



Local and National News

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Volume 53, No. 3 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* November 21, 2018



Toledo Urban FCU Annual Appreciation Banquet

Staff of Toledo Urban FCU

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Knowing How to Say Thanks

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

The Truth Contributor

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. Food, friends, family, football. I'm ready to start cooking!

- Yolonda Pierce



"Mimi, I want stuffing and mashed potatoes for Thanksgiving this year," blurted out my eight year old granddaughter to her grandmother. "We don't do stuffing, we cook dressing," my wife politely countered as I did a double take.

While Thanksgiving and Christmas are also about the intensely social elements of football, family and friends there is, perhaps, nothing more culture-specific than our food when talking about holiday celebrations. And, more importantly, for the uninformed, black culinary practices provide opportunities for cultural learning experiences.

An increasingly multicultural society where inter-cultural and inter-generational holiday celebrations are taking place heightens the opportunity for the unenlightened to commit an embarrassing cultural faux pas while having fun at black holiday gatherings.

In his blog post "How to Survive Black Thanksgiving as a Non-Black Guest," author Michael W. Twitty offers a few lighthearted and satirical suggestions to avoid making these potentially awkward missteps. "We don't call cornbread 'stuffing,' ...we call it dressing," echoing my wife. "Calling it 'stuffing,' is a dead giveaway you don't know the quality (of the food). Throw that boxed stuff away," he humorously quips.

Yet, on a more relevant note, holiday merrymaking is not only an opportunity for members of diverse cultural and generational experiences to socialize and learn from each other, special days like Thanksgiving and Christmas also provide space to exchange the negativity, stress and strain of daily contemporary living for gratitude. Coming together around food – especially to say thanks - is something that all cultures value and what is, conceivably, the best way to keep our lives and relationships sane and fresh.

A Black Thanksgiving or Christmas Menu?

A great holiday menu from the black experience might include Roasted Turkey with orange glaze, light and fluffy Savory Cornbread Dressing, Wild Rice, Oven Roasted Fresh Green Beans, Scalloped Potatoes, Classy Southern Sweet Potato Pie and Peach Iced Tea.

Meanwhile, for the novice or the culturally unbriefed, just remember that technique, texture and taste are KEY. Here is our recipe for classic cornbread "Dressing" from the black culinary perspective. Bon Appetit!

Willetta's Light and Fluffy Savory Corn Bread Dressing

For Corn Bread

Ingredients:

- 3 cups Aunt Jemima self-rising cornmeal
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 3 eggs
- 1 stick of butter

Preparation:

Mix the cornmeal, buttermilk and eggs together until the batter is smooth. Melt the butter in a large skillet and pour the butter into the batter. Mix well and then pour the batter into the skillet. Bake at 400°F for 45 minutes or until the cornbread is firm and brown.

For Sausage Dressing

Ingredients:

- 8 chicken thighs
- 1lb savory sage sausage
- 1 large onion (chopped)
- 1 large green bell pepper (chopped)
- 2 cups seasoned croutons
- 4 tbsp dried sage
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 eggs
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 4 cups chicken stock

Preparation:

Season the chicken thighs with kosher salt, black pepper, onion powder and paprika. Lightly coat a 4-quart Dutch oven with olive oil and heat over a medium heat. Place the seasoned chicken thighs in the Dutch oven and lightly brown on both sides. Then, add 4 cups of chicken stock, along with the bay leaves and simmer for one hour or until the chicken is tender to make chicken stock. Remove the chicken from the stock when tender and shred from the bones disposing the skin. Set the chicken aside.

Crumble cornbread into the chicken stock. Add the croutons and stir, allowing the dry ingredients to absorb the chicken stock.

In a large skillet, add sausage, onions and bell pepper and sauté over a medium heat until the sausage is thoroughly cooked.

Combine the chicken, sausage, onion and bell pepper with the cornbread chicken stock and crouton mixture in a 9x13 deep casserole dish. Add olive oil and stir. Whisk the eggs in a separate bowl, adding about 2 heaped tablespoons of dressing mixture to temper the eggs. Then pour the eggs into the dressing and season with sage to taste. The dressing should have the consistency of the corn bread. You can adjust if needed by adding water.

Bake at 350°F for approximately 1 hour.

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

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American
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Community Calendar

November 21

Ebenezer Church Annual Need to Feed Free Thanksgiving Dinner: Noon to 2 pm:
419-242-2581

November 22

Happy Thanksgiving!
Pilgrim Church Free Community Meal: 11 am to 2 pm: 419-478-6012
Thomas Temple C.O.G.I.C. 15th Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner: 1 to 3 pm: 419-255-3447

November 23

Toledo Black Business Expo & Bus Tour (The Real Black Friday): 9 am to 5 pm;
Bethlehem New Life Center; Sponsored by Ivy Entrepreneur Center; Vendors Register Online – www.ivinstitute.org: 419-787-3717

December 1

A Journey Through Healing Memorial Service: Noon to 2:30 pm; Scott Park Campus Auditorium; Share the common experience of prayer, music, faith-filled meditation on the pain of loss: ajourneythroughhealing.com or beatricedan@man.com

December 8

St. Paul AME Zion Winterfest Musical: 4 pm; The Michigan Nightingales of Kalamazoo and Nikki Dee and the Brown Family: 419-206-4092

Black Republicans ... Take off the Blinders!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Remember as a kid you would play a game in which if you "threw" rock, paper, stick or scissors and you lost, you would try to best your opponent by saying, "Let's do two out of three!"

If you lost again, you would pout and ask to do, "Three out of four!"

Finally, it got to the point that no matter how many "redo's" you were seeking, you lost! The evidence was against you and no matter how many "redo's" you were seeking, you were indelibly stamped as a loser.

Well, the same thing is happening with Herr Trump with respect to those who want to desperately erase the label of "racist" off of his forehead. They are constantly seeking ways to show the public that their guy in the White House is not tainted or stained with racial meanness.

But! Knowing Trump as we do, his lack of mechanisms to slow his roll about his antipathy towards people of color has shown to be worn thin so that the brakes on the car are grinding and there are metal shavings are all over the road.

Nothing brings this to light more than his ongoing and recent inflammatory attacks on three credentialed black women journalists.

In spite of Herr Trump's demagoguery on all things black and brown including the knowingly bogus birtherism smear regarding President Obama, his castigating of the people of Mexico who were coming to America as being rapists and criminals and his giving credence to Neo Nazis in Charlottesville, Trump continues his unabated rampage on people of color.

