



Local and National News

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 42, No. 9

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

January 18, 2017

# 2017 Unity Celebration



Jesup W. Scott Marching Band

## *In This Issue...*

Perryman  
Speaks  
With Ms.  
Abernathy  
Page 2

Tolliver  
Page 3

Cover Story:  
16th Annual  
Unity  
Celebration  
Page 4-5

### Economy Section

Ashford and  
Toledo Upgrades  
Page 6

Social Security  
Page 7

Milestones Honorees  
Announced  
Page 8

Preserving Civil Rights  
Movements Monuments  
Page 10

Book Review: Pres.  
Obama's Audacity  
Page 11

BlackMarketPlace  
Page 14

Classifieds  
Page 16

Meet The Stars:  
Figaro's Stars  
Page 16

# Living the Dream: The Gospel According To Abernathy

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

The Truth Contributor

*The Civil Rights Movement gave me the power to challenge any line that limits me.*

- Bernice Johnson Reagon



For Donzaleigh Abernathy, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement were more than a dream. Abernathy's parents, Juanita Jones and Reverend Ralph Abernathy, have been described as King's "closest friends" and co-creators of the American Civil Rights Movement.

While Donzaleigh's young life was forged in the crucible of the powerful, nonviolent social movement, she is now a critically acclaimed actress, author and activist, fulfilling her own dreams.

I spoke with Abernathy prior to her keynote address for the 2017 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration at The University of Toledo's Savage Arena. This is part one of the interview.

**Perryman:** It is not well known that your father, Ralph David Abernathy and your mom were co-creators of the Civil Rights Movement along with Dr. King. How did it all come about?

**Abernathy:** Well, at the time, my dad was Dean of Men at Alabama State University and also the pastor of First Baptist Church, which was the largest black church in Montgomery, Alabama. When Martin Luther King came to Montgomery, they had met each other while my dad was at graduate school, and so they became friends. But my dad had just completed the membership drive for the Montgomery NAACP and King was working on his dissertation for his doctorate degree from Boston University. Daddy's membership drive, which was the most successful membership drive ever at the time, had come to a close and my dad was going to go and get his doctorate's degree also. But then Rosa Parks was arrested, and they had been talking about the crisis and what was happening to black people in Montgomery.

My dad's mentor, Dr. Vernon Johns, had gotten my dad all involved. My dad's grandfather, Grandpa George, a biracial man and who was 12 years old when Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, also influenced my father. Grandpa George grew up under reconstruction as a free man with the right to vote and then the new century came and black people lost their voting rights.

So, he taught my grandfather, my father's father, as well as my father, about Reconstruction, about black people having the right to vote, about black people losing that right to vote, how imperative it was that we must

fight that good fight for our rights. And my father's father used to say to him that justice would not always be denied to Negroes, the bottom rail would come to the top.

And so, that set the tone for what would be my father's life. He organized his first boycott when he was at Linden Academy, he organized his second boycott when he was president of the student body at Alabama State, and the Montgomery bus boycott would be my dad's third boycott. And so what happened was that when Rosa Parks was arrested, because my dad was the number two guy of the Montgomery NAACP, E.D. Nixon called him that evening, which was my mother's birthday, December 1, to tell him that Rosa had been arrested.

And Rosa was not the first or the second, but she was the third black woman to be arrested on the Montgomery bus just for refusing to give up her seat. E.D. Nixon, who was a Pullman porter, said "I've gotta leave town, Ralph, but we gotta do something" and my dad said, "Okay, I got



Donzaleigh Abernathy

... continued on page 12

## Community Calendar

### January 12

Discover TPS Night: 5 to 7:30 pm at each TPS high school: Meet students, staff and counselors – tour the school, hands on demonstrations, musical performance, raffles and games; Bowsher, Scott, Woodward, Start, Rogers, Waite, TTA and Jones Leadership Academy

### January 20

YWCA Unity March and Celebration: 4:40 to 7 pm; Starts at International Park Gazebo – ends at Trinity Episcopal

### January 23,

Yes, We Did! President Obama Appreciation Celebration; 6 pm; Kent Branch Library; A program where the community can show their appreciation for President Obama and his service. Entertainment from Toledo School of the Arts; Representative from Marcy Kaptur's office and refreshments

MLK Jr. Commemoration and Prayer Service: 4:30 pm; Presented by Sylvania Franciscan Village and Lourdes University Office of Diversity and Multicultural Services; Mother Adelaide Hall

### January 26

"Diverse Teachers Matter – An Evening with Gloria Ladsen-Billings: 7 pm; UT Scott Park Campus; A discussion on why diverse teachers matter to the success of all students

### January 27

Meet The Stars: The Toledo Opera and the Truth Gallery hold a discussion with Laquita Mitchell and Darren Stokes, the stars of the upcoming production of The Marriage of Figaro; 6 to 8 pm: 419-243-0007

### January 28

2017 Annual Gospel Extravaganza: "I Will Change the World;" Open to all youth artists; Vendors 3-4 pm; Music at 4; Warren AME: 419-450-0165 or 419-381-1558 or darlenesawyer25@yahoo.com  
Toledo Excel 33rd Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth; 8:30 am to 1 pm

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American  
Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor

Becky McQueen – Business Manager

Tricia Hall – Reporter

Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist

Megan Davis – Columnist

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### A Certified MBE

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

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

thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

# Have You Heard This Tale Before?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Once upon a time in the barren land of Podit, there was a hamlet of possums led by Frankum. Frankum was up in age and he wanted to make sure that the younger possums knew what to do when he passed on to possum heaven.

So, one day, Frankum called together the other possums, including Connie, Fabrian, Delso, Macen and Bambo. Frankum wanted to meet with them and find out what their plans were to make sure their hamlet survived the upcoming winter.

