



Volume 64 No. 4

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

November 11, 2020

Stacey Abrams - The Most Valuable Democrat!!



Abrams Turns A Red State Blue

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Power of the Black Vote

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

The Truth Contributor

We're not deterred ... and we will determine the outcome - because we've gone from picking cotton to picking presidents.

- Rev. Steve Bland, Jr.



It was a glorious sight. Long marginalized and written off as a political force, black voters, organizers and strategists leading the work that doubled and tripled black voter turnout from Milwaukee to Detroit to Philadelphia to Atlanta and across American cities.

Without a doubt, black voters were critical to the election of the Biden/Harris ticket and others. And behind great numbers of black voters stood the dignity, grace, persistence, and power of black women. The nation, Church, community, and family have always seemed to turn to black women when things get hard or out of fix. Kudos to local organizers such as Tina Butts of the Movement and leaders of the Ohio Unity Coalition for their untiring competent leadership.

Yet, a defeated Trump improved his 2016 popular vote by almost 7 million. This large total reveals the vast divide which still exists between urban and rural citizens, college-educated and the less-educated, and the forward-thinking and those who long for a past that is no more.

In 2019, according to Bloomberg News, people of color represented just under 40 percent of the total U.S. population. However, non-Hispanic whites will shift from a majority to a minority population by 2045. This "darkening of America," likely then, lies at the root of the divide as many white Americans fear the potential loss of privileged status that has benefited them since the founding of this nation.

Despite the 2020 election, two separate Americas remain. Systemic racism, wage, health, and wealth disparities persist.

Will the power of the black vote translate into tangible policies or better black life?

Here are a few thoughts on our local election results.

Judge Myron Duhart

Duhart is an esteemed public servant, leader, and role model whose successful campaign vaulted him to the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals, a valuable part of the judicial process. Judge Duhart proved his worth in Common Pleas, demonstrating that he was not afraid to make difficult decisions with clear-headed compassion. His presence on the Appeals Court ensures a fair and diverse perspective when those qualities are vital.

Lucas County Sheriff

Voters deemed Sheriff-elect Mike Navarre's experience in law enforce-

ment decisive in selecting him to operate and possibly build a new jail. Navarre has been a police chief and leader on police and criminal justice reform at the state level.

Navarre will need to listen to others who have a voice in Toledo's black community such as Earl Mack, who finished third in the Sheriff race. Mack also has several years of law enforcement experience, a sizable following, and considerable community development experience. Earl Mack is the ideal candidate for a position in Navarre's administration.

Current Toledo Police Department Chief George Kral has been keeping a super low-profile lately. Look for Kral to possibly replace the departing Navarre in the Oregon, Ohio Police Department or soon take a position elsewhere.

Who will replace Kral?

For certain, the 52 homicides to date and continuing violence in Toledo is inexcusable. Derrick Diggs, past TPD, and current Fort Meyers, Florida Police Chief, has run a cutting-edge 21st-century police department for several years. Diggs turned around a failed police department that lacked discipline and was rife with corruption, favoritism and racial problems. Under Diggs, Ft. Myers has also experienced four straight years of reduced violent crime and lowered the crime rate to the lowest it's ever been.

Perhaps Diggs' greatest attribute, however, is his ability to strengthen police-community relations. Thus, allowing Diggs an opportunity to return to his native Toledo would come when the floundering Toledo Police-Community Task Force needs a total makeover.

Toledo, Ohio Issue 3 and Issue 4

The passage of Issues 3 and 4 keep Toledo operating and enable the City to fix roads in a way that it has not been able to do in the past. Passage has also allowed the City to channel federal dollars (through HUD's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area program) into central city neighborhoods like Englewood and Junction, where plans have been "in the works" for some time.

Expect to see the power of the black vote also provide real change in Toledo's black neighborhoods.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drldperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

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Tricia Hall - Reporter
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Ding Dong, The Witch Is Dead!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Well, not literally but consider the word 'witch' as a metaphor for Herr Trump and you know what I mean...The Donald will be a has-been president on January 20 of next year.

No tears here about a wannabee autocrat who loves a good con and is always willing to throw a friend under the bus or create chaos to further his nefarious means.

What will happen to Herr Trump's cult like followers? Will they sulk and moan and howl at the moon for crimes, real and mostly imaginary, that they believe the Deep State, or the liberal Fake News media accused Herr Trump of?

Sure they will and the teary-eyed members of the GOP who now sit in a starkly divided Congress will find any means possible to extract some means of retribution for a loss that they ostensibly never saw coming.

In retrospect, Herr Trump had a 20-gauge shotgun that he used to blow off both of his political feet. He miserably failed at even remotely trying to show the American public that he was on top of defeating COVID-19.

And he was miserable at trying to get America to accept his cruel and hurtful acts towards people of color; and a host of other knife cuts that when totaled together, amounted to an eye-avoiding episode of Japanese Hari-Kari.

No one need cry for such an amoral person who seemingly would tear the wings off butterflies, kick stray dogs or even separate young children from their parents along the Mexican Border.

Oh, the GOP fat cats will sorely miss him with his brazen attempts to buy their favor by giving them budget-breaking tax breaks while throwing stale breadcrumbs to hard-pressed working families.

Herr Trump reveled in the power of the presidency but was totally clueless as to how to wield those plenary powers for the general good of the country. He could have done so much if his twin resident evils, his unchecked ego and vanity, did not arrogantly rule 95 percent of his brain cells.

And what shall be said of the cloud of sycophants who would daily kiss his ring finger upon a moment's notice? They reveled in his presence and gloried in their powers thinking that they were all of that and a bag of chips, but they were not.

Really...who can take Ben Carson as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development seriously or Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education! What jokes they were and do not get me raging on the lapdog known as William Barr, his acrimonious Attorney General.

