



Local and National News

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God Don't Like Ugly

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

The Truth Contributor

[Life] is like constructing a building: if you start wrong, you'll end wrong.

- Willie Bady Jr.



The reversal of the appointment of former city Councilwoman Lindsay Webb to Lucas County Treasurer was seen by many as not only an embarrassment for the Lucas County Democratic Party, but also as an ugly outcome birthed from malevolent intentions.

Although a "conciliatory" Mike Ashford, tried hard to appear like Frozen and not as Angry Black Man and "let it go," the process leading to Webb's appointment exposes a breach in the Party that, perhaps, leaves the Dems as divided now as they have ever been.

Why didn't the Party's screening committee know that Webb could have bonding problems if appointed to a position where the duties involved dealing with a large volume of financial transactions?

The Problem with the Process:

It's problematic when you have "an individual who says 'I'm not going to give a person the endorsement because I don't like them as opposed to I'm not giving him the endorsement for the position because they are either nonqualified or can't get elected,'" according to a source close to the interview process. While, there were no interview questions related to Webb's credit score, she responded with "no" to a question about past or present debt problems, the source added.

In contrast, Ashford, the source reported, was asked a completely different set of questions. Very few, if any, of those questions referred to his qualifications such as budget experience, overall experience or what value he would bring to the office. Instead, the interview "seemed to focus on his wife Ruth or why he didn't donate more funds to Hicks-Hudson's recent campaign for Mayor."

My take?

Webb is an extremely hard worker and has been a tremendous asset for the people of District 6 and the City of Toledo. That is fact.

However, the danger lies in allowing her hard work to become an "affirmation of meritocracy that covers up issues of personal responsibility, a theme that is disproportionately applied to people of color when they have issues such as bad credit," according to a local scholar.

Rather than "I just don't like him," a legitimate question for Ashford, though still one with racial undertones, is whether he has the ability to win a county-

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Make America White Again...!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column



You know, when you have a complete dunce in the White House who ostensibly does not know Liberia from Nigeria or Costa Rica from El Salvador, you will get inane statements from the Dunce-in-Chief about the need to get Haitians out of the country and the sweet comforting dreams he has of Norwegians and Swedes flooding the country.

But to totally denigrate the entire continent of Africa by calling those countries, shithole countries is, in effect, calling you and your African ancestors people of no value or worth.

Let's face it. Trump has little respect or regard for people of color including those nefarious Mexicans who are all criminals and rapists. Trump sorely detests Haitians saying that they all have AIDS and he wants them all removed.

Trump saved his worst racist remarks for Africans. We all know that nothing good can come from a shithole, so, in Trump's warped thinking, he loathes anything African or anyone from Africa...including one of his favorite nemesis...President Obama...whose ancestry is from the African country of Kenya.

Make no mistake about it. Trump gets great glee and satisfaction from using racial "dog whistles" or slurs against people of color and at the same time, feigning his innocence of being a racist.

A classical racist is a person who utters such racial bile and invectives and then, when cornered, will piously deny any racist tendencies. But Trump's long history of pummeling people of color is well documented

... continued on page 5

Community Calendar

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 Midwestern 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, Olio

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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NAACP: Steadfast & Immovable In 2018

By Lunette Howell and Betty Valentine

Toledo NAACP Editorial Team

First, we give honor to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Our country is in controversy! We are faced with the challenge of President Trump's lack of respect for African Americans and other races as he continues to put our country at risk of war. As he makes comments about wanting more people from Norway than Haiti and Africa.....

What?? This is not representative of what a president should say. Other countries have lost respect for the United States. Our country has taken steps backwards in time; prime example: Charlottesville this past summer 2017. We MUST challenge our state representatives and congressional representatives to deal with this strong sense of hatred and racism in the "White House." These are more reasons to VOTE and make sure we have leaders in Washington who are not afraid to speak out.

Our plans for Toledo Branch will begin with our Board retreat in January to set strategic goals for 2018. We have a few things to achieve immediately starting with plans to meet with our new mayor, Wade Kapszukiewicz. We want to keep an open dialogue with Toledo Police Department regarding initiatives for a safe community. We want the mayor and TPD to be proactive and interactive within our neighborhoods. We will continue to work with other groups that help focus on education and health. We support #Me Too initiatives for the women and men who have been sexually harassed or assaulted.

NAACP continues to have forums across the United States to engage our community and address ongoing situations relating to our people. We will provide details of actions that are important to us regarding Health, Education, Voting and Civil Rights nationally and how it will affect us locally. Our universities and faith based organizations have been an integral part of these discussions.

The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. Help us send a strong message to Washington that change is needed NOW.

Civil Rights: If you have a civil rights issue

you may complete a form on our website. To report a civil rights violation you are required to first file your complaint with an agency or organization such as your employer or if affiliated with a union, then your union representative or a personal attorney. We do not handle domestic or criminal situations and we cannot respond to situations you heard with no facts and through a third party.

Resources to consider for Civil Rights violations are: (The federal government is the primary resource responsible for enforcing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, disability, religion, and national origin.)