In their hamlet, the tradition was that the possums would strike out on their own and collect their favorite food called Henseets. Henseets were delicious fleshy pods that the possums would store up in their homes and when winter came, they would have no need to go out and scavenge for food.

At the meeting of the younger possums, Frankum went to the front of the small room and asked for silence. But something was different. In this meeting a newcomer possum was talking with the young possums about doing something different and Frankum did not like that kind of talk.

"Come to order," said Frankum and the assembled possums stopped talking with the stranger and looked at Frankum. Frankum did not like to be surprised by any new possums to the hamlet, so he asked this new possum his name.

"My name is Jero and I am visiting your hamlet to see if I should plant roots here."

Frankum grimaced at the thought of a young upstart coming to his hamlet and turning the heads of the younger possums and especially so at the critical time of gathering the valuable Henseets pods.

The young stranger continued to speak, "I noticed that it appears to be a custom of this hamlet for everyone to go out on their own and collect those delicious Henseets. But, I was wondering is there a better way that the Henseets can be collected so that the whole hamlet benefits."

The younger possums smiled and chattered amongst themselves at a new idea being introduced that would allow them to be more productive and collect more of those delicious food pods!

Frankum cleared his throat and said somewhat dryly, "Oh, what is your plan Jero?"

Jero went to the front of the small room, smiled to all and said, "As you know, we have all year to gather the famed Henseets pods but it appears that we do not make the best use of our time and energy when we randomly collect the food pods.

We need to ban together, all of us and plan so that we can use all of the possums to collect these pods and we can get bigger numbers and if so, we can prosper more and more and even trade some of the pods for the Alber pods of our neighbors, the Gathat possums up North."

At the idea that their hamlet could trade some of their Henseets pods for the fabled Alber pods had all of the younger possums yipping in delight and dreams of baking Alber pods with their Henseets pods.

Anyone one who was a possum knew that the Alber pods were possibly even better tasting than the Henseets pods, but just by a tiny, tiny margin.

Jero saw their joyful reaction but he also noticed the deep frown on the face of their leader, Frankum.

Although Frankum had tasted the Alber pod many, many times in his travels in the land of Podit and though it was an excellent food source, he was not sure if he wanted to trade with the Gathat possums because it meant that the Podit possums would have to travel long stretches of open land occupied by the dreaded Macca Eagles.

Jero, anticipated Frankum's concern about the fearful Macca Eagles and said,

"We know that throughout the land of Podit, the Macca Eagles monitor our movements but we have been smart in the past and have used wisdom to outwit them and none of us have been harmed."

Frankum quickly quipped, "Yes, that is true but who wants to venture back and forth between the two hamlets burdened down with either Alber pods or Henseets pods? That would expose us to greater danger from the Macca Eagles since we would have to carry the pods in sacks on our backs and that would slow us down in case we were attacked!"

Jero smiled and raised his hand for silence since the room was now in a near panic with the possums just thinking about being trapped by the ravenous Macca Eagles with sacks of pods strapped to their backs.

"Listen, one and all. We all know that food gathering can be risky but unless we band together and do what is good for our hamlets, we will not be using our time to its best advantage. The Macca Eagles will always

... continued on page 12



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# The 2017 MLK Jr. Unity Celebration

By Tricia Hall

*Sojourner's Truth Reporter*

The 16th annual MLK Unity Celebration honored the legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr with music, entertainment and powerful messages.

The celebration opened on Monday, January 16, 2017 in The University of Toledo's Savage Arena with entertainment delivered by Ramona Collins and the JAMM Band, then a musical explosion from Jesup W. Scott High School's marching band.

Andrew Kinsey of WTOL and Cheryl Leonard of Glass City Grind shared opening remarks that stressed the importance of unity. "I know you were moved, and I can't move on without embracing this move for unity. Take a few minutes and meet the person next to you," said Kinsey.

Men and women of the United States Armed Forces, the Lucas County Sheriff's Department and the Toledo Police Department served as honor guard and completed the presentation of colors. Youth from Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts USA led the Pledge of Allegiance, then Master Sergeant Matthew Hart paid tribute to fallen heroes with a rendition of "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes.

"In collaboration with The City of Toledo, The University of Toledo is proud to sponsor the 16th annual MLK Celebration. Suddenly and tragically we lost Dr. King, but today we recognize his legacy. The university has a strong history of serving the community, just last year, 1500 students helped by providing service during the Big Event," said Sharon Gaber, PhD, UT president.

Entertainment of various forms were presented during this celebration including an angelic rendition of the National Anthem by Toledo School of the Arts student Jamaia McKinley Riven, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and "Victory" led by UT's Gospel Choir, and "Fight Song," composed and led by Tracee Perryman, PhD, of The Overton Project.

Students from Toledo School of the Arts led a powerful spoken word dance presentation which focused on stereotypes, privilege and importance of speaking out against injustice.

*... continued on page 5*



UT President Sharon Gaber, U.S. Rep Marcy Kaptur, Keynote Speaker Donzaleigh Abernathy




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*MLK Celebration.... continued from page 4*

Dignitaries delivered words of encouragement and importance of diversity including Mark Sobczak, City of Toledo chief of staff; Pete Gerkin, Lucas County commissioners and Marcy Kaptur, United States congresswoman.

"We're gathered today for an historic event. For the young people in the audience, remember this date, March 7, 1965. On that day in Alabama, state police tore through African-American demonstrators with tear gas, night sticks and bulldogs. Those peaceful protestors marched on while focusing on voting rights. Citizens of color wanted equal rights, and wanted the right to vote. We celebrate Dr. King today and ask ourselves, 'how will we put positive energy to work for this nation?'" said Congresswoman Kaptur.

The celebration also acknowledged seven scholarships awarded to UT students by the university and eight additional scholarships awarded to UT students by The African American Leadership Council of United Way of Greater Toledo.

