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A Blue Ribbon Panel Suggested to Keep TARTA Services Intact

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner’s Truth Editor

As the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority’s proposed reduction in service approaches the 11th hour, concerned citizens and the Lucas County Commissioners responded by announcing the formation of a Blue Ribbon Task Force to examine the problems TARTA faces and come up with solutions to maintain at least the current level of service.

During a press conference on Tuesday at One Government Center, a coalition of citizens, especially those involved with disability causes, derided TARTA for its decision to reduce its services at the end of the year – eliminating Sunday and holiday service entirely, cutting back on some early and late weekday routes and shutting down some routes entirely.

“TARTA is a lifeline to get [people] to jobs,” said the Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD., president of United Pastors for Social Empowerment (and a contributor to The Sojourner’s Truth), “to get them to the store, to get them to work. TARTA is a lifeline for those with disabilities … TARTA exploits and takes advantage.”

“This cannot stand,” said Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken of the TARTA plans. “TARTA’s decision is cruel, unkind, unjust. There are no days off for public transit. We are here to say ‘No.’ We are here to offer some solutions.”

TARTA’s decision to reduce service stems from a reduction in financial support. Much of TARTA’s funding – 46 percent – comes from local property taxes. This funding has been greatly reduced over the years – by $6 million between 1987 and 2010. TARTA teamed with a local marketing firm and a multinational engineering firm to create a new plan that would essentially replace property tax funding with an area sales tax. It’s a plan, noted TARTA CEO Jim Gee, that

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Dozens Attend Public Transit Forum about TARTA

By Tricia Hall
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

Dozens filled the Toledo Lucas County King Road Branch Library meeting room on Thursday, December 13 for a public transit forum and listening session organized by Shelley Papenfuse of Disability Rights Advocate, and Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church and president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

“The purpose of the forum and listening session is to inform voters and residents in Toledo and Sylvania Township about possible solutions that we can organize because of the recent announcement about the TARTA schedule reduction,” explained Brock.

Toledo and Sylvania Township residents were in attendance to discuss concerns and solutions. Immediately following refreshments, forum facilitators Papenfuse and Brock provided a PowerPoint slide which displayed that Toledo is the only major city in Ohio that funds its transit system by property taxes while the other cities: Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Akron, Canton, Youngstown, Lake Co and Portage Co generate sales taxes that range from .25 percent to one percent.

The group discussed several action steps that will begin next week. The first action step called for the ongoing education of Toledo and Sylvania Township voters with the statistics announced earlier in the meeting through forums, information about sales tax verse property tax savings, and letters to the editor of local media outlets.

“I don’t believe that Lucas County voters understand what needs to be done to fix this issue. We need to stand up in support of keep TARTA’s full schedule,” said Earl Murry, PhD.

The second action step outlined discussion topics for a joint meeting between the Sylvania Township elected officials, the City of Toledo elected officials and the task force that attended the forum today, “I’m for educating the public, but let’s get the County Commissioners here to meet with us. We need the commissioners to stand with us at a Sylvania Township meeting,” shared Jessica Weinbelg, an advocacy organizer.

The final action step requested that all attendees rally at the December 18 Sylvania Township meeting, and address the Sylvania Township trustees.

“We need to go to their meeting, the Sylvania Township meeting in large numbers,” explained Rev. Brock.

Several supporters including Earl Murry and Jessica Weinbelg urged each forum attendee to recruit up to five people who will attend the December 18 Sylvania Township meeting, and just sit or stand there in support. “Everyone should bring at least five people, who support us, in the... continued on page 5
Don’t Blame Me For This...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

You know, it is somewhat perplexing and downright discouraging when I get emails from some readers of my opinions complaining that when they read the articles, they need a dictionary nearby in order to understand what is being stated.

Come on, people! Are you serious? Some of the words that I cogitate over in my articles are not beyond finding out. Anyone with abit of discernment can ferret out the meaning of the word by contextual analysis.

If you have a jeremiad with my vocabulary, simply reflect back on your years in high school and remember the times that you clocked out in English class when the spelling quizzes rolled around while you were rolling your eyes.

I am going to take the high road and fevertently believe that everyone is entitled to my opinion and you will benefit from testing your vocabulary skills versus the words that I use in my opinion articles.

So, believing that my reading audience is of sufficient numer to discern the difference between water and ice, I have concocted the below vocab test to assure you that you are doing fine and need not seek out auxiliary sources of understanding regarding certain words.