When the political dust settles, and Joe Biden takes over the reins of a high decimated governmental infrastructure, it will be a herculean job of rebuilding trust with the American public that governmental institutions are needed and do serve a purpose and are best populated by honest and smart men and women.

If nothing else, this experiment in rule by a class of cons and grifters should spark legislation that will attempt to curb many of the excesses that we witnessed in governmental leaders and their flailing departments.

What should be a sure thing would be a requirement that presidential candidates must show their tax returns for the past 10 years and that the laws about self-dealing need to be strengthened to prevent presidents like Herr Trump from profiting from the Oval Office.

Anyone for abolishing the antiquated Electoral College and reverting to a system where there is a direct election of the president?

Democracy is messy because you must negotiate competing interests while still getting things done without gridlock and adroitly negotiate the bloated

egos of politicians who believe that they will rule and reign for all of time.

What does my crystal ball show for the future? If Joe Biden does a credible job for the next four years and then calls it quits, is America... white America ready and willing to elect a Black woman as president, as commander in chief?

Or, will the still injured GOP run a Trump like candidate who can whip up their still seething base to believe that a Black woman, Kamala Harris, is nigh next to being a socialist or worse yet, a communist?

Will non college educated white males, North or South, be willing to accept a Black woman as their boss?

I predict that in 2024, the GOP will run Nikki Haley (a woman of color) as their antidote to Kamala Harris and give white male voters a chance to avoid picking a Black woman as the head of state.

We live in interesting times.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Lafe Tolliver

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The Congressional Black Caucus Statement on Biden/Harris Victory

Congratulations to President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris on your historic victory today. You fought for the soul of America. Today marks a new dawn in our country and the beginning of our journey on the road to repair after four long years of repressive policies towards communities of color.

The Congressional Black Caucus is proud of our very own, Sen. Kamala Harris who will be the first woman Vice President and the first Black and South Asian Vice-President. Vice President-Elect will be the second member of the Congressional Black Caucus to ascend to the White House after President Barack Obama.

A graduate of Howard University, an HBCU, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a Black sorority, VP-Elect Kamala Harris is a product of these long-standing institutions in our community. We are confident that her zeal for improving the upward mobility of marginalized groups in America will continue to be a priority in this next phase.

At a time when democratic backsliding is being experienced in different parts of the world, our ability to defend our democracy in the midst of unprecedented obstacles including voter suppression and COVID-19, is a win for democracy everywhere. Black America's commitment to freedom and democracy runs so deep that even when we were denied the right to vote, we formed resistance movements to challenge discriminatory and racist laws. We marched, we stood in long lines, we beat the odds. As we waited for election results in key battleground states, Black Americans in cities such as Philadelphia, Atlanta, Milwaukee, and Detroit, overwhelmingly voted for President-Elect Biden and Vice-President Elect Harris. It was these cities that got us through the finish line.

We show up every election season because to us there is nothing more important than leading this nation to its highest ideals: liberty and justice for all. Today's victory is a testament to this.

The Congressional Black Caucus looks forward to working with this new Administration to increase the upward mobility of Black families in America.



Kaptur Statement on the Election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

On Saturday, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) released the following statement following the election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris:

"Congratulations to the new President and Vice President-Elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris," said Rep. Kaptur. "Thank you to all voters for their patience as each and every ballot was counted. It is clear the American people turned out in record numbers in favor of democracy, liberty, and compassion. With Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, we could not have asked for a better pair of leaders to unify the country, take on the coronavirus pandemic, and spur economic growth to create opportunity for all. I am confident that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will be President and Vice President for every American. I look forward to working closely with President-Elect Joe Biden to bring our country together. Compassion and empathy will be our guiding principles in that effort as we work to restore political and economic power to working people and families."



U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur

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The Most Valuable Democrat – Georgia's Stacy Abrams

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

It's hard to overestimate just how important Stacey Abrams' contribution has been and is to the Democratic Party's efforts to turn a Deep South red state blue in the recent presidential election and how important those continued contributions will be in the Party's efforts to attain a majority in the United States Senate.

Abrams is, among other things, the founder of the New Georgia Project, a voter registration group that reaches out to new voters in a variety of locations such as churches and college campuses.

Abrams, who lost a hard-fought, close election in 2018 for Georgia governor in a contest tainted by allegations of voter suppression, responded to that loss by founding Fair Fight 2020, which funds and trains voter protection teams in 20 states.

The result of those efforts is a Georgia presidential election in which Democrat Joe Biden won what has been previously recognized as a solid red state. No Democratic presidential candidate had won in Georgia since Bill Clinton in 1992. Biden has so far garnered more than a half million more votes than Hillary Clinton received four years ago.

Abrams recognized the state's growing population and changing demographics. Her narrow loss in 2018 also prompted her to found Fair Fight, write a book about voter suppression and produce an Amazon documentary, "All In: The Fight for Democracy." She passed on the chance to run for U.S. Senator and used her influence to fight the voter suppression regulations that had been put in place by then Secretary of State Brian Kemp. She helped register, by some estimates, more than 800,000 new voters for the 2020 election cycle.

Now, with a new president whom she helped to elect, she may well be con-



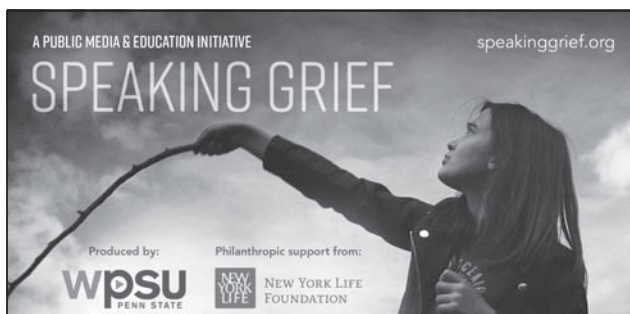
Stacey Abrams.

sidered for a high level post in the new administration or as chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Abrams, one of Robert and Carolyn Abrams' six children, was born in Madison, Wisconsin and raised in Gulfport, Mississippi. The family eventually moved to Atlanta so that he parents could pursue graduate degrees at Emory University.