Award-winning actress, writer and daughter of civil rights leader Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Donzaleigh Abernathy, served as keynote speaker. As she spoke about memories of her childhood with Dr. King and her civil rights family, private pictures from those times

were displayed on the big screen for audience members to view.

"When Rosa Parks was arrested, my father organized the boycott and Dr. King was chosen to lead that movement. My father issued a call for the movement, a 381-day boycott of the bus system. After 344 years of various forms of slavery it was time to push back," she shared.

"When someone puts an obstacle in your way, you rise up. That's what Uncle Martin would want you to know today. If you're going to fight, fight non-violently. That's what you need to learn from my Uncle Martin, this ensures lasting peace. It takes a village to raise a child, and a community to rebuild a nation. Now more than ever, we must sit together. Don't allow anyone to divide us," explained Abernathy.

The celebration closed with musical selections and community meal.



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## Rep. Ashford Announces over \$1.6M for Toledo-area Infrastructure Upgrades

*Local psychiatric hospital, university to undergo safety renovation work*

*Special to The Truth*

State Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) last month announced the release of over \$1.6 million in state funds to the University of Toledo (UT) for major upgrades to the university's out-of-date elevator system. Funding for the ongoing project was approved at today's meeting by the state Controlling Board, a panel tasked with oversight of state spending.

"The state's continued investment in UT shows that Ohio is serious about providing safe, world-class education facilities for our leaders of tomorrow," said Ashford. "As our students are going to and from their classes, the safety and reliability of our infrastructure should be the least of their worries. I look forward to seeing the completion of this project and the peace of mind these updates will provide for the entire university community."

The state dollars will fund phase 2 of the project, which includes upgrades to the 40-50 year-old elevators in five academic buildings on campus—Snyder Memorial, Ritter Astrophysical Research Center, the UT Law Center, McMaster Hall, and

Palmer Hall—as well as replacements to three elevator cabs in Carlson Library.

Many of the current elevators have had no major work done since their initial installation and are missing important safety features, including an elevator recall function that's tied to the fire alarm system. These much-needed improvements will bring the elevators up to current ADA standards, as well as result in minimized maintenance, increased safety, and a modernized appearance.

Rep. Ashford also announced the release of \$68,200 in state dollars to the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services for enhanced fire protection at Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital (NOPH) in Lucas County.

"As a long time care provider for one of our state's most vulnerable populations, NOPH has always maintained the safety of their patients as a top priority," said Ashford. "These renovations will help to prevent the spread of toxic smoke and potentially save many lives, should an emergency situation ever occur."

The project includes improving access to smoke dampers for required testing, as well as sealing penetrations in rated walls throughout the hospital.

The Northwest Psychiatric Hospital in Toledo is one of six regional psychiatric hospitals that operate under the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. These specialized facilities provide short-term, intensive treatment to patients in both inpatient and community-supported environments. They also deliver comprehensive care to patients committed by criminal courts.



Rep. Michael Ashford

### SOULFUL MUSIC AND ROMANTIC SPOKEN WORD!

Join us on Friday, February 10 at 9 p.m. for an intimate evening of SOULful music and romantic spoken word poetry that is sure to groove and move your SOUL. Featuring playwright John Scott and other amazingly gifted artists. Those in attendance will be entered into a drawing to win tickets to Valentine's Love Affair featuring Joe, Ro James, Chrisette Michele, and Vivian Green at Fox Theatre (Detroit, MI) on Tuesday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. This is a night for lovers of self and significant others. Save the date and plan on attending this SOULful and romantic candlelit Valentine's Day weekend event. Log on to [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), type "Art & SOUL at The Truth Gallery: For Lover's Only" in the search bar, and purchase your tickets in advance.

**Friday, February 10 at The Truth Art Gallery,  
1811 Adams Street.**

**Tickets: \$10**



Light refreshments will be served.

Share the post. Spread the word.  
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## More Banking Options Available as First Federal Bank Opens New Cherry St. Location

First Federal Bank is pleased to announce the opening of their 35th location within Seaway Marketplace, at 1707 Cherry St., Toledo, OH. First Federal Bank's full-service branch is open Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

"We are eager to expand our footprint in the Toledo community. We see Toledo as a vibrant community that supports our strategic efforts in stimulating the economy, improving homeownership and providing banking services to the underserved," said Tim Harris, Market Area President at First Federal Bank. "Our partnership with Seaway Marketplace was a natural fit and we were impressed with this full-service grocery store that recently added a pharmacy to bring convenience to their customers."

With the new branch, First Federal Bank has added four new positions. Eunice Glover will lead the branch as Community Banking Center Manager, Sharmila Caldwell will serve as Community Banking Center Assistant Manager, Kristi Jackson and Alysha Amison will serve as Customer Service Representatives. In addition, staff from First Federal Bank's wealth management, business and mortgage teams and insurance agents from First Insurance Group will support customers' needs. Additional staff may be added as the office continues to grow.

A formal ribbon cutting ceremony along with grand opening events will be held mid-February. Information regarding these events will be published on the bank's website at [FirstFed.com](http://FirstFed.com) and on their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/1stFederalBank](http://www.facebook.com/1stFederalBank).

# Social Security Questions and Answers

**Question:** What are some of the documents Social Security will accept as proof of identity for a child?

**Answer:** While you can use a birth certificate to prove age or citizenship, you cannot use it as proof of identity. Social Security needs evidence of the child's existence after birth. An acceptable document must show your child's name, identifying information, and, preferably, a recent photograph. Your child must be present unless the picture ID also shows your child's biographical information (i.e., age, date of birth, and parents' names). We generally can accept a non-photo identity document if it has enough information to identify the child (such as the child's name and age, date of birth, and parents' names). We prefer to see the child's U.S. passport. If that document is not available, we may accept the child's:

- Adoption decree;
- Doctor, clinic, or hospital record;
- Religious record (e.g., baptismal record);
- Daycare center or school record; or
- School identification card.

