

The Sojourner's Truth

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 23, 2021

Toledo Celebrates Juneteenth!!



The unveiling of the Negro League marker

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Power to the People

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

The Truth Contributor

This isn't a revolution of black against white, this is a revolution of right against wrong. And right has never lost.

- Dick Gregory



On January 10, 2018, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute*, a case that challenged how states like Ohio "maintained" their voter registration lists.

In the third row from the front and with a birds-eye view of all the Supreme Court Justices, longtime Toledo activist Andre Washington proudly sat.

Very few individuals have had an opportunity to enter this iconic Greco-Roman architecturally-styled temple constructed in 1935. Still rarer is the honor to advance justice during an actual session in the same chambers where impactful cases defining race like the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* were litigated.

The outcome of the case brought by Washington's organization and others led to a settlement that allowed individuals purged from Ohio voter rolls in 2019 to cast a provisional ballot and restored to the rolls. Washington, who serves as state president for the A. Philip Randolph Institute and state treasurer for the NAACP, calls this his proudest accomplishment in his decades of activism.

Today, Andre Washington is still fighting to bring "power to the people." So, I caught up with the inexhaustible freedom fighter to find out where things currently stand in our constant struggle for freedom, justice, and equity. This is our discussion:

Perryman: You have a long and illustrious career. I remember my wife and others talking about your work for Head Start maybe back in the 1990s. Tell us about your history of advocacy and activism.

Washington: I was born and raised in Ypsilanti, Michigan, but my career started in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan Medical Center, where I worked for Local 1583, a unit of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Perryman: What were your duties initially?

Washington: I got involved in my union as a steward, but I started at the bottom. I used to fix the phones at the union hall, lick and stamp envelopes, helped to plan the retirement and Valentine's Day parties, clean the bathrooms. I was a worker bee and volunteered lots and lots of times.

Perryman: How did you get to Ohio?

Washington: I next got a job as a union organizer in Detroit, Michigan, where I helped organize the Detroit Medical Center. From there, I came to Ohio, where I've been for 21 years now. For 12 of those, I lived in Toledo and working for my current employer, the Ohio Association of Public School Employees (OAPSE). I represented Toledo Head Start and schools in the Findlay and Lima areas as chief negotiator and perform labor arbitration.

tration.

Perryman: What are you most proud of concerning the labor movement?

Washington: Labor has always been there at the forefront of supporting civil rights. I can go back in history to the establishment of the 40-hour week. It was labor that accomplished that.

What I'm really proud about with the labor movement is how diverse the movement is. The labor movement is increasing how women and people of color have a seat at the table. I'm proud to say my union OAPSE, AFSCME, the UAW, AFT, Steel Workers, the list goes on and on, how diverse the labor movement is. There was a time when the labor movement was just older white men, so I am so proud of the labor movement's diversity.

Perryman: What accomplishments as a labor negotiator are you proud?

Washington: Certainly, when I negotiate a fair contract and give someone good wages. That's something I love to death. When someone comes to me and says, 'I'm living check to check, and the raise that you just negotiated for me is going to help out tremendously.' That right there is a natural high that I get. Or, when someone has been wrongfully terminated, and we have to go to arbitration and it may take four or five months to get to arbitration, and win that person their job back and get them back pay. That makes me feel good, and a lot of those people would never have gotten their job back if it wasn't for collective bargaining. That goes back when I was a kid. My grandmother used to stress always take care of the least of them; you always try to speak out for those that do not have a voice or are unable to speak for themselves.

Perryman: You talked earlier about the partnership between labor and civil rights. Currently, what are the top issues for black and brown people?

Washington: One of the hot issues is redistricting. We have to make sure that the community, especially communities of color, are not "cracked or packed." When I talk about cracking and packing, these are gerrymandering strategies that seek to either pack all Democrats into one district or establish district boundaries using distorted configurations manipulated to dilute our voting power.

A prime example would be Marcy Kaptur's district. Marcy Kaptur used to have the entire City of Toledo and the surrounding cities. Now she has the 'snake along the lake,' which goes all the way over to Cuyahoga County, even close to Summit County, to represent people. I don't believe that's fair to the voters in Lucas County.

Another issue is that of food deserts. In Lucas County, among black and brown communities, people have to drive miles to get to a good grocery store. Sometimes people buy their meat from the local gas station where they may have a cooler in the back because they don't have transportation to get across town to a Kroger or a Meijer.

Perryman: Are there any issues besides those two?

Washington: Another critical issue right now is Ohio House Bill 294. House Bill 294 restricts voting. They're going to try to spin it 12 different ways on how good House Bill 294 is. There are some good things in there when we talk about automatic voter registration or online voter registration.

But what's terrible about 294 is that they want to eliminate voting on the Monday before the election.

What about those 31,000 people in Ohio that voted on Monday before the last Presidential election? Now we've just disenfranchised 31,000 people. There's a problem with that.

Perryman: What other provisions in bill 294 restrict voting?

Washington: Also, the bill aims to limit drop off boxes to the last ten



Andre Washington

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The Juneteenth Hypocrisy

By RaShya Ghee, Esq

Guest Column

Hypocrisy has long characterized America's racial realities. In the 1770s, colonists demanded freedom from "enslavement" of the crown while simultaneously enslaving practically an entire race of people. In 1829, President Andrew Jackson deplored the genocide of indigenous communities while simultaneously crafting the Trail of Tears.



The Southern Manifesto, a declaration signed by over 100 white congressmen in 1956, repudiated the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* as "destroying amicable relations between the white and Negro races that have been created through 90 years of patient effort by the good people of both races" and as sowing seeds of "suspicion and hatred" where there had been "friendship and understanding".

Those 90 years had actually been characterized by some of the worst racial terrorism in the form of lynchings and some of the worst human rights violations in the history of this country with Jim Crow justice (which none of those congressmen wrote a declaration opposing). Most Black people were elated by the decision and did not share in these sentiments of Brown having destroyed amicable relations with whites. They knew that those relationships were anything but amicable.

This hypocrisy isn't just confined, however, to the pages of history. Just this past Tuesday, on June 14, 2021, the United States Senate unanimously voted to designate Juneteenth, the holiday commemorating when the last slaves were freed in Texas, a federal holiday. Many Black Americans have celebrated Juneteenth for more than a century as it is colloquially known as "our Independence Day." And it should be telling that our nation, premised on freedom, equality and egalitarian values, is just now ready to embrace the end of slavery as a jubilee that should be celebrated and acknowledged nationally.