Her political career started early, in high school, when she was hired as a

... continued on page 6



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Jen O'Malley Dillon Led the Democratic Presidential Campaign

Special to The Truth

Jen O'Malley Dillon served as the campaign manager for President Elect Joe Biden and Vice President Elect Kamala Harris' successful 2020 race – the first woman to head a Democratic campaign for president.

The Massachusetts native, earned a bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Tufts University

The 44-year-old's first experience in presidential campaigns was in 2000, when she worked as a field organizer for Al Gore, before she was promoted to a regional field director by the end of his unsuccessful run.

She then worked on John Edwards' 2004 and 2008 unsuccessful campaigns, before she served as the deputy campaign manager for former President Barack Obama's successful reelection campaign in 2012.

In 2013 Dillon founded Precision Strategies, "an integrated strategy and marketing agency working with companies, causes and candidates to change people's minds and move them to action," according to its website.

Dillon focused a large portion of the Biden campaign on the "blue wall" states of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin that Trump narrowly won in 2016. Biden ended up winning all three states, giving him a crucial 46 electoral college votes.

Biden visited Pennsylvania 13 times during the campaign, which was

three more times than any other state, and a Biden insider said of Dillon's strategy: "That's what Jen does: see the main opening and make sure every detail is in place to follow through."

Ben LaBolt, who was a colleague of Dillon's while she worked for Obama, added that she is a "master."

"Jen is a brilliant strategist who knows the battleground states like the back of her hands, and who knows the Democratic Party mechanisms and infrastructure down to what type of data infrastructure needs to be built to reach persuadable voter," he said.



Jen O'Malley-Dillon

Stacy Abrams... continued from page 5

speechwriter for a congressional campaign.

Abrams earned a bachelor's degree from Spelman College in interdisciplinary studies while working in the youth services department of the office of Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson. She studied public policy at the University of Texas, earning a master's degree and then a law degree from Yale Law School in 1999.

In 2002, Abrams was named deputy city attorney for the City of Atlanta and, in 2006, made her first run for elected office winning a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives for the 89th district. In 2010 the Democratic caucus elected her minority leader.

During her time in the House, Abrams was instrumental in saving the HOPE Scholarship program, which provides scholarships to Georgia students, stopping the largest tax increase in Georgia history, according to one national magazine. She also worked on criminal justice reform that reduced prison costs without increasing crime and helped put together the state's largest ever public transportation funding package.

She resigned her seat in 2017 to start her campaign for governor. Abrams won the Democratic Party nominating contest becoming the first black woman to become a major party's candidate for governor in the U.S. Her Republican opponent was Kemp, still the Secretary of State. Between 2012 and 2018, Kemp's office had cancelled over 1.4 million voter registrations, most of them after Kemp had stated his intention to seek the governor's office.

Then, a month before the general election, more than 53,000 voter regis-

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Going Forward! It's Time to Get Back to Work

By Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Guest Column

The people used their voices on November 3, 2020 to change the leadership of our government at the local, state and federal levels. I am grateful for those voters in Ohio District 44 who will allow me to represent them again in Columbus, Ohio at the statehouse. Everyone was focused on the presidential election. (And rightly so, I might add). Now, with my colleagues and I returning to Columbus this week for various committees and then starting the "lame duck" session before the end of the legislative session, we have a lot of unfinished business to deal with.

Unfortunately, with the results of the state elections and some legislators not returning for a new term, this will be the time when those legislators will be pushing to get their legislation passed. I am told to expect a flurry of legislation, back-to-back committee meetings and long sessions to pass legislation before we recess. This time between now and the end of this year, is called a lame duck session.

There are several pieces of legislation that could have major impact on Ohioans.

The Fair School Funding Plan is the Ohio Senate's companion bill to the Cupp-Patterson Bill to reform the way the public education (K-12) is funded in Ohio. This bill is in response to the Ohio Supreme Court finding that the way Ohio funds public education is unconstitutional. It creates a formula to reallocate school funding between local and state government.

The repeal of HB 6 which was passed to provide First Energy with a bailout. This legislation has been tainted by the corruption scandal of former Speaker Larry Householder. There are currently three bills addressing this. Two bills are seeking to outright repeal HB 6. The third bill seeks to remove some of the terms affecting the energy efficiency and alternative. There were several committee hearings held, but there doesn't seem to be any movement either way right now.

There are several bills seeking to help citizens during this pandemic:

HB 578 Provides support for homeless shelters and provide rental assistance for renters who are affected by COVID. HB 599 would require notice to emergency workers, medical service workers or funeral workers who have treated, handled or transported a patient who tested positive for Covid-19. HB 633 makes COVID-19 contracted by specified types of employees an occupational disease under the Workers' Compensation. Or HB 593 which would provide paid leave to quarantined/compensate contract workers, if passed.

