



Local and National News

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Volume 57, No. 4      “And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”      August 21, 2019



African American Male Wellness Walk/Run

Ready, set ...

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# The Congressional Black Caucus Policy Conference

By Paul Hubbard

Guest Column

The Congressional Black Caucus 20th annual Policy Conference was held in Tunica, Mississippi this month. Most of the members of the CBC were in attendance including Congresswoman Marcia Fudge from Cleveland, Ohio. Many black elected officials from the South were also in attendance. The main agenda items were the 2020 Census and the 2020 Get Out The Vote.

The conference was held from August 8-11 at the Gold Strike, Horse Shoe and Road House Casinos, all of which are next to each other and all have convention areas. I noticed that Penn National (Hollywood Casino) has two casinos in Tunica and over 80 percent of all employees are black, unlike here in Toledo.

The conference featured numerous sessions and workshops on topics of interest to the African-American community

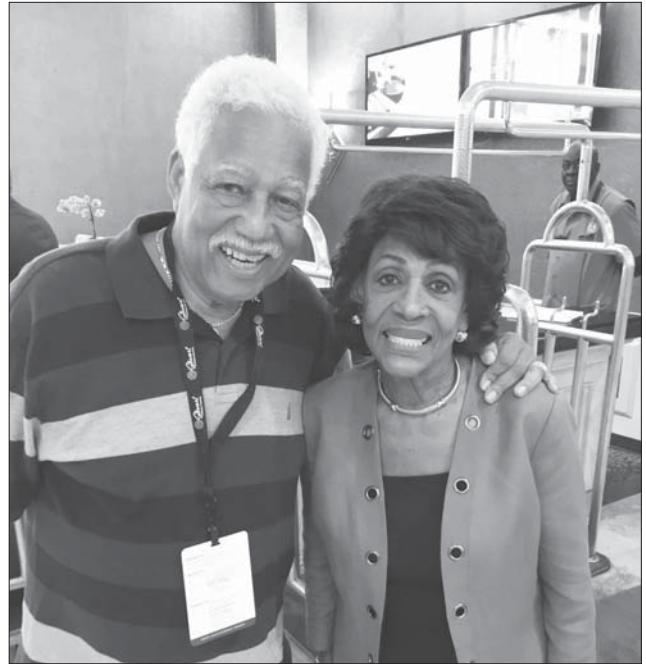
A session on Systemic Racism addressed the prison industry and how white businesses are making money off owning and operating prisons. The panel also discussed the free work prisoners do while incarcerated. There are so many black folks in prison while the white counterparts so often do not go to prison for the same crimes. This same session also talked about the fact that black folks are in a time of polite or covert racism which is harder to fight than the open, overt racism of past decades.

Education was the subject of another panel during which a discussion was held concerning the need to teach our kids to love themselves and have self confidence.

There was a session on "Punishment and Profit of Cannabis/Marijuana." It is a \$50 billion a year industry. In that session it was discussed that African Americans need to make sure blacks are on the states' boards. It typically costs over a million dollars to get into the industry. Less than one percent of people involved in the industry are black. California Congresswoman Maxine Water's said she has created a "safe harbor" for banks to be involved in the cannabis industry because it is still against federal banking laws for them to be involved.

African Americans, said the panelists on the issue of punishment, should be pushing legislators to expunge records of people who have been charged with marijuana crimes because it is hurting these people when they try to get employment.

The session on "Church in the Black Community" discussed the fact that the mainstream evangelical church has not had a passion for people and their suffering. Also 40 percent of black churchgoers now attend a mega church. However, very few mega churches have black assistant pastors. Black churches need to hold politicians accountable if they al-



Paul Hubbard and Congresswoman Maxine Waters

low them to speak in their churches during election time.

The last session that I will comment on was on 2020 Census and getting out the vote. A lot of the census activity will be on line so we have to teach people to get ready for that. For both the census and voting, technology and grass root campaigning have to be utilized. The black community needs more black-owned data collection, direct mail and social media companies. Only six cities have black-owned companies doing this work. It was noted that in Detroit in the last election, 28,000 African Americans who voted did not vote for a president.

he Congressional Black Caucus has a "Boot Camp" where they train young African Americans how to get involved in the political area. People interested should contact the CBC in Washington DC or online. They had over 100 young African Americans at the conference who have completed the CBC Boot Camp.

There were also several receptions and a cameo concert closed out the conference.

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### August 24

Ottawa Park Free Summer Concert Series: 6 to 8 pm; The 25's

### August 25

Braden UMC Friends & Family Day: 10:30 am; Dress Down Sunday - tailgate after worship

### September 14

Eleanor Kahle Senior Center 2019 Fall Bazaar: 9 am to 3 pm; Crafts, gifts, bake sale; Hosted by the Happy Hookers Crochet/Knitting Club: 419-476-2745  
Braden UMC Total Wellness Health Fair: 9 am to 4 pm; Screenings for diabetes, blood pressure, prostate cancer; Education about nutrition, insurance, CPR, cyber and fire safety

### October 23

UT's "Tricks Treats & Dunks:" 6 to 8 pm; Savage Arena; Trick or treat for kids from 6 to 7 pm; Costume contest at 7; Rockets players at various games

# Remember the Alamo, or Is It the Battle of Big Horn?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Well folks, it's ON!