Recently he directed his calumny at Yamiche Alcindor, April Ryan and Abby Phillip when they simply asked him pointed questions about his policy (?) positions on the Ken Mueller investigation and relevant issues of Herr Trump being identified as a white nationalist.

Of course Herr Trump, not known as being rudimentarily identified with having a working knowledge of historical facts and the proper workings of the government, was quick to debase and insult the black women journalists.

For Herr Trump it appears that he gets some mean satisfaction that he can drop nasty verbal bombs on black women and black women journalists in particular.

Could it be that he simply loves to bully the media or that he also takes great delight in haranguing black women? Remember his constant hit on Congresswoman Maxine Waters as being, "Low IQ"?

Or how could one not forget the verbal assaults on the widow of the black serviceman who lost his life in the country of Niger? Or calling former White House staffer Omarosa a "dog."

Does the battering of Colin Kaepernick for his taking a knee during the national anthem, ring a bell?

And please do not forget his diatribe on the African sh*thole countries and all Africans living in mud huts and his abuse of the country of Haiti, attacks on CNN host, Don Lemon, LeBron James, Andrew Gillum (running for governor of Florida was called a thief) and Stacey Adams (running for governor of Georgia was deemed unfit for the office).

When it comes to issues of respect and dignity of people of color, you can be assured that Herr Trump will find a way, howbeit large or small, to minimize their importance or intelligence and to humiliate them in public.

Herr Trump takes a seemingly perverse pleasure in mocking people of color and downgrading them to either simpletons or buffoons or racial caricatures that his base can also use as objects of amusement or defilement.

If you witnessed Herr Trump's last press conference (after the results of the mid-term elections whipping he received), he was anxious and sporting for a fight and who better to whip on or insult than black women?

For any black Republicans (an oxymoron in this day and age to say the least!) who still try to hold the line and shine a favorable light on their party's leader, good luck with that!

Trump shows no respect for people of color and his contempt for black female journalists borders on being rabid. He would never sit down one on one with a knowledgeable black female journalist because he knows that she would eat his lunch and for good measure, take his suntan bed money.

Repeatedly, Herr Trump has shown that he has no class, no working knowledge of the ways of the world nor how to negotiate and win friends in order to pass needed legislation.

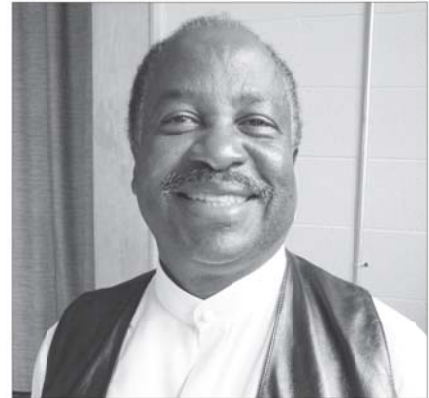
Trump is for all intensive purposes, a frightened loner negotiating a

world in which he is both angry at and confused about and only his pathetic rallies surrounded by similarly thinking people gives him a fleeting, "sugar high" from a job that he has shown to be totally inept.

As the Mueller probe seemingly may be winding up, you will see Herr Trump acting more like a frantic rabbit running for his political life than a mature statesman who is able to put both hands on the steering wheel and cobble together any meaningful legislation before the prophetic 2020 elections.

You can only hope that more journalists will take their cues from this unwarranted assault on their profession and they will take on, as one, this rabbit for the singular purpose of exposing him for what he has shown himself to be: a fraud and a con whose end game is to wreak havoc on a government that he seemingly disdains.

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House Dems Push for Commonsense Gun Safety as GOP Passes So-called Stand Your Ground Bill

Bill comes as unprecedented gun violence grips nation, thousands killed in 2018 alone

Ohio House Democratic state lawmakers today voted against House Bill (HB) 228, the so-called Stand Your Ground bill, a Republican-sponsored effort to loosen gun safety standards by reducing firearm offenses, making it harder to prosecute gun violence cases and preempting local authority to enact commonsense safety protections for Ohio families.

"This free pass on gun violence makes us all less safe," said **House Democratic Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton)**. "Instead of listening to the thousands of students, parents and families who've spoken out and marched for commonsense gun safety measures, we're turning our backs on them with this divisive, tone-deaf bill that goes dangerously beyond our reasonable self-defense laws to make Ohio a 'shoot first' state."

HB 228 would reverse Ohio's standard of proof in gun violence cases, requiring the state to prove that a defendant was not using self-defense. In addition, the bill would erode home-rule authority by preempting local control over gun safety regulations. Finally, HB 228 reduces firearm offenses to minor misdemeanors and eliminates certain requirements for those driving with a concealed weapon.

"At a time where our country is plagued by gun violence and shootings of unarmed African Americans, passing Stand Your Ground legislation is complete disregard for the safety of all Ohioans. Removing the duty to retreat provision validates race-based fear as a defense for using deadly force," said **House Minority Whip Emilia Sykes (D-Akron)**. "Once again, the Republican majority is putting the special interests of their financial backers first instead of prioritizing the issues that matter to Ohio's families."

The bill comes amid unprecedented gun violence across the country. The recent massacre in Thousand Oaks, CA marked 307 mass shootings in the then-311 days in 2018. According to USA Today, four of the largest mass shootings in the last 50 years have happened this year alone.

A sheriff's deputy was killed in the Thousand Oaks incident, four officers were wounded in the recent killing spree at a Pittsburgh Synagogue and just

this week, a black security guard was gunned down by police as he tried to break up a fight at Chicago-area bar. Despite these incidents, gun advocates continue to call for more armed personnel in schools, places of worship and other public spaces across the country.

Democrats offered a "red flag" gun-safety amendment on the House floor, the same measure introduced by Gov. John Kasich in March 2018, but it was defeated largely on party lines.

"Thousands of students, moms, families – and even our own Republican Governor – have asked us to put commonsense gun safety laws in place. But this isn't commonsense, it's nonsense that will cost us lives and increase gun violence," said **House Assistant Minority Whip Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati)**. "We want safe streets and neighborhoods, but this bill makes us all less safe."

After passing the House, the bill moves to the Senate for consideration.

Here is what other Democratic members are saying about the Republican "Kill at Will" bill:

"The big-government, "Shoot First" bill handcuffs local communities from taking crucial, commonsense steps to reduce gun violence, making our schools and neighborhoods less safe," said Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood). "This unconstitutional attack on self-government kills the ability for citizens to come together in their communities to decide what's right for them and creates a one-size-fits-all policy that does more to appease the gun lobby than protect the lives of Ohioans."