- Employment discrimination, contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Housing, credit, or employment discrimination, contact the Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- Education discrimination, contact the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights
- Violations of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, contact the United States Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)
- Complaints of individual discrimination can be filed with the Coordination and Review Section at U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
- Health care facility and Nursing Homes, Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Bureau of Long Term Care Complaint Unit

If we review your case, forms must be filled out completely and our Legal Redress Team will contact you to set up an interview. We want to assure you that we will be committed to doing all within our power to fight against civil rights violations.

The necessity of voting: Not only do large numbers of Americans fail to vote, but the percentage of non-voters has grown over time despite overall increases in education, age of population, and income which should increase the number of voters. In years past legal restraints were important obstacles to voting. Most Americans were not actually "included in

the system" by being allowed to vote.

In the early days of the Republic, all women and slaves and those men who did not own property or were not of the proper religion were not allowed to vote. That left perhaps as little as five or 10 percent of the adult population as voters. As the nation grew, many of the obstacles were removed, however many states continued to require that one pay a poll tax – a fee usually several dollars – when one registered.

It wasn't until the 24th Amendment prohibited this tax in national elections in 1964 and then the Supreme Court outlawed it for all elections in 1966 that this last obstacle was removed.

In addition, the number of people eligible to vote has been expanding regularly for four main reasons. First, the population has continued to grow. Second, civil rights laws have allowed blacks to vote more extensively in the South. Third, the rules and regulations surrounding registration to become eligible to vote have been simplified and reduced in most parts of the country. And fourth, those 18 through 20 years old have been given the right to vote. So why then are eligible voters so reluctant to vote.

There is some evidence that the major obstacles to voting are unconscious or psychological rather than legal and include such things as party, issues, and images of the candidates. Socioeconomic issues also come into play. When we add these characteristics together, the differences are quite substantial. Wealthy, college-educated, older whites vote at the rate of 91 percent, whereas young, poor, minority group members who did not finish high school are estimated to vote at the rate of 22 percent. The clear implication here is that the successful white middle class is substantially overrepresented in the active electorate and their inter-

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Ohio State Rep. Alicia Reece Issues Statement on Ohio's Voter Purge Being Considered by the US Supreme Court

As Martin Luther King, Jr. day neared, Ohio State Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) last week issued the following statement on Ohio's Voter Purge, or automatic cancellation of taxpayers' voting registration, now being heard by the U.S. Supreme Court:

"Taxpayers deserve answers as to why their most fundamental freedom, the right to vote, can be automatically cancelled by politicians in Columbus. No other American privilege or right faces as little protection in Ohio as voting.

"I believe we can and should move past these constant assaults on our constitutional freedoms and guarantees by taking the lead, at the state level, to permanently enshrine a voter's rights into state constitutions across our

nation."

Reece, a board member of the National Action Network and former vice chair of the 2016 DNC convention, has garnered statewide and national attention for her activism on justice reform and voting rights. The Cincinnati lawmaker has called for a Voter Bill of Rights to be guaranteed in state constitutions throughout the nation, and she serves as a founding member of the Ohio Governor's task force on police-community relations.



Alicia Reece

Democratic Redistricting Working Group Members Respond to Republican Gerrymandering Plan

State Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) and state Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron), the two Democratic designees on the Ohio legislature's redistricting working group, issued the following statement in response to last week's Republican congressional gerrymandering presentation to House and Senate committees:

"We are committed to achieving real reform and want to make sure that our state's congressional districts are fair and truly representative of Ohioans. We want any congressional redistricting plan to end partisan gerrymandering.

"Unfortunately, the plan that Senator Huffman and Representative Schuring presented today doesn't achieve that. In fact, in some ways, it is worse than our current system, as it eliminates the governor's veto power and removes the citizen referendum from the legislative process.

"Any plan that does not include strict criteria to prevent gerrymandering or does not ensure bipartisanship weakens representation in Ohio.

"We are willing to continue discussions in good faith and hope a bipartisan plan that puts an end to gerrymandering is still possible."

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Advancement Project's National Office Statement on Donald Trump's Latest Racist Immigration Rant

Donald Trump announced last week during a meeting in the Oval Office that he wants fewer immigrants from "shithole countries" and more from places like Norway. This news comes on the heels of Congress battling over DACA and the administration's dismantling of Temporary Protected Status for 200,000 El

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Tolliver... continued from page 2

and his constant spewing of lies and half truths is one for the history books.

Trump is in deep denial of his racial hatred and he thinks that by having Uncle Ben Carson in his cabinet and his former stormy relationship with Omarosa Manigault, that he can be spared of being labeled a racist.

Not so. Trump finds comfort in labeling Neo Nazis as "fine" or good people. He has no trouble running in the dog pack of the David Dukes of the world and he stills believes that Obama was born in Kenya.

All of his reprehensible conduct, he believes, finds favor with his "base" and to his base his loves to throw red meat to keep them howling at the moon and keep them believing that he has their best interest at heart.

What is equally tragic is the lackluster GOP leadership who fawn over Trump and refuse to grow a basic semblance of a spine for fear that Trump might turn his noise machine on them and cause them to lose favor with his base.

