

Volume 55, No. 4

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

April 17, 2019



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## The Heat is On

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

The Truth Contributor

Don't look back. Some(one) might be gaining on you.

- Leroy "Satchel" Paige



We may be seeing the beginnings of a revival of impactful progressive activism and political reform beginning to break through in Lu-

A fresh group of young urban progressive Democrats, frustrated by the pace of social change and energized by their long-repressed desire to "bring Toledo into the 21st century," have exploded onto the local political scene just in time for the 2019 municipal elections.

Although the Lucas County Democratic Party's decision to not endorse District One Councilman Tyrone Riley's quest for a third term signaled that the Party had had enough of the bad optics resulting from Riley's negative publicity as covered by The Blade, several young people indicated to me that "we just need a new wave of leadership, young people to help the city get more up to date socially, economically and beyond."

I've also been told that Riley, whose name recognition remains through the roof, is upset because he feels that he has been a team player and loyal to both the Lucas County Dems and the community, yet is confident that he will ultimately survive all political challenges and emerge with his position and reputation intact.

However, Riley, though confident, can't help but feel the pressure from a number of young upstarts who sense some vulnerability in the veteran councilman's campaign for a third term and within the staid politics of the local Democratic Party.

Who are these rising stars of change and progressive politics?

They are:

Shaun Strong, a central committee member who "absolutely killed it" in his recent interview with the Party's screening committee. Strong's career was primarily forged in the fire of Larry Sykes' most recent city council campaign, where he performed commendably as Sykes' campaign manager. He has served in Democratic Party activities for several years, primarily in the background. In addition, Strong is very active in the faith (COGIC) community.

Marsha Hill, also impressed in her screening interview and is described as a "firecracker who is afraid of nothing and will knock on 10,000 doors." Hill is an entrepreneur who operates a catering business and a nonprofit which fights child obesity while promoting kid

fitness. She has a "PhD in life experiences," which she has used to help others fight addiction, substance abuse and domestic violence. She is a Scott High School graduate and has worked at Jeep for many

Robert Gabriel III, has been described as a "person that understands what its like to be a young black man in the current 21st century political context." Gabriel's campaign has flown quietly under the radar. He matriculated at West Virginia University, possesses a master's degree in criminal justice from UT and is a recent graduate of the University of Toledo Law School. The young aspiring attorney is currently focused on marketing and developing the local entertainment and restaurant scenes and is looking to take the bar exam soon in order to establish a law practice. Gabriel is the grandson of Toledo matriarch Theresa Gabriel and decries the drain of young black talent and intellect that has been occurring in Toledo. He challenges new young leaders to "step up and influence a more progressive mentality" in the city.

Other progressive names to watch?

Sheena Barnes, an energetic young African-American woman who is the Democratic Party's endorsed candidate for the Toledo Board of Education. Barnes is a Toledo Public Schools' parent, local activist and a community health worker with the Lucas County Health Department.

Finally,

Brittany Moore and Kwinlyn Tyler are indispensable members of the Northwest Ohio Young Black Dems who are "very much on the move" having recruited and developed other young leaders. Their efforts have also helped to spawn other groups such as the Young Muslim Dems and Latino Young Dems.

Whether status quo politics will continue in 2019 remains to be seen. What is certain, though, is that a number of fresh, young, progressive African American men and women are poised for a breakthrough.

And, for many long-serving politicians, this means that "the heat is on."

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org

Author's Note: The article titled Race for 2019: First Take has been changed. A previous version mistakenly stated that June Boyd had screened for the Lucas Democratic Party's endorsement for Toledo City Council. In fact, June Boyd has not screened nor asked for the endorsement from the Lucas County Democratic Party. We apologize.

#### The Sojourner's Truth

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### **Community Calendar**

Easter Sunday Service at Monroe Street United Methodist Church: 10:30 am; Free breakfast at 9:30 am; Music by Clarence Smith and Glass City Brass

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

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

#### April 28

Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir "It's a Crown Affair:" 5 pm; A service celebrating area pastors' and ministers' wives and widows; Calvary Baptist Church: 419-241-7332

## Reparations ... Ya Think So?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq Guest Column

A hot potato topic that will soon light up the midnight sky, and much more so in any upcoming debates in Democratic Party, will be that of reparations.

Reparations or the computation of financial renumerations (in differing formats) for the descendants of slaves in America will, in my humble opinion, set America's racial teeth on edge as if they were sucking on a lemon laced with apple vinegar.

Purportedly, some in the far-left wing of the Democratic Party want to appeal to a certain base of black American voters and the topic of reparations is a sure-fire way to get their attention.

Let's first outline the problems that will be immediately associated with reparations. The first big problem will be Herr Trump and the GOP.

You know and I know that if there is any serious discussion on the national scene regarding reparations, Trump and the GOP will typecast it as socialistic, racist and, above all, a budget breaker.

There would not be a better way for Trump to galvanize his "deplorable" base than to spawn dozens of moronic tweets indicating that black Americans are still wanting a hand out and they are playing the race card with the issue of reparations.

You can imagine the vitriolic discussions in the national media if reparations were a plank in the Democratic Party platform; and reparations was affirmed as being an issue worthy of being presented as a bill in Congress.

If you think that Trump has unleased the racial hounds of hell into the public discourse, the idea of white America being on the hook for hundreds of billions of dollars (or more) to black folks will nigh cause a societal uproar that will have the National Guard on alert!

Reparations, just the mere discussion of that volatile topic, is both an emotional issue intertwined with ideas of what is just and fair.

It is an emotional one due to the fact that millions of Americans are labeled people of color and unknown millions of white Americans have "black" blood coursing through their veins even if it is only the proverbial racist view that if you have just "one drop" of "black" blood in you, you were/are considered to be a Negro!

That was and is how racially fearful White America was at one time and how just "one drop" could cause your skin to be butterscotch in complexion and your hair "kinky", your nose wide and flat and your lips being "ample" in shape.

