



Local and National News

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The Truth

Sojourner's

Volume 14, No.10 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." June 25, 2008

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Pastor James C. Williams, III
First Lady Carletta Williams
Tabernacle of Faith Worship Center

“Salvation is necessary but it’s just the beginning ... abundant life living is next. We got next!”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

The Scott High School situation just doesn't get any easier, does it?

The mantra these days that both school administrations and school parent and watchdog groups employ with ease is that more community involvement is necessary to improve conditions at the schools.

Transparency is the key. Everyone wants to be involved, not necessarily with kids while they are doing their homework, but in the decision-making process of the district.

So it is in the Scott community where the debate rages over building a new Scott or renovating the old one. The community, which the administration called in to apparently assist them in this decision, has forcefully come down on the side of renovating rather than rebuilding. Keep the facade, say community activists, even if it means gutting the interior.

But keeping the facade and renovating turns out to be a lot more expensive than starting from scratch. The renovation estimates hover around \$39 million. The state, concerned with the shrinking student population, which is currently around 950, will not provide the same proportion of funds it has provided for schools in the early phases of the Building for Success program.

Naturally, this has those in the community more than a bit concerned – mad as hell in some cases. They want to know why the Toledo Public Schools administration bothered to ask them if they had no plans to heed their counsel.

This one was pretty easy to forecast – the community would want renovation of the historic building and the whole issue of delaying any sort of improvement of the building for so long would cause a great deal of consternation.

On the other hand, funds are limited. We always knew this would have to be a problem in the latter stages of the building program. And as student populations continue to dwindle, it seems as if the administration has deliberately stalled to see if the student population for Scott would simply disappear altogether. It hasn't.

At some point, the administration has to step up and act with a little more courage and wisdom than they have shown thus far. If they are serious about responding to the wishes of the community, there is no better time than now to start.

* * * * *

If you are an advisor to a presidential candidate in this day and age, a family member, a volunteer ... whatever, you really need to keep your mouth shut in those places where cameras or recorders might be located. Avoid reporters at all costs. Do not explain your actions. Just shut up.

This week, a John McCain advisor offered the opinion that a terrorist strike between now and the election would benefit the election chances of his boss. It seems, and this is a theory that most pundits agree with, that such a strike would remind voters that McCain would presumably be tougher on terrorists than would his Democratic opponent, Barack Obama.

That's quite a gruesome calculation. Nevertheless we are surprised by the almost unanimous opinion that McCain benefits from such a calamity. We are surprised by the calculation because the only defense anyone ever offers of the Bush presidency is that at least he managed to keep us safe and prevent another terrorist attack.

If a terrorist attack occurs, we argue that it will reflect badly on the Bush presidency and legacy and McCain will suffer as a result. It will be one more item in a long list of Bush failures and miscalculations.

* * * * *

Obama, meanwhile, has a very real dilemma to confront, not just in order to win an election – it probably doesn't matter – but to display his basic sense of human decency.

He has been running against suspicions and rumors of a connection to Islam as hard as he possibly can and doing his utmost to assure voters that he is a devout, mainstream Christian.

Last week in Detroit, in a ham-handed attempt by campaign volunteers to make sure there would be no visual connection to Islam, two women wearing religious head scarves were prevented from sitting in the background which would show up on camera.

The volunteers took it upon themselves to make such a decision, but there is little doubt they were inspired by recent statements from Obama and his campaign.

Political expediency drives Obama to deny any hint of a connection to Islam, we understand that. What we also understand is that somewhere, at some point, the candidate has to make it clear that he happens not to be Muslim but even if he were, there would be nothing wrong with that.

Since he is a constitutional scholar and law professor, we are sure that at some point he came across a phrase noting that this country is proscribed from establishing any particular religion ... or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Community Calendar

June 23-27

Vacation Bible School; 3rd Baptist Church; "Chosen Champions for Jesus; 5:30 to 8:30 pm; Free food, crafts and t-shirts: 419-248-4623

Vacation Bible School: Union Grove MBC; 6 to 8 pm (Fri- 5:30 to 8 pm); "God's Big Backyard; where kids have a blast serving Jesus!" Ages 4 to adult: 419-531-1994

Vacation Bible School: Macedonia Baptist: Ages 4 to adult; 6 to 9 pm; "Outrigger Island: Living God's Unshakeable Truth:" 419-242-8700

June 24-27

"Power Conference 2008:" Evening Services at Upton United Methodist; Daytime sessions at Clarion Westgate: 215-748-6510/6111

June 25-29

6th Pastoral Anniversary for Elder Nolan White and First Lady Sharon White of Christian Community Church; 7 pm nightly, Sunday at 10 am: 419-536-8357

June 26

"Step-Up, Toledo:" Free open public forum; Live taping featuring models, firearm issues and takeover of Toledo's first and only black TV station; Civic Center Promenade; 6:30 pm: 419-868-8396

Board of Community Relations Monthly Meeting: Boys and Girls Club; 5:30 pm: 419-241-4258

June 28

Girls' Retreat: Warren AME; Ages 10-19; 10 am to 4 pm; Yoga, skin care, career planning: 419-472-8668 or 419-243-2237

A Luncheon with Dr. Sam Christian: Presented by Zeta Alpha Omega Foundation; 11:30 am to 2:30 pm; The Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Rd: 419-340-9630 or 419-531-2321

Citywide Christian Trustee Association Meeting: James B. Simmons Bldg; 10 am: 419-380-9477

Glass City Dance Crew Try-Outs: City-wide dance team tryouts for grades 6 thru 12; 11:15 am; Owens CC gym: 419-509-1118 or 419-266-5308

Positive Connections Reunion: Sponsored by Unison, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and NAMI of Greater Toledo; UT's Rec Center; 10 am to 4 pm: 419-243-4600 or 419-693-0631

June 29

43rd Church Anniversary: New Prospect Baptist Church; 4 pm; Guests are True Vine Baptist and Pastor Melvin Barnes

27th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Bobby L. and First Lady Vickie Wellborn: Charity MBC; 4 pm fellowship; "Setting the Church in Order;" Guests are Rev. I.J. Johnson and St. Mark's Baptist: 419-726-4975

Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir; Praise meeting; Indiana Avenue MBC; 6:30 pm: 419-241-7332

Founders Day: Family Church Without Walls; 11 am; Founder and former pastor Floyd Rose

Jerusalem Baptist Church Mission Society Womn in Red Service: "There is Power in the Blood;" 4 pm

July 8

National Society of Black Engineers – NW Ohio Alumni Extension Chapter: Networking event at Buffalo Wild Wings in Maumee: nsbetoledoalumni@yahoo.com

July 11

Libbey High School Reunion: Classes 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968; Gladieux Meadows; 7:30 pm; 419-699-3846

July 14

Look Good ... Feel Better: For women who are undergoing cancer treatment; 2 pm; Bay Park Community Hospital



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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political
Columnist



Once the party figures that out, the air waves will reverberate with their message. The late Lee Atwater perfected this particular strategy in 1988 when he brought out his fear message in the form of Willie Horton and battered Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis to death with it.

Just before his untimely death some years later, Atwater apologized for such stunts but they have proven to be effective and, as of yet, no other Republican has apologized or seems to have had second thoughts about their use.

So give money to Barack Obama by going to BarackObama.com. Will a mere five dollars help? Yes, it will. Five dollars will buy two yard signs. And, remember, Obama has over 150,000 givers. Just five bucks each would bring in \$7.5 million.

Will my one vote count? Yes, it will. Remember 1976? Jimmy Carter won Ohio by winning an average margin of less than one vote per precinct in Ohio's 11,000 precincts.

The possibility of raising

\$300 million for the general election also brings with it the chance of scandal. That much money is hard to spend in a political race and not make some miscues.

This is particularly true when it comes to the Get Out the Vote campaign - GOTV. Much of the GOTV campaign involves "street money" which can really get a campaign into problems.

Who will control the local GOTV? Traditionally, the state party runs it through the black state representatives in the urban districts. This year may be different under the Obama banner. Maybe Obama's folks will keep control themselves. The amount is usually \$15,000 to \$30,000, spread out over supervisors, car drivers, door knockers, phone callers and poll greeters. To do it right, you need a separate organization just for GOTV.

