecided but she wants to major in mechanical engineering.

Scott Salutatorian Zaynab Alfaham

She is most proud of winning the Foreign Language Week Award, participating in the Art Showcase and winning the Sylvania Southview Scholarship Award.

Activities Zaynab are most involved in are the Mystery Music Step Team, Young Women of Excellence (YWOE) and the Asian Cultures Club.

Her most memorable service project was working as a volunteer with the Toledo Lucas County Democratic Party, which gave her a new outlook on the people of Toledo as she talked to them on the phone and met them on the campaign trail. She says, "Seeing the people of Toledo giving their opinions on local issues opened my mind and gave me inspiration to continue conversations with citizens and look more into the political aspect of the city."

Zaynab works at Mary Ella Homes and reported that her college choice had not yet been made. She does know she wants to major in political science and minor in linguistics. Her long-term goal is to continue learning languages and to eventually get an MBA.

Start Valedictorian Derek Corey-Goodman

Derek is most proud of being a member of the National Honor Society, vice president of Mu Alpha Theta and secretary of the Latin Club.

His activities were all sports related. He played four years of football, was a two-year captain of the wrestling team and ran track and field as a freshman.

Derek says his most important service project was giving a hot Easter meal to those who were in need. He says, "This was meaningful as it wasn't only giving back to the community, but also paying it forward to the next generation. The small children who received food say that there are good people who do good acts. Hopefully, in giving food, we were able to make a positive influence on the youth."

Derek, who works at Little Caesars Pizza, plans on attending The Ohio State University and major in mechanical engineering.

Start Salutatorian Jack Smolenski

Jack was the drum major in the school's marching band, is President of the Drama Club and won the German Speaking Award from the National German American Society.

His top three activities are Band, Drama Club and National Honor Society.

Jack says his most meaningful service project was at the Toledo Symphony Family Concert when he played frog sounds on a bassoon for children to teach them about different animals through the use of music.

The next stop for Jack is Bowling Green State University, where he plans to major in Music Education.

Toledo Early College High School Valedictorian Tala Abou-Dahech

Tala cites being president of the Class of 2015, graduating high school with 60 college credits and being named to the University of Toledo's President's List as her top three high school honors.

In addition to her Student Council work,

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St. Ursula Academy Celebrates 'Day of Caring' with Josina Lott

Special to Sojourner's Truth

For the 10th year in a row, volunteers from St. Ursula participated in Day of Caring; a day when students, faculty and parents come together to volunteer over 2,000 hours of service in a single day.

The school hosted nine St. Ursula students, a faculty member and a student parent at River Crossings on Wednesday, April 29 for a full day of flower planting, mulch spreading, tree trimming and board games. The weather could not have smiled upon the volunteers brighter and everyone worked together to transform the landscape at River Crossings from spring clutter - to spring beautiful!

The agency extended our thanks to St. Ursula Academy and especially the students who spent the day with them at River Crossings: Hannah, Kaitlyn, Liz, Julianna, Sabrina, Anna, Ashley, Sara, and Isabelle. They also thanked St. Ursula faculty member Amny Karban and parent volunteer Denise!

A special kudos goes out to the Josina Lott Operations team who supplied the bulk of the heavy lifting, tools, equipment, and project oversight: Pat, Dave, Bob and Paula. An interesting side factoid: the four individuals in Operations represent a combined 75 years of service to Josina Lott



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Our next session of free information and training classes is **June 22 - 27, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** at LCCS, 705 Adams St. in downtown Toledo. To learn more, call 419-213-3336, or visit us at www.lucaskids.net.