So, in any computation of how to calculate any financial benefits to people of color, do you or must you also include white Americans (only those willing to come forth and admit that in their family tree, there are people of color, acknowledged or unacknowledged) who show any remote physical semblance that their father or mother were engaged in race "mongrelization" at one time or another.

I will not even try to guess the number of black women who were sexually assaulted and who had children who later married into another ethnic grouping or simply, "passed" for white. Do they need to be counted also?

Remember the two old films, Pinky and Imitation of Life?

White America's sexual dalliances with people of color for hundreds of years has produced a hodgepodge of people of various hues that it will be seemingly nigh impossible to tell, who is who.

I mean, will it take a nationwide but voluntary sampling of DNA to verify "who is and who ain't" a black person for people to qualify for any benefits of a financially-based reparations package?

Or, would the mere discussion of reparations and the attendant social issues of racial rape, lynchings, discrimination and slavery be so acrimonious that any affirmative movement on this issue will be so toxic as to render it stillborn?

Also, what do you do with the issues of black Americans who went back to Africa or to the Caribbean Islands hundreds of years ago after escaping slavery. Do they also count into the mix of they or their progeny being qualified for reparations?

Consider also the escaped slaves that were adopted by friendly Native Americans (aka: Indian Tribes). Do they get consideration for reparations?

And, where is the cut-off line for determining when slavery ended in America? Was it when Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves or, do we continue to count the slights and insults and deprivations up to the cur-

rent date including the black people who have been (and still are) being wrongfully incarcerated as another form of slavery? (See the great reads: Slavery by Another Name by Douglas A. Blackmon and The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander).

And what algorithm or famed mathematician could even begin to calculate the infinite money losses of black people not being given monetary awards for their inventions, stolen artwork, patents, music, businesses being taken from them, trademarks, farm land being stolen, lives lost; and being mentally and emotionally scarred by slavery and its enduring aftermath?

Do not the millions who lost their lives in the passage from Africa to these United States, do they not count in the calculation of human life snuffed out or their lives stunted when they were forced to work, without wages, for hundreds of years in the cotton fields and other industries by which their free labor was the critical mass of wealth that enabled America to become the capitalistic country that it is? (Read the book: The Half Has Never Been Told).

Without batting an eye, a sum of \$10 trillion would hardly dent the claims of economic losses that millions of people of color could present as their due and owing payments against the US Treasury.

It seems that to offset such claims, the issue of reparations would have to include intangibles such as grants for higher education, interest free loans, monies for housing, cash grants and monuments erected to memorialize the incredible losses and sacrifices that people of color made that allowed America to become the global financial behemoth that it is.

On a smaller scale, the US government awarded reparations to the Jap-

... continued on page 12



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## **Council Members Introduce Equal Pay Ordinance**

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"This bill is quite simple," said Toledo City Councilman Nick Komives as he opened a news conference to explain a bill he and Councilwoman Yvonne Harper will be introducing for the consideration of their council colleagues.

"It says that an employer cannot ask [a job applicant] what their last rate of pay was."

The concept behind the proposed ban on employers seeking information on applicants' salary history is to make a dent in the pay gap that disproportionately affects women, particularly women of color. Such a ban has already been implemented in the city of Cincinnati and Ohio House Democrats have introduced their own similar legislation to address gender pay gaps. Research shows that women in Ohio earn 76 cents

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for every \$1 earned by a man and that the gaps are larger for black and Latina women.

"This is powerful for me," said Harper at the news conference. One of Harper's early jobs was as a keypunch operator, she added. During her time on that she "eventually found out people I trained were making a lot more than I was."

The logic behind the proposed legislation, explained Komives, is that it will help to level the playing field during salary negotiations and, quite possibly, for the rest of a person's working career. Without such a ban, employers have all the information during such negotiations and the applicant has none. If an employee starts at a lower salary then her counterparts, she is likely to remain at a lower level if prospective employers gain such knowledge.

City Council discussions continue this week.

## Sobecki Statement Regarding House's Passage of Near-total Abortion Ban

State Rep. Lisa Sobecki (D-Toledo) released the following statement regarding the Ohio House's passage of Senate Bill (SB) 23, a GOP-backed near-total abortion ban that would prohibit abortions in Ohio long before most women know they are pregnant:

"I am disappointed this bill passed the Ohio House today. I did not support the bill and will never support any iteration of the abortion restrictions it contained. This is nothing more than a blatant attack on half the state's population. I shared my personal story during session because I know how important it is to protect an individual woman's right to have an abortion. Today's vote was just plain wrong. These repeated attacks are harmful to our state and do not live up to the Ohio Promise. To young women across Ohio: pull your petitions to run for office tomorrow."

SB 23 became the most extreme bill attacking a woman's right to have an abortion when signed into law last week by Gov. DeWine.



## A Dialogue on Race with the Jim Crow Museum Director

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The University of Toledo's staff, students and faculty, along with community residents, filled the McQuade Law School auditorium on Thursday, April 11, for transformational dialogue linking past racial practices with current racial images as UT sponsored "Dialogue on Race: Jim Crow and 'Blackface' in the 21st Century."

The dialogue featured renown author and presenter, David Pilgrim, PhD, who serves as founder and director of the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan.

Pilgrim opened the dialogue with inspirational quotes, a visual presentation of museum artifacts, display topics, and stories about securing his first piece. "I bought my first piece at the age of 12 and broke it." He later went on to explain that at that age he wasn't aware of its historical significance but that he never broke another item intentionally again.

The dialogue continued with discussions about creating the museum when he donated 3,000 objects to Ferris State University in the mid-1990s. One attendee inquired about reactions from museum guests. He explained that Jim Crow museum guests are escorted throughout the museum and asked a simple question.

