



Local and National News

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The Revolution Will Not Be Televised

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.
The Truth Contributor



... True rebels, after all, are as rare as true lovers; and, in both cases, to mistake a fever for a passion can destroy one's life
- James Baldwin

The transgressing of the social bounds of decency seems to be a fairly common occurrence these days.

However, the recent resignation of an Ohio State legislator, having been caught driving drunk in Indiana with Viagra in his system and a stripper in his car, certainly doesn't indicate a Republican party monopoly on scandal or immorality.

Yet I am angry. And my anger is tinged somewhat with "envy."

Please, allow me to explain.

My indignation comes from the arrogance of conservative Christians and politicians, who, although they have marriage problems like everyone else, act as though they have a monopoly on recognizing the need for family values

and stronger families.

My "righteous" jealousy exists because the conservative cry, although used primarily as a political strategy, is louder, more consistent and more passionate than progressive voices or those of black community and faith leaders.

The recent economic crisis has uncovered a multitude of national and individual sins including greed, selfishness and an evil "I got mine and too bad you didn't get yours" spirit of individualism. Notwithstanding, no "falling short of the mark" has wreaked more visible destruction and negative consequences in the black community than the lack of healthy and effective parenting.

An abundance of research indicates that children who are raised in homes where the parents never married or became divorced early on are less likely to succeed than those raised by their wedded biological parents.

Children from single parent households are more likely to live in poverty, have behavioral or substance abuse problems, engage in risky sexual and other behaviors, and end up in the juvenile or prison system. They are also 50 times more likely to be abused than children in two-parent households and perform worse academically.

Despite the negative implications for our children and adults in the community, the status of black families and marriages continues to decline. The latest data shows a drop in black marriage from 64 percent of those aged 20 to 54 in 1970, to 39 percent in 2008. While during the same period, the number of births to single mothers jumped from 38 percent to 71 percent.

Indeed, the issue of black marriage and family in America is more comprehensive and has a complexity that many, flippantly sermonize and pontificate upon from a soapbox of ignorance.

Nevertheless, there are formidable social and economic barriers to marriage including the lack of educational and employment opportunities. Some dads are deadbeat only because they are dead broke.

Other factors such as higher mortality rates and lower life expectancy among African-American males and a scarcity of marriageable young men due to an imbalanced gender ratio or the high black prison population also present challenges to black family structure.

Yet family, particularly extended family, is a core value - not taught to the black community by others, but brought here to America from Africa along with the arrival of the first slaves.

The black church, now grown silent, has historically been a part of a network of extended families and through its preaching and teaching kept families and the community connected to one other.

Along with other black community institutions, the church provided young people with, not only a necessary moral and spiritual dimension, but also important (supervised) social occasions to meet and interact.

The community also provided a space for empowerment, where youth were affirmed and accepted and could develop their skills in public speaking, music, art and other efforts.

Also there were opportunities in community for young people to meet and observe role models in order to emulate and acquire positive qualities or be able to critique the double standards of adult behavior in a safe environment.

Family strength and values belong to us, but we seem to have forgotten it along with our history.

However, with crime and social dysfunction holding a besieged black community hostage, a revolution of values appears to be the only way out.

For too long we have dealt with issues affecting the black community from a "deficit perspective, emphasizing the problems and pathology." The time has now come to shift from the "shock and awe" methodology of ideological and political warfare to a solution-oriented modus operandi.

The prevalent myth is that black people do not marry or desire marriage. In reality, many do not know how to overcome the difficulties in getting there or sustaining marriage.

The relevant question thus becomes: How can family strength be rediscovered and a revolution of family values take place?

The good news is that there is an **abundance** of exemplars or models of excellence right in our own community. In the coming weeks I hope to gain insights and solutions from them that will overthrow the status quo.

"The revolution will not be televised, will not be televised, will not be televised.

The revolution will be all no re-run brothers; The revolution will be all the way live."

R.I.P. Gil Scott-Heron 1949-2011

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

Community Calendar

July 18-22

Greater St. Mary's Revival: "Sustaining Faith:" 419-536-5155

July 23, 30

Sisters Helping Everyone School Supplies Dropoff: Smith Park; 8:30 am to noon: 419-461-0123

July 20-24

89th Northwestern District Convocation of the United Holy Church of America: Ramada Inn Secor; 9 am opening session; Daily workshops, preaching, financial planning, youth in action: 419-535-7070

July 21

UT Campus Exposure: First through 12th grade students invited to spend a day on campus: 419-381-3280

July 23

201 Toledo Synergy Teen Summit: 8 am to 3 pm; Collingwood Art Center
St. Stephens COGIC Community Fest: 11 am to 5 pm; Food, games, music
Citywide Christian Trustee Association Meeting: 10 am at United MBC: 419-514-1052
Pentecostal Church of Gos Music Ministry: Noon to 7 pm; Featuring "Ruth Rawls" of Plant City, FL; Food vendors: 419-481-6209

Women Blessing Women 1st Annual Independence Scholarship Banquet: 11:30 am to 1:30 pm; Bethlehem Life Center; Guest speaker Bishop Duane Tisdale: 419-241-9789

July 23-24

St. Martin de Porres Food Pantry Fund Raiser: Saturday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm; Sunday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; "Everything But the Kitchen Sink Sale;" Gently used kitchen items and small appliances: 419-729-3829

July 24

Calvary Baptist Women's Day: "Christian Women Equipping Themselves to Stand;" 10:45 am; Guest speaker Rev. April Hearn of New Prospect
Caring for Natural Hair Workshop: 4533 Gettysburg Drive, Sylvania; 5 to 8:30 pm; Featuring Megan Yasu of the Kitchen Salon: 419-461-3115

July 27

Jerusalem Baptist Church Women's Day: "Christian Women: The Lord Is Calling. Are You Listening; Are You Ready?" 11 am