The GOP has now been forever morally compromised by their abject refusal or inability to stand up to this racist bully and tell him that what he

Perryman... continued from page 2

wide election. Ashford's critics would like him to reinvent himself because he has a brand "of being cocky and seems to feel like he knows more and doesn't have to listen or be liked by anyone who doesn't agree with him," a brand that has been an asset rather than a hindrance for several white incumbent office holders.

Repairing the Breach:

In the coming months, activist philanthropists will invest millions in Ohio and other states in an effort to flip both Federal and State Legislatures blue. Thus, Lucas County Dems must get their act together lest they risk another low turnout by black voters in the all-important 2018 midterms.

I expect the Dems to bring Ashford back to certify him as Lucas County Treasurer, this time bypassing the screening committee ("a stick of dynamite") and going straight to the central committee.

In this scenario, former Mayor Hicks-Hudson is likely to get the Party endorsement over Councilman Tyrone Riley for Ashford's vacated House seat. Next, current Washington Local School Board member Lisa Canales, and former Toledo Public Schools board member Lisa Sobecki and/or Nate Livingston all bring value to Ohio House District 45 which will be vacant as current term limited State Rep Teresa Fedor shifts to Ohio Senator Edna Brown's soon to be vacant seat.

What about Toledo City Council District 6?

Until Webb's (Party-inflicted) wounds have healed, it appears that Joe Cousino, a former Local 8 business rep, is the front-runner, although Sobecki keeps her options open as a viable candidate for a council appointment also.

For certain, Toledo has never had more than one African American county-wide elected official (in my memory) and the Ohio Legislature could end up with a mere single African American from our area.

This time, should a biased and defensive screening committee (which often chafes and rebels from constructive criticism) allow the dominoes to scatter out of control, the consequences could possibly be worse than before.

Why? Because God Don't Like Ugly!

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, DMin, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

spouts from his ignorant lips is not indicative of current American thought.

Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell are knowingly enabling Trump to play the role of the racist despot because both politicians see the only utilitarian value of Trump is that Trump will affix his signature to any mess that they place on his desk; and of course Trump will call it a victory.

You can only hope that more and more Americans who have at least two working brain cells are beginning to see the corrosive effect on both domestic and foreign policy of having such an ignoramus in the White House.

From all that we can ascertain to date, Trump is an intellectual midget and has no interest in governing from the center but rather favors chaos and culturally dividing people for his own political gain.

Democracies are hard to birth and are even harder to govern over periods of centuries since such open governments allow for the development of buffoons like Trump who seemingly takes pleasure in lambasting his real or perceived enemies and creating ticky tacky names of belittlement for those who cross him.

To say that he is not presidential is elementary. To say that America has temporarily lost its standing in the estimation of the world as being a first class country is beyond debate.

Trump's infantile rants about shithole countries speaks volumes on his lack of any ability to elevate any discourse about immigration policies to a standard that both political parties can engage in without each side using flame throwers against the other.

For a president who has a proven predilection to lie and even lie when the truth would work or serve his purpose, American politics and debate is losing its ability to engage in the search for facts and truth because Trump would rather court angst than cooperation.

Of course Trump, ignorant as he is, obviously failed to read the nature or the character of the people that the Statute of Liberty has etched on its base and that "those" so-called shithole peoples came from countries that were deemed either poor or of little redeeming value including Eastern Europeans, Italians, Jews and Irish.

Those tired and huddled masses came to America and made America what it is today but still no credit is accorded to the involuntary African Diaspora that brought millions of black people in chains to America; and whose free labor and creativity started the needed economic mass that created the engine of capitalism. (Note: the book, *The Half Has Never Been Told... Slavery and the rise of American Capitalism...* is an excellent read for those doubt that it was American-styled slavery that was the critical mass that propelled America to its world-class status).

Quite naturally Trump did not call those above nationalities on the carpet because their skin color is more akin to his and not to those Haitians or Africans that he so thoroughly denigrates.

During this hopefully brief tenure of Trump being president, America will again stand at the crossroads of determining if they will acquiesce to the racial blather of Trump & Company or remove this miscreant from the White House.

W.E. DuBois said long, long ago that the problem of 20th century America will be the color line...we can now extend that race problem to the 21st century because we now have in the Oval Office a throw back who is more mentally in synch with a George Wallace than a John Kennedy or a Jimmy Carter.

We have a Neanderthal who uses race baiting tactics to advance his own agenda and the worse is yet to come.

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I Got a Lust for Life to Reflect Impact of the African-American Great Migration on Our Region

Free public program Jan. 20 features events in Detroit and Toledo

A one-day public program that begins in Detroit and finishes in Toledo will explore the impact of the African-American Great Migration on literary and musical expression in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan.

The program, *I Got a Lust for Life: The Unique Words and Sounds of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan*, will include panel discussions, poetry readings and musical performances on Saturday, Jan. 20, in Detroit at Wayne State University and in Toledo at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library and the Toledo Museum of Art. Buses will shuttle audience members between the events in the two cities. For details on the travel options, view the event on Facebook.

