



Naketa R. Jones

YAP Program Director

In This Issue

The Truth Editorial
Page 2

Ford's View
Page 3

Money, Money, Money,
Money
Page 4

Street Renamed for Bishop
Williams
Page 5



Cover Story
Naketa Jones of YAP
Page 6

One of 50 Most Beautiful
Page 7

Joyner Revisits Toledo
Page 8-9



Minister's Take On
The Simpsons Movie
Page 11

The Lima Truth
Page 12

BlackMarketPlace
Page 14

Classifieds
Page 15



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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Be careful what you wish for and at this time local Democrats – those on the so-called A team – need to be very careful indeed.

Party Chairman Chris Redfern spent a few days here last week shaking his head in understandable dismay at the ages-old party split and the acrimony that has become such a fact of life in northwest Ohio.

Redfern plans to open a state party office in town as quickly as it can be assembled. His concern stems from the fact that Lucas County will be so important, in this most important of states, in the 2008 presidential election. Governor Ted Strickland and Redfern, who will one day go to Washington D.C. himself as a representative or senator, are under a lot of scrutiny and pressure from the national party to clean up the Lucas County mess. This is an opportunity to shine and they cannot afford to fail.

So the state party has a challenge and that challenge was never more evident than in the past week during which Mayor Carty Finkbeiner was assailed by renegade City Councilmen on the balanced budget issue. He retaliated by proposing that he really did not need as many of them giving him such grief – why not trim their numbers from 12 to eight?

Since council itself will have to take action on this plan to save the city some money but also cost some council jobs, the rebels may soon find themselves in a difficult spot indeed.

All of this drama was sandwiched in between the strippergate scandal over which John Irish lost his chairman's job and an ethics complaint against Councilmen Mike Craig and Joe McNamara for mentioning the name of a candidate for the District 2 council seat.

Just when we think that affairs cannot get anymore sublimely absurd in a party that dominates the local scene, we move into the realm of the ridiculous.

So a state office opens and we have to guess that a lot of A team Democrats – who don't venture into 1817 Madison anymore – will avail themselves of the state party's resources for the next year and a half.

By the way, at that time there actually will be three headquarters here in the Glass City. We will have the Madison Avenue location, the state party site and, quite possibly, Michael Ashford's headquarters on Collingwood will still be in existence.

The problem with the state party's plan is that their headquarters will serve not only as an additional resource but will also be viewed with suspicion by B teamers as a site that is looking over their shoulders and as part of an organization that is trying to make it easier for the state party to micromanage the local party.

At that point there will be increased friction not only between the A and B teamers but also between the state party and the B teamers.

But for the state party, the establishment of such an office makes sense ... in the short term. The party needs to get out the vote for the presidential campaign so the more offices the merrier. But the long term effects of such a move are a different matter.

Keep in mind that sometime during the state party's lengthy visit to Toledo, over on Madison Avenue elections for precinct leaders will be held as well as for party leaders. The entrenched B team is not very likely to lose its grip on the party machinery, particularly if the state party's presence diverts A teamers from putting up a struggle to return to some sort of parity.

After the 2008 election, the state party will pull out of Toledo leaving behind a party in even greater disarray than they found it. If you think that there is resentment on Madison Avenue now, wait until after November 2008 and those in charge continue to blame the A team for the extended stay of the state party and the embarrassment that ensued.

We think that Redfern needs to carefully consider the long-range consequences of such a plan and that local Democrats need to open a dialogue immediately to determine how they can make it through the next year and a half without matter getting worse.

There are a number of elected officials here who don't identify themselves as being of either wing of the party. Perhaps they are the ones who should take the lead in dealing with the two teams and with the state party leaders so that all can find their way through this potential minefield without cataclysmic results.

Community Calendar

*June 11-August 3
Summer Feeding Program at the Holt Lifeline Center: Youths ages 5-18; Noon to 1 pm; Monday through Friday: 419-727-0820

*June 18-August 4
Summer Reading Pals: Sanger and Oregon branches; Free seven-week summer program for youth who need reading practice: 419-259-5276

*August 3
Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge No. 4; 11 am to 5 pm: 419-531-7079

*August 5-26
Central MBC: Second Pastoral Anniversary for Pastor Victor Reed and First Lady Kathy Reed: 419-244-6096 or 419-450-6320

*August 6-10
Warren AME Church: Vacation Bible School; 5:30 to 8 pm; Pre-schoolers to adults: 419-865-5960

*August 7
Scott High School Alumni Association: General meeting; Kent Branch Library; 6 pm

*August 8-11
Bethesda Christian Center Cathedrals' 10 Annual Holy Convocation: "Destined for Greatness;" Featuring Recording Artist Psalmist Mary Wynn; Clarion Reynolds Rd

*August 9-11
Area's Largest Garage Sale Sponsored by The Friendly Center: 9 am to 7 pm daily; Epworth United Methodist Church: 419-243-1289

*August 11
A Midsummer Night – Up on the Roof: Main Branch Library; 8 pm

*August 16-19
St. Paul AME Zion: 90 Church Anniversary; Thursday and Friday – old fashioned tent revival at 7 pm; Saturday – a black and white gala at the Clarion Westgate at 5:30 pm; Sunday – morning and afternoon services: 419-243-1065

*August 17
Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge No. 4; 11 am to 5 pm: 419-531-7079

*August 17-19
Northwest Ohio Retrouvaille – A Lifeline for Marriages: A program designed to help troubled marriages regain their health: 1-8470-2230 or 419-874-1914

*August 25
"Showcase of the Arts:" Kent Branch Library; 1 to 4 pm; To promote quality of life and appreciation of the arts; Over 40 visual and performing artists from 3rd grade on up: 419-531-5646 or 419-360-0399
Indiana Avenue MBC: Choir formation for youth and young adults of the Northwest Ohio Missionary Baptist Association; 5 pm: 419-320-7441

*September 1
2007 NorthSide Reunion: Erie Street Market; 6 pm to 1 am, Dinner at 7: 419-944-9546 or 419-810-3716 or 419-727-1658

The Sojourner's Truth

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist



Jack Ford

We wish Calvin Brown good luck in his role as the city's affirmative action commissioner. Brown is considered to be a straight shooter who can and will do the correct thing.

But I think it is a shame that Perlean Griffin's professional career ends on this note. Hopefully, she lands or has landed a role in the private sector. Recent events have brought back to me the wisdom shared with me by Nelson Grace years ago. Grace said that an EEO office had to be ready to challenge a mayor on principle at any time even if you lost your job. Griffin stayed true to that prin-

ciple.

Several weeks ago, we talked about the Charter Review Committee and the role that John Irish played in raising the salary of the mayor from \$75,000 to \$136,000 per year. At \$136,000 the mayor of Toledo was making more than any other mayor in Ohio with the exception of Brookpark and more than the governor at the time—in 2000.

Why? I think so that Ray Kest would get a nice pay hike once he won the mayor's office in 2001. And, given Ray's 25 years of public life, he would have been in line for a real nice pension package after just four years in office as mayor.

Now comes this mayor asking John Irish to roll back the mayoral salary from \$136,000 to \$123,000. Is this as altruistic a move as Hizzoner would like for you to believe?

I think that Carty is using this request as a sweetener to get his council reduction plan passed. This move is classic Carty tit-for-tat management.

The mayor is ticked at council for changing the date and language for a balanced budget presentation each

year. Council has a right to change the rules in reasonable ways and this change certainly seems fair.

The mayor can refuse to sign off on it if he so decides. Rather than counterpunching by reducing the number of councilmen, why not just acquiesce on this one?

Councilman Phil Copeland said it best. A reduction from 12 to eight results in less representation for a number of people. And, let's face it, it will result in less minority representation on council. But, maybe that's what Finkbeiner wants.