"When people look at an item in the museum, we ask them, what do you see? Some people will remember memories of stories told by grand-parents or great-grandparents, while someone else recalls reminiscences of slavery. There are people who only talk about race in areas where their ideas aren't challenged. However, it is okay to push back when you disagree with someone of a different race, but its not okay to crush them verbally. When you crush someone, you can no longer teach them, just like you can't teach someone who has lived through it," said Pilgrim.

The museum's name, Jim Crow, according to the presenter, was selected because that is one word that describes racism. Pilgrim explained the phrases origin to the audience. "See, Jim Crow wasn't a real person, but a series of actors who used that stage name. The actors mocked black people by exaggerating their facial features and demonstrating often inappropriate behavior to obtain laughter. That's when the word Jim Crow became a part of American culture," said Pilgrim.

The dialogue was sponsored UT's College of Arts, Letters Africana Studite program, and Division of Student Affairs.

Pilgrim is the current vice president of Diversity and Inclusion at Ferris State University, in addition to serving as founder and current director of the Jim Crow Museum also located on the campus. The museum holds

12,000 racist artifacts.

Pilgram has authored several books including, Watermelons, Nooses, and Straight Razors, and Understanding Jim Crow: Using Racist Memorabilia to Teach Tolerance and Promote Social Justice. He also produced a documentary, "Jim Crow's Museum;" appeared in the PBS series, "The African American: Many Rivers to Cross" and served as a consultant to the UPN network sitcom, "All of Us."





#### State Bank GIVES

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## State Lawmakers Announce Ohio Black Maternal Health Caucus

State Reps. Janine R. Boyd (D-Cleveland Heights) and Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) today announced the creation of Ohio's first ever Black Maternal Health Caucus, a group of state lawmakers dedicated to improve black maternal health outcomes across the state.

"It is our responsibility as lawmakers to legislate opportunities that improve the lives of all women and families. If we're serious about effectively addressing the dire rate of maternal and infant mortality in Ohio, we must focus our efforts where they're needed most-in our black communities who see a real disparity in maternal health outcomes," said Rep. Boyd. "This caucus is the first of its kind in Ohio, and we're hopeful that by working together, we can save lives, improve health and strengthen communities across Ohio."

Currently in Ohio, maternal mortality rates are two to three times greater for black women compared to their white counterparts.

"Better lives and brighter futures begin with healthy moms and babies, but right now in Ohio, we're failing our black mothers," said Rep. Howse. "The Ohio Black Maternal Health Caucus is focused on expanding access to healthcare and opportunity and giving every Ohioan, regardless of background, a real shot at the American Dream."

The announcement comes at the start of Black Maternal Health Week, April 11-17, which promotes awareness and seeks to advance and improve black maternal health outcomes across the country.

## Fedor Applauds State Investment in Northwest Ohio

State Senator Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) applauded recent state investments made in the Toledo area. On Monday, April 8, the Ohio Controlling Board released funds for Owens State Community College, the Toledo Air National Guard Base and the Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital.

"These investments are critical to our community's sustainability," said Senator Fedor. "As a former educator and United States Air Force and Ohio Air National Guard Veteran, I'm thankful these vital institu-

tions were provided assistance and resources they need to thrive."

Items approved for the 11th Senate District include:

- \* Owens State Community College received \$220,000 for HVAC equipment for the High Bay building renovation project. The building will become a center of innovation in manufacturing and skilled trades.
- \* The Toledo Air National Guard Base received \$5,150 for design services for a new deployment and fitness center on the base.
- \* The Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital received \$897,689 for HVAC equipment at their state owned in-patient behavioral health care facility in Toledo.







# Need Help with Taxes? The IRS Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Is More than Ready

Sojourner's Truth Staff

It's that very unfortunate time of the year again for most Americans – tax filing deadline. In households across the nation, not a good word to be had about the Internal Revenue Service – the demonic agency that has frustrated the hopes and dreams of wage earners for decades. And the way the agency is frequently used as a weapon by scheming politicians doesn't add to whatever warm feelings some few, very few, Americans might harbor.

However, as daunting as dealing with the IRS might seem, it's not all bad news. The IRS can actually be quite helpful, says the newest member of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel – an all-volunteer advisory body whose mission is "to listen to taxpayers, identify issues that affect taxpayers and make suggestions for improving IRS service and customer satisfaction," according to recruitment information from the IRS.

Andrea Price, former president and CEO of the Toledo region Mercy Health, is the latest volunteer with the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel. She noticed the IRS reaching out for volunteers several months ago and realized that it would be an opportunity for her to help participate in the TAP's vision of "citizen volunteers valued for improving IRS services."

"In trying to comply with an increasingly complex tax system, taxpayers may find they need different services than the IRS is currently providing," said Nina E. Olson, the National Taxpayer Advocate. "The TAP is vital because it provides the IRS with the taxpayers' perspective as well as recommendations for improvement. This helps the IRS deliver the best possible service to assist taxpayers in meeting their tax obligations."

Olson, as National Taxpayer Advocate, is an IRS executive reporting directly to the IRS Commissioner. The TAP reports annually to Olson, to the IRS Commissioner and to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The TAP was established under President Clinton as a panel to direct citizen input to the IRS in order to help that agency improve its programs and procedures.

"They really do listen to us," says Price. "The IRS sees the value of us as volunteers."

The structure of the TAP consists of a cross section of the taxpaying public with, ideally, at least one member from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, in addition to one member representing international taxpayers – those U.S. citizens working, living or doing business abroad or in a U.S. territory.

The TAP divides its volunteers into six committees: Notices and Correspondences; Tax forms and Publications; Taxpayer Assistance Center (TAC) improvement; Taxpayer Communications; Toll-free phone line; Special Projects. Price has been named to the Taxpayer Assistance Center committee.

