

The Sojourner's Truth

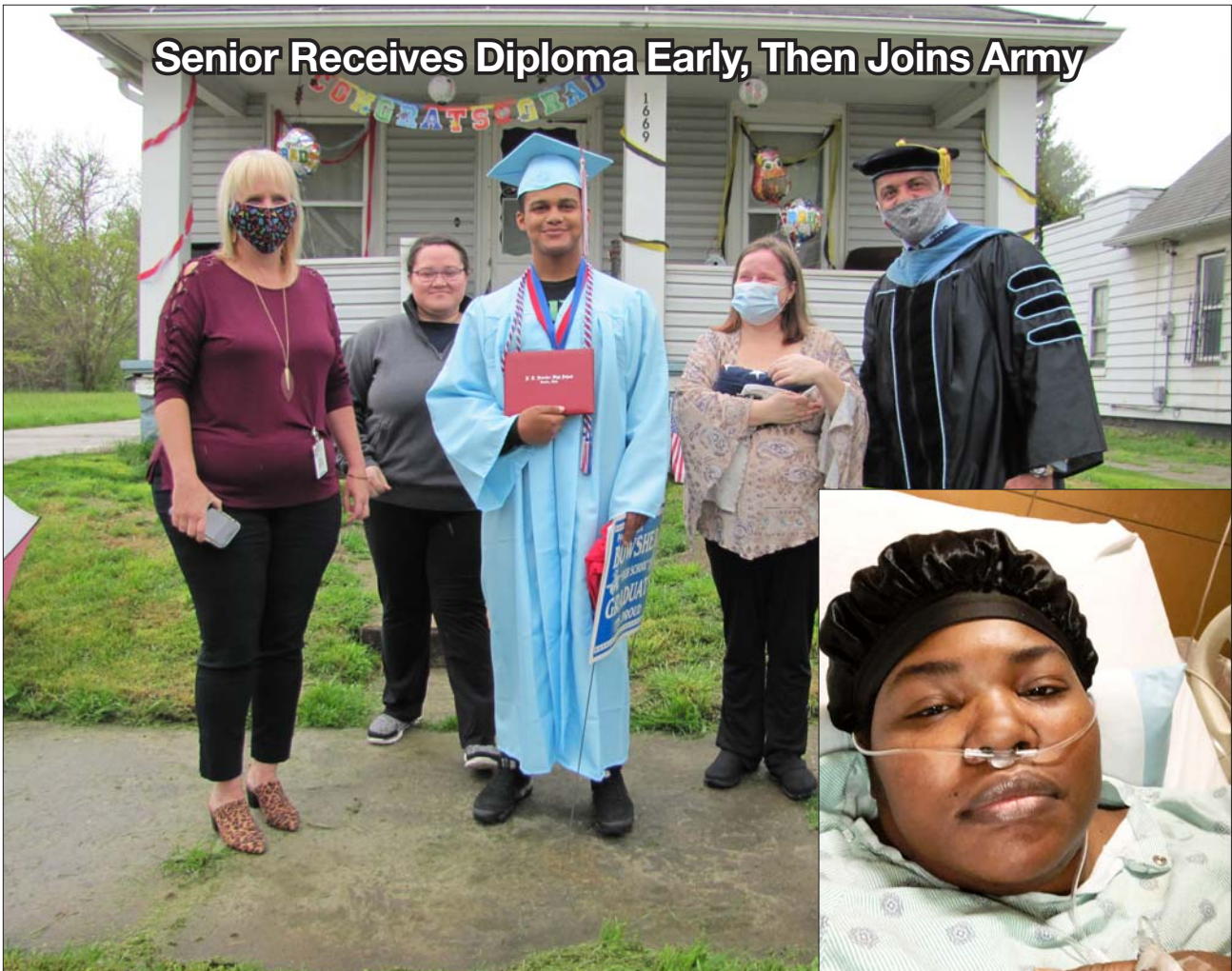
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Volume 61, No. 8

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

May 27, 2020

Senior Receives Diploma Early, Then Joins Army



Teri Sherwood, Briana Palmer, Parker Drane, Lori Wilburn, Romules Durant, EdD

Megan's COVID Journey and Recovery

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For Such a Time as This

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

The Truth Contributor

We should not permit our grievances to overshadow our opportunities.

- Booker T. Washington



Desperate to dethrone President Trump and a recalcitrant Republican-led U.S. Senate, the Lucas County Democratic Party has a critical decision to make. With voters being told to avoid crowds and practice social distancing because of COVID-19, the Dems face a potential disruption in the looming 2020 general election process while the local Party is reeling from its internal leadership crisis.

In politics, turnout is everything, and 30,000 Democrats in Lucas County failed to participate in the 2018 midterm elections. The number who disengage from the electoral process could swell in November 2020 as voters will have to weigh the benefits of voting over risking their health.

Lucas County Dems, facing the clear and present danger of COVID-19, will need to fill their leadership void by selecting an experienced Party chair who can lead the Party in a time of crisis.

Who is the right person for this time, position, and place?

I caught up with former state representative Michael Ashford, who makes his case to become chairman of the Lucas County Democratic Party for such a time as this.

Perryman: First of all, why are you running for the Chair of the Lucas County Democratic Party?

Ashford: I'm running because I've been part of the Democratic Party for over 20 years. We have so much at stake, especially during the 2020 Presidential election and given the fact that we are living amid a pandemic. It will be a challenge to elect Democratic Party candidates. They need the help and new leadership to make sure that we continue to win these races in Lucas County and elsewhere.

At one point, the Lucas County Democratic Party was the most prominent Party in the State of Ohio. Still, we noticed that many people had walked away. We need to change. We need new leadership. My overall experience will bring that to help the Party grow and move forward.

Perryman: What is your assessment of the Party's effectiveness, culture, goals, and stance on the issues?

Ashford: I have not seen the Party have goals in the past; that's why I decided to run. I plan to put together a dynamic team to rebuild the Party and its infrastructure to get a lot of people engaged. So, I will put goals in place to ensure that we are recruiting right; goals to make sure that we are identifying great candidates; and fundraising goals. I then, will put benchmarks in place to make sure that people are being held accountable.

Perryman: What qualifications for the position do you bring with you?

Ashford: Anybody can apply if they are 18 years old and a registered voter. However, what you want is somebody who has the overall experience to come in and understand what it takes to move the Party forward. Unfortunately, my

opponent doesn't have that experience. I've been part of a gubernatorial campaign and part of a presidential campaign. I've been part of state reps' campaigns that I have personally run. So, you should have experience. And I like the current guy, he's a nice guy, but he doesn't have that depth or breadth of knowledge and understanding.

The other most important critical part is that as a candidate and as an elected official, I have overall experience and the knowledge to work with people who are running and bring them resources. My opponent doesn't have that.

He's never held political office, so he can't tell people how to run a campaign. So that's the advantage I got, to bring my level of experience to the table.

Perryman: Please expand upon the importance of fundraising.

Ashford: I was the top fundraiser in Toledo when I was on city council, and I was also one of the top fundraisers in Columbus. Fundraising is vital because it helps you get your message out. People have to clearly understand that politicians or candidates don't get anything free. They have to pay for the yard signs, pay for the print ads, and have to pay for TV, radio, etc. So, for you to get your message out, you would have to raise money to get to that point.