I remember in 1991, I had to press Finkbeiner, John Block and others to agree to go to six council districts. Have we forgotten that quickly? Any minority who supports this new scheme of the mayor ought to have his or her head examined!

This proposed change plays into the hands of some who want to go back to the city manager form of government. I think the recall forces considered joining the return to city manager group. Does this move by Carty play into this, somehow?

Go back in history to 1910.

The city manager and "at large" elections were techniques used by the power elite to dilute the votes of blacks moving north and eastern European immigrants locating in northern states. It was the northern version of the "Jim Crow" laws of the 1890's.

As always, blacks, whites, Latinos and Asians have a stake in this fight. You should pick up the phone and call the mayor (419-245-1001) and complain loudly. Furthermore, this is being brought

forth because Councilman Joe McNamara got under the mayor's skin. That is not a reason to change a form of government. Also, beware of Rob Ludeman's support for this cause. He knows that fewer councilmen dilute the number of Democrats on council in a city where the Democratic registration is twice that of the GOP.

This week is the start of the questioning by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission of both council and staff on the firing of Griffin and the demotion of Dwayne Morehead.

Watch out for words such as "lazy" and "you better not"

(Continued on Page 4)

Want to Comment on an Article

Email the Editor at reporter@thetruthtoledo.com

Conspiracy ... Or Keeping Eyes Wide Open

By Warren Woodberry
Special to The Truth

Toledo has got to find something for me to do or I will continue to while away my time playing bad golf and seeing a conspiracy behind every issue. Too much reading of John Grisham and Machiavelli.

Unless I am reading the news wrong, the current Bush administration is putting in place changes in its decrees that would grant imperial powers to the executive branch of government. And they are doing this in spite of the failure to find an acceptable Republican candidate to capture the popular support for the next presidential term, in spite of the hundreds of suspicions and ongoing investigations into wrongdoing by the Republicans, in spite of the bailout of hundreds of White House officials, in spite of questions about the truthfulness of the Attorney General, in spite of the fact that many military generals have said that the administration has no clue of what to do to end a war of choice in Iraq, in spite of the displeasure and strained relationships with African-Americans, Latinos, Palestinians, Iranians, Russians, Latin American countries, the French, Caribbean countries, Haiti, Venezuela, North Korea, Cuba, Libya, China, Darfur, CIA, Syria, FBI, and the Justice Department.

Let's toss in their difficulties with affirmative action, veterans treatment, United Nations, whistle blowers, global warming advocates, stem cell and other medical research, family values, religion, Katrina, immigration, Congress, the Senate, democratic election procedures, voting irregularities against black voters in Florida (caging), health care needs for the nation, and too many foreign sanctions supportive of corporations (too many to mention) that mainly hurt the civilians and on and on.

It is as if the White House has adopted the symbol of Manneken Pis, a Brussels landmark.

Manneken Pis is a small bronze fountain sculpture

depicting a naked little boy urinating into the fountain's basin and does not care who is covered by its spray. The White House implements executive orders that would give the next president the crown of emperor. What do they know that we don't about the next election?

There is no way that this White House would fight to grant such sweeping powers to someone who would capture the White House for the Democratic Party. With two questionable elections now under their belts what makes you think that there are not plans to again laugh at the country by pulling off number election victory number three?

Do you think for one minute that they would strengthen the office of the presidency if they did not have a plan to retain it? Do you think for one minute that they would castrate the House and the Senate and leave these powers in place for a Democrat president, easing the Democrats ability to go after the current Bush administration?

On April 30, 2006, Charlie Savage, Globe Staff writer, wrote that "President Bush has quietly claimed the authority to disobey more than 750 laws enacted since he took office, asserting that he has the power to set aside any statute passed by Congress when it conflicts with his interpretation of the Constitution. Among the laws Bush said he can ignore are all military rules and regulations, affirmative-action provisions, requirements that Congress be told about immigration services problems, 'whistle-blower' protections for nuclear regulatory officials, and safeguards against political interference in federally funded research. Legal scholars say the scope and aggression of Bush's assertions that he can bypass laws represent a concerted effort to expand his power at the expense of Congress, upsetting the balance between the branches of government. The

Constitution is clear in assigning to Congress the power to write the laws and to the president a duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed.' Bush, however, has repeatedly declared that he does not need to 'execute' a law he believes is unconstitutional."

My golf can get worse and nothing will change in the world, but my questions about the next election and the seemingly unconcerned and cavalier approach by the current White House administration leads me to believe that something is up as they strut around like the cat that ate the canary or as if they know who killed Cock Robin.

This is the same feeling that I get that something is also up in Toledo, and that those who so desire have not seen the last of Ludeman, Sarantou and the Republican contingent. With efforts to cull the City Council herd of its young—McNamara, Craig, and Szollosi—and the need to keep the party faithful in control, who knows what the Republican plan is?

As the City of Toledo garners the attention of the state Democratic Party because of its blatant disregard for local party unity, knowing how important Lucas county and Ohio is to the upcoming election, allows me to imagine another conspiracy.

Lets' imagine that Carty returns to the Republican Party and takes over a smaller City Council that has been ridden of the above-mentioned firebrands... but that's another speculation for another day still, conspiracies abound prompting me to keep my eyes wide open.



Warren Woodberry



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Show Us the Money: Balancing Budgets Never Seemed so Difficult

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

On Sunday July 22, Richard Brown and Lisa Sobocki, endorsed Democratic Party candidates for the Toledo Board of Education, held a press conference to encourage the school board to look closely at any proposed operating levy and inform the taxpayers on what steps are being taken "to improve operational efficiency and save money," according to Brown's statement.

Only then, say the candidates, can they and taxpayers support a request from the board for an operating levy in November. "First of all, we need to know what the money is for" said Sobocki in her statement. "Will there be money for operational expenses like building maintenance and purchasing new textbooks? We need to know."

The candidates, it appears, are not the only ones who have expressed a need to know. Board member Darlene Fisher issued a statement supporting Brown and Sobocki's request: "I've been calling on the board and administration for some time now to provide all the financial data and facts well in advance of any levy being considered by the board for a November 2007 election."

Interestingly, Fisher served as the chairman of the finance committee during her first year on the board and still has no knowledge of what happens to or with the money in the budget.

Of course, shortly after the candidates' press conference and Fisher's statement, Toledo Public Schools' officials took the board by surprise and announced an \$18.2 mil-

lion carryover the start the new academic year. That carryover is due to the completion of the State of Ohio's budget which will provide more state funding than originally projected by TPS and less money diverted to

lawmakers on March 9, which raised the ire of certain councilmen, particularly those such as Mike Craig and McNamara who were experiencing the process for the first time.

Finkbeiner's staff railed

"Will there be money for operational expenses like building maintenance and purchasing new textbooks? We need to know." - Sobocki

We need to know." - Sobocki

charter schools.

Of course, TPS was not the only local body that spent the past several weeks trying to get its arms around the budgeting process.

Toledo City Council members surprised Mayor Carty Finkbeiner's administration by bypassing the normal procedure to route structural changes through the Charter Review Committee for its report and voted to amend the balanced budget timetable. Councilmen Frank Szolosi and Joe McNamara led the charge on a budget issue as council passed a proposed amendment to the city charter that would require the administration to present to council a balanced budget on November 15. The amendment now goes to Finkbeiner for his scrutiny and approval before being presented to the voters on November 7.

State law requires a balanced budget, for the fiscal year which starts on April 1, to be passed by March 31. This past year, the Finkbeiner administration presented a budget, which included a deficit of \$10 million, to the

against the amendment during the week. "It's a political ploy," said spokesman Brian Schwartz during a press conference later in the week. "We don't know the carry over, we don't know the expenses," he said of the November 15 date. "It's an issue that's not an issue."