So, if you correctly answer 14 of the below 20 words, you qualify to continue reading my opinions. Again, do not cheat by having a dictionary present!

Blatant: (a) obvious and apparent (b) refers to the mixing of martinis (c) a glass tube used in testing for the presence of zinc.

Martinet: (a) a small fur-like animal in Nepal (b) strict disciplinarian (c) a bass instrument used in stringed quartets.

Overweening: (a) a tendency to downplay known facts (b) excessive pride (c) arid used to describe a lack of concern.

Apogee: (a) an insincere apology (b) a high point (c) a French word for a silky but cooked custard.

Sanguine: (a) relaxed (b) carefree (c) optimistic.

Fractious: (a) a bone that does not heal well (b) algebraic math problems (c) being grumpy or cranky.

Epochal: (a) prophetic (b) how to compute past centuries (c) highly significant.

Guttural: (a) gruff (b) offensive language (c) pertaining to defective house gutters.

Malevolent: (a) malign (b) description of a bitter argument (c) a chess move with your knight and rook that causes a checkmate.

Awolgoat: (a) native (b) an original paintings being destroyed (c) of no importance.

Cumbersome: (a) awkward (b) the waist that goes around one’s waist (c) nasal congestion caused by an allergy to cucumbers.

Titillate: (a) arouse (b) muffled laughter (c) the same as tilling farm soil.

Rombinate: (a) having a lack of an opinion (b) carousing (c) to rally against something or someone.

Languish: (a) to waste away (b) the art of telling a fable that has no point to it (c) to seek title to property that has no known owner.

Perfidy: (a) to set alight (b) infidelity (c) the art of using a flame to set in place dried ceramic pieces.

Calumny: (a) uncontrolled laughter (b) feeling full after a large meal (c) slander.

Xenophobic: (a) a person unable to use the letter X. (b) fear of the unknown (c) a fear of strangers.

Raconteur: (a) better (b) narrator (c) a “shifty” acting person.

Fawn: (a) to act condescendingly over a person (b) to treat with contempt (c) a person who speculate in risky commodities.

Precipice: (a) the corner of parchment paper (b) a high mountain peak (c) to drive in a zig zag pattern.

Please give yourself no more than five minutes to select all of the right answers. If you get more than 18 right, you need to immediately apply to a four-year college!

If you get 15 or more right, you should consider teaching high school English.

If you get 10 to 14 right, you may want to take a course as English being your second language.

If you get five to nine right, you should now realize why you were passed over for that job promotion.

Five to eight right? Stay away from all print media and books because you will only embarrass yourself more than you have already!

Less than five right? Check your pulse...are you really alive?

To get a score card of the answers and how these words are used in sentences, please send me an un-traceable money order for $23.48 (includes shipping and handling) and I will meet you at a local library and give you the answers.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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For the First Time in History, Two African Americans Will Hold Top Leadership Positions in Congress at the Same Time

By Black PR Wire

Recently, CBC Member Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY-08) was elected chair of the Democratic Caucus, and Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn (D-SC-06) was elected Majority Whip, making it the first time in history that two African Americans will hold top leadership positions in Congress at the same time. In response to these elections, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman Cedric L. Richmond (D-LA-02), released the following statement:

“When the Congressional Black Caucus was founded in 1971, I know our 13 founding members dreamed of the day when we would have more than one member in our ranks competing for top leadership positions in Congress. Today was that day, and I know they are proud.

“When Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries articulated to our colleagues why they were the best candidate for Democratic Caucus chair, it was one of the best displays of black brilliance that I have seen in a long time. The unfortunate part of their race against each other was that one of them had to lose.

“I congratulate Congressman Jeffries on being elected Democratic Caucus chair; he has more than demonstrated during his time in Congress that he is ready to lead in this position.

“I also congratulate Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn on being elected Majority Whip. There are few Democrats who have done more than Assistant Democratic Leader Clyburn to mentor young members of Congress and make sure that Democrats win elections.

“When former congressman George Henry White, the last African-American congressman to leave Congress before the Jim Crow Era, left office in 1901, he said in his famous farewell address, ‘This is perhaps the Negroes’ temporary farewell to the American Congress, but let me say, Phoenix-like he will rise up some day and come again.’

“Next Congress, the CBC will have 55 members, including two who will be in top leadership positions and five who will chair full House committees – former congressman George Henry White was right, and the Phoenix has risen.”

Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) and James Clyburn (D-SC)

Toledo Community Foundation’s Stranahan Supporting Organization awards grant to Martin Luther King Kitchen for the Poor

The Board of Trustees of the Stranahan Supporting Organization of the Toledo Community Foundation has approved a grant to Martin Luther King Kitchen for the Poor in the amount of $35,000. These funds will be used to support the organization’s operating budget, said Harvey Savage, Jr., the kitchen’s executive director.

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Public Forum Tarta... continued from page 2

spirit of cooperation. We don’t need signs or protest loudly, we’ll have our two spokespersons speak for us,” shared Murry.

At least one Sylvania Township resident who was present voiced opposing concerns, and asked to remain anonymous. “I can’t get hired and I have four degrees, but this is my reality,” he said. “When people voted against this, it wasn’t about race. It wasn’t racist. We also have economic issues, just like everyone else. My spare money goes to feed my family, keeping my heat and lights on and keeping fuel in my car, so I don’t want to pay a higher property tax. I blame TARTA, why can’t they learn how to run like a business, and stand on their own instead of depending on us? When people see Sylvania Township, they think we all have money, but we’re not wealthy.”

Once the first three steps are completed, Papenfuse plans to continue working on a general election proposed change by TARTA to fund public transportation.

TARTA’s plan was to place the sales tax proposal before the voters but it first required that the elected officials of all of TARTA’s member communities – Toledo and its suburbs – approve the ballot measure. Sylvania Township, alone among the member communities, declined to place the measure on the ballot for voters to have a say in the matter.

Most Sylvania Township residents would support the new Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority proposal to expand its service area and hours and implement a sales tax to pay for the expanded service according to the results of a telephone survey conducted by Odesky and Associates of 300 likely voters in the township.

According to the survey, 46.3 percent supported the TARTA proposal, 21 percent were against it and 32.7 percent were undecided; 58 percent favored a sales tax and only 5.7 percent supported a property tax.

Now that the two Sylvania township trustees, John Jennewine and Neal Mahoney, have declined to let voters decide the matter, TARTA has been forced to make drastic cuts in its service. At the end of the year TARTA will discontinue Sunday and holiday service, modify some of the fixed routes on the schedule and eliminate some early and late routes.

“The seven other cities that support TARTA have all agreed to place this on the general election ballot, but our issue right now is the two Sylvania Township trustees Jennewine and Mahoney. Once the sales tax issue is approved, this will no longer be an adjudication issue,” said Papenfuse.

Blue Ribbon Tarta... continued from page 2

most major cities use for funding public transit systems.

TARTA’s proposal needed to be placed on the ballot for approval by area voters but trustees in Sylvania Township, alone amongst the member communities that TARTA services, nixed the idea of letting voters approve the plan even though polling had shown that most voters in the township would have approved.

Not only did the speakers at last week’s press conference disapprove of the TARTA plan to reduce service, some also attacked the transit operation for a lack of transparency in the months leading up to the reduction.

George Thomas, senior attorney with Advocates for a Basic Legal Equality, said “TARTA must conduct a thorough public engagement process.” He chided TARTA for not conducting a thorough public hearing process. “Cleveland held 15 public service meetings to gather input,” he said, noting that TARTA only held hearings on one day. “TARTA failed to meaningfully engage with the public. We ask for TARTA to reconsider the process. We need to identify strategies to mitigate these cuts.”

Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak also voiced her distaste for the proposed TARTA service cuts. “A strong economy needs a strong public transit system,” said Skeldon Wozniak. “We don’t sit back, we ask for action, we ask for change.” She announced that the blue ribbon task force will have a director – Roslyn Wallace, human resources manager of Detroit Manufacturing Systems – as she observed that the continued current transit routes are critical for the Toledo area.

The task force, said Skeldon Wozniak, is intended to be a panel encompassing a broad range of Lucas County interests and residents and will be commissioned to examine a broad range of TARTA issues – finances, services, administration – but, as of yet, no decisions have been made about the panel membership other than the director.

TARTA’s CEO/General Manager James Gee released the following statement after the press conference: “We recognize that the upcoming service cuts will make a negative impact to the quality of life for passengers, and we sincerely regret that this decision became necessary. TARTA’s current funding model and revenue limitations forced a difficult decision for TARTA and its board of directors. However, TARTA has been and remains open to collaborating with groups that may find new approaches to providing more effective public transportation options for our community.

