



Local and National News

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 20, No.07

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 08, 2011

A Few of the Best and Brightest



Olivia Pittman



Keon Pearson



Jermichael Bess



Tashara Heron



Savannah Hill



Lee Ann Song



Donald Walker



Derrick Mitchell

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Temperature Rising

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

The Truth Contributor



We understand that politics is nothing but war without bloodshed; and war is nothing but politics with bloodshed. - Fred Hampton

Whew! It's getting hot in HERE!

I'm not talking about the weather.

I do speak, however, of *Reading, Writing and Politics*, the real-time reality show where the heat of the Toledo Public Schools labor negotiations seems to have caused one school board member to expose her true allegiance and simultaneously lay bare the core of what is wrong with our public schools.

TPS Board Vice President Lisa Sobecki, perhaps coveting her party's endorsement for another run for the school board, kicked her long-time sidekick Bob Vasquez to the curb at a recent board meeting, apparently to partner with and advocate on behalf of labor.

She also seems to have caught the other board members off guard with a recent press release calling for the termination of the board's attorney, the highly credentialed and effective Cleveland attorney, Craig Brown.

The charge?

(Excuse me... hee-hee-hee) Sorry.

The charge? Uh, oh yeah - Union-Busting! Quite revealing. And comical. By the way Lisa, you have a \$150,000 contract which you still must pay Brown should you hire another attorney.

But let's talk about reality.

The truth is that TPS has severe financial problems. The tax revenues from an eroding tax base or government are insufficient to support escalating labor and health care costs or to assure quality student learning. Also, despite the present recession, which will pass, the financial problems that affect the district are long-term and structural. Ultimately, the availability of resources will reach its limit - with or without - the passage of a levy.

Yet labor talks have not progressed and are 'bout to get ugly at a time when the business community and other civic leaders have already lost confidence in the competency of the district's leaders, as have certain portions of the community.

Enrollment has gone from 49,000 students in the 1990s to a mere 26,000 today as students and families have become increasingly dissatisfied with the product, thrown up their hands in frustration and walked away to charter or parochial schools.

In addition, \$24 million is spent annually on contractual agreements. Yet, funding for student and family advocates with a history of positive outcomes such as Pastor Cedric Brock or the Coalition for Quality Education has been cut and ties with the community arrogantly severed in order to punish or make political statements. On the other hand, vendors and contractors located outside the community have found funds readily available.

The reality is that TPS has known for a long time that its problems are not temporary but are long-term and structural. The playing of the union-buster card, therefore, is an effort to resist change and to protect the existing ineffective and inefficient educational process despite a future reality which must be dealt with in the present in order to avert an educational disaster.

The critical task therefore, is to provide quality teaching and positive student learning outcomes in this new economic environment of dire budgetary constraints.

When children, a large majority of whom are of color and mired in poverty, are not used as pawns (i.e. by withholding \$10 million in Race to the Top funding) or whose futures are no longer used as shields to protect the interests and agendas of others, quality instruction that is focused on student learning at reduced costs can be accomplished and sustained.

Since so much of the district budget is tied up in instructional costs, in a period of severe resource constraints it is necessary to reduce teacher time per student.

As a result, we are told, it is necessary to restructure the instructional function to include other professionals such as librarians, employers and community members as partners in student learning while integrating technology.

It is not that teachers aren't doing a good job. Teachers also must have the right to bargain and be paid competitively. If not, we will see talented individuals leave or not enter the profession.

The problem, according to education experts, is that "the assumptions around which their work is structured are crumbling in the face of shortfalls in available funding and the ever-increasing sophistication of computer technology." Work rules should never ever get in the way of positive learning outcomes for the children.

But throughout the politics of press conferences and charges of union-busting, I have yet to see a flag waved on behalf of children. Their learning experience has not even been mentioned!

Well, the schools are required to have a balanced budget by June 30. A June 13 deadline before negotiations go to a fact finder or arbitration is also rapidly approaching. With TFT president Fran Lawrence's announced departure at hand, there also is an incentive for her not to "go out like that," leaving behind the sad memorial of presiding over the district's demise.

The temperature's rising. Get used to it.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min. at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Community Calendar

June 11

St. Stephen's AME Women's Missionary Society Prayer Breakfast: 10 am; Glendale Terrace Community Center: 419-376-5113 or 419-878-0413

West Toledo Bereavement Ministry Monthly Meeting: 10 am; Bethlehem Baptist Church

The City of Zion Youth Empowerment Session: "Life of a Superhero;" Free luncheon: 419-246-1850

St. Philip Lutheran Church Annual Picnic; Ottawa Park; Noon to 4 pm

Jerusalem MBC Youth & Young Adult Choir Annual Concert: 5 pm: 419-248-2139

Mt. Nebo MBC 18th Pastoral Anniversary: Honoring Rev. Cedric and First Lady Debra Brock; 4 pm; Guest Rev. Tellis Chatman of Detroit's Galilee Baptist

June 12

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral Women's Day: 11 am: 419-944-0984

Adopt-A-Son Sunday: 10 am to 4 pm: Take a son, grandson, nephew, neighbor to church; Sit with him in church; Take him to dinner after church

Pentecost Celebration 2011: 6 pm; The Worship Center; Musical guests Pentecost Mass Choir and The Nine Spirituales; Hosts Bishop John Williams, Rev. Pat McKinstry and Min Mark William: 419-810-2483

St. Paul AME Zion Pentecost Sunday: "St. Paul Day;" 11 am worship service; 5 pm service with guest preacher Rev. George Maize and Reunion Choir

June 13-17

United MBC's Vacation Bible School: 5:50 to 8 pm nightly

June 13-24

Grace Temple COGIC "Fun Filled Summer Camp Day;" 9 am to 3 pm; Ages 5 to 16; Field trips, cooking, arts and crafts: 419-242-9321 or 419-343-4658

June 14

Beulah Baptist Church Friends and Family Day: 5 pm; Guest preacher Pastor Scott Isham of Temperance

June 18

R.E.S.T.O.R.E. Inc First Annual Fatherhood Walk: Starts at Central Catholic; Chuck Ealey is keynote speaker; Registration at noon; To raise awareness of the importance of the roles fathers play in their children's lives: 419-377-1488

Libbey HS Round Up Committee Scholarship Banquet: Army National Guard Recruiting Center; 3 pm: 419-250-0491 or 419-255-0433

June 20-21

Canaan Outreach Center Pre-registration for Summer Enrichment Program: 11 am to 3 pm; Program for youth five to 14 years; Math, language arts, physical activity, drama, dance and more: 419-205-7433 or 419-535-0933

June 20-24

9th Annual Cernel Smith Summer Youth Free Football Camp: St. Francis de Sales HS; Grades 3 to 8; Registration at 10 am; Camp from 11 am to 2:50 pm daily: 419-917-3547

June 22-24

Shelter in a Storm Ministries First Pastoral Anniversary: Honoring Mother Pearl Russell; 7 pm nightly; Saturday 5 pm banquet at American Legion Post 553 on S. Byrne: 419-244-7458 or 419-720-9070

June 25

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral Women's Department Color Rama: Noon: 419-508-0885

St. Philip Lutheran Church Community Day: Church parking lot; Food, games, music

New Bethel Bountiful Blessings Church Community Give A Way: 9 am to 3 pm; Gently used items available to the community

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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My Trusty Class Three Decoder ...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.
Guest Column



As some of you may know, I have a sustaining interest in mining data that comes from purported secret or classified files.

I pursue this interest in the belief that the more the public knows about who makes the decisions that can greatly impact their lives and why they are made, you are then a better informed citizen.

Lately, I have been amassing certain documents that seemingly speak to a special language that certain Re-

publican candidate are using when they throw political red meat to their base supporters.

To my amazement and chagrin, I have learned that certain phrases and words are coded and are earmarked for certain hearers only to act upon.

It is akin to a silent dog whistle that only the called upon dog can hear and will respond to.

Without knowing the method by which such "hidden in plain sight" messages are transmitted and decoded, certain bloc of voters are being duped into thinking that what they see and hear on national media is without a double meaning.

Luckily for me (and now for you), a trusted source at the National Republican Headquarters in Virginia Beach, VA reluctantly consented to provide me their Class Three Decoder which will allow those in the know to

really know what is going on.

I have known, "Raoul" (not his real name) for some 27 years and in our former times of engaging in certain acts of civilized news piracy, we developed a bond in which we both pledged support to each other in the area of controlled news leaks for the good of the commonweal.

This is such a time.

The national debate about the upcoming 2012 presidential elections is already rife with buzz words and phrases that on their surface are harmless and even seem patriotic but underneath the elephantine cloak, lies a steely dagger.

This class three decoder is a security word for a specially-developed computer software that is able to take seemingly harmless phrases and decipher their true meaning.

