



Volume 36, No. 6

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

December 9, 2015

Mayor Seeks Tax Hike



Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson Asks Voters for Additional Funds to Improve City Roads

In This Issue...

Perryman
Page 2

Tolliver
Page 3

HB 394
Page 4

**Truth Telling
Project**
Page 5

**Teaching Kids to
Trust Instincts**
Page 7

AKA's Scholarships
Page 9

Portman's Educational Initiatives
Page 10

**Cover Story:
City Tax Hike**
Page 11

Book Review
Page 13

BlackMarketPlace
Page 14

Classifieds
Page 15

Expect The Unexpected

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.

The Truth Contributor

... There's a spectrum of black experience, just as there is of black views and opinions.

- Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



If you thought that the 2015 seven-candidate mayoral election was an extraordinary occurrence, expect the 2016 local elections to be even more incredulous.

Presently there are two local political campaigns steaming full speed ahead towards an inevitable high-profile clash of the titans. Each contest contains some unexpected elements.

The first contest includes the presence of:

A Black Republican.

Former Mayor Mike Bell, a self-proclaimed fiscal conservative and social moderate, plans to run as a Republican for Lucas County Commissioner against the Democratic Party incumbent, Pete Gerken.

Although, from time to time, the Republican Party tends to trot black candidates out under the bright lights of the big stage (only if one at a time), black conservative politicians and public figures fight against the GOP's negative brand as much as their opponents.

Most blacks view black Republicans (i.e. Alan Keyes, Herman Cain, and even Michael Steele or Dr. Ben Carson) as an "abnormality that can not be tolerated." The message of African Americans' overwhelming loyalty to the Democratic Party was facetiously emphasized in a recent episode of ABC's new hit comedy, *Blackish*.

Dre Johnson, played by actor Anthony Anderson, remarked with tongue-in-cheek candor, "There are certain things in life that are just true... black people aren't Republicans. We just aren't. Sure, the other side may trot out a token black face every now and again, but the fact of the matter is, being a black Republican is something we just don't do."

Bantering? Yes. Oversimplification or worse? Perhaps. However, it is a very real and shared belief for many African Americans.

Bell's general public image has always seemed to be "I'm black but not too black," but for many in the African-American community he has not been "black enough."

Yet, it appears that Bell had little choice in running as a Republican. Chances of winning an election above the municipal level are slim without party support and party resources. Therefore running as an Independent was not an option.

The Democrats, still angered by Bell's support of the SB5 anti-worker legislation, appear resolute in their unwillingness to mend fences even though Bell has served nearly half a century as a Dem-

ocrat and is very progressive on social issues.

But also, the conditions do not appear to be ideal for unseating Pete Gerken, an incumbent with a solid record.

Gerken is the most visible of the current county commissioners and perhaps maintains the largest media presence of any local politician. He has managed a budget of nearly half a billion dollars (twice the size of the City of Toledo), is extremely progressive on social issues, has stood up to both late Mayor D. Michael Collins and current Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson to champion criminal justice reform, and has not suffered any major slumps or major negative publicity.

With a solid record of performance in hand, it will be difficult to convince voters that Gerken wouldn't be a good choice and a strategy to run a negative campaign against him would likely backfire. The only scenario where Bell would be competitive is if John Kasich, who surprisingly polls well among Lucas County voters, appears on the 2016 national presidential ticket.

Nevertheless, Bell's choice is certainly a win for the Lucas County Republican Party which, like the national party, desperately needs diversity of ideology as well as people of color.

Early predictions on the outcome? Yes, Expect the unexpected.

The second unexpected campaign clash involves:

A Throwdown in the 'Hood.

Councilman Tyrone Riley, even before he has been sworn in to his recently reelected District 1 council seat, has thrown down the gauntlet by seeking the Democratic Party endorsement to challenge incumbent Michael Ashford for representation in the Ohio House of Representatives from the 44th district.

Apparently some perceive Ashford as being politically vulnerable.

The longtime Democrat ruffled Party feathers when he "positioned" his wife Ruth to run against party-endorsed candidate,

... continued on page 7

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American
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The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604

Phone 419-243-0007 * Fax 419-255-7700

thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Community Calendar

December 15

Free Community Workshop: "Protecting and Maintaining Your Home;" Mott Branch Library; Sponsored by the Northwest Ohio Development Agency; 6 to 8 pm' Budgeting and savings, establishing credit, selecting contractors, home repair loans and grants: 419-243-3734

December 20

Calvary MBC Annual Musical: The Lion of Judah Victory Choir; 5 pm; Guest choirs, groups and soloist from around Toledo: 419-242-8379

December 25

Merry Christmas!!

Thomas Temple COGIC 12th Annual Free Christmas Dinner: 1 to 3 pm: 419-255-3447

December 26-29

2015 Kwanzaa Celebration: 6-7:30 pm nightly; Frederick Douglass Community Association; Open 5 pm for vendors: 419-509-0751 or 419-410-8022

January 1

Happy New Year!!

The New America?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Time: The year 2017. Country: America. Place: anywhere in the USA. Events: domestic terrorism on steroids.

San Bernardino. What's more to say? You saw it. You were ringside with the continuous flow of reporting and updates and the usual slew of experts upon experts telling us or hinting to us or cautioning us that we are now living in a new America.

An America that is totally different from the America that you experienced just a few years ago. An America where a solo can "self-radicalize" and cause mayhem with a gun in a matter of minutes...and no one could have foreseen it happening. Clueless.

An America that now has been infected with a virus called terrorism and a strain that is religiously based or politically based.

Religious Urban Terrorism (RUT) or Political Urban Terrorism (PUT) are the new acronyms (I coined them myself) that are causing everyone to rethink activities that, in the past, were harmless and did not need second guessing.

But now, do you take your family to an amusement park with crowds of people whom you do not know? Do you go to overseas destinations that have been targeted or threatened with terrorist activities?

Do you recoil at the sight of people at an airport who are dressed in non-Western garb and who are standing in the same line as you are, ready to board the same plane.

Are in you in a "mixed" neighborhood and you notice unusual traffic patterns at "certain" houses and the noises coming from those houses sounds like an open bazaar in Beirut?

Does the idea of riding on an elevator to a floor that is more than 20 stories high give you the creeps and gets you to thinking "what if" something was to happen...how do I get out of here alive?