Not only do candidates have to raise money, the Party has to raise money to make sure that we support candidates and get our message out too. So fundraising is equally important as everything else, and I have the experience of fundraising. When I was a minority whip in Columbus, I raised about \$400,000 in a little over two years. I also, in my eight years there, wrote up to about \$125,000 worth of checks. In my role as city councilperson I raised over six figures in contributions. Being a leader means you write checks for everybody, you just don't keep it for yourself, you make sure other Democratic candidates or incumbents get elected by supporting their campaign. So that's the importance of fundraising. If you've never done fundraising, don't get in this game.

Perryman: One of the knocks on Mike Ashford has been that you are often seen as divisive.

Ashford: Well, let me respond to that. I've been involved in over 70 campaigns, and when people start throwing things out there, that means they're nervous. I've learned early on in my career I don't worry about name-calling any other candidate or any other opponent because it's not worth it. But let me answer because I want people to understand this.

Divisive? My opponent has openly told people he would not work with the unions. He's anti-union. How much more divisive can you get than that? My successful track record speaks for itself. I've been able to work with everybody, Democrats and Republicans. The Pew Institute honored me for being the first Democrat in the last 30 years that passed the number one comprehensive consumer protection bill in Ohio. It was House Bill 123, called payday lending. I helped over a million people in the State of Ohio get free of this predatory lending practice. And, I got more than half the Republicans to support that bill in Columbus, more than half. And if you're divisive like they say I am, you wouldn't get 100 percent of the Democratic support and 50 percent



Michael Ashford

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The Diagnosis After COVID-19

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

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Human Rights Violations in the 21ST Century of African Americans in the United States?

By Anthony Bouyer, PhD

Guest Column

The subject of human rights has always been a debatable topic for years and will continue to be discussed as human rights are ever-evolving and expanding to include new rights.

One could argue that the most important right humans have is the right to life. All humans, no matter what their position is in life, know of and understand the basic right to life.

Beyond the basic right to life bestowed on all humans for having membership in the human race, comes conceptualization and the interpretations of rights. Norberto Bobbio (translated by Allan Cameron) describes human rights as "Those recognition is a necessary condition for the improvement of humanity of the development of civilization"

What is considered a right, beyond breathing? Patrick Hayden (The Philosophy of Human Rights, 2001), states the rights one has, by just being human, are both justifiable moral claims and contested political realities (p. XV). The contested political realities of human rights have been the battleground for formulation of human rights.

Hayden discusses early political expressions of the moral claim to human equality are found in the American Declaration of Independence, which asserts "all men are created equal." The framers of the American Declaration of independence were far from accepting all humans as equals, as stated by French (2004),

Benjamin Banneker, black surveyor and astronomer, eloquently acclaimed "the Declaration of Independence represented a sacred covenant with God. Banneker chided Thomas Jefferson and his fellow American patriots for violating the spirit, if not the letter, of that covenant "in detaining by fraud and violence so numerous a part of my

brethren, under groaning captivity and cruel oppression."

One could ask the question, were the framers of the Declaration of Independence without morality as the institution of slavery was founded on the notion that some individuals were less than human, such as Africans and indigenous peoples, even though they were members of the human family?

Many will argue that the framers of the Declaration were responding to the time in which they lived. However, human rights had been a matter of discussion for hundreds of years prior to the Declaration of Independence, as noted by Hayden,

"Cicero contributed greatly to the theory of natural law, arguing that individuals have an obligation to respect their fellow human beings and that the laws of all political communities are legitimate only insofar as they conform to the higher law of nature."

Several months ago, I wrote an op-ed on Ohio Republican law makers attempting to introduce a new bill HB228 "Stand Your Ground." If passed the bill would eliminate a person's "duty to retreat" if they feel their life is in danger. In such a case, the shooters would have to "reasonably believe" that they or someone else is in imminent danger, even if in hindsight that belief turns out to be wrong. Deadly force could also be deployed to prevent commission of a forcible felony such as a kidnapping or assault.

Why am I questioning human rights violations of African Americans today? History is fascinating and cruel. History also teaches us to recognize our mistakes and learn from them so that we don't repeat past cruelties.

A chief justice once elaborated that the Declaration of Independence wasn't created with black people in mind. And here's why. Many people tend to know "routine" black history facts. Every year, the same names pop up in searches. Yet, although they're important, what about the little-known facts which are equally important. In several cases, American history tends to water down events in its past — those which show the

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Anthony Bouyer

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Local Agencies Discuss the Impact of Covid-19 on Vulnerable Communities

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Ohio recently launched the Restart Ohio plan that will gradually re-open different industries and implement safety guidelines, but African Americans are still at a higher risk of a COVID-19-related death. Local agencies discussed available resources and specific impact on vulnerable communities during a 90-minute Facebook live event on Thursday, May 21, 2020.

Wendi Huntley, the president of Connecting Kids to Meals, served as panel moderator. The panelists included: Rachel Gagnon, the director for Toledo-Lucas County Homelessness Board (TLCHB); Tina Gaston, the Kinship Navigator Program Supervisor for Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio; Rosalyn Clemens, the director for Department of Neighborhoods City of Toledo; Joaquin Cintron Vega, the president and CEO for Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA).

The panelists discussed how vulnerable populations and African-American communities are impacted in the areas of housing, homelessness and employment during this pandemic.

Recent conversations had focused on how COVID-19 has impacted seniors and older residents. The local Area Office on Aging is responsible for local efforts that protect this population. "We are making sure that our older population and seniors are getting enough resources during COVID," explained Gaston. "We see the anxiety from caregivers, family members and even the seniors. We have set-up efforts to conduct contactless wellness checks on seniors by phone calls. We check-in to see how they are doing and are they in need."

LMHA is another agency that is focused on a targeted community; LMHA manages many properties in the community and wanted to provide clear communication to residents once COVID-19 was first announced locally. "Our biggest initial challenge was communicating with the residents at the various sites," explained Vega. "We wanted to provide ample information, set-up a plan, work with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, and implement active prevention. Once communication was established, we worked with our community partners to make sure that each resident had all five of the basic needs. They are food, shelter, access to water, clothing and warmth."

The City of Toledo's Department of Neighborhoods interacts with the community and local agencies through many different sub-departments and services. In addition to managing the recently announced mini-grant program and COVID-19 relief funds, the department oversees the federal housing related dollars that focus on homeless populations and service to low-to-moderate income communities. The department is preparing to submit a required five-year City of Toledo plan.

"This department is charged with many tasks including supporting quality housing, code enforcement, workforce development, and oversight of federal housing related dollars. Our community, the black community,

is more likely to live in distressed housing, 48 percent of African American city of Toledo residents live below the poverty line," said Clemens.

According to the City of Toledo's draft annual action plan, there are at least five agencies that focus on homeless prevention, including Toledo-Lucas County Homeless Board. "The current homelessness population and those on the brink of homelessness are the vulnerable populations during this pandemic. This conversation couldn't have come up at a better time. The homeless in general already deal with a combination of issues that may also impact African Americans disproportionately more than other populations, these issues are redlining, racism and factors within the criminal justice system," said Gagnon.

The Governor stated during last week's Thursday 2:00 p.m. press conference that African Americans are dying at a higher rate due to COVID-19 and Clemens provided specific examples that supported this statement.

"Our community, the black community, is impacted because we have the direct service jobs and we're not able to teleport our work from home. Our jobs require interaction with the public. We need to look at developing real workforce development that provides a living wage. Our health concerns in the black community are exacerbated during COVID," said Clemens.

