



Volume 48, No. 6 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* January 10, 2018

Firefighters Honored



State Rep. Michael Ashford, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Firefighters Union President Jeffrey Koenigseker

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Our Separate Ways

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

The Truth Contributor

It never ceases to amaze me: people who claim to want to help people who in fact don't like people.

- Renita Weems



The Supreme Court of the United States will consider the case of Ohio voter-rolls purging practices in *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute* on January 10, 2018. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund has warned that the Court decision could have a momentous impact in making it more difficult and costly to vote – extending well beyond Ohio.

Since 2011, the state of Ohio has purged two million names from voter rolls, more than half of which targeted people merely because they were “infrequent” voters (despite “limited voting hours, erratic job schedules, child care needs, closing of neighborhood polling places, inadequate or inaccessible transportation, and the costs associated with obtaining a photo identification,” all obstacles which make it harder for disabled, low income, elderly and minorities to vote).

Yet, while the community desperately tries to survive the War on Voter Rights and other major conflicts such as the war on black youth, the war on women and the war on the LGBTQ persons, Lucas County Dems appear more interested in attacking each other than fighting the wars being waged upon their constituents.

The Implications?

With Lucas County still a pivotal county in a pivotal swing state, the much-ballyhooed Democratic Party re-takeover of power a/k/a the 2018 Blue Wave stands to become nothing more than a myth.

As a result, with reorganization of the central committee scheduled for May, 2018, Lucas County Party Chair, Josh Hughes could also find himself on the hot seat unless he can demonstrate that he has the ability to keep the party unified.

Remnants of the old A and B factions still exist as well as other in-group/out-group dynamics. Candidates still carry grudges from unhealed past wounds. In addition, the Party still suppresses diversity of thought and “assumes exclusivity over inclusivity, denying the opportunity to attract more people into what needs to be a wider tent,” says one elected official.

Because of the infighting, many potential but powerful donors are sitting on the sidelines. “We’re embarrassed,” said another Party regular, “They (donors) give money to a few select candidates, but they won’t give money to the Party. Somewhere along the line they’ve got to fix that,” he adds.

Where Do We Go From Here?

“I don’t know who in the world would want the job of Party Chair. There’s no money in it and it’s pretty thankless. Although he came in as labor’s guy and caused a lot of the fractions himself, I don’t see Hughes as a leader but at least he’s doing something, the elected official reasons.”

Yet, the old saying is: “Healing is a Function of Time that must run its Course.”

More than likely, by May 2018, newly-elected Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz will become the de facto leader of the party and will have the opportunity to choose the Party’s chair.

If so, look for Mike Beasley and a few other people to have a larger role in Party decision making, especially if the building trades shifts their priority from running the Party to a focus of financially supporting individual candidates.

In the meantime, we shall see if current leadership can make the decisions needed to move the Party forward while driving out the “Me First, You Not At All” Self-Serving spirit that is currently prevalent.

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

Community Calendar

January 15-16

Lourdes University MLK Tribute: 8:30 am Mass on Monday; 4:30 pm Commemoration and Prayer Service in honor of MLK in Mother Adelaide Hall

January 20

FREE “*I Got a Lust for Life*”: *The Unique Words and Sounds of Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio*

Jan. 20: 10 a.m.-7 p.m., various locations

Fifty-three miles separate Detroit, Michigan and Toledo, Ohio – two Mid-western cities that have produced some of America’s most stirring and enduring words and sounds. “*I Got a Lust for Life*: *The Unique Words and Sounds of Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio* is a free, one-day public program with panels, musical performances and literary readings in both cities.

Panel Discussion: Ben Blackwell, John Gibbs Rockwood and Ramona Collins

10 a.m., Wayne State University Schaver Music Recital Hall

Poetry Reading: Tyehimba Jess, Ohio

2:30 p.m., Toledo Lucas County Public Library McMaster Center

Panel Discussion: Tyehimba Jess, M.L. Leibler, Frances Brockington, and Lee Ellen Martin

6 p.m., Toledo Museum of Art GlasSalon

Co-moderators for the panel discussions are Kimberly Mack, PhD, assistant professor of African American literature at The University of Toledo and Joshua S. Duchan, PhD, associate professor of Music at Wayne State University.

A co-presentation of the Toledo Museum of Art and the University of Toledo, this event has been made possible by The University of Toledo Roger Ray Institute for the Humanities, The University of Toledo Department of English Language and Literature, and the Wayne State University Humanities Center. Visit toledomuseum.org for more information on all the day’s events.

January 21-26

Six Nights of Consecration Service: Greater St. Mary’s MBC; Sunday – 5 pm; Monday thru Friday – 7 pm nightly; Sermons by pastors from around Toledo: 419-973-4156

January 27

2018 Gospel Extravaganza and Vendor Fair: Warren AME; 2 pm for Vendor Fair; UT Gospel Choir and Positive Force Christian School of Dance: For program participation call 419-967-1414 or 419-377-0115; For free booth call 567-408-8347 or 419-381-1558

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Help! All I See Are Black People!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

It has been reported that a recent white witness before the grand jury in the District of Columbia, which is being used to investigate any possible criminal ties with the Trump Campaign and/or evidence of political collusion with the Kremlin interfering with the recent 2016 federal elections, complained to the media of too many blacks on the grand jury!

The Huffington Post newspaper reported that the witness related to New York Post columnist Richard Johnson that the members of the grand jury in Washington D.C., "Looked like they came from a Black Lives Matter protest."

This same disgruntled white witness purportedly said that the grand jury room looks "Like a Bernie Sanders rally" or that, "These jurors were found from central casting."

It is to be noted that grand juries draw their members from the immediate surrounding community and in D.C. where the population is majority black, the grand jury that Mueller is using is composed of 11 minorities out of a total of 20 persons.

