

Volume 69 No. 8

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

November 24, 2021



New Members: Frederick Pruitt, Jay Barnett, Sammy Spann, Ph.D., Mark Riley and Richard Langford

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A City Fit for a Prince

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

The Truth Contributor

Your greatest accomplishment may not be something you do but someone you [lift].

- Andy Stanley

Rosalyn Clemens arrived in Toledo in October 2019 from Prince George's County, Maryland, bringing her passion for building wealth in underserved communities.

Initially hired as a commissioner of Housing, within six months, she rose up the ranks to her current position as Director of the City's Department of Housing and Community Development.

In her short tenure, Clemens has begun to make Toledo "fit for a prince" by totally transforming the culture in City government and the way services are delivered in Toledo's most challenged neighborhoods.

One of Clemens' more notable "five-star" accomplishments is a new Wayman Palmer YMCA. This \$20 million project would not have happened without her leadership, creative thinking and funding acquisition skills.

When asked about Clemens, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz was effusive with praise. "I think she is a rock star," he beamed. "I don't want to rank the people I've hired because I think they're all wonderful. But Ros might be the best person we've brought into this organization in my four years as Mayor."

I caught up with Clemens for a one-on-one conversation to discuss her perspective on leadership and her work:

Perryman: I heard through the grapevine about your incredible work at the Department of Housing and Community Development. What is the difference in the department now compared to when you first arrived?

Clemens: What's new and different is that the administration has really set an agenda and started to lead on housing and community development policy. That wasn't the case before.

Perryman: Please elaborate.

Clemens: We need to be more strategic in how we spend our federal dollars. We need to steer investment in our neighborhoods and be more aggressive regarding investment in our cities. I think this is the Mayor's mandate, and certainly, this is something that I've championed since coming here.

We have now designated three areas of the city that we are strategically investing dollars in - the Junction/Englewood area, Old South End, and East Toledo. We are also looking strategically at creating affordable housing with the sites that the city owns. So, we're not just waiting for developers to come to us. We are looking at those sites, cleaning them up, and saying: 'Hey look, we need housing, take a look! How can we help you to build units in this area.'

Perryman: You have been described as a rock star and the best in the country at what you do.

Clemens: I would say that I love what I do. I love being able to make a difference, particularly in neighborhoods that have my people. One of the things that truly attracted me to this position was when I came up and visited the city for the first time and saw the condition of our neighborhoods. I saw the condition of people of color, and I sincerely believe that it was something that I was being called to do.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Perryman: You describe this as a calling. What is the source of your vision?

Clemens: I am from Prince George's County, Maryland. It is the wealthiest African-American community in the entire United States, and I am used to seeing African Americans empowered. I am used to seeing them running million-dollar businesses. I'm used to seeing our people in leadership positions in our city and our legislature. I'm used to seeing us rocking and rolling, and there's a feeling



Rosalyn Clemens

of empowerment among our people in Prince George's County that I don't see here. So, it broke my heart because I know better, and I know what our people are capable of.

So, I was intrigued about the possibility of coming here and sharing some of my knowledge, and just trying to change our people's paradigm. Many of whom, as you know, live in poverty.

Perryman: You have also increased the number of low-income people that now have access to home repair and lead work.

Clemens: Yes. When I got here, low-income people could not access housing repair dollars and, more alarmingly to lead dollars. It was the most punitive policy I've ever experienced, and it was indeed not a Toledo Municipal Code requirement. It was certainly not a federal requirement, but it was just something that we did here with no thought process on its impact on poor people. That has been eliminated, and as a result, we've probably done 30 homes in the Junction area in this past year alone. This would never have occurred with the previous type of thinking.

Perryman: Let's talk about the YMCA, a project that also would not have happened without your efforts and out-of-the-box type thinking.

Clemens: Certainly, The Wayman Palmer Y is a big project and something that I have championed with the Mayor's support. People say the Mayor doesn't care about these neighborhoods. But he does care. One of the things he said to me was: 'You know, I just want all these neighborhoods to be viable and to be places that people want to live. I don't know how to get there, but that's why we were bringing in people like you.'

I can say that there's never been an idea that I've spoken to him, 'Look Mayor, I think we've got to do this, I'm going to have to push for this.' So, I may not always know how, but I think the spirit of this administration is that where there's a will, there's a way.

Perryman: Specifically, how did the Wayman Palmer Y Project come about? **Clemens:** I think the roof was leaking before I got here. They had been

working for over a year on how to fix the roof and then to turn the building over to the Y and all of that. So, I said, 'I can find money to fix the roof, to stabilize it.' But after venturing out through the city, I asked, 'Mayor, why does the Wayman Palmer look like that and the Y's across town look like something else? I can't, in good conscience, only be contented to just fixing the roof. Let's explore this a little bit more.'

We paid for a consultant to analyze the market for recreation amenities where the other Y's were located. The study showed that there was a market that could support a new Y.

The best scenario was to use the City's land, do the demolition and bring a whole brand-new Y right on Bancroft and making sure you built into that facility the things not just that the neighborhood survey showed that it needed, like swimming, senior services, a commercial kitchen, or game room. It will be a state-of-the-art YMCA. Anything that's in a Y anywhere else in the country or across town will be in that Wayman Palmer Y.

Perryman: How will you fund a new state-of-the-art YMCA?

Clemens: The cost is estimated to be about \$22 million, which includes contingencies, and we're going to definitely build that Y. We're using ARPA dollars and will follow that with some CDBG money and some market tax credits. However, more importantly, this is an example of a project that will be catalytic for that neighborhood. I use the term 'catalytic' to describe the potential for the project to spur other investments and give our young people and families the recreation amenities they need and deserve. It is something that

An Open Letter to the National Public Radio Editor

The guy who killed with an assault-style rifle when threatened with a skate board and a fist "came off like a regular teenager"

Infantilization of white perpetrators is our cultural flip side of adultification of black youth

Dear NPR Morning Edition:

In today's (11-20-2021) Morning Edition coverage of the Rittenhouse acquittal, your reporter stated that a significant factor in Rittenhouse's acquittal was his preparation to take the stand and that in doing so, "He came off like a regular teenager." In other words, he was portrayed and perceived as a scared and angry child, and thus could not be held accountable for killing and injuring humans with his assault-style rifle.

You are a news source that prides itself on objective coverage of issues. Your failure in this important case shows how hard it is to be objective with our overwhelming white cultural bias as a nation.