AKA's Scholarship Winners Announced on Sunday, May 3

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, announced this year's college scholarship winners on Sunday, May 3 during a reception at the University of Toledo's Libbey Hall. The following high school seniors were honored:

Caeli Barnes, the daughter of Mark and Asha Barnes, is graduating from Springfield High School with a 3.9 GPA. Her high school experience includes her gymnastics team winning the Northern Lake League's competition and representing the district at the state gymnastics competition for three straight years. Caeli joined the YMCA's gymnastics team as a level 4 gymnast when she was 10 years

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Scholarship recipients (back row – l. to r.): Alexis Walton, Khadirah Hobbs, Carillon Young, Gabrielle Skibinski, Lindcii Craig, Ashley Taylor, Caeli Barnes

Front Row: Katina Johnson, Club President; Katrina Barry, AA Scholarship Committee Chairman

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AKA's... continued from page 8

old.

In addition to gymnastics, Caeli is gifted as an artist, using various media, as a musician playing the flute and as a performer having singing roles in the high school productions of *The Little Mermaid* and *Godspell*.

She lettered in track and field, was All-District in gymnastics for three years and was elected an officer to the Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill of America's teen group.

Khadirah Hobbs, a senior at Toledo Early College High School, already has earned 59 college credits which will transfer to Bowling Green State University in the fall. During her high school career she has been active as a tutor, a mentor with Self Expression Teen Theater, a poet and an actor.

At BGSU, Khadirah will study Visual Communication Technology and earn a bachelor's of science in technology. After college, she plans on pursuing a career in digital photography and web designing.

Lindcii Craig, the daughter of Lisa Wiggins and Eddie Craig, is graduating from St. Ursula's and will be attending the University of Toledo in the fall. At St. Ursula's Lindcii participated in a community service program called Labre and was a part of the writing club.

At UT, Lindcii will pursue a degree in biology and hopes to become an orthodontist.

Gabrielle Skibinski, an aspiring lawyer, is the daughter of Raychelle Skibinski, will also attend UT in order to pursue a degree in international business.

Gabrielle plans to join a sorority and commit herself to community service in the Toledo area.

Ashley Taylor, a senior at Maumee Valley Country Day School will be attending The Ohio State University. During her high school career, she has been a member of the Honors Society with a 3.6 GPA. She has had leading roles in the school musicals, she is captain and a star player on the field hockey team and a member of the Quiz Bowl team that won the regional competition and is headed to the nationals in Chicago.

At OSU, Ashley, the daughter of Marlene and Darrell Taylor, will major in public affairs and will eventually become a social justice activist lawyer.

Alexis Walton, a senior at Southview High School, will be attending Kent State University to major in Speech Language Pathology. The daughter of Kyle and Jacqueline Walton, Alexis attends First Church of God and is a youth usher and a volunteer in the Children's Ministry there. She has also been active as a volunteer with ProMedica and at Sparrows Nest Women's Shelter.

Carillon Young of St. Ursula will be attending BGSU in the fall to major in public relations. Carillon has been active as a Student Ambassador's Program as a tour guide and greeter for the school open houses, visitations and other events hosted by St. Ursula's.

She is the president of the Afro Club and a member of the Middle Eastern Club.

Katrina Johnson is the AKA Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter's president and the following were members of the 2015 Scholarship Committee: Katrina Barry, chairman; Rebecca Battles; Jacalyn Brown; Debra Fulton, DDS; Theo Simmons Hampton; Lisa McDuffie; Paula Martin and Erin Thomas.

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Library Selected as a Literary Landmark™ in Honor of the Original Nancy Drew Author, *Mildred Wirt Benson*

Special to The Truth

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library has been selected as a site for a **Literary Landmark™** in honor of the original Nancy Drew author, **Mildred Wirt Benson** (1905-2002).

Literary Landmarks™ are supported by the American Library Association/United for Libraries and recognize deceased literary figures and significant sites. In observation of the honor, a special dedication will follow a free program organized by the **Nancy Drew Sleuths** (www.ndsleuths.com) Mini-Con called: "History Behind the Mystery: Nancy Drew and Mildred Wirt Benson" scheduled from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, **May 30** in the McMaster Center at Main Library, 325 Michigan St. The dedication will follow at 12:30 p.m. in the Children's Library at Main.

