



Volume 51, No. 2 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* June 27, 2018



Carmen Williamson, with daughters Celia Williamson and Carmenita Ross_ and friend Carla Johnson

<p><i>In This Issue...</i></p> <p>Perryman Page 2</p> <p>TUSA Page 3</p> <p>TARTA's Autonomous Vehicle Page 4</p>	<p><u>The Soulcial Scene</u></p> <p>Sports Legends Honored Page 6</p> <p>Fros, Fashions & Finds Page 7</p> <p>Smithfest Page 8</p> <p>ZooToDo Page 9</p> <p>Juneteenth Page 16</p> <p>Rossi Page 16</p>	<p>Book Review Page 13</p> <p>Classifieds Page 15</p>
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Fathers On Call

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

The Truth Contributor

... answer the s.o.s., save our sons with f.o.c., fathers on call. We are sacred answers for the deserted hearts of boys becoming men.

- Haki Madhubuti



If the disease of "father hunger" that is currently running rampant in the black community is to be healed, then surely the antidote lies in having conscientious, caring fathers and other men available to "tattoo their history and spirit" on the lives of this current generation.

The reality is that responsible fathers or father figures who are also parents, caretakers or relatives are in short supply. The good news is that there exists overlooked "father resources" from outside of the family including the areas of work, education, religion and others.

This week, in my month long exploration of how the lives of local men have been impacted by the relationship with their fathers, I had the privilege of speaking with Brother Washington Muhammad. Brother Washington is a dad, husband of 28 years, and describes himself as a man "that has found his calling for planning and organizing in the realm of social justice."

Like that of many men, Muhammad's experience calls attention to the critical importance of non-kinship father figures who live outside of the household.

Perryman: What memories do you have of your father as a youth?

Muhammad: Like a lot of other young boys, I had my dad living with me from infancy to maybe the sixth grade, and I think that's when my mom and dad broke up. They got back together maybe four years later, but for my dad, there weren't a lot of sit down talks or teaching moments. But what I did get a chance to see was how he and my mom interacted and to see how they reconciled some of their differences. I got a chance to see how, if they did have an argument, they tried not to have it in front of us or if it started in front of us they would have us go to another room or upstairs. So I never really had that father-type figure, and I think maybe the closest thing to a father figure that I may have had was when the minister of our mosque was Charles Muhammad.

So Charles Muhammad served as my dad and this is probably the first time that I've even talked about him as a dad. Up until now, I just looked at him up as an executive director at work and minister at the mosque, and I never thought of him in that category as a dad or male role model that I pattern things after.

Perryman: Talk about Mr. Muhammad's influence on your life.

Muhammad: I met him when I was maybe 30 years old and I worked with him for maybe 15-18 years and that experience showed me that you don't have to lie or fudge your records and that the greatest example you can give is by providing people with the truthful representation of who you are. He was a father figure for me in modeling integrity and modeling character.

Even though he had an extensive education, he still lived in a very modest house next to everyone else. And although he could have easily chosen to do something else, at the end of the day he spent his life giving to young people through his nonprofit.

Perryman: What are some of the lasting lessons you learned?

Muhammad: I learned that as a man your emotional, psychological and physical components of your life have to be aligned. He was a really good example to me on how you balance those things as a black male and avoiding some of those stereotypes that you might get for being angry, from being a loose cannon or shooting from the hip or trying to be more charismatic than competent.

I saw him always handle and treat people in the highest regard no matter who they were or where they came from. So when I'm striving to organize in the community, I do the same. I don't need to add swear words or insults or anything like that and I find myself using similar tools that he used. I've never seen him be a chameleon in order to serve people, you just give people the best of what you have, and that's what I do. That's what at least I try to do.

Perryman: What other positive memories from a father figure or mentor from your childhood can you share?

Muhammad: One of the highlights that I did have as a child, I stayed right across the street from Les Brown's family in Columbus, Ohio. Les Brown, the famous motivational speaker. At the time, Brown was a young radio DJ in Co-

... continued on page 12

Community Calendar

May 30/June 28

Main Library Community forum about the ways the renovated Library space can best be used to provide lifelong learning and opportunities: 6 to 8 pm; Huntington Room; Each forum will build on community discussions from preceding forum/s, so attending all three forums will provide you with the broadest understanding of the renovation. However, if you are only able to attend one or two forums, your input will still make a difference! Areas of discussion will include:

- Overview of project and key decision points
- Serving community needs during Main Library's temporary closure
- How to use the new spaces following renovation

Discussions will be interactive, including the Library sharing information and seeking information from participants. The information shared and feedback provided will be shared on the Library's website (LINK) along with a tool for people unable to attend the meetings to submit feedback

June 19-22 & 24

Greater St. Mary's MBC 93rd Church Anniversary: 7 pm nightly – Mon – Fri; Monday Pastor Willie Knighten and Northwestern MBC; Tuesday – Pastor Frank Sherman and Servants' Heart Christian Church; Wednesday – Pastor Venson Simpson and the Shiloh MBC; Thursday – Pastor Sylvester Rome and Tabernacle MBC; Friday – Pastor Nathan Madison and Fourth Street MBC of Lima; Sunday at 5 pm – Pastor Curley Johnson and St. Mark's MBC: 419-973-4157

June 30

One Way Community Church Community Day: 10 am to 4 pm; Free clothing, shoes, house wares for those in need: onewayctoledo@gmail.com
Calvary Baptist Church Concert: 6 pm; Under the direction of Brian Thomas: 419-242-9173

July 8

Calvary Baptist Church "100 Women in White:" 4 pm; Guest speaker First Lady Linda Copeland of Bethel Baptist: 419-242-9173

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Toledoans United for Social Action Denounce Food Stamp Proposed Changes

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

On Tuesday, June 19, Toledoans United for Social Action held a press conference to voice the organization's opposition to a bill that has been proposed in the U. S. House of Representatives that would drastically change the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or food stamps. The House Republican bill would take food stamps away from two million people, including children and veterans; create new red-tape bureaucracy procedures for participants and states; reduce flexibility and increase costs for state government and implement a lifetime ban on food stamps for some formerly incarcerated people trying to rebuild their lives.