It would be objective reporting and informative to contextualize this: "He came off like a regular teenager" because of his whiteness. Plentiful research in the last decades shows conclusively that black children and youth are consistently viewed as older than they are, and thus held to a higher standard of responsibility. This phenomenon is called adultification. Cooke and Halberstadt (2021, July) are only among the most recent authors of peer-reviewed scholarship to look at the consequences, in terms of anger bias, when black preschoolers are viewed as older than they really are.

Your own report (2014, March 19) reviewed the research, under the head-

Perryman... continued from page 2

this administration is very serious about doing.

Perryman: How do you address the doubters?

Clemens: During the recent electoral campaign, I was at a forum, and some-body asked, 'Can you guarantee us that that Y will be built, or is it just a political game?' Mayor Kapszukiewicz said, 'I guarantee you that it's going to be built because we're committed to doing it.' So, that's where it starts it starts with commitment. It begins with strategic planning and with the people who can execute and get something like this done. So, I see this project as a major priority of mine to make sure that we move that forward.

Perryman: What does success generally look like for you?

Clemens: At the end of four years, I would like to address the lack of affordable housing in this city. That would be major if we could deliver 500-750 units of new housing in the inner city in the next four years. If everybody who needed a new roof for their home in the inner city who couldn't afford it but needed it because their roof was falling down, if we could facilitate that construction, that would be what I would like to see. Every home that had lead and chipping paint poisoning our own young children, if we're successful with this lead initiative and we could address that, that would be a success.

I would also like to see more training opportunities for our young people. One of my visions is how do we have Owens or Penta to open up satellite offices or facilities here in the central city where our young people can access them. I'm told it's hard for them to get out to those sites. How do we facilitate more training for our young people, more integration after they train to get jobs? The available jobs, why are our young people not able to access them, what are we doing about that? We need to be a little bit more aggressive in comprehensively looking at the employment of our people.

Fiscal or financial literacy, increasing homeownership among our people, how do you get there? What role can the churches play so that many of our young kids know about balancing a checkbook and handling a credit card? What role can churches play to teach them that? Because how do you build legacy and wealth, not just by creating small businesses, but among our people? How do you ensure that they can make the right decisions so that they're strong financially? It's an extensive menu, I know.

Perryman: Finally, organizational culture is so important. So, how do you change what has been sometimes, perhaps, a toxic culture and keep team members motivated and focused on your vision?

Clemens: It is by making the team feel empowered, creating, again, not a punitive environment, but one where there's dialogue and brainstorming. Change occurs when a proposal or new program is not just handed down to the team but bubbles up from engagement of your staff and their experience and knowledge while you lead them in reorienting programs or putting new programs in place that further the mission of the agency better.

...continued on page 5

line, "Consequences When African-American Boys Are Seen As Older." Specifically, drawing on recent peer-reviewed research, you reported that "it found that African-American boys as young as 10 years old were significantly less likely to be viewed as children than their white peers. The report suggests that this could have serious implications for the way African-American boys are viewed by the criminal justice system and by society as a whole." Your report accurately characterizes this as "dehumanization."



Lvnne Hamer, Phl

We see the flip side of this with Mr. Rittenhouse, who, with his defense team's expert

guidance, was able silently to play the race card of his whiteness to portray his own innocence and victimhood in a court where the judge disallowed the dead humans being called "victims" and threw out the fact that Mr. Rittenhouse was wielding an assault-style rifle. Research would suggest that Rittenhouse's whiteness contributed to making it thinkable for the overwhelmingly white jury (with only one juror of color) to view one of the real victims, whom he killed, as posing an actual threat when he threatened to hit Mr. Rittenhouse with a skate board. This dehumanized victim, Mr. Anthony Huber, with his skate board, should have been the one viewed as childlike and innocent.

We need to normalize—and research—using the term infantilization when, as in the case of Mr. Rittenhouse, white people are excused of using lethal violence to express their fear or anger. This would be akin to Robin DiAngelo's identifying white fragility but would shift infantilization away from condescension toward Black people, as John McWhorter suggests DiAngelo unwittingly does and place it where it belongs: infantilization of White people who should be held responsible if they arrange to obtain assault-style weapons and then use them to kill people.

The Rittenhouse case should be reported in the context of the newsworthy, objective American Psychological Society's (2021, September 1) "by the numbers" report finding that "Non-White youth still face high levels of discrimination: Black youth experience the highest incidence of racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States, followed closely by Native American youth" (Black youth still face https://www.apa.org/monitor/2021/09/numbers-discrimination).

We count on NPR to be objective even though being objective requires more contextualization than might normally be perceived as appropriately focused on the facts. Please consider a policy of contextualizing adultification of Black boys and girls, men and women as a necessary part of the reporting when adultification—or infantilization of whites, as in the case of Rittenhouse—is at play.

Sincerery,

Lynne Hamer, Ph.D.

Professor, The Judith Herb College of Education

The University of Toledo

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Congressional Black Caucus Statement of Build Back Better Act

Special to The Truth

Last week, Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03) and members of the Congressional Black Caucus issued the following statement celebrating the passage of H.R. 5376, The Build Back Better Act:

"This is a historic day for America. House Democrats delivered on our promise to Build Back Better for the American people. The Build Back Better Act is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to lower everyday costs burdening working families – from health care to child care to housing – and, most importantly, is fully paid for by making big corporations & the wealthiest pay their fair share. I call that a win for America," said Chairwoman Joyce Beatty. "We have worked hard to deliver impactful social spending for the American people, including:

- * Lower Health Care Costs: negotiating lower drug costs for seniors, and expanding the ACA to make coverage more affordable for those who buy insurance on their own.
- * The most transformative investment in children and caregiving in generations: expanding the fundamental promise of free schooling in America for the first time in 100 years with universal preschool for all 3- and 4-year olds; slashing families' child care costs; extending the landmark Biden Child Tax Credit; and expanding access to affordable home care for older adults and those with disabilities.
- * The single most significant and most comprehensive investment in affordable housing in history: \$151 billion investment toward our nation's affordable housing infrastructure, including funding to rehabilitate millions of affordable housing units, bring sustainable homeownership within reach for millions of first-generation homebuyers, eliminate the nation's flood insurance program debt, and provide other critical investments in vulnerable communities across the country.
- * The largest effort to combat climate change in American history: The \$555 billion investment is the largest effort to combat the climate crisis in American history and sets the country on course to meet its climate targets, achieving a 50-52 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels in 2030.
 - * More than \$9 Billion in investments in HBCUs: The Build Back Bet-

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Brian Tracey

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ter Act invests \$3 billion in a competitive grant program to improve the research capacity and research and development infrastructure at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The bill also invests \$6 billion in institutional aid grants to HBCUs, which can be used by these institutions to strengthen their academic, administrative, and fiscal capabilities and award need-based financial aid to low-income students."