"Despite opposition from the community, law enforcement and prosecutors, this Republican-led legislature is intentionally causing more divisions in Ohio by passing so-called "Stand Your Ground" legislation," said Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President and state Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland). "This type of legislation is dangerous and leads to justified murder. The leaders of the Republican Party have shown their disregard for Ohioans and especially their disregard of black lives. It is a sad day in Ohio and I pray that one day my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will truly value the voices and lives of Ohioans—especially the 18 percent minority population of Ohio—and not intentionally divide Ohioans based on unfounded fear."

"Although I support an individual's right to carry, I believe stand your ground expands gun laws to the detriment of our communities by allowing individuals to shoot first and ask questions later," said Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton). "We already had the Castle Doctrine in Ohio, which was adequate enough to allow us to protect ourselves by using force, including deadly force, in our homes or cars when we needed to. The Castle Doctrine encouraged people in those situations to avoid violence as much as possible, which is what we need during times of high stress and fear. Now our communities across Ohio will be more susceptible to gun violence and less safe for our families."

"As thousands of Ohioans—students, parents and families—are crying

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Dayton Leaders Advise Toledoans on Establishing a Pre-School Program

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Dayton, Ohio Mayor Nan Whaley and Robyn Lightcap, executive director of Dayton's Preschool Promise, came to Toledo on Wednesday, November 14, to address an audience of about 75 community leaders on the Dayton pre-kindergarten program – a program that has enrolled more than 1,300 four-year-olds in less than two years.

In attendance at the presentation were board members and leaders from the Toledo Public Schools as well as representatives from groups such as United Way, Toledo Community Foundation, ProMedica and the Toledo Opera (which offers a music program for pre-schoolers).

The presentation, organized by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, offered a model that Toledoans might well incorporate into a program of its own, at least in part, explained Kapszukiewicz, as he introduced his counterpart from Dayton and Lightcap, the program director.

"Nineteen percent of the kids who come to [TPS] are ready for kindergarten," said Kapszukiewicz, venting his frustration at the lack of progress Toledo has made on this very important issue. "If we doubled that number, we would still be behind the state average ... and the state is doing poorly. To be the city we want to be, we have to do more. I don't want us to survive as a community, I want us to thrive. There has been gathering momentum that this is something worth doing."

The Dayton program, said Mayor Whaley, got a big boost in November 2016 when city leaders asked the voters for help in "moving the needle on third grade reading." Third grade reading test results are the most effective measure on how well students are prepared and on how students are going to fare in the future.

Lightcap advised Toledoans to "just do it!" rather than wait for an 80 page report. "Start it now," she said. She also suggested an attendance incentive program and that the city create a non-profit organization to manage the pro-



TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, addresses audience

gram rather than turning it over to the city bureaucracy and elected officials.

Dayton, according to its leaders, has improved children's school readiness scores and increased state-measured quality ratings at 26 preschool sites.

Of course, the devil is in the details and the details are in the dollars. Dayton managed to pass a 0.25-percent income tax increase in 2016, part of which is allocated for family tuition assistance. Kapszukiewicz has not yet indicated if such a request is part of his plans but he did mention an early 2019 announcement that will provide the details about how such a program might be implemented and the financial arrangements required while also mentioning the fact that community philanthropy will be part of those arrangements.

House Dems... continued from page 4

out for commonsense gun safety measures, the entrenched majority continues to push legislation that makes our communities less safe," said state Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron). "I will continue to stand with the vast majority of Ohioans who oppose these extreme bills that give a free pass to gun violence."

"If we want young people to stay in Ohio, we need to make sure they feel safe. They don't want to see gun penalties reduced and an expansion of the ability to use deadly force," said Rep. Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus). "Our children want to be able to go to the movies, or a concert, or out with friends and not be afraid of a potential mass shooting. They want to live in places and cities that are trying to pass reasonable gun control measures. This bill doesn't make anyone safer."

"We're constantly confronted with images of gun violence, and as public officials, it's our responsibility to respond to these threats. Measures have been proposed regarding Red Flag laws, better background checks, protection from domestic violence offenders and more—but we are not considering those measures today," said state Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus). Instead, HB 228 guts Ohio's concealed carry statute, making all of us less safe by making crimes such as illegally carrying a concealed handgun punishable by a slap on the wrist. The bill also implements 'shoot first ask questions later' provisions that only create a greater likelihood of gun violence.

"Finally, the bill keeps cities from passing gun safety ordinances. Thomas Jefferson once said, 'The government closest to the people serves the people best.' The issues are not the same in Belpre as they are in Cleveland as they are in Columbus. Let's let the governments closest to their citizens do their duty to protect their communities."

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Lucas County Children Services Kicks Off 2018 Holiday Gift Drive Annual Campaign "Gives the

The holiday season is almost upon us, and Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is once again asking area residents to "Give the Best Gift Ever" this holiday season!

The agency is kicking off its annual Holiday Gift Drive, which is co-sponsored by the Friends of Lucas County Children Services (FLCCS) and several community partners. The community-based campaign is expected to provide gifts to as many as 2,500 children who are victims of abuse and neglect. Gift collection begins November 16, and runs through December 14, 2018.

The drive provides gifts for children living in foster care, with relatives or with their families under LCCS supervision. "This has been a difficult year for the children of Lucas County. Our data tells us that abuse and neglect continue to rise, in no small part to the incidence of substance abuse in our community. Giving these children a reason to smile at the holiday season is really important. Lucas County residents have been very generous in the past, and we hope they will continue that tradition of giving," says Robin Reese, LCCS executive director.

The gift drive provides toys for children from birth to age 18. While we are seeking gifts for all age groups, the agency is in particular need of gifts for children of all ethnic groups who are newborn to three years old, and gift cards for teenagers.