The City of Toledo Department of Neighborhoods has provided masks to the community and nonprofits during a distribution. The department is partnered with Stop & Go to distribute additional community masks, plans to partner with Toledo City Council members to distribute masks to each district, and launch a renter's assistance program.

"We're presenting this new program to city council soon. This \$2 million-dollar program would assist existing tenants that have loss income over the last three months, it will also aid the homeless who want to transition into a rental," said Clemens.

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department reports that as of May 24, 2020 Lucas County had 1950 confirmed cases, 185 confirmed deaths, and 12,762 tests performed.



Wendi Huntley, Connecting Kids to Meals CEO



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Human Rights... continued from page 4

country in a dark state. While it's supposedly "in the past," those events tends to linger today for African Americans.

While the Declaration of Independence is an American heritage, black people only became included in that particular history nearly 100 years after its creation — by then, having been treated less than human for the course of a century.

Before black citizenship, it was legal to hunt black people and use their children as "gator bait." Yes, literally. Alligator bait, a/k/a gator bait, is the practice of using little black children of slaves as bait to catch alligators.

After slavery in U.S. numerous laws were enacted in the states of the former Confederacy — Black Codes — and intended to assure the continuance of white supremacy. Enacted in 1865 and 1866, the laws were designed to replace the social controls of slavery that had been removed by the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

Enforcement of slave codes also varied, but corporal punishment was widely and harshly employed. Jim Crow laws were a collection of state and local statutes that legalized racial segregation. Named after a black minstrel show character, the laws—which existed for about 100 years, from the post-Civil War era until 1968—were meant to marginalize African Americans by denying them the right to vote, hold jobs, get an education or other opportunities. Those who attempted to defy Jim Crow laws often faced arrest, fines, jail sentences, violence and death.

Violence was on the rise, making danger a regular aspect of African-American life. Black schools were vandalized and destroyed, and bands of violent whites attacked, tortured and lynched black citizens in the night. Families were attacked and forced off their land all across the South. The KKK grew into a secret vigilante society terrorizing black communities and seeping through white Southern culture, with members at the highest levels of government and in the lowest echelons of criminal back alleys..

Events in the 21st century mirror our present to our past with respect

to African Americans and their quest for human rights. Breonna Taylor's and Ahmaud Arbery's fatal shootings by Louisville police officer and two white men in the state of Georgia, respectively, are only a few who have died for the rights one has by just being human. Ahmaud's for having the audacity to partake in a free activity by jogging, and Breonna being secured and asleep in her own home. Both were denied their rights as members of the human race.

There are some human rights violations so egregious, just by definition are un-defendable including but not limited to genocide, and mass rape. Some human rights were challenged. Cranston states the reason for the challenging of rights can be traced in history, first, in the great twentieth-century evils, Nazism, fascism, total war, and racialism, which all have presented a fierce challenge to human rights."

Yet we see the attempted challenging of Breonna's and Ahmaud's human rights. Two prosecutors refusing to indict the shooters of Ahmaud and questionable obtaining of no knock warrants to kill Breonna and to arrest her boyfriend for protecting his family in their own home.

My uncle was shot by Toledo police in the eighties during a no knock warrant. The warrant was for the upstairs unit and the police in their zeal to execute their no knock warrant entered my uncle's home, who at the time had a developmentally-challenged adult living with him. My uncle was shot in the foot, and by the grace of God his right to life was not taken from him.

The world regards human rights violations as a moral wrong of the most serious nature, and presumably continues to condemn such practices. Some relativists would even agree that a few basic human rights such as the right to life and freedom, are absolute in the sense that cultural traditions (black codes, Jim Crow etc) may not override them. All human beings deserve protection regardless of where people are situated,

Responsibility for a person's human rights falls on all and not just those who participate with this person in the same social system. It is our responsibility collectively, to structure this system so that all its participants have secure access to the objectives of their human rights.

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Mack eventually ventured into street scenes, landscapes and still life — all of which are on exhibit on The Truth Gallery website and in the Gallery itself by appointment.

Gabriela Art, a Detroit-area resident is a native of Romania who developed her skills and talents studying for a masters degree in art at the Academy for Visual Arts in Cluj, Europe.



Recently, inspired by the work of Spanish painter Jose Royo, Gabriela has been increasing her art repertoire by working, as does that Spanish master, with light and bursts of color somewhat reminiscent of the French impressionist, Renoir.

The online video and exhibition catalogue and price list for "Everlasting Colors, are posted on The Sojourner's Truth website at thetruthtoled.com

Call 419-243-0007 for more information or to make an appointment!



Avenging COVID 19: The Fight to Live

By Megan Davis

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

I'm a Marvel fan, Iron Man is my favorite, and my husband knows already! Throughout the years, the series of films has shown us characters, their back stories, their weaknesses and their strengths.

The most intriguing and exciting part is learning about their superpowers and their abilities to overcome the adversary in each film whether family, friend or foe. Some of the characters have more than one film; throughout their series you learn about them, their family, their likes and dislikes, you learn about what brings them joy, what they're afraid of--you connect with their human side, knowing they are still a superhero.

In my opinion, of all the superhero franchises there are, Marvel has done a marvelous job in developing characters and story lines over the years, more than DC Comics and their attempts to make Batman and Wonder Woman films. The Joker, on the other hand, may have gone too far, but for someone who works with the developmentally and mentally disabled, it wasn't as far-fetched as critics acclaimed.

I like Superhero movies. I am all for rooting for the underdog, saving the damsel in distress, falling in love with the hero and his or her love interest--a hopeless romantic, and looking for happy endings. But the cliffhangers are more exciting than the finale that shows us the happy ending.

The end of Marvel films, after the credits have rolled, may be even more exciting than the climax. There's a scene that foretells what is to come, sometimes with humor and other times, a jaw-dropper. It leaves you anticipating what is to come, no matter what it is, even if it's Thanos.

My husband and son, who are avid comic fans and creators, told me that Thanos is the adversary to truly fear. He was said to be the most horrifying and nearly invincible villain of all Marvel villains. I didn't believe it, because by now, I have watched 10 years of Marvel films, seeing Captain America, Iron Man, Thor and Captain Marvel defeat each enemy--not without complications, but they won, nonetheless. How could this Thanos be any worse than the other larger than life foes?

The Awakening

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), earlier reports about the origin of the coronavirus, show that the outbreak began in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in November or December of 2019. More specifically, it was linked to a single seafood and animal marketplace, where the virus is recorded to have been transmitted via a zoonotic (animal to human) track. I

t washed over Hubei like a Tsunami, infecting 67,803 people, with more than 3200 deaths. The spread of the virus happened when people traveled from Wuhan, back to their respective homes like Thailand, Japan and the United States.

It's an insidious beast that attacks in several ways. No two victims are the same, and many will not display a single symptom. These persons are even more dangerous than the virus itself, because you can't track symptomless infections effectively and yet, they can spread the virus to others.

The foretelling of the descent of the Novel Coronavirus was much like hearing about the coming of Thanos. It was feared by many, even with-

out knowing what it was truly capable of. It couldn't be measured because of how swiftly it moved and how vast its reach was.