Now think about this: This white witness said that there was only, "One other white male in the room and that was the prosecutor." Can't you just feel his angst? This bugged-eyed white witness was both seemingly amazed and concerned or maybe even frightened that he was only one of two white males in a room full of "those people."

Taking his observations from a vantage point of white privilege, this beleaguered

male was taken out of his comfort zone and placed in a situation in which he was the minority; and probably being a minority for the first time in his life... and he did not like it one bit!

This white witness was, for a moment, thrust from his position of entitlements and perks and privileges due to his white skin and America's legal cocooning of those privileges initially designed for white males in particular.

To be placed as a white male minority in a sea of brown and black people was uncomfortable to this witness and from his statements one can infer that somehow such a composition of grand jurors would mean that they are not favorable to Trump.

Oh? Nothing was said about their ability to take an oath of office and to be fair and to hear and see the evidence and make a decision according to their life experiences and the in-

structions of the law.

No, the image that will be put out to the general media is that Bob Mueller, the special prosecutor, is stacking the deck against President Trump by having these so-called liberal, black people decide against Trump!

Isn't it always amazing about the gall of certain white people when they are placed in situations by which or in which they are not the puppet masters but must patiently wait for the acts of those "other people" to decide something?

This white witness is very comfortable complaining about what he may perceive as

biases against his fellow, white citizenry but he has no clue or historical knowledge about the reverses of this same grand jury or legal system in America.

One of the most sordid times in the history of American jurisprudence has been and still is in some cases, the total lack of due process (fairness) and justice that was not meted out to people of color in courts across the land and especially so in the South.

How many tens of thousands (that we know of) black people were wrongly accused and put to death, lynched or imprisoned due to a grand jury hearing the biased testimony of prejudiced white people while those black people had no recourse or appeal from such mean-spirited and race-baited trials?

What historian could have enough books to fill the pages of the gross miscarriages of justice that black people daily faced in their centuries-old struggle to make America work for them via the court, the judges and the all white grand juries?

You could run 24/7 specials on the gross injustices done to people of color via juries who did not think blacks had any rights to be respected (The Dred Scott decision) and as such those oppressed people were routinely and systematically denied medical care, housing, jobs, travel rights, marriage rights, voting rights and access to basic rights to get a foundational education.

No, the above did not cross this white witness's mind. He did not give a second thought to those deprivations since he was not under the nail boot of those raw decisions. He only saw that he was not in the driver's seat and that did not make him happy in the least.

He further did not understand the limited role

of a grand jury which is only to present indictments while the final fate of a defendant is determined by a judge or a sworn jury.

How wonderful it could and would have been if black people from the time that they arrived in ships hundreds of years ago could have been afforded basic human decency and fairness in their plight as chattel and slaves.

No, this white male witness, whom I shall now name as, "Mr. White America" saw only himself greedily eating all of the goodies that America red to those who voluntarily came to its shores as immigrants or indentured servants.

If you were black, Indian, brown or poor, your designation was, "other" and as we know, "others" do not sit at the grownup's table and equally partake in the conversations.

Rather, our Mr. White America seemingly took offense that justice could be colored with a crayon other than white and that black and brown crayons were now coloring in the pages of America judicial history via the Mueller investigation.

Our Mr. White America was forced (albeit for only a brief moment), when he was a witness in that room with the "only other white male", to come to terms that justice is supposed to be color blind and regardless that if all of the twenty persons on that grand jury were black, that should not make a wit of difference in justice weighing the scales evenly, even if your last name may be Trump.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Lafe Tolliver

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Winners Announced for State MLK Awards

Annual Commemorative Celebration Jan. 11 in downtown Columbus

Seven Ohio individuals and organizations will be recognized for their efforts to advance nonviolent social change at the 33rd annual Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration. The free event, sponsored by the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, will be held at noon Thursday, Jan. 11 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad St., Columbus.

The annual event also will feature speeches from the following winners of the 2017 Statewide MLK Oratorical Contest held last April:

- Addison Captain, now a third-grader, Bedford
- Elena Earley, now a fourth-grader, Columbus
- Alexis Cunningham, now a seventh-grader, Westerville
- Nana Eshun, now an 11th-grader, Canal Winchester

The awards and their recipients are as follows:

Governor's Humanitarian Award criteria: *The recipient of this award has acted independently of associations and organizations. The recipient has given his or her time and service freely to those in need without question and often without recognition. This award honors quiet soldiers who promote the welfare of humanity and elimination of pain and suffering through their own selfless service.*

Winner: Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Cleveland. Theologian, pastor and civic leader, Moss has been advocating for achievements in education, civil and human rights and social justice his entire adult life. After 33 years as pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland, he retired in 2008. He also served as co-pastor with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta. Moss served as a board member and a regional director for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference during the tenure of founding president Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He also served as a national board member and trustee of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change. He was the first chair of the Progressive National Baptist Con-

vention's Civil Rights Commission and chair of Rainbow PUSH Coalition's Board of Directors.

Community Building Award criteria: *The recipient selected in this category has made significant contributions toward building a sense of unity among Ohio citizens. The recipient has demonstrated the ability to build safer communities through various activities and programs that help to revitalize areas and make our communities a more wholesome and desirable place for living, learning and loving. The recipient has used Dr. King's vision of nonviolent social change in his efforts to successfully bring people from diverse backgrounds together to build a better community.*

Winner: Cornerstone Global Network, Toledo. This network is made up of more than 150 churches in the United States, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, South Africa and the United Kingdom. The work of the members of four campus locations in Maumee, Lima, Toledo and Wayne, Mich. included holding a volunteer outreach week during July 2017 to help non-profit organizations with projects from cleaning trash from parking lots, alleys, schools and neighborhoods to doing yard work, painting ramps for the elderly, volunteering at the West Ohio Food Bank and organizing donations. In addition, after Hurricane Harvey hit Texas last year, Cornerstone Global Network sent 13 volunteers to help with clean-up efforts. Many of these volunteers were skilled laborers. The network also raised more than \$22,000 to help with the hurricane relief efforts.