Victoria Jackson, opening the remarks by the half dozen or so members and invited guests, noted that food stamps, along with Medicaid and housing assistance, are part of the country's "social safety net" and is "under attack under the current administration's large-scale revival of 'welfare reform' measures that punish low income workers, single moms and people with disabilities, among others."

Jackson also noted that "over 40 million people participate in SNAP, including over 1.5 million in Ohio." The program helps one in eight Ohioans, mainly seniors, children, people with disabilities and low-wage workers. "Over 11,000 Ohio employees of Walmart, for instance, depend on SNAP because their wages are not enough to support families," said Jackson.

Rev. John Walthal, pastor of Mt. Ararat Missionary Baptist Church, spoke of the differences between the House version and a bill that is making its way through the U. S. Senate. "Fortunately, the Senate version of the farm bill that reauthorizes SNAP recognizes the value of the program and takes a different, more bipartisan approach to continuing the program – the Senate bill focuses on strengthening SNAP and doing no harm to the families that depend on food stamps to feed themselves and their families."

The Senate bill, said Walthal makes targeted investment in SNAP for certain groups such as those with disabilities and Indian tribes, and increases efficiency and oversight "so that resources are better used." In addition, the Senate bill expands the existing pilot program within SNAP to inform approaches to job training and other employment services to help more food stamp recipients get back into the workforce.

Rev. Robert Birt, pastor of Glass City Church of Christ, pointed out the unfairness of cutting food assistance after granting the richest households and companies a huge tax break. "Politicians in congress continue to focus on partisan agendas that put politics ahead of families," said Birt.

Birt mentioned the congressional attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and to end Medicaid "as we know it." Emphasizing the recent efforts to cripple the ACA's pre-existing conditions clause.

Miata Murphy, a student at Miami University carried that theme further by noting the proposed cuts Congress has made to health care, food stamps, education, housing "and just about every other program to pay for the massive tax bill they passed last year."

The richest one percent of households, said Murphy, "will receive a total tax cut of more than \$84 billion in 2019 alone ... that amount could pay for the total cost of nutrition assistance benefits through SNAP – which will support 40 million people and is expected to be only \$58 billion."

Arthur Walker, co president of TUSA and member of Friendship Baptist Church, urged Congress to repeal the GOP tax cuts for the rich and corporation rather than take food out of the mouths of working families

"Rather than cutting our safety net, Congress should make sure the rich and corporations pay their fair share of taxes, so we can help families who need services," said Walker.

Anton Parks, a member of the Re-entry Coalition and Brothers United, spoke of the hypocrisy of giving large corporations tax breaks when so many of their employed rely on food stamps to survive. "Walmart is getting a tax cut of \$2.2 billion this year under the new tax law, yet in Ohio alone, more than 11,000 Walmart workers and family members make so little they qualify for SNAP; McDonalds' is getting a tax cut of nearly \$1 billion a year, yet 10,000 of its Ohio employees and their families rely on SNAP.

Parks, an ex-offender and a single father, told of his own efforts to re-adjust to society after release and how, without food stamps, he "would not have been able to get my life back together."

Rev. James Willis, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and pres-



Rev. Marcia Dinkins

ident of TUSA, blasted Congress for pretending to be tough on crime while "the real crime is turning over our hard-earned tax dollars to corporations

... continued on page 5

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TARTA to Bring Autonomous Vehicle Program to Toledo Next Year

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority will receive a \$1.8 million grant for a pilot program to test autonomous bus technology in Toledo.

The test program will begin in 2019 and is expected to run for approximately three years. Exploring autonomous vehicles is a component in TARTA's recently introduced Move Toledo strategic vision that outlines a variety of initiatives to enhance public transportation in metro Toledo (www.movetoledo.com). Originally slated to begin in a few years, this grant expedites TARTA's plans to investigate the use of autonomous vehicles and electric-powered vehicles.

An autonomous shuttle bus will transport passengers along a dedicated route in the Toledo area. The exact route is still being determined but will likely connect several popular destinations in downtown Toledo. While the goal is for the vehicle to function autonomously, a driver will be in the vehicle at all times to ensure the safety of passengers, other drivers and pedestrians.

TARTA's autonomous vehicle pilot program will make Toledo one of the first cities in the nation to explore the use of autonomous vehicles for public transit, positioning the region as a leader in this technology. Knowledge gained from the program will be used to improve future developments of autonomous vehicle technologies for eventual use around the globe.

TARTA CEO-General Manager Jim Gee said, "This grant from the Federal Highway Administration makes it possible for Toledo to be on the cutting edge of new technologies. TARTA is proud to play a role in the evolution of public transit on a national and even global scale, especially in a way that makes significant contributions to Northwest Ohio. It is an exciting time for TARTA and public transit in Toledo."

This program is possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. TARTA secured the grant in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments. The grant is expected to fully fund the program; no local tax dollars will be used.