Wouldn't a nation that "fought a civil war to put the sin of slavery behind us," as Mitch McConnell has remarked, be ready to celebrate the end of such sin in 1865 at the war's end? Or, at the very least, 100 years later in 1965 at the height of our civil rights reckoning? We should ask ourselves where we were (are) as a nation that this didn't happen sooner.

Just so we're clear, making Juneteenth a federal holiday is the right move and this article is not intended to detract from that. It remains equally important, however, to examine the latent hypocrisy in supporting these symbolic gestures while simultaneously blocking any substantive measure designed to facilitate actual racial justice and equality.

Senator Thom Tillis of North Carolina, for example, is one of the signatories of the Juneteenth resolution. On the same day he tweeted that he had "co-sponsored legislation that would prohibit the use of federal funds to teach the 1619 Project in K-12 schools."

The 1619 Project is a Pulitzer Prize winning project meant to re-orient our understanding of the impact and importance of slavery on America's founding and development. How exactly are teachers to explain the significance of Juneteenth without being able to instruct students on why it exists in the first place?

Juneteenth isn't just about the end of slavery.



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Texas was a safe haven for enslavers during the Civil War and, by executive order, the slaves there had actually been free for years before Union troops arrived and delivered the news. In other words, Texas harbored traitors who fled there to continue exploiting free labor and abusing people because they believed that the enslaved were unworthy of freedom and equality.

The 1619 Project along with Critical Race Theory have faced mounting resistance as America continues to wrestle with its racial tensions. Reminiscent of the delusional justifications offered to defend congressional opposition to Brown, the numerous congressional opponents of the 1619 Project and Critical Race Theory often cite its "divisiveness" (which presumes a present racial unity that is a fallacy at best) and support for "traditional patriotic curriculum" (which usually includes rampant inaccuracies and distortions about racial history told almost exclusively from the perspective of white people).

As disheartening and nonsensical as this opposition is, the stakes couldn't be higher. The debate about whether or not American children will learn the truth about race and racism in America is the most important fight of this era; not elections; not court cases. Again, the most important fight of our generation is whether or not we're going to accurately teach about American racism in schools.

As an educator and someone who teaches about racism for a living, I can say with full confidence that if the truth about race in America was taught in schools throughout the country, we'd have a much more cohesive and unified nation, significantly more racial equality, and be a more prosperous country.

Since the end of slavery when public education became ubiquitous, there has been a deliberate effort to distort what information is taught about race and it has always been from the perspective of largely uninformed whites. How did you learn about the 1850 gold rush but not about Tulsa? How were you taught that Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492 but weren't taught that in 1790, before the US gave you any civil liberties, it limited the eligibility for citizenship to free white people only?

How is it that you know there was a feast between pilgrims and Indians but not that the US Supreme Court ruled that in disputes between the US government and Native Americans over land, the titles vest exclusively in European Christians (aka the Doctrine of Discovery) and that this is still good law?

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TARTA Returning to Pre-COVID Hours of Service on June 28

Rossford Call-A-Ride Resumes; TARTA Remains Fare Free

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) is bringing back hours of service to pre-COVID schedules on Monday, June 28, 2021. The announcement also includes resuming Call-A-Ride service in the City of Rossford; continuing free fares through the summer; and improving frequency on 10 routes to run every 60 minutes. As Ohio's COVID-19 health restrictions were lifted and more Northwest Ohio residents return to normal activities, TARTA is responding with the following service improvements:

- **Fixed Route Bus Service:** Weekday service from the Downtown Toledo Transit Hub will operate 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Saturday service will operate 9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. with expanded hours of service to 9:30 p.m. on Routes 2C, 5C, 12, 14 19 and 31C. All routes will now run every 30 or 60 minutes; an improvement from the 90 minute frequency during the pandemic.

- **Paratransit Service/Toledo Area Regional Paratransit Service (TARPS):** Weekday TARPS service will begin at 4:55 a.m. to 9:40 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday service is expanded to 7:50 a.m. to 10:20 p.m.

- **Call-A-Ride Improvements:** TARTA's on-demand service is returning to Rossford and continues to be available in Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Sylvania, Sylvania Township and Waterville.

Hours of service are also returning to pre-COVID schedules. Customers will need to reserve their ride(s) the day before by 3 p.m. Multiple trips are allowed pending availability.

All TARTA services will continue to operate at no charge to customers. As required by federal law, all passengers must wear a mask and TARTA provides complimentary masks if needed. TARTA's Rider Information Line is available to answer questions about the new service at 419- 243-7433 Monday through Saturday. For TARPS information, call 419-382-9901. Details are also available at www.tarta.com including a new trip planner for riders to easily plan how to use the TARTA system.

Juneteenth... continued from page 3

No one is indoctrinating children unless by "indoctrinating" you mean "trying to teach them what actually happened so that they're able to change course from where this nation has historically been on issues of race and make more informed decisions."

Herein lies the hypocrisy. You cannot tout your support for symbolic gestures as evidence of your proclivities for racial equality while simultaneously working against measures primed to make said equality a reality. You cannot embrace a celebration ending slavery without making room in educational curriculum for honest discussions, from the perspectives of slaves and their descendants, about why it was a horrible institution whose ending is one of our greatest national accomplishments.

If the hypocrisy will ever be held to account, as a community we must keep our eyes on those substantive measures while affording little weight to the performative nonsense.

Perryman... continued from page 2

days of early voting. What if I'm downtown 20 days before the election and I have my ballot in my car, and I want to drop it off, and I've got problems with my leg and can't get out of the car?

Again, we're disenfranchised, and I keep saying that word over and over and over because the word fits what they're trying to do, disenfranchise folks. People in the disability community should be in an uproar over this. Senior citizens who don't want to get out of their car because they don't want to walk that far should also be outraged over the reduction of drop boxes.

Perryman: It doesn't seem fair or equitable.

Washington: Now, they're also trying to shorten days and hours. What happens when you shorten things? You start having long lines, and there is no reason in the world why they couldn't have multiple drop off box locations throughout the county. Public libraries do it. You can drop your book off at any public library at a secure box any time of the day. You've got government buildings that have cameras. You could put the drop off box in government centers. There's all type of ways you can do it if you want to give the people greater access to the ballot box. But if you want to restrict people, then you limit the number of drop off boxes, and then limit the number of days that the drop off boxes are out.

Perryman: So, how should the community respond?

Washington: The first thing we can do is start talking about this bill when we're in the barbershop, beauty shop, grocery store, when we're at work, or at the kitchen table. We can start having dialogue. There's an old saying, each one reach one, and each one teach one. We've got social media now, but the best advertisement is still, and always will be, word of mouth.

