



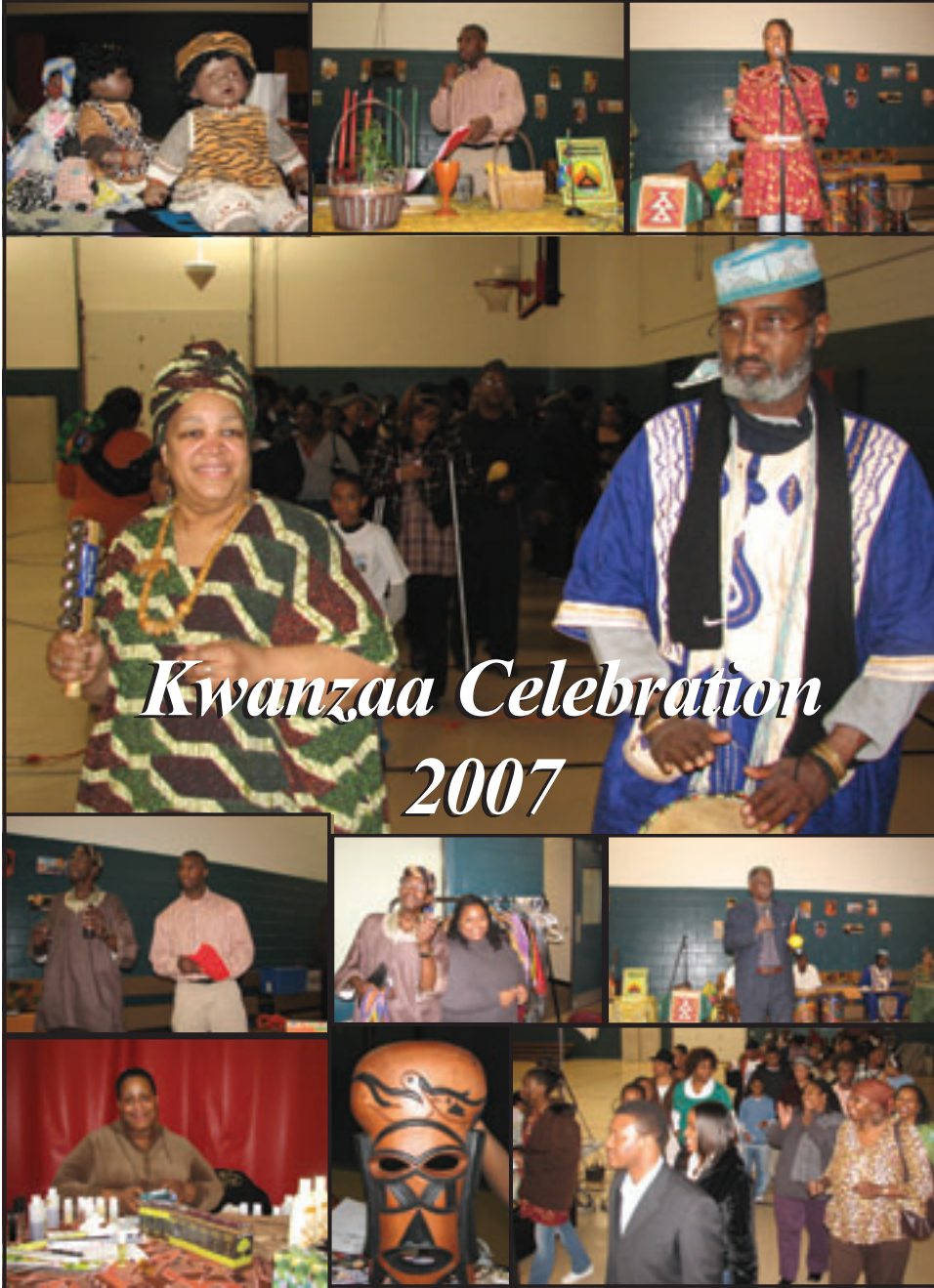
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Volume 13, No.10

AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH...

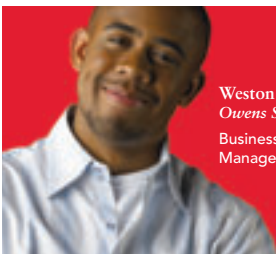
January 02, 2008



Kwanzaa Celebration
2007

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's
Political Columnist



Last week we suffered through another Toledo snafu. Nobody asked the State of Ohio for the annual granting authority for the hi tech New Frontier Program started under former Gov. Bob Taft. As a result, Toledo and northwest Ohio will be shut down for a year, unless some other area of the state decides to work with a local firm.

Hundreds of jobs for student interns are in jeopardy of being lost. So much for trying to stem the brain drain.

The problem was caused by having too many economic development gurus and not enough communication. Had this failure occurred in the private sector, heads would have rolled. But wait, is not the Regional Growth Partnership now a totally private concern? I can think of at least eight paid

positions of economic development folks who missed this opportunity. This is another reason for streamlining government.

The city will seek a renewal on the tax for basic services. It is a tough time in the city's financial history. How much will the garbage fee or the 10K shower of Carty's play in the decision of voters to support the renewal? If there is opposition, it could spell trouble for the city tax. However, there is no real alternative except huge cuts in services.

And, the Toledo Public Schools are going for a renewal in March. In a 5-0 vote, the school board decided to go before the voters. Even Bob Torres and Darlene Fisher came on board. Has the infighting

simmered down enough for the taxpayers to continue to invest in TPS? Let's hope so since the TPS budget is based in part on the assumption that this levy will pass.

Finkbeiner announced that he is having a fundraiser. This is a traditional signal that a re-election effort is forthcoming. After all, why collect thousands unless you plan to spend it on campaigning? Carty says that he is undecided and may use the money he raises to help other candidates. We shall see.

The next mayoral race will be unique as every mayor's race turns out to be in the final analysis. I think many variables will loom large in the 2009 race. Will Carty be strong enough to run at age 69? Most likely he will.

Economic conditions in Toledo will still be difficult, however. I think we will be mired in a recession brought on by the mortgage crisis and the Middle East war costs. Not only have we lost jobs in 2007 in Toledo but relocations will continue in 2008 and 2009.

Race. You would think that Carty would finally lose the black vote after the Perlean Griffin affair. But I suspect he will trot out a whole new team of black supporters and try to work his usual political magic of promising everybody everything. And it usually works. Black folks love them some Carty.

But Carty fatigue may have set in. Black and white voters have a way of getting tired of too much stress. We have been stressed out by everything from losing Eugene Sanders at TPS to garbage fees to World War III threatened.

Keith Wilkowski has got to run. He does not have a choice unless he obtains a judgeship. He spent too much of the family cash on the last run not to pursue another race and try to come up with a victory to justify the accumulated expense. He will probably be The Blade's candidate. He was the last time around but could not break through in that effort.

Let's talk a moment about Governor Ted Strickland and Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern. They have intervened in the past on sticky Lucas County Democratic Party matters. Maybe Strickland will go back in time to the Bill Ensign era and promote Carty to a top job in the state ranks. That opens a path for Wilkowski, Frank Szollosi, Pete Gerken, George Sarantou, Rob Ludeman or Jim Hartung. Even Mike Bell muses about being mayor of Toledo. Each and all of them have some real strengths. How about Doni Miller? Yep.

