



# The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 53, No. 6

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

December 12, 2018

## State Rep. Michael Ashford Moves On



Jessica Ford and daughter, Michael and Ruth Ashford, Fred Strahorn



Michael and Ruth Ashford

Another Longtime Local Elected Official Bids Farewell ... for Now



State Rep. Michael Ashford and Rev. Jerry Boose



Ashford and IMA President Rev. Cedric Brock



Rep. Michael Ashford



State Rep. Michael Ashford and Rich Cordray

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# A Champion Moves On

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

The Truth Contributor

*All of us driven by a simple belief that the world as it is just won't do . . . have an obligation to fight for the world as it should be.*

- Michelle Robinson Obama



Michael Ashford was recently described by one of his peers as a "quiet giant, who fights fiercely for the people of Ohio District 44." The characterization is on point.

Ashford has exhibited a patient but passionate relentlessness in both his style and process since first arriving on the local political scene. Appointed to city council in 2002 to represent District 4, State Representative Ashford will leave the Ohio Legislature on December 31, 2018 after having served the more than 116,000 constituents in District 44 for the past eight years. During Ashford's tenure in Columbus he ascended to Minority Whip and served on several powerful committees.

One key to Ashford's success has been his relationship with his community, which was nurtured by his ability to work closely with the faith community across denominations and factions. More than any other local politician, Ashford understood that it was critical to maintain relationships with those who were closest to "the people" and understood their needs and the pressures they were facing. He would often take pastors and preachers out to lunch just to make sure that he kept his finger on the pulse of those he represented.

Yet, Ashford, like any other fighter (or politician), took his share of punches. What is impressive is that the "slings and arrows of the profession did not deter him from his work," said a one-time political adversary. "Neither did they change his character or integrity. He just kept fighting and trying to do the next right thing."

And that's just what a great champion does.

So, I spoke with Representative Ashford to reflect upon his time spent fighting on behalf of "his people" and what we can expect for his next challenge.

**Perryman:** What led you to a career in politics?

**Ashford:** I've always been mission-driven to help people. I started a nonprofit almost 40 years ago and from there I was a volunteer and then

became an elected official, but my focus has always been to serve people.

**Perryman:** What are you most proud of during your time in Columbus as a state representative?

**Ashford:** I was able to reach bipartisan support for House Bill 123, a payday lending bill, which is the biggest consumer protection legislation in this country. We have Republicans that control the Ohio Senate, House and Executive

Branch that supported and signed this bill. What this does is save people from the predatory practices that they have to go through just to keep food on their table. So I'm very proud of the fact that we were able to touch approximately two million people to make sure that they keep more of their money.

**Perryman:** To protect the rights of the poor and working people against the payday lending corporations that prey on them has been one of the most impactful pieces of legislation to come out of Northwest Ohio.

Can you provide some sense of the thrills and disappointments of serving in the legislature?

**Ashford:** Well, let me tell you this, coming out of Toledo I thought I was completely ready for Columbus, but when I got there it was eye opening, even at my age because what happens is that you have people who have been down there 15, 20 years or more, who know the system and know how it works, so it's on the job training right away. But the fortunate thing for me is that I brought the level of experience with being in leadership on city council to Columbus, and being able to work with all my Democrats down there enabled me to jump into a leadership position right away. I was able to understand the legislative process and the overall process of helping people get elected. So that was an advantage I had. Let's put it like this, I had the utmost respect for my Democratic colleagues in Columbus because they'd wake up every day, they'd strap on their boots and they knew it was going to be an uphill battle, but yet they'd go in and fight for their constituents. I commend them for that because they just don't give up.

As far as some of the dark things, even common sense bills that we sub-

... continued on page 3



Michael Ashford

## The Sojourner's Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604  
Phone 419-243-0007 \* Fax 419-255-7700  
thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

## Community Calendar

### 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

### December 13

TARTA Forum: 5:00 pm at King Road Branch Library: To discuss the fate of suggested TARTA cutbacks in service in light of Sylvania Township trustees' decision not to allow voters a say in the matter of funding

### December 25

Merry Christmas!  
The Thomas Temple Church Of God In Christ Annual Free Christmas Dinner: Serving from 1:00 - 3:00 pm; All are welcome: 419 255-3447.

### December 26

Blood Drive: 10 am to 3 pm; ProMedica Toledo Hospital; Coxton Room

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

mitted were shot down because it was all partisan politics there. But this is what I'm proud of too besides the house bill. I knew I had arrived when I started to present bills and [the Republicans] would take my bills to their committee and hold them for a year and then renumber them and claim them as their own. That was a compliment right there. I knew I had arrived. I knew that I was doing something good.

**Perryman:** What were some other obstacles or barriers you faced?

**Ashford:** Basically, that the Democrats were outnumbered. Outside of that, we knew it was going to be tough. It was always an uphill battle to get legislation passed because you had two different political philosophies. It's real politics in Columbus just like it's real politics in DC. There is very little bipartisan work, so that's why I'm proud of my House Bill 123 and everybody, all the Republicans, majority Republicans, jumped on that bandwagon.

**Perryman:** Why aren't more people involved in politics in Toledo?

**Ashford:** I'm glad you said the key word - Toledo. There's all kind of young folks being involved in politics in Cleveland, Akron, Cincinnati, and all over the state, especially young African Americans. The biggest problem in Toledo, is not the lack of talent, but is the lack of financial support for people to go into politics, meaning that if you're a young person in your 30's or 40's and you've got a young family, you can't survive off \$27,500 just being a city council person here.

When you look at other city council people like Cleveland, which starts in the \$60's, Columbus is in the \$50's and Cincinnati is up there. They're all in the \$50-60's range for people to have a comfortable income to take care of their families. So a lot of young folks are not at that position where they can work city council and then have another full-time job. So until we change the pay scale for city council, what we will continue to see is a lot of young people just not getting involved.

