

Volume 68 No. 4

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

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## Let's Do It Again

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

The Truth Contributor

The real question of life is not where you are now. It's are you willing to create a vision larger than yourself so you can create something even better than before?

- Tony Robbins



The 23-person field (including four incumbents) for only six seats makes this year's Toledo City Council At-large race one of the city's most competitive political contests ever.

Despite a large number of rivals, many of them fresh political faces, former city councilman and City of Toledo Finance Director George Sarantou is seeking a "piece of the action."

Sarantou holds mayoral candidate Carty Finkbeiner's powerful endorsement in his hand. The Toledo native is also banking on his professional expertise and experience to allow him to hit the jackpot by a return to public service once again after resigning as finance director in August 2017.

The following is my conversation with Sarantou about his potential return to Toledo City Council:

**Perryman:** What made you decide to enter the race for Toledo City Council At-large?

**Sarantou:** I served three full terms - 12 years - on city council, and I enjoyed it. Then I was finance director for almost four years for Mayor Michael D. Collins and Mayor Hicks-Hudson. I decided to get back in the arena because I'm not too fond of some of the things going on right now. I think that I can make a difference on city council.

**Perryman:** I'd like to follow up on that, but first, let me introduce or reintroduce you to our readers. Are you a Toledo native?

**Sarantou:** Born and raised in Toledo, a graduate of McKinley Elementary/ Jr. High and DeVilbiss High School.

**Perryman:** Please describe your professional career and experience in public service.

**Sarantou:** I've been in the financial services business as a financial advisor 39 years. Along the way, I was elected to city council in 2001, reelected in 2005, and then reelected for a third final term in 2009. I had the pleasure of serving with Mayors Ford, Finkbeiner, Bell, Collins and Hicks-Hudson.

When my third term ended on city council, Mayor Collins asked me to be finance director, so I did that for almost four years. I still have my financial advising business from Mass Mutual, so that's my story.

**Perryman:** What impact can you point to that would indicate the quality of your public service?

**Sarantou:** As chairman for 11 of my 12 years on council, I was the longest-serving chairman of the finance committee. We had some tough financial years, especially under Mayor Ford and Mayor Finkbeiner, where the budgets were very tight.

I'm most proud of that I was able to work with mayors of all different political persuasions, and I worked with them to do what's best for the city. I never had a political agenda or tried to make a name for myself by arguing at council or taking on the mayor. I always felt my job was to make sure we balanced the budget and had enough revenue to pay our bills. And, when we got into challenging financial times to bite the bullet and make the reductions we had to make

Perryman: Why should residents vote for you to return to city council?

**Sarantou:** I have a record of success in working with people of both political parties and independents. I have the financial background, which is very important in the city, but I also served on the Public Safety Committee for many years of council.

Right now, we have a very high crime rate, and that's unacceptable. So, we need to have more cooperation, not just with various law enforcement agencies like the Toledo Police, the Lucas County Sherriff, but also the State Highway Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. We can all work together...

**Perryman:**: Do you think that just merely adding police will solve the crime problem?

**Sarantou:** It's a factor. It's not going to solve all the crime problems; however, there's no question in my mind that we need more police and fire personnel. They also need to be properly trained, especially to maintain the constitutional rights of people and address the challenges we have with our young people.

We also need to work with the courts - Toledo Municipal Court, Lucas County Common Pleas Court and Lucas County Juvenile Court. Many people who would be held in jail are being let out, and part of the problem is that we have

a high rate of repeat offenders. We had a couple of shootings that occurred in the recent four to six weeks. The people had been arrested on felony charges, were let out right away, and had guns, and people got shot. That is a problem.

**Perryman:** That's the old myth in response to court-ordered moves to reduce the overpopulation of jails due to the disproportionate number of black and brown incarcerated persons.

Overpopulation of jails developed due to black and brown people being jailed for nonviolent rather than violent offenses. Judges are not reducing or giving low bail to murderers. The over-incarceration problem is not something that should be addressed with perfunctory one-dimensional answers.

**Sarantou:** And I agree. Yes, there's a very high proportion of African Americans in jail and prisons, which has to be addressed. But what I'm suggesting is that law enforcement agencies need to sit down with judges and figure out how to preserve people's constitutional rights and reduce violent crime. Right now, it's not working.

**Perryman:** My point is that law enforcement reactively addresses symptoms rather than root causes. We need to bring a lot more people to the table if we want to look at root causes.

Mayor Kapszukiewicz has talked about addressing violent crime from a public health perspective. African Americans have been traumatized from slavery to Jim Crow to the present era of over-policing and targeted enforcement of nonviolent crimes, contributing to their being disproportionally incarcerated. Is the Mayor correct to look at this from a public health standpoint?

**Sarantou:** Public health is one way of looking at this. So, there has to be a collaboration between law enforcement and the courts and mental health professionals and recreational professionals. We have to have more recreational programs and things for kids to do in the neighborhoods. Councilwoman Cecelia Adams has been a real leader in that area. I agree with her.

Perryman: After crime, what is the next most important issue for you?

**Sarantou:** I would say that the next important issue is improving our neighborhoods. First of all, we spent a lot of money in downtown Toledo. But again, what are we doing in the neighborhoods?

The federal government will give us almost \$181 million in the next 12 months. I want to make sure that money is appropriately spent, especially in challenged areas and neighborhoods. It's very important not only to clean up the neighborhoods but also to make sure that youngsters have programs for recreation. That federal money can be used for that.

**Perryman:** Please describe for our readers your experience in working with citizens from various cultural backgrounds?

**Sarantou:** When I first got on council, Mayor Ford was very active in having a program over at the Scott Park Campus for minority businesses. They learned how to bid for city business and all the procedures because it is complex. So, I've been committed to that since I got on council.

As I reflect on that, I think about my parents. Both my parents were Greek immigrants who came to the United States in 1920. Fortunately, my dad was able to get a job in the late '30s at the Jeep Plant. He earned a good living and saved enough money to buy a tavern on Adams Street. But my dad got a break when he went to Jeep, and that's what we need to do here. We need to make sure that all of our diverse citizenries have opportunities. If people have an opportunity, that will help them improve their financial life and raise their families. They're going to hire people, spend money in the community, and that is an absolute win-win when you have that. So, that's what we need to continue to do and it is more important than ever.

**Perryman:** Please talk about your service with diverse social services agencies over the years.

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### **Community Calendar**

September 1

FAMED Studio Open House: Free Tuition enrollment; Noon to 6 pm; Dancing, acting, modeling lessons for 2 years to adult students; 2610 W. Central Ave: 419-273-7423/famedstudios.com

"I was just thinking..."