“Within the past month, TARTA initiated dialogue with several community groups, most notably the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce. Plans are currently under development with the Chamber to commission an economic impact study of public transit and investigate using a priority-based budgeting model for TARTA’s operations. The goal of these activities is to identify innovative approaches to budgeting and service analysis that would lead to better public transportation in our region. As I understand, the Lucas County Commissioners today announced an effort to develop a Blue Ribbon Panel geared toward these same goals. TARTA openly welcomes collaboration with such a group, and we willingly accept different perspectives and ideas for new revenue streams or service models that allow TARTA to offer sustainable, efficient and adequate public transit.”
Franklin Park Lincoln’s Christmas Give Away

Mike Colbert and his wife, Irma, held their annual Christmas gifts give-away on December 14 at Word of Faith Ministries on Stickney. This year’s event, sponsored by Franklin Park Lincoln, enabled 115 families to receive groceries for Christmas dinners along with coats, hats and gloves.
Toledo Minority Business Centers Host Open House

The minority business community and members of the public are invited to an open house to learn about the services offered by the Minority Business Assistance Center and the Minority Business Development Center at the University of Toledo.

The annual event is scheduled from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 20, 2018, at the Center on the University of Toledo’s Scott Park Campus, in the Faculty Annex, 2145 East Scott Park Drive, Toledo.

The Minority Business Assistance Center offers many free services to minority business startups or minority-owned businesses looking to expand. Services include business counseling; local, state and federal certification help; loan packaging assistance; and more. The center is supported by the state of Ohio through a grant from the Ohio Development Services Agency and by the University of Toledo.

The Minority Business Development Center offers an incubator for minority-owned, early-stage businesses. Tours of the center will be offered at the open house.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call 419-530-3344.

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Don’t Get Snowed Under This Christmas: Tips to Spend Wisely

By Black PR Wire

Even after setting a holiday budget, the most wonderful time of year is often the most expensive. Experts say that this Christmas, there are new ways to make your dollar go further.

“The days of clipping coupons may be out of style, but finding ways to save money never is,” says Michael McAuliffe, president of Family Credit Management. “From in-store apps to price trackers, new tech tools can help.”

The experts at Family Credit Management are encouraging consumers to research their money-saving options, as technology is always evolving. To get you started, they have nar...

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It’s The Most Wonderful Time of The Year!!
The Heart of Christmas

The spirit of Christmas is expressed through love, family and sharing. We found three families willing to open up their homes and hearts, and share the beauty of the holidays and what Christmas means to them.

The Dunston Family

Christmas is a special time to celebrate the magnificent birth of my Savior, Jesus Christ, but it is also a moment to express our gratitude, joy, and love for one another. Christmas is love and during this time, our love is expressed by spending time and creating memories with family and friends, passing down traditions and recipes from one generation to the next, and assisting those in need. Christmas is the perfect time to reflect on God’s grace, mercies, and love; through that love, we can make the world a happier place by sharing this joy with everyone we encounter.

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

Photos by Carla Thomas

If you suspect you are being steered because of your race, religion, or ethnicity, contact us.
Toledo Families Celebrating Christmas!!

The Perryman Family

What does Christmas mean to us? The work of ministry and activism involves having to constantly address imperfect systems and the needs of people who are hurting. And, because the work is never done, it is important to take time to focus internally on our relationships in order to keep them fresh and healthy.

Christmas, for us, is a time to make sure that we do not neglect our own family so that we can be effective when we go out to serve others. My wife and I cook the holiday meal together, which forces us to include quality time in our relationship and allows us an outlet to relieve some of the stress of ministry and advocacy.

You’re chopping, seasoning, talking and listening to music. The kids and granddaughter are telling jokes, singing, dancing and playing musical instruments. We’re all creating something. It doesn’t matter what we sing or talk about, as long as we take time to focus on each other rather than just work or church.

The Brenneman Family

Christmas is our favorite season in our home. It’s a time to reflect on God’s greatest gift to us. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ by gathering with loved ones and family. It’s a time to reflect on the year and to re-evaluate what we would like to see in the future. May God’s goodness and grace surround you in this holiday season.
Social Security- Questions and Answers

Question: How do I terminate my Medicare Part B (medical insurance)?
Answer: You can voluntarily terminate your Medicare Part B (medical insurance). Because this is a serious decision that could have negative ramifications for you in the future, you'll need to have a personal interview with a Social Security representative first. The representative will help you complete Form CMS 1763. This form isn't available online. To schedule your interview, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778) Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., or contact your nearest Social Security office. For more information, go to www.medicare.gov.