You are not alone. With the repeated occurrences of mass shootings and the reportedly tie ins to those who profess the Muslim faith, Americans are nervous and jittery about their safety and security and that is one reason Donald Trump is using that scenario to buff up his street cred as being our next security savior.

Gun sales are off the hook as Americans increasingly are arming themselves for a shoot-out(?) with radical Muslim extremists who may pop up at the local mall, theatre or sporting event.

Even certain law enforcement officials are telling people to arm themselves in order to protect themselves in the event they are in a situation in which their firepower could win the day against a sudden firefight at a food court in a large mall, a casino or even a worship center.

No locale is exempt from those who are bent on death and destruction against a society that they view, or they have been radicalized to view, as the enemy of their faith or a country that has been characterized as being the satanic villain in the conflagration in the Middle East.

Even a mild incursion into proposing stricter gun control laws causes certain political segments of the population to go bonkers over a perceived violation of their 2nd amendment rights.

To understand this fixation, you've got to understand that since the invention of gun powder and its precipitous arrival on these shores, America has had a intense and enduring love affair with all mechanical things that shoot a

projectile known as a bullet.

From the glorification of the cowboy shooting the bad "Injuns" and the worship of the gun via the cookie cutter TV productions that have the gun in a starring role, Americans love guns. Big guns. Short guns. Long guns. Small guns. Quiet guns. Loud guns.

Based upon whose stats you believe, there are over 300 million guns in circulation in these troubled United States and that averages to be about one gun per person.

America is becoming an armed fortress with itchy trigger fingers as evidenced by so many deadly domestic violence shootings and rogue cops executing people in the streets.

However, until America drinks deep its cup of blood killings down to the dredges, there will not be an outcry of enough is enough and a demand for meaningful gun control that demands universal background checks and obliterates the loopholes that allow people who should not have guns, to get guns.

America must still gorge itself on senseless and preventable shootings, mass murders and gang violence until the tipping point is reached when we are war weary of fixating on the gun as being our salvation and comfort.

America is unique in the world insofar as we have a history and culture in which the gun is paramount to our sense of well being and safety, comfort and joy.

We give kids Christmas presents of toy guns in a holster as they then play, "shoot em up!"

Our television favorites revolve around murder, murder, killing, killing, bang-bang and then trying to figure out, who did it!

Remember the series: Gunsmoke, Wyatt Earp, Paladin, Johnny Yuma, The Rifleman,

Wanted Dead or Alive or Murder She Wrote? The current favorites of NCIS and its spin offs are in the top 10 programs for Hollywood writers and sponsors.

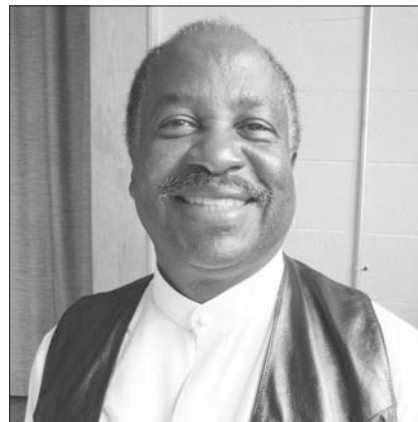
What did and do they all have in common? Gratuitous violence and a barking gun!

James Bond and its progeny and Mission Impossible and a host of hundreds of television programs, past and present, played homage to the gun and the acrid smell of gun powder. To be a moneymaker action film, you need guns a'blazing and bodies dropping left and right.

How was the West won? The gun. Gun power settled the Civil War. How many Indian tribes were driven to nigh extinction solely due to overwhelming fire power?

How was slavery for hundreds of years enforced? Guns, baby... guns!

Have a problem? Get a gun! Being dissed?



Lafe Tolliver

Get a gun! Lost a bet or an argument? Get a gun! Cheating husband or a fast wife giving you problems? Get a gun! Feeling devalued or impotent? That's easy...get a gun!

I am surprised that somewhere there is not an 80-foot-high statue of a cocked gun so that Americans can bend a knee to this idol god and give it worship and praise for all that it has done to tame America and to make sure that those "others" stay in their place.

Between pledging allegiance to God or to your coveted and shiny Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum, sometimes I think God would easily lose... especially if it was done via a secret ballot!

So, until America says, enough of this gun madness, simply fire up the popcorn popper and watch CNN for breaking news of the newest mass shooting, shake your head in disgust and then channel surf to find the thriller series, "The Killer Among Us!"

The upcoming political discussions will now add a focus on guns and whether we are safe and especially so in the presence of anyone who is a Muslim or has a Muslim-sounding name.

This is the new America with seemingly everyone "packin'" and a feckless Congress in total terror of the powerful NRA whenever they try to pass even softball legislation that seeks to curb this gun madness.

Whoever wins the White House is going to have to be fast on the draw and enjoy the smell of gunpowder. This new terrorism reality may dictate that frightened Americans may want a president who shoots first and aims later.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tolliver@Juno.com

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Democratic Lawmakers Say Unemployment Compensation Bill Will Harm Vulnerable Ohio Families

One-sided legislation will reduce benefits, increase qualification barriers

Special to The Truth

House Democratic lawmakers last month called for significant changes to be made to House Bill 394 (HB 394), legislation to address the insolvency of Ohio's unemployment compensation system. After hearing hours of testimony that highlighted the detrimental effects the bill will have on Ohio workers, Democratic lawmakers on the House Insurance Committee reiterated that they believe Ohio should pursue a more balanced approach to unemployment compensation reform.

"The purpose of unemployment compensation is to help families make ends meet while they try to get back on their feet," said Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo). "Unfortunately, this bill slashes unemployment benefits and erects barriers to receiving unemployment. Instead of working in a balanced way to correct insolvency issues in Ohio's unemployment compensation system, this bill will disproportionately benefit employers while hurting vulnerable Ohio families."



Rep. Michael Ashford

... continued on page 6

Toledo City Council Members Lash Out at Ohio House Bill 394

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Toledo City Council Members Larry Sykes, Yvonne Harper and Cecelia Adams, Ph.D., announced this week that they will ask their colleagues on council to join them in a resolution condemning the proposed Ohio House Bill 394 which offers changes to unemployment benefits.