Trump and the feckless GOP party aided and abetted by strategist Herr Steven Miller, who is the purported architect of punishing any and all immigrants, legal or illegal, have launched an initial salvo at the Statute of Liberty's majestic welcome to the huddled masses, the poor and tempest tossed coming to these shores with hope still shining in their eyes.

Historical note: The Statue of Liberty was not designed with Africans in mind and its laudable outreach paean as chiseled in its base was not intended to be retroactive towards Africans who came to these shores as citizens of their own countries but were stripped of their citizenship without due process of law...and then were derisively called slaves.

Herr Trump, himself a product of immigration by his grandparents (much less the history of two of his immigrant wives), has decided that playing to the racial fears of his base regarding their purported economic losses to immigrants and those immigrants engagement in wanton criminal acts will insure his re-election in the 2020 election.

Herr Trump and his devious minions have now devised a brutal and irrational plan to stymie legal immigrants with restrictions that if they arrive on these shores without certain bona fides (aka: skills, education, money, good health), he is not going to put out the American welcome mat.

As a matter of fact, if his scandalous plan passes judicial scrutiny, those who are in the US as legal immigrants will feel the wrath of both Herr Trump and Herr Miller since those legally certified immigrants may be placed on a short list of enjoying the benefits of the American safety net.

That safety net of WIC (Women, Infants and Children getting milk and other maternal benefits for the welfare and health of a family), Medicaid, unemployment insurance benefits, food stamps (now known as, SNAP) and a host of other tangible goodies that make America the land of opportunity, will vanish or be severely curtailed.

Herr Trump is preparing to, "stick it to both the illegal and legal immigrants",

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# TUSA Takes up the Cause of the Eviction Crisis in Toledo

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Toledo United for Social Action (TUSA) has taken up the cause of “the serious problem with the eviction crisis here in Toledo,” said Rev. James Willis as he opened the organization’s press conference on Thursday, August 15 at NEXUS. Tenant “blacklisting” in Ohio, which landlords have access to, said Willis, is being used as a weapon through the court system and, as a result, too many lower-income families are forced into housing and neighborhoods that are unsafe, have bad schools and grant them limited access to stores and shopping areas.

Rev. Marcia Dinkins, TUSA executive director, spurred the organization to taking up the cause of eviction crisis and the blacklist because of a personal experience. Having recently moved to Toledo, she encountered problems renting the appropriate apartment even though she has never previously had any issue with renting. However, once her name inadvertently ended up on the “list,” she felt “she had no remedy to have my name removed from the list.”

Pastor Steven Valles of Parkwood Avenue Seventh Day Church mentioned the fact that “from September 2014 to September 2018, more than 24,000 eviction law suits were filed against Toledoans – an average of 6,000 petitions filed a year.” Such evictions remain in the public record, noted Valles.

George Thomas, an attorney with the Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), spoke of the disadvantage that tenants face within the legal system. “The vast number of tenants cannot afford legal representation,” he said. “The most vulnerable members of the community are at risk. He noted that less than three percent of tenants have legal representation compared to more than 75 percent of landlords who do.”

Thomas mentioned that Cleveland and Dayton have initiated local task forces to deal with their eviction problems and that ABLE is compiling statistics and “with TUSA’s leadership will be putting together” an action plan.



*L. to R. Rev. Robert Birt, Councilman Larry Sykes, Rev. Marcia Dinkins, Rev. James Willis, Rev. Steven Valles, Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson, George Thomas, Rev. Jerome Graham*

State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (District 44) said “we have an opportunity to deal with a crisis.” As part of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, Hicks-Hudson said she and her colleagues “made a promise that our constituents can live in their neighborhoods.” She said that the Caucus will be able to take the data that TUSA and ABLE assemble and fashion legislation “to address the issue of home insecurity, basic fundamental human rights to live safely.”

Further, she said, “how do we address the lack of home ownership.”

Toledo City Councilman Larry Sykes, who has prodded the University of Toledo to put together a study on poverty in the metropolitan area, spoke of the particularly high unemployment, high homelessness numbers, high rent compared to income and high eviction rates in three council districts – 1, 3 and 4.

So many people are paying 50 to 60 percent of their income on rent, he said, particularly in those districts, when the acceptable rate for rent should be no higher than 30 percent. “Property owners are gouging our people,” said Sykes.

Both elected officials, Hicks-Hudson and Sykes, followed the TUSA press conference with related events of their own. Hicks-Hudson held a town hall meeting the next day to inform constituents of the Ohio Promise – an agenda compiled by Ohio House Democrats to enact legislation designed to enhance the lives of Ohio’s working-class people.

Sykes, during a City Council meeting the following day of his Finance Committee, introduced the poverty study that UT has published.

“It’s time to change, change must come,” said Robert Birt, pastor of Glass City Church and president of TUSA. “We’re asking you, as a community, to get involved. Never look down on a man unless you are lifting him up.”

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# University of Toledo Report Sheds Light on Poverty in the City

By Brittany Jones

The Truth Contributor

The 2018 Ohio Poverty Report found that Lucas County's poverty rate hit 20.7 percent, however, what was startling is that not only was it the sole county in northwest Ohio with numbers so high, but also that similarly-rated counties were located in the Appalachian area—Athens, Adams, Pike, etc.