The Library holds a number of items related to the literary works of Benson, including original art from the fifth *Nancy Drew* book and a life-sized *Nancy Drew* diorama from the first *Nancy Drew* book. The Library also holds copies of all her children's books (135 titles) in **The Blade Rare Book Room** (third level of Main Library) as well as a few photographs, letters and her aviation logbooks.

This year marks not only the **110th** anniversary of Benson's birthday, but also the **85th** anniversary of the *Nancy Drew* Mystery series and the 110th Anniversary of The Stratemeyer Syndicate (publisher of the *Nancy Drew* mysteries, The Hardy Boys and dozens of other series for children).

About Mildred Wirt Benson

Raised in rural Iowa, the daughter of a local doctor, Mildred Wirt Benson (1905-2002) grew up as something of a tomboy. She used to reminisce about the freedom afforded her in the wide-open spaces—and more innocent times—

of her childhood, for she was able to roam around the fields and woods at will. Always interested in writing, she published her first story in *St. Nicholas*, a children's magazine, when she was still a child herself. As an adult she participated in all kinds of sports, becoming especially proficient at diving, swimming and golf. She also became an experienced aviator, and maintained her pilot's license until well into her senior years.

Mildred wrote some of the earliest Nancy Drew mysteries under the pen name **Carolyn Keene** from 1929 to 1947, contributing to 23 of the first 30 originally published Nancy Drew mysteries.

She studied journalism at the University of Iowa, and became the program's first female graduate. While she wrote over 100 children's books in her lifetime, the regular bread-and-butter of her professional life has been journalism; she worked for several decades at the *Toledo Blade* newspaper as a regular columnist until retiring in 2001. In 1994, the University of Iowa, Mildred's *alma mater*, hosted a Nancy Drew® Conference in her honor. She died at age 96. Source: An excerpt from <http://www.stratemeyer.net/stratemeyer/ghostwriters/benson/mildred.htm> and Library sources.

Toledo Public Schools Events for the Upcoming Week

Special to The Truth

TPS to Host Annual Volunteer Luncheon

Nearly 200 people are expected to attend the district's annual Volunteer Luncheon at the UAW Hall at 2600 Ashland Avenue on Thursday, May 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Volunteers work countless hours each year in schools across the district in support of TPS students – volunteer opportunities range from working in the library to answering phones in the main office to opening ketchup packs for younger students during lunchtime. 'Volunteer of the Year Awards' will be given to eight individuals and three community partners. They were nominated by TPS staff members in recognition of their dedication to the students and the district.

Bowsher High School to Host This Year's Science Fair

Budding scientists will get the chance to show off their projects at the Annual Science Fair for Toledo Public Schools. The event, set for Thursday, May 14 at Bowsher High School, will allow participating students to present their work to judges from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Then there will be general viewing until 7:10 p.m. The awards ceremony will start at 7:15 p.m.

TPS Hosting Student Athlete Leadership Summit

Student athletes from each of the six comprehensive high schools have been invited to a day-long meeting to participate in a number of sessions that will make them better leaders on the field and off. A Student Athlete Leadership Summit is being held at the Toledo Board of Education building on Friday, May 15, from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. The topics of the day include: The Life of Social Media; Time Management/Distractions; Academic Qualifications for an Athlete and Domestic Violence & Self Identity in Sports. Guest facilitators include Dr. Romules Durant, CEO/superintendent of Toledo Public Schools. The coordinators of the day-long event are Mike Johnson, athletic director at Start High School, and Jenai Hicklin, urban director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Special Olympics Return to TPS

Toledo Public Schools is again hosting two days of Special Olympics competition at Start High School. The inaugural event proved so successful last year that volunteers, including University of Toledo football players, have been lining up to help guide the athletes throughout the day. There will be a full roster of track and field events, as well as an opening ceremony that will feature an honor guard as well as awards ceremony for each event. New this year is a special area for the district's very smallest athletes, overseen by the staff of Head Start. The first day of events is this Friday and will be for schools

... continued on page 12

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Vals and Sals... continued from page 6

Tala's activities include serving as president of the Arab group for the International Festival and tutoring fellow students.