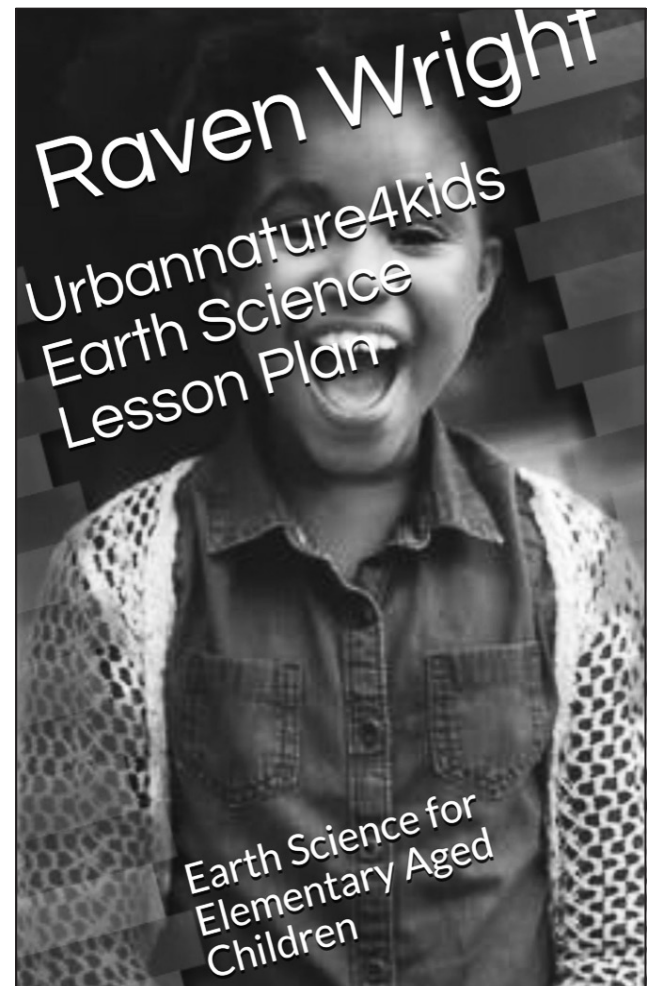
This is just a small sample legislation that has been introduced in the Ohio

House. Once a bill is passed from the House, it then must go through the same process in the Senate. The bill becomes law when the Governor signs it. Considering the short timeframe, it will be very interesting to see what bill the current Speaker John Cupp will set for the agenda.

Just as your voice became your vote. You can still your voice in the legislative process. If you want to watch committee hearings and the legislative sessions, you can through the Ohio Channel, which now broadcast those meetings. You can also send comments, call or write to me and other legislators about your opinion on the bills. It is so important that you continue to use your voice. Democracy is a participatory sport and your voice needs to be heard.



Paula Hicks-Hudson



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The Englewood Community Fireside Chat

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Englewood District community leaders facilitated a virtual fireside chat on Friday, November 6, 2020 to discuss economic development and neighborhood improvement ideas. The fireside chat was led by Kathleen Greely of Community RE Invest Coalition and included panelists: Brandon Sehlhorst, Toledo Commissioner of Economic Development; Sandy Spang, Toledo Commissioner of Business Services; Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, Center of Hope pastor; Vanice Williams, newly appointed City of Toledo District 4 councilwoman.

Facilitator Greely explained during her opening remarks that the fireside chat was organized in response to remarks from the virtual community meeting and conversation that was held to discuss the redevelopment of Englewood and Junction.

"We had a community conversation last week and we're curious to discuss several topics tonight. This fireside chat provides an opportunity to meet and talk on a personal level about economic development and small business development. We received so much feedback from attendees of our last meeting and one key remark was that we didn't receive enough feedback from city council and resources for businesses," explained Greely.

According to Greely, the coalition was formed in response to the City of

Toledo's five-year consolidation plan and includes current and former residents who have concerns about the community. The coalition attendees met with City of Toledo Department of Neighborhood staff prior to the fireside chat and expressed dissatisfaction. "We met with neighborhoods last week and half of us were asking why we weren't included in the five-year plan."

Councilwoman Williams briefly introduced her connection to that neighborhood and encouraged the coalition to reengage with Department of Neighborhoods.

"Thank you for putting this on. I grew up in the area around Smith Park. I grew-up an at-risk youth with elders who pushed me but didn't know how. I know I am a community kid, and that's why I walk my neighborhood now. I had a lot of people fighting for me, that's why I fight for these kids now. The plan was created for the entire city. The Department of Neighborhoods should be on each chat. We have a great director, Rosalyn Clemens.



Vanice Williams

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All About Community REInvestment Coalition

By Kathleen Greely, President/CEO

Guest Column

Community REInvestment Coalition – Englewood SW (CRC-ESW) a newly formed nonprofit presents a virtual conversation about community culture and the impact of urban renewal on our families in the Englewood District, Lucas County. Our mission is to prevent the displacement of African-American homeowners and other minorities from Englewood SW, by providing pathways to affordable homeownership opportunities and the possibility of achieving financial stability, fostering social and civic engagement, neighborhood leadership programs, and community fellowships.

Moderated by community advocates, and lined with invited guests from the Commissioner's office, LISC, Land Bank, Department of Neighborhoods, University of Toledo, Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center, Healthcare of NW Ohio, Arts Commission, Creative Placemaking, and NeighborWorks, the City of Toledo, Small Business and Economic Development, current City Council, to name a few.

This commUnity Uplift, "Unpacking Dorr Street I What worked? What didn't?," is a virtual conversation that took flight during the pandemic in

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Fireside Chat... continued from page 8

She is amazing and she has an amazing staff," said Williams.

The virtual fireside chat discussion switched to economic development and began with Sandy Spang listing available resources. "One of the major obstacles is the condition of commercial buildings that need to be brought up to code following an owner change. We're talking electric, plumbing, heating, etc. We have programs that can help with those changes too," said Spang.

In addition to the small business resources, Brandon Sehlhorst explained the similarities and differences between his role and Spang's role. "We both work to eliminate barriers and obstacles to start a new business. My focus is export businesses that could locate anywhere in the city but select Toledo. These businesses will bring new money to our area, employ more people, and provide skilled labor and good work for our residents. The city of Toledo has water, air, roads and rails as access points, which makes us competitive for opportunities," said Sehlhorst.