As a result, Toledo City Council members, at the urging of Councilman Larry Sykes, commissioned researchers of the University of Toledo's Jack F. Ford Urban Affairs Center to conduct a study about the spatial distribution of poverty throughout the City and to investigate such stimuli.

"I was looking at the homeless downtown and around town begging and yet people said everyone was working," said Sykes explaining his reason for wanting the study.

On Thursday, August 15, Sujata Shetty, PhD, and three graduate students presented their findings – the Toledo and Lucas County Poverty Study – to Sykes' Finance Committee of City Council and interested community members. The study provided deeper insight of where, why, and how poverty concentrates in certain areas, along with further insight on local anti-poverty efforts by nonprofits and evaluation of similar cities' approaches to lowering poverty.

The Report also acknowledged historical trends of its indicators such as employment, public assistance types (e.g. Supplementary Security Income (SSI)), educational attainment, and others in the years of 2000, 2010 and 2017. State, federal, and nonprofit data were the main sources which were then displayed via City Council Districts and census tracts to provide a vivid picture on what areas are in need of intervention. Overall, poverty exists throughout the City, however, some Districts contain higher poverty census tracts than others.

The Report was comprised of three sections: spatial distribution of poverty, analysis of Toledo's poverty scene (both historical and present) and policy implications along with summaries of similar cities' poverty programs.

Results from 2017 census data show that Districts 3 and 4 bear the highest incidences of poverty indicators, with slight increases seen in Districts 1 and 2 over the target years mentioned previously. It is fitting to highlight that these conditions worsened between 2000 and 2010, with a minor decrease in 2017.

Thirty-eight census tracts contained a large non-white population and at least 40 percent of the residents living below 185 percent of the federal poverty line, which ranges between \$12,490 for an individual to \$43,430 for a family of eight.

Other major findings were that of more households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), but not SSI,

more disabled residents in Districts 3 and 4, and that 34.4 percent of residents have college credits or an associates degree, compared to 32.2 percent with their high school diploma (only 17 percent have their Bachelors and above).

While it is known that advanced education and large income are strongly linked, employment opportunities are abundant for those with at least a high school diploma or G.E.D., however, these jobs often pay lower wages. In fact, 70 percent of the jobs created in the City only require such a degree.

Toledoans are working, but the mismatch between housing cost affordability and low-wage employment increases chances of falling into poverty. The cost of living was also discussed to shed light on a comfortable wage that takes into consideration other facets of life besides income (e.g. taxes, childcare, etc.). Other highlights from the Report were:

- Forty-eight percent of Toledo residents are renters and 52 percent own their home, but 45 percent of renters pay more than 30 percent of their gross household income on housing costs. It was found that District 4 experienced the highest burden in 2000 with some households paying close to 60%.

- Employment jumped from 54.9 percent in 2010 to 89.2 percent in 2017, with the education sector having the highest percentage of Toledo's employed residents, 25 percent.

- Toledo's median household income is an average of \$17.21 an hour, but for one adult and one child, a sufficient hourly wage needs to be at least \$19.28 an hour and above.

The remaining parts of the Report uncovered the mismatch of loan originations under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), which are meant to boost economic activity in low to moderate income neighborhoods; in addition to the economic and social implications of "shrinking cities" due to suburbanization, continued disinvestment, increased vacancies, and the like.

Interviews with local nonprofits found a shared consensus with the inefficiencies of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund allocations, encouragement of greater collaborations between community partners to reduce administrative costs, and increased support for both minority- and women-owned businesses.

From the investigation of other cities' poverty efforts, it was suggested that Toledo should employ increased community engagement with poverty policy creation (i.e. Poverty Commission group, embrace data and evidence-driven approaches, new funding opportunities, and

... continued on page 12



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# State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson Hosts Town Hall Meeting

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (District 44) hosted a town hall meeting on Thursday, August 15 at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and unveiled for constituents the Ohio Promise, a legislative agenda that Ohio House Democrats are actively promoting as a way to improve conditions for the state's struggling families and individuals and a framework to invest in Ohio's future and build an economy that works for everyone.

During her presentation, Hicks-Hudson mentioned such issues as employment, safety, health care, infrastructure and ensuring that Ohioans have the same opportunities that residents of other states have without feeling pressured to leave their communities.

The Ohio Promise agenda consist of five principals: 1. You can live the American dream right here at home; 2. If you work hard, you can get ahead; 3. Family comes first; 4. You can live, work and retire with safety and security and 5. We work for you.

"We need to restore Ohio," said Hicks-Hudson as she mentioned such areas in which the state was lagging compared to others – income, poverty, employment, population growth, to name a few.

The Promise calls for an effort by elected officials to strengthen local communities by increasing funding from the state for libraries, public schools and rape crisis centers; to enact a targeted tax cut for working people; to raise the minimum wage; to increase wraparound services, such as counseling and mental health programs for students; to increase

state-share funding for colleges and universities and to enact common sense gun control laws.

Joining Hicks-Hudson during the town hall meeting were fellow Toledo-area representatives Michael Sheehy District 46) and Lisa Sobecki (District 45) along with Thomas West of Canton (District 49).

"We have come to the State House to work for you," said Hicks-Hudson of the way she and her fellow Democrats view their mission. "And we need to hear from you. Collaboration needs to be improved between representatives and constituents."