July 29

Liberty Ministries Church Kingdom Family Fellowship: 7 pm; Guest speaker Pastor May Dupree

July 29-31

LFC-Harvest Christian Training Center: 8 am until ...; Hilton Garden Inn; Sexual and Relationship Training Conference & Covenant Partners Retreat: 567-255-4507
Beulah Baptist Church Youth Explosion: Friday at 7 pm - Rev. Charles Jackson; Saturday at 6 pm - Rev. Casey Diggins; Sunday at 11 am - Min. John Hicklin

July 30

United Church of God Workshop: "The Kingdom and the Church;" 10 am: 419-729-3819 or 216-280-7939

August 5-6

Annual "Keeping It Real" Tent Crusade: Word of Faith Ministries; Noon to 9 pm; Guest speaker Daniel Rice of Bibleway World Outreach; Food, music, dance, face painting: 419-727-0877

August 6

United Church of God "Neighborhood Street and Yard Clean Up Day:" 9 am to 3 pm: 419-729-3819

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American

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A Tribute To Gil Scott Heron

By Carter A. Wilson, Ph.D.
Special to The Truth

I need to share a few words with you, my own tribute to Gil Scott Heron. This tribute, this sharing of words with you is therapeutic for me. This tribute is my therapy session. I am a professor of political science at the University of Toledo, where I have made a career teaching and writing about American Government. Back in the day I considered myself a revolutionary. This is a true confession, the first public confession. I was inspired by the revolutionary poetry of Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, Don L. Lee and the Last Poets and, most of all, by Gil Scott Heron. Poetry was a tool of revolution.

Poetry is an artistic medium, like a canvas or a CD for expressing emotions and ideas. Poetry is the most effective medium for conveying deep passion and profound ideas to the people, the general public, to the masses. Revolutionaries used poetry to change the hearts and minds of the people, to move the people to action. Poetry by itself is a strong tool of communication. Poetry set to music was the most powerful tool of communications. Gil Scott Heron was a revolutionary poet who set his poems to music. He was most noted for "The Revolution Will not be Televised."

The revolution will not be brought to you by Xerox in four parts without commercial interruption. The revolution will not be televised.

Revolutions are about attacking oppression, the exposing lies and hypocrisy of those in power and educating and liberating the oppressed, giving the oppressed a sense of dignity, respect and humanity. Gil Scott Heron was a revolutionary poet. He identified with the oppressed. He lived among the oppressed. He hung out in Harlem and talked to people on the street. He included their stories in his poems. He dedicated his poems to people on the street, 125th street and Lenox. He gave people who were down and out, people in pain, people with problems with alcohol and drugs—he gave them dignity, respect and hope. He humanized them.

Gil was a poet and a musician. He played electric piano and guitar. He was a creative writer, a novelist and a social activist; born in Chicago, Illinois and educated at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He earned a master's degree in creative writing from Johns Hopkins University. He got started with the Last Poets at Lincoln. He moved to New



York City, where his career skyrocketed during the 1970s and 80s. He made nine albums in the 1970s, almost an album a year and several other albums in the 1980s and 90s. He was a fusionist. He mixed blues, jazz and soul. He combined music with the spoken word. He called himself a bluesologist, a specialist in the blues.

Many hip-hop artists credit Gil for his influence. Public Enemy's Chuck D called him the godfather of rap. Eminem said he influenced all of hip-hop. Kanye West did a special tribute to Gil. Talib Kweli said, "He completely influenced me as an artist." Jay Z said that if rap is poetry put to music, then "The Revolution Will Not be Televised" was ground zero. Many rap artists drew from Gil Scott Heron. Talib Kweli, Aesop Rock and Common all sampled "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised." Mase Def sampled "A Legend in His Own Mind." Dr. Dre sampled "Blunt Time" and CeCe Peniston sampled "The Bottle."

As others stood on Gil's shoulders, Gil stood on the shoulders of other artists and social activists. Gil claimed that he was influenced by Langston Hughes, John Coltrane, Billie Holiday, Malcolm X, Huey Newton, Otis Redding and many others. In the 1970s, Gil played with Brian Jackson on keyboard, Hubert Laws on flute and sax, Ron Carter on bass and Bernard Pretty Purdie on drums—an all-star cast. You can also see the influence of novelist Richard Wright, activist Stokely Carmichael, jazz artists Horace Silver and Herbie Hancock. All of his works had deep social messages.

To understand Gil Scott Heron, you must understand that he was a revolutionary

poet who gave humanity and dignity to the oppressed, exposed injustices and called people to action. He called people to action as he exposed racism and police brutality, he called people to action as he demanded an end to apartheid in South Africa, as he exposed the hypocrisy and lies of Richard Nixon, the treachery and bigotry of Ronald Reagan, as he raised awareness of environmental issues. His poems "Winter in America," "Who Will Survive America," "We Beg Your Pardon," "Waiting for the Ax to Fall," "Jose Campos Torres," "Liberation Song," "Save the Children" and "What's the Word, Johannesburg" stand out as calls to action and cries for justice.

I remember Gil Scott Heron's poems "In the Bottle," "Pieces of a Man," and "Home is Where the Hatred" is. He gave dignity and humanity to people filled with troubles, pain and suffering, who sought refuge and relief in the bottle. "See that gent in the wrinkled suit...he was a doctor helpin' young girls along if they wuzn't too far along; But defenders of the dollar eagle Said "What you doin', Doc, it ain't legal and now he's in the bottle. Now we watch him every day tryin' to chase the pigeons away from the bottle. And don't you think it's a crime when time after time, people in the bottle."

