



Volume 70 No. 2

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

December 15, 2021



'Tis The Season for ... Assisting Others!

AOoA CEO Billie Johnson, AOoA Chairman Bill Harris, NHA CEO Doni Miller

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'Twas the Night Before Appointments and Endorsements

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

The Truth Contributor

Life is dotted with these kinds of interruptions. A day starts out normally, and life's just humming along. Then something happens that immediately erases your plans.

- Tara Nieuwesteeg



December is year-end for the Democratic Party, a period after campaigning when it settles down for a long winter's nap.

Just a couple of weeks ago, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. Then, suddenly, without warning, Stephanie Eichenberg resigned from the TPS board. Then, Lisa Sobecki announced her candidacy for Lucas County Commissioner to create a crescendo of clatter. So, after hearing the noise, quite naturally, I thought I should rise to investigate the matter.

This is what I found:

TPS is working on a tight turnaround to have Eichenberg's replacement selected before the Board's organizational meeting in early January. A regular board meeting was scheduled for December 14, and a special board meeting will take place on December 27. So, TPS will likely choose someone by the end of December 2021 at the latest.

Many people in the community (as well as in the Party), weary of the selection of board members from the comparatively plushy 43614 neighborhood, are advocating that the appointment reflect the district's diversity.

There are certainly plenty of high-quality African Americans available for the board seat.

As many as six ethnic minorities comprise the list of 10 applicants. They included pastors, community workers, financial service professionals, gov-

ernment and corporate employees, social workers, and registered nurses.

Rev. Randall Parker III, who previously served on the Board in April 2015, stands out prominently. Parker replaced Cecelia Adams, PhD, who left to join Toledo City Council, but he lost his election bid to Perry Lefever, who has since left the Board. However, Lefever, who is not an ethnic minority, has also applied to fill the position vacated by the departing Eichenberg.

Elgin Rogers, Jr. is also an outstanding candidate. Rogers currently works for Lucas County and has served in high-level positions for the Lucas County Auditor's Office and several community groups' boards.

TPS would undoubtedly prefer to hit the ground running and thus select someone who can contribute without a steep learning curve. The Board would not have to start from scratch with either Parker III or Lefever. Both know the Board's procedures and understand how its processes work. If appointed, each also has the existing political infrastructure to hold the seat and get reelected.

While the TPS board appointment is intriguing, Lisa Sobecki's surprising candidacy to challenge incumbent Gary Byers for Lucas County Commis-

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Sir...Have You No Shame!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Jussie Smollett is a sad pathetic figure. A needy person who was seeking love in all the wrong places.

In Jussie's private alternative universe, populated by fantasies and make-believe concoctions of a toxic vanity and an ego gone amuck, Jussie was its preening king who wrongly believed that his exalted role in the series Empire would insulate him against any invaders of his own made up La-La Land.



Lafe Tolliver

But, A Chicago jury had other plans for this emperor wearing no clothes and much less any self-respect because Jussie's time for exiting his bubble had come.

Sadly, the first prosecutor, fawning to Jussie and his connections to the Obamas, seemingly ditched the case on a grandstanding claim that the evidence proved that the boy king Jussie was in fact a victim of a hate crime due to his sexual orientation and race.

In Jussie's world, if the roar and applause of the crowd grows dim, you gotta pump it up and get your bosses to see you new and afresh as an important actor who brings value and purpose to your role in Empire.

For Jussie, that plan to re-glorify himself was a half-baked concoction of having two Nigerian brothers agree with him to stage a farcical plot of Jussie being chased down, collared with a noose and called racial and homophobic names.

The problem with this craven plot is that Jussie's skills in masterminding such a play were minimal at best and even his best thespian skills were not enough to avoid the long arm of justice throttling him in a court of law.

So, there we have Jussie caught between his lies and...his lies. It did not matter as to the copious amounts of feigned outraged that Jussie and his paid entourage could muster, the gig was up, and the new prosecutor was not enthralled with either Empire or with Jussie.

So, when the halls of justice started closing in on Jussie and his ridiculous story of being a victim, Jussie had to play his trump card and take the stand to try to convince the jury that he was set upon by white criminals wearing MAGA hats and threatening him with a lynching rope and demeaning name calling.

Why, even at one point Kamala Harris (before she was VP Harris) was crying crocodile tears about Jussie's predicament and bemoaning his terrible treatment at the hands of these MAGA wearing thugs. Even Michelle Obama earlier warmed up to Jussie and expressed her sympathies before all the evidence was in.

But, The jury, with their X-Ray vision looked at the evidence and at the tall tale that he asked them to believe about that fateful night in Chi-Town and they said, "Nah...it ain't happening with us, Jussie!"

According to the legal commentators who watched the prosecutor eat Jussie alive on the stand, Jussie was a total flop. His reviews were eviscerating to say the least and down went Jussie, lies and all.

Jussie had no shame. He did not mind preying on the hopes and fears of black folks that some how he was innocent and they should cast their lot with him and raise a ruckus to the skies that Jussie was being victimized because of his sexual orientation and race.

Jussie was a pimp. A racial pimp. A sex pimp. He had no conscience is trading off his celebrity status, race and homosexuality to portray himself as a person to be pitied and for the troops to rally to his side.

Except one glaring problem with the rallying of the troops. Jussie's story was so discombobulated and full of yarn that you would need a clothespin clamping your nose to believe Jussie's mishmash of gibberish.

In the end, it was all about Jussie getting Jussie's way and it was equally about Jussie thinking that he was such a crackerjack actor who could sway a jury to throw him a lifeline.

Jussie stunk up the house with his fabricated tale of woe and misfortune and now he must pay whatever penalty the judge dishes out.

And as for his outraged legal team to say that they are going to appeal, let me yawn at that point and say, "I hope you got a fat retainer fee from Jussie for any appeal!"

Until Jussie fesses up to his crimes and apologies to all for his dastardly acts, Jussie should get no bargain from the judge.

Jussie consciously and deliberately did what he did without a whim of thought to those he would be violating their trust and for him to dump on the black community with this raggedly tale of assault, shows that Jussie holds in contempt the legitimate outrages of those who actually are violated in such ways.

Jussie is not our friend. His deeds indicate that he is contemptuous of the black community and he deserves no shelter until he comes clean and understands that his allegations were an injustice to us.

Go away Jussie...go far, far away.