And much more.

Beatty continued, "As with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Congressional Black Caucus is proud to have played an active role in ensuring the needs of Black families were prioritized in The Build Back Better Act. This legislation will deliver meaningful outcomes for Black families and help build an America in which all can thrive. This is our power, fueled by our message."

Congressional Black Caucus Issues Statement on Rittenhouse Trial Verdict

Special to The Truth

Last week, Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03) and members of the Congressional Black Caucus issued the following statement regarding the Rittenhouse Trial verdict:

"It is unconscionable our justice system would allow an armed vigilante — who traveled to Kenosha, Wisconsin and killed Joseph Rosenbaum, Anthony Huber, and wounded Gaige Grosskreutz — to go free. The ludicrous claim of self-defense is on par with the abhorrent behavior displayed by the prosecution and the judge. It is time for accountability. It is time for criminal justice reform, and it is beyond time for gun reform. The gun violence crisis in America is a challenge to the conscience of our country," said Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty. "Democrats in the House have passed two bills aimed at strengthening the nation's gun laws, including a bill that would require background checks on all gun sales and transfers. We also voted to approve legislation that would close the Charleston Loophole. We don't need to wait another minute — or another hour — to take common-sense steps that will save lives in the future. While today is filled with disappointment, we must continue to champion justice and gun reform, and condemn vigilantism so this never happens again."



"Do the Right Thing"

A conversation about Criminal Justice in America

By Ralph Darrell Warren

The Truth Contributor

Everything must change. Nothing the stays the same.

In 1640, the John Punch case was the first case which illustrated racial disparity in the criminal justice system. The righteous arm of the universe demands that courts "Do the right thing." Here's how this case began. In 1640 as most know there was no slavery. There was indentured servitude. In short this meant whites and blacks worked for wealthy owners of plantations for a number of years and was paid, most times poorly, and then set free.

Because most were mistreated and overworked it is natural to conceive that one would tire both mentally and physically and would desire to run off. This is what John Punch did, a man of African descent, and Victor a Dutchman (white) and James Gregory a Scotsman (white).

Well, they got about far as Maryland and were caught and brought back to Virginia to stand trial. It was a crime to leave indentured servitude before one's contract expired.

All three defendants were given 30 stripes. The two white men were sentenced to finishing their servitude and then three additional years of service to the colony. But John Punch, the black man, was sentenced to life of servitude. This meant he and his family were bound to be servants for the rest of their life.

The court did not "Do the right thing."

It is important to know the John Punch case has special significance in history that is related to the present day. Historians and genealogists have linked John Punch to being the 11th great grandfather of President Barack Obama. President Obama's 11th great grandsire was a victim of the first racial disparity case in the United States who was sentenced to a life of indentured servitude and ignited the fuel to begin chattel slavery in America.

This gives us pause and makes us wonder.

Did President Obama consider this when he granted clemency to 1,715 people in the federal system, many of whom were sentenced to life without the possibility for release, and pardons to 212 individuals? These totals were more than all the previous presidents combined. President Obama did the right thing. He saw injustice and he used his authority to "Do the Right Thing."

Without President Obama this writer would not have had the opportunity to stand and represent the underdogs of this community or this land.

Everything must change. Nothing the stays the same.

The American criminal justice system has documented historical change. Technology has indeed played an important role. First, the television which dramatized the horrific scenes of the hatred of the South and now the cellphone which equips even the youngest of Americans with means of making go viral every dreadful act of racial injustice and disparity.

Evil can no longer hide its invisible ugly head. The George Floyd case was the wicked event which broke the camel's back and enraged even white Americans as racial injustices in the 1960's had done.

Doing the Right Thing, which the righteous arm of justice required, came as a price: Evil is no

longer the order of the day. Radical whites whether in authority or as covert actors can no longer kill or injure people of color at will without severe consequences. The warning is written in the clouds.

I wonder what John Punch would say from his heavenly mansion. I wonder what the angels of justice are saying as we witness this change, no matter how gradual. They are aware like many people that because of the browning of America there will be resistance, but change will be complete one day. John Punch would be proud to know the day of racial disparity and injustice is vanishing like a mist in the air.

Ed. Note: Ralph Warren received clemency for President Obama in 2017 and now works in the social service field. Ralph Darrell Warren is an author, producer and screenwriter. His latest novel Rain will be



Ralph Warren.

published soon. He is currently working on an Exodus, a documentary film about the impact of mass incarceration on the family and community.

Perryman... continued from page 3

Previously, there was a culture here of saying, 'oh no, we can't do that or that's not what we're supposed to do, or you can't get help if you don't have this.' So what I'm trying to get them to say now is, 'how can we help this person or use the money we have to help? Instead of saying we can't, how do we say we can'?'

So, the culture we're building now involves brainstorming about using the resources we have to get something done instead of always saying, 'I don't think we can do that.' Or, that, 'the rules don't allow us to do that so, we can't do this.'

Indeed, many people who have been calling the shots here for a long time and have been getting a lot of money don't like that.

But we're making gradual progress in changing the culture as people see some of the tangible progress we're making in the community.

Perryman: Thank you.

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





TARTA Prepares for Starter Sunday Service to Launch In First Quarter of 2022

Special to The Truth

In preparation for rolling out a complete system redesign in late 2022, to work, religious services, or family gatherings, and in appreciation the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) is laying the groundwork to introduce interim Sunday service, beginning in the first quarter of next year.

In the proposal presented to the TARTA Board of Trustees during its November 18 meeting, Starter Sunday Service will include all fixedline routes, with buses running from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

As part of this initiative, TARTA's Saturday service will also be extended to start at 7 a.m. Final details of the rollout would be determined after public outreach, which will begin in December. While a fully expanded service area and schedule will take effect in late 2022 with the rest of the TARTA Next system redesign, CEO Laura Koprowski outlined the importance of starting some form of 7-day-a-week service ear-

"Work on TARTA Next gave us a chance to hear from so many members of the community who depend on public transportation," Koprowski said. "They told us where and when they needed to go and how we could help get them there. By a wide margin, the suggestion we heard most often from our customers was the desire for Sunday service.

