

The Sojourner's Truth

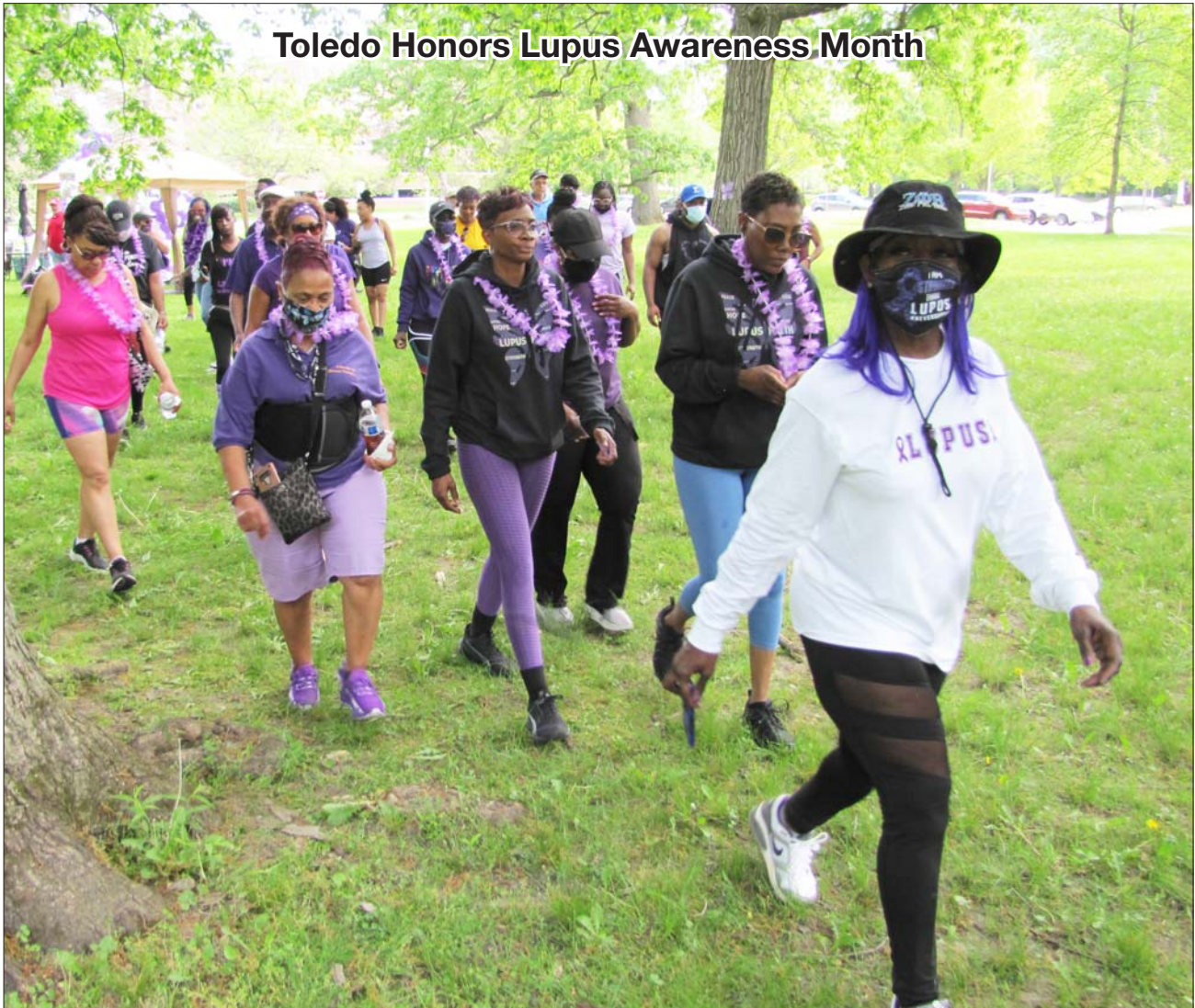
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Volume 67 No. 1

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

May 26, 2021

Toledo Honors Lupus Awareness Month



Rachelle Roy Leads Ottawa Park Lupus Walk

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Spirituality and Leadership

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

The Truth Contributor

And then I heard the voice of the Master: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" I spoke up, "I'll go. Send me!"

- Isaiah 6:8 The Message



The September 2020 appointment of John Hobbs III as a temporary member of the Toledo City Council representing District 1 provided a leadership approach that had been missing on that conspicuous legislative body.

Hobbs, who also serves as pastor of Dominion Fellowship Church, brings to local government his lifelong emphasis on spirituality in making decisions that impact the lives and circumstances of people. In seeing his appointment as "a call," Hobbs addresses paramount ethical questions of justice, equity and truth at a time when public life has been overwhelmed by ethics failures, questionable conspiracy theories, and scientific or business decisions which benefit a tiny number of select millionaires or billionaires but harm the interests of the masses.

Historically, of course, with exemplars as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Reverend Al Sharpton, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, and countless others, the African-American pulpit has "served as an incubator for transformative leaders" (Johnson, 2020).

I had the opportunity to speak with cleric and City of Toledo Councilman John Hobbs III about the role spirituality plays in his leadership practices.

Perryman: Let's talk a bit about your background. I know you're a proud St. Francis Knight. Please share with The Truth's readers a little about your education and upbringing.

Hobbs: Education-wise, I graduated from St. Francis in 1987, completed Barber College at Ohio State, and then graduated from the University of Toledo in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in public relations.

Perryman: Describe your call to ministry and the road to becoming a pastor.

Hobbs: I always believed that God had a personal call on my life and, in 2005, my wife, family, and three children started a Bible study at the Dreamplex on Reynolds Road with approximately 15 members. We met for several months, then we went from a Bible study to a Sunday worship and grew from there. I've now served in pastoral ministry for 16 years as of March of 2021.

Perryman: And you've also served as an athletic coach mentoring several young people?

Hobbs: Yes, when I was 23 years old, I'd just graduated from college, and my uncle, Deacon Lou Hobbs, was coaching track at St. Jude and said to me, 'I want you to come over and start helping me coach the girls.' I said: 'Uncle Lou, I don't have time for that,' and he said something that just stuck with me. He said: 'Nephew, when somebody has been afforded the things that you have been, you can't afford not to give back!'

So, I started coaching track and field with him. From there, I helped him coach the fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls' basketball teams. I then went to Byrnedale, and was also serving as an assistant coach at Bowsher. I was also JV coach at Scott and coached at Libbey for four years. In 2010 I went to Start, then to Central Catholic as assistant coach, and then coached Bowsher High School for five years.

Perryman: And the coaching of kids was ministry?

Hobbs: It was ministry. As you know, for many coaches, it's about their ego and how many wins and losses they have. But for me, it was all about the kids and how do I minister to this young lady, how can I give back? On Mondays, we'd sit down and have a Bible study. I would take just a short Bible verse and use it to teach these young ladies about discipline and having God both in their lives and academics.