Cultural Awareness Award criteria: *The recipient selected in this category has demonstrated an appreciation for diversity and evidenced skill in building and maintaining harmonious cross-cultural relationships. The recipient's achievements foster Dr. King's vision of unity among people of diverse cultural backgrounds.*

Winner: Marlon C. Shackelford, Dayton, has spent the past 35 years building the self-esteem of young people throughout the United States. As one of the nation's top violence prevention specialists, he addresses young audiences on topics such as substance abuse, unemployment, homelessness, crime and violence prevention and educational deficits. In addition to addressing topical issues, he motivates youth to respect themselves and others while stressing the value of making wise and healthy choices.

Economic Opportunity Award criteria: *The recipient in this category may be an organization or individual who seeks to improve the quality of life for its citizens in economically challenged areas through economic incentive programs. The recipient has demonstrated accomplishments in one or more of the following areas: workforce development programs; upgrading skills of existing workforce; infrastructure improvements; creation of community partnerships; housing assistance programs; energy efficiency programs; environmental programs; encouragement of new business startups; or ability to take advantage of state and federal aid to provide economic opportunity.*

Winner: City of Cincinnati. In 2014, Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley assembled a team of business and community leaders to improve the City of Cincinnati's contracting with minority- and women-owned businesses. The result was the Economic Inclusion Advisory Council. The council, which was led by Paul Booth and Kevin Kline, organized a team of 70 volunteers to examine how city government could create a sustainable structure to improve economic inclusion. They also created metrics to gauge its effectiveness. The mission of the council was to make the city best-in-class and a regional cata-

... continued on page 6

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Toledo Firefighters Memorial Highway Announced

Sojourner's Truth Staff

State Rep. Michael Ashford and Toledo Fire Fighters IAFF Local 92 President Jeffrey Koenigseker unveiled the signage for the new "Toledo Firefighters J. Dickman and S. Machcinski Memorial Highway," a stretch of I-75 between Nebraska Avenue and Monroe Street in Toledo honoring two local firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty.

"For the last year and a half, I have worked with Jess Koenigseker," said Ashford at the onset of the announcement. "I praise his dedication and commitment. Today we are honoring two fallen heroes and honoring their commitment and sacrifice."

The event, held at the Toledo Firefighters IAFF Local 92 Union Hall, was attended by dozens of firefighters, local elected officials and dignitaries and members of the fallen firefighters' families, who were given commemorative plaques of the signage that will adorn the highway.

"The wounds this community suffers are not healed and will never heal," said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. "But the least we can do is recognize Stephen Machcinski and Jim Dickman."

Machcinski and Dickman were killed during a blaze on January 26, 2014 at 528 Magnolia Street in north Toledo. The building, owned by Ray Abou-Arab, was judged to be arson and Abou-Arab later was sentenced to a 20-year maximum prison term after a plea bargain.

The stretch of I-75 to be named for the fallen firefighters, is a result of the passage of Ohio Senate Bill 134 in December which renames portions of 28 Ohio highways and a bridge. The bill also creates two dozen new specialty license plates and names a Kelleys Island picnic area.

The bill was sponsored by state Sen. Randy Gardner of Bowling Green and includes the local provision honoring the two firefighters as a result of efforts by Ashford.



State Rep. Michael Ashford, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Firefighters Union President Jeffrey Koenigseker

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State MLK Awards.. continued from page 4

lyst and role model for growing business for Minority Business Enterprise and Women Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) certified businesses in the public and non-profit sectors. With the mayor's leadership and city council's support, the Department of Economic Inclusion was created on Jan. 1, 2016, to serve as a catalyst for change in procurement opportunities with the City of Cincinnati.

Health Equity and Awareness Award criteria: *The recipient selected in this category offers exemplary community outreach and educational programs that serve an underserved population in the state. These services increase the accessibility of health care for the under-served while providing a high quality of customer service.*

Winner: Dr. Marilyn Joy Kindig, Dayton (formerly of Lima), has been a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist for 19 years. In addition, she volunteers her medical expertise at Heartbeat of Lima, which offers personal emotional support to pregnant women and seeks practical ways to help them overcome their difficulties. She also works one day per week with Coleman Behavioral Services where she helps pregnant and non-pregnant women with drug addiction. She consults at the hospital when these women deliver to help their OB/GYN deal with pain and social issues of women who struggle with addiction.

Social Justice Award criteria: *The recipient se-*

lected in this category has made significant contributions to achieving justice for individuals or communities, including contributions made through the legal, legislative and governmental systems as they apply to the more vulnerable elements of our society.

Winner: Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr., Cincinnati. Lynch's accomplishments include being a founding member and the current chair of the board of directors of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. He also helped initiate the annual MLK Coalition march in Cincinnati 41 years ago. His long list of community involvement includes serving as a board member for the Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts of America and on the medical review board of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He is a former member of the board of directors for Housing Opportunities Made Equal and a former commissioner on the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management. He was the first president of the Pastors Conference of Greater Cincinnati. Lynch has served as pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Cincinnati since 1970.

Youth: Capturing the Vision of Dr. King Award criteria: *The recipient, who must have been younger than 21 during the nomination period, exemplifies leadership, nonviolence and commitment to excellence and interracial cooperation. He also demonstrates an adherence to one or more of Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence.*

Winner: Keyaunte Jones, Toledo, was named the Ohio Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America in recognition of his leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle. He then went on to win the Midwest Youth of the Year Award. At his Boys & Girls Club, the Homer Hanham Unit in Toledo, he served as a junior staff member and Keystone Club member and also served as a program volunteer whenever and wherever needed. At St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy, Jones was a standout student and athlete. He also was a member of the Christian service organization, Ambassador Society and baseball team, volunteered as a tutor and delivered meals to homebound individuals. Jones is now a freshman biology major at Grambling State University and a member of the Tiger baseball team.