"While this isn't the final version of the service, we're pleased to start this sooner than we had originally planned for customers looking to get

for the voters of Lucas County and Rossford passing Issue 12. One of TARTA's biggest steps forward in the last two years has been vastly improved customer service, and we see this as another component of

More information on how often routes will run on Sunday will be available after community feedback is collected in the coming weeks. A detailed cost of adding Sunday service will be presented to TARTA's Board of Trustees in December. TARTA plans to expand service countywide and update routes as part of the ongoing TARTA Next project.

The TARTA Next Advisory Committee will make its suggestions to TARTA's Board of Directors in fall of 2022, and service improvements - including an updated version of Sunday service - are slated to be in place before end of that year.

TARTA provides a vital link in the Toledo metro area to jobs, education, health care and other destinations. It enables everyone in our community to have access to transportation regardless of their age, race, physical ability or economic background. TARTA is underway with exploring and introducing new initiatives and service options that will enhance convenience and customer experience while moving our region into the future of public transit.



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The Local Omegas Chapter Celebrates Founders' Day

By Dawn Scotland

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. held their annual Founders' Day Celebration Friday evening, November 18, at the Summit Banquet Hall. The fraternity honored four men with awards of distinction and introduced the five newest members of the chapter.

Keith Jordan, Vice Basileus of Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Fraternity, Inc, opened the night as master of ceremonies. Jordan was followed by Alan Bannister, Basileus of Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. who presented the history of the fraternity.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded 110 years ago on November 17, 1911 at Howard University. It is the first international fraternal organization founded on the campus of a historically black college. The organization principles are Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. The fraternity exemplifies these principles through its outstanding service and the leadership of its members.

Jeffrey Rollins, Northwest Ohio Area Representative and Membership Chairman, presented the history of the Xi Tau Chapter. The local graduate chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc. in Toledo, Ohio was chartered in 1960 and has been an active force in the community for decades.

Four men were honored with awards of distinction as part of the chapter's 'Achievement Week.' The awards were presented "[to] those that show excellence in their craft but also in humanity and manhood," said Jordan. David Fleetwood, business manager of Laborers Local 500, received the

Citizen of the Year Award for his commitment to the community. The Superior Service Award was given to Omega Psi Phi member Eldon Payne Jr. for providing the highest level of service and dedication to the fraternity.

Rollins presented the newest members of Xi Tau, 'The Furious Drive 5': Frederick Pruitt, Jay Barnett, Sammy Spann, PhD, Mark Riley and Richard Langford.

The new Omega men walked across the stage and exchanged their suit coats to don new jackets of royal purple. Following the introduction of each new member the group received gifts including embroidered scarves and a bouquet of roses to give to their wives who supported their journey to becoming Omega Men.

Following the presentation of the new memberships, fraternity brother Julian E. Highsmith received the Founders Award and the Omega Man of the Year was awarded to fraternity brother Jeffrey Rollins. Both awardees received the distinct honors with humility and gratitude.

Vince Davis, long time member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and former Basileus of the Xi Tau Chapter, gave remarks. "I am so proud of the people who came [and] the people we took into the fraternity. Men who had other options. Who could have done anything. These men joined our organization because we are a brotherhood."

The event was part of the chapter's "Achievement Week." Guests enjoyed dinner and entertainment provided by a live DJ.



David Fleetwood awarded Citizen of the Year Award



Members of the Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Fldon Payne Jr. awarded Superior Service Award



Julian Highsmith receives Founder's Award

that only comes from experience.



Jeff Rollins receives

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Furious Drive 5 Frederick Pruitt, Jay Barnett, Sammy Spann, PH.d, Mark Riley and Richard Langford





United Vision Baptist Church Hosts Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

Special to The Truth

One of the staples of the Thanksgiving holiday is the Thanksgiving dinner, which for most people is a no brainer. They create a menu, purchase items needed and prepare the dinner for family and friends to enjoy.

While that is the story for most, there are some who have a different experience. Times are tough, and people are experiencing extenuating circumstances which have made it more challenging to celebrate the thanksgiving

With that in mind the United Vision Baptist Church hosted its annual Tanya Preston-Adams Thanksgiving Food Drive and Basket Give-A-Way. This drive was named after a former member of the church who has passed away but was a selfless giver who would help anyone that she knew was in need. After her passing, Rev Perry Harris III, Pastor of United Vision named this food drive and basket give-a-way after her to keep her memory and leg-

acy going. Each year, United Vision has been blessed to serve at least 30 families with full Thanksgiving Baskets. Each baskets contains a turkey and all of the fixings, including dessert for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal.

Deacon Micheal Alexander Sr, chairman, Mother Linda

about lead paint?





If you live in a home built before 1978, you may be at risk of being exposed to lead paint. OHFA and Huntington National Bank are partnering to offer Toledo homeowners a low-interest home repair loan to help make your home lead safe.

Visit myohiohome.org/leadsafe for more information and for a list of Toledo Huntington branches helping homeowners.

Terms and conditions apply. Limited funding and program availability through Dec. 31, 2021.

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Thompson, co-chair of the Community and Scholarship ministry at United Vision work, along with donations from the membership of the church, to purchase and package the baskets.

"Real ministry is not about what it can do for me, but it is about what we can do for others," states Alexander. He went on to say "Each year the number of requests increases which speaks to and validates the need for us to continue the work." One of the mantras of United Vision is "Reaching People Where They Are," this is one of the many events that the church does throughout the year to do just that.

On Tuesday, November 16, baskets were given away at the church. The joy on the faces of the those who received baskets was evident and their

... continued on page 9





Simply D'Vine Gives Back to the Community

Special to The Truth

On Saturday, November 20, Terri Cook, founder and owner of the Simply D'Vine boutique on Sylvania partnered with her next-door business neighbor, Toni Strack of Acceptance Insurance to donate 50 baskets of Thanksgiving goodies to 50 fortunate community recipients.

Assisted by her husband, Brian Cook, and friends and staff, Terri Cook once again organized an event to honor the community that has kept her operation going for all these years.



Brian Cook, Terrie Cook, Toni Strack and Kelly Westmoreland give a Thanksgiving basket!



United Vision Baptist... continued from page 8

gratitude was stated over and over. Pastor Harris remarked "It is an honor for United Vision to be in a place where we can be a blessing to people during the holiday season. It is our hope that our small efforts bring great dividends to those we were able to assist this year. While Thanksgiving is an attitude we display year-round, it does not hurt to have a good meal as well."



Terrie Cook of Simply D'Vine and Toni Strackof Acceptance Insurance



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 2 Petite Golden Navels Snack-sized versions of the beloved classic.