We also need our pastors to talk about these issues when they give their pulpit announcements. It's okay to put it in the bulletin, but as pastors, we

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Cecelia Adams, PhD – Leaving Council on Her Own Terms

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

As Toledo City Councilwoman Cecelia Adams, PhD, is on her way out, a new city department is on the way in – a city department that the councilwoman has spent a considerable amount of time developing during her short time on Council.

The Department of Parks and Youth Services is in the development phase as funds have been set aside to provide the salaries for the second half of 2021 for “highly qualified staff members,” says Adams who will plan and organize programming in the critical areas of parks, recreation, youth services and educational engagement/workforce development.

A director and three commissioners will oversee the planning phase by developing “a comprehensive strategy for each division,” says Adams. “We need people who know how to do the job – experienced individuals.”

The correct name for the new project, says Adams, is “Creating the Department of Parks and Youth Services” while the actual department is still in the development phase.

The creation of the project and the new department to follow has not been without a certain amount of controversy. Adams had proposed the department back in March and it was approved by her council colleagues but vetoed by Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz due to a legal process issue. Several council members switched their votes in order to uphold the mayor's veto. So she went back to the drawing board, worked with the administration and sorted out the issues that caused the veto.

Now instead of a Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth Services and Educational Engagement, a Department of Parks and Youth Services will come into being – although recreation, youth services, educational engagement and workforce development will all be part of the new department. The major structural change in her new proposal is that park maintenance will remain with the Department of Public Services.

Adams, an educator by profession and choice and an elected official who was drafted and cajoled into her current situation, has clearly identified what she can do to improve the lives of the city's youth.

“We want robust internships and apprenticeships,” she insists. “We want to support youth academically. We have all these professionals everywhere – doctors, lawyers, teachers, accountants – we want to get the kids prepared.”

The new department is also expected to work cooperatively with other city organizations that are in the business of helping youth, particularly with educational attainment.

“We need the department to pull in all these other organizations and coordinate their efforts – we need the weight of the city behind these other organizations and to sustain them.”

Adams, a Toledo native and daughter of the esteemed Samantha Ad-

ams, attended Scott High School, graduated from Bowsher, earned her bachelor's degree from the former Mary Manse College and three graduate degrees, including her doctorate, from the University of Toledo.

She taught science for 14 years in the Toledo Public Schools district before moving into administration, eventually becoming assistant superintendent for middle schools.

After her retirement, Adams was persuaded to join the Toledo Board of Education to replace the departing Jack Ford. Reluctantly, she recalls, she accepted and then was persuaded to run for election to remain on the board.

In 2015, after the death of Jack Ford, then a Toledo city councilman, she was persuaded to replace Ford on council – a replacement voted on by the council members. She once more reluctantly agreed. In 2017, she won election in her own right, doing so with the intention of serving only one full term.

Now in 2021, she has declined to run for re-election, in large part because she believes that she has accomplished on Council, what she had intended to accomplish. Because of legislation, or the collaborative efforts with other organizations, that she has introduced or supported on Council, she takes pride in a number of successes: the end of certain types of discrimination due to appearance, the end of pay day lending proliferation, the establishment of the EMT certification for Toledo students via Owens Community College, a program of study for 10 to 12 graders that credentials them in public safety.

And the creation of this new department, given her concern for education and the well-being of youth, is undoubtedly her crowning achievement.

“I've done what I was asked to do and I am proud of legislation I have helped pass,” she reflects.



City Councilwoman Cecelia Adams, PhD

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Toledo 4 Boxing's Week-Long Boxing Camp

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"Boxing is so much more than something to watch on TV," said Toledo City Councilwoman Vanice Williams on Monday, June 21, as she announced the opening of a week-long boxing camp at Smith Park.

A number of boxing coaches from area boxing clubs who will be providing guidance and instruction for youth ages 10-17 joined Williams for the announcement. This Saturday, the culmination of the camp will be a show of amateur boxing in the park.

Asking Toledo residents to support the boxing clubs, Williams said of the clubs: "They came out and answered the cry – doing this will make us a better community; there is a need to save inner-city kids."

Lunch for the boxing students is being provided by Connecting Kids to Meals during the week and on Saturday they will all receive Title boxing gloves for their daily attendance.

The participating boxing clubs are New Generation, The Bunny Team, Central City, The Bull Pen and Team Cartel.

A second summer camp is planned for August. To register for the free camp in August call, 419-214-0775 or email toledoboxing4@gmail.com or complete the form online at <https://hipaa.jotform.com/211468571276158>



Councilwoman Vanice Williams (center) announces boxing camp

Perryman... continued from page 4

need to stand up and just give 30 seconds' mention on some of these voter bills because it's gospel if it comes from the pulpit, and people know when it comes out of the mouth of pastors, that it's true.

Second, we can start calling and writing our lawmakers, even the Democrat lawmakers. Most of them are on board and oppose this bill, but we need to light a fire in their belly and let them know that the community has their back, and we know they're advocating on our behalf.

Next, we are planning a demonstration next week on Thursday, June 24th, at the statehouse. We're trying to get carloads and busloads of people. My understanding is Toledo has already confirmed that they have one bus, and are looking at getting some vans to bring people from To-

ledo to Columbus.

Perryman: Who are the organizations behind the protests?

Washington: The A. Phillip Randolph Institute, the NAACP, National Action Network, the Ohio Unity Coalition, and local politicians like Paula Hicks Hudson and Lisa Sobecki, we're all leading this charge.

I'm going to repeat this one more time:

- word of mouth,
- talking to people,
- standing up in the pulpit,
- letting everybody know because House Bill 294 is just the tip of the iceberg.

There are other bills that they are formulating right now to suppress our vote waiting to get assigned a bill number. But they are coming.

Perryman: Why is it imperative to act now?

Washington: Ohio is not going to be one of these states like Oklahoma or Mississippi. I apologize to my sisters and brothers from those states. We are not going to be one of those states.

We are going to meet voter suppression at the border, and we're going to turn it away. We're telling voter suppression 'you don't got to go home, but you got to get the heck up out of Ohio' because we are not going to stand for it!

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, Ph.D. at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

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The Junction Area Juneteenth Celebrations

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Junction community attracted over 300 people between Dorr and Detroit streets, to enjoy a day-long series of activities to commemorate Juneteenth.

The African American Legacy Project (AALP) organized a program to observe the centennial anniversary of the Negro Leagues and unveil the official historical marker. The event was held at the AALP property located on Collingwood and Dorr which was decorated as a baseball diamond. The event was supported by local vendors, event sponsors and members of the African American Legacy Project's Sports Legends.