All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. To find out more, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber). There, you can also find out what documents you need, fill out and print an application, and then bring or mail the needed information to Social Security. You may also want to read the publication, *Social Security Numbers For Children*, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**Question:** A few years ago, I lost my Social Security card. Now my credit report shows that someone might be using my Social Security number. I'm afraid they might ruin my credit. What should I do?

**Answer:** Identity theft and fraud are serious problems, not just for you, but for the financial integrity of our agency. It also puts our national security at risk if someone dangerous is using your number to obtain other forms of identification. It's against the law to use someone else's Social Security number, give false information when applying for a number, or alter, buy, or sell Social Security cards. Keep in mind, you should never carry your Social Security card with you. If you

think someone is using your Social Security number fraudulently, you should report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) right away. You can report it at [www.idtheft.gov](http://www.idtheft.gov) or you can call FTC's hotline at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4261) TTY: (1-866-653-4261).

**Question:** Why is it so important that my baby have a Social Security number?

**Answer:** Your child may need a Social Security number if you are planning to open a bank account, buy savings bonds, obtain medical coverage, or apply for government services for the child. Your child will also need a Social Security number if you are going to declare him or her on your taxes. Getting a Social Security number for your newborn is voluntary, but it is a good idea to apply when your child is born. You can apply for a Social Security number for your baby when you apply for your baby's birth certificate. The state agency that issues birth certificates will give us your child's information and we will mail you a Social Security card with the child's Social Security number. Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber) for more information.

**Question:** I suspect that someone I know is collecting Social Security disability benefits when they shouldn't be. What is the best way for me to report fraud?

**Answer:** You can report fraud online at <http://oig.ssa.gov/report> or call the Social Security Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. Social Security has zero tolerance for fraud and uses many proven tactics to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. Our Office of the Inspector General is relentless in its pursuit of people who conceal work activity while receiving disability benefits. We investigate and seek prosecution for people who receive benefits for a child or children who aren't under their care, or who fail to notify Social Security of the death of a beneficiary and continue to receive and cash checks of the deceased. We also depend on you to help stop fraud.

**Question:** I haven't received my *Social Security Statement* in the mail the last few years. Will I ever get one again?

**Answer:** In September 2014, Social Security resumed mailing Social Security Statements to workers ages 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, and 60 who aren't receiving Social Security benefits, and who don't have a my Social Security account. Rather than once every five years,

... continued on page 13



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# YWCA Announces the 22nd Annual "Milestones: A Tribute to Women" 2017 Honorees

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

On Tuesday, January 10, the YWCA of Northwest Ohio announced its 2017 honorees for the 22nd annual "Milestones: A Tribute to Women" awards in the traditional categories of arts, business, education, government, science, social sciences and volunteerism.

The annual awards luncheon will be held on March 20 at the SeaGate Convention Centre.

"The members of the TWCA and I are honored to recognize these outstanding women with this prestigious award," said Lisa McDuffie, president and CEO of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio. "We invite the community to join us for this awards luncheon and help us pay tribute to this year's Milestones Honorees."

The 2017 Honorees are: Ann Cipriani, health coordinator for the Toledo Public Schools for her contributions in the social sciences; Gretchen Downs, board member of Perrysburg Schools in education; Kimberly Kaufman, executive director of the Black Bird Swamp Observatory in science; Rhonda Sewell (a past YWCA board member) manager of external and governmental affairs for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library



(Left to Right) - Rhonda Sewell, Ann Cipriani, Kimberly Kaufman, Janet Zale, Diane Attie and Lisa McDuffie

in volunteerism; Diane Attie, professor emeritus of art at The Center of Visual Arts in arts; Janet Zale, a detective with the Oregon Police Department in government and Sheila Dwyer Schwartz, principal consultant and founder of Dwyer Philanthropy in business.

## In Memoriam



We would like to formally say thank you for all acts of kindness and love during the time of our loss of Jennifer Ruth Wilson. We would also like to wish everyone a Happy and amazing New Year.

Love from the  
Family of the late  
Jennifer R Wilson

## Winter 2017 updates effective January 1.

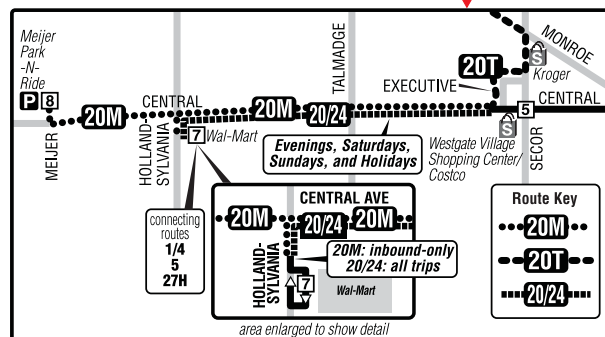
On Sunday, January 1, 2017, the TARTA winter route schedule will begin. As some routes will be affected by routing and time changes, new timetables and maps are available at [TARTA.com/Winter2017](http://TARTA.com/Winter2017)



- **1/4 Ottawa Hills/Sylvania/Sylvania Twp Call-A-Ride**
  - weekday Franklin Park Mall scheduled times reduced for improved service flexibility
  - Spencer Twp service discontinuation
- **20/24 Central/Westgate**
  - service extended to Wal-Mart bus shelters off N Holland Sylvania Rd just south of W Central Ave; new connection with routes 5 and 27H
  - will no longer serve Executive Pkwy
- **20M Central/Meijer Drive**
  - inbound-only service extended to Wal-Mart bus shelters off N Holland Sylvania Rd just south of W Central Ave; new connection with routes 5 and 27H
- **27N Nebraska/Airport-Wenz**
  - timepoint moved from Angola Rd and Wenz Rd to Airport Hwy and Wenz Rd
- **28 Indiana/Smead**
  - schedule adjustments
- **30 Oakwood/Smead**
  - schedule adjustments
- **39M Monroe/Centennial-Sylvania**
  - two inbound morning trips and one outbound afternoon trip are to be discontinued



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# Sen. Sherrod Brown Announces Federal Investment to Preserve Ohio Civil Rights Movement Sites

*Special to The Truth*

Last week, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) announced that the National Parks Service (NPS) has awarded \$50,000 to the Ohio History Connection to evaluate Ohio sites that played a role in the 20th century African American Civil Rights Movement and propose them for preservation.