## **Dallas Thinkers Assess Critical Race Theory** (CRT)

By Norma Adams-Wade

Texas Metro News Columnist

Allow me to weigh in on the incendiary debate about Critical Race Theory, also known as CRT. Yes, I know. I stand to lose a lot of friends. But here goes.

CRT is not easily explained or understood. The confusion is a big part of the problem. The debate's pro and con sides have drawn a line in the sand and are wearing earplugs to drown out each other. So, what is CRT? A dry-bone definition could be that the theory critically examines existing laws and governmental and corporate policies to see how those subjective concepts exclude and/



Norma Adams-Wade

or negatively impact individuals based mainly on their race -- and more recently also their gender, economic status and sexual orientation.

More and more parents and leaders are resisting including these explorations into educational systems, preferring to stick with traditional textbooks that CRT proponents say are more myth that reality and presented from an Anglo and privileged view. Opponents say teaching CRT in schools could make Anglo students feel that they are being blamed for what some might call the sins of their fathers, their ancestors – many presumably who owned enslaved Africans and African descendants, as long ago as the 17th and 18th Centuries.

Seeking to lower the heat, some analysts attempt clarifications including these:

- 1. Harvard Law scholar Derrick Bell, one of the theory's prime creators, meant to offer it only in college law classes; those that would examine deliberate or unwitting racial overtones in the nation's laws; such as the Dred Scott case, redlining by banks, and voter suppression following Reconstruction.
- 2. Contrary to many beliefs, CRT is not taught in grade schools or high schools.
- 3. The argument that institutional racism was eliminated with the 1960s civil rights law, does not negate the charge that residue of that racism still hampers underprivileged communities where largely people of color live.
- 4. CRT exploration is justified considering that within the last decade, African-Americans and Hispanics were about 30 percent of the nation's population but almost 60 percent of the prison population.
- 5. CRT makes it clear that the lofty wording in the nation's founding documents (all men... have unalienable rights) do not pan out in real time; considering inequities that include segregation laws, the era of lynching, and tragedies such as the 1921 Black Wall Street massacre. Some Dallas local African-American thinkers also express thoughts about the CRT brawl. Robert Edison is a veteran Dallas educator and African-American history and culture authority.

He said his profession of teaching students about the American experi-

ence obligates him to "tell the truth, the whole truth." But history text books often make that goal difficult because all are written by humans with their own perspectives on past events. Edison cited the provocative, much-read and sometimes denounced book by National Merit Scholar, college professor and author James Loewen, "Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong." Loewen critiqued a dozen history text book and debunked much of the books' narratives as embellished, distorted, misleading, and being fixated on heroes. Liberals and conservatives take sides for and against the book. "If there is no truth in history, then there is no real history. All you are doing is teaching myths," Edison said.

Vincent Hall, a corporate and Dallas County manager and Black community advocate, suggests that CRT largely seeks to help underserved racial groups gain more power and equity from longstanding governmental and corporate systems and their exclusionary policies, while largely Anglo groups that are in power seek to maintain their upper hand. He said that many fierce clashes result from individuals and groups that know little about CRT's origin in the mid1970s and its growth spurt that began in 1989.

Misinformed opponents spout fallacies, he said, proving that they know little or nothing about the motives of existence of scholar Derrick Bell, one of CRT's prime founders. "If you can't get to the root, you can't get to the tree at all," Hall concludes. Educator, minister and historian Dr. LaTrese Adkins agreed that news media rolls out regular CRT updates to a general public that still understands little about the issue. CRT was formulated for and by academicians who have their own lexicon and culture, said Dr.

Adkins who is a Black Republican. She said humanities academicians like herself explore social theories by writing exploratory theses back and forth with each other, not bound by restrictions of pure scientists such as chemists who must base their studies on quantitative data. CRT's burst into the public arena was premature before academicians had decided where and how to use the theory, she said. "All of a sudden it became mainstream ... got handed over to the educational system and municipalities...and that was not what it was for at this time.

It was an inappropriate appropriation of something that was never meant to do what they are trying to make it do," Adkins said. "That's going to be full of problems." Educator Edison said more twisted opinions about CRT assert that Anglo students will be made uncomfortable or forced to feel guilty about their ancestors, particularly those in the South where slavery thrived. He said he clearly remembers no one seeming to care about his feelings as a young student when literature considered racist was discussed in his classes, including the controversial 1899 children's book "Little Black Sambo," later illustrated by various artists.

A popular 1940s cover depicts a cartoon illustration of a Black child with

stereotypical Black features of big lips, buck

... continued on page 5







## Toledo's Boxing Champ Returns Home to a Hero's Welcome

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Toledo's Oshae Jones has returned home after winning a bronze medal in the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games in the women's welterweight boxing competition and she received a hero's welcome on Monday at One Government Center from city and county officials, arts groups, along with her family and friends.

State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson, informing Jones that she knew her grandmother, said: "Your grandmother believed in perseverance; you carry on her strong convictions, even through personal tragedy and I'm so grateful to you."

Jones' perseverance and her recent brush with tragedy were themes that virtually all the speakers repeated as they honored her athletic accomplishments and commiserated with her for the fire that destroyed her house mere days before she set off for Tokyo.

"We have a trailblazer," said Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, in a rousing speech as he ticked off her numerous recent boxing victories culminating in the bronze in Japan. "Today you are a proud medalist – a fighter in the gym and a fighter outside the gym. She's got her ground game and

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Councilwoman Vanice Williams, Oshae Jones, Jones' mother Demetria Blackshear

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she's got her standup game."

Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken called Jones "the heart of the city" and Rev. Willie Perryman, president of the Toledo NAACP and pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church where Jones' family has been members for four generations, recounted the tragedy before her departure. He said a fund has been set up for Jones through the Jerusalem Outreach Ministries. That account is held at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union to accept donations from all interested.

Tom Cole, broadcaster and a representative of the Taylor Automotive Family, wasted no time in getting the donations started. After lauding Jones for her toughness and her "stick-to-it-tiveness," Cole presented a check to the young pugilist from Taylor in the amount of \$1,000.

Toledo City Council presented Jones with a plaque; Lori Hauser, CEO of Imagination Station, presented Jones with a grab bag containing memberships to 21 area arts and cultural institutions.

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, a boxing fan who had followed Jones' journey with great interest, offered the key to the city and, perhaps more importantly, a commitment of \$1,000 from his personal funds to match the Taylor contribution. That offer got the ball rolling as several other individuals committed funds to Jones, who was by then constantly wiping away tears of gratitude.