Normally, this class three decoder is used in gathering

highly secretive intelligence from Afghanistan and Syria and Yemen (it helped find Osama bin Laden).

However, this same class three decoder can be programmed to decipher esoteric words and phrases so as to give them their real and common meaning and gist.

My friend, "Raoul" owed me a favor (big time!) when I was able to convince my covert contacts at the State Department to issue instant passports for three of his children who were caught up in a war zone "mishap" in Panama back when General Noriega was in charge.

His kids got out to Costa Rica in the nick of time and Noriega was caught and put in prison. End of story.

However, Raoul consented to lend me 12 minutes of computer time on an IBM Big Blue computer to decipher some of the nonsense coming out of the mouths of certain Republican Party candidates.

Here are those decoded messages. Read and understand them at your own risk of being informed:

(1) Palin: "We want to take our country back."

Meaning: That uppity Negro in the White House needs to be taught a lesson because years ago, he would not get away with lording it over we good people.

(2) Michele Bachmann: "We need to get our country back." Meaning: We good white folks simply cannot stomach any more of those black folks in national government, telling us what to do. They don't look like OR act like us.

(3) Rush Limbaugh: "The man (Obama) is a socialist!" Meaning: He wants to share some of the goodies that we wrongfully stole took from others!"

(4) Glenn Beck: "The man (Obama) is a communist!" Meaning: We cannot control him, so let's label him as an enemy of the USA and maybe something might happen to him!"

(5) Mitt Romney speaking that he enjoyed some of the recent vampire books/films. Meaning: Obama is sucking our blood and we need to put a stake in him (defeat at the polls).

(6) John Boehner speaking about the drastic and deep

cuts in Medicare that the Republican are seeking to do. Meaning: Once we get rid of a lot of these low-income people and deadbeats, we can use those funds to help out our wealthy multi-millionaire friends.

(7) Donald Trump: "Show me your birth certificate and also your grade cards!" Meaning: No American-born black man could be as smart as you. You must be a foreigner and you must have entered Harvard Law School on a whim.

Well, as you can see, the Class Three Decoder did its work and now you can readily assess the lack of character and integrity of the many ninnyes that are running the Republican Party.

So, the next time you hear a seemingly benign phrase that sounds patriotic and "rah-rah!" do not fall for it but contact me and I will use my trusty Class Three Decoder and tell you what is the real meaning behind that Republican gibberish.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at
tolliver@juno.com

Beyond the Big Three

By U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown
Guest Column

Saving the auto industry was critical to saving Ohio jobs.

The auto rescue was not solely about stabilizing the "Big 3" auto companies - Chrysler, GM, and Ford - it was intended to provide a vital life-line to workers in Defiance who manufacture engine blocks and Tiffin workers who build transmissions.

Ohio is second only to Michigan when it comes to supplying auto companies with the tools needed to build cars and trucks. Cars like General Motors' Chevy Cruze and Chrysler's Jeep Wrangler aren't just assembled in Ohio; they're also made with parts manufactured in Ohio.

That's why I refused to give up on the auto suppliers in Akron, car dealers in Canton and machinists in Medina when faced with the choice to either save America's auto industry or allow it to sputter to a stop.

While some Washington politicians maligned hardworking auto workers as "overpaid fat cats" just months after passing a bailout for Wall Street executives without so much as flinching, forward-looking leaders were working to prevent an economic depression in strong manufacturing states like Ohio.

We were determined not to let this industry run into a ditch, because it would have caused an economic crash across the manufacturing sector.

The auto rescue was an unpopular choice, but it was the right decision.

With some 792,000 jobs in Ohio associated with the auto industry - including parts suppliers, automakers, and indirect and spin-off jobs - it was imperative to intervene. Saving Chrysler and the other auto companies meant saving workers in Parma, Holland, and Sidney.

Had GM and Chrysler collapsed, the next fall would have been the supply chain that also supports other industries besides auto. Since Ohio is one of the country's largest manufacturing states, this collapse would have been devastating for middle class families in our state and across the United States. The threat of depression was real.

But thanks to the auto rescue, the Big 3 are back on track - and ordering parts made by manufacturers across Ohio.

In November 2008, 1,000 workers at GM's Lordstown plant were laid off. Today, nearly 5,000 people - and another shift of workers - build the Chevy Cruze, one of the best-selling cars in the nation. But more than that - the Cruze is an Ohio-made car supporting Ohio's economy.

The Cruze's tires are manufactured in Akron, its wheels in Cleveland, its seats in Warren, engine blocks in Defiance, metal from Parma, the transmission in Toledo, the speakers in Springboro.

Out in Toledo, where President Obama and I recently visited, Chrysler is also hiring more workers and stamping the "Made in Ohio" label on its Jeep Wrangler.

The auto rescue also ensures that American-made cars are made with more American-made parts.

Prior to the auto rescue, only 55 percent of the parts in Chrysler's Jeep Wrangler were made in America.

Today, 70 percent of the Jeep Wrangler is American-made.

The glass is made in Crestline, Ohio, the steering column in Perrysburg, the seats in Northwood, the hard top in Carey, and cargo components in Holmesville.

So in many ways, investing in the auto industry was an investment in Ohio's supply chain.

When things looked bleak - and when no one wanted to stand with workers or auto companies - we didn't give up on American auto companies or American manufacturing.

And that's because we know - throughout our history - that a strong manufacturing sector is essential to our nation's economic strength and prosperity.

The American auto industry is back, and Ohio facilities are on the front lines of this resurgence. We knew it could be done.

We're on the right road.

Register Now! Classes Start June 20!

If you care about kids, join our tightly woven community of foster parents!

Lucas County Children Services needs foster and adoptive families for teens with special needs and groups of three or more siblings. Our FREE foster/adoptive parent training classes run June 20-27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can complete your training in just six days!

Becoming a foster or adoptive parent is easier than you think. You...



- Must be at least 18 years of age to adopt; 21 to become a foster parent.
- Can be single or married.
- Can live in a house or apartment, as long as there's enough space and beds for each child.
- Can own or rent.
- Don't need a college degree.
- Must show that you have enough income to meet your own needs.
- Must complete the free, required training classes.
- Should be able to pass a background check.

Classes are held at the Lucas County Training Center, 705 Adams Street. Space is limited; please reserve your seat today.



Call 419-213-3336 to register today!

Parents – You have the power, use it! Talk to your teen about the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

The risks associated with underage drinking are sobering. According to a report from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), underage alcohol use kills more young people than all illegal drugs combined. More than 40 percent of individuals who start drinking before the age of 13 will develop alcohol abuse or alcohol dependence at some point in their lives.

Teenagers find themselves at a crossroads, especially during the months of April – June where they find themselves enjoying prom and graduation parties. One bad decision can impact their entire future. Parents should intervene now before an irreversible choice has been made. MADD's "The Power of Parents, It's Your Influence" program offers the following tips for getting through to your teen:

Communicate before a problem starts. Have important discussions now, before there's blaming anger, or

punishments.

Discuss rules and consequences. Explain how you expect your son or daughter to act, and why. Tell your teen plainly that you don't want him or her drinking. Agree on consequences of broken rules.

Show you care. Gently touch your teen on the arm or back to show affection. Tell your teen you love them and want them to be healthy and safe. Explain that's why you need to talk together about the dangers of underage drinking.

Pay attention. Even when life gets hectic, take time out to listen to your teen. Monitor where your teen is and what your teen is doing, constantly.

Share family activities. Have dinner together at least three times a week.

Give and get respect. When your teen talks to you, listen and reply respectfully. Insist that your teen treat you with respect, too.

Enforce consequences consistently. If your teen

breaks the rules, stay calm and enforce the consequences.

Dr. Bonnie Kauffmann, Director of Unison Behavioral Health Group's Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program for Youth encourages parents to intervene - - even when it seems like your teen does not care. Dr. Kauffmann states that, "based on the stage of their brain development, adolescents are more likely to: act on impulse, misread or misinterpret social cues and emotions, get into accidents of all kinds, get involved in fights, engage in dangerous or risky behavior. We also know that adolescents are less likely to: think before they act, pause to consider the potential consequences of their actions, modify their dangerous or inappropriate behaviors." The teenage brain *is* different and being aware of these differences can help parents and concerned adults manage the behavior of adolescents. Dr. Kauffmann reminds parents

that "74% of kids (8-17) said their parents are the leading influence on their decisions about drinking."

Dr. Bonnie Kauffmann and the staff at Unison Behavioral Health Group know all too well that addiction is a developmental disease, typically beginning in adolescence. Dr. Kauffmann's team currently treats 100 adolescents who suffer from substance abuse and dependence disorders. The teens involved in Unison's program often have family and school problems, poor academic performance, health problems (including mental health), and involvement in the juvenile justice system. These teens often begin to abuse alcohol and/or drugs during times of transition, such as changing schools, moving, or divorce.