- 2 Petite Golden Navus SHEARS SHEARS
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Central State University Meet and Greet at Mott Branch

Join the Central State University (CSU) Northwest Ohio Extension team as we brainstorm ways to assist local communities. Members of the CSU Northwest Ohio Extension team will meet with residents at the Mott Branch Library, located at 1010 Dorr St, Toledo, OH 43607, on Tuesday, November 30, 4:00pm to 6:00pm. At that time community members will have the opportunity to meet the Northwest Ohio Team in person and participate in an informal workshop to help identify the local community needs and CSU Extension educational opportunities to serve.

"Giving back to the community through exciting and transformative programs is at the heart of Central State University (CSU) an 1890 Land-Grant Institution," said Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension Educator Michelle Wallace. "This forum will allow us to introduce ourselves to the community and give residents a chance to ask us questions, as well as to give us information on how we can serve," she added.

According to Wallace, in 2014, when Central State University, located in Wilberforce, Ohio became an 1890 Land-Grant Institution, they immediately began the daunting task of hiring dedicated professionals to fulfill their mission of "Engaging Communities and Transforming Lives."

The second Morrill Act signed in 1890 provided matching state funds of federal monies designated to Black Colleges and Universities, now known as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). The first Act, passed in 1862, established State universities across the country, but most were inaccessible to black people, so the second Morrill Act was designed to bring about equity in educational opportunities for black Americans and descendants of slaves. Thanks to the efforts of the Ohio senate in 2012, Central State University achieved its Land-Grant status in 2014.

"The land-grant designation not only allows Central State University to become a bonafide research institution, but it also provides non-tuition-based learning as an "extension" of the university through field educators who cover agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer science, 4-H youth development, and community economic development education," added Family Consumer Science (FCS) Extension Educator, Jewel Rollins.

The Social Butterfly presents The 10th Annual Christmas Bazaar Saturday, December 11, 2021 10:00am - 4:00pm St. Clements Hall 2990 Tremainsville Rd., Toledo, OH 43613 **ONE STOP SHOP** FOR ALL YOUR HOLIDAY NEEDS **Vendors & Networking Opportunities** Free Admission & Parking ~ **Thanks To Our Sponsors: Taylor Automotive Family** Mólina Health Care The Truth Newspaper Adventurous Travels The Huntington National Bank Donnetta Carter, MSW Event Organizer (419) 367-9765 thesocialbutterflyevents@yahoo.com TAYLOR AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY **600 (10) (10) (10)** TAYLORAUTO.COM

tors across the state. The university divided the state up into five regions: Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, and Southern. Each region has a team whose mission is to provide research-based education to communities throughout Ohio.

"The Northwest Ohio team is trying to get to know everyone in our region and learn first-hand how we can best serve the community," says Rollins.

Below is a description of each member of the Northwest Ohio team including their title followed by a short bio. A search is currently being conducted for a Regional Extension Associate.

<u>Lindsay Ferguson - Extension Regional Program Assistant</u>

Lindsay Ferguson is the Regional Program Assistant for the Northwest Region. She is a 2019 Graduate of The Ohio State University majoring in Community Leadership with a specialization in Extension and Community Education. Extension has been a part of her life since she was young and her direct involvement with multiple extension programs throughout all ages, including college, has inspired her to help this growing program. Lindsay is looking forward to helping those in need within the Northwest Region.

Jewel Rollins - Family Consumer Science (FCS) Extension Educator

Jewel J. Rollins is the Family and Consumer Science Educator in the Northwest Region. She is a 2020 graduate of Central State University with a BS in Exercise Science. As the Northwest Region FCS Educator, she is able to provide educational support for the following extension programs: Eating Smart Living Strong, Financial Literacy, Health and Wellness, Family Resiliency, and Mental Health. These programs are available to all ages. As an educator, she is trained in CPR/AED/First Aid, and also has training in the areas of nutrition, mental health first aid, smoking cessation, and diabetes empowerment through the Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEPTM). Jewel is excited to bring her knowledge of topics that promote good health in all aspects of life to the community.

Hannah Albers – 4H Youth Leadership Extension Educator

Hannah Albers is the 4-H Youth Leadership Development Educator. She is a 2019 graduate of The Ohio State University majoring in agriculture business and applied economics with a minor in agriculture communication. Hannah joined the Central State University Extension team in October 2020. She plans to facilitate the Junior Extension Master Gardener program training at different locations in Northwest Ohio, and assists with summer camps and afterschool programs held in Lucas and Allen Counties. Hannah's goals are to expand 4H through multiple 4-H clubs and "train-the-trainer" programs that will increase opportunities to reach more youth and families, leading towards better futures.

Eric Smith - Community and Economic Development (CED) Extension Educator

Community and Economic Development Extension Educator Eric Smith focuses include individual and workforce development, small business and farm operation assistance, and neighborhood and community revitalization. Eric has a Master's in Community Development from North Dakota State University and holds professional certifications in such diverse models as Energizing Entrepreneurial Communities and Asset-Based Community Development. He

... continued on page 12



HOPE Toledo Receives Transformational Grant from The Kresge Foundation

The \$300,000 grant will provide needed funding for the HOPE Toledo Promise Program

Special to The Truth

HOPE Toledo is thrilled to announce that it is a recipient of The Kresge Foundation's CoPro2.0 grant program.

The Kresge Foundation's CoPro2.0 program is a \$2.6 million grant initiative launched to support equitable and sustainable College Promise programs, such as the HOPE Toledo Promise, the two-generational scholarship program intended to create generational economic change.

"HOPE Toledo's programming engages both youth and parents in a way that positions them on the cutting edge of promise programs," said Kresge Program Officer Ed Smith, a published author and scholar on the topic of free college programs. "We look forward to being a partner in strengthening their efforts and are excited to have them as a member of this dynamic

The HOPE Toledo Promise program received the CoPro2.0 grant in the programming category in the amount of \$300,000. These funds will primarily be used to provide additional postsecondary educational opportuni-

Prior to the grant announcement, in which the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona [1][2]was a special guest and John Jones was invited to speak, a HOPE Toledo Promise Scholar participated in a panel as part of the national College Promise Career Institute Two-Day Summit.

The national panel entitled, America's Next Generation of Workers: Student Perspectives on Wraparound Supports & Dry Career Preparation, featured seven college students from across the country, including Mario Purifie, Jr. from Toledo. Purifie Jr. is a 2020 graduate of Jesup Wakeman Scott High School and in his second year at Wright State University near Dayton, Ohio.