The program begins in Detroit with a 10 a.m. panel discussion at Wayne State University's Schaver Music Recital Hall. The panel will include Ben Blackwell, co-founder of Third Man Records and official archivist for the White Stripes; John Gibbs Rockwood, Toledo author of the 2014 book *Can I Get a Witness* that features his photographs of iconic rock, pop, blues and folk musicians performing in the region during the early 1970s through the 2000s; Ramona Collins, Toledo-based popular jazz singer; and Oliver Ragsdale Jr., president of the Carr Center, a community hub for African-American artistic expression in Detroit.

The discussion, which will be moderated by 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, will be followed by a musical performance and Q&A.

I Got a Lust for Life will then move to Toledo where Tyechimba Jess will

perform a poetry reading and hold a book signing at 2:30 p.m. in the McMaster Center of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. Jess is a 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winning poet from Detroit whose work has focused on music, biography and African-American history. He will read from *Olio*, his award-winning collection of poetry that weaves together sonnet, song and narrative to examine the lives of mostly unrecorded, African-American performers from the Civil War to World War I.

The program concludes with a 6 p.m. panel discussion in the GlasSalon at the Toledo Museum of Art with Jess M.L. Liebler, a Detroit-based, award-winning poet and editor of the anthology *Heaven Was Detroit: From Jazz to Hip-Hop and Beyond*; Frances Brockington, classical vocalist and associate professor of voice at Wayne State University; and Dr. Lee Ellen Martin, jazz vocalist and Jon Hendricks scholar. Mack and Duchan will moderate the discussion, which also will be followed by a musical performance and Q&A session. Jess and Liebler also will sign copies of their books, which will be available for purchase.

I Got a Lust for Life: The Unique Words and Sounds of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan is sponsored by the Roger Ray Institute for the Humanities at The University of Toledo, which advocates for and supports the study of human culture – from a great variety of fields – at all levels of learning and scholarship. Additional support for the program is provided by UT, WSU, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Toledo.com and the Toledo Museum of Art.

Toledo events:

Poetry Reading

2:30 p.m.

McMaster Center, Main Library
Toledo Lucas County Public Library
325 N. Michigan St., Toledo

Free parking is available in the Main Library's underground parking structure.

Panel Discussion

6 p.m.

GlasSalon, Glass Pavilion
Toledo Museum of Art
2444 Monroe St., Toledo

Free parking is available across the street from the Glass Pavilion, in the Art Museum's Lot #6 (enter on Parkwood Avenue).

For more information, contact:

Kimberly Mack
323.839.2021
kimberly.mack@utoledo.edu

Detroit event:

Panel Discussion

10 a.m.

Schaver Music Recital Hall, Old Main
Wayne State University
480 W. Hancock St., Detroit

Parking is available on the street near the venue, in the WSU parking area at 4710 Second Ave. and in commercial surface lots on Cass Avenue between West Warren Avenue and West Forest Avenue.

For more information, contact:

Joshua S. Duchan
313.577.9869
jduchan@wayne.edu

Autumn Gineen Trunk Show



Date: February 24, 2018

Cost: \$8

Time: 6pm

This year's debut of Autumn Gineen's collection will feature couture gowns for women of all sizes. As a bonus, the mini fashion show will be held in the beautiful Sojourner's Truth Art Gallery located on 1811 Adams St, Toledo OH @7:15 pm. Join us for an enriching evening of fine custom clothing & refreshments.

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Work Requirements Don't Help People Get Work

The Healthy Ohio proposal was previously rejected by CMS and work requirements do nothing to help with employment. The work requirements passed by the General Assembly will cause thousands of low-income Ohioans to lose critical, health coverage.

Last week, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a letter to State Medicaid Directors, informing them that CMS will allow Medicaid eligibility to be based on work status or "community engagement," – unpaid volunteer work. This is a radical and tragic shift in CMS policy that violates federal law and is part of an ideological agenda that is hostile to vulnerable people in Ohio's communities. The guidance is available here:- www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/smd18002.pdf

"Fewer people with health care coverage will hurt Ohio communities that need healthy workers and a strong health care system. It will make us a state with greater health problems and disparities," said Steve Wagner, Executive Director of UHCAN Ohio.

Medicaid provides health coverage to millions of low-income children, seniors, people with disabilities, and parents. Several states are proposing to tie Medicaid eligibility to employment for many adults. But cutting off Medicaid coverage for people who can't work or find a job won't improve their health or help them find or hold a job.

Contrary to CMS' claims, research that links employment with health status does not demonstrate that employment causes improved health – it's far likelier that healthy people are simply more likely to have jobs than people in poor health. In fact, the Ohio assessment of the expansion population showed that having Medicaid makes it easier for beneficiaries to find work.[1]

"If we want people to work, Ohio needs to provide stable jobs and training to help people be successful at the jobs available," Wagner said. "Ohio needs people who are healthy and ready to work. Keeping people from healthcare, makes them less healthy and less able to find work."

The Ohio assessment of Medicaid expansion found 43 percent of enrollees were employed, and 75 percent of those not employed were looking for work. A national review showed that only 13 percent of adults covered by Medicaid's expansion are able-bodied and not working, in school, or seeking work. [2] Of that small group, about 75 percent report they are not working in order to care for family members and the rest report other reasons, such as being laid off.