(Continued on Page 3)

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

*January 5

BGSU Financial Aid Workshops: Lenhart Grand Ballroom of Bowen-Thompson Student Union; 9 am to noon, 1 to 4 pm; An overview of the financial aid process will be provided at both sessions, along with information on how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), discussions on scholarship opportunities, other types of aid – including grants and loans – and payment processes: 419-372-2651

Manhattan-ites Gathering: Spend Saturday afternoon to celebrate old neighborhood friends and memories; Contact Gloria Layson: 419-243-1449

*January 19

Creations Black Bridal Vendors Networking Luncheon: Bethlehem Life Center; 11:30 am; Guest speaker George Robinson – Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce: 419-346-5275 or gcreationsevents@yahoo.com

*January 21

Northwest Ohio Black Media Association presents the **Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Classic**. Owens Community College, Student Health Activities Center. 1:00 p.m. Scott Bulldogs vs. East Chicago Central HS (Defending Indiana Class 4A State Champs.) 3 p.m. Libby Cowboys (Defending Toledo City league Champs) vs. Saginaw HS (Defending Michigan Class A State Champions.) 1-419-215-1087

2008 Dr. Martin Luther King Unity Celebration: UT Savage Hall; 9:30 am; Community luncheon at 11 am; Sponsored by the City of Toledo and the Board of Community Relations; Musical guests include the Clarence Smith Community Choir, Lisa Hightower and Joyce Rush: 419-245-1565

25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King "Oratorical" Contest: Sponsored by The "Ghanaian" Foundation "Step Up, Toledo;" Civic Center Promenade Hall; 9 am to 3 pm; Open to students K-12; Senior High winner receives a \$500 scholarship award: 419-868-8396

*January 26

24th Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth: UT Student Union; 8:30 am to 1 pm; Keynote Speaker Byron Pitts of CBS National News; Breakout sessions for students and parents start at 10:30 am: 419-530-3820

Creations 3rd Annual Black Bridal Expo: Civic Center Promenade – Erie Street Market; Noon to 5 pm; Fashion show, vendors, renewal ceremony: 419-346-5275 or gcreationsevents@yahoo.com

Dear Editor,

We're writing you this letter to ask you not to print articles with gray background because they are hard for folks to read. We looked at different things in the December 5 issue, like the Calendar, All Hail the Queen, Top Ladies of Distinction and one of our favorites, Dear Ryan, and they are all hard to read. The one with the green was okay.

Just stick to regular black and white and folks will be able to read it fine. Thank you very much.

A Long Time Reader

Ed. Note: Consider it done. We'll try to eliminate the gray backgrounds

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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The Sojourner's Truth, 616^{1/2} Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone 419-243-0007 • Fax 419-255-7700
thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com
www.thetruthtoledo.com

City of Toledo and Social Compact, Inc.

A recent newspaper article identified that the City of Toledo was contemplating spending a substantial amount of money to contract with Social Compact, Inc. to assist in a challenge of the US Census Bureau's population estimates of the City of Toledo and to perform a market analysis of Toledo. Within the same article, City Council President Michael Ashford was identified as opposing the expenditure. I disagree with him that this expenditure is unwise.

It is important to note that Social Compact uses a model, adapted to respond to the unique characteristics of the inner city in order to capture hidden populations, economics and micro-market opportunities that exist below the radar of traditional market information sources. This type of analysis yields tremendous economic development results as seen in other communities. For example, in Washington DC, the city and its partners used the 2002 analysis to attract new businesses to Tivoli Square, including the construction of a 500,000 square foot retail development that has attracted major retailers like Best Buy and Target. In Houston, Texas, a private developer used their analysis to secure financing of the first inner-city mall in the last 50 years that has 99 percent occupancy, created 2,000 jobs and enjoys strong sales. Based upon the 2001 analysis in East Harlem, Fleet Bank (Bank of America) established two new branches and three new ATMs and launched a new successful lending program for local residents.

While it is estimated that the cost of the study is significant, Social Compact, Inc. indicated that they could assist in raising 50 percent of the cost through their partners. Additionally, the City will be approaching the local businesses and local economic development trade associations to contribute to paying part of the cost of the study.

The Social Compact, Inc. study will benefit the neighborhoods of Toledo.

Mike Badik, Commissioner of Housing
City of Toledo



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My View

(Continued from Page 2)

Councilman Joe McNamara has pulled off several impressive legislative feats this year. He is also mulling a run for state party committeeman as did Szollosi two years ago. But I think Joe made a misstep on the domestic registry issue. I would not be surprised if we see a white Catholic diocese/black minister coalition come around in 2008 to try to rescind the registry ordinance. Toledo is a Democratic labor town but it remains heavily Catholic and lots of blacks

do not like the idea of the registry either.

Finally, the mostly white male building trades took control of the Lucas County Democratic Party in the coup of 2005. The trades and the Teamsters had chafed at the pro black, pro liberal, pro female policies of Paula Ross and her followers. Are the tradesmen ready to give up power so easily? No!

Carty artfully rode their anti-Ross and other anti's (Ford, Escobar, environment, etc.) to regain power.

Maybe that alliance of Finkbeiner, the trades and the Teamsters can hold one more time.

By the way, Paula Ross is the reason we have Wade Kapszukiewicz, Anita Lopez, Ellen Grachek, Pete Gerken, Tinwa Skeldon Wozniak and Vallie Bowman English in office today, just to name a few.

HAPPYNEWYEAR!

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

Oh! For Christmas Past

By Jan Scotland
Guest Columnist



you were good for the year.

I spent my first six years in the parsonage of my dad's church in Harlem. When he passed we moved to Queens, New York to continue the traditions of a close family where love was above all other gifts. It's a good thing too because our widowed mother could not buy us the fancy robots, easy bake ovens and other toys so coveted by the kids of that time.

What we did get was the laughter and song of the season. We cheered each other's gifts. We laughed at each other's jokes and we ate our Christmas meals as if it was a feast of the ages.

Designer sneakers or clothes were out of the question. No video games were to be found and school clothes or school shoes were always part of what we could expect. But if you looked thru our front window or listened at our door you would think that the riches of the world were at our feet.

At the center of these celebrations was our mother who never let us dwell on what we did not have, but

made us feel blessed for what we got. She taught us the true meaning of Christmas. The birth of our savior who would live, teach and heal before dying for our sins. We learned to appreciate each other and looked forward to that morning together. Not only that we also enjoyed the days leading up to it. Putting up the tree, decorating the living room with lights, Christmas caroling with the church, hot chocolate when we returned, staying up till late when we got older playing monopoly and listening to Christmas music.

The Lord has continued to bless us. My mother is still the center of our Christmas spirit. My siblings are still alive and the joy of our company together still shines any gifts we receive. We gather at my mother's house to enjoy the glimpse of Christmas past that we still hold so dear. And if there were no presents under the tree, the warmth of our laughter and the sincere pleasure we have being together wipes all thoughts of material things away.

(Continued on Page 4)

Eating Shrimp and Lobster Is Also an Abomination

I just read (admittedly late) Lafe Tolliver's guest editorial from November 28 on the domestic partner registry.

I find it interesting that someone who is an attorney is so willing to blur the line between church and state, trying to drum up churches to oppose municipal business.

I do not, however, find it interesting or at all surprising that he is so willing to quote chapter and verse of the Bible to support his arguments, while completely ignoring things that do not support his case.

He makes mention of two verses in Leviticus, while ignoring the rest of verses around them. According to the Bible, homosexuality as a sin is on a par with eating pork or shellfish—grave sins.

He completely disregards issues that don't help his case, like thousands of years of shoddy translations. He makes no mention of other biblical items that have fallen by the wayside as society has progressed, like the rules governing the treatment of slaves. Surely someone as God-fearing and concerned about the following the Bible would want us to change the laws of the land to allow slavery once again, as it is allowed in the word of God?