Remember, the Republicans have their own operation and they can be quite tenacious as they were in 2004 under the overall tutelage of Karl Rove.

I used to run GOTV in

Lucas County and it can be a real headache.

Jon Stainbrook is riding high. Stainbrook is a true character and will relish the limelight in his role as the new head of the Lucas County Republican Party. Along with the public admonishment which The Blade stated in a very pointed editorial, I would add the following for your consideration, Jon. Do not

cling too closely to The Blade. Heed my warning, Jon.

The recent overtime flap at City Hall is a chronic problem. Mayor Carty Finkbeiner is wrong in not seeing the nexus to sick leave patterns. Both are out of control among a few city workers and very much so in a few city divisions. This is true not only in Toledo but also around the country and is seen differ-

ently by older workers versus the relatively newly hired.

Be sure and participate this weekend in an Obama house party. Anybody can host them. They are designed to expand the volunteer base for the candidate.

Next week - how to vote 10 times for Obama and still be legal!

The decision by Senator Barack Obama to forego public financing means that you and I can keep giving to the campaign. We can keep sending the small checks each month.

Obama plans to raise \$300 million plus and he will need every bit of it. The Democratic nominee will need all the money he can raise because the GOP will carpet bomb us with the messages that Obama is too far left, too soft and too tax spend happy to be an effective president.

The GOP will probe ad tests to find that one hot button that resolutely moves voters to go Republican.

Navigating Middle Passages

I am responding to your article "Navigating Our Own Middle Passages" (June 4, 2008) in which Dr. Lewis-Sewell honors her mother, Ms. Shibbolethia Lewis.

I was a student of Ms. Lewis at Gunckel School. At the time of my learning (12 years of age), I really didn't give much thought to what she instilled in us. But as I matured, I would think of Ms. Lewis' words of encouragement quite often.

She frequently, daily, hourly instructed us to learn ... learn ... learn ... listen and encourage each other. She at times got upset with us when we appeared not to be open to learning. Believe me, Ms. Lewis, we were learning and I for one remember. And that was over 30 years ago.

So, Dr. Lewis-Sewell, your mother was a breathing example of strength and courage to several others as well.

I am so glad to hear about you, Ms. Lewis. Thank you for all you have done for women like me.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorene A. Mosley



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Lucas County Children Services

Mayor Blasts His Staff for Their Overtime Excesses, Developers for Not Developing

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The mayor's press conference was billed as an acknowledgement of the re-emergence of the local Commission on Minority Health. But after all was apparently said and done about minority health, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner opened the floor for questions unrelated to the topic at hand and he was immediately asked about city overtime.

Coincidentally enough, the mayor had his answer well prepared.

"I'm extremely disappointed by the directors," said the mayor, rapidly warming up to the new subject ... to the

point of overheating, in fact.

The mayor was referring to a recently released report that the accumulated overtime for the period between January 1 and March 31, 2008 totaled \$1.3 million and may well exceed the budgeted overtime amount of \$4.37 million for the year.

Singling out the departments of public service, fire and police for their excesses, Finkbeiner said that his directors' performance in controlling overtime was "not just disappointing it is unprofessional."

He vowed to make sure that changes in overtime per-

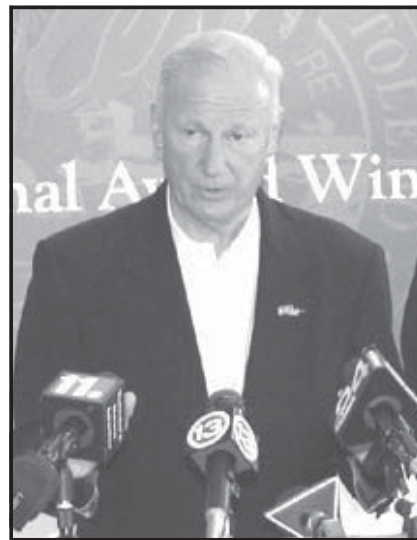
formance would follow. "They will correct their situations," he said. "It is unconscionable. Some directors are still doing business like it's the good old days when there was always a surplus."

As if on cue, the mayor was then asked about the Toledo Steamplant, a project under

the guidance of developers Jimmy Jackson and David Ball. Again, the mayor was well prepared with an answer.

"The City of Toledo finds the lack of production unacceptable. We have a very succinct resolution - either step up and do the job or turn the property back to the City of

"Mr. Ball and Jackson are thwarting progress on our water front...[Larry] Dillon is moving forward."



Toledo Lucas County Minority Health Commission Receives State Grant

Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor



The Ohio Commission on Minority Health has awarded a five-year grant of \$500,000 to rev up the now-defunct Toledo-Lucas County Commission on Minority Health, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner announced last Thursday at a news conference.

Those annual grants of \$100,000 must be matched by local dollars which will require on-going fund-raising activities, said the mayor.

Using a hypothetical example of a white child and a black child born in 2008 at the same time, Finkbeiner noted the health disparities that currently exist. "The Caucasian child is expected to live eight to 11 years longer than the African-American youngster born at the same time," he said.

"We need to level the playing field and give youngsters equal opportunities to stay healthy," the mayor added. "The Commission on Minority Health went out of business for a few years but it is back in action." Finkbeiner was referring to the fact that his successor and predecessor, Mayor Jack Ford, cut city funding to the group.

The mayor was surrounded at the news conference by members of the Commission such as Mary Gregory, Schylar Meadows and Daisy Smith. Louis Guardiola is the interim coordinator for the local office.

The goal of the Commission will be to target six health conditions in order to reduce disparities among minority residents: infant mortality, heart disease, cancer (particularly colorectal cancer), diabetes, HIV/AIDS, mental health and emotional well being.

The targets evolved based upon the community's needs, said Finkbeiner citing the following statistics:

- African-Americans and Hispanics were more likely than whites to rate their health as fair or poor;
- African-Americans were more likely than whites and Hispanics to die from heart disease and stroke;
- Eighty-one percent of African-Americans and 69 percent of Hispanics were overweight or obese;
- The HIV rate among African-American females was the highest in Lucas County and while African-Americans make up 17.7 percent of the Lucas County population, they comprised 40 percent of the HIV/AIDS cases.

Toledo or a developer waiting in the wings," said Finkbeiner.

Ball and Jackson won the contract to develop the Steamplant during the Mayor Jack Ford administration and have proposed a project of 111 market rate housing units, a combination of townhouses and apartments. The project was stalled last year when the pair decided to apply for state historical tax credits in order to defray the unexpected costs of shoring up the walls of the building to match the vision

they have of installing windows and balconies.


The City of Toledo filed suit against the developers last summer in order to speed them along.

"Mr. Ball and Jackson are thwarting progress on our water front," said Finkbeiner

brushing off a question about the housing market. "[Larry] Dillon is moving forward. There will be 200 housing units going up this year," he said in reference to the fact that the developer of the Marina District project has promised to break ground shortly.

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Holding Provisional Ballots to a Minimum

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"Provisional ballots are not a good thing," says Jill Kelly, deputy director of the Lucas County Board of Directors. "It's a safety issue for some but for others, it destroys them."

The statistics that Kelly provides certainly bears out her theory that provisional ballots are, at best, unreliable. At worst, use of such alternatives for voting are absolutely futile.

In the last presidential election of 2004, just over 7,500 voters in Lucas County used provisional ballots. Of that number, over 3,000 were ultimately ruled to be invalid.

In the last partisan primary election on March 5, over 5,200 such ballots were issued and almost 1,800 would be ruled invalid. Kelly is disappointed at the lack of progress on this issue.

"You would think that as we go along, people would get it straight," she says. "We don't want to have any provisional ballots that don't count but it is a necessary evil."

So in order to eliminate such ballots, or at least mini-

mize their use, Kelly and her team at the Board of Directors are launching a campaign to educate vot-

ers as to those steps that will get them and keep them on the rolls. The first such event, a brainstorming session for community organizations, will take place at

the Kent Branch Library on Monday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meet-

ing will be to coordinate schedules for community contacts, to devise a marketing campaign, to recruit volunteers and to prepare handouts and displays. The

theme of the meeting is, appropriately enough, "how to avoid being a provisional voter."

