

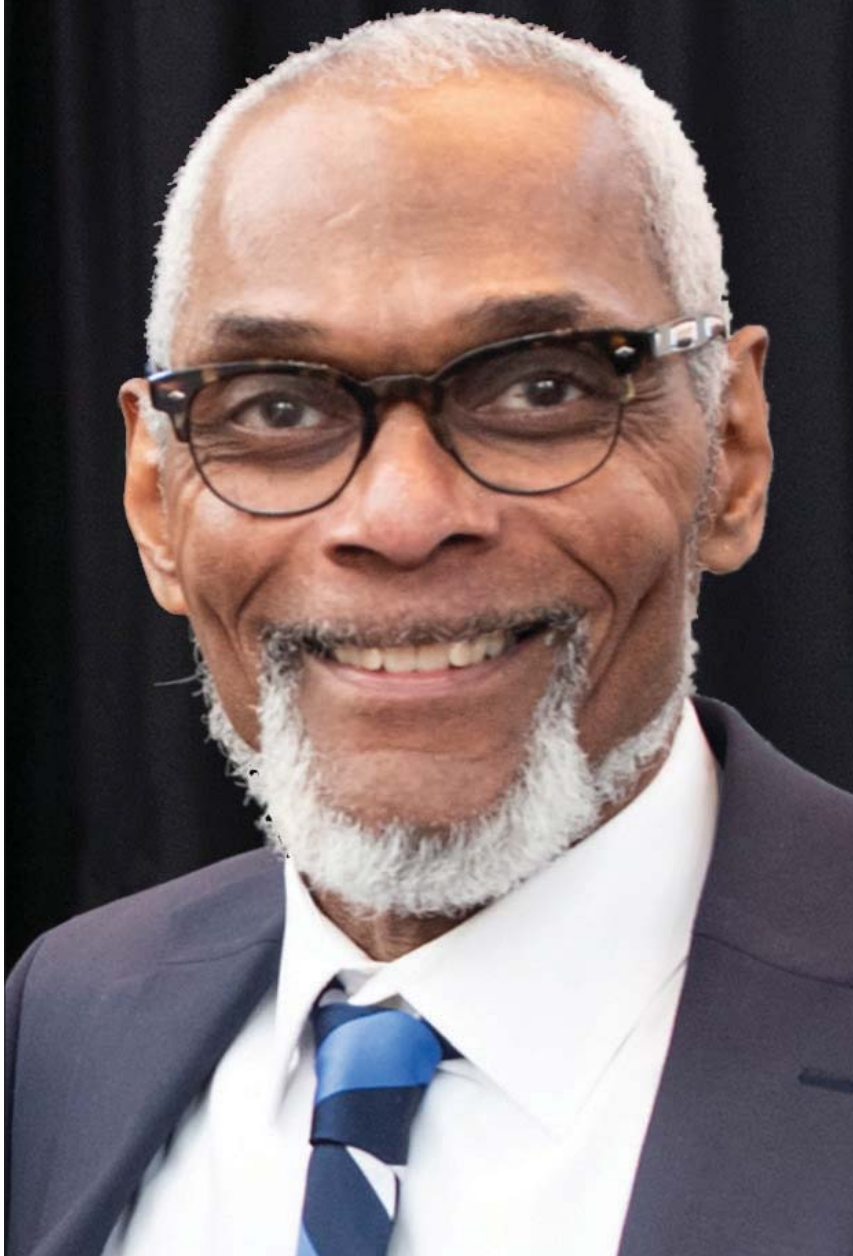
The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 58, No. 7

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

November 13, 2019

Ohio Civil Rights Director Retires



G. Michael Payton Led Agency for 18 Years

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It Was A Good Day

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD.

The Truth Contributor

Don't take counsel of your fears or naysayers.

— Colin Powell



The highs and lows of life tend to average out, so the old adage goes. For certain the saying seems to be true for last week's election results. There were many highs and a few lows, but overall November 5 was a good day for the residents of Toledo.

Here are a few of my takeaways from the election.

Change is Good:

Although provisional ballots remain to be counted, Theresa Gadus seems poised to succeed Peter Ujvagi in District 3 while Sam Melden was overwhelmingly elected to replace Tom Waniewski in District 5.

The change is good as we will witness fresh perspectives. I predict that the infusion of youth will generate optimism and an excitedness that will replace the stale spirit that we have experienced for a long time on council.

Gadus and Melden both have bright visions for their district beyond providing basic services, including a focus on what Toledo should look like for its citizens for the next generations.

Oh, and did I say that I won't miss the cantankerous arrogance and cultural insensitivity as Waniewski transitions to his post-City Council life?

A Knockout:

Yvonne Harper won District 4 over former Councilwoman June Boyd by garnering nearly 75 percent of the vote, which was the largest spread in any district race.

There is no other councilperson, perhaps, that fights for every single person in the way that Harper does. She is seen as a beloved warrior for those both inside and outside her district and an eager combatant on behalf of anyone who comes to her and the issue fits within her principles.