**Perryman:** What advice do you have for others who are coming after you?

**Ashford:** I think what happens is that as long as you understand the overall mission of why you're there is to work hard and serve your constituents, there's always going to be some uphill battles. You might have some great ideas, but

because it's partisan politics you may not get your bill passed, but that shouldn't cause you to give up. You have to continue to work that room, reach across the aisle and continue to work hard at everything you do. And so my advice is develop some relationships with both Democrats and Republicans, which I had, and make sure that you're fair and you treat everybody with respect and dignity.

**Perryman:** So what's next for Michael Ashford?

**Ashford:** Oh, I'm not done with public service; I'm always about this community and about what I can do to help people in our community, so I'll find a niche somewhere.

**Perryman:** Some might consider that response somewhat vague.

**Ashford:** No, I mean, public service could come in politics, community service, volunteering somewhere or in any of a number of different areas.

**Perryman:** You've spent the last 16 years in politics. What skills have you developed that might be transferable to further service in the community?

**Ashford:** Well, it's not only my politics, but you have to look at my 40 years of nonprofit experience. You also have to consider the financial experience I've had both in the private sector as well as political sector; my management background and being able to supervise, evaluate, and manage facilities. You have to look at my overall resume. It's strong, and I have worked hard to hone those skills that you can transfer to just about any other field. And you know what? You get that with age and you get that with experience.

**Perryman:** Do you have any regrets?

**Ashford:** Oh no, absolutely not. It was a wonderful opportunity to serve people and be their voice in Columbus. I just know that it's going to be a great opportunity for the new state rep and I hope that they take full advantage of it.

**Perryman:** Okay, wherever you end up I'm certain that you're going to be successful and make it much better once you arrive. Best Wishes!

**Ashford:** Thank you.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org)

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In addition to the Nutcracker, the band will be performing a number of great holiday big band arrangements from the bands of Glenn Miller, Bob McCombs, Tom Kuller, and others. Also featured will be arrangements written for the United States Air Force Armies of Hope, and the United States Army Jazz Ambassadors. The concert will conclude with some Jazz, Glenn Miller and a special closing number.

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# Go Fund Your Final Expenses with Life Insurance!!

By Vince Davis, State Farm Insurance

Guest Column

I get it! In some cases having a Go Fund Me page to bury your loved ones is unavoidable. If you or your loved one did not prepare for their inevitable demise, then the burden will be left on someone else. Family, friends and the community often are required to, "pick up the slack."

We should, or parents should, purchase whole life insurance. The younger and healthier you are, the better the policy and lower the rate (generally). Parents should purchase a whole life policy on their children as soon as possible. That policy will grow in cash value and the death benefit will expand.

When you or they die the policy can be used to pay our final expenses and provide additional living expenses for your or their family. The cash value grows over time. If you live long, there will be more cash value in the policy than you paid in.

We as adults are responsible for having the means/money or insurance to care for, educate and, if need be, bury our children.

If we pass away before (we think) it is our time and do not plan for it, then our family will be holding the bag/bills/burden.

People are dying. We are not prepared for death in too many cases. Maybe we think that death will not affect us. Death will touch all of us, one day. We pray that death does not visit us soon. However, your death will affect everyone that cares for you. Your death will impact everyone that you love.

- Failure to prepare for one's transition from this life will unfairly burden your loved ones as you transform to The Next Life
- Life insurance is not as expensive as you might think;
- Generally life insurance is less expensive the younger and healthier you are when you buy it;



Vince Davis

- The price is locked in for the rest of your life when you buy Whole Life Insurance;
- The price of Whole Life Insurance will not go up and the coverage will not go down;
- Life insurance is generally not an investment, but some policies accrue cash value

You can still purchase a reasonably priced life insurance policy, even if you are not young (in some cases). Let's get together and talk about: MAKING LIFE GO RIGHT. It is normally not in your best interest to cancel an old permanent life insurance policy to buy a new one. Do not cancel any policy with the anticipation of getting another. The new one might not get approved. Make sure you read the entire policy before accepting it. Make sure you get what you think you're paying for!

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## Free Training for a Month!

By Ryan Rollison

The Truth Contributor

Yes, that's right, FREE training for a month.

I am offering a free month of Dream Bodies Fit Camp for the New Year. Read on for details.

Every year I get texts and emails about keeping the weight off for the holidays and losing it for the New Year. Everyone wants to start fresh after the holidays.

A recent study showed that 80 percent of Americans surveyed had given up any hopes for keeping their weight in check over the holidays. They will "just start after the holidays."

Are you one of these 80 percent or are you a part of the 20 percent? I hope you are one of the 20. It makes absolutely no sense to give up and eat horribly just because it's the holiday season. Show some discipline and keep some personal nutritional goals so that you can stay on top of your weight management.

Why would you throw away all your efforts no matter how big or

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# Detroit NAACP Slams Michigan Republicans for Trying to Limit Democrats Power

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent

@StacyBrownMedia

Rev. Wendell Anthony, D.Min. isn't taking the latest efforts by the outgoing Republican administration in Michigan sitting down.

Anthony, who's president of the NAACP in Detroit – the Civil Rights organization's largest branch – is leading an effort to stop several bills proposed by lame duck Republicans who lost the midterm elections.

Anthony said the actions taken by the GOP-led legislature are "more crooked than the great train robberies committed by Jesse and Frank James in the Missouri territories."

"The only thing the legislature in Michigan lacks is a face mask and a six-shooter," Anthony said. The outspoken Anthony listed seven bills as troublesome:

Senate Bills 1238-1240 undercuts the Promote the Vote proposal.

Senate Bill 1254 undercuts the anti-gerrymandering proposal.

Senate Bill 1252 shifts the oversight of campaign finance law from the incoming Secretary of State.

House Bill 6553 would allow the Michigan House of Representatives and the Senate to interfere with legal proceedings involving the state (traditionally the responsibility of the state Attorney General or the Governor's office).

Senate Bill 1175 would change the way employers provide paid sick time and the number of employers exempted by various business entities.

Senate Bill 1171 would gut the minimum wage initiative, a measure that would assure the minimum wage would rise according to inflation. "Rogue lawmakers are already trashing the one fair minimum-wage agreement, fought for by workers across the state," Anthony said.