Speaking of going far, far away. I will say, "Ditto" for the BLM airheads that lamented the conviction of Jussie by saying stupid remarks about all police and the entire justice system. Such errant comments serve no purpose other to expose that whoever uttered those remarks has probably two working brain cells.

BLM needs to stop making knee jerk responses to all matters of race but then call all such matters, racist. The two are not necessarily in the same universe of thought and logic. I would be a supporter of a BLM platform that addressed the embarrassing issue of Black on Black crime.

Yeah, when you see the national stats of who is killing who in the major cities (including Toledo, Ohio), guess what? It is "we" people killing others who look like, "we" people.

So much for Black Lives Matter because it does not seem to be that way when we are gunning down each other over preventable and avoidable nonsense.

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Dear Mr. Stechschulte and Toledo School Board Members:

I am writing seeking your consideration for appointment to the vacant Toledo City School Board position. I am drawn to this post because of my belief in the necessity of public education, and my desire to support the board's ongoing vision and success.

It is my belief and my experience that public education changes lives. I know this because it changed my "life" and the lives of my peers as we battled through the then "crack" epidemic. As we traveled daily to school, navigating the corners of Oakwood and Smead was not an easy task given the trappings of the neighborhood. However, along with our families, teachers, coaches and community, we were encouraged to keep pressing on until we achieved the goal of gaining a "good education."

As a graduate of Lincoln elementary, Robinson Junior High school, and the Jesup W. Scott High school, my character and strong academic skills were developed which uniquely prepared me for great success in college. Having earned both a Master of Arts degree from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Kent State University, Kent, OH, which are both public institutions of higher education, I truly understand why, we must fight to protect public education.

My experience as an educator in higher education and working with K-12 students (Upward Bound see CV; AALC's Johnnie Van Buren Warnsley Leadership Institute 2015 – present), and first-generation college students affords me a perspective on education, curriculum, academic programming, and student development that would be an asset to this body. My past and ongoing support of the board's membership, the board's initiatives, and TPS administration as a community leader exemplifies why I am excited to serve alongside this group.

My qualifications as an administrator, working with collective bargaining units, and my understanding of the complexity of large organizations would be an asset to the board. These experiences coupled with my knowledge of the communities the district serves, my experiences as a volunteer at TPS schools (Rogers High School 2015 & 2016; Scott High School 2010 & 2011; Rosa



Elgin Rogers

Parks 2017 & 2018, & Leverette 2018 & 2019), and my success collaborating with diverse groups to achieve short and long term goals - makes me the ideal candidate to fill this vacancy.

During the 2011 school year, I volunteered and participated in a series of community meetings hosted by TPS. I observed the board and community work to determine how to save our school system amid the unprecedented challenges stemming from the great recession. It was because of this board's 21st century vision and leadership that our school system survived and is progressing today - even in the midst of ongoing attacks on public education.

As you all are fully aware in December of 2021 the board faces another unprecedented challenge i.e. another attack on public education given the recent

... continued on page 12

Perryman... continued from page 2

sioner, perhaps, sets off a political cataclysm.

Since being elected as State Representative, Sobecki has been a passionate and allegiant advocate for her constituents, tackling every significant issue. But, after two terms of hitting her head against the wall grappling with an overwhelming Republican majority in Columbus, Sobecki eyes an opportunity to come back home where she can make a difference.

Sobecki's chances to successfully move from State Representative to County Commissioner are excellent.

In Columbus, she currently serves as a ranking member on the House Ways and Means Committee. In addition, she is active on the Primary and Secondary Education Committee and the State and Local Government Committee. She is also a former TPS board member, county employee, and union representative.

However, what is most striking is that Sobecki may already have amassed a war chest of at least \$100,000 in the bank just to start.

It appears that Lisa has also garnered support and endorsements from several influential backers. The Toledo Federation of Teachers, other Education associations, AFL-CIO, and the mighty building and construction trades are a few who are already backing her. In addition, look for Tina Butts and The Movement, Laborers International Union Local 500, and possibly The Teamsters, all who haven't yet decided but may also come along.

Finally, there is talk that Sobecki is likely to get the Party's endorsement over Byers, the incumbent. A challenger last got the Party endorsement over a Lucas County Commissioner occupant in 2004 when the Party endorsed Pete Gerken over Harry Barlos.

One thing is for sure, endorsements are coming early in January.

And, the screening committee, weighted heavily by the influential building trades, "to their team just gave a whistle."

And, "away, they will fly like the down of a thistle."

And, "I heard them exclaim as they went out of sight," HAPPY POLITICS TO ALL. AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

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

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SNAP Is Still Fighting Hunger Among the Elderly

Sojourner's Truth Staff

City and agency leaders gathered on Wednesday at the J. Frank Troy Senior Center to emphasize the merits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for the elderly residents of the Toledo area and to encourage these residents and their families to take advantage of a program that can provide invaluable nutritional and health benefits of the program.

"Too many elderly in this area are not participating," said Billie Johnson, president and CEO of the Area Office on Aging as she opened the press conference. "Some are too ashamed to let their families know," she added.

Bill Harris, chairman of the Area Office in Aging board of directors, said: "It is ironic that the United States of America, the breadbasket of the world, has a problem with food insecurity."

SNAP is a federal program, the largest program working to fight hunger in the United States. Approximately 5.1 million older adult households use SNAP but more than half of those who qualify for SNAP are not enrolled in the program.

"SNAP is not new and we hope it will remain for a while," said Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz as he opened his remarks. He explained that "the reason we are holding [this press conference] is that a high percentage of seniors in our community aren't taking advantage of this program ... we have to overcome a sense of shame that maybe older generations have ... hunger and food insecurity is always heartbreaking."

"We provide a large number of health care services to those who have trouble accessing such services," said Doni Miller, CEO of Neighborhood Health Association as she emphasized the "importance of food on the quality of life."

She also echoed other speakers about the difficulties older generations have overcoming their pride and asking for help. "A big part is getting folks who are uncomfortable with reaching out to seek help and getting to those who don't know it's available – the long-term ramifications are much too significant."

SNAP is available to the most at-risk citizens, including elderly and disabled. Federal eligibility for the program is for those with gross incomes of up to 130



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz addresses SNAP availability



AOoA CEO Billie Johnson, AOoA Chairman Bill Harris, NHA CEO Doni Miller



AOoA CEO Billie Johnson and Tina Williams, Director of Nutrition and Wellness Program for AOoA

percent of the federal poverty line – a family of four, for example, can make no more than \$2,633 a month to become eligible.