Keyaunte Jones

The commission is housed in the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, which provides centralized support for state agencies.

For more information about the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, visit das.ohio.gov/mlk.

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Local Writers Can Compete in Upcoming Poetry Jam

Event part of Lourdes University's Black History Month activities

On Thursday, February 8, Lourdes University Student Activities and Toledo Streets Newspaper present a Poetry Jam at 5:30 p.m. in the Ebeid Student Center (Russell Ebeid Hall) at 6832 Convent Blvd. in Sylvania. The event is free and open to the public.

Local writers of all levels of experience are invited to participate in this reading and informal slam competition. Participants will be invited to read for 3-5 minutes on the theme "Our Roots Run Deep," reflecting on their personal cultural heritage and/or the diversity of American culture as a whole.

Readers may choose to read works written by others, such as a favorite influential author, or share original poetry/spoken word pieces. Only origi-

nal work will be considered for the slam.

For more information, contact Ashley Jackson, Coordinator of Student Activities & Orientation, at ajackson@lourdes.edu or 419-517-8413.

Toledo Streets and the Toledo Poetry Museum

Toledo Streets exists to lead men and women out of dependence and into financial autonomy. The organization walks alongside individuals, teaching and coaching and celebrating as they move from homelessness or other poverty situations to establishing their own micro-businesses, gaining dignity and skills, meeting self-set goals, and graduating to permanent solutions for jobs, housing, and other basic needs.

Owens Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a Day of Service

Community members are invited to join Owens students, staff and faculty and step up to serve as volunteers on the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Volunteers will be providing cleaning service either at Cherry Street Mission or Bethany House.

From January 8-31, there will be labeled donation boxes throughout Owens Toledo-area Campus for the collection of cleaning supplies, which will be divided between the two shelters.

The annual event honors Dr. King's legacy and is an opportunity for Americans to renew their own personal vows of citizenship through service to others. The celebration takes place at Owens Community College, College Hall, Student Lounge on Monday, January 15 from 10 a.m. to noon

For more information, please contact Christina Perry at 567-661-2171 or Christina_perry@owens.edu to reserve a spot.

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This is the second in a series of profiles of people who inspire. The series is written by Toledo community members who are attending college through the University of Toledo's Teach Toledo program in order to earn their Bachelor of Education degrees and become licensed P-12 teachers.

My Cousin, the Principal: A Conversation with Christina

By Robert Fletcher

Guest Article

"When I was growing up, I wanted to be rich; then I picked the least likely job to make you rich," she told me jokingly as she typed at her computer. Putting in notes and doing paperwork at 5:30 in the evening has become a norm for the second year assistant principal at Scott High School in Toledo, Ohio. "I'm really busy... a lot of helping teachers, helping the students, a lot of answering parents' phone calls. First thing in the morning, I deal with parents' complaints and overnight Facebook beefs. Also there's so much paperwork."

My cousin, Christina Fletcher, was born November 28, 1977 at St. Vincent Hospital in Toledo. Her mother, Charlene Fletcher, raised her as a single mother, but always made sure that family was an important part of her upbringing. "I have a very close extended family," Christina said as we laughed about how close our family is. She was always a person who never let her childhood define who she is: "We were definitely poor, but I didn't know it."

We began to talk about her high school life to which she replied, "High school was wonderful." She participated in several different clubs like Afro Club, Latino Club (because of her best friend), Drama Club, and French Club in which she served as president. She played a sport in high school by being a member of the varsity golf team. Also, throughout her high school years she was a member of Toledo Excel, where she was in Group IV.

"I had so much help and I had good friend circles," she said as she broke down a list of a few of the people who influenced her life. "Dr Hudson, who ran the after school program that helped me get into Excel, and Dr. Helen Cooks." She also acknowledged Linda Meyers who is the Assistant Transformational Leader for TPS: "She helped to guide me once I became assistant principal."

The conversation then shifted to her college years. "I wanted to be

a drug prevention officer. Then my advisor dissuaded me by telling me how hard it would be to get work, so then I decided to become a teacher. I then thought to myself and said, Nope, I want to be a principal."

Christina attended the University of Toledo on a scholarship and is a 2001 graduate. During her time at UT, she was a part of the Black Student Union, Student Government for all four years, the NAACP college chapter, and became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, which she is still in. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in English Education for 9th-12th grades.

She went on to become a teacher at the now defunct Libbey High School. She taught there for eight years. I asked her what were some of the challenges she faced as a new teacher when she started at Libbey?

She replied, "Establishing good parent communications and balancing work and home life responsibilities. It was also challenging establishing a good system of classroom management when students were extremely challenging. I was prepared for off-task behavior or a student who didn't want to be in class; I was not prepared for mental health issues or some of the extreme behaviors emotionally disturbed students bring to class." At this point, I asked her, "Was there ever a time you almost gave up?"

"Sure," she replied. "There were several times. On occasion I would get frustrated with having a tremendous workload and needing to stay home and grade papers or write an exam while my friends who had graduated at the same time were enjoying lucrative careers which allowed them to make major purchases and travel. At one point, I interviewed for a job in the business sector in hopes of securing a better financial future. It didn't work out, though. I think it was divine intervention that kept me in education. Plus, I had a really good support system. My friends and family after a while began to understand the continued educational and time obligations associated with being an educator." She went on to work at Phoenix Academy all while going back to school to get her M.A. in English Education.

In 2015 she began another educational journey going to Bowling Green State University for another degree. In 2016, she became the interim assistant principal at Scott High School and by mid-school year was the permanent assistant principal. Then in August of 2017, Christina graduated with her third degree, which was a Specialist Degree for Administration and Supervision.