Question: How do I apply for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs?
Answer: You have several options for applying. You can:
- Apply online by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/prescription-help;
- Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to apply over the phone or request an application; or
- Apply at any local Social Security office.
Anyone who has Medicare can get Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. Some people with limited resources and income are eligible for Extra Help to pay for the costs — monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments — related to a Medicare prescription drug plan. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare.

Question: What can I do if my Medicare prescription drug plan says it won't pay for a drug that my doctor prescribed for me?
Answer: If your Medicare prescription drug plan decides that it won't pay for a prescription drug, it must tell you in writing why the drug isn't covered in a letter called a “Notice of Denial of Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.” Read the notice carefully because it will explain how to ask for an appeal. Your prescribing doctor can ask your Medicare drug plan for an expedited redetermination (first level appeal) for you, if the doctor tells the plan that waiting for a standard appeal decision may seriously harm your health. For more information, visit www.medicare.gov.

Question: If I retire at age 62, will I be eligible for Medicare?
Answer: No. Medicare starts when you reach 65. If you retire at 62, you may be able to continue medical insurance coverage through your employer or purchase it from a private insurance company until you become eligible for Medicare. For more information see our publication, Medicare, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question: I want to apply for Medicare Part B medical insurance this year. When is the deadline to apply?
Answer: If you didn't sign up for Medicare Part B medical insurance when you first became eligible for Medicare, you have an opportunity to apply during the general enrollment period, which runs from January 1 through March 31 each year. If you miss the deadline, you may have to wait until next year to apply. Medicare Part B covers some medical expenses not covered by Medicare Part A (hospital insurance), such as doctors' fees, outpatient hospital visits, and other medical supplies. You can learn more about Medicare by reading our electronic booklet, Medicare at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html.

Tips To Spend Wisely... continued from page 7

rowed down a few tech-savvy ways to streamline and save this season.

- Browser Extensions: Forty-six percent of all holiday shopping occurs online, according to WeAreTop10, so, do your share of it wisely. Whether you use Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Safari or Firefox as your internet browser, there are sites you can visit to add an extension to your searching power. It’s like adding an additional search box which will know to look for the best deals out there whenever you are shopping online and compare prices side-by-side, cutting out some of the legwork for you. Some well-known examples are PriceBlink, The Camelizer and InvisibleHand.

- Coupon Apps: Mobile apps such as Coupon Sherpa, SnipSnap and Yowza, enable you to scan items while you’re in-store and find the best value coupons on the spot.

- Price Drop Alert Trackers: Eighty-four percent of Americans plan to check Amazon before looking or buying elsewhere, according to the Accenture Holiday Shopping Survey. Don’t make the mistake of assuming Amazon is the all-all-and-end-all for saving. Prices drop all the time, especially around Christmas. But, how can you keep track of who is dropping them and when? With a tracker app, you can tell the app what to look for and it will notify you when your wanted items drop in price. IF TTTT (If This Then That), camelcamelcamel and Price Tracker for Amazon will keep an eye on prices for you to make sure you’re the first to see the best deals.

- Credit Card Points/Discounts: Credit cards can encourage overspending, but when used carefully and within budget, offer certain advantages. For example, store-specific credit cards often offer special discounts, kickbacks and coupons for cardholders. Just think how you could double up on the savings by using some of the above tools, as well as by purchasing with a card with added bonuses. Remember though, that any savings you earn will quickly be eaten up if you pay interest charges. To avoid this trap, never use a credit card unless you can pay the entire balance in full each month. Also, think very carefully about opening a new account, as this can negatively affect your credit.

More holiday shopping, spending and saving tips can be found at familycredit.org.

When it comes to spending, don’t let the spirit of the season carry you away. You can stay within budget by practicing spending discipline and leveraging the latest tech tools.
The Holiday Gift Guide – Part 2

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

The mistletoe is hung, and so are the garlands, the ornaments, window decorations, and lights. You’d be ready for the holidays, too, if you weren’t hung up on a gift for that one certain person.