Several generous community partners are again stepping up to support the gift drive. Key sponsors include PNC Bank; Bennett Management Corp., a franchisee of BURGER KING Corporation®, and La-Z-Boy; other partners include Allshred Services; Barnes & Noble Toledo; Brondes Ford; The Countertop Shop; DANA Corporation; Franklin Park Mall; Levis Commons; Teamsters Local 20; Toledo Auto Care; radio station WRVF 101.5 The River; WTOL; and Woodcraft. Local residents are encouraged to drop a new, unwrapped toy in the collection boxes located around the community:

- Allshred Services, 3940 Technology Drive in Maumee.
- Brondes Ford, 1511 Reynolds Rd., Maumee and 5545 Secor Rd., Toledo.
- All Toledo-area BURGER KING® restaurants in Holland, Maumee, Northwood, Oregon, Toledo, and Lambertville, Mich.
- The Countertop Shop, 9300 Airport Hwy.
- Franklin Park Mall, 5001 Monroe Street, Toledo (pick an ornament from the wish trees)
- La-Z-Boy Furniture stores, 5804 Airport Hwy. and 5173 Monroe St. in Toledo; and 3316 Navarre Ave. in Oregon.
- Toledo Auto Care, 4544 Monroe St. and 5329 Heatherdowns, Toledo.
- The Town Center at Levis Commons, 3201 Levis Commons Blvd., Perrysburg.
- Woodcraft, 5311 Airport Highway, Toledo.
- WTOL studios, 730 N. Summit St., Toledo.

Additionally, the Barnes & Noble Booksellers at 4940 Monroe Street in To-

ledo has designated the LCCS Holiday Gift Drive as the recipient of its 2018 holiday book donation campaign, which encourages customers to purchase books to be donated to the gift drive.

Several special events are being scheduled to encourage Toledo-area residents to support the gift drive: Hensville Tree Lighting Visitors to the downtown Hensville tree lighting on Monroe Street on Saturday, November 17, are encouraged to donate a new, unwrapped toy at one of the donation stations in the Hensville/St. Clair St. corridor.

Levis Commons Tree Lighting Levis Commons in Perrysburg begins its holiday season with a tree lighting on November 17 at 6 p.m. Visitors will be encouraged to donate a new, unwrapped toy at the LCCS tent and grab a bag of popcorn to munch on. Lights Before Christmas, Toledo Zoo The Toledo Zoo kicks off its annual "Lights Before Christmas" on November 23, including the ribbon cutting for the renovated tunnel under the Anthony Wayne Trail. LCCS staff will be on hand at both zoo entrances from 4 to 7 p.m. to collect donations

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Act Quick: 2019 Marketplace Health Insurance Enrollment is Now Open Until December 15

Neighborhood Health Association offers free, in-person support

Thursday, November 1 marked the first day of the open enrollment period for Ohioans looking to enroll in or change their plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace (Marketplace) for coverage in 2019. Ohioans exploring affordable health insurance options can receive free assistance by making an appointment with a Certified Application Counselor at Neighborhood Health Association.

"Our trained Certified Application Counselors are well equipped to answer any questions our clients may have, offer step-by-step advice through the enrollment process, and identify health insurance discounts they can receive through HealthCare.gov," says Antoinette Banks, NHA Certified Application Counselor, "Please call Neighborhood Health Association today at (419) 720.7883 and schedule an appointment with one of our application counselors."

Marketplace plans must include key benefits like mental health care, maternity care, prescription drug coverage and hospitalization services. Many Mar-

...continued on page 7



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Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Holds Its Annual Appreciation Banquet

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union held its annual Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, November 17 at The Pinnacle, an event which featured some outstanding music, a tribute to the power of prayer and a celebration of a few of the individuals who have helped make TUFUCU such a success over the 22 years of the credit union's existence.

Alexis Means of 13abc News served as this year's mistress of ceremonies and her opening address was followed by a prayer by Bishop Edward Cook, a welcome by TUFUCU Board President Fletcher Word and an update on Building Better Futures by Toledo Urban Foundation Board President Richard LaValley, Jr. Toledo Urban Foundation is the fundraising operation for the credit union.

Then came an address by Suzette Cowell, who reminded the attendees of the origins of the credit union as she moved into the presentations.

Honored this year were: Ann Riddle of the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund, Toledo Fire Department Chief Brian Byrd, First Lady Sheila Cook of New Life Church of God In Christ; Bernard "Pete" Culp, former director of the Model Cities Program, former director of Planning and Development for EOPA and a board member of the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, among many other boards; Jessica LaValley, a marketing and development specialist with several companies as well as nonprofit organizations; Randy Oostra, CEO of ProMedica; Celeste Smith, a community and minority health supervisor and counselor with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and The

Children Services... continued from page 6

of new, unwrapped toys for children served by LCCS.

Downtown Toy Drop Scheduled On Thursday, December 6, WTOL will host its second annual "Downtown Toy Drop" in its parking lot at 730 North Summit St. from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. WSPD will also broadcast live throughout the day. Everyone is encouraged to drive through and donate a new, unwrapped toy to the LCCS drive.

"Shred for a Toy" Day Scheduled On Saturday, December 8, 101.5 The River morning show host Rick Woodell will continue the tradition of broadcasting live from the BURGER KING® at 4870 Monroe Street (across from Franklin Park Mall) from 1 to 3 p.m. Allshred Services will be on hand to provide free shredding for up to five bags or boxes of paper documents when you donate a new, unwrapped toy. The public is encouraged to stop by and support the gift drive during that time.

The mission of Lucas County Children Services is to lead the community in the protection of children at risk of abuse and neglect. This is accomplished by working with families, service providers and community members to assess risk and coordinate community-based services resulting in safe, stable and permanent families for children.

Friends of Lucas County Children Services Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is the government agency that investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect and provides protective services when necessary. Friends of Lucas County Children Services is a 501(c) (3), private non-profit organization that supports LCCS through various charities

Marketplace Insurance... continued from page 6

marketplace shoppers will qualify for a discount based on their income. Last year, more than eight in 10 applicants could get a plan for less than \$100/month.

After open enrollment closes on December 15, 2018, accessing health insurance in the Marketplace is limited until the next open enrollment period or to those who experience a qualifying life event like job loss, change in household composition, etc. Please note, Medicaid enrollment is available year-round; Ohioans with annual incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level (\$16,753 for an individual) can apply for coverage through Medicaid at any time during the year.

It is the mission of the NHA to put health within reach of all community members, regardless of the ability to pay, through equal access to quality medical care and educational and support services essential for well-being of body and mind. Through effective delivery of services, the NHA strives to become a national model of care for the under and uninsured in our community, empowering patients through responsiveness to their needs and fostering a workplace invigorated with enthusiasm for our singular purpose. For more information about the NHA, visit www.nhainc.org.



Toledo Urban Honorees

Movement – a get out the vote organization spearheaded by Tina Butts.

Then Darius Coleman took the stage and wowed the crowd with a rendition of a Luther Vandross song. Coleman, only 27, is destined for stardom, it seems, and most of the audience appeared to agree.