It's the invisible killer, a virus that invades the body, trapping the lungs in a mucous membrane that no vaccination, no pills, no treatments can permeate. There is no cure, no way of knowing how to defeat it in sight-only clinical trials that may or may not prove to change anything. This virus, which silently takes hold of the body, causes fevers, coughing and fatigue three symptoms that were widely shared across all media outlets in the beginning of the outbreak. These symptoms were sure indicators that one may be infected and that person should immediately commit to a 14 day self-quarantine.



Megan Davis in hospital bed

The Bitter Cup

I remember watching the news reports and praying that this "bitter cup" would just pass right over me. Being an essential worker, caring for the individuals with developmental disabilities and who are also immuno-compromised, I knew I was at risk, however, I just wanted it to be something

... continued on page 9

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Lidya Hollingsworth's Reflections

How Covid-19 affected my senior year?

Covid-19 cut my senior year very short. I was unable to really get to know my third trimester teacher and have certain events like prom, my last band competitions, band concerts, band banquets and graduation. Online learning is the only alternative but it can be challenging to have authentic learning when you're not in a classroom setting.

After graduation, my plans have stayed the same to pursue a Nursing degree at Bowling Green State University, but how the "college experience" will look for most 2020 high school graduates will surely be different from what our elders experienced.

Lidya is a senior at Springfield High School and will be attending Bowling Green State University to study nursing.



Jabari Jackson's Reflections

The COVID-19 disease has impacted me in multiple ways. It has made me open up my eyes to see the world in many different ways, and to see the world fall into a blank state and everything being closed all over.

I also don't like how it affected my graduation because I really wanted to have a graduation this year and I really wanted to walk across the stage in front of my family and friends.

It's disappointing that we couldn't at least have had something to recognize us in everything that we did, and

not just in an electric way like a virtual graduation.

I hope the COVID-19 pandemic clears up by the summer and we can have events and things to look forward to in the summer because as many more opportunities open up I would love to explore my future options as I go on to college and experience new things.

Jabari is a senior at Bowsheer High School and is headed to the University of Toledo to major in engineering.



Keeping Math Skills Up-to-Date While School is Closed

Special to The Truth

The transition from in-person to online learning isn't easy, particularly when it comes to mathematics, a subject where many students benefit from classroom learning and individualized attention from their teacher.

With closures affecting schools and universities for the foreseeable future, sustaining one's math skills is very important, as research has shown that academic gains can quickly be lost without practice -- on average, students lose ap-

proximately 2.6 months of learning in math over a typical summer, according to the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ...continued on page 12



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Avenging COVID-19... continued from page 7

that we only saw on the news because of how scary it was.

As much as I disliked it, I shopped at Kroger which is one mile away from home. I knew that, since it was dangerous to go places where large crowds would be, that it was best to stay near home, where our neighborhood store isn't normally packed. I cringed at the grocery bill that told me a couple cases of water, gatorade, bananas, bread and milk was near \$40 when I knew it would be about half at Walmart. But I was doing the safe thing-I had my mask on, my sanitizer in my pocket, and went early in the morning when the people were few. I went in and came right out and returned home, washing hands and sanitizing the car handles and steering wheel.

The first day I had a single symptom, it was a Monday toward the end of March, and only a couple days after the official stay home orders had been issued. I'd recently got over an upper respiratory infection because I have asthma and a history of them.

I coughed one time on that day in the morning and later, around 5:00 PM, had to take my daughter to the emergency room. She had fluid building up in her head and we needed to see if it was on the brain. They'd just started screenings for COVID 19, and I passed the screening, my temperature was about 99 degrees which is a low grade fever, but I didn't have any other symptoms before that day or at the very moment I was there, so I was permitted to accompany her into the ER with my mask that I already had on.

I didn't think the cough earlier that morning warranted any concern because it was literally one cough. But I do remember that in my mind I was saying, I hope that wasn't a "corona-cough". I never coughed again that day, or the next day or the next.

It was my shorter work week, so I didn't have to work but a couple days. But by the end of that week, maybe Thursday, I began having fevers day and night, some as high as 102.3. I took Tylenol because the news told us not to take Ibuprofen because it could be a deadly treatment. Thankfully, I am allergic to it, so all I take is Tylenol, also known as acetaminophen.

I had chills and the bones in my legs were almost like frostbite-they were both cold and burning simultaneously. I wore double layers of clothing and covered up, even my head which then turned into a furnace, and I sweat through my clothing because my fever broke. Every time a fever spiked, I was in denial. I didn't think I had it, but I had to act like I did.

I didn't go out, I stayed in my room as much as possible. Over the weekend, the dry coughing began, then I called the Coronavirus hotline to discuss the symptoms and was instructed to take Tylenol, get plenty of rest and quarantine away from my family for 14 days.

They didn't recommend me going to the doctor or the hospital. By Sunday night, I was be-

side myself and every step I took was a struggle. I can't remember having fevers or coughing as much because I was trying to focus on walking without being winded. I thought about the health warnings and symptoms, and at this time, shortness of breath was not being widely mentioned as a symptom. It was only three: a cough, a fever and fatigue.

I began wheezing and had the mind to use my inhaler, something that, although I have had asthma attacks, I haven't needed in two or three years. I took two puffs, but I needed them more than every two to four hours. I needed them more like every half hour. Heeding the Health Department's advice, I stayed home, I was away from the family as much as I could, and I was resting and taking Tylenol; and I was getting worse.

Monday, I couldn't scale the stairs. I felt like every step was a mile and every breath was stolen as if it weren't mine to breathe. I was weaker and more concerned than the day before. By Tuesday, I thought I was going to faint all day. The kids carried on as usual and my husband kept asking what I wanted to do. By nightfall, I asked him to take me to the hospital- I couldn't breathe at all. I remember getting in the car and closing the door-I almost passed out. If I hadn't gotten my leg in and closed that door, I would have fallen out of the car.



Hepa filter in hospital room

The Test of Fate

We pulled into Toledo Hospital and went through screening. I had a fever, a cough and shortness of breath. The triage nurses gave me a mask and wheeled me away, telling my husband he couldn't stay with me. I already knew he wouldn't be able to stay, so I had to tell him I'd see him later, I purposely didn't say goodbye.

It set in as I was taken into an emergency COVID room that I probably had the virus. It was small and cold, the halls were loud. Everything

...continued on page 10



Skip Davis being discharged



Megan Davis



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Avenging COVID-19... continued from page 9

happened at warp speed from there. I told them I was sure I was dehydrated, that's why I was feeling dizzy and faint- that's how it felt before because as I said earlier, shortness of breath wasn't a known or rather, publicized symptom of COVID 19.

I asked them for a bolus, which is a rapid flow of IV fluids to help with dehydration (after 20 plus years in healthcare, you know learn a few things). They said they couldn't. They took my temperature and blood pressure. I had a fever and my oxygen level was around 84 percent. I was hypoxic and they immediately started two IVs, the second was in case I needed ventilation. Hypoxia is a condition that when the body isn't getting enough oxygen, it has the potential to be deadly. Acute hypoxia, which is what I had, is also called silent hypoxia because its onset is rapid and without warning. If I waited another day, I may not have been able to write about my experience.

The treating nurse immediately gave me oxygen, I think between three and a half and four liters, and started two IVs because of the dehydration and the possibility of needing additional interventions. She couldn't give me a bolus because I presented with signs of the coronavirus and it is known to flood the lungs, and giving too many fluids would have been like drowning from the inside.

