

The Sojourner's



Truth

Local and National News



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AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH...

October 03, 2007



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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

It wasn't pretty, but they got it done. The Lucas County Democratic Party's Executive Committee came together on Monday night and voted to endorse two candidates in the upcoming general election. Ordinarily, that would not be much of a surprise.

But these are not ordinary times for the local Dems. Years of acrimony and separation along the lines of the A and B team have engendered a great deal of bitterness. That bitterness did not dissipate on Monday, but at least the two wings managed to conduct their business and move forward.

The party's screening committee started the ball rolling by holding interviews with prospective candidates for the Toledo Board of Education and the City Council seat held by incumbent Michael Ashford.

That committee recommended Cheryl Catlin for the school board and Ashford's opponent, Ronnell Traynum, for council. Then the fun began during the executive committee's follow up session.

Former Mayor Jack Ford, a school board candidate, had a number of supporters on the committee who made the case for his experience.

"Jack has the experience and the relationships for us to move forward and to work with the governor," said State Senator Teresa Fedor.

But for the majority there was just one problem – Ford had not bothered to ask for the screening committee's recommendation. He had not shown up. That decision did not sit well with just enough folks on the room to deny the former mayor the endorsement.

The screening committee's decision to recommend Traynum over Ashford, who collected over 60 percent of the votes in the primary, brought out a significant drama of its own.

Ashford had signed an affidavit during the recent dispute over his yard signs – they read "endorsed Democrat" – to the effect that he had not asked for the Democratic Party's endorsement, did not need the endorsement and did not want the endorsement.

That decision did not sit well with a lot of folks in the room also, even though the issue apparently had been resolved in their earlier vote, a week and a half ago, to lift the sanctions on Ashford.

But the reality of the situation was that Ashford had asked for the sanctions to be lifted, he had asked finally for the endorsement and he had trounced his opponents in the primary. Given the likelihood of an Ashford victory in November, with or without the party endorsement, many in the room did not relish the inevitable embarrassment of not backing a winner.

"When he wins, then what?" asked newly-appointed Executive Director Yvonne Harper. "We still have egg on our face."

So by a narrow margin, the party decided to endorse Ashford and disregard the recommendation of the screening committee in a vote that went largely along the lines of the A and B team factions.

Nevertheless, the breach, if not healed, had been dealt with in as professional a manner as might be expected under the circumstances. This was a fact not lost on Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken who summed up the proceedings in his final comments.

"We've come a long way," said Gerken. "Six months ago, I wouldn't have been in this building, would not have been invited. I want to thank [Chairman] Ron [Rothenbuhler] for his leadership. I'm not happy with the Catlin thing. I'm sure some here are not happy with the Ashford thing ... but we get to disagree, vote, and we're done. It's democracy."

* * * * *

You Gotta Show Up – Part Two

Well, actually some of them did indeed show up for Tom Joyner's Morgan State University Republican debate last Thursday evening ... not the front runners, of course. The front runners – former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Senator John McCain, former governor Mitt Romney and actor and former senator Fred Thompson – don't show up for African-American and Latino-sponsored forums and debates.

And the debate was none the poorer for the no-shows. Those who did appear were lively, engaging, combative and made a sincere effort to stick to their conservative views in front of an audience that clearly appreciated the divergent views on matters such as the death penalty, racism and its residual effects, the War in Iraq, the budget and immigration.

Here's the kicker. Poll after poll points to the fact that African-Americans are relatively conservative in their views, particularly on social issues. The audience response on that night to conservatives such as Senator Sam Brownback, Governor Mike Huckabee and Representative Tom Tancredo certainly did nothing to dispute that conclusion.

More African-Americans, according to polls, identify themselves as conservatives than do those who call themselves liberals. Yet in election after election, black voters vote Democratic in droves. Why does that happen?

Because in election after election, the Republicans give African-American voters reason after reason to not vote for the GOP. This year Republicans are handing the black vote to Democrats on a silver platter by snubbing black-sponsored events.

You gotta show up! You gotta ask for that vote!

Community Calendar

***October 5**

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

***October 5-6**

Grace's Gym: Great choices of "Next-To-New Items;" 10 am to 5 pm; Grace Presbyterian: 419-241-8857

***October 6**

Calvary Baptist Women's Ministry: Caregiver Workshop; Noon to 1:30 pm: 419-865-0019

The African American Women's Cancer Support Group: "8th Annual Cancer Awareness Workshop;" Southern Missionary Baptist Church; 10 am; Free and open to the public; Facts and stats, healthcare information, support groups, Q & A: 419-535-3126 or 419-480-0122

***October 7**

52nd Annual Women's Day Program: St Mark MBC; Morning speaker – Sis. Tammy Freeman of Columbus; Evening speaker – Sis. Willie Mae Ellis: 419-241-1726

Ascension Lutheran Church "Friends and Family Day Celebration;" Orator Kimm Williams and vocalist Marlene Wainwright; 10:30 am; Program followed by fish fry and social hour: 419-535-9561

***October 10-12**

Christian Community Church's Kingdom Unlimited 2007: "Responding to the Call;" Prayer Clinic at 6 pm nightly; Simon Gordon of Chicago is the guest speaker on Oct. 10 at 7 pm; Bishop Randy Borders of NC is speaker on Oct. 11 and 12 at 7 pm: 419-536-8357

***October 11**

Fatherhood Parenting Program: Sponsored by Operation Re-Seed Christian Ministries; Applications accepted now; Eight-week program meets weekly for 90 minutes; Addresses real-life issues such as child rearing, values and beliefs, role of fathers, marriage, wellness violence and substance abuse: 419-297-3530

***October 12-14**

Scott High School 30th Year Reunion: Call 419-244-3677 or email scotthighschool30years@yahoo.com to register

***October 13**

Calvary Baptist Women's Ministry: Caregiver Workshop; Noon to 1:30 pm: 419-865-0019

Planned Parenthood of NW Ohio: Erie Street Ball: Erie Street Market; 8 pm to 1 am; Wear a costume, have a ball; Starring Symphony Alexander, Coti Collins, Desiree, Michelle Dupree, Ki'Arra Cartier Fontaine, Rhoda Horse and more; For ticket information call 419-255-1115

***October 13-14**

Canaan Baptist Church 44th Anniversary: Musical on Saturday the 13th with choirs from throughout the city; 6 pm; Sunday service at 6 pm featuring Mighty Voices of Canaan

***October 14**

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church: Annual women's Day; "A Service Filled Journey;" Morning worship at 10:45 am; Afternoon program at 4 pm United MBC 24th Church Anniversary

***October 19**

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

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A RESPONSE TO JENA 6 "THE POWER OF A TREE"

By Bishop Marjorie Holt
Special to The Truth

As I sit gazing into the atmosphere reflecting on the years of the struggle of a people, I must always remind myself that I was, and, yes, it still looks as if I am, a part of that struggle that I thought ended during the years of the Freedom Riders down in Alabama. But as I sit here today in amazement as to how we have de-escalated into a frenzy of apathy and lethargy regarding progress and permission, I hold back the tears that equate to the agony of victory and the thrill of defeat. Yes, I am very much aware that I said the agony of victory and the thrill of defeat. Must I remind all of us that the state of Black America has now become the blight of Black America? We no longer have to sit at the back of the bus but we are encouraged to not even ride the bus now.

Shall I proceed to the ugly plight of where we are in this crucial hour of history.

In Little Rock, AR we had the Little Rock 9 at Central High School. In Tuskegee, AL we had the Tuskegee Airmen. In Birmingham, AL we had the church bombing of our little girls, and now in Jena LA, we have the Jena Six, six black boys.