So, what is the problem with provisional ballots and why are they discarded in such great numbers? As Kelly points out, they are, and probably always will be, a "necessary evil." If a voter goes to his or her polling place, or at least the place where the voter believes he should be but finds that his name is not on the list of registered voters for that precinct, a provisional ballot may be necessary if the correct polling place cannot be located.

Typically, the reasons for a voter not being on the list of those registered include: failure to register, a recent household move without notifying the Board of Elections, a deletion from the rolls because the voter has failed to vote in recent elections, a change of names or error on the part of Board of Elections workers.

In 2004, the overwhelming reason why a ballot was

ruled invalid is that the voter was not registered. Aside from the fact that voters may not realize they do in fact have to register is the fact that if a voter fails to vote in two consecutive federal elections – which are held in even-numbered years – her name is deleted and she has to re-register.

The second major reason a ballot is invalidated is that the voter has shown up at the wrong precinct.

As Kelly notes, a number of voters just get stubborn about these matters. "A man or woman will say, 'I have voted here for the last 50 years.'" Even though the poll worker may inform them that they need to vote where they live, sometimes people, says Kelly, just insist on casting a ballot where they have for years.

More often, however, the problem is merely a failure to correct an address after a move, and as Kelly says, lower income, or those in the central city, tend to move more often than upper income citizens.

The Board of Elections advises those who move

from one precinct to another in the same Ohio county to go to the BOE office in the 28 days immediately preceding the election and submit a change of address, complete a provisional affirmation statement and vote a provisional ballot for the new voting address OR, on election day, go to the new polling place for the new voting address, submit a change of address and use a provisional ballot. The key is – a voter must go to the new polling place not the old one.

Provisional ballots may also be used if proof of identification cannot be supplied at the time of voting, if signatures do not match or if eligibility has been challenged by precinct workers.

As Kelly says, the provisional ballot is necessary but her staff's goal is to ensure that this alternative is used as infrequently as possible.

If a voters have any questions about eligibility, they may contact the Board of Elections at 419-213-2046 or 419-213-2047.



Jill Kelly

Photo:toledoblade.com

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Tabernacle of Faith Prepares for a New Era

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor



Carletta, James III, James Jr. and Rosalyn Williams

On Monday, January 8, 2007, a fire started in a closet of the Tabernacle of Faith Church on n. Detroit Avenue. The two-alarm blaze destroyed the structure on the corner of Detroit and Belmont avenues and ended a two decade-long period of worshipping at the site.

The congregation, which numbers about 250 members and has about 100 active members, has spent the last year and a half lodged in temporary quarters at the Clarion Westgate Hotel. All that will change on Sunday, June 29, when the Tabernacle of Faith starts a new era and consecrates its new home at 701 W. Central, at the corner of Central and Scottwood.

The building, which had been the home of Central United Methodist, under the leadership of Pastor Cheri Holdridge, was sold to Tabernacle earlier this year. It was an offer that Holdridge made because she felt that Tabernacle's mission would be a good fit for the neighborhood, says Pastor James C. Williams, III, son of the church's long-time pastor and now pastor emeritus, Rev. James C.

Williams, Jr.

Tabernacle of Faith was first known as International Gospel Center #4. It was organized on March 11, 1964 under the guidance of the late Rev. Charles O. Miles, pastor, International Gospel Center, located in Ecorse, MI.

Prior to its association with International Gospel Center, Tabernacle of Faith was part of the Pentecostal Baptist Church, which was located on Miller Street and led by the late Rev. Fred McNeal.

And the current pastor, James III, is quick to admit that the idea of settling into a permanent structure is not only appealing, but also a relief after all these months of being displaced.

"We were made very comfortable here at the Clarion," says James III. "They took care of us, but it's not like having your own place. It's great to be in our own building, it's our own home. And it's good to be home after staying in someone else's place."

The fire destroyed more than the church itself, it also destroyed the offices of the James C. Williams Center

for Advancement, a ministry that works with ex-offenders and offers mentoring programs for children of offenders.

That ministry has also continued over the last 18 months in offices at 3540 Secor Avenue. According to James III, the program services over 350 offenders and ex-offenders. That ministry will remain on Secor Avenue.

Just after the blaze, the Williamses – father James Jr. and mother Rosalyn and James III and First Lady Carletta – felt that the best course of action would be to rebuild on the Detroit Avenue site. Many churches contacted the leaders with offers to share space. Central United Methodist was one of those. Unfortunately the timing of the two churches' services did not make such an arrangement possible.

When Central United, whose congregation has slipped over the years to about 85, made the offer to sell the building, everything fell into place for Tabernacle, says James III, who took over leadership of the church from his father in

June, 2006. He had been associate pastor since 1996.

It was important for the church to continue, says Williams, not just because of the ex-offender ministry but also because of the rather unique mission of the church's ministry.

"We minister to the whole man," says James III.

Taking their cue from John 10:10: "I am come that you might have life and you might have it more abundantly," the Williams' believe "that salvation is necessary but it's just the beginning," says the current pastor.

In addition to spirituality, the church focuses on well being in three other

areas – financial, relationship building and the physical.

James III leads in a down to earth, easy to comprehend style taking his cue from the fact that the whole "book" applies to the lives of his congregants. "Salvation is the beginning, abundant life living is next. We got next!"

Two African American Men Face Their Fears

Special to The Truth

Nathaniel Stewart and Reverend Frederick Douglas Brown, both of Toledo, are living with a terminal diagnosis at home – made possible by help they are receiving from Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Both men agree that most African-Americans in the Toledo area are afraid to accept help from organizations like Hospice of Northwest Ohio because of a lack of understanding that leads to fear. "I thought they were going to come in and give me shot and put me out," says Stewart, who is suffering from cancer that has spread to his bones.

Stewart explains, "When the doctor told me there was nothing else that he could do for me, he encouraged me to call Hospice of Northwest Ohio, but

I was afraid. I was extremely painful and not able to eat. I couldn't hold down any food because I was nauseous all the time and had lost over 30 pounds. I slept with my feet up on a tray table in an effort to get some relief from the pain."

"My wife knew we had to do something. I had given up," Stewart says, "When Beverly – the Hospice nurse – came in she immediately had a special lift chair brought in so I could sit comfortably and sleep and she worked with the doctor to adjust my medication so I wasn't nauseous any more and I could eat. I have gained 15 pounds since March when I started getting care from Hospice."

Reverend Brown shares, "I think folks are ill-informed of what Hospice of Northwest Ohio can do for them. I

came home to LIVE and it is with the help of Hospice that I can do that." Despite suffering from end-stage COPD, Brown explains, "I am pain free and want free. Hospice of Northwest Ohio has removed all the pitfalls and concerns from my life and now I can live."

"Before going on Hospice, I prayed and the Lord answered my prayer. He looked beyond my thoughts and saw my needs. Hospice (of Northwest Ohio) was the answer. And now, I look forward to living and never think about dying!" says Brown.

Not Just for Rich White People

Similar to Stewart, it was the hospital who suggested Brown and his wife, (Continued on Page 14)

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Sunday, June 29

Co-Hosts Cynthia and Jack Ford will celebrate Independence Day safely with viewers and will welcome Michael Seay, chairman of the Prevent Blindness Ohio Executive Council to help families prevent tragedies. Then learn the history of how Schmucker's Restaurant, located at 2103 N. Reynolds Rd, Toledo, OH has become famous for their pies, fair prices and down home cooking. Doug Schmucker promises an unforgettable pie crust demonstration and some sugar-free samples to share.

Sunday, July 6

Co-Hosts Cynthia and Jack Ford will interview guests from Lucas County's One Stop Job Center: The Source of Northwest Ohio, www.thesourcenwo.com and welcome representatives from The Owens Community College Learning Center located at The Source conveniently located at 1301 Monroe St. in downtown Toledo. Learn how education and training have made a difference for so many in our community.