Dr. Kauffmann advises parents, caregivers, and concerned adults to recognize that youth diagnosed with the following mental health disorders are at an increased risk for substance abuse: attention deficit disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and psychotic disorders like bipolar disorder. Warning signs to look for include: sudden changes in personality, drop in school performance and attendance, sudden and frequent outbursts (temper tantrums), increasing conflict

with family members, withdrawal from responsibility, changes in peer group, borrowing/stealing money, difficulty concentrating, loss of interest in hobbies, secretive behavior regarding actions and possessions, change in appearance, poor grooming habits, and redness around the eyes or face.

Unison Behavioral Health Group treats youth ages 11-17 with substance abuse and dependence disorders, including behavioral health disorders. Through an integrated team approach, the program offers clients and their families the option of receiving services in their home or in our offices at 1212 Cherry Street. Program components include:

Diagnostic Assessment – a comprehensive assessment of AOD and behavioral health issues scheduled within 48 hours.

Home-Based Services – individual, family counseling and case management services can be provided in the client's home.

Intensive Outpatient (IOP) – psycho-educational groups meet Monday through Thursday, two hours per day for six weeks. Family members participate in one group per week along with their child. Participants learn new coping behaviors without using drugs or alcohol.

Aftercare – aftercare groups meet two days per week for 1 ½ hours each day for eight weeks following the completion of IOP. Aftercare focuses on preventing relapse and continued recovery.

Extended Care – individual, family, and community-based counseling. Extended Care participants focus on strengthening their sobriety plans and maintaining healthy relationships.

Case Management – case management services assist and support individuals in gaining access to needed medical, social, educational and other services essential to meeting basic human needs.

Individual and Family Counseling

Crisis Intervention – available to current clients and their families through Unison's 24 access program.

Youth involved with Unison's substance abuse treatment program also have full access to the agency's psychiatric services.

Professionals and family members who are concerned about a child's behavior and suspect a mental health condition and/or substance abuse, can obtain information and support by calling Unison Behavioral Health Group at 419-693-0631 or visiting the agency's website at www.unisonbhg.org



St. Paul's Community Center to Open Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless

Special to The Truth

St. Paul's Community Center (SPCC) was recently notified by HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) that they have been awarded \$399,000 for a two-year funding cycle to provide Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) to the chronically homeless that are Severely and Persistently Mentally Ill.

The grant allows St. Paul's to provide 16 one-bedroom apartments for individuals to live independently. Permanent "Supportive" Housing includes case management, mental health and drug/alcohol recovery and prevention services.

The ability to provide permanent housing to clients is a first for SPCC.

The new PSH Program which begins July 1, 2011 will provide housing for the Severely and Persistently Mentally Ill and require ongoing support services. The goal for SPCC has always been to stabilize and ultimately house individuals in order to prevent homelessness.

While the grant will provide for rent, utility, maintenance and the support services the apartments will still require new home furnishings. SPCC is in need of donations for the apartments. Items needed are: new twin beds, dinettes, couch or chair and smaller items like silverware, towels, linens, dishes, glassware, and other miscellaneous household items.

If anyone is interested in donating please contact Abbey Mortemore at (419)255-5520 x 224 or through e-mail at amortemore@spcc-toledo.org, or Brittany Sayre at (419)255-5520 x 216.

Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section

BCSN Announces 2011 Student and Teacher of the Year

Special to The Truth



On Monday May 16, 2011, BCSN hosted their fifth annual Scholarship Awards dinner at the Pinnacle. Keon Pearson of St. Francis, who will be attending Harvard College in the fall, was named the BCSN Student of the Year. The Teacher of the Year award went to Jackie Kane, St. Ursula Academy.

The Buckeye CableSystem, BCSN Student of the Year program is administered by Toledo Community Foundation, and recognizes select college-bound seniors who will be attending an accredited school of higher education in the United States in the fall of 2011.

Each month (October 2010 – May 2011), a Student of the Month was chosen from those applications submitted by the High School counselors whose schools are located within the Buckeye CableSystem Toledo Service area. Each student of the month qualifies for a \$1,500 scholarship to an accredited school of higher education in the United States.

The Student of the Year Scholarship is worth a minimum of \$16,000.00 which can be applied towards tuition, room and board (on campus), books and fees. The renewable scholarship will be awarded in increments of \$4,000.00 annually, provided the student maintains a 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. and full time status. Local sponsors of the program include The Andersons, Banner Mattress & Furniture, Directions Credit Union, Regency Hospital of Toledo and Stautzenberger

College.

The eight local students recommended for the award: Patricia Castillo, Waite High School; Laura Denyer, Sylvania Northview High School; Jennifer Hollen, Whiteford High School; Connor Kenney, Start High School; Isabelle Lishewski, St. Ursula Academy; Olivia O'Reilly, Sylvania Southview High School; Keon Pearson, St. Francis de Sales High School; Adam Weber, Perrysburg High School. This is the third year that BCSN and Toledo Community Foundation offered the

Teacher of the Year program for exemplary educators in the area to be recognized for the difference they make in the lives of students. The Buckeye CableSystem, BCSN Teacher of the Year program is administered by Toledo Community Foundation, recognizing High School teachers within the Buckeye CableSystem Toledo Service area for inspiring students to learn, displaying innovation and excellence in the classroom.

One Teacher of the Month was announced each month (October 2010 – May 2011). From this group of eight Teachers of the Month, one Teacher of the Year was selected.

The Teacher of the Year will receive a \$1,000 cash award, a gift for their classroom (value of up to \$1,500), and a \$10,000 endowed scholarship fund in their name from which one scholarship will be awarded through the school on an annual basis in perpetuity. Local sponsors include Lock-it-Up Self Storage, Tim Hortons and YMCA/JCC of Greater Toledo.

The eight local teachers recommend for the award: Chuck Cox, Rossford High School; Jackie Kane, St. Ursula Academy; Allison Mackin, Maumee High School; Stacey Miller, Maumee High School; Marcia Punsalan, Clay High School; Jim Schall, Springfield

High School; Becky Schardt, Waite High School; Jeanette Utter, Rogers High School.

All applications for both programs are reviewed by Toledo Community Foundation Board and Scholarship Advisory Committee members. Both programs will be offered again through the eligible schools in August.

Mom's House Celebrates Seven Graduates and First Doctoral Graduate

Special to The Truth

Mom's House held their graduation ceremony at Walbridge Park Shelter House on May 31 and honored seven graduates from local high schools and colleges and one pre-schooler into kindergarten. This year Mom's House graduated their first doctoral candidate in the history of the organization, continuing to be a part of the solution and produce amazing success stories in spite of statistics.

Lucas County continues to rank high in the area of teenage pregnancy. Sixty percent of those young parents will drop out of school and continue cycles of poverty and at-risk behavior. Also alarming is the national subsequent or repeat pregnancy rate. Almost a quarter of teen mothers have a second pregnancy before the age of 20.

With these statistics, it is crucial that local community organizations like Mom's House provide effective programs that aid in preventing first time and subsequent teenage pregnancies. Studies show that programs that motivate youth to achieve higher levels of education as well as provide instruction on relationships and sexual attitudes, a stable environment and mentoring opportunities, work in preventing these pregnancies. At Mom's House the repeat pregnancy rate is under three percent.

This year's graduates are: Gina Fell – Polly Fox Academy; Kailey Anne Hintz – Start High School; Kamara Jefferson – Polly Fox Academy; Mariah Marie Ruiz – Woodward High School; Courtney Hooven – Mercy College; Kristi McCoy Pierson – Mercy College; Tanoya Harris – UT College of Medicine, Ph.D. in biomedical science. Graduating pre-school was Katelyn Smith.

THIRD IN A SERIES

Letters from the Heart

My mom was able to hold her grandson again, thanks to Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Before they arrived, she was in too much pain for my son to be on her lap. But they got it under control.
Tim, 1985

My wife and I were treated with dignity by the Hospice of Northwest Ohio team. Sometimes, they knew my feelings even before I did, and offered support and encouragement.
John, 2007

Hospice of Northwest Ohio showed respect and compassion for my grandma. Their experts came in and instead of worrying, we could just be with her and love her.
Katie, 2009

Share your story.

For 30 years, families have been writing to Hospice of Northwest Ohio to share how we helped them and their loved ones. The sooner you seek our expertise and support, the more we can do to help make end-of-life experiences the best possible.

Visit hospicenwo.org
419-661-4001 (OHio)
734-568-6801 (Michigan)

HOSPICE
OF NORTHWEST OHIO
30 years
THOUSANDS OF LIVES TOUCHED.

Congratulations to the class of 2011!