Lucas County residents can call the Area Office in Aging at 419-382-0524, ext 1137; 419-280-1283 or email kgaston@areaofficeonaging.com for information.

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City of Toledo and Lucas County Announce Relaunch of Rental Assistance Program

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The second phase of the Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program has launched. The program, funded by the American Rescue Plan of 2021, has supplied \$22.7 million for the first and second rounds of rental assistance and provided relief for 1900 households in the first round.

"Rental assistance is needed everywhere," said Director of Neighborhoods Rosalyn Clemens pointing to a map of Toledo during the announcement on Thursday.

Clemens touted the differences between the first phase, which provided nearly \$12.6 million in financial support to residents and the second phase which will provide an additional \$10.1 million.

"We don't have to wait for the landlords to apply, tenants can go directly to apply with a direct or indirect connection to COVID," she explained. In addition, the assistance, which was for a maximum term of 15 months in the first round, is now for 18 months.

"I am thrilled to announce that the partnership that Lucas County began with the City of Toledo in May to help residents across our community who are facing unexpected and difficult circumstances as a result of this global pandemic has been replenished with new funds," said Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak. "We are grateful to announce the relaunch of this critical county-wide program to alleviate the pressure and stress families have about their unpaid rental payments, especially while we are in the middle of the holiday season."

"The Toledo-Lucas County Rental Assistance Program has been a lifeline to many who were worried about keeping a safe and secure roof over their heads,

especially our most vulnerable residents, the low income and communities of color," said Commissioner Pete Gerken. "Renters have been among the hardest hit by the economic crisis caused by COVID-19 and continue to face a very challenging time. The restart of this program will keep thousands of Lucas County families in their homes, ensuring that they get back to work without having to worry about missed rent payments and outstanding utility bills."

"With many tenants unable to pay rent or keep up with their utility expenses and the federal eviction moratorium no longer in place, it is essential that we help our renters weather the storm through this pandemic," said Commissioner Gary L. Byers. "We are continuing our partnership with the City of Toledo and again utilizing the resources of NeighborWorks, Lutheran Social Services, and Pathway to provide

"The City of Toledo is committed to making sure that residents who are at



Dept Neighborhoods Director Rosalyn Clemens explains rental assistance program

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The Truth

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New Minority Business Assistance Center Opens

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The new Ohio Minority Business Assistance Center of Northwest Ohio, hosted by The Institute for Social Justice at Union Institute and Mays & Associates, Ltd, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Development hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday December 10 at the Lucas County Shared Services Building.

"This is a new beginning," said Stayce Fowler, regional director of Ohio MBAC-NOW-Toledo. "We have established satellite offices, we already have 60 clients and have 350 support hours so far. We are doing a great job."

Ohio MBAC NOW-Toledo is being funded by a new grant from the Ohio Department of Development, well over \$1 million spread over the next two years and more than twice the amount of the previous grant. It's the largest grant given to the seven regional offices.

"Northwest Ohio can be a hub for the state," said Shanda Gore, president/CEO of Mays & Associates and managing principal of Ohio MBAC NOW-Toledo. "This is the first time that a brand-new office has been built specifically for our northwest Ohio program. Mays & Associates partners with organizations to obtain their highest customer-centered performance and an enhanced global perspective through deeper understanding of Diversity & Inclusion and the NOW-Toledo program is the economic-focused area for us."

Also present for the ceremony was Stacy Cornett, division manager of the Ohio Department of Development Minority Business Development.

"We are excited about the opening of the new MBAC office whose mission is to empower the community to succeed," said Cornett during her remarks. She noted that her office has "trained business professional that can provide support in all areas" of business expertise.

The Shared Services Building is a recently opened facility designed to house the multitude of offices and services Lucas County manages and provides.

"You round us out and make sure there is business assistance," said County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak. "We want the business community to know that there is a one-stop center."

"This is good for our community and good for everyone," added Commissioner Gary Byers. "Your success is our community's success."

Along with Mays & Associates, Ltd; The Institute for Social Justice at Union Institute & University and the Lucas County Board of Commission-



(L. to R.) Toledo Commissioner of Business Services Sandy Spang, LC Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak, MBAC Regional Director Stayce Fowler, MBAC Managing Principal Shanda Gore, Ohio Department of Development Stacy Cornett, LC Commissioner Gary Byers



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Nan Whaley: Democratic Candidate for Governor Addresses the Issues

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, a Democrat, has been at the helm of her hometown for seven years tackling a myriad of issues. She entered office during the midst of an opioid overdose crisis and, during her term, has encountered tornadoes, a mass shooting, hate rallies staged by Indiana residents and, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic.

By her estimate, Dayton has fared better than most would have thought possible during her time leading the city. She and her team have been dealing effectively with crime, for example, and developing an education plan that other communities would do well to emulate, indeed, some cities already have.

In fact, she may have the opportunity to see that more communities do emulate such a plan. Whaley has kicked off her campaign for governor. Crime and education are but two of the issues prominent in her platform – but very prominent indeed.

Bringing people together and police reform are the key elements of her approach to crime. In Dayton, the city has organized five different neighborhood groups, each comprised of an administration official and a community leader, along with dozens of committed citizens.

More than 140 recommendations have been issued by the working groups with an emphasis on ways to change recruitment and to improve relationships between law enforcement officials and the community, said Whaley, in a recent conversation with The Truth during her visit to Toledo.

"The relationship between police and the community has to be strong," she said. "That's the work citizens are doing now – it's hard, tough work."

Whaley emphasizes that such work cannot be conducted behind closed doors or without the input of the community. She takes issue with current Governor Mike DeWine's approach to dealing with crime and his partnering with Republican Representative Phil Plummer of Montgomery County merely to increase funding without delving into root cause issues.

Plummer, Whaley noted, was sheriff of Montgomery County for 10 years and lodged more civil rights complaints than any jurisdiction other than Cuyahoga County.

"Both have spent their whole careers in a racist system, which is what the criminal justice system is," she said.

Whaley is also an advocate of the state taking an interest in those folks who become and remain law enforcement officials.

"The state licenses barbers and those who work in beauty salons, and nurses," she said. However, police officers, despite whatever training they receive from their cities or counties, are not licensed by the state. Bad officers who lose their jobs because of performance issues, can easily move from a big city position to one in the suburbs or small towns.