I thought it was a crime when they put Gil Scott Heron in jail for drug possession. They sentenced him to three years for possession of \$20 worth of crack. Let me deal with this controversy over the brother directly. We are not here to idealize the brother in death beyond what he was in life. We should never idealize our leaders. There are no perfect leaders. Martin

Luther King was not perfect.

We honor and pay tribute to their legacy. We learn from their wisdom. We share their wisdom with others so that we all as individuals and as a community can grow. The brother was not perfect. We know that he had a drug problem. We know that he was infected with HIV. The brother was dying. He was in pain. He was suffering. Gil Scott Heron never judged other oppressed people. He listened to their stories, he walked in their shoes, and he empathized with others. This is his legacy.

And it was a crime when they put this prince of poets, this artist, this intellectual, this social critic, this man of the people who gave the world so much through his music and poetry, who gave so much of himself to this world and to causes of justice and peace—it was a crime when they put him in jail and sentenced him to three years for possession of \$20 worth of crack cocaine. That was a crime. Gil Scott Heron gave humanity and dignity to those who suffered, those filled with pain. He walked among the people of Harlem, told their stories and felt their heartaches:

Home is where the hatred

is, home is filled with pain and it might not be such a bad idea if I never, never went home again. Home is where I live inside my white powder dreams...

Some of his poems were autobiographical such as "Coming From a Broken Home," "I am New Here," and "Where did the Night Go."

I thought about some of our issues today, especially black on black violence: Too many brothers dying, too many mothers losing their sons, too many children losing their fathers. I thought what would Gil Scott Heron say? And then I read "Message to the Messengers." Let me share this excerpt from "Message to the Messengers" with you:

...Older folks in our neighborhood got plenty of know-how

Remember if it wasn't for them, you wouldn't be out here now

And I ain't comin' at you with no disrespect

All I'm sayin' is that you damn well got to be correct

Because if you're gonna be speakin' for a whole generation

And you know enough to try and handle their education

Be sure you know the real

deal about past situations

It ain't just repeatin' what you heard on the local TV stations

Sometimes they tell lies and put 'em in a truthful disguise

But the truth is that's why we said it wouldn't be televised

They don't know what to say to our young folks, but they know that you do

And if they really knew the truth, why would they tell you?...

...The first sign is peace, tell all them gun totin' young brothers

That the man is glad to see us out there killin' one another

We raised too much hell when they was shootin' us down

So they started poisoning our minds tryin' to jerk us all around

And then they tell us they got to come in and control our situation

They want half of us on dope and the other half in incarceration

If the ones they want dead ain't killed by what they instigated

They put some dope on a brother's body and claim it was drug related...

(Continued on Page 4)

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Aji Green Files Petition; Toledo Council Races Set

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Democrat Aji Green filed his petitions last week to run for the District 1 Toledo City Council seat that is being vacated by Council President Wilma Brown. He was accompanied by Delbra Blackshear who had contemplated a run herself but backed away, she said, because of a lack of funding.

"If I had to vote for any other candidate, who would it be? Mr. Green," she said of her reasoning to lend her active support in the race to Green. "He has integrity, the skills of teamwork and he is approachable."

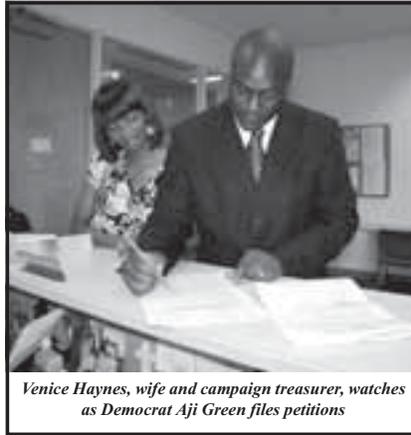
Noting that the issues facing District 1, which encompasses parts of southwest Toledo and the central city, include increased incidents of violence, extensive street disrepair and a multitude of vacant homes, Blackshear declared that Green is a "visionary" who is dedicated to focusing on such issues and reaching out to his constituency.

Green's filing brought to seven the total number of candidates for the post, the

most crowded district field heading into the September 13 primary. Other candidates in district 1 are: Schylar Meadows, a Democrat and a health care worker; Darryl Finger, Republican; Tyrone Riley, Democrat and an attorney in private practice; Jason Schreiner, Democrat and a teacher with Washington Local; Kenneth Sharp, Libertarian and Brandon Tucker, Democrat and a staffer with the Greater Toledo Urban League.

In District 2, incumbent D. Michael Collins, an independent, will face Republican Jeremy Demagall, former deputy director of the Lucas County Board of Elections, who was fired from that post three months ago along with then-Director Linda Howe on orders from Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted. Republican Steven Jasinski will also be on the District 2 ballot.

In District 3, incumbent Democrat Mike Craig will have four opponents: Daniel Angel, independent; Ernie Berry, Republican; Shaun



Venice Haynes, wife and campaign treasurer, watches as Democrat Aji Green files petitions

Enright, Democrat and Hans Schnapp, Republican.

In District 4, incumbent Democrat Paula Hicks-Hudson, who was appointed to Council to replace State Representative Michael Ashford, will be opposed by Alfonso Narvaez, Republican, and Green Party candidate Anita Rios.

In District 5, incumbent

Republican Tom Waniewski will face James Martin, Jr., a member of the Toledo Fire Department and former president of Firefighters Local 92.

In District 6, incumbent Democrat Lindsay Webb's opponents will be Republican Douglas DeCamp and Green Party candidate Sean Nestor.

Tribute

(Continued from Page 3)

... Young rappers, one more suggestion before I get out of your way

But I appreciate the respect you give me and what you got to say

I'm sayin' protect your community and spread that respect around

Tell brothers and sisters they gotta calm that bullshit down

Cause we're terrorizin' our old folks and brought fear into our homes

And they ain't got to hang out with the senior citizens Just tell them, "Dammit, leave the old folks alone"

And we know who rippin' off the neighborhood, tell them, "That BS has got to stop!"