This year's Valedictorians and Salutatorians: pictured from the left, front row: Quantasha L. Willingham, Karen Kae Neff, Tiffine Nicole Guindon, Jennifer Mary Cousino, Emily Clare Lemon, Erin Orzechowski and Uwaila Okungbowa. Pictured from the left, back row: Donald Walker, Jr., Ashley Marie Gokey, Connor Lester Kenney, Danielle Elizabeth Thomas, Amira Amanda Najjar, Joshua Steven Lynch, David Thomas Stewart and Os'Sad Kareem Shaheer. Not Pictured: Joy Angela Reason

Toledo Public Schools congratulates the Top 10 students from each of its high schools and extends best wishes to the entire class of 2011.

Bowsher High School: David Thomas Stewart, Emily Clare Lemon, Kirby Jewell, Johanna A. Black, Jordan E. Miller, Gordon Michael Huffman, Savannah Hill, Sirena Mason, Kirsten Long, Sirena Mason.

Rogers High School: Os'Sad Kareem Shaheer, Uwaila Okungbowa, Taylor Joyner, Renee Lynn Modrowski, Zachary Callaway, Rakiya Byrd, Jamiyria M. Holmes, Bradley Joseph Fuelling, Angelo Lizcano, Miquael Antae Polk.

Scott High School: Donald Walker, Jr., Quantasha Shawanda Willingham, Tasia Lynett Chaney, Erica Marie C. Parker, Blossom Marie Mitchell, Jerold Davis, Shahkea Monique Roscoe, Artisha Johnson, Lucille Francis Carter, Jose Dickson.

Start High School: Connor Lester Kenney, Danielle Elizabeth Thomas, Taylour Monique Upton, Andrew Klein, Joshua Ray Maurer, Kelsea Lynn Newland, Caitlin F. Shadler, Jessica Nicole Koch, Samantha Carol Bennett, Torey Logan Meinen.

Toledo Early College High School: Amira Amanda Najjar, Joy Angela Reason, Ivan Briceno Palacios, Ariel S. Austin, Melanie Buno, Ashley Nochie Stephens, Elizabeth Jean Adams, Briana Edmonds, Brett Michael Notheis, Taylor E. Brogan.

Toledo Technology Academy: Erin Orzechowski, Joshua Steven Lynch, Louis Michael Freeman, Alexander Michael Weiss, Brandon Johnson, Dustin Alex Reitzel, Sebastian Sky Fisher, Eric R. Gullikson, Kathryn Grace Boerst, Isaiah Neeper.

Waite High School: Karen Kae Neff, Ashley Marie Gokey, Patricia Ann Castillo, Aurora Angelita Esquivel, Jan Wesley Stockman, Jr., Jamie Louise Maginnis, Brittany Marie Smith, Jennifer Nichole Mitchell, Stephanie Ann Lance, Keianda Marie Jones.

Woodward High School: Tiffine Nicole Guindon, Jennifer Mary Cousino, Julie Bitter, Cory Jason Watson, Cora Burford, Brittany Harris, Shane Vasquez, Alvelia Ann Farmer, Seth Taylor Williams, Ashley Marie Gawle.

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Toledo High School Students to Travel to National Competition in Maryland

Special to The Truth

Three students from Toledo Early College High School will travel to College Park, Maryland to compete in the national level of the National History Day competition on June 14, 2011.

Sophomore Miyah Grant and freshmen Jesus Cordova and Erica Norris won the Ohio NHD competition in the group website category with their site "Whose Choice is it Anyway?", an examination of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision.

The website's topic and title was a reflection of the 2011 NHD theme "Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures and Consequences."

Students from Toledo Early College High School have performed well at the regional and state competitions in years past, including multiple regional winners and state honorable mentions.

Norris, Grant and Cordova comprise the first group

to make it to the national competition.

They are also the first students from the Toledo Public

Schools system to make it to the national competition.

The NHD competitors from Toledo Early College

High School are advised and coordinated by teachers Mona Al-Hayani and Randy Nissen.

The students will attend the June 14 competition with teacher Randy Nissen, social studies department chair at

Toledo Early College High School.



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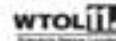


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A Few of the Best and Brightest of the Class of 2011

By Fletcher Word

The Sojourner's Truth Editor

Every year at this time we spend a little time and space highlighting the accomplishments of a few of the Toledo area's best and brightest minority students and every year we are delighted to discover that the bad news of the previous nine months – lack of educational attainment, high drop out rates, bad report cards, etc – has another side to it.

So it has been this year, and even more so than in most years. We again present a few of the area's best and brightest. Meet a couple of future physicians, a lawyer or two, an Army officer, an architect and a current and future entrepreneur.

But we emphasize, these are only a few. The academic stars among this year's class of graduating seniors seems to be deeper than ever and there are so many talented, hard-working young men and women that it was virtually impossible to spotlight them all.

Nevertheless, here are a few. Take a bow, kids, for the entire class of 2011.

Savannah Hill

Savannah Hill, seventh in her class of 294 at Bowsher High School, will be

attending The University of Toledo in the fall on a variety of scholarships including one for Army ROTC. It is entirely possible, however, that Savannah's stay at UT will be brief.

An Army brat – her father Eric Hill is retired Army – Savannah will be applying to West Point next year even as she starts her college academic career focusing on mechanical engineering. Whether or not West Point is in her future, the Army certainly is. She will be making a career in the armed forces as an engineer.

Savannah's high school career has been outstanding in every aspect. She has a stellar grade point average, was an active member of the National Honor Society,



playing basketball, volleyball and track and field – captain of the basketball season in her final year, was president of the Bowsher DECA chapter for two years and was treasurer of the student body.

She didn't get a lot of rest when she wasn't at school either. Hearts for the Homeless, blood drives, Help for Haiti, tutoring and so forth

And, as with all of these outstanding students, Savannah's accomplishments did not take place in a vacuum.

Her father was a military role model, her mother, says Savannah, "inspires me to be my best" and teacher David Erdman, her DECA advisor, "believed in me – gave me the drive to do well."

Donald Walker

Meet the valedictorian of Scott High School, one of three valedictorians in this group. Donald "DJ" Walker also has the distinction of having been named the Ohio Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for "his sound character, leadership and willingness to give back to the community." That's the highest honor a member can receive from the club (The Truth, April 20).

In the fall, DJ will be off



to The Ohio State University where he plans to major in psychology or perhaps put together a major that focuses on both psychology and technology. After that, graduate school in psychology or, perhaps, medical school to become a psychiatrist.

This summer, his work with the Boys & Girls Clubs will continue. He will compete against other state winners in the Midwest Region and, if named a regional winner, will receive an additional \$10,000 scholarship. Five regional winners will head to Washington, D.C. to compete for the title of National Youth of the Year.

DJ has found all sorts of motivation to succeed as he has. His grandmother, who raised him, started pushing him early on to keep his grades up. "Nowadays, you need schooling to do anything," she told him frequently.

On the other hand, as he looked around at his family in its entirety, nowhere did he see an example of educational attainment. He will be the first to head off to college.

"I wanted to do better," he says.

That he will.

Taylor Upton

We first reported on Taylor Upton several weeks ago (The Truth, May 18), when during the Toledo Public Schools Foundation annual Salute to Scholars fete, she received four scholarships from area engineering/architecture/construction firms. That was more than fitting. For years now, Taylor, a graduate of Start High School (third in her graduating class), has been pointing to exactly what will happen next – entering The Ohio State University's prestigious architecture program.

"I knew I wanted to do



something involving art and being creative," she says of the decision to become an architect.

To that end, she spent her high school career focusing on those classes that would help her reach that goal – art, math and CAD tech, for example.

Along the way, she found plenty of time to get involved in competitions sponsored by the American Institute of Architects on the local and regional level. For her troubles, she earned a first place as a junior in the 60th annual Toledo area high school design competition.

And she spent a little time in the community – lots of time actually – working for such causes as breast cancer, diabetes, autism.

"She is, in short, a complete student and a well-rounded person," wrote one of teachers in a reference for one of the many scholarships she received.

That teacher, Richard Rose, who instructed her in CAD tech and architect design, was one of Taylor's inspirations at Start, she says. One of the adults in her life that kept her on pace during these past four years.

Now she has about six years of school ahead of her. In 10 years from now, she expects to be a respected professional with a national reputation but before that, she hopes to return to her hometown and help re-design the Toledo downtown. Thank goodness. That can't happen too soon, can it?

Johnathon Bush



When we get all these kids together for a little celebration, Johnathon Bush will bring the cookies. The Central Catholic High School graduate started his cookie business, Not Just Cookies, Inc. way back in 2006 and it just took off (The Truth, April 13). His products are in a number of stores in the areas – Monettes, the Andersons on Talmadge, Churchills on Central – along with The Huntington Center.

In May, Johnathon received the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) scholarship/Daniel J. Mirto Young Entrepreneur

Award – one of only two Ohioans to win this scholarship.