Moreover, work requirements in other programs have failed to increase long-term employment, and some people who lose benefits under work requirements fall deeper into poverty. In contrast, Medicaid coverage supports work by giving low-income people access to the care they need to find and hold a job.

Community Catalyst released a new report that shows work requirements in states that have not expanded Medicaid are unworkable and would unfairly force individuals into the state's coverage gap, causing them to lose health coverage. The report comes on the heels of today's announcement by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid that

they will allow states to apply for waivers to institute work requirements for some Medicaid recipients.

Last year CMS rejected the Healthy Ohio program and stated that it was "concerned that these premiums would undermine access to coverage and the affordability of care, and do not support the objectives of the Medicaid program." [3] CMS also concluded that the state's proposal to exclude individuals from coverage indefinitely until all arrears were paid "would not support the objectives of the Medicaid program, because it could lead to a substantial population without access to affordable coverage."

Like the Healthy Ohio program, work requirements would create a bureaucratic mess and does nothing to help people secure employment.

The impact on Medicaid enrollment and eligibility would increase health disparities in Ohio. Whites make up the majority of the Medicaid recipients in Ohio, but because of race-based income inequality, a much larger percentage of the non-white population must rely on Medicaid to access healthcare. In 2014, 20 percent of people described as white were on Medicaid, while 42 percent of people described as black, 33 percent, of Hispanics and 38 percent of all other were on Medicaid.[4] Any policy that negatively impacts the population on Medicaid will inescapably harm a larger percentage of Ohio's communities of color.

UHCAN Ohio is a statewide non-partisan, non-profit organization building the voice of consumers to achieve quality, affordable, accessible health coverage for all Ohioans. www.uhcanohio.org

Trump's Immigration Rant... continued from page 4

Salvadoreans, bringing the total of people stripped of deportation protections to one million. In response, Advancement Project, a racial justice and civil rights organization, issued the following statement:

"Time and time again Trump shows his colors. Shame on America. Trump sunk to a new low in a rant today referring to Haiti and African countries as "shitholes" and not wanting immigrants from these places, but instead inviting immigrants from countries like Norway. Just last month Trump stereotyped people of color in Haiti and Nigeria saying they lived in huts and had AIDS. This has white supremacy written all over it – yet again," said Judith Browne Dianis, executive director of Advancement Project's national office.

"At what point will Americans finally be infuriated? We will not stand for this way of thinking from a world leader. People of color should not be the only ones angered by this pattern of thinking. Trump's words and policies amount to a racial purge. It's gone from bad to horrific. What's next?"

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2018 Unity Celebration: Unifying the Community Voice

Sojourner's Truth Staff

“Unifying the Community Voice “ was the theme of the 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Celebration held on Monday, January 15 at the University of Toledo’s Savage Arena. The annual event, sponsored by the City of Toledo and UT, generally brings out hundreds of local residents for a celebration of the life and legacy of the civil rights icon.

This year’s event, which was dedicated to the memory of Derrick Roberts, EdE, who passed away in December and whose presence as the leader of the Interfaith Mass Choir – an integral part of such events in the past – was sorely missed.

Monday’s celebration opened with pre-event entertainment by This Way Out, followed by the traditional processional of elected officials and faith-based leaders. The Scott high

... continued on page 10



Candice Harrison and Craig Teamer



Kristian Brown and Charlie Mack



Darnell Ishmel, Toledo Opera



Ebone Wavru, Toledo Opera



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz



Rhonda Sewell



Romules Durant



Scholarship winners



UT President Sharon Gaber, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, LC Commissioner Carol Conrada

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Unity Celebration... continued from page 8

School Marching Band presented a musical introduction before hosts, Kristian Brown of 13abc and Charlie Mack of The Juice, started the program.

After the introduction of the honor guard, the presentation of colors, the Star Spangled Banner and the Pledge of Allegiance, Sharon Gaber, PhD, president of UT, welcomed the audience members and Jalen Welborn, a UT student sang James Weldon Johnson's "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Remarks were then offered by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Lucas County Commissioner Carol Contrada, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Toledo Public School Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD.

Contrada spoke of the ongoing disparities between the majority population and communities of color in areas such as education, criminal justice, the economy and the current attempts to purge voters in those communities of color.

Kapszukiewicz spoke of the qualities of King, Jr. that made him such an effective leader: his education, his reform mentality and his youth. "He was making a difference at the earliest stages of his life," said the mayor.

Durant, closed the remarks by noting that the MLK "I Have a Dream" speech "lives in each and every one of us."

John Legend's "Glory" formed the accompaniment for a dance by a troupe from the Toledo School for the Arts which was followed by the MLK Scholarship presentation by Willie McKether, PhD, UT vice provost

and vice president for Diversity and Inclusion and the United Way African American Leadership Council Scholarship Awards by Candice Harrison and Craig Teamer.

The United Way recipients are: Chryst'Ann Allen, a sophomore at UT majoring in psychology with a minor in counseling planning to work with at-risk youth; Devin Brandon, a freshman majoring in pharmacy; Dominga Grace a freshman and a nursing major; Charles Perry, a junior majoring in criminal justice and paralegal studies who plans to join a federal law enforcement agency and Randy Thomas, a junior and an environmental science major planning to become a landscape architect/zoologist.