"I'm a proud HOPE scholar," said Purifie Jr. "I'm majoring in Crime and Justice Studies with a minor in Pre-Law and active in a number of organizations. I've really had to learn time management and how to effectively study, work, volunteer and have fun. I'm so excited that HOPE Toledo is going to help more students through this grant," he said.

Rev. John C. Jones, president of HOPE Toledo said, "Our goal of supporting and ensuring high-quality education from birth to career, with a focus on creating generational economic change, is more important now than ever before.

"We know our two-generational approach with families, which provides access to postsecondary education for both the high school graduate and one parent or guardian, has already had and will continue to have significant impact far beyond what we can see. This grant is going to help us

continue this important work for more families and for the future of Toledo."

Community partners who signed letters of support in the grant application process include: Mercy Health, Pro-Medica and Toledo Public Schools. Academic support partners include: Lourdes University, Mercy College, Owens Community College, University of Toledo. The research support partner is Northwestern University.

Fellow recipients of The Kresge Foundation"s'CoPro2.0 grant in the programming category include: Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation (Detroit, MI), Richmond Promise (Rich-



Mario Purifie, Jr.

mond, CA), Growing Inland Achievement (Inland Empire, CA), Tennessee College Access and Success Network (Nashville, TN).

The Kresge Foundation was founded in 1924 to promote human progress. Today, Kresge fulfills that mission by building and strengthening pathways to opportunity for low-income people in America's cities, seeking to dismantle structural and systemic barriers to equality and justice. Using a full array of grant, loan, and other investment tools, Kresge invests more than \$160 million annually to foster economic and social change. For more information visit kresge.org.

HOPE Toledo is a 501(c) 3 organization and encompasses HOPE Toledo Pre-K and HOPE Toledo Promise. The mission of HOPE Toledo is to work with the Toledo community to support and ensure high-quality educational experiences for all of our youth, from preschool to postsecondary and trade school, with the goal of helping to create generational economic change for the betterment of our families and our community. Currently, 36% of the people in the TPS district are living below the poverty line and more than 80% of kids in Toledo enter kindergarten without the skills needed to learn.

This cradle-to-career approach will better serve our children and, in the long run, help our city progress towards a stronger, more educated workforce. To that end, HOPE Toledo is working with the Toledo community, through public/private partnerships and in tandem with Toledo Public Schools and Washington Local Schools, to develop a plan to deliver highquality educational experiences for all of our youth. For more information or to donate, visit hope-toledo.org.

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Lucas County Children Services Kicks Off 2021 Holiday Gift Drive

Annual Campaign "Gives the Best Gift Ever" to 2,000 Lucas County Children

The holiday season is almost upon us, and Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is once again asking area residents to "Give the Gift of Joy" this holiday season!

The agency is kicking off its annual Holiday Gift Drive, which is co-sponsored by the Friends of Lucas County Children Services (FLCCS), WTOL-TV 11, iHeartMedia, and several community partners. The community-based campaign is expected to provide gifts to as many as 2,000 children who are victims of abuse and neglect. Gift collection begins November 18 and runs through December 22, 2021.

The drive provides gifts for children living in foster care, with relatives or with their families under LCCS supervision. "The pandemic has had a huge impact on children and families," says Robin Reese, LCCS executive director. "The 'normalcy' of having gifts to open at the holiday season will be more important than ever, and is consistent with our mission of leading the community in the protection of children."

The drive provides gifts for children from birth to age 18. While we are seeking gifts for all age groups, the agency particularly needs gifts for children of all ethnic groups who are newborn to 3 years old, and gift cards for teenagers.

Several generous community partners are again stepping up to support the gift drive. Key sponsors include PNC Bank; Bennett Management Corp., a franchisee of BURGER KING Corporation; La-Z-Boy and Yark Automotive Group. Other partners include Allshred Services; Barnes & Noble Toledo; DANA Corporation; Franklin Park Mall; Toledo Auto Care; Owens Corning, and Woodcraft. Collection boxes are available at LCCS' offices at 705 Adams St., downtown Toledo, or:

- * All Toledo-area BURGER KING restaurants in Holland, Maumee, Northwood, Oregon, Toledo, and Lambertville, Mich.
 - * Civil & Environmental Consultants, 4841 Monroe St., Toledo
- * Franklin Park Mall, 5001 Monroe St., Toledo (pick an ornament from the wish trees)
- \ast La-Z-Boy Furniture stores, 5804 Airport Hwy. and 5173 Monroe St., Toledo.
- * Toledo Auto Care, 4544 Monroe St., 5329 Heatherdowns Blvd., and at B&L Whitehouse Auto Care, 10829 Logan St., Whitehouse.
 - * Woodcraft, 5311 Airport Highway, Toledo.
 - * All Toledo-area Yark Automotive Group locations.



* WTOL studios, 730 N. Summit St., Toledo (during regular business nours).

Barnes & Noble Booksellers at 4940 Monroe Street in Toledo has again selected LCCS as the recipient of its 2021 holiday book donation campaign, which encourages customers to purchase books to be donated to the gift drive.

Other events are planned to support the gift drive:

Community Bike Build

November 28, 10 a.m., at the Jerusalem Township Fire Dept., 9501 Jerusalem Rd., (SR 2): Area firefighters and other invited volunteers will assemble bikes that will be given to children served by LCCS. JTFD, Toledo Firefighters Local #92, and others raised the money for Friends of LCCS to purchase bicycles at a discount from the Oregon Meijer.

Shred for a Toy

December 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the BURGER KING®, 4870 Monroe Street (across from Franklin Park Mall): Allshred Services will provide free shredding for up to five bags or boxes of paper documents when you donate

... continued on page 13

Central State University... continued from page 10

comes to his role 20 years of experience in community development in international, rural, and urban settings.

Michelle Wallace – Agriculture and Natural Resource (A & NR) Extension

As the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator, Michelle Wallace's areas of focus assisting beginning farmers with sustainable farming systems, small fruit production systems, cut flower production, beekeeping, and integrated pest management. Michelle has a Bachelor of Science in horticulture and a Master's in landscape architecture from North Carolina State University, and a Bachelor's in business administration from the University of Toledo. Prior to joining the extension team at Central State University, she spent more than ten years with North Carolina State University – extension as a horticulture and agriculture agent.

"The Central State University Extension team is excited about this opportunity to actively work with residents to identify and address community needs within the framework of our specialty areas and the mission of Central State University," says Wallace. "We truly hope the community will come out and join us."