She writes of her most memorable service project, "I was involved in a Young Women for Change Club where we discussed issues in our society, many about women, and how we can go about bettering them. We helped many girls in the group undergoing personal struggles feel better and improve."

With 60 credits already, it's no surprise that Tala says she plans to attend the University of Toledo and study Speech Language Pathology.

Toledo Early College High School Salutatorian Ngoc Mai

She is most proud of receiving a \$5,000 Old Newsboys Scholarship, making The University of Toledo Dean's and Presidents' Recognition lists and winning The Dr. Eugene Saunders and Dr. Daniel Johnson Award recognizing the Highest Level of Scholarship and Activities for 2015.

Ngoc is a member of the TECHS Quiz Bowl Team, tutors underclassmen (mostly in math) and has been a singer and an actor in school shows.

The most memorable service project she was involved in was volunteering to help the UT Chapter of the American Chemical Society set up science stations and demonstrate to younger kids' mini science experiments at the Imagination Station. "I greatly enjoyed educating kids and adults alike how science occurs," she reports.

The plan next year is to attend the University of Toledo's College of Engineering and major in Chemical/Environmental Engineering.

Toledo Technology Academy Valedictorian Kaylee Loofbourrow

Kaylee says her top three high school honors have been attending the 2014 Marathon Classic to accept an award and give a speech on behalf of Junior Achievement; being elected vice president of the National Honor Society and being chosen to compete at Skills USA.

Her top activities are serving as a senior representative on Student Council, Youth-to-Youth and being part of the Yearbook Committee.

Kaylee, who works at the Kent Branch Library, said her most memorable service project involves the branch where she has volunteered since the 7th grade. *"I love to read and was able to share that love by helping with the Summer Reading Club. One of the best moments was helping and seeing kids sign-up that I had helped the year before," she says.*

Kaylee will be majoring in Communication (specifically Journalism) at the University of Toledo.

TTA Salutatorian Rosa Celestino

She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Director's List and was a Skills USA participant.

Her activities include serving as a Student Council representative and being a member of both Youth-to-Youth and the Year Book staff.

Rosa cited a number of service projects she's been involved in, including working church festivals, tutoring younger students and assisting the elderly with household chores, but she said her most memorable project was one she did for TTA.

"We boxed up holiday baskets for needy families. I knew the families were in need of help and they were extremely grateful for the baskets," she remembers.

Rosa, who works at Los Amigos Restaurant, plans to attend Cleveland State University to study mechanical engineering.

Waite Valedictorian Hannah Hartford

Hannah is proudest of winning the Jefferson Award for Service, receiving a scholarship from the Old Newsboys and having perfect attendance for all four years.

She has played the alto saxophone for four years in the marching and jazz bands, worked on school dances and programs as a Student Government Officer and has worked on floats and helped to run the senior class.

Hannah's most meaningful service project was during last summer's water crisis. *"We passed out water packages to people in need at my home high school. It brought the community together*

and it was so much fun," she remembers.

Next stop is the University of Toledo, where Hannah plans to major in Public Relations and Business.

Waite Salutatorian Jerrika Slawski

Jerrika says, "I am proud of being Waite High School's October Student of the Month, being president of MU Alpha Theta and for being one of the few students to be selected to be a member of the National Honor Society."

Her school activities include Teen Pep, softball and the National Honor Society.

Jerrika's memorable service project was delivering holiday baskets to families in need. *"It was great to be able to see the appreciation they had for them," she writes.*

Jerrika, who works at McDonald's, is heading to The Ohio State University. She says she's undecided on her major right now but is leaning towards something in the medical field.

Woodward Valedictorian Maya Olive

Maya is proudest of being a member of the National Honor Society and earning awards at the Academic Banquet every year of her high school career.

She is involved in Young Women of Excellence and the Girl Scouts and her most memorable service project was when she hosted a Girl Scouts event at Woodward called 'Free to be Me.' The purpose of the event was to promote healthy self-esteem and Maya worked with the elementary school girls of the community.

