



Volume 55, No. 3

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

March 27, 2019



Zia Cooke Cuts the Nets ... Again

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# Point-Blank

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

The Truth Contributor

*The greatest gift is not being afraid to question.* — Ruby Dee



Theresa Gabriel exudes grace, class and confidence. Though small in stature, she has been gifted with big ideas for the prosperity of her community and equipped with an even larger vision to raise, develop and empower new leaders. And because she has always practiced what she preaches and lived what she says she believes, Gabriel is, and always has been, unapologetically forthright in articulating her point of view regardless of where the fallout may land.

I was blessed to sit down for a candid conversation with the former deputy director for the Lucas County Board of Elections; at large member of Toledo City Council; and senior administrator for the City of Toledo.

This is the conclusion of our two-part conversation.

**Perryman:** As one of the most influential black women in Toledo's history, what would you like people to remember about you?

**Gabriel:** I guess I would like for them to remember that I'm honest, direct, and if you don't want to know something don't ask me because I'm not going to tell you something that you want to hear or like. I'm going to tell you the truth and how I see it. I do not waste emotions on what is insignificant.

**Perryman:** I'm laughing only because that caught me a little off guard.

**Gabriel:** That's just me. I've always been this way, a fighter. Mama said when I came out of her womb I was fighting. I just don't think the Lord put me on this earth for anybody to dog me, and so you just don't come up in my face if you're not straight.

**Perryman:** I take it that there have been times when people did not exactly "come correct" when they approached you.

**Gabriel:** I was once interviewed at least 10 times for a position in the City of Toledo starting my career and each time I would pass the test, come out top of the list, and have to just sit there. This one time, I walked in this room and there were 14 white men sitting there, and you know what this man who was director said to me? He said 'You're so pretty.' And I asked him what did my looks have to do with my abilities to type 90 words a minute and to speak the King's English? His face got red as a beet, and he told me my interview was over. I said, 'so be it. I'll be back.' I got up and walked out. As the good Lord would have it, I started working the next day and despite a lot of obstacles that included being forced to have my office in a closet, I was able to climb all the way up through the ranks.

**Perryman:** What are your thoughts on the current state of Toledo's black community?

**Gabriel:** Disarray. Not hopeless yet, because you have young people coming up, but you have to work the system differently than in the past.

**Perryman:** What young people are out there and have made an impression on you?

**Gabriel:** Chris McBrayer is one of those at the top of the list. There are others but I don't remember their names. There is a married couple that works out at Mrs. McKinstry's charter school, they have PhD's, they're educators. And other than that, the only one that I can tell you that I know is ready to be groomed, your daughter is already out there, but she's in a different realm. My grandson, Robert and my grandson, Taurean.

**Perryman:** So, the state of the black community...

**Gabriel:** We have lost more than we have gained.

**Perryman:** Can you please elaborate, because under the Bell administration we had a black police chief, safety director and economic director?

**Gabriel:** Calvin Lawshe was there when Carty hired him. I'm talking about the people that are visible working on the streets, the ones that manage the employees on the lower levels, supervisors and foremen. They're white, most of them. It (black public sector employment) has been watered down so much.

**Perryman:** Speaking of Carty Finkbeiner, he appears to be one that people either love or hate. There seems to be no in-between. So, to what do you attribute your closeness to Carty over the years?

**Gabriel:** Because Carty's been beat up and beat down as much as people have tried to beat me up and down, and so we have a mutual admiration society going between the two of us. And I also like Carty as a person because he is a

Theresa Gabriel



... continued on page 10

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### March 28 & 30

Auditions for Performers and Stage Help: Thursday night 6 to 8:30 pm; Saturday afternoon 3 to 5 pm; For Bonita Adams new musical that will premiere May 4-5; West Toledo Branch Library: 419-508- 8919 or 419-215-1464

### March 30

Sylvania Franciscan Spring Art Festival: Celebrate Spring with beauty, imagination and joy; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Fine Art & Crafts; Live Music; Good Food; Franciscan Center, 6832 Convent Blvd.

### March 31

Calvary MBC 30th Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Floyd Smith Jr: 4 pm; Guests Pastor Nathan Madison and Fourth Street Baptist Church of Lima, OH

### April 5

Opioid Prevention and Resource Expo: Noon to 7 pm; UT Student Union Auditorium

### April 6

Flanders Road Church Clothing Giveaway: 9 am to 1 pm; For men, women and children

### April 26-27

Calvary Baptist Church Women's Ministry Spring Retreat: 419-531-9444

### April 27

The Libbey High School Historical Marker Dedication: 11 am; The former Libbey High School campus.



# Ohio Should Invest In Public Infrastructure To Build A Strong Economy

By Amanda Woodrum and Zach Schiller, Policy Matters Ohio

Special to The Truth

Right now, in Columbus, legislators are debating the merits of increasing Ohio's gas tax to invest more in Ohio's roads, bridges and public transit systems. In the long term, better roads and public transit strengthen Ohio's economy and help workers be more productive by making it easier for them to get to their jobs. These investments also create good construction-related jobs in the short term.

In most states across the nation, investment in public infrastructure remains at lower levels than in 2000, even as the economy rebounds from the last two recessions. The share of Ohio's economy generated by state and local capital spending fell by .5 percent between 2002 and 2016, from a share of 2.21 percent of Ohio's 2002 gross domestic product to 1.72 percent in 2016, according to a new report released last week by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Making matters worse, federal capital spending has also been on the decline, going from 1 percent to 0.5 percent of national GDP over the last 35 years. The federal gas tax was last increased in 1992, more 25 years ago.

Ohio's public transit systems have been in crisis for decades. The state of Ohio has underinvested in public transportation for nearly three-quarters of a century. The state spends just over 60 cents per resident on public transit, making Ohio 40th in the nation for its commitment to public transit.