The program was co-hosted by Tom Cole of BCSN and James Starks of WTVG. Rev. Willie Perryman delivered the prayer, Theresa Harris sang "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" plus another selection, while several elected officials and community leaders delivered remarks in recognition of the occasion.

"Thrilled to be here today for the first federally recognized Juneteenth. I just want to stand here and tell you that I respect Mr. Robert Smith and what he has done in Toledo. Congrats on this accomplishment Mr. Smith," said U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

"Events like today provide what we can become. Remember those who came before us, put their names on buildings, plaques, and parks to draw strength from them like they never left," shared Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

"I want to thank the Sports Legends for their dedication to this event and entire project. It's not about me but the volunteers. They are important. AALP has been here for 17 years and we're still growing in partnerships. Thank you to the Sports Legends and to our board," said Robert Smith, CEO of African American Legacy Project.

Immediately following the program and unveiling, two community coalitions presented a parade which featured music, dancing and social awareness and community celebration.

The parade began at the corner of Collingwood and Dorr and ended at the



The Juice, Rick, Haley and Deb Hogan with Dante Mayes and Tisha Lee



Councilwoman Tiffany Preston-Whitman and family

Frederick Douglass Community Association grounds. The Junction Coalition recruited community vendors: Born 2 Sparkle, Charming Gal boutique, Chris's Custom Creations, Customtreatz Afi, Deflame Candles, Divine Designz by Angela, isChosen Customs, Myra Love, Ohio Snkrz, Papparazzi Nichole, Rehabsneakers, Savvy Sista, Sonia Organics, Sui Generus, Trina's Mobile Nail Clinic and Unique Collections. A Community United recruited community partners: Toledo Opera, Toledo MetroParks, The Arts Commission, Toledo Symphony and VProject to provide services for celebration attendees.

"Juneteenth is not without the consistent efforts of Ms. Opal Lee. She's 94 years old and made this day possible. She has demonstrated that everyday people can accomplish extraordinary accomplishments," said Toledo City Councilwoman Tiffany Whitman, PhD.

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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. This month, we also celebrate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

—Bill Rudolph, Chairman, Rudolph Libbe Group

Lakeith Jefferson, a warehouse associate at GEM Inc., credits his father, Willie Jefferson, for his decision to choose a construction career. Willie Jefferson worked 42 years as a laborer and operator at Rudolph Libbe Inc. before retiring in 2007.

Lakeith worked in other industries before joining construction. "I've worked in restaurant management and in a hospital. The money's a lot better here. At other jobs, you're doing the same things all the time, but this is spontaneous. There are some jobs where you hate going to work. I love coming here."

The work offers plenty of variety, but it's also demanding. On the hard days, he stays positive.

"It's a mindset. I come here in a good mood, even if something goes wrong. If you come in sad, you're going to be sad all day."

Just as it was for his father, racism is a constant. Not at work, they both say, but in their personal lives. His 75-year-old father describes standing in his own front yard in a predominantly white neighborhood when a police officer stopped to ask if he lived there. Leaving for work in the early morning, he would often notice a police car following him. It stopped after he had lived in the neighborhood for a while.

At nearly 50, Lakeith has had similar experiences. "It's rough. It can be bad sometimes. There's nothing here [on the job], but the police will follow me if I go out to lunch. I've been stopped for having tinted windows. I was stopped coming back from Cedar Point."

He worries about his 19-year-old son's safety. "I gave him a talk. If he's pulled over, I've told him, 'Don't do a lot of moving. Listen to what they say.' He'd be nervous, so I've told him, 'Don't make sudden moves. Be aware of your surroundings.'"

Treating others with decency and kindness is important. On the job, he believes in helping the younger generation be successful. "One thing about construction is when someone comes in who's new, the people who are getting old and ready to retire kind of dog them. You should show them the ropes instead of dogging them. I'm going to be 50, so I'm not too old to relate to them. I still believe in just being positive."



The Junction... continued from page 7

"Today was epic and monumental. We celebrate the historic significant of today and the sacrifices made by so many," said Reggie Williams of Frederick Douglass Community Association.

The Negro League was created in 1920 to provide African Americans the opportunity to play baseball by pitcher, Rube Foster. The inaugural teams were: Chicago American Giants, Chicago Giants, Cuban Stars, Dayton Maros, Detroit Stars, Kansas City Monarchs, Indianapolis ABCs and St. Louis Giants. Toledo was home to three Negro teams: Toledo Tigers from 1922-1923, Toledo Crawfords in 1939 and Toledo Cubs in 1944.

The celebration sponsors were: Taylor Automotive Family, Lucas Metro-

...continued on page 9



The unveiling of the Negro League marker



Dorra St. Live, Charlesena Smith with Shirley Hohnson and Deborah Smith



Photos Courtesy of Carla Thomas and Tisha Laws



Robert L. Smith



Sports Legend, Doug Allen



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The Junction... continued from page 8

politan Housing, Toledo Lucas County Library, The Arts Commission, Juice 107.3 FM radio, City of Toledo, Toledo Public Schools and Lucas County UMAODOP.

The Junction Coalition's vision is to create a viable, safe, and sustainable community for ALL generations CONNECTED to RESOURCES and INFORMATION PROMOTING a better quality of LIFE. The coalition's four pillars are: Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, Social Justice and Peace Education. For additional information visit <https://junctioncoalition419.org/>

Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation announcement and enforcement in Texas by Union soldiers at the conclusion of the Civil War on June 19, 1865, two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Over the years, the day was commemorated primarily in the black community.

In 1980, Texas became the first state to officially recognize the day as a holiday and by 2019, 47 states and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth. President Biden signed the legislation into law in June of 2021 that marks Juneteenth as an official United States holiday. This follows the efforts of Opal Lee, who fought for years to ensure that Juneteenth became a national holiday.



Alaiyah Myles, dancer with the Toledo Dream Queens



Clark Morgan of the 5th United States Colored Troop sharing information with festival attendee.



Singer Ivana Butler with the Toledo Symphony Ensemble



Joe Ferguson and Tony Williams of Freedom Riders



Nevaeh and Keelei Smith of Freedom Riders

Photos Courtesy of Carla Thomas and Tisha Laws



Kam Kyser, Libby Schoenberg and Matt Sutter of Lucas County Metropolitan Housing Authority

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Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP) Want to improve the IRS? SPEAK UP

By Andrea Price, TAP member representing Ohio

Guest Column

The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is comprised of civic-minded citizen volunteers from all walks of life representing each state, D.C., Puerto Rico and an international member (citizens living, working or doing business abroad). TAP is a Federal Advisory Committee whose mission is to listen to taxpayers, identify taxpayers' issues and make suggestions for improving the IRS service and customer satisfaction.