Representation Matters:

Top vote getter and first-time candidate Sheena Barnes has children who are going through Toledo Public Schools, including a child with special needs. Her

successful candidacy is an incredible feat and shows that she's willing to work hard and that she will work hard.

Barnes is frank, open and has proven in other arenas outside of education that she is also a gladiator, like Harper, who brings heart and soul to everything that she does. The fact that she identifies as LGBT, is a woman, an African American and open about how those things impact the lives of those in our community changes the whole dynamic of the school board.

Name Recognition:

When it comes to judicial races, name recognition is the key and there was a lot of familiarity with the candidates in the Puffenberger – Lanzinger judicial race. Some, however, believe that Tom Puffenberger may have had a better result in this razor-thin contest had he attempted to connect more in black contexts and other communities of color.

From A Bad Spot To a Good Place:

Councilman Tyrone Riley began his campaign amidst several controversies in the media, mudslinging and accusations, and most notably, without the support of the Lucas County Democratic Party. Yet Riley prevailed because his constituents have seen him out in the community doing the work and believe in him despite the Party's lack of endorsement.

Like Harper and Barnes, Riley shows that he is a battler for his district. District 1 residents may have felt as if "the establishment was out to get" or punish Riley.

I am told that on two separate occasions before the election, the Dems' executive committee refused to endorse Riley following a motion to endorse and discussion on the topic. The Dems' unwise decision smacks of exclusion at a time when the Party needs to expand and must be more intentional in supporting all the people that are in our community, including women, people of color, LGBT and others.

The truth is that Tyrone Riley has paid his dues, brought a lot of support to the Party, is qualified and has the skills and values to be effective and can win.

Despite the fearful and the naysayers, it was a Good Day for Riley and for others.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

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Community Calendar

November 16

The Junction Coalition 7th Annual Health and Wellness: 10 am to 3 pm; Frederick Douglass Center; Massage therapy, financial advice, healthy food options, medical screenings, stress tests and evaluations, disaster preparedness and water democracy: 567-255-4601 or 419-408-0998

November 19

Community Solidarity Response Network (CSRN) Workshop: 6 pm; Mott Branch Library: 419-973-0248

November 28

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Thomas Temple C.O.G.I.C. Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner: 1 to 3 pm; All are carry out: 419-320-4984

November 30

2019 Christmas Bazaar: 10 am to 4 pm; Indiana Avenue MBC; Holiday gift vendors

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Deborah Barnett to Coordinate Operations for Toledo-Lucas County Complete Count Committee

The Toledo-Lucas County Complete Count Committee, established in 2018 by Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and the Lucas County Commissioners to prepare the community for the 2020 Census, announced last week that Deborah Barnett has been hired to be the Census Coordinator for the organization.

The City of Toledo, Lucas County, and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation are contributing \$45,000 to fund the position. The Toledo Lucas County Public Library administration is supervising Ms. Barnett's weekly duties and providing office space and other in-kind support at the Main Library in downtown Toledo under an independent contractor agreement.

The Toledo-Lucas County Complete Count Committee was formed to ensure that every resident in the community is counted during the 2020 Census and has been meeting regularly since May. An accurate and complete 2020 Census will be instrumental not only in the redistricting of legislative districts within Ohio, but also to the allocation of federal funds to state and local governments. Over \$2 billion in federal resources are obligated to Toledo and Lucas County annually for crucial local functions such as roads, schools, health care, and emergency response.

Comprised of representatives from civic organizations, faith-based groups, educators, the business community, labor, the media, and other community stakeholders, the Toledo-Lucas County Complete Count Committee is designed not only to raise awareness of and facilitate a higher self-response rate to the census, but to act as a liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau as it mobilizes ahead of the census notification process that will begin March 1, 2020. The committee determined that establishing a single point of contact to coordinate activities would enable the committee to more easily spread

awareness of the importance of the 2020 Census.

Barnett has more than 35 years of wide-reaching experience as an administrator and a community development professional, first as an executive with Huntington Bank and now as the owner of her own consulting company. She has worked to connect organizations as diverse as the City of Toledo Department of Neighborhoods, Toledo Public Schools, ProMedica, Lucas County Children Services, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce with the people and resources they need to become successful. Ms. Barnett began as Census Coordinator on Monday.



Deborah Barnett

House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes Optimistic About Future for Democrats Ohio Voters, like Virginia, Ready To Elect Democrats to Ohio House in 2020

Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes, D-Akron, issued the following statement on Wednesday, November 6 following Democratic gains across Ohio and in states like Kentucky and Virginia in yesterday's elections.

... continued on page 13

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Election 2019 – Nothing Unusual at All ... Locally

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Nothing unusual happened locally on Election Day 2019 – incumbents won, Democrats won, levies won. It was an off- off-year election, and the results locally were not nearly so impactful as they were in other parts of the country, such as Kentucky, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Toledo City Council district races captured most of the attention. In District 1, incumbent Tyrone Riley held serve against a young upstart, Shaun Strong.

Riley captured 58.06 percent of the votes in his contest, a sizeable margin, given the fact that his party, the Lucas County Democrats, declined to endorse him.

Nevertheless, we will be hearing more from Strong in the future – young, yes, but with some well-formulated ideas.

Riley begins his third and final term as a district councilman with a defined plan of action. He says that he intends to: 1. Assist in the establishment of projects and programs for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; 2. Address how the residential street repair is funded; 3. Assist in the creation and development of job training and programs and projects and 4. Lay the foundation for individuals interested in getting involved in local politics.1.

In District 4, incumbent Yvonne Harper easily outdistanced her challenger, a more seasoned upstart, former Councilwoman June Boyd, by taking 74.13 percent of the votes, the highest percentage for a victor this year.

And in District 5, the Democrats, already firmly in charge of every segment of local elected office, flipped a seat, as incumbent Republican Tom Waniowski stepped down, and Democrat Sam Melden tallied 62.46 percent of the votes against Tom Names.

Incumbents Matt Cherry, also Council president, and Chris Delaney, won in Districts 2 and 6, respectively. Both are Democrats.



Councilman Tyrone Riley



Councilwoman Yvonne Harper

In District 3, Democrat Theresa Gadus appears to have won her contest against Republican Glen Cook by a mere 20 votes ... so far. She will be replacing the retiring Peter Ujvagi if the results hold.

Incumbent Judge Josh Lanzinger topped challenger Tom Puffenberger to retain his seat on the Toledo Municipal Court.

And long-time Toledo Municipal Clerk of Court, Vallie Bowman English skunked her opponent ... actually she didn't have an opponent. Her first race, in 2003, against Republican Theresa M. Gabriel, was the only meaningful contest in her subsequent years on the ballot as the incumbent.

If local elected races were pretty much of a ho-hum affair, there was certainly plenty of excitement elsewhere around the country, particularly in Kentucky and Virginia. In Kentucky, the incumbent Republican Governor Matt Bevin lost a close race to Democratic challenger Andy Beshear, a race in which Bevin tried to run into a referendum on national politics and received help from the president and vice president.

"This is a blue state," proclaimed Governor Ralph Northam exultantly the day after his fellow Democrats regained control of both houses of the Virginia state legislature for the first time in 26 years. That change in control is accompanied by some big plans for legislation in the immediate future for the now-blue state neighboring the White House.

Virginians can expect to see a number of gun control measures enacted – as many as eight are on the Democrats' wish list. In addition, the Dems will be pushing forward bills increasing the minimum wage and decreasing abortion restrictions. Virginia is now expected to be the 38th state – the final necessary vote – to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, thereby ending a battle that has been raging since the early 1970's.



Councilwoman-elect Theresa Gadus



Councilman-elect Sam Melden



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Executive Director G. Michael Payton to Retire from Ohio Civil Rights Commission

Special to The Truth

After 35 years of public service and 18 years working devotedly as the executive director for the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC), G. Michael Payton is set to retire on December 31, 2019. The Ohio Civil Rights Commission is the state law enforcement agency that administers the Ohio Civil Rights Act in the areas of employment, public accommodations, housing, credit and disabilities in higher education.

As executive director, Payton oversees the OCRC's statewide staff of 80 employees in their work on civil rights investigations, administrative adjudications, special enforcement initiatives, Alternative Dispute Resolution and community outreach efforts. Director Payton said of his time at OCRC, "It has been a high privilege and honor to serve our state. I'm grateful for all of the great citizens that I've met along the way. I have been blessed to have the opportunity to lead our agency in administering Ohio's strong public policy against discrimination."

Payton, a Gahanna resident, began serving the state in 1984 as an assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. He was later hired to OCRC, first as chief legal counsel, then director of Regional Operations, and finally executive director.

In addition to his 22 years of service to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, Payton served in the Ohio Attorney General's Office for 11 years, including as assistant chief of the Transportation Section where he provided legal counsel to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). He also served as ODOT's Real Estate administrator.

Payton has received several awards including a national award in 2003 from the EEOC Chairperson Cari Dominguez for innovative proactive prevention initiatives in education and outreach relating to employment discrimination, the 2007 Ohio Conference of NAACP's Civil Rights Vanguard Award, the 2008 Fair Housing Advocates Association's Keeper of The Dream Award, the 2010 NAACP Toledo chapter's President's Outstanding Civil Rights Award, the 2013 West Virginia Human Rights Commission's Special Recognition Award, The Ohio State University's Alumni in Government Distinguished Service Award in 2013, the 2017 Ross County Chapter of NAACP President's Award for commitment, dedication and leadership as Director of the OCRC, and more.



Michael Payton

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission is truly grateful for having had the honor of serving under Director G. Michael Payton and experiencing firsthand the great accomplishments he has made to advance civil rights in the state of Ohio.



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University of Toledo Committed to Minority Student Success

By Willie McKether, PhD, UT VP for Diversity and Inclusion and Vice Provost

Guest Column

At The University of Toledo, our top priority is student success. To accomplish this we need to close the achievement gap among our underrepresented minority students. I'm proud to say we are making great progress, although we still have much work to do, as outlined in our University's Strategic Plan for Diversity and Inclusion.

The six-year graduation rate for all students is now at a record high. In just two years, UToledo increased its graduation rate 9.3 percent from 2017 to 2019. The graduation rate for African American students increased an impressive 11.6 percent during that same time period.

And we expect to see our graduation rates continue to improve because of our increased efforts to support students. Our Multicultural Emerging Scholars Program, which consists of a summer bridge program and a living learning community, gives students a head start the summer after high school graduation. Students receive a scholarship which enables them to take six undergraduate courses and covers room and board for the summer.

In addition to this program, our two early arrival programs, The Multicultural Orientation & Resources for Excellence (M.O.R.E.) Institute and Summer Scholars Program bring newly admitted students to campus three to five days in advance of the fall semester to help them make the transition from high school to college. Both programs allow students to learn about all of the resources UToledo provides to ensure their success.

One of the most important student success indicators we track is the first-to-second year retention rate. I'm pleased to report that the overall first-to-second year student retention rate at UToledo has increased for seven consecutive years. From 2016 to 2018 the overall retention rate increased 1.8 percent, with increases of 3.9 percent among African American students, 0.7 percent for Hispanic and Latino students and 15.1 percent among students who identify as multiracial.

We are committed to increasing efforts to promote access to a UToledo education and growing our numbers of underrepresented students in all academic areas. The ethnic makeup of our student body has remained mostly unchanged in recent years, which is why we recently added in September a new assistant director of multicultural admission position to our undergraduate enroll-

ment management team. In response to national trends of declining numbers of underrepresented students in healthcare programs, we have also added a new role of associate dean of diversity and inclusion in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

While we still have much work to do, we remain committed to implementing the strategies necessary to recruit, retain and graduate underrepresented students. We appreciate the ongoing community support in helping us achieve these goals.



Willie McKether, PhD

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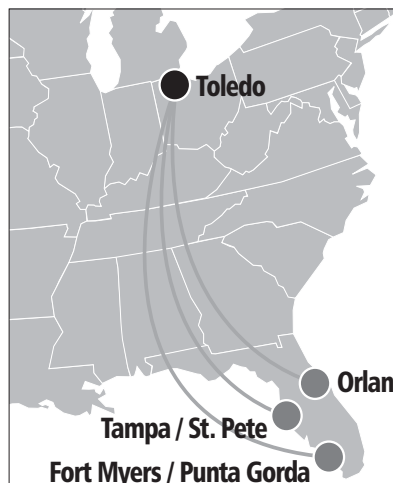
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Parents as Guilty as Kids When it Comes to Too Much Screen Time

Special to The Truth

Parents spend nearly the same amount of time with devices as they do with their kids, according to new research from The Genius of Play, a nonprofit initiative dedicated to raising awareness of play's vital role in child development.

The results of the OnePoll survey of 2,000 parents of school-aged children ages five-18 suggest that families should be finding more screen-free ways to spend time together. Half of the survey's respondents have been asked by their child to put their phone away, and 79 percent believe that their relationship with their children would benefit if everyone spent less time on devices.

"Screens and tech can make up some of your playtime, but parents should be mindful of creating balance," says Ken Seiter, EVP, marketing communications at The Toy Association, the organization that spearheads The Genius of Play. "A wide variety of toys and games will help create rich childhood memories, lead to optimal physical, cognitive and social-emotional development, and nurture critical skills like creativity and out-of-the-box thinking."

Parents are aware that excessive screen time is a problem. Seventy-four percent worry that their child spends too much time staring at a screen and the majority limit their kids' screen time to about two hours per day. However, when it comes to their own use of devices, setting a limit is easier said than done. Survey results revealed:

- Sixty-two percent of parents admitted to spending too much time on their cell phone while with their kids.
- Sixty-nine percent feel "addicted" to their phone.
- Parents spend almost as much one-on-one time with devices as with their

kids. They are spending an average of two hours and 17 minutes of personal time on their phone per day, compared to two hours and 41 minutes of quality, screen-free time with their children.

The survey also found that while parents worry about the amount of screen time kids are getting, technology is now an integral parenting tool.

- The majority (83 percent) agree that screens and technology are necessary when raising a child in this day and age.

- Parents use screen time to keep their child occupied (58 percent), as a reward (53 percent) and to help their child calm down when they're upset (52 percent). In addition, taking screen time away is used as a consequence (63 percent).

"Parents often complain that it's hard to get kids to put down devices, but they can set a positive example by swapping some of their own screen time for other types of play," says Seiter.

Experts at The Genius of Play recommend setting aside dedicated periods of the day for arts and crafts, word games, role play, board games, sports, puzzles, charades and other screen-free activities to maximize quality time for families, which will benefit both kids and adults.

For inspiration and play ideas, visit TheGeniusofPlay.org or follow @GeniusofPlay on Facebook and Instagram.

Omnipresent digital devices are a fact of modern life. However, with commitment and creativity, families can spend a greater portion of their free time without screens.

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UM Community Consulting Community Working with Books4Buddies

Special to The Truth

The University of Michigan Community Consulting Club (CCC) was established in 1999. It is designed to work with small nonprofits and, if selected, the students will focus on core programs (impact and outcomes).

The CCC students, who hail from a variety of local communities, as well as from far away as New York and Beijing, traveled from Ann Arbor recently



Front Row: (left to right) T.M. Smith, Vicky Simpson, Tracee Ellis, Marites Seitz, Kelly Dorfman, Laneta Goings, Sarika Kane, Sierra Stephens, Jim Funk, Rhonda Sewell Back Row: Robert Mendenhall, Christopher Smith, Bohan Zhang, Alec Lowy



University of Michigan, Stephen Ross Business School, Community Consulting Committee students joined by Laneta Goings, Books4buddies President and Co-Founder and Christopher Smith

to meet Books4Buddies board, including Executive Director Laneta Goings; Library officials; a Lucas County Sheriff's representative and an American Cultural Exchange Services (ACES) administrator to discuss the global literacy program.

The UN/CCC, Stephen Ross Business School and Books4Buddies will collaborate during a 10-week program designed to develop strategic planning tools, said Marites Seitz, CCC team leader.

"Over the course of the last month, we have had the privilege of spending some time speaking with some key stakeholders in Books4Buddies, including Laneta, and have grown to see the passion and focus with which B4B operates," said Seitz. "The organization is extremely mission driven and they know it does have an impact in the Toledo and global community and want to measure and deepen that impact. Everyone we've with is very knowledgeable about the organization and the needs of the greater community, which is inspiring to see."

The CCC students will be advising B4B on strategy and, just as importantly, helping "in measuring their impact, both internally and externally, so that they can leverage the information to achieve their other goals of growth and deepening the B4B community ties," said Seitz.

After the 10-week engagement, which ends in December, CCC will present its strategic recommendations.

"We are very excited to be continuing this project this month and are looking forward to helping B4B understand the levels of their impact and use the information to achieve longer-term goals," added Seitz.

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Ohio Budget Underfunds Schools, Transit, Local Government

Policy Matters releases new analysis of 2020-21 state budget

By Wendy Patton Zach Schiller

Special to The Truth

Ohio lawmakers appropriated \$48.8 billion in state dollars in the 2020-21 General Revenue Fund, an increase of \$3.7 billion over the previous two-year budget. New analysis from Policy Matters Ohio shows the increase will benefit certain programs, especially ones that serve at-risk children, but many crucial programs and services remain starved for resources.

"How we raise and spend money reflects what we value," said report author and Policy Matters Senior Project Director Wendy Patton. "Ohio's leaders say they want to help working people get ahead, provide great schools for all kids, and get treatment to Ohioans struggling with addiction. Most Ohioans also want these things, but without state support, we can't deliver them."

Important things are underfunded or left out of the state budget:

Formula funding for K-12 is lower than in 2005, adjusted for inflation and enrollment.

State support for human services in the General Revenue Fund, besides Medicaid, is 11.5% below 2006 levels.

Lawmakers failed to fund more slots for public preschool and did not expand initial eligibility for public child care to help more hard-working families.

Lawmakers considered curtailing the \$1 billion LLC Loophole, but the budget contained just a small improvement that legislators later overturned.

Lawmakers made improvements, but not enough to offset years of harm:

Lawmakers increased the Earned Income Tax Credit, which helps workers with children, but didn't make it refundable, key to helping the lowest-paid working families.

The transportation budget boosted the gas tax, raising an additional

\$865 million annually for highways and contributing to an increase of \$633 million (12%) to local government. This still leaves urban counties and big cities below past funding levels.

Lawmakers nearly doubled transit funding, but state support remains far below what the Ohio Department of Transportation's 2015 study said was needed.

An additional \$72 million for need-based college aid will help students, but lawmakers retained structural problems that leave out or shortchange students at community colleges and at Ohio's only public historically black university.

\$675 million to the Student Success and Wellness Fund supports health, mental health and other services for students in poverty, but funds for classroom teaching will be eroded by inflation.

At least \$182 million is provided in the budget to help reduce Ohio's high infant mortality rates.

Lawmakers boosted state psychiatric hospitals by \$55.5 million; increased treatment and prevention by \$72.2 million; and brought program funding for addiction-affected families to an additional 30 counties.

Lawmakers doubled state support for child protective services; boosted funding for indigent legal defense by \$152 million; and added \$20 million to address the lead poisoning crisis.

A new H2Ohio Fund allots \$172 million to clean lakes and waterways: This can start fixing Ohio's poisoned lake and waterways, but lacks the size and duration of funding proposed by Governor DeWine.

"In this budget, lawmakers left out working families in so many ways," said Patton. "Income tax cuts take \$330 million away from communities to give it to the wealthiest. By 2021, Ohio will dole out nearly \$10 billion in tax breaks. These policies keep Ohio from living our values."



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Free Veterans Breakfast at Mayores Senior Center

The Mayores Senior Center of the Neighborhood Health Association (NHA), along with the Corporate Volunteer Program from Owens Illinois (OI) and the United Way, hosted a Free Veterans Breakfast on Monday, Nov. 11, at the Mayores Senior Center, 2 Aurora Gonzalez Way, Toledo, Ohio.

Owens Illinois offers its employees up to 16 hours in paid volunteer time and NHA representatives expressed their gratitude that they choose to use some of those hours assisting their seniors at Mayores. OI has also graciously donated much of the food for the Veterans Breakfast. The menu included sausage, pancakes, orange juice and coffee, served by volunteers from OI.

Long time Mayores member, post leader and veteran, Sylvester Lanz, presented an official "Thank You" to all the veterans in attendance.

This was a day to honor all veterans and say thank them for their service.

NHA has been in operation for 50 years and was started by a group of central city residents who wanted to ensure access to quality medical care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay

If you would like more information about NHA and their locations, please visit www.nhainc.org.



Owens-Illinois volunteers



Honored Veterans



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. - Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter Caregivers Impact Day

The women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated -Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, Toledo, Ohio are presenting "AKA Caregivers Impact Day" on Friday, November 15, 2019 at the YWCA at 1018 Jefferson Avenue from 5:30-6 30 p.m. entitled "Hallelujah Stretch and Tone".

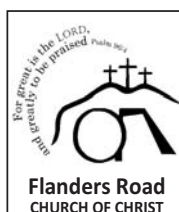
This is a gentle total body workout set to praise and worship music.

Participants should wear workout clothes and gym shoes.

Caregivers are focused on caring for others. Everyone is invited to please take one hour and join us for a good workout with Instructor Sheila Brown.



Eleodoro Martinez



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New Business Development Officer TaKeysha Sheppard Joins Bricker & Eckler

TaKeysha Sheppard has joined the law firm of Bricker & Eckler LLP as chief business development officer. Stepping into a reinvented role for the firm, Sheppard will assist in building business connections and fostering client relationships.

"Bricker takes great pride in its valued and long-standing client relationships, its unique client service model and its industry-level expertise," said Managing Partner Jim Flynn. "TaKeysha's experience and skills fit really well with those strengths of ours. This is a strength on strength fit for us."

Having developed and implemented business development initiatives within the health care, government and energy sectors, Sheppard has nearly 20 years of experience driving new sales, public relations and marketing initiatives. She is the former director of

community and member engagement for a Columbus-based health insurer. In that role, she oversaw brand awareness, marketing and public relations initiatives and developed organization strategy using research, analytical data and market-place trends.

Sheppard is also the founder and former CEO of "The Women's Book," a community-based, directory of local resources for women that contained categorized lists of nonprofits and women-owned businesses, products and services, and the profiles of a diverse range of inspiring women leaders.



TaKeysha Sheppard

Kit Murphy, chief operating officer, is especially eager to welcome Sheppard to Bricker. "Excitement surrounding TaKeysha's arrival – and the skills and depth of experience she possesses – is felt across the firm. We look forward to gaining the insights she has acquired through her work in other, non-legal environments which we believe will be a catalyst to elevating our business development efforts."

With offices throughout the state, Bricker & Eckler is one of Ohio's leading law firms. Bricker represents a wide variety of clients, with particular strength in the health care, public sector, financial services and energy industries in Ohio and beyond. The firm has a long history of promoting and supporting diversity and inclusion in an ongoing effort to reflect the communities and clients it serves.



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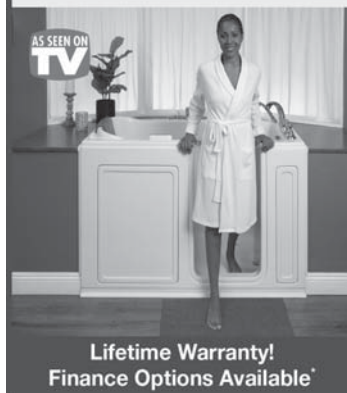
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The Yellow House by Sarah M. Broom

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

The back screen door always slammed, loud.

No matter how hard you tried not to let it go, no matter how much your mother yelled, it always happened at the home where you were raised. In, slam. Out, slam. It was the music you grew up to, the song of your childhood and, as in *The Yellow House* by Sarah M. Broom, it signified the place where you belonged.

Ivory Mae Webb needed somewhere to raise her children.

She was a mother and a widow in 1961 and living in her mother-in-law's home wasn't going to work anymore. With two toddlers and an infant in tow, Ivory Mae spent \$3,200 cash on a ramshackle two-bedroom shotgun house on New Orleans' east side, becoming the first in her family to own a home.

Three years later, the house was renovated and ready for occupancy, but the family had grown by then: Ivory Mae was expecting a second child with her second husband, Simon Broom, who was raising two girls. The Yellow House at 4121 Wilson Avenue bulged with the newlyweds and their newly-blended family of seven children.

After Hurricane Betsy in 1965, the house was expanded again – poorly, as it turned out, by Simon, who worked at a nearby NASA facility and who fancied himself a handyman. Still, every bit of work he did was needed: over the years, five more children would join their siblings and every square inch of the house was used, says author Broom, who came along last.

c.2019
Grove Press
\$26.00 / \$38.95 Canada
304 pages

Simon died when she was six months old. He never finished the renovations.

Nor did Ivory Mae, whose oldest did occasional fixes on the Yellow House as children moved out and sometimes back. Through the years, the house stood and sometimes sagged, a place where family was comfortable, even if no one else was.

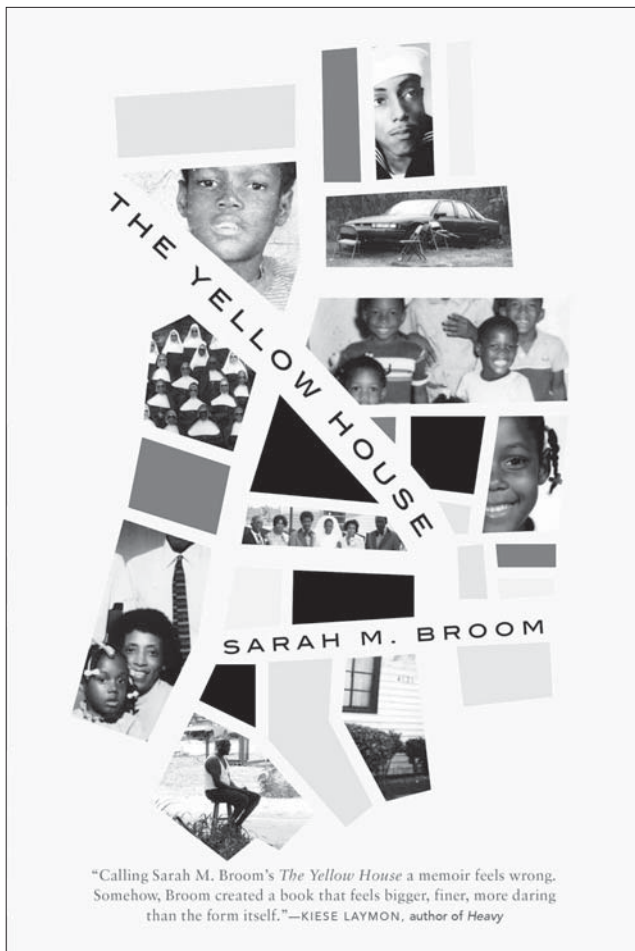
It was home.

And then Katrina hit...

Home is: a spot for sleeping, four walls and a roof, somewhere for your stuff, the place for family, the reason you work. In this book, home is also packed with author Sarah M. Broom's relatives, and some of them have more than one name. Home is a story that goes farther back in time than you probably need, but it helps you understand that *The Yellow House* isn't just a book and that wasn't just a house.

Inside these pages and those walls, readers will find rooms full of the past in Bloom's family, of New Orleans, and of its black residents. They'll find closets with skeletons inside, and corners full of dirty laundry, neither of which are sensationalized. They'll find a dusty upstairs jammed with memories. And they'll witness the kind of easy support that large, loving families enjoy, and it's really good before things got really bad.

The page count here belies the fact that *The Yellow House* is a big book: big on story, on history, joy, and sorrow. It's a tale of leaving and coming back home, and for fans of memoir and lovers of place, it's a slam-dunk.



Emilia Sykes... continued from page 4

"Last night was a great night for Democrats across Ohio and in key states like Virginia and Kentucky. Like Virginia, sustained investment over several cycles puts us in the best position to lead the state based on our shared values. We are going to continue to talk about the promise of Ohio and spend the remainder of the year detailing the work for our constituents, turning out base voters, and bringing Democrats back to the fold and reach independent voters in the suburbs and rural areas of Ohio," Sykes said.

"The races for the Ohio House are the most important in our state next year. We know the local races we won last night are the path to future victories for Ohio House Democrats in 2020 because our incumbents and candidates are listening to voters who are demanding action on job creation, anti-gun violence laws, expanded healthcare and protecting the rights of women, minorities, workers and voters."

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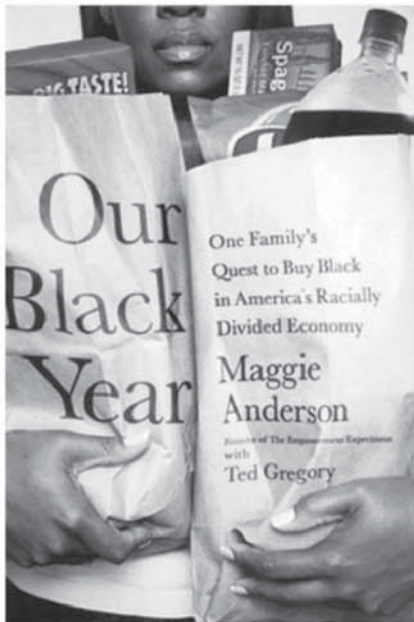
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Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday

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

Imagined: LaShay Reynolds

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CLASSIFIEDS

November 13, 2019

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ASSISTANT CADASTRAL MAP AND GIS SPECIALIST II LUCAS COUNTY ENGINEER

Lucas County Engineer, Tax Map Department, is accepting applications to fill an Assistant Cadastral Map and GIS Specialist II position. The application deadline is November 15, 2019 by 4:30 p.m. 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 "Assistant Cadastral Map and GIS Specialist II" from the list to read more information and/or apply.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Metroparks Toledo - Wabash Cannonball Trail North Fork Extension, Fulton County, Ohio** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, November 15, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of construction of a 12 foot, 6.14 miles long multi-use trail along the abandoned Wabash Railroad from State Route 109 to the Lucas County line including railing upgrades on a bridge over Swan Creek. General construction includes earthwork, erosion control, aggregate base, asphalt pavement, wooden guardrail, pavement markings, signage, mulching and seeding. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Tuesday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$40 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

The bidder must be an Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) pre-qualified contractor. Pre-qualification status must be in force at the time of bid, at the time of award, and through the life of the construction contract.

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this project is minimum seven percent (7%).

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA

David D. Zenk, Director

MANOR HOUSE COORDINATOR

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for an outgoing and flexible individual that loves to interact with people to join our team as Manor House Coordinator at Wildwood Preserve Metropark. This position will coordinate the daily operations of the Manor House and oversee rentals and programs. Moderate level of experience presenting programs and in customer service and/or event planning required. Moderate level of experience supervising work teams, staff, and/or volunteers required. Position requires as Associate's degree in education, communication, public administration, business, customer service or related field, or equivalent work experience. \$18.81/hr. Full time position with benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view job description, position requirements and apply online by November 18th, 2019. EOE

VETERANS THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Sunday, November 24 Warren AME Church would like to honor all veterans and active duty personnel at a *Celebration of Thanks* service for their protection and security of this country. It would be an honor to have veterans take part in this service. To be recognized and your name entered in the commemoration book, bring or send the information below to Warren AME Church 915 Collingwood Blvd. 43604

Information must be received by Friday, November 21 at 3:00 P.M.
Name, Branch of Service, Date of Service, Rank at Discharge, Contact Name and Number

Minister Rochelle Strong, Jerusalem Baptist Church and former Specialist E4 US Army will deliver the 10:30 a.m. morning worship service. Rev. Dr. Otis Gordon, pastor, will bless symbols that stand for the five branches of military service to be placed on the Memorial Tree. Please join us at the service and reception following it honoring our veterans.

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Preferred Job Requirements:

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The REAL BLACK FRIDAY TOLEDO! Black Business Expo is conveniently located within the central city of Toledo at The New Life Center on the campus of Bethlehem Baptist Church. This attractive, secure, one-level building offers 7,000 square Ft. of opportunity for vendors to have a wonderful and interactive experience with convenient and easy to access parking. The event is inside and will take place come rain or shine!

The event will take place November 29, 2019, from 11:00am until 5:00pm. Early bird registration is open now and you can take advantage of a 25% discount on the purchase of your table until September 27, 2019. Tables are limited, so don't miss out on this opportunity to sell on the hottest shopping day of the year.

Visit www.ivinstitute.org <<http://www.ivinstitute.org>> to register.

Historic Church Dedicates New Choir Robes

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The congregation of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church dedicated their new choir robes to God during the morning service on Sunday, November 3, 2019.

"Today's dedication service of the choir robes is the first dedication in the 18 years that I have served as pastor at St. Paul. I am excited to conduct this dedication service, we're dedicating these choir robes. The Lord has blessed us with these robes and other blessings that we know are pleasing to his sight. The Lord has allowed us to be able to get these robes, and we give the Lord all the glory," explained Rev. James H. Willis, Sr, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

The ceremony occurred immediately following a spirit-filled devotion that included hymnal selections, scripture, and prayer and was led by congregational deacons and deaconess. Rev. Willis led the choir procession.

Over 20 choir members filled both aisles of the sanctuary, as they marched towards the alter. The choir colors were selected because the colors align with the congregation. As the choir members reached the alter, they completed a call and response that was led by Willis. It focused on the role of the robes and inspired by Psalms chapters 42 and 46.



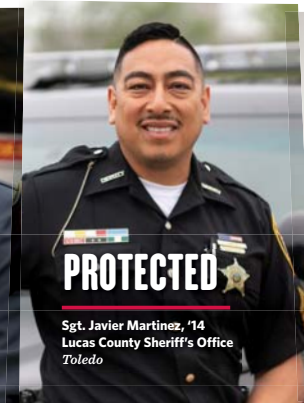
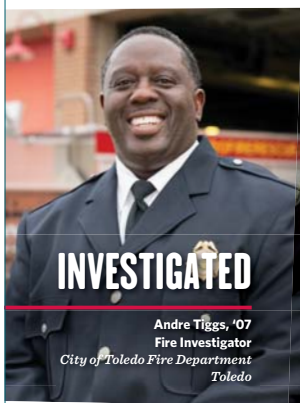
"The robes are for the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church choir. We collected donations from each member, and it was a collaborate effort to select the colors and design," explained Daisy Fisher, choir president.

The service continued with interlude, responsive reading, recognition of visitors, congregational hymn, choir selections, and proclamation delivered by Willis. St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church is located at 1502 N Detroit.



Pastor James Willis, Sr.

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