Worse by far is Mr. Tolliver putting words in God's mouth. "One would think that with clear Biblical prohibitions on gay marriages and a homosexual lifestyle," he writes; however, there are no such "clear Biblical prohibitions." There is nothing about "gay marriages" in the Bible at all, and the "homosexual lifestyle" is something that came into being within the last 100 years or so.

Perhaps Mr. Tolliver should learn Greek and Hebrew to truly understand what was written in the Bible before setting himself up as such an authority on it.

Anthony Glassman
Cleveland, OH

A Look Back at the Top Political Stories of 2007

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

For an election off year, there was certainly quite a lot of action on the local political scene this year. School board squabbles, Toledo City Council issues, Lucas County Democratic Party contemp- tions, council and school board elections. Here is our list of the top ten political stories of 2007 in David Letterman-like order.

10. The multipurpose downtown arena and the Marina District. We finally broke ground on the arena and we finally saw the light at the end of the Marina District tunnel. After years of battling over where to place the arena... eastside, downtown, that matter was laid to rest. No one knows for sure how close the final cost will be to the preliminary estimates but everyone seems to be prepared for the worst.

As for the Marina District, it's in the hands of developer Larry Dillin and he has raised more money than he promised he would. Dillin brought in a commitment of \$75 million for the first phase of the project.

Clearly these two projects will be highlights for the downtown/river area of town. We would probably place them higher on the list but years of disappointment have made us leery of jinxing the whole thing.

9. The fight for control of the Lucas County Improvement Corporation. Former Mayor Jack Ford put together the current organizational chart of the LCIC so, naturally, current Mayor Carty Finkbeiner pretty much felt free to ignore it once he regained control of the 22nd Floor of One Government Center. Not so with fairly recently-elected Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop.

Konop sank his teeth into

the LCIC, ran the director – Shawn Ferguson – out of town and launched a national search for a replacement.

At year's end, Konop was still unhappy with the direction of the LCIC, the funding issues and the lack of minority participation on the organization's board. This one's not over by a long shot.

8. The garbage fee. Note we didn't call it a "tax." That's because people in high office say it really isn't a tax, just a fee and we take them at their word.

The Finkbeiner administration proposed the garbage fee to plug up a budget deficit. Otherwise liberal councilmen sniffed it out for what it really is and turned their noses up in dismay at the odorous scents emanating from the 22nd Floor. Nevertheless, the measure passed and Toledo residents, who would ultimately scorn a COSI levy, were stuck with the garbage surcharge, or fee, or whatever.

As the Bard once noted: "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

7. And speaking of strange odors, the Toledo Board of Education really stunk up the joint with their search for a new superintendent. The superintendent select, William Harner of Philadelphia, wanted too much apparently



– too much in the way of waivers from TPS policy regarding living and family

school arrangements. He withdrew from consideration, listened a second time, withdrew again. As of this writing we understand he is still wondering if anyone will be getting back to him.

In the meantime, longtime Toledo Public Schools' employee John Foley, who had been serving as interim superintendent and was one of the finalists for the position, got the job. To paraphrase Bismarck, one should never be permitted to see how searches, or sausages, are made.

6. Toledo City Council elections were held in November for the District seats and the favored Democrats in Districts 2 and 5, Marty Skeldon and Molly McHugh Branyan, respectively, were upset in turn by Republican Tom Waniewski and independent D. Michael Collins.

Collins and Waniewski campaigned long and well, overcoming the odds of more recognizable names and the heretofore long arm of the Democratic Party. Collins, in particular, did well just to move past the primary. Both gentlemen figure to be vocal forces on City Council.

5. The death of long-time Republican Congressman Paul Gillmor shook up the political scene in much of northwest Ohio. Ohio Republican Representative Bob Latta of Bowling Green would go on to win the vacant seat in a special election in December against Democrat Robin Weirauch of Defiance with 57 percent of the total vote.

Latta's victory means that both the Ohio House and Senate will be the scenes of rows of dominoes falling as people maneuver to move up and down in order to enhance their political careers or to avoid the end game of term limits.

4. Strippergate. The Lucas County Democratic Party had a golf outing last summer and invited some local entertainers along to serve beverages. The entertainers did what they do... entertained. Well, in fact, not everyone on the course was entertained.

Some politicians said the presence of the young ladies was simply out of bounds.

Governor Ted Strickland ultimately got involved in the mess and sent Ohio Party Chairman Chris Redfern to the area on several occasions



to resolve the dispute.

In the end, party Chairman John Irish and Executive Director Domenic Montalto were given mulligans, they were given the gate and the noise level in the battle be-

tween the A and B teams decreased considerably as new Chairman Ron Rothenbuhler managed to restore some semblance of order and unity.

3. The Perlean Griffin/Office of Affirmative Action story happened near the beginning of the year, but it just wouldn't die. The mayor decided to cut some people from his administration to save money. Part of that decision was to carve the Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance into tiny chunks and demote long-time supporter/employee Perlean Griffin, who was in her second stint of running the office. It was a slight Griffin did not take well at all.

She called the mayor a racist and filed complaints with a variety of state and federal agencies. People marched and wrote letters on her behalf. The mayor ultimately compromised over the issue of the status of the office itself. Griffin, however, was still out of a job and the results of her filings are yet to be determined.

Calvin Brown took over as commissioner of the of-

fice.

2. Jack's back! Former Mayor Jack Ford re-entered public life when he was appointed to fill the incomplete term on the Toledo Board of Education of Deborah



Barnett. Barnett resigned in late spring in an effort to reclaim her life.

But Ford decided that life on the board was pretty sweet. Why not run for election, says he. Thought became fact and the die was cast. He won, of course, by trouncing candidates three through 100 or so. His campaign was a textbook example of how to run for office – raise money; present a platform in

(Continued on Page 6)

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Oh! For Christmas Past

(Continued from Page 3)

We now have our own kids and I am proud to say that the spirit is prominent in their hearts too. They are swept into the joy we have in the day and they understand the true meaning of what we have. Sometimes I think that we spoil them too much by giving them the material things that we could not have. But I have witnessed their character in tough times. They get it! They really, really get it! Maybe the true spirit of Christmas past will continue with them and their children.

I know that many reading this today remember their Christmas past. Many have

had experiences that mimic those of my family. Many remember waking in the morning to find toys and gifts miraculously under their tree. The smell of food and egg-nog. The giggles and laughter. The way the fun of the day erased the long list of gifts we did not receive.

Many may have experiences not so good. They may not want to remember Christmas past. But the message of this article is that Christmas has no lasting meaning unless the spirit of the day comes through.

Family and friends must feel that spirit with every

"Merry Christmas" uttered. Kids must understand whatever they receive is a blessing whether it is everything they want or not. Satisfaction on that day must come from the love and care everyone shows and the story of Christ must be understood.

So don't let your kids tout their gifts to siblings or friends as the success or failure of Christmas. Let them understand that the love showed that the day is greater than the tallest mountain, all the gold in the world and the infinite stars in the universe.

Happy New Year!!

Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture

By Mario L. Harris-Rosser
Special to the Truth

Harambee, Harambee, Harambee, Harambee, Harambee, Harambee! These were the joyful shouts – meaning the phrase “let’s pull together” – of those present at the public Kwanzaa celebration held at the YMCA’s Wayman D. Palmer Center last week.

Kwanzaa’s creator, Maulana Karenga, Ph.D.,

a proactive choice, a self-affirming and positive choice as distinct from a reactive one.”