Chief of Staff Robert Reinbolt was equally critical of the proposed amendment and a process that would be a sham in the minds of those on the 22nd Floor. Reinbolt said that a so-called balanced budget presentation on November 15 could be achieved without any semblance of sincerity.

"I could go in and say 'here's where we're going to cut this many police and this many fire' and we know that's not going to happen," said Reinbolt. "They want the mayor to do all the heavy lifting and they want to place all the tough choices on the mayor."

And, of course, speaking of tough choices, Finkbeiner fired back with a few proposals of his own to the city charter by requesting that the

Charter Review Committee, whose chairman is mayoral ally John Irish, look at lowering the mayor's salary by 10 percent and examine the possibility of reducing the number of City Council members from 12 to eight.

Any change in the charter regarding the mayor's salary would not impact the current mayor, but if the committee approves of the city council cuts, that proposal would go to City Council itself for a vote on whether to place the issue on the ballot. Two thirds of the council would have to approve an issue that could eliminate their position - starting no earlier than 2011.

Some definition would be required as to how the council could be reduced given the current six districts and six at-large composition. Any proposal to change or decrease the number of districts is sure to ratchet up the intensity of the debate.

If the mayor wanted to force City Council to make some tough choices, he could hardly have come up with a better scheme

Monroe Area-Wide Tent Revival to Feature Frank Turner as Opening Speaker

Revival to Encourage Unity Among Churches in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan

Frank Turner, known to millions of viewers for his television ministry of "God's Amazing Grace" and former Emmy winning investigative reporter and anchor for Detroit's ABC affiliate WXYZ-TV Channel 7, will be the main speaker for the first two nights of the Monroe Area-Wide Tent Revival.

The Monroe Area-Wide Tent Revival (MATR) services will last from **August 3 - August 19 with 7:00 p.m. services being held nightly and 10:30 a.m. services on Sunday.** The MATR will be held at the Old Detroit Stoker Parking Lot on Front Street, across the street from Hellenberg Park, in Monroe, Michigan.

The MATR is a multi-denominational and multi-ethnic event, designed to enhance unity among local congregations without regards to denominational affiliation.

Scheduled speakers include: Baldemar Velasquez of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), Rev. Percy McCray of the Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Dr. Helen Brown of Trinity Faith Tabernacle, Tony Scott of Cathedral of Praise and International Evangelists Syd and Liz Doyle as well as several pastors from the Toledo, Monroe and Detroit areas. For a full list of speakers with biographies, please visit trinityfaithchristianfellowship.org.

The MATR is the vision of Monroe minister, James Seay, pastor of Trinity Faith Christian Fellowship and a chaplain at the local ACH (Formerly Ford) plant. He saw the tent as a neutral place for churches of all denominations and ethnic backgrounds to meet and worship together as "The Church at Monroe."

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My View

(Continued From Page 3)

come back to haunt the administration.

As we know, staff can come and go at One Government Center like a revolving door. But consultants can be heavy lifters in the governing scheme also. One such heavy lifter who just left after 17 years as a consultant to the city is Jim King. King was a long-time advisor to the human resources department on benefits design and cost containment. King saved the City of Toledo millions of dollars over the years. Just check the record. I hope his replacement, staff or consultant, is as good as Jim King was for the city.

Governor Ted Strickland continues to look out for the little folk in Ohio. Seniors got a tax break, kids got more health care, home care work-

ers got needed protection by executive order. And, Toledo taxpayers got help on local schools. This governor really is reaching down to make a difference. It seems to me he is actualizing through politics what he spoke of as a minister and correctional counselor. Strickland seemingly never forgot that he was born in duck Run, Ohio.

Here in Lucas County we have another do-gooder who really delivers. Tina Skeldon Wozniak really shows she learned a lot from The Ohio State University School of Social Work. She has used both Job and Family Services as well as The Source to make a big difference in the lives of folks who need some help. Wozniak is a risk taker for poor people but then she does not fall too far from her family

tree. A few old timers still recall the days when Ned Skeldon, the patriarch, would drive down inner city alleys dropping off coal so people would not suffer through harsh winters.

And now Marty Skeldon is getting ready to enter the fray as a city councilman. He has potential as a future mayor or commissioner - mark it. It is also nice to see how Pete Gerken runs with the economic side of the commissioner's role. He and Wozniak work closely together. Ben Konop is carving out his own area of policy development. I cannot recall when we saw three politicians working so well together by setting their egos aside.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

Street Renamed Bishop Eli B. Williams Way

Sojourner's Truth Staff

A portion of Toledo's 12th Street – from North Street to Bancroft Street – was officially dedicated as "Bishop Eli B. Williams Way" in a ceremony last Friday which also commemorated the building in which the last Bishop Williams founded the True Church of God of the Apostolic Faith as an "Ohio Historical Marker."

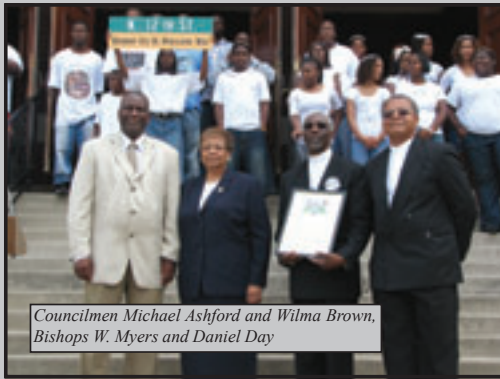
Williams was born in Arkansas in 1932 and founded the True Church of God after moving here from Memphis, Tennessee in 1956.

The church building, at the corner of Bancroft and 12th Streets, was originally the Temple B'nai Israel Synagogue. Williams purchased the building in order to convert it into the church. He also led the effort in the area now known as Warren Sherman to clean up and improve the neighborhood. The Central Improvement Club was formed through these efforts.

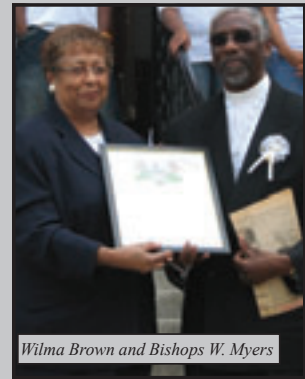
In 1965, Williams founded the city's first free Adult Education Program with the assistance of the public school system.

The ceremony to honor Williams included remarks and prayers by Bishops W.T. Myers and Daniel Day. Deacon Quinsey Hammond served as the master of ceremonies and greetings were extended from the City of Toledo by District 4 Councilman Michael Ashford and from the State of Ohio on behalf of Representative Edna Brown by Councilwoman Wilma Brown.

Hammond's musical group, Voices of Tomorrow, provided musical selections for the commemoration.



Councilmen Michael Ashford and Wilma Brown, Bishops W. Myers and Daniel Day



Wilma Brown and Bishops W. Myers



Councilman Michael Ashford and Bishop W.T Myers



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Auditor's Office Streamlines Property Review Process

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"It's the Auditor's responsibility to keep citizens informed about the value of the housing market," said Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez. "The burden should not be on the taxpayer."

To relieve taxpayers of that burden, Lopez introduced last week an informal online review process for those who believe that their property values have been incorrectly assessed by her office. That process is available until the October 1, 2007 deadline.

Since March, taxpayers have had the ability to contest their assessed property values by mailing in a paper form and to date approximately 1,150 such forms have been mailed to property owners at their request.

The online form can be accessed at www.lucascountyoh.gov. Taxpayers will be asked to provide an email address and telephone number, an estimate of what they believe to be the market value of the property and the reason for the complaint – tax increase, increase in property data, value increase, recent purchase price, etc.