"The state can really engage in licensure," said Whaley.

One of Whaley's key efforts as mayor has been to develop a plan to actively engage the city in education reform – pre-school education. The city has established a program, working through child-care centers, to offer high quality pre-school education to four-year olds so they are better prepared when they enter kindergarten.

The Dayton plan permits all families to enter their four-year olds in the program and working with the centers – as many of the centers as possible, has enabled the daycares to upgrade the quality of their educational programs. Initially, whether centers had three stars or no stars, they were able to participate in the program.

Now, said Whaley, "80 percent of our kids in Dayton are in a three-star pre-school."

The Dayton program has proven beneficial on several fronts, said the mayor. On the education front, the data has shown that "we are closing the black achievement gap, particularly among black boys," she said.

In addition, virtually all of the city's pre-schools are small businesses, typically owned by black women. These are women who have started such operations because they love kids, said Whaley.

"We get a two-for: quality preschool and we help black women business owners succeed in their businesses," she explained of the success the plan has had.



Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley



Whaley campaigning in Toledo



Whaley at Toledo's African American Legacy Project

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Social Security Column

Social Security Benefits Increase in 2022

By Erin Thompson

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

Approximately 70 million Americans will see a 5.9% increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in 2022. Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W).

The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are a little more expensive, so the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) helps to offset these costs.

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. But, if you want to know your new benefit amount sooner, you can securely obtain your Social Security COLA notice online using the Message Center in your my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. You can access this information in early December prior to the mailed notice.

If you prefer to access your COLA notice online and not receive the mailed notice, you can log in to your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov.

gov/myaccount to opt out of a mailed COLA notice and any other notices that are available online by updating your Preferences in the Message Center. Did you know you can receive a text or email alert when there is a new message waiting for you? That way, you always know when we have something important for you – like your COLA notice. If you don't have an account yet, you must create one by November 17, 2021, to receive the 2022 COLA notice online.

January 2022 marks other changes that will happen based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2022 will be higher. The retirement earnings test exempt amount will also change in 2022 and you can view that at www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2022.pdf.

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Nan Whaley... continued from page 9

The response from the business owners has been gratifying. "We have the great data," said Whaley, "but in addition these women are seeing great things with their businesses."

Issues aside, regardless of the success, or perceived success, of Whaley's tenure as mayor, her gubernatorial campaign must now translate that seven-year effort into a message that encourages Ohio voters to go to the polls and, then, push the Democratic button.

Whaley faces two major challenges – an incumbent opponent and a contest in a state which has become increasingly red over the last half decade or so.

The Republican candidate for president has won the state handily in the last two elections and in the 2018 election for statewide offices, the Republicans fared much better than their Democratic opponents.

"I don't look at the state of Ohio as being a red state or a blue state," said Whaley referencing the 2018 campaign in which Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown won his race by eight points, the same margin by which Donald Trump carried the state in his re-election contest in 2020.

"It's a pretty swingy state. But people are frustrated by being forgotten and ignored and it has nothing to do with what party you are in. People are working harder and harder, getting paid less and less and their bills go up and they are not

getting the support from their government."

Whaley views her campaign as having a decided advantage, not only because of the dissatisfaction of voters but also because of the corruption that plagues the current state administration.

"In 2018, we did not have the FBI calling the Ohio state house the most corrupt state house in the country," she said of the First Energy scandal in which the federal government has accused state politicians of taking \$61 million in bribes.

"Democrats do better when we have a corruption scandal," she said of the current issues that have plagued Columbus Republicans. "The First Energy scandal, by a factor of 10, is more appalling than what we have seen in the past. It is THE issue. You cannot invest in the community; you cannot invest in the people if you have the most corrupt state in the country and the corruption will always get in the way of a complete overhaul to make sure government is working for the people."

And the scandal and political atmosphere which led to it, encompasses more than the accused legislators, Whaley said. "Mike DeWine was complicit; he funded his daughter's campaign ... he hired Sam Randazzo. It gets worse and worse."

"DeWine is weak," Whaley added. "He is not strong enough to stand up to the

... continued on page 13

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Christmas Gifts at Your Local Book Store ... or Online – Part 1

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You knew this was coming.

You knew that you were going to have to finish your holiday shopping soon but it snuck up on you, didn't it? And even if you're close to being done, there are always those three or five people who are impossible to buy for, right? Remember this, though: books are easy to wrap and easy to give, and they last awhile, too. So why not head to the bookstore with your Christmas List and look for these gifts...

Fiction

Is there a better book to give your BFF than *How to Kill Your Best Friend* by Lexie Elliott? I think not. This is a book about three friends who've been inseparable since college. Sadly, one of them, a strong swimmer, drowns under mysterious circumstances. Is there a murderer in their rapidly-shrinking friends circle?

Fans of thrillers will absolutely want to unwrap *Bullet Train* by Kotaro Isaka, the story of five assassins who find out that their respective assignments have a little too much in common for comfort. Give this book for a gift, along with two movie tickets, since it's about to become a motion picture.

The person on your gift list who loves mythology will be very excited to see *Daughters of Sparta* by Claire Heywood beneath the tree. This is a story of two princesses of Sparta, of which little is expected but birthing an heir and looking beautiful. But when patriarchal society becomes too overbearing, the princesses must decide what to do. Far from your normal "princess" tale, this one has shades of feminism in ancient times.

The giftee who loves romantic happily-ever-after may enjoy an anti-HEA with *Rock Paper Scissors* by Alice Feeney, the story of a couple that's struggling with their marriage. It's nobody's fault; he has an affliction and can't recognize faces; she's tired of being ignored. When they win a vacation, it's a chance to make things better. Or not.

The Poe fan on your gift list will love unwrapping *Poe for Your Problems* by Catherine Baab-Miguira. Edgar Allen Poe as therapist? Who knew? Add *The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows* by John Koenig to the gift box. It's a book about words and feelings and how obscure language might help make things a little clearer.

Readers who particularly like stories with sugar will love *All the Lonely People* by Mike Gayle. It's a tale of a lonely man who lives far from his family – far enough away that he feels confident in embellishing his life to his daughter. That's fine, until she says she's coming to visit and he must make fantasy match reality. Wrap it up with *The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World* by Laura Imai Messina.

It's a beautiful story of loss, hope, and how we keep memories alive when someone's gone.