The thing that always has stayed with me is how to affect a child's life positively. Some of these young ladies that I've coached, one became a police officer a year and a half ago, another one has graduated from barber school, and several of them have graduated from college with two and four-year degrees. Many of them still reach out to me and say: 'Hey coach, thank you for what you've done. I didn't understand it then and I thought you were tough, but I understand now what you were trying to do.'

Perryman: I would like to get an idea of your approach to leadership as a councilperson. I'm assuming that it is informed by your role as a pastor in ministry. Pastors are several things. A pastor is a shepherd. A pastor is a watchman that protects and feeds the flock. A pastor is a prophet that speaks truth to power. A pastor is a herald that announces good news. How do those images inform your approach as a councilperson?

Hobbs: All of my experiences have shaped this moment in my life. The coaching, the experience at Toledo Public Schools as a substitute teacher for 10 years, and the 16 ½ years as owner of Hobbs Barbershop. At that time, I was the first Black barbershop that stretched my wings and located outside of the long-established three and a half mile perimeter of the inner city. These experiences are all part of my shaping for this moment, including all of the teachings provided by my mom and dad, who were very strict about how I did things. So, the community, the ministry, and every phase of my life have brought me to this moment. I continue to embrace every season of my life.

When the city council opportunity became available, I sincerely prayed and said: 'Lord if this is what you have for my life at this time and this season, I'm asking you to open this door and allow me to enter. I will always put You first in everything that I do, as I've done until this point in my life.' Since that door opened, I have asked God, more than ever before, for the wisdom to make the right decisions for our city.

Perryman: What do you hope to accomplish on a long-term basis in politics?

Hobbs: I am a temporary member of Toledo City Council, representing District 1. However, I would like to continue in this work and run for the seat in 2023.

Perryman: What are some of the lessons that you have learned since being appointed?

Hobbs: I've learned that it's vital to remain committed to the constituents. They are number 1! So, I make it a policy to return phone calls, emails, and all communication within 24 hours. I am trying, with everything within me, to be what the constituents of District 1 want and would be proud to have as their councilperson. I work really hard, spending time in the morning before I go to work (as barber inspector for northwest Ohio) and in the evening when I get home, on emails and phone calls and all of council matters.

I've also learned that there's a lot more to making decisions than one might think. Things look a lot simpler from the outside looking in than what it is in reality. I am diligent about doing the homework to make sure

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QAnon Versus Jesus...What's What

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

There has been a plethora of news articles about the inroads of the QAnon conspiracy theories into the belief system of white evangelicalism.

Seemingly, it appears that in some churches populated by Christians who do not have their sea legs under them about correct biblical doctrines, they are yielding themselves to outlandish conspiracy theories that simply do not jibe with the tenets of their Christian faith.

QAnon likes to wrap itself in the cloth of the cross of Christ so as to give legitimacy to its kooky beliefs with the hopes that its listeners will not examine its cockeyed beliefs with a critical eye.

QAnon. Who is the driving personality behind this web base source of misinformation, distractions, half-truths and conspiracy theories? No one seems to know. But yet when these, "Q drops" are deposited into the social media, they are gobbled up like jellybeans and spread like wildfire to a base of believers that run with it as if it was the gospel.

If you are a pastor at a church whose membership is QAnon leaning or is sympathetic to its errant gospel, you will have a Herculean job of convincing your church members that all such theories must pass through the safeguards of biblical truths.

If not, preaching and teaching Bible-based truths will fall on deaf ears if the hearer has been compromised by outright lies; and lies that have not been vetted via careful readings of James, I John, II John, III John and the Book of Romans, among other biblical sources.

The articles that I have perused suggest that some white evangelicals have been smitten by QAnon materials and when challenged about their veracity, the QAnon follower will feel either justified (because they are being attacked for believing this "other" source of truth) or will clam up and feel righteous that they are soldiers in a noble cause for truth and justice.

It is exceedingly difficult to reason with someone who has been snick-snarled into a belief system that if you are told to renounce, become very defensive and will harden their conscience against any penetration of truth.

Some white evangelicals who purportedly were at one time, the edge of the sword against falsehood, have compromised their belief system to accommodate QAnon and believe that there is no harm in accommodating both biblical truths and QAnon statements.

Impossible! The Word of God will never commonality or hold hands with discordant lies that have no basis in fact. QAnon imparts to its adherents the sense that they are warriors on the front line battling the forces of demonic evil and that their cause is given a five-star rating by the Bible.

The Bible however states that our warfare is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers in the heavens. QAnon names personalities that they contend are the embodiment of evil and thus to war against that personality is to do the work of God.

We find at 2 Corinthians 10:5, the salient words: "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

QAnon does not take this approach but rather it uses worldly wisdom which is devilish, and it constructs out of whole cloth, conspiracies that are pure hokum.

White evangelicals do not have the privilege or the option of selecting, as it were, from a buffet of competing truths; and then tie it altogether in a bow that mentions a Bible verse or two as if somehow that cleans the stain of QAnon from their errant pronouncements. Fresh water and salt water can not come from the same source.

If a QAnon position is contra to the Word of God, a believer in QAnon is not given the freedom or liberty to entertain such a position and still hold to the belief that they can serve both God and QAnon.

God is a jealous God and does not lightly suffer having other "gods" before Him. Any belief system that diminishes or contorts or calls into question the rule and reign of God is suspect and ought to be immediately jettisoned.

QAnon is not God friendly, and nor does it exalt the holiness or righteousness of God but rather it plays the role of detractor for some white evangelicals who are either fearful of their standing in society or are fearful of facing a world that, to them, is in dire turmoil.

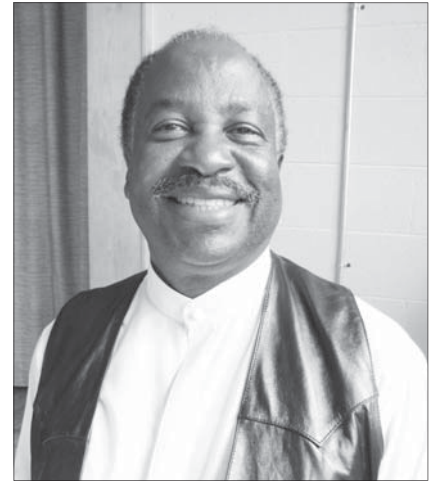
QAnon attempts to speak to those fears with their doggerel of believing that you can be a QAnon supporter and at the same time, go to a Bible centered church and give homage and worship to God.

Impossible! You will either hate one or love the other. Being double minded is a prescription for failure and angst.

Interviews with sincere white evangelical pastors who have congregations that are lending an ear to QAnon gibberish, state that they have a difficult time reasoning with their conflicted parishioners about what is truth and where it is found.