Councilmen Cecelia Adams, Larry Sykes, Yvonne Harper

"It is ridiculous," said Sykes of the Republican proposal to reduce unemployment compensation eligibility from the current 26 weeks to 12 weeks. Other major changes offered in the bill will require workers to wait longer after applying for benefits and require them to have worked in at least three of four calendar quarters to be eligible. House Bill 394 would also freeze benefits depending on unemployment rates.

"At a time like this, during Christmastime, the holiday season, I think it is ungodly," said Sykes. "I question some of our elected officials in Columbus."

House Bill 394 was proposed by Republican Representative Barbara Sears in order to address the insolvency of the Ohio Unemployment Compensation System and introduced to the General Assembly on November 9, 2015. The proposal has been roundly derided by House Democrats.

African Art Has Arrived!!

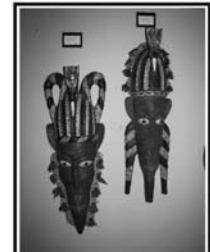
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The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes!
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See more art online at
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Toledo Truth Telling – Trying to Eliminate Structural Violence and Systemic Racism

By Lynne Hamer, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

University of Toledo graduate students and community members have been collecting "truths" all fall and are ready to make their first report on Thursday, December 17, at 5 pm at the Padua Center of Toledo. Then the question will be: What next?

Toledo Truth Telling is a new local effort aligned with the national Truth Telling Project, based in Ferguson, Missouri. According to its mission statement, the Ferguson-based Truth Telling Project "implements and sustains grassroots, community-centered truth-telling processes to share local voices, to educate America, and to support reconciliation for the purposes of eliminating structural violence and systemic racism against black people in the United States" (<http://thetruthtellingproject.org/>).

Toledo Truth Telling (TTT) is one of those grassroots, community-centered efforts. TTT is a project of the Padua Alliance for Education and Empowerment, which since 2007 has brought graduate students in the fields of education, counseling, and public health into conversation with community members. The goal is to learn the basic research methods required for their jobs while also learning truths about Central City neighborhoods, particularly Kwanzaa Park, where the Padua Center is located.

As reported in *The Sojourner's Truth* earlier this year (vol. 32, no. 4, March 4, 2015), David Ragland, Ph.D., a graduate of the University of Toledo and founding participant in the Padua Alliance, helped to establish the Ferguson project and remains active as one of its directors.

It was at Ragland's invitation that members of the Padua Alliance, including both UT graduate students and community members, traveled to Ferguson last March to participate in the first Truth Telling Weekend.

The Padua Alliance's main work is in "participatory action research," a process that puts student researchers in the service of research needed by the community. The Alliance relies on community elders to engage with the students, helping them to define the right questions researchers should ask about Central City communities, and serving as "gatekeepers," to open the way for students to observe key events and talk to knowledgeable individuals.

This year's project is led by Rahwae Shuman, Twila Page and Oscar Shaheer, in collaboration with Mary Ellen Edwards, Ph.D., and Lynne Hamer, Ph.D., both of the University of Toledo. All five traveled to Ferguson last March to learn about truth telling. After the Ferguson trip, Shuman, Page and Shaheer led the decision to focus the Alliance's work this year on truth telling.

TTT is looking at how structural, institutionalized racism in all types of institutions—including health and educational in addition to law enforcement and judicial systems—is experienced. TTT includes all persons' experiences with institutionalized racism as relevant, and is not limited to a particular ethnic or "racial" group.

Structural racism, or systemic racism, is a sociological theory that focuses attention on how racism is systematized throughout all institutions in U.S. society. Though individuals' beliefs and actions are important, far more important are the ways in which racism is perpetuated despite individuals' claims not to be racist. As Smedley (1993) explained, to understand racism the focus must be on "racist systems," i.e., institutions that regularly privilege one group over another, with groups identifiable by the social construct of race.

Feagin (2010) has explained this concept further: "Systemic racism includes the complex array of antiblack practices, the unjustly gained political-economic power of whites, the continuing economic and other resource inequalities along racial lines, and the white racist ideologies and attitudes created to maintain and rationalize white privilege and power" (p. 6).

Research on systemic or structural racism (the terms are used synonymously) helps the researcher focus on and reveal relationships and privileges that have been normalized to the point of being otherwise invisible. That is the project of truth telling: to reveal and work toward understanding truths that have been excluded from discussion.

But understanding the effects of systems must be gained by understanding the truths of individuals subject to those systems. In an interview, Rahwae Shuman explained what constitutes "truth."

One's truth is learned from one's own experience, he explained, but at the same time, "I know my experience and my sensibilities are limited. What I see may not be the truth. My truth is de-

termined by my experience and also, if the experience cannot be proved as false then I accept it as true."

Shuman sees TTT as an important way for people to hear others' experiences and use those experiences to consider for themselves the limits of their own truths, based on their own experience.

He explained, "If a person doesn't have the same experience, then I can't convince them. For instance, I cannot convince a middle-class, white woman from Sylvania that I suffer every day. They don't see racism, they don't see it. So how can they accept my truth if their experience is different than mine?"

TTT is based on the belief that listening to others' truths is a necessary first step toward accepting others' truths. Shuman explained, "There's an old saying that 'the truth will set you free.' I believe it's in all of our interests to tell the truth, black people and white people. Because I think if we all are truthful with each other, I think it will be a stronger country."

Truths can be in the distant past. In an interview, Oscar Shaheer focused on the need to tell the truth about black history in the U.S. He noted: "We think the truth is, when you do damage to a people, sometimes you leave scars. It can be mental scars or whatever scars that you may leave, but it would affect the people."

Shaheer recalled, "Growing up as a young boy, I saw terrorism. I call it terrorism, open terrorism. As a young boy, it affected me, and it affected me mentally, it affected me to the point that when I saw any kind of an attack, either it be a policeman



Twila Page



Rahwae Shuman

...continued on page 6

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Truth Telling... continued from page 5

in Toledo, or a policeman in the South now, when they take a black life, it affects me mentally. And my question is why do you have to kill them? Why do you have to hurt that particular person?"

Shaheer summarized, "The truth I'd like to tell today is the fact that racism still exists. Maybe not lot of occasions, maybe not as openly as it was when I was born, but it still exists."

Truths can also be in the recent past. Twila Page discussed the need for a Truth Telling Project in Toledo. She noted, "Toledo to me is very ... unaccepting of black people — people of color, Hispanics, gay people, any 'other,' other than the white majority."