Readers who love underdog tales will be so happy to unwrap *Everyone in This Room Will Someday Be Dead* by Emily Austin. It's the story of Gilda, an atheist lesbian who lands a job as the receptionist at a Catholic church by mistake. When a friend of the former receptionist tries to contact the deceased former secretary, Gilda impersonates the woman. Problem is, the woman's dead and Gilda's acting suspicious... Pair it up with *The Mad Woman's Ball* by Victoria Mars, a novel set in France in 1885. The Salpêtrière asylum is full of "insane" women who may or may not really be insane. But then one patient, hospitalized because she claims to speak to the dead, hatches a plan to escape..

Historical novel fans will want to see *Island Queen* by Vanessa Riley beneath the tree this year, for sure. Based on a true story, it's about Dorothy Kirwan Thomas, who had been a slave. Once freed, she ultimately became one of the most powerful, most wealthy, and most influential women in the West Indies in the early 1800s.

The folk music lover who just happens to also enjoy novels will love *The Ballad of Laurel Springs* by Janet Beard. It's the story starts with ten-year-old Grace, who learns something shocking about her family's past and the event became a song. She's not the only one, though: songs and lyrics tell the rest of the tale, through generations of Tennessee folk music. Wrap it up with a promise of summer music festivals to come.

Mysteries

The whodunit fan on your list will be happy to see *A Slow Fire Burning* by Paula Hawkins beneath the tree. It's the tale of a nasty murder on a London houseboat, and the three women who had big, big reasons to want to see the victim dead.

For the reader who genuinely loves time-period mysteries, look for *Dead Dead Girls: A Harlem Renaissance Mystery* by Nekesa Afia. It's Harlem, 1926 and young Black women are showing up

dead all over the area. This is too close for comfort for Louise Lloyd, and so when she's given an ultimatum – go to jail for a past transgression or help solve these murders – well, the choice is clear, isn't it? This is the first book in a planned series, and your giftee will be looking for the rest after New Years' Eve. Or make it an even better gift by adding *Public Enemy #1* by Kiki Swinson, a novel about a new detective and a police department filled with corruption.

If you've got someone on your list who likes westerns and mysteries, why not marry the two by wrapping up *Dark Sky* by C.J. Box. It's another in the Joe Pickett series (but it can be read alone), and it's the story of a wealthy man, poaching, and murder, and it could send your giftee scrambling for the rest of the Pickett books.

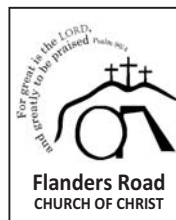
And why does your giftee love mysteries? The answer lies inside *Mystery: A Seduction, A Strategy, A Solution* by Jonah Lehrer. This book ties advertising with assassination, major league football to murder, Shakespeare with slayings, to show how our curiosity and the urge to solve is tickled by a mystery.

For readers who require a lot of grit in their novels, look for *The Song His Mother Sings* by Teresa Collins, the story of a mother whose son is caught up in the drug trade. Trouble is, he thinks it's fine and he blames her for filling his head with lies. Great for urban fiction fans, this is a quick read.

General Nonfiction

No doubt, there's someone on your gift list who's concerned about climate change. And so the book to wrap up is *Hurricane Lizards and Plastic Squid* by Thor Hanson, a natural historian. Here, Hanson reveals how climate change is driving evolution. And what will happen to us? Pair it with *A (Very) Short History of Life on Earth* by Henry

... continued on page 11



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Christmas Gifts... continued from page 11

Gee, a small book that looks at the Big Picture, where we came from and where we might go...

For the reader who's new to America, or for someone welcoming a new immigrant to these shores, look for ***A Beginner's Guide to America* by Roya Hakakian**. Nearly forty years ago, Hakakian came to live in America from Iran, and she noticed a few (ha!) differences that she writes about. This book is a bit humorous, a bit tongue-in-cheek, and a lot helpful for new Americans and for Americans who were born here, so that we might see ourselves as others do. Wrap it up with ***How Iceland Changed the World* by Egill Bjarnason**, a small island with a big world footprint.

The singer or orator on your list will devour ***This is the Voice* by John Coplanto**. It's a scientific look at the human voice, how it differs, and how our ability to speak and verbally communicate as complex as we can has made us the dominant creatures we are. Wrap it up with ***The Invention of Miracles* by Katie Booth**, the true story of Alexander Graham Bell's work with deaf individuals (including his wife).

If there's a new cook on your list (or someone's about to strike out on their own), ***Burnt Toast and Other Disasters* by Cal Peternell** will be the perfect thing to wrap up this holiday. It's filled with recipes that are relatively easy with lots of chance to impress, and hacks to take care of those inevitable kitchen uh-ohs. And speaking of disasters, if your giftee is also concerned about health matters and the environment, wrap up ***Toxin Nation* by Marie D. Jones**, a book about manmade disasters and how it affects our food, air, water, and health.

Got an adventurer on your gift list? Then you can't go wrong with ***True Raiders* by Brad Ricca**. It's the story of the 1909 expedition to find the Arc of the Covenant, a story that few know and that's largely undiscussed. Your giftee will be overjoyed to see ***Latitude* by Nicholas Crane** in the same gift box. It's the true story of a ten-year expedition that started in 1735, in which a dozen men journey to determine the shape of the planet.

If you've got someone on your gift list who's very interested in current and world events, then ***The Raging 2020s* by Alec Ross** might be the perfect gift. It's a book that peers into our (possible) future in business, geographical issues, politics, and more. Pair it up with ***Broke in America: Seeing, Understanding, and Ending U.S. Poverty* by Joanne Samuel Goldblum and Colleen Shaddox**. It's a book that looks into the future and offers ideas for hope.

The person who's concerned with racial justice will be glad you gave ***State of Emergency: How We Win in the Country We Built* by Tamika D. Malory**. It's an overall look at continuing racism in America, including what's happened in the past year or so; it's a demand to think and a call to action for everyone. Pair it with ***Better, Not Bitter* by Yusef Salaam**, a memoir as well as an urge for racial justice.

For the giftee who worries about gun violence in America today, ***The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America* by Carol Anderson** might be a good gift. It's about what she says is the real reason gun violence exists and beware: it's very controversial.

If it seems like the last two years have fractured families, you're right. That's why ***Brothers, Sisters, Strangers: Sibling Estrangement and the Road to Reconciliation* by Fern Schumer Chapman** might be a great gift. Wrap it up for someone or for yourself.