Now what? Now head to the bookstore with this column in-hand, and look for one of these great books.…

HEALTH & MEDICINE

For the giftee who loves to study humans and what makes them tick, The Fear Factor by Abigail Marsh is going to open eyes. Yes, there’s a darker side of humanity and March exposes it. It all has to do with fear, and she’ll explain how. Speaking of fear (and the lack thereof), wrap it up with On Call in the Arctic by Thomas J. Sims, a memoir of a doctor’s life in the Alaskan frontier. You may want to put Tooth and Nail by Linda D. Dahl with it, too; that’s a book about a woman who became a ringside doctor in New York City.

If you know someone who has surgery planned this year, give Counting Backwards by Henry Jay Przybylo, MD. Dr. Przybylo is a pediatric anesthesiologist, and he not only shares stories in this book, but he’ll also put a mind to rest. (Hint: even if your giftee isn’t having surgery, it’s still a don’t-miss.) Pair it with The Pain Companion by Sarah Anne Shockley, a book about living with pain.

For the person who asked for a genealogy test, wrap it up with She Has Her Mother’s Laugh by Carl Zimmer. It’s a book about heredity, genetics, and what you inherit from your family and your family’s family. Also look for Because I Come From a Crazy Family by Edward M. Hallowell, MD, a memoir about inherited afflictions, childhood, and the ways that even a beloved family can be a challenge.

The forever dieter might enjoy reading The Weight of Being by Kara Richardson Whiteley. It’s a book about being overweight, losing a whole lot of weight, and finding out why we fat-shame in America.

If there’s someone on your list this year who’s suffered tragedy after tragedy, a gentle reminder that things will be better is Resilience by Linda Graham, MFT. Its subtitle says it all: it’s filled with “Powerful Practices for Bouncing Back from Disappointment, Difficulty, and Even Disaster.”

For the political watcher, there’s a lot to choose from this year. One of the neutral books you can give is Partner to Power by K. Ward Cummings. It’s a book about the people who have surrounded Presidents, listened to them, and advised them on matters large and small. If your giftee has devoured everything on Custer, hold on. Have they read Thieves’ Road by Terry Mort yet? It’s a book about why Custer focused on the Black Hills and it’s your golden opportunity for more on the soldier and the battle. On a similar note, horse lovers who

...continued on page 12

And here’s a book you might to buy for yourself this year: Guardianships and the Elderly: The Perfect Crime by Dr. Sam Sugar. It’s about the various ways that guardianship can go wrong, how to recognize any problems, and how to deal with them.

For the diabetic on your gift list, a copy of Hardhead Diabetic in a Nutshell by Rico Rich might be the thing to unwrap. This book takes a look at new treatments and old ideas; it dispels myths, and offers nutrition information.

DEATH & DYING

Loss doesn’t stop during the holidays. If your giftee needs any kind of comfort, try The After Death Chronicles by Annie Mattingley. It’s a book filled with stories of everyday people who were surprised to receive communication from “beyond the veil.” If your loss was a child, then pair it with The Unspeakable Loss by Nisha Zenoff, PhD, which is a book especially for parents.

The history buff who is also interested in historical cemeteries will want to read Birth of a Cemetery by John F. Llewellyn. It’s the story of the beginning of Forest Lawn Memori-
Holiday Gift Guide...continued from page 11

also crave history books will love to have Ghost Riders by Mark Felton, a book about saving white Lipizzaner horses during World War II. It’s a book steeped in history, and it may be perfect for someone on your list: Our Year of War by Daniel P. Bolger. It’s history, but the unique thing is that it’s also a memoir about two brothers who ended up in Vietnam together. One was a supporter of the war, his brother was not. It’s a book about bravery, difference of opinion, and brotherhood, both in war and at home. For another side of the coin, look for In Search of the Lost Child by Danny Goldberg, a look at the Hippie Era, circa 1967.

The cook who also loves history will enjoy Stirring the Pot with Benjamin Franklin A Founding Father’s Culinary Adventures by Rae Kathleen Eiglmeyer. It’s a book that’s perfect if someone on your list likes American history, cooking, or reading while she eats.

For the gifter who loves ancient history, you can’t go wrong when you wrap up Rome: A History in Seven sackings by Matthew Kneale. Yes, it’s about war. But it’s also about natural disasters, Emperors, and travel. How could your gifter resist?

Early American history buffs will swoop when they open Marooned: Jamestown, Shinnek, and a New History of America’s Origin by Joseph Kelly. It’s a thick history book that will take your gifter back, so remember to wrap up a bookmark, too.