The takeaway from all of this is that QAnon or similar conspiracy platforms have been and will be around until the end of time and the job of the Bible centered church is to speak truth without compromise and to rescue the confused from being swayed by nonsense that refutes or contradicts the Bible message as confirmed in the person of Jesus the Christ.

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To Be Equal

America is Moving Again But the Road is Long

By Mark Morial, Texas Metro News

Special to The Truth

One hundred days into their administration, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have made surprisingly bold inroads in confronting racial injustice and the COVID-19 pandemic, but significant challenges remain. President Biden and Vice President Harris entered the White House at a moment of unprecedented multiple crises, and they have risen to confront those crises with remarkable speed and effectiveness.

With the help of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, they have illuminated the systemic racial inequality that hinders our nation's progress and set a course for healing. Whether the nation can stay that course remains to be seen. President Biden has been purposeful and intentional about including racial justice components in every policy he has undertaken in the first 100 days. He has used his moral voice to create a distinction between the poisonous philosophy of white supremacy and the idea of an America for everyone, an America of opportunity and pathways to progress for all people.

Importantly, he has changed the tone of governing, adopting a tone of inclusiveness that stands in stark contrast to the reality-show, and finger-pointing, disparaging tone of the recent past. The 100-day mark is something of an arbitrary and artificial deadline, but it has become part of our national political tradition since the administration of Franklin Roosevelt. It is an opportunity for the nation to engage in a substantive discussion about the direction of the presidency and the nation.

In a letter sent shortly after the election, I charged President Biden and Vice President Harris to produce an immediate and extensive COVID-19 relief package. They responded with the American Rescue Plan, one of the largest anti-poverty measures in a generation. It has helped slash daily coronavirus infections by more than 70 percent while quadrupling the daily number of vaccinations. President Biden has made it possible for Americans whose lives were



Marc Morial

upended by the pandemic at last to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The letter established a set of fundamental principles on racial justice and equity to guide Biden and Harris in the first 100 days and beyond. I asked them to assemble an administration that reflects the diversity of America. They nominated and fought for confirmation of the most racially diverse Cabinet in U.S. history.

I asked that they commit to fundamentally transforming the criminal justice system. They have restored the meaningful use of federal pattern or practice investigations, lifted restrictions on the use of consent decrees to hold police departments accountable for abuse, and ended federal contracts with private prisons. I asked them to protect and defend voting rights. They have put the entire federal government to work in promoting and expanding access to voter registration and participation. I asked them to work toward economic parity for African Americans.

The day they were sworn into office, the very first executive order President Biden signed declared "... it is the policy of my Administration that the federal government should pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality."

I asked them to advance equity in educational opportunities for all American children. The administration's unprecedented investment in Title I schools and higher education will help students recover from the learning loss experienced during the pandemic. Investment in free broadband and devices is expanding students' access to digital learning in their homes. I asked them to promote a healthier nation by prioritizing access to health care, including testing, treatments, and cures for COVID-19 in communities of color. More than 200 million Americans have been vaccinated, more than double the initial goal, including underserved communities.

Tens of thousands more Americans have health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, and their premiums are lower. As productive as the first 100 days have been, a tremendous amount of work remains to be done. President Biden and Vice President Harris must make good on their promise to invest in America, to build a middle class, and to restore faith in our democracy. The American people need tangible results.

Among the most pressing items remaining on the administration's to-do list are: – Passage of robust infrastructure proposals, the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan, which includes long-overdue investments in physical and human infrastructure, creating family-sustaining, middle-class jobs and securing the nation's recovery from the pandemic. – Police reform, beginning with enactment of a meaningful George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. – Protection of voting rights, beginning with enactment of the For the People Act and restoration of the full Voting Rights Act. – Closing the gender pay gap beginning with enactment of the Paycheck Fairness Act. – A \$15 per hour minimum wage for all workers and elimination of the discriminatory tipped minimum wage.

The National Urban League's full progress report on the Biden-Harris administration's first 100 days can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3aJQ8Wr>.

Marc Morial is president/CEO of the National Urban League.

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Toledo's Race Amity Day Promotes the Cause of Harmony and Unity

Special to The Truth

Race Amity Day was held last week, Friday, May 21, at Wildwood Metropark and about 45 people gathered there along with dozens more virtually to celebrate an attempt to foster racial harmony and to commemorate the 100 anniversary of the nation's first Race Amity Day.

The event was organized by Behrooz Modarai of the local Baha'I Faith community who observed that his faith holds two core beliefs – that there is one human race and that men and women are equal.

Last week's local event was attended by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, who spoke of the extraordinary blend of races and culture in America and how badly the country has handled it thus far, as good an idea as it may be. It is worth the struggle he noted.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur spoke about the need for Congress to move ahead and pass the George Floyd Bill, which will address certain concerns about police conduct, and the Voting Rights Bill, which will address the current movements in numerous states to curtail the ability of citizens to vote.

Also in attendance was former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner; Ron Wells from Lucas County, who brought a proclamation, City Council members Cerssandra McPherson and Katie Moline who brought greetings from Council.

June Boyd served as the mistress of ceremonies and Alexis Collins, from the YWCA, spoke on why the YWCA has devoted a website to racial justice.

The first Race Amity Day was also organized by members of the American Baha'I Faith on May 19-21, 1921. The events, "Convention for Amity Between the Colored and White Races Based on Heavenly Teachings," was held at the Congregational Church in Washington, D.C. The meeting was the first such gathering since mob violence has torn apart the nation's capital two years before.

The Baha'I period of race amity lasted until 1936 and was followed by a series of Baha'I race relations initiatives: sponsorship of Race Unity Day that has lasted into present times; the 1991 Baha'I statement of "The Vision of Race Unity;" the subsequent video "The Power of Race Unity."

The Baha'I Faith is a relatively new religion which focuses on teaching the intrinsic worth of all religions and the unity of all people. The religion was established by Baha'u'llah in the 19th century, developed primarily in Persia (modern day Iran) and parts of the Middle East.

Friday's local event featured a keynote address by Paul Hubbard who spoke of the need to understand and accept all religions because all religions have a God who gives blessings to its followers – the basic principles of all religions are the same.

"We as people have to demand that our political parties, both Democrats and Republicans, stop being at war with each other and start working together," said Hubbard. "We the citizens who vote, pay taxes, raise families, go to work every day, are concerned about education, health care, jobs, nice housing and communities. We need to write letters and send petitions to both parties to work together on these issues."

Hubbard noted that the nation needs strong fair housing laws, fair lending laws and anti-redlining laws.

"The first law of nature is self-preservation and if people are not given the opportunity to survive legally, they will survive illegally," he added.

The festival opened and closed with the singing of Civil Rights anthems and prayers from various religions.



June Boyd, Ron Wells, Paul Hubbard



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Lourdes Announces Summer Athletic Camps

Lourdes University Athletics Director Janet Eaton is pleased to announce a full slate of Summer Athletic Camps. For more information, visit www.lourdesathletics.com <<http://www.lourdesathletics.com>>.