After the online form is filed, a member of the Auditor's Office's Appraisal

Staff will contact the complainant to set up an appointment. Decisions will be reached by late fall of 2007.

According to Lopez, over 90 percent of those who have asked for reconsideration have received reductions and no one, to date, has been assessed more after the reconsideration process.

"Last year, we received

complaints that the process was burdensome and taxpayer unfriendly," said Lopez. "This is the difference between our administration and the previous one," she continued in a reference to her predecessor, Larry Kaczala, whom she defeated in the November 2006 election.



Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez

Naketa Jones: Youth Advocate Program Strives to Keep Families Together

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

In March 2005, Naketa R. Jones, who had been a case worker with Lucas County Children Services for the previous several years had an opportunity to join Youth Advocate Programs (YAP), Inc. and open a local branch of the national program that links youth with professionally-trained advocates.

"I saw an opportunity to direct and be part of a program that was brand new to this area," recalls Jones, program director for the Toledo office of YAP, Inc.

By July 2005, Jones had received a \$30,000 contract to start serving a handful of local youth. "Our mission is to keep families together in their own communities," she says of the goals she and her staff have established. Two years later, Jones is directing a program that will receive funding in this fiscal year of more than \$750,000 from local sources, with a staff—full and part-time—of more than two dozen serving more than 60 kids from age seven to 18 in three different programs.

And for Jones, there is no end in sight. "I want to grow the program 10 times where it is today," she tells a visitor to

ent programs that are funded by NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill), Lucas County Children's Services and the Lucas County Juvenile Probation Department—

creative as they can to fit the family's need," says Jones.

Jones, a native of Akron, OH, arrived in Toledo to attend The University of Toledo and earn a degree in



the largest funding source. That, says Jones, is what makes this agency unique—"we customize our services to an agency's needs," she says.

sociology and political science. She had intended to move into an arena involving public policy and public health. In fact, for a while after college, Jones ran an at-risk pregnancy program at the Cordelia Martin Community Health Center. But her stint as a case worker with Lucas County Children's Services redirected her aspirations.

Her major goal is to ensure that families can remain intact in spite of a history of difficulties. "I want to be able to help kids transition from juvenile detention back to their own homes," says Jones.

Next up on the program director's agenda is getting her agency directly involved in the truancy problem that Toledo faces. "Just with the three programs that we have, 50 to 60 percent of the kids have a truancy problem," says Jones. "I want to start working with the Toledo Public Schools to help with that."

As Jones recaps her very brief stint at YAP with a visitor, she emphasizes that her vision for the agency is boundless. "Just to be able to grow from one small program to the three that we have now has inspired me," she says. "It is a really great experience to see the work you have put in, to see the difference in the lives of kids. It keeps me going, it keeps me seeking new funding sources."

Contact
Fletcher Word at
fletcher@thetruthtoledo.com

File Your Formal Review Online

PURPOSE

- o To inform property owners of a new way to dispute their property values.
- o To provide the property owner with an easy tool to challenge the current value of their property.

WHAT IS IT?

- o 2007 Online Informal Review Application
- o Since March 2007, Taxpayers have had the ability to file for an informal review, contesting the value of their property by filling out a paper form and mailing it to our office.
- o Since that date, 1,150 informal review forms have been mailed to property owners at their request.
- o Now, a second way to file a review has been created by the Auditor's office—the ONLINE Informal Review Form.

- o Taxpayers can access this form, via the web at: www.lucascountyoh.gov
- o On the web, property owners are asked to provide:
 - An email address and phone number
 - What the property owner considers is the market value of their property
 - the reason for the complaint: tax increase, increase in property data, value increase, recent purchase price

Briefly state the reason for the request for review. Property owners are reminded that merely stating the taxes are too high is not grounds for a valuation reduction. The issue of the property's Fair Market Value must be addressed.

- o Any change to the value is for the 2007 tax year (payable in 2008).

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU APPLY ONLINE?

- o A member of the Appraisal staff will contact you to:
 - o Set up an appointment to personally go to your home and review the information we have on record regarding your property.
 - o Auditor's staff will then gather all the data on your current value in addition to any other data that has a direct impact on your value.
 - o A file will be compiled with this information in addition to the appraiser's recommendations.
 - o The file will be thoroughly reviewed by a member of the management team and/or the Auditor who will then render the final decision.
 - o You will receive notification of a decision in the mail by late fall of 2007.

WHEN

- o You may apply NOW until the October 1, 2007 deadline.

WHERE

- o The informal forms button is located on the Lucas County homepage www.lucascountyoh.gov, under "features."

WHY

- o This tool will enable residents to file the informal review FASTER and EASIER.
- o We are making government transparent and more accessible to Lucas County residents.
- o We are taking the burden off the taxpayer by providing multiple ways for them to get involved in the valuation process.

"I want to be able to help kids transition from juvenile detention back to their own homes,"

the YAP offices in One Stranahan Square. "I want to be able to touch a lot more families out there."

YAP operates 125 programs serving 75 counties across 13 states and Washington, DC. The program has 2,000 staff members serving 10,000 youth and their families and boasts an overall success rate of 85 percent in terms of reducing recidivism, decreasing out-of-home placement and improving family functioning.

The 30-year-old program employs an "advocacy model" based upon developing a relationship between a trained, skilled adult advocate and a youth and his or her family. Most often the advocates are members of the neighborhoods in which they work.

"Advocates need to possess a passion and have to have some type of experience," says Jones. "We do not hesitate to go into homes which is why we recruit advocates from the same neighborhoods as the kids."

Here in Toledo, the local agency operates three differ-

YAP's services are home and community based. "We don't consider ourselves to be a mentoring program," says Jones, "we are an advocacy program that focuses on goals and the needs and strengths of clients. We work with professionals, the courts, the schools. We go to court and advocate for our clients."

YAP provides training for its advocates through a curriculum that has been certified by The Pennsylvania State University and which has a particular focus on integrity compliance. Each advocate receives 22 hours of training.

The youth, says Jones, who comprise YAP's clients represent some of the most challenging cases leading to reputation as a "no reject, no eject" organization. Kids receive about 10 hours a week of face-to-face time from their advocates, says Jones—at libraries, in court, at home or in small groups. An advocate, for example, might take two or three kids shopping, she says.

"An advocate can be as

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Former Urban League President

Johnny M. Mickler Sr.

\$20,000 VALUE

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AUGUST 10
2007



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Scramble Format 12:30
(Dinner to follow)

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Ronnell Traynum Opens Campaign for City Council

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Ronnell Traynum, Toledo native, Old West End resident, nurse by profession, opened her campaign for the District 4 City Council seat on Monday with a fundraiser at Mickey Finn's on Lagrange Street.

"It's time for a change," said Traynum, as she informed her supporters that "the old vote isn't doing it for you. This is the first step to revitalizing District 4."

Traynum said she will spend this campaign explaining to voters in District 4, currently represented by Democratic incumbent Michael Ashford, "why your concerns are my concerns and that my community and my neighborhood are my passions."



Perlean Griffin, Ronnell Traynum and June Boyd



Ronnell Traynum (in pink) surrounded by supporters



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Food for Thought:

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-Tony Brown

2550 Nebraska Avenue - Toledo, Ohio 43607
 Phone: 419.534.2550 - Fax: 419.534.2570
www.houseofday.com

Capitol Hill's 50 Most Beautiful People

The Hill—a three to four times a week Capitol Hill newspaper—announced its list of the 50 Most Beautiful People on Capitol Hill in its July 25 issue. Only two Ohioans made the list—Senator Sherrod Brown and Toledo's own Ashley Futrell.