Everyone has something to say about taxes and the IRS. Please take a moment to give us your suggestions for TAP to consider by contacting one of the following:

TAP Ohio member: tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com

Call Toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227

Website: www.improveirs.org

IRS sending letters to more than 36 million families who may qualify for monthly Child Tax Credits; payments start July 15 [IRS-2021-124 notice]

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has started sending letters to more than 36 million American families who, based on tax returns filed with the agency, may be eligible to receive monthly Child Tax Credit payments starting in July.

The expanded and newly-advanceable Child Tax Credit was authorized

... continued on page 12

Helping Small Businesses Thrive in Today's Digital World

Special to The Truth

Small businesses were hit particularly hard by the pandemic, with nearly 10 million American small businesses closing their doors at least temporarily over the past 15 months. Despite an uncertain economy, small

business owners were resilient, creative and agile, shifting their business models to take advantage of e-commerce, many for the first time.

Before COVID-19, more than one in three small businesses had never reported a digital sale. Today, nearly seven out of eight small businesses are selling goods and services online. For the millions of resilient small businesses still operating, the mass move to online and mobile shopping ushers in a new era of opportunity. At the same time, additional resources will be needed to support them.

"For over a year, small businesses have faced one unimaginable challenge after another," says Mike Katz, executive vice president, T-Mobile for Business. "At a time when mobile connectivity and internet access are required to advertise services, sell products and interact with customers, no small business should be without these necessary resources."

... continued on page 12

VOTING RIGHTS RALLY

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Social Security Column

Three Ways to Achieve Independence with Social Security

By Erin Thompson

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

Guest Column

Celebrating our nation's independence every year on July 4 is a point of joy and pride. For more than 85 years, our programs have helped provide financial independence to millions of hardworking people. We have three useful online tools to help you achieve the financial independence you deserve in retirement.

my Social Security – You're in control with the many services available online through my Social Security. Creating a secure account will help you conduct Social Security business from home or on the go. With your personal my Social Security account, you can:

- Request a replacement Social Security card (in one of the 45 eligible states and the District of Columbia).
- Review your earnings history.
- Get personalized retirement benefit estimates.
- Check the status of your Social Security application or appeal.

If you already receive benefits, you can also:

- Request a replacement Social Security card (in one of the 45 eligible states and the District of Columbia).
- Get a benefit verification letter or proof of income letter.
- Set up or change your direct deposit.
- Change your address.
- Request a replacement Medicare card.
- Get a Social Security 1099 form (SSA-1099).

Frequently Asked Questions – What is your full retirement age? How do you apply for Social Security retirement benefits? Do you have to pay taxes on Social Security benefits? Discover the answers to your Social Security-related questions at our Frequently Asked Questions page at www.ssa.gov/faq.

Social Security's Official Blog – Stay informed about our latest news, retirement planning tips, and other helpful information. Our blog at blog.ssa.gov features messages direct from our Commissioner, as well as information from other experts. You can sign up to get an email each time a new blog is available so you won't miss new postings. From the blog, you can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, where you can watch our informational videos. Don't forget to share these resources with your family and friends and encourage them to join us.

With so many services and helpful information available online, we are here for you when your schedule allows. Be sure to tell friends and family about all they can do with us from anywhere at www.ssa.gov.

Happy Birthday, Medicare! What Happens When You Turn 65

This July marks the 56th anniversary of Medicare. Did you know you can apply for Medicare online even if you are not ready to start your retirement benefits? Applying online can take less than 10 minutes. There are no forms to sign and we usually require no additional documentation. We'll process your application and contact you if we need more information.

Knowing when to apply for Medicare is very important. You have a limited initial enrollment period to apply. If you miss the initial enrollment period, you may have to pay a higher monthly premium. If you're eligible for Medicare at age 65, your initial enrollment period begins three months before your 65th birthday and ends three months after that birthday. Visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare to apply for Medicare and find other important information.

Some Medicare beneficiaries may qualify for *Extra Help* with their Medicare prescription drug plan costs. To qualify for *Extra Help*, a person must be receiving Medicare, have limited resources and income, and reside in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia. Read our publication Understanding the Extra Help With Your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan for more information at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10508.pdf. The official Medicare website at www.medicare.gov offers many online services where you can find answers to these questions:

What does Medicare cover? www.medicare.gov/what-medicare-covers

Where do I find forms for filing a Medicare appeal? www.medicare.gov/claims-appeals/how-do-i-file-an-appeal

How can I let someone speak with Medicare on my behalf? www.medicare.gov/claims-appeals/file-an-appeal/can-someone-file-an-appeal-for-me

What do Medicare health and prescription drug plans in my area cost, and what services do they offer? www.medicare.gov/plan-compare

Which doctors, health care providers, and suppliers participate in Medicare? www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/find-compare-doctors-hospitals-other-providers

Where can I find out more about a Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) and enroll? www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/how-to-get-prescription-drug-coverage

Where can I find a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy in my area? www.medicare.gov/medigap-supplemental-insurance-plans

Please share these helpful resources with friends and family today.

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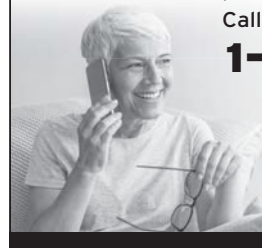
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¹ "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020

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Ohio Sheds More Jobs in May

As recovery stalls, state still has 321,000 fewer jobs since COVID-19 struck

Special to The Truth

The numbers: Seasonally adjusted data released today by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) show Ohio employers cut 14,800 jobs in May, taking Ohio to 5,289,200 jobs and making May the third month of job reductions since the economy began to recover. A downward revision showed that Ohio also fared slightly worse in April than initially thought, losing 8,000 jobs instead of the first estimated 3,700. As of May, Ohio has 321,000 fewer jobs than in February 2020, before COVID-19.

The rapid growth of the early recovery that prompted a hiring surge brought back more than half a million jobs from a low of 4,721,400 in April 2020. Now progress seems to have stalled far short of a total recovery. May's job numbers take Ohio below where we were in November 2020, when Ohio had 5,292,300 jobs. That means no progress toward recovery in six months.

Supply chain disruptions may be partly to blame for job losses in three of five months this year. These are supplies and components used to make goods or provide services whose production got held up by COVID-19. Employers in trade, transportation and utilities reduced jobs by 7,800 last month; nondurable goods manufacturers cut a further 4,400 jobs.