With a \$1 billion hole in the state transportation budget, Ohio's bridges and roads are also in dire straits. Eighteen percent of Ohio's nearly 123,000 miles of public roads are in poor condition, and it's costing each Ohio driver \$545 per year, according to the American Society of Civil Engineer's Infrastructure Report Card.

Governor Mike DeWine has called for an 18-cent per gallon increase in the gas tax to maintain and repair Ohio's infrastructure. The Ohio House just passed a transportation bill that increases the gas tax by 10.7 cents per gallon and sets aside \$100 million for public transportation. The measures are now being considered in the Ohio Senate.

"Ohio's underinvestment in public infrastructure shows in the state of our roads, bridges and public transit systems," said Policy Matters Senior Researcher Amanda Woodrum. "We have to raise the gas tax to maintain our roads. We also need to set aside some of that revenue for public transit. That way we can reduce wear and tear on our roads while helping people get to work and cutting our carbon emissions."

Public transportation is the link to jobs, schools, and grocery stores for people who cannot afford or are unable to drive. Going forward, Ohio's transportation budget needs to be more balanced. The State of Ohio routinely spends less than 1 percent of its multi-billion transportation budget on public transit. For context, federal spending on transit accounts for approximately 20 percent of the federal transportation budget. The average state spends 18 percent of its transportation dollars on transit. Ohio can and should do better.

Many states struggle to repair and expand their transportation infrastructure because they have failed to increase gasoline or other fuel taxes in recent years. Ohio has not increased its gas tax since 2005 and is one of 18 states that have gone more than a decade, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

In its most recent report card on the condition of America's infrastructure, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave U.S. infrastructure a D+ or "poor" rating. The engineers noted that Ohio has serious challenges beyond transportation. For example, 412 of Ohio's 1,407 dams are high-hazard potential. Ohio has \$14.58 billion in wastewater infrastructure needs over 20 years. The state's schools have an estimated \$683 million gap in school capital expenditures.

The time is right for Ohio to invest in infrastructure because such investments will improve the economy, both now and in the future; and opportunities to finance these investments abound. What's more, well-designed investments in parks, libraries, schools, and better roads and public transit can improve Ohio quality of life and advance equity by ensuring that people – no matter their skin color, income level, or neighborhood – have access to building blocks of thriving communities like good roads, schools, and hospitals.

"Every state needs infrastructure improvements in order to maintain functioning public services and build a strong economy. But rather than investing in infrastructure, many states have cut taxes or offered corporate subsidies in a misguided approach to boosting economic growth," said Elizabeth McNichol, Senior Fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and author of the report. "This pattern of neglect by states has serious consequences for the nation's growth and quality of life as roads crumble, school buildings become obsolete, and outdated facilities jeopardize public health."

Contact Amanda Woodrum at [awoodrum@policymattersohio.org?subject=](mailto:awoodrum@policymattersohio.org?subject=) or Zach Schiller [zschiller@policymattersohio.org?subject=Release%3A216.361.9801](mailto:zschiller@policymattersohio.org?subject=Release%3A216.361.9801)

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# Third Annual Observation of Dr. King's A Time to Break Silence This Sunday, March 31

By Lynne Hamer, PhD, Event Organizer

Special to The Truth

On Sunday, March 31 at 3:30 p.m. community groups from across the region will come together to gain and give inspiration from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s radical vision calling for new values. This third annual reading of the speech will take place at Monroe Street United Methodist Church, 3613 Monroe Street in Toledo.

This event has developed into a much-loved time for citizens to meet others who are active in promoting the well-being of our democratic community and nation. It has been said that people should be active in one or a few causes, but should know about other causes so as to be able to support them. This event provides that opportunity.

The more than 30 participating organizations include: Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie; African American Parents' Association; American Civil Liberties Union; Black Lives Matter; Communication Workers of America; Community Solidarity Response Network; Disability Studies at The University of Toledo; Freedom School; Junction Neighborhood; Kairos Prison Ministry; Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition; Monroe Street Church; Monroe Street Neighborhood Center; Multi Faith Council; NAACP-Toledo Branch; National Association of Social Workers; Peace Education & Peace Studies at The University of Toledo; People Called Women; Prism of TSA; Sacred Grounds Toledo; Toledo Affiliation of Black School Educators; Toledo Area Jobs with Justice / Interfaith Worker Justice; Toledo Campus Ministry; Toledo Community Coalition; Toledo Kwanzaa House; Toledo Public Schools Department of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Toledo Sister Cities International; United Pastors for Social Empowerment; Veterans for Peace; WAKT 106.1 FM; Welcome Toledo-Lucas County; and Women of Toledo.

In April of 1967, Dr. King delivered his famous speech, *Beyond Vietnam: A*

*Time to Break Silence*, at the Riverside Church in New York City. The title indicates the scope and timelessness of the speech. Dr. King described it as going "beyond the calling of race or nation or creed" to the calling, often cast in religious terms, for people of means to speak for the "suffering and helpless and outcast." The speech was delivered one year to the day prior to Dr. King's assassination.



This year's event will begin with a musical prelude at 3:30. Clarence Smith, music director for Monroe Street United Methodist Church, described the prelude as representing many musical traditions coming together for the cause, in the same way that Dr. King's words called on people to come together across different concerns to speak with one voice. Gospel, steel drum, spiritual, and Vietnam-era protest music will be featured.

As a special addition, Tyrone Cleveland, representing Freedom School, will present excerpts from King's "I Have a Dream" sermon. Tyrone is in the third grade at TPS's Martin Luther King Academy.