After all these accomplishments and all this time in school, I asked her what was either the easiest or hardest class she had taken. She said, "The History of Education. I'm not a history person at all. Names and dates have never stuck with me. I had a class where we studied over 100 court cases related to education. When I walked into the final exam instead of it being theory or general content-based, I walked into the exam and there was a blank piece of paper where I was required to write down as many court cases and dates as I could remember without any notes. I bombed that exam and therefore failed the class. I had to retake the class with a different professor who focused more on understanding the significance of the cases instead of the names and dates."

The last question I asked her as we finished up was, "What advice do you have for me going forth on this educational journey?" She replied,



Christina Fletcher



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... continued on page 10

Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section

Northwest State Community College Shares Trade Skill Successes with Community Leaders

By Artisha S Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Several Toledo-area political, civic and faith-based leaders received a progress report from Northwest State Community College last week. The Thursday, January 4, 2018 report incorporated visual aids, a panel discussion, summary of successes and a tour at their satellite location on the grounds of the University of Toledo's Scott Park Campus.

"We had a good year and we're striving to be better and strengthen the community. I personally want to thank each of you for attending tonight," shared Todd Hernandez of Northwest State Community College.

Leaders from WSOS Community Action, Toledo City Council, City of Toledo Mayor's office, Lucas County Metropolitan Housing Authority, Toledo Unit NAACP, Ohio Legal Rights Commission, Buckeye Health Plan and First Church of God were invited to hear updates and provide feedback that would shape the community college's directional plan.

"Last year we had a roundtable to see what training local businesses would want from us. Today is about providing an update to the community and what the community wants from us." explained Dave Conover of Northwest State Community College.

Northwest State Community College opened in March 2016, with a satellite location at the University of Toledo's Scott Park Campus. The Scott Park location is a manufacturing training center, and offers a 22,000-square foot facility.

The community college has offered a successful Jeep Wrangler training, which is delivered through curriculum the college developed for the new production line in partnership with the University of Toledo for 2,200 Jeep employees. This is in addition to the General Mills partnership that

... continued on page 11



Dave Conover



Government employees Debra Fortney, Alan Bannister and City Council Member Yvonne Harper



Northwest State representatives with Bishop Robert Culp, PhD



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Top Things to Consider When Selecting After School Activities for Kids

Special to The Truth

Parents seeking positive, meaningful extracurricular activities for their children may struggle to identify the right programs for their kids, especially if busy family schedules limit options. While many youth programs help children socialize and learn new skills, some go further to help shape who kids may become as adults.

When choosing activities for young children, consider the following:

- **Diverse experiences:** Keep things interesting and engaging for your child. Select programs that offer a range of activities and adventures.
- **Talented volunteers or staff:** Ask, "What type of training do volunteers and staff members receive?" The answer to this is key as you help ensure your child will be mentored by positive role models.
- **Program values:** Learn what the organization's goals are, how it teaches children about building character and good citizenship, and how it helps youth explore their goals.
- **Scheduling:** Extracurricular activities can be time consuming. Find out what meetings and activities are required to ensure the program works for your family.
- **Starting now:** Today's parents are more likely to engage their children in activities at a younger age, according to a survey by Forrester. Consider enrolling your children in extracurricular activities early, perhaps even before formal education begins. This can help foster their

long-term development.

Still not sure what activities are right for your children? One choice with compelling outcomes is Scouting. Kids who participate in Scouting exhibit strong moral values and positive character attributes, allowing them to embrace new opportunities, overcome obstacles and become better prepared for future success, suggests a study of kids age 6 to 12 conducted by Tufts University.

For this reason, parents looking to create a strong foundation of leadership, service, and community in their children may consider Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. While many people associate these programs with camping and outdoor adventures, the Boy Scouts of America also offers programs for youth with other unique interests. Here are some highlights:

- **Lion:** This pilot program for 5 and 6-year-old or kindergarten-age boys and their parents, combines concepts of character development, leadership skills, personal fitness and citizenship, with age-appropriate, fun activities.
- **STEM Scouts:** To keep pace with the growing importance of STEM-related careers, the STEM Scouts pilot program helps boys and girls in grades 3 through 12 learn more about science, technology, engineering and math through interactive, hands-on activities and experiments.
- **Exploring:** The expanded Exploring program offers young men and women ages 14-20, real-world career experiences that help build confidence and discover interests in fields like law enforcement, firefighting, aviation, engineering, and medicine.

Learn more about Scouting programs and how to get involved in your community at beascout.org.

Before enrolling in a program, it's important to ensure the time is well spent. Do your research and seek out programs that help your child build character and have fun in the process.

Courtesy StatePoint

Christina... continued from page 8

"The internet is an awesome resource, but you have to give yourself a time limit on how much time you spend searching for things that could just as easily be created. Establish a good routine for yourself and find people you consider outstanding educators so that you can model your practice after them and utilize them as a resource when you have questions. Don't teach in isolation. It is always awesome to bounce ideas off of other teachers and find out what works for someone else. Go into the classrooms of great teachers and watch them teach. This career is absolutely a calling, not a choice: you have to love it and be committed to it in order to be successful. People who come into education for the wrong reasons often find themselves miserable because this is a work of the heart. It doesn't matter how knowledgeable you are if you don't love kids and love to teach them."

Robert Fletcher is a graduate of Scott High School and is now a para-professional in Toledo Public Schools. Mr. Fletcher has assisted with the Scott High School Marching Band, and is currently in his first year as a University of Toledo student, pursuing a Bachelor of Education degree in Music Education through the Teach Toledo program. The profile "My cousin, the principal" was originally written for his ENG1110 Composition I course.

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Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit by Chris Matthews

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You have other plans.