TV fans of that iconic Sunday night show will love getting ***Ticking Clock:***

***Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes* by Ira Rosen**, producer of the show. Fans and followers will love the behind-the-scenes peeks.

The person who hopes to conquer fear in the new year will appreciate a gift of ***Professional Troublemaker: The Fear-Fighter Manual* by Luvvie Ajayi Jones**. Jones is a blogger and public speaker and she knows how to take fear out of the equation. Your giftee will see how three words can make all the difference, and how to make good trouble.

The reader who loves a good scare will enjoy ***The Vampire Almanac: The Complete History* by J. Gordon Melton, PhD**. Pretty much everything you'd ever want to know about the undead is in here. Dare to wrap it up with ***A Very Nervous Person's Guide to Horror Movies* by Mathias Clasen**, a book that picks apart those scary flicks and why we should (or shouldn't) watch them.

For the reader who dreams of life in the past or wishes to know the future, ***Time Travel: The Science and Science Fiction* by Nick Redfern** is a book to give this year. Filled with short entries and packed with information, ideas, and possibilities from literature, philosophical thought, eyewitness accounts, and science, this book may make your giftee wish they had a ticket now...

Much has been said about Black women and their hair, but your giftee will love ***My Beautiful Black Hair* by St. Clair Detrick-Jules**. This book is full of pictures of Black women and the styles they're rocking, accompanied by those women's stories. It's a great gift for stylists, Black women who love their hair, and for their daughters who must learn to.

If you've got someone on your list who wants to make the world a better place, then look for ***An Abolitionist's Handbook: 12 Steps to Changing Yourself and the World* by Patrisse Cullors**. Part memoir, part instruction, this book will help show how good can be done, not just in big ways but in everyday life. Wrap it up with ***Say Their Names: How Black Lives Came to Matter in America* by Curtis Bunn, Michael H. Cottman, Patrice Gaines, Nick Charles, and Keith Harriston**.

True Crime and Police Stories

The true-crime lover on your gift list will absolutely want to unwrap ***Rogue's Gallery: The Birth of Modern Policing and Organized Crime in Gilded Age New York* by John Oller**. The title says it all; wrap it up with a couple mysteries for the best gift ever.

For the social activist on your list, or for anyone who wants to know more about the death penalty, look at ***Let the Lord Sort Them: The Rise and Fall of the Death Penalty* by Maurice Chammah**. Specifically looking at Death Row in Texas prisons, this book takes a look at penal punishment and how it affects the condemned and those who know them.

A true crime lover knows that nothing is better than a great book as a gift, so wrap up ***Death on Ocean Boulevard: Inside the Coronado Mansion Case* by Caitlin Rother**. Rebecca Azhau's death was ruled a suicide. Rother shows that that might not be the case...

Your giftee will also be very happy with ***American Serial Killers: The Epidemic Years 1950-2000* by Peter Vronsky**. It's an anthology of crime that'll chill your favorite true crime aficionado and leave them begging for more – and so wrap up ***Serial Killers: The Minds, Methods, and Mayhem of History's Most Notorious Murders* by Richard Estep**, for the best gift

... continued on page 13

Mr. Stechschulte... continued from page 4

change in the state funding model. If appointed, I will work on behalf of the students in this community as a board member to defeat any and all threats to public education. I will work as an ambassador to promote the district and advocate for families to return to our district.

With this board's support, I will work faithfully to make sure that public education is available to all in our community. If appointed to the seat, I have ample experience and knowledge of organizing, and leading campaigns which will help tremendously when working to retain the position. My name is Elgin Rogers, Jr., and I am asking for your vote to fill the vacancy on the Toledo City School Board.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Elgin Rogers, Jr.

Minority Business Center... continued from page 7

ers, the other MBAC NOW-Toledo partners include the Ivy Entrepreneur Institute, Ohio Unity Coalition, Premier Bank and T. Parker & Co.

Business hours for the new Ohio MBAC NOW-Toledo office are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All business consultations are free and scheduled by appointment only by calling 419-213-3890.

For more information about Ohio MBAC NOW-Toledo, visit www.nwombac.com or contact Stayce Fowler, regional director, at Stayce.fowler@nwombac.com or 419-213.3891.

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Christmas Gifts... continued from page 12

for a true crime fan ever.

For the Sports Lover

The fisherman on your list will love opening *The Unreasonable Virtue of Fly Fishing* by Mark Kurlansky this year. The thing to know is that this isn't a how-to, it's more of a how-to-love the art of casting and catching, from coast to coast and around the world.

No doubt, there's someone on your list who plays favorites, when it comes to sports. That's why you'll want to wrap up *Talking to GOATs* by Jim Gray. It's a book full of interviews with sports' Greatest Of All Time competitors (GOATs, get it?). Surely, there's more argument in this book, just as there's more to know about superstar professionals.

Want to make a home run this holiday? Then wrap up *42 Today: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*, edited by Michael G. Long. It's a collection of essays on the impact Robinson left on folks today, and memories that others have of the great man.

For the woman on your list who has a love-hate relationship with sports, wrap up *Sidelined: Sports, Culture, and Being a Woman in America* by Julie DiCaro. It's a book that looks at pro sports' "thorny issues" of sexism, exploitation, and the toxicity that women sometimes face when competing. Not for the faint of heart, for sure.

If there's a young player on your list, here's a book for their parents: *The Brain on Youth Sports* by Julie M. Stamm, PhD. Help them lay to rest the myths and be armed with the facts on brain injuries in kids' sports.

History

The reader who can't have enough World War II history will relish reading *Into the Forest* by Rebecca Frankel. It's the true story of a family that escaped the Nazis by hiding in a nearby wooded area and they were able to stay safe for two years. Decades later, long after their liberation in 1944, another miracle happened and so did love. Wrap it up with a tissue. It's that kind of book.

For the person who races through books faster than fast, wrap up *The Matter of Black Lives: Writing from The New Yorker*, edited by Jelani Cobb and David Remnick. It's a thick anthology filled with essays from decades ago but are still relevant, thoughts that need reconsideration, and historical tales that modern eyes need to see. Wrap it up with *Black Nerd Problems* by William Evans & Omar Holmon, a book that's perfect for geeks, nerds, Con-lovers, and gamers of any race.

History lovers will love unwrapping *Travels with George* by Nathaniel Philbrick, a book that chronicles the author's trip across America to see how our country has change, including the way we see George though modern eyes.