TARTA's autonomous vehicle pilot program was announced Thursday dur-

ing the third "Technology Takes the Wheel" seminar at The University of Toledo. The free seminar was focused on self-driving buses as the future of public transportation and hosted by the UT College of Engineering and AAA Northwest Ohio. In addition to remarks from Gee, the event featured Chris Pauly, director of business development in North America for NAVYA, a manufacturer of autonomous vehicles; Lt. Col. (retired) John Tucker, sales specialist for Path Master Inc., a traffic technology provider; Eddie Chou, PhD, UT professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the Transportation Systems Research Lab; and Bhuiyan Alam, PhD, associate professor in the UT Department of Geography and Planning.

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority was formed in 1971 and is a political subdivision under Ohio law, similar to a park district or a school district. TARTA supplies more than 3.1 million passenger trips annually and provides interconnected, regional service to six communities in Lucas County – Toledo, Maumee, Waterville, Ottawa Hills, Sylvania and Sylvania Township – and Rossford in Wood County. Visit TARTA.com for more information.



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Social Security Column

Three Common Ways Your Social Security Payment Can Grow After Retirement

By Erin Thompson, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo
Guest Column

You made the choice and now you are happily retired. You filed online for your Social Security benefits. They arrive each month in the correct amount exactly as expected. But, did you ever wonder if your Social Security check could increase? Once you begin receiving benefits, there are three common ways benefit checks can increase: a cost of living adjustment (COLA); additional work; or an adjustment at full retirement age if you received reduced benefits and exceeded the earnings limit.

The COLA is the most commonly known increase for Social Security payments. We annually announce a COLA, and there's usually an increase in the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit amount people receive each month. By law, federal benefit rates increase when the cost of living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). More than 66 million Americans saw a 2.0 percent increase in their Social Security and SSI benefits in 2018. For more information on the 2018 COLA, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

Social Security uses your highest 35 years of earnings to figure your benefit amount when you sign up for benefits. If you work after you begin receiving benefits, your additional earnings may increase your payment. If you had fewer than 35 years of earnings when we figured your benefit, you will replace a zero earnings year with new earnings. If you had 35 years or more, we will check to see if your new year of earnings is higher than the lowest of the 35 years (after considering indexing). We check additional earnings each year you work while receiving Social Security. If an increase is due, we send a notice and pay a one-time check for the increase and your continuing payment will be higher.

Maybe you chose to receive reduced Social Security retirement benefits while continuing to work. You made the choice to take benefits early, but at a reduced rate. If you exceeded the allowable earnings limit and had some of your benefits withheld, we will adjust your benefit once you reach full retirement age. We will refigure your payment to credit you for any months you did not receive payments. Your monthly benefit will increase based on the crediting months you receive. You can find additional information about working and your benefit at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10077.pdf. Retirement just got more interesting since you learned about potential increases to monthly payments. Social Security has been securing your today and tomorrow for more than 80 years with information and tools to help you achieve a successful retirement.

Toledoans United... continued from page 3



Miata Murphy

and the rich while we watch children being ripped from their parents' arms at the border because of the president's 'zero-tolerance' policy that treats all immigrants – even kids – as criminals and while taking second chances from returning citizens, people with pre-existing conditions and people struggling in low-wage jobs.”

Willis urged Congress to listen to all constituents and focus on the bipartisan Senate bill to help families put food on the table and “increase efficiency in the program.”

Visiting Toledo for the event was Lorain Councilman Angel Arroyo, Jr. who touched on the suffering of immigrants and split families, along with the neglect Puerto Rico has endured while trying to rebuild after Hurricane Maria. “It's up to us to demand that all our elected officials represent our families by stopping attacks on our families and stepping up to champion fundamental values like keeping families together, making sure everyone has enough to eat and promoting second chances for people who have made mistakes and starting over.”

Lastly, Marcia Dinkins, director of TUSA, summed up the organizations demands for elected officials, she said:

“Congress needs to stop playing games with our families lives – whether it's hungry families, immigrants or people who have been in prison ...”

“We encourage Senators Brown and Portman to put aside differences and support the Senate bill that protects food stamps for Ohioans and makes modest improvements that strengthen the program ...”

“Republicans should stop using immigration as a wedge issue that derails positive action on SNAP, CHIP and healthcare ...”

“Republicans should stop adding riders to bills that unfairly target incarcerated people for additional punishment ...”

Dinkins urged citizens to call members of Congress. “This fight doesn't end with us,” she said in summary. “It starts with us.”

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The Soulcial Scene

Hall of Fame Inducts Nine Local Athletes

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The African American Legacy Project of NW Ohio's African American Sports' Legends 2018 Hall of Fame recognition was held over a weekend beginning on June 23. The induction ceremony was hosted by Tom Cole of BCSN.

The 2018 Hall of Fame inductee class consisted of nine individuals who span various sports. Kimberly Bates graduated from DeVilbiss High School and University of Toledo. She was known as a triple threat because she excelled at three sports: volleyball, basketball and track. Truman Claytor graduated from Scott High School and the University of Kentucky. His basketball skills earned him several awards, a sixth-round draft pick for Detroit Pistons and free agent status with the 76ers. "Earning this recognition means the world to me. After playing for all those years, I'm honored to be inducted among these amazing athletes," said Claytor.

Meshawn Graham graduated from Bowsher High School and Tiffin University. Her track career continued as an Olympic Trial qualifier in 2008 and she was able to represent the USA on the Youth World Team in the Czech Republic. "I'm excited to be acknowledged and to be seen in this light. I'm still amazed that it has been over 10 years, a decade since those moments in my life," said Graham.