The United Vision Baptist Church Choir offered a musical selection before the Toledo Opera introduced the audience to a special upcoming event. In April, opening on the fourth day of that month which is 50 years to the day of the MLK assassination, the Opera will bring to Toledo a world premiere of "I Dream: The Story of a Preacher from Atlanta," by Douglas Tappin. On Monday special guest Darnell Ishmel of the Toledo Opera sang an aria from the forthcoming production.



Speakers and Unity Committee



Toledo Public Schools Boys and Girls of Excellence



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United Vision Choir

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YWCA Announces 2018 Milestones Honorees

On March 28, 2018, the YWCA of Northwest Ohio will hold its 23rd Annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women Awards Luncheon and seven extraordinary women in the community who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities will be honored in seven different categories.

This year's honorees were announced at a press conference on January 10 at the YWCA center on Jefferson Avenue – they are: Cynthia Thompson for the arts; Debra Monagan for business; WilliAnn Moore for education; Judge Denise Cubbon for government; Randa Monsour-Shouser for sciences; Jan Ruma for social sciences and Sara Skow for volunteerism.

"We have seven fabulous folks that we will be able to bring forth in March," said Lisa McDuffie, CEO of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio as she introduced the honorees during the press conference. "This is an opportunity to showcase these women and an opportunity for you to know what this agency does," she added describing the Awards Luncheon in March.

The Milestones Awards Luncheon was established in 1996 to recognize women of northwest Ohio for their contributions in various areas – the criteria for recognition are: unique, exemplary achievements in her field, serves as a role model for women in the community and lives a life consistent with the YWCA mission.

Tickets are available for \$60 and a table of 10 for \$600. All proceeds from the luncheon will benefit over 23,000 woman and families who use the services of the YWCA. Contact the YWCS at 419-241-3235 X 139 for tickets or more information on the luncheon.



Lisa McDuffie (l) introduces Debra Monagan, WilliAnn Moore, Judge Denise Cubbon and Sarah Skow



Lisa McDuffie



Sarah Skow and WilliAnn Moore

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

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Alpha Phi Alpha... continued from page 16

High School and went on to attend the University of Toledo, where he was president of the Student Government and the Black Student Union. Johnson served as national director for the NAACP's Youth and College Division, as well as vice president of the Hip hop Summit Action Network.

Johnson joined BET, where he used his knowledge of cultural and political affairs on their show *Rap City*. He was on the show for two seasons, playing the part of Cousin Jeff. He was also seen on the show *The Jeff Johnson Chronicles*. In August 2008 he hosted *The Truth With Jeff Johnson*, a weekly news show.[1]

Johnson has had public speaking engagements at churches, universities and local communities across the United States.

He worked as senior advisor for media and youth outreach for People for the American Way, as national director of the youth and college division of the NAACP, and as vice president of the Hip Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN).

Johnson has published social and political commentaries for CNN.com, The Root.com and Black Politics on the Web.com. Johnson has been quoted by Newsweek and *The Boston Globe*. Johnson currently contributes commentary and analysis about issues related to race, politics, popular culture and socio-economics for MSNBC, CNN, Fox News, XM radio, Sirius Satellite Radio, BET and The Dr. Phil Show.

Johnson became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity on the fraternity's 110th Anniversary, December 4, 2016.

The fraternity also awarded scholarship to several Toledo-area young men: Keion Devalt II and Jaime Wyatt of Start High School; Alexander Gayle and Keith Nelson Jr. of St. John's High School; Jason Johnson Jr. of Sylvania Southview High School; and Kibwe Rayford of Toledo Early College High School.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated was founded December 4,

1904 at Cornell University by seven men, known as the fraternity "jewels." The first chapter was established by 1911, and the first chapter established in NW Ohio was Alpha Xi Lambda. This chapter serves as advising chapter for University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University.

Local chapter officers are: Brandon Tucker, president; Rev. John Jones, vice president and 2018 MLK scholarship breakfast chairman; Richard Jackson, treasurer and 2018 MLK scholarship breakfast co-chair; Keith Nelson, financial secretary; Bryan Wynn, recording secretary; Andre' Page, corresponding secretary; Keith Johnson, historian; David Young, chaplain; Makonnen Rice, editor to The Sphinx; Christopher Foster, director of community of affairs; Michael Stubblefield, DDS, director of educational affairs; JeTahn Avery, chapter dean; James Mann, sergeant at arms.

NAACP... continued from page 3

ests get a disproportionate amount of attention from politicians.

So, does nonvoting matter? The answer is yes. If those dissatisfied with the elected officials running the country, voting at the primary level to elect the candidates who best reflect our interests will eventually place those candidates at higher levels in government and insure the voting process is more fully utilized to our advantage.

Maybe the appropriate question to ask is not why people don't vote, but why do people vote? Based on the outcome from the 91 percent who is estimated did vote, the answer speaks for itself.

Upcoming Meeting Locations for 2018: February through April, 2018, 7:00 P.M. - The 2nd Tuesday of each month – Mott Branch Library at 1085 Dorr Street...Join Us!!