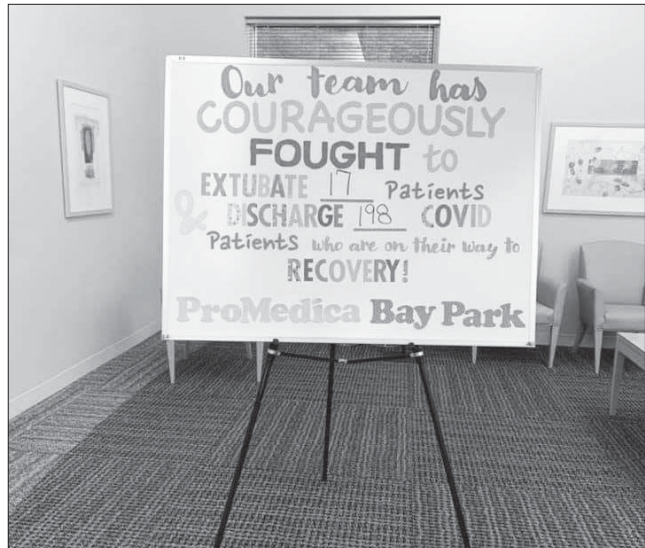
She swabbed my nasal cavity in a way that made me want to strike her-it hurt and I wasn't happy, but it was necessary because that was how they test for the virus. I was whisked away shortly after for a CT Scan and chest X Rays which showed the likelihood that I had the virus, although it couldn't be confirmed until the pathology returned with official results.

I was admitted into Toledo hospital and placed on the transfer list right away. ProMedica set Bay Park up as a COVID site. They were sending all ER patients there for treatment. By now it was April 1 or April Fool's Day. It was the 14th anniversary of the day that I was rushed by ambulance to Toledo Hospital after suffering a stroke, and I wasn't being pranked.

After nearly five hours, a bed was available at Bay Park and two EMTs came to transport me. They were donned in hazmat suits, protective garments that prevent toxic materials from permeating their clothing or skin. They had headgear that looked like NASA created them, goggles, face masks, shields and helmets.

They secured me to a narrow stretcher and rolled me down the hall- I was light-weight offended because everyone I passed knew I was contagious, but there was nothing HIPAA could do for me at that point, it was what it was. The ride to the hospital was like driving down Manhattan Blvd. in the curb lane, every bump was felt and I was exhausted and annoyed.

Upon arrival at Bay Park, I was transported to my room. I remembered that the spirit of the unit was both sweet and frightening. The nurses were smiling and welcoming, but the unit was where people were fighting for their lives and I was fully aware. They assessed me, which is typical, and



I was connected to monitors and left in bed. When the door closed, I believe I fell asleep a while. When I woke, I was alone. I turned the TV on for company and it kept telling me the statistics of those infected with the coronavirus and those who died. Every newscast on every channel from CBS to CNN said the same thing:

"This many people have contracted COVID 19
and this many people have died;
this location is a hotspot and
These are the cures we have tried.
This many thinks COVID is fake;
Those Ideas have put lives at stake.
This many people are unemployed
That many people are poor;
This many families are struggling,
And these perished behind closed doors." (Megan Davis, 2020)

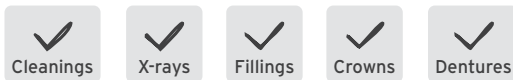
It was like the song that never ends, a melody you hate but gets stuck in your head. I was lying in the hospital and I was one of the numbers-one of the infected. There were only two categories being reported, so the chances that I could wind up in the second category were ever present in my mind.

By now, I'd learned that my cousin was somewhere in the same hospital, on a ventilator and a church member who was being tested for the virus- this was well past hitting home. There were no conspiracy theories that could convince me this thing was a hoax, so scrolling on Facebook came to

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Avenging COVID-19... continued from page 10

a screeching halt because of all the philosophers that flooded the timelines with ideas about 5G towers, birds and the government cooking up servings of corona to distribute in the hood.

Every day was the same day in the COVID unit, you get Tessalon Perles (Benzonatate), Prozac, Plaquenil (Hydroxychloroquine) and Delsym cough syrup, yes, over the counter cough medicine. Every few hours, your vitals are taken and you get a belly shot of Heparin to prevent blood clots.

Facing the Odds

I was in the hospital, knowing the odds were against me. I have asthma, I am getting older, I am overweight, and a twice stroke survivor. I was afraid to fall asleep because I didn't want to "wake up dead"; I was scared to breathe because, if it makes any sense, I wanted to save the breaths so I didn't need a ventilator.

Every time I coughed, sat up or used the restroom, my oxygen dropped, and the nurses ran in my room or called me on the intercom every time, to ensure that I was okay and to remind me to take deeper breaths. Every time the monitor said my oxygen was low was one breath closer to needing intubation and a respirator.

The virus smites humanity at random, they vanish without a trace-alone, with no one by the bedside to say goodbye. Each time I did fall asleep, I'd wake up thinking about Marvel's Infinity War. Thanos, who sought after the 6 Infinity Stones, wanted to acquire them to ultimately possess the Mind, Power, Reality, Soul, Time and Space. Once in his possession, he could snap his finger and wipe out half the world's population.

At the end of the film, he acquired the stones, and snapped his finger. We saw people vanish into dust, and we were clenching our chest seeing Spiderman and Doctor Strange disappear, but when Black Panther disintegrated before our eyes, we were beside ourselves, gasping in horror more so because he was our people.

A film created in make believe was now my reality and I wanted to fast forward to the good part or a happier ending than what we saw in that film. After three or four days at Bay Park, I was over the news and only watched HGTV, PBS, The Golden Girls and Frasier-anything but the news. I needed to escape reality, well, the only reality the media wanted us to see. I knew that my thoughts had to be life-thinking to overcome death.

Avengers Assemble

The reality was that I was a patient with the coronavirus and there is no cure and there is nothing the doctors or nurses can do to help you recover outside of the medications and monitoring. You're on your own in that room; you, oxygen, a monitor and a HEPA purifier that captures the micro-sized corona virus particles.

The doctors and nurses tell you to lie prone (on your stomach) which is said to help alleviate the mucus build up in the lungs. I am not a tummy sleeper, and the first time I rolled over, I nearly choked myself with all the cords, tubes and monitors that were attached to me. So I slept on my side instead. You're encouraged to do lots of deep breathing exercises and to use a spirometer to measure lung capacity. When I used the device in the hospital, I measured between 40-50 percent of lung capacity.

The nurses are just as concerned about you as their loved ones, at least those I encountered when I was there. Hayden, Dave, Jim, Maggie, Ross, and my cousin's fiancé, Kim. These nurses came in my room sighing in relief every time they saw me sitting up, with my eyes open or answering their questions. I felt their compassion and the spirit of hope for my recovery. They wanted me to live.

They had so many patients on ventilators who couldn't respond, my cousin was one of them. Each day I could take a deeper breath, or a bite of food, a few steps around the room, they cheered for me like I was back on Whitmer's track or stage. I felt the love and excitement that I was getting better. The doctors called every day and asked the same questions; "Are you coughing? Is it wet or dry? How do you feel?" I remember that my coughs were mostly dry coughs, I had mucous maybe twice during the time I was most ill.

Every couple days, the doctor ordered my oxygen to be turned down until I didn't need it anymore. I remember being scared to breathe without it, even after being discharged from the hospital. I was told on Saturday evening that I could go home Sunday. They did another chest x-ray and told me that my lungs were still full of mucus, and it was like a cliff hanger because I didn't know if that meant I would be able to go home or if I was going to really recover.