William Buford graduated from Libbey High School and attended The Ohio State University. His basketball career allowed him to travel overseas and play in Spain and Germany, and play in the 2013 NBA summer league and Santa Cruz Warriors.

Carvella Holmes Smith graduated from Scott High School and Eastern Kentucky University. Her track career earned her a qualification for the 1988

Olympic trials, and several records during her high school and college career.

Christina Johnson graduated from Libbey High School and the University of Phoenix. She continued to set records while serving her country in the Army. She was stationed in Germany for six years.

Herbert Mickles graduated from Waite High School. His boxing career earned him two Golden Gloves Bantam titles and Golden Gloves Crown all by 1952. Recently known as Coach Herb, he's coached the next generations of athletes at Lincoln, and the TPD Police Athletic League until his retirement in 2017.

Carmen Williamson was involved with USA Amateur Boxing in the 1980s, and travelled to several counties teaching boxing skills. In 1984 he earned a medal for officiating the Olympic Games, becoming the first African American to receive that honor.

Dr. John McKay Williams, DDS, graduated from Libby High School and University of Minnesota. His football career led to becoming a NFL first-

... continued on page 8



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The Soulcial Scene

Fros Fashions and Finds Presents: Trending Natural Hairstyles for 2018

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

It's hard to believe it is already summer, considering spring had a delayed start. With temperatures in the 70s quite often and the rain, it feels as if spring is still with us. But there are no complaints in salons and barber shops across the city, where ladies and gents are staying fly, regardless! Last year, we saw color, shaved cuts and locs trending in natural hairstyles. While there are still a great number of people wearing color and shorter styles, new trends have taken over.

Let's take a look at style trends by age group. For toddlers and young children up to third grade, braids with barrettes or beads are still trending. This is a variety of braids created on little boys (too young for haircuts) and girls' hair that has been passed from generation to generation. For children who are in fourth grade through middle school, the trend is cornrows, also known as lemonade braids, tribal braids and also crochet box braids. These styles are the most durable for an active age group that doesn't have a lot of time to dedicate to hair care and are still developing their personalities and routines. These styles can last one to two months, depending on how well they are taken care of. Cornrows still allow for the scalp to be moisturized. Box braids also do, since this type of hair can easily be separated on their cornrow base to reach the scalp.

For boys in the fourth grade to middle school, the trend is starter locs and sponge coils with tapered or faded sides. Many boys love the look of the coils and desire locs that can grow long enough to be styled back into cornrows or fishtails.

For young ladies in high school to early college ages, the style trend is chunky crochet braids, faux (pronounced pho) goddess locs and cornrow ponytails. These styles give a lot of body and length, which is every little girl's dream-to have long, flowing hair they can swing back and forth. What's more important is not having the headache of getting up everyday and trying to style their hair. For young men, by now, they have grown out locs to be long enough to style in "straight backs" (aka cornrows) or they have decided to cut their locs, typically 2 years old, and are rocking "360s." These are the waves created with constant brushing and "ragging" a term used to identify keeping the hair tied down securely with a doo-rag or two. According to Toledo Instagram sensation and "top waver", the Tsu Chef, the key to successful waves is moisturizing the hair, brushing in the right direction and ragging the hair regularly.

College aged students are the most diverse in hairstyles. Many young ladies go natural during their college years. It is more because they don't have access to their regular beautician and second, because funds aren't readily available for hair care. They become do-it-yourself stylists and often opt to cut their relaxed hair off and rock an Afro during school. When they return to their homes for the summer or breaks, they are most often getting sew ins. They get them because the hair, if they choose the right brand, is reusable and can be reused up to a few years in some cases. The hair can be washed and styled as their own, and even though it is a major financial investment, sometimes \$400-500, students say it is well worth it because they leave their hair alone for the whole semester. Now this can be discussed further as far as whether or not it is the right thing to do, but it is often the case for students who feel they have no other choice but to do this to look nice while away at college. In some cases, they feel they are saving money by doing it this way.

For gentlemen in college, many are wearing locs (aka dreadlocks). Many choose to wear locs because of their cultural connection to Rastafarians or entertainers such as Wale, 2 Chainz and the legendary Busta Rhymes, whose locs from back in the day are still an inspiration today. They also see athletes wearing locs, especially in the NFL. There are still quite a few young men who choose to keep their hair cut low so they don't have to worry about upkeep of braids and locs when it is time for a touch up. Again, money is a main reason why they would go short, but others will wait until they get to their hometown to get retwisted and styled.

As for college grads and people ages 25-35, the trend is natural looks from precision cuts to color, even for men who are wearing the top of

their hair in copper or golden blonde like Kanye West. A contender for second is the various crochet styles available. At this age, many people are starting careers and families and know who they are and what they like. Many are comfortable in their own skin and aren't worried about what employers or peers have to say about their hair. Ladies in this age range are learning their own hair and are trying styles like the wash and go or short, carefree styles. Men are wearing longer hair, not usually locked, but sometimes twisted up like DL Hughley and Jay Z's current look. Women spend more time on the go, so they try to find low maintenance styles that they can maintain on their own. Preferring to look as natural as possible, crochet styles is the fastest growing trend in this age range. Crochet hair is often loose, even though it is called "braids" and mimics natural hair textures. The loose hair is looped onto braided hair with a latch hook and creates full, natural looking curls and waves. It can also be cut into shorter styles as well.