Join the NAACP - \$30/year for an Adult membership and \$15/year for youth under 20 years of age. View our website at www.naacptoledo.org. Email us at info@toledonaacp.org.

Diocese of Toledo Bestows Drum Major Award On Two Community Members as Our Nation Honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Catholic Diocese of Toledo is pleased to announce Sara Jobin and Joseph Tafelski as the recipients of its 2018 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award. Nominations were sought for individuals whose lives demonstrate support for Dr. King's call for service, peace, justice and racial equality.

Bishop Daniel E. Thomas said, "2018 awardees Sara Jobin, a multi-talented award winning musician,

and Joseph Tafelski, a legal advocate, are outstanding examples of individuals who embody the values espoused by Dr. King."

Jobin, a resident of Toledo, Ohio was announced as the resident conductor of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra in July 2015 while continuing her duties as the associate conductor of the Toledo Opera. She has used her considerable skills as a musician to promote social justice and racial harmony. In January 2017 she organized a group of musicians to play at the site of a local minority family's home that had been defaced with a hate symbol, raising awareness in the community.


Her openness about her love for God and her commitment to peace made her an ideal candidate to give the keynote speech at the 16th annual Multi-Faith Banquet on April 23, 2017 at the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo. She inspires us all to use our God-given gifts to promote peace and justice. Her efforts in creating and staging "Never Again: Music Out of the Ashes", in November 2017, assures that the works composed by those in ghettos and concentration camps during the Holocaust will not be forgotten. The Congregation B'nai Israel hosted this event.

Jobin truly shows the importance of one's family influence. She recounts proudly how her father marched at Selma and relates his description of nonviolence training in the basement of a church in Selma, as one of the formative experiences of his life. Obviously his experiences formed her beliefs

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... continued on page 13

So You Want to Talk about Race by Ijeoma Oluo

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

It's all there in front of you.

Plain as day. Plain as the nose on your face with nothing left to tell, it's all in black and white – or is it? When it comes to racism, says author **Ijeoma Oluo**, it's complicated and in her new book *So You Want to Talk about Race*, there may be shades of gray.

c. 2018
Seal Press
\$27.00 / \$35.00 Canada
248 pages

In a world of white supremacy, Ijeoma Oluo's "blackness is woven" into her life, her preferences, her comfort level. When she was a child growing up in Seattle, her blackness led to questions, because her mother is white. As a student, it affected Oluo's education and that bothered her. Even so, she didn't talk about it much until "something inside me began to shift."

She began to realize that racism was the root of what was making her so uncomfortable. But is it "really about race"?

It is, Oluo says, "if a person of color thinks it is..." or if it "disproportionately or differently affects people of color." Part of the problem here, she says, is that we can't agree on a definition of racism. It's something "that we have to talk about..."

And yet, she says (mostly to white people), "You're going to screw this up" by saying the wrong thing. Even the most well-meaning person can verbally blunder and you can fix your faux pas, or you can make things worse. Complicating matters, you must be mindful of intersectionality, because no one is singular.

"And it all starts with conversation," says Oluo.

That people of color are "disproportionately criminalized" is not "all in our heads" and Driving While Black is a real thing. Black students need affirmative action to level a long playing field. Our school systems, she says, must learn "cultural sensitivity for black and brown children." Cultural ap-

propriation isn't just something that happens to African Americans. No, you can't touch Oluo's hair. No, you can't say "the N word" but you can fight racism, though "it is not at all fun."

When author Ijeoma Oluo says that her book is going to make you uncomfortable, sit down. She's not lying to you. *So You Want to Talk about Race* is squirmy.

Though, obviously, white America is who Oluo is talking to here, she ultimately speaks to people of all races as she points out the fine lines we all walk: what's insulting to one person is not to another and hurts can run entirely along racial lines. Here, though, Oluo helps navigate the waters with keep-your-mouth-shut advice on one hand and tips on how to speak out without being unintentionally racist on the other. To do it, she uses candor, anger, exasperation, and – though she says she's not feeling funny – some humorous stories to illustrate the many analogies for which she reaches.

Overall, this book will do exactly what its author sets out to do: it'll spark conversation and it'll make you think. *So You Want to Talk about Race* proves that black and white isn't always clear at all.



So You Want to Talk About Race Author, Ijeoma Oluo

Martin Luther King Jr... continued from page 12

and commitment.

Tafelski is a graduate of Xavier University, Boston College Law School and the University of Missouri in Kansas City (LL.M). He has devoted 43 years to serving low-income people in Western Ohio and migrant farmworkers statewide. In his 37-year tenure as the executive director of Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), Tafelski assured a voice for those who would not otherwise be able to access legal services. In light of his recent retirement it is only fitting to acknowledge his leadership and legacy in promoting justice for thousands of poor and underserved persons. His example and strong commitment to racial justice is engrained and made an indelible mark at ABLE, particularly his work with immigrants.

Tafelski is a native of Toledo and a long-time resident of the Old West End. He has served as a member of the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board and as a past president of the Rotary Club of Toledo.