...

But they got to take the crime off the block And if they look at you like you're insane

And they start callin' you scarecrow and say you ain't got no brain

Or start tellin' folks that you suddenly gone lame Or that white folks had finally co-opted your game

Or worse yet saying that you really don't know That's the same thing they said about me a long time ago

And if they tell folks that you finally lost your nerve That's the same thing they said about us, when we said, "Johannesburg"

But I think the young folks need to know, that things don't go both ways

You can't talk respect on every other song or just every other day

What I'm speakin' on now is the raps about the women folks

On one song she's your African Queen on the next one she's a joke

(Continued on Page 5)

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

Anita Lopez, Lucas County Auditor Data Collectors to Begin Inspecting Homes to Aid in the 2012 Revaluation Process

As you may be aware, our office is required under the law to appraise each individual parcel of real estate in the county every six years. Called a revaluation, this program is required by Ohio law to equalize values and to take into account the need to adjust values based on current trends in the market. To aid in this process, data collectors are going to your area to gather information about your property.

During the month of July, data collectors will be in the following areas:

Central Toledo

West Toledo

South Toledo

Ottawa Hills

North Toledo: Angela, Bronson, Central, Chestnut, Cottage, Dexter, Everett, Franklin, Erie, Huron, Lagrange, Locust, Magnolia, Moore, Moss, Mulberry,

Noble, Page, Cherry, Collingwood, Delaware, Kirby, Lake, Doseiussko, Maple, Manhattan, Otto, Park, Pearl, Aria, Dean, Elm, Majestic, Mont Royal, Maplewood, Kimball, Lowell, Hillwood, Highland, Glenwood, Hackett, Elder, Devon, Ferris, Gladstone, Evanston, Detroit, Cottage, Cumberland, Oakland, Mentor, Park, Parkwood, Richardson, Stanley, Wilson, and Woodrow

- Data collectors will take exterior photographs of properties and verify the property's physical attributes.
- **Residents are urged NOT to allow anyone to enter their home.**
- At the request of the property owner, interior inspections are conducted by appointment only. To schedule an interior inspection, contact the Auditor's Office at (419) 213-4406.
- Data collectors work Monday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Homeowners unsure of the identity of any individual should confirm with the Auditor's Office by calling (419) 213-4406 before allowing an inspection. Visit our web site to view the data collection video at www.co.lucas.oh.us/reval2012.



Office of Anita Lopez, Lucas County Auditor

Real Estate Division * One Government Center, Suite 670 * Toledo, OH 43604-2255
Phone (419) 213-4406 * Email outreach@co.lucas.oh.us. On the web www.co.lucas.oh.us/Auditor

Fair Elections Ohio Turns in First 1000 Signatures for HB194 Referendum

Preparing For Collection Of The Next 231,000+ Petition Signatures

Special to The Truth

Representatives of Fair Elections Ohio, a coalition of state legislators, voting rights advocates, labor unions, progressive organizations, and concerned citizens across the State of Ohio, last week turned in the first 1,000 valid signatures for a HB194 referendum to the Ohio Attorney General.

"In just five days, concerned citizens from across the state have stepped up to bring HB194 directly to the voters so they can decide if their voting rights should be diminished or curtailed. Because of the nature of the rights at stake, thoughtful, serious volunteers who believe in keeping access to voting available to all eligible Ohioans have done a great job in the gathering the signatures that will allow this process to move forward," said former Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner.

Fair Elections Ohio had dozens of volunteers across the state collect this first round of signatures from over a dozen counties.

The Secretary of State and the Attorney General's office have 10 business days, or until August 1st, to certify the first 1,000 valid signatures and review the summary of the partial referendum on HB194 contained in the petition. When the petition is



Pierrette "Petee" Talley

certified by both state officers, Fair Elections Ohio will begin the process to collect 231,154 valid signatures by September 29, 2011, to qualify for the next available general election ballot in 2012.

"Ohioans across the state are coming out to support fair elections and getting involved in the HB 194 referendum campaign. This is not an issue about Republicans fighting Democrats or urban areas fighting rural areas. This is about support for an open electoral process that works for everyone, not just the chosen few. The effort to repeal these portions of HB194 is a fight to ensure we are still moving forward toward justice, not taking huge steps backward," said Bishop Timothy Clarke of the First Church of God in Columbus.

"As more voters become

interested in the political process, we should be working to encourage them to exercise their rights to vote, not stifle them. However the provisions of HB194 do nothing to increase the security of elections," said Senator Kearney.

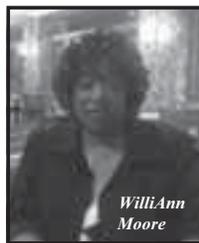
Fair Elections Ohio is in the process of staffing offices in at least five regions of the state, including offices in Columbus, Cleveland, Toledo, Cincinnati, and Akron. The effort will coordinate both volunteer and organizational efforts to successfully move the referendum forward.

"When extreme bills are pushed through the legislature, the people are left out of the process. By holding a referendum on HB194, the people of Ohio will have a chance to decide what kind of electoral system we want

in our State. We are confident that Ohioans will choose a system that increases participation and strengthens our democracy, not one that returns us to the long lines and problems of 2004," said Pierrette "Petee" Talley of the Ohio AFL-CIO.

Fair Elections Ohio is currently launching a website where volunteers will be able to find out more information on how to get involved in this referendum process. For more information on the HB 194 effort, contact fairelectionsOhio@gmail.com or call 614-255-4255.