For people ages 35 and up, they have tried almost every style mentioned above by now. At this age, the top 5 styles are the silk press, lemonade braids, Sisterlocks (also braidlocks and interlocks), permanent loc extensions and the quick weave. For those wearing the silk press, these women have tried twists, knots, updos and the wash and go, so they prefer the straighter look. One benefit to the silk press is the body it has as opposed to relaxed hair, which is often more limp. For others, they love the fun designs that are created with the cornrowed styles, the most popular are those which vary in size, like a micro cornrow next to a medium one, then a larger one and so on. These braids are adorned with gold and silver cuffs, shells, wrapped in yarn and gold cords and straight at the ends.

Sisterlocks is a growing trend for professional women, but with a price tag starting at \$400, many opt for micro braids on their own hair which can still grow out to be tiny locs, then they have the roots maintained with a tool. What women love about tiny locs is the fullness, the style versatility, and the non-scalpy look. They want body and texture without having to twist their hair up every week or getting extensions of some sort.

Permanent loc extensions is the fastest growing trend for people who have worn it all. As they mature, they choose locs because of the style versatility and the low maintenance of them. They love that locs can grow down to their waist, but often don't want to wait 10 years for it to happen. Many also don't want to go through the "ugly phase" of locking. So permanent extensions, created with human hair, is the newest trend. Men are opting for this method of locking too. Just a year or two

... continued on page 10

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The Soulcial Scene

Councilman Riley's Annual SmithFest Entertains Hundreds

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"People in Maumee and Perrysburg think it's special when they give away 10 bikes," said attorney Keith Mitchell as he pointed to the collection of 180 bicycles that were about to be raffled off to the lucky children attending Councilman Tyrone Riley's seventh annual SmithFest.

...continued on page 10



Hall of Fame... continued from page 6

round draft pick for the Baltimore Colts, played in two Super Bowls, and finished his NFL career with the Los Angeles Rams. His wife attended the weekend's ceremony and received his award.

"It's incredibly hard to decide honorees each year. You'll never know how many great athletes are from this great city. Our list is long, and tough to select honorees on an annual basis, but we appreciate the community's support and patience," explained AALP Sports Legends Committee Chairman Ken Cunningham.

The African American Sports' Legends of Northwest Ohio is a component of the African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio (AALP). The AALP's founder and CEO is Robert Smith. The Sports Legends Committee included: Ken Cunningham; Co-Chairman Leroy Bates; Brandy Adams, George Snelling and Bill Stewart; At large members are Douglas Allen, Robert Bates, Land Battles, Terry Crosby, Ivn Evans, John "Pops" Fisher, Robert Goree, Wes Harper, William "Bill" Hayes, Jackie Allen Jackson, James Jones, Willie Loper, Eddie Norrils, Robert Shorter, Carnel Smith and Keith Mathis Smith.



Carmen Williamson, with daughters Celia Williamson and Carmenita Ross and friend Carla Johnson



Carvella Holmes Smith, pictured with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Holmes and friend Michelle Logan



Meshawn Graham



Dawn Scotland and Jan Scotland

Family of deceased honoree John Williams_ brothers Bishop James and Allen Williams and wife Barbara Williams, PhD.



Herbert Mickles and his family



Kim and Willie Ward



Iris Redman, Beverly Henson Brooks, and Essie Wiggins



Ward Barnett and Kimberly Bates



Truman Claytor and his son, Peanut

The Soulcial Scene

Spectacular ZOOtoDO Fundraiser Brings out Eclectic Styles

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Perfect weather greeted the more than 1,500 attendees during the 2018 ZOOtoDO fundraiser held on Friday, June 15 at the Toledo Zoo. The annual black tie and tennis shoes event was anticipated to raise more than \$250,000 for Zoo operations.

As usual, dozens of local restaurants participated in the event offering virtually every type of food in the area – shrimp, beef tips, barbecue, pastries, nachos, stuffed pasta, fruits and sushi, among other delicacies.

... continued on page 10



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TARTA route information



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Summer 2018 updates effective June 3.

On Sunday, June 3, 2018, the TARTA summer route schedule will begin. While some routes will be affected by routing and time changes, new timetables and maps are available at TARTA.com/Summer2018

- **3 North/South Crosstown** - schedule adjustments with additional routing and timepoints for Brookview Dr via Airport Hwy; Food Town on Central Ave via UT Transit Center, Palmer Hall, and Douglas Rd; and routing changes at UT Health Science Campus for improved access via Glendale Ave
- **5 Dorr via UT Main Campus/Walmart** - schedule adjustments
- **10 Rossford Call-A-Ride** - schedule adjustments; Meijer bus stop moved to east side of store
- **10L Rossford via Hollywood Casino** - schedule adjustments
- **12 Front/Starr** - Sunday inbound schedule adjustments
- **15A Summit/Suder/Alexis** - Sunday inbound schedule adjustments
- **20F Central Ave/Franklin Park Mall** - schedule adjustments
- **20M Central/Meijer Drive** - schedule adjustments
- **20W Ottawa Hills via Westgate** - schedule adjustments
- **22 Bancroft via UT Campus/Franklin Park** - weekday evening schedule adjustments
- **27H Nebraska/Hill-Reynolds** - schedule adjustments
- **27N Nebraska/Angola-Wenz** - schedule adjustments
- **28A Indiana via UT** - schedule adjustments with additional service to UT Transit Center
- **28B Oakwood via UT** - schedule adjustments with additional service to UT Transit Center
- **28C Art Museum** - schedule adjustments with additional service to Toledo Museum of Art and UT Transit Center



419-243-RIDE | TARTA.com



TARTA serves the communities of Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Rossford, Sylvania, Sylvania Township, Toledo, and Waterville

The Soulcial Scene

ZOOtoDO... continued from page 9

Guests were dressed in a wide array of formal wear and flip-flops – often mixed together and a variety of bands – blues, rock & roll, r & b – offered live music and dancing.