"She is the story of Toledo itself," said the mayor comparing her ups and downs to those of her hometown after he expanded on the points that Cole had raised by recounting the history of boxers and boxing events in Toledo's past. He noted, among other events, that an amateur Cassius Clay once had a boxing contest here in the 1950's.

"She floats like a butterfly and stings like a bee," Kapszukiewicz added in closing. "Rumble, young woman ... rumble."



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Oshae Jones, TPS Superintendent Romules Durant





## Jan Scotland Introduces His Plan to Stem the Tide of Gun Violence

By Fletcher Word Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Mayoral candidate Jan Scotland weighed in on the current gun violence epidemic plaguing the city of Toledo and offered a law-and-order platform to start the process of "Stemming the tide of crime and violence in Toledo before it's too late."

During a press conference on Thursday, August 12 near the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, and accompanying by members of that church and other clergy, Scotland took issue with Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz September 2020 pronouncement that "the City of Toledo is planning an initiative aimed at reducing gun violence be addressing is as a public health issue"

Scotland assailed the mayor's attempt to address "root issues" of crime while the community endures a unprecedented wave of Murders and violent crime."

In 2020, there were 61 homicides in Toledo an increase of 62 percent over the previous year. The city is on pace to surpass that amount in 2021.

Scotland introduced a series of police initiatives to meet the violence crisis including showing support by: demonstrating support for police officers; requesting councilmembers to show their support; providing officers with the training and resources to deal with new challenges; helping the community understand their role in improving their relationship ither police officers; making police officers familiar with citizens of every district; requesting district councilmembers to join in forging trust of officers within their districts; ensuring that district councilmembers convey the magnitude of the violence problem to their constituents; have the mayor and councilmembers do ridealongs with officers so they understand the split decisions that officers have to make.

He also called for an action plan that includes: assigning detectives to areas that have citizens with similar backgrounds; making sure that detectives determine the types of individuals who are violence prone; reinstall undercover officers; check for outstanding warrants to detain those individuals; priori-



Jan Scotland, left, accompanied by Rev. James Willis, pastor of St. Paul MBC, introduces his police initiatives

tize the focus of force; encourage judges and prosecutors to keep those with warrants off the streets; work with police unions to reach full force in four years; demonstrate a zero tolerance approach to offenders.

Acknowledging that these police initiatives constitute just the law and order portion of an overall approach to dealing with violence, Scotland said he will be announcing his steps to work with Toledo's youth to focus on underlying issues.

#### CRT... continued from page 3

eyes and nappy hair. Perhaps the solution to all this is one that poet, author, filmmaker, educator M. K. Asante Jr. devised when in 2008 he wrote the poem "Two Sets of Note" in chapter 10 of his book "It's Bigger than Hip Hop." The then 26-year-old said the poem is for Black students who suspect teachers, Anglo and Black, are force-feeding myths about history from text books with distorted and personalized perspectives. Rather than argue with the instructors, the young poet offers his solution in the attached sidebar that features brief excerpts from his poem:

Two Sets of Notes - by M. K. Asante Jr.

They label me militant and Black national radical Trying to put my learning process on sabbatical  $\dots$  They even try to get me to see Their

point of view from a brother that looks like me ... I always take two sets of notes, One set to ace the test and One set I call the truth ... Their history is built on high-rise lies The pyramids were completed Before Greece or Rome were conceptualized ... Black children...don't let them fool you With selective memory... Always take two sets of notes.

Norma Adams-Wade, is a proud Dallas native,
University of Texas at Austin journalism graduate and t

University of Texas at Austin journalism graduate and retired Dallas Morning News senior staff writer.

She is a founder of the National Association of Black Journalists and was its first southwest regional director.

She became The News' first Black full-time reporter in 1974. norma\_adams\_wade@yahoo.com

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## Jesse Jackson Awarded Highest French Honor

Special to The Truth

On July 19, 2021, French president Emmanuel Macron awarded U.S. civil rights leader Reverend Jesse Jackson the Legion d'Honneur, one of France's highest honors, in recognition of what he called "a long walk towards emancipation and justice."

A political activist, minister, and former shadow U.S. senator for the District of Columbia representing the Democratic party, Jackson has been involved in civil rights activism since the 1960s, when he worked alongside Martin Luther King.



Jackson, 79, was appointed commander of the Legion d'Honneur, one of the highest ranks in the distinction.

"From your earliest years, you were hungry for knowledge and justice, and you are a special friend of France, a brother for us," Macron said in a solemn address at the Elysee palace.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Legion of Honour recognition from the Republic of France at the invitation of President Macron," said Jackson. "He has been very gracious to me and my family during our visit. I will remember this event as an affirmation of my struggle for civil and human rights throughout the world. I accept the manifestation of the this honor with great humility, while acknowledging the spirit of President Macron to make France and the world a better place for all mankind."

Toledoans are familiar with Jackson's commitment to the cause of knowledge and justice.

Jackson made an appearance in Toledo in January 2019 at The Truth Art Gallery that was well attended by Toledo residents. The purpose of his visit was to investigate complaints of racism at the Toledo General Motors plant – among those issues were instances of nooses hung in various locations within the plant.

Prior to that visit, GM management had not done much to put an end to such occurrences, a number of employees felt. After Jackson's visit, GM offered a reward of \$25,000 to anyone who would report those performing such acts – subsequently the acts stopped.

However, after his visit, there was a similar issue at the Toledo Jeep plant. A Black female employee who had attended the meeting at The Truth, contacted Jackson about the problem who, in turn, called Paul Hubbard. Hubbard made contact with Ron Thompson, a Chrysler board member, who worked within Chrysler to resolve the issue.

In attendance at the ceremony were: Christiane Taubira, former French Justice Minister; George Paul-Angevin, former French Education Minister; Elisabeth Morena, French Minister of Equality, Diversity & Equal Opportunities, Brian Aggeler, U.S. Charge d'Affairs to France; Momodou M. Jallow, Sweden's member of Parliament; Lord Simon Woolley, British House of Lords; Diane Abbott, British member

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of Parliament; Ambassador Jean Paul Carteron, president of Crans Montana Forum; Bertin Mampaka, Belgium senator and former mayor of Brussels; Victorin Lurel, French member of Parliament; Dionandrea Shorts and Florence Radovic, both of the U.S. Embassy in France and Sambady Ntita Badibanga, former prime minister of the Congo.



French President Emmanuel Macron and Jesse Jackson



#### Perryman... continued from page 2

**Sarantou:** Theresa M. Gabriel asked me to join the Frederick Douglass Community Association around 1993. After three years, I became president of the board and remained another three years. That building needs help, by the way, and some of that federal money should be available to improve the facility.