Johnathon started his entrepreneurial enterprise by sending off letters to family and friends. Over the years, he opened a website and created a spin-off company, Cookie Dough, that specializes in helping fund raising efforts for worthy charitable causes.

And why did he decide at the tender age of 13 to go into business for himself? Because who hires a 13-year old, he determined – correctly.

"I realized I could start my own business," he recalls. "Since I had experience, my goal was to make money in lieu of a job."

Now it's on to The University of Toledo. Most of this group is headed out of town for college. Not Johnathon. He may be headed for higher education, but he still has a company to run.

Try the turtle cookies – a chocolate cookie with caramel, pecans and chocolate chips. This one will knock your socks off.

Olivia Phifer

When we last visited with Olivia Phifer ... well, it was just last week, in fact (The Truth, June 1), she was wowing the crowd at the 47th Annual Debutante Cotillion presented by the Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs at the Stranahan.

Olivia, who will be entering Howard University this fall to study broadcast journalism, won the Miss Outstanding Talent with her oratorical presentation and was named Miss Debutante 2011.

The Maumee Valley Country Day School graduate, as with so many of these students highlighted here, will be maintaining her busy schedule during the summer before heading to college. Earlier this spring, she won the Toledo NAACPACT-SO competition in oratory for her performance of the Fannie Lou Hamer Declaration. She's headed to Los Angeles at the end of July to compete with other regional winners in the same category.

And lest one think all of that wasn't enough to fill her



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A Few of the Best and Brightest of the Class of 2011

By Fletcher Word

The Sojourner's Truth Editor

schedule of the past few years, think again.

Olivia was co-president of MVCDS's Afro-America Club, first violin with the Toledo Youth Orchestra, a regional officer for Jack & Jill of America and ran track on the varsity team. In the fall, Howard may well provide a little R & R for the hyper-active Olivia.

She was also accepted at Depaul, Xavier and Spellman, among other colleges.

Such accomplishments run in the Phifer family. Her older sister, Victoria, also an outstanding orator, recently graduated from Howard.

Derrick Mitchell

Another graduate of Central Catholic, Derrick Mitchell will be heading to The Ohio State University in the fall to study international



business and financial planning. After college, it's on to law school.

And just how is Derrick planning to pay for those undergraduate years? No problem. In May he received the Gates Millennium Scholarship (funded by Bill and Melinda Gates) – a full four-year scholarship that includes tuition, books and a stipend. Derrick is one of only 1,000 students in the nation to receive this prestigious scholarship and one of only three Ohioans.

And why has Derrick set his sights so high? His father has been incarcerated since Derrick was very young, a fact he has used as motivation to reach such success as a scholar.

And with his father absent for all those years, who better than to fill complete the parenting role than the women in the family. He credits mother Nicole James, grandmother, Rose Parker, and his aunts with supplying the necessary assistance.

"The women in my family have kept me driven," he says. Central Catholic was a big help in that endeavor, he adds. Over the years he has appreciated the school's "diversity, spirit and joy of family" that he has always felt a part of, giving special credit to teacher Connie Peebles who "made me open my eyes and see the world in a wider fashion ... that it is more than just me."

The Truth asked Derrick where he finished with his grade point average in his graduating class.

"I have no idea," he says. "I never pay attention to numbers. I pay attention to the next task."

The next task is coming up this fall in Columbus.

Lee Ann Song

Lee Ann Song, valedictorian of her class at Southview



High School, began studying cello at the age of seven under her father, Yang Kun Song. That was about four years after she took up the piano.

Now, the principal cellist with the Toledo Youth Orchestra, Lee Ann was recently selected to perform at Carnegie Hall as principal cellist with the National High School Honors Orchestra. She has won numerous competitions including the Ohio Buckeye String Competition at the state level and the Graves Piano Competition.

In December 2009, Lee Ann organized a benefit concert to promote cultural awareness and musical diversity, raising money to benefit the musical education of Tanzanian students.

Quite frankly, we don't have enough room to recite all of this young woman's musical accomplishments. Suffice it to say, they are numerous and wide spread. She has, for example, toured a half dozen countries with the Toledo International Youth Orchestra.

At Southview she was a member of the Speech and Debate team, the tennis team, president of the Spanish Club, in the Student Senate, Interact and Dance for a Chance.

In her spare time, she has been a contributor to The Truth (March 30, 2011) writing about her travels abroad.

Do not be misled into thinking that, with all her academic and musical accomplishments and the hard work that forged that success, Lee Ann doesn't have a whimsical bone in her body. Last year she entered the National American Miss Pageant and was second runner-up in the talent competition in California.

In the fall, Lee Ann will enter Harvard College with plans of eventually becoming a physician ... or a musician ... or both most probably.

Keon Pearson

Did you really think we



wouldn't include Keon Pearson in this group? Really?

The BCSN Student of the Year, recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship (one of three in Ohio), first African-American valedictorian of St. Francis de Sales High School and, most significantly, a reporter for The Truth!

Yes, we know, you're probably tired of hearing about Keon by now. We get that. He's gotten more press during his senior year than Toledo's mayor and has racked up almost as many frequent flyer miles as hizzoner – flying off to Ivy League colleges, making speeches, accepting awards.

In this issue alone, he's mentioned in about half the articles, it seems. Well, if the Keon watch has worn you out, the good news for you is that he will be leaving town soon – entering Harvard in

the fall. And a student for the ages will become a memory for most Toledoans.

We're not going to replay all the details of Keon's senior year, he's been doing that himself all year (the second issue of each month). We just want to re-cap one bit of information about this year of years.

Harvard wanted to, and eventually would, offer him early admission, a rare achievement that usually only goes to the highly-sought after – such as starathletes. Yes, Virginia, even Harvard needs a competitive football team and a top-notch hockey team.

So Harvard called his local interviewer last fall and said, unless you give him some really low marks after your chat, we're going to offer him early admission.

After the conversation between Keon and the alumnus, Harvard received a report that declared it was the best interview that that alumnus had ever had with an applicant. How's that for a slam dunk?

So what puts the finishing

touch on a such memorable senior year?

Last week, Keon was the escort for Olivia Phifer when she was named Miss Debutante 2011 – just a few hours after giving his valedictory address at the St. Francis graduation.

Pretty fair year, wouldn't you say?

Thank you, seniors, and not just these seniors. Thanks to all of the TPS Foundation Scholarship winners, the 50 Men & Women honorees, the EXCEL students and the host of SENELs throughout the area who worked hard, applied yourselves and are leaving behind a multitude of proud families, friends, teachers and mentors. Thanks for showing all those following in your path what it takes to get it done properly.

With success comes the obligation to continue to do those things that have brought you success in the first place.

We know you will continue to do just that!



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St. Francis Knight Life: a Chronicle Part X

By Keon Pearson

Sojourner's Truth Reporter



cially palatable, valediction or would I say what really needed to be said? If I chose the former, everyone in the audience would politely comment on how wonderful the speech was and then forget everything I said! However, if I chose the latter and said what I truly felt and thought, then the audience would not know how to react, and I would likely be remembered in a not-so-favorable light.

Before I entered high school, I had this one goal in mind: I would be valedictorian of my class. I was not being arrogant: I simply had confident assurance that I was capable of accomplishing this goal. The only force that could preclude my success would be my own doubt. So I extirpated those doubts, set myself to work and, four years later, I accomplished my goal!

On May 28, 2011 at the Peristyle of the art museum, I delivered the valediction to the St. Francis de Sales High School graduating class of 2011.

When I was in the process of writing my speech, I had a tough decision to make. Would I give a trite, but so-

cially palatable, valediction or would I say what really needed to be said? If I chose the former, everyone in the audience would politely comment on how wonderful the speech was and then forget everything I said! However, if I chose the latter and said what I truly felt and thought, then the audience would not know how to react, and I would likely be remembered in a not-so-favorable light.

Here's why: The common thought is that by becoming the first African-American valedictorian, I have shown that St. Francis is a school where anyone can succeed, regardless of their race. I disagree somewhat with the common consensus. While it is true that St. Francis is a wonderful environment, and while it is true that I could not have asked for a better education than the one I received from St. Francis, it is also very true that it has taken 55 years for an African American, or any minority for that matter, to graduate at the top of his class. This fact signals to me that St. Francis needs to improve the ethnic diversity that exists in the student body.

Finally, I decided to speak

my mind. Why couldn't I just deliver a cliché address and be forgotten like any good valedictorian? The answer is simple: I was in a position to be heard. I never would have forgiven myself if I didn't do all that I could to improve the situation of minorities in education.

The challenge remained to find a way to deliver my thoughts in such a way that I did not sound like a bitter black man castigating the school. Remember, I truly do love St. Francis. I simply want to make it a better place.