Asked why he would participate for a third year, Clarence Gafney responded simply with a quote from another great leader, John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Gafney has represented the NAACP-Toledo in past years, but this year will represent the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition. In his place, he recruited the president of the NAACP-Toledo, Ray Wood, to read for that organization.

The public is encouraged to attend this free event, which is appropriate for all ages and is accessible for people with disabilities.

This event will focus entirely on the speech, with no additional commentary or statements from participating organizations. Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments and conversation inspired by the thoughts of Dr. King. During this time, information from many of the organizations will be available.

For more information about the location, visit the website <http://www.monroestumc.com/>, email [info@monroestumc.com](mailto:info@monroestumc.com), or contact Monroe Street Church staff at 419-473-1167. To learn more about the event, connect via FB Monroe Street Church Toledo.

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# ASK Management & Consultant: Helping Health Professionals Manage Their Finances

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

ASK Management & Consultant is a medical billing firm that focuses on five major services related to the health profession: medical billing, consulting, credentialing, auditing and staff development/compliance. The company's services, say President and CEO Shawna Sparks and Vice President and CFO Kinyatta Kyser, enable their clients to properly manage their accounting practices, improve their treatment plans and increase their revenues.

"ASK Management & Consultant is an expert in medical billing and compliance," explain Sparks and Kyser on the company's website. "We have ... started new facilities, helped existing practices run more efficiently and produced consistent and accurate billing – the medical billing experts at ASK can help you identify and process claims and collect money you're leaving on the table."

ASK began its quest to bring medical billing services to the health profession about three years ago, says Sparks, because she had grown weary of providing such services, over the course of her career in the field, just for other billing service firms and watching them grow into "six-figure businesses."

So Sparks connected with Kyser and ASK M & C was formed.

Sparks, a Toledo native, has 26 years of experience in medical billing, coding and practice management, working in a half dozen different health specialties, such as family medicine, pediatrics, physical and occupational therapy, DME, skilled nursing, behavioral and mental health facilities. Seventeen of those years have been spent in nursing homes dealing with such matters as payrolls and billing. She has started several mental health and substance abuse treatment programs and is certified by the Ohio and Michigan departments of insurance for life and financial planning.

Sparks is also a certified medical coder, and has advanced training in billing and administration services. She also obtained her QMHS certification, and is certified by the Ohio and Michigan Departments of Insurance for both life insurance and financial planning.

Kyser has been in health care finance for 16 years focusing on hospital finance in a half dozen specialties. Her specialties include podiatry, orthopedics, DME, home health care and hospice, as well as hospital and outpatient facilities and she has worked with ProMedica, Mercy Health and UPMC facilities. She is a certified lean leader and financial counselor and is also certified by the Ohio and Michigan departments of insurance for life and financial planning.

At Mercy Health Partners, she specialized in evaluating efficiency and quality improvement measures across the company. Her insight and leadership played a role in saving the network millions of dollars annually.

Kyser has also served in a variety of roles in billing and collections depart-

ments, including claims denial processing, billing and authorization, financial counseling to patients, and was also consulted for business acquisition evaluation.

As noted above, Sparks was tired of working only to help other health financial service business realize their success before she started ASK with Kyser. Now that success is coming their way. In 2018, ASK quadrupled its revenues over the previous year and reached the quarter-million dollar mark, says Kyser. Their goal for 2019 is to hit the half-million dollar revenue line.

But their success is not limited to their own company.

"All of the companies we worked with have increased their revenues by 200 percent," says Kyser.

Sparks and Kyser are not content to merely grow their medical billing practice in the future. In the coming months they are planning to venture into the lawn care and child care businesses as a way to help provide both employment and low-cost services for those in the community who need such assistance, particularly ex-offenders and those who are recovering from substance abuse issues.

It's an ambitious plan, to be sure. These will be time-consuming projects for two entrepreneurs who have already given so much of their time and energy to achieve their current success. But given that success, it would be unwise to bet against them.



Shawn Sparks and Kinyatta Kyser



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# Sybrina Fulton: Saving Our Sons, Saving Our Lives, to speak at the Seagate Center on May 25, 2019

*Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, is dedicating her life to transforming family tragedy into social change.*

As part of NHA's Sister Care Series, Sybrina Fulton will be the keynote speaker at the Seagate Center on Saturday, May 25, 2019. The speaking engagement titled "Saving Our Sons, Saving Our Lives" is set to begin at 1:00 pm with a Q&A session immediately following.

Fulton is dedicating her life to transforming family tragedy into improving opportunities for children. After the death of her 17 yr. old son, Trayvon Martin in 2012, Fulton has become an inspiring spokesperson for parents and concerned citizens across the country.

Fulton's message not only appeals to people's hearts as it relates to children, but it is also one of hope and change, exemplified by her personal endeavors. She inspires audiences everywhere to continuously educate their children about civil rights and help them feel accepted as part of an ever changing society.

By sharing her personal and powerful story, she has encouraged diverse audiences – from colleges and legal professionals to community and family organizations – to become more educated on ways to keep their loved ones safe and empower themselves to become catalysts for social change. Come hear her message of peace, hope, and moving forward.

Fulton is a Miami native and a graduate of Florida Memorial University. She is the founder of Circle of Mothers, a support group for mothers who have lost a child to gun violence. An inspiring and honest speaker,

Fulton looks forward to sharing her message with the Toledo community and all supporters of social justice.

Many thanks to our media sponsors 13abc, Lamar Advertising, The Sojourner's Truth, and Toledo City Paper for supporting and promoting this event.