"With 321,000 fewer Ohio jobs than in February 2020, Ohioans cannot afford a stalled recovery," said Policy Matters Ohio researcher Michael Shields. "Even though more Ohioans were laid off in three out of 2021's five months, Gov. DeWine announced plans to prematurely end \$300-per-week enhanced unemployment benefits effective next week. This cruel decision will cost Ohio \$1 billion in foregone payments to Ohio families

whose jobs have been destroyed by the recession, and lost business revenue their spending would have generated. Gov. DeWine should reverse it immediately."

The household survey

According to the separate survey of households, Ohio's unemployment rate rose from 4.7 percent in April to 5.0 percent in May.

The household survey marked a dramatic swing from the prior month's estimates, with an estimate of 223,000 jobs lost in May, from 5,494,000 jobs in April down to 5,271,000 jobs in May. Monthly numbers are preliminary and subject to change. This change likely indicates a survey irregularity. While it is not clear whether May's estimates or prior ones were more accurate, May's numbers agree more closely with the employer survey.

The household survey reported a similar reduction in labor force participation of 218,000, for a rate down 3.4 percentage points, from 62.3 percent to 59.9 percent.

Shields said, "While preliminary numbers are subject to change, the trend of the last few months is clear: Ohio's recovery has slowed to a crawl, leaving out hundreds of thousands of Ohioans. What's more, we know the suffering from this recession is not evenly distributed. In May, Black Ohioans filed initial jobless claims at nearly double the rate of their white counterparts. Ohio policymakers need to use every available tool to restart this recovery and sustain it long enough to include everyone. That means restoring federal unemployment benefits immediately, directing fiscal recovery funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to drive equitable growth, and using the state budget to care for all Ohioans, no exceptions."

TAP... continued from page 10

by the American Rescue Plan Act, enacted in March. The letters are going to families who may be eligible based on information they included in either their 2019 or 2020 federal income tax return or who used the Non-Filers tool on IRS.gov last year to register for an Economic Impact Payment.

Families who are eligible for advance Child Tax Credit payments will receive a second, personalized letter listing an estimate of their monthly payment, which begins July 15.

Most families do not need to take any action to get their payment. Normally, the IRS will calculate the payment amount based on the 2020 tax return. If that return is not available, either because it has not yet been filed or it has not yet been processed, the IRS will instead determine the payment amount using the 2019 return.

Eligible families will begin receiving advance payments, either by direct deposit or check. The payment will be up to \$300 per month for each qualifying child under age 6 and up to \$250 per month for each qualifying child ages 6 to 17. The IRS will issue advance Child Tax Credit payments on July 15, August 13, September 15, October 15, November 15 and December 15.

Eligible families should file tax returns soon

The IRS urges individuals and families who haven't yet filed their 2020

return – or 2019 return – to do so as soon as possible so they can receive any advance payment they're eligible for.

Filing soon will also ensure that the IRS has their most current banking information, as well as key details about qualifying children. This includes people who don't normally file a tax return, such as families experiencing homelessness, the rural poor, and other underserved groups.

For most people, the fastest and easiest way to file a return is by using the Free File system, available only on IRS.gov.

Throughout the summer, the IRS will be adding additional tools and online resources to help with the advance Child Tax Credit. One of these tools will enable families to unenroll from receiving these advance payments and instead receive the full amount of the credit when they file their 2021 return next year.

Additionally, later this year, individuals and families will also be able to go to IRS.gov and use a Child Tax Credit Update Portal to notify IRS of changes in their income, filing status, or number of qualifying children; update their direct deposit information; and make other changes to ensure they are receiving the right amount as quickly as possible.

Child Tax Credit Changes

The American Rescue Plan raised the maximum Child Tax Credit in 2021 to \$3,600 for qualifying children under the age of 6 and to \$3,000 per child for qualifying children between ages 6 and 17. Before 2021, the credit was worth up to \$2,000 per eligible child, and 17-year-olds were not considered as qualifying children for the credit.

The new maximum credit is available to taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income (AGI) of:

- \$75,000 or less for singles,
- \$112,500 or less for heads of household, and
- \$150,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return and qualified widows and widowers.

For most people, modified AGI is the amount shown on Line 11 of their 2020 Form 1040 or 1040-SR. Above these income thresholds, the extra amount above the original \$2,000 credit – either \$1,000 or \$1,600 per child – is reduced by \$50 for every extra \$1,000 in modified AGI.

In addition, the entire credit is fully refundable for 2021. This means that eligible families can get it, even if they owe no federal income tax. Before this year, the refundable portion was limited to \$1,400 per child.

The IRS urges community groups, non-profits, associations, education organizations, and others with connections to people with children to share this critical information about the Child Tax Credit as well as other important benefits. The IRS will be providing in the near future additional materials and information that can be easily shared by social media, email and other methods.

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Where You Are is Not Who You Are by Ursula M. Burns, former CEO of Xerox

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Start small, plan big.

You don't have to have much for the former, just a little love and a place to launch. The latter, though, that takes some work. You have to see the goal, hold your confidence tight, and know yourself well. And then, as in the new book *Where You Are is Not Who You Are* by Ursula M. Burns, you step up and fly.

c.2021
Amistad
\$27.99 / \$34.99 Canada
240 pages

When she was a child growing up in a New York tenement, Ursula Burns never thought about how much her mother sacrificed for her and her siblings. The family had food, shelter, a TV, school, and clothing. It wasn't until Burns was almost grown that she realized what a feat this was: her single, Panamanian-born mother kept the family going on \$4,400 a year.

Somehow, despite the lack of income, Burns was able to attend a Manhattan Catholic school, where she excelled in her studies and learned that being vocal could make a difference in how things were run. This outspokenness did indeed make change, but it also led to a certain amount of chiding when she was an adult.

Upon graduation, Burns says she had her pick of several major colleges, but she chose Brooklyn Polytech, after having decided upon a career based on its potential income. It was heavily steeped in math, a skill she was good at but her more-privileged classmates were better; it took a few months to catch up before she began tutoring others in math class. Burns loved school and she was grateful for the help she got from New York's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), which provided support, both career-wise and economically.