Here are some excerpts from the speech:

"We 136 members of the class of 2011 have successfully entered, endured and, in a few moments, shall exit the process transforming us into Knights of St. Francis de Sales. We are chivalrous, insanely brilliant and ravishingly handsome. Oh, and of course, we're humble, too!"

What becomes of young men who possess these characteristics? If I had to answer this question (and, let's be honest, I have to answer this question), I would hazard an educated guess that some of us will become successful

business men and attorneys, physicians and engineers, singers and actors, and family men."

"Wherever we are, and whatever we do, intrinsic to our very essence will be St. Francis de Sales. Knights, we are the men that we are today, in large part because of St. Francis. We were not born Knights, we were made into Knights; and because we are Knights, we will always give back to St. Francis de Sales."

"St. Francis is on an unceasing journey, continually ascending that continuum between a great school, and a perfectly ideal school. Consider the progress that we've made:

At one time, St. Francis was almost exclusively composed of Catholics. If this were still the case, I, as a non-Catholic, would not be standing here today. Take that for what it is worth. From my experience, though, I can honestly say that understanding the faiths and beliefs of

others has actually helped to fortify the faith of Catholic students. You see, you can only fully mature in your faith if you have contrasted it with faiths outside of your own.

There was likely some resistance to opening the door to other faiths, but St. Francis made the right decision, and we are better off because of it."

"What makes St. Francis a great school is that, amidst an ever-changing world, it remains steadfast in its commitment to its mission to shape young men into gentlemen. Simultaneously it promotes and communicates that mission in a language that is keenly sensitive to the world around it.

That world is becoming increasingly diverse, and if St. Francis is to maintain its position as a pillar in the community, it must meet the challenge of becoming more ethnically diverse. This is the next stage in St. Francis' development, and the class of

2011 will be instrumental in effecting that change. We are celebrating a milestone today by hearing the first African-American, indeed the first minority, valedictorian in the history of St. Francis de Sales High School.

But Knights, let us not be satisfied with this symbolic triumph, especially when there is progress yet to be made. For example, not counting the foreign language department, we currently have zero ethnic minorities teaching full-time in the classroom. With a predominantly white student body, minorities face pressure either to assimilate entirely or face ostracism.

These are issues that act as roadblocks on our journey towards the ideal state, but I have full confidence that we will successfully overcome these obstacles. We've done it in the past, and we will do it in the future."

Sign up for Library's Summer Reading Club 2011 Online, by Mobile Phone, or In Person!

By Rhonda B. Sewell, Library Media Relations Coordinator
Special to The Truth

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Summer Reading Club 2011 (SRC) runs now through August 6! Participating is easy, you can register from your neighborhood branch Library, and online or from your mobile phone at src.toledolibrary.org!

You can participate in SRC 2011 no matter what your age! Infants and preschoolers can have an adult read to them in the program. It's never too early to start reading to your child! Build the daily reading habit and your child will develop important pre-reading skills. Teens and adults can participate in the Library's Summer Reading Club too!

Ask your librarian for an entry form or print one from the Library's Web site by logging on to toledolibrary.org.

Not only do we make it easy for you to sign up, but there are fantastic prizes in store for you! Depending on which age category you participate in, prizes range from gift cards, to SRC book bags, snack containers, silly bandz, and even a Sony Netbook Computer, Barnes and Noble Nook Color or Amazon Kindle! WOW!

A list of prizes (with photographs) are on src.toledolibrary.org.

Sign up for SRC 2011 TODAY, don't wait another minute!

For more details, please call 419.259.5200.

African-American Students Graduate from St. Francis de Sales High School

Special to The Truth

The St. Francis de Sales High School Class of 2011 has 136 seniors (14 African American) who recently graduated May 28 at the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle. It is worth noting that among the many achievements and honors bestowed on this class, 100 percent have been accepted into one or more colleges of choice, with total acceptances to more than 100 schools including Harvard University, Yale University, Michigan University, University of Notre Dame, Boston College, Marquette University, Amherst College, Villanova University, Ohio State University, Brown University, University of Toledo, Miami University, Northwestern University, Pomona College, University of Chicago, Hillsdale College, Xavier University, John Carroll University, and Lourdes College.

Academic and athletic scholarships totaling \$14 million were awarded to 104 students of the graduating class. Advanced Placement Examinations were taken in 19 subject areas by 103 students.

Keon Pearson is the valedictorian of the class. The Gates Millennium Scholarship and the Ron Brown Scholarship have been awarded to Pearson. Pearson is a National Merit Finalist and a National Achievement Finalist. Four other students are National Merit Commended Scholars.

There are 61 seniors who have been recognized as All-Academic Athletes with many of them playing in more than one varsity sport.

One student has been appointed to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and one student has received the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship sponsored by the Western Golf Association/Evans Scholar Foundation. The class has 54 Honor Students and 27 seniors are members of the National Honor Society.

This class has contributed more than 13,000 hours in community service to 115 local organizations, in Appalachia, and U.S. inner cities.

Students graduating with honors (*) have a GPA of at least 3.667, with high honors (**) have a GPA of at least 4.0 and with highest honors (***) have a GPA of at least 4.333. Membership in the National Honor Society (NHS) is also noted. The college or university the student plans to attend follows his name.

Congratulations to the following African-American graduates:

*Xavier Alexander Braxton, Kent State University
Dante Marquise Gessner, U of Toledo
Bradley Hendricks Jr., Owens Community College
Maurice Mandel Jones Jr., U of Toledo
Alexandro Ray Lerma, Owens Community College
Michael Tre'von Mack, Heidelberg College
Aaron Michael Meekins, Miami University (Oxford OH)*

*Aaron Michael Lee Miller, Morgan State U
Keon Kevon Pearson***NHS, Harvard U
Cental Travis Ross, Owens Community College
Rashad Trey Shuler, BGSU
Eric James Taylor, John Carroll U
Miles Kendall Walker, U of Toledo
Marcus Jamal Williams, U of Toledo*



TPS Foundation Salute to Scholars

It is the highlight of the academic year for Toledo Public Schools. It is Salute to Scholars: A Celebration of Learning, the annual banquet where 58 students and one educator received \$117,500 in college scholarships, classroom grants, and student enrichment funds through the Toledo Public Schools Foundation.

The TPS Foundation, through the generosity of donors has awarded nearly \$700,000 since its establishment in 1999 to enhance education and reward outstanding and deserving students and educators.

"Thanks to our many donors," Susan Zurawski, executive director of the Toledo Public Schools Foundation, said, "students and educators have boundless opportunities to further their



academic and professional careers." "The TPS Foundation has grown every year in the number of scholarships and grants awarded and their monetary amount, testimony to the largesse of the greater Toledo community and its residents' vision that a solid education begins right here at home."

"Higher education remains the key to a better future for our young students by enabling them to reach their full potential, and private support is critical. Our donors who lead by example and generosity want to help students to develop their dreams and provide them with the tools and skills needed to make those dreams come true. This is quite literally a gift of a lifetime," states Deborah Barnett, president of the Toledo Public Schools Foundation. "We take great pride in our students. This is a positive and inspiring story for and about our students who have displayed wisdom, maturity, compassion, and a commitment to their futures. As our students graduate, we hope they make a difference in our community and beyond," concludes Barnett.

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Book Review

If Sons, Then Heirs by Lorene Cary

c.2011, Atria

\$24.00 / \$27.99 Canada

306 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You never got Grandma's recipe book.

You didn't get Grandpa's favorite pocketknife, either, and that little knick-knack you loved - a china reminder of childhood - went to a cousin who cherished it, too.

But that's okay. While you never inherited tangible things from your grandparents - no favored bowl or lucky coin - they left you better legacies: strength,

knowledge, and a sense of who you are.

For fifty years, Selma Needham kept a farm for her great-grandson, Rayne. She knew he would care for it, just as his great-grandad had. But in the new novel *If Sons, Then Heirs* by Lorene Cary, the passing-down may never come to pass.

Jewell Thompson was sorry for a lot of things in her life. Most of all, she was sorry that, all those years ago,

she'd put her seven-year-old son on a train by himself and sent him to North Carolina for her folks to raise.

Jewell was a bad mother then. She wished she could make it up to her boy, now a man.

Alonzo Freeman Rayne never had a bad childhood, though he always wondered why his mother sent him to the farm. When he looked back, though, he had a pretty good bringing-up. Grandpa

The Toledo Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Lucas County Health Department / Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program is working hard to raise community awareness about the hazardous health effects of childhood lead poisoning in our community. Lead poisoning is the number one environmental threat to the health of children and is 100 percent preventable!

Lead is a toxic metal that was used in paint for its durability and was added to gasoline. It was used in house paint until it was banned in 1978, so any house built before then could have lead paint hazards. It was banned from being used in residential house paint in 1978 because of its hazardous health effects on children under the age of 6. It was also banned from gasoline. Lead can also be found in soil and certain items that come from other countries.