Sandy Spang

Selhorst continued the discussion by providing the coalition with steps to assist with economic development. "This organization can assist the City of Toledo by assisting investors to know what properties are available and what is for sale. We struggle with keeping a current inventory, so we can eliminate barriers and overcome challenges with properties. That way once a property has been identified, we can ensure the space is ready for businesses and connect the invest to the community's vision," said Selhorst.

In the coming weeks, the coalition plans to host another virtual fireside chat that will include the

Lucas County Land bank and City of Toledo Department of Neighborhood. For additional information about the coalition, visit the website, <https://communityreinvestmentcoalition-englewoodsw.org>



Kathleen Greely

Kamala... continued from page 16

for equality, liberty, and justice for all, including the Black women, who are too often overlooked, but so often Prove that they are the backbone of our democracy.

All the women who worked to secure and protect the right to vote for over a century: 100 years ago with the 19th Amendment, 55 years ago with the Voting Rights Act, and now, in 2020, with a new generation of women in our country who cast their ballots and continued the fight for their funda-

mental right to vote and be heard.

Tonight, I reflect on their struggle, their determination and the strength of their vision — to see what can be unburdened by what has been — I stand on their shoulders.



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Fifth Third Bank Provides Funding for Virtual Needs of TPS Students

A \$50,000 grant awarded to the TPS Foundation to assist Toledo Public Schools with the virtual needs of the students who are on free or reduced lunch and/or families of three or more.

Special to The Truth

As you may know the Toledo Public School District began the 2020-2021 school year in the "Red Light" status, meaning virtual learning only. This meant the virtual needs for the students were top priority. Many families in the district were working off of limited internet access and/or one Chromebook during the spring semester.

Toledo Public Schools serves approximately 23,000 students Pre-K through 12th grades. With 90 percent of the 8,100 families qualifying for free or reduced lunches because of their income levels, many of the families lack internet services or devices to participate in online learning.

With the assistance from the TPS Foundation, the district was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Fifth Third Bank to address the virtual needs of Toledo Public Schools students on free or reduced lunch and/or families of three or more.

"Fifth Third Bank is pleased to support Toledo Public Schools in their effort to ensure that every child in the district is provided the technology needed to be successful in the current virtual learning environment", said Alex Gerken, Fifth Third Bank's Toledo city president.

The gift has allowed the Foundation to leverage an additional \$10,000 to make a total investment of \$60,000 to Toledo Public Schools. Because of this gift, we can now support students and families stranded by unprecedented circumstances with new resources that ensure students have access to the support they need to maintain crucial academic development.

Romules Durant, EdD, superintendent and CEO of Toledo Public Schools said, "We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of Fifth Third Bank. As we navigate remote and hybrid learning during the pandemic, it's critical for our students to have access to technology to be successful. Fifth Third has stepped up to make this possible so that all students have an equitable opportunity to learn."



Alex Gerken



Bob LeClair, Fifth Third President and president of the TPS Foundation



TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, accepts Fifth Third donation

Community REInvestment... continued from page 8

the first quarter of 2020. The genesis and the idea of reinvesting in the Dorr Street Corridor took us straight to asking the question of why the low vibration still looms over this district, even though the City of Toledo, Department of Neighborhoods recently introduced a five-year Plan, including over \$37M in programs and services, 55-60% specifically for the Englewood/Junction District.

Due to unkept promises and remnants of urban renewal that have left this neighborhood underdeveloped for the past forty plus years; I am joined by several community residents and esteemed leaders, clergy and concerned citizens who chose a commitment to reinvest time and resources in the SW division. CRC-ESW seeks to improve the socioeconomic, financial literacy, homeownership, generational wealth conversations and a quality of life for youth and families in the Englewood District, specifically Englewood SW.

Community reinvestment starts with transforming the conversation. What has not worked since the 70s over here, and why? What structures or property acquisition would allow us to reinvest in our community, today, and be used to foster collaboration in the Englewood district in 2021, and beyond? Can financial literacy, generational wealth conversations, and a better understanding of how to use Land Bank and LISC make a difference for residents? Can someone explain "What is an Opportunity Zone", and how do we benefit from the opportunity?

Urban Renewal was partially an attempt to connect suburbs to downtown in a faster way, which resulted in tearing up our neighborhoods in part or in some cases isolating other neighborhoods. We can start to see great things happen in downtown Toledo, how do we start a conversation that builds off that momentum and targets our neighborhoods still affected and neglected today because of urban renewal?

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Lucas County Commissioners & Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business Stabilization Fund Approve Additional \$500,000

The Lucas County Commissioners last week approved allocating an additional \$500,000 to the Small Business Stabilization Fund that was created a week ago to provide financial assistance to businesses and non-profit organizations that are struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commissioners took action to provide the additional funds due to the overwhelming response from area businesses and non-profit organizations for assistance. The \$500,000 appropriated by the Commissioners on Tuesday brings the total amount of the funds available for distribution to businesses and non-profit groups to \$2 million. The program provides qualified businesses and non-profit organizations with fewer than 50 employees with grants up to \$25,000.

As of Tuesday, the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, which is administering the Small Business Stabilization Fund program, had received over 400 applicants seeking nearly \$5 million in grant assistance. Qualifying small businesses and non-profit organizations submitted applications to the Chamber of Commerce for reimbursement of certain eligible expenses. All program funds must be expended by December 30, 2020.

Of the businesses requesting assistance, nearly 50 percent are minority, women, or veteran owned, surpassing the cumulative participation rate of 15 percent set by the Commissioners.

The web portal to submit applications for the first-come, first-served program has now been closed. However, the Chamber of Commerce is continuing to process applications. Those applicants that were not funded will

remain in the queue in the order of receipt should additional funding become available.