SmithFest... continued from page 8

The bike raffle might have been the high point of the annual fest, but by no means was it the only draw for the 350 or so kids in attendance and their parents. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 16, kids of all ages had the opportunity to swim, play sports, ride horses, receive free books, eat, get a t-shirt and start the summer with a classic celebration.

Sponsors such as RFS Charitable Foundation, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Stop and Go, ProMedica, the Lathrop Company, Columbia Gas, TARTA, UAW Local 5242, Buehrer Group, Vickie's Bar and Grill supplied gifts and food. An army of volunteers kept the party moving along and a core group assisted Riley in planning the massive event – Chairperson Ethel Parker, John Preston, Keith Mitchell, Deon Davis, Lavera Scott, Teresa Scott, Larome Myrick, Maynard Porter, Crystal Harris, Harriet Grier, Donald Scott, Willie Ann Eaton, Montrice Terry, LeRoyna Drayton, Scott Noonan, Katrina Perry, Gloria Riley



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Fros Fashion and Finds... continued from page 7

ago, these extensions were braided into one's own hair, now the extensions are premade by hand, costing up to \$50 for just 10 locs. Then they are crocheted into the hair with a tiny metal hook. This method gives a more natural look than the braided and wrapped loc extensions and can cost \$300 or more to install, taking several hours. Overall, people may spend \$600 for permanent loc extensions to have the versatility and length natural locs offer over time.

Finally, the quick weave is still a trend. With improvements to the installation that are less damaging to the hair, many women choose this option because it is faster than a traditional sew in, and allows them to have a bold styles without affecting their own hair. Quick weaves often allow for shorter straight looks to be worn and look the most natural.

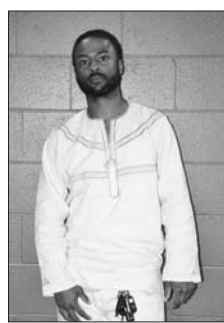
These style trends by age group are still not brand new to the culture. At some point in recent history, all these styles were worn in some fashion. Just take a look at the old music videos like Soul II Soul, Arrested Development and look at the Cosby show and A Different World. Check out African styles from the earlier centuries and see the wrapped hair, cornrow designs, copper and red colors, and locs of varying sizes and lengths. There is nothing new under the sun.

The Soulcial Scene

Juneteenth... continued from page 16

lar commemoration of the Confederacy legacy in Texas. At these events, former slaves read the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation—subversively honoring Abraham Lincoln as the Great Emancipator at a time when white Texans saw the slain president as the destroyer of Southern “freedom”—sang spirituals, held games, and celebrated freedom.

Juneteenth was made a Texas state holiday in 1980, and in 1997, Congress recognized June 19 as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” after pressure from a collection of groups like the National Association of Juneteenth Lineage and National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation. This year marked the 151st anniversary of the first Juneteenth.



Rossi 5... continued from page 16

Truth Gallery. This eclectic arts and entertainment party, promoting African-American talents, took place on Sunday, May 27.

Hosted by Tiara Roberts and Ray Cash, Rossi 5 drew a crowd of over 1,000 attendees this year. The show featured performances from songstress Jasmine Renee, rapper Hannibal and Toledo native turned New Yorker, Falsee Sophae, who flew in town just for the event.

Paintings for purchase from up and coming talents, such as Strokes of Kay, Shawn Strong and Love Lee, adorned the walls of the hall. Rossi fan favorite, Darius Simpson, also displayed his original works.



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Perryman... continued from page 2

lumbus, Ohio and a part of a lot of community oriented things that were going on. And whenever there was something downtown that he felt that young people needed to experience or have a voice, he would invite us and drive some of us there. I had to be maybe 9 or 10 years old then and he has always been someone in our community that would make an attempt to talk to us, say some words to us. It was just remarkable that we actually had Les Brown, the DJ, running our neighborhood. We'd hear him on the radio and here he is in person, talking to us, telling us to do this and do that. I had no other adult males in my life that were good for the young children in our family.

Perryman: So what advice do you have for young men of today who are attempting to be fathers?

Muhammad: I think its important to let young men know I understand you're in the struggle just like I am, raising sons or raising daughters that may or not be what you thought they should be. When in reality these are not our children anyway, they don't belong to us, they've been given to us on loan and at one point God is going to come back and check on us to see what we did with his angels. So being a dad, just recognizing that you've been given charge of something that if you misuse it, you could suffer the consequences.

Think about if someone decided to borrow my car and when they bring it back I'm going to be like the guys at Enterprise Rental Car, I'm gonna check it out, make sure there ain't no scratches, make sure there's no dents because it wasn't your car, I loaned it to you. Now think about our children. When they were given to us, they were beautiful. Now, we can leap frog 25 or 35 years, what happens when God decides to come back and just check on things; to see if there are any marks; See if there's any bruises, any dents, any dings? They were perfect when they were given them to us. So I've got some work to do, because I know He may be coming soon. I at least want to give my boys a really good script so at least they can say something.

Secondly, fathers should aspire to be that positive example that you want your sons and daughters to be. We're not perfect as dads because, for all of our children, it's the first time that we were ever the fathers of them, so we don't get a do-over. So, we're going to make some mistakes, make some errors.