Page noted that different groups "never come together, unless it's in a clashing manner." Page recalled the event in 2006 when a Nazi rally was allowed in the diverse neighborhood surrounding Woodward High School.

"It shouldn't have happened, because these were black people living in their neighborhoods," she said. During the demonstrations, "The police came in and told them they [black residents] had to leave, and they were at home--- so, they brought in these white Nazis into a black neighborhood and said, 'You all go home.' 'Well, we're already home so... where do we go?'"

Whether about the distant past of childhood, or the recent past in Toledo, Shaheer's and Page's accounts focus our attention on the individual's view, the individual's pain and fear when surrounded by racism. The need to bring people together to hear each other's truths in a cooperative way motivates Page's leadership in the project. She noted that although we "don't know if it was designed to be like that," we need to listen to each other because "it kind of feels like it."

Thus far the TTT has collected truths from a dozen individuals of various ethnicities. Students on the research team have begun to analyze the accounts for what we can learn about structural racism and how we, as individuals, can challenge and change it. As students and community participants begin to share understandings of truth, they will also be considering what next steps to take, hopefully together.

References

Feagin, J. (2010). *Racist America: Roots, current realities, and future repatriations*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge.

Smedley, Audrey. (1993). *Race in North America: Origin and Evolution of a Worldview*. San Francisco: Westview Press.

Lynne Hamer, Ph.D. is co-director of the Padua Alliance for Education and Empowerment and instructor for the graduate research course in which the participatory action research takes place.

The Toledo Truth Telling Project makes its first presentation next Thursday, December 17, at the Padua Center, 1416 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo. A community dinner at 5:00 pm precedes the presentation, which will begin at 5:45. All are invited. Questions, call or text 419-283-8288.

Unemployment Compensation... continued from page 4

Among the most drastic changes proposed in House Bill 394 include cutting unemployment compensation eligibility down from 26 weeks to a minimum of just 12, depending on the state unemployment rate, and requiring unemployed workers to wait longer after applying before they can receive unemployment benefits. The extra waiting period required by HB 394 would make it more difficult for temporary and seasonal workers with intermittent work histories to qualify for unemployment benefits.

"I have deep reservations regarding several provisions of this legislation. For instance, this bill creates disincentives for Ohioans to pursue short-term work," said Rep. Heather Bishoff (D-Columbus), ranking minority member on the House Insurance Committee. "Under this proposal, individuals seeking unemployment compensation may have to wait an additional week to gain access to their unemployment benefits. This disproportionately affects labor groups that may only have projects lasting short periods of time."

Lawmakers also expressed concern regarding the impact the bill will have on the poorest communities with high unemployment rates, such as Appalachian counties and struggling urban centers.

"Under the stated goal of making the unemployment trust fund solvent, HB 394 will actually make Ohioans more vulnerable to being thrust into poverty by drastically reducing eligibility for benefits," said Rep. Christie Kuhns (D-Cincinnati). "In addition, this bill does not consider local variations in the unemployment rate, the disproportionate impact on industries like manufacturing and construction or the fact that some populations — such as African Americans — have an unemployment rate triple the state average. Provisions of HB 394 will make Ohio one of the most difficult states in the nation in which to qualify for unemployment benefits. This bill in its current form is bad for Ohio."

Yesterday, Democratic members of the Unemployment Compensation Debt Study Committee sent a letter to the sponsor of HB 394, questioning the lack of transparency surrounding the creation of the bill and urging that input from organizations that represent Ohio employees be included — rather than only recommendations from the business community.

"As a member of the bipartisan study committee, I spent months considering testimony that included reasonable reforms to help strengthen our state's unemployment compensation system," said Rep. Michael Stinziano (D-Columbus). "I believe any efforts to solve the unemployment compensation debt crisis must include both employers and organizations that represent workers. I am disappointed that this legislation lacks a more balanced approach."

After months of considering testimony from a wide range of interested parties on how to solve Ohio's unemployment compensation debt crisis, Democratic members of the Unemployment Compensation Debt Study Committee submitted recommendations to the committee chair for inclusion in a final report.

However, no final report was ever produced, and the legislation currently being debated in the House Insurance Committee does not reflect any recommendations from the minority study committee members and represents little of the testimony heard by the study committee.

The Knotty Truth

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Teaching Kids to Trust their Own Instincts

Special to The Truth

During the course of their day, kids hear the word "No" all the time. And while some of those "Nos" are a necessary part of keeping kids safe, the overall message can be one that stifles courage, creativity and trust in one's own instincts -- effects that can last well into adulthood.

There are many ways that parents, teachers and caretakers can help kids overcome fears and achieve their dreams, while making good decisions on their own. And sometimes the world of children's books can be the best place to help deliver the message.

"Everyone, young and old, is blessed with unopened gifts, and of the most important is one's instincts" says Christopher Conroy author of the new young adult novel "Anzard," which explores this theme. "Children can be nurtured in a way that helps them find that inner voice. This story contains more than just Harry Potter-type magic, it is a tool to nurture the inner voice."

In the magical story of "Anzard," Conroy tells the story of a seemingly ordinary 10 year old boy named Justin who is visited by an enchanting fairy-like pixie named Poofy from galaxies far away, who helps him call on his own instincts and inner gifts to not only find missing parents back on Earth, but to change his world forever.

Conroy, who wrote this children's book because of his own beliefs about the power of one's own inner strength and resourcefulness, is offering some insights to parents as a tool to

empower the life's journey of their own precious children:

- Don't ignore your instincts: "I knew I shouldn't have done that," you hear those words of regret all the time. From peer pressure to second guesses, there are many things that prevent people from acting on their instincts. Talk to your children about listening to that inner voice. Sometimes, that moment when someone makes the decision to listen to it, is the moment his or her courage and confidence has a chance to blossom. Learning to rely on one's instincts can also be a useful skill where creativity is concerned.

- Listen and engage: Many households and classrooms still operate on the antiquated "children should be seen, not heard," basis. But this can be a destructive mentality. While children have a lot to learn, they also have a lot of wisdom to impart. If their thoughts are invalidated consistently, they will learn not to

recognize the value of their own minds. Listen when children speak.

- Offer encouragement: "Encouragement and praise to a child are like sunshine and water to a flower," says Conroy. "It's amazing what can grow out of that cultivation."