Maya, who works at McDonalds, plans to attend Owens Community College for two years and then transfer to the University of Toledo to major in social work.

Woodward Salutatorian Shyanne Crawford

Shyanne is proudest of being a member of the National Honor Society, winning Sophomore Princess and receiving an Old Newsboys Scholarship.

She is a member of Young Women of Excellence and played volleyball and softball.

Shyanne's most important service project was when, "as a member of YWOE, we held a Seed Swap at Woodward High and I was a proud volunteer."

An employee of McDonalds, Shyanne plans to attend Eastern Michigan University and major in accounting.



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Restock Your Kids' Bookshelves for Summer

Special to The Truth

With summer vacation on the horizon, restocking the home book collection just makes sense for children who will be out of school, but still looking for great reads."

Here are some titles that are fun enough for the summer season:

- **Super Heroes:** Discover a thrilling, action-packed world with *LEGO DC Comics Super Heroes: Amazing Battles!*, which features the bravest of heroes as they foil yet another evil villain's scheme. Dynamic images and scenes will appeal to reluctant readers.

Super hero fans may also love *Ultimate Factivity Collection: Marvel Avengers*, which combines facts about the Earth's mightiest super heroes – the Avengers – with fun activities and interesting puzzles.

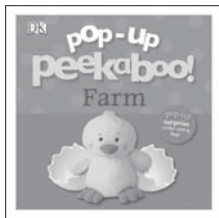
- **Pop-Out Surprises:** Using flaps, touch-and-feel textures and pop-out surprises, *Pop-Up Peekaboo Farm*, introduces young minds to sheepdogs, tractors, cows, horses and more.

- **Creepy Crawlies:** *Eyewitness Explorer: Bug Hunter* includes more than 30 hands-on learning activities and step-by-step project instructions. Enter the kingdom of creepy crawlies and learn everything there is to know about beetles, bees, spiders and more. Experiments that can be done at home include raising a caterpillar.

- **Little Chefs:** Encourage your budding chef's aspirations with creative recipes that are safe for children. The *Mommy & Me Bake* cookbook is designed to offer parents and children the opportunity to work together as a team while teaching basic baking skills. From simple kneading and mixing to creating whimsical and tasty treats, the book empowers kids to experiment in the kitchen.

- **Frozen:** For fans of the mega hit film, fill up Easter baskets with a great crop of new picks, including *Frozen: The Essential Guide*, a fact-filled reference book about the characters, locations and themes of Disney's beloved princess tale. A sing-along companion, *Frozen: The Essential Collection*, features lyrics to the famous songs, as well as a full-color sticker book. *Ultimate Factivity Collection: Disney Frozen*, a jam-packed activity book, combines facts with games, challenges and sticker activities; and aspiring princesses everywhere are sure to love the *Ultimate Sticker Book: Frozen*, which lets kids re-create their favorite scenes from the movie with reusable stickers.

- **Bedtime:** There's always time for a little play



before bedtime. Capture the attention of infants with *Baby Touch & Feel Animals*, which features blankets, stars, sleepy stuffed animals and a range of novelty textures.

- **ABC's:** Children around the world have fallen in love with Sophie, the popular giraffe teether toy from France. In the *Sophie la giraffe* book series, Sophie and her friends teach new concepts, such as colors and basic vocabulary. *Peekaboo ABC* features every letter of the alphabet illustrated by familiar objects found in Sophie's world.

Courtesy StatePoint

Toledo Public School... continued from page 10

in the Start, Waite and Woodward learning communities. (There will be some athletes from other districts as well). The second day of competition is set for Friday, May 22, at Rogers, with schools in the Bowsher, Rogers and Scott learning communities competing. May 29 is reserved as a rain day. TPS students can start training for Special Olympics as kindergartners and those age eight and older are eligible to compete in as many sports as they train for.