*It is the mission of the NHA through our exceptional health care services, we empower and educate, aggressively working to eliminate health care inequities, supporting personal responsibility for one's own health regardless of the ability to pay. For more information about the NHA, visit [www.nhainc.org](http://www.nhainc.org)*



Sybrina Fulton

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# Portraits of Tatum – A Tribute to a Toledo Legend

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

Known as one of the greatest improvisers of Jazz music in history, Art Tatum, a native of Toledo, Ohio, is a legend. His name and legacy are celebrated by jazz artists, singers and fans throughout generations for his fast-fingering and innovative rifts, transforming classic tunes into whimsical nuances.

It is no secret that Tatum was visually impaired, yet with such skill and intricacy, he stroked the ebony and ivory keys as if his hands were brushes and the notes vibrant colors, wondrous masterpieces to behold. Art Tatum was born in 1909, 110 years ago in Toledo, also known as the Glass City.

In an audio-visual exhibition of reflections about his life and musical career, Imelda Hunt, PhD, founder of The New Works Writers Series, in partnership with the Toledo Museum of Art, presented Portraits of Tatum with dramatic readings from her most recently published book, *The History of Art Tatum, 1909-1932*.

The Toledo Museum of Art's GlasSalon, located nearby Tatum's childhood home, was the setting where local performers portrayed friends, colleagues and family members, sharing their experiences with both, a young Art and the grown-up, accomplished musician he became.

Under spotlights, in the dimmed salon, the cast-members processed into the GlasSalon to the soundtrack of a blend of Jazz and Fusion through the ages, mixed by Stanley "DJ Money" Knox. A waiting audience was greeted by friends of Tatum, Jim and Gladys who testified about his friendly character and generous spirit.

In an exchange of fond memories, the pair, portrayed by real-life siblings, Curtis Smith and Megan Davis, brought to light, Hunt's recordings of Tatum's memories as shared through the author's interviews with them. The book depicts a vivid and lively childhood in the Junction-Dorr-Detroit-Collingwood area where Tatum's family and friends grew up.

With a voice of clarity, Myrna Allen-Austin, sang a rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" to a reverie of Art Tatum's accompaniment. She then portrayed accomplished musician, and teacher Mary Belle Shealy, a Houston, Texas native who was a colleague that shared the culture of professional musicians across the U.S. and in Toledo. Her family migrated North for "better living." Her pride in knowing how to read music was evident as she described the distinction of opportunities and pay grades for classical musicians as opposed to improv and "by ear" musicians both which Tatum himself was able to do, even if by Braille.



Imelda Hunt, Author and Founder of New Works Writers Series and Tisha Carroll, Exhibit Technician Assistant



Kenneth Taylor, Megan Davis, Brianna Byrd, Myrna Allen-Smith, Curtis Smith

The jovial voices of Harold Payne, played by Kenneth Taylor, and Mozart Perry, played by Smith, took the audience to a time when the men reflected on the types of shows that were being played during Tatum's mid-20s. They described the robust variety of stage shows and clubs that housed live music and dance- a time where people got dressed to the nines to have a good time and go to their respective homes when the night was over. They described Tatum as one of the nice guys, a rare talent to befriend and likewise admire.

At the close of the presentation, Arlene Tatum, Art's younger sister, played by Davis, gave an emotional account of her time being the little sister of a musical genius and famous star. She chronicled her days, chasing after her big brother as he developed his skill as a child into their formative years in public schools. She was as much a fan as she was his keeper.

Arlene gave their family's history which further humanized Art Tatum as a son and brother although he was an icon to many. His death at the age of 46, which took many by surprise, was a reminder of one's mortality despite their divine presence by way of their gifts and talents. Brianna Byrd sang "Someone to Watch Over Me," a befitting tune demonstrating Arlene's care and concern for her brother. She shared a dance with Payne, as it was in the days when having a good time was classy and cool.

Assisting with the production was Tisha Carroll. Hunt's book delves into the nooks and crannies of Tatum's upbringing, education, and career, illustrated at length and in great detail by the accounts of those she interviewed prior to penning it. The inaugural book in this series, *Does a Genius...A Tribute to Art Tatum*, is comprised of poetry, inspired by Tatum's music, that Hunt's research and recollection of stories told her about Tatum's life and vocation.

"Even now, when I write about Tatum, I'm inspired by his work," said Hunt in an interview with Linda Yohn on WEMU/NPR. Her extensive study and research of African-American life, art, music and literature has made her work as an educator, playwright, author and poet, a remarkable salutation to the found-

ing fathers and mothers in African-American history and an offering of inspiration to those aspiring to pursue work in Africana Studies, art and literature. Hunt's books can be found on Amazon.com. To learn more about her nonprofit, New Works Writer Series, please visit [newworkswritersseries.org](http://newworkswritersseries.org).

Photos by Imani Lateef



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# Rogers Does It Again – Back to Back Girls Basketball Champs

By Albert Earl

The Truth Contributor

After winning the Ohio Division II State Championship in 2018, the Rogers Girls basketball team's conversation immediately began about the opportunity to make history by winning back to back titles – something no other Toledo team – boys or girls – had ever accomplished.

I knew that if any group could get this done, it would be this very special

group of ladies. However, I also knew the biggest challenges to that would be, first, the target on their backs of being the state champs and, second, the grind of playing a national schedule outside of the City League.

Normally playing a tough schedule would be great preparation for tournament play but, this year, I knew it could result in being in some very difficult contests because they would get everybody's best game.

The team was also trying to get its record-tying eighth City League championship in a row.