Lead poisoning is a condition created by the swallowing of paint chips or breathing in lead dust. Lead replaces

iron and calcium in a child's body.

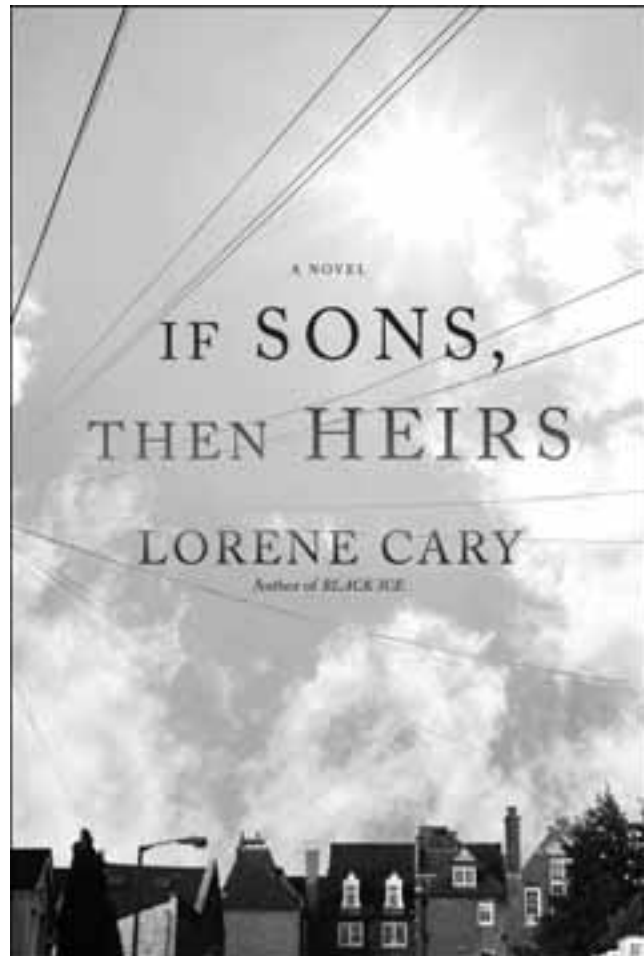
The most common source of lead exposure in Lucas County is in older homes or buildings due to cracked, chipping and peeling paint around doors, windows, window sills, walls, and the outside of a home. Lead based paint hazards are created when paint is deteriorated or disturbed. The deteriorating paint causes lead dust that children breathe in or the chipped paint is deteriorated into tiny chips which can be eaten by small children. Lead dust and paint chips can collect on floors, window sills, stairs, items in the home and porches. Children are most often lead poisoned by breathing in lead dust or eating tiny pieces of lead based paint chips. Most children get lead poisoned in their own homes. A small amount of lead dust / paint chip can poison a child. Children under age three are at the greatest risk because they are still growing, absorb lead more easily than adults and are

more likely to put their hands or objects into their mouth.

Lead is dangerous. There is no safe level of lead in a child's blood. Only a blood test will show if a child is lead poisoned. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers blood lead levels 10µg/dL and above to be elevated. The CDC also reports there is no safe level of lead in a child's body. Only a blood test can show if a child is lead poisoned. All children on Medicaid or living in a high risk zip code (includes the majority of zip codes in Toledo); should be tested at one and two years old by their primary care physician (PCP). This is mandatory testing and is a federal and state law! Contact should be made to a child's PCP regarding testing.

At first the lead goes into the blood, moves to other parts of a child's developing organs (brain, central nervous system, kidney, gastrointestinal (GI) & the reproductive system). Damage from lead poisoning can last a lifetime and the health effects include:

(Continued on Page 14)



Bobo gave him discipline. Uncle Jones gave him understanding and guidance. And his great-grandma Selma gave him the love he never got from his mother.

No, Rayne couldn't complain about how he was raised. The responsibility he learned, and the work ethic he got, led him to college in Philadelphia and owning his own business. It led him to a good woman, Lillie, and her son, Khalil.

Oh, how Rayne loved that boy. And since the feeling was mutual and Rayne was heading south to visit Nana Selma anyhow, he asked Lillie if Khalil could go along.

It might do the child good to spend time with the old woman who raised Rayne.

But things in North Carolina weren't as Rayne remembered. There was much work to be done, and Selma's health wasn't what it was. Though it was his great-granddaddy's beloved land, Rayne hoped to sell it so that Selma could live comfortably somewhere else, somewhere safe.

She'd been "holding" the farm for fifty years. But the farm may never have been hers to hold...

If Sons, Then Heirs is like a lingering, warm summer day just before a storm arrives: you'll want to savor every minute of it, even though you

know it won't last long and it won't always be pleasant.

Author Lorene Cary weaves a story of several generations of family held together by love and a determination to remember where they came from, and she does it by moving easily from era to era, bygone times to the present and back. That allows you to completely immerse yourself into this engrossing novel, its characters, and their lives.

This is not a book to read casually. You'll want to pay attention to the details, because they are what makes *If Sons, Then Heirs* a recipe for a great summer read.

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The Old West End Festival

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



I got to the Old West End festival around 1 P.M. this past Saturday.

We parked on Jefferson and Collingwood with the luxurious Executive Towers overhead.

Immediately this area was doing things I had never seen. There was a four-door Bentley prominently on display alongside other exquisite automobiles at Toledo Spain Plaza.

While walking toward Scottwood Ave, I couldn't take my eyes off that Bentley.

Until I smelled the funnel cake however, then I had a new focus.

The way Bancroft Ave used to be blocked off with half a dozen little trailers for food and other goodies, well that's the OLD, OLD WEST

END FESTIVAL.

The NEW Old West End Festival (or at least new to me) involved an area devoted to food of all sorts in a parking lot that overlooks the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion grounds and even a sound stage.

As a matter of fact, throughout the day I have to say there were so many live bands playing throughout the Old West End every few blocks I lost count.

I have never seen a greater mix of ethnicity at this festival either.

Arab, Asian, African, Hispanic, white, black.. old and young, hood and middle class and everyone behaved themselves and conducted themselves well. I saw people being cordial and respectful.

A few days earlier I had made a joke on Facebook saying I would be renaming the Old West End

Festival the "let's try to have a decent time in between the hood fights and bad weather" festival.

Which, even though was hilarious (in my opinion) it marked a new point of cynicism for me.

I'm rarely cynical. I'm rarely the one jumping on the

"I hate Toledo" bandwagon. And trust me, IT'S A BANDWAGON.

Only the rebellious and independent thinking people will find reasons to love things about Toledo,

but taking that leap has its rewards.

No one roams around their state on a day-to-day basis, and you will probably live your entire life without seeing even half of this place called the United States. The city you live in is your most immediate experience of time and place outside the very walls you call your home.

What you think of your city affects it in more ways than you can imagine.

The civil war in Toledo, Ohio marches on with the haters on one side and the hopefuls on the other.

I've done a lot to secure my position as a hopeful, so even if a little hatred creeps in from time to time I love it even more when the 419 redeems itself.

The Old West End Festival this year was the absolute best I've ever attended in life.

There was even a marketplace where an entire street was closed off just to have foot traffic as people made

their way from tent to tent buying clothes, jewelry, art and accessories.

This is becoming a regional destination event at

this point.

I mean, I have no A/C in the car right now... I could've easily stayed home out of the 90+ degree heat.

But my city made me proud Saturday, and I'm happy I attended.

See you next year!

Kayla McQueen Celebrates Coming of Age with Bat Mitzvah

Sojourner's Truth Staff

According to Jewish law, when children reach the age of 13 they become responsible for their actions and become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah (son or daughter of commandment)

So it was on May 21 when Kayla McQueen, a member of the Temple Shomer Emunim (Sam Weinstein, Rabbi) became a Bat Mitzvah and assumed responsibility for her actions, leading the congregation in the Sabbath worship service.

During the service, Kayla was called upon to read the Torah and the Haftarah and offer a discussion of the Torah portion (a d'var Torah) after the Torah had been passed to her from her parents – the symbolic passing of the Torah from generation to generation.

The Bar Mitzvah ceremony is centuries old in Jewish tradition, with references as far back as the 14th Century. The Bat Mitzvah, however, is much more recent, the first public such ceremony dates back only to 1922 in the United States and becoming wide-spread only in the last few decades.



My Sister's House Fund Raiser

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

On June 14, the local non-profit, My Sister's House, will be having a fund raiser to increase support and awareness for their programming.

Back in 2009 U.G.E. held something called "One Mic For Every Girl," which was developed by members of our company to promote women empowerment through artistic expression. It featured some of our female artists and other hand-picked female singers, rappers and poets from the community. The rule: only women touch the mic.