The Taxpayer Assistance Center, a very little-known department of the IRS, has a string of offices around the nation to assist taxpayers with account inquiries, alien clearances, payment arrangements, tax forms, among other issues. There are two such offices in Ohio – one in Cincinnati and one in Cleveland. Price will be tasked with ensuring that the Assistance Center is providing sufficient assistance and to make recommendations for improving that assistance.

Once a year, Nina Olson and her staff prepare a "Purple Book" to release information to Congress – the color purple (a combination of red and blue) emphasizing the non-partisan nature of the taxpayer advocates' office. "They have made it clear to us that we are non-partisan," says Price. And not merely non-partisan but advocates for all taxpayers, no matter their political leanings. "The message from the Tax Advocate office is 'don't ever give up in the fight for taxpayers' best interest," she adds.

Price is no stranger to working in the best interest of others. In nearly three decades as a health care executive, a key focus of her activities was improving service to a client base and to the community in general, especially during her time as chief executive with Mercy Health. Now she has a message for the community about how to improve financial health and how to access help from an agency not often perceived to be user friendly.

Price's self-defined task now is to get the word about those services. She will be reaching out to various community groups, tax preparing firms, agencies, social clubs, businesses and organizations. She wants "to get out and get suggestions and input" from those in the community and neighborhoods about what problems the IRS presents to the taxpayers and how the agency can improve its service.

Interested parties can reach Price at the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel's telephone at 1-888-912-1227, her phone at 419-517-9294, through its website at www.improveirs.gov and by email at tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com.



Andrea Price



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# Reginald Temple: Making a Positive Impact Through Community Banking

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

It's never too late to make a positive change in your life when it comes to money.

Are you looking for ways to more efficiently pay off debts while saving for retirement?

Reginald Temple is the director of Community Development for First Federal Bank of the Midwest, and he is optimistic about the future of banking, despite the many mythologies surrounding money.

Temple is responsible for the community reinvestment activities of First Federal while strengthening fair lending practices in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. "I am inclusive, ensuring we are lending to low and moderate income areas, not just places like Ottawa Hills, Sylvania and Maumee," says Temple.

As an influential community activist and financial literacy advocate, Temple points out that living right financially may be difficult, but it doesn't have to be complicated.

He and his team are debunking the myths local residents have about money.

"From planning to effective money management, I encourage our community to experience the one-on-one services we offer at our local branches vs. only dealing with huge corporate brands for their banking needs," he explains.

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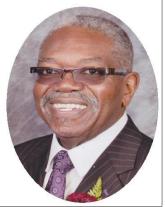
Free Breakfast Starting at 8:30 AM

Music led by

Director Clarence Smith

With Glass City Brass







Reginald Temple and Susan Jester

Temple does an amazing job of outlining the basics of changing harmful money habits during our chat.

"Changing your spending habits is not an easy quick fix. Instead it is a paradigm shift on how to handle money for the long haul using simple processes," explains Temple.

"We all have to deal with repairs on our homes and maintenance to our cars. We have families to provide for and home ownership to realize. We have college to pay for and retirements to plan. We teach you how to budget for everything while having an emergency fund to deal with life's challenges."

To start, Temple suggests meeting with a bank specialist to help families plan. "Building up and maintaining a savings of three to six months' expenses is a smart focus as an emergency fund to get you through the hard times."

"At First Federal Bank of the Midwest we don't tell you what to do with your money, instead we teach you how to manage money for yourself."

When asked what he loves most about his job, Temple responds, "I always tell people I love what I do, who I get to do it for, and most importantly I love who I get to do it with." He explains it takes a village of passionate people to truly impact financial literacy in our community. He gives special mention to Susan A. Jester, Retail Community Lender (West Central location) as well as Eunice Glover, Banking Center Manager) as two of his staunchest partners in passion for stimulating the economy while providing an incredible banking service to the underserved.

In today's professional climate, this is even more essential than in the past because the old working model of 'hired at 20 and retiring from the same company at 62 with a pension' is dead.

"We do some very impactful things. First Federal Bank is a community bank geared towards community things. People need to experience the difference we bring to banking."

Since 2014, First Federal Bank and First Insurance Group have given nearly 700 employees \$10 annually to Pay it Forward in our community. Their team members truly enjoy surprising others with random acts of kindness such as gifting school supplies or delivering gift baskets to hospital patients.

... continued on page 13



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## How to Prep Financially When Changing **Jobs**

Special to The Truth

The average American will hold 11.7 jobs between the ages of 18 and 48, according to The Bureau of Labor Statistics. If a job change is on your horizon, remember that a new salary and benefits package bring new financial considerations.

"Changing jobs brings with it a myriad of financial decisions. Take time to assess your financial situation and make any necessary adjustments so you can start the new job focused and ready," says Valerie Radford, a vice president of Strategic Initiatives at Prudential Financial.

As you're making the switch, Radford says there are a few things to keep in mind:

- Don't Leave Money on the Table: Keep track of your 401(k) if you had one at your previous job. You can simplify your financial picture by bringing together any orphan plans you've left in the investing universe. Also, make sure to take advantage of your new employer's 401(k) match feature, if offered, and continue momentum by increasing your contribution, if pos-
- Don't Go It Alone: Consider using a third-party platform to manage finances and benefits in one place that's designed to rebalance your goals as circumstances change. For example, when you set up an account with LINK by Prudential, you'll be prompted to answer questions about what financial goals are important to you and, in turn, will be offered personalized solutions to help you reach them. LINK combines the convenience of a digital experience with the knowledge of a professional advisor who can walk you through this important transition by phone, video or in-person. To learn more, visit prudential.com/link

- Consider Your Bonus: If you're receiving a sign-on bonus or have an old bonus saved, determine whether this money belongs in a short-term, no-risk account or whether a longer-term approach with exposure to financial markets makes sense.
- Budgets are Fundamental: If you're making more money, calculate if additional funds can be put into savings. This is a great place to use a tool like LINK that allows you to see all your money in one place, and can help you determine where to direct extra funds. If you're making less money, you might need to see where to make cuts.
- · Review Your Insurance: Take a breath before moving forward with health coverage decisions. If you're married, evaluate both partner's plans, not only for the more affordable option, but also for each plan's restrictions. For instance, if one plan allows you to see doctors without referrals while the other doesn't, you'll have to decide whether that's worth the extra cost. Finally, take a look at the amount your new employer is offering for life insurance. It's often not enough. Consulting a financial advisor can help you determine how much additional insurance to take out.