Memoir and Biography

For the fan of police procedurals and courtroom drama, *Redeeming Justice* by Jarrett Adams is a no-brainer gift. When he was just a teenager, an all-white jury convicted Adams of a crime he didn't commit and they sent him to prison. Ten long years later, he was exonerated and released but not without help and a long fight to prove his innocence. He's now an attorney and this is a must-read tale. Wrap it up with *The Prison Guard's Daughter: My Journey Through the Ashes of Attica* by Deanne Quinn Miller, whose father was murdered in the 1971 Attica Prison uprising.

The reader who's also a fan of World War II stories will want to unwrap *Eva and Eve* by Julie Metz. It's the story of Metz's cosmopolitan, ultra-urbane mother and the side that Metz didn't know about: when Eve was a child, she lived in Nazi-occupied Vienna. Wrap it up with a bookmark, though your giftee won't need it.

Hollywood biography lovers will truly enjoy unwrapping *Elizabeth and Monty: The Untold Story of Their Intimate Friendship* by Charles Casillo. It's the story of a deep friendship, but that's not all; it's also a dual-biography of two of H-wood's most beloved stars.

The teacher in your life will love reading *Matchsticks* by Fred Engh. In 1961, Engh was a husband and father living in Maryland when he was inspired by an interview he saw that made him want to become a Physical Education teacher. And so Engh, a white man, enrolled in Maryland State College, which was then an all-black, segregated school. Bonus: this book is also a great read for the sports fan on your list.

For the skater on your list, wrap up *The Most Fun Thing* by Kyle Beachy. The author is a skateboarder and he writes about how he first learned the sport, what it's like to be a middle-aged sk8r, and he addresses other "fun things" about life and skateboarding. It's like a biography on wheels.

If you know a family that loves to travel, wrap up *We Came, We Saw, We Left* by Charles Wheelan. Long before Covid-19, the Wheelan family decided to take a long extended trip to "recharge and reflect" and see the world. Picture it: nine months and six continents with three teenagers. Wrap it with an atlas because you know what could be next...

Fans of the late Anthony Bourdain will absolutely love unwrapping *Bour-*

dain: The Definitive Oral Biography by Laurie Woolever, who was Bourdain's co-author on many books. This is a collection of memories from those who loved Bourdain, like a love letter to those who followed him fiercely.

For the woman who finds herself alone this holiday, *But You Seemed So Happy: A Marriage, in Pieces and Bits* by Kimberly Harrington is a book about the end of a marriage, but also about the beginning of a marriage, things between those two points, and how it's possible to find something good again...

Readers who love historical biographies will devour *Cleopatra: The Queen Who Challenged Rome and Conquered Eternity* by Alberto Angela. It's a sweeping story and your giftee will love getting it, no de Nile.

What do you give to the person who longs for a time gone by? How about *The Farm on Badger Creek: Memories of a Midwest Girlhood* by Peggy Prilaman Marxen? Set in Wisconsin in the middle of the last century, your reader will find tales of life on the farm, of one-room schoolhouses, chickens in the coop, and Grandma in the kitchen. It's got warmth, and it's perfect for the nostalgic one on your list.

City of Toledo... continued from page 6

risk for homelessness, or have housing instability, are helped financially so that they can stay in their homes," Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz said. "We are very happy for this second round of funding. We are looking forward to ensure that our residents are safe, and able to meet their daily needs."

The program assists low to moderate-income households in the city and county with up to 18 months of rent, utility, and internet support. That may include payment for current and future rent, past due rent, late fees, new renter fees, security deposits, and utility deposits and payments.

In order to be eligible for rent assistance funds, applicants:

- Must rent a residential unit in Toledo or Lucas County.
- Have a valid and current lease signed by both landlord and tenant or other documentation supporting the existence of a rental relationship.
- Qualify for unemployment or have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to or during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
- Fall below the maximum household income requirement.

Applications will only be accepted online via the Neighborly TLCERAP Software portal, which is posted at toledo.oh.gov/renters. Partner organizations will provide marketing and outreach for the program and provide technical assistance with the application on a first come, first served basis.

Nan Whaley... continued from page 10

extremists in his party; he has bought into the corrupt culture up there."

The chance that the mayor of a mid-sized city could take the governor's seat in Columbus has Whaley gleeful about the possibilities for the state as a whole – criminal reform, education reform, ending corruption and economic reform opportunities, above all.

"What would it be like if the State of Ohio said we are going to provide childcare for everyone?" she mused. "Twenty percent of women have decided not to go back to work because they can't figure out childcare – post pandemic. So what would it be like if we invested that way?"

"We are trying to figure out how we can get that done," the candidate added.

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CONSULTANT NEEDED

The **Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County** (MHR SB) seeks a consultant to help the Board align its staff and organizational chart with its current responsibilities, priorities, and workflow. Proposals are accepted through December 30, 2021. For scope of work and information on where to submit proposals, please visit www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/.

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 UTM C, 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.

**Community Engagement Facilitator**

BETHANY HOUSE Bethany House provides long-term safe transitional shelter and advocacy to survivors of domestic violence and their children. This part-time position will work 20-25 hours weekly to support the mission and values of Bethany House, as well as the values of the Sisters of St. Francis.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

1. Assisting in specialized outreach activities and volunteer engagement.
2. Facilitating volunteer recruitment, screening, orientation, training, and supervision
3. Facilitating in-kind gifts and volunteers to ensure the needs of program participants are met, including holiday programs
4. Coordinating volunteer opportunities (individuals and groups) activities to create clean welcoming shelter spaces for survivors and their children and overall care for the facility
5. Facilitating outreach opportunities on behalf of Bethany House
6. Assisting in agency communications including social media, marketing, newsletters, donor and volunteer acknowledgments
7. Engaging with community agencies serving marginalized and under-served populations

Requirements

- Be able to lift 40 pounds and ability to climb stairs required
- Driving is required for this position. Must have and maintain a vehicle, a valid driver's license, and proof of auto insurance
- Successful completion of background screening

Bethany House provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, marital status, status as a covered veteran or any other factor the law protects from employment discrimination in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. *Qualified employees are eligible for tuition assistance to Lourdes University.*

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. INTERESTED CANDIDATES SHOULD EMAIL A COVER LETTER AND RESUME TO EXECDIRECTOR@BETHANYHOUSETOLEDO.ORG

FILL IN RECEPTIONIST

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio is seeking a fill in receptionist to cover vacation, sick and personal time for regular staff in a 24-hour facility.