I was also on the board of the Neighborhood Health Association. I served there and was president for two and a half years.

The Cordelia Martin Health Center was started because people of color were not getting proper healthcare. The Frederick Douglass Center goes back almost 100 years in the community.

So, I'm very familiar with the challenges in the city, especially around the Neighborhood Health Association and the Frederick Douglass Center. Those are important institutions that we need to continue to improve.

**Perryman:** Finally, what message do you want to get across to the public about your campaign?

**Sarantou:** I love the City of Toledo. I'm a lifelong resident. However, we need to do something about the high violent crime rate and the lack of recreational programs for our youth and adults. By the way, we also need to make sure that we're spending our dollars wisely.

With my past history, financial background, and record in this community, I can work very well with many people from different political persuasions and backgrounds to make progress in the city. The City of Toledo and Northwest Ohio have enormous potential and our best days are still ahead of us. We need to continue to improve things.

Perryman: Great!

Sarantou: Can I add one other thing?

Perryman: Sure.

**Sarantou:** In 2017, when I was director, the finance department and the city auditor discovered \$8.2 million sitting in the wrong account. We found the funds in the finance department, and the city auditor found it simultaneously. So, we went to Mayor Hicks-Hudson, notified the outside CPA's, and also Dave Yost, the auditor of the State of Ohio, and it got corrected.

But what's strange and ironic is that I've been blamed for that.

The matter is that the previous administration put that money in the wrong account, never told us, and not one person in the finance department knew about it.

So, we're the ones that discovered it and got it corrected. No money was ever missing, there was no criminal activity. We cleaned it up with the state auditor and placed the funds into the proper account.

My point is, I find it ironic that in the past, I was blamed for it when we're the ones that discovered it. I met with the previous finance director before I took the job under Mayor Collins. Not a word ever came up about \$8.2 million.

I just wanted to set the record straight.

Perryman: Thank you.

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

## Toledo Opera and Toledo Urban Federal Credit **Union Expand Partnership with New Investment**

Toledo Opera and Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (TUFCU) are expand- Rorick, executive director of Toleing their longstanding partnership that aims to open up economic, educational and cultural opportunities for residents of Toledo.

The Toledo Opera's Endowment Committee, independent from Toledo Opera's larger Board of Trustees, recently approved a \$100,000 investment at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union to initiate strategic financing as well as programming collaboration and outreach to benefit the greater community.

"Toledo Opera's relationship with the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union began several years ago when Dick LaValley introduced us to Suzette Cowell, chief executive officer of TUFCU," recalled Toledo Opera Executive Director Suzanne Rorick. "Five years ago, Toledo Opera also began working more closely with the Junction neighborhood, at the Mott Library and other locations, to bring accessible opera programming to Central Toledo. We are pleased to make this investment coinciding with TUFCU's 25th anniversary in the community." "I am so excited about the relationship that TUFCU and Toledo Opera has established over the years. The work that both our institutions do is vital within the Toledo community and our partnership is important to the cultivation of our community," said Suzette Cowell, CEO and treasurer of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union. "The missions and values of our organizations run parallel; I am confident that by furthering our partnership the work we accomplish together will only add to the strengthening of our Toledo Community."

In 2019, Toledo Opera Executive Director Suzanne Rorick invited TUFCU's CEO Suzette Cowell to speak at the opera's Community Conversations Speaker Series held at the ProMedica Ebeid Center. In 2020, TUFCU's Program Manager Zahra Aprili Collins joined the Toledo Opera Community Engagement Advisory Committee. Later that year, Collins was appointed to the Toledo Opera Board of Trustees.

"We strongly believe this investment with Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union will yield tremendous opportunities for both organizations to collaborate in outreach and programming to new audiences," said Maureen Brown, chair of the Toledo Opera Endowment Committee. "This partnership speaks directly to Toledo Opera's values of sound stewardship, co-creation with community stakeholders and partners, innovation, and diversity. We look forward to expanding our partnership with Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union."

Rorick continues, "This partnership represents our joint history and furthers Toledo Opera's commitment to opening up arts opportunities for everyone in the community. We are proud to formalize our partnership with Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, and we look optimistically to the future."

For more information regarding this partnership, please contact Suzanne

do Opera at srorick@toledoopera. org or Suzette Cowell, CEO of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union at scowell@toledourban.net.

Founded in 1959, Toledo Opera produces high quality operas and programming, reaching 30,000 people annually through mainstage performances, educational programs, and community outreach.

Each year, Toledo Opera presents three, fully-staged operas at the 900-seat Valentine Theatre, located at the heart of Downtown Toledo. Toledo Opera partners with the Toledo Symphony for its productions. and the Toledo Opera Chorus and Toledo Opera Children's Chorus participate as needed.



(L-R) Suzette Cowell, Maureen Brown, Suzanne Rorick, Zahra Collins, Tom Gagnet

A cornerstone of Toledo Opera's mission, Toledo Opera's educational and community programs serve all ages and demographics, including preschool students (An Opera is a Story), elementary school students (Opera on Wheels), middle school and high school students (Student Night at the Opera), and the greater community (Opera Outdoors).

In 2018, Toledo Opera renewed its commitment to diversity, inclusion, and

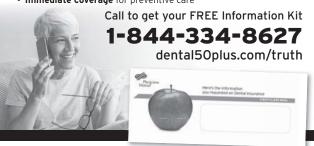
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## Lemons-To-Lemonade Stand Fundraiser for Mom's House

Special to The Truth

Mom's House preschoolers and former Mom's House preschool graduates hosted their very own, custom, decorated Lemonade Stands on Thursday, August 12 from 4 to 6 p.m. on Franklin Avenue in front of the house. To ensure safety and ease of access at the event, Franklin Avenue was closed.

Event sponsors were on-hand to support the children at the stand they decorated and sponsored.

Christina Rodriguez, Mom's House executive director, expressed the hope that the community would take a few minutes to "stop by, boost the children's confidence and get a cold glass of lemonade," she said as the stands opened for business.

The Mom's House Early Childhood Education Program participants (Moms and kids), volunteers and sponsors, included Knight Insurance Group, The Mannik Smith Group, Lucas County Sheriff's Department, Toledo Fire and Rescue Department, Fowl and Fodder, UPS and Waterford Bank, N.A.

All profits from Lemons to Lemonade will go toward early childhood education programs.

Mom's House is helping young families break the cycle of poverty through education and teaching young mothers to become responsible parents and educating the children to ensure they are fully prepared for Kindergarten through intensive programming. Mom's House is a nonprofit organization located in Toledo, Ohio since 1993. For more information on Mom's House, call 419-241-5554 or visit www.momshousetoledo.org.