Don't let your financial goals get lost in the shuffle of a job transition. A few strategies and tools can keep you on track.

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## **House Dems Unveil Ohio Promise to Taxpayers**

Say Ohioans deserve better jobs, brighter futures and economy that works for everyone

Special to The Truth
House Democratic Leader Emilia Strong Sykes (D-Akron) last week joined Democratic lawmakers to unveil the Ohio Promise, a blueprint to renew the Buckeye State's promise of better jobs and brighter fu-

"For many, Ohio's promise of good-paying jobs and the opportunity to get ahead has faded," said Leader Sykes. "Democrats are committed to restoring Ohio's promise of better jobs and brighter futures by working together to expand opportunity and create an economy that works for everyone."

The Democratic blueprint to restore the Ohio Promise includes a fivepoint compact to build opportunity for working people, to strengthen families and the communities they live in, and to hold government accountable to taxpayers.\*

"The promise of Ohio is our promise to you," said Rep. Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington). "It's a framework for the future that puts families first, giving them the tools they need to get ahead. We do it by lowering taxes, making education attainable and promoting job growth by making it easier for Ohioans to start and grow a business."

The announcement comes amid declining quality of life metrics in Ohio, which currently ranks 44th in unemployment and 41st in population growth. Working Ohioans continue to fall behind, seeing \$147 less in wages than the average American at the end of each week. In addition, Ohio has fallen from fifth to 23rd in education and ranks among the worst for both infant mortality and overdose deaths.

"Years of broken promises have rigged the system against everyday Ohioans. They are working harder, but seeing less at the end of the day. They can't get ahead," said Rep. Phil Robinson (D-Solon). "To restore Ohio's promise, we need to keep our promises and work together to make sure that if you work hard vou can get ahead in Ohio. It's about creating good jobs and an economy that works for everyone-not just those at the top.'

The plan includes a number of bipartisan priorities, in-



Rep. Emilia Sykes

cluding plans to protect healthcare and Medicaid expansion, invest in education, expand public transit and improve children's services, in addition to reforming the state's tax system and reducing the price of prescription drugs.

"We are committed to working together to deliver real results for taxpayers," said Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire). "Better lives and brighter futures begin with good-paying jobs, a growing economy and the chance to get ahead. That's the Ohio Promise."

Democrats plan to expand on their policy priorities in the coming weeks as the House debates the governor's first two-year budget.

Here is what other House Democratic lawmakers are saying about the Ohio Promise:

"We need to make Ohio an opportunity state again. That will happen if State Government focuses on helping to grow good paying, community building, middle-class jobs. When the Ohio middle class is healthy, the economy grows for everyone." - House Democratic Whip and state Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid)

"Everyday Ohioans see an economy that's rigged against them, where they work hard and do everything right, but still can't get ahead," said "We need to restore the Ohio promise, that if you work hard, you can get ahead. We're committed to working together to build opportunity so that every Ohioan has a real shot at the American Dream." -Assistant Democratic Whip and state Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo)

"It is up to the legislature to fulfill Ohio's promise as we look to attract new residents to Ohio and keep our families, friends, and neighbors in this great state. We need diverse opportunities that help hard working families thrive, not just survive, investment in education that supports our youth from cradle to career, and fair treatment and access to services for all Ohioans." - Rep. Erica C. Crawley (D-Columbus)

"My husband I moved back to his hometown because of the promise Ohio offered for quality fair-wage jobs to help grow our family, the beautiful landscapes especially overlooking Lake Erie, and outstanding opportunities.

Sadly, we're stuck as a state and we haven't lived up to the promise for thousands of Ohioans. Potential is there for Ohio to be a place where someone can live the American Dream, work hard to get ahead and retire comfortably. Everyday my colleagues and I are focused on ensuring Ohio is a brilliant place to work, live, raise a family, and we pledge a new promise to all Ohioans to help craft a better tomorrow." -Rep. Lisa Sobecki (D-Toledo)

"I am delighted that Democrats in the Ohio House are speaking in a unified voice as this decade draws to a close. We stand proudly to offer this Ohio promise because we believe you have the right to a good education, good jobs, secure housing, access to affordable health care, and the ability to save for retirement." - State Rep. Mary Lightbody (D-Westerville)



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# Social Security- Questions and Answers on Disability

By Erin Thompson, Public Affairs Specialist, Toledo, OH

#### **Question:**

How do I apply for disability benefits? And, how long does it take to get a decision after I apply for disability benefits?

#### Answer:

You can apply for disability benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi/apply.html. To get a decision on your disability application usually takes three-to-five months. The time frame can vary depending on

- The nature of your disability;
- How quickly we can get your medical evidence from your doctor or other medical source;
- Whether it's necessary to send you for a medical examination; and
- Whether we review your application for quality purposes.

Learn your claim status at www.socialsecurity.gov/claimstatus.

#### **Question:**

I am expecting a child and will be out of work for six months. Can I qualify for short-term disability?

#### Answer:

No. Social Security pays only for total disability — conditions that render you unable to work and are expected to last for at least a year or end in death. No benefits are payable for partial disability or short-term disability, including benefits while on maternity leave.

#### Question:

I have been getting Social Security disability benefits for many years. I'm about to hit my full retirement age. What will happen to my disability benefits?