After dinner, the musical guest, Keith Washington, took the stage and thrilled the crowd with his musical stylings.

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union opened doors for its first day of business on July 21, 1996. In the past 22 years, the credit union has started an African-American Festival – now in its 14 years, an African-American parade and opened a new, free-standing facility at 1441 Dorr Street – greatly expanding the services it provides to the community.



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Ohio Teacher of the Year – TPS Career Employee - Honored

This month, state Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) presented a resolution to Mona Al-Hayani in honor of being named the 2019 Ohio Teacher of the Year. Each year, the Ohio Department of Education offers this award to an exceptional teacher in recognition of their work in and outside the classroom.



“Our teachers are among the most influential people in a young adult’s life,” said Senator Brown. “Ms. Al-Hayani challenges her students to not only become the best scholars they can be, but to also exercise civic responsibility so that they may grow into informed and engaged citizens. She is not just a teacher but a role model in every regard.”

A history teacher at Toledo Early College High School, Al-Hayani has spent her entire 23-year teaching career with Toledo Public Schools. At Toledo Early College, she advises the National Honor Society and Young Women for Change, a student-led organization. Al-Hayani is the vice president of the Toledo Federation of Teachers and serves as the Federation’s Director of Human Trafficking and Social Justice Issues. She is a two-time U.S. Department of Education Fulbright Hayes awardee and the first educator from Toledo Public Schools to receive the Ohio Teacher of the Year award.

Caregiver Expo Aims to Help Family Caregivers Provide Self-Care and Find Providers for their Loved One

With about 60 exhibitors, nationally known speaker and author, Kathryn M. Kilpatrick, M.A., CCC/SLP, and a complimentary lunch, the free Caregiver Expo will be an event where family caregivers are celebrated and strengthened in their role.

The Caregiver Expo was held on Saturday, November 10, at Parkway Place, 2592 Parkway Plaza in Maumee. Daughters, sons, spouses, church members, and others that care for an aging loved one were welcomed to this event.

While they may not think of themselves as caregivers, those who help an aging loved one with any of the following activities are the focus of this event: helping with grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, going to doctor appointments, helping with meals and/or paying bills. The event connected caregivers with resources to support them in their caregiving role.

...continued on page 9



“The real estate agent said we might be more comfortable living in a different neighborhood.”



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The unpaid care provided by these individuals is how 87 percent of the long-term care in this country is provided, with paid care by nursing homes, home health agencies, and others making up the remaining 13 percent.

This selfless work caring for a loved one can be extremely stressful and can eventually take a toll on the health of the family caregivers if they don't make a conscious effort to take care of themselves. Caregivers often make sure the individual they care for makes their doctors' appointments, eats well

and gets enough rest while at the same time neglecting to do the same for themselves. Some studies show that about 50 percent of caregivers die before the people they care for.

The stress that often takes a toll on caregivers who try to go it alone in caring for their aging loved one is usually twofold: time constraints and financial constraints. At the event, free resources were available to help address all these different types of strains.

By utilizing some of the resources available in the community to supplement the care they provide and getting a temporary break when they need it, family caregivers can care better and longer for their loved one.

Sometimes all a caregiver needs is a temporary break from their caregiving duties so they do not prematurely have to stop giving the care they provide. There are a variety of ways a temporary break can be provided. For more information, contact 419-382-0624 or www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com.

The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio (AOoA) helps older adults live long, quality, independent lives in its 10 county service area. The AOoA provides programs and services that help younger and more active older adults remain healthy, engaged, and vibrant for as long as possible. Programs and services also help frail older adults remain as independent as possible as well as services and programs for everyone in between.

Caregiver Expo... continued from page 8

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Maggie Anderson's Black Year – Her Journey to Support Black Owned Businesses

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

It all began some years ago in a five-star restaurant, according to what has since become legend.

Maggie Anderson and her husband John were celebrating their anniversary and reflecting on their blessings. A well-educated, professional couple, living in a nice Chicago suburb, living the good life.

On that particular evening, as the only black folks in the restaurant, their conversation inevitably turned to the fact of “the discouraging status of blacks in America.”

On so many occasions, for so many people, such talk usually ends when the waiter brings the check. The Andersons discussed action on this occasion,

however. They knew that Black America has a buying power approaching one trillion dollars annually but that not much of those dollars end up in the black community – two percent typically goes to black-owned businesses.

Finally, several years later, the Andersons were ready to take action. In 2009, they went black – they made the effort to only buy black. And what an effort it was.

Black-owned grocery stores were particularly difficult to find, black-owned clothing stores almost as rare. Long drives through the inner city to find businesses that had closed before the Andersons arrived.

The Andersons chronicled their adventures on a web site and then in a book titled *Our Black Year*.

Why was Anderson so driven to undertake such a challenge – the “Empowerment Experiment?”

“It was mostly guilt,” Anderson told The Truth several years ago when we spoke to her from her home in Chicago. “And secondly, frustration. As a financially-blessed black mother, I felt so powerless and frustrated by the asymmetry between all our talents, resources and buying power ... and what was actually represented in and reinvested in our neighborhoods. I hated feeling like the system and some unknown, uncontrollable forces were dictating the future of my kids and my community. The Experiment showed me that I could do something and that everything that hurts us is absolutely reversible. That kind of enlightenment and empowerment is a precious blessing that cannot be expressed in words. The overwhelming sense of depression is gone now because I support black businesses every day.”

What do black-owned business need to do to enhance their presence in the consciousness of potential black consumers?

“I get that question a lot because people see struggling black businesses that are not delivering the best possible goods, value or service and use that as an excuse not to seek and support their own,” said Anderson. “So those folks want to hear Maggie Anderson blame our businesses so they can be justified for preventing the recycling of our wealth and feel no responsibility for contributing to the demise of our culture and neighborhoods.”

“I think that if our people were to look at how hard it is for our businesses and accept responsibility for crippling them, maybe we’d focus more on supporting them and less on stereotyping and criticizing them and talking about what they need to do to earn our business. And then we should be spending just at least as much time talking about what all those mainstream brands and all those outside groups, that do nothing for our community, need to do to earn our blind support.”

What are the great challenges for black-owned businesses in their pursuit to grab a piece of the consumers’ dollars?

“It is obvious that the major problem facing our

... continued on page 11



Maggie Anderson

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The Importance of Supporting Black-Owned Businesses

By Jay Black
Guest Column

I have studied this issue for some time now and have come to the conclusion that we will not solve the economic and social problems that have plagued our community for the past few generations unless we change our thinking and behavior relative to supporting our businesses.