Repeatedly during the hour and a half long meeting, Hicks-Hudson stressed the point that such meetings would be commonplace and that it was critical for that those residents of the greater Toledo area reach out to their representatives and express to them what their needs are.

Hicks-Hudson also spent some time explaining the budget process and its four components to attendees. Those components – transportation, capital (the state facilities); operations and the Bureau of Workers Compensation – she explained as the policy and values the government places on its handling of taxpayer funding.

During the meeting, Hicks-Hudson and her colleagues, Sheehy, Sobecki and West, fielded questions from the audience regarding water safety, health care, education, the immigrant crisis and mental health, in what was described as part the beginning of an enhanced state-wide effort by Democratic House officials to bring constituents into the policy process.



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State Reps. Lisa Sobecki and Hicks-Hudson



State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson

# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Donates More Than 900 Backpacks to Trotwood City Schools

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® members from the Great Lakes Region have rallied to help make sure school children near Dayton, Ohio have what they need for the upcoming school year after many of them lost everything during tornadoes in May.

Sorority members from five states in the Great Lakes Region donated more than 900 backpacks filled with school supplies and other needed items to students in the Trotwood-Madison City School District. It was part of the Great Lakes Region's first ever "Make a Difference Day...After the Storm" held on Sunday, July 28.

The Trotwood, Ohio area saw heavy destruction when multiple tornadoes ripped through the area. The sorority's donation was in response to a backpacks and school supplies donation drive by Dayton radio station 92.1 FM WROU.

All items were delivered to the Trotwood Fire Department's Firehouse #72. More than 50 Alpha Kappa Alpha members from around Ohio, Michigan and other states went to the firehouse to unload and drop off backpacks. In addition, a Miami Valley Regional Transit Authority bus transported large boxes of pre-ordered, pre-filled backpacks to the firehouse.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Great Lakes Regional Director Carrie J. Clark said, "We're here to make a difference and we're doing it by being on the ground, working hard and by giving back."

"Our Sorority is founded on service, giving back, and service to all mankind. So, this is what we do. This is our mantra. This is who we are," Clark said. "So to be able to be a part of something that is bigger than all of us, to be able to help those young kids in the middle schools who are in need of school supplies, it's touching."

The Great Lakes Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® is comprised of Ohio, Michigan, Western New York, Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Each of the Dayton-area graduate chapters: Rho Omega in Wilberforce, Beta Eta Omega in Dayton and Tau Lambda Omega in Trotwood had members directly impacted by the storm. The sorority and Great Lakes Region also donated over \$10,000 to families in need.

Faith Daniels, Program Director for 92.1 WROU, said, the backpack donation "is the most incredible outpouring of love for the city of Trotwood and the children of Trotwood and the Greater Dayton area." She said she was grateful to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority because the Sorority "came through in a way that I had asked God to do because the donations were looking a little slim." Daniels added, "They came to my rescue and they came to the rescue of the kids in this community and they have done a fantastic job."

Daniels said with the donation, every Trotwood student will receive a backpack with supplies. Trotwood students started school on Monday, Aug. 12. Trotwood Mayor Mary A. McDonald, who was at the firehouse to help receive the donations, said, "On behalf of the city of Trotwood, I thank every AKA."

## About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA) is an international service organization that was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African-American college-educated women. Alpha Kappa Alpha is comprised of nearly 300,000 members in more than 1,000 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Liberia, Bahamas, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Canada, Japan, Germany, South Korea, South Africa and in the Middle East. Led by International President Glenda Glover PhD, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is often hailed as "America's premier Greek-letter organization for African American women."*

*The Great Lakes Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® is comprised of more than 5,000 members in Ohio, Michigan, Western New York, Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. For more information about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® and its programs, visit [www.aka1908.com](http://www.aka1908.com).*



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# 11th Annual Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

On October 10, 2019, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC), along with sponsors Wright State University, Honda of America, and PNC, will host the Eleventh Annual Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The Civil Rights Hall of Fame seeks to acknowledge outstanding Ohioans who are recognized as pioneers in human and civil rights and who have advanced the goals of equality and inclusion.

The 2019 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame honorees are:

\* Thomas Jefferson Ferguson (1830-1887) - Leader, author, and education trailblazer who created the first institution of higher education created and controlled by African Americans.

\* Mary Hackney (1915-2008) - Education desegregation advocate and teacher of the Marching Mothers and Children of Hillsboro.

\* Dr. John "Jack" E. Hansan (1930-2019) - Social worker, civil rights organizer, and policy leader who led the Cincinnati delegation of the March on Washington and advocates for policies and programs to combat racial inequality.

\* Geraldine "Jerrie" Mock (1925-2014) - Aviation trailblazer, record breaker, and the first woman to fly solo around the world.

\* Burt Silverman (1919-1978) - Dedicated advocate to racial equality and improving race issues as leader of the Toledo Board of Community Relations and the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

\* Stanley Eugene Tolliver, Sr. (1925-2011) - Civil rights lawyer who represented clients in high profile civil rights cases and was part of the push for desegregation in Cleveland

The Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame program will consist of a formal ceremony that will honor these inductees. Angela Pace, Director of Community Affairs for 10TV Columbus, will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for this

year's event and Opera Columbus will perform. Chair Lori Barreras of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission said, "It is a privilege to honor those who have made remarkable advances in the fight for civil rights and paved paths for Ohioans today."