The Ohio Development Services Agency is administering two new targeted programs to address the tremendous need for small business aid in Ohio: the Small Business Relief Grant and the Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund:

The Small Business Relief Grant

Up to \$125 million in federal CARES Act funding received by the State of Ohio has been designated to provide \$10,000 grants to small businesses to help them through the current crisis. The program began accepting applications November 2, 2020.

Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund

The governor has designated \$38.7 million in federal CARES Act funds to provide \$2,500 assistance payments to on-premise liquor permit holders to help them through the financial difficulties experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. As these permit holders have not been able to fully use their liquor permits, their businesses have been negatively impacted. The program began accepting applications November 2, 2020.

The Commissioners encourage businesses harmed by the effects of COVID-19 to apply to these Ohio Development Services Agency programs at: <https://businesshelp.ohio.gov/>

Lucas County's funding for the Small Business Stabilization Fund comes from CARES Act dollars, federal funding provided for communities to help navigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stacy Abrams... continued from page 6

tration applications were put on hold, of whom more than 75 percent were minorities.

Abrams lost the race to Kemp, who had also overseen the election in his official capacity as Secretary of State but she declined to pursue the matter through legal action. Her high profile campaign has made her a prominent figure nationally. She was selected by Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer to give the rebuttal to the State of the Union address in January 2019; she decided not to run for the Senate and then founded Fair Fight 2020.

"I had two messages," she said during an interview with CNN last week. "One, voter suppression is real and we have to have a plan to fight back. Two, Georgia is real. You've got to have a plan to fight there. We were privileged to know that by the time Joe Biden won the nomination, he had Georgia on his mind."

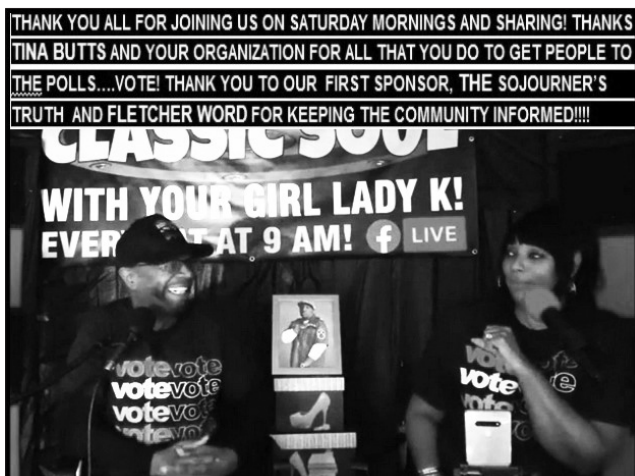
But the election season is not nearly over for Abrams in Georgia. As a result of her efforts in getting more people registered and getting them to the polls, there are two critically important runoff elections for Georgia U.S. Senate seats in January.

In the regularly scheduled contest, incumbent Republican Sen. David Perdue failed to hold on to his early majority against Democrat Jon Ossoff. Perdue finished with 49.8 percent of the vote.

In the special election, Rev. Raphael Warnock, the Democratic, finished with 32.9 percent of the vote and his two Republican opponents, Senator Kelly Loeffler and Doug Collins, with 25.9 and 20 percent respectively. Warnock, pastor of the famed Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s former church – will face Loeffler in the January runoff.

If the Democrats win both seats, they will have 50 total and effectively hold the majority position with incoming Vice President Kamala Harris (who will also serve as president of the Senate) to break ties.

Should that happen, Abrams will have earned a lion's share of the credit.





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Statement from Toledo Public Schools Administration

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine has said that 80 percent of Ohioans live in a county that is considered to have a high risk for spreading COVID-19, including Lucas County. As cases continue to increase across our county, the state of Ohio and the country, Toledo Public Schools will return to 100 percent remote learning (known as Red Light status).

While the number of confirmed cases of students in schools – specifically TPS schools – remains low, we are concerned that trend will not continue as we approach the holidays and the colder winter months and the most prudent course of action is to have all of our students learning remotely. Here are the details:

- Thursday, November 12 will be the last day of in-person instruction for all Group A students in grades Pre-K through fifth; students will need to take home all personal items that day.

- Friday, November 13 will be the last day of in-person instruction for all Group B students in grades Pre-K through fifth; students will need to take home all personal items that day.

- Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who were scheduled to return to school on Monday, November 16th will continue with online learning.

- TPS will remain in Red Light status at least through the end of the first semester, which ends on Thursday, December 17.

- Students from TTA and ANSAT will continue with in-school instruction so they can earn their industry credentials.

That means that any student who is currently on the A/B hybrid schedule will return to remote learning and the remainder of our students – including the sixth through eighth grade students who had been expected to start on the hybrid schedule on the 16th – will continue with their online learning.

We will follow this schedule through the end of the first semester, which ends on Thursday, December 17, 2020 – students will then transition to winter break on Monday December 21, 2020. Friday, December 18, 2020 is teacher workday. A decision about the second semester will be made over the Christmas holiday break.

This return to all remote learning is being made with one concern in mind the health and safety of the district's students and staff members. While administrators are thankful confirmed COVID-19 cases have been low in TPS

schools, they want to ensure the district does not contribute to growing cases in the county. We will continue to closely monitor the data provided by the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and the Ohio Department of Health to make an informed decision before school resumes on Tuesday, January 5.

Students will need to continue logging on to their Chromebook each day and complete their classwork. They must maintain their grades and daily attendance will be taken. This is the website to the district's Responsible Reopening plan for information related to expectations during Red Light status: tps.org/reopen

Overall Schedule

- Thursday, November 12:

- o The last day of in-person instruction for all Group A students in grades Pre-K through fifth; students will need to take home all personal items that day.