Saturday, June 5-Sunday, June 6

Girls Wrestling Camp

Lourdes University will hold its girls wrestling camp inside the Franciscan Center Gymnasium, Saturday, June 5 from 9am to 5pm and Sunday, June 6 from 9am to 4pm. Run by the Lourdes University women's wrestling coaching staff and wrestlers, and featuring three-time All-Americans Koral Sugiyama and Morgan Becker. The camp will highlight techniques that are successful at the collegiate and senior level, including hand-fighting, proper footwork, and setups for attacks, leg attacks, and throws. \$80 for two days; \$50 for one day. Participants are to bring their own lunch. For more information or to register, contact Dominic Adams at (419) 517-8965 or dadams@lourdes.edu <<mailto:dadams@lourdes.edu>>.

Wednesday, June 9-Friday, June 11

Boys Lacrosse

Lourdes University is partnering with the Sylvania Recreation District to host a Boys Lacrosse Camp June 9-11 at Wildcat Stadium from 10am to 1pm. This skills development camp will emphasize and work on the fundamentals of all aspects of the game. Open to boys entering grades 5-8. Players must provide their own equipment. \$60 per camper. For more information visit <http://www.playsylvania.com/lourdes-gray-wolves-lacrosse-camp/> or call (419) 882-1500.

Wednesday, June 16

Girls Lacrosse

The Lourdes University Women's Lacrosse program will be hosting a youth lacrosse camp at Northview High School's Wildcat Stadium, 5403 Silica Dr, Sylvania, Ohio, from 12pm to 3pm. Head coach, Sierra Wagoner, and Assistant Coach, Maria D'Angelo will provide both technical and tactical instruction to allow campers to grow and advance in their lacrosse knowledge and skills. For more information or to register, contact Coach Sierra Wagoner at (419) 824-3751 or swagoner@lourdes.edu <<mailto:swagoner@lourdes.edu>>.

Monday, June 21-Thursday, June 24

Golf Camp

The inaugural Junior Golf Camp for boys and girls ages 7-18 at Detwiler Golf Course, 4001 N. Summit Street, Toledo, OH from 9am-11am. The camp will include instruction by the Lourdes golf staff, providing group and individual instruction on all phases of the game. Campers will also learn proper etiquette, current rules, interpretations and on course play. For more information or to register, contact head coach Gil Guerrero at (419) 360-7922 or gguerrero@lourdes.edu <<mailto:gguerrero@lourdes.edu>>.

Sunday, July 11

Women's Soccer Camp

Lourdes University will hold its annual Women's Soccer ID clinic from 12pm to 5pm at Russell J Ebeid Recreation Center and Northview High School's Wildcat Stadium, 5403 Silica Dr, Sylvania, Ohio. This camp will be targeted towards high school age players looking to play at the collegiate level. Directed by head coach Jackie Phillips, giving firsthand experience in the training regime required at the collegiate level. \$50 per camper payable the day of camp.

Monday, July 19-Friday, July 23

Tennis Camp

Lourdes University will hold its inaugural tennis camp at Northview High School, 5403 Silica Dr in Sylvania. Led by head coach Megan Miller, the camp is open to boys and girls ages 3-18. Campers will learn basic tennis skills to help improve their game. Campers will be divided by age group. Ages 3-5 will take place from 8:30am-9:15am, ages 5-7 from 9:30am-10:30am, ages 8-10 from 10:30am-11:30am, ages 10-12 from 11:am-12:30pm, and high school campers from 12:30pm-1:30pm. \$50 per camper for the week. To register or for more information, contact Megan Miller at (419) 908-9007 or mmiller@lourdes.edu <<mailto:mmiller@lourdes.edu>>.

Monday, July 26-Wednesday, July 28

Baseball Camp

The 2021 Lourdes University Soccer Camp will be held in partnership with Sylvania Recreation District at Veterans Memorial Park on Garden Park Rd. in Sylvania from 9:00am-12:00pm. Led by Lourdes Head Coach Josh Bradford, Lourdes Baseball coaching staff, and Gray Wolf Players, the camp is for children entering grades 3-8. Campers will work on the core fundamentals to play the game effectively at all levels. \$60 per camper. For more information, visit <https://www.playsylvania.com/lourdes-university-baseball-camp/>. Registration can take place through www.playsylvania.com <<http://www.playsylvania.com>> or by calling (419) 882-1500.

Monday, August 2-Thursday, August 5

Men's Soccer Camp

The 2021 Lourdes University Soccer Camp will be held in partnership with Sylvania Recreation District at Pacesetter Park, 8801 Sylvania-Metamora Rd in Sylvania from 5:00pm-7pm. Head Coach Matt Johnson, his coaching staff and members of the Gray Wolves Men's Soccer team will help campers improve or learn soccer skills necessary to become a better player. Focus will be placed on the core fundamentals necessary to play soccer. Open to children entering grades 1-8. \$60 per camper. For more information visit <https://www.playsylvania.com/lourdes-university-soccer-camp/> or call (419) 882-1500.

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Perryman... continued from page 2

all bases are covered. If a constituent asks me why I made a decision, I need to be able to explain my reasoning and why I think it was important to do or not to do.

Perryman: What are the most critical issues for your constituents?

Hobbs: Right now, education, small business and public safety.

Perryman: I just got off a call with pastors about voter suppression at the state level. What are your thoughts on making it more difficult to vote in Ohio?

Hobbs: I grew up hearing stories that my grandfather told me of what it cost them to vote in Mississippi. I will not support any initiative that suppresses voting in any shape, form or fashion. And, as a pastor, a man, a man of color, and as a person that has watched people help African Americans to get the right to vote, there is no way I would support any type of voter suppression.

Perryman: What are your thoughts on food deserts?

Hobbs: We need a grocery store in the central city. We need to have somewhere for the constituents in District 1 and District 4 to be able to go and buy fresh produce and fresh meat. We need a centrally-located and accessible store

where there is an opportunity for our children to do more than just run to the corner store and eat a bunch of junk all the time. The lack of nutritionally rich food affects our children's teeth, bone structure, growth, and health. I'm willing to work with whoever can make this happen because it is imperative for us to eliminate food deserts.

Perryman: How do you balance being a politician and a spiritual leader?

Hobbs: It's not a struggle for me because I don't have an ulterior motive. I honestly vote what I believe. I know that my vote will not always be acceptable to everyone, but I have to stand on the principles that I believe. If I'm willing to do that, then I don't have to worry about what I said last week or what I'm going to say tomorrow because here's the principle I believe in. I'm not going to adjust that tomorrow because I'm talking to somebody else.

Perryman: Last thing, how do you control boundaries and find balance between your roles as pastor, husband, father, barber inspector, and city councilperson? How do you find the time?