Sunday, July 13

Find out how Jack and Cynthia have been keeping up on their 2008 New Year's Resolutions... they've been eating fresh and working on their fitness with the help of Tony Fondren at the YMCA of Greater Toledo. Tune in to find out which spices taste best on which produce from The Andersons Market in Maumee, Toledo, and Sylvania. Bon Appetite!

Sunday, July 20

Special Guests to Be Announced

Sunday, June 27th

Cynthia and Jack welcome Barbara and Dennis Hicks, publishers of InToledo Magazine as they celebrate a successful year bringing the best of northwestern Ohio to you. This "coffee table" magazine features beautiful photography and tips on many points of interest. Also, special guest, retired Juvenile Court Judge Andy Devine, and "Father of the Year" will share his perspective on parenting.

NABJ Congratulates 26 Students Selected to Participate in the UNITY '08 Converged Student Projects

Special to The Truth

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) has chosen the 2008 class of aspiring journalists from across the country to participate in the UNITY '08 Converged Student Projects, a media training project for college students.

More than 90 students from the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada, including this group of 26 students, will participate in week-long projects at the UNITY '08 Convention in Chicago, July 23-27, 2008. These aspiring journalists will work side-by-side with professionals and mentors to produce solid and innovative journalism across several media platforms in a more integrated "convergence" newsroom.

The students will be representing the four national journalism associations that will be present at the convention: National Association of Black Journalists, Asian American Journalists Association, National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the Native American Journalists Association.

The 26 NABJ students will be assigned to six areas including television, print, web, photography, video and radio and will produce an interactive website, daily newscasts, Web casts, newspapers and daily radionewscasts. Specifically,

they will also be doing podcasting, slide shows, video commentary and blogging.

"This is an excellent educational opportunity for our future black journalists to get the necessary training for the skills needed in today's technologically advanced and changing environment," comments NABJ President, Barbara Ciara. "Not only will they be working alongside their peers, mentors and other professionals, but it will provide them with a unique experience of a more integrated newsroom that is taking place across the country."

The Web will be the focus of constant news, activity and information for the project, which will morph into a single newsroom where journalists will get front-end training on the skills needed to create and distribute news and information in today's changing environment. Those who attend the convention, and those who are not in Chicago, will receive news alerts, images and other information to their cell phones or hand held computer devices.

"I am so excited that once again a remarkable group of my fellow students will be able to learn from industry veterans what it means to be good journalists," said NABJ Student

Representative Christopher Nelson.

Below is the list of the students who were selected for this program:

- PRINTAREA
- Maya Carpenter, University of Florida
- Zettler Clay, Georgia State University
- Danielle Hester, DePaul University
- Angel Jennings, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Wesley Lowery, Ohio University
- Corrine Lyons, Wayne State University
- Dion Rabouin, Ithaca College
- Kyla Smith, Wayne State University
- Niquel Terry, Michigan State University
- RADIOAREA
- Elizabeth Anderson, American University
- Maryleah Mwendu, Hahsey University of Washington
- TELEVISIONAREA
- Fannette Davis, California State University, Dominguez Hills
- Lateshia Dowell, Wayne State University
- Alexis Garner, Boston University
- Francesca Hoskins, Southern University
- Fendy Lamy, St. Johns University
- Debbie Origho, Howard University

Adrian Pittman, Jackson State University

- Courtney Reid, California State University, Fullerton
- WEBAREA
- Michelle Anderson, Spellman College
- Gerrick Lewis, Ohio State University
- Dioni Wise, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- PHOTOAREA
- L. Kasimu, Harris University of Mississippi
- Jarrad Henderson, Arizona State University
- Eric Shelton, Southern Mississippi University
- VIDEOAREA
- Annita Bonner, Jackson State University

The 2008 class is the latest to benefit from the work of NABJ's Student Education Enrichment and Development (SEED) Committee, which each year, helps support student members with internships and scholarships and the chance to cover the annual convention through student media projects.

An advocacy group established in 1975 in Washington, D.C., NABJ is the largest organization of journalists of color in the nation, with more than 4,100 members, and provides educational, career development and support to black journalists worldwide.

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 Leann, Willie's Wife

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 "Hospice made all the arrangements to get dad to my graduation, including the wheelchair and portable oxygen. Having dad see me cross that stage meant the world to me. Now that the 9th, I know great care when I see it. My dad had the best."
 Jaya, Willie's Daughter

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Torrential Rains Dampen Attendance, But Not Spirit of 2008 Juneteenth Celebration

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Thunderstorms, hail and high winds were all forecast for Saturday, June 21, 2008, in Toledo. However, attendance at The Toledo Museum of Art's 2008 Juneteenth celebration was pretty good in the mornings when a sunlit sky gave little warning of an approaching storm.

The only real sign of coming rain was the humidity that made everyone feel a little sticky, but had no effect on the multitude of twist braids, sistuh locks, retro afros and other natural 'do's' women attending the event wore in celebration of their culture. Juneteenth, June 19th in AfrAm (the language created by African slaves), celebrates the day in 1865 when 250,000 African-American slaves in Texas were read the "general order" in Galveston, Texas, notifying slaves in that state that they'd been freed two and a half years earlier when President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

The celebrations that followed began a Texas tradition that continues to this day and Juneteenth remains a celebration of African-American (AfrAm) identity,



experience and contributions to this nation and its culture.

This year's local celebration had a festive air that attracted many passersby and residents of Toledo's historic Old West End, where the museum is located.

"We walked from my

house," said dancer, singer, actress and wife and mother, Nikiyah Davis. "You can hear the drums down Collingwood. I just followed the sound of the drums!"

Davis answered the call of West African drums played by Milla Sylla and his group Like Water Drum & Dance. Sylla is a leader of Watafre, a drum and dance ballet in Guinea, West Africa. He alternately played the krin (log drum) the djembe (goat-skinned covered goblet drum), and the dununs (bass drums).

Swinging his dreadlocks, crouching before the audience like a panther ready to pounce and moving the drum with his entire body, Sylla was a hit with the audience who seemed to go crazy every time he played a solo or

came to the front of the stage.

Davis was no exception. Moving with the rhythm, she gave brief glimpses of her agility as a dancer as she swayed and moved with the drums with movements as natural as the wind that was starting to pick up a little as rain fell softly and quietly as if trying not to compete with the drums.

"I can't sit down when drums are playing!" Davis said to daughters Mia and Sebra who were ready to find a seat.

Earlier, Ebone' Miller incorporated African dance movement into a flawless praise dance routine that culminated a performance of the Kaye Cook Praise Dancers. Miller, a 2008 graduate of Glass City Academy, has studied ballet, tap, jazz, African, inspirational and modern dance; and was recently cast as the female lead in the musical classic, "Oliver," being staged at the Collingwood Arts Center July 25 - August 2.

Her graceful performance delighted those who came out

early to celebrate Juneteenth this year.

Early arrivals also enjoyed music from the MIXX radio station and hands-on demonstrations for the young and the young at heart, including: hair braiding; making African drums and masks; playing African instruments, the shekere and thumb drum; playing an African board game, mancala; a quilt tree; face painting and an interactive map.

There were also demonstrations in the glass pavilion, as well as a loom weaving in the museum and a quilting demonstration by Euneda Liddell showing the design and construction of the Legacy Quilt, sponsored by the African-American Legacy Project. Vendors offered a variety of foods including barbecue, hot dogs, French fries and icy treats and beverages.

Ruby's Kitchen had so many people lined up to get fish nuggets, fried okra, wing dings and greens, Ms. Ruby couldn't get the oil in her frying pan fast enough.

"There were more people here last year," she commented, during a brief lull. "It was really hot and there were so many people!"

As if on cue, a downpour sent people running for shelter and Ms. Ruby invited several folk waiting for orders (including this writer) into her tent. Before the rain started, one little lad waited impatiently for his wing dings with his mother and Ms. Ruby gave him a sample to tide him over while he waited.

However, after the rain started, the cooking had to stop until the rain let up - only it didn't. J.J.'s Express, scheduled to perform at 2:30, did their drum and drill routine as scheduled - in the rain! The group bravely performed for nearly the entire half hour as the downpour turned into a torrent and they scampered into the museum to dry out as everyone else sought refuge from the pouring rain and dropping temperatures.