Anita Lopez, Lucas County Auditor wants to inform you about this new pandemic law: SB57

# HELP FOR PROPERTY OWNERS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

August 3 - September 2, 2021

Property owners or commercial tenants (lease requires to pay property taxes) can file property value complaints with the Board of Revision and seek property tax reductions for **tax year 2020** 

Property owners must **prove specifically how COVID-19 caused a reduction in property value** and should be prepared to provide the following:

- Audited financial statements or tax returns for the owner of the real estate for calendar years 2018, 2019, & 2020
- · Year-to-date financial income and expenses, up to and including 60 days prior to the hearing date
- Property appraisal utilizing authorized approaches to value
- Description and amounts of federal funds received as of date of appeal including, but not limited to: funds received under the CARES act
- Written summary outlining and supporting your request
- Other evidence supporting your request may also be submitted

iasWorld smartfile

Complaints can be filed electronically at <a href="mailto:smartfile.co.lucas.oh.us/SmartFile">smartfile.co.lucas.oh.us/SmartFile</a> Click on "Board of Revision Original Complaint (COVID)"

OR request a paper form (DTE1A) from the Lucas County Auditor's Office

For more information, contact the Lucas County Auditor at (419) 213-4406 or AuditorBOR@co.lucas.oh.us

The Economy and Financial Health Section • The Economy and Financial Health Section • The Economy and Financial Health Section

## Simply D'Vine Hosts Fashion Show to **Celebrate Anniversary**

Sojourner's Truth Staff

An audience of about one hundred joined Terri Cook on Sunday, August 8, to help her celebrate her boutique's seventh anniversary. The visitors were treated to an array of vendors, food trucks and, above all, a fashion show featuring some of the items that Simply D'Vine stocks.

Cook opened Simply D'Vine Boutique in August 2014 and brought to life an idea she had been nurturing for 19 years - a stylish boutique that offers something for every pocketbook and a variety of teastes.

During a tour of the boutique - located in the Marketplace West Shops, 3606 W. Sylvania Avenue – Cook directs customers past shelves containing styles she labels "Young at Heart" to "Moderately Chic" to "Sophisticated" - something for every whim. There is also a "Curvaceous" rack for the plussized customer.

In addition to girls and women's clothing, Cook also carries men's apparel

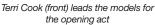
shirts, socks and ties. Men's suits are available to order. It's a small tidy shop with an abundance of goods.

The anniversary celebration however was anything but small. Cook and her staff took over much of the parking lot of the Marketplace, on a bright, sunny day for the event with the catwalk for the fashion show extending out of the doorway of the shop.

A half dozen models, including Cook herself, displayed gowns, sweaters - an assortment of formal and informal fashions along with the accessories that the boutique also has on hand.

Terri Cook and Simply D'Vine Boutique can be reached at 567-455-5940 or by email at simplydvinebtq@gmail.com. You can also view the shop's products by going to the website or Facebook page - Simply D'Vine Bou-











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Tammy Moses, NMLS #494249 Community Development Officers TMoses@YourPremierBank.com 419-794-5018

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## Tim Ryan Visits Peak Electric

Sojourner's Truth Staff

U.S. Congressman Tim Ryan, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate to replace retiring Senator Rob Portman, was in Toledo last Wednesday, August 11, to visit Peak Electric and speak about his priorities for investing in Ohio businesses.

Ryan conferred with Peak Electric founder and owner, Milt McIntyre, and consultant Calvin Brown, partner and CFO of Personal Growth Network Consulting, to hear their plans for the future and the challenges the company has faced during the pandemic.

McIntyre founded Peak Electric in 2000 and ventured into the world of entrepreneurship after a number of years working as an electrician for others. Peak supplies electrical components, particularly LED lighting to contractors, businesses and individuals.

In recent years, Peak has worked on ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) projects, along with Toledo Public Schools and Toledo Lucas County Port Authority projects, for example, in the public realm. Private companies such as Mercy Health, Owens Corning, the Andersons and Dana have also utilized Peak's resources.

Fortunately for Peak and its employees, as McIntyre explained to the congressman, the company has been performing extremely well recently in spite of the pandemic. "Some jobs shut down," McIntyre admitted, but on the whole, there has been enough jobs for the company to not only stay on course but also to expand. Peak Electric is in the process of buying the facility it currently rents and acquiring additional adjacent property for much-needed storage space.

"What does Toledo need?" asked Ryan of his hosts.

"Workforce development opportunity," replied Brown, explaining that Toledo lacks the work force for the number of possible employment opportunities.

Ryan came to Toledo as part of his Workers First Tour in which he intends to hear from workers in each part of the state about the challenges they are facing.

In speaking with McIntyre, an electrician by trade, Ryan decried the emphasis in recent decades on getting young people into college, at the expense of the

trades. "'You gotta go to college', that killed us in the trades," he said.

McIntyre noted that "the mindset has always been that you have to go to

McIntyre noted that "the mindset has always been that you have to go to college, but tradesmen do very well also."

"We need a pathway to the building trades," added Ryan. Comparing China's factory goals with the USA, the congressman noted that China is "building two mega-factories a week, we are building six this year."

Yet, the quality of American output cannot be challenged, he observed. "American steel is the cleanest in the world, Chinese steel is the dirtiest."

Ryan ended the discussion with a simple explanation of his intentions.

"I'm a partner to help galvanize business," he said.



Milt McIntyre and Calvin Brown



Congressman Tim Ryan

#### New Investment ... continued from page 7

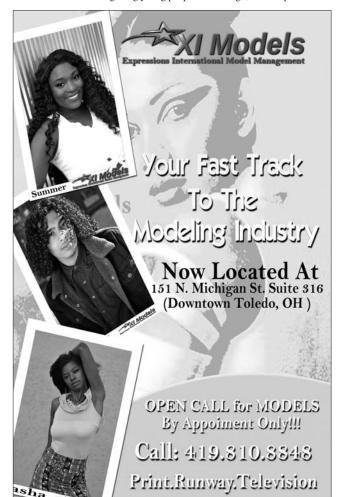
community work through the Toledo premiere of Douglas Tappin's \*I Dream\*, a contemporary opera recounting the final days of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life. In 2020, Toledo Opera convened a Community Engagement Advisory Committee, previously piloted for \*I Dream\*, to co-create programs centered on the relevance of opera to contemporary issues, as Toledo-area residents experience them. This season, Toledo Opera will present Jeanine Tesori and Tazewell Thompson's contemporary opera \*Blue\*, named Best New Opera of 2020 by the Music Critics Association of North America.