The petitioning commit-



WilliAnn Moore

tee includes State Senator Eric Kearney (D-Cincinnati), former Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner (D-Columbus), Jose C. Feliciano, Chairman of the Hispanic Roundtable of Greater Cleveland, WilliAnn Moore of Toledo, District Coordinator, Ohio Conference NAACP and Leo Pierson of Cincinnati, State

Director of Civil Rights, Ohio League of United Latin American Citizens.

Ohioans interested in getting involved in the broad effort can get more information at www.couragepac.org or www.progressohio.org.

Tribute

(Continued from Page 4)

And you ain't said no words that I haven't heard, but that ain't no compliment

It only insults eight people out of ten and questions your intelligence

Four letter words or four syllable words won't make you important

It'll only magnify how shallow you are and let everybody know it.

As I said at the beginning, this tribute to Gil Scott

Heron is therapy for me. I came out at the beginning and confessed that although I am a university professor, back in the day I was a young revolutionary. I will never forget the words of another revolutionary that I admired, Che Guevara. Che said that a revolutionary is motivated by a profound sense of love. Gil Scott Heron was motivated by a profound sense of love.

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Abundant Life Ministries' Community Day

Sojourner's Truth Staff



The congregation of Abundant Life Ministries, under the leadership of Pastor Cordell Jenkins, has only been at their location of 752 Main Street for a brief period but the church has already accepted its mission of giving back to the local community.

On Saturday, July 16, the neighborhood residents were invited to the church for a



Pastor Cordell Jenkins and Fun Bus

day of free activities—games, kids' rides, food, health and safety information and the "Fun Bus."

From noon to 3 p.m., the

parking lot of the church, as well as the side street—Greenwood Avenue - which had been cordoned off, were bustling with activity. The 10-

month old church, said Jenkins, was eager to embrace the neighborhood with this community outreach.



Event organizers, Monica McCain and Teresa Quinn

Members of the Scott High School Band play at the start of the Isaiah Thomas Giving Foundation's First Annual DAD 4 Life Conference held at the Wayman Palmer YMCA on Saturday, July 16



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ASK YVON

Credit - Advance Steps That Count:

By: S. Yvon Harper, CEO Focus on Finance, LLC
Guest Column



When you think about the many advances made within technology it's mindboggling. For example, think about the washing and drying machines. Their arrival not only transformed the lives of millions, but today they can ultimately be programmed to process the handling of various materials and even eliminate ironing too.

Who could have foreseen these advances coming in the early 19th Century? In fact, optimistically we can only begin to imagine the number of things that technology will continue to make easier.

When contending for your financial resources some things are of basic importance, which many may already know. The challenge many face is in understanding that there are some things that are more progressive in nature. Foregoing them is like forgetting to put the soap in your washing machine, which leaves you without getting the full benefit of the wash.

These advanced steps normally come into play when I'm asked about how a person can increase his or her credit score. I'm amazed at the technical advances that can now tell you who, when and why someone

looked at your credit report. They even let you check your reports unlimited times. This is great, but unfortunately these advances don't focus on providing progressive information to help raise credit scores.

Recently, I read an article by Dana Dratch of Bankrate.com who reminded me of a rundown of some essential and progressive actions that will be profitable in raising your credit scores. I know they are worth sharing. They are tried and true, which means no magic wand is needed and used with consistency can deliver favorable results.

1) Pay Early – many don't know that if you pay on the due date, your account balances may have already been reported. This can have a negative score impact, even if paying in full. Instead pay by the statement date, the date your credit issuer cuts the new bill, for the best credit report benefit.

2) Multiple Monthly Payments – divide your monthly payment into several smaller ones during the monthly cycle, if you are able. This means that you will have a lower balance to be reported to the credit bureau no matter when reported. The lower the balance the better. Note, be sure your creditor will accept extra payments first.

3) Ask for a Goodwill Deletion - John Ulzheimer, the president of consumer education for SmartCredit.com, says that if you've had a late payment, but have an otherwise spotless record ask for a 'goodwill' deletion, many are approved. Note you may have to ask to speak to someone higher than a frontline customer service phone repre-

sentative.
4) Pay for Deletion – Collection accounts may favorably consider this, if you pay the outstanding balance in full. Basically, you pay the outstanding bill's balance with the agreement that the creditor will remove the account from your credit reports. However, don't accept the collection agency's verbal agreement; get it in writing before making the payment.

5) Short Sale Negotiations – Although a short sale will negatively impact your credit score, much like a foreclosure, that doesn't mean you shouldn't negotiate. Primarily so that the difference between what is owed the bank and what they actually receive is not reported as a balance owing that continues to report on your credit. The best time to do this is before or during the short sale process. Banks have no incentive to negotiate after the sale is done.

Knowing the basics for improving your credit scores such as paying on time and in full is necessary. Taking advantage of advance steps to increase your scores is highly profitable to include in your overall credit score strategies.

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U.S. House Passes Kaptur Amendment To Promote R& D in Solar Energy

Special to The Truth



The U.S. House of Representatives last week approved an amendment by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-9) to increase research and development of solar power by \$10 million. The Kaptur Amendment drew bipartisan support and passed by a vote of 212-210.

The Kaptur Amendment would transfer funds from administrative expenses at the U.S. Department of Energy to solar research and development.

During debate on her amendment, Congresswoman Kaptur last evening referred to solar energy as a growth industry, creating jobs and reducing America's dependence on imported petroleum.

"While the U.S. economy is anticipated to increase jobs by just two percent in the next year, in the solar industry that number is 26 percent,"

Kaptur said. "Solar is a sector that is growing jobs in our country ... As costs go down and production capacity grows, solar energy becomes a viable energy alternative to imported energy sources."

"It is precisely because of our investments in this fledgling, cutting-edge industry that is high tech that such successes are possible. We cannot allow America to be complacent. Right now we are in compe-

tion to be the leader in this sector."

Citing competition from China in the solar sector, Kaptur said the United States "must redouble our efforts, continue our investment in research and bring this market to scale in America."