Senate Bill 1182 would change the way law suits and civil actions should be awarded to both the attorneys representing the plaintiffs and the defendants. "It is designed to discourage citizens and organizations filing civil actions against various injustices," he said.

Anthony told NNPA Newswire that the actions are "a treacherous mean-spirited, underhanded and deceptive Republican theft of what should be a democratic process."

"They have not gotten the memo that we won the election and they are mad, and they are upset and trying to offset the result of the election by setting themselves up to maintain power before the Democratic administration can come in," Anthony said.

Together the proposals, which would still require the signature of outgoing Republican Gov. Rick Snyder, would essentially take away or greatly diminish the power from Governor-elect Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State-elect Jocelyn Benson and Attorney General-elect Dana Nessel.

The GOP-sponsored bills came within hours of similar efforts in Wisconsin, where lawmakers voted earlier to shift clout to the Republican-controlled Legislature and weaken the Democrat replacing the GOP gov-

ernor.

In January, Michigan Democrats will jointly hold the governor, attorney general and secretary offices for the first time in 28 years, but the Legislature will continue to be controlled by Republicans.

A day after GOP lawmakers finalized an unprecedented maneuver to gut minimum wage and paid sick leave laws, a Senate panel passed legislation that would create the Fair Political Practices Commission to enforce the campaign-finance law rather than Benson, who ran in part on a pledge to advocate for election transparency.

Democrats called the bill a blatant power grab that would fly in the face of voters, according to NBC News.

"At no point did voters say they wanted the rules manipulated. At no point did they say they wanted bills rushed through a hasty lame-duck session," Patrick Schuh, state director for the liberal group America Votes, told NBC News.

He, like Anthony and others, questioned the timing, saying such a commission was not proposed until a Democrat is on the verge of leading the secretary of state office for the first time in two-dozen years.

Chief among the many proposals ranking Democrats and voters alike is a proposal that requires a legislative committee rather than the Attorney General to sign off on withdrawing from federal lawsuits, now sits on the table.

In Wisconsin, it would also give the legislature oversight over Governor-Elect Tony Evers, potentially preventing him from seeking waivers for health care.

Outgoing governor Scott Walker is even backing away from his promise to ensure coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, made during the height of the recent election.

"He is hiding behind a political mask of a lawsuit filed this past February which attempts to declare the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional," Anthony said.

Two years ago, several similar measures were declared unconstitutional in the state of North Carolina. One measure in particular was the 2016 ruling by the federal courts that ended the practice of gerrymandering in the state.

Judge James A. Wynn of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit Court indicated, "When maps are gerrymandered, the government no longer reflects the will of the people."

The ruling questioned North Carolina's general assembly's "Commitment to acting constitutionally compliant, nondiscriminatory election laws."

"One can recall the July 2016 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling

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# Brown, Portman Bill Honors Baseball Pioneer Larry Doby with Congressional Gold Medal

*Doby Was the First African-American to Play in the American League, Effectively Integrating All of Professional Baseball*

Last week, the U.S. Senate passed Senators Brown (D-OH) and Portman's (R-OH) bill honoring Larry Doby, the first African-American to play in the American League, with the Congressional Gold Medal for his career and contributions to the American civil rights movement. It now heads to President Trump's desk to be signed into law. In joining the American League, Doby effectively integrated all of professional baseball.

"Larry Doby seldom receives credit for his role in integrating all of professional baseball and it's past time to honor his contributions to both civil rights and America's game," said Brown, who displays in his Washington, D.C. office a replica of the statue of Doby that stands at Progressive Field. "Doby's heroism surpasses his remarkable skill – he overcame discrimination and hostility to break barriers, leading Cleveland to victory and moving our country in the right direction."

"As the first African American player in the American League, Larry Doby broke down barriers with his remarkable skill and competitive spirit and forever changed the game of baseball," said Portman. "Through sheer determination, Doby became a symbol for the fight for equality in our



Larry Doby

country, and encouraged thousands of Ohioans and kids across our country to push the boundaries of what they thought possible. I'd like to thank my colleagues in the Senate for approving this bill, and especially my colleague Jim Renacci for his leadership to get this bill done in the House."

Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby joined the Cleveland Indians in July 1947, becoming the first African-American to play in the American League. During his 13-year career in the American League, Doby tallied 1,533 games, batting .283, with 253 home runs and 970 runs batted in. He played in two World Series, leading the 1948 Cleveland Indians to a World Championship over the Boston Braves. He was the first African-American player to hit a home run in a World Series game, led the American League in home runs twice, and was voted to seven All-Star teams.

In 1978, the Chicago White Sox hired Doby as their manager and he became the second African-American manager in Major League history. He later served as Director of Community Relations for the New Jersey Nets of the National Basketball Association. He was inducted to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2013.

Doby was born in Camden, South Carolina in 1923 and moved to Paterson, New Jersey in 1938, where he became a standout athlete at Paterson Eastside High School. He attended Long Island University on a basketball scholarship before enlisting in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was discharged in 1946 and went on to play baseball in the Negro National League for the Newark Eagles. Doby passed away in 2003.

Major League Baseball, the Major League Baseball Players Association, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum support the bill.

*NAACP. continued from page 5*

indicating that North Carolina legislators, in their efforts to discriminate against black voters, had drafted a law that would target African Americans with almost surgical precision," Anthony said.

Today, in the state of North Carolina, the election in the 9th Congressional District is still not certified. This is due to allegations of voter fraud, and the elimination or destruction of over 1000 absentee ballots,

predominantly from African Americans, Anthony said.

"There has been an illegal solicitation of absentee ballots by paid individuals of a Republican operative McCrae Dowless. Why has there been no outcry of voter fraud from President Donald J. Trump? Where is the former chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, Kris Kobach, when you really need him? Do you hear the crickets chirping?"

The resolution to these issues in Michigan, Wisconsin, and North Carolina is very simple, Anthony continued. "Respect the will of the people. Get better policies and you will win more voters. Don't try to steal it, after you have lost it," he said.