The Diocese of Toledo, established April 15, 1910, encompasses 8,222 square miles in a mixture of urban and rural areas and spans 19 counties across Northwest Ohio, serving approximately 320,000 Catholics in 123 parishes. The Diocese includes Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot counties.

So you
want
to talk
about
race

Ijeoma Oluo

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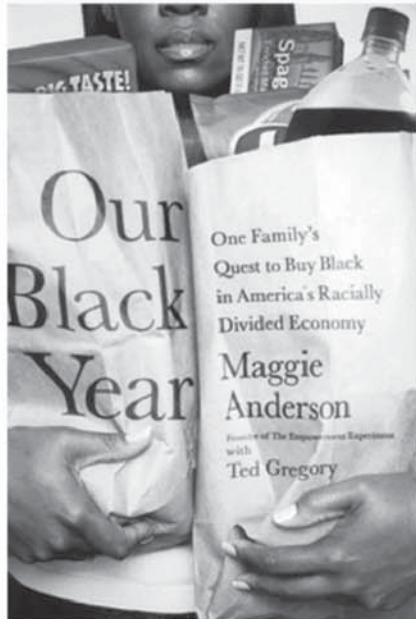
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CLASSIFIEDS

January 17, 2018

Page 15

If you feel like your property taxes are too high, lower your payments by having your property assessment value reduced.

Property tax revision applications will be taken January 23, 2018, 2-5pm at the Frederick Douglas Center.

MANOR HOUSE COORDINATOR

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a Manor House Coordinator to coordinate the daily operations of the Manor House and oversee rentals and programs. Moderate level of experience presenting programs and in customer service and/or event planning required. Moderate level of supervision experience required. Position requires an Associate's degree in education, communication, public administration, business, customer service or related field, or equivalent work experience. Full time position with benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view the job description, position requirements and apply online. EOE

MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD OF LUCAS COUNTY MANAGER OF EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is accepting applications to fill the positions of Manager of Evaluation and Research until position is filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select Manager of Evaluation and Research from the list to read more or apply.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Toledo announces the availability of federal funding for:
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
and
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
(Grant Period: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)

Interested nonprofit agencies are welcome to apply for eligible activities through this competitive process.

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 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, please visit the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board (TLCHB) website at:
<http://endinghomelessness Toledo.org>

For additional information or reasonable accommodations, please contact:
Department of Neighborhoods at (419) 245-1400
and ask for Administrative Analyst II, Monica Brown.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Platform Renovations project located at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. in Toledo, OH 43604, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The engineer's estimate for the base bid for the project is approximately \$831,728.00 and the alternates are approximately \$349,086.60.

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

Annual Alpha Phi Alpha MLK Breakfast Features Guest Speaker Jeff Johnson

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The men of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Incorporated held their 26th annual MLK Scholarship Breakfast on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Pinnacle in Maumee, Ohio.

The sold-out event welcomed over 500 individuals, comprised of fraternity members of Alpha Phi Alpha, honorees and Toledo-area residents. Local news anchor Kristian Brown served as program mistress of ceremonies, who greeted guests and provided brief introductions, then local fraternity member Darnell Ishmael delivered a powerful song, "I Dream," from an upcoming Toledo opera production. "I don't know about you, but that selection, left me speechless. Beautiful, simply beautiful," said Brown.

The Drum Major for Justice Award, is an annual honor presented by the fraternity to a community member who leads a campaign for justice, inspired by the well-known speech of Martin Luther King Jr. The 2018 honoree is Timothy Pettaway, the pastor of Walk the Word Ministry. Pastor Pettaway was inspired in May 2010 to begin the journey which would lead to the creation of Walk the Word Ministry holding its first service on July 24, 2011.

The ministry is located inside the West Toledo YMCA, services are held Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. "I want to thank my parents who I am blessed to still have in my life, and are able to witness this point in my life. Thank you to my wife, Lisa, I love you so much," said Pettaway.

Alpha Phi Alpha member and the University of Toledo graduate Jeff Johnson served as guest speaker for this year's breakfast. Johnson ad-



Richard Jackson, Brandon Tucker, Pastor Timothy Pettaway, John Jones

ressed recent media events, commented on local and national injustice situations, while also encouraging business-minded young people and city-based pride. He also closed his presentation by personally thanking former NAACP and former City of Toledo Councilwoman Theresa Gabriel.

"King's speeches were also a little uncomfortable. Dr. King spoke against the Vietnam war, and campaigned in support of resources for poor people. We can't get stuck or comfortable celebrating Dr. King in ways that easy for us to listen to," explained Johnson.

"Talking about black empowerment is not about launching an indictment against anyone else or anyone else's race. We, as black people, as African Americans, need a sense of urgency. It must be imaginative destructive, ensuring that transformation, not just attendance occurs. Attendance isn't enough anymore."

Raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Johnson graduated from Cleveland Heights

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Our alumni transform the community.

"My time at UT was transformative. The leadership perspective and experience I gained from my coaches and guidance counselors had a massive impact in steering my path."

DR. ROMULES DURANT '98
Superintendent of Toledo Public Schools



utoledo.edu/alumni



Jeff Johnson



Pastor Pettaway



University of Toledo Upward Bound Program Students