Homeward Bound

On Sunday, April 5, I was going home, but earlier that morning, I learned that my cousin went home to be with the Lord. He didn't survive the virus. On my way home from the hospital, my older brother was admitted into Bay Park with COVID-19. I'd seen none of them in the weeks or month prior to any of us contracting the virus. As I was leaving, the nurses on duty cheered for me, my husband was waiting for me.

When I saw him, I was excited, but he didn't look like himself. I couldn't tell if he was just exhausted, in shock or sick himself. Two days later I would realize that he was really sick, even more than me. I took him to the hospital, and he too, had the virus.

While I was home, I was supposed to isolate from the children, but with him being gone, I couldn't completely. So I had to wear a mask and gloves any time I was in the common areas. I disinfected all hard surfaces throughout the day with Lysol. Fortunately, friends and family brought us several ready to heat meals and staple items that my daughter could help make. When they tell you to isolate for 14 days and use a separate bathroom, it is unrealistic for families who only have one bathroom or share bedrooms. Not everyone can shelter in place because they have to go to stores or work or take their loved ones to the doctor if they are a caregiver. When you have the virus, you're at its mercy.

When they send you home, you're still to treat yourself like you still have the virus and your lungs are scarred from the pneumonia and coronavirus. There's no retesting to see if the virus is gone, and you are still vulnerable to getting it again. You don't just come home and go back to life as usual.

I obsessed over sanitizing everything and every cough, or symptom, which has now grown from three to nearly 10 is potentially a reinfection. If you test positive for COVID 19, you really need four to six weeks of recovery instead of 14 days. This was more evident in my husband's case than mine because he couldn't be treated with the same medications myself or even my brother received.

The hydroxychloroquine can cause heart arrhythmias which happened to him, so his cough persisted nearly another month after he was discharged from the hospital and all his coughs were wet, opposite of mine. We didn't hug or hold hands for nearly two months. We didn't sleep in the same room, and our home cleaning and disinfection schedule has been vigorous because we have children, two of whom are immuno-

...continued on page 12



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Avenging COVID-19... continued from page 11

compromised.

Even now, with slow reopening taking place, we tend to stay in unless we go to the store or do drive by at the grandparents' houses. Our 11 year old son, who is asthmatic, had one day where he couldn't breathe and we thought he had the virus, but it was the only day he had shortness of breath. The next day he was fine. A couple weeks later, he couldn't smell anything, we thought he had it, but he was okay.

Our daughter had a loss of smell for at least three weeks while we were in and out of the hospital, but no other symptom but as I was writing my experience last week, she began having recurring fevers and headaches. Everything stopped in time for two days as we monitored her symptoms and treating the fever with Tylenol.

No one wants her child to be hospitalized without being able to be there for her! You have to have three days of no fevers to be in the clear for not spreading the virus, she has been fever free for one day at the time I am writing this.

As a person who contracted the virus and is still at risk because there is no vaccination to prevent it, you're always wondering if the tickle in your throat or the cough you just made was from dry air, allergies or COVID. I imagine it will always be in the back of your mind even though you've recovered from it. It's like the Boogey Man who appears in a recurring nightmare.

What I believe to be my saving grace was my faith, because every breath I took was every breath I prayed for. While in that closed room, you only have air and time to focus on it. I wanted to get better, I wanted to see my family, I didn't want to have help to breathe, so I fought hard and I prayed hard.

Before I got sick, I'd been juicing, which keeps the body cleansed, so that is why I didn't produce the mucus that many have. I also had caring nurses and doctors, people who wanted me to live, who did their job, knowing the risks. They gave me my meds on time, held my hand and encouraged me to keep breathing. They were my heroes and I was a part of the team. I was an Avenger, realizing that I had a part to play in my healing too.

Though the finger of Thanos snapped, I was one of those who remained. My husband was one, my brother was one, our church members and friends recovered too. There were still casualties, but there were more victories. Only now has the media begun to share the middle category--those who have recovered from COVID-19. I am grateful to be a part of that number.



COVID-19 AND FOOD SAFETY FAQ SHOPPING AND HANDLING GROCERIES

Current evidence shows the biggest risk of transmission of COVID-19 is being around individuals who have symptoms (and to a lesser extent, infected but not showing symptoms.) Grocery stores should be following employee health policies and health department recommendations to keep these individuals home.

SHOPPING

WHAT STEPS CAN I TAKE TO MINIMIZE RISK WHEN SHOPPING AT THE GROCERY STORE?

- Use hand sanitizer when entering stores, and wash hands and/or use sanitizer after leaving.
- Bring disinfecting wipes and use on cart and basket handles and card readers.
- Maintain social distancing as much as possible while shopping and give others at least 6ft of space.
- Avoid touching surfaces or items unnecessarily and avoid touching your mouth, nose or face.
- Do not go shopping when showing symptoms or think you have been exposed to the virus.

WHAT IS MY GROCERY STORE DOING TO MINIMIZE MY RISK?

- Many stores are following CDC guidelines on cleaning and disinfection. Some are limiting hours to allow for additional cleaning and disinfection.
- Stores may also be providing hand sanitizer and/or disinfecting wipes for carts or baskets, and may ask sick employees or customers to leave.
- Grocery employees are essential employees and encouraged to wear cloth face coverings.
- Stores may also limit the number of people allowed to shop at one time, and enforce physical distancing while in line inside and outside the store.

IS DELIVERY A SAFER OPTION THAN GOING TO THE STORE?

- Delivery or pre-order is a great risk management decision, especially for vulnerable individuals.
- Delivery helps limit the number of people in the store and helps with social distancing, as well as the number of people touching surfaces.
- Pre-order or delivery also prevents the shopper from inadvertently exposing others if they are infected but not showing symptoms.

HOW SHOULD PRODUCE BE HANDLED?

- Consider using hand sanitizer before and after selecting produce items.
- Avoid touching multiple produce items when making selections.

HANDLING GROCERIES

HOW SHOULD I HANDLE GROCERIES WHEN I GET HOME? CAN I BRING THEM INSIDE RIGHT AWAY?

- There is no indication that food or food packaging material has served in significant connection to virus transmission.
- Handling of food packaging should be followed with handwashing and/or using hand sanitizer.
- It is NOT recommended to store groceries outside of the home, in cars or garages.

HOW SHOULD I HANDLE GROCERIES FOR SOMEONE WHO IS IN VULNERABLE POPULATION?

- If shopping for someone else, best practice is to drop off groceries while maintaining social distance.
- If entering a home to care for someone, wash hands immediately upon arrival, while unpacking and before providing direct care.

SHOULD PRODUCE BE WASHED BEFORE EATING? SHOULD SOAP OR A DISINFECTANT BE USED?

- Washing produce before eating is always a good idea.
- It is NOT recommended to wash produce with dish soap or any detergent.
- It is NOT recommended to treat produce with chemical disinfectants at home.

SHOULD I ONLY BUY FOOD THAT CAN BE HEATED?

- There is no evidence that food is a transmission route for the virus.
- There is not current data about the temperature to inactivate the virus, so heating recommendations are not science-based.

TIPS

1. Use hand sanitizer and cart wipes.
2. Shop alone and go with a plan.
3. Maintain social distance.
4. Only touch what you will buy.