Futrell, a graduate of Toledo Christian who earned an undergraduate degree from American University in law and society, is currently on the staff of U.S. Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL) and is working on a master's degree in government at Johns Hopkins University.

Futrell is already a Capitol Hill veteran having served in the office of Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY) and on the staff of a Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (under the chairmanship of Sen. John McCain) during her undergraduate years.

Ashley Futrell
 Age: 23
 Hometown: Toledo, Ohio
 Dating Status: Single

When dining at a nice restaurant, Ashley Futrell never would leave her napkin on the table. Ever.

As any etiquette book will tell you, the proper thing to do is place one's napkin on one's chair if one must excuse oneself. And Futrell knows her manners, because she is kind of obsessed with etiquette books.

"I know I probably sound crazy," she said, but she thinks the rest of us would probably enjoy learning the ins and outs of polite behavior, too, if we gave it a chance.

Perhaps, Futrell's packed social calendar is a reflection that her impeccable sense of decorum is well received. She is a member of a slew of clubs, including the Junior League, the University Club and the Capitol Hill Running Club.

Futrell loves that she works for Congress, and she's taking notes: She aims to return one day with a members' pin on her lapel. She intends to achieve many other goals before that, however, from running the Marine Corps Marathon this October to starting a non-profit to help reintroduce ex-offenders into society.

Futrell, who claims that she was "not the cutest person in the world" when she was in high school, went to the prom alone not so long ago—but she said lettering in 12 sports was more than enough to make up for that.
 - By Daphne Retter



The University of Toledo is Accepting Applications for the Toledo Starz Program

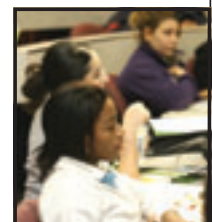
Applications for The University of Toledo's (UT) Toledo Starz Program are currently being accepted. Toledo Starz is an after school enrichment program for high school students (particularly those who are historically underrepresented in the sciences) interested in pursuing careers in the health professions.

The program runs from September 18, 2007–May 20,

2008, where students will be involved in monthly interactive medically-related presentations and a research symposium.

To be eligible, students must have at least a 2.0 GPA and enrolled in grades 9-12 in the fall. The deadline for applications is September 7, 2007. For an application packet or for more information, please contact the Manager of Institutional Diversity

Programs at the UT Office of Institutional Diversity at 419-383-3438.



Tom Joyner Helps to Commemorate Urban Radio's New Business Office

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The "Fly Jock" Tom Joyner flew into Toledo a little late on Wednesday night to catch the main course with the guests of Urban Radio Broadcasting's affiliate radio station Mix 95.7 FM, but he arrived in time to thoroughly entertain the packed audience during dessert at the historical Toledo Club.

The invitation-only client appreciation cocktail hour and dinner featured live entertainment by KGB, featuring Lady K, and the smooth jazz band, Pieces of Dreams, and a post-dinner question and answer session with the renowned Joyner.

"For us bringing Tom Joyner back to Toledo for an intimate dinner with our clients was a way to truly show our appreciation for the continued client support that Mix 95.7 has received from the business community here in the Glass City," said Curtis Downey, director of sales.

The following morning, Joyner became the first radio personality to broadcast live from the new Mix 95.7 FM studios inside 1 maritime Plaza in downtown Toledo. Immediately following the broadcast, the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony from 10 a.m. to noon at the new studios and business



Radio currently owns and operates 24 radio stations in small to mid-sized markets across the United States, primarily in the southeast.

Top Left: Tom Joyner and Brandi Brown

Top Right: Julie Malkin and Annette Wright

Bottom Left: Yvonne Harper, Angela Jordan and Doni Miller

Bottom Right: Michael and Ruth Ashford

More photos on Page 9



offices.

Urban Radio Broadcasting, LLC, is the parent company of WIMX-FM and WJZE-FM (HOT 97.3) founded by radio entrepreneur Kevin Wagner. Urban



Bobby Gabriel and Marla Banks



Annette Wright and Tom Joyner

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Hope that you will win the fight. Of all the things cancer can take away, the most devastating can be the will to keep fighting. We understand the struggle, and the need for hope. We've seen how a hopeful attitude keeps people going, so we lead by example. We keep patients looking forward, focused on the many joys still to come.

Love from those who mean the most. No one should fight cancer alone. I was encouraged to come to my husband's appointments and treatments. Mercy believes every patient should be surrounded by all the support they need – the kind of loving support only family can provide.

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Tom Joyner and Karen Everage



Kevin Wagner and the Mix staff at the Peacock



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International, National and Local Community Performers Scheduled At Owens' Center for Fine and Performing Arts in 2007-08

Special to The Truth

Owens Community College's Center for Fine and Performing Arts will raise the curtain with an array of events scheduled throughout the 2007-08 Presenting Arts Season. Music, dance and theatre artists from around the globe, including several local and regional standouts, will perform a variety of shows and concerts. Direct from Hebei, China, the Golden Dragon Acrobats will bring their death-defying drops and internationally acclaimed acrobatics showcase to Owens as the kickoff event for the 2007-08 season schedule on Sept. 15. Marking 29 consecutive years of entertaining audiences worldwide, the Golden Dragon Acrobats have performed in all 50 states and over 65 countries, and are regarded as one of the premier acrobatic acts around. Hot on the Acrobats' heels is the Canadian jazz and boogie-woogie pianist Michael Kaeshammer, who will perform at Owens on Oct. 7. "From China to New

York City, Owens Community College's 2007-08 presenting season features the sights and sounds of gifted and cutting-edge performing artists who will entertain, enrich and uplift audiences," said Barbara Barkan, Owens Operations Manager for the Center for Fine and Performing Arts. "The Center for Fine and Performing Arts is pleased to once again connect artists and audiences through performances that reach out to the campus and our surrounding communities." The college presenting season will once again feature a Family Fun Sunday series of four performances designed to provide fun and entertainment to individuals of all ages, sponsored in part by WGTE Public Broadcasting and WRVF-FM 101.5 The River. The series will kickoff with a screening of the fantasy family film "The Secret of Roan Inish" on Nov. 18. "Masked Marvels and Other

Wondertales", a one-man show by Michael Cooper that showcases several fanciful mask and handcrafted by the performer, will serve as the second performance on Jan. 27. A musical retelling of the Snow White story titled "The Many Adventures of Snow White" will be presented as the third performance in the series on Feb. 3. Finally, children will be exposed to two languages simultaneously as the classic children's book "James and the Giant Peach" by Roald Dahl is presented by Sign Stage on Tour in a performance that will feature American Sign Language onstage in addition to spoken dialogue in English. "James and the Giant Peach" will be presented on March 30. In addition, the college will offer two additional performance packages this season. The Culture Club series features three multicultural performances: The Golden Dragon Acrobats (Sept. 15), the colorful

review of the music, songs and dances of Eastern Europe by the Tamburitza of Duquesne University (Nov. 11) and the Celtic comedy group the Tartan Terrors in a performance titled "Dressed To Kilt" (March 14). The Singular Sensations series showcases three rising stars on the national music scene: modern music ensemble Blue Dahlia will create ambient sounds to complement the silent horror film classic "Nosferatu" (Oct. 26), Grammy-award winning guitarist Al Petteway and Amy White will perform holiday classics, original and Celtic inspired melodies in "Winter Tidings" (Nov. 29) and John Gorka will make a return to Owens' Mainstage Theatre and showcase his rich multi-faceted folk sounds (Feb. 15). The 2007-08 Performing Arts season will also feature the smashoff-Broadway comedy hit "The Complete Works of William

Shakespeare (Abridged)", where three actors take on the daunting task of performing 37 plays and 154 sonnets by William Shakespeare in less than 90 minutes, with hilarious results (Oct. 18). In addition, Klingon Klezmer will perform their unique style of traditional Jewish music called Klezmer mixed with funk and modern rock (Feb. 29). Local community arts events will highlight the 2007-08 season as Owens collaborates with the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra to co-present a holiday Halloween Scare-tacular Concert on Oct. 27 and a Young Artists/Side by Side Concert on May 3. The Toledo Repertoire will also make an appearance at Owens and present "Master Class" by Terrence McNally on Feb. 9. In addition, Melodic Expressions will once again grace the college's Center for Fine and Performing Arts theatres as Owens faculty and students

showcase their musical talents, April 21-25. Owens fine and performing arts students will also put their acting skills on display as part of the College's annual student theatrical production April 11-13 and 17-19. All performing arts events will occur in Owens' Mainstage Theatre on the Toledo-area campus unless noted otherwise. For additional information about the College's 2007-08 Presenting Arts Season schedule, contact the Center for Fine and Performing Arts at 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. ARTS (2787) or (567) 661-2787.