If your children show an interest in art, music, science or any other topic, foster that curiosity. Applaud their efforts. Acknowledge their growth.

More information about "Anzard," which has been lauded by critics for its writing and reader-friendliness, can be found at www.anzard.com.

With the right encouragement, all kids have it in them to be their best selves.

Courtesy StatePoint

Perryman... continued from page 2

Councilwoman Yvonne Harper, to represent District 4 on Toledo City Council. Also, Ashford's high profile active campaign against last year's mental health levy was a total failure as the levy passed overwhelmingly and the current word on the street is that "Ashford's arrogance has gotten him kind of separated from the pack and out there looking for friends."

Others have said that "Michael got out of his lane one too many times when he actively recruited candidates to run against Riley for the District 1 council seat."

Riley, never one to do trash-talking, they say, by running against Ashford "decided to stand up to the bully to get him off his back and finally said, 'I'm not gonna take it! Not Today!'"

... continued on page 11



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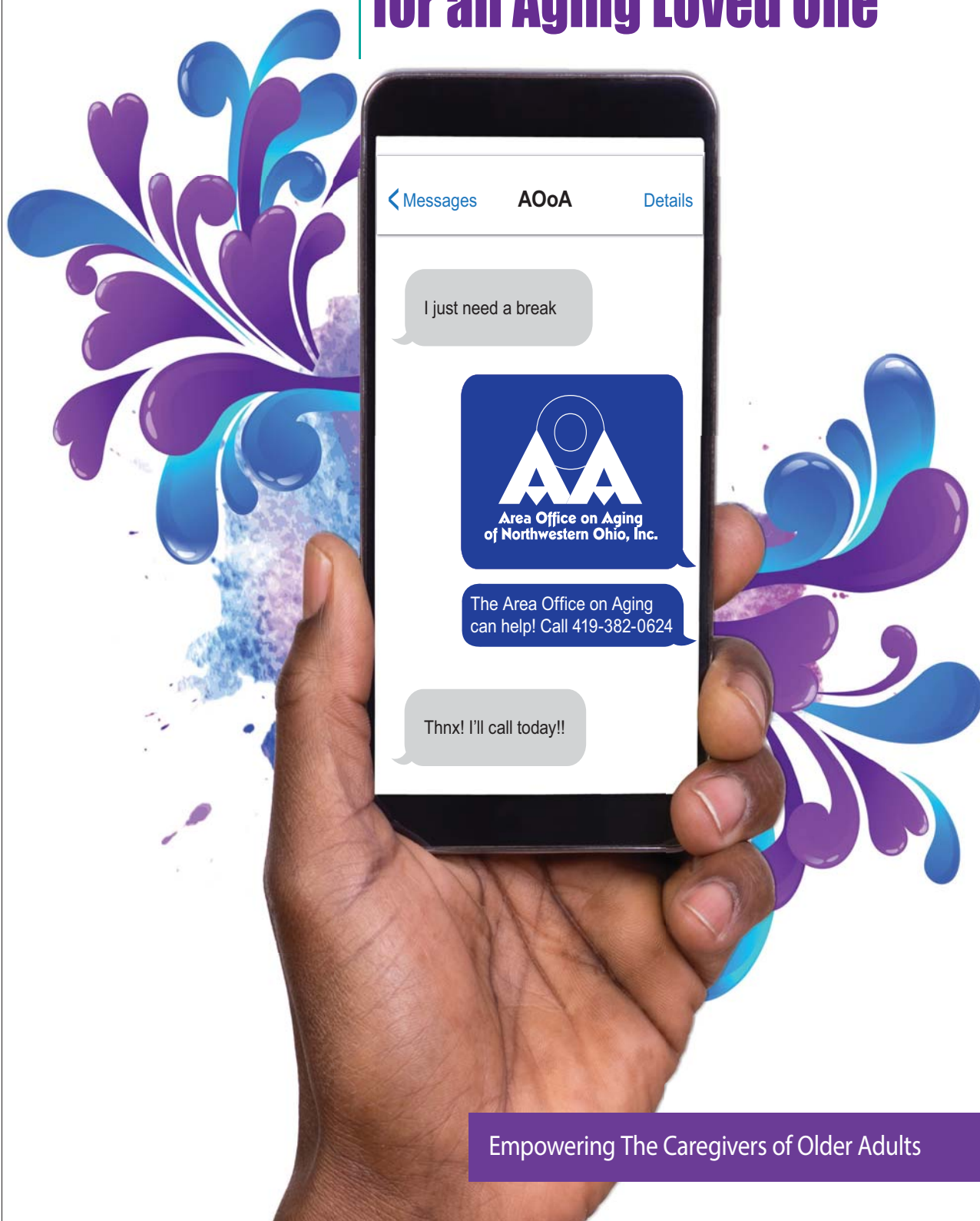
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*Fixed 3.00% APR. No closing costs for this unsecured loan program. For a loan of \$2,500, monthly payments of \$44.92 will apply for a term of 60 months. Program only available in counties where First Federal Bank has branches and the counties of Hillsdale, MI and Van Wert, OH, to clients with properties located in Federally designated low or moderate income census tracts and/or who have income below 80% of the area median income, as updated annually by FHIEC. Subject to credit approval. Exclusions and limitations apply. Program subject to change without notice.

**Fixed 5.00% APR. No closing costs for this unsecured loan program. For a loan of \$10,000, monthly payments of \$141.34 will apply for a term of 84 months. Program only available in counties where First Federal Bank has branches and the counties of Hillsdale, MI and Van Wert, OH, to clients with properties located in Federally designated low or moderate income census tracts and/or who have income below 80% of the area median income, as updated annually by FHIEC. Subject to credit approval. Exclusions and limitations apply. Program subject to change without notice.

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Empowering The Caregivers of Older Adults

AKA Annual Fall into Fabulous

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Salmon pink and apple green, the official colors of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated decorated St. Clement's Hall for the Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter's annual "Fall into Fabulous" on November 27, 2015. This fifth annual fundraiser has raised over \$25,000 to support scholarships and local service projects.

"We want to thank the community for their continued support, which enables us to support the dreams of a college education," explained Katina Johnson, chapter president.

Seven students were awarded college scholarships: Caeli Barnes, Lindcii Craig, Khadiarah Hobbs, Gabrielle Skibinski, Ashley Taylor, Alexis Joan Walton and Carillon Young.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated was founded on the campus of Howard University on January 15, 1908, and membership has reached over 100,000 women globally. Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter was founded April 25, 1952 in Toledo.