Toledo Opera is at a critical turning point in its history. This year, new mission, vision, and values were written and approved by Toledo Opera's Board of Trustees. They will serve as guidance for Toledo Opera's strategy and ongoing work to further the opera art form in the region through artistry of the highest caliber and authentic community connections.

On July 21, 1996, the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (TUFCU) opened its doors as the first credit union in the Toledo area to be chartered as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) which is a credit union designated to serve the low to moderate income members of the community and surrounding areas.

The mission of TUFCU is to offer financial services and educational programs to people living in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods so they can improve their economic wellbeing and achieve economic empowerment while being an active partner in and for community.

TUFCU offers many products and services that have proven to be beneficial and exceptional service is provided to everyone who walks through their doors along with customized programs and services to meet the requirements of its members. In addition, programs are offered to members such as the Second



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Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP)

## Want to improve the IRS? SPEAK UP

By Andrea Price, TAP member representing Ohio

The Truth Contributor

The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel comprises 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

National Taxpayer Advocate Erin Collins submitted the Taxpayer Advocacy Service semi-annual report to Congress on June 30, 2021. A few highlights from her written report are outlined below.

During the past year, more than 170 million individuals and millions of businesses received financial relief through three rounds of stimulus payments, Paycheck Protection Program loans, and Employee Retention Credits

The IRS Finished the Filing Season with Over 35 million Tax Returns Awaiting Manual Reviews. The IRS finished the filing season with a backlog of over 35 million individual and business income tax returns that require manual processing — meaning that employee involvement is generally required before a return can advance to the next stage in the processing pipeline. The backlog includes about 16.8 million paper tax returns waiting to be processed; about 15.8 million returns suspended during processing that require further review; and about 2.7 million amended returns awaiting processing.

The IRS Received Over Four Times as Many Telephone Calls as in 2020 which Resulted in Historically Poor Service. The IRS received more telephone calls during the 2021 filing season than it had ever received in a full fiscal year. During the height of the filing season, the IRS at one point received telephone calls at the rate of about 1,500 per second. Needless to

say, IRS employees could not handle this massive volume of calls. The IRS reported a "Level of Service" on its Accounts Management telephone lines of 15 percent, with only seven percent of taxpayer calls reaching a telephone assistor. The most frequently called toll-free number is the "1040" line for individual income tax services. It logged about 85 million calls, and only three percent of calls (i.e., three out of 100) reached a Customer Service Representative (CSR)

Each year, Congress appropriates a budget and allocates funds for specific tasks. This year, Congress funded the IRS to provide a 60 percent level of service with its CSRs — meaning it was anticipated that in a normal year, pre-pandemic, CSRs would answer six out of every ten calls routed to them. I believe that percentage, even in a good year, is unacceptable. For future budgets, I urge Congress to provide funding to achieve a level of service closer to 100 percent, and I urge the IRS to continue exploring ways to achieve greater efficiencies with its phone service. In my view, phone assistance is not merely an option or a luxury. The ability to talk with an IRS employee by phone to facilitate tax compliance is a fundamental right and a cornerstone of good tax administration.

The following are recommended proactive steps to improve communication between the IRS and its customers:

Prioritize the development of accessible, robust online accounts. The IRS offers an online account option for individual taxpayers, but its usefulness is limited in two ways. First, most taxpayers who try to establish online accounts fail because they cannot pass the e-authentication requirements. Second, the functionality of the accounts is very limited.

Expand customer callback technology to all IRS toll-free telephone lines. Many businesses and federal agencies with large telephone call centers offer customers the option of receiving a callback when the wait time to speak with a CSR is long. The IRS offers this option on some of its telephone lines, but the option is not yet offered on most lines, including the high-volume lines.

**Reduce barriers to e-filing tax returns.** One of the biggest challenges the IRS has faced over the past year has been processing paper returns. Although more than 90 percent of individual taxpayers now e-file their returns, about ten percent still mail them in on paper. Many of these taxpay-

... continued on page 12





#### Sports Legends... continued from page 16

of Detroit. She later became the owner of the women's basketball team called The Toledo Threat. During Brown's basketball journey, she earned 1st and 2nd team All-City Basketball and several additional athletic achievements.

Inductee Sheila Gibson graduated from Rogers High School and Bowling Green State University graduate. Gibson was a member of the 1977 track State Champion Team. She is currently the owner and artistic director of the Positive Force School of Dance in Toledo.

Inductee Clyde Hughes is from Beaumont, Texas and graduated from Lamar University graduate. Hughes spent 18 years as a sportswriter and urban reporter for The Blade and composed articles that highlighted the lives of African Americans in Toledo. He is also co-founder of the Martin Luther King Holiday classic. Hughes is currently a fulltime freelance journalist for United Press International and received recognition by several media agencies including The National Association of Black Journalists.

"The Martin Luther King Holiday classic had an impact on the community. It was more than just basketball, but about our community and it gave kids something to aspire to in their lives. Professionally, I share stories because our stories have to be told because they break down barriers," shared Hughes.

Inductee Curtis Johnson graduated from Waite High School and University of Toledo, before playing for the Miami Dolphins. Johnson earned varsity football letters between and voted All MAC defensive back before being the fourth-round draft pick of the Dolphins. Johnson played for nine NFL seasons, started 111 of 125 games and started in three Super Bowls. He's currently retired after serving as a member of Toledo Fire and Rescue Department for 28 years.

Inductee Karen Mosley graduated from Bowsher High School and the University of Kentucky. Mosely earned basketball letters, collegiate scholarship and inducted into Bowsher's Hall of Fame. She's currently employed as a Federal Officer in the Department of Homeland Security under the Transportation Security Administration.

"This opportunity is amazing. A lot of what defines us is what we find out while living. Today, I want to share my appreciation for everything that I've accomplished in my life," said Mosely.

Inductee Sam Price graduated from Scott high school and University of Toledo, he later played for the New York Giants and Miami Dolphins. Price excelled and lettered in track, football and wrestling. He also received All-City and additional football achievements. Price retired from football in 1971, was inducted into Scott's Hall of Fame in 1982, and had several entrepreneur companies.

Inductee Carnel Smith, EdD, graduated from Scott High School and the University of Pittsburgh, and later played for the Indianapolis Colts and in the World Football League. Smith is currently the principal of his alma mater, received several football achievements including All-City during his career. Smith is the founder of a local nonprofit that sponsors a local summer camp and published author.