PIETS AND ANIMALS

Who doesn’t love a day at the beach? Your dog lover and the dog they love do, so they’ll want to Unwrapping Your Hound on the Beach by Lara Jo Regan. It’s filled with photos of dogs on the surf & sand, enjoying warm weather, and playing at every vantage point of summer there is.

Here’s something you don’t have to tell an animal lover having a dog. Even so, your gifter will enjoy Mousy Cats and Sheepish Coyotes: The Science of Animal Personalities by John A. Shirk. It’s all about the science, yes, but it’s also about the stories, you know? Wrap it up with How To Be a Good Creature by Sy Montgomery, illustrated by Rebecca Green. It’s a memoir that includes thirteen animals Montgomery knew and loved.

For the future farmer or the person who is chucking awesome, wrap up Men and the Art of Chicken Maintenance by Martin Gardner, a book about raising chickens of all kinds. It’s helpful, interesting, and it contains full-color pictures. Your gifter will crow about it!

LGBTQ INTEREST

Who doesn’t like a mystery? Your gifter sure does, and if there are chills inside it, all the better so you wrap up Sodom Road Exit by Amber Dawn. It’s the story of a small but dying village that’s lost its last reason for tourists. Even so, one young woman lives there with her mother because she has nowhere else to go. She wishes she did, though, because her small hometown holds terror... Wrap it up with Ruin of Stars by Lindsey Miller the second book in a fantasy series in which the main character is gender fluid.

For the reader who loves books that may make you think, look for So Famous and So Gay by Jeff Solomon. It’s a book about Tauman Capote and Gertrude Stein and how their fame still lingers while so many other almost-celebrities barely get a nod today, no matter what they did for LGBTQ rights...

The person on your list who is thinking about transitioning (or who recently has) will love unwrapping Trans Like Me by CN Lester, a series of essays on gender diversity, being trans, and how to tackle the questions and questions and questions and questions and questions are so many. Pair it with Being Emily by Rachel Gold, a book about a trans woman, now updated to include new material.

For the traveler on your list, the person who also loves history, you can’t go wrong with Rivero Dreaming by Marceca Emerson. It’s the true story of an architect and an ex-officer in the British Army, how they teamed up to create a mansion that took society by storm, and who were just two men to renovate their riverside manor. Wrap it up with Global Gay: How Gay Culture is Changing the World by Frédéric Maréel, for a very well-traveled gift.

More fiction for the gay reader: You Can’t Tell By Looking by Russell J. Sanders, a romance about love between two high school boys, one of whom is also dealing with his anti-gay Islamic family; and Aesop Lake by Sarah Ward, a unique book based on three of Aesop’s Fables to tell a tale of a hate crime and its aftermath.

PICTURE BOOKS

Here’s a great read-aloud for your little one: In Your Hands by Caroline Weatherford, illustrated by Brian Pinkney. It’s a quiet, comforting story of holding hands and protecting, and will be a great bedtime tale. Also look for My Magic Breath by Nick Ortner and Alison Taylor, pictures by Michelle Polizzi. It’s a book about mindful breathing and calming thoughts.

The birthday kid will appreciate I Got a Chicken for My Birthday by Laura Gehl, illustrated by Sarah Horne. Yes, it’s about a chicken and the fun his girl has with him. If the birthday kid is an animal lover, pair it up with Meia and the Elephant by Dori Pham, illustrated by Ziye Chen.

Parents of toddlers will definitely want to unwrap this book: People Don’t Bite People by Lisa Wheeler, art by Molly Idle. Yes, it’s about the appropriate use of teeth, in a format that two-to-three-year-olds can absolutely understand.

Children who appreciate the friends they’ve got will love May I Come In? by Marsha Diane Arnold, illustrated by Jennie Pet. It’s the story of a wet raccoon, a stormy night, and the love of a true friend. Wrap it up with Friends Stick Together by Hannah E. Harrison, a book about friendship between personalities.

Children who are on the edge of Too Old for Picture Books, Too Young for Chapter Books may still like to see Nana’s Friend The Green Frisbee Story by Lindsay McDivitt, illustrated by Eileen Ryan Ewen. It’s a biography in picture form about a Detroit artist and nature lover, and you little one would surely love it read aloud. Wrap it up with Aim for the Skies by Alime Bissolte, illustrated by Dori’s Kittinger. It’s the true story of how two women who dreamed about following in Amelia Earhart’s footsteps and flying are the world.