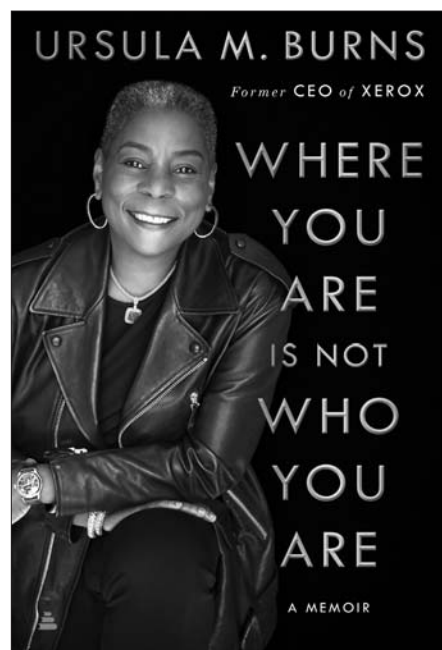
At the end of her junior year in college, she accepted an internship position at Xerox and the company supported her while she got her master's degree. Upon graduation, she took the full-time job they offered, a position that allowed her to make history...

Get a few pages into *Where You Are is Not Who You Are* and you might reconsider your plans to finish this book. Author Ursula M. Burns jumps almost immediately to the latter part of her career, leaping from point to place to person in a dizzying chunk that's exhausting to read. Name-dropping features heavily there, it lasts way too long, and it feels forced.

If you're still with the book, you'll be happy when Burns settles in to share her memoir, a rags-to-riches tale that has the feel of a TV movie. It rambles a little, but that rambling is appealing; Burns writes of poverty and of determination, resourcefulness, and the love of family before sliding into the story of her career again.

The second time on that subject, thankfully, is readable and quite well-done.

This is one of those books in which you need to prepare yourself to pick and choose what you read. Be ready to skim or skip parts. Do that, and you'll be fine; otherwise, reading *Where You Are is Not Who You Are* could be a big task.



Small Businesses... continued from page 10

To help fuel the resurgence of small business, T-Mobile is offering the following solutions and benefits, available today:

- New smartphone plans. Staying viable in a mobile-first world requires affordable connectivity. To that end, T-Mobile is offering new smartphone plans purpose-built for business. Every plan includes unlimited talk, text, and data over America's largest, fastest, and most reliable 5G network, and high-speed mobile hotspot data to power whole teams on-the-go.

- High-speed internet. As bad as broadband access can be for consumers who must deal with high-prices and sparse competition, it's often actually worse for small businesses. Many business plans from traditional ISPs deliver the same service levels as residential plans, but for often twice the price. Small Business Internet from T-Mobile delivers fast, reliable connectivity without annual contracts or costly surprises, along with tech support from dedicated experts.

- Digital outreach. Today, two-thirds of Facebook users visit a local business page at least once weekly. In a world that packed a decade of digital transformation into the last year, it often takes digital savvy and the ability to reach customers online to succeed. Through a new program, Facebook Advertising on Us, small businesses can receive up to three one-on-one consultations with a Facebook Marketing Expert, along with educational resources. Plus, every small business on T-Mobile with three or more lines can get \$200 in digital advertising to market their company on Facebook and Instagram.

"By pairing fast, reliable internet with digital tools, training and marketing support, we can help small businesses connect with their communities," says Mark D'Arcy, Facebook vice president of Global Business Marketing.

For additional resources, visit t-mobile.com/opportunity. To access a growing library of new original content on entrepreneurship, visit t-mobile.com/business/magenta-edge. Finally, beginning June 1, 2021 through July 9, 2021, small businesses nationwide are invited to visit t-mobile.com/opportunity-sweepstakes to enter for a chance be one of six small businesses to win a 5G smartphone or tablet; or one of five to win a package of five 5G devices; or one of two to win a full 5G makeover with five 5G smartphones, a 5G tablet and \$5000 to spend on anything.

Small businesses are critical to the prosperity of local communities and the economy at-large. Thanks to new resources, they'll be equipped to take advantage of the opportunities that exist in today's digital world.

Courtesy StatePoint

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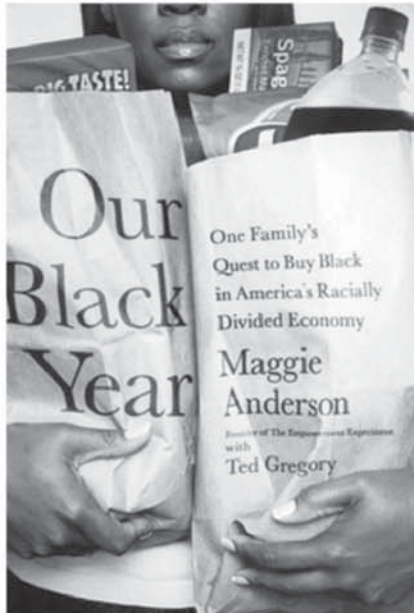
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Maggie Anderson

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CLASSIFIEDS

June 23, 2021

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PART-TIME TELLERS

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union is seeking part time Tellers to join our team. The ideal candidate will assist members by performing a variety of teller responsibilities including - cash transactions, withdrawals, deposits, money orders and loan payments, and opening new accounts. A successful candidate will be dependable, an approachable team player with a personable and professional demeanor, a desire to learn and driven to achieve outstanding results. Previous experience with a Credit Union is preferred. To apply, please email your resume to ZCollins@ToledoUrban.net<mailto:ZCollins@ToledoUrban.net> with the subject line PT Teller Applicant.

MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union is seeking an experienced Mortgage Loan Originator. The MLO performs all mortgage loan processing activities including receiving, evaluating, and reviewing loan applications; obtaining and verifying necessary information; preparing documents for underwriting and closing review; and communicating loan status to all involved parties. A successful candidate will be dependable, an approachable team player with a personable and professional demeanor, a desire to learn and driven to achieve outstanding results. Previous experience with a Credit Union is preferred. To apply, please email your resume to ZCollins@ToledoUrban.net<mailto:ZCollins@ToledoUrban.net> with the subject line MLO Applicant.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING (LMH) IS ANNOUNCING AN OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING 1,2,3,4, & 5-BEDROOM WAITING LIST

1,2,3,4, & 5 Bedroom Waiting List
Will Accept Applications
July 26 through July 30, 2021
Applications Are Available On-Line Only

LMH Public Housing consists of multi-family and elderly developments, single family homes, duplexes, and townhomes of varying sizes and locations throughout Lucas County, OH. The waiting list will be open from Monday, July 26, 2021, at 12:01 a.m. through Friday, July 30, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. At this moment, the consideration is for 1,2,3,4 and 5 Bedroom apartments/homes.

Applications received before July 26, 2021, will not be accepted. You are only allowed one application per head of household. **Applications are available on-line only**; no paper applications will be available or accepted.