It was conceived as something to promote that aspect of our company - having four female artists - and my partner Lavale and I always trying to balance the issues of how women are often presented in media and entertainment.

LaDonna Knabbs is the lead mentor for My Sister's House for Girls and she offers this summary of the goals of her organization:

"MSH For Girls provides a unique mentoring method that inspires young women to unlock the key to their success despite difficult circumstances. MSH For Girls provides them with opportunities through life-skill programming that will prepare them to be resilient and successful within their communities."

The U.G.E. format and concept of "One Mic For Every Girl" is now being carried out by My Sister's House for Girls and the scope and aim of the latter company is one that deserves as much support as possible.

M.S.H. employees Leigh Wizgen, Heather Hagans and Sharda Moss will be on board facilitating the event which is hosted by Lil D and Martini Rox.

"This fundraiser will help provide funds for the MSH for girls program, it will help aid us in activities for the girls, as well as supplies, transportation and more. It will also show the mentees several women that are empowered through music and poetry," says Hagans.

I would like to add that this is a personal interest of mine as well. I didn't include this in this week's article just to be about collaboration between businesses, or entirely about the arts.

I feel that men have a role to play in the empowerment of women (to an extent). The self-esteem that leads to bad decision making, chaotic lifestyles and dysfunctional behavior can all be corrected. The issues women face affect our entire community at large. So even as men, we need to play our part in bringing balance and function to how females are perceived and included in all aspects of our society.

We can't walk the walk for them, but we can be their walking alongside because our goals are the same. Equality.

Please support :
MY SISTER'S HOUSE PRESENTS
U.G.E.'S ONE MIC FOR EVERY GIRL
June 14th, 7 – 9pm at ICE Restaurant & Bar
Admission \$3.



CLASSIFIEDS

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June 08, 2011

Lead Poisoning

(Continued from Page 12)

irritability, hyperactivity, reduction in IQ, hearing loss, behavioral and learning problems, problems with attention span, headaches, apathy, unconsciousness, seizure, coma and death.

Although lead poisoning is preventable, it continues to be a health hazard to children. It affects nearly 900,000 children nationwide from unnecessary exposure to lead hazards in housing. According to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH); Lucas County, (Toledo) ranks second in childhood lead poisoning cases behind first-ranked Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) in the state of Ohio. Ohio is among the top five states with the highest number of housing units with

lead based paint (US EPA). Nationally, Ohio has the fourth highest percentage of tested children under the age of 6 with elevated blood lead levels (CDC 2007).

The Toledo Lucas County Health Department is mandated by the Ohio Department of Health; (ODH) to open an investigation on all children with an elevated blood lead level in Lucas County. An open investigation includes providing case management services to the family, providing education, outreach services, working with the child's PCP and conducting a risk assessment on the home when applicable. The department

also collaborates with the City of Toledo's Department of Neighborhoods to refer families for lead abatement on their homes.

To raise awareness about this community wide hazard, the TLCHD Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program is hosting its first annual "Get the Lead Out" 5K race/walk & Kids 1K on Sunday, June 12, 2011 at Ottawa Park, 2625 Kenwood Blvd. Visit www.gettheleadout5K.info for more details.

Questions; please contact the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program at (419) 213-4864.

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WWW.THETRUTHTOLEDO.COM



Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for a Fixed Equipment Engineer. This position will provide technical support to refinery operations and maintenance staff including equipment troubleshooting, day to day fixed equipment follow-up on repairs, and implementation of reliability improvement items for fixed equipment. Candidate will coordinate pre-post turnaround fixed equipment materials inventory and service rep contracts. Responsible for coordinating fixed equipment preventative maintenance. Implement eCAT actions items to ensure safe and reliable operation of equipment and the refinery. Provide improved technology through outside resources in areas of predictive and preventative maintenance, operability, maintainability, and repairability.

The qualified candidate shall possess a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minimum of 2 years refinery experience in a fixed equipment assignment. Must be self-motivated and willing to assume the lead role in the completion of fixed equipment maintenance and shutdown work throughout the refinery. Experience in preventative maintenance programs and root cause failure analysis is preferred.

For confidential consideration, please submit your resume via email to dayna.brown@pbfenergy.com

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CLASSIFIEDS

June 08, 2011

Page 15



Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for an Area Fixed Equipment Inspector. The refinery area inspector is responsible for the internal and external inspection of all types of fixed equipment including, but not limited to, structural steel, heaters, pressure vessels, heat exchangers, tanks, boilers, piping, and miscellaneous equipment, both during routine maintenance periods and during shutdowns/turnarounds. Coordinates inspection activities within the Area Business Team and is an integral team member, resolving issues involving several types of damage mechanisms experienced within a refinery setting. Develop and execute inspection plans for fixed equipment based on its service, design, condition, jurisdictional requirements and inspection history.

The qualified candidate shall possess 5-10 years of refinery experience as an area/unit inspector or equivalent and shall have a strong understanding of certification in all applicable codes including, but not limited to API 510, API 570 and API 653, ASME B31.3, Section VIII and NBIC. Training and certification in API 580/581 is preferred. Current ASNT SNT TC 1A certifications or verifiable NDE experience is desired, especially in PT, MT, and UTT. Current CWI certification is also a plus. Candidates must have strong interpersonal skills and be proficient in Microsoft Office products, mainframe systems. Experience in RBI methodology and RBMI is a plus. A college degree, preferably in engineering or other technical discipline is desired.

For confidential consideration, please submit your resume via email to dayna.brown@pbfenergy.com

EOE/M/F/D/V

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY11-107,

(Project # 5002-11-1634) for iCare University for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 14, 2011 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$35.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Faith Mohr of Poggemeyer Design Group, Inc. at 419-352-7537. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 103, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$200,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$144,500.00; Plumbing: \$8,500.00; & Electrical: \$47,000.00.

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Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for a Storehouse and Inventory Control Supervisor. The Storehouse Supervisor will direct the sale of surplus material, manage the scrap yard, investigate all stock out's, and perform inventory adjustments that have been verified. Analyze inventory levels to optimize investment vs. refinery material requirements. Track, measure, and manage key indicators identified by manager. Report current monthly findings and corrective actions. Other responsibilities and duties include but are not limited to: supervising hourly employees; maintaining inventory accuracy through cycle counting, auditing, systems correction, and updating; evaluating and setting proper min/max levels; ensure accurate receiving and proper binning; and coding new inventory items or making changes to existing inventory codes.

Minimum 5 years refinery maintenance background and 2 years related supervisory experience. Required to possess a comprehensive understanding of Supply Chain fundamentals and material flow. Ability to foster teamwork and interface with a wide range of disciplines and groups within the company. Computer ability and experience including MS Office suite.

For confidential consideration, please submit your resume via email to dayna.brown@pbfenergy.com

EOE/M/F/D/V

Attention All Vendors

Join us for this year's 7th Annual African American Festival – to be held Saturday, July 9 – Sunday, July 10, 2011 At the University of Toledo's Scott Park Campus Contact Suzette Cowell at 419-255-8876 for more informational Call TODAY – Space is limited!



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Min. Clark K. Morgan Installed as Pastor of Love MBC

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Minister Clark Kent Morgan was installed as pastor of Love Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, June 2, 2011 in the presence of family, friends and congregants in the same church he has attended since childhood.

A church deacon for the last 19 years at Love MBC, the newly-installed pastor was accompanied by his wife of 34 years, Belinda Raquel Morgan. The couple are parents of two sons, Mario Morgan of Columbus and Anwar Morgan of Toledo, one daughter, Kendra Morgan of Holland and four grandchildren.

Over the years, Morgan has been involved in a variety of activities in and around the Toledo area. A retired firefighter, Morgan recently retired from the Toledo Fire & Rescue Department at the rank of lieutenant after 29 years of service.

He is a licensed barber at Poor Clark's Barber Shop and is the co-founder of the 5th USCT Company C (black Civil War history organization) performing re-enactments at schools, churches and community events state wide.

Morgan has a well-established family history at Love MBC. His father was a deacon at the church for a number of years.

Rev. Jarvis Everett of Zion Hill MBC served as master of ceremonies during the installation ceremony. Min. Odell Brown of Third MBC of Holland introduced the guest preacher, Rev. Madison Gregory III, also of Third Baptist.

The new pastor, Clark Morgan, offered final remarks to his congregation and their guests.




Above:
(From l. to r.): Chastity Morgan, Morgan Palmer, Mabel Powell, Marvin Morgan, Ollie Morgan, First Lady and Pastor; Kendra Morgan, Kaiya Morgan, Anwar Morgan with Anwar, Jr., James Morgan, Veronica Morgan



Left:
Min. Odell Brown Jr; Pastor J.C. Boose, Pastor Morgan, Pastor Madison Gregory III, Pastor Jarvis Everett, Pastor Lemuel Quinn



**7th Annual
African American
Prayer Breakfast**



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