Who would have ever thought that a "tree" would serve as a symbol that would remind us of the bigotry of race relations that many hide under. Who would have ever thought? Maybe the Little Rock 9 embodied a spirit that was manifested in their bravery and their commitment to overcome the bondage of seg-

regation and separation. But who would have ever thought that in the 21st Century we would once again be reminded of our horrible track record in America of injustice and inequality. Who would have ever thought that America would feel justified in her obvious prejudices against its young - those who would be responsible for shaping the quality of life tomorrow? Who would have ever thought that affirmative action would still be spoken of in this century, and that hatred would constantly iterate that there will be no action affirmed with or for African-Americans?

Who would have ever thought that a "TREE" would have so much power? I'll tell you America, my brothers and sisters how and why there is so much power in this TREE. The Jena Six could have convened anywhere in Jena, La. but it was the "TREE", in fact many call it "The White Tree", because the "tree" garnered a gathering that created an atmospheric response that spoke no words but generated "thoughts." You see, nothing begins or ends without a "thought." It was just the mere "thought" of gathering at the "tree" that propelled the use of the "tree" to convey the POWER OF A TREE.

But, America, I have a message for you today. The "tree" was cut down but the thoughts about the tree still stand. The leaves on that tree could never be used for the healing of a nation. The limbs and branches on that tree could never again paint a beau-

tiful picture. But it is the thought about that tree that brought African-Americans once again to the forefront for all of the right reasons. You might say to yourself, White America, why is it that negative things only appear to get their attention? I'll tell you why it is in this case. It is because we have always had to rise to the top by working from the bottom. We produce our best masterpiece when you tell us that we can't because *Can* is a part of canning and canning has always prepared us for tomorrow.

So I beseech you, America, to know that black does not just represent sorrow, for us it represents strength. Sept. 20, 2007 symbolized not just nine months of carrying a burden for Mychal Bell and five other black boys, it symbolizes nine months of birthing for us. That is long enough for a life, new life to be born. And as we carry this torch that lights up our new birth, we also guide it to new heights. Who would have ever thought that the resurrection of a new slavery would find itself in the front rooms of our children who see no color but are gifted in coloring what they see. Who would have ever thought?

This "TREE" will go down in the history books as a tree that was once thought to be settled to provide shade from the sweltering heat in Jena, LA, as well as a picture of beauty, will now serve as an ugly reminder of how hot and ugly injustice and racism really are. When it falls into the hands of the wrong one, look

at how beauty can easily be turned into a beast. We must all realize in the era of this "tree" in Jena, LA that there will be no beauty in the eye of the beholder until all men really are created equal.

But think about it, justice has never been applied to us. *Justus* might be the only ones who know how inequality has formulated an equation to raise the bar only when it comes to us, and how it is that they change the rules right in mid-stream on "*Just Us*". The Jena Six must have understood the plight of Black America to so passionately engage in a fight that would lead Black America to stand up even when they were forced to go down. Little did they know that a "TREE" would have so much power, and that they would find themselves being instruments piloting this power. Little did they know! What those six young men saw on and under that "tree" changed not just their world but the world. What they saw framed an ugly picture of reality that Black America has had to come to grips with at one time or another. Now am I saying that all of America, White America,

should be criticized or victimized? No. But America must be willing to face the nightmares and the scars that injustice, hatred, bigotry and racism are responsible for. The history books tell us over and over again that if one does not know its history, it is doomed to repeat it. This ugly face of history is showing up again.

Did we close the books on American history or did we just leave some Black America pages out? Who would have ever thought that a "TREE" would have caused such a revolution in the 21st Century?

Some of us do remember our history. Many of us got caught up in the harmony of singing "We Shall Overcome." It sounded good but we forgot that SHALL was an action word, so we did nothing.

But let me encourage you. The plight or the fight is not over yet. I applaud all of my brothers and sisters who made the trip to Jena for this courageous commitment symbolizing unity; but you must begin to take that same strength, wisdom, passion, and tenacity to apply it to the bigger picture. The bigger picture is embracing our dreams but

dealing with our nightmares and teaching our children that yes they can become stars, but we must first deal with the scar.

We do have a rich heritage. Blood, sweat, and tears had meaning to our pioneers but it must be more meaningful to us today. Who would have ever thought that even in this hour of a black presidential candidate that injustice would attempt to give Black America a black eye. We must not forget that this history page can never be erased.

Jena Six in Jena, LA is real. The "tree" that has been cut down should and can cause seeds to sprout up in Black America.

We must not forget that what was meant for evil, God is going to turn it around for our good. We must never forget! Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream; White America still lives a fantasy and while we still live with nightmares. Rev. Jessie Jackson says keep hope alive and you will always have a future; Bishop T.D. Jakes says reposition yourself, and your truly says "the worst is over and the best is yet to come!"

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"Finally" ... Ground Is Broken for The New Multipurpose Downtown Arena

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"Finally," said Lucas County Board of Commissioners President Tina Skeldon Wozniak, throwing up her arms and sharing her sense of relief with the audience gathered for the groundbreaking of the new downtown multipurpose arena.

"Today we start building on our success," said Wozniak. "Today the promise of a new multipurpose arena is real."

Reality finally struck on Monday after years of city-wide debate about where to place the arena (East Toledo

or central business district), who would manage the building project, how large it would be and whether The University of Toledo would be involved, among the many sticking points.

"The day is here, we did it, we're going forward," said Commissioner Pete Gerken, who was credited by most of those present, including Wozniak, with being the driving force in getting the project finally started.

"It's a facility the community deserves," said Gerken as he recalled the initial 1999 discussions about the

project. "But it would not have happened without the cooperation of everyone on the stage."

Those on the stage included Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop, Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, Toledo City Council President Michael Ashford, Councilman Mark Sobczak, Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz, State Senators Teresa Fedor and Randy Gardner, State Representatives Peter Ujvagi and Mark Wagoner and Mud Hens General Manager Joe Napoli.

"May this new multipurpose facility be the equal of Fifth Third Field because then we will have a grand slam across the street from each other," said Finkbeiner during his remarks at the podium.

"It is time to build new memories," said Fedor in invoking those of the old Sports Arena of East Toledo which has been reduced to rubble in order to clear that site for the Marina District project.

Ujvagi noted the presence of E.O.P.A.'s Weldon Douthitt and contractor Roosevelt Gant in the audi-



ence and observed that one of the goals of the construction phase of the project is to include minority contractors' participation in the effort.

Tom Chema, the project consultant who was involved in the Jacobs Field and Gund Arena construction projects in Cleveland, served as master of ceremonies for the ground breaking event.

Napoli brought the speeches to a close with a recap of the success Fifth Third Field and the Mud Hens have enjoyed in the six years of that ball park's operation. Napoli will head the group that will manage the revived minor league hockey team starting in 2009 and, it is hoped, an Arena League Football team.

"Toledo is already in the top 10 in attendance for minor league sports," said Napoli as he asked the audience to envision what the area will be like after completion of the arena. He noted that Fort Wayne, IN and Rochester, NY are the top minor league markets. "We have [those cities] in our sights," added Napoli.



Council President Michael Ashford and State Senator Teresa Fedor

coming
october 1st

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mondays 9pm

the game
mondays 9:30pm

aliens in america
mondays 8:30pm

everybody hates chris
mondays 8pm

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Free the Jena Six: A Journey into the Heart of a New Civil Rights Movement

By Annette Wright
Special to The Truth

Ed. Note: This article is part two of a two-part series by a participant in the recent Jena, LA gathering to protest the filing of attempted murder charges against six high school boys in the town. Part one ran in our September 26 issue and can be read in its entirety on our website at www.thetruthtoledo.com.