She said her amendment would "promote American industry and energy independence."

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UpTown Signature Park on the Way

Special to The Truth

The UpTown Association and its partners are developing a Signature Park located between 18th, Madison and 20th Streets in the UpTown neighborhood. This unique setting will also feature a creative enterprise commercial building. The entire project will meet LEED standards.

The project is ideally situated between the Warehouse District Art Museum and the Toledo Museum of Art. UpTown is the home of the Avenue of the Arts and widely recognized as Toledo's up-and-coming creative enterprise community. The project property comprises approximately 2.5 acres of land.

The City of Toledo is partnering with the UpTown Association in a Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) Sustainable Reinvestment Track \$1.5 million grant application that will be used to remediate environmental materials from the site, demolish two dilapidated structures and remove a severely deteriorated parking lot.

Sustainable Reinvestment Track funds will:

- Create green space
- Connect to nearby residential community and attract business investments to the



neighborhood

- Improve storm water quality with the use of bioswales and other sustainable technologies
- Create clean energy for commercial use
- Preserve an historic building for creative commercial use.

The park is designed with features such as a fountain that can be converted to performance space, a back-drop for outside film projection, amphitheater-type seating, built in game areas for children, pathways and sculpture pads, kiosks for vendors, a rain garden and native landscaping materials.

The commercial structure is an existing historic four story building. The building will serve as a beacon to creative individuals and companies that enjoy the benefits of working in close proximity. The first floor is envisioned as a combination food and beverage area and a multi-purpose space that can be utilized for performances, gallery, special events, etc. The upper three floors will be sub-divided to provide at least 30 office/studio spaces.

The UpTown Association has had great interest from a variety of partners such as Glaciy Theatre Collective, Toledo Grows, Mercy College, Lucas County Land Reutilization Corporation and the Toledo School for the Arts. The City of Toledo has played a particularly vital role in helping with environmental assessments and remediation activities.

UpTown has a unique resident base that includes homeless, re-entry and low-income residents. The goal is to engage all neighbors in the revitalization effort so that they feel a sense of ownership and responsibility.

The signature park (which will be named at a later time) is expected to be a major catalyst in the revitalization of the UpTown area. The creative arts are known to encourage investment in an area, attracting restaurants, entertainment venues and additional housing opportunities. A recent study by Bowling Green State University indicates that arts and culture industries generated over \$2.4 billion in economic activity in Northwest Ohio resulting in nearly \$250 million in federal, state and local tax revenues and over 33,000 jobs.

This revitalization effort will:

- Address existing environmental conditions and create a sustainable signature park
 - o Remediate environmental conditions on 2.5 acres of vacant, underutilized land
 - o Removal of extensive asbestos containing materials
- Be proximate to important neighborhood anchor amenities including: the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library Main Branch, Toledo School for the Arts, Mercy Health Partners Main Campus / Mercy College, the Avenue of the Arts, and various art studios, galleries and entertainment venues.
- Provide a productive reuse of an area suffering from high crime, poverty, and unemployment rates
- Create job and additional tax revenue by attracting businesses to the area
- Increase safety
- Increase property values
- Integrate the use of a significant source of clean energy
- Be utility-ready with existing electrical, water, sewer, natural gas, and other services.

The endeavor is a major one for a fledgling organization but crucial to improving and sustaining the long-term health and growth of the neighborhood. This project is generating enormous interest in the creative community and they are eagerly anticipating its development.

The Lathrop School of Construction Management for Emerging Minority & Women Owned Businesses

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

For the past five years, The Lathrop Company has been conducting a School of Construction Management, a free learning program for minority, women and disadvantaged business owners.

The program provides business owners with formal courses on topics such as developing a business plan, financial planning, estimating, green construction, construction law, bonding and insurance.

Why the commitment to helping such companies develop and grow?

"There are multiple reasons," says Steve Johnson, Lathrop's Preconstruction and Purchasing Manager. "We have a corporate culture of trying to do what's good for the community"

Johnson, who oversees the School of Construction Management, points out that most minority and women contractors are woefully short of the capacity to handle the types of jobs that are typically subcontracted by companies such as Lathrop. These small firms tend to lack staff, financing and, often, management expertise.

"Our company has a commitment to using minority business enterprises on projects," he says. "So we have to help them grow that capacity. We are getting them those credentials and helping small businesses grow their businesses."

The School of Construction Management actually began in 1969 in the Cleveland office of Lathrop's parent company, Turner Construction. Over the years, Turner has offered its program to approximately 33,000 students in 70 cities nationwide. According to Tom Manahan, president of Lathrop, Turner has succeeded in utilizing the services of over 400 graduates in a variety of construction projects around the country.

"This is the way you move your business to the next level," says David Wood, director of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce's Minority Contractors Business Assistance Program. "The next step is the choices you make." The Chamber is one of Lathrop's partners in the School of Construction.

The 12-week course brings in top Lathrop managers and outside consultants to offer instruction in the following topics: establishing a business, management, risk management, accounting basics, insurance and bonding, estimating and bidding, safety, scheduling, field operations, green construction and sales and marketing.

The program is held annually starting in mid-January and brings together 25 to 30 individuals for the 12-week course.

In addition to the Lathrop instructors, this year's program also brought in guest instructors: Brian Reid of Fifth Third Bank, Tom Nemeth of the Hylant Group and Tom Palmer of the Marshall & Melhorn law firm.

Here in Toledo, Lathrop has had 136 individuals graduate from the School of Construction Management from a total of 76 minority or women-owned firms. Of those 76, says Deb Stout, marketing manager for

emy. To cap off the 12-week program, Lathrop held a graduation ceremony on May 19 at The Lodge at Strawberry Acres. The guest speaker for the evening was Shanda Gore, Ed.D, assistant vice president for Equity and Diversity at The University of Toledo. Gore also oversees the university's incubator for minority-owned businesses on the Scott Park Campus.