Almost immediately, the rain stopped - temporarily.

(Continued on Next Page)



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Juneteenth

(Continued from Page 8)

Former Mayor Jack Ford and wife, Cynthia, sat near the Monroe Street Stage, out of the rain. Ford talked about a recent trip to Washington, D.C. where he saw his grandfather's name at the Prince Hall monument and, of course, politics while his wife went to get them some food.

"Only three out of a hundred people are registered to vote," he said in response to an observation that it would be nice if all the people who come to Barack Obama's rallies would actually vote for him.

However, Ford later stated that the ranks of registered voters have increased this year as more African-Americans and young people than ever are registering to vote. Hearing that Da Phunk Brothers were up next to perform, Ford joked, "That's me! I'm doing rap now."

Giving his classic tongue-in-cheek grin, he and Mrs. Ford made their exit before the next deluge.

The 5th Infantry Regiment, United States Colored Troops re-enactment brought celebrants face-to-

face as soldiers and one free woman from the Civil War era performed drill formations and answered questions from the audience.

Da Phunk Brothers took the stage with their eclectic rap style and message music that was as informative as it was entertaining. Throughout their half hour "show," Swill Gates and Kool Keith, made cracks about Jack Ford, KK once joking and saying Ford was his "stepfather."

DJ M.P.R.E.S.S. laid down the beat and Gates and Keith laid down the rap, as the rain started to fall again in a steady pounding that seemed to have a beat all its own. "I

hope ya'll know why you're here!" Kool Keith shouted to the audience. "I hope you know what Juneteenth is all about!"

Reminding all present that Juneteenth celebrates freedom, he advised his audience to remember that freedom begins in the mind. Da Phunk Brothers continued their history lesson with an update on black history, at one point getting one side of the audience to shout "Barack" and the other side to shout "Obama."

They also went retro with their "Neo Soul" and 1980s funk numbers. At one point, Gates brought his two young

sons on stage, making it a family affair. Young and old "grooved with it," enjoying the duo and their deejay until the short 30-minute set was over.

The rain still showed no sign of ending, when Ramona Collins took the stage at five o'clock backed up by a jazz trio, including Toledo's own pianist Michael Lorenz, that she should take on the road with her.

Singing as only she can, Collins played her vocal chords deftly, making listeners forget the rain, the wind and the chill that had crept into the air. It was just Ramona, that voice, three finely tuned and expertly instruments and the audience.

Singing "Night and Day" her way, Collins created a new definition of sound and everyone that was there to witness it felt honored. Her voice pushed back the sheets of rain falling from a gray sky until listeners could imagine sunlight shining clearly and eternally overhead.

Her one-hour set wasn't the finale, but it probably should have been because



what could top that voice, that sound, the imagery she concocted with a trill?

Also performing at this year's Juneteenth celebration were Holy Blues with Rev. Robert and Mrs. Bernice Jones, Poet LaFe (Ophelia J. Thompson) and a storyteller, Anthony Lucas.

Robert Smith from the African-American Legacy Project videotaped interviews of willing participants in his "100 Grandmothers" legacy project.

The museum also had several exhibits in its many galleries celebrating the occasion, including: works of art in a variety of media by African-American artists in the Toledo community; a work by Ossawa Tanner, who became one of the first internationally renowned African-American painters, Gallery 30b, American; black paper silhouettes by Kara Walker, Gallery 4, Modern and Contemporary; a work of art by Lorna Simpson exploring how people, especially African-American women, are identified, classified and judged based on their physical features and personal styles, Gallery 5, Modern and Contemporary; a portrait by

artist Kehinde Wiley, Gallery 9, Modern and Contemporary; a ceremonial stool created by the Akan people that was a symbol of power, Gallery 6, African Gallery; a pairing of sculptures of the god Shango from Yorubaland (central Nigeria) and Greek goddess, Aphrodite to compare cultural concepts of ideal female beauty, Classic Court, Ancient Art; Hydra in the Grove Place West entrance; an exhibition of color photographs by Bernie Kleina honoring the 40th anniversaries of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Fair Housing Movement and two films, "Through Toledo's Eyes," taped at the Mott Branch Library and "Cornerstones: The African-Americans," produced by WGTE Public media.

A highlight of this year's celebration was a presentation and book signing by Victoria Rowell, founder of the Rowell Foster Children Positive Plan, which provides scholarships in the arts and education to foster youth, and author of *The Women Who Raised Me*, chronicling her life from foster care to celebrity.



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THA HOOK UP

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



Okay, Fletcher had me take a break to cover the Jazz Loop/Jazz Fest but now...after much ado I can proudly present THA HOOK UP as it was envisioned: with willing participants.

I still wanna remind people of why I chose to offer this to everyone.

Some people try to

downplay the importance of a love life.

So many in our generation (men AND women) have grown up on the playa principles.

Some of us seem to be allergic to committed, monogamous relationships or even an admitted serious attempt.

That's sad, so many of us

hop in and out of bed and "situations" or "arrangements" without a second thought, risking the hearts and minds of ourselves and our partners and risking the body- with every name we can't even remember a week after it goes down.

I don't think it's mandatory to have a love life. Some people are happy being single. Some people are happy "slutting it around all over town" (that's a unisex term by the way).

But according to many friends, associates and acquaintances... some of y'all are ready for the real.

As a songwriter/producer - I can say firsthand that relationships occupy the majority of the thoughts most people have throughout the day.

When it's time to create a

song with one of the singers on our label, we deviate at times but for the most part it's concerning matters of the heart because it's universal.

Our art comes from the deepest places inside us as humans, and when that art centers around who to love, how to love, where is love etc. - it becomes painfully obvious that this is just a subject that will never get old.

So I willingly decided to use this art form to address the subject and also invite (umm... sometimes my invitations are more like a blatant DARE) to partake alleviating your own lovesickness. In other words: you said you wanna meet somebody ... here ya go!

No doubt, Toledo women (just like Detroit women and Cleveland women... and in my

opinion Dayton women) have a reputation.

Out of all the men I know considering dating outside the city limits (and considering dating outside of other limits 'wink, wink')... none of these men had the cojones to say "ay dawg, gon head and put me in the paper ... I'm ready".

All my dudes are still skurred.

So, a few sistahs decided they were brave enough to test the waters.

All of whom have given me the sidebar acknowledgment that they aren't relying on this profile to single handedly change anything... they just said 'hey, why not?' And I love 'em for that.

I proudly present, The Hook Up.

(Continued on Page 12)

St. John's Jesuit Class of 2008 Benefits from Career Exploration Classes

Special to The Truth



Members of the St. John's Jesuit High School Class of 2008 benefited from career exploration classes in law, biomedical frontiers and The Ohio State University Introduction to Engineering in making their future college and career choices. The

191-member class was accepted at 111 colleges and universities across the country including Harvard, Stanford, Georgetown, Miami, Toledo, Loyola, Boston College and many more. Graduation was Wednesday, May 21 at the Stranahan Theater. Over 160 members of the class received a scholarship opportunity.

The following students received a scholarship they can use toward the school of their choice:

Joseph Earl Curry III: Howard University, Scholarship \$11,500 (four-year

renewable \$46,000), NAACP Scholarship \$1,000 (four-year renewable \$4,000), United Auto Worker Dependent Scholarship \$6,000 (four-year renewable \$24,000), United Negro College Fund Scholarship \$3,000 (four-year renewable \$12,000)

Joshua Ellis: Baldwin Wallace College, Director's Conservatory Talent Award \$1,500 (four-year renewable \$6,000), Heritage Award \$4,000 (four-year renewable \$16,000), Grant \$6,679 (four-year renewable \$26,716)

Anthony Hobbs: University of Toledo, Rocket Reward Scholarship Program \$750 (four-year renewable \$3,000)

Kweyamba M. Kamala: St. Louis University, Grant Assistance \$14,350 (four-year renewable \$57,400), Jesuit High Scholl Scholarship \$3,000 (four-year renewable \$12,000), Martin Luther King Scholarship \$13,000 (four-year renewable \$52,000)

Justin Blair Leahey: University of Toledo, Rocket Reward \$375 (four-year renewable \$1,500), Rocket Reward Scholarship Program \$750 (four-year renewable \$3,000)

Calvin J. Moreland: Xavier University, Francis X. Weninger Scholarship \$8,000 (four-year renewable \$32,000), Grant \$2,750 (four-year renewable \$11,000), Jesuit Legacy Award \$2,000 (four-year renewable \$8,000)

Alvin Thomas: Bowling Green State University, Book Loan Program \$1,000 (four-year renewable \$4,000)

Ryan A. Watkins: University of Toledo, Rocket Reward Scholarship \$750 (four-year renewable \$3,000)

Arzell Javan West-Estell: Xavier University, Buschmann Award \$2,500 (four-year renewable \$10,000), Jesuit Legacy Scholarship \$500 (four-year renewable \$2,000)

Thomas DWayne White: University of Toledo, Rocket Reward Scholarship Program \$750 (four-year renewable \$3,000), International Association of Electrical Inspectors Scholarship \$1,000, AFSCME Local 544 2008 Family Scholarship \$1,000

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Brsnugr27@yahoo.com





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Defending Michelle Obama ... You Just Can't Hate on Barack Obama!