Place your AD in The Sojourner's Truth Call Pam at 419-243-0007

EASIER WAY TO COMPLETE DISABILITY REPORT — ONLINE

By Phil Walton
Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH

Applying for disability benefits from Social Security is easier than it's ever been before. Until recently, the disability report had to be completed manually. Now, you can save time by completing it online and sending it to us electronically.

An important part of applying for disability benefits for adults is completing the adult disability report, or form SSA-3368. The report asks important questions about your disabling condition, medical records, health care provider contact information, and information about your educational and work history. This information is important to help us determine your disability. We use your disability report and information to help us answer these five questions:

1. Are you working?
2. Is your disabling condition severe enough to limit your ability to do work?
3. Is your condition on our list of impairments, and is it expected to last for at least a year or end in death?
4. Can you do the work

now that you did in the past?
5. Can you do any other work?

There are two versions of the adult disability report that



can be completed online, depending on whether you are the person applying for benefits, or a professional representative. If you are applying for disability benefits on your own behalf, you can complete the online disability report at the following link.

www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityreport

If you are representing a disabled person, you can complete our professional

version of the disability report. Examples of representatives include attorneys and non-attorney representatives, employees of government agencies, social agencies, hospitals, nursing care facilities, homeless shelters, or non-profit agencies, and anyone else who assists applicants in applying for disability benefits. If you are representing someone and want to apply for benefits on their behalf, you can go to the following website to complete their adult disability report.

www.socialsecurity.gov/i3368prohelp/

Keep in mind that in addition to the disability report, we will also need a completed application for disability benefits. The online application can be found at the following address.

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability/> To learn more about Social Security, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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Lucas County Children Services

Reel Review: The Simpsons Movie

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Do black folks watch The Simpsons?

If not, they should start. I've loved this show since the beginning even though much has changed.

And although it was so long ago, I still remember how initially the whole draw was that Bart was this badass kid and the rest of the family basically had to deal with his antics.

Then, slowly but surely, a great theatrical element started to take shape and all the main characters were given vices. When you have a cast on a stage play or a television show or whatever, it's important to give the characters some issues. Instead of just responding to Bart's madness, characters on the show started having personality quirks that made them just as interesting.

Marge was always the quintessential middle-class suburban house wife, but then after a while her pent-up rage and excessive worrying became entertaining enough to build storylines around.

Lisa is a walking di-



chotomy, having Doogie Howser-like intellect far beyond her years but still falling prey to elementary teases and taunts as she wants to fit in yet stand out at once.

She's really the only sane Simpson.

I remember one episode where it's the very end and Bart and Homer are in jail in some far away state and Marge has to go bail them out and Lisa looks at her baby sister and says

"Well Maggie, I knew someday it would boil down

to just me and you ... I'll look for work in the morning" - LOL.

See, that's what sets this show apart from others ... you can't just stop by and get a few laughs.

Family Guy makes it easy.

If you love crude humor (which I certainly do), and you like your jokes right up in your face and over the top... Family Guy is that show where you don't need to know anything and you can just laugh.

The Simpsons on the other

hand, you need to have some back story.

You need to KNOW the characters and their idiosyncrasies so you can get all the jokes.

The episode where Homer beats the living daylight out of Mr. Burns when he forgets his name, it's even more funny if you've been watching long enough to know that this has been a running gag for over a decade.

When every other sitcom has flopped, you've really got to take notice at an animated one that has been around for 18 years.

I mean, really, they must be doing something right.

And since we all know that Bart still is America's bad ass (that megaphone prank was the jump off!)

Let's take a look at the true star of the show: Homer.

On my Myspace page I list Homer as one of my heroes and of course I'm being silly but really tho, can you think of anyone who gets away with more shit than Homer J. Simpson?

LOL!

Peter Griffin is a knock-off, but people love Family Guy.

Family Guy used to be just decent, but something happened and it just became outrageously funny.

And I will admit, Family Guy is neck and neck with The Simpsons in outright jokes per episode.

Show for show, some might even say that these days Family Guy is funnier.

But even though a few people might have Stewie Griffin catchphrases on their ring back tone,

The Simpsons is still an unrivaled worldwide cultural phenomenon.

400 episodes and counting with a staff of writers as talented as any you will find when it comes to crafting plots, sub plots, political satire and witty, low brow humor.

That's what I was hoping this film would be, a culmination of all of my favorite parts of

The Simpsons universe. The show is at its most poignant when it's making fun of things we deal with in our every day lives and to some degree you can expect that from this full-length feature film.

Every person who knows anything knows we should all be fearful of The White House

being filled by a Nazi-like Arnold Schwarzenegger. So what does The Simpsons movie do?

Craft a plot where Springfield's darkest hour comes via an order from President Schwarzenegger.

Honestly, the first 30 minutes is all out gut-busting funny.

I mean from the opening scene you will spend the next 30 minutes laughing your ass off.

It starts off with a full-feature Itchy and Scratchy movie.

Homer and his family are in the audience when he points out how stupid is for people to go to a movie and pay money to see something they can get at home for free on regular TV.

I won't go into the whole run-down but just know that any fan will thoroughly enjoy this film.

Call me immature, but after years and years of seeing Homer and Bart struggle to keep their language PG 13 - I was expecting to hear some all out profanity at least once but nothing doing.

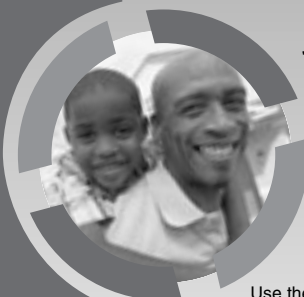
This is a family comedy and at times it seems a little too family-friendly for a franchise that was once synonymous with groundbreaking off-color humor.

A little more edge would've been welcomed, Simpson fans can handle it.

After grossing more than \$70 Million here at home and nearly \$100 Million in worldwide gross, it's safe to say that there will be more chances for The Simpsons to give us more of what we've come to expect from America's first family of comedy.

Oh yeah, stick around during the credits to hear Maggie's first words!

The true grade for *The Simpson's Movie* is A-



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Toledo Links Honored for Polly Fox Program

Special to The Truth

Kansas City, MO known for its era of great jazz entertainers, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and Gates Barbeque rolled out the red carpet recently welcoming nearly 1,000 members of The Links Incorporated at the group's 2007 Central Area conference.

The Links, Incorporated is an international professional women's organization boasting a global membership of 12,000. The organization is known for its commitment and contributions supporting issues impacting youth and families in four (program) areas: The Arts, International Trends, National Trends and Services

to Youth.