No registration is required. Please visit the Toledo Mott Branch Library for any update regarding Covid-19 protocols. For more information on Central State University visit CentralState.edu. To reach the Northwest Ohio Regional state email lferguson@centralstate.edu.



Reclamation: Sally Hemings, Thomas Jefferson, and a Descendant's Search for Her Family's Lasting Legacy by Gayle Jessup White

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Sometimes, you feel like a tree.

Like a sentinel standing tall, you bend with the wind but never break. Small children climb on you, and you receive them with arms open; your exterior is tough but what's inside is smooth and strong. Sometimes, you feel like a tree: as in the new

c.2021 Amistad \$27.99 / \$34.99 Canada 288 pages

book *Reclamation* by Gayle Jessup White, your roots spring from complicated soil.

Born in the early years of the Civil Rights Movement, Gayle Jessup White was her parents' youngest child by several years and, for that, she was indulged by her siblings and especially beloved by her father, with whom she was closest. He was a civil servant who provided all for his family, and they enjoyed a "well-off" lifestyle. Before White was born, they even had the means to provide a home for an elderly half-relative who was said to have been illiterate and simple, but who never lost sight of a belief she held.

"Aunt Peachie" swore that the Jessup children were descendants of Thomas Jefferson.

White was small when she learned of this possible heritage, but details then were maddeningly scarce. Still, she never forgot the thought of being related to our third President, just as she never forgot that summer when she learned about racism and she discovered that her parents' marriage was rocky.

White grew up, went to college and landed a good job in a field she enjoyed. She married, became a mother, divorced and dabbled in a bit of a search for the details of her heritage, but with limited success. First, her father died,

then her mother and White met a man she could spend the rest of her life with. Throughout, she dreamed of working at Monticello, the mansion that Thomas Jefferson built, the home of most of his slaves but for years, white descendants of Jefferson had denied the very existence of the man's Black offspring. Still, White told everyone of her heritage when she visited Monticello, until finally someone listened.

Finally, she held the possibility that Aunt Peachie was right...

How many times a month do you say, "I wish I'd listened to" whatever elderly relative had stories to share? That family lore is precious stuff, and Reclamation makes open ears more urgent.



Gayle Jessup White

And yet, as author Gayle Jessup White shows in her book, finding the details-within-the-details won't be an easy task. White overcame many, many roadblocks that were set in her path toward understanding, including a lack of technology in the beginning and a general disbelief from others; there's also a side-story of meeting a very distant cousin and the disappointment in this, which may serve as a keenly different kind of warning for readers eager for warm, willing family ties that might never arrive.

Still, none of that was a deterrent for White, who sports a definite perseverance in this memoir that genealogists, family historians, and storytellers will find appealing. If you, too, are searching through your past for a hidden truth, *Reclamation* may be a hard book to leave.

Holiday Gift Drive... continued from page 12

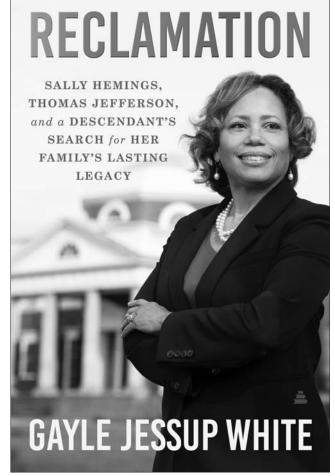
a new, unwrapped toy. 101.5 The River morning show host Rick Woodell will continue the tradition of broadcasting live from 10 a.m. to noon.

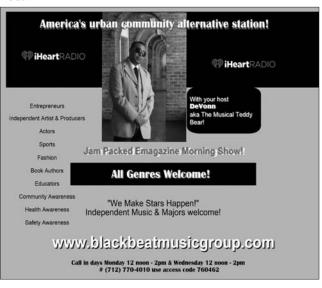
Give the Best Gift Ever

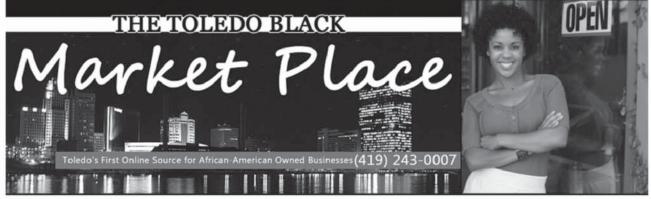
December 9, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., WTOL parking lot, 730 North Summit St. (enter on Walnut St.): "Give the Best Gift Ever" drive-through donation event. The public is invited to drive through this COVID-safe event and donate a new, unwrapped toy. WTOL on-air personalities will be accepting your donations.

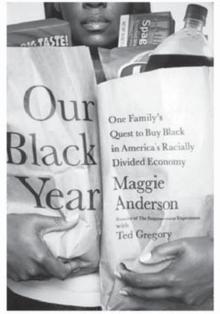
Toy-A-Thon

December 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Franklin Park Mall, Sylvania Ave. parking lot (just east of Talmadge Rd.): iHeartMedia radio stations WRVF and WVKS will host their 2021 Toy-A-Thon. They will be collecting new, unwrapped toys; clothes; and monetary donations to help children and families served by LCCS.















ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:

www.TheTruthToledo.com and www. ToledoBlackMarketplace.com



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Nothing but PURE FUNI nolds @ Meadowbrook Plaza, Toledo, OH 43615 419.320.8571 or 419.322.4462 Hours Open Thursday - Sunday @ 7 PM

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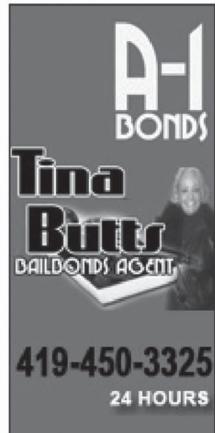
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Monique Ward

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

BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!

CLASSIFIEDS

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November 24, 2021

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, Ohio is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Procurement Associate, Property Manager, Laborer, Maintenance Mechanic I. For complete details, visit https://www.lucasmha.org and click on Careers. Deadline: 11/16/21. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



MARKETING AND DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

WGTE Public Media seeks a highly organized, creative, and knowledgeable professional to execute marketing and communication tactics for digital, print, television, and radio that advance business outcomes.

Candidate must have strong written and oral communications skills, excellent team collaborating abilities, and be able to handle multiple, time-sensitive projects. Experience with creating and managing content through existing social/digital platforms and systems required. The ideal

candidate should have direct experience with website content management systems, email marketing administration, and digital analytics. Knowledge of photo and video editing software, photography, lighting, audio recording, and shooting video on smartphones and video cameras are strongly preferred.