There's little question the actions are a prelude to the general election of 2020, according to Anthony. Some lawmakers are running scared, he said while urging voters in Michigan not to be discouraged.

"Now is the time to be encouraged. We must not step back. We must all step up. Governor Rick Snyder, please don't go off into the pages of history having turned back the page on Michigan democracy," Anthony said.

"When these bills arrive on your desk, remember the words of the former First Lady Nancy Reagan, and 'Just say No.' Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us, 'Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. The time is always right to do what is right.' We shall not be silent because the time is always right, to do what is right, to preserve and protect our democracy," he said.



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*Free Training... continued from page 4*

small, just because everyone else around you is slacking? What did your parents say to you? "If everyone was jumping off a bridge...?" So why put the extra fat on when you have some to work off already?

The average person gains seven – 10 pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year. That's just the average, so bet your bottom dollar that the numbers are much higher than that.

Let's be realistic with the holiday eating situation. Parties, break room treats, meetings with holiday food trays, gift boxes of goodies from friends and spirits, etc, etc, etc. Now partaking in everything that is set in front of you is hopping on the fast track to that seven-plus pounds that everyone is putting on.

It's time to show some discipline and save yourself from a regretful New Year resolution to lose weight that you most likely will not stick to. Everyone has great intentions, but the reality is most people try and fail. Then the yo-yo dieting begins all year.

Let's not forget about the panic to be ready for that summer swimsuit body. Why not pay attention now instead of stressing and trying to get that quick fix? It's a life style and crash diets will never be the way to go.

Now I am not saying pass on all the holiday treats but I am saying be smart. You do NOT have to eat everything you are given. Share it with others, set it out at work and let others partake in calorie stacking. Set limits for yourself and stick to them. Eat slower, enjoy your food, pick only a few sweets to eat and be the example.

Don't wake up the next day and regret your food choices. Just think an hour of bike riding only burns about 650 calories. So you would have to ride five hours to burn one pound of fat which is 3500 calories. But you can consume 3500 calories in a matter of minutes.

I don't know about you but I am not trying to ride a bike for five hours to burn one pound of fat that's been added to the fat that is already here. Now we're talking 10 hours! No thank you.

So bottom line here is make good decisions, be smart and don't put yourself deeper into fat storage debt. Good luck and Happy Holidays.

Oh yes, the free training. I will be starting new fit camp at American Academy of Martial Arts/Judan Judo located 5020 Lewis Ave. Corner of Lewis & Lasky. First 5 emails I receive about the FREE classes will get the 12 sessions for free. The next five will get \$25.00 off.

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# IMA Presents Donation to Agencies Helping the Homeless

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance donated funds to three area agencies on Monday, December 3, 2018. Cedric Brock, president of the IMA, noting that the effort by the assorted participating churches was directed to helping the homeless of the area, praised the recipients. "They

touch the immediate impact of the homeless," he said at the onset of the monthly meeting.

The funds of \$500 each were donated to the MLK Jr, Kitchen for the Poor; the Cherry Street Mission and Family House.

Harvey Savage, Jr., executive director of the Kitchen for the Poor, thanked the IMA for their donation. "I want to thank the IMA for what they are doing," he said. "They are exhibiting leadership in the community."




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Harvey Savage, Jr, receives donation from IMA pastors

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- Safe driving record (less than 2 points)
- Legally able to work in the United States



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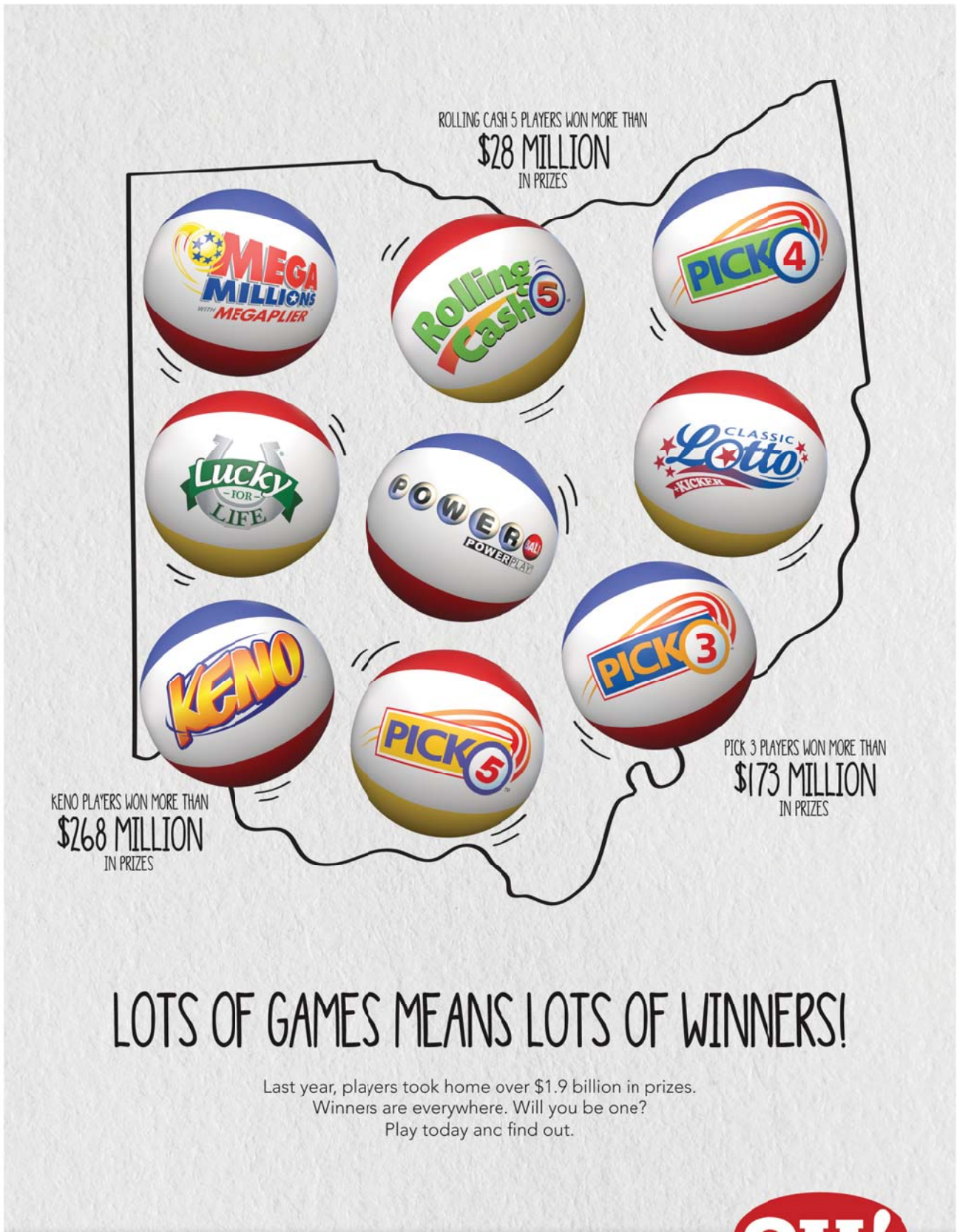
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# Great Holiday Gifts for Kids That Help Them Learn and Grow