Zia Cooke was on the verge of becoming the first girl in City League

... continued on page 9



Zia Cooke



Zia Cooke sets up offense in semifinal against Sheridan



Courtney Gardner

Photos by Albert Earl



Zia Cooke and Coach Smith savor victory



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MAR 5 – ROGERS 51 – NAPOLEON 42

MAR 8 – ROGERS 59 – BELLEVUE 37

MAR 14 – ROGERS 56 – SHERIDAN 48

MAR 16 – ROGERS 56 – CARROLL 45



# Notre Dame Academy Also Made the Trip to the Basketball Final Four

Notre Dame, a perennial attendee at the Division I Ohio State Basketball Tournament, lost in this year's Final Four semifinal game to Pickerington Central by a score of 52 to 42. The unranked Eagles were making their sixth state tournament appearance in the past eight years, having ended as runners-up in their previous two appearances in 2015 and 2017.



Battling for a rebound

*Rogers... continued from page 8*

history to score 2,000 points for her career and Madison Royal Davis could be the first to score 1,000 points in her first two years of high school basketball.

So it was no surprise when they had to fight and knock down free throws in the closing moments against Start in the City League Championship or go to the wire against Central and Napoleon in

*... continued on page 11*



Madison Royal Davis



Logan Love

Photos by Albert Earl



Ashley Barron



Coach Travis Galloway instructs Jala Johnson



Maelyn Kizer layup

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# Imagination Library in Toledo Expands to Provide Free Books to Area Youth

*Women's Initiative* of United Way is proud to announce the expansion of their signature program, "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library," which is now available in all Toledo Public School zip codes.

Imagination Library is an international program, with a local approach, focused on delivering one free book, every month, to children in our community, ages zero to five. Previously, the program was available in eight Toledo-area zip codes and will now be available in 13 zip codes.

"About 83 percent of children in our community are not prepared to enter kindergarten. That's a substantial number of young learners who are enrolling in school and are already behind," said Debbie Williams, *Women's Initiative* board chair of Imagination Library.

Since Imagination Library's 2015 inception in Toledo, the program has delivered over 142,000 books and served more than 7,100 children.

"Each day, our enrollment numbers are climbing, telling us that more

books are falling into the hands of parents and guardians, who are reading to the children in their home. Reading with kids, as early as possible, leads to greater literacy and comprehension rates, helping us move the needle on children entering the classroom ready to learn and academically succeed," said Williams.

It's estimated that in five years, 60 percent of all children within these 13 zip codes will be engaged in Imagination Library services.

Romules Durant, EdD, expressed his excitement about the expansion, "Toledo Public Schools is committed to creating college and career ready students, and we know that begins with early literacy. We are grateful to the *Women's Initiative* of United Way for providing this opportunity to our students and families," Durant said.

To learn more about Imagination Library enrollment, simply dial 2-1-1 or instant message a 2-1-1 specialist online at [211oh.org](http://211oh.org). Supporting a local child for an entire year costs as little as \$25, and you can do so at [my.unitedwaytoledo.org/supportDPIL](http://my.unitedwaytoledo.org/supportDPIL)



*Women's Initiative* of United Way, an affinity group of United Way of Greater Toledo, is committed to supporting and uplifting women and children in Lucas, Wood and Ottawa County.



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## State Bank GIVES

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*Rogers... continued from page 9*

the District Championship and Regional semis. Those tough matches would ultimately be a curse for Bellevue in the Regional finals when Rogers rose to the occasion and punched their ticket to Columbus in a huge blowout.

During the Final Four, in both games against Sheridan in the semifinals and the championship game against Dayton Carroll, one had the feeling that it was destiny at work – and it didn't matter what type of run the other teams went on.

The Rogers coaching staff and players remained poised throughout both matchups and the girls responded with big moments. Zia Cooke led Rogers with 37 points and 13 rebounds against Sheridan in the semifinal game and Madison Royal Davis led the team in the championship with 17 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. Zia added 13 points and 11 rebounds. Center Tanasia Hines was a monster in defense blocking six shots.

Seeing these girls cut down the nets again and viewing the smiles on the faces of TPS students, fans and administration was truly a TPS Proud/Toledo Pride moment. I couldn't help but reflect on what it took for the girls to get there again.

They maintained a 3.2 overall team GPA; they ran the hills during the off-season; they overcame the tragedy of two classmates passing away – one during the Final Four week. They stayed focused on their goals despite their own personal battles outside of basketball and the pressure of having to deal with all the media hype due to Zia Moore's growing stature as one of the best players in the nation. (She has been named the Ohio Division II Player of the Year; earned two gold medals with USA Basketball; committed to the University of South Carolina and became a McDonald's All-American)

They had a great coach in Lamar Smith, who had other good men around him to help manage all that was seen and unseen, known and unknown. These players were blessed and lucky to take their place in the history book of Toledo High School Sports were no one else sits. It is their throne alone.

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

fighter. Even when he knows he's going to get his butt whooped he sticks to his guns.

**Perryman:** But hasn't he done his share of butt kicking too?

**Gabriel:** Yes, he has. But nobody knows how much his butt gets kicked. And Carty supported and pushed for me to be elevated early on when others tried their best to keep their foot on me. So, as much as we battle each other, Carty has always supported me. And we have had some knock-down, drag outs in staff meetings and what have you, I wouldn't back down, and then when anybody else would say something he'd tell them to shut up. You know how it is when a brother and sister be fighting each other and we're family, don't be dipping in our...and I wouldn't talk to him for days.

And also, my mother loved Carty, because Carty would go over and go to the back door and knock on the door and talk to her. And even when I would get mad at him, he'd say 'well, I'm gonna go talk to Ms. King,' and I'd say 'go right ahead.' And then when mama's health started failing he'd come out to the hospital with an ice cream cone and he'd chant Ms. King, where's Theresa Gabriel's mom? Hollering and screaming because he didn't know the room number. So, you ask me why do we get along? Now you understand.

**Perryman:** I know he used to just show up out of the blue at black churches and act as if he was a regular member. He didn't wait for election season to come around.