A bachelor's degree in marketing/communications, journalism, media, or related discipline is preferred or a minimum of an Associate's degree in a similar discipline or two years related experience.

WGTE Public Media is committed to attracting and retaining a diverse staff that honors your experience, perspective, and unique identity. Together, our community strives to create and maintain working and learning environments that are inclusive, equitable, and welcoming.

Send your letter and résumé to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH, 43614 or at: employment@wqte.org. EOE/ADA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WARREN COMMONS

Rudolph Libbe will receive proposals for Warren Commons, a 46 unit, 3 story, wood framed supportive housing apartment building. Located at 2011 Franklin Ave, Toledo, OH.

Bids are due November 26, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge from Builder's Exchange (BX). Current BX members can search for the project using Project ID: 2020-0BE6. Non-members of BX may also download the plans free of charge via email invite. Please contact Travis Philo to receive an invite for the project if you are a not a member of BX.

This project has MBE/WBE requirements and is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.

For more information on this project, please contact Travis Philo at 419-725-3169.

CONSERVATION SCIENCE MANAGER

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a qualified individual for a Conservation Science Manager position. Master's degree in natural resources, biological sciences, wildlife, or equivalent combination of education and work experience.

Full-time with benefits. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers to review job description and apply. Applicants must submit an online application and resume. EOE

TARTA SEEKS FEEDBACK ON UPCOMING SERVICE CHANGES

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) will host 4 public events to gather community feedback on upcoming proposed service changes, which include:

- · The introduction of Sunday service
- · Expanded service on Saturday mornings
- · Expanded Saturday hours for Routes 26 and 34
- Elimination of weekend Route 31C to UTMC, and maintaining or expansion of service on routes 31G and 31H

The purpose of these events is to seek comment from the public and the business community of these changes. These forums will focus on the Title VI equity analyses surrounding the service changes. Public meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- Virtual meeting, Monday, Dec. 20, 2021, 6-7 p.m.
- · Virtual meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021, noon-1 p.m.
- In-person Open House at TARTA Transit Hub, 612 N. Huron Street, Toledo, **Monday, Jan. 3, 2022**, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- In-person meeting at TARPS, 130 Knapp Street, Toledo, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022, 5-6 p.m.

Registration and additional details will be available in the coming weeks at tarta.com or by calling 419-243-7433. Customers and others from the public interested in submitting questions may do so by sending them to customer-relations@tarta.com.

PROPOSALS WANTED FOR COMMUNITY MINI-GRANTS

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHRSB) is seeking proposals for our upcoming Community Mini-Grant Cycle. We have several mini-grants up to \$5,000 available to organizations that serve our community. Interested grassroots organizations that provide services to the populations that MHRSB serves are encouraged to apply. Services can include but are not limited to programming that offers skills, strengths, resources, supports, or coping strategies to support mental wellness. Proposals are to be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. EST on November 30, 2021. Direct all questions to netmail@lcmhrsb.oh.gov. For more information, qualification criteria, and to submit your proposal on our easy-to-fill online application, please visit http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/minigrant/.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

The Village of Ottawa Hills is accepting applications for the full time position of Accounting Assistant.

The Accounting Assistant is responsible for accounts payable, in-house payroll, and a variety of other accounting duties. In addition, the Assistant performs general office functions including answering phones, preparing correspondence, and assisting the Village Administrator.

Visit www.ottawahills.org/employment for more information. Employment applications and resumes can be submitted to village@ottawahills.org.

Pay Range: \$48,960-\$59,660

The Village of Ottawa Hills is an equal opportunity employer.

Midwest Kids X Adidas Launch

By Monique Ward Special to The Truth

Toledo native Darryl Brown celebrated the launch of his Forum 84 Midwest Kids' collaboration with Adidas in his hometown earlier this month on Friday, November 5.

The owner of Darryl Brown Clothing (www.DarrylBrown.com) and Midwest Kids (WeMidwestKids.com) wanted to make sure that his debut sneaker was available to his hometown before it was available to the rest of the world. Supporters of Brown lined up in front of his newly-opened store FieldHouse, 124 10th Street, to get their hands on a fresh pair of kicks, directly from the celebrity fashion stylist himself.

New Midwest Kids merchandise (including branded t-shirts and jackets) debuted and were available for sale alongside the Forum 84 Midwest Kids Adidas sneakers.

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The launch was such a success, due to his loyal and culturally diverse fan base, that Brown held a restock sale the following weekend. This gave those who had initially missed out on the opportunity to attend the launch a chance to buy the coveted footwear, directly from its creator.

Darryl Brown is now one of only three Ohioans to have his own shoe line with a major shoe company. He joins a short but impressive list that includes NBA star & philanthropist, LeBron James and multi-platinum rap star & mental health advocate, Kid Cudi.







Darryl Brown

Tanya Murphy

Sada Tadesse







Denzel Brown Benjamin Holbert

Jason Young and Ulysses (seated)



Mediator Position Available

The Fair Housing Center (Toledo) seeks an experienced mediator to serve as a neutral party in their Landlord-Tenant Mediation department. The successful candidate will, through education and experience:

- (1) Have a strong foundation of basic mediation skills and ethics for mediators.
- (2) Be able to explain the mediation process and confidentiality to landlords, tenants, and the general public.
- (3) Be comfortable working with a widely diverse population of people.
- (4) Have the ability to work effectively with people under stressful situations, identify problems and potential solutions, and be well-versed in conflict management and diffusion skills.
- (5) Ability to utilize Microsoft Office software applications (Word, Excel, etc.) with ability to track activities in our proprietary case management system.
- (6) Have (or learn) a working knowledge of Ohio's landlord-tenant laws, and eviction procedures.
- (7) Have knowledge about and be able to interpret Federal, State, and Local laws concerning discrimination in housing; and
- (8) Have the ability to build relationships with and educate the community through outreach, presentations, and workshops.

Oualifications:

- (1) Bachelor's degree in the social sciences (particularly fields dealing with people) or equivalent required. Some amount of relevant experience may be substituted for educational requirements;
- (2) Solid conflict resolution skills; formal training(s) preferred.
- (3) One or more years experience in mediation.

This is a full-time (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) exempt position, with some evenings or weekends as needed. Additional training will be provided. The Fair Housing Center offers competitive salary and benefits package.

How to Apply:

Please send resume and cover letter detailing qualifications to HR@toledofhc.org.