*Special to The Truth*

It's time to think about stuffing stockings and fulfilling wish lists. But if you want your holiday gifts for kids to deliver fun long after the holidays, you may want to consider gifts that will help them learn and grow.

Here are some great gift ideas to enrich kids' lives in a number of ways.

## Boost Creativity

Art can inspire creativity, improve fine motor skills and even boost IQ. For beginners, art or crafting kits containing all the supplies they will need to create their own projects may be a great place to start.

Thinking bigger? Consider helping your gift recipient create an artist's studio. A craft or art table, an easel and a project caddy make a great combination gift for kids.

## Spark Imagination

For toddlers, play time can be an extremely valuable opportunity to build skills and reach milestones -- with the right toys at hand. Maximize toddler fun with toys such as VTech's Go! Go! Smart Wheels playsets, which spark imagination and deliver multi-sensory learning, teaching first words, letters and more.

The line-up includes the new Launch & Chase Police Tower, which lets kids serve and protect with Po the Police Car. They can launch Po from the dual launchers and chase the Getaway Car through the switch tracks, trap doors, and road obstacles, promoting important motor skills. Po responds to SmartPoint locations throughout the playset with lights, sounds and music, encouraging first words and imaginative play.

Another option from the line-up is the Tow & Go Garage, letting kids explore along with Trent the Tow Truck as they exercise important motor skills with this multi-level interactive playset. They can give a friend a lift, go up the elevator to the repair platform, or race down the ramp and get a car wash while exploring SmartPoint locations.

Lastly, the interactive Go! Go! Smart Wheels Take Flight Airport playset strengthens fine motor skills as kids fuel up at the gas station, spin the weather vane and check bags at the luggage belt. They can also launch Aaron the Airplane to take off for flight, spin around the clouds and use the ramp to make a safe landing.

## Encourage Movement

Habits formed in childhood can set the precedent for a lifetime. View gift-giving as an opportunity to encourage kids to engage in healthy hobbies. Whether it's a baseball glove and bat or a set of skates and protective gear, you can encourage kids to get active in a way that's fun, by outfitting them with all the equipment they need to play their favorite sports.

This holiday season, make sure your gifts for kids go further to enrich, engage and educate.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

## Rep. Fedor Applauds Decision to Extend Alternative Graduation Pathways

*Legislation will prevent statewide graduation crisis*

State Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) last week announced the Ohio House recently passed Senate changes to House Bill 491, which extend alternative pathways to graduation for 2019 and 2020 Ohio high school seniors.

"Superintendents, teachers and students of the Class of 2019 and 2020: the state legislators heard you, and recognized the need to change and adapt our graduation requirements for your future success," said Rep. Fedor, ranking member on House Education and Career Readiness Committee. "We still have a lot more work to do to get Ohio's graduation requirements to match the real-world, but we will work together to do this and I look forward to that."

In the past several years, the General Assembly repeatedly changed graduation requirements in Ohio. The rapid succession of changes left students unsure of graduation expectations, and left teachers unsure how to help. The current requirements are predominantly conditioned on standardized test taking or receiving an industry credential. According to the Ohio Department of Education, in a response to an official information request issued by Rep. Fedor, 51,893 Ohio high school seniors have not obtained the standardized testing requirements for graduation. This trend mirrors that of the Class of 2018 who, through HB 49, were given alternative pathways to graduate on time.

"The State of Ohio is relying too heavily on standardized testing to measure success. This is wrong. It's not the students who are failing. It's the state legislators who are failing them," said Fedor. "The future of our young adults and Ohio depends on Governor Kasich doing the right thing."

After last night's vote, House Bill 491 will head to Gov. John Kasich's desk for his anticipated signature.

**Truth Art Gallery** Three TIERS/TEARS PRODUCTIONS.  
 1811 Adams Toledo/OH  
 Art Gallery Showcase.  
 3 Poets; TBA  
 3 Artist; TBA  
 3 Author's; TBA  
 12/20/18

The advertisement features a large, stylized 'T' logo with the words 'Spoken Truth' written across it. The background is a textured, hand-drawn style with various symbols and signatures. At the bottom, there is a small tree logo and the text 'Truth Art Gallery'.

## Toledo's Keith Bell, Sr. and Family to Celebrate Doctoral Graduation

Keith Bell, Jr., Toledo native, currently a resident of the Columbus area, and his family will be celebrating his doctoral degree on Saturday, December 15 on the campus of The Ohio State University at 7 p.m. Bell will be joined by his family what includes parents Norman and Ora Bell, former Toledo Mayor Mike Bell and Shayla Bell Moriarty, Toledo Zoo director of communication..

Keith Bell has been a teacher and basketball coach (Grove City High

School); an assistant principal (Gahanna Lincoln High School); a principal (Groveport Madison High School and Westerville South high schools); assistant superintendent (Columbus City Schools); superintendent (Euclid City Schools) and is currently a graduate administrative assistant at OSU.