Kwanzaa begins annually on December 26 and concludes on January 1. The seven-day celebration includes seven corresponding principles derived from the Swahili language listed as follows: *umoja* (unity), *kujichagulia* (self-determination), *ujima* (collective work and responsibility),

celebration featured a wide range of talented speakers, storytellers, poets, musicians, and dancers. In addition, the program included a variety of local vendors and restaurants. Peering out into the audience, Diane Gordon, the chairman of the Kwanzaa Committee said: “[T]his program is the meaning of unity, it represents everything that the principle of *umoja* expresses.”

According to Greg Braylock, the keynote presenter on the principle of self-determination and the project coordinator of the United Way of Greater Toledo’s Youth United Way initiative, “We must not allow others to define and name us, whether their definition is positive or negative. That responsibility is solely ours.” And it was this message of personal growth, responsibility, and accountability that was repeated throughout the celebration.

Approximately 100 persons arrived each night to help celebrate Kwanzaa and hear the inspiration presented by the guest speakers such as that of Antoine Kabwasa,

ujamaa (cooperative economics), *nia* (purpose), *kuumba* (creativity), and *imani* (faith).

The local Kwanzaa cel-



first celebrated Kwanzaa in 1966. Karenga is quoted, “[Kwanzaa] offers a clear and self-conscious option, opportunity and chance to make



Congo native and distinguished professor at The University of Toledo, who enchanted the audience on day two of the celebration with stories of his native land.

In addition to the presenters, a wider range of local vendors also were on hand to bring a touch of local community and business to the offerings, such as: Sister Muhammad’s Kitchen, the Essence of Natural Beauty, AM Renaissance Photography, Carl’s Mecca Aroma and Stephanie’s Sweet Scents. And a number of local restaurateurs such as Ruby’s Kitchen and Olive Mae International Caf  provided edible treats for the occasion.

The Kwanzaa Committee of the recently established Lighthouse Community Center organized the seven-day event. According to information provided by the committee, Kwanzaa has been publicly observed in Toledo for approximately 30 years and has been held at over 25 city locations.



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- DaVonn Thompson

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Alma Drum & Dance In Performance at the Toledo Museum of Art

Special to The Truth

ALMA Drum & Dance returned for a performance at the Toledo Museum of Art, as part of the annual "Winter Legacies" series. ALMA's performance took place this past Sunday, December 30th, at 3:30 PM, in The Great Gallery, and featured a set of traditional West African drum and dance. This was the fourth year that ALMA performed in this popular

winter concert series at the museum.

ALMA's performance was preceded by a dance performance by Middle Eastern dance troupe, Leyla & Lapis Lazuli, at 2:30pm. The two group's performances also featured collaborative pieces with members of ALMA drumming for the Lazulis, and "Raks Habibis," a dance collaborative featuring members of both

groups performing folkloric Middle Eastern dance and wearing traditional costumes. These concerts were both free and open to the public.

ALMA Drums – A Community Drumming Circle will be returning the studio of Still Waters Yoga, located in the Monclova Community Center, 8115 Monclova Rd, in Monclova Ohio (www.stillwatersyoga.com). ALMA Drums is open to musicians of all ages, with no experience necessary. A \$5 donation is requested.



ALMA Drum & Dance is a group of professional musicians and dancers bonded in the study and performance of traditional West African drum and dance, as well as, modern dance, and most recently, Middle Eastern drum and dance styles. ALMA performs regularly for the public, offers classes in West African drumming & dancing for young people and adults, provides workshops to a wide variety of

local groups, runs after school dance programs, presents education programs as a part of the Arts in Education Project of Toledo Public Schools, and collaborates regularly with other artists in multi-arts events happening in Toledo, Bowling Green and Detroit.

ALMA Drum & Dance is a group of professional musicians and dancers bonded in the study and performance of traditional West African drum and dance, as well as, modern dance, and most recently, Middle Eastern drum and dance styles. ALMA performs regularly for the public, offers classes in West African drumming & dancing for young people and adults, provides workshops to a wide variety of

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...Top Political Stories of 2007

(Continued from Page 4)

atimely fashion; don't waste time, money and effort on the small stuff such as t-shirts; save what funds you do have on last minute television; and, above all, talk about the financial issues.

1. Michael Ashford wins the presidency of the Toledo City Council. And what a surprise that was!

Ashford had obviously

The Dems attempted to reorganize at the beginning of 2007 but Councilwoman Wilma Brown, could not muster Democratic support, particularly that of then-newcomer Councilman Joe McNamara. Ludeman held on to the post.

Then came Strippergate and the reshuffling of the Lucas County Party organiza-

himself, who had said only weeks previously that a change in the presidency just could not happen before 2008.

Without a lot of fanfare, on August 2, the Democrats put forth a motion to bring the issue of the presidency to a vote. That motion passed by a margin of seven to four. The presidency went to Ashford by the same margin.

Of course, the issue was not settled quite so easily. Feelings were bruised, lawsuits were filed. Council had to re-do the vote a week or two later in order to get it right.

Ashford enters 2008 having conducted the business of the presidency almost as quietly and efficiently as he won the job in the first place. He won reelection to his District 4 seat in a landslide and will be vying to retain the presidency in short order.

And now ... the count-down starts for 2008. We have a feeling that some of the local stuff may have to take a back seat to the national picture this year.

Contact Fletcher Word at fletcher@thetruthtoledo.com



coveted the seat for a while but had been unable, when council was first organized for this term – in January 2006 – to put enough votes together. Against the odds at that time, Republican Councilman Rob Ludeman, got enough Democratic votes to gain the top job – there were only four Republicans on council.

tion. And then came Redfern to lecture local Democrats about sticking together and getting things accomplished. And by Redfern's side, to the surprise of some such as the aforementioned McNamara, was Rothenbuhler, singing out of the same hymnal.

Lo and behold, the possibilities changed and no one was as surprised as Ashford

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The Ambassadors in "A Christmas Candlelight Service" at Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"How do you introduce a group of singers?" Larry Jones asked this question shortly after six o'clock in the evening, Sunday, December 23, 2007, as he opened the first concert of the Ambassadors, Toledo's newest mass choir.

"They gave their debut here at Mt. Pilgrim when they opened for Richard Smallwood. Tonight history is being made here at 1401 Hoag. Tonight the Ambassadors are doing their first full concert. They've been rehearsing since September," Jones said.

When he asked if he could listen in, he recalled, he was told rehearsals were closed. "Somewhere there is a little bald-headed man in a white-tailed tuxedo," he said, looking around as if searching for someone. "We know him for his ability to make a piano talk."

Jones listed choir director Calvin Hughes' credits, which include providing accompaniment for Aretha Franklin. "Toledo has a celebrity — he actually played for Aretha!" gushed Jones. "He's also been on programs with the Winans and Shirley

Caesar. But all that is not important. He knows the Lord!"

Hughes entered the sanctuary where moments before nearly 100 of Toledo's most talented vocalists had streamed down the aisles of the cathedral-like setting dressed in black and carrying tealight candles as they marched into the choir stand.

Their director was greeted with loud applause and vocal admiration for his formal attire. "He knows he has to pay

erally on the edges of their seats in eager anticipation of what they were about to hear. They were not disappointed.

For the price of a \$10 ticket, they were treated to four hours of some of the most beautiful, inspiring and spiritual music heard during the holiday season.

"A Candlelight Christmas Service" began with a prelude of Christmas music performed by the choir, vocalists Ed Turner and Robin

In one elegant move, Hughes lifted the tails of his white coat and sat on the piano bench facing his massive choir.

me for what I said about him tonight," joked Jones.