Why, you might ask?

When we don't have control over our own commerce we are at the mercy and control of others. Have you wondered how non-black -wned businesses (white, Middle Eastern, Asian) dominate the small businesses in our community while at the same time knowing that they would never allow this to happen in reverse in their communities?

It is called the control of commerce.

Have you wondered why every other ethnic group supports it' own except us? Perhaps they understand this concept more than we do. I must add that it is not possible at this time for us to spend 100 percent of our discretionary income with black-owned businesses because we are not in every business discipline locally. For instance, there are no black-owned new RV dealers in this area so there is no opportunity to buy a new unit from an African American.

The good news is we can begin to reverse these adverse trends by consciously changing our behavior and by spending some of our money with African Americans on a consistent basis. I challenge you to make an effort to patronize a black-owned business at least three times a month for starters. If you need help with finding quality African -American businesses call the TAACC office. Listed below are just three benefits of supporting our businesses on a regular basis.

1. We have greater control of what goes on in our community. For those of you who are old enough remember the days when Dorr, City Park, Division and Collingwood streets formed the core of our communities' busi-

ness district, there was a tremendous sense of pride in knowing that we "owned something." Our children saw black business owners on a daily basis and could more readily aspire to be one of them. We had control over who worked in those businesses and our dollar turned over multiple times before it left our community. The unemployment rate was much lower in our community then than it is today.

2. Unemployment Rate. We will begin to reduce the unemployment rate in our community if we can help our businesses grow. Go into any African-American-owned business and you are apt to see African Americans working in them. There is a large and growing segment in our community whom no one will hire (except us). These are the ex-felons, and Bobos, Junebugs, Shykondas and Aquacenas in our families and churches. There are approximately 2.0 million African-American owned businesses in America and approximately 1.9 million unemployment amongst African Americans. If we would help our businesses grow by patronizing them on a consistent basis we could conceivably solve the unemployment problem in our community.

3. Crime Rate. We can reduce the crime rates in our community by helping our businesses grow. How? When Pookie is gainfully employed he doesn't have time to get with the wrong crowd and consequently get into trouble. We could also drastically reduce the recidivism rates for those who are currently in the system if they had access to gainful employment once they exit the system.

Ed Note: This column is reprinted from our 11.22.2016 issue

Maggie Anderson... continued from page 10

businesses is lack of access to capital and influencers," said Anderson. "In addition, the spirit of entrepreneurship has faded in our community. Before, it was a survival strategy. Other folks would not hire or sell to us, so we were forced to create for, sell to and hire each other. We did it and got better and better at it. Our businesses, as they were able to depend on a loyal black consumer base, made money and were able to re-invest in their own growth, while gradually being able to control more parts of the supply chain relevant to their industry. They were able to diversify, own multiple firms and had the wherewithal to support each other's businesses, even if it cost a little more to do so."

What are the long-range benefits for the black community as a whole

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Insights on the Movement to Support Black-Owned Businesses

Owners of black-owned businesses may have increased opportunities to attract new customers due to recent societal changes.

July 22, 2016

Recent events involving the African-American community are alarming and distressing. But the resulting call within the community to support black-owned companies may have the potential to be game-changing for some small businesses.

"Although many recent events have been unfortunate, the black community has awakened to the fact that they can create opportunities and use resources within their own communities," says Phillip Dunn, a BOB (Black-Owned Business) advocate and CEO of A Seat At The Table, a company that seeks to generate more business for BOBs. "We've recently seen a reconnection of sorts within the culture [that's] bringing Black Americans closer together," says Dunn. "The ongoing events have forced the community to look inward for solutions."

The African-American community has definitely been shocked into action, adds Shekira Dennis, civic leader and co-founder of the Houston Justice Coalition. "The economic driver is to ensure that we are supporting black-owned and -operated businesses by recirculating our dollars in the African-American business community."

Money Makes a Statement

Misty Starks, CEO of Misty Blue Media, a public relations and content creation company, agrees. "Many black Americans feel that if we can't get justice and equality in our neighborhoods, schools, at work and in the court system, we'll use the one thing we know will get attention and spark change, and that's historically been money. We can chant, we can march and we can create catchy hashtags on social media, but it all falls on deaf ears until money is involved. This movement to patronize black businesses is definitely offering smaller, unknown businesses a lot more visibility and opportunity."

As a result of the movement, some consumers are taking the time to actually research African-American businesses and patronize them, adds Dennis. "This will benefit small businesses and bring some long overdue exposure to their community."

We've recently seen a reconnection of sorts within the culture [that's] bringing black Americans closer together. The ongoing events have forced the community to look inward for solutions.

—Phillip Dunn, CEO, A Seat at the Table

As black consumers use word-of-mouth tactics to bring visibility to BOBs, newer small businesses may benefit from the call to "buy Black" by being able to start off with a sufficient customer base from within their community, adds Dunn. "In addition to an increase in revenues and income for BOBs, the migration will provide them with opportunities for growth, such as hiring more staff, which drives down the unemployment rate, and expansion into new markets."

Historically, black-owned businesses have tried to market to the black community. But many BOBs have faced a lack of consistent support and acknowledgment, believes Robert Van Arlen, an international speaker, trainer and coach. "Recently, the press has caused the black community to galvanize and support. Black businesses that have always advertised and marketed towards the community are also finding it easier to retain existing consumers and gain new ones."

Take Advantage of the Movement

In order to continue to ride the change in tide, black business owners who act with a sense of urgency may be able to attract, secure and retain this new influx of customers, as well as existing ones, believes Dunn. "This will require a transformation in thought leadership, operating practices and historical beliefs about black consumers, which could result in increased entrepreneurship in the black community. As an increasing number of individuals become comfortable with

...continued on page 13



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Friday Black: Stories by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You are the strongest person you know.

You can lift and carry a lot of weight and many burdens, because strength comes from within as well as from muscles. So what are you capable of doing when times get strange? Place yourself in the short stories inside *Friday Black* by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, and see.

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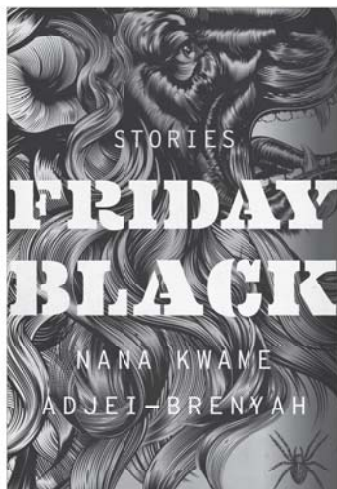
Emmanuel had grown up with a strength his parents nurtured.