Volunteers will start reporting at 9 a.m. The order of events is as follows:

- 10 a.m.: Opening ceremony with the Parade of Athletes
- 10:20 a.m.: Track events for both female and male athletes begin
- 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Lunch provided
- 11:45 a.m. – Field events begin for both male and female athletes
- 12:30 p.m. – Relay events begin

Elmhurst Elementary Hosts 11th Annual Wax Museum

Students at Elmhurst Elementary will be in full costume as they deliver first-person speeches as the Famous Ohioans they have researched and are portraying during the school's 11th Annual Wax Museum on Friday, May 15 from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3:00 p.m.

Sold-Out Senior Prom to Be Held at Rogers High School

The inaugural dance last year proved so much fun that this year's Senior Prom – Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. at Rogers High School – is sold out. Those senior citizens lucky enough to have tickets will again get a chance to see Superintendent Romules Durant, Ed.D., in a tuxedo and to meet the prom's king and queen. Toledo Public Schools is again proud to co-sponsor the second annual Senior Prom in conjunction with the Area Office on Aging. The event, once again being held at Rogers High School, has a Masquerade theme this year.

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Child, Please by Ylonda Gault Caviness

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

It was enough to make any kid fearful for his life.

It was That Look your Mama gave you – the one you got when you were acting up, the one that made you want to join the Witness Protection Program. That Look could freeze a kid on the spot forever like a statue and, though it was deadly, it rarely came with sound – except, says **Ylonda Gault Caviness**, a heavy sigh and *Child, Please*.

Growing up, there were many things you learned by observation – one of them being a sharp knowledge of when you were approaching your mother's last nerve. Like most kids, Ylonda Gault Caviness tried to avoid that mess; instead, she craved her Mama's approval, though it wasn't earned easily. And that was the way things just were.

Until Caviness had her first child.

Chloe was born on a hot August day, and Mama was enormously pleased, though she'd never admit it. In the first days, she was helpful and indulgent with the new baby but, never one to filter what she said, she was constantly critical and eagerly pounced on that which she perceived was wrong. That grated on Caviness. Still, mere weeks into new-Mommyhood, Caviness was shocked when Mama announced that she was going home. Caviness felt abandoned.

There were grounds for that, Caviness reasoned. Mama had never had

c. 2015
Tarcher / Penguin
\$25.95 / higher in Canada
320 pages

much of a mother herself: when she was just four years old, her mother died and her father quickly gave her a stepmother who was almost straight

out of a bad fairy tale. Consequently, Mama didn't put her own children in the center of her life. She gave them the love they needed, but not that which they wanted.

Some months later, Caviness had her second daughter, Trinity, an easy baby who made motherhood particularly good for Caviness and made Mama quite amused at the way children are raised today. Bemusement, however, didn't change her forwardness: to Caviness' chagrin, Mama remained frustrating. By the time baby Cole came along five years after Trinity, everything – the help-no-help, the unwanted advice, and Caviness' exhaustion – had all come to a crash.

So you say there are times when you consider asking your mother for a DNA test? And though you love your kids, you might include them, too? Before you grab the swabs, read *Child, Please*.

The first thing you need to know is that author Ylonda Gault Caviness is *funny*. I mean, LOL funny, in a way that will make you feel like she's been your friend since junior high. You can practically picture the conversations you'd have with her.