That's your excuse for trying to get out of doing something you don't want to do, but good luck with that. Sometimes, fate just steps in and changes things. Sometimes, your plans are weaker than your duty. Or sometimes, as in the new book *Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit* by Chris Matthews, you may have been born to it.

c. 2017
Simon & Schuster
\$28.99 / \$38.99 Canada
397 pages

Known by his mother as a "vulnerable," devout, compassionate boy, Robert Kennedy grew up with a handicap: his father's disdain and dismissal. Kennedy was his parents' third son, but he was preceded by several sisters and overshadowed by his big brothers, who were clearly Joseph Kennedy's favorites; being ignored by his father colored Bobby's life forever.

Even so, he adored his brothers, Jack and Joe, Jr., and he always wanted to be with them. "He wasn't clever or bookish like Jack," says Matthews, and he wasn't as "well-rounded" as was Joe, Jr., but what Bobby lacked in charm and smoothness, he made up in morals and steadfastness. At private schools – and he attended several of them over the years – Bobby was known as a trustworthy guy.

Years later, after Joe, Jr. was killed in a plane crash, after Jack fell ill and received last rites multiple times, and after Bobby had learned to "handle" his father, he proved his loyalty once again by giving up a growing career to work to put Jack into office. Doing so also required internal sacrifices: by design, Bobby became the "bad guy" to preserve the good-natured reputation that Jack had cultivated. Bobby was the deliverer of bad news. He

was the guy who had to say "no" when "no" needed saying.

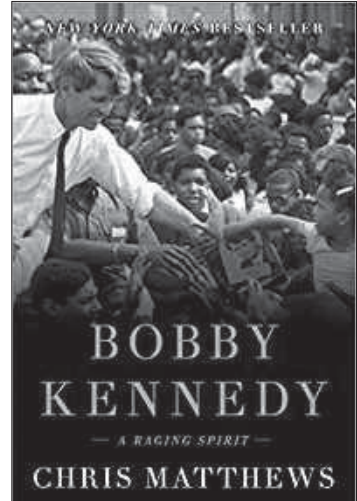
And it worked, but barely. By just a few thousand votes, John Kennedy became President of the United States and he appointed Bobby, his attorney general. For the rest of Jack's life, Bobby continued to be Jack's most faithful bad-news bearer, but his compassionate nature ran strong: on issues of poverty and civil rights, Bobby's eyes and mind were opened...

Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit is a big book – almost as big as its subject.

Truly, it's impossible to write a biography about a historical figure without including the influential people who surrounded

him so, in addition to background on Bobby Kennedy, you'll also read about others, politically-minded and not, who were in his sphere. Books about JFK are legion but here, readers see what drove Bobby before the 1960 election and afterward, how he was essential to JFK's win in 1960, and why he turned his attention to poverty and equality after Jack's death. Author and MSNBC Chris Matthews also adds personal notes and, with relevance and good storytelling, re-introduces a few important players to history and shares fresh anecdotes about a time that still holds meaning.

This April will be the 50th anniversary of Robert Kennedy's assassination, so there's time to get this book and get filled in. If past-current events is important to you, *Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit* should be in your plans.



Community Leaders... continued from page 9

was announced last year.

The college plans to expand the current list of local and corporate business partners and develop specific trainings, designed for their current and future workforce and their bridge programs. One of the successful bridge programs is a short-term certificate, in the skills trade, that takes between six months to one year to complete. This certificate can be used as credits towards an associate's degree. One of their most popular local bridge programs is the MSSC. This program focuses on teaching manufacturing skills and how to measure in an eight-week program. The MSSC is currently un-credited, but the college has three different programs available;



Todd Hernandez

one which is funded in part by Local Initiatives Support Corroboration (LISC).

"You're serving the community and that I applaud you for. Personally, I recommend an advisory committee of some sort that includes African Americans. We must understand as a community that there are some things that a community college can and cannot do. Let's focus on setting up another meeting, and coming up with clear goals, objectives and a vision," said Bishop Robert Culp, D.Min, pastor of First Church of God.

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Senator Brown's Bipartisan Bill to Create National Network of Sites Central to Civil Rights Movement Headed to President's Desk

Special to The Truth

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown's (D-OH) bipartisan bill to create a national network of historic sites, stories, research facilities and educational programs connected to the African American Civil Rights Movement. The bill now heads to President Trump's desk to be signed into law.

Brown introduced the bill last year with Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and U.S. Reps. Lacy Clay (D-MO-1) and Jason Smith (R-MO-8). The African American Civil Rights Network Act will also establish a National Park Service (NPS) program to educate the public, and provide technical assistance for documenting, preserving and interpreting the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

"By working with our National Park Service to honor the key sites and moments of the Civil Rights Movement, we can help preserve the legacy and struggle of those who risked their lives to demand full and equal participation in our democracy," said Brown. "It's important to learn from their stories, and this Network is one small way we can help educate the next generation."

The bill is supported by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"We applaud Sens. Brown and Alexander on passage of the African-American Civil Rights Network Act," said Thomas J. Cassidy, vice president, Government Relations and Policy, National Trust for Historic Preservation. "By linking the historic sites, routes, corridors, and regions that defined the struggle for African-American equality, this bill will deepen our understanding of the relationships between the people and places of the modern Civil Rights movement, and help us to better appreciate its context and complexity. Creating programming that ties together sites, activities, and research on civil rights will produce a richer and more complete picture of a critical time in our nation's history."

The African American Civil Rights Network would initially look to include historic sites identified by the NPS' Civil Rights Initiative like Mason Temple in Memphis, TN, where Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "Mountaintop" speech the day before his assassination. There is also the opportunity for additional sites to be added like Miami University's Western Campus in Oxford, OH, where students trained to register African-American voters in Mississippi during Freedom Summer.

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“Facing Frederick: The Life of Frederick Douglass, A Monumental American Man” by Tonya Bolden

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You're not backing down.