Hobbs: Balancing my job, being a city councilman and a pastor, is because God has given me the gifts and anointings to handle that in this season of my life. I wish I could explain it to you, but I know that he's given me the motor and mind to do this in this season. Secondly, my family is exceedingly supportive, and they help me in so many ways. Thirdly, I have outstanding help with the church. We have excellent staff that



Councilman John Hobbs III

surround me and hold me up. City Council members and staff are extremely supportive also.

So, I don't have to try to do this all on my own. I have been given great help and assistance. Because of that, I'm able to do the things that I'm doing in my life.

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

Black history is an essential part of the history of our nation, our communities, and our company. Black associates have been key members of the Rudolph Libbe Group team since our earliest years. In a series of articles this year, we are celebrating the contributions of current associates and retirees and expressing our gratitude to them for being a part of the Rudolph Libbe Group.

—Bill Rudolph, Chairman, Rudolph Libbe Group

Ellsworth Hall, general electrician foreman at GEM Inc., was born in Toledo and grew up in a predominately Black neighborhood. "It wasn't until I attended high school at Macomber/Whitney that I experienced a diversity of students and faculty," he said. At Macomber, he developed an interest in electricity, but chose radio and TV over construction as his main study focus.

"One of the great parts of attending Macomber was that during my senior year, I was involved in a paid co-op program that allowed me to alternate between work one week and school the other."

After high school, he attended the University of Toledo with the goal of becoming an electrical engineer. "To help with tuition, I worked a couple of low-paying jobs which became a struggle. So with the help of two grandfathers who retired from Dana, I was able to get a job at the Bennett Avenue plant. Less than a year later, I was laid off, which was the first of several layoffs there that shortly closed that plant."

Another opportunity, which would take him all the way to retirement, was waiting. "That's when a long-time family friend and electrician, Tom Cavanaugh, directed me to the Toledo Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) program. I was a little hesitant because most of my family were successful with factory jobs."

He decided to head in that new direction and in 1982 was accepted into the JATC, a four-year program with on-the-job training during the day and school at night. He finished his last year of apprenticeship at GEM Inc. and worked his first two years as a journeyman at the Davis-Besse Nuclear plant.

"When work got slow, I bounced between contractors and time off. By being a member of IBEW of Local 8, I was able to travel to other locals to seek employment," he said.

"After returning to GEM Inc. in the mid-nineties, I was given the opportunity to supervise various electrical construction projects which ranged from nuclear plants to the Big Three auto plants and various commercial sites. Some of those projects had very long hours; however, with the support of Tina, my wife of 35 years, we were able to make it all work with three children—Eric, Natasha and Jennifer," he said.

"It was challenging and sometimes frustrating to attend training sessions, job meetings and job sites with few or no other persons of color. I did not allow that to deter my goals; that is why I try to convince young men and women of color to choose the construction trades as a student loan-free alternative to college. The electrical trade is not just a job. It is a career with high pay, good benefits and opportunities to advance."

He now has 39 years in the Local 8 union, and 30 of those years have been with GEM Inc. "Over the years, I was able to accumulate a pension which will allow me to retire and live comfortably. During retirement, I plan on getting in plenty of fishing and going to see my favorite football teams. Go Buckeyes and Steelers!"



**RUDOLPH
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GROUP**

Ottawa Park Walk Commemorates May as Lupus Month

Sojourner's Truth Staff

May is National Lupus Month and dozens of purple-clad marchers commemorated the event on Sunday, May 23 with a walk that started and finished in Ottawa Park.

Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease that occurs when the body's

... continued on page 10



Rachelle Roy



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James Holmes
Shawn Kawiecki
Shawn Bailey
Aiden Rader
Fateh Aameera Haris
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Jaidyn Alvarado
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Korrine Smith
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Patricia Alegria-Hampton
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Lanyjah Peterson
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Helena White
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Samantha Bee
Nashell Wilson
Angelina Ruiz
Isabella Garza
Taylor Urbina
Takyah Atkins
Noah Musgrave
Eden Rosales
Samantha Sanchez

WAITE

Lura Oldfield
Andrew Vogelpohl
Damiya Clark
Hayleigh Kinsey
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Selina Porras
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Ottawa Park... continued from page 8

immune system attacks healthy tissue rather than fighting infections. Inflammation caused by lupus can affect many different parts of the body including joints, skin, kidneys, blood cells, brain, heart and lungs.

The symptoms can vary greatly among those affected and rarely are any two cases exactly alike. Signs and symptoms may come on suddenly or develop slowly, may be mild or severe, may be temporary or permanent. Most people with lupus experience episodes – flares – when signs and symptoms get worse and then perhaps even disappear for a while.

The typical symptoms of lupus include fatigue, fever, joint pain, rashes on the face that generally resemble a butterfly shape, skin lesions, shortness of breath, chest pain, dry eyes, to name some.

Lupus is much more common in women than men (a 10 to 1 ratio), affects all ages but is most often diagnosed in young adults – typically ages 15-45 – and is more common in African Americans, Hispanics and Asian Americans than in Caucasians.



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Rachelle Roy, a Scott High School graduate who attended Bowling Green State University and has been a letter carrier for 25 years, first experienced a skin rash in her early 30's

– a skin rash that was not properly diagnosed in the initial stages. That early stage appeared as an acne breakout and the medicine prescribed was ineffective.

“How people treated me!” she said recalling the reactions that she would eventually become more accustomed to encountering. The scarring, she thought, did not make her look feminine in some peoples’ eyes. “People are not always willing to take a picture with me.”

There are four kinds of lupus: systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), the most common form; cutaneous lupus, limited to the skin; drug-induced lupus, cause by certain prescription drugs; neonatal lupus, a rare condition that affects infants of women who have the disease.

Roy had encountered cutaneous lupus that would quickly scar her face causing her to begin a lifetime of caution – avoiding stress as much as possible, using the proper medication and, above all, staying out of the sun. “Sun is like kryptonite,” she explained.

On Sunday, May 23, Roy assembled her group of purple-clad supporters, those afflicted with lupus and family members and led a 3.5 mile walk to raise money for lupus awareness and treatment. The event was enhanced by the presence of lots of music and food and a beautiful day full of sunshine.

“I was able to meet new survivors, hear more stories of how lupus has affected family members, get people out to walk in memory of their loved ones – it was just a perfect day,” said Roy reflecting later on having organized the first ever lupus walk in Toledo. Her first one, not her last, she promised.



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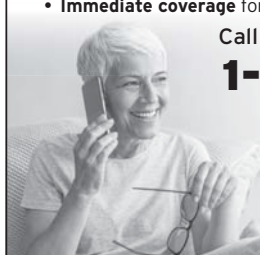
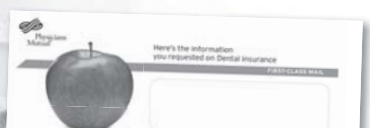
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AS to Host June Workshops for Small and Minority Businesses

The Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) will host a series of workshops for small and minority businesses each Tuesday in June.