Before we knew it, there it was, a tiny little sign that read "Jena Corporation Limit."

"Hey everybody, we're here," I shouted. "We're in Jena!" We all cheered and a renewed burst of energy filled the entire bus. "Free the Jena Six, free the Jena Six, free the Jena Six!" was shouted as we all filed out of the bus.

It was still a bit dark when we arrived. I looked at my 17-year-old daughter Raven and said, "well we're here." She replied, "free the Jena Six!" I couldn't contain my smile and said, "that's right baby," and shouted with her "free the Jena Six!"

There were many other buses, limos, and trailers. The bikers were already pouring in. Passenger cars with plates from Texas, Georgia, New York, the state of Washington (!) were all over the place. As the sun began to come up, it became quite clear that this was a very, very little town. I only saw one traffic light, although officially, I am told, there are four. No businesses were open. It was easy to see that many people had either left their homes, or were in them hiding or simply refusing to

come out. Some business owners had taped off their business property and posted no trespassing signs. There was a NAPA Auto Parts Store with camera crews and a reporter on top of its building. News media covered every building and bit of sidewalk available.

All types of groups were represented. Racially, it was a rainbow, albeit a predominately African-American rainbow. Nonetheless, I saw many whites, Asians, Hispanics and others. Every age group was well represented, from infants to those so elderly that they were mobilized



with the assistance of motorized wheelchairs and other people.

There were members of the Old and New Black Panther Party. The Nation of Islam was well represented, and as is characteristic of the Nation, they were very handsomely dressed, organized and at times in control of certain events. The American Red Cross, God bless them all, were on hand to distribute drinking water and nutritious snacks. A real Godsend, considering, we were instructed not to patronize any businesses in Jena. After all, our mission

was not to make the little town prosper - financially.

Our first rally gathering was in front of the LaSalle Parish Courthouse. Already very heavily crowded, I grabbed Raven and we somehow made it near the front. With a member of the Nation at the podium, a reminder of the facts of the case surrounding Mychal Bell, the antics of District Attorney Reed Walters, the Jena School Board and the injustices therein, were recanted aloud, over and over again into the hearts, minds and souls of all who could hear. One could not help but

notice that the sheriffs and other courthouse personnel were pinned up, nose against glass, staring out at the crowd in utter disbelief. Some of the sheriffs even had their own cameras and videos going. (Of course, I am sure this was in part by assignment).

I wondered what was really going through their minds. It wasn't even 8 a.m. and there had to be at least 30,000 people looking back at them. The crowd was thoroughly enthusiastic. A young black man, no more than 19-20 years old, walked through the crowd with a statue of a black man with a white noose around his neck. Another young brother walked around with the noose around his own neck! Yet another had a huge black fist, erected from some sort of platform that ignited the "Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud" chant, over and over again. The New Black Panther Party, that needs an invitation from no one, apparently arrived early enough to secure a good portion of the front of the courthouse area. With mike in hand, a young black sister, shouted an entire litany

of historical misdeeds inflicted upon black people in America by the "whiteman."

Rev. Al Sharpton appeared at the podium. He was very well received by the crowd. With him were the parents of Mychal Bell and another of the Jena Six defendants. As he was speaking, I noticed that some people were beginning to look away from the podium. I, too, looked away, but could not see anything but endless sea of faces. Just as suddenly, Rev. Sharpton cautiously informed everyone that a group had arrived to taunt us. He instructed everyone to remain calm and stay focused on upon the purpose of the protest. A lady next to me, who saw me trying to look over the crowd, said, "it's the Klan." Dear God, I thought, here we go ...

But we didn't go. In a most collective state of obedience everyone turned back around and indeed refocused their attention on Rev. Sharpton and the families at the podium. I started laughing. I imagined the Klan back behind us somewhere on that little street, marching their asses off in their little white wardrobes and no one paying them a damn bit of attention.

After listening to many other speakers, including Michael Baisden, Pastor Michael Beckwith, local political leaders, and other defendant family members, we headed off for what turned out to be at least 10 marches through the little town. Here again, I had to laugh, as a lot of us did. No sooner had we marched downtown, down a few roads, past a few houses, past the school, and (the White Tree turned Brown Pile of Dirt), did we find ourselves back where we started. We laughed as we soon realized that we had just marched around the entire town, in under 20 minutes. When people said, okay, now what?" I answered, "march again!" It was so beautiful. We chanted and sang until our voices were nearly gone.

On one of my trips around the town, I noticed that some of the residents had finally decided to come out of their houses. I could not resist

speaking and talking to them. At one house, a little white girl, seemingly outside alone, waved enthusiastically at all of us. A precious little angel, I thought to myself. At another house, what looked like an entire white family sat in front of their home, much like my Ma'Dea's little three room house in Demopolis, except Ma'Dea's was in much better shape. A woman sat in a chair in the yard with a little baby on her lap. As usual the little baby waved at us. I said a hearty "good morning, everyone!" as we passed their house. They all said, "good morning!" back to us - smiling. I could tell that they were among the most impoverished in the town. I wonder, what is it about babies and poor people that make them more accepting of people? Ignorance, some might suggest. I beg to differ. I think it's a lack of fear. When you have nothing or you don't know that you have nothing you are less likely to feel threatened by the fear, founded or not, that someone wants what you've got. When you realize that all that you have is what you landed here with, what is there to fear being taken away from you? Oh, well.

We also met some of the black families after a few marches around the town. They, too, for fear of reprisal according to them, were hesitant about coming out to greet us. But they did come out. And at the sight of them, an entire portion of the march was upon their lawn, greeting, hugging, praying and crying with them. They were so happy to see us, yet you could see the fear in their eyes. They told us that they were afraid of what would happen to them when we left. I told them if need be we could come back. In fact, a house was for sale across the street from one of their houses, I half-jokingly said let's all pitch in and buy that house right there! I will never forget their faces. I will pray for them continuously.

The protest continued throughout the afternoon into the evening. By the time our bus pulled out, around 2 p.m. or so, another phase of

the march had begun with Rev. Jesse Jackson, Martin Luther King, III, Tyler Perry, and many others. I did get a chance to participate in a portion of that march. I met and dined with, (along with a whole lot of other folk, mind you), Rev. Jackson many years ago, in Toledo and eventually went to Chicago and joined the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. So I've watched him from up close over the years. Rev. Jackson looked happier than I have seen him in a long time. He looked over at me and I spoke to him. But soon I was overcome with emotion. A sense of sorrow came over me as it dawned on me that he is indeed getting older and surely he must be tired of this. Here was a man that marched with Dr. King and was now marching again, with his very grown children, fighting the same injustices in 2007.

What, Dear God, is the answer I wondered? We are back on our bus, headed home. Back north, out of the deep, deep South. Again, it is dark, and again the sky is aglow with every star in the universe it seems. I'm not the only one awake this time. I notice a lot of heads tilting upward, trying to look at the stars. Raven is sound asleep, as are my legs, again. But my heart is so full! I feel so blessed to have been a part of this journey - to have been a part of this cause. I sacrificed three days of work, Raven three days of class, many others made an even greater sacrifice. God knows, I'd do it again in an instant.

It was a sacrificial show of love, support and unity. There wasn't a single incident of violence or disunity that entire day. The overwhelming feeling was one of brotherly love. I can't describe it any other way. The real work begins, now, however. We keep organizing, we keep mobilizing, we keep doing the ground and foot work. But the finishing touch to all of our efforts can only be put in place by this One God from which all life flows. He will have to say to all of His creation at some point, enough is truly enough.

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Lisa Sobecki: An Involved Parent Enters the Race for the Toledo School Board

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

In perhaps direct contrast to a few of her opponents, Lisa Sobecki's commitment to and involvement with the Toledo Public Schools did not start on the day she announced her candidacy.

Sobecki, endorsed Democratic candidate for the Toledo Board of Education and a stay-at-home mother, has children in district schools – two boys in the fourth and second grades at Ottawa River. Her sons, Jacob and Zane, have been in the district since they attended the Early Childhood Development Program at Cherry Elementary.

And Sobecki herself has been actively engaged for all those years in a variety of parent activities such as the PTO (she is a past president), coaching soccer, Boy Scout leader and the Parent Congress. She estimates she has put in over 6,000 hours as a volunteer in the school district.

Now, as a declared candidate, she apparently wants to increase those hours dramatically as well as the grief quotient that comes with a seat on the board.

Why has she chosen to open herself up to the anticipated enhanced scrutiny?

"My involvement with the schools has been rewarding," she says. "I've had the

chance to listen to parents while pointing them to the direction they need to take. Parents don't always know what directions to take."

And what of that contentious board? How does

lence, no doubt," she adds. "But if they stop talking at each other and with each other, that will be a start."

The Truth asked Sobecki to comment on four issues of importance to the Toledo com-



Sobecki feel she would fit into the equation?

"I've spoken with each board member about the issues and about looking at different directions," she says. "As an outsider looking in, I have discussed issues and have been able to find common ground with each and every member."

"It's going to be a chal-

munity: teacher competence and diversity, student achievement, the charter school/voucher threat to public education and the Intern Plan.

"We have not given Superintendent John Foley direction or tried to hold him to timelines on that direction," says Sobecki with respect to teacher competence. "Foley

takes his direction from the board. I'm not saying that we have a perfect staff or perfect teachers but we are going to start working together better."

"There have not been enough African-Americans or Hispanics who have been qualified... even with males in general there is a shortage. So you are going to have to go out and recruit from other areas. We need to work with universities to put together a recruitment effort, then you will have a bigger pool for employment."

"But we have to have highly qualified teachers. I don't want a teacher who is not qualified in order to boost numbers."

As to student achievement, Sobecki advises that the district needs to ensure

that "the tools we are giving teachers are up to date – books, technology, and so forth."

Additionally, she says, "as a parent I know things have changed since I went to school and we need to give information to parents to help direct them."

On the matter of charter schools and vouchers – "We can't compare public schools with charters or school that accept vouchers. Charter schools do not have to meet standards and we need to set the playing field correctly, then the proof will come out and you can actually compare," says Sobecki.

"The Toledo Plan is not something that board members can demolish," says Sobecki of the controversial plan that assigns mentors

(veteran teachers) to first year teachers in order to guide them and evaluate their progress. The evaluation function has drawn the ire of many observers.

"The Toledo Plan has been accredited nationally," she adds. "And if you open it up and start going through it, you would have to have something as a replacement."

"Do I agree with it 100 percent? No. Has it been successful for the most part? Yes."

The Truth asks Sobecki what part of the program she would tweak. That inquiry draws a "no comment."

The most important issue for Sobecki?

"Academics," she replies without hesitation. "We need to make sure we can reach every child academically."

National Race Equality Day

Special to The Truth

Sunday, September 16, 2007, was National Race Equality Day. National Race Equality Day was created so communities could work together to renew their commitment to eliminating racism and promoting racial justice and equality across America.

To honor this day, the City of Toledo, the Board of Community Relations, Metroparks of the Toledo Area and the Toledo Botanical Gardens put together an event, "A Taste of Diversity," held at the Toledo Botanical Gardens.

"A Taste of Diversity" brought together local ethnic restaurateurs who donate their time, talent and food in order to celebrate

cultural diversity. While taking in the beautiful scenery at the Gardens, visitors who attended had an opportunity to sample delicious food items,

enjoy cultural music and entertainment and participate in arts and crafts demonstrations. There was something for everyone to enjoy.



Left to right: Morgannia Dawson (Connection Committee Co-chairman), Muriel Williams, Julia Holt (Basileus of Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter), Joan Harris, Desiree McGee and daughter Ramsey McGee. Not pictured: Brunetta O'Neal (Chairman)

City Council Recognizes "Employ the Older Worker Week"

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Toledo City Council dedicated September 23 through September 29 as "Employ the Older Worker Week" in the City of Toledo with a press conference and a proclamation last Tuesday September 25.

"As our population continues to age, older workers will play larger roles," said Council President Michael Ashford. "Their contributions in the private and public sectors will be very important and we encourage all to honor and celebrate and to encourage public officials to intensify their efforts to retain these [older workers] in the workforce."

The recognition of "Employ the Older Worker Week" was an effort by Toledo City Council to remain in line with the U.S. Department of Labor's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). SCSEP conducts job training and placement services to accommodate the needs of people with limited financial resources and who are age 55 or older.

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Mrs. Dorothy E. Day, President

Mrs. Dorothy E. Day and four other honorees, Vernelis Armstrong, Mari Evans, Robert W. Franklin, Frank Goldie, and Emerson Ross, Jr., also, the family of the late Lemaxie Glover are to be honored at this the 3rd luncheon, on Saturday, October 13, 2007, at the Wyndham Hotel, Two Seagate - Toledo, OH, downtown, at 1 p.m.

Tickets are available at African American Legacy Project
2321 Upton Ave., Phone 419.720.4369
and

Toledo Credit Union, 1339 Dorr St., Phone 419.255.8876

Health Issue • October Health Issue • October Health Issue • October Health Issue • October Health Issue • October Health Issue • October Health Issue • October Health Issue

Toledo Celebrates Tom Joyner's Health Day

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Dozens of Toledo residents participated in the annual "Tom Joyner's Take a Loved one to the Doctor Day," on Tuesday, September 18 at the Erie Street Market. The day-long free event provided physical screening for blood pressure, tobacco support counseling, skin health and cancer visual dis-

sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The organization strives to improve the health care of minority groups, including African Americans. Each year the day is set for the third Tuesday in September, to urge and remind the community to schedule a doctor's appoint-

ment for themselves and someone that they love. It also provides funding to cities such as Toledo to support the day with free or low-cost health services. Among one of the first booths available for health information was St. Luke's Hospital Tobacco Treatment Center. This center provides group counseling, one-on-one counseling and support services for individuals who are trying to quit smoking. "If you want to stop smoking pipes, cigars or chewing tobacco, then we can help with that. All specialists are certified, caring and love their work. The support groups meet weekly and on-going support is available, we also do prevention work for schools, churches and companies for all age groups," said Debbie Matthews, Tobacco Treatment Center Supervisor.

In addition to the center, Planned Parenthood provided free condoms to prevent teen pregnancy. The Toledo Council of Black Nurses, Inc. focused their booth on heart attack prevention, high blood pressure and stroke facts, and provided a free health exam with a pledge to eat healthier. The Ohio State University Extension of University Medical Center distributed information on different skin cancers, myths associated with skin cancers and provided a machine which allowed observers to see for them if they have warning signs for skin cancer.



plays, teen prevention, HIV tests and other health services.

Tom Joyner started this day in September 2001 as a branch of Closing the Health Gap campaign, which is

cause she checked my face condition and said my skin was pretty good."

The Lucas County Health Department set up two booths, the first focused on

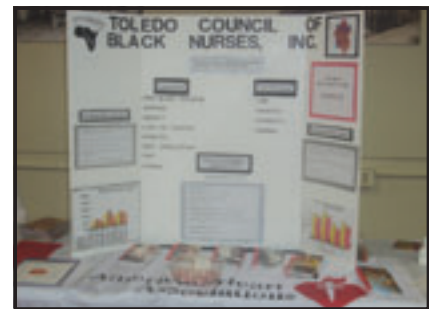
shared samples with the community while giving useful fiber information. "Fiber is very important, but the average person doesn't get enough. There are many ce-

cause she checked my face condition and said my skin was pretty good."

Jerry Hunt, a participant in the free services said that the skin cancer information increased his knowledge of the subject and he stopped thinking that blacks do not get skin cancer. "I visited several booths, but the skin cancer table interested me the most. I learned more about the sun, skin and sunscreen. When they told me about how skin cancer can start as a mole and can change form it made me think

the importance of fiber and second on HIV screening.

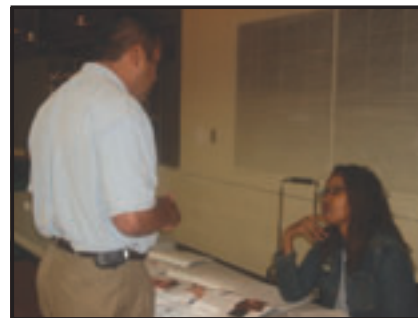
Sara Chiarellott, WIC pro-



reals and snack bars out today that have fiber. Benefits of fiber include preventing diabetes and helps with weight loss."

One of the longest lines for the event was the HIV tests provided by Lucas County Health Department. The tests were free, took an average of 20 minutes for the results and provided counseling for all testers.

Participants were entertained throughout the day by 95.7 fm radio, along with 97.3 fm personalities King Keyers and Hutch Daddy Dollar.



However, I felt relieved be-



WHAT IS LUPUS?

Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease which causes inflammation of various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints, blood and kidneys. Although the immune system usually protects the body against viruses and bacteria, in lupus patients the immune system loses its ability to tell the difference between foreign substances and its own cells and tissues.

LUPUS FACTS

- o Lupus affects 1 out of 185 Americans and strikes adult women 10-15 times more likely than men.
- o Lupus is MORE prevalent in African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians.
- o Approximately 2,400 people in Lucas County have been diagnosed with Lupus
- o Lupus can be difficult to diagnose as the symptoms are like other illnesses. Symptoms include joint and muscle pain, fatigue, a rash made worse from sunlight, low grade fever, kidney problems and hair loss.

SERVICES IN TOLEDO AREA

- o **Support Group** at Flower Hospital 5200 Harroun Road, Sylvania, Ohio
- o **November 11 - 2 pm**, MOB Auditorium
- o **January 13**
- o **March 9**
- o **May 18**
- o **Lupus Awareness Month Activities**
- o **October 13** Health and Safety Fair Findlay Village Mall 9 a.m. - Noon

CONTACT INFORMATION

Lupus Foundation of America
Michigan and Northwest Ohio Chapter
1800 N. Blanchard St Suite 102
Findlay, Ohio 45840
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E-mail: info@lupusnwoh.org
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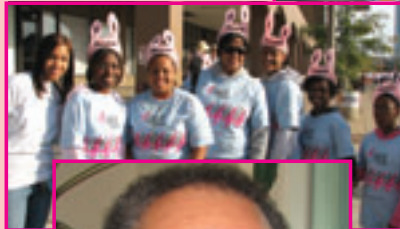
14th Annual Race for the Cure Kicks off Breast Cancer Awareness Month

More than 17,000 runners and walkers participated in the 14th annual Komen Northwest Ohio Race for the Cure—the largest contingent ever.

The annual fundraising event, held by the Northwest Ohio affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, consisted of the five kilometer run/walk and a one mile walk.

One of this area's consistent supporters of the Komen foundation and the Race for the Cure has been Dr. Houston Johnson, a platinum level sponsor who has been involved with the race since its inception.

Johnson, who has co-authored a book on breast cancer and has had 45 articles published in prestigious medical journals, has been in private practice specializing in surgical oncology/general surgery in Toledo since 1992.



Dr. Houston Johnson



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Owens Toledo-area Campus Hosts Health Career Expo, Oct. 4

Special to The Truth

Area residents and students with career aspirations in a health-related field are invited to learn about and explore various employment opportunities available throughout Northwest Ohio as the Owens Community College Toledo-area Campus hosts its Health Career Expo on Thursday, Oct. 4.

Sponsored by Owens' J.O.B.S. (Job Opportunities Brought to Students) Office, the Owens Health Career Expo will run from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the College's Audio/Visual Classroom Center Rooms 125-128 on the Toledo-area Campus. Owens is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township. Admission to the event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

"The need for qualified health care professionals continues to grow at an alarming rate," said Gentry Dixon, Owens Coordinator of Student and Alumni Placement. "Owens Community College

is excited to once again host an event in which we can assist in connecting future nurses, dental hygienists and radiographers with the health care community and employment opportunities. Events such as the Health Career Expo are a great vehicle for individuals to not only learn about different employment opportunities but seek advice from long-time health care professionals."

Dixon added, "The possibility exists that someone could walk away from the Owens Health Career Expo with a new job."

Throughout the event, individuals can meet with local health care representatives and ask them questions about their professions or how to go about choosing a career path in the health field. In addition, attendees will be able to fill out applications for various employment opportunities.

Owens students and area residents attending the event are encouraged to bring several copies of their resume and to dress professionally in

preparation for any impromptu interviews.

Area employers in attendance will include Mercy Health Partners, St. Luke's Hospital, University Medical Center at the University of Toledo, ProMedica Health System and Wood Haven Health Care, among others.

In addition, Owens will have information available for those individuals interested in pursuing a college education. Owens offers a wide variety of academic programs through the College's School of Health Sciences, and past graduates from these academic programs have gone on to become dental hygienists, dietetic technicians, chefs, hotel and restaurant managers, occupational therapy assistants, health information technicians, radiographers and ultrasound technologists throughout Northwest Ohio.

For more information, contact the College's J.O.B.S. Office at (567)661-7556 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7556.

PROMEDICA HOSTS WELLNESS WORKSHOPS FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

The ProMedica Cancer Institute and its Healing Care program will host a free two-part workshop on physical and spiritual healing for female cancer survivors. "The Wellness Workshops for Female Cancer Survivors" will be held on Nov. 3, 2007 and April 26, 2008 at St. Lucas Lutheran Church, located at 745 Walbridge Ave., in Toledo's Old South End. Both sessions will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

These workshops will teach participants hands-on healing techniques for coping with their emotions during an illness, which include art, journaling, movement and guided imagery. Participants will be asked to spend the time between the two workshops integrating the lessons and techniques they learned into their daily lives.

These sessions will include lunch and each participant will receive a special gift. This program is supported by a grant from the Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church Association. To register, or for more information, call 419-824-5516.



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New Legislation Targets Debilitating Disease

Special to The Truth

State Representative Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) last week used the "Walk for Lupus Now" fundraising event as a backdrop to unveil legislation that aims to create an education and awareness program for the disease.

Rep. Williams served as Honorary Walk Chairman for last week's event. Over the past several months, she has worked with lupus organizations statewide and the National Lupus Foundation to address why diagnosis rates for lupus are high, yet public understanding remains low.

"Nearly two million Americans have lupus," Rep. Williams said. "That's one in every 185 people in our country, and 90 percent of those patients are women. We need to get the word out effectively that this disease is dangerous and needs to be caught early enough to get treatment."

Lupus is so difficult to diagnose and has no cure. The disease affects various parts of the body, including the skin, joints, heart, lungs, blood, kidneys, brain and gastrointestinal tract. Doctors diagnose more Americans with lupus than cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis,

sickle-cell anemia, cystic fibrosis or HIV/AIDS.

Like many diseases, however, early diagnosis and proper medical treatment may help control the symptoms

lupus, the importance of early diagnosis and effective treatment and management strategies.

"This is a proactive approach to controlling this



State Representative Sandra Williams

and the damage lupus causes. The Lupus Education and Awareness Program will create a multi-pronged statewide program to promote public and health professional awareness of the causes and consequences of

debilitating disease," Williams said. "Lupus is too dangerous, and its reach too broad, to ignore as a serious health risk. This program constitutes a big step toward helping Ohioans live better lives."

Library Branches in Toledo's African-American Community Videoconference to Discuss Racially Charged Novel

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The timing couldn't have been better. Thousands marched in Jena, Louisiana, on behalf of six young African-American teens who've become the poster children for judicial inequity in this country four days after a videoconference book discussion between the Mott and Kent Branch Libraries of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. An excited buzz went around the horseshoe-shaped configuration of tables in each library Monday, September 17, 2007, as participants watched the video that allowed them to see and hear each other.

"Welcome to our first fall book discussion," said Judy Jones, manager of the Mott Branch. "We're trying to do something new." Jones added that the event was also a celebration of The Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

The Big Read is a program designed to get each community to choose one of 12 books to read and discuss at local library branches. Toledo-Lucas County Library's choice was Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize winning novel.

Based on a true-to-life story, the novel is told from the point of view of Scout, a young girl whose father defends an African-American man falsely accused of rape by a young white woman. "That was the book that the library chose of the 12

books," said Jones. "You join hundreds across the city reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*."

In addition to book discussions and appearances by the author of a biography of Harper Lee, Charles Shields, at local branches, the movie featuring Gregory Peck is showing in October at the Maumee Indoor Theater, the Rossford Public Library and Owens Community College.

"The author of *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee* will be here Tuesday, September 25, at Kent," said Faith Hairston, manager of the Kent Branch Library. To start off the discussion, participants were asked about the relevance of this book written over 45 years ago to 21st Century America.

"I think it's extremely relevant," said Joan Harris, chairman of the Art Tatum African-American Resources Center Citizens Advisory Board. "Because what happened then is still happening now in a subtle way."

The connection between the book and current events was made immediately. "Somebody said that they see a correlation between the book and Jean 6," said

Jones. "Luckily we have got it rectified because we have media that can shine a light on what is happening," said Johnnie Taylor, member of the Art Tatum African-American Resources Center Citizens Advisory Board. "What made Harper Lee's book so strong?" Jones asked.

"Children are more free

thing that really stood out for me was the mob scene and [Scout] comes out and points them out."

She compared this to her calling out gang members when they come to Mott, saying their names and schools, causing them to drop their 'gangsta' attitude, if only temporarily, while at the library.

Jones talked about how powerful this kind of boldness is. "To take away that strength and make them each accountable."

Other favorite scenes included the boys' crushed reaction to the all-white jury's guilty verdict and the blacks in the balcony of the courthouse standing in tribute to Atticus Finch, the lawyer who unsuccessfully defended the unjustly charged black man, Tom Robinson.

Hairston talked about Finch's excitement that the jury even deliberated. "Normally the jury only took about five minutes in cases like that," she observed. "I'm surprised no one's talked about how Tom was excluded," asserted the only male participant in the discussion, Tracy Turner.

Turner listed various ways that disenfranchised groups in the community were excluded from the

mainstream, including the ability to read. "Literacy was throughout this book," he said. Turner also opened the discussion to the treatment of women as detailed in the book, particularly Mayella Ewell, who accused Robinson of rape.

Abused and neglected by her father, she reaches out to Robinson, only to be rejected and caught in the act by her father and is later seen badly bruised, probably because her father beat her.

Gordon talked about the element of fear in the book and the movie. "It played on my mind because of fear tactics," said Gordon, whose cousin Emmett Till, was brutally murdered in Mississippi less than a decade before the publication of Lee's novel.

"I was related to Emmett Till, so in my family, we were taught to stand up."

Turner kept bringing the discussion back to women. "What about the schoolteacher and her attack on Scout because she could read?" He pointed out that women were not encouraged to read in the small town that was the setting for the novel, except for Scout, whose father read the entire newspaper to her and her brother every night.

Jones focused on Robinson, mentioning earlier in the discussion that the prosecutor was appalled when the black man said on the witness stand that he felt sorry for Mayella. "That you even had the audacity to feel sorry for a white woman," Jones said, adding, "Black

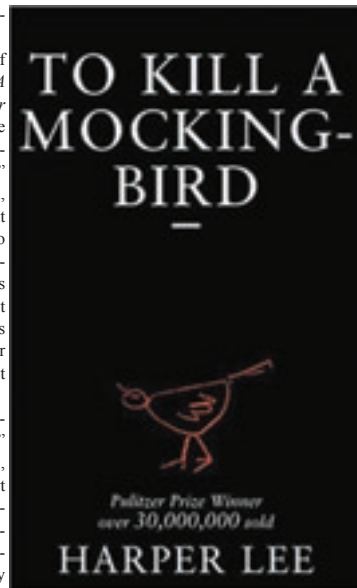
men have to feel like men. He knew she was being abused, but he also knew the rules of the South. He felt sorry for her. He did not follow the rules. He had told his boy, 'Don't get caught with a white woman alone.' So, he didn't follow the rules."

Jones said she kept saying while reading the book, "Leave Mayella alone! Don't help her with her chiffarobe! Leave her alone!" Turner pointed out that in the novel a white male lives with a black woman and has bi-racial children with her. "I call that a privilege," he said.

"Does anyone else have any thoughts on the class issues brought up in this book?" asked Kimberly Johnson, one of the newest members of the Art Tatum African-American Resources Center Citizens Advisory Board. "Who could read and who couldn't read, that's a class issue."

There was some discussion of how reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* promotes discussion of issues such as class, race, gender, justice and other issues related to American society, then and now. After the lively and stimulating discussion, both groups agreed that such discussions should continue between the two branches. Managers Jones and Hairston asked for suggestions of other novels and non-fiction works that could be discussed in the future.

Contact
Geneva Chapman
geneva@thetruthtoledo.com



and honest," said Harris. "They want fairness."

Diane Gordon, chairman of Kwanzaa House, had a little different insight. "It's so important to understand that inherited racism comes from parents and grandparents."

Jones recalled a favorite passage in the book. "The

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Free Breast Cancer Screenings For Uninsured Women Offered by St. Luke's Hospital

Oct. 23, Oct. 29

To increase uninsured women's access to potentially life-saving clinical breast exams and mammograms, St. Luke's Hospital will offer free breast cancer screenings on Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., and Monday, Oct. 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Appointments are needed.

Who are 40 and older and have not had a mammogram in the past 12 months

Who are between 25 and 40 years old and have a first degree relative with breast cancer

Who are between 25 and 40 years old and have found a lump in their breast

to provide a family doctor's telephone number and address as well as information about past mammograms. This free breast screening program is supported by a grant from the Northwest Ohio Affiliate, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Roughly one out of eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during her lifetime. Clinical breast exams and mammograms can detect breast cancer in

the early stages – when it's most treatable. In fact, mammograms may even spot this type of cancer one to three years before a lump can be felt.

The National Cancer Institute advises all women to perform monthly breast self-exams and to ask their doctor or nurse to give them a clinical breast exam every year. Also, women in their 40s and older should get a mammogram every year or two.

Women eligible for the free screenings include those who do not have health insurance and those:

Those who qualify should call 419-897-8484 to make an appointment. Participants will be asked

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Tribute to Rosa Parks 2007
Accepting Nominations for the 2007 "Tribute to Rosa Parks" awards!
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Failure is Not an Option: Is Race a Factor in Education?

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

An audience of just under 100 people in attendance at the Ohio Conference of the NAACP Convention experienced the inspiration of the stirring words of the 21-year-old speaker commissioned by the Youth and College Councils.

D. Lamont Roberts is the president and CEO of his own consultant program and is the public relations director for Vision Leadership Institute in Columbia, South Carolina. He was recently elected chairman of the NAACP National Youth Work Committee and represents Region 5 which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee—the largest region in the NAACP.

His credentials continue on, but understand; even this is just the tip of the iceberg. His passionate delivery during the luncheon had a recurring theme: "We've Got to Go Get 'em."

That theme could well become the mantra for the current efforts to close the achievement gap for African-American and Latino Males in Ohio. As school officials and educators, as well as politicians, desperately search for cause and effect data that would indicate a direction in which to lead their schools toward better scores, the search has done little more than give rise to collective head scratching as they try to figure out what went wrong.

As we pass the 50th anniversary of the entrance of the Little Rock 9 into their historic place in public school integration, we also take a closer look at the community to see schools re-segregating at an alarming rate.

"Nearly 40 years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we have now lost almost all the progress made in the decades after his death in desegregating our schools," writes Gary Orfield, co-director of the Civil Rights Project at the University of California, Los Angeles. Charter schools like the Heir Force Academy in Lima and Quest Academy display stronger numbers of African-American students.

Across the country, a close look at the achievement gap raises some disturbing questions. Ralph J. Bunche Elementary School in gang-plagued Compton has an Academic Performance Index score of 866,

almost equal to those of elementary schools in Beverly Hills and higher than many in Santa Monica. The school is 100 percent minority, and 40 percent of the students are non-native English speakers.

Why do 81 percent of the students at Edison Elementary in Long Beach, where 90 percent of the students are Latino, 72 percent of whom are learning English, score as proficient or above in mathematics? Could it be that ignoring race as a factor in education has done more damage than originally thought?

Is race a factor in learning? It's possible, of course, that the interest level for the education being provided in the schools for students of color is minimal at best. There has been an outcry for a number of years for a more complete picture in each subject taught featuring the contributions of all races offering an opportunity for each student to witness successful experiences by those of their own heritage. In the past, for some races, the only accounting may have been negative or degrading instances throughout history.

D. Lamont Roberts points out in his presentation that students of color have to have what it takes to be successful in the classroom. It is unnatural that they would not excel. He asked his audience, how could a people who produced the creators of the refrigerator, traffic light and gas mask fail to be proficient in math? It's unnatural. A people from whom we received A Raisin in the Sun, God's Trombones, and Still I Rise, fail to reach the goal for reading, or writing? It's unnatural.

How then does it happen that the achievement gap is here with its complexities and students such as those at Lima's South Middle school have teachers and administrators scrambling for answers to unlock the key to their understanding? The school is again classified as being in "Academic Emergency" and has met only one of the 14 performance standards that have been set by the state for achievement. The school has a high percentage of African-American students.

Ironically, it may be that President George Bush has hit on a certain key. His "No Child Left Behind Act,"

which by few accounts has had a positive impact on the school experience, does do one thing: It asks the data being tracked by school systems be broken down by race among other factors. The figures are making an uncomfortable statement revealing the ugly truth of the academic achievement among students of color.

Governor Strickland's Council on Closing the Achievement Gap targets African-American and Latino males. The organizers leave no room for 'inclusion,' there will be no time wasted on across the board dividends – African American and Latino males are in a state of emergency.

The programs for both these initiatives demand a focus on racially and gender-based teaching methods and ideology. These students will receive an increase in technology, tutoring, and self-image boosting that previously had not been part of their day-to-day educational experience.

As Americans, we fantasize about the day when race, gender and physical challenges can be treated as insignificant indicators in a number of different areas. But, that day is not here and education is not the arena.

Schools are searching for the answers and they are looking at programs coming out of the minority community as resources. The Black Star Project in Chicago partners with a number of urban schools and offers specific programming for students and parents. In Tallahassee, the Young Black Male Discovery Project has been tapped by three struggling middle schools.

It is clear the days of moving the numbers around to get a better picture of achievement is gone. The determination to bring males of color to an acceptable standard is strong. We cannot be deterred from the goal. If a student begins to believe he cannot achieve and turns away from school – "We've got to Go Get 'em'".

If the streets call to them for a faster way to economic security, we can't just let them go – "We've got to Go Get 'em.'" If they're giving up because they've failed the OGT's – there's help available, failure is NOT an option – "We've got to Go Get 'em'".



L to R: Dr. Lisa Lee, Dr. Nabitsa Rogers, Dr. Nicole Nelson, and Dr. Aimee Hawley are all Board Certified Radiologists with Lima Radiological Associates which staff St. Rita's Imaging Services.

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The Lima Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth

October 03, 2007

Lima YMCA Black Achievers

By Sharon Guice
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Lima YMCA Black Achievers are at it again. The group kicked off another great program year for African-American youth at their open registration meeting on September 29 which started at noon.

The committee consists of Tina Robbins, YMCA youth director, John Upshaw, C. Ann Miles, Terence Minor, Londell Smith, Sharon Guice, Victor Washington, Delores Dalton, Derek Richardson and David Turner.

This is a group of people with a heart to see that the black youth of Lima have a chance at the greater things in life through education, field trips, monthly meetings, networking, mentoring, tutoring and friendship by interacting with mature and successful adults.

The Black Achievers Program reaches into the heart of the community for both adult and teen achievers. By recognizing and utilizing the talents of successful professionals and community leaders, the program brings a much needed positive influence into the lives of young people. Every stu-

dent stands to gain from the program.

This year the program is going to yet another level. All youth in the program with have a sponsored membership to the YMCA. This membership will afford the kids an opportunity to be part of a great organization. If they were not a member of the Black Achievers Program they would not otherwise have an opportunity take part in all that the YMCA has to offer the community youth.

To get a sample of what their membership will offer, the youth were able to experience on the day of the kick-off the swimming pool, basketball court, the gym, etc.

Clear Channel Radio, 93.9 WLWD, broadcasted the event live while encouraging the youth and parents to come in and learn about the program.

The Lima Black Achiever Program began in 1992. Anthony Thompson, Todd White and Terence Minor were meeting with young African American males to mentor and tutor the young men in areas of education to keep their skills up as the young men were receiving failing

grades which would prevent them from participating in the sports program of their school. This program was called Young Achievers. After young ladies were invited to be part of the program, the National Black Achievers Program was discovered and the Young Achievers Program became the Lima YMCA Black Achievers Program in 1992.

The central purpose of the Black/Minority Achievers Program is to help teens of color set and pursue higher education and career goals.

The YMCA's mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. The YMCA National Black & Latino Achievers Program is making a tremendous impact not only in the African-American community but also throughout the YMCA by connecting positive and caring African-American adult role models with African-American youth. It is a program that lives up to the Capital District YMCA's theme: "We Build Strong Kids, Strong Families, Strong Communities."

"The Y is the best thing



any kid can have to help them grow and understand what life really is. So the Black Achievers Program is one of the bridges that's in it to help the African American youth."

Through the mission statement of YMCA and purpose of the Black Achievers Program, the Lima youth who choose to participate in the program will receive life skills that will help them to achieve success in whatever career path they so choose.

The Lima Program goals and objectives are to help the youth with job skills training, ACT/SAT prep workshops, career exploration activities, college tours, financial aid help, leadership opportunities, field trips, and senior scholarship program.

The program objectives will also include:

- Help youth develop a

edge will inspire youth to set and reach their goals

- Create channels for continuing community involvement with business, industry, churches, and schools.

The name Black Achievers represents and describes the historical origin and mission of the program. The term "black" (African-American as defined today), however, has been expanded to include other teens-of-color in YMCAs nationwide. Some programs identify their program as black and Hispanic, minority, Latino etc. The Black Achievers Program does not exclude based on race; it is, like the YMCA, a multi-racial effort to help teens of color develop to their fullest potential.

On a historical note about how the Black Achievers Program begin.

Quinton Mease built the

ers of Houston. Later, Leo B. Marsh, a financial consultant with the YMCA of Greater New York took notice of Mease's work and started a program in 1971 at the Harlem YMCA. The purpose of the program was to motivate African-American youth to set educational and career goals. The Harlem YMCA sought to achieve these objectives by creating a forum to foster ongoing interaction between African-American youth and adults who had distinguished themselves in their professions.

This initiative later led to the establishment of the National Black Achievers Network in 1987.

At the kick-off event the youth completed applications, heard about the 2007/2008 monthly events planned, ate good food and won door prizes. There was even a prize for the youth who brought the most friends with him or her, a \$25 Lima Mall Gift Certificate. Parents attended also to hear first hand about opportunities for their youth.

The target audience for the program are youth in middle and/or high school, from all income and academic levels. Special programs will be planned to include youth of younger ages.

For more information about the Black Achievers Program, contact Tina Robbins at 419=223-6045, ext. 116.

Contact Sharon Guice
at
sharon@thesojournerstruth.com

Vickie Shurelds

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first black YMCA in Houston and served as executive secretary for 20 years. Mease first conceived the Black Achievers Program at the South Central YMCA in 1967 under the label Young Black Achiev-

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Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm that provides free legal assistance to low-income migrant farmworkers throughout Ohio, seeks an energetic, bright, and hard working attorney to work with its Migrant Farmworker Program. The position is based in Toledo. Excellent legal and communication skills; ability to relate well with low-income clients; computer proficiency; and strong commitment to legal services to the poor are required. **Must be able to communicate fluently in Spanish.** Membership in Ohio Bar or ability to be admitted by motion or examination required. Previous experience in poverty law, provision of legal services to migrant farmworkers, and work with community groups is preferred. Salary is based on relevant legal experience. Excellent benefits including loan repayment assistance and language compensation. Send resume electronically as soon as possible, in Microsoft Word format only, to: jobs@ablelaw.org

Subj: Migrant Farmworker Attorney

Applications will only be accepted by e-mail. Equal access to ABLE's office is available. Applicants requiring accommodation to the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator at the address listed above. Equal Employment Opportunity.

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Sub Bus Driver - \$8.78/\$9.05 (post probationary). On-Call, As Needed.

Application Deadline: Thursday, October 4, 2007. Apply at EOPA/Toledo-Lucas County Head Start; 525 Hamilton Street, #202. Must have access to an automobile and possess/show a valid Driver's License with proof of auto liability insurance. **NO RESUMES ACCEPTED WITHOUT AN APPLICATION. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is issuing a request for Proposal (RFP) for Supportive Services to Women and Teenage Females Engaged in the Sex Industry.

The goal of the RFP is to provide services that will:

- Empower and equip women involved in the sex industry to provide emotional and financial support to their children resulting in family stability;
- Maintain children in their own home or reunify in a timely manner;
- Maintain stable placements for teenagers;
- Improve the health and emotional well being of females served.

LCCS is seeking proposals from governmental units, private for-profit entities/agencies and non-profit entities/agencies. Agencies should have unique information, education, knowledge and experience working with females engaged in the sex industry. RFP materials will be available from October 1 through October 16, 2007 at 705 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43624. To make arrangements to pick up a RFP packet, call 419-213-3658. An applicant information session regarding the RFP will be held at LCCS on October 16, 2007 at 10:30 A.M. in Room # 913.

The deadline for completed proposals (NO FAX) is 4:00 p.m. on November 5, 2007. No proposal will be accepted after the deadline.

By Dean Sparks, Executive Director
Lucas County Children Services

CLASSIFIEDS

State of Ohio Ohio School Facilities Commission NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Bids will be received by the Toledo Public School District (the "District or TPS"), at the School Board Office, Treasurers Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608 for the Arlington Elementary School, Byrnedale Junior High, Raymer Elementary School, and Spring Elementary School Pre-demolition Asbestos/HazMat Abatement Projects in accordance with the Drawings and Specifications prepared by: TTL Associates, Inc.
1915 N. 12th Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604

Phone No. 419-324-2222
Fax No. 419-321-6252

The Construction Manager for the Project is:

Lathrop/Gant/Barton Malow, LLC
701 Jefferson, Suite 302
Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone No. 419-776-5600
Fax No. 877-281-0784

Any Proposed Equal for a Standard shall be submitted to the Consultant, no later than ten (10) days prior to the bid opening. If no Addendum is issued accepting the Proposed Equal, the Proposed Equal shall be considered rejected.

Sealed bids will be received for:

Estimates

Bid Item No. 1: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Arlington Elementary School Abatement Dates: November 14 th through December 21 st , 2007	\$150,000
Bid Item No. 2: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Byrnedale Junior High School Abatement Dates: November 14 th through December 21 st , 2007	\$90,000
Bid Item No. 3: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Raymer Elementary School Abatement Dates: November 14 th through December 21 st , 2007	\$140,000
Bid Item No. 4: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Spring Elementary School Abatement Dates: November 14 th through December 21 st , 2007	\$150,000

until **October 15th, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., (as determined by Stratum clocking (cell phone time))**. The bids will be opened and read at Waite Brande Auditorium at the Summit Annex, 1530 N. Superior St., Toledo, 43604.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on **October 3rd, 2007, at 11:00 a.m.** at the existing Spring Elementary School, 730 Spring St, Toledo, OH 43608 (A SCHEDULE WILL THEN BE PROVIDED FOR THE ADDITIONAL SITE BUILDINGS, TO BE CONDUCTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER).

Bidders will be required to comply with the Toledo Public School District's Community Inclusion Plan. Contract Documents can be obtained from **Toledo Blue Print, 6964 McMerney Street, Northwood, Ohio 43619, phone: (419) 661-9841** for the cost of the printing, to be paid to the printing company at the time the drawings are picked up. CD-Rom copies of the bid drawings are also available from **Toledo Blue Print** for no cost with the purchase of the specification books.

Contract Documents will be available at Toledo Blue Print on Friday, September 28th, 2007.

The Contract Documents may be reviewed for bidding purposes without charge during business hours at the following locations:

Maumee F.W. Dodge Plan Room
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FX: 419-861-1325

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Toledo, Ohio 43606
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FX: 419-530-3242

Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
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Toledo, Ohio 43602
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Columbus F.W. Dodge Plan Room
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Mentoring Services for Substance Abusing Parents.

The goal is to provide mentoring services that will support parents to:

- Engage in and successfully complete substance abuse treatment;
- Retain custody and/or reunify with their children;
- Learn the skills necessary to prevent re-maltreatment of their children.

LCCS is seeking proposals from governmental units, private for-profit entities/agencies and non-profit entities/agencies. Agencies should have unique information, education, knowledge and experience providing mentoring services to substance abusing parents. RFP materials will be available from October 1 through October 16, 2007, at 705 Adams St. Toledo, OH 43624. To make arrangements to pick up a RFP packet, call 419-213-3658. An applicant information session regarding the RFP will be held at LCCS on October 16, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. in Room # 913.

The deadline for completed proposals (NO FAX) is 4:00 p.m. on November 5, 2007. No proposal will be accepted after the deadline.

By Dean Sparks, Executive Director
Lucas County Children Services

Special Notice

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted October 15-19, 2007 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over.
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