There's a line in the sand and nobody's crossing it on your watch. When something isn't right and you can fix it, you're going to defend it, too, even if it costs you. As you'll see in *“Facing Frederick”* by Tonya Bolden, if you lived in the mid-1800s, you'd be in good company.

c. 2017
Abrams Books for Young Readers
\$19.99 / \$23.99 Canada
208 pages

Though he really didn't like to talk about it much, Frederick Douglass had been through things that were unimaginable. From the moment he was born into slavery, he was taken from his mother, who died when Frederick was small. At age six, his owner removed him from his grandparents' farm to a plantation house; there, he slept on the floor of a closet. He was hired out to a slavemaster who beat him for no reason at all, and he worked as a shipbuilder before escaping from bondage.

Douglass didn't like to talk about his life – but he had to. As a young man, he gained recognition as an orator and newspaper publisher, but people thought he was a “fake.” He grew awfully sick of that and so he wrote a book, to great acclaim, though doing so was dangerous: Douglass used several aliases in his anti-slavery activism, and his book finally laid bare the whole truth. Finding safety in Great Britain, he

became a celebrity there, and met some men who further influenced his life and his work.

Following his time in Great Britain, he returned to America and started an anti-slavery newspaper with donations he'd received while overseas. The paper faltered later because Douglass “miscalculated,” but that setback didn't cause him to lose sight of his goal; in fact, it strengthened his anti-slavery ideals. He and his family became conductors on the Underground Railroad, moving people up through New England into Canada.

“With the outbreak of the Civil War,” says Bolden, “Frederick's hopes soared.”

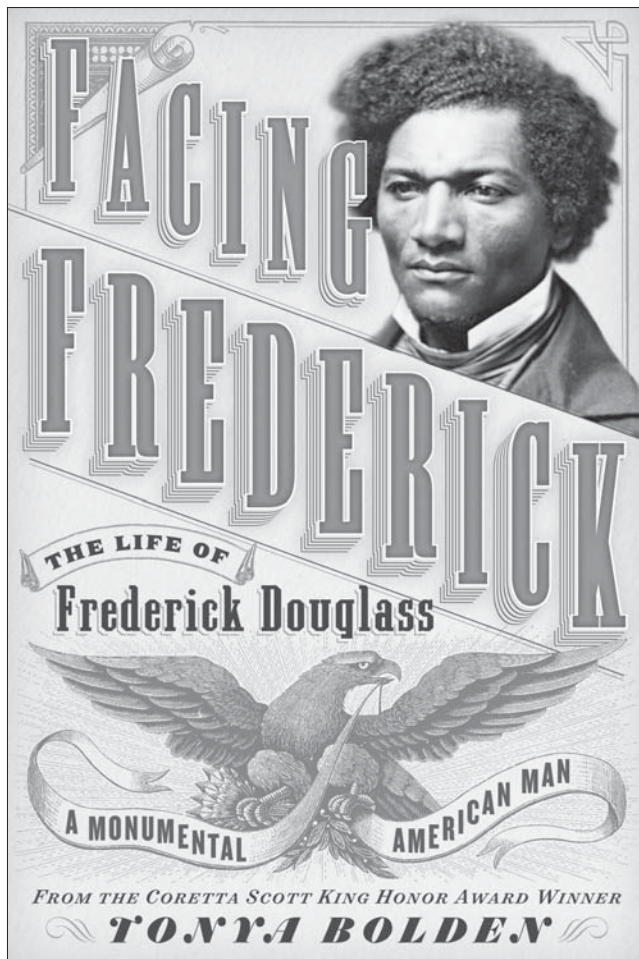
But he still wasn't happy: Black soldiers weren't allowed to do their part in the War, and Douglass wanted that changed. Finally, on August 10, 1863, he went to the White House. The man who was once a little boy who slept on the floor of a closet had an appointment with President Lincoln....

Filled with excerpts from diaries, newspaper articles, bits of speeches, and reproductions of photographs, *“Facing Frederick”* is a great book with a powerful story.

Getting the full extent from of it, I think, will depend on the age of its reader.

Because it wouldn't be the same biography without dates and accounts of Douglass' travels and actions, there's a lot in here and this book can be hard-to-follow. Older kids on a 10-to-14-year-old spectrum shouldn't have any problem with it; it's lively enough between the dates-and-facts to keep that age group's attention. Kids on the younger side may struggle with too many facts.

Even so, let them try. *“Facing Frederick,”* published in honor of the 200th anniversary of Douglass' birthday, is a big story that's too important to miss. They may not be able to put it down.



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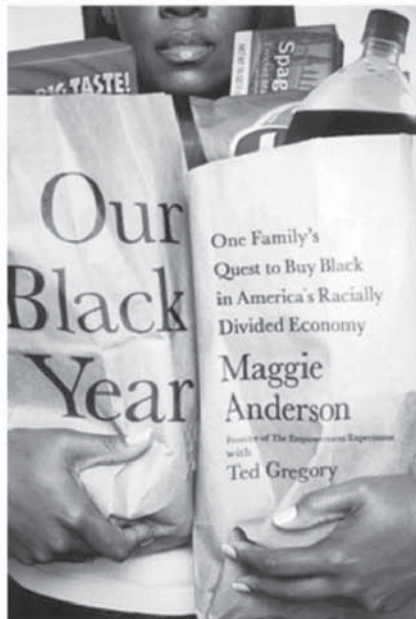
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CLASSIFIEDS

January 10, 2018

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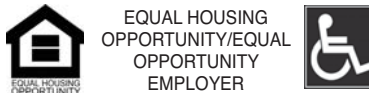


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APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND THE REVIEW SESSION TO APPLY.