Rudy Silva, owner of Garza Construction Ltd, has been operating his company since 1999. While the class was helpful in presenting him with information on a number of subject, the great benefit for Silva, he says, was that it enabled him to network with other business owners.

Silva has already started working with several of his former classmates on joint projects.

Not all of the graduates intend on working in the construction business. Eugene

such as managing accounts receivables into play right away and discovered that collecting debts could be a bit less painful than previously thought.

Lathrop's next class in its School of Construction Management will start in mid-January 2012 and the company is already taking applications.

For more information on enrolling in the class, contact Deb Stout at dstout@teco.com.



Shanda Gore, Ed.D, and Doni Miller of TLK Interiors



Roosevelt Gant of R. Gant LLC with Rogers' students Conrad Wallis (L), Ta'Keiah-Kari Palmer and Robyn Dunlap (r.)

The Lathrop Company, 15 have partnered with the general contractor either as direct hires or as second or third tier sub-contractors on Lathrop projects.

And, as she also notes, several companies, such as R. Gant LLC, Garcia Surveyors and Diversified Services Group, Inc (DSG), "have excelled at growing their businesses and we utilize them frequently."

This year's program brought together 31 individuals from an assortment of established companies, such as Parker Enterprises, new ventures, such as TLK Interiors, and, for the first time, students from Rogers High School's Construction Career Acad-

emy. McBride, for example, a former auditor with the Internal Revenue Service, started his company, McBride Tax Solutions, LLC, three years ago and plans on assisting companies with fraud investigations.

McBride had spent his career with the IRS auditing any number of construction companies and took the class in order to get the view from the other side, as he puts it.

For Oona Temple, of Cosine Technical Group, LLC, some of the lessons learned in the course had an immediate impact for her. Temple, who has had her business for four years and was the first tenant in the university's minority incubator, put Lathrop concepts

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Social Security – Questions and Answers

Special to The Truth

Question:

Is it true I must now receive my benefits through direct deposit?

Answer:

Anyone applying for benefits on or after May 1, 2011, will be required to receive their payments electronically, while those already receiving paper checks will need to switch by March 1, 2013. Paper checks will no longer be an option for most people. If you don't have a bank account, you can get your benefits through the Direct Express debit MasterCard. Switching from checks to electronic payments is fast, easy, and free at www.godirect.org. You also can call the U.S. Treasury Processing Center's toll-free helpline at 1-800-333-1795 or speak with a bank or credit union representative or contact Social Security for help.

Question:

I'm getting a summer job and I can't find my Social Security card. Do I need to get a new one?

Answer:

Ask your potential employer if he or she needs to see the card or if just the number is required. Knowing your number is usually what is important. If you do need to get a replacement card, come to your local Social Security office or Social Security Card Center and show us documents proving your identity and, possibly, citizenship. You can go to www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber for more specific information about the process of getting a new card and where to take your information. At that website, you can also download a copy of the simple application to have pre-filled when you visit.

RETIREMENT

Question:

How do I know when it's the right time for me to begin getting retirement benefits?

Answer:

If you use our on line *Retirement Estimator*, you can get estimates of your benefit at various ages from age 62, the earliest eligibility age, to age 70, the age when you can take full advantage of delayed retirement credits. It allows you to key in a multiple scenarios so you can get an instant, personalized estimate of your future retirement benefits. It's the best way to begin planning for your retirement. You can find the on line *Retirement Estimator* at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Question:

What is the benefit amount a spouse may be entitled to receive?

Answer:

If you are eligible for both your own retirement benefit and for benefits as a spouse, we will always pay you benefits based on your record first. If your benefit as a spouse is higher than your retirement benefit, you will receive a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse's benefits. A spouse generally receives one-half of the retired worker's full benefit unless the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age. If the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age, the amount of the spouse's benefit is reduced by a percentage based on the number of months before he or she reaches full retirement age. For example, based on the full retirement age of 66, if a spouse begins collecting benefits:

- At age 65, the benefit amount would be about 46 percent of the retired worker's full benefit;
- At age 64, it would be about 42 percent;
- At age 63, 37.5 percent; and
- At age 62, 35 percent.

However, if a spouse is taking care of a child who is either under age 16 or disabled and receives Social Security benefits on the same record, a spouse will get full benefits, regardless of age. Learn more by reading our *Retirement* publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10035.html.

DISABILITY

Question:

I'm applying for disability benefits. Do I automatically receive Medicare benefits if I'm approved for disability benefits?

Answer:

You will receive Medicare after you receive disability benefits for 24 months. When you become eligible for disability benefits, we will automatically enroll you in Medicare. We start counting the 24 months from the month you were entitled to receive disability, not the month when you received your first payment. Special rules apply to people with permanent kidney failure and those with "Lou Gehrig's Disease" (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). Learn more about Social Security disability benefits by reading our publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html.

Question:

I'm thinking about getting disability insurance from a private company. If I become disabled and have a private policy, would it reduce my Social Security disability benefit?

Answer:

No. Your eligibility for Social Security disability benefits is not affected by any private insurance you may have. But workers' compensation and certain other public disability payments may affect your Social Security benefit. You also should ask the company providing your disability protection what effect Social Security will have on the benefits they provide.

For more information about Social Security disability benefits, read our publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Question:

Can my children receive dependent's benefits because I am on Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Answer:

No. SSI benefits are based on the needs of the individual and are paid only to the qualifying person. There are no spouse's, children's or survivors benefits. However, if your children are

(Continued on Next Page)

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The Economy...*Tackling Tough Times* • The Economy...*Tackling Tough Times* • The Economy...*Tackling Tough Times* • The Economy...*Tackling*

Book Review

How to Get Out of Your Own Way by Tyrese Gibson

c.2011, Grand Central Publishing \$24.99 / \$27.99 Canada 275 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

They say the economy's getting better.