#### Answer:

When you reach "full retirement age" we will switch you from disability to retirement benefits. But you won't even notice the change because your benefit amount will stay the same. It's just that when you reach retirement age, we consider you to be a "retiree" and not a disability beneficiary. To learn more, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

#### Question:

I need to apply for disability benefits. Where do I start?

#### Answer:

Begin by looking at our Disability Starter Kit. You can find it online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/disability\_starter\_kits.htm or you can request a copy by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). The Disability Starter Kit will help you prepare for your application and interview. When you are ready, you can apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability or make an appointment to apply in person at a local Social Security office. And remember, our online disability application is convenient and secure. Don't stand in line, go online at www.socialsecurity.gov.

#### Question:

My husband has been in poor health for some time, and doctors have recently diagnosed him with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) – commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease. I've heard Social Security has a "fast track" for some people who are disabled. Can you tell me about it?

#### Answer

We have two processes to "fast track" applications for disability benefits. Our Compassionate Allowances initiative allows us to fast track certain cases of individuals with very severe disabilities. There are dozens of different types of disabilities that qualify for this expedited decision, including ALS, and that list continues to expand. Learn more about Compassionate Allowances and see the full list of conditions at www. socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

Another way we speed up decisions is with our Quick Disability Determinations initiative, which uses technology to identify applicants who

have the most severe disabilities and allows us to expedite our decisions on those cases. Read more about Quick Disability Determinations at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/qdd.htm.

#### **Ouestion:**

I am 57 years old and I currently receive Social Security disability benefits. Can I still get my regular Social Security retirement benefits when I reach full retirement age?

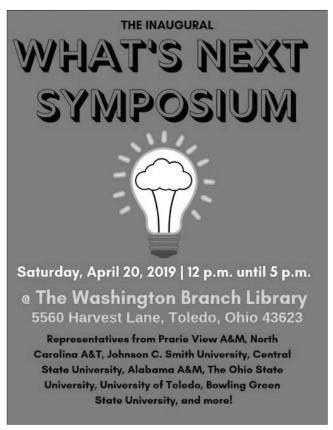
#### Answer.

If you are still receiving Social Security disability benefits when you reach your full retirement age, we will automatically switch you from disability benefits to retirement benefits at that point. The money amount will remain the same. For more information, visit our website on disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

#### House Dems... continued from page 10

"Ohio's Veterans and military families understand the importance of making and fulfilling promises. As service members, we promise our families we will do whatever it takes to secure their safety and freedom.

"We promise our spouses and our children that we will return when we are called to duty. As legislators, we promise Veterans that we will ensure the benefits they have earned are there when needed. I am very pleased to see the Democratic Caucus adopt the Ohio Promise with the same sense of duty and purpose that Ohio's military families make every day." -State Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus)



# 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



in 2012, Fulton has become an Sybrina Fulton 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. 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.

To register for this free event, go to www.nhainc.org/sybrinafulton. If you are a parent or guardian that has lost a child to violence please make sure to indicate that on the registration form by checking the appropriate box or call 419.783.7883 x 216.

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, while supporting personal responsibility for one's own health regardless of the ability to pay. For more information about the NHA, visit www.nhainc.org

#### Tolliver... continued from page 3

anese-Americans who were wrongfully interned in guarded camps during WWII. Thus, the concept is not new.

It is just a larger issue that would or could deepen the current racial divide; and it being derisively labeled by its antagonists as an illegal demand on the US Treasury.

Just like when there is a catastrophic accident (The BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico), the government appointed a master who was able to gather the pieces together, take testimony and subsequently awarded damages to the aggrieved and economically injured parties.

Well, the issue of reparations could be stylized in the same method or manner but with the understanding that any such award of damages, due to its size, would have to be paid out over 10 to 20 years; and the country would have to sell US Treasury bonds in order to raise some or all of the funds.

Slave-holding states would also be liable for their complicity in the slave trade and their budgets would have to be tapped in order to help pay for the catastrophic damages done.

America had a choice before they imported people from Africa and decided to enslave them, treat them as mere chattel; and then create an artificial racial fiction about they are people of little or no value.

In this discussion, we must not forget to include the original settlers in this country, the

Native American Indians who were shamefully robbed of their valuable lands, minerals and oil rights.

They were nigh practically wiped out by calculated genocide, disease and their placement on ghetto like reservations.

White America chose to do evil and if they are held to account for their egregious social sins, they must do the right thing, pay up and apologize.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com





## The League of Wives by Heath Hardage Lee

By Terri Schlichenmeyer The Truth Contributor

To love, honor, and cherish.

That's what you vowed, in sickness and health, 'til death do you part. They're promises you'll keep forever – especially, as in the new book *The League of Wives* by Heath Hardage Lee, when one of you fights on the other's behalf.

c.2019 St. Martin's Press \$28.99 / \$37.99 Canada 323 pages

When a woman married a military man in the

1960s, she quickly learned that her life would never be the same.

There was, first of all, a book she was given to help her learn the rules she'd be expected to follow. Says Lee, "a pilot needed the right wife" if he wanted a career in the military; her actions in dress and public decorum impacted his chances for promotion, and her social standing "mirrored her husband's rank."

By this reckoning, Sybil Stockdale was the highest-ranking wife at her husband's naval base in California in 1964. Highly-esteemed by other Navy wives, she was married to Commander James Stockdale and "had grown proficient at the military game."

That familiarity helped her in months to come.

In September, 1965, Jim Stockdale was shot down over the Gulf of Tonkin and captured. He wasn't the first U.S. pilot to be taken as Prisoner of War, and Sybil wasn't the first wife of a Vietnam POW, but her rank conferred leadership and as the war continued, she reached out to other POW wives in what became a "reluctant sorority."

By latter 1966, those wives began to realize that "they were low priority on the Johnson administration agenda." Johnson wouldn't meet with them; "the State Department all but ignored" them, even as their numbers grew. They were told that speaking out could jeopardize their husbands' survival. They began to think that government officials wished they'd go away.