When to apply: July 26, 2021, through July 30, 2021:
Where to apply: On-line at our website: www.lucasmha.org
What to do: Click on "Apply Online", complete and submit the On-Line Application
If you require a reasonable accommodation for a disability that prevents you from participating in our application process, please submit your request in writing on or before July 30, 2021, to:

Lucas Metropolitan Housing
Public Housing Application
211 S. Byrne Rd. Toledo, OH 43615

You must include your name, physical address, telephone number and email in your request.

Submission of an application does not guarantee a family a spot on the wait list.

Applicants should note there is never a fee to apply for rental assistance programs operated by the Lucas Metropolitan Housing.

GEM SERVICE RUDOLPH LIBBE GROUP

JOB POSTING

GEM Service provides comprehensive services and technologies to keep facilities operating at peak efficiency for occupants. Services include HVAC and plumbing, testing/balancing, electrical, ductwork cleaning, facility management, energy procurement and building automation controls. Based in Toledo, Ohio since 1999, GEM Service is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group, serving customers in the Toledo, Cleveland and Lima, Ohio markets as well as southeastern Michigan. For additional information, visit RLGBuilds.com.

GEM Service is seeking an **Accounting Clerk**. The Accounting Clerk will perform accounts receivable duties for GEM Service Division and GEM Facility Management Division.

Five years accounting experience or a college education in business/accounting, construction industry experience, and understanding of sales taxes preferred.

For more information and to apply, please visit WWW.RLGBUILDS.COM/CAREERS.

GEM Inc is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

GEM INC RUDOLPH LIBBE GROUP

JOB POSTING

Based in Toledo, Ohio since 1982, GEM Inc. is a singular contracting resource providing mechanical, electrical, structural steel and boiler work for process manufacturing and industrial customers. GEM is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group with offices in Cleveland and Lima, Ohio and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit RLGBuilds.com.

We are in search of an individual with an outgoing, entrepreneurial spirit who can drive profitability and performance as well as enhance customer relationships. The **GEM Project Manager / Estimator** will effectively manage safety, cost, material, schedule, subcontractors, changes, and quality on assigned projects. Responsibilities include building and strengthening relationships with new and existing customers, estimating and managing multiple construction projects and identifying new opportunities to provide value-added services for clients.

A bachelor's degree in Engineering or five (5) or more years of experience working in the construction industry. Five (5) or more years of piping and mechanical experience and history of managing multiple and customers simultaneously preferred.

GEM Inc. is an EEO employer.

For more information and to apply, please visit www.rlgbuilds.com.

GEM INC RUDOLPH LIBBE GROUP

Job Posting

Based in Toledo, Ohio since 1982, GEM Inc. is a singular resource for customer facility and process construction needs. GEM offers design, renovation, upgrade, consolidation and relocation services for process manufacturing and industrial customers and directly employs its team of skilled construction craftspeople. GEM is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group with offices in Cleveland and Lima, Ohio and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit RLGBuilds.com.

GEM Inc. is seeking a **Warehouse Check-In Associate** in its Walbridge, OH warehouse. As a member of our team your responsibilities will include unloading trucks from jobsites, cleaning gang boxes, tools, equipment and materials, and overall support of our warehouse personnel.

High school diploma or general education degree (GED) required, previous tool room experience a plus, forklift certification a plus.

GEM Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

For more information and to apply, please visit: www.rlgbuilds.com/careers.

Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding) State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

Project #1130-21-233
Mechanical System Improvements
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm EST July 13, 2021; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidespress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal: 15.0% of contract Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$1,650,000.00
Alternate #1 - R1 - Replace RTU-1	\$133,000.00
Alternate #2 - CCE - Replace DWH-1	\$39,000.00
Alternate #3 - LC - Modify Chilled Water Piping	\$23,000.00
Alternate #4 - WO - RTU-6&7 Glycol Cooling Loop	\$116,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: June 29, 2021, 10:00am – 11:00am via Webex. The Webex address is:

<https://utoledo.webex.com/join/tracey.brown>

Walk Through: A walk-through of the project site is scheduled for June 29, 2021 on Main Campus at 1:00pm and on Health Science Campus at 2:30pm

Walk Through Location: Main Campus - Plant Operations, Room 1000, and Health Science Campus/Facilities Support Building, Main Lobby, Toledo, OH

Bid Documents: Available electronically at: <https://bidespress.com>

More Info: Project contact: Mark Wutz, K2M Design, Phone: 855-866-4526, E-mail: mwutz@k2mdesign.com

National Youth Sports Program – Back in Action

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The National Youth Sports Program is back at the University of Toledo after a year's hiatus – the same hiatus that affected so many programs here and around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic.

From June 2 to June 22, 22 fortunate kids, ages nine to 12, were able to participate in a variety of sports activities – football, basketball, soccer, volleyball – along with recreational therapy to better understand good health and quality of life by developing cognitive, physical, mental emotional skills.

Under the guidance of Ruthie Kucharewski, PhD, CTRS, professor Recreation Therapy Program, and a host of undergraduate and graduate interns, along with a number of volunteers from the education professional ranks, kids from Old West End and Grove Patterson elementary schools were put through their paces from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the three-week period.

However, this year's NYSP is not exactly what it has been in the past – at least from the standpoint of participants. The number of students had been as high as 399 before the federal government cut funding some years ago, but even before the pandemic, 150 students were involved. The 22 kids in this year's program, says Kucharewski, is still a reflection of the pandemic's impact, but, hopefully, by next year there will be a dramatic increase in enrollment – community funding permitting.

Local funding, from such disparate sources as ProMedica and the Merickel-Farley Trout Club, is keeping NYSP afloat as the federal funding has been choked off.

Because of the lingering impact of the pandemic, all of the outside activities the program provided have been curtailed – kayaking, fishing, Mud Hens games, the zoo, the library, for example. Community service projects have also been eliminated this year in the interest of keeping participants safe and healthy.

The good news for this year's kids, says Kucharewski, is that the number of interns and volunteers has not dwindled as much as the number of youngsters.

"The kids get the best of everything," she says of the increased attention and assistance they have received.



Ruthie Kucharewski, PhD (center), with TPS volunteers Yvette Blanchard (l.) and Kentra Smith



Join TARTA's Virtual Public Meeting June 16, 2021

Last year, we started reinventing ourselves, as many people did. We decided to put the health and safety of our communities first and continued to empower people to make connections.

We invite you to join us from 6-7 p.m. for a Virtual Public Meeting to review the changes that were made in the past year and receive feedback.

Learn more and register online at TARTA.com.

[TARTA.COM](https://TARTA.com)

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