At the conference attended by Johnetta McCollough, president, Laneta Goings, vice president, Verne Armstrong, Sherry Ann Jenkins, Rhonda Sewell and Linnie Willis, The Toledo Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, received third place for its successful "Services to Youth," monthly mentoring series called "Lunch and Learn" at the Polly Fox Girls Academy.

Once a month local professionals speak on a variety of topics - promoting academic success, parenting skills, health, law enforcement, financial indepen-

dence, legal, and genealogy. The academy, a Community Charter School sponsored by Toledo Public Schools, is a high school for pregnant and parenting girls whose goal is to earn a diploma, future education, training or employment.

For more info
Check out
our website
at
thetruthtoledo.com

The Lima Calendar

Free Blood pressure screenings by St. Rita's Medical Center - Neighborhood Nurse

Monday, August 6th - Christian Corner Community Center - 1601 McClain Rd

Wednesday, August 8th - Our Daily Bread Kitchen - 125 S. Central

School of the Bible Classes - Cornerstone Harvest Church - 419-228-3007

Home Owners Class - August 6, 13, 20, & 27 - all Mondays - \$5.00

The Ministry of Parenting - August 9, 16, 23, & 30 - all Thursdays - \$5.00

English as a Second Language - starting Tuesday, July 31 - \$10.00

Vacation Bible School - Faith Jam Remix - July 23 - 25 - ages 3 - 12, 6 - 9 p.m. nightly - first 100 kids to sign up nightly will win a cool prize. Parents will have the opportunity to enter into a drawing for a TV, bike, and much, much, more.

Basketball Clinic with Lewis Shine - August 1 - 30, 2007. \$150.00 for sessions 1st - 3rd grade, 4th - 8th grade, and 9th - 12th grade. Total of 15 sessions

Philippian Missionary Baptist Church - 419-229-1441

Family and Friends Annual Church Picnic - Saturday, August 11

Scholarship - National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice

Application deadline is 9-1-07 - Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors attending college with a 3.0 GPA may apply for tuition for books, tuition, lab fees, and any expense directly related to attending school. Applications at Philippian Missionary Baptist Church

Homestead for property owners 65 and older can apply at the Allen County Auditor's Office for Homestead Tax Relief.

Cornerstone Harvest Extends Acts of Love to the Community

By Sharon Guice
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Cornerstone Harvest Church started the month of July out greeting the community with Acts of Love. The congregation was challenged by Senior Pastor David Roberts to find people to bless on purpose and not let anyone know you were the one who blessed them.

Index-sized cards were made up with the words "Acts of Love" and read "For God so loved the world" John 3:16. The card also lists the church's web site, worship times and location.

The purpose of the card is to let the person know he or she has been blessed with an Act of Love, but not be able to identify the person who did the act.

Pastor Darwin Lofton tells of an act of love he did to bless a little boy in a restaurant.

He knew he was going out to dinner one evening with some friends. He asked God who he should bless. He was inspired to look for a little boy having a birthday. When he was at dinner, he kept looking around for a little boy celebrating a birthday.

He thought he had misunderstood the directions given him by the Holy Spirit because he did not see a little boy celebrating his birthday. He then noticed a man and a little boy with some balloons. He thought maybe that was the one. He called for a waitress and gave her the card and some money and asked the waitress to take it to the little boy and the father, but do not tell them where it came from.

He watched as the waitress explained to the father what she was giving the little boy. The father was amazed

to receive an anonymous gift. The church received an email from the father explaining that he had taken his little boy out to dinner for his birthday and was amazed to receive such an act of kindness from an unknown person.

The church also took over 800 bags out to greet the community to show Acts of Love. In the bag is the card about Acts of Love, a prayer card, a CD about the church services and departments, a flyer of the church events, and an Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie.

Otis Spunkmeyer is the **number one frozen cookie dough in America. It is an upscale, high inclusion cookie dough** that's perfect for those who want to serve only the finest. The cookies were baked fresh at Cornerstone for each bag. These bags were taken to people new to the city or the neighborhood or who just needed some encouragement. In addition to that, on Sundays and Wednesdays freshly baked cookies are given to each visitor who comes to Cornerstone Harvest Church.

Kevin Johnson told about an Act of Love that his teenage son Rufus has performed for the past two years. He discovered this year that Rufus, while visiting with his grandfather on the weekends, spends time with his grandfather going around building ramps for the elderly.

Because of Rufus' age, he does a lot of the heavy lifting and leg work. This year Rufus was given a jacket for his hard work for the past two years.

Beverly Younts likes to tell about standing in a line to pay for her food. She saw someone further back in the line and told the cashier she

wanted to pay for the lady's lunch. She gave the cashier the card and some money and told the cashier to give her the card but do not tell her who it was from. Other customers in the line just start smiling and saying how nice it was of her to do that.

Pastor Herbert Ford also got in on the Acts of Love giving. He tells the story of being out to dinner with his wife, Melissa, and noticing another older couple having dinner. He called to the waitress and asked her to deliver the card to the couple and paid for their dinner. As he sat there and watched the couple, the gentleman kept picking up the card and shaking his head in amazement. He inquired of the waitress but she did not inform the couple who had given him the card. The gentleman was just stunned and kept looking at the card and looking around as to locate the person who done this wonderful thing.

Ford states that as they were leaving the restaurant

the couple was asking the cashier if she knew who had given them the card to make sure his dinner was paid. This made the Ford's heart happy to see the actions of someone blessed and not knowing where it came from.

This reporter also experienced an Act of Love in receiving a phone call on the job that played a beautiful, peaceful melody. At the time the phone call came it was a blessing and a much welcomed phone call to quell the stress of the day.

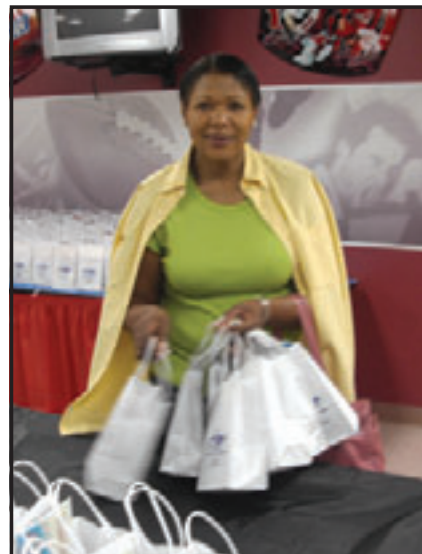
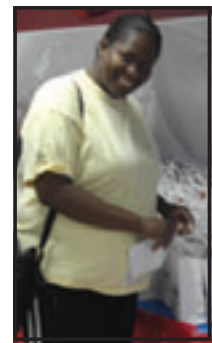
Church volunteers went out two-by-two knocking on doors to deliver the bags throughout the community. Volunteers drove as far as Wapakoneta to offer Acts of Love to deliver the bags.

Act of Love cards are readily available for the members of the church to pick up at any service to share an act of kindness to anyone at anytime.

Cornerstone is known for extending love to the community. During Thanksgiving hundreds of boxes of food

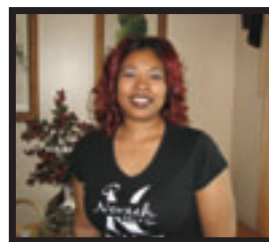
are given to those who are in need of an extra meal or two at the holidays to feed their families. Heartbeat of Lima, a local charity that assists mothers with diapers received an Act of Love by Cornerstone from their yearly diaper drive.

The church also holds summer jams and vacation bible schools during which gifts are given to children and adults who attend the events.



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By Phil Walton
Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH

Do you sometimes wonder whether you'll be able to afford retirement? It's a common concern among workers, especially members of the baby-boom generation. The oldest of the boomers will be 62 in just a few months — in January 2008. But even the most anxious of this group should be able to relieve at least some concerns about retirement income by understanding just how much money is needed, and then planning a way to reach that goal.