Bell asks that in lieu of attending his graduation, a donation be made to any or all of the six districts he has represented as teacher, coach and administrator, during a celebration that will feature the band "Blue Spectrum."

## Ohio Teacher of the Year – TPS Career Employee - Honored

On November 27 at the Toledo Board of Education meeting State Rep. Michael Ashford 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.

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.



"I'm extremely honored to have the opportunity to recognize one of Toledo's finest educators as Ohio's 2019 Teacher of the Year," said Ashford. "Mona Al-Hayani has made the entire state proud through her remarkable dedication to our children."

### Elegance... continued from page 16

to the Big Apple, so she set out to correct that situation.

"I wanted to avoid the matronly look that plus-sized women were forced to wear," she says. "I fill a need, my customers get to know me."

Over the years, Hopkins' focus has expanded into providing such styles, elegant styles, for smaller women as well.

Elegance With Style is a perfect example of achieving success by filling a void in the marketplace.

Now that the holidays are upon us, Hopkins wants men to know that she and her staff are willing and able to work closely with them on selections for their loved ones – especially on Wednesday, December 19. Just know the sizes, she says. Then men can get free gift wrapping, refreshments and be in and out of the shop quickly.

One aspect of Hopkins' message is for everyone. "It's right here in Toledo!" "You don't have to gather the troops and go to Detroit; you can stop here in a flash."

### Ruby's... continued from page 16

committed to providing the very best dining experience for her customers. "I like Southern food," she says of her product. After all her mother was from Alabama and Southern food was what Butler learned about from an early age.

Butler, however, is committed not only to her customers but also, in equal measure, to her community. Over the years, from the moment she opened her first establishment, Butler has made it a point to hire those who would ordinarily have difficulty finding employment – ex-offenders, for example.

Helping Butler over the years has been her chief cook, daughter Sonda Hicks. Mother and daughter have worked together from the very beginning pleasing diners with such delicacies as smothered pork chops, rib-eye steaks, chicken wings and Butler's personal favorites – the catfish filets and the whole catfish dinners. Of course, no dinner would be complete if one didn't sample the peach cobbler.

"People love the peach cobbler," Butler notes with pride.

Actually people love just about everything at Ruby's, she says, as verified by the number of loyal customers. "We cook to order. Everything is fresh here. We don't have pre-breaded items."

Cooking to order may take a little longer, says Butler of her commitment to quality, but it's worth it, she adds.

"When you come here, you are going to be satisfied when you leave," declares Miss Ruby.

Ruby's is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.; on Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 7 pm.

## Public Transit Forum



A LISTENING SESSION HOSTED BY

Shelley Papefuse, Disability Rights Advocate, and Cedric Brock, Pastor, Mount Nebo Baptist Church

**Monday, November 19, 2018**  
**King Road Branch Library**  
 3900 King Rd, Toledo (Sylvania Twp)  
 419-259-5380

**5:00 p.m. Refreshments**  
**5:30 p.m. Discussion**

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority is your public bus system and we want to hear how we can make it better for you and our community.

Please join the discussion and share your opinions.

King Road Branch Library is served by TARTA routes 1 & 6.




# The Social Butterfly's Annual Christmas Bazaar

The Annual Christmas Bazaar Extravaganza was held on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at the Indiana MB Church (The Stephenson-Roberts Fellowship Hall) hosted by Donnetta Carter "The Social Butterfly." There were over 400 in attendance who took advantage of handmade crafts, jewelry, candles, women's and men's apparel, desserts, natural products, household items, face painting, authors, financial planner and much more.

We Be Ribs owner James McDay was the official food vendor.

Carter thanked the corporate sponsors: Woodforest National Bank, Paramount, CareSource, The Truth Newspaper, Tyrell Betts Production, Tracy Roberts Production and Toledo Visitors Convention & Bureau as well as volunteers Sharon Crawford and Danielle Schoenegge, Street Team distribution of flyers, DJ Rockey Love from WIMX- FM MIX 95.7 The Saturday Morning Blues Show. The next event will be the eighth Annual Business & Health EXPO on Saturday, April 29, 2019. For more information contact donnetta\_c@msn.com or (419) 367-9765





## 16TH ANNUAL BLACK COLLEGE TOUR

**Tentative Southern Tour includes:**  
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 Morehouse College (males only) – Atlanta, GA  
 Savannah State – Savannah, GA  
 Alabama A & M – Huntsville, AL  
 Alabama State University – Montgomery, AL  
 Tuskegee University – Tuskegee, AL  
 Tennessee State University – Nashville, TN

**Tour Scheduled for April 14, 2019 through April 19, 2019  
 Deposit is required to secure a seat on the tour**

**For More Information Call:**  
 Mrs. Trevor Black – 419.478.7844  
 Mrs. Linda Collins – 419.902.8541  
 Mrs. Pattie Poston – 419.277.7091



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# Triple Threat by Camryn King

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You dig, and you dig, and you dig.

Like a dog with a bone, you're all in when presented with a tiny scrap of intriguing information. You don't let go until you know everything there is to know about it, searching and uncovering and digging until, as in the new novel *Triple Threat* by Camryn King, you've dug yourself into trouble.

There had been absolutely no reason for Leigh to have killed herself.

Award-winning journalist Mallory Knight knew that about her best friend. Just days before her body was found, bruised and nude, Leigh had been happy and laughing with Mallory. There was just no way she was suicidal, and Mallory had tried to keep the police focused.

But it had been a year since the supposed-suicide-maybe-murder and now Leigh's case was considered closed. In Mallory's mind, though, nothing had been settled; even less so when Leigh's mother gave her a duffel bag of mementos with a mystery inside.