- Friday, November 13:

- o The last day of in-person instruction for all Group B students in grades Pre-K through fifth; students will need to take home all personal items that day.

- Monday, November 16:

- o All students return to remote learning

- o Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who were scheduled to return to school on this date will continue with online learning.

- TPS will remain in Red Light status at least through the end of the first semester, which ends on Thursday, December 17.

- Students from TTA and ANSAT will continue with in-school instruction so they can earn their industry credentials.

Transportation

- Transportation will continue to be provided for the special education students who will be provided in-school services.

- Parents will be contacted directly to confirm the time and locations for pick-up and drop-off

Food Distribution

- Beginning on November 16th:

- o Students and parents can pick up a 5-day meal pack on Mondays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the school closest to their home.

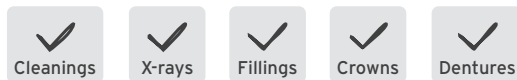
- o If you cannot pick meals up on Monday, please call the school you will use as your pick-up location by noon the previous Friday to arrange for a Tuesday pick-up.

- o Head Start locations at Crossgates, Mayfair and Summit will not be open.

... continued on page 13

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Swish! The Slam-Dunking, Alley-Ooping, High-Flying Harlem Globetrotters by Suzanne Slade, Illustrated by Don Tate

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Your favorite player loves getting buckets.

And that's good – that's the goal of the game, after all, right? It's called basketball because that's what you're supposed to do: put the ball in the basket, dunk it right in the bucket. You might need help to do that now, but practice, and maybe you'll be a pro someday. Maybe you'll be like the players in *Swish!* by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Don Tate.

Ka-thumpa, ka-thumpa, ka-thumpa. that's what people heard all day, if they lived near Chicago's South side. It was "those boys" and their basketballs, doing "nonstop layups, all-net free throws, and sky-high jump shots."

Sure, they were talented boys. Everyone knew that but they were Black and there were not many options for them, so those boys joined a traveling team and they met Abe Saperstein. That was when things really started happening: it was Saperstein's idea to re-name the team the "Harlem Globetrotters," which made it seem like they'd dribbled everywhere around the world.

It was almost as if they already had: the team played ball nearly every night in small towns all over the country, but their style was different. Because people didn't like seeing any Black players beat the hometown White teams, the boys had to learn new tricks. They did a "One-finger ball spinning." They did their "Rapid-fire mini dribbling." People began to laugh, and they began to enjoy the show as the "Trotters" racked up wins.

But it wasn't all fun: there were lots of places where the Globetrotters weren't welcome. They couldn't get a drink of water just anywhere. Some hotels turned them away. Sometimes, they weren't allowed in restaurants.

And still, they played because they were athletes! Even when most

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teams in the NBA wouldn't hire Black players, the Harlem Globetrotters were real winners on the court. They proved it by beating the Minnesota Lakers! They could beat anybody!

And then one day, "something incredible happened"....

Everything spherical in your house can be dunked. Your 5-to-9-year-old has proven that, so what next? Well, *Swish!* will give them baskets of joy.

With the kind of quick-paced, wild fun that you get at a Harlem Globetrotters game, author Suzanne Slade brings that fast action to the page with a story of racism, perseverance, and resilience. While there's a main focus on just one generation here – roughly the Depression years through the early 1950s – Slade proceeds to show the overall evolution of the team by including a timeline and additional material. She also briefly touches upon individual players, but not more recent ones, which may disappoint grown-ups; kids whose hands are practically glued to a round, dimpled ball won't notice that omission at all.

This narrative would be the lesser without artwork by Don Tate. Kids will love his movement on the pages; adults will have difficulty not hearing "Sweet Georgia Brown" in their heads. That makes *Swish!* fun, it's fast, and if there's a future NBA or WNBA fan in your house, your child will love it by the buckets.



Suzanne Slade



Toledo Public Schools... continued from page 12

o Thanksgiving Week – November 23rd

§ Meal pick-up will only be available on Monday, November 23rd for Thanksgiving week.

General Health Reminders:

- Wear a mask when you are out in public and/or with friends
- Maintain at least six feet of distance
- Wash your hands often
- Avoid large gatherings with family and friends
- The mandate will continue for TPS employees to wear masks while at work or in any TPS building.

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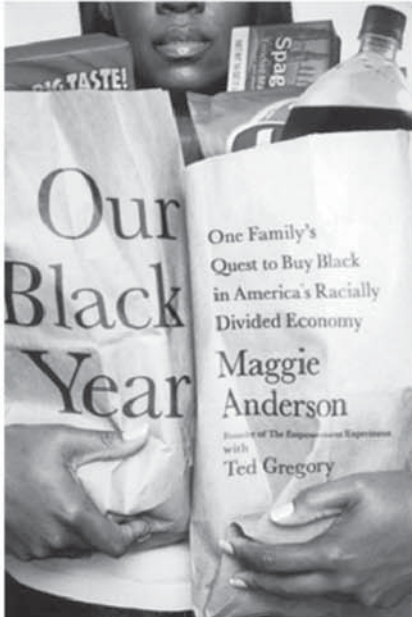
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CLASSIFIEDS

November 11, 2020

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DATA ANALYST

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Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding) Inquiry # FY21-17, (Project # 0115-20-229) for Lake Erie Pole Barn Storage Facility for the University of Toledo. Bids due: 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 24, 2020; through the State's electronic bidding system at <https://bidexpress.com> Bid documents \$50.00 per set (no refund) from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615, 419-385-5303 and through the State's electronic bidding system at <https://bidexpress.com>. Any further information may be obtained from Tadd Stacy of Architecture by Design, Ltd. at 419-824-3311. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Lake Erie Center, Room 1019, Atrium, 6200 Bayshore Dr., Oregon, OH 43616. Construction PPE and Face Masks will be required. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$210,000.00; Breakdown: General Contractor: \$210,000.00.