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

As older voters say about Bill Clinton back in the day, his charm just wins you over and his intellect makes you believe he'll really fix things.

I supported Hillary at first, not out of "anti-Obamanness"... but I was leery of the whole concept of "black superman" here to save a sinking ship.

The ship is sinking, believe that.

I'm telling you all — this country has issues that are NOT gonna be turned around by someone just because we like them and they capture our imagination.

I don't care if the Dali Lama gets elected prez... the Republican/conservatives in power have set us on a course of destruction.

Hate to be doom and gloom but look around you.

That gas is not coming down. That dollar is not going up. Those jobs are not coming back. Food is tainted. Foreign policy sucks. Environmental policy sucks.

Justice system sucks. Energy consumption worsen-

ing. War seems never-ending.

Economy is ... come on, \$600 is supposed to make you go out and shop when so many people are being crushed by bills and gas?

Republicans profit while the rest of the population suffers.

If the gas companies, oil companies, weapon manufacturers and whoever else are all experiencing record high revenues while middle and working class America struggles... who in the hell do you think owns those companies?

A bunch of neo-conservative Bush backers.

They created the current state we find ourselves in.

They don't intend for things to get better.

So when it comes to any Democratic president, but specifically Obama, I'm worried.

I suspect that if he gets in office and things don't immediately get better for everyone, I honestly fear that this same country who adores

him now will blame him later.

Even though none of the ills we face are his fault.

So yes, I supported Hillary for that and a few other reasons. First of all,

I like the women's movement ... I support feminism wholeheartedly.

Hillary's campaign brought out a lot of sexist tendencies in this society in my opinion. And even though Hillary slowly but surely lost my support somewhere earlier this spring, I still consider her a valiant role model for generations of females who can now pursue careers where their intellect matters ... when for so long that was not an option for women in this country.

But, yo, I had my radar on. I was watching, paying attention to any and every reaction to Hillary over the last two years and it was evident that a strong woman with leadership capabilities is still a lot for people to handle.

They either typecast her as a bitch or as a sideline act

to the Bill Clinton parade (which to me is the main reason they campaigned separately most of the time... it spread their reach but also allowed P.R. to further es-

the video and one of their talking heads told their viewers that it was "terrorist fist jab." Naw, maan,

We not gonna let them ride on Michelle like that.

"I think she probably meant 'I'm more proud,' you know, is what she really meant."

Screw that! Since when is it a bad thing to say you are not proud of this country?

Wouldn't you want the people in power who are wise and upfront enough to say "this place is effed up and I'm not always proud to be a citizen of such a country." That shows integrity.

That shows wisdom.

That shows that you've been payin' attention, dammit!

So Michelle had to make nice, explain that what she really meant was she's never been proud of the political process and it's good to see so many people taking an impassioned interest in it these days.

I ain't mad at her.

Saved face, but still made a statement.

I love seeing a black woman get down like that.

She's wise enough to know she has to play the little game they're playing, but she's not gonna be completely swayed from making comments that are right and exact.

Something about her, I just see her as someone who if she could... she would these people know what she really thinks about them.

But hey, her hubby has a decent shot at becoming the nation's next president.

So it's ride or die.

As much as black people once adored the Clintons, they never really felt like a family.

And I was also big on John Kerry (another person who spoke up when he disagreed with his country) ... but even if he had won, I can't really call that little arranged come up of a marriage something akin to a "first family".

So while America's love affair with Barack Obama is creating just as many "fans" as "supporters" (there is a difference... an election is not celebrity, people!), one must take stock of how reassuring it is to see an honest-to-God FAMILY in these days and times.

The Huxtables went off the air when I was just getting in junior high, this is the real thing!

So not only do I offer my support to Obama, I applaud and am happy to see the woman there supporting him as well.

Hats off to Michelle Obama.



tablish her in her own right).

However, with all the sexism and negative nuances I noticed being aimed at Hillary and even though I felt she was qualified, I couldn't stick by her when the race between her and Obama got so thick that her staff started employing dirty underhanded anti-Obama messages.

I'm not so sensitive about my race that I misread Hillary's supporters

"Nobama" campaign as a 'no black man in office' message.

Come on, I have a grip even if some of you don't.

But now that it's just Barack and Michelle ...

OMG !!! You don't have to look very hard to find all the racism coming out all over the damn place.

OF all things, the infamous "fist bump" is the thing everyone is trying to go ballistic over!!!

You've all seen the video, Obama and Michelle give each other dap and like most people who ... I don't know, don't live in a cave ... they gave the little third dap at the front of each other's fist.

Is that such a big deal?

We all do that without even thinking about it.

It's been second nature for years.

People who were hip in the 70s or 80s probably gave high fives or said "jive turkey" or some mess.

We do this!

A damn fist bump.

And so Fox News played

I don't care if my personal views on the presidency in general are kinda bleak.

I don't care if Obama's P.R. machine can leap tall snafus in a single bound.

That's not goin' down.

If I spoke up for Hillary in the slightest, best believe I will speak out times 10 for Michelle!

Why should she even have to explain that, it's a hand gesture.

What about all the times you see Bush giving the Nazi salute? (youtube it if you are unaware).

And it's not just non-verbals. The media is also trying to

hurt Michelle Obama by purposely misconstruing her words

Check out this excerpt from an ABC affiliate's website:

At a campaign stop in February, Michelle Obama told an audience in Milwaukee:

"For the first time in my adult life, I am really proud of my country. Not just because Barack is doing well, but I think people are hungry for change."

Cindy McCain, wife of Republican presidential contender John McCain, later sought to capitalize on the remark, saying "I have, and always will be, proud of my country."

This little fire grew so much backlash that the current first lady Laura Bush had to chime and offer support for Michelle by saying

Tha Hook Up

(Continued from Page 10)

Latisha
 Age/age-range 30
 Birthdate/astrological sign Feb/Pisces
 Ethnicity:
 African American
 Single/divorced Single
 Occupation Call Center Rep/Voiceover Actress
 Highest Level of Education
 Undergraduate College Degree
 Religious Affiliation:
 Christian- non – denominational
 Spiritual instead of Religious



POTENTIAL PARTNER

Age/age-range 30+
 Ethnicity: African American

Highest Level of Education
 Some College
 Undergraduate College Degree
 Graduate College Degree

Religious Affiliation:
 Christian- non – denominational
 Spiritual instead of Religious

My intentions: Casual Dating. I haven't dated any Toledo men in seven years. I want to see what I've been missing.

Ideal mate: My ideal for dating: Tall, intelligent, employed/business owner, honest, driven, NO DRAMA

model_latisha@yahoo.com

AWW MAAAN ! – They ain't never skurred and you shouldn't be either!
 Seems like we gonna see what these men around here are really made of because the ladies have stepped to the plate first and got down for theirs!

So men, when you see someone that interests you – send them a respectable email.
 After that, it's up to you guys from there. Maybe we'll do testimonials or something, who knows.

Just goin' with the flow at this point, people.
 So, HIT ME UP TOLEDO ... even if you have more info you wanna see in the bios or whatever.