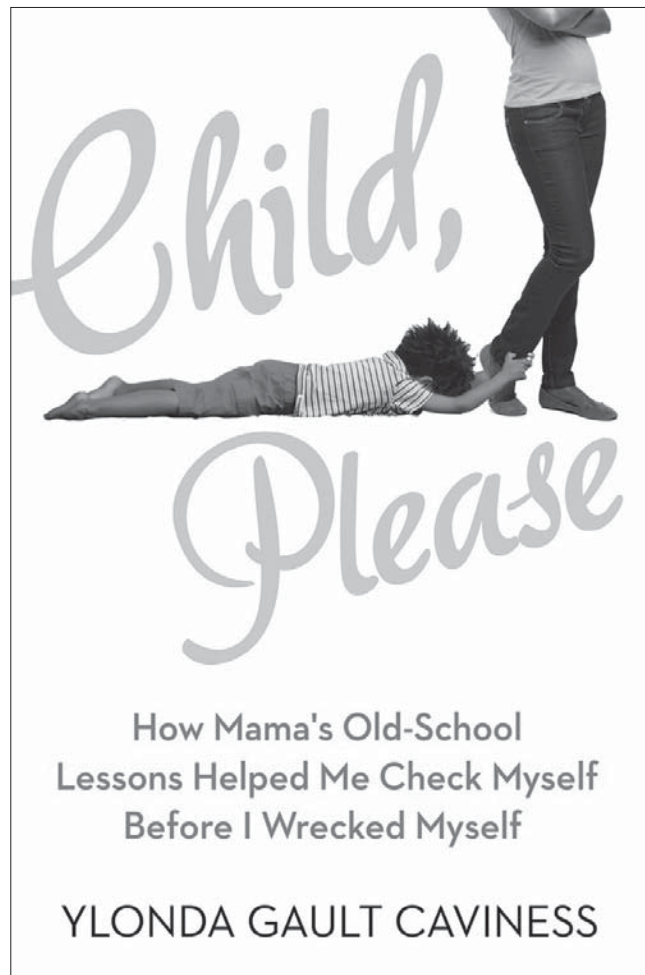


Author Photo Courtesy Keith Major



But this book isn't all comedy: Caviness dispenses advice and sass, yes, but she also displays a sweet amount of gratitude, understanding, and the kind of love only shared between mothers and the daughters they drive crazy.

I think this is a perfect book for everyone who's ever had a Mom or been one. It's also great for any Mother-to-Be. If you love laugh-out-loud, cry-a-little memoirs, then *Child, Please* is worth a Look.



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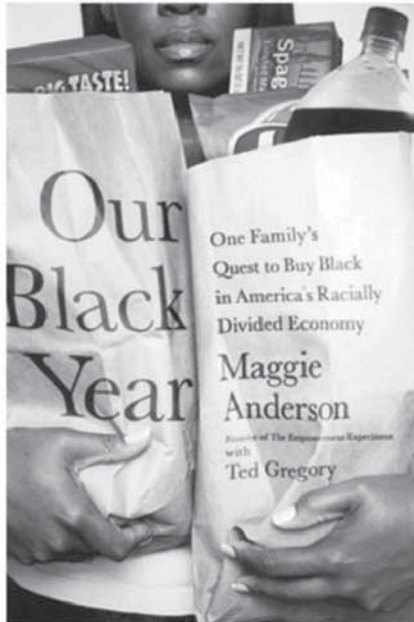
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May 13, 2015

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EOE



Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY15-59, (Project # 5002-15-1830) for Mulford Library - Student Services Phase II for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, 2015 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$65.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from James Price of Buehrer Group Architecture & Engineering, Inc. at 419-893-9021. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 103, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 12.5%. Project Estimate: \$591,000.00; Breakdown: General: \$390,000.00; Fire Protection: \$24,000.00; HVAC: \$71,000.00 & Electrical: \$106,000.00.

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Legal Notice

In accordance with Section 329.06 (B) Ohio Revised Code, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) will hold a public hearing prior to the submission of the County's Final 2016-2017 Social Service Plan to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for incorporation in the Comprehensive Social Services Plan for the State of Ohio.

PURPOSE:

To highlight pertinent data and information regarding identified social services problems, needs, resources, and gaps in service along with recommendations to the proposed two-year county plan.

To elicit public comment, suggestions, and recommendations relative to the County's proposed Social Service Plan.

DATE: May 20, 2015

TIME: 2pm-4pm

**LOCATION: LCDJFS, 3210 Monroe Street,
Toledo Room, 4th floor**

Entities wishing to have their points of view captured in the County's submission to the State must submit proposals (not to exceed two pages) to Lucas_Contracts@odjfs.state.oh.us by 4pm on May 15, 2015. If individuals would like to present their proposals in person at the hearing as well, they must indicate that at the bottom of their proposal. This should include the speaker's name and contact information. Those wishing to speak must register upon arrival at LCDJFS on the 20th and all efforts will be made to accommodate everyone who would like to speak. If time constraints don't allow for that to happen, individuals will still have their written proposals reviewed and included in the LCDJFS summary report to the State.