**Gabriel:** And that is sincere. There is no fake in that man, none whatsoever, and so I've always stuck by Carty even when it came to the regional water issue. I called Carty and I said Carty, you're gonna have to come out and stop them from what they're doing, because too many of us will lose jobs. 'Well, they seem to have it under control,' he said and I said 'no, let's talk.' And so, Carty is responsible for where we are now on the water, in my mind.

**Perryman:** Finally, it also seems that your close professional relationship with Carty may have precipitated battles between you and others.

**Gabriel:** You never heard a peep out of Theresa Gabriel about anyone else. I never said a word, I just let others continue to go on and do whatever they were doing and saying what they were saying. And the bit with me owning a bar? We had city councilmen that owned two or three of them. We had all kinds of people that did, and people never opened their mouths until Carty appointed me as director.

So, as I tell you, sometimes the good old boys are racists and black folks can be black folks' worst nightmare. You know it, but you have to learn how to outsmart them!

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

Let all those who said or thought that children in certain districts could not get this done, think again and remain silent. They could and they did – they did what no one else has ever done.

Back2Back!!

*Ed. Note: Albert Earl is, of course, a very proud Rogers' alumnus. A 1984 graduate, he played basketball for all four years of his time there.*



*Fans Sense Victory*



*Last minute instructions from Coach Lamar Smith*



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# Senate Transportation Budget Zeroes out Public Transit, Slightly Improves EITC

*Special to The Truth*

Last week, the Ohio Senate took a leap backwards by removing \$100 million for public transit from the Transportation Budget allocated by the Ohio House of Representatives. They also took small steps to otherwise improve equity by expanding Ohio's Earned Income Tax Credit.

Governor Mike DeWine proposed increasing the gas tax to 18 cents per gallon in order to fill a \$1 billion hole in Ohio's Transportation Budget. The House reduced the increase to 10.7 cents and increased federal flexible funds for public transit from \$40 million to \$100 million. The Senate further reduced the gas tax to 6 cents per gallon and removed transit funding from the Transportation Budget altogether.

Instead of funding transit through the Transportation Budget, the Senate proposed adding \$48.5 million to the \$6.5 million Governor DeWine included in his GRF proposal, for a total of \$55 million a year. That is still far short of the \$150 million a year needed to meet demand and there is no guarantee these funds will remain intact during the horse-trading that will inevitably take place during the General Revenue Fund process from now through June.

"Public transit is a transportation alternative and should be part of the transportation budget," said Amanda Woodrum, Senior Researcher for Policy Matters Ohio. "The House rightfully recognized that transit offers affordable, accessible and environmentally-friendly transportation choices while the Senate reverted to a roads-only transportation mentality. The conference committee should restore the good work done by the House."

At the same time, the Senate included reforms to Ohio's earned income tax credit (EITC). It is great that Ohio has an EITC, but only five percent of the state's poorest residents benefit from it because it is worth only 10 percent of the federal EITC, it has a steep benefits cliff for people who earn more than \$20,000 a year, and it is not refundable. The Senate removed the income cap and raised the credit to 30 percent of the federal EITC. However, it left out the most important reform — making the credit refundable. Unless the credit is made refundable, the other reforms benefit only an additional 1 percent of Ohio's lowest income families, according to an analysis from the Institute for Tax and Economic Policy.

Ohio is an outlier among the 29 states with EITCs: 25 have credits that are refundable. Each year, the refundable federal EITC lifts millions of

people out of poverty, including 3 million children in 2016. A refundable EITC would help Ohio fix its upside down tax code that has lower income residents paying higher portions of their income in sales and use taxes than wealthier Ohioans.

"The Senate made improvements to Ohio's EITC, and it's a good start, but it's not enough" said Policy Matters Project Director Kalitha Williams. "Refundability is the most powerful aspect of the EITC. Working families use their refunds to pay for child care, buy food and make home and car repairs. That boosts the economy and is good for everyone."

## Tax Season Tips to Avoid Scammers and Robocalls

*Special to The Truth*

It's tax season. The time of year when phone scammers get particularly aggressive trying to trick you out of your hard-earned money. And scam calls and robocalls are a growing problem for everyone. Here are a few tricks to help you dodge scammers and give you peace of mind.

### Know the Signs

Scam call technology is always changing, so it's important to stay vigilant against scammers' attempts to get you to answer your phone. Every year, they make millions off innocent victims with new techniques. Their latest method, known as number-spoofing technology, could fool even the savviest consumers into answering the phone. Number-spoofing makes a scammer's number appear as either a familiar number with a local area code or even come up on Caller ID as the "IRS." If you don't answer, they may also leave "urgent" callback voicemails via robocalls. Recognizing these tactics can help you stay safe. If you suspect a call (or a voicemail) is a scam, hang up. If you want to be sure, don't call back the number provided but instead, look up your local IRS Customer Service number on the Internet and call the IRS directly.

### Use Protection Tools

Check out what technology your wireless company offers that can protect you from scam and spoof calls. For example, T-Mobile offers free scam and spoofing protection for customers with Scam ID and Scam Block. These tools are made available to all postpaid customers and live on the T-Mobile network, so no app is required. As soon as a call reaches the network, it's analyzed and if it's scam, the incoming call is tagged as Scam Likely. If customers want to stop scam calls completely, they can turn on Scam Block. With these tools in place, in the last two years, T-Mobile has alerted customers to over 10 billion Scam Likely calls. And in 2019, T-Mobile reports warning customers of 225 million Scam Likely calls each week. Others wireless providers usually also offer customers app solutions to help identify scam calls for a small monthly fee. Check with your provider to see what is available.