Stanley Tolliver

The Eleventh Annual Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place on

Thursday October 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus, OH. The event is free and all members of the public are invited to attend the induction ceremony and the reception to be held in the Ohio Statehouse Rotunda immediately following.

## Readiness Checklist: 5 Steps to Prep for Buying a Home

*Special to The Truth*

For many Americans, making the jump to buying that first house is a significant achievement that allows them to put their mark on their own space, while creating room for family and pets.

But how do you know you're ready?

Americans see homeownership as an investment in their future, yet they are concerned about the steps they need to take to put themselves into a position to buy, according to the "How Americans View Homeownership" survey conducted by The Harris Poll April 17-29, 2019, among 1,004 U.S. adults 21 and older on behalf of Wells Fargo. The study showed that 44 percent of non-homeowners identified saving for a down payment as a top barrier to buying, more so than any other obstacle.

"Homeownership is very much a part of the American Dream, yet too many first-time buyers don't know where to start," says Liz Bryant, Wells Fargo Home Lending's national retail sales leader. "We find that a great way to get moving down the path to homeownership is with a conversation. By reaching out to your mortgage lender, your banker or even a housing counselor, you can start putting together a plan that will help get you on your way."

Here are some steps to consider:

- Research lenders and loan options. Identify a lender who has a breadth of home loan options, including low down payment mortgages, and who is willing to provide you with personalized guidance. Then just start the conversation.
- Know your goal. Your mortgage consultant can help, and so can a financial health banker or a housing counselor. A discussion about spending, saving, debt and credit will help you make decisions about what you can afford, how much you need to save and whether you need to do work to improve your credit score.
- Get your down payment ready. If you don't already have one, create a budget for your monthly spending, so you can identify areas where you can save. Set aside unexpected windfalls, such as tax refunds, to grow savings.
- Keep an eye on overall debt. While there's room for student loans and credit card debt, a good rule of thumb is to keep your overall debt level

...continued on page 13

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# MLK, Jr. Academy for Boys Opens for School Year

On August 16 the Toledo Public Schools opened for the first day of the 2018-2019 academic year and at MLK Jr. Academy, the boys of destiny were greeted by Toledo's men of distinction when they arrived to start the school year.

As has now become a tradition, dozens of Toledo professionals lined up outside the school and greeted each boy with a handshake and some words of encouragement – the first greeter was TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, Ed.D.

The meet and greet is not intended to be a one-time event. The men have all been offered an opportunity to stay involved with the boys during the school year by adopting a class.



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# The Sojourner's Truth Economy and Financial Health

## LMHA Starts Jobs Plus Program

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority has received a \$2.3 million grant for their Jobs Plus program that will help low-income public housing residents of Birmingham Terrace and Ravine Park secure higher-paying jobs. LMHA staff and residents celebrated the kick-off of the program with back to school event at Ravine Park on Friday, August 16.

Jobs Plus will assist public housing agencies in developing locally-based, job-driven approaches to increase resident earning and advance employment outcomes through work readiness, employer connections, job placement and educational opportunities.

One of the benefits of the Jobs Plus program is that successful completion by a resident and entry into a job will keep the LMHA rent stabilized for an extended period of time.

The Jobs Plus team will help identify underlying issues residents have such as fear of failure, childcare options and assistance and will also work on transportation solutions.

Employment services, education services, supportive services and youth services are all part of the Jobs Plus program



## Look Beneath the Surface

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN-DAY SLAVERY**

Any child induced to perform a commercial sex act is a victim of trafficking. Children made to work against their will (such as farm labor, domestic servitude or factory work) are victims of human trafficking.

There are safe housing, health, immigration, food, income, employment, legal and interpretation services available to child victims, but first they must be identified.

For more information about human trafficking visit [www.acf.hhs.gov/endtrafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/endtrafficking).

If you are concerned that a child may be a victim of human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at **888-373-7888**.



**LOOK  
BENEATH  
THE SURFACE**



The Economy and Financial Health Section • The Economy and Financial Health Section • The Economy and Financial Health Section

## Taxpayer Advocacy Panel

# SPEAK UP• Want to improve the IRS?

By Andrea Price, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel member representing Ohio  
Guest Column

The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP) is supported by and aligned with the IRS but is not part of the IRS and the members are not employees of the IRS. TAP is comprised of civic-minded citizen **volunteers** from all walks of life representing each state, D.C., Puerto Rico and an international member (citizens living, working or doing business abroad).

TAP's mission is to listen to taxpayers, identify taxpayers' issues and make suggestions for improving the IRS service and customer satisfaction. We not only listen to taxpayers; but we also try to do something about it.

TAP has six committees working on suggestions submitted by taxpayers. This month I would like to focus on the **Taxpayer Communications Committee (TCC)**. The TCC is currently working with the IRS to help taxpayers understand the difference between the third-party authorization Form 8821, *Tax Information Authorization and Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative*. In addition, they want to improve taxpayer's ability to understand the language on the forms by simplifying the instructions.