"From the campus where students trained to register African American voters to the home of Underground Railroad conductor John Parker, we must ensure the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement in Ohio is not forgotten," said Brown. "This federal investment will aid the Ohio History Connection in its important work to preserve our

nation's historic sites for future generations."

Brown is a strong supporter of preserving important sites of the Civil Rights Movement. Last Congress, Brown and Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) introduced a bipartisan bill to create an African American Civil Rights Network - a national network of historic sites, stories, research facilities, and educational programs connected to the African American Civil Rights Movement. The U.S. Civil Rights Network Act of 2015 would also establish a NPS program to educate the public, and provide technical assistance for documenting, preserving, and interpreting the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

# National Park Service Announces Over \$7.5 Million in Grants to Preserve African-American Civil Rights Movement Sites

*Special to The Truth*

The National Park Service (NPS) today announced funding for 39 projects in over 20 states that will preserve and highlight the sites and stories associated with the Civil Rights Movement and the African American experience.

"Through the African American Civil Rights Grant Program, we're helping our public and private partners tell unique and powerful stories of the African American struggle for equality in the 20th Century," National Park Service Acting Director Michael Reynolds said.

Congress appropriated funding for the new NPS African American Civil Rights Grant Program in 2016 through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The HPF uses revenue from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf to provide assistance for a broad range of preservation projects without expending tax dollars.

States, Tribes, local governments, and non-profit organizations, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, applied for a broad range of planning, preservation, and research projects for historic sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement and the African-American experience. The competitive grant program is funding 39 projects worth \$7,750,000, including surveys, documentation, interpretation, education, oral histories, planning, and bricks and mortar preservation.

Projects receiving grants include those that will educate about and preserve resources like Rosenwald Schools across the nation, Civil Rights struggles at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Alabama and Central High School in Arkansas, women that fought for civil rights like Modjeska Simkins in South Carolina, and figures like Oscar DePriest, Emmett Till and Martin Luther King, Jr. Statewide surveys to find stories and sites that are not well known will be funded in Michigan, Rhode Island, Ohio, Maryland, Idaho, District of Columbia, California, and New York.

A 2008 National Park Service study, Civil Rights in America: A Framework for Identifying Significant Sites, served as the principal reference for determining the eligibility of proposed projects for the grant program.

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# Audacity: How Barack Obama Defied His Critics and Transformed America by Jonathan Chait

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

If you can't say something nice...

Sometimes, it's hard to say nothing at all. There are times when you need to speak out, to confront, share your opinion, rant, or vent. And then there are times, as in the new book *Audacity* by Jonathan Chait, where you must praise.

For perhaps the last few months of Barack Obama's presidency, media outlets have debated about something that definitely matters: was he one of the best presidents, or one of the worst?

It's the former, says Chait, even though he admits there are times when it looks like the latter. Obama, he says, however, absolutely succeeded at what he set out to do, and this book follows that argument.

Though the Civil Rights movement was 40-some years prior to the day a black man moved into the White House, racial issues keenly split the country over the last eight years, not along lines of race, but on political lines. White America often denied it, but Obama forced a harder soul-search on racism.

He reportedly had a large agenda upon taking office in 2009, but it quickly became clear that his work would be to avoid, rather than fix, another Great Depression. He succeeded, but no president gets kudos for things like that. Instead, says Chait, there was – and still is – criticism about his actions, economically.

Health care legislation insured millions of Americans who otherwise would have no coverage, thanks to Obama and a surprising number

c. 2017  
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272 pages

of ideas that first came from the Republicans. As a new president, Obama boosted the economy by spending money on green energy, with an eye toward global climate concerns. He helped restore America's world-wide "standing" and foresightfully recognized China and India as budding superpowers.

So why is anyone questioning his audacity, or the legacy he leaves behind? The answer to that lies in the recent past, and in the history of 20th-Century American politics. Understanding both, and what happens from here, is enhanced by learning what's inside *Audacity*.

Just know first that there's a lot to absorb.

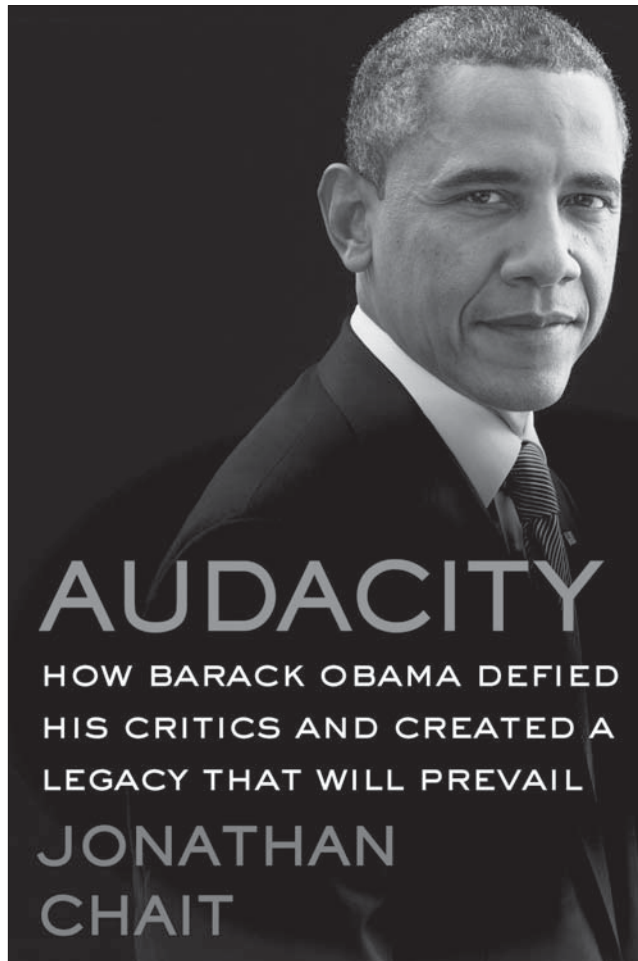
Because author Jonathan Chait is also a political columnist, the goings-on behind-the-scenes in Washington are presented in great detail in this book. That can be both a good thing and a bad thing: good, because Chait is clear in reasoning and thorough in fact-finding, in favor of arguments for a stellar Obama legacy; bad, because this thoroughness becomes quite heavy at times.