New standards from the Federal Communications Commission, called STIR/SHAKEN, are also helping protect consumers. T-Mobile's implementation of STIR/SHAKEN, Caller Verified, lets you know when a call made on the T-Mobile network is authentic and not intercepted by scammers and spammers. Once other wireless providers implement STIR/SHAKEN, Caller Verified will work on calls made across networks.

### Know Your Rights

While scam-blocking technology can help you filter out scam and spoof

... continued on page 13

<p><b>8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH EXPO</b></p> <p><b>SAVE THE DATE – SPRING 2019</b></p> <p><b>WHEN:</b> <b>Saturday, April 27th</b> <b>10:00am - 4:00pm</b></p> <p><b>WHERE:</b> <b>Indiana Ave MB Church</b> <b>The Stephenson - Roberts</b> <b>Fellowship Hall</b></p> <p><b>640 Indiana Ave. Toledo, OH 43602</b></p> <p> </p>	<p><b>FREE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p><b>Come enjoy free health screenings, exclusive shopping, and networking opportunities.</b></p> <p><b>SPONSORSHIP &amp; VENDING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE NOW!!</b></p> <p><b>CONTACT</b> <b>Ms. Donnetta Carter</b> <b>Phone: (419) 367-9765</b> <b>E-mail: donnetta_c@msn.com</b></p>
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# *This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism* by Ashton Applewhite

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

There's another candle on your birthday cake.

Whatever.

Your back hurts, your knees hurt, and it was hard getting up this morning, then you lost your glasses and ten minutes looking for them. One stupid candle won't make you feel enlightened but in *This Chair Rocks* by Ashton Applewhite, you'll see how to grow older without aging.

Ashton Applewhite hates the way we talk about people over fifty. Specifically, she hates "the elderly" and "seniors," as well as "elders" because those terms have generally bad connotations. Instead, she suggests we change our language to "olders," because the word "emphasizes that age is a continuum."

Aging, you see, is what she knows – not just because she's sixty-something, but because she writes about the subject. She knows there are lots of myths about aging, and that the truth is better than we think.

A mere three percent of Americans over age 65 live in nursing homes, for one, and most of them "can think just fine," which means they don't have any problems with dementia. Most olders, in fact, remain active, independent, and enjoy fashion, dating, sex and travel. To think differently is indulging in ageism.

Once you know how to spot ageism, Applewhite says, you can combat it.

Forgetting that olders are still consumers is ageism. Howling that near-retirement-age employees take jobs from younger workers is ridiculous

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289 pages

– and ageism. Getting shamed for needing a wheelchair is ageism. Being scolded for wearing something you love but that someone has decided is "too young for you"... ageism. Absolutely.

Furthermore, says Applewhite, your brain is probably fine; cognition declines to a certain extent in older years, but aging enhances thought processes and besides, younger people forget things, too. You can keep your brain sharp by working your body.

Remember that "aging is not a disease," and you shouldn't be ashamed of it because "Sixty isn't the new forty, but it is a new sixty."

Oh, and those aches...? You shovel, you garden, you walk, you dance. Maybe the aches came from living.

Your next birthday is arriving soon, and you're not sure whether to dread it, admit to it, or lie about it. You're not sure what to think, but after reading *This Chair Rocks*, you'll know exactly.

Author Ashton Applewhite is, as you can imagine, a proponent of embracing your years, an action that she shows is beneficial in many ways for both quality of life and longevity. Those are happy words for the person who seizes their existence and wrings every ounce from it. They're a shout-out to anyone who uses a hearing aid or wheelchair without embarrassment, and a comfort to those who struggle to ignore the "shouldas" that other people fling. They're advising words of the MYOB sort: enjoy your years because whose business is it what you do?

That's counsel that could turn your thinking around, or it could make a great 50th Birthday gift to someone with dread on their mind. *This Chair Rocks* proves that getting older is icing on the cake.



*Tax Season Tips... continued from page 12*

calls, it's also important to know your rights. Many of these calls use intimidation tactics to scare consumers into divulging sensitive information over the phone. The IRS website notes that they will always make attempts to reach you via postal mail first and they will never ask you for a specific form of payment. You should know that you always have the right to formally contest the amount owed, and the IRS will not make threats against you or your family regarding arrest or deportation. If you have any elderly or susceptible family members, talk to them about how to avoid such scams and consider setting them up with the latest technology to help them stay safe.

This tax season, be wary about the calls that you receive. With up-to-date information and new technology, you can protect your pocketbook from scammers.

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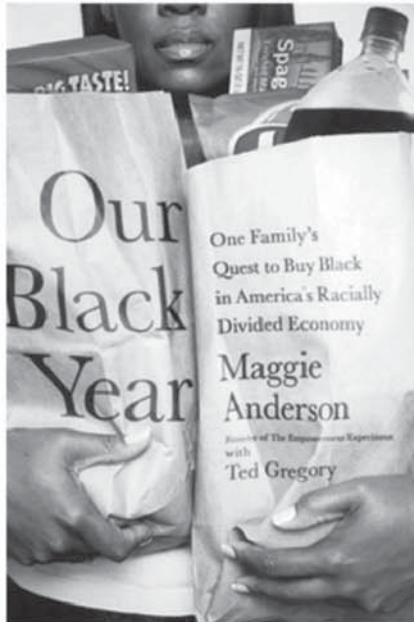
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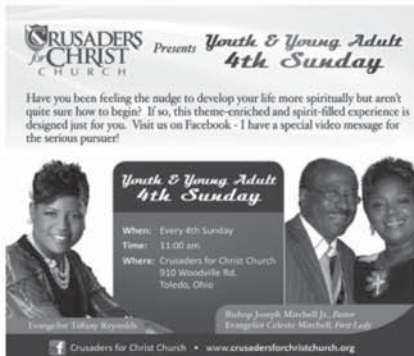
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# CLASSIFIEDS

March 27, 2019

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## CLIENT SERVICES SPECIALIST LUCAS COUNTY

Lucas County Planning & Development Agency is accepting applications to fill the position of Client Services Specialist until filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Client Services Specialist" from the list to read more or apply.