In one elegant move, Hughes lifted the tails of his white coat and sat on the piano bench facing his massive choir. He was flanked by some of Toledo's finest musicians and the choir he assembled included many of the city's best soloists and choir directors.

The SRO crowd attending the concert, which had been postponed from the previous Sunday due to the first snow storm of the season, were lit-

Huntley and a string trio consisting of Julianna Rice (violin), Anna Woods (viola) and Magda Kress (cello).

The choir sang selections by Smallwood in parts one and two of the concert, including "Anthem of Praise," "Praise Waiteth," "Precious Is Your Name" and "Holy Thou Art God." Debra King and Theresa Deeble sang lead vocals.

In honor of the season, two selections from Handel's Messiah were performed: "He Shall Feed His Flock" by

vocalist Rose Bonhart Ellis and "The Hallelujah Chorus"

by the choir and congregation. Several guest performers added to the celebration and the talent pool, most notably Toledo's premier jazz pianist Claude Black. Young Robert Lamont Gary performed "The Christmas Wrap (rap)" with some help from the audience that provided his beat. Mt. Pilgrim's Adult Praise Dancers also performed, as did guest soloists, recording artists Debra Brock and Jessie Coleman, who also played saxophone in the concert 'orchestra'.

Highlights of the mega concert included "O Holy Night" sung beautifully by baritone Turner; a jazzy, contemporary rendering of "The First Noel" by Huntley; the string trio's spirited "Deck The Halls," Ellis' passionate and operatically perfect aria that had even those who didn't think they liked opera applauding when she reached those high notes; Black's stupendous instrumental number that defied at least half a dozen laws of physics as his nimble fingers danced across the grand piano's keys like miniature acrobats; King's number that was sung so professionally and was further enhanced by the complement of the full 'orchestra;' Deeble's beautifully haunting voice that seemed to come from heaven above; Sheila Cook's trills that sent chills down the audience's collective spine as she sang "More Than Anything;" the graceful and passionate performance by the praise dance team that had folks, including some of the praise dancers, shouting; and nearly every choir selection.

The harmonious and powerful sound of the voices Hughes has assembled for Toledo's newest gospel ensemble are spectacular and predictable, given the vast talent he had to draw from and the number of top vocalists he was able to recruit.

Months of preparation paid off in some of the most beautiful choral singing heard in this city this year. Particularly outstanding were all of the Smallwood numbers and several seasonal selections, including "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Silent Night."

But they pulled out all the stops in part three of the concert when the choir and all of the lead vocalists answered Jones' rhetorical question, "Do you all — excuse my English — do you all want to

have just a little tap of church?"

The answer was a megaton nuclear explosion of sounds of joy and praise, detonated by Toledo's own WMD, "workers of miraculous devotion," the co-pastors of Christ the King Redemptive Ministries.

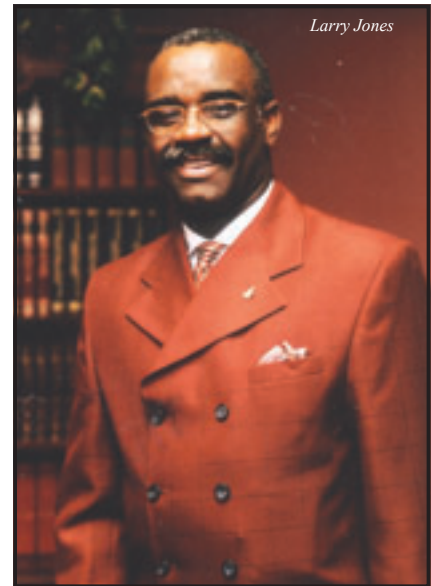
Reverends Chris and Crystal McQueen worked like a tag praise team, revving the audience up into a spiritual frenzy that was made more volatile by spirited and unforgettable selections sung by the Ambassadors and their guests, including a medley lead by Johnnie Love and Greg Meredith that included old standards like "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus" and provided a perfect blend of tenor and baritone in one of the best duets ever performed anywhere; "Hosanna" sung by the Ambassadors exactly how one would imagine the angels sing it in heaven; spiritual number "I know I've Been

one up and moving after three and a half hours was amazing; "Stand Still" led by Joyce Rush with a voice so beautiful and lyrical everyone just sat still and listened in awe and rapture, moved by the sheer perfection of her vocals and "Way Maker" led by Joan Bolden, ending part three with same level of high praise intensity with which it started.

The impact of the music and connection with the audience was evident when many people jumped up from their seats as the concert drew to an end to clap and move along with the music that so moved them.

Ending with one last Smallwood song, the Ambassadors offered "Total Praise" shortly after 10 p.m. as their very first concert drew to a close.

"They could have charged \$40.00 for this!" exclaimed Desiree Robinson. Perhaps the ticket price was kept low



Larry Jones

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Changed" led by Dorothy Gray; "Changed" led by vocalist Deborah Gardner whose exceptional voice expressed all of the joy and redemptive power of salvation, getting people on their feet to testify to the words "a wonderful change has come over me" and the 'orchestra' playing long after the song ended; "He Keeps Doin' Great Things" led by a Ms. Anderson; "My God Has Never Failed Me Yet" led by Bob Gray, who sang as if he was talking to God Himself; "For the Rest of My Life" led by Joyce Fobbs; "Oh, How Precious" led by Debra Brock whose ability to get every-

so those attending would have enough money to buy the CD's and DVD's of the concert that were available for sale immediately following the program.

Anyone who didn't attend the Ambassadors' first full concert should contact a choir member and get a copy of one or both. Everyone in Toledo should hear this choir in concert. They'll be back next year with another great concert. But there will never be another "first."

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Lucas County Improvement Corporation's 2007 Highlights

As my tenure as president of the board of the Lucas County Improvement Corporation (LCIC) comes to a close, I felt it was critical that I share with the community the many successes of the organization. Recently some members of the media have focused their efforts on downplaying our accomplishments, instead choosing to trumpet the challenges of an emerging organization. This does a disservice to both the determined, civic-minded volunteers that sit on our board and the talented individuals working at the LCIC. The LCIC has engaged in a broad range of economic development activities in 2007, each one dedicated to creating new wealth, jobs, and opportunities for our residents.

In 2007, the LCIC assisted in the creation of over 350 jobs, the retention of over 330 jobs and attracted nearly \$30 million in new capital investment to the County. These job creation, retention, and capital investment figures represent the LCIC's involvement in a number of diverse projects.

The LCIC worked in concert with local officials to keep traditional manufacturing firms like Reiter Automotive in Oregon, creating 111 jobs and retaining 151 jobs in the process. Additionally, the LCIC worked with local partners to assist Peterson Spring in their relocation to Spencer Township, creating 15 new high-paying UAW jobs. So while most of American manufacturing was contracting, the LCIC was successful in retaining and attracting auto parts manufacturers like Reiter Automotive and Peterson Spring to Lucas County. This speaks volumes about our local workforce, dedication to quality production, and innovations in production techniques.

While the importance of these projects cannot be overstated, we also understand that our future success depends largely on our ability to adapt to a shifting economy, where knowledge workers will drive economic progress. That is why projects like Schindler Elevator in Springfield Township represent a considerable portion of the LCIC's economic development project portfolio. In late 2007, Schindler Elevator announced its intentions to remain in Lucas County and consolidate some operations at their Springfield Township location. This project helped create 100 new jobs and retain 176 in Springfield Township. The Springfield Township site houses high-tech elevator operations technicians and several of the firm's research and development professionals. These three projects completed in 2007 represent the diversity of the work being done daily at the LCIC.