Locally, Zeta Alpha Omega chapter serves Toledo, Ohio and recently conducted a joint service project on Saturday, November 21, 2015 at YWCA Battered Women's Shelter and provided job coaching, technology workshops, arts and crafts, storytelling, fun fitness activities, line dancing, healthy snacks and 600 "Blessed Bags" filled with personal care items and notes of encouragement.



Katina Johnson and Felicia Dunston



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Portman Bill to Improve Career Readiness in Schools Included in Final Education Bill

Senate Expected to Vote on Portman's Bill Next Week

Special to The Truth

Last week, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio), co-chair of the Senate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Caucus, announced that his Career Ready Act of 2015 is included in the final Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Portman's bill is intended to ensure students are college and career-ready by strengthening school counseling programs and encouraging states to keep track of career readiness factors implemented in school districts. He authored this bipartisan legislation with U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va.). The Senate is expected to vote on ESSA next week.

"While much focus is given to traditional college preparation, career readiness programs are also critical to help Ohio students obtain a job in a high-demand career field," Portman said. "Our bill will encourage states to highlight these opportunities and to better prepare students for jobs in the 21st century. I'm pleased my provisions have been included in the final education bill and I urge my colleagues to pass it quickly."

The Career Ready Act of 2015 amends the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act (ESEA) to encourage states to keep track of school districts' use of "career readiness indicators," which are factors that dem-

onstrate a student's preparedness for postsecondary education and the workforce, such as CTE course completion and the number of students earning postsecondary credentials while in high school.

Currently, all 50 states track districts' efforts to instill academic knowledge for college preparation, but less than half of states publicly report on career readiness indicators. By tracking and publishing this data, businesses and workforce leaders will be better-informed about the level of career preparation in a given state or region. Additionally, the bill amends the current Elementary and Secondary School Counseling grant program to fund professional development for school counselors and train them to use information on the workforce needs of the local community to help guide students toward in-demand career paths.

The Career Ready Act has been endorsed by the Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the Association for Career and Technical Education, and the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEC).

Portman Provisions to Increase College Access for Low-Income Students Included in Final Education Bill

Senate Expected to Vote on Portman's Provisions Next Week

Special to The Truth

Last week, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio) announced that the final Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes his provision to encourage greater college access for low-income students by allowing them to earn college credits in high school.

By providing students the opportunity to simultaneously pursue a high school diploma while earning college credits tuition-free, early college high schools

and dual and concurrent enrollment programs improve secondary and postsecondary outcomes for students.

Portman authored this bipartisan language with U.S. Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.) and it is based on the senators' bill, the Go to High School, Go to College Act of 2015, which incentivizes early college high schools and dual enrollment programs. The Senate is expected to vote on ESSA next week.

"Our amendment will help to break down barriers for low-income students pursuing a college education," Portman stated. "These provisions will allow students to get a head start on college courses in high school, therefore improving their chances of completing a college degree. This is an important part of helping low-income students succeed and I urge my colleagues to pass these commonsense provisions."

Despite recent increases in the nation's high school graduation rate, the number of graduating students who place into remedial coursework in college is at a record high and more than 3.5 million jobs remain unfilled because employers can't find workers with the necessary skills. The educational demands of the workforce are growing, and by 2018, two-thirds of the nation's jobs will require at least some postsecondary education.

The federal government must help states and districts tackle these challenges by ensuring increased access to high quality accelerated coursework that gives high school students a leg up on postsecondary education, said Portman.

The largest learning event in history

During Computer Science Education Week, December 7-13, 2015

The Hour of Code is here again!

Toledo Code -N- Motion Coalition
Hour of Code December 10th @4:30pm

Computer science is a foundation for every student. Join us to help millions of new learners start with one Hour of Code. Sign up at hourofcode.com

What is the Hour of Code?
A one-hour activity. Students of all ages can choose from a variety of self-guided tutorials, for kindergarten and up. Tutorials work on any modern browser, tablet, smartphone, or even with no computer at all.

Code.org's own tutorials feature W Disney's Frozen, Scratch from Ice Age, Angry Birds, and Plants vs. Zombies. New tutorials are coming to kick off the 2015 Hour of Code!

A spark to keep learning computer science. Once students see what they create right before their eyes, they're empowered to keep going.

No experience needed from teachers and students.

A global movement with more than 100 million learners in 180 countries. Anyone, anywhere can organize an Hour of Code event. Tutorials are available in 40 languages.

Why computer science?
Every 21st-century student should have the opportunity to take part in creating technology that's changing our world. The basics help nurture creativity and problem-solving skills, and prepare students for a successful future.

Date: Thursday December 10th
Where: Wayman D. Palmer Community YMCA 2053 N. 14th St. Toledo, OH 43610
Organizers: Crystal Harris-Darnell / Reena

"I challenge girls in every single country to learn one Hour of Code"
— Malala Yousafzai Nobel Peace Prize winner

LEGAL SERVICES

- [1] CRIMINAL DEFENSE AND TRAFFIC CASES
- [2] JOB DISCRIMINATION INCLUDING AGE, SEX AND RACE
- [3] PROBATE CASES AND ADOPTIONS
- [4] BANKRUPTCY CASES (CHAPTER 7 FOR A FRESH START)
- [5] WRONGFUL DEATH AND PERSONAL INJURY CASES
- [6] HOUSE CLOSINGS AND LAND CONTRACTS



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Mayor Proposes Income-Tax Hike to Fix City Roads

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, surrounded by staff and representatives of the City of Toledo's safety forces, announced on Monday that she will seek an income-tax increase in order to address the city's decaying infrastructure.

The proposed tax hike will increase the temporary 0.75 income tax to 1 percent raising the overall city income tax from 2.25 percent to 2.50 percent. Much of the additional 0.25 percent will be earmarked for capital improvements such as road repairs.

For a household with an annual income of \$35,000, the additional city tax would be \$7.29 per month.

"We believe that all citizens would be willing to pay that," said Hicks-Hudson of the increase. The increase is projected to raise an additional \$16.6 million, all of which would become available in 2017.

The procedure now is to place the request on a March 15 ballot for voters' approval. If the measure passes, the tax hike will go into effect in July 2016.