For kids who are looking for more than a picture book or for the most curious kid you know, wrap up any of the Tell Me books by...continued on page 13
For the kid who’s interested in animals, Book of Bones by Gabrielle Balkan, illustrated by San Breverst, is perfect. This book takes a look at the skeletons of animals— the biggest, the longest, the thinnest—and the animals who need those bones to live and thrive. Pair it up with Stuff You Need to Know About the Human Body by John Yoswal and Tim Hutchinson, a book about human inside.

And for the child who’s into adventure plus weirdness, look for The Atlas Obscura Explorer’s Guide for the World’s Most Adventurous Kid by Dylan Thurash and Rosemary Mosco, illustrated by Ay Sang. It’s a book filled with maps and sites and places your child can go, even if they do it through paper and imagination.

YABOOKS

The teen who has embraced STEM will also want to read Radioactive! by Whinfield Conkling. It’s the parallel story of two women: Irene Curie, who discovered artificial radioactivity; and Lise Meitner, who, four years after Irene’s discovery, learned the secret of nuclear fission. Get it for your teen and read it yourself.

The scientist on your list will love Junk Drawer Geometry by Bobby Mercer, especially if she is also a mathematician. This book is full of experiments and gee-whiz coolness. Wrap it up with any other book in the “Junk Drawer Science” series.

For the budding activist on your list, look for You Are Mighty: A Guide to Changing the World by Caroline Paul, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki. This hardcover book offers ideas to create change in many different aspects of society, and it includes places for your teen to take notes and jot down ideas. Pair it up with Illegal by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin, a graphic novel about a boy who crosses the Sahara desert and tries to forge a new life elsewhere.

The basketball fan in your life will love Here to Stay by Sara Farin. It’s a novel about a boy who saves the day and becomes a school hero and, oh, incidentally, he’s Muslim. Who’s friend and who’s enemy? Who can resist such a book?

So there you are. A bunch of different ways to use that gift certificate or fun learning and winter reading anticipation. Remember: if none of these suggestions seem to fit that Special Someone on your list, ask your weary-but-miling bookseller. She’s the one who has all the right answers.

Happy Reading!

Ohio Democratic Party Statement on Texas Ruling on Obamacare

The Ohio Democratic Party released the following statement from Chairman David Pepper in response to last evening’s ruling by a Texas judge that推迟 repeals coverage in jeopardy for millions of Ohioans:

“Over the past two years, Ohioans have been standing up and speaking out to demand that elected officials protect their health care. As Republicans have launched one attack after another. Meanwhile, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine has done nothing— in fact, on his first day in office, he actually filed suit to overturn the Affordable Care Act.

“With yesterday’s decision, health care coverage for millions of Ohioans -- those covered under John Kasich’s Medicaid expansion, those with pre-existing conditions who were denied coverage before the ACA, those who receive affordable insurance and subsidies through HealthCare.gov -- their health care is now at risk. This is put up or shut-up time for Mike DeWine and the incoming AG, Dave Yost. After all, DeWine claimed during the campaign that he supported protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Will he join the case and side with the people of Ohio? Or will DeWine and Yost sit on the sidelines and watch as Ohioans’ health care is taken away?”

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Happy Reading!
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.metroparks.toledo.com for complete list of position requirements and duties; must submit online application and resume by December 12. EOE

CHORI DIRECTOR/PIANIST

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church is seeking to hire a choir director/pianist for Sunday worship. Must be proficient 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 stmartindeporrestoledo@gmail.com or mail to 1119 West Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606.

MEDICAID WAIVER CASE AIDE

Provides data entry and monitoring of Medicaid eligibility through the MIT5 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.

EOE/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.
2152 Arlington Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43609

Or jobs@areaofficeaging.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

610 Stickney Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604

“Now Accepting Applications for 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartment Homes”

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

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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.metroparks.toledo.com/careers to view the job description, position requirements and apply online. EOE

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 ToledoLucas 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.com 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.

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 6:30 pm performances will start at 7:05 pm 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.
Annual Wayman D. Palmer Christmas Party

The Wayman D. Palmer YMCA celebrated its annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 15 and entertained families from the area with gifts, food and entertainment. Santa, of course, made his presence known as well. The event also raised funds and donations in order to giveaway coats and other clothing to families it need.