*Do you have a tax problem you haven't been able to resolve with the IRS?* Come to the Taxpayer Advocate Service at the upcoming **Problem-Solving Day**. The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) will conduct a Problem-Solving Day on August 22, 2019 at the Columbus Main Library on 98 S. Grant Ave from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. TAS employees from the Cleveland and Cincinnati offices will be available to assist tax preparers in person with tax problems regarding their clients that they have not been able to resolve with the IRS.

Generally, TAS can assist taxpayers whose problems with the IRS are causing financial difficulties, who've tried but haven't been able to resolve their problems with the IRS or who believe an IRS system or procedure isn't working as it should. **And the service is free.**

### Why is TAS holding Problem Solving Days?

Congress created the Office of the National Taxpayer Advocate through the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (RRA 98). The law further strengthened the role of TAS and provided for Local Taxpayer Advocates in each state. TAS maintains a geographic presence in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and continues to look at changing taxpayer demographics to adjust its footprint to meet taxpayer needs. Recognizing the importance of personal contact, they work one-on-one with taxpayers and their representatives within the area to resolve their tax issues on that day.

### Enrolled Agent Inactivation and Termination Letters

This year, the IRS Enrolled Agent (EA) renewal cycle has been completed and they are now beginning the annual clean-up of those who have SSNs ending in 0, 1, 2, or 3 and did not renew. Letters were sent the last



Andrea Price

week in July advising everyone of this action. Terminations letters were sent to EAs who did not renew for two enrollment cycles.

You can be reinstated by taking the Special Enrollment Examination (SEE). Visit [www.prometric.com/irs](http://www.prometric.com/irs) or contact 855-472-5540. If you have received an inactive status letter, it is because the IRS did not receive your Form 8554, *Application for Renewal of Enrollment to Practice Before the Internal Revenue Service*. If in error, mail a completed Form 8554, the application fee and proof of required continuing education (CE) hours for the entire renewal cycle (such as transcripts or certificates) to: U.S. Treasury/Enrollment, P.O. Box 301510, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1510.

Everyone has something to say about taxes and the IRS. Please take a moment to give us your suggestions for TAP to consider by contacting one of the following:

TAP Ohio member: [tapohioandraprice@gmail.com](mailto:tapohioandraprice@gmail.com)

Toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227

Website: [www.improveirs.org](http://www.improveirs.org)

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## Dear Community Advocates

Dr. Joseph Sommerville, PhD. of The University of Toledo, former department chairman, is a retired educator. After several decades of academic and community leadership we hope to honor his leadership. This man has refused and discouraged recognition for his noble deeds in the community. If not for scholarship and the specter of helping to educate those less fortunate in our community, Dr. Sommerville would refuse the recognition.

The Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi has had a Scholarship Golf Outing for the last almost four decades. This however is our First Fall Classic and our first one honoring a community leader.

The Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Dr. Joseph Sommer-

ville Amateur Scholarship Fall Classic Golf Outing is for youth education. It is a repudiation of ignorance as an excuse for lack of achievement. If we help our children believe it in their hearts; and if they practice it in their arts, and conceive it in their minds, than anything is possible!

It starts with faith-based groups, family and friends lending their support to help educate our kids. "A mind truly is a terrible thing to waste!"

What we need in our community is more kids hitting the books and fewer kids in trouble

Thanks

Vince Davis

## Maximize Food Aid to Feed More Ohioans

*Special to The Truth*

Governor DeWine has an opportunity to expand the economic security of children, adults, and families by maximizing federal food and nutrition assistance for communities across the state. Ohioans in 41 counties and eight cities with high unemployment would get needed help affording food if the DeWine administration requests a waiver on time limits for federal food aid, says Policy Matters Ohio.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) makes sure low-wage workers, children and families don't go hungry. The program mandates that childless adults, between 18 and 49 who are not disabled, spend at least 80 hours a month working, or participating in job training or work-related activities. Those who don't meet the requirement may receive aid for just three months over a three-year period. States can ask the federal government to waive the time limit for residents of places with high unemployment.

"All Ohioans need access to nutritious food," said Policy Matters re-

searcher Will Petrik. "Removing supports like food creates barriers to maintaining or finding employment. We should be making it easier for people to qualify, not harder."

Counties and cities with unemployment rates 20 percent above the national average are eligible for a waiver in fiscal year 2020. The eligible counties and cities are listed below, those in italics were not included in the 2019 waiver. Additionally 38 counties adjacent to eligible counties that share similar economic characteristics may also be eligible for a waiver in 2020. The Policy Matters reports contains maps showing which counties have been included in past waivers and which are currently eligible.

"In the past, Ohio tended to overlook communities of color when applying for waivers," Petrik said. "The DeWine administration should make sure every Ohioan, whether they are black, white or brown, or live in the city or a rural community, gets enough to eat."

**The Truth**

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*Poverty... continued  
from page 5*

a comprehensive application process for residents participating in poverty-focused programs.

For a look at both the presentation and the Report, go to <https://www.utoledo.edu/centers/urban-affairs/>.

Brittany D. Jones is a third-year doctoral student within the Spatially Integrated Social Sciences (SISS) program at the University of Toledo and one of the main contributors for this Report. Her research focuses on African-American/black land-ownership and the resurgence of urban agriculture as a means of food justice and sovereignty.

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# *A Fist for Joe Louis and Me* by Trinka Hakes Noble, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Your teacher says "no fighting on the playground."