The "You're Certified: Now What?" workshops will educate companies about how to do business with the State of Ohio after receiving certification in one of several programs that help ensure equal opportunity access to and fair treatment in government contracting.

The workshops will run from 11 a.m. to noon on June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 and will cover a variety of topics including identifying opportunities and available financial resources, joint ventures and teaming, and registering with OhioBuys, the State's new online procurement solution. Visit das.ohio.gov for a complete list of topics.

Registration is not required. To join a workshop each week, follow this Microsoft Teams link [https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F_%23%2F%2Fmeetup-]. If unable to use the link, participants may call 614-721-2972, and enter conference ID 512 886 909#.

In addition to the DAS Equal Opportunity Division and Office of Procurement Services, presenters will include the Columbus Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Columbus Minority Business Assistance Center, Ohio Development Services Agency, Economic Community Development Institute, and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

The DAS Equal Opportunity Division oversees several programs for minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses. Visit das.ohio.gov for additional information.

Tips for Surviving the First 5 Years of Small Business Ownership

Special to The Truth

What motivates entrepreneurs to become self-employed? How do they measure success? What's their cutoff for profitability and self-reflection on status? A new survey examining these very questions provides important insights to small business owners and those looking to start their entrepreneurial journey.

"The Tipping Point: Making the Jump to Self-Made" report from global small business platform Xero surveyed 1,200 small business owners nationwide and, among respondents, 58% gave themselves five years or less to make it or break it - with newer businesses giving themselves an even shorter

... continued on page 12

City of Toledo Mask Mandate Voluntary Beginning June 2

The City of Toledo's mask mandate, which took effect July 14, 2020, will be voluntary as of June 2, 2021, to mirror the guidelines set forth by the State of Ohio and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz announced last week.

Mayor Kapszukiewicz released the following statement:

"The Toledo mask mandate was implemented as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and the spread of the virus in our community. The requirement was supported by Toledo City Council President Matt Cherry and Toledo-Lucas County Health Commissioner Dr. Eric Zgodzinski. The spread of the virus has drastically decreased after many months of effort by health care workers, schools, work places, and residents. As a result, and in conjunction with recent orders from Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health, the local mask mandate will be voluntary as of June 2, 2021.

Everyone is encouraged to continue to stay safe and get vaccinated as soon as possible. We strongly recommend that masks continue to be worn while traveling on planes, trains, buses, and while in transportation hubs.

From today until June 2, 2021, residents who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to wear a mask unless they are in specifically designated areas like airplanes, buses, health care offices, or in businesses or municipalities that require a mask to be worn. Residents who are not vaccinated are still required to wear a mask until June 2 any time they are indoors, as well as anytime they are outdoors and cannot be socially distanced, or when they are in specifically designated areas like airplanes, buses, and health care settings.

Go to gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/ to schedule your COVID-19 vaccine.

2021 Summer Pool Hours Announced

The City of Toledo's six public pools and the splash pad at Savage Park will open for the 2021 Summer season beginning on June 1, which is the earliest the facilities have opened in many years, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz announced today.

The pools and the splash pad will be open seven days a week, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. from June 1 to July 4. They will be open seven days a week, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. from July 5 to Aug. 15.

To ensure community access to the pools seven days a week, as well as to provide necessary time for pool maintenance, Willys and Roosevelt pools, and the Savage splash pad, will be closed on Mondays. Wilson, Pickford, Jamie Farr, and Navarre pools will be closed on Tuesdays. Swimming lessons will be offered this summer.

From Aug. 16 to Sept. 5, the pools and the splash pad will be open as follows:

- * Thursdays, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- * Fridays, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- * Saturdays, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- * Sundays, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

There is a \$1 entry fee for children 12 and under. The fee is \$2 for 13 and older.

"We are thrilled to be able to have pools open this year for the entire summer with extended hours," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said. "We have a full slate of opportunities for young Toledoans this summer, including spending time at the pools, sports, enrichment, and employment."

The list of youth summer programming will soon be posted at [toledo.oh.gov/summer](http://www.toledo.oh.gov/summer).

The six pools and the splash pad locations and phone numbers are:

- * Willys Pool, 1375 Hillcrest Ave., 419-936-2928
- * Roosevelt Pool, 910 Dorr St., 419-936-2501
- * Wilson Pool, 3253 Otto St., 419-936-3071
- * Pickford Pool, 3000 Medford Dr., 419-936-2863
- * Navarre Pool, 1001 White St., 419-936-3064
- * Jamie Farr Pool, 2000 Summit St., 419-936-3072
- * Savage Splash Pad, 645 Vance St., 419-936-2502



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Small Business Ownership... continued from page 13

timespan on average. Here are some of the survey's key findings, along with tips for surviving your first five years of small business ownership:

1. Define what success looks like: When they made the move to branch out on their own, 48% of small business owners defined success as achieving profitability, and 34% defined it as making more money than they were previously. Fast forward to the present with their businesses up and running and 28% of business owners cite creating a legacy as their success measure. Having tangible and intangible benchmarks of achievement can help you stay focused.

2. Know your "why": According to the survey, one of the strongest motivators for starting a small business is the belief that it provides greater flexibility and control when you're your own boss (45%). Passion/purpose in work (28%) and financial reasons (15%) were also strong motivators. Running a business can be tremendously satisfying when you understand what your "tipping point" was for taking a leap of faith and venturing out on your own.

3. Be flexible: Twenty-nine percent of small business owners say the pandemic has increased their desire to run a business, particularly among younger business owners (43% of Gen Z vs. 18% of Boomers) and women (34% of women vs. 24% of men). But what do those businesses that thrived in the COVID-19 era have in common?

"The majority of newer businesses have been set up on technology platforms and digitally enabled since their inception," says Ben Richmond, US country manager for Xero. "They're ready for and in many cases even expecting disruption, so they've established a foundation that's open to pivots."

4. Be realistic: While most business owners say they started their business for increased flexibility and control, being the boss doesn't equate to less stress. In fact, that's the biggest misconception about starting a business (47%). Another top misconception is that starting a business will be more

... continued on page 13

Footnotes: The Black Artists Who Rewrote the Rules of the Great White Way by Caseen Gaines

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You can't see where the roar is coming from.

But you can hear it, and that's what matters. The role was made for you, you hit every line and note, the audience loved you – and now the roar of cheers and applause is yours. How long does the standing ovation last? How hard do they clap? As in the new book *Footnotes* by Caseen Gaines, how long will your star stay aloft?

Growing up in an affluent Black neighborhood in Columbia, Tennessee, Flournoy Miller had everything he could ever want – and when he was nine years old, he wanted to be onstage. It was 1894, and his parents had taken him to see Sissieretta Jones, a famous soprano and “one of the highest-paid Black entertainers of the day.”