Toledo Refining Company LLC has an immediate need for a HSE Manager. The HSE Manager is responsible for managing the refinery's Health & Safety, Process Safety Management, Environmental and the Security & Emergency Response Departments. The selected candidate will ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations; provide technical and regulatory expertise to assist staff and field personnel; initiate HSE awareness programs; track and analyze HSE Performance indicators; participate as a key member of the Refinery Manager's staff and a member of the Incident Command Team; create, implement and manage HSE processes; and development and mentor department personnel.

To be considered for the position, candidates must have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree as well as 15+ years of HSE experience in petroleum or a chemical manufacturing plant.

All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbfenergy.com/careers. Once on the career page, candidates can view current job opportunities and apply to desired position.

EOE/M/F/D/V

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY15-60, (Project # 1130-15-971) for Building Automation System Upgrades for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, 2015. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$55.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Dave Desjardins of JDRM Engineering at 419-824-2400. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 12.5%. Project Estimate: \$400,000.00; Breakdown: Electrical: \$400,000.00.

Community Celebrates Pastor's 12th Anniversary

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Family, friends and community leaders gathered at the Ramada Hotel Grand Ballroom on Secor to celebrate the 12th pastoral anniversary of Elder William Lucas Sr. The Sunday, May 3, 2015 event featured keynote speaker, Rev. Pat McKinstry, elegant music and a gourmet meal.

"Today is about honoring our pastor. I've been a member since the beginning, 12 years ago and serve on the Pastor's Aid. I've enjoyed the congregation fellowship, and God's guidance," said Regina Summers.

Elder Martin Johnson served as master of ceremony, Rev. Richard

Brown delivered the invocation, Anita Liggins welcomed guests and featured speaker, and then the honoree was escorted by his granddaughter Zion Hill.

"It's an honor to spend some time and honor this man of God on his anniversary," said Brown.

The celebration continued with soulful selections by Victor Stubblefield and Wayne Jones; expressions of gratitude by Eugene Bellinger, Hannah Brown, and Bishop Edward Cook; featured guest speaker McKinstry; praise dancing by Deosjah Brown and closing remarks by the honoree.

"This year is significant, I served my former pastor for 12 years and then spent 12 years leading the flock," said Lucas. "I walk by faith and look forward to more community involvement. I want our church to continue our reputation as a church that gives, not a church that receives. I especially want to thank my wife, who I will honor with a special presentation tonight. We've been married for almost 30 years."

Lucas has served as pastor of Liberty Church of God in Christ for 12 years, the building is currently located at 3252 Markway Dr. in Toledo. He also has served as Toledo Area Ministries' board member for six years, Toledo Police Department chaplain for 15 years, Glass-House Ministries workshop facilitator for 24 years, and is the former Interdenominational Ministers Alliance of Toledo and Vicinity first vice president.

He studied computer science at the University of Toledo, studied Biblical studies at Liberty University, and became a certified marriage counselor from Light University.



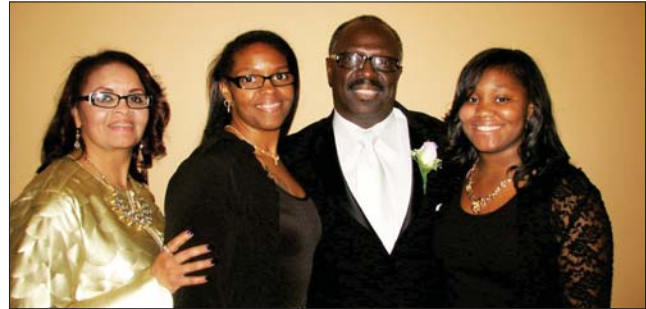
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