The one exception: the liaison assigned to them, a man who later was lauded for his help. He seemed to understand that there was one way for the

women to get their husbands home, and he told them: "Organize."

And so they did...

Somewhere on a shelf in your home, you might have a stack of thrillers you've read and loved and will read again. Add *The League of Wives* to that pile; it's is as thrilling as any novel, but it's all true.

Yes, you know how this story ends, but the getting-there's the appeal. Author Heath Hardage Lee brings readers a real-life account of politics, espionage, and secrets, inside a tale of a changing world and an unpopular war, inside a story of one small corner of the history of women's rights. While that might seem like a lot to take (and Lee may appear to lean a bit), it's a comfortable read with urgent surprises — the kind you'd get if you discovered a pile of old women's magazines in your grandmother's attic, with espionage codes stuck among the pages.

That adds up to a tale that's just-right-told, especially if you're a politico, history buff, veteran, military wife, or feminist. For you, and you love a good thriller, *The League of Wives* could become a cherished story.

#### Reginald Temple.. continued from page 8

First Federal Bank has also partnered with Toledo Public Schools in conjunction with The AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program, to close the achievement gap by preparing all students to complete high school and be ready for college or success in the global economy.

They adopted Rosa Parks Elementary School where they recognize students of the month by awarding each child a care package and monetary donation that the school can allocate to things such as special events, supplies, uniforms or the like. At the end of the year they throw a pizza party for all the honorees over the course of the school year.

"What I think our partnership with AVID does best is encourage and inspire kids while teaching critical thinking and financial literacy," states Temple. "This helps children learn how they can put the principles of financial literacy into practice as adults regardless of their future chosen industry."

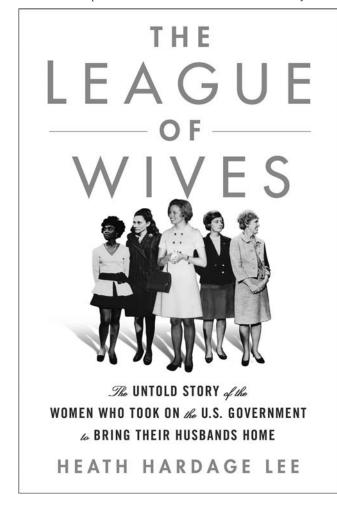
Temple has been in the banking industry for 20 years and was nominated for the 2016 Toledo's Top 20 under 40, awarded the 2012 Toledo Branch NAACP Emerging Young Community Leader Award and the 2012 Emerging Leader African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio.

As a graduate of The University of Toledo, Reginald is no stranger to philanthropic service.

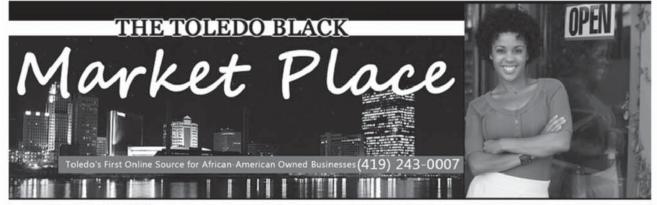
Temple is a member of the Toledo Chapter of the NAACP, African American Leadership Council of United Way, Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons Amazon Lodge #4, Maumee Chapter #6 Royal Arch Masons, Xi Tau Chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and is a Certified Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Football and Basketball official.

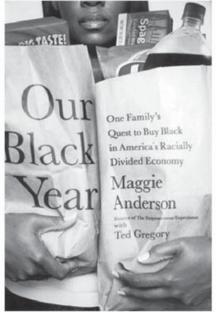
His non for profit board responsibilities include West Toledo YMCA, MLK Center Kitchen for the Poor and Adelante.

Reginald and his wife of 15 years, Jeanna, live in Holland where they raise their son, Collin.















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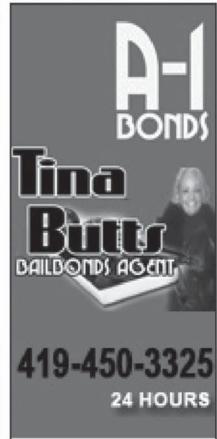


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April 17, 2019

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

Page 15

#### **NORTHGATE APARTMENTS**

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#### EARLY HEAD START HEALTH COORDINATOR LUCAS COUNTY FAMILY COUNCIL

Lucas County Family Council is accepting applications to fill the Early Head Start Health Coordinator position. Application deadline is April 25, 2019 at 4:30 pm. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Early Head Start Health Coordinator" from the list to read more or apply.

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Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY19-62, (Project # 0051-19-198) for North Engineering Lab/ Classroom Renovations - Phase 1 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, May 7, 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 \$160.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Bryan Greene of Champlain Architecture at 419-464-7697. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 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: \$2,389,665.00; Breakdown: General: \$2,099,365.00; Plumbing: \$39,400.00, Fire Protection: \$6,200.00; HVAC: \$146,200.00; Electrical: \$98,500.00.

#### REFINERY PROCESS OPERATOR

#### Overview

Toledo Refining Company LLC (TRC) is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a crude oil processing capacity of 170,000 barrels per day. TRC is currently accepting applications for Refinery Process Operator positions.

#### Description

Process Operators operate, maintain and repair units and equipment. A Process Operator works 12 hour rotating shifts on various units within the refinery which process crude oil as a feed stock in order to produce gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, various chemicals and other products. Process Operators are trained in the operation of plant processing equipment, including pumps, compressors, furnaces, heat exchangers, valves, distillation columns and other equipment common to refinery operations. Our Company is committed to a foundation of safe and environmentally compliant operations so Operators must follow all procedures and safe work practices. New hires are subject to a one year probationary period and will be required to complete a 36 month apprenticeship program. Starting pay is \$30.92 per hour.