“Miller,” says Gaines, “was captivated.”

And yet, growing up, Miller knew that fame was a dangerous reach. Every Black entertainer seemed to know someone who was killed by white folks for no reason, but once Miller met Aubrey Lyles in 1903 and “the two hit it off right away,” the danger was ignored. Miller, in fact, was more determined than ever for fame, and the two developed a popular comedy act.

From the time he was a child, Noble Sissle loved to sing. Few things pleased him more than a chance to perform in church and, while it was expected that he would become a minister like his father, he grew more passionate about music.

When Sissle took a job in Baltimore, he met Eubie Blake, a talented pianist

c.2021
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336 pages

who grew up in a Godly house as a child and honed his talents at brothels as a teenager. They, too, became fast friends and eventual collaborators.

It's a small world, and because they worked in the same industry, Miller and Lyles knew Sissle and Blake and there was mutual respect all around. They had kicked around the idea of working together on a show but the idea didn't coalesce until early 1921.

And “with nothing but a handshake agreement...” says Gaines, “the quartet agreed to give it a shot.”

The nicest thing about *Footnotes* is this: you don't have to be a Broadway-goer to enjoy it. You don't ever have to have even seen a play. You can love this lively, sparkling book for no reason but just because.

Though it takes a while to get there and though it may not seem like it, the main subject of this book is the musical, *Shuffle Along*. Author Caseen Gaines seems to use this main feature as a backdrop, as he wraps biographies, history and everyday life around that century-old show to show how it came to be and why it was so important to Black culture. There's racism in this tale, of course, but also determination and a sense of opulence and grandeur, at times. It can be a feel-good story, but one that hurts, too.

Shakespeare said, “The play's the thing” and so is *Footnotes*. If you love Broadway, history, or books on culture, it'll make you roar.

Small Business Ownership... continued from page 12

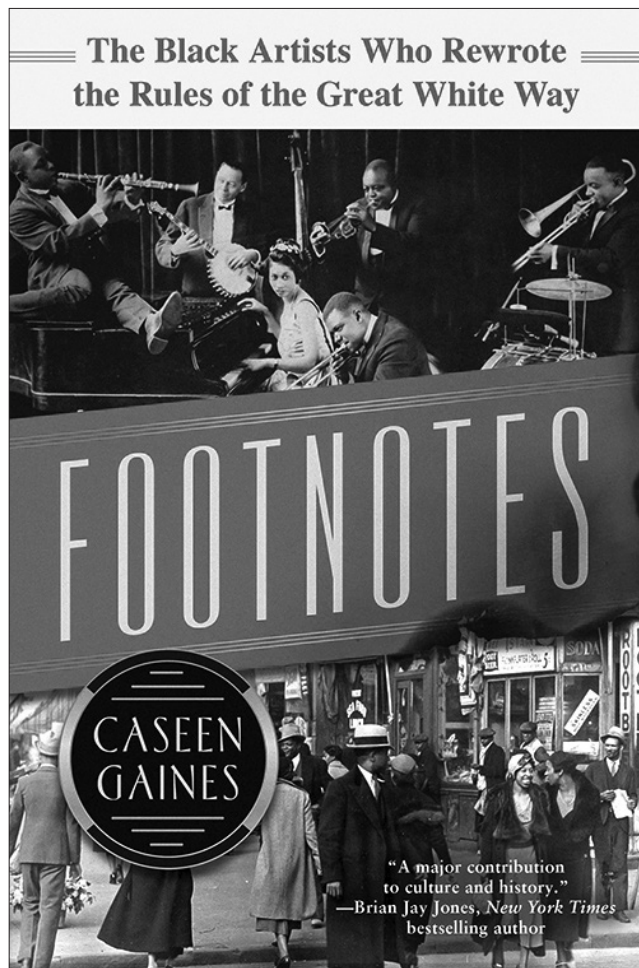
fun than working for someone else (25%). Understanding the realities of entrepreneurship can help you avoid surprises, and ensure comfort in the role as it changes.

5. Lean on digital tools: When you're a small business owner, it can often seem like there are never enough hours in the day. Using software that streamlines the nitty-gritty can free your time so it's better spent on the big picture. For example, the cloud-based accounting software platform Xero gives small business owners and their advisors access to real-time financial data on any device. Its 2.45 million subscribers are leveraging its array of tools that simplify tasks like paying bills, payroll, claiming expenses and sending invoices.

To view the full report and for more information, visit xero.com.

“It's certainly been an unusual year for business, but entrepreneurs are generally feeling positive about the economic outlook in the months ahead. For enterprises still in the make-it-or-break-it period, that's especially good news,” says Richmond.

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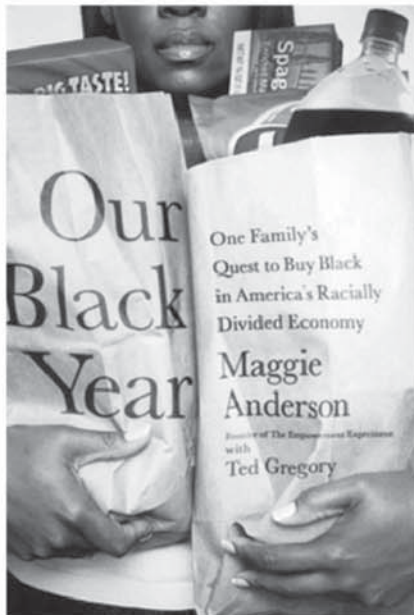
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CLASSIFIEDS

May 26, 2021

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TOLEDO EDISON

Toledo Edison is a forward-looking electric utility powered by a diverse team of employees committed to making customers' lives brighter, the environment better and our communities stronger. We offer excellent compensation, benefit packages, paid holidays and paid vacation.

Fleet Services Specialist (Mechanic)

This position works with other Fleet Services employees to carry out work assignments independently and with a team to complete maintenance, mechanical repair, inspection and testing of all types of mechanized equipment.

To be considered for this position, you must have all of the qualifications of a Journeyman Fleet Services Mechanic and have five (5) years of experience or equivalent (completed certified apprentice program or demonstrated competency).

Starting Rate: \$35.07 Hourly

Substation Relay Tester A

This position prepares functional or test procedures, assists with or conducts special studies, and organizes and conducts training classes as requested. Designs and fabricates specialized protective and control system test instruments and data acquisition system installation and maintenance.

To be considered for this position, you must have all of the qualifications of a Substation Electrician A and have five (5) years of experience or the equivalent. Must possess a two-year degree in Applied Science-Electronics or equivalent.

Starting Rate: \$35.99 Hourly

To apply or view the full description of job duties and qualifications, please visit firstenergycorp.com. Click on Careers/Search Jobs and type the job title in the search field.

Application Deadline: June 8, 2021.

These positions are represented by Local 245, The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

We are an equal opportunity employer. If you need ADA accommodations, please contact Human Resources for assistance at 419-249-5907.