Leigh had left a journal with what appeared to be coded words; some were senseless, but others led Mallory to a few shaky conclusions. Leigh was dating New York Navigators basketballer Christian Graham when she died, and his name was in the diary; to Mallory, that made him a suspect. And as it happened, her editor, Charlie, gave her an assignment to write about Christian's charity organization. It was the perfect opportunity to find out more about the man Leigh seemed drawn to.

c. 2018  
Dafina  
\$12.95 / \$13.95 Canada  
320 pages

To her surprise, Mallory learned that Christian was a truly nice guy, but her investigator's background nagged her to dig deeper. She knew that he strongly mentored a kid enrolled in his charity, and that he had a soft spot for the boy. Rumor was that the teen had been sick but Mallory also heard there was violence involved. There was something about the boy and Christian's relationship with him that made her act rashly.

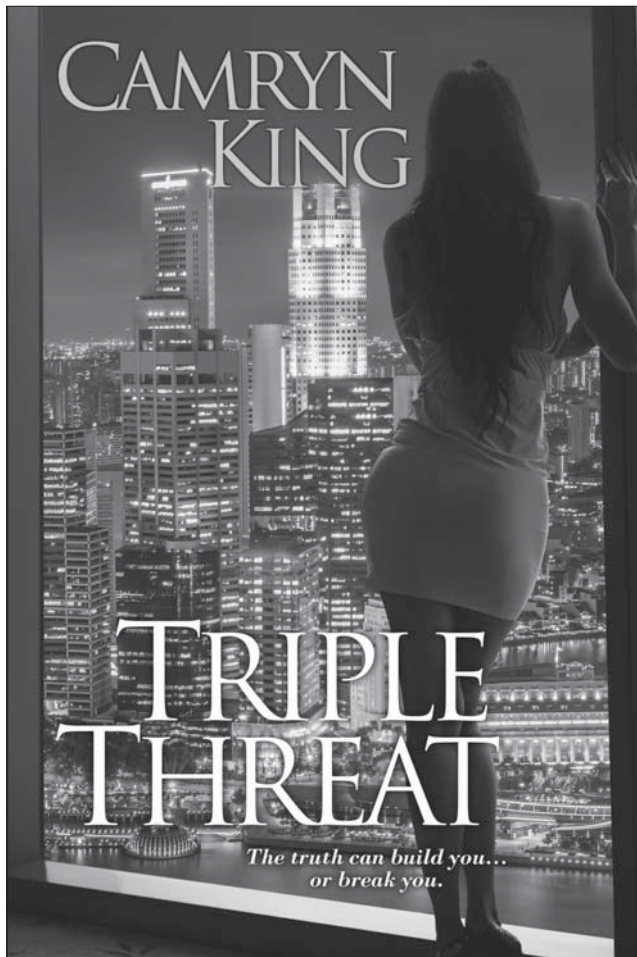
One ill-considered act, and Mallory's entire life crashed.

And that was just fine. It gave her more time to figure out what happened to Leigh and whether Christian Graham was involved her death. Leigh once called Christian a "triple threat": smart, handsome, and successful. But was he a killer, too?

In the beginning of *Triple Threat* and until about 20 pages in, the temptation to quit the book may be strong. It's slower than chilled honey, which happens in small pockets throughout this novel.

When it heats up, though, it's on fire. Author Camryn King tells a fine mystery that'll keep you engaged and eager to solve, in part because there's also a bit of romance inside and enough drama to satisfy. There are a couple of heart-pounders, too, and a character that does some really dumb things, which makes her seem more relatable.

While the ending of *Triple Threat* feels like it goes on forever, getting to that point will be fun if you have the patience. This book isn't always snappy or snazzy but it's a good enough whodunit and if you like romancy-mysteries, you'll dig it.



## THE INK TRUTH SHOWCASE

We would like to welcome you to the first ever Art Gallery showcase of Ink Truth. This will be a showcase like the city has never seen!!! There will be three poets, three authors, three creative artist, and a special guest. TBA. Special editions of Tears of the Wounded book will also be autographed and signed. This is a family-friendly event we will have light refreshments and plenty of entertainment. There will be door prizes for the 1st 20 guests!! Doors will open at 6p.m performances will start at 6:45p.m until 9 p.m. This is a FREE event, but donations will be happily accepted. Special thanks to the Truth Art gallery and newspaper for letting us enjoy their space. Come and be ready to be inspired by local talent who put their soul into everything they create.

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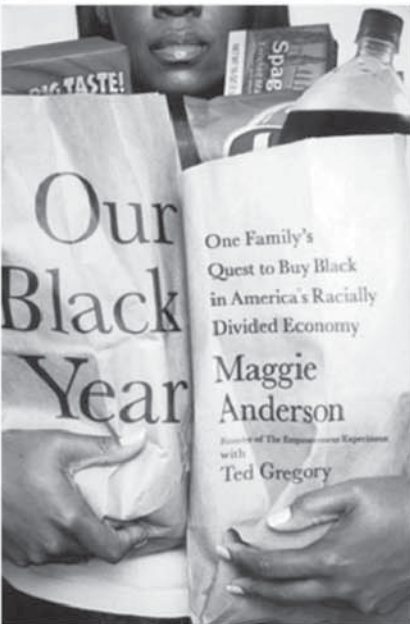
[www.blackbeatmusicgroup.com](http://www.blackbeatmusicgroup.com)

Call in days Monday 12 noon - 2pm & Wednesday 12 noon - 2pm  
# (712) 770-4010 use access code 760462

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www.ToledoBlackMarketplace.com

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ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:  
www.TheTruthToledo.com

**CRUSADERS FOR CHRIST CHURCH** Presents **Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

Have you been feeling the nudge to develop your life more spiritually but aren't quite sure how to begin? If so, this theme-enriched and spirit-filled experience is designed just for you. Visit us on Facebook - I have a special video message for the serious pursuer!

**Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

When: Every 4th Sunday  
Time: 11:00 am  
Where: Crusaders for Christ Church  
910 Woodville Rd.  
Toledo, Ohio

**Brother Joseph Mitchell Jr., Pastor**  
Evanglist Colleen Mitchell, Para Pastor

Crusaders for Christ Church • www.crusadersforchristchurch.org

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Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed  
Free Wi-Fi

**BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!**

# CLASSIFIEDS

December 12, 2018

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## PARK TECHNICIAN 3

Metroparks Toledo is looking for an individual to fill a Park Technician 3 position at Farnsworth Metropark to assist with maintenance of grounds, facilities and equipment. High school degree or equivalent required. Must be 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Moderate level of experience in general turf, grounds and building maintenance required. \$16.05/hr. Full time with benefits. Go to [www.metroparkstoledo.com](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com) for complete list of position requirements and duties; must submit online application and resume by December 12. EOE

## NORTHGATE APARTMENTS

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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](mailto:resume@lourdes.edu). See [www.lourdes.edu/jobs](http://www.lourdes.edu/jobs) for details. EOE

## CHOIR DIRECTOR/PIANIST

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church is seeking to hire a choir director/pianist for Sunday worship. Must play in gospel style, read music, be able to direct a choir, understand and implement Catholic liturgical worship guidelines or be willing to learn Catholic worship. Submit resume on line to [smartindep@restoledo@gmail.com](mailto:smartindep@restoledo@gmail.com) or mail to 1119 West Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606.

## NOTICE OF APPLICANT'S PUBLIC MEETING HOFFMAN ROAD LANDFILL Permit to Install Application for Permit Modification Activities

The City of Toledo is seeking a Permit to Install (PTI) from Ohio EPA for permit modification of the existing Hoffman Road Landfill at 3962 Hoffman Road, Toledo, Ohio 43611. A public meeting will be held Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 6:00 p.m., at the Toledo-Lucas County Police Athletic League Gym, 1111 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio. This meeting is intended to inform local citizens of the PTI application contents, explain the Ohio EPA PTI application process, and to receive and respond to comments and questions about the PTI application. The PTI application is available for review at the Lagrange Branch Library, 3422 Lagrange Street, and the Point Place Branch Library, 2727 117th Street during their regular business hours.

Please contact Paul Rasmusson, Director of the City of Toledo's Department of Public Service, (419) 245-1835, for more information about this meeting, the PTI application, or project plans.

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto: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.



## 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](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers) to view the job description, position requirements and apply online. EOE

## THE INK TRUTH SHOWCASE

We would like to welcome you to the first ever Art Gallery showcase of Ink Truth.

This will be a showcase like the city has never seen!!!

There will be three poets, three authors, three creative artist, and a special guest. TBA.

Special editions of Tears of the Wounded book will also be autographed and signed.

This is a family-friendly event we will have light refreshments and plenty of entertainment.

There will be door prizes for the 1st 20 guests!!

Doors will open at 6p.m performances will start at 6:45p.m until 9 p.m.

This is a FREE event, but donations will be happily accepted.

Special thanks to the Truth Art gallery and newspaper for letting us enjoy their space.

Come and be ready to be inspired by local talent who put their soul into everything they create.

Call to place your ad  
419-243-0007  
[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

# A Place to Shop During the Holidays

## Elegance With Style: 16 Years of Filling Clothing Needs

Sojourner's Truth Staff



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We're here for you. And we are an integral part of this community. The University of Toledo Medical Center offers best in class specialties, better outcomes, and expert physicians, nurses and medical technicians in a superior continuum of care that's close to home and dedicated to the area's health and healing.

**We're strong. We're committed. And we're confident in the future.**

Visit [utmcc.utoledo.edu](http://utmcc.utoledo.edu)



CONFIDENT. COMMUNITY. CARE.

Over the years, Marcia Hopkins' Elegance With Style boutique at 2909 W. Central, has earned such a reputation that even the stars come calling. That was the case earlier two years ago when Detroit milliner, Luke Song, the same Mr. Song who designed the now-famous hat that Aretha Franklin wore during the 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama, stopped at the boutique to share his designs and expertise with the shop's clients.

The local hat, shoe, handbag and jewelry salon, which Hopkins opened 16 years ago has become a symbol of both elegance and style for numerous clients in the area, particularly plus-sized clients, her specialty.

When Hopkins returned to Toledo from New York years ago, she was disturbed to notice the paucity of choices for plus-sized women here, compared

... continued on page 11



# A Place to Eat During the Holidays

## Ruby's Kitchen: 15 Years of Satisfying Diners

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Ruby Butler opened her restaurant, Ruby's Kitchen, at its previous Dorr Street location in 2004. On Friday, July 29, 2016, she moved to her present site - 805 N. Reynolds.

And immediately those customers found her and arrived in droves to help christen the new facility. And help Butler on the next step of her journey. It's a journey that has brought a great deal of pleasure to a great many customers.

In these past, almost 15 years, Butler has done exactly what she always felt she was meant to do - apply the cooking skills taught to her by her mother for the enjoyment of many others.

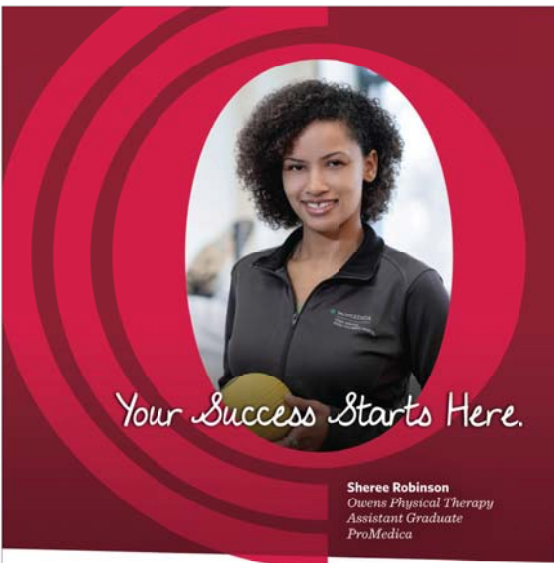
"I have loved to cook all my life," she says of her long-time avocation, now her vocation.

"I was a homebody," she says of her youthful years honing her culinary skills under her mother's tutelage. "I learned to do it all - cleaning chitlins, canning, cleaning greens. And I always wanted a restaurant. I was taught so well, and taught that whatever you do, do it right."

It's really been a labor of love for Miss Ruby, as her customers call her. "I love being here, I love this restaurant," she says. "I love pleasing customers and meeting new people."

Butler is obviously

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