No pushing, no smacking, and definitely, no hitting. It's not nice, he says. That's what bullies do, you know. But as you'll see in *A Fist for Joe Louis and Me* by Trinka Hakes Noble, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell, sometimes fists and gloves equals a fistful of friendship.

It was the best of traditions: every Friday evening, right after work, Gordy's dad gave Gordy boxing lessons. After that, they'd eat dinner together and listen to the fights on the local radio station. It was especially good when Joe Louis was in the ring.

But then "times got hard," people started talking about Germany, and Gordy's dad lost his job. The Friday night tradition stopped for awhile, and Gordy's mom had to take in some tailoring to pay for the family's groceries. One night, when Mr. Rubinstein, whose family left Germany to escape the Nazis, stopped to drop off the work, his son, Ira, came along. That was when Gordy learned that other kids admired Joe Lewis, too.

But Ira didn't know the first thing about boxing! He didn't even know what "dukes" were, so Gordy had some teaching to do. Every time Mr. Rubinstein dropped off some work for Gordy's mom, Gordy and Ira practiced boxing out in the alley. Gordy taught Ira how to keep from getting hit too hard and they had fun pretending. They even made up boxing names for themselves.

Weeks later, that practice and pretend came in handy when a real bully came after Ira. Gordy stepped into the fray because he knew Joe Louis wouldn't let Ira fight alone, but hitting someone in anger made him sick.

Was that how Joe Louis felt?

c.2019  
Sleeping Bear Press  
\$17.99 / \$22.99 Canada  
40 pages

That evening, Ira and his father came over to listen to Joe Louis versus Max Schmeling on the radio. For years to come, it would be called The Fight of the Century but in the end, it wouldn't last long: just a little over two minutes.

Its effect on two little boys, however, would last for many years...

Considering all that's happened in the recent past, *A Fist for Joe Louis and Me* couldn't be more timely.

Using as a backdrop an event that made history nearly 90 years ago, author Trinka Hakes Noble tells a story of a young African-American boy and his friendship with a Jewish boy. It's a tale set during the Depression when anti-Semitism and racism made poverty seem a little bit sharper but Noble's characters don't complain; instead, they face problems together, which leaves behind the idea that we can find common ground and mutual interest, if we're open to them. That, and artwork by Nicole Tadgell, make it an appealing message for any age.

This book is meant for grade schoolers but be sure to go over the author's note with your child, found at the end. It adds meaning to the story inside *A Fist for Joe Louis and Me* and it makes this a book your child will fight to own.

## *Buying A Home.... continued from page 8*

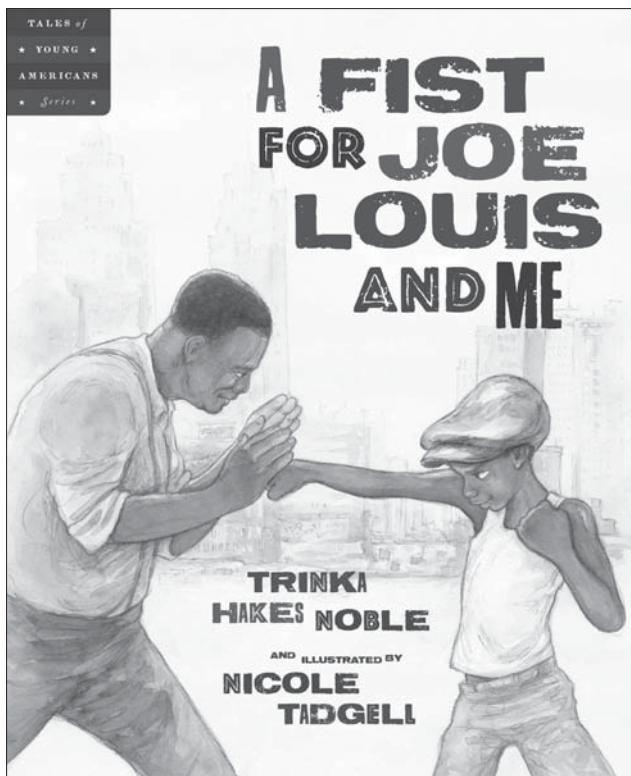
-- including your new mortgage -- at or below 36 percent of gross monthly income.

- Think beyond the down payment. Consider setting aside 1-2 percent of the purchase price of your home each year for maintenance projects. If that seems like too much, start with less and work your way up.

More readiness tips can be found at [wellsfargo.com/financial-education/homeownership/](http://wellsfargo.com/financial-education/homeownership/).

"Too many first-time buyers get intimidated by the down payment or the work they might need to do around credit," says Bryant. "Many don't realize that there are lending options available for homebuyers with a range of credit scores, and programs that require buyers to put as little as three percent down. It's important to explore your options, take it step by step and work toward your homeownership goals."