Inductee Jack Thompson graduated from Waite High School, and later served in the United States Army for 20 years. Thompson was named All-City First Team, All-Game scoring champ and quoted in the local paper as

'the finest back in the city.' Thompson served in the military for 30 years and retired in 1986. Thompson passed away on February 12, 2014. His wife and two children accepted the induction honor on his behalf.

Inductee Michael Worlds graduated from Macomber High School. Worlds excelled in track and earned a championship and bronze medal. In 1977 he led the Macmen to team titles in Sectional and District championship and signed a letter to attend the University of Toledo. He is currently a manager in radiology

The AALP was founded in 2004 as a history museum that offers collections and tours to preserve Toledo's history. The AALP pledges to stimulate the intellectual, socioeconomic and participatory growth in communities wherein African Americans reside. Visit the website for additional information https://www.africanamericanlegacy.org/

#### TAP.. continued from page 11

ers would prefer to file electronically but are prevented from doing so by IRS e-filing limitations. There are three principal limitations: (i) taxpayers sometimes are required to submit statements or other substantiation with their returns, and these attachments generally cannot be e-filed; (ii) some tax forms used by limited numbers of taxpayers are not accepted electronically; and (iii) taxpayers sometimes need to override default entries when preparing their returns with tax software, and some of these overrides render returns ineligible for e-filing.

Utilize scanning technology for individual income tax returns prepared electronically but submitted on paper. When taxpayers file returns on paper, IRS employees must manually transcribe the data line-by-line into IRS systems. In FY 2020, the IRS received about 17 million individual income tax returns and millions of business and other tax returns on paper. Manually entering data from so many paper returns is an enormous task, and transcription errors are common, particularly on longer returns. Transcription errors result in more work for the IRS and taxpayers; namely, notices to taxpayers, taxpayer telephone calls, and taxpayer correspondence that must be reviewed and evaluated. Scanning technology is available that would allow the IRS to machine read paper returns and avoid the need for manual data entry.

Offer videoconferencing options to taxpayers. Videoconference technology allows taxpayers and their authorized representatives to be both seen and heard and to share documents without being physically present. The IRS Independent Office of Appeals offers WebEx technology for virtual face-to-face conferences among taxpayers, representatives, and Appeals Officers. The IRS Office of Chief Counsel and the U.S. Tax Court are also conducting video communications and virtual trials using ZoomGov.com. Although video conferencing should not replace in-person or telephone conference options, it adds a vital human interaction option to enable communication with taxpayers when appropriate. It may provide options for taxpayers with difficulty traveling or the inability to take extended time off from work



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## Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen: The Emotional Lives of Black Women by Inger Burnett-Zeigler, PhD

## Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts by Rebecca Hall, illustrated by Hugo Martinez

By Terri Schlichenmeyer The Truth Contributor

Like almost everybody in the world, you have scars.

There's the one you got when you were five years old, and you fell off the slide at school. The one you got when you dropped a glass and accidentally cut yourself. You have scars from fun, children, hobbies, work, and from you-can't-remember-where. Those are the scars you wear on your outside. So how about a couple books that deal with your scars inside...?

You are beautiful. Everyone knows it, but there's so much more to you than what can

be seen. In *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen: The Emotional Lives of Black Women* by Inger Burnett-Zeigler, PhD, you'll learn how detrimental it can be to ignore your feelings, whether now or the ones from the past.

So much has been said about the strength of Black women, and while there's no denying that Black women are steely-strong, Burnett-Zeigler points out that much of that strength and power is tied to violence, racism, sexism, poverty, and trauma, whether personal, societal, or historical. These matters can lead to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, and other mental health issues, but those things aren't often explored or discussed in deeper terms. The danger is that ignoring them or tamping them down can lead to physical disorders and disease over the long-term, an overall problem that's gone unaddressed for too long.

In bringing this subject to the forefront, and by sharing relevant stories of women who've recognized past issues and have dealt with them, Burnett-Zeigler helps readers to understand what must be done and why it can't wait. Specifically, she offers permission and encouragement for readers who wish to seek professional help by removing perceived shame in it, and she advocates embracing self-care and the allowance of vulnerability.

This is a wonderful book, it's relatable, and it's easy to enjoy, even for the busiest of readers who need to learn to slow down and look out for themselves.

NOBODY KNOWS
THE TROUBLE
I'VE SEEN
THE
EMOTIONAL
LIVES
OF
BLACK
WOMEN

INGER
BURNETT.
ZEIGLER, PHD

c.2021 Amistad \$24.99 / \$31.00 Canada 257 pages

c.2021 Simon & Schuster \$29.99 / \$39.99 Canada 208 pages Of course, these are attitudes and practices you want to pass on to the next generation, perhaps starting with discussion and *Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts* by Rebecca Hall, illustrated by Hugo Martinez. Part memoir, part history, this book tells of Hall's search to correct a long-held mythology that's lingered throughout history.

Most stories about slavery would have you believe that men were the catalysts for revolt but Hall, the granddaughter of slaves, learned otherwise. Through documents, letters, and even physical evidence from graves, she learned that Black women were also fierce leaders of many uprisings throughout history and that women who make good trouble are just as active today as they were 200 years ago. For a 12-to-16-year-old, this is a great conversation-starter about the past, the present, and their future mental health.

If these books don't quite fit what you're looking for, or if you need more on these subjects, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian. They'll know what you need and they'll help you find it with a minimum of pain.

#### New Investment ... continued from page 10

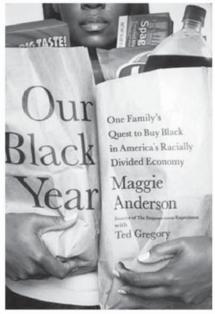
Chance Program and free tax preparation services. TUFCU has demonstrated leadership in that it was the first credit union in the United States to partner with the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in 2004 and TUFCU was the lead-organizing agency for the VITA program in Toledo.

TUFCU offers a safe place to save, multiple financial services at reasonable cost, and financial, small business and homebuyer education for its members. TUFCU provides access to non-predatory priced loans, even to members with imperfect, limited or no credit history. TUFCU is an anchor of hope to individual members and to the neighborhood.

Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union is thriving, with assets of over \$13 million and growing. TUFCU is proud to be named one of the fastest growing financial institutions of its kind in the country. Since its inception, Toledo Urban has been BUILDING BETTER FUTURES for its members and the Toledo central city community.