Hicks-Hudson had been relatively quiet during the recent mayoral campaign about the possibility of raising taxes for infrastructure improvements unlike some of her more vocal opponents, such as former Mayor Mike Bell and Mike Ferner, who embraced the idea. She simply had not made up her mind at that time, she explained on Monday.

She wanted to be able to assure Toledo's citizens that city government would be "good stewards" of their money. "I can give a good argument that we will be," she said.

"Having passable roads is an economic driver," she said addressing the issue of the impact of a tax hike on the local economy. "I do not believe this will have a negative impact on the economy. I believe that this will help attract businesses to Toledo." She cited the



example of Columbus and the positive impact that raising taxes and improving infrastructure have had on that city's economic growth.

As for the impact on individual tax-payers, the mayor said that the increase will have "an almost negligible impact when we look across the board."

The city will not be spending a lot of money campaigning for the increase, said Hicks-Hudson. She anticipates primarily a low-key, retail, door-to-door effort explaining the need for tax hike.

Perryman... continued from page 7

Should Riley get the Democratic Party endorsement, it will be the first time the party endorsed a challenger over an incumbent since 2004 when the Dems endorsed Gerken over Harry Barlos.

Predictions on the outcome?

If Ashford doesn't receive the endorsement, he, more than likely, will run anyway, triggering a March primary between him and Riley. Ashford's political machine – a system and network of volunteers and supporters developed over the last 10 years – is up and running already. Riley does not have a machine equal to Ashford's network, which includes individuals and organizations that Ashford has contributed to and supported in the past.

As the old African saying goes, "When the elephants fight, it's the grass that suffers."

And as the 'hood saying goes, "It ain't gon' be nothin' nice!"

And as I say, "Expect the Unexpected."

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

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Kaptur Calls on House Republican Leadership to Stop Blocking Vote to Keep Guns Out of Hands of Terrorists

Special to The Truth

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-9) issued a stern statement last week calling on House Republicans to allow Congress to vote on H.R.1076: Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act of 2015. This bipartisan legislation would close a loophole that currently allows suspects on the FBI's Terrorist Watchlist to purchase lethal firearms in the United States. Between 2004 and 2014, 2,043 terror suspects were able to legally purchase guns in the United States, a success rate of more than 91 percent.

"Our first duty as Members of Congress is to protect and defend the American people," said Rep. Kaptur. "There is a reason why we keep suspects with ties to terrorism from getting on an airplane in this country. The same standard needs to be applied when it comes to purchasing deadly firearms. House Republican leadership failed three times this week to allow debate and a vote on this urgent legislation. We cannot afford to let another opportunity pass without taking this long-overdue step to better secure our cities and communities."

According to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the subject, "Mem-

bership in a terrorist organization does not prohibit a person from possessing firearms or explosives under current federal law."

Holiday Concert Series - Sounds of the Season 2015

Special to The Truth

Main Library, Wintergarden, 325 Michigan St.
12:30 - 1:30pm

FREE and open to the public

A Family-Friendly event

December 9:

Cantor Amanda Winter, M.S.M., ACC
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Congregation Shomer Emunim
Chanukah celebration

December 10:

John Cleveland
Piano/Jazz/Comedy

December 11:

Sylvania Northview High School Jazz Band and Jazz Cats
Jazz

December 16:

Hector Mendoza
Latin/Classical

December 17:

Susan Hedler & Cecilia Johnson
Harp/Violin Duo

December 18:

Toledo School for the Arts
Holiday Orchestral Ensemble

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Firefight: The Century-Long Battle to Integrate New York's Bravest by Ginger Adams Otis

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire seem so cozy.

Just humming that tune warms you up, right? Roaring flames on hearth or sand always seem welcoming, even romantic – except when they go out of control. And as for the person who puts out a fire like that, as you'll see in *Firefight* by Ginger Adams Otis, flames aren't all they battle.

Sometimes, the fight runs deeper, as Wesley Williams learned on January 10, 1919.

That was the day Williams left his young family in their Bronx apartment to report to his new job as New York City's first (according to newspapers) black firefighter. It was a 45-minute ride to Little Italy, and he knew he could never be late.

What he faced that day, and for months, wasn't what he hoped to get from the job. He'd receive a \$1,500-a-year salary and benefits of which few black men would dare to dream. He also received discrimination, subtly and overtly, but Williams persevered and thrived: in later years, he worked his way up to battalion chief.

c. 2015
Palgrave Macmillan
\$28.00 / \$32.50 Canada
281 pages

That was no easy feat for an African-American man in early-to-mid 1900s America.

Though black citizens represented a good part of New York City's population, black "smoke eaters" were few in both police and fire departments; often, just three percent of the entire department. Early-on, they had little security or clout, which is why Williams formed the Vulcans, a fraternal order for African-American firefighters, in 1938. Still, Jim Crow hazing, testing biases and lack of urgency in City Hall kept many potential African-American recruits from the FDNY.

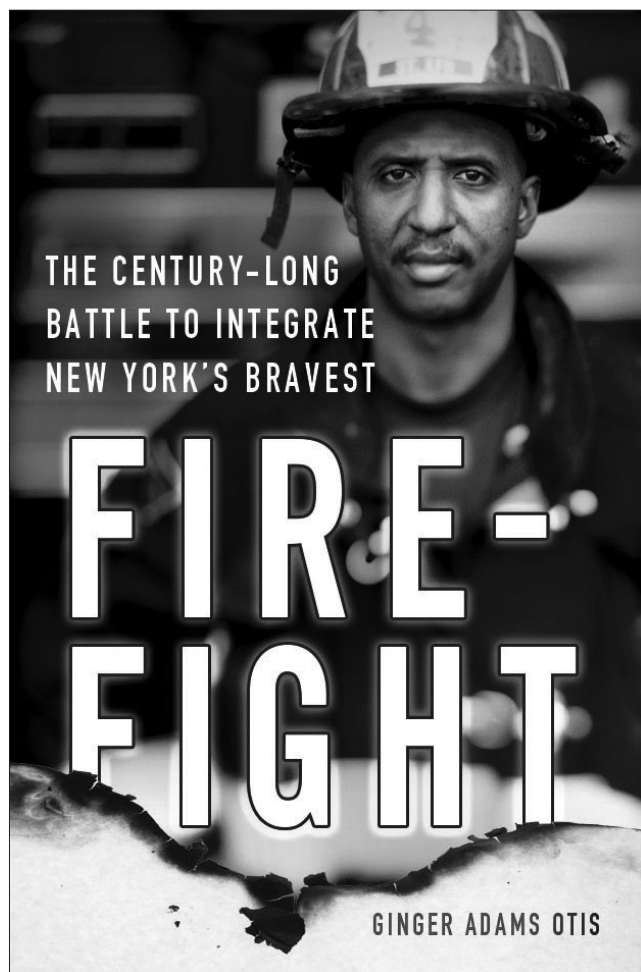
Some 80 years after Wesley Williams became a firefighter, the situation was different, but similar: racism lurked quietly in pockets of the FDNY, testing continued to be a thorny issue, and there was still a disparity in numbers for "Bravest" African Americans. The Vulcans had long lobbied for change, with limited success and so, post-9/11, they took a drastic and controversial step...