For more info, visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV

Updated April 20, 2020

NC STATE
EXTENSION

The Lucas County COVID-19 numbers for Monday, May 25, are as follows:

- 2143 total cases
 - o 1966 confirmed cases
 - o 177 probable cases
- 214 deaths
 - o 185 confirmed deaths
 - o 29 probable deaths
- 850 male cases
- 1290 female cases
 - o Ages range from <1 to 109
- 12,874 total tests performed

Perryman... continued from page 3

would be best if you had someone with the experience of having gone to Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus or going to the State Legislators of the Midwest Institute in Chicago to dialog with other political operatives. You need the experience of being engaged in a political race or campaign. I have that track record. My opponent doesn't.

Perryman: Before we go, please talk about your support.

Ashford: We have put together a great team of the private sector, public sector, elected officials, and volunteers, and we're working very hard.

Perryman: Is there anything you would like to add?

Ashford: Let me close by saying this. The Party needs change, and everybody knows we need change. Thirty thousand people, 30,000 Democrats in Northwest Ohio, stayed home in 2018 for the governor's race. I like Keith Mitchell and he's a nice guy, but being in a leadership position over the last five years, he has been a problem. He has had opportunities to make changes but never did. In fact, as chair of the screening committee, he gave the Party an embarrassing black eye because he did not do his homework and ask the right question. He was ineffective, failed to fulfill his previous responsibility and left the organization with egg on its face.

And so, we need to return people to the Party and support the core Democratic Party values. I see that happening only with Mike Ashford as chair of the Lucas County Democrats.

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

Math Skills... continued from page 8

ID-19 crisis, consider accessing the following free distance-learning tools from Casio America, Inc., which are designed to support educators, parents and students K-12 and beyond:

- Tools for calculation, graphing, geometry, statistics and more can be accessed at ClassPad.net, an all-in-one web-based platform with an interactive menu that enables students and teachers to draw geometry figures freehand and input calculations as they would on real scratch paper. Users can also plot data points and add text labels, expressions and pictures to graphs or geometry diagrams.

- Emulator calculator software recreating the functionality of scientific and graphic calculators, including Casio's PRIZM fx-CG50 and fx-CG500, is supported in Windows and Mac operating systems.

- Downloadable math activities created by teachers for students in grade levels kindergarten through college can help students practice their math skills and learn new techniques for their continuing education.

For access to these resources, as well as online support, visit CasioEducation.com/remote-learning.

Formal class may not currently be in session, but that doesn't mean the learning needs to be put on hold. Leveraging available resources can help students maintain their math skills so that when schools reopen, students can enjoy a successful return to the classroom.

Courtesy Statepoint

Brave. Black. First. by Cheryl Willis Hudson, illustrated by Erin K. Robinson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Step right up.

When you want to be first in line, that's what you have to do: get in place at the head, let everybody else queue behind you, and lead them forward. You might have to show them how it's done.

You might have to show some responsibility. Or, as in the new book *Brave. Black. First.* by Cheryl Willis Hudson, illustrated by Erin K. Robinson, you might have to take some big risks.

Is it always good to be first? You might think so: you often get the best seat, the newest things, the nicest choice in a bunch of choices. But think about this: sometimes, being first is really hard. Sometimes, it's downright scary.

Take, for instance, Ruby Bridges. When she was just six years old, she became the first black child to attend what had once been an all-white school. She put on a brave face and marched into the school building but afterward, Ruby's dad lost his job and her grandparents lost their farm because she just wanted to go to school. Still, Ruby continued going day after day after day.

Being first might be a big honor, as it was for Barbara Jordan, "the first African American elected to the Texas state senate after Reconstruction, and the first African American woman elected to the... House of Representatives." And then there's Shirley Chisholm, who was the first Black woman elected to Congress and the first black woman to try to be a Democratic candidate for the office of President.

The first American athlete to compete in the Olympics while wearing a hijab was Ibtihaj Muhammad. Ella Fitzgerald was the first African American to win Grammy Awards. Phillis Wheatley was America's first black published poet. Ava DuVernay was the first black woman to direct a film with \$100 million budget. Basketballer Sheryl Swoopes was the first black female player to land a major shoe sponsorship. And though she's not

c.2020
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128 pages

the last in this book of firsts, Michelle Obama was America's first black First Lady.

Sometimes, the easiest-to-learn lessons come in the smallest of doses. That's certainly the case inside *Brave. Black. First.*

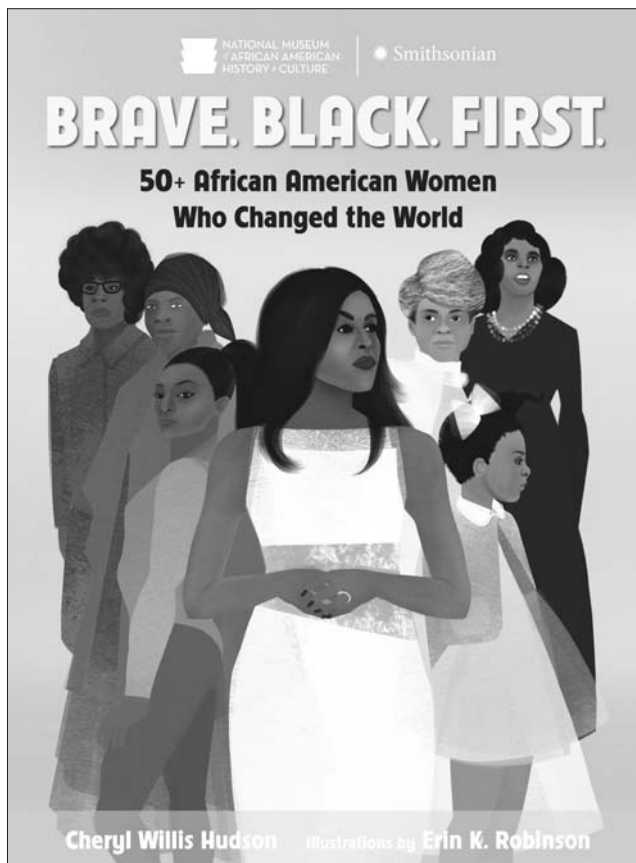
Indeed, this book leaps into its subject matter with no introduction, just biography, which is something young readers might appreciate since it won't overwhelm them with too much information. No, author Cheryl Willis Hudson gives them just enough to teach but also enough to keep them curious with a nice balance of

biographies. Women from all walks of life, from many periods of history, all age groups, and with accomplishments in a variety of fields are represented, and Hudson includes tales of adversity as well as those of triumph. That, and draws-them-in artwork by Erin K. Robinson, makes this book accessible and meaningful for kids ages eight-to-12, and for boy readers as well as for girls.

Brave. Black. First. is perfect if your child enjoys quick reads that are easily browsed and flipped-through. It's likewise great for the kid who loves inspirational biographies, so step right up.



Cheryl Willis Hudson, photo courtesy Stephan Hudson



CORRECTION

Braden UMC Honors the Legacy and Future of Education: The Class of 2020

It was stated Marie L. Bush, PhD, was board president of the Boys and Girls Club. She is not.

Marie Bush is Board Chairman of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio.