They taught him everything they knew about keeping a young Black man alive; because of that, Emmanuel rarely presented his "Blackness" at the top of a one-to-ten scale. At most, he kept it somewhere near the middle. But in "The Finkelstein 5," when a white man was acquitted of killing five black kids with a chainsaw, Emmanuel doubted if he was strong enough to keep his Blackness at anything less than a "10."

Anything less than the blunt truth is a bad thing in "The Era," and Ben knows it. He was not "optimized" at birth, however, so no matter how truthful he is, he'll never be as cool as some of the boys in his "HowItWas class." He'll never make anyone happy, and that's fine. He'll get by because the New Federation makes sure everyone has access to a daily syringe full of Good. Ben gets his at school every day. He wishes he could get more. He's in danger of becoming a "shoelooker" and it will take strength to avoid that.

The gates in front of the store were holding – for now.

It's Black Friday and as customers press forward, there's a stampede and a little girl falls. Lance is working clean-up, and he tries to get her body out of the



way but the child's mother grabs the dazed girl first, and heads for any bargain she can find. Whatever. The narrator of *Friday Black* doesn't care. Bodies will pile up even higher before the day's over and shoppers are gone home. In the meantime, he'll sell more coats than anybody else; he'll see more drooling, half-crazed buyers than anyone; and he'll win the annual contest.

The strongest always does...

Picking up *Friday Black* won't be difficult. Opening it is a piece of cake. It doesn't weigh much at all, but the stories inside are heavy, so beware.

In a dozen short tales and just under 200 pages, author Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah takes

readers on quite the ride. It starts with a tale that, if you squint, isn't so very implausible at all, and moves toward the dystopian before slyly commenting on greed and American consumerism. If that sounds like a two-ton book, well, you're almost right: most of these tales are hefty, but they're also infinitely entertaining and irresistible. Reading them is like nibbling at futuristic fiction, but the future is tomorrow.

For a fan of stick-with-you stories, this book is a winner. It's perfect for readers who don't want the same old thing, or want something quick to read. If you're looking for an early gift to give, *Friday Black* is a pretty strong bet.



Insights... continued from page 12

the level of support from within the community, they will be more likely to risk starting and operating a business."

When black business owners do get an increase in business, Dunn advises being prepared. "If you own a small restaurant with 42 chairs operating near full capacity every day, you may not be readily able to effectively absorb a five to 15 percent increase in customers," he says. "It's important for BOBs to anticipate this recent upswing and staff accordingly. Otherwise, some new consumers may revert to prior spending behaviors and choices."

Van Arlen suggests seizing the opportunity by developing marketing materials that engage the community, such as websites, flyers and radio ads. "It's also a great time for black-owned businesses to look for sources of capital if needed, because any expenditure in marketing has the opportunity to produce a greater ROI."

Perhaps most importantly, if you're going to succeed at increasing business, you may want to overcome your fear of failure, believes Alexander Joyce, president of ReJoyce Financial. "Be passionate about what you're doing and what you stand for. If you are providing a service or adding value, execute with a purpose and never lose sight of your goal."

Maggie Anderson... continued from page 10

when we become infused with the spirit to support our own black businesses?

"We believe that these challenges can be resolved with heightened and proactive demand from black consumers," said Anderson. "We must focus on supporting top-quality black businesses that do exist. Once we do that, those businesses can grow and locate their plants and retail outlets in underserved black neighborhoods. Not only could they counter unemployment there, they could help attract more investment – black and not – to the struggling areas that are currently underserved."

"Another major impact is that black businesses trying to earn more contracts and partnerships with major main stream corporations can more effectively negotiate and might even be actively recruited if those big firms see the power of a mobilized black consumer base. We would see a lot more of our products on the shelves of the major retailers, a lot more black franchises and a lot more contracts being given to our entrepreneurs and professionals if corporate America were to see that black consumers are starting to be more loyal to black businesses."

In the time since Maggie Anderson started The Empowerment Experiment Foundation, she has appeared on a variety of television and radio shows explaining the purpose of the Experiment.

Anderson earned her BA from Emory University and her law degree and masters of business administration from the University of Chicago.

"I cannot, after our journey and living my life as a conscious consumer now, say that black businesses need to do more to appeal to me," said Anderson. "Once I realized how important it was to find them, I was able to support them. It is not as hard as people think."



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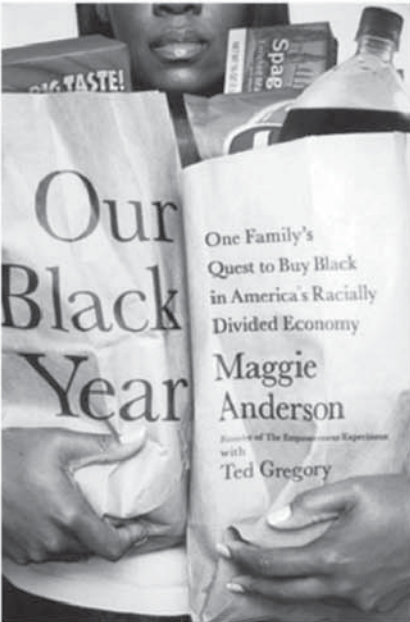
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PROJECT COORDINATOR, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANT ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Lourdes University seeks a Project Coordinator for Dept. of Justice Grant on Violence Prevention to implement comprehensive violence prevention programs. Bachelor's degree in counseling, social work, etc., training /presenting experience, and ability to work some evenings/weekends required. 1-3 years victim services experience helpful. Submit cover letter, resume/CV, 3 professional references (MS Word or pdf only) to resume@lourdes.edu. See www.lourdes.edu/jobs for details. EOE

NATURAL RESOURCES TECHNICIAN EAST 3

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a Natural Resources Technician East 3 to maintain the natural areas throughout Metroparks. Position location: Pearson Metropark. Experience in land management/natural areas stewardship required. HS Diploma or equivalent required. \$16.05/hr. Full time position with benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers to view the job description, position requirements and apply online. EOE

MEDICAID WAIVER CASE AIDE

Provides data entry and monitoring of Medicaid eligibility through the MITS and Ohio Benefits (OB) computer systems. Facilitates program enrollment for PASSPORT and other waivers.