In a way, I saw *Firefight* as two distinct books in one.

First, readers may be shocked to learn of the racial imbalance perpetuated in such a large and esteemed department in one of our largest cities, and what had to be done to set things right. That account of modern-day struggles is how author Ginger Adams Otis kicks her book off, and though she winds recent happenings nicely around that of the past, the many names and legal skirmishes can become overwhelming for readers outside New York.

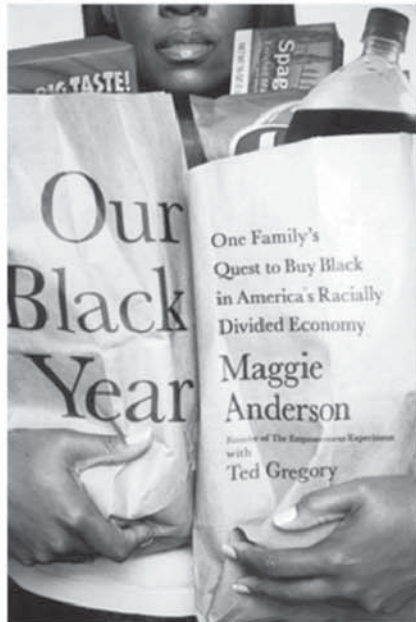
Fortunately, the history of New York firefighting and the decades-old story of Wesley Williams comprise the other half of this book, and the latter is compelling. It weaves through Otis' account of the present and tempers it; indeed, if your mind wanders, it'll snap back when Williams' name appears again.

Fire buffs in particular will appreciate this book, as will anyone who loves a peek into the past with a dash of excitement. Yes, part of it may be a challenge to follow but the other half of *Firefight* will inflame you.



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CLASSIFIEDS

December 9, 2015

Page 15

ATTORNEY

Lucas County Children Services is seeking candidates for Staff Attorney. Will prepare agency court cases; provide legal research, advice/consultation. Ohio law license and notary required. Exp. in juvenile law-related cases desirable. Ability to work in cross-cultural situations. Apply online at www.lucaskids.net. This position will remain posted until filled.

No phone calls please. EOE valuing diversity.

Director of Development

Toledo Fair Housing Center and Northwest Ohio Development Agency is seeking an individual who is passionate about civil rights and fundraising. If you enjoy a fast paced, goal oriented Environment and if pressure and challenges excite you this could be the right position for you. Must have fundraising experience, a positive attitude and be enthusiastic about life. All resumes must be received by Friday, 12.4.2015 Please send your resume to senafriedman@toledofhc.org. EOE

ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment facilities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age requirement and an annual income requirement of no more than \$21,150.00 for one person or \$24,200.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden apartments offer one bedroom, private patios, with individually controlled thermostats for heat and air conditioning.

Abundant Life #1 offers bathtubs, while Abundant Life #2 offers walk-in showers and pull cords for emergencies.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous facilities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at abundantlifeperrysburg.org.



SPECIAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

In continuing efforts to foster activities that promote positive mental health and prevent substance abuse, The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHR SB) of Lucas County is pleased to announce an opportunity for funding. The Board is seeking to provide up to \$5,000 in funding to grass roots organizations and individuals that are providing programming that offer skills, strengths, resources, supports, or coping strategies for the population that the MHR SB serves. A complete description of the "Request for Proposal" can be found at www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov.

Proposals must be received no later than **4:30 PM on Wednesday, December 16, 2015.**

SPECIAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHR SB) of Lucas County in partnership with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department is seeking a marketing consultant to develop and implement a one-year community awareness campaign for the Naloxone Distribution Program. A complete description of the "Request for Proposal" can be found at www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov. Proposals must be received no later than **4:30 PM on Monday, December 14, 2015.**

SPECIAL NOTICE - REQUEST FOR EVALUATION SERVICES

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHR SB) is seeking the services of an experienced professional evaluator to perform a multi-pronged, research-based analysis of specific publicly funded mental health programs. Interested parties are encouraged to submit a brief letter of intent and their Curricula Vitae to Crothszirotnyak@lcmhrsb.oh.gov by close of business on December 4, 2015. Qualified respondents will be sent detailed information regarding the project and will be invited to an optional Q&A session on December 21, 2015. Based on the response, MHR SB intends to issue a Request for Proposal that would result in a contract being issued for the provision of the evaluation.

Call to place your ad

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for a Maintenance Coordinator. For complete details of the position and to apply, visit our website at www.lucasmha.org/Employment. **Only on-line applications received at the above website by Sunday, December 20, 2015,** will be accepted. This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note on your submittal if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS.** An Equal Opportunity Employer.



JOB POSTING

PROJECTS COORDINATOR

The Lucas County Land Bank is an exciting, mission-driven, and dynamic organization dedicated to helping our community solve the problems of vacant and abandoned properties. With a highly-motivated and fun-loving staff, we do important work to help strengthen neighborhoods and preserve property values.

The Land Bank is seeking a Projects Coordinator to provide a high-level of detail-oriented administrative support to the Land Bank related to its many transformative programs. Interested candidates must have a commitment to the Land Bank's mission and direct experience in real estate and community development.

Candidates must have a minimum of an Associate's degree or demonstrated experience in related fields. Salary commensurate with experience. Attractive benefits package, paid time off, and opportunities for growth. EEO/AA.

Interested in joining our team? Visit www.LucasCountyLandBank.org to review the full position description and submit your resume.

Deadline is December 9, 2015 or until the position is filled.

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