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

Lil WAYNE : THE GIFT AND THE CURSE

"The dumb are mostly intrigued by the drum..." - G.Z.A. / Wutang Clan's "Triumph."



Puffy, Eminem, Fiddy and now ... Lil Wayne.

Few people in the history of hip-hop have divided fans as have those just named.

Opinions range from idol worship to "uhh, I can't stand that dude."

Regardless, The Carter III has sold over one million units in its first week.

As I predicted when it came out, "Lollipop" was a number one hit for weeks.

He is on top of the world. But, the hip-hop world ain't what it used to be, so really what does it all mean.

In the coming weeks I will take a look at the album and the man behind the mania. Ya

boy, Weezy F. Baby.

Stay tuned and keep reading.

Been lookin for that "A milli" remix with him talking about going platinum in a week, anybody got it hit me on the email or myspace.

We'll talk, Toledo.

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com Or myspace.com/undergodzent (friend #1).

Lynn
 Age: 32
 AstrologiCal sign: Sagittarius
 African American
 Single
 Student
 In Graduate program
 Christian (specific Denomination)
 Interested in Friendship, relationship and more
POTENTIAL PARTNER



Interested in:
 A 30-35 African American but I'm not limiting myself
 At least should have finished high school
 Christian
 Interested in friendship, relationship and more

My intentions for the hook up are:
 Everyone keeps telling me that Toledo can't be 'all that bad.' I feel maybe I haven't been getting out there and really stepping out to actually see. I am pretty busy during the week and on the weekends I would like to get out and enjoy myself (legally) and meet a man who knows how to treat a lady. If at least, I'd like to find someone who I can have a decent conversation with and get out and enjoy Toledo.

My ideal mate:
 Tall, dark, and handsome... no, but for real...
 One who is confident not conceited.
 One who is honest with himself.
 One who respects himself. He has goals not just dreams.
 One who is a man and therefore put away childish things.
 One who knows the power of his actions are much more than his words.
 One who knows his role as a man in his home.
 One who is not afraid to learn something new.
 One who knows that he's not weak to admit he's wrong.
 One who knows the strength of his mind and knows it's not just in his muscles.

Email: lovelylynn007@yahoo.com

Gospel Stage Play "SANGin' IN THE CHOIR"

BW Productions will be presenting the gospel stage play, "SANGin' IN THE CHOIR." It's not about your "typical" church choir; it has a twist to it. Performance will be Sunday, July 27, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the Franciscan Theatre at Lourdes College, 6832 Convent Blvd., Sylvania, Ohio. This gospel stage play is written, directed and produced by Toledo's own, Barbara Jones-Wilson. Ms. Jones-Wilson also wrote and directed the gospel stage play, "Diary of a Bad Christian," which was performed September, 2007. "SANGin' IN THE CHOIR" will feature Nate Gurley and the Mass



Nate Gurley

She is one of nine siblings, one brother being Ernest C. Jones, retired art teacher at Scott High School. She has been writing poems, song and screenplays for ten to twelve years. She just recently started writing stage plays. Tyler Perry, whom she hopes to meet someday, is her inspiration, motivation and "unofficial" mentor. Tickets are \$17.95 in advance and \$20.00 at the door. They can be purchased at Sound Asylum Records, 2582 Monroe Street, Toledo, OH, (419) 243-1265; Jack's Men's Wear, 3414 Dorr Street, Toledo, Ohio, (419) 536-1551 or you can contact Ms. Jones-Wilson at (419) 243-7111.

Choir of the Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, of which Ms. Jones-Wilson is a member. The Rev. Dr. John E. Roberts, pastor; Mother Bernice Roberts, first lady. Ms. Jones-Wilson is a 1964 graduate of Scott High School, Toledo, OH. She is also CEO of BW Productions. She has a daughter, Audra-Marie Wilson, and a grandson, Calvin "CJ" Hodges, Jr.

Witness a Vision, Take a Ride on Elysian

By Alvin Thomas
Real Estate Columnist



Even while gas prices hover around \$4.00 a gallon, a drive over to Elysian Avenue, a quiet, short stretch of blocks tucked away in the Secor-Garden area, is worth every penny, especially if you are a believer. If you believe God helps those who help themselves, take the short journey to Elysian and witness the work of Friendship New Vision (FNV), an organization that chose to minister to the needs of their community themselves. Elysian is dotted with beautifully renovated homes, a newly constructed home and a vacant lot awaiting

construction. Although recently completed or in process, these projects blend seamlessly into Elysian's pre-existing ambiance which reflects the pride of its residents.

Keeping in mind that I struggle with overembellishment, Elysian Street and the Secor Garden corridor will never be on the level of Stone Oak or Ottawa Hills. As with most urban neighborhoods, there is some blight to deal with. Nevertheless, the passion and devotion of the residents in this section of Secor Garden can rival any neighborhood and FNV's commitment has helped to invigorate the spirit of this neighborhood.

Special recognition, dare

I say praise, should be given to this relatively unknown, modest organization that has somewhat inconspicuously effected a very conspicuous amount of change in a Toledo neighborhood. They didn't just lobby city officials, write letters to congressional representatives or plead state representatives. Although they may have used some of the aforementioned

me asking, '...for real, do you think I can get a home?' As a result, FNV had to provide the opportunity for homeownership for anyone that wanted to own their home whether it is affordable housing or market rate," said Tisdale when asked why FNV included housing on its agenda.

In 2005, the City of Toledo and State of Ohio certi-

development Block Grant and HOME funding subsidize the affordable housing units.

"When we started [working] Elysian, the neighborhood took so much interest in what we were doing that we wanted to do as much as we could to show our appreciation to them for their assistance and cooperation," said Patricia Sloan, the executive director FNV. Al-

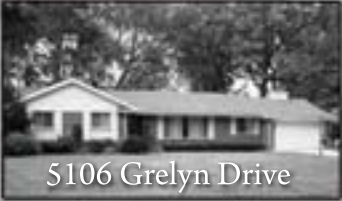


FNV has created over 20 homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income families by working with buyers to clear-up credit issues, and then referring them to mortgage loan lenders and grant resources.

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*Down payment assistance may be available based upon seller participation. Rates are subject to change and should not be considered an offer. Program available based upon buyer qualification. Sample payment includes property tax & home insurance.

tactics, most importantly, they planned, organized and rolled up their sleeves.

Aptly named, visionaries obviously are the helm of FNV. These visionaries are able to discern the needs of its community and implement creative, practical solutions, including one of the most fundamental needs—housing. The genesis of the FNV is the Friendship Baptist Church, which is lead by Bishop Duane C. Tisdale.

Established in 2004 as a non-profit, faith-based community development corporation, FNV uses a holistic concept intended to have a positive impact on several dimensions of the lives of the populace of the community they serve. The organization has several programs serving the low-income urban areas of Central Toledo. FNV offers everything from family services, education, youth programs and, of course, affordable housing development.

"Housing was a major component of our mission—ministering to the total Man—mentally, physically, socially, spiritually and economically. I was telling people they could be homeowners, 'catch the vision—home ownership!' People started coming up to

ified FNV as a community housing development organization. In addition, the department of Housing and Urban Development recently certified several of FNV's staff members as credit counselors. As a CHDO, FNV is eligible for Home Investment Partnerships Program or HOME Program, set aside just for CHDOs. To provide guaranteed resources for affordable housing development.

Since its inception, FNV has purchased, rehabbed and sold five homes. They have also built and sold three other homes. Currently, they are making major renovations to four more homes that will be listed for sale with a local realtor when they are completed. In addition, FNV has created over 20 homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income families by working with buyers to clear-up credit issues, and then referring them to mortgage loan lenders and grant resources.

To purchase one of FNV's homes, prospective homebuyers are required to participate in a minimum of 10 hours of homebuyer education covering financial management and home maintenance. The City of Toledo's Community Devel-

though FNV has a strong presence on Elysian, they also have also purchased and rehabbed homes in other parts of the Secor Garden corridor.