Another recommendation is to become actively involved in your children's lives. That is key. I just can't assume that my wife's got it. I've got to be actively and intimately involved in their lives the same way I'm involved in the life of my car. I'm looking at when the sticker that they put on for oil change, I'm looking

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at that. I'm looking at my odometer. I'm involved with when the mayflies start coming in May and now I'm going to have to get the car washed. I'm intimately involved in all of that. So that's the advice that I would give; be patient and reintroduce yourself to your children every year. As they grow, he or she is new or different than they were, so get to know them as if you never knew them and you'll be able to stay up to date.

Perryman: Finally, what lessons have you tried to impress upon the hearts and minds of your own children?

Muhammad: I want them to know that I am a lover of God, and that helps to keep my boundaries in place just in case I hear too much applause or have unreasonable attention given to me. I'm proud that I've tried to be an example for them that they can be better than I am and I think I have achieved that for them, and now that they can become men and experience life as adult men.

Perryman: That's Blessed! Thank you.

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

For The Culture, A Juneteenth Event

On Monday June 18, members of the community gathered at the Collingwood Arts Center to commemorate Juneteenth with a panel discussion: For the Culture. Among the panelists was a Deon Ellis, licensed counselor, a cardiology resident from Detroit, a young mother and Megan Davis, entrepreneur. Singer Monique TaChae opened up with the Black National Anthem, Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing, followed by the reading of the history of Juneteenth and a poem by Xholali-Kumasi Malakayah Yedudah Yisreal El, of Toledo.

The panel addressed burning topics such as mental illness in the black community; whether or not voting is our right or duty; should attending college be an expectation; and is black marriage dead. Moderated by Whitney Banks, the discussion was lively between panelists and the audience who was able to chime in on these topics. The common ground on these topics were acknowledgement and communication. With mental illness being a top concern for people of all races today, history has shown that illnesses happened because people have either not been allowed to talk about their struggles or they were afraid to go to someone to talk about them. Ignoring anything for too long can have a negative impact on our lives and the lives of those around us.

On the topic of voting, many agreed that voting is necessary, but even more, it is important to know who you are voting for and what they stand for, and avoiding the "I'm voting for everybody black" trend. With the state of current affairs, it is seen how not paying attention to the details can place in office and positions of power.

When it came to marriage being dead in the black community, Banks brought up a statistic from the Pew Research Center, that interracial marriages have increased five times since they became legal 50 years ago, from three to 17 percent. This includes the iconic Royal Wedding of Meghan Markle to Prince Harry last month. The response from panelists was unanimous that they are either married to or plan to marry someone black.

Davis stated that it isn't that black marriage is dead, but that poor communication can kill any marriage whether it is dealing with financial goals, children or buying a car. "When we don't acknowledge issues, we can't address them and fix them. They pile atop of each other and create a wall that's hard to scale or break through", Davis said.

This question led to the discussion about blacks measuring success with whites such as the neighborhoods they live in and the schools they enroll their children in and why this is a big deal today. Deon Ellis mentioned that there were standards his parents set for him to go to school, get into a good career and take care of his family. He is fulfilling their expectation for him, which became his own expectation. "It isn't about keeping up with White people, it is about taking care of my family and doing the right thing", he stated.

This panel was day one of a two-day Juneteenth celebration that is expected to continue next year, according to organizers Whitney Banks, Monique TaChae and Sadora Montgomery. The second day was a dashiki dress affair



Juneteenth organizers



Juneteenth panelists

Squeezed: Why Our Families Can't Afford America by Alissa Quart

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Just about a foot.

That's how close you are to making ends meet every month: close, but not quite there. A few dollars short, and nowhere near solvency. You feel awful about it, of course, but as author **Alissa Quart** says, the situation might not be your fault. In her book *Squeezed*, she explains how other forces may be pinching you.

c. 2018
Ecco
\$27.99 / \$34.99 Canada
320 pages

In her job as director-editor of a nonprofit organization reporting on equality, Quart sees a lot of things that outrage her, starting with a situation she's familiar with: a medical emergency and a tanking economy caused hardship for her family once; they had to rearrange their lives and they scrambled to pay their bills for awhile. That kind of thing, she noted, was happening everywhere and it was no surprise that many of the people "squeezed" by such issues are women.

Pregnancy-related discrimination is on the rise, for example, and women sometimes feel as though they can't ask for pregnancy-related concessions without repercussions while on-the-job. Then, once her baby is born, a new mother may not be able to afford to take time off; when she does finally return to work, day care costs will squeeze her further. That first fact can also include new fa-

thers; the last fact doesn't touch upon the issues of low pay for day care workers.

But they're not alone. Everyone in what used to be the Middle Class is feeling the squeeze, says Quart. Non-tenure professors and teachers find themselves needing part-time jobs to make ends meet. People who sought higher education are finding that a degree doesn't guarantee an income. Immigrants who strove to become part of the Middle Class are finding that they've been shut out of the dream. Tech workers, near-retirees, and professionals alike are caught up in the problem.