That could turn away readers with a lesser palate for politics, although one wouldn't have to look hard to see why persevering is important: Chait explains how Obama's tenure as president ultimately turned out as it did, and why many voters are still, perhaps wrongly, disappointed in his work. Chait then goes on to clearly illuminate what happened at the last election, and why.

Give yourself time for a careful read of this book, especially if you might disagree with its author. There's argument in here that may – or may not – change minds; either way, *Audacity* might at least give you something nice to say.



Jonathan Chait



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**REV. CECIL JEROME GRAHAM, PASTOR**

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

this.”

The following morning, my dad met with the ministers at the Ministers Conference and issued the first call for the creation of the Civil Rights Movement. He called upon all of those black ministers to join him in what would be an organized bus boycott. He said to Martin Luther King, who was his best friend, “I need you to come join me in this.”

Uncle Martin said, “Listen, I’m working on my dissertation, but what you can do is you can use my church.” So my dad said he would come by every night and pick up Uncle Martin and take him to the mass meetings, and then on the third day, Uncle Martin was chosen as the head of the Montgomery Improvement Association because he was the only black minister who had a doctorate degree and they figured that a black man with a doctorate degree, white people would listen better to him than a minister who was just a reverend. And so my mother wrote the business plan for the Montgomery bus boycott.

After my dad made the announcement on December 10 calling for the creation of this bus boycott, Jo Ann Robinson, who was my dad’s fellow professor over at Alabama State, and others passed out fliers to the school children to take to their parents. My mother typed fliers and paid young boys to pass out those fliers and that’s how it all began. And so that’s why my parents are co-founders of the American Civil Rights Movement.

If my dad had not decided to organize his third boycott December 1, 1955, we never would have had a Civil Rights Movement, Uncle Martin would’ve just been a great minister who would’ve probably become a college professor and specializing in philosophy and Rosa Parks would’ve just been another black woman who’d been arrested on the bus, but my dad changed all that.

And that’s why my dad was always there with Martin Luther King, that’s why he was never a lieutenant. He was the advisor, he was the thinker, he was the planner, and that’s why he was always with Uncle Martin, and people always questioned “Why does Martin Luther King have Ralph Abernathy with him all the time? Why are they inseparable?” The answer is: Because they were doing something together.

Uncle Martin was a great prophetic speaker and an incredible voice, but my dad was the thinker behind all of that, the planner, the strategist, the person who kept everything together. He was the man who was determined to make history. Dad was the man who is responsible for the holiday that we celebrate; the man who found his way to figure out how to honor his friend. So, in 1969 he went on that mission, took it to Congressman John Conyers and to Senator Ed Brooke, and then when Congress passed the bill into law, they paused and thanked my father. But history doesn’t record him for all the great things that he did, but he did those great things.

**Perryman:** Interesting. Please share with our readers about what you witnessed during those times. What was it like, as a child, to experience journeying through the struggle of the Civil Rights Movement with your dad and Dr. King.

**Abernathy:** Well, you know I thought it was really profound and at first I assumed other children lived like us, but they didn’t. Only the King children lived like we did. It was terrifying because there were daily death threats and that was horrific. Going to bed every single night of my youth hugging the wall and being afraid that they were going to bomb our home again. People calling our house calling us the ‘N’ word, or having to say goodbye to my father every Monday morning and being afraid that he would die. He told us that one day, he would not come back through that door and that we needed to be prepared for that.

It was incredible going on Civil Rights marches and participating, attending the march on Washington and seeing that sea of people. Sitting on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, running around Abraham Lincoln, thinking that I knew what was happening, but not really knowing what was happening.

Going on the Selma to Montgomery march, they used to give us a salt tablet so that we wouldn’t have to go to the restroom. Marching and feeling free, yet still having fear that the KKK would harm us. Being frightened because they burned crosses and killed people on a regular basis, and my dad would come home and open up his briefcase and I rambled through the briefcase and would see the photographs from Associated Press or from UPI, United Press International, and seeing bloody photographs of black people and being afraid they were going to do that to my dad.

Knowing that my dad was in jail and being repeatedly jailed for doing good, not for doing bad or going to various establishments that we knew were segregated and wanting to get something to eat and watch my dad having to go in the back door to get food for us or riding shot-

gun on Highway 80 as we rode from my dad’s family’s home in Linden from Selma to Montgomery and watching every car and everyone on the road for fear somebody was going to drive by and shoot us and kill us like they killed Viola Gregg Liuzzo, and then being traumatized so that I would refuse to use the bathroom in a church after the bomb went off at 16th Street Baptist Church, being traumatized, completely traumatized because of that.

But then, that was the great joy of growing up with Uncle Martin. It was just nothing but fun and laughter, and we spent our summer vacations together and we spent every Saturday night and Sunday together, and then if they were in town on Wednesday, they’d take us swimming, the men would, and that was great.