They say things are looking up, that business is starting to recover.

But they couldn't prove it by you. For months now, you've been spinning your wheels in the sand, your dreams on hold along with your life. You're wondering if the economy is to blame or if there's something else...

In the new book *How to Get Out of Your Own Way* by Tyrese Gibson, you'll see that your problems may be attributed to something much closer.

Growing up in a rough area south of L.A.'s Watts neighborhood, Tyrese Gibson had plenty of opportunities to get in trouble. Gangs were all over, but – despite that his father

was absent and his mother was an alcoholic - Gibson somehow avoided the worst. It helped that his stepfather guided him, and that he had a regular church life.

He also had a goal: to make music.

Gibson says he loved to sing and perform, which led him to win a talent contest and which opened the doors to a multifaceted career. Gibson is usually known by only his first name to fans of his movies and music.

But "Over the last decade, I have come to realize that God's purpose for me is to reach out to people," he says. "... I want to give people permission to want better for themselves..."

This book is the result.

The first step in taking your life "to another level" is to

"know that there are better circumstances you can be in." Learning to love yourself enough to find them is "technically getting out of your own way."

Learn to think differently, he says. Find a positive spirit, stop living negatively and clean up your surroundings. If people think of you the wrong way, work hard to change that. Become a role model, especially for your children. Wisely choose your "circle of five" and don't hang out with anyone who doesn't deserve your time. Share your ideas with the world. Understand that "selfish" isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"Always be strategizing and you will be prepared for the good and the bad."

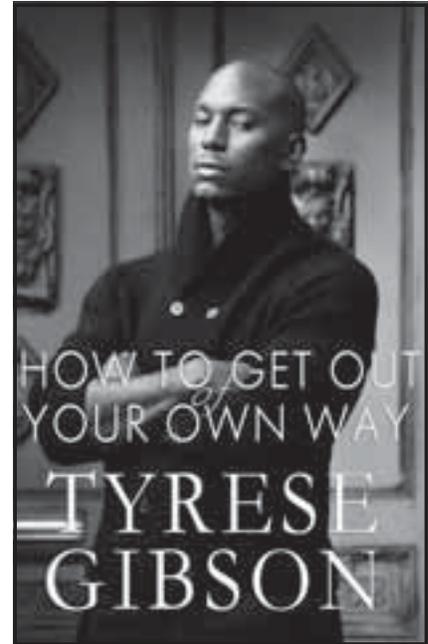
Tired of going nowhere, fast? *How to Get Out of Your*

Own Way may help motivate you. Or maybe not.

There's no doubt that this book will help readers to stop sabotaging themselves and their careers. Author, singer and actor Tyrese Gibson offers sound advice mixed in with personal anecdotes that well-illustrate his points and his words will resonate with today's youth.

And there's the thing: *How to Get Out of Your Own Way* seems geared more toward younger readers in need of a boost. Gibson, in fact, devotes several pages to teens and an entire segment to dating-mating issues that seasoned businesspeople likely won't find relevant.

I think, if you've been in business for awhile, *How to Get Out of Your Own Way* probably isn't a good fit for you. But for new grads or someone who's landed that first important job, you'll have a hard time finding something better.



(Continued from Page 10)

disabled themselves, they might be eligible to receive SSI benefits. To learn more about SSI benefits, read our publication on the subject at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html.

Question:

What is Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Answer:

SSI is a needs-based program administered by Social Security that provides monthly income to people who are 65 or older, blind, or disabled and who have limited income and financial resources. You can be eligible even if you have never worked in a job covered under Social Security. SSI is paid through general revenue taxes, not Social Security payroll taxes. To receive SSI, your financial resources (savings and assets you own) cannot be more than \$2,000 (\$3,000 if you are married). If you are married, a portion of your spouse's income may be counted when deciding whether you are eligible. Generally, to be eligible for SSI, an individual also must be a resident of the United States and must be a either citizen or a non-citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence. Learn more about SSI benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html.

MEDICARE

Question:

If I have a question about my Medicare bill, who should I contact first?

Answer:

First, contact your provider. If you are unable to get your question answered or problem resolved, then contact 1-800 MEDICARE. For more information about Medicare benefits, visit www.Medicare.gov.

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Legacy of Love Everlasting Lima Mourns Education/Political Activist

By: Vickie A. Shurelds, MaEd.

Alberta Robinson-Shurelds January 8, 1932 – July 5, 2011

Alberta Shurelds was born on January 8, 1932 to Leanna and Malachi better known as Dan Robinson. Her birth certificate says she was born with blonde hair and blue eyes, and none of us will ever know if that was recorded correctly, or just the usual dismissing of another black child born in the South.

She spent her childhood in Belzoni, Mississippi growing up with people whom she to this day loves more than life itself. When she would talk about her mother, her father, papa, Aunt Big Sis, Aunt Little Sis, Burt, Albert, Zeebo, Uncle Sonny – it doesn't matter who the story was about - she would always fill with excitement and love overflowing for every member of the family whether through blood or marriage.

She would tell us wonderful stories time and again about how Pinky the Bull got his revenge on them for teasing him in the field – and poor Pinky after that day was spread out with A-1 sauce and buttered corn and potatoes to create a lasting memory from a delightful time gone by.

There's the one about the little boy who begged too much and ended up with chicken poo on a Ritz Cracker, and how the Robinson Posse enjoyed their first self-cooked meal which she fried up the freshly killed chicken, masterminding the whole incident down to the burying of feathers only to give a Perry Mason type all out confession at the slightest indication Papa might take off his belt.

She was kind hearted; loