

# The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 58, No. 8

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

November 20, 2019

## ASSETS Toledo's Business to Business Expo



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# Time and Wisdom

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD.

The Truth Contributor

*Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.*

- Psalms 90:12 (New Living Translation)



The words of Benjamin E. Mays, the late sage, preacher and university president are enduring:

I've only just a minute,  
Only sixty seconds in it.  
Forced upon me, can't refuse it.  
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it,  
But it's up to me to use it.  
Give an account if I abuse it,  
Just a tiny little minute,  
But eternity is in it.

Mays' words are really a prayer that his followers and others might comprehend the brevity of time in order to seize upon important opportunities and not allow them to slip by.

In less than a year, American voters will be facing, perhaps, our most consequential election, even surpassing the vote which preceded the "blood-soaked Civil War or internal War Between the States, the grisliest conflict in American history in terms of the number of lives lost to the total American population."

Further, the 2020 election occurs at a time when - because of voter suppression efforts along with past and current outside attempts to interfere with our election, it is not entirely clear that our ballots will be protected.

This momentous election also comes at a period that Miguel De La Torre describes as where "white nationalism has been brought back into the mainstream of American public life; racial tensions are running high fueled by explicit bigotry such as slurs against Hispanic immigrants; excessive force is perpetrated against citizens of color by law enforcement; and the rhetoric of identity politics pervades the media rather than racial justice and reconciliation."

These issues ultimately manifest themselves in urban problems such as senseless gun violence and other problems, all of which are the outgrowth of poverty and nihilism or hopelessness derived from exposure to long-term, persistent tragedy and trauma in communities.

What should we do?

While life presents us with opportunities, Mays' larger question invites us to think about what we might do with them. In other words, do we seize the moment and bring about change? If so, we don't have much time.

Strategies for Change:

Perhaps the most significant resistance strategy to bring change for 2020

is an action list which comes from Carol Anderson via the Miami Herald's Leonard Pitts, Jr. Here are some of the not only wise but urgent actions that Anderson, an Emory University history professor and author of "One Person, No Vote" advises and which I recommend:

1. Check and double check to make sure that you are properly registered and have not been purged.
2. If you have moved, re-register with election officials.
3. Beware of the "okey-dokey" such as fake sample ballots or other dirty tricks.
4. Be sure to research candidates and their platforms and be able to discern truth from lies.
5. Support civil-society organizations involved in "heavy-lifting" voter registration and Get Out The Vote activities such as the NAACP, the ACLU or VoteRiders.
6. Be prepared to stay in line: Take water, snacks, chairs, power packs for electronics to help counter delays.

Wisdom means that we have comprehended the shortness of time and reached the conclusion that we must prepare right now so that, in the words of Pitts, "our votes are not stolen and our voices silenced - again."

A consequence that would be not only foolish, but calamitous.

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

## Workforce Development... continued from page 16

tinued success in your future," shared Steve Robinson, PhD, president of Owens Community College during reflection comments.

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"I can't imagine the difficulties that some of you have faced but know what you have accomplished here today is incredible. You have demonstrated that you can overcome situations," said Michael Thompson, PhD, president of Northwest State Community College during reflection comments.

Cherry Street Mission Ministries mission is to serve all who come to us in need, and to provide purposeful discipleship by rescuing the downtrodden, restoring hope to the hopeless and releasing God's greatness to our communities. For additional information about training classes, transportation, child care, temporary employment, disability employment assistance, behavioral health care, and access to social services call 419-214-6776.

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## Community Calendar

### 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

### December 14

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# Black Mayors Celebrate The Historic Inauguration of Steven L. Reed

*AAMA proudly recognizes Montgomery's first Black mayor*

This week, the African American Mayors Association's (AAMA) President Hardie Davis joined mayors from across the country in Montgomery, Alabama to celebrate the inauguration of the city's new mayor, Steven L. Reed.

Reed joins an impressive class of newly elected, history making black mayors including: Colin Byrd the youngest mayor elected in Greenbelt, MD; Timothy Ragland the first black mayor of Talladega, AL; Shawyn Patterson-Howard, the first woman elected in Mt. Vernon, NY; and Monique Owens, the first black mayor of Eastpointe, MI.

"As the president of the African American Mayors Association, it is my honor to join Mayor Reed in Montgomery to celebrate his historic election. As one of the most important cities during the Civil Rights Movement and the current home of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which pays homage to the legacy of enslaved people, Montgomery continues to be a leader in the push for equality for all Americans. Mayor Reed's election honors the legacy of those that fought and died, on the same streets on which we celebrate today, for the opportunity to vote and elect diverse representatives. Montgomery will greatly benefit from

his leadership and I look forward to working closely with him as a colleague mayor."

The African American Mayors Association (AAMA) is the only organization exclusively representing over 500 African-American mayors across the United States. AAMA seeks to empower local leaders for the benefit of their citizens. The role of the AAMA includes taking positions on public policies that impact the vitality and sustainability of cities; providing mayors with leadership and management tools; and creating a forum for member mayors to share best practices related to municipal management.



Mayor Steven Reed

# Toledo Native 'Kid of Pop' Featured in HBO Documentary

*Special to The Truth*

There is a rising star out of Toledo known as the "Kid of Pop" that is shining brighter as he is featured in a new documentary currently premiering on HBO. This documentary, The Apollo, highlights the rich history of the world-famous Apollo Theater, and how over many decades they have united

people from all walks of life through the medium of music and entertainment.

The Apollo Theater is internationally renowned for having influenced American and pop culture in a major way, providing an outlet for new talent to be seen and heard. That famed stage served as a springboard for many legendary artists including: Ella Fitzgerald, The Jackson 5, Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Lauryn Hill, Dave Chappelle, Jimi Hendrix, and so many others...

including Toledo's star the Kid of Pop!

Ziynne also known as the Kid of Pop is in this documentary along with a

... continued on page 13



Ziynne - Kid of Pop performing

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# Multisport Youth Athletic Field in Old South End Neighborhood

*Rick and Nancy Corbett Athletic Complex presented by Group1001 will provide local youth with a clean, safe place to learn, play and grow*

*Special to The Truth*

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and the City of Toledo last week unveiled a new youth development park located at Danny Thomas Park in the Old South End neighborhood. Rick and Nancy Corbett Athletic Complex presented by Group1001 features a 75,000-square-foot multisport synthetic turf field that will be used for football, soccer, and baseball/softball and provide local youth with a safe outdoor place to play.

Speakers at the ribbon cutting ceremony included Cal Ripken, Jr., Baseball Hall of Famer and Ripken Foundation vice-chairman; Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, City of Toledo; Rick Corbett, Toledo-native & project donor; Melissa Jacobs, Vice President, Sponsorships, Group1001; and Steve Salem, President and CEO, Ripken Foundation.

"The name Cal Ripken is synonymous with excellence, and so it is no surprise that his foundation has produced a world class sports facility," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said. "Toledo is the only city in Ohio that has been awarded a Ripken field, and children of all ages will benefit from this investment for many years to come."

Rick and Nancy Corbett Athletic Complex presented by Group1001 was designed for multisport play, including dugouts, backstop, digital scoreboard, bleachers, foul poles, soccer goals and field lighting. The facility will serve as the central location for the YMCA of Greater Toledo and The Believe Center programs, directly supporting thousands of at-risk youth who are exposed to high-risk factors, such as above-average crime rates, families living below the poverty line, and a high number of children being raised in single-parent homes.

After-school programming, such as organized team sports, is a powerful alternative during widely unsupervised time between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Research suggests 29 percent of all violent crime committed by juvenile offenders occurs during those hours.

"Being active and playing sports taught me so many valuable life lessons," said Ripken. "Thanks to the City of Toledo, the generous donors and supporters, kids in the Old South End community will have a safe space to play and grow, and learn a lot of those same lessons."

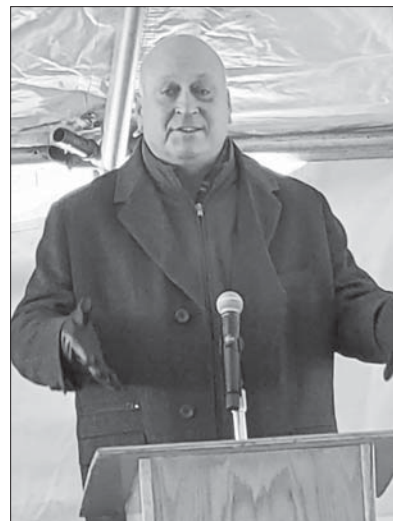
"Nancy and I are so excited for the community that this great facility will be available for youth sports in the Historic South. It is our sincere hope that it serves as a positive place for neighborhood kids to develop friendships, teamwork, discipline, and healthy fun," added Corbett.

Rick and Nancy Corbett Athletic Complex was made possible as

part of a generous \$5 million donation to the Ripken Foundation from Dan Towriss and Group1001, used to build a total of 10 Youth Development Parks with supporting programming over five years in 10 cities across the country.

"We believe that education and sports have the power to transform communities which is why it was so important for us to support the efforts to bring this transformational park to the deserving Toledo community," added Towriss.

Major charitable project donors also includes Rick and Nancy Corbett, Group1001, the City of Toledo, Andersons Fund Supporting Organization, Historic South, Owens Corning, Owens-Illinois (O-I), ProMedica and KeyBank. The Ripken Foundation has completed 90 multipurpose synthetic turf facilities in 23 states and Washington D.C.



Cal Ripken, Jr. Photo courtesy Bob Welly



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## Ohio Slowdown Continues with Job Losses in October

By Policy Matters Ohio

Special to The Truth

New seasonally adjusted data released last week by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) show Ohio employers cut 1,000 jobs in October. Monthly job data are always reported as preliminary and subject to revision. This month ODJFS revised September data, which now shows employers added 400 jobs instead of eliminating 1,500.

Longer-term trends are better indicators of Ohio's economic health and these suggest that Ohio's economy is slowing down. Overall, Ohio employers have cut jobs in five of the last 10 months. In October, Ohio had 10,300 fewer jobs than it did in January. Over the last 12 months Ohio's job growth rate is just 0.4 percent compared to the national average of 1.4 percent.

"The trade war with China and the GM strike were among the factors dragging down Ohio's job growth rate," said Hannah Halbert, project director with Policy Matters Ohio. "The strike ended and a trade deal with China looks a little more likely at the moment, but Ohio's job weakness extends beyond manufacturing. Ohio policymakers should be working to insulate the state against the next national recession. They should extend unemployment insurance coverage to more low-wage workers, and encourage employers to participate in the state's workshare program which helps people stay employed during a downturn."

Employers in production work, which includes manufacturing, construction and mining, eliminated 10,400 jobs in the last 12 months. Much of that was in construction (-8,600). Employers in administrative, support, and waste services eliminated 8,500 jobs, while retail employers cut 5,200 jobs over that time.

Ohio employers are hiring, but mostly in the high- and low-paying jobs. Companies in the "Professional, Scientific and Technical Services" sector added 12,500 jobs in the last 12 months. Health care and social assistance organizations, which employ both highly paid workers who require years of formal education and very-low paid assistants and aides, have added 13,600 jobs. Firms in food and accommodation services, which tend to employ low-wage workers, added 8,700.

ODJFS data project that fast food companies will have the most annual job openings in Ohio through 2026 (+31,702/year). The data predict there will be 12,020 openings for home health aides, which is projected to be the state's single fastest-growing job (+43.7 percent). Fast food employers pay a typical service worker \$9.21 an hour. A typical home health aide earns barely more, \$10.33.

"The low rates the state pays for home health aides through Medicaid and an insufficient minimum wage mean these workers are among the most poorly paid. It is no coincidence that women, especially black women, hold an outsized share of these jobs. Employers should be paying these workers the full value of their work. State policies can ensure they do. That would transform Ohio and ensure there are enough workers to keep up with demand. This is how Ohio can build a new middle class," said Halbert.

A separate survey of households released today by ODJFS showed the unemployment rate holding at 4.2 percent and a slight increase in the number of Ohioans working or looking for work (+200). Ohio needs 155,000 people to join the labor market just to return to the pre-recession labor force size.

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## Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP)

# Want to improve the IRS? SPEAK UP

## Taxpayer Road Map to the U.S. Tax System

By Andrea Price, TAP member representing Ohio

Guest Column

In July 2019, the Taxpayer Advocacy Service (TAS) released a detailed "Subway Map" illustrating a Taxpayer's Journey through the U.S. tax system.

The "subway map" visually demonstrates, at a very high level, the stages of a taxpayer's journey through the tax system – from getting answers to tax law questions through audits, appeals, collection and litigation.

The map makes clear the complexity of tax administration, with its many connections, overlaps and repetitions between stages. Notably, it shows why the road to tax compliance isn't always easy to navigate.

The National Taxpayer Advocate's (NTA) 2018 Annual Report to Congress included a series of "roadmaps" depicting a taxpayer's "journey" through the tax system. The subway map expands on the earlier roadmaps by providing a visually clear depiction of the taxpayer's journey.

**The subway map and a video viewing are now available.** A hard copy is available as a print map. To place an order, call 800-829-3676 and request Publication 5341 or order your copy at [taxpayeradvocate/irs.gov/roadmap](http://taxpayeradvocate/irs.gov/roadmap).

"Anyone looking at this map will understand that we have an incredibly complex tax system that is almost impossible for the average taxpayer to navigate," Nina Olson, NTA Director said. "I've been fortunate to work with so many committed members of Congress and their staff, in the House and the Senate, on both sides of the aisles. The Taxpayer Advocate Service's remit – to ensure taxpayers are treated right by the IRS and their rights protected – has no party affiliation."

This year in the 116th Congress, the Senate and House enacted **Taxpayer First Act, H.R. 3151** introduced by U.S. Representative John Lewis [D-GA-5] and co-sponsored by Representative Brad Wenstrup [R-OH-2]. The Taxpayer First Act (HR 3151) protects taxpayers from tax-related identity theft by expanding to all taxpayers the ability to obtain an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN), establishes an independent office of appeals, includes provisions to exempt low-income taxpayers from the IRS' private debt collection program and other measures to improve overall IRS customer service. The bill was signed into law on July 1, 2019.

The IRS has adopted a **Taxpayer Bill of Rights** as proposed by National Taxpayer Advocate Nina Olson. It applies to all taxpayers in their dealings with the IRS. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights groups the existing rights in the tax code into ten fundamental rights, and makes them clear, understandable, and accessible.

Watch the video and download a copy of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (in English and en Español) at [taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/taxpayerrights](http://taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/taxpayerrights)

Taxpayer Advocacy Panel's (TAP) 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; we try to do something about it. TAP is supported by and aligned with the IRS but is not part of the IRS and 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).



Andrea Price

**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: [tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com](mailto:tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com), Toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227, Website: [www.improveirs.org](http://www.improveirs.org), Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheTaxpayerAdvocacyPanel>

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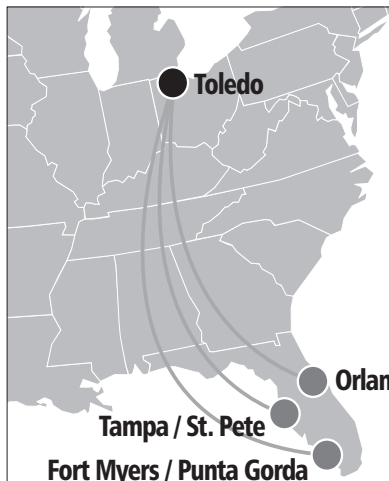


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# JumpStart Announces Northwest Ohio Impact Program Participants

*Five Local Businesses to compete for \$10,000 following 12-week business assistance program*

JumpStart Inc. has announced its second round of the Core City: Toledo Impact Program participants. Five local entrepreneurs form the newest cohort to participate in a 12-week business assistance program designed to drive economic impact in the city of Toledo.

The program will culminate in a pitch competition on December 3, where participants will present their business plan to a panel of judges for a chance to win up to \$10,000 toward their business.

## MEET THE CURRENT NORTHWEST OHIO IMPACT PROGRAM

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Jera Stewart

Jera's Heavenly Sweet is a made-from-scratch bakery with traditional style customer service. They produce and sell cookies, cakes, pies, breads, brownies, cake balls, candy and a variety of pastries—always made the old-fashioned way.

ALL 4 KIDS, LLC

Camille Harris

All 4 Kids is a five-star rated facility that offers a variety of part-time and full-time Early Childhood Programs for children ranging six weeks to five years of age. All 4 Kids' primary goal is to keep your children happy, healthy and safe while engaging them in purposeful learning and play.

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Timiko Kiner

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ELEGANT BEAUTY SALON

Tiffany McMorris

Located in West Toledo, Elegant Beauty Salon provides high standards of excellence and the most updated professional haircuts, colors, nail services, and skincare needs. Elegant Beauty Salon is known for attentive client care, inviting interiors and premium products. There is no cost to participate in the Northwest Ohio Impact Program, which is offered two times per calendar year. Businesses not selected are still eligible for business assistance services including free advising, workshops and pitch competition opportunities.

JumpStart is a nationally recognized investing, entrepreneurial support and economic development organization dedicated to unlocking the full potential of diverse and ambitious entrepreneurs to economically transform entire communities. For more information, visit [www.jumpstartinc.org](http://www.jumpstartinc.org) and follow @JumpStartInc on Twitter.

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# Entrepreneurs and Corporates Connect at Business Expo

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

ASSETS Toledo in collaboration with community organizations sponsored their fourth annual business-to-business expo at University of Toledo's Scott Park Campus on Wednesday, November 13, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The expo's objective was to match small business entrepreneurs with local corporations. Over one hundred entrepreneurs networked with 12 corporations during the day's event.

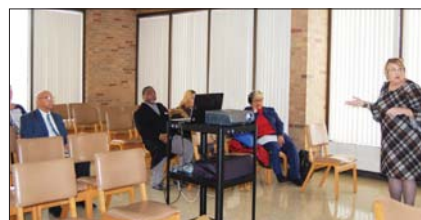
"The corporations that attended had previously identified vendor needs that they had, and we wanted to match the corporations with small business entrepreneurs that provide those services. Our goal was to ensure the entrepreneurs had opportunities to learn about and compete for contracts, explained Olivia Holden, ASSETS Toledo executive director.

The expo also included workshops that provided specific tools for business owners and individuals who are interested in a career. There were workshops about compliance requirements for businesses, financial literacy, practicing elevator speeches, business certifications, human resources, composing business plans, featured luncheon speaker, and utilizing social media for marketing.

David Hall, a University of Toledo business major learned about different resources that will assist him in creating his new business. "I want to open a construction company a few years after I graduate from the university. I learned a lot in the workshops that I attended today and had the opportunity to sit down and speak with companies in our area."

The local corporations that attended: Lathrop, Mercy Health, University of Toledo, Columbia Gas Company, Toledo Zoo, Toledo Public Schools, Lucas County Public Library, Lucas County Port Authority, Hollywood Casino, Ohio Department of Development, Promedica financial opportunity center, and City of Toledo.

"The expo has definitely grown over the years, we have more corporates attending this year over previous years," explained Holden.



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# Social Security Questions and Answers

By Erin Thompson, Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

Guest Column

## Question:

We adopted a baby girl overseas and brought her home with us to the United States. We need to get a Social Security number for her. What do we do?

## Answer:

In general, to apply for a Social Security number for your child you must:

- Complete an *Application For A Social Security Card* (Form SS-5), which you can find online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber);
- Show us documents proving your child's:
  - U. S. citizenship or immigration status;
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  - Age; and
  - Identity.
- Show us a document proving your identity; and
- Show us evidence that establishes your relationship to the child if your name is not noted as the parent on the child's evidence of age. The adoption decree or the amended U.S. birth certificate will suffice.

In most cases, you can mail or take your application and original documents to your local Social Security office. Remember, all documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. You may not yet have proof of your child's citizenship, but we can assign a Social Security number based on documentation issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) upon the child's arrival in the United States. When you do receive documentation of your child's citizenship, you can bring it to us and we will update your child's record. We will mail your child's number and card as soon as we have verified your documents with the issuing offices.

## Question:

Can I use the metal or plastic versions of Social Security cards that some companies make?

## Answer:

We don't recommend it. There is no need to have a replica of your

card. In most cases, the only time you may need to produce your Social Security card is when you apply for employment. At other times, we strongly recommend that you keep anything with your Social Security number on it with your other important papers. Do not carry your Social Security card with you. Also, we strongly advise against laminating your card. Your Social Security card has many security features, which are not detectable if laminated. Those features include latent images you can only see at an angle and color-shifting ink. You should question anyone else other than your employer who asks for your Social Security number or your card. Not everyone you do business with needs it. Learn more at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).

## Question:

Can I get a new Social Security number if someone has stolen my identity?

## Answer:

We do not routinely assign a new number to someone whose identity has been stolen. Only as a last resort should you consider requesting a new Social Security number. Changing your number may adversely affect your ability to interact with Federal and State agencies, employers, and others. This is because your financial, medical, employment and other records will be under your former Social Security number. We cannot guarantee that a new number will solve your problem. To learn more about your Social Security card and number, read our online publication *Your Social Security Number and Card* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10002.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10002.html).

## Question:

What should I do if an employee gives me a Social Security number but cannot produce the card?

## Answer:

Seeing the card is not as important as putting the correct information on the worker's Form W-2. You can verify employee Social Security numbers by using the Social Security Number Verification Service. Just go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/bso](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/bso). This online service allows registered employers to verify employee Social Security numbers against Social Security records for wage reporting purposes.

## Judge Puffenberger Receives Sam Burnett Award

Judge Jack R. Puffenberger, presiding judge of the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, has been selected by the Board of Directors of The Pat Miller Foundation as the 2019 recipient of the prestigious Sam Burnett Award. The

award was created in 2018 and is presented annually to an individual who has contributed to the quality of life of our senior citizens.

"I have had the privilege of assisting our senior citizens, who face some significant legal challenges in their lives. It is truly an honor to receive an award named after a man who is widely regarded as the champion of our seniors", said Judge Puffenberger.

The award was presented on November 8, 2019 at the Eleanor Kahle Senior Center in Toledo, Ohio.



Judge Puffenberger

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# Volunteers Gather to Pack 3,000 Weekend Meal Kits for Kids

*Special to The Truth*

Nearly one in every four children are considered “food-insecure” here in Lucas County and United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) volunteers plan to address this troubling issue by packing 3,000 weekend meal kits at their upcoming event, “United & Thankful.”

“Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away, which can be an incredibly difficult time for children,” said Wendy Pestruie, president & CEO of UWGT.

“Thousands of kids in our community truly depend on breakfast or lunch

meals they receive at school. It’s sometimes the only food they have readily-available during the week – and what happens to those hungry kids when school is out during the holidays? Where are they going to receive nutritious food?” Pestruie asked.

On Friday, November 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., over 500 volunteers will assemble thousands of weekend meal kits at UWGT’s downtown office, located at 424 Jackson St.

Kits will be distributed to children the following week, prior to Thanksgiving by Connecting Kids to Meals. They will contain various items, which will provide ongoing food during the long holiday weekend.

“We want to thank Whole Foods and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles for supporting this event. Generous corporate partners and individual donors make impactful gatherings like United and Thankful possible,” said Pestruie.

At the event, volunteers will continuously funnel through UWGT’s first floor, where they will have the opportunity to pack as many weekend meal kits as they would like. After building a kit, volunteers can travel to UWGT’s rear-lot, where local food trucks will be parked for lunch. Live music, tent coverage, chairs, tables and standing heaters will also be present.

UWGT is still seeking donations and volunteers for the event. To sign up or give, search United & Thankful on Eventbrite. Given UWGT’s bulk food order – just \$10.00 can provide five full meal kits to children in need.

“United Way is proud to work with our strong partners at Connecting Kids to Meals for United and Thankful. In 2018 alone, they delivered half a million hot, nutritious meals to children in need. We are very happy to be putting on an event that helps compliment their great work in Northwest Ohio,” stated Pestruie.

## UT Nursing Students Donate Hundreds of Hygiene Kits

UT Nursing students donated hundreds of personal hygiene kits to Mildred Bayer Clinic for the Homeless on November 13, 2019 at 9:30 am.

The Mildred Bayer Clinic for the Homeless, a member of the Neighborhood Health Association, is a health care clinic that provides both medical and dental services to Toledo’s homeless population.

These services are available to adults and children. Children are seen by NHA pediatricians and are eligible for the same services offered to adults.

In addition to these services, Mildred Bayer also provides personal hygiene kits to their patients that can include shampoo, soap, deodorant, a toothbrush and toothpaste. “These kits are the first items we run out of at the clinic, even before the clothing,” says Cassandra McKinstry, manager of Homeless Services at Mildred Bayer.

Shortly after a tour of the clinic a few months back, UT Nursing students decided to start a collection at the college for toiletries that they could donate to Mildred Bayer. The collection concluded this past week with an overwhelming response from their peers – over a dozen large bins filled with personal hygiene items for Mildred Bayer’s homeless population.

The students plan to coordinate another such drive when they hear that the first batch is depleted.

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 the locations, please visit [www.nhainc.org](http://www.nhainc.org).





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# Lights Before Christmas at Toledo Zoo Opens Nov. 22

Kick off the 2019 holiday season at Opening Night of Lights Before Christmas presented by KeyBank on Friday, November 22 for the annual tree-lighting ceremony at approximately 6:10 p.m.!

The opening night ceremonies kickoff the five-week long display that, as always, features over one million lights, the award-winning Big Tree, more than 200 illuminated animal images spread out across the Zoo and much more. The 2019 electrical spectacle is sure to be both merry AND bright!

The annual lighting of the award-winning Big Tree, an 85 ft. Norway spruce decorated with 35,000 LED lights, will take place in the Garden area at approximately 6:10 p.m. and be broadcast live on WTOL 11.

Fan-favorite traditions continuing at Lights this year include: the Ice Slide and Winter Village sponsored by Kroger, visits with Santa in the Arctic Encounter®, the Dancing Northern Lights sponsored by St. Luke's Hospital and Scenes of Wonder 3-D display sponsored by Comfort Line, Ltd.! And it would not be Lights without the Zoo's famous hot chocolate, homemade fudge and baked goods!

Also returning this year, Santa will be ziplining in toward his Arctic Encounter workshop at 4:30 p.m. daily from Nov 23 – December 23. Gather on the Africa Overlook to see the jolly man in red arrive in high style! Additionally, the Arctic Blast, a snowball launcher game is back but relocated to the Broadway Pavilion in the historic Amphitheatre! For \$3 each participant receives three blasts from an air launcher

to hit a holiday-themed target with snowballs. Height restrictions apply.

New this year, is an interactive LED light display in the historic Amphitheatre. Guests can move or dance on the floor and see their silhouettes in lights on the stage. In addition, a variety of photo opportunities and "chill zone" complete with concessions and fire pits has also been set up on the Amphitheatre floor.

This is also the first holiday season of the ProMedica Museum of Natural History at the Toledo Zoo. Be sure to stop in, warm up with a seasonal beverage or treat from the Café at the Museum and check out the unique Ohio habitats featured on the first floor!

Lights Before Christmas will be open November 22 – December 31, 2019, including Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. Admission gates for Lights Before Christmas are open 3-8

p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 3-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The Zoo will close one hour after last admission. Visitors can save \$1 per ticket by ordering online at [toledo-zoo.org/lights](http://toledo-zoo.org/lights) or [www.toledozoo.org/lights](http://www.toledozoo.org/lights).



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# *What God is Honored Here?* edited by Shannon Gibney and Kao Kalia Yang

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You're doing okay.

Shaky, most days, and you can't stop crying but you're doing okay. Thanks for asking, although nobody ever really wants to know. They look away, up or down or anywhere but at the truth: you've lost a baby but in *What God is Honored Here?* edited by Shannon Gibney and Kao Kalia Yang, you'll find sisterhood.

In long days after the loss of their unborn babies, journalists Gibney and Yang began a different kind of healing journey, looking "desperately for answers... finding meaning in human experience." Alas, for them, as non-white women, it was lacking.

It was then that they began researching, specifically seeking stories from Native women and women of color – tales that were painful to tell, or that the tellers had suppressed. This book is made from those stories.

Here are tales of women who knew their babies were dying; they knew about problems, that the baby was sick, wasn't flourishing, wouldn't live; they minimized news of birth defects. Mistakes were made, maybe; guilt was involved, or a doctor was particularly uncaring. No matter; those mothers wanted their babies, their first or second or seventh pregnancy that didn't last. Their newborn that didn't live.

They're memories of an Anishinaabeg woman, a Thai refugee, a black woman with white in-laws, an Asian American woman, a wife of a Mongolian man who didn't speak his language enough, each left with empty arms, dealing with "a tiny baby" in a way that makes sense at the end of something that makes no sense at all. Each wondering what happened, and getting answers that left them angry, stunned, satisfied that it wasn't their "fault," or without answers altogether.

And yet – there's hope in this book.

Hope in the tales of the future, and babies that will live to hear about a missing sibling. Hope for twins, though there should've been triplets. Hope, when

c.2019  
University of Minnesota Press  
\$19.95 / higher in Canada  
274 pages

one can't be a "creator of children" and instead heals by creating something else.

Without a doubt, *What God is Honored Here?* may be the most painful book you read this year – not because of what's in it, but because of its content.

That may seem like a contradiction, but here: the pain doesn't come from the stories and poems themselves, but from what they say and what they mean for women of color. Statistics, seen in the introduction, don't lie. It's what's told that feels like a knife.

Some of the tales are recalled in the most emotionless voices imaginable, with flat words of decades-old disbelief. Others brim with anger tinged with guilt, and an Everest of grief. Every now and then, humor peeks between lines of this book, forcing a quick lightness before plunging back in.

And then there's that hope...

For mothers who grieve, this book is great but it's also for fathers, grandmas, aunts, and friends. Just know this: it may be cathartic to cry through *What God is Honored Here?* but take it slow. Give yourself time, and this book'll be more than just okay.

## *Kid of Pop... continued from page 4*

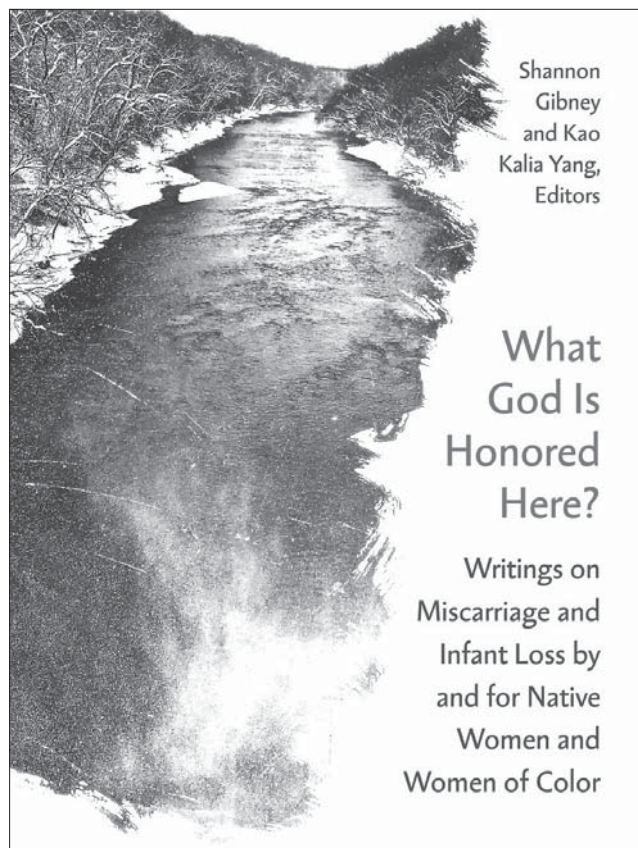
star-studded cast including: Jamie Foxx, Pharrell Williams, Patti LaBelle, Smokey Robinson, and Ta-Nehisi Coates. The *Kid of Pop* makes several appearances in the film, one of which being on that famed stage!

'The Apollo' documentary is directed by Academy Award winning and TribeCa alumnus Roger Ross Williams and is produced by White Horse Pictures.

'The Apollo' covers the legacy of the world-famous theater and includes a production of Ta-Nehisi Coates' 'Between the World and Me.' This documentary does and excellent job weaving current issues that African Americans face today with the many achievements that we have made. The Apollo Theater has stood throughout many trials and tribulations, and yet, it still remains in Harlem as a vibrant beacon of hope. It is with that same hopeful message that Ziyenne – *Kid of Pop* continues to inspire so many as he is a testament that dreams do come true!

The *Kid of Pop* has accomplished so much at such a young age. From performing with the legendary Jacksons, brothers of the iconic Michael Jackson...to touring across the United States with many of the biggest stars in entertainment...his future is truly bright! When not on the road or on stage, the *Kid of Pop* can be found inschool taking Advanced Placement Honors classes and maintaining a 4.0GPA while serving on Student Council and playing athletics.

You may watch the *Kid of Pop* in 'The Apollo' documentary as it is currently airing on HBO and on demand. To learn more about Ziyenne -*Kid of Pop* visit his website at: [www.Ziyenne.com](http://www.Ziyenne.com)



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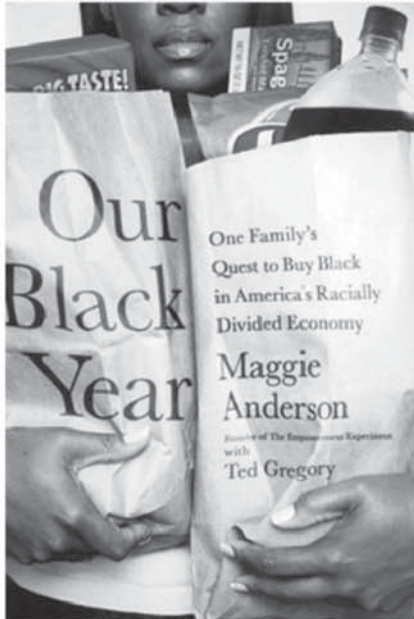
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# CLASSIFIEDS

November 20, 2019

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## CHURCH CUSTODIAN

First Church of God has an immediate opening for a Church Custodian who has the basic knowledge and skills to perform daily duties consistent with the maintenance and general upkeep of the church facility. This includes routine tasks anywhere from daily in-house cleaning to minor repairs. Those interested please contact the church office at 419-255-0097

## CUSTODIAN/CLERK/COURIER - PART TIME

WGTE Public Media seeks a responsible and reliable person for a part-time (approximately 20 hours per week) custodial, mail processing, courier and general maintenance. Previous experience needed providing basic building maintenance services: electrical such as changing light bulbs and ballasts, repairing outlets and switches, etc.; and plumbing such as repairing/changing faucets, toilet repair, cleaning drains, etc. Must have valid driver's license and be able to work days. Send your letter and résumé to: Human Resources, 1270 South Detroit Ave, Toledo, OH 43614, or [employment@wgte.org](mailto:employment@wgte.org). EOE/ADA

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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.

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## 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.

## BP-HUSKY REFINING PROCESS OPERATORS NEEDED

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## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COORDINATOR

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Make an impact in the lives of those age 60 and better in need by developing and advancing a multi-pronged strategy to re-energize the network of service providers who provide these services throughout northwest Ohio. We need someone who is a goal-oriented and data-driven people person who will interact with service providers and other stakeholders to create a culture of quality that leverages the agency's data, dollars and services to make them as effective and impactful as possible.

By finding ways to better align what is in the interest of the Area Office on Aging, its service providers and older adults/their family caregivers, this position will help the agency more fully realize the growth potential that lies within it.

The Area Office on Aging is a mission-driven organization that is full of people who have passion, purpose and contagious energy for the worthy work we do and who care for one another and the older adults, family caregivers and younger persons with disabilities whom we serve. We are on a mission to provide quality services that make a positive impact in the health, well-being and overall lives of older northwest Ohioans and their family caregivers.

So, if you believe in the work that the Area Office on Aging does and you want to advance the agency's focus on ensuring quality, send your resume to [jobs@areaofficeonaging.com](mailto:jobs@areaofficeonaging.com) with Quality Improvement Coordinator in the subject line or go to [www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com/Careers](http://www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com/Careers) to keep reading about this position.

Call to place your ad:

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# Workforce Development Programs Celebrate 22 New Graduates

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The workforce development program of Cherry Street Mission Ministries held a graduation on Sunday, November 17 in partnership with Owens Community College and Northwest State Community College.

The ceremony began with greetings, a student perceptive testimony, and reflections from the presidents of Owens and Northwest State. Then graduation certificates in machine tool & die, welding, customer service call center, and digital literacy were presented.

"Today is a great day for a graduation. We're here to see the fruits of their hard work. Regardless of their current situations, these students are examples. Congratulations to all of you," said Ann Ebbert, president of Cherry Street Mission Ministries during her opening remarks.

The graduates received their certificates by program type and partnering institution. Owens Community College led machine tool & die certificate and welding certificate, while Northwest State Community College led customer service call center certificate and digital literacy certificate.

Kevin Esmond earned two certificates and shared words of gratitude and encouragement to his fellow graduates. "We have all gone through something and my story is no different than anyone else' on this stage. I arrived at Cherry Street on April 8 after years of incarceration, but now I have an apartment, church home and good health. I am truly grateful that we made it."

Graduates from Machine Tool & Die: Michael Clark, Christopher Currie, Kevin Esmond, and Michael Hart; Welding graduates: Timothy Binder, Kevin Esmond, Ferras Hebaichi, Demani Mincey, and Devin Padua; Customer Service call center graduates: Shi' Ann Crawford, Jerry Drouillard,

Tela Horn, Thomas Moses, Joseph Mateo, Mila McCarthy, Shaquena Watson and Emily Johnson; Digital Literacy graduates: Shira Summers, Deborah Garabrandt, Gary Randolph, Kathy Lyons, and Maria Morales.

"You will always remember the obstacles in your life, but we are here to celebrate something significant. Developing your skills training will be easier for you, because you have already started the process. I see con-

... continued on page 2



Graduates



Ann Ebbert, president Cherry Street



Kevin Esmond

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All events are 4-7 p.m.

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## Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Assist Adopted Schools

On Thursday, November 14, 2019 The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers continued their interaction with the TPS schools they have adopted – Ella P Stewart Girl's Academy and MLK Boy's Academy.

The Buffalo Soldiers delivered school uniforms to the girl's academy and followed up with the girls on school and home matters. The uniforms were purchased by the club along with a number of belts which were delivered to boys at MLK following the event at Ella P Stewart.



Earl Mack; Evelyn Robinson, owner of School Matters Uniforms; Lorinda McCaleb