Furthermore, there are numerous ongoing community efforts that warrant mentioning. Although these projects do not garner significant media attention, they contribute to the overall economic health of Lucas County. Currently, our staff is involved in projects aimed at revitalizing the Dorr Street Corridor from Parkside to Downtown Toledo; facilitating grant applications to the Economic Development Administration and Ohio Department of Development; working in conjunction with the Toledo Chamber's young professional group EPIC on a supplier recruitment program; working with the Port Authority to develop a Chinese investment strategy; and is in the process of developing a "metaplan" for economic development with all of our local economic development partners.

Finally, the LCIC and our educational partners recognize the importance of developing our local human capital through innovative education solutions. In 2007, the LCIC was instrumental in the creation of a local P-16 Educational Council headed up by Linda Stacy. The essence of the P-16 initiative is to view the educational system as a continuous pipeline from pre-school through post-secondary education, preparing today's students for tomorrow's economy. This initiative is bold and original. Ideally, this program will usher in new strategies for preparing our students to enter the workforce. Our local P-16 Council is supported by the County's K-12 system, Owens Community College, and the University of Toledo.

Although we are proud of our recent successes at the LCIC, we will continue to strive to improve our local economic conditions. Despite our achievements, we understand that there is significant room to improve. I believe that to make real changes in our regional economy we need to stop thinking about the dividing lines between our communities and states. The assets of our collective region (water, land, roadways, waterways, airports and workforce) are far greater than any individual community. The reality is that business owners do not recognize municipal lines, only politicians do. The recipe for economic success seems far simpler in concept than reality - lose the politics, lose the territorialism and take advantage of our regional assets. Then we will increase opportunities for work and improve the quality of life for all citizens in the region.

Jeannie Hylant, president of the board of LCIC



The University of Toledo's TOLEDO EXCEL Program Invites you to attend the 24th Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth Saturday, January 26, 2008 The University of Toledo Student Union 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Byron Pitts, CBS National News Correspondent

(CBS) Byron Pitts, the lead reporter for CBS News' coverage of the Sept. 11 attacks and also an embedded reporter in Iraq, was named National Correspondent on Feb. 2, 2006.

Pitts has been a CBS News correspondent since May 1998. He was based in the Miami (1998-99) and Atlanta (1999-2001) bureaus before moving to New York in January 2001.

Pitts has covered many of the biggest stories of the past few years. He was one of CBS News' embedded correspondents covering the war with Iraq and was recognized for his reporting while under fire within minutes of the fall of the Saddam statue. Pitts was also the Network's primary correspondent at Ground Zero immediately following the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. He has covered the war in Afghanistan, the military buildup in Kuwait, the Florida fires, the Elian Gonzalez story, the Florida Presidential recount, the mudslides in Central America and the refugee crisis in Kosovo, among many stories.

Before that, Pitts was a correspondent for CBS NEWSPATH, the 24-hour affiliate news service of CBS News, based in Washington, D.C. (1997-98).

He joined CBS News from WSB-TV Atlanta, where he was a general assignment reporter (1994-96). Previously, Pitts was a special assignment reporter for WCBV-TV Boston (1989-94) and a reporter and substitute anchor for WFLA-TV Tampa (1988-89). He also served as a reporter for WESH-TV Orlando (1986-88) and as a military reporter for WAVY-TV Virginia (1984-86). While at WNCT-TV Greenville, N.C., he reported and served as weekend sports anchor (1983-84).

Pitts has received several awards, including a national Emmy Award for his coverage of the Chicago train wreck in 1999 and a National Association of Black Journalists Award. He is also the recipient of four Associated Press Awards and six regional Emmy Awards.

Pitts was born on Oct. 21, 1960, in Baltimore, Md. He was graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and speech communication. He lives with his wife in Upper Montclair, N.J.

For more information or to make reservations contact TOLEDO EXCEL at 419-530-3820

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Defending Toledo In 2008

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



I was in Kroger's on Monroe & Secor the other day and I saw a board game called "Toledo-Lopoly." It was basically a monopoly or "monopoly-like" game but instead of "Baltic Ave," the entire game was full of Toledo landmarks and institutions.

University of Toledo, Toledo Mud Hens etc.

I thought it seemed kinda cool, maybe us hometown enthusiasts would get a kick out of something like this. Then I noticed that I seemed to be the only person even taking notice of this game built around life in our own backyard. Then I noticed that the bin containing these games was basically overflowing... as if to suggest that very few had been sold to date. It was almost like I was the only person who really gave a damn.

And THAT is territory that is all too familiar.

At my current 9-5, I have noticed another little known fact about Toledo.

People are flocking to this city. Now... to be honest, the reasons are usually controversial or sometimes sheer emergencies but every month I meet an average of 10 people who are brand new Toledo residents. Some of them have been here a year or so, most of them haven't even been here a good three months. They come from Chicago, Arkansas, Atlanta, New York, Florida, etc.

One thing that remains a constant whenever I meet these people is I constantly find myself sticking up for Toledo.

It turns out that most new transplants to our community take everything at face value

when they get here so I try to enlighten them about our city's finer points.

My efforts mostly fall on deaf ears.

And it's not just people who are new to the city.

I've also met dozens and dozens of people who have lived here, made a life here, found careers and settled in homes here - YET THEY STILL KNOW NOTHING about Toledo.

EXCEPT... that they hate it and it's not as good as where they came from.

Unlike those new residents who may not have had the time to get to know Toledo, I've come across people who have been living here and hating it for five years or more.

They haven't taken the time to get off the couch, get out and discover things that might interest them.

They have joined the ranks of those who go to work, run errands, go home and then complain about how boring Toledo is even though they haven't ventured out to do anything or learn anything about the city they have grown to hate so much.

Columbus is one of those cities that attracts professionals.

I know people who have moved to Columbus and lived and worked there for years but they really don't know Columbus... they live in their little area or suburb and rarely go beyond where they have grown familiar. So they end up saying how much they love Columbus, or whatever, but they don't know about that other end of High Street or southside Columbus. They only know their area and judge off of that and nothing else.

Toledo-haters are much the same. Very at home in their niche, but have made a judgment about the other 90 percent of the city they know nothing about.

For those who are new or relatively new to the Glass City, I always notice something that cracks me up inside.

First - it's really easy to get me going about Toledo's attributes.

Not quite a war of words, but I always have some information to rattle off to try and persuade someone to think differently about the 4-1-9.

Blame it on my years in the Youth Commission during Carty's second term - LOL.

Also, I always laugh to myself when I notice that nothing makes these newbies more Toledo-ish than the fact that they hate Toledo.

Hold up. Let me say that again.

NOTHING makes you MORE Toledo, than walking around dis-satisfied, bored and HATING TOLEDO!

If you are from somewhere else, and you think Toledo and Toledoans are basically wack.

Guess what? You live here now and you're either part of the problem or part of the solution and I can tell you first hand that HATING TOLEDO... makes you more of a Toledoan than you realize.

Hell, maybe it's airborne at this point.

I used to think it was in the water, but nope - it's more like catching the flu (bird flu, Mud Hen flu, etc.).

This city is depressed. Not necessarily depressing, but it is depressed.

The citizens have such low self-esteem that it infects people who move here and breathe that same stale air for even a few days.

Hating Toledo is a sickness you could've possibly prevented.

How do you know if you are infected?

- 1) If you complain constantly about "There's nothing to do here" - yet and still you spend 50 percent of your free time in your house on your couch.
- 2) If you decide that instead of sitting at home and complaining about how boring this city is you get up out the house and take your frustration with you to the clubs, movie theatres and restaurants around town letting everyone know that this isn't as good as what you're used to from wherever you used to live.
- 3) If your only knowl-

edge about the Toledo Public School system comes from the local news.