PARK TECHNICIAN 2

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a qualified individual for Park Technician 2 at Glass City. High School Diploma or equivalent. Moderate level experience in general turf, grounds and building maintenance. \$15.12/hr. Full-time with benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers to review job description and apply. Applicants must submit an online application and resume. EOE



NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEYOR

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to strengthen our community's neighborhoods. In 2015, the Land Bank finished a property-by-property survey of 122,000 sites in the City of Toledo. Now is the time to update this survey, and we need your help! You can get paid to walk our neighborhoods, evaluate property conditions, and update this data set for a new decade of investment.

The Neighborhood Surveyor will complete a standard survey of properties in the City of Toledo from the sidewalk. The Surveyor works outdoors and is expected to complete between 10,000 and 15,000 individual property surveys during the course of the employment.

This is a temporary full-time position paying \$18/hour with an opportunity for a cash bonus, paid holidays, and paid time off. Multiple positions will be hired starting in early June for work to last up through October.

To learn more and to apply, visit <https://lucascountylandbank.org/job-opportunities>

The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal opportunity employer.

SALES REP WANTED

Not just any sales rep! But a sales rep who recognizes a unique opportunity. An opportunity to represent two different media – print and broadcast. It's media – different types of media. Media with broad comprehensive appeal in today's marketplace. To learn more about this opportunity, call 419-243-0007

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PARK SERVICES ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a qualified individual for a Park Services Assistant Supervisor position at Swan Creek. Associate Degree or work experience equivalent to an Associate Degree in Parks and Recreation services, Natural Resources, Grounds Management, or related fields. Outdoor operations experience including leadership responsibilities. \$21.75/hr. Full-time with benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers to review job description and apply online. EOE

LEGAL NOTICE

Bids will be received by Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) until **2:00 p.m., June 4, 2021** for the selection of Vendor(s) to provide Non-Emergency Medicaid and Title XX Transportation Services for eligible LCDJFS clients. Submitted bid packets must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Qualifications. The contract period will be from approximately **October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022**.

No bids will be accepted after 2:00 p.m., June 4, 2021; bids that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFQ will not be accepted.

The Request for Qualifications will be available on May 10, 2021 and can be downloaded from the Lucas County Website site: <https://co.lucas.oh.us/3322/Bid-Opportunities>

Suppliers interested in doing business with Lucas County must register in the Supplier Portal. To access the Lucas County Oracle Supplier Portal, please visit: https://eieb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fsc-mUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuld=300000_007278812&.adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3_1&_afLoop=7126760101772357&_afWindowM ode=0&_afWindowId=avudlxmca&_afFS=16&_afMT=screen &_af rMFW=1920&_afMFH=932&_afMFDW=1920&_afMFDH=1080&_af rMFC=8&_af MFCI=0&_afMFM=0&_afMFR=96&_afMFG=0&_af rMFS=0&_afMFO=0

An electronic Question & Answer period (Q&A) will be from May 10, 2021 to May 21, 2021. PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED. Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing to LUCAS_CONTRACTS@jfs.ohio.gov. The posting of the Q&A will be on May 25, 2021. If any changes are made to the RFQ as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RFQ will be added to <https://co.lucas.oh.us/3322/Bid-Opportunities> address noted above.

This notice is posted, as of May 10, 2021, at <https://co.lucas.oh.us/3322/Bid-Opportunities>

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

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

Tina Skeldon Wozniak - President
Pete Gerken - Commissioner
Gary Byers - Commissioner Bid. 48-21-RFQ-01

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www.TheTruth-Toledo.com

Zy'Grace Faithful Flowers & Hopeful Gifts Bringing Beauty into the Home

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Thanks to Pilar Powell-Ware, Toledo has a little more grace, a little more faith and a lot more flowers and gifts – that's what she has gifted the local area with her Zy'Grace Faithful Flowers & Hopeful Gifts business which she organized in 2013.

Now Toledo's only Black florist, Powell-Ware, offers customers a wide variety of flowers, fresh floral arrangements in vases, wrapped bouquets, wedding bouquets, house plants, gift baskets and candy arrangements.

Powell-Ware has not come by her affinity and skills for floristry lightly, or lately. She began studying at the Toledo Botanical Garden in high school at the Natural Science Technical Studio developing her skills in competitions for floral designs at Inverness. She eventually earned a Green Hand Degree, became a certified florist with the State of Ohio and sharpened her business credentials at Assets Toledo with Olivia Holden.

"I appreciate Ms. Holden for offering the class; it has opened the doors and provide all kinds of different resources," says Powell-Ware.

Zy'Grace services all of the Toledo metro area either by delivery or pickup at Powell-Ware's home base. Nothing Powell-Ware does in business happens by chance, not even selecting the name of her business. Zyion, Grace, Faith and Hope are the names of her four children who

have provided such inspiration – and help on occasion. Twelve-year old Zyion lends a hand during those busy occasions such as Mother's Day and holidays.

Zy'Grace can be reached by phone at 419-467-5196, on Facebook at Zy'Grace or by email at Pilar.

Powell1@gmail.com



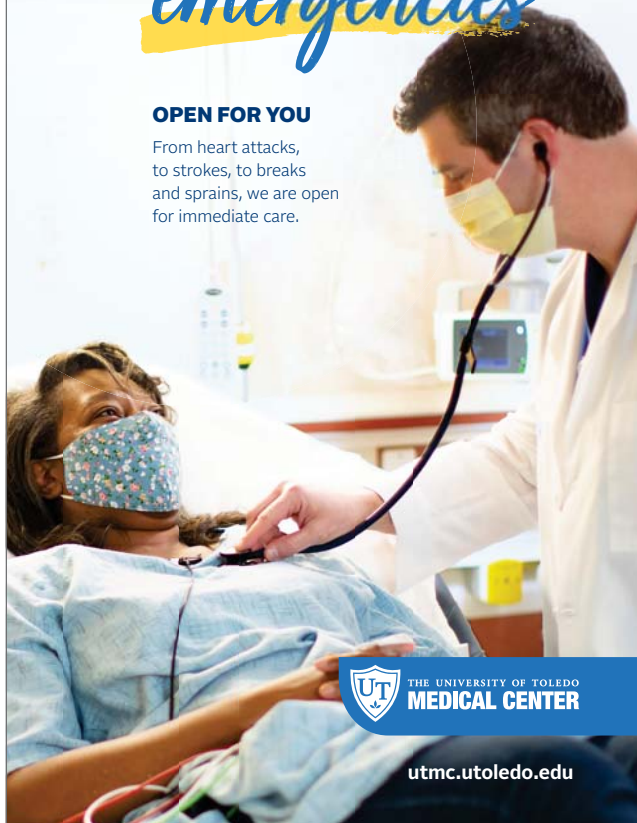
Pilar Powell-Ware



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