And it was wonderful to see them on the news. The horrible part, and we saw them on the news every week, but the horrible part was seeing them on TV the night that Uncle Martin was assassinated. Even though, and my brother and my sister said it was a crown and a curse, and Yolanda King, Martin’s daughter, used to say we were cursed.

But, I thought it was a blessing because I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world, and I wouldn’t trade my skin color for anything in the world because we are descendants of slaves. We are also the descendants of kings and queens from Africa who were brought here against our will and chained in the bottom of ships and brought to this great land, and we built this land.

My mother’s mother is of Native American ancestry and so this is the land of my people as well. My blood and my history are entrenched in this land. My people have lived here, the Native American side of us, for as long as humans have inhabited this land.

So yeah, this is my home and so I realized that there was a higher power that connected me to this great father and amazingly beautiful mother, and that I’m blessed, no matter or whatever the hardships that have been in our lives. We’re still blessed.

*Tolliver... continued from page 3*

be there, watching and waiting but we have something that they do not have!”

At that statement, all of the possums including Frankum, stood still and looked at Jero and said in almost near unison, “What is that?” But before Jero could speak again, Connie and Bambo both cried out, “We don’t want to die for some Alber pods!”

Fabrian and Delso also chimed in and said, “Why can’t we just leave things as they are and then nobody would get hurt?”

Macen, the oldest of the younger possums, started to wail and said, “Let us be and go away. We do not want your new ideas. They scare us!”

At this outburst, Frankum sensing a way to recapture his authority, loudly shouted out, “We have been doing food collection this way every since my great grand dad Everjon came from the land of Caul and settled here and we should continue the same way!”

The possums all clapped and cheered at this grand wise statement and then warily looked at Jero who was now standing alone.

Sadly, Jero raised his hands for silence and said, “If you never change your ways of how you do things, your old ways will cause you to settle for second best and you will never know the potential of trading your pods with the possums of Gathat.

The Gathat possums have already started trading with other possum villages and they are doing quite well and are building up a surplus of pods so they can expand and buy more land in order to build a larger hamlet.

If you don’t use what you have and use it wisely, you could lose it in the end and you will always regret that you did not at least try to trade with the Gathat possums.”

But, it was too late. The fear of the unknown froze the possums from venturing out and Jero dejectedly left the hamlet to seek another place where the possums were not scared to be brave and to succeed.

The moral of the story? The five current black politicians on Toledo City Council, the Toledo mayor and many of the pastors of the black churches in Toledo are the possums and the Macca Eagles are the everyday obstacles that face anyone that dares to venture out and change their environment or circumstances.

Jero is a change agent that tells the scaredy possums that they can do much better if they band together and venture out from their comfort zone and work for positive change for the other possums in the land of Toledo.

Fear of the unknown will freeze you in place unless you are willing to do what has not yet been done; and much more if you ever want to taste some of those delicious Alber pods!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@Juno.com



# Lucas County Commissioners and Toledo Public Schools Partner to bring WorkReady Manufacturing Seminars to TPS High Schools

*WorkReady Manufacturing is an initiative to connect job seekers within Lucas County with high wage manufacturing jobs in the Toledo area*

*Special to The Truth*

With hundreds of new, living-wage manufacturing jobs coming to Lucas County, the Lucas County Commissioners and Toledo Public Schools will announce a partnership to bring WorkReady Manufacturing seminars to Toledo Public High Schools.

Lucas County Department of Planning and Development and Ohio Means Jobs-Lucas County staff will conduct WorkReady Manufacturing seminars at Woodward High School on January 18, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and at Scott High School on January 25, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to

8:00 p.m. Additional seminars are currently being scheduled and will be announced in the near future. The seminars cover a broad range of topics including: job requirements in manufacturing, employment survival skills training, and other services to help job seekers get ready for the application process.

For those looking for a job in manufacturing, please visit [www.workready-lucascounty.com](http://www.workready-lucascounty.com), visit Ohio Means Jobs-Lucas County at 1301 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43604, or call 419-213-JOBS

## We Are Here to Help You Realize Your Dream

*By Phil Walton*

*Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH*

*Guest Column*

January 16 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — a national holiday and a day of remembrance. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to creating and fostering equal rights for African Americans, and he died during his efforts to make his dream a reality. Many people commemorate this holiday by serving their community and giving to others who may be less fortunate. In many ways, this is what Social Security does every day, all year long.

A great way to be of service to others is to help someone you know who may need assistance applying for Social Security, Medicare, or *Extra Help* with Medicare prescription drug costs. This is easy to do at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Some people who need these benefits may not be comfortable with computers or may not even know applying online

is an option. But now, it's easier than ever to apply for such benefits from the convenience of a home computer at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

For example, it's easy to apply for retirement benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline). It can take as little as 15 minutes from start to finish. Once the application is electronically submitted, in most cases, there is nothing more to do.

It's even easier to apply for Medicare, for people who do not plan to begin their Social Security retirement payments yet but who do want Medicare coverage. The application takes about 10 minutes and you can find it at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly).

People who already have Medicare coverage, but who need help meeting prescription drug costs, can apply for *Extra Help* online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp). This holiday, you may want to make a trip to see the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington D.C. or read or listen to a recording of his legendary *I Have a Dream* speech. You can also make your Martin Luther King Day a day of service to someone who can use your help. Lead them to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). It may be easy for you, but it may help someone you love realize their own dreams.

### *Social Security Q & A... continued from page 7*

those over age 60 will receive a Statement every year. Instead of waiting to receive a mailed Statement once every five years, we encourage people to open a *my Social Security account* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) so they can access their Statement online, anytime.

#### **Question:**

I'm gathering everything I'll need to file my taxes this month. Do I have to pay taxes on Social Security benefits? Also, where can I get a replacement 1099?