CONTROLLER POSITION AVAILABLE

The Fair Housing Center, 432 N. Superior St., Toledo, Ohio, seeks an experienced Controller to oversee accounting and financial operations. Reporting directly to the CEO, the successful candidate must demonstrate proficiency in generally accepted accounting principles for non-profit organizations to ensure that the highest accounting standards are met, maintain financial records to ensure accuracy and ease of reporting on fiscal activities to Board and funders, be well-versed in basic Microsoft Office software applications (Word, Excel, etc.) and Sage accounting software, with the ability to track activities in our proprietary case management system, and possess the knowledge and ability to interpret, Federal, State, and Local laws regarding non-profit financial management, including 2 CFR Part 200 and other federal guidance documents. The Controller is also responsible for managing the annual audit process, forecasting, budget preparation, 990 submission, preparation of the agency indirect cost proposal, and other duties as assigned, including the fiscal components of the grant writing process.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or related field; 3 to 5 years of non-profit financial management experience; and Certified Public Accountant or advanced degree preferred.

This is a full-time exempt position, with some evenings or weekends as needed.

How to Apply: Please submit cover letter and resume to HR@toledofhc.org.

VENDORS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) of Lucas County, Ohio, is soliciting competitive bids from qualified vendors for behavioral health crisis services. Proposals are to be delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on January 18, 2021. All questions are to be submitted to Administration@tbd-solutions.com. Details regarding the project deliverables and submission criteria are located on the MHRSB's website: <http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/>.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS GUTTER REPAIR AND CLEANING SERVICES RFP20 - R008

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Gutter Repair and Cleaning Services**. Received in accordance with law until **December 1, 2020, 3:00 PM ET**. see documents: www.lucasmha.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.



SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES AND TEACHERS

Maumee City Schools is hiring substitute operational employees and substitute teachers. Interested candidates can find details/online application at www.maumee.k12.oh.us (Employment). Operational substitutes: \$9.01-\$12.50/hour based on position. Substitute teachers: \$105/day.

TOLEDO LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Assistant Public Defender and TLAS Fellowship Program positions available in Lucas County, Ohio. Successful candidates must be licensed with the Ohio Supreme Court. Graduates from an accredited college of law who are awaiting Ohio bar results will be considered for the fellowship program. Please see <http://www.nlada.org/node/34681> for more detailed descriptions. Email cover letter and resume by November 6, 2020 to: ToledoLegalAidSociety@yahoo.com

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR PRICING OF AUDIT SERVICES

Preferred Properties, Inc. is seeking a Request for Proposal (RFP) from qualified accountants to provide professional audit/tax services for their entities and managed projects. A detailed RFP letter can be requested from Paul H. Bressan at pbressan@Preferred-Properties.org or by October 26, 2020. EOE.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE & REPAIR SERVICES RFP20 - R007

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Elevator Maintenance & Repair Services**. Received in accordance with law until **November 19, 2020, 3:00 PM ET**. see documents: www.lucasmha.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.



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.



Toledo Police Department Needs City Applicants for Next Class

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Police Department is seeking a few good men and women. In fact, the officers conducting the current recruitment process are asking city residents to start applying now for a class that will start in August 2021.

In order to ensure that Toledo residents have an inside track on the application process, the department has made it easier from both a financial and logistics standpoint for those in the city aspiring to serve and protect.

"The goal is to get as many Toledo Residents as possible," said Sgt Mike Kurjan in a recent discussion with The Truth. "So we have set up as many testing locations as possible, such as at St. Francis High School and the

MLK Plaza at the train station."

The benefits of serving as a Toledo police officer are many: over \$65,000 pay after 36 months; retirement pension, tuition reimbursement, opportunities for advancement; among others.

The current recruiters are Kurjan and Officers Geoffrey McLendon and Stephen Bates. Their task is to grow the pool of applicants in order to fill a class of 31 for next August and for a second class shortly thereafter.

Kurjan, McLendon and Bates signed up for recruitment duty in September — all from street duty — and will return to the streets in January. Their recruitment assignment enables the department to bring in new ideas and approaches from their previous assignments and interactions with the public.

The deadline to apply for the 2021 class is December 31, 2020. The deadline means that the written test must be completed as well as application forms. That information can be found at TPDHIRE.COM.

In previous times, the testing location was only at Owens Community College, a Perrysburg site that is obviously not easily accessible to all Toledoans. The test also came with a cost for applicants of \$55 because it is a contracted standardized test, used throughout the country. However, Toledoans showing a proof of city residency, will have the fee waived.

Applicants should be between the ages of 20 and 39 but for younger aspirants there is the Police Explorer Program for ages 14 to 21 if they have to wait for a period after high school.



For nearly 50 years, UPMC has proudly served our community with outstanding patient care for the treatment of common health needs and complex cases — a tradition we're honored to carry on.

Through Nov. 30, UPMC is offering a special incentive to join that tradition. New hires in select, critical positions are eligible for a \$1,000 signing bonus after the completion of a 180-day probation period.

Visit utmc.utoledo.edu/jobs for more detailed information about the open positions and hiring incentives.



SGT. Mike Kurjan, Officers Geoffrey McLendon and Stephen Bates

An Excerpt from Vice President Elect Kamala Harris Victory Speech:

To the woman most responsible for my presence here today — my mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, who is always in our hearts.

When she came here from India at the age of 19, maybe she didn't quite imagine this moment.

But she believed so deeply in an America where a moment like this is possible.

So, I'm thinking about her and about the generations of women — Black women, Asian, white, Latina, and Native American women throughout our nation's history who have paved the way for this moment tonight.

Women who fought and sacrificed so much

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