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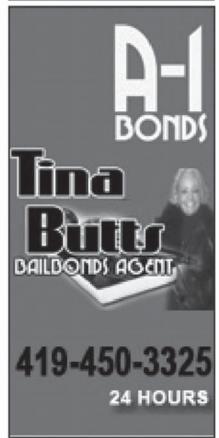
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August 18, 2021

Page 15

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP21-R015 Snow Removal Services AMP 111 Communities RFP21-R016 Snow Removal Services AMP 112 Communities RFP21-R017 Snow Removal Services AMP 121 Communities RFP21-R018 Snow Removal Services AMP 122 Communities RFP21-R019 Snow Removal Services AMP 131 Communities RFP21-R020 Snow Removal Services AMP 133 Communities

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Snow Removal Services. Received in accordance with law until August 26, 2021, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: www.lucasmha.org; 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711), Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This opportunity is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.



#### **MINISTER OF MUSIC**

Glenwood Lutheran Church seeks a minister of music who will lead our praise and hymns. We are a small, multicultural assembly embodying the neighborly love towards all that Jesus teaches us. Salary commensurate with experience. For information contact glenwoodpastor@gmail.com or call (419)-255-0886.

#### **OHIOMEANSJOBS LUCAS COUNTY TO HOST POP-UP VIRTUAL JOB FAIR**

OhioMeansJobs Lucas County will host a Pop-Up Virtual Career Fair on Thursday, August 19, 2021, from 10 a.m. to noon. To participate, job seekers must register online at: https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/

Area employers are continuing to struggle to recruit qualified applicants for positions. Given that COVID19 and its variants are still very much active in the community, a virtual hiring event is the best option for employers to recruit job seekers. The following companies plan to participate in the Pop-Up Virtual Career Fair:

- · Adler Pelzer Group
- · Buckeye Broadband
- · Lucas County Sheriff's Department
- · Ternion Schools, Training and Education Centers
- · Renaissance Hotel, Downtown Toledo
- · Ohio Pickling & Processing, LLC
- · Welch Packaging
- · Great Lakes Windo



Rudolph Libbe Inc. Job Posting

Rudolph Libbe Inc. (RU) offers a complete range of project contract delivery methods including general contracting, design/build and construction management. Based in Toledo, Ohio for more than 60 years, RU is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group of companies with offices in Cleveland, Columbus and Lima, Ohio, and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit RLGBuilds.com.

We are seeking a Senior Safety Specialist at our Rudolph Libbe Inc., Walbridge, OH location. As a member of our safety team, you will be responsible for supporting and assisting company associates in achieving safety excellence by helping to identify existing and potential safety risks on current and upcoming projects, providing training, and performing site visits to verify that safety regulations and company policies are consistently implemented company-wide.

Candidates should have 8-10 years construction safety experience. BCSP certification or similar, and Bachelor's Degree in Occupation Safety, Safety Management or related field preferred.

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#### **OPERATIONS COORDINATOR**

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to build and strengthen our community's neighborhoods. Since our founding, the Land Bank has renovated 750 vacant properties, demolished thousands of blighted buildings, and improved the lives of countless individuals by improving their neighborhoods.

We are seeking a talented individual to join our diverse and energetic team as Operations Coordinator. The Operations Coordinator is a professional that provides regular customer service support, assists our finance team with bookkeeping and clerical accounting work, and works to maintain a pleasant, fun, and well-resourced office environment.

Salary range of \$35,000 - \$45,000, with excellent benefits including affordable health, dental, vision, and prescription drug coverage, a retirement plan with generous employer match, and robust paid time off.

Position will remain open until filled. To learn more and to apply, visit https:// lucascountylandbank.org/about/iobs

The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal opportunity employer.



#### PROJECTS SPECIALIST

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to build and strengthen our community's neighborhoods. Since our founding, the Land Bank has renovated 750 vacant properties, demolished thousands of blighted buildings, and improved the lives of countless individuals by improving their neighborhoods.

We are seeking a talented individual to join our diverse and energetic team as a Projects Specialist. The Projects Specialist is a professional that provides detail-oriented support to the Land Bank's property acquisition, ownership, demolition, development, and disposition projects. This individual assists with the day-to-day management of the Land Bank's work, develops specialized skills in support of our many active projects, and helps to set the strategic direction of the organization.

Salary range of \$45,000 - \$55,000, with excellent benefits including affordable health, dental, vision, and prescription drug coverage, a retirement plan with generous employer match, and robust paid time off.

Position will remain open until filled. To learn more and to apply, visit https:// lucascountylandbank.org/about/jobs

The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal opportunity employer.

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

Project #1030-22-263

Parking Lot 13 Expansion The University of Toledo

Bids Due: 2:00pm EST September 7, 2021; through the State's electronic bidding system at: https://

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

Contract

**Estimated Cost** \$300,000,00

General Contract Alternate #1

> Pre-bid Meeting: August 24, 2021, 10:00am, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled for August 24, 2021 immediately

Walk-through Location: Plant Operations Building

Bid Documents: Available electronically at: https://bidexpress.com

More Info: Project contact: Joshua O'Neil, DGL Consulting Engineers, Phone: 419-535-1015, E-mail: joneil@dgl-ltd.com

## African American Legacy Project Sports Legends Honorees

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The African American Legacy Project's Sports Legends (AALP) committee introduced 10 individuals on Friday, August 13, who would be inducted into the 2021 Hall of Fame on the following day.

Friday's gala sold out affair at the Premier brought together a group of outstanding athletes or contributors to athletics who have done so much at the local level and, sometimes, on the national stage.

The Saturday induction ceremony was held at Jerusalem Baptist Church and the masters of ceremony – AALP CEO Robert Smith and sportscaster Tom Cole – brought each honoree up to the podium along with their committee escorts and a family member to place the kente cloth on around the inductee's neck.

The 2021 inductees were Bill Brown, Saundra Brown, Sheila Gibson, Clyde Hughes, Curtis Johnson, Karen Mosely, Sam Price, Carnel Smith, Jack Thompson and Michael Worlds. The honorees were asked to sign memorabilia that were linked to their athletic accomplishments in front of a family and friends, and received proclamations from Toledo City Council and Toledo's Mayor at the Premier Banquet Hall.

Inductee Bill Brown graduated from Rogers High School and Ohio State University, and later become head coach at California University of Pennsylvania (CUP). Brown began his basketball coaching career at his alma mater, then made history as the coach with the most men's basketball victories. Currently he's a volunteer director of a community relations and player mentoring program.

"There's a difference between coaching and playing. You must have dedication and character. I am grateful and humbled in all that God has given me," explained Bill Brown



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Inductee Saundra Brown graduated from Start High School and University
... continued on page 12



Clyde Hughes



Curtis Johnson





Carnell Smith and Robert Smith



Rogers' 1977 teammates Kim Penn, Sherri Perry Isaac, Sheila Gibson, Yvette Thompson-Gordon