Must be able to work all three shifts, weekends and holidays and be available during the summer to cover vacation. Must have an Associate's degree minimum, background in switchboard, public contact, receipting money, bulk mailing and copying. Must be reliable, dependable, and able to follow directions and work with little supervision. Experience in a social service environment is helpful. \$15.00 per hour. Submit resume to admin@ywcanwo.org or <mailto:admin@ywcanwo.org> or mail to YWCA of NWO 1018 Jefferson Ave. Toledo, OH 43604

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.

Qualifications:

- (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@toledo-fhc.org.

PROPOSALS WANTED FOR COMMUNITY MINI-GRANTS

The **Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County** (MHR SB) 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 MHR SB 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/>.

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

The 10th Annual Christmas Bazaar at St. Clements

The 10th Annual Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at St. Clements Hall in west Toledo on a balmy early winter day featuring 64 degrees and wind. The wind did not stop the guests from stopping by to shop for Christmas items. There were over thousand in attendance. Some came as far as Delta, Lima, Defiance, Findlay and Bowling Green, OH; and some from Lambertville and Detroit, MI and surrounding areas.

There were 65 vendors in attendance. Some of the vendors who participated were Shiva Billions, Natural Products; Laurie Earl, Tastefully Simply; Angel Rodgers, Chubima's Experience; Craig Burney, Vintage the Collection Inc.; Danielle Reddick, Tiny Hearts Remembered Inc, Lynette Dunbar, Savvy Sistas; Linda Fox, Linda Heri Designz; Terrie Landry-Cook, Simply D'Vine Boutique and James Darby, book author from Cleveland with his book titled "Don't Forget What Grandma Said."

This was definitely "ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR HOLIDAY NEEDS" along with networking opportunities.

Big Mealz on Wheelz food truck was present and DJ Steven Wolfe played Christmas medleys and other genres of music for the audience.

The Sponsors were Taylor Automotive Family, Molina Health Care, The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper, Adventurous Travels and The Huntington National Bank and also thanks to the Social Butterfly team Bonita Brazzel-Craig, Debbie Harris and Susie Brown for their assistance. The next event will be the 11th Annual Business & Health Expo on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at St. Clements Hall and for more information contact Donnetta Carter via email: thesocialbutterflyevents@yahoo.com or (419) 367-9765

Carter thanked everyone for their overwhelming support!



TOMMY KAYE'S
Classic SOUL
WITH YOUR GIRL LADY K
SUNDAYS 5PM TO 7PM

THE JUICE 107.3
 THE PEOPLE'S STATION

The Movement
Paramount &
Toledo Lucas County Health Department
 Presents
A Christmas Extravaganza
VACCINES FOR KIDS 5 & UP
 (PFIZER AND J&J)

\$100 GIFT CARDS for 1st time vaccine

MUSIC! **FOOD TRUCKS!** **PRIZES!** **COME MEET SANTA!**

Wayman Palmer Community Center
2053 N. 14TH St. Toledo, Ohio 43620
SATURDAY DECEMBER 18, 2021
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Call 419-206-9293 TO RECEIVE A LINK TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD

UToledo Panel Discusses Future of Education

By Dawn Scotland

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

A town hall was held Wednesday, October 8, at the University of Toledo by the Department of Educational Studies. The event "The Future of Education: Divisive Concepts in the Classroom" featured four local experts discussing the implications of pending House Bill 322 and House Bill 327.

House Bill 322 summarized:

"Pending Ohio legislation that prohibits the teaching, instructing, promoting, and advocating of "Prohibited Concepts" that center on Race and Sex in Pre K-12 Schools."

House Bill 327 summarized:

"Pending Ohio legislation that prohibits the teaching, instructing, promoting, and advocating of "Divisive Concepts" in Pre K-12, Higher Education, and Political Subdivisions. Violations incur severe penalties, including: suspension and revocation of licensure, denial of tenure and employment and withholding up to 100% of state funding."

Similar bills have already passed in nine states in the crusade against the teaching of so-called "Critical Race Theory" in the education system. Four panelists offered their expertise in the discussion.

The bills are vague and have far reaching implications.

Restricting the Truth

"Divisive" is defined as "tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people." With the language used in these bills such topics as slavery, Jim Crow and topics on sex and gender can be eliminated and barred from teaching in classrooms.

Taking away from the power of the local school system to create its curriculum

The local school board has the power to create its own curriculum, and this takes that away. In Toledo, this would eradicate the teaching of an afro-centric curriculum, according to Sheena Barnes Toledo Public School Board Member.

Barring free speech

"Whether you agree or not [on subject matter] you should be deeply troubled

by the idea that a state legislature can censor and idea," said Shawn Nelson, education lawyer and attorney at Marshall Melhorn, LLC. "We should all be deeply concerned about the precedent this sets." The barring of free speech can extend well beyond House Bill 322 and 327.

The bills sanction strict penalties

Materials may be completely thrown out. Students can be ineligible to receive course credit. Schools that do not adhere to the bill may lose up to 100 percent of state funding and an educator may lose license, tenure and/or employment.

Larger implications

The barring of speech and materials and strict penalties to offenders is akin more to communist China or 1930s fascist Nazi Germany. The policing of information and ideas are contrary to the notions that this country was predicated on, pointed out Darold Johnson, Director of Legislation at Ohio Federation of Teachers. Americans should be concerned about what this can lead to.

Following the discussion, the panel answered questions from attendees in person and online. Many attending asked about how to take action to stop the legislation. Answers included visiting HonestyForOhioEducation.info, writing to local legislature, spreading the word about the bills on social media and voting in elected officials that hold likeminded values.

The panelists for the night included Sheena Barnes, community advocate, executive Director of Equality Toledo and Toledo Public Schools Board Member; Darold Johnson, public policy advocate and Director of Legislation at Ohio Federation of Teachers; Shawn Nelson, Attorney at Law (Marshall Melhorn, LLC) and Robyn Lewis, future counselor and Psychology student at the University of Toledo.



BLUE

BY JEANINE TESORI &
TAZEWELL THOMPSON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022 AT 7PM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022 AT 2PM

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LIFE OF LOVE AND LOSS STARRING
ALLEN MICHAEL JONES AND AUNDI MARIE MOORE.

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