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## LUCAS COUNTY ENGINEER SUMMER SEASONAL LABORER I

Lucas County Engineer, Road Maintenance department, is accepting applications to fill the Summer Seasonal Laborer I position. Application deadline is March 19, 2019 at 4:30 pm. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Lucas County Engineer - Summer Seasonal Laborer I" from the list to read more or apply.

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**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY19-56, (Project # 0089-19-213) for Center for Administrative Support Renovations for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 2, 2019. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$60.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Tadd Stacy of Architecture by Design at 419-824-3311. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$737,202.00; Breakdown: General: \$370,650.00; Plumbing: \$38,772.00; Fire Protection: \$10,020.00; HVAC: \$72,000.00; Electrical: \$245,760.00.

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY19-57, (Project # 5003-19-1860) for HEB College of Medicine Lab Renovations for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 2, 2019. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$125.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Alejandro J. Medina of BHPD Architecture at 513-271-1634. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 227, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$805,250.00; Breakdown: General: \$608,750.00; Plumbing: \$28,000.00; Fire Protection: \$11,000.00; HVAC: \$115,000.00; Electrical: \$42,500.00.

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## RACIAL JUSTICE DIRECTOR

The YWCA of NWO, whose mission is to eliminate racism and empower women, is looking to hire a Racial Justice Director. This candidate will manage the Dialogue To Change program and lead other racial justice initiatives. Must possess excellent organizational skills, be detail oriented and have a proven track record of delivery and understanding of racial inequities. Valid driver's license and Bachelors in social work or related field required. 30 hrs./wk. \$22.00/hr. with full benefits and potential for growth. Position will remain open until filled.

## SPECIAL NOTICE RE: EXAMINATIONS FOR JOURNEYMAN WIREMAN

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted April 1-5, 2019 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over,
2. Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
3. Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

## 2019 SPRING CAREER EXPO AT LOURDES UNIVERSITY

Employers seeking entry-level talent are encouraged to register for the 2019 Spring Career Expo co-sponsored by Siena Heights University and Lourdes University. The Career Expo will take place Wednesday, March 27 from 1pm to 3:30pm, at the Franciscan Center, 6832 Convent Blvd. in Sylvania. Two employer panels will provide insight on local and regional hiring practices at 1:00pm and 2:00pm.

Job seekers will include Siena Heights University and Lourdes University students who are graduating from associate, bachelor and master's degree programs, as well as alumni. Area colleges and universities as well as individuals seeking professional employment will be in attendance. For more information, contact Andrea Domachowski, Director of Lourdes University's Career Services at 419-824-3704 or email [career@lourdes.edu](mailto:career@lourdes.edu) or [career@lourdes.edu](mailto:career@lourdes.edu).

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# Zeta Phi Zeta Sorority Holds Scholarship Breakfast, Puts Spotlight on Mental Health

By Sojourner's Truth Staff

The members of the Zeta Phi Zeta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Xi Zeta Chapter, held their 2019 Finer Womanhood Scholarship Breakfast on Saturday, March 23 in the Mount Vernon Room of Parkway Place with the theme: "Finer Women Sing the Blues: A Spotlight on Mental Health."

"It is very important to me that we shine a light on mental health, most particularly in the African-American community," wrote Jasmine Pope, president of Zeta I Zeta, in the program notes. "Statistics show that African Americans are 20 percent more likely to experience serious mental health problems and of those who actually need treatment, only one-third of them receive it."

The theme of mental health was one that Zeta Soror Kimberly Dada addressed in her welcome to attendees at the start of the breakfast, saying "We want to knock out this stigma in our community."

After the morning's welcome, before breakfast and the keynote address, Soror Tiara Neal performed a praise dance to a musical selection.

The event keynote speaker, Linda Rowlett, an independent licensed social worker in the greater Toledo area, also addressed the issue in her remarks. Rowlett earned a master's in Science of Social Administration degree from Case Western Reserve University. She works with young children, teens, adults and families in community mental health agencies, inpatient psychiatric facilities, childcare centers and home health agencies.

After Rowlett spoke, the chapter's awards were presented. This year's Soror of the Year was presented by Aufwiedersehen Winfield to Celine Winfield.

The Scholarship Committee and Chairman Latisha Williams presented sits 2019 Finer Womanhood Scholarships to two students – Whitney Hughes and Sonia Achaleke.

Whitney attends Jones Leadership Academy. She has a 4.4986 GPA and plans to attend Emerson College to pursue a degree in both Journalism and Theater Education & Performance.

Sonia attends Maumee High School. She has a 3.9273 GPA and plans to attend the University of Akron to pursue a degree in Biological Sciences, with a minor in Spanish. She plans to later go on to medical school.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority is a nonprofit, 501c3 and was founded in 1920 on the campus of Howard University. The sorority's platform is: Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood and Finer Womanhood.

Zeta's national and local programs include the endowment of its National Educational Foundation community outreach services and support of multiple affiliate organizations. Zeta chapters and auxiliaries have given countless hours of voluntary service to educate the public, assist youth, provide scholarships, support organized charities, and promote legislation for social and civic change.



Breanna Allen, Arteia Minnick, Danielle Reddick, Laurie Sharp, Latisha Williams, Angela Crooks and J'Vann Winfield



The Zeta Xi Zeta Sorors



Jasmine Pope, Sonia Achaleke, Latisha Williams, Whitney Hughes, Laurie Sharp



Tiara Neal

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