According to Sloan, FNV will follow the lead of its residents. She said, "We build and develop in response to the feedback that we receive from potential clients, which means preapproved buyers. FNV will continue to partner with financial institutions organizations and various agencies to educate the public on current housing trends. It is important for our potential buyers to understand that this is a buyers market despite the high rate of foreclosures.

To mock a popular advertisement: a cost of gas for a drive to Elysian Avenue—around \$4.00; a newly constructed or renovated home in the Secor Garden area—starting around \$69,000; people with a mindset and will to help their own... priceless.

Alvin Thomas is a mortgage loan officer with over 20 years of banking and mortgage lending experience. He can be reached at: alvin.thomas@noic.com or (419) 885-8300 ext. 150.

African Men

(Continued from Page 6)

Willie, contact Hospice of Northwest Ohio. "I thought Hospice was only for white people with money," admits Mrs. Brown. "Hospice has been a blessing - it is the best kept secret in town," she says.

Reverend Brown says

with relief, "It is not just the day to day living for me. After the Lord calls me home, Hospice will be here for my wife and she is going to need it."

Stewart wants everyone to know that a call to Hospice of Northwest Ohio will allow you to get on

with living. "Look at where I was. I now have my strength back. I can go to church and fishing. I even go to my favorite restaurant for breakfast after church."

It has been well documented that, as with other forms of health care, Afri-

can Americans under-use palliative and hospice care services. In Lucas County, 17 percent of the population is African-American while less than eight of Hospice of Northwest Ohio's patients are African-American.

Hospice of Northwest

Ohio cares for terminally ill people of all ages, with any end-stage illness—either in their own homes, in nursing homes or at one of its two specially designed Hospice Centers. It is a non-profit organization and no one is ever turned away due to inability to

pay. For more information about Hospice of Northwest Ohio, visit the website at www.hospicenwo.org.

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935 Clifton - \$92,000
3 B.R., Hardwood throughout, 2 season porch, 2 car. Motivated seller.
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419.467.9302 or 419.891.0888

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HUGE 4 BEDROOM
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1319 Palmwood - \$27,627
Two story 3 bd home, newer furnace, some updated windows, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher stays plus an extra lot.
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1748 Bobolink Lane
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4 Bdrm/possible 5 - 3 1/2 baths, Hardwood floors - finished basement, family rm w/bar
Beautiful custom Home
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1013 Prospect - \$66,900
Tear off roof 2007, 4 B.R. Freshly painted throughout, Large L.R., D.R. and porch. Basement. It was't last long.
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3 beds, rec rm w/updated eat in kitchen, large formal din/liv rm
Full basement w/rec, 1 car
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2. Go to ... navarro.1@netzero.com - ask for appointment.
Mature, self starter, people person - with vision

380 Pinewood \$130,000
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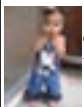
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CLASSIFIEDS

June 25, 2008

Page 15

Boy Scouts of America - Paraprofessional

Erie Shores Council is seeking Paraprofessionals for leadership positions in Cub and Boy Scouts. No Scouting experience necessary. Training provided.

Resumes to:
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Requirements:

1. Must have an Associates degree or equivalent in the field of engineering or engineering technology.
2. Must have basic knowledge of National Electrical Safety Code and National Electric Code.
3. Must be familiar with the layout, functions, and operations of the circuits and equipment of the distribution systems. Also able to comprehend company policies and procedures relating to service installations.
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We offer a competitive benefit package including health, life insurance, company-funded pension and 401k with company match as well as vacation, personal days, holidays and incentive compensation.

Please reference the job number when applying, otherwise your resume will not be accepted.

Apply online at www.firstenergycorp.com/career_center/forms/joblistings.jsp

Or Mail, Email or fax resumes by July 7th to:
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Part-time position - 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm Mon-Fri
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Do you have an hour to spare? Would you like to hear about a fantastic business opportunity?

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Attention Toledo!

And surrounding area residents. Have you been the victim of electronic stalking - unexplained computer/household electrical malfunctions, illegal monitoring of e-mails, bank accounts or phone lines. Have you been refused legal representation? I would like to hear your story. Please contact Lanese Herbert-Cook at 567-277-3733.

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For the best deals on travel and hotels, try the Travelocity link on our website - www.thetruthtoledo.com

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

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

| Job No. | Project | Walk-Thru Date | Bid Opening Date |
|---------|---|----------------|------------------|
| 28040 | Re-paving of 201 Belmont Rear Parking Lot | 7/8/08 7/15/08 | 11:00 am |
| 28041 | Fire Rehab at 519 Elmdale Court | 7/9/08 7/22/08 | 11:00 am |
| 28042 | Flory Gardens Lightning Protection (RE-BID) | 7/1/08 7/15/08 | 11:15 am |

Bid packages will be available at 201 Belmont Street, Modernization Department. A non-refundable fee of \$20.00 will be charged for each set of plans provided.

The prevailing wages for this locality, as established by the Department of Labor as Wage Determination OH20080028, 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.

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Attention All Vendors



The 4th Annual African American Festival will be held on the Scott Park Campus at The University of Toledo on Sat., July 13 and Sun., July 14.

As space is limited to 50 entries, please contact Eric at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union at 419.255.8876 for your application. Reservations will be given on a first come, first served basis. The deadline for reserving space is Friday, June 13, 2008.

Toledo Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction Celebrates Founders' Day

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. was chartered in November 1983 at an Area V meeting in Cincinnati, OH. One of the charter members present that day was the chapter's first president Ann C. Battles.

Friday, June 27 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Mobile Health Van

Riviera Maia Pool Parking Lot 1233 Cribb St. Toledo

Testing for: Blood Pressure Blood Sugar Hepatitis C HIV

Toledo-Lucas County Health Dept. 635 N. Erie St. / Rm 101 / 419.213.4176 Weekdays, 1 to 4 p.m. June 27th, 9:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio 1301 Jefferson St. 419.255.1115 MTR - 9:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays, 9 to 3 p.m.

3401 Glendale Ave Location: Suite 205 419.255.1115 Mondays, 2 to 5 p.m.



Because I love my family and friends, I can't risk my health.

Substance Abuse Services Inc. 1832 Adams / 419.243.7274 Thursday, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. & June 27th, BGSU Wellness Center 9:30 to 3:30 p.m.

University of Toledo Health Science Campus (formerly MUO) Rupert Health Center - 419.383.3741 Mondays, 6 to 8 p.m.

AIDS Resource Center Ohio United Way Building/Suite 354 419.241.9444 ext 409 Thursdays, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 26th, 11 to 8 p.m.



The local chapter celebrated that occasion on Thursday, June 19 at the All Saints Episcopal Church.

The organization, whose major thrusts are: Top Teens, community beautification, community partnership, senior citizens and status of women, welcomed members and friends, listened to tributes and songs by its members and applauded the many presentations by current president, Lady Mary Dawson.

The chapter's charter members included, Battles, Elinor Allen, Margaret Fields, Constance Robinson, Gwendolyn Hopkins, Bertha Peyton, Phyllis Stephens, Ruth Ross, Mary Hodge and Zephyr Taylor.

The Founders' Day Committee members were Battles, Denise Black-Poon, Anna Marie Bolden, Gwendolyn Brown, Denise Cardwell, Teresa Crump, Dawson, Joan Harris, Jacquelyn Houston, Mary Oakes, Clara Petty and Phyllis Stephens.



LET'S TALK!! "STEP UP, TOLEDO!"

- Presents - Free Open Public Forum Live Taping of 3 Hour Show Featuring: SHOW # 1 Fabulous Hats & Models Children's Puppet and Talent Presentations Toledo's Own Olympic Boxing Champion SHOW # 2 How best to protect oneself- "Are guns the answer?" The CCW Staff from Detroit will present (Share your opinions and concerns) - Open Mike - SHOW #3 Let's Talk about the alleged take over of Toledo's first & only African American TV Station Thurs., June 26, 2008 Civic Center Promenade Hall (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Music: D. J. Damage—Refreshments (4 sale)

A New Era Begins Sunday, June 29 at 11 AM 701 West Central (Central and Scottwood) 419-243-8866



what's IN Museum Toledo Art toledomuseum.org 419.255.8000 FREE admission

FREE Family Center TUE, THU, SUN Supported by The Andersons