#### Responsibilities

An Operator may be responsible for: maintaining equipment and operations; climbing ladders, tanks and towers up to 250 ft.; taking samples/readings of various process streams; initiating work orders and permitting for work related to the assigned unit; maintaining proper and safe process operations of the operating equipment; and communicating effectively during the shift and at shift relief regarding key process unit and equipment information.

#### **Basic/Required Qualifications**

Must be at least 18 years of age; be legally authorized to work in the United States without restrictions; hold a High school diploma or equivalent; and hold a current driver's license.

Must be willing to perform/comply with the following: working forced or mandatory overtime based on refinery needs; working on holidays and weekends; working in enclosed/confined spaces, such as tanks and towers; working with large, hot, high-speed machines; lifting a minimum of 50 pounds; working around chemicals; wearing fire retardant clothing and personal protective equipment; maintaining/shaving your face daily so that a respirator/face mask can seal properly; performing fire fighting duties; working outside in harsh weather conditions; complete all job training and testing requirements; and working with petroleum products and support systems that are under high pressure and heat.

#### Conditions of Employment

Written tests and assessments; meeting physical criteria for the job; a physical skills demonstration test; ability to demonstrate basic computer skills; pass a background check and drug screening; be eligible to qualify or hold a Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC card); and be eligible to qualify or hold a State of Ohio 3rd Class Steam Engineer License (SEL).

In order to be considered for this position, applicants must submit their resume in Microsoft Word or .pdf format per the following process on or before 11:59 P.M. of May 5, 2019. All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbfenergy.com/careers and select "Refinery Process Operator" (Oregon, OH). All applicants must provide a valid e-mail address where they can be contacted regarding updates on the recruiting process. Should an applicant be selected for testing, contact will be made via email. All contact information must be accurate and up to date. There will be 4 stages of the hiring process. Relocation is not available for this position. Phone calls will not be accepted. EOE/M/F/D/V

#### **Legal Notice**

In accordance with Section 5101:2-25-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) will hold a public hearing prior to the submission of the County's Final 2020 Title XX County Profile to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for incorporation in the Comprehensive Social Services Plan for the State of Ohio.

#### PURPOSE:

- To highlight pertinent data and information regarding identified social services problems, needs, resources, and gaps in service along with recommendations to the proposed 2020 county profile.
- To elicit public comment, suggestions, and recommendations relative to the County's proposed 2020 county profile.

DATE: April 25, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

LOCATION: LCDJFS, 3210 Monroe Street, Toledo Room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor

Entities wishing to have their points of view captured in the County's submission to the State must submit proposals (not to exceed two pages) to Lucas\_Contracts@jfs.ohio.gov by 4 P.M. on April 19, 2019. If individuals would like to present their proposals in person at the hearing as well, they must indicate that at the bottom of their proposal. This should include the speaker's name and contact information. Those wishing to speak must register upon arrival at LCDJFS on the 25th and all efforts will be made to accommodate everyone who would like to speak. If time constraints don't allow for that to happen, individuals will still have their written proposals reviewed and included in the LCDJFS summary report to the State.

# The Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists

Special to The Truth

The Mary E. Singletary Vocal Artist Competition for Emerging Artists was held on Sunday, April 7, 2019 at People's Missionary Baptist Church, 1101 Heston Avenue. The Vocal Arts Competition was sponsored by the Maumee Bay Club, Toledo Adult Club, and Toledo Youth Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

The performing vocalists were Samuel Spencer and Joseph Fields.

Spencer, a baritone, is the proud son of Robert and Fleurette Spencer and is currenly a junior at the University of Toledo majoring in vocal music.

He is a member of UT Opera Ensemble and the Concert Choral. He has performed solo pieces in the Toledo Musuem of Art's Great Gallery. He has also performed as Sandman in the dream sequence from Hansel and Gretel, and Marquis Khadja in The Merry Widow with The University of Toledo"s Opera Ensemble.

Spencer is a member of the Beta Xi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. He is also a member of Springhill Baptist Church and a member of the





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Young Adult Chior as well.

Fields, a tenor, attended Woodward High School and was a member of the chior for four years. He is currently studying voice performance at Bowling Green State University under instructor Chelsea Cloeter.

Joseph was a former member of the University of Toledo Gospel Choir and the Bowling Green State University Collegiate Chorale. He is currently a member of BGSU Acapella Choir and and The Voices at BGSU performing classical and non-classical music. Joseph performs at fashion shows, recitals, seminars and the Jabberwock at BGSU.

Both Samuel Terrell Spencer and Joseph Trevor Fields were greatly appreciated by the audience. Adjudicators LaTonya Johnson-Crawford, Margaret Barron and Franklin Brewer listened to an additional song from each contestant to help them determine the winner.

Spencer was named the winner and will be representing the adult and youth clubs of Maumee Bay and Toledo Clubs at the North Central District Conference in May.

The Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists, formerly known as the Leontyne Price Vocal Arts Competition, is the Signature Program of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. In 1982 under the leadership of Past National President Mary E. Singletary, the competition was introduced to provide a competitive arena for talented young African-American vocal artists to showcase and demonstrate their artistic abilities in classical vocal performance.

Each artist competes on the local level with the winner moving on to the district level. The winner at the district level emerges as a finalist qualified to participate on the national level. These young people represent the result of an intensive year long search throughout the country to locate the finest and most gifted young artists within the vocal arts genre. Each contestant will perform selections from a repertoire composed of an Aria from a major opera, an Oratorio Cantata, a German Lied, a French Melodie and a Negro Spiritual or a work by an African-American composer.

NANBPWC and Toledo Club Programs were highlighted by Patti Poston, Maumee Bay first vice president and program chairman; and Denise Black-Poon, Toledo Club first vice president and program chairman. Alexii Collins, second vice president and Toledo Youth Club Leader, gave an overview of the youth programs.