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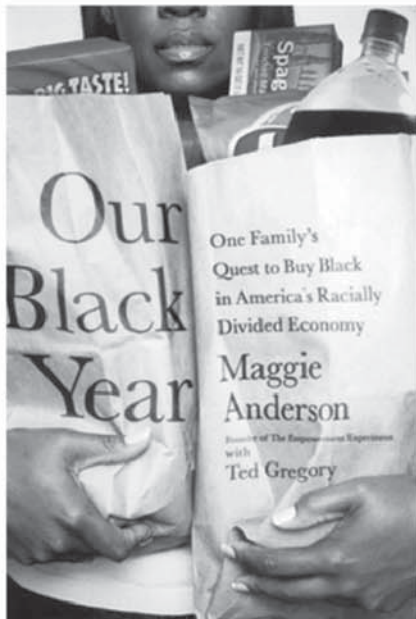
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Maggie Anderson
Journal of The Sojourner's Truth
with Ted Gregory

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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

Evangelist: Tiffany Reynolds

Bishop Joseph Marshall Jr., Pastor
Emmanuel Lukebo Marshall, Jane Eady

Crusaders for Christ Church • www.crusadersforchristchurch.org

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Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed
Free Wi-Fi

BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!

CLASSIFIEDS

May 27, 2020

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MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD OF LUCAS COUNTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is accepting applications to fill the positions of Director of Finance until position is filled. 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 Director of Finance from the list to read more or apply.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

PARK TECHNICIAN

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a full time Park Technician to provide maintenance of grounds, facilities and equipment at assigned park.

HS degree or equivalent required. Entry level experience in general turf, grounds and building maintenance. Valid driver's license required. Work schedule may include evenings, weekends and holidays. 40 hrs/week. \$13.50/hr. Full benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply. EOE

COVID-19 HOTLINES OPEN

Effective Friday, May 1, Mercy Health and Pro-Medica will operate their Nurse COVID-19 hotlines to answer medical questions related to the virus from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, the two health systems announced in cooperation with the Northwest Ohio Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition and Lucas County Emergency Operations Center. The hotline phone numbers are 419-251-4000 (English only) and 419-291-5355 (multilingual). After hours and weekend callers may leave a message, and their calls will be returned on the next business day. The Ohio Department of Health also operates a COVID-19 hotline, and the number is 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

INVITATION FOR BIDS MAINTENANCE & SMALL GENERAL CONSTRUCTION IFB20 – B015

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive bids for Maintenance & Small General Construction. Received in accordance with law until June 2, 2020, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: www.lucasmlha.org; 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

HORTICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a full time Horticultural Technician to provide operational support and encourage community involvement for Toledo Botanical Garden. HS degree or equivalent required. Associate's preferred. Moderate level of hands-on horticulture experience required with some experience directing volunteers or leading group activities. Valid driver's license required. 40 hrs/week. \$13.50/hr. Full benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com>> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply. EOE

PUBLIC NOTICE

2020-2021 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on its **Draft** July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 One-Year Action Plan to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before July 10, 2020. The One-Year Action Plan will be included in and is based on the HUD-approved Five-Year 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan submitted by the City of Toledo for housing, community, and economic development.

The One-Year Action Plan includes a description of the federal funds anticipated to be received, as well as other resources expected to be available within the City of Toledo during the 2020-2021 program year. The Action Plan provides a description of the activities to be undertaken when using these resources and the expected results of those activities. Also, the Action Plan depicts a geographic distribution of assistance, special needs activities, general and public housing actions, and activities specific to the 2020 46th Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 34th Year Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), 29th Year HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and the Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP). In addition, the Plan will contain HUD-required certifications, as well as a summary of the community input received at the public hearings regarding the Action Plan.

The **Draft** One-Year Action Plan will be available for review beginning Friday, May 15, 2020, on the website of the following entities:

Department of Neighborhoods
One Government Center, 18th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/services/neighborhood-and-business-development/>

Office of the Mayor
One Government Center, 22nd Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/mayors-office/>

Clerk of Council
One Government Center, 21st Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/city-council/>

The Fair Housing Center
432 N. Superior Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledofhc.org

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority
435 Nebraska Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.lucasmlha.org

Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board
1946 N. 13th Street, Suite 437
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.endinghomelessness.toledo.org

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
325 Michigan Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledolibrary.org

Lucas Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities
1154 Larc Lane
Toledo, Ohio 43614
website: www.lucasdd.info

Public hearings on the **Draft** One-Year Action Plan are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, June 4, 2020, 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing
Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/91949713607>

Thursday, June 11, 2020, 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing
Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/94909289964>

The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing beginning Monday, May 18, 2020 through Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
2020-2021 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

For reasonable accommodations or additional information, please contact Monica Brown, Administrative Analyst IV, Department of Neighborhoods at (419) 245-1400.

ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$25,200.00 for one person or \$28,800.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan, one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at abundantlifeperrysburg.org.



Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020 • Class of 2020

Graduation Day Comes Early for Bowsher Senior

By Sojourner's Truth Staff

The traditional pomp and circumstance of graduation is eluding the class of 2020 and is being replaced by virtual commencements and drive through celebrations. One Bowsher High School senior feared that he might even miss this year's replacement events due to his prior commitments.

Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, and Bowsher Principal Teri Sherwood were determined, however, that senior Parker Drane, who has joined the U.S. Army and is scheduled to leave before the school's June 4 drive-thru graduation at the Stranahan Theater, should not be deprived of the celebration of the honors he has achieved during his four years.

On Thursday, May 21, Durant and Sherwood joined Parker's Army recruiter, Sgt. Gauje Rush, and surprised the senior at his home – delivering his diploma and thanking him for his years of hard work and the example he set during those years as he strove to help others.

"During my years as superintendent, I have shaken hands with every graduate," said Durant. "It would hurt me not to be able to take that picture with you. We are proud of you and we want to thank you for your service."

Parker's lifelong ambition has been to serve in the military. "I always wanted to protect people I love and I still want to do that," he said.

Parker's "graduation ceremony" was a huge surprise, and a great relief. "I was definitely afraid that I might not be able to graduate," he said afterwards. "This was definitely a heartwarming experience."

Parker's schedule conflict comes as a result of his enlistment and his orders to report to Fort Lee in Virginia before the June 4 Bowsher ceremony. The young man enlisted in the Army at the end of his junior year and completed his basic training last summer before senior year taking

advantage of the Army's "split option." He reports to Fort Lee in order to start Advanced Individual Training, after which he will be a "complete soldier," said Rush.

During his high school career, Parker has been in the band and participated in soccer.

"From day one, he never wavered," said Sherwood of Parker's time at Bowsher. "He always stood up for the little guy and did the right thing – the little kid being bullied or picked on ... he's a great kid."

Parker's mother, Lori Wilburn, was perhaps even more excited than her son about the effort made to bring the graduation to him before he leaves for duty. "I'm excited and nervous, he's doing such a big thing but he always wanted to serve his country." Wilburn had been greatly disappointed that her son wouldn't be able to join his fellow students for the graduation ceremony.

The event was not what exactly Parker has been waiting for to end his high school career – but it provided great comfort.

"I've been waiting for that one day to graduate from high school," he said.



Parker Drane accepts diploma from Romules Durant, EdD



Teri Sherwood, Briana Palmer, Parker Drane, Lori Wilburn, Romules Durant, EdD



"The real estate agent said we might be more comfortable living in a different neighborhood."



419-243-6163
toledofhc.org

If you suspect you are being steered because of your race, religion, or ethnicity, contact us.