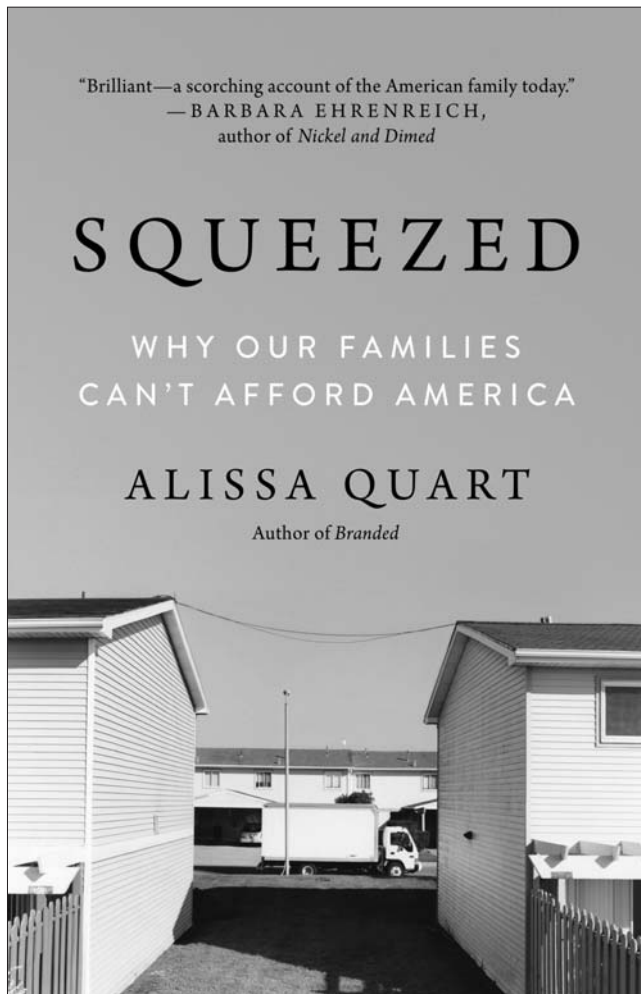
There are solutions, Quart says, but they're hard: some people have set up co-parent homes, in which children are raised by multiple adults. Others try to go it alone. Some watch a lot of TV and live tenuously, vicariously.

And some are hoping for Universal Basic Incomes, and a future...

More so than your average current events book, *Squeezed* will elicit a whole host of emotions for most readers, and some controversy.

Outrage may righteously be the first thing you'll feel; it's hard to argue against statistics and author Alyssa Quart has plenty of those to support what she says about how living in the U.S. is becoming unaffordable for the Middle Class. Some readers may feel a little left out, since location (city-vs.-rural) isn't explored quite enough here. Other readers may bristle at occasional flippant language. Still others might note that, while most stories are crushing, choice plays a big part a few outcomes.

Even so, you'll likely come back to that outrage part, for a multitude of reasons that will spark conversations aplenty. You'll also think harder before you use automated check-outs or search for a caregiver. At the very least, *Squeezed* will open your eyes to American life and what's afoot.



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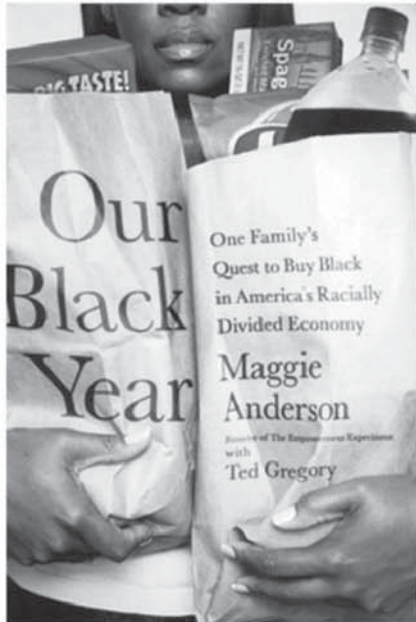
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THE ARTS COMMISSION ACCELERATOR GRANT INFORMATION SESSION

Monday, June 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
The Arts Commission offices – 1838 Park-
wood Ave. Suite 120, Toledo OH 43604

The Arts Commission is proud to present the second year of the Accelerator Grant program, offering financial support with quick turn-around for area artists to advance their creative projects and careers. Upcoming 2018 deadlines are June 25, July 23, August 27, and September 24. The first round of Accelerator Grantees from the May deadline will be announced later this month.

The Arts Commission will present an information session on June 25, 2018 to detail guidelines for eligibility and review the online application process. The session is recommended for artists across all media- literary, performing and visual who live or hold a studio or creative space within 25 miles of downtown Toledo. Attendees should come prepared to ask questions. Artists who applied for an Accelerator Grant in 2017 are also encouraged to attend.

Find more details in the attached media release or on our website. Questions may be directed to Michelle Carlson, Artist and Youth Services Coordinator, 419-254-2787 x1015, mcarlson@theartscommission.org

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Lucas County Emergency Medical Services is accepting applications to fill the position of EMS Dispatcher through June 27, 2018. 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 "EMS Dispatcher" from the list to read more or apply.

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Deadline for application: Until position filled

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Deadline for Application: Until Filled

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Rossi 5 Draws Huge Crowd

The Summit Event Center had a line of young art enthusiasts wrapped around the building for the 5th installation of the annual art show known as Rossi. Jason Young of YBFS (which stands for "Your Boyfriend's Stylist") organized the popular event which was previously held at The

... continued on page 11



Local Women Bring Awareness of JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is the black American holiday everyone should celebrate. Three local women, Monique TaChae, Sadora Montgomery and Whitney Banks teamed up in order to raise awareness of such an important day — African-American Independence Day. On June 18, they hosted an Open Panel Discussion "For the Culture" that included poetry, dance and networking at the Collingwood Arts Center.

Then, on Juneteenth (June 19) there was a Dashiki Day Party from 6 p.m. to midnight at Club Agenda Sports Bar and Grill. The Dashiki Party was free and everyone was asked to come dressed in beautiful African attire, dashikis or anything that represents black culture.

The first public Juneteenth events occurred in 1866, preceding any simi-

... continued on page 11



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