Requires excellent interpersonal skills and computer/data entry skills. Associates Degree in Human Services or 2 year degree with at least 1 year of experience in human services also required. Experience with Medicaid in the State of Ohio preferred. Reliable transportation, insurance, and valid driver's license and successfully passing criminal background check and drug/alcohol screening required.

EEO/APP, Bilingual and minority applicants encouraged to apply.

Deadline for Application: Until Filled

Submit resumes to:
Samuel H. Hancock Ed.D.
Human Resources Officer
Area Office on Aging of NW Ohio, Inc.
2155 Arlington Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43609

Or jobs@areaofficeonaging.com

This description is intended to indicate the kind of tasks and level of work difficulty required of the position. The title of this job shall not be construed as declaring the specific duties and responsibilities of the position. This position description and/or job vacancy notice is not intended to limit or in any way modify the rights of any supervisor to assign, direct, and control the work of employees under supervision. The use of this particular expression or illustration describing duties shall not be held to exclude other duties not mentioned.



NORTHGATE APARTMENTS

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Senior Community for persons 55 years and older. Rent is based on income. Our Activity and Service Coordinators are on site. Heat included. Chauffeured transportation to nearby shopping and banks available.



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OPPORTUNITY
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COMPTRROLLER

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a Comptroller to administer Metroparks accounting and finance functions. Full time with benefits. Located at Wildwood Preserve. The qualified candidate must have three years experience in accounting, finance or treasury. Governmental professional accounting and treasury management experience preferred. Position requires a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance or equivalent combination of education and work experience; CPA or CMA preferred. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view the job description, position requirements and apply online by November 26th. EOE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County Commissioners Seek Applicants for Vacancies on Toledo Lucas County Commission on Disabilities

The Board of Lucas County Commissioners is seeking applicants for current vacancies that exist on the Toledo Lucas County Commission on Disabilities (TLCCOD). This Commission is made up of 21 individuals that are appointed by either Lucas County (10) or by the City of Toledo (11). Emphasis for appointments to this Commission shall be on appointing individuals with disabilities, immediate family members of individuals with disabilities, or those who have demonstrated a commitment to people living with disabilities. Currently the TLCCOD has three (3) open Lucas County positions, one (1) from northwest Lucas County (includes the Villages of Berkey, Ottawa Hills; Richfield, Sylvania, Spencer and Harding Townships; and the City of Sylvania) and two (2) from southwest Lucas County (includes the Villages of Swanton, Holland and Whitehouse; Waterville, Monclova, Providence and Springfield Townships; and the City of Maumee). The primary purpose of the TLCCOD is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Lucas County Commissioners, the City of Toledo mayor, and to the Toledo City Council directly on issues relating to the needs, problems, and other concerns of people with disabilities. Appointed commission members must be available to meet on the second Thursday of every other month at 4:30 p.m. Every Commission member is also appointed to serve on one of three standing committees that meet on the off months at a convenient time for all of the respective committee members. The Board of Lucas County Commissioners actively seeks to appoint volunteer boards and commissions that reflect the diversity of our community. Any person interested in being considered for a board vacancy must fill out the "Application for a Public Volunteer" form. A detailed resume must be enclosed with the completed application form. Applications are available from the Board of Lucas County Commissioners office at One Government Center, Suite 800, Toledo, Ohio, 43604, or by calling (419) 213-4500. A printable version of the application also is available on the Lucas County Commissioners' website at <http://oh-lucascounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/631>. Applications for the above-listed board vacancies will be accepted through the end of the business day at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2018. The completed applications and resumes must be forwarded to the attention of Lucas County Deputy Clerk Steven Spittler at sspittler@co.lucas.oh.us or the address listed above.

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR AVIATION CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (TLCPA) is seeking a qualified aviation consulting and engineering firm to provide professional planning, environmental, architectural, administration and engineering services for the Toledo Express Airport and Toledo Executive Airport. These services are to be provided in connection with the capital improvement plan (CIP) for both airports.

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will result in a multi-year agreement with a consultant for a period of five (5) years. The selected consultant will then negotiate and enter into sub-agreements for services, based on the scope of work, with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority on a project/assignment basis during the term of the five (5) year period.

The required format for the proposal to be submitted to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is described in detail in the full copy of the Request for Qualifications, and is available by either (1) emailing Tina Perkins at Tperkins@Toledoport.org or (2) visiting the Port Authority's website at <http://www.toledoport.org/connect/public-notices/>. Proposals are due no later than 1:00 p.m. (local time), Friday, December 21, 2018.

AWESOME PANAMA TRIP

Springtime in beautiful Panama!
Panama City, Panama – NOT FLORIDA!!
The most cosmopolitan capital in Central America
6 days, 5 nights
May 2-7, 2019
Included: Tours, Breakfast and more,
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Powell & White Elegant Tours
Call 419-536-1519 or 248-890-8345 cell
Ophelia Powell – Passport Required



St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Holds Annual Health Awareness Day

Attending to the Needs of Others

On Saturday, November 17, 2018, the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church shared a message of love and caring with the community.

It was St. Paul's Annual Health Awareness Day. Thanksgiving baskets were also given as a part of the sharing in love at this holiday season. Baskets were filled with all of the necessities for a bountiful thanksgiving dinner.

Pastor James H. Willis Sr. and the Christian Board of Education expressed



The Christian Board of Education



Top Ladies - Denise Black-Poon, 2nd VP; Barbara Tucker, Denise Cardwell, 1st VP; Liz Flournoy, Mary McKinley-Reed, president; Delores Bates; Wanda Terrell Galloway



great appreciation to the ABC (Health Care Agency) that rendered this service to the church and community. Deaconess Mary Reed, a St. Paul member and an ABC Health Administrator, organized this event, an event that has taken place for the past six years. Reed always has a passion for wellness along with a belief that physical health and spiritual well-being go hand in hand.

The Top Ladies of Distinction volunteered and participated in the blessing of giving to others. Reed currently serves as the president of this group of women. The Top Ladies gave away African-American dolls to those in the care of Children Services along with Thanksgiving food baskets. They also passed out information on diabetes, Alzheimer's, sickle cell anemia as well as the conducting screenings for blood pressure.

Reaching out to help with the needs of others is very much a part of this historical church.



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- Transit Planner

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TRANSPORTATION
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To uphold the mission of serving our community, applicants must meet the following requirements for all TARTA positions:

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- High School Diploma/GED
- Must be at least 21 years of age
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- Safe driving record (less than 2 points)
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