4) If you think living on the outskirts or living downtown are your only options for getting settled in. If so, that means you completely overlook the dozens of areas like Ragan Woods, Miracle Mile, Charlecotte Park, Old Orchard, Secor Gardens, Sleepy Hollow etc. - that are well within the city limits, but have great homes and low crime rates.

5) If you complain about how much you hate Carty or Jack Ford but know little about their policies or impacts on life in Toledo.

Okay, hold up. Maybe complaining about Carty is just pure common sense - LOL. But I always stick up for Jack Ford even though he was far from perfect.

The man made sure we'll have clean water for decades, he helped dozens start small businesses and his CareNet program gave 6,000 uninsured Toledoans health coverage. NO CITY MAYOR ANYWHERE can say that.

And it's when I find myself getting so wrapped up in the defense... I start to notice my own habitual patterns.

If saying that you hate Toledo is a broken record sound bite, then maybe

I have become a bit predictable with my automated rebuttals.

The truth is, I shouldn't be 29 years old and already a veteran of Toledo's war to win

over its own citizens. The truth is, I shouldn't have to fight very hard to get people to realize great things about Toledo.

I always hear the same replies:

"Oh, I didn't know our zoo, museum and library system were in the nation's top 10!"

"Oh, I didn't know that TPS has some schools that are top performers across the state!"

"Oh, I didn't know there were poetry nights and step clubs and concerts here!"

That's the typical reaction I get after I've went toe to toe with a Toledo zombie.

It's like freeing a mind from the matrix or something.

But honestly yo, I shouldn't have to.

I caught half of a Family Matters re-run the other day and Laura Winslow was asking her mom if she could leave Chicago with a few of her friends to stay overnight for a concert in... Toledo.

I thought that was funny as hell, but in that little moment I felt like I feel now... it's not up to me to speak up for this city.

I'm sure a lot of the haters I've tried to convert find themselves wondering

"who appointed this guy the ambassador to the city?"

I can't blame them if they feel like that.

I've just been a part of so many things in this city that I find it hard to relate to their views. I know of so many things happening around town that I can hardly make it to even half

of the things I know about or get invited to, so I can't relate to someone being bored.

Hell, I spent years throwing events in this city... so I know first hand how hard it is to pry people's asses from their couches.

But even with all I've witnessed, it's just my point of view.

We create our own reality as we go along and no matter how many can be persuaded to get out their house every so often, it's still a matter of mindset and opinion.

Then I have to get really honest with myself.

Even though I'd say our streets are much improved, there's still pot holes here and there.

Hell, even some of Toledo's main streets have huge sections where there's no street lights and you drive in the dark for four or five blocks.

If our school district is failing, it's failing. Honestly, MOST large cities have failing districts these days... but my point is I can't defend that.

Telling people who've only been here for four or five years about how Toledo used to have Southwyck, Northtowne and Franklin Park Malls - and how fun it was... that only makes me sound like some dinosaur because they don't really care about back then.

I can't speak up for the nightlife, the family fun or the entertainment options anymore than I've done.

(Continued on Page 10)

Your Sports Truth

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Okay, here at The Sojourner's Truth - we always love breaking new ground. Adding sports coverage to our lineup of information we offer is not far off.

However, since I'm the person who watches culture or whatever... it's only right that I get things started correctly.

Now, anyone who knows me will tell you that I'm not even close to an expert on sports.

Outside of moonlighting as a track star in summer leagues, or playing backyard sports in various hoods around the Glass City - my life hasn't exactly put me in the running to be an athlete.

Actually, I used to really hate the stereotype that just because I was an inner city black kid that I had to be athletically inclined. Bull!

I remember being in the Young Scholars Program when I was in junior high and we'd be on Ohio State's campus attending classes and everyone down there kept asking if our scholarships were sports related. As if we just couldn't be there based on being intellectuals. ANYWAY!

What I'd like to do is offer YOU, the reader, a chance to be a part of our sojourn into more sports-related articles.

Now I actually do pay close attention to the N.B.A. and life in Toledo makes it impossible for you to not hear about football... I'll find a way to give you guys a chance to voice your opinion.

I present a topic, you email me your thoughts - BADA BOOM, BADA BING. We have a sports article.

First Topic:
BOSTON

With the Celtics as the best team in the East, the Red Sox recent World Series title and everyone riding the Patriots' bandwagon (Foxborough is a Boston suburb)... what are your thoughts on Beantown as Champtown U.S.A. ?

I look forward to hearing your thoughts, Toledo.

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

Defending Toledo In 2008

(Continued from Page 9)

Which is why my own exodus is close at hand.

I feel that I've done just about all I can do short of running for public office or some mess.

And I'm not trying to be anyone's "rapping mayor" - not gonna happen.

So, this is me preparing to hang up my towel in the fight for Toledo.

This city should be able to defend itself.

This city should be able to charm newcomers WITHOUT an assist.

Game veteran or not, you

can't convert everyone to buy into the team concept.

That's why I tried so hard in all my attempts to have an impact on the arts, politics and culture of this city. I did it because I'm from here and I felt responsible.

It's like the person who

owns the home doesn't want to call in someone else to do the work, they'll just do it themselves.

And Toledo is a "Do It Ya Self" kind of town.

Which is exactly I can no longer play ambassador.

Toledoans are gonna have

to love Toledo if Toledo is gonna become a loveable place.

Period. We can either rebound like Pittsburgh, or we can sink deeper like Flint.

As for me, you already know.

There is one place I've been

aiming for since I was 12 years old and now is the perfect time for me to make it happen.

I'll try to exit quietly, you won't even know I'm gone.


Happy New Year!

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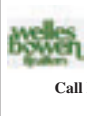
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1238 Claire Dr - Toledo, OH 43615 - Ph. 419.535.1862
Email: studio329@sbcglobal.net

 **Steven A. Parker**
Barber Stylist at
Hobbs Barber Salon 419.514.7493
Call for Appointment 2777 W. Central
No Wait Toledo, Ohio 43606

 **5115 Grelyn Drive - \$165,000**
2 bdrm brick ranch w/attached garage and family sized deck overlooking spacious backyard
Call Alma Dortch-Gilbert
419.297.2301 for showing

Houses For Rent
Everything New: Paint, Carpet, Stove, Refrig. Section 8 OK
MVP Property Management
419-244-8566.

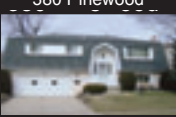
 **1918 Peacock Lane - \$179,000**
SPRING MEADOWS AREA
4 BD, step down living rm w/vaulted ceiling and skylight, first floor laundry, master suite with cathedral ceiling, walk in closet
Call Bessie Humphrey
Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215


 **2815 Sagamore - \$125,000**
3 bdrms; 1.5 baths home; open living and dining room with hardwood floors; family room and enclosed porch.
Alma Dortch-Gilbert - 419.297.2301
adortchgilbert@sbcglobal.net


Kymard's Barber & Styling Salon
• 863 W. Central - Toledo, Ohio 43610
For Appointment Call 348-9317
Hair Stylist: Lynn • Clyde • Dell
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Calvin Powell

 **1408 Shenandoah Road**
Nice updated home!
Great for the money - To get inside
Please call Bessie 419.260.0215 or Kim 419.810.7097

 **380 Pinewood \$130,000**
Mint Cond. 3bd, 2 1/2 bth, 2 1/2 car gar. Quiet Neighborhood. Private Showing. Move in at closing Call
Grace 419.729.9494