Most financial advisors say that you will need at least 70 to 80 percent of your pre-retirement income to enjoy a comfortable retirement. Other advisors say that you may need an even higher percentage of pre-retirement income. So where will it come from? The truth is that today Social Security is the largest source of income for most older Americans. For the average wage-earner, Social Security will replace about 40 percent of pre-retirement earnings. But Social Security was never intended to be your *only* source of income when you retire, and to reach the 70-80 percent replacement income goal you also will need other savings, investments or pension income, or part-time work.

As Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security,

has noted, "Saving and investing wisely are important not only for you and your family, but for the entire country. If you want to learn more about how and why to save, you should visit



www.mymoney.gov, a federal government website dedicated to teaching all Americans the basics of financial management." The topics discussed at this website include paying for an education, starting a small business and, of course, retirement planning. The retirement planning link takes you to more than a dozen other links with valuable financial information. There is, for example, "A Special Guide for Seniors and Families" from the FDIC; "Top 10 Ways To Prepare For Retirement" from the Department of Labor; "Tax Information for Retirement Plan Participants" from the IRS; and several links to Social Security sites, including Social Security retirement benefit calculators, special guides for women and retirement planners. So if you are concerned about being able to afford retirement, just remember that knowledge is power. Get valuable information from Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov, or from the federal website for financial literacy at www.mymoney.gov. anyone else who assists applicants in applying for disability benefits. If you are representing someone and want to apply for benefits on their behalf, you can go to the following website to complete their adult disability report.

www.socialsecurity.gov/i3368prohelp/ Keep in mind that in addition to the disability report, we will also need a completed application for disability benefits. The online application can be found at the following address: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability/> To learn more about Social Security, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

ritirement benefit calculators, special guides for women and retirement planners. So if you are concerned about being able to afford retirement, just remember that knowledge is power. Get valuable information from Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov, or from the federal website for financial literacy at www.mymoney.gov. anyone else who assists applicants in applying for disability benefits. If you are representing someone and want to apply for benefits on their behalf, you can go to the following website to complete their adult disability report.

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A Little More PLAYING FAVORITES

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Okay, I've gotten such a huge response from listing my favorites in various categories, so let's keep it going. All the emails are cool whether we agree or not, keep it coming.

Favorite Club D.J.

DJ Mpress, DJ One Tyme, DJ Big Lou The Mayor, DJ Scott Smoove, DJ A Dub, DJ Kaushion, DJ Boodyl, DJ Keith Success, DJ J Rock, DJ Rob Sample, DJ Money Mike, DJ Lyte N Rod

This has turned into a nice little debate on my glasscitytruth@yahoo.com email.

If you are a DJ and I left ya name out I just wanna stick to these names for now.

But like I said, it's hard for me to pick which of these is my favorite so we'll just continue to debate it until someone comes out on top. Take some time to reminisce on DJ Mix for all who know and remember.

Favorite Pizza In Toledo

Vito's Pizza
I bet you all think I'm out of my mind, right? How can I not pick Gino's right?

Man, I grew up on Gino's — been loving 'em.

But 2007 has turned me onto a new local favorite ... Vito's.

I can't even describe it — just go and order a deluxe and it will describe itself.

It's on point!! — Plus I love local companies that really make an impact on Toledo.

Even though they don't deliver to my neighborhood, they do deliver.

Plus, the S. Detroit location had a grand opening celebration that included a live grizzly bear in the parking lot chowing down on some of Vito's finest pizza.

How can you front on that?

Favorite Oil/Lube Shop in Toledo

Express Lube
Right there at the corner of Douglas and Tremainsville (and off of Laskey, weird intersection) there is a locally-owned and

operated shop where you are treated with respect no matter who you are. Tom and Sue Cater along with their managing partner run this place and they always have specials on their services.

They are so honest, when I was about to buy my car from this dealership I won't name ... their staff inspected it for me and gave me advice on what I needed to do. For Free!

Those are my people right there, go check them out for minor work on that whip of yours.

Favorite local publication besides The Sojourner's Truth

Hmmm, it's a toss up. I really like *The Toledo Business Advantage* and I really like *The City Paper*.

I plan on being a successful venture capitalist after I get done doing what I do in the music industry so I have been reading *The Business Advantages* since I was a teenager.

Even though they do cover a lot of suburban development stories, I respect them for always shedding positive light on Toledo and our city's attributes when it comes to big business. The *City Paper* has created a tradition of bigging up the *Glass City*.

But they do it in an honest — no-holds-barred kind of way.

They have their own lists of favorites that they've been doing for a while, poetry contests,

stories on notable Toledo personalities etc.

Favorite Romantic Spot for Couples

No doubt, romance is out of style these days.

I remember when me and my peeps were teenagers and the thing to do was to take your girl for a walk down by the water on summer nights or whatever.

Promenade Park to the wading pool at One Seagate, that little strip of river walk has always been nice. Then there's International Park, quite a nice little look as well.

But for serious lovers, there's only one place that truly sets the mood and gives

you the perfect surroundings to enjoy someone's company — that place is

Toledo Botanical Gardens. Luckily our city has quite a few little spots where you can take your honey. Perfect for getting to know someone new or just spending time with someone you've been with forever, but I've found that the Toledo Botanical Gardens is by far my favorite.

Favorite New Thing in Toledo

Yeah, Northtowne is a memory and Southwyck is dead.

Yeah we've lost companies, stores (why Claudia's, why?) and etc.

But, this millennium has been brought a lot of newness to our city.

Expansion brought a whole new face to *Franklin Park Mall* (I'll never call it Westfield Shoppingtown — that's corny).

The New *Westgate*, anchored by Costco is looking really nice.

World class *Main Library* and Downtown Ball park *Fifth Third Field* that both rank among the best in the nation. Oh yeah, the *Glass Pavilion* — I'm still trying to make it up in there.

And of course we can't forget about *The Veterans' Glass City Skyway*.

What's your favorite new thing?

Or, does it matter ... some of y'all will hate no matter what.

We will re-visit this in the near future.


Other Stuff:

2 Face — the dude outside the BP on Cherry/Central selling his Rap CD ... keep grinding, homie.

As for me and my label, We have shows out of town most of August, but anyone interested in some hip-hop/ R&B on a higher level — get at U.G.E., we can fall through and bless ya spot. And The Undergodz are always available to hit you off with some of the hottest production by anyone, anywhere!

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Oregon Community Theatre To Hold *Little Shop of Horrors* Auditions

Oregon Community Theatre will be holding auditions for *Little Shop of Horrors* at Fassett Middle School, 3025 Starr Ave., Oregon, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. on August 28 and August 29. Auditioners must be at least 16 years old, should bring their own sheet music, and be prepared to sing, dance, and read. An accompanist will be provided. Shows are November 2, 3, 9, 10, and 11. Information: Kevin Wietrzykowski, 419-875-5374 or kwietrio@yahoo.com.

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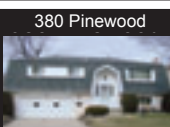
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12 oz Cans, or 6 Pack 24 oz Btls
All Varieties

4^{\$}11 for
LIMIT 8 TOTAL



Healthy Choice Dinners or Novelties, Marie Callender's Entrees or Private Selection Paninis
6-21 oz Select Varieties

5^{\$}10 for
WITH



Fresh, Plump, California Strawberries
16 oz Pkg
Try them on a summer salad!

Buy One, Get One
FREE
WITH



Dole Classic Salad or Fresh Express Cole Slaw
Start Your Dinner Right!
16 oz Pkg

Buy One, Get One
FREE
*Of Equal or Lesser Value



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