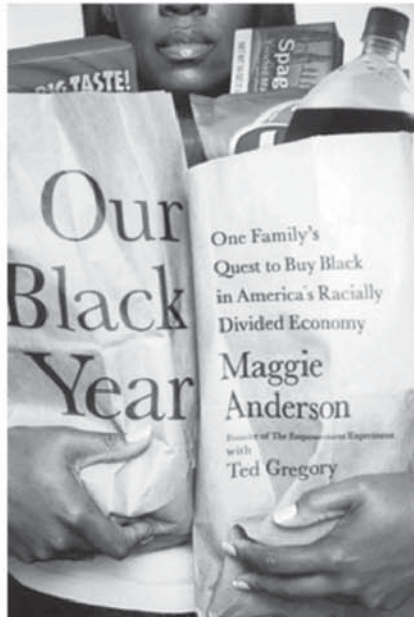
#### **Answer:**

Some people who get Social Security must pay federal income taxes on their benefits. Still, no one pays taxes on more than 85 percent of their Social Security benefits.

You must pay taxes on some portion of your benefits if you file an individual federal tax return and your income exceeds \$25,000. If you file a joint return, you must pay taxes if you and your spouse have combined income of more than \$32,000. If you are married and file a separate return, you probably will have to pay taxes on your benefits. You can read more about tax preparation in relation to Social Security at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/taxes.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/taxes.htm). Social Security benefits include monthly retirement, survivor, and disability benefits. They don't include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, which are not taxable. You can also get a replacement 1099 or 1042S when you open your own personal *my Social Security account* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

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# CLASSIFIEDS

January 18, 2017

Page 15

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RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted January 3-6, 2017 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over,
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Toledo  
announces the availability of federal funding for:  
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Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)  
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A MANDATORY review session will be held for all applicants after which  
online applications will be available.

APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND THE REVIEW SESSION TO APPLY.

### \*CDBG REVIEW SCHEDULE

for Non-Homeless Service Providers  
Friday – January 27, 2017  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

United Way of Greater Toledo (Rooms A & B)  
424 Jackson Street, Toledo, OH 43604

### \*\*ESG/CDBG REVIEW SCHEDULE

for Homeless Service Providers  
Friday – January 27, 2017  
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Toledo Business Technology Center (Conference Room B, 4th Floor)  
1946 N. 13th Street, Toledo, OH 43604

\*For information on eligible CDBG activities for Non-Homeless Service Providers,  
please visit the City of Toledo website at:  
<http://toledo.oh.gov/services/neighborhoods>

\*\*For information on eligible ESG/CDBG activities for Homeless Service Providers,  
please visit the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board (TLCHB) website at:  
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For additional information or reasonable accommodations, please contact:  
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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following positions: Manager of Procurement & Contracts; Renovation Specialist. For complete details, visit [www.lucasmha.org/Employment](http://www.lucasmha.org/Employment). **Deadline: 01/27/17.** An EOE



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# Meet The Stars at The Truth Art Gallery



Laquita Mitchell



Darren Stokes

On Friday, January 27, The Truth Art Gallery and the Toledo Opera present an evening with the stars of *The Marriage of Figaro* from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will be a meet and greet with soprano Laquita Mitchell, who will sing the role of Countess Rosina in the February production, and bass-baritone Darren Stokes, who will sing the title role of Figaro.

The event at The Truth Gallery, at 1811 Adams Street, is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

Soprano Laquita Mitchell consistently earns acclaim on eminent international opera and concert stages. Mitchell appeared in Toledo as Bess in last year's *Porgy and Bess*. In recent engagements, she joined Beth Morrison Projects and NPR for a production and recording of David Lang's *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* (Virginia Creeper); performed Strauss' *Four Last Songs* in Classical Roots: A Tribute to Jessye Norman with Detroit Symphony Orchestra; sang a special Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute Concert with Philadelphia Orchestra and was a featured soloist in a Gala Concert with Jerry Steichen and Friends in Tonkawa, OK, among many other engagements.

American bass-baritone Darren K. Stokes is an artist of exceptional vocal ability and has sung with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati May Festival, Boston Lyric Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Washington National Opera, Opera Theater of St. Louis, San Francisco Opera, the Ravinia Festival, Opera Memphis, San Antonio Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, San Francisco Opera, Eugene Opera.

On the operatic mainstage, Stokes has performed Figaro (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Calkas (*Troilus and Cressida*), Ferrando (*Il Trovatore*), General Groves (*Dr. Atomic*), Mèphistophélès (*Faust*), Escamillo (*Carmen and Le Tragedie de Carmen*), Jake & Crown (*Porgy and Bess*), and Neptune (*The Return of Ulysses*), among many others. Last season, Stokes sang in the highly praised *Porgy and Bess* for Toledo Opera and this season will make his New York City Opera debut.



January 1 -  
February 28

**METROPARKS  
TOLEDO**

## This winter, don't hibernate...recreate.

Find adventure outdoors this winter, shed some pounds and meet new people with Winter Quest. Metroparks new winter series kicks off New Year's Eve and continues through February with a variety of options to enjoy the season.

Visit [MetroparksToledo.com](http://MetroparksToledo.com) and look for Winter Quest on the Home page. Check out the group programs and suggested activities to do with your family. Then download a form to keep track of your participation. You can enter weekly drawings to win prizes, including gift certificates and a Winter Quest beanie.

Some of the Winter Quest programs and activities:

- Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Campfire cooking
- Preschool story time
- Overnight at Oak Openings Lodge
- Trail hikes
- Behind the scenes tour of the Manor House
- Homesteading at the Johlin Cabin
- Cross-country skiing
- Ice fishing basics
- Full moon walk
- Photography exhibit
- Music
- Fat-tire bike race
- Orienteering

The *Marriage of Figaro* will open at the Valentine Theater on Friday, February 10 with a 7:30 p.m. performance. A Sunday matinee will follow on February 12 at 2 p.m. Students will be invited to a special performance on Wednesday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m.