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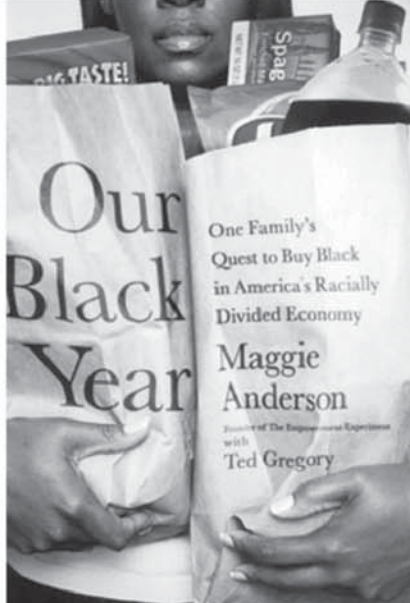
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Maggie Anderson  
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# CLASSIFIEDS

August 21, 2019

Page 15

## CLASS ROOM AIDES WANTED

Center of Hope ELEVATE Program is seeking classroom aides for its ELEVATE program. Monday through Friday, 2 to 6 pm. Call 419-861-4400

## DEPUTY (EXECUTIVE) DIRECTOR

Lucas County Children Services is seeking candidates for a Deputy (Executive) Director. Education and experience requirements can be viewed at [www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net). Apply online by **8/30/19**. No Phone Calls Please. EOE valuing diversity

## HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

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## EARLY HEAD START HEALTH ADVOCATE LUCAS COUNTY FAMILY COUNCIL

Lucas County Family Council is accepting applications to fill the **Early Head Start Health Coordinator** position. Applications are accepted until position is 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 "Early Head Start Health Advocate" from the list to read more or apply.

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Send your letter and resume to: Human Resource Manager, PO Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614 or online at [employment@wgte.org](mailto:employment@wgte.org).

EOE/ADA

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY20-07, (Project # 5007-19-1866) for University Medical Center Pharmacy Compliance Ventilation System 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 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 20, 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 Julie Cavese of PMBA Architects at 419-873-8450. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 10:00 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: \$500,000.00; Breakdown: General: \$500,000.00.

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Second Missionary Baptist Church located in MONROE Michigan is seeking a Organist to play a Sunday morning church services as well as mid-week rehearsal. Individuals must be able to follow directions and work well with other musicians both spiritually and professionally. Candidates should be very familiar with modern contemporary Christian worship as well as traditional gospel music. Individuals must be serious about their relationship with Jesus and able to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit while playing.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Proposals will be received by Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) until **4:00 p.m., September 18, 2019** for the selection of Provider(s) to implement a wide variety of innovative programs serving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) eligible individuals residing in Lucas County. Submitted proposals must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The contract period will be from approximately January 1, 2020 through **September 30, 2020**.

No proposals will be accepted after **4:00 p.m., September 18, 2019**; proposals that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFP will not be accepted.

The Request for Proposals will be available on **August 21, 2019**. It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

A Q&A Bidders Conference providing bidders the opportunity to ask clarifying questions regarding the RFP will be held on August 29, 2019 10:00 A.M., Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, 3210 Monroe St. Toledo, OH 43606. **(PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED)**. If any changes are made to the RFP as a result of the Q&A Bidders Conference, an addendum to the RFP will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted as of **August 21, 2019** at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

The right is reserved to reject any and all proposals.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Tina Skeldon Wozniak - President

Pete Gerken - Commissioner

Gary L. Byers - Commissioner

**Bid: 48-20-RFP-01**

# Event Promotes Importance of Exercise and Getting Routine Checkups

*African American Male Wellness Walk Was Held Saturday, Aug. 17*

Toledo's seventh annual African American Male Wellness Walk – which offered approximately 15 free health screenings for men and women along with fun for all ages – was held Saturday, August 18 starting at 8 a.m. at Warren AME Church.

The 5K walk/run started at 10 a.m. Registration for the walk/run was free.

Toledo Fire & Rescue Chief Brian Byrd established the Toledo walk to promote the importance of exercise and getting routine checkups to prevent illnesses. African American men, who typically do not seek healthcare for themselves, are encouraged to visit a doctor annually and to “know their numbers” – results for body mass index (BMI), blood pressure, cholesterol, prostate cancer and other health screenings done for free at the annual event.

“Healthy men make healthy families, and healthy families make a healthy community,” said Byrd, a Toledo native who was sworn in as Fire Chief a year ago.

About 600 screenings are performed by paramedics and other local health professionals every year.

The annual Toledo event is part of the National African American Male Wellness Initiative, which was founded in 2004 by John Gregory in Columbus. Gregory attended the Toledo walk this year.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for African-American men in Lucas County. Among major risk factors for heart disease, 57 percent of male African-American Lucas County residents were overweight or obese, 37 percent had high blood pressure, 25 percent had diabetes. 21 percent had high blood cholesterol and 17 percent smoked, according to Healthy Lucas County's 2016/2017 Lucas County Community Health Assessment.

While the Toledo event's primary focus remains encouraging African American men to prevent illnesses, people from all races, ethnicities and genders were welcomed to get free screenings – and have fun while being physically active, Byrd said.



*The runners start*



*Chief Byrd presents recognition plaque to AALP's Robert Smith*



*MC Keith Cook introduces boxing champ DeAndre Ware*



*Chief Brian Byrd*

“It’s not just for black men. It’s for everybody,” Byrd said. “We all need to take care of our health and support everyone in the community.”

Healthcare organizations were invited to set up informational displays at the event for free.



*Erika White leads group exercises*



*The walkers follow*



*Erika White and the City of Toledo's Katy Crosby*



*Life is a Highway:*  
**ART & AMERICAN  
CAR CULTURE**

June 15–Sept. 15, 2019 |

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*National AA Walk's Carlton Weddington*