*CDBG REVIEW SCHEDULE

for Non-Homeless Service Providers

Friday – January 26, 2018

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 26, 2018

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,

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<http://endinghomelessness.toledo.org>

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and ask for Administrative Analyst II, Monica Brown.

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Bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 7th floor Toledo, OH 43604 until Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 10:00 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, OH 43615, phone 419.385.5303, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Becker Impressions, via their website www.beckerplanroom.com at the cost for reproduction.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 7th floor, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Tina Perkins, at Projects@Toledoport.org by Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 10:00 AM local time. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org

Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority Paul L. Toth, Jr., P.E., President & CEO

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER FANTASTIC YEAR!

Because of your support, BeInstrumental had quite the 2017. Here are a few of the highlights:

- We entered our 6th year with the Friendly Center, expanding into percussion classes
- Wildwood Environmental Academy program entered into its 5th year of keyboard class
- University of Toledo Community Music Program had its 4th successful year, offering piano and guitar to anyone in the community. To get enrolled in music lessons, please go here:
- Pickett Academy (through the Toledo Public Schools) went into its second year of keyboard and percussion classes
- Pilot programs with Sylvania Community Services, Salem Lutheran Church and Monroe St United Methodist Church Freedom School Program
- We also lent out over a dozen musical instruments to students who could not afford them. (We have over 200 instruments now in our donation bank.) Do you know of a student in need of an instrument? Send them our way!

This past year, BeInstrumental also opened an office in the Toledo Museum of Art Professional Building, allowing us to be strategically housed with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra and the Toledo Arts Commission. And, because of generous sponsorships from Buckeye Health Plan, Perrysburg Auto Mall and the Old Newsboys, our signature fundraisers, BeMusical in the Park and All That (Latin) Jazz were hits.

In addition to the great programming we've put together, BeInstrumental has recently been chosen by Leadership Toledo to be one of their charitable projects this year! We will be working with a great group of area leaders, working to provide us with a strategic plan for our next ten years in addition to helping plan our 10 Year Anniversary event. Stay tuned as we progress on this project.

It's hard to believe that in 2018, BeInstrumental will be celebrating 10 years of providing music education throughout the region. In just under a decade, we have reached over 1,000 children, whether through instruction at one of our program partners or through lending instruments to children from our instrument bank. We've certainly come a long way since our first fundraiser at Manhattan?s in Toledo, and we are looking forward to what the next decade will bring!

With your continued support, BeInstrumental continues to reach more and more children in our community. Every dollar you donate goes toward supporting our mission: to ensure that every child has access to music!

If you have not done so already, please consider a tax deductible gift of \$100, which will help provide up to one week of group lessons for our children. You can make a tax deductible donation at here.

Outside of monetary gifts, BeInstrumental is always on the lookout for:

- Board Members + Volunteers
- Donated Musical Instruments
- Corporate Sponsors
- Community Program Partners ? Schools, Afterschool Programs, Religious Organizations

Thank you for helping allow us to fulfill our mission!! Here's to a happy and healthy new year.

Dear Mr. Word and The Truth Staff

Dear Mr. Word and The Truth Staff,

Before 2014, most people had not heard of Toledo. We were used to being a city off the map. When national and international news started to cover the drinking water crisis, we barely knew what was going on. We were scared, confused, seeking answers, and turning to each other for guidance and support.

As we learned more, the local high school football team such as the Start Spartans and Woodward Polar Bears came together to provide bottled water to those unable to travel miles away. We sought refuge in each other and felt a bit relieved when the National Guard came to Toledo. We were unsure as to when the drinking water ban would be lifted, but knew we were not forgotten.

Since the Toledo water crisis, we have come to learn both about the problems causing toxic algae in Lake Erie, and the potential solutions to this very real problem. Our community, from elementary school to the elderly, came together to learn about green infrastructure, natural landscape ele-

ments designed to reduce pollution, such as bioswales and rain gardens. These green infrastructure installations in the Junction Community are proving effective in managing the storm water which otherwise floods intersections, yards, and basements in our 150-block neighborhood. This is our contribution to protecting our neighbors from flooding and Toledo's water source by preventing storm water from overwhelming combined sewers which dump raw sewage into the Ottawa River, Swan Creek, and the Maumee River during major rain events. We have asked the Toledo Waterways Initiative, responsible for combined sewer separation in older parts of Toledo, to install additional retention cells in the Collingwood portion of the Junction to maximize storm water control at our boundary with the interstate and downtown Toledo.

These may seem like minor efforts but when accompanied by community education, information sharing, beautification strategies, rain barrel distribution, and raised consciousness of our place in the Western Lake Erie Basin, it results in progressive change in our historic neighborhoods. All this work means little, however, if protections afforded by the Clean Water Act are rolled back with the repeal of

the Clean Water Rule by the Trump Administration. This rule protects the wetlands and rivers of Northwest Ohio which provide the natural filters as water washes off rural and urban land. The costly update of Toledo's water purification facility will require continuous adaptations – all at the expense of residents who have a right to clean, safe drinking water. How much will the lack of federal protection continue to cost us?

We can't afford to let Ohio and the nation slip backward, returning to the days of widespread polluted streams, rivers and lakes. Nobody, Republican or Democrat, wants contaminated water flowing from our faucets. Ohio's Congressional members must stand against any attack on the Clean Water Act in the budget or appropriations process. Please call Senators Sherrod Brown (202-224-2315) and Rob Portman (202-224-3353) and Representatives Marcy Kaptur (202-225-4146) and Bob Latta (202-225-6405) and urge them to ensure the promise of a future of clean water for us, our children, and grandchildren.

Marya Czech,
Junction Coalition
Community Education
Liaison
419-913-9789

Megan Powell,
Junction Coalition
Environmental Specialist
561-908-1120

Alexis Smith,
Junction Coalition
Restorative Justice
Girl Circle Coordinator
419-944-9651

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