 **2354 Robinwood Avenue \$120,000**
Old West End Historic Home, 5 bd, hardwood floors 2.5 baths, double staircase, attached garage in rear. **MUST SEE!**
Call Bessie Humphrey
Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215

 **1158 Vance Street - \$34,900**
Great home for a large family, 4 bedrooms/possibly 5, has walk in closets, newer gutters, nice garage.
Call Donnette Tiggs, Welles Bowen, Realtors
419.290.4567 or 419.891.0888

CLASSIFIEDS

INTERESTED BIDDERS:

TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Chase Elementary Technology, Elmhurst Elementary Technology, Glenwood Elementary Technology, Grove Patterson Academy Technology

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on January 18th, 2008**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor material and supervision necessary for the **Chase Elementary Technology, Elmhurst Elementary Technology, Glenwood Elementary Technology, Grove Patterson Academy Technology**, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by TSI and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan rooms in Maumee and Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo – Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. – Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, Construction Association of Michigan, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **December 20th, 2007** which can be purchased from **Toledo Blue Print, 6964 McEnerney Road, Northwood, Ohio 43619** Phone: **419-661-9841**. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for **January 8th, 2008** at 2:00 p.m. at Toledo Public Schools' Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing to Justin.Hammerling@gb-llc.com, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

Bid Item No. 10 (Chase ES)	\$	795,864
Bid Item No. 11 (Elmhurst ES)	\$	753,603
Bid Item No. 12 (Glenwood ES)	\$	741,404
Bid Item No. 13 (Grove Patterson Academy)	\$	852,183
Total Estimate:	\$	3,143,054

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NURSE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Licensed RN to coordinate the Domestic Violence Nurse Examiner program for the YWCA's HOPE Center. Includes developing, and implementing an educational training program for professionals interfacing with domestic violence victims. Will provide assessments to victims of D.V. Prior training and experience with domestic violence and sexual assault preferred. Effective communication skills, ability to work with diverse populations. 40 hours per week. \$17.00 hour.

FINAL DEADLINE:
JANUARY 8, 2007

SUBMIT RESUME TO:
PERSONNEL/ HOPE
1018 JEFFERSON AVENUE
TOLEDO, OH 43604
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROVIDER

EDUCATIONAL ADVISOR

Upward Bound – Student Affairs Bowling Green State University

The Upward Bound Program is a federally funded TRIO program which provides intensive services to ensure that low income and potential first generation college students complete their respective secondary programs and are prepared to pursue a postsecondary education.

For a complete job description for this and all current Administrative Staff vacancies please visit http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page42588.html or contact the Office of Human Resources at (419) 372-8421 or ohr@bgsu.edu.

BGSU is an AA/EO employer/educator.

INVITATION FOR BIDS RE-BID

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking qualified contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for the following projects:

JOB NO.: 27078
PROJECT NAME: Renovation of 3701 Douglas Road (4 units)
WALK-THRU DATE: January 8, 2008 at 10:00am
BID OPENING DATE: January 22, 2008 at 11:00am

Contract Documents and Technical Specifications will be available at 201 Belmont Street, in the Modernization Department (419- 259-9462), and will be provided upon request. A **non-refundable** fee of **\$20.00** will be charged for each set of plans provided. All bids will be due and opened per the "Invitation for Bids" in the contract documents.

Each bid will require a bid guarantee as described in the contract documents.

The prevailing wages for this locality, as established by the Department of Labor as Wage Determination OH20070028, as modified, must be paid all persons employed for this work.

All bidders shall be required to meet the Affirmative Action requirements and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Each bidder must insure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, handicap, age, or ancestry.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
MODERNIZATION DIVISION

CLINICAL THERAPIST - JOINT VENTURE PROGRAM

Opportunity is available for experienced Clinical Therapist to work in a Joint Venture Program providing individual, family and group counseling and case management services. Candidate must possess a Master's degree, a minimum of two years experience working with individuals with chemical dependency issues and one of the following Ohio licenses: LSW, LISW, PC, PCC, LCDC III or LICDC.

Send or fax resume to:



Human Resources - CTJV
1425 Starr Avenue
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax 419.936.7574
Email: HR@UNISONBH.G.ORG
EOE

NORTHGATE APARTMENTS Now Accepting Applications 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Mature Adult Community for Persons 55 and Older or Mobility Impaired. Rent Based on Income. Heat, Appliances, Drapes, Carpeting Included. Call (419) 729-7118 for details.



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Single family home
3 bed, 1 bath

\$18,000

1535 Buckingham

Call 248-250-0179

The Truth Is Moving

The Sojourner's Truth is moving its offices from 616 Adams to 1811 Adams Street. We will have the same telephone number – 419-243-0007, the same email address and the same zip code. Stop by anytime to check out the new premises!

Sales

If you work in sales, management or field service and need a career boost, consider movin' up to WIMX and WJZE, URBAN RADIO BROADCASTING. Mix 95.7 and Hot 97.3 are recruiting professionals who want the lifestyle, compensation and professional rewards you earn in radio advertising sales. E-mail your resume to clavicharison@urbanradio.com or fax to 419-868-8765. Mix 95.7 and Hot 97.3 is URBAN RADIO BROADCASTING in Toledo and is an equal opportunity employer.



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Scott High School Graduates Pledge Scholarships to TPS Foundation

As a professional football player for the New England Patriots, Scott High School graduate ('89) Jason Carthen was part of a world-class organization committed to winning. His specialty was defense – keeping the opposing team off the scoreboard, giving his team the chance to score big and forge ahead.

As a long-time Toledo Board of Education member who is finishing up his last year on the board, Scott High School graduate ('67) Larry Sykes helped provide the best teaching and learning opportunities for a major urban school district. His specialty was giving

kids a chance to dream, giving kids of all backgrounds, especially the underserved population, the chance to dream big and plan a future.

Their career statistics will now be put to use with keeping a different kind of score. Each man is announcing, through the Toledo Public Schools Foundation, scholarships to help young, deserving African-American students.

"The Toledo Public Schools Foundation, established in 1999 to enhance teaching and learning in the leading urban school district in Ohio expects to award up to \$100,000 in its eighth round of grants this spring," said Susan K. Zurawski, executive director of the Foundation. "We're also excited to announce two named scholarships.



Jason Carthen



Larry Sykes

DOES YOUR INFORMATION MATCH UP?

By Phil Walton Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH

Tax time is right around the corner. Soon you will be receiving your W-2s from your employer(s) and tax information from the IRS. Carefully check your name, Social Security number and all of the data on your W-2s and on your Social Security card. A mismatch could delay your tax refund and cause problems with your Social Security benefits in the future. Such errors are easy to fix now.

This information includes name changes. If you've legally changed your name due to marriage, divorce, court order, or for any other reason, make sure you change your name with Social Security by applying for a new Social Security card. Make sure you change your name with your employer as well. If you change with one source but not the other, it could cause your earnings to be improperly recorded.

If you are the parent of a newborn, you want to make sure that the newest family member has a Social Security number too. Most people apply for their baby's Social Security card while they're still in the hospital at the same time they apply for the birth certificate. But if you didn't, you'll need to apply for your child's Social Security number in order to claim the child as a dependent on your tax return. You'll also need it if you ever need to apply for government benefits on behalf of the child or your family.

To apply for a Social Security card, all you need to do is complete a one-page application and provide proof of identity, age, and citizenship. In the case of a child's first card, you'd also need to prove that you are the parent. For a name change, you'd need to provide documentation with your old and new names.

For more information about getting a Social Security card and number for your child, or to change your name and get a replacement card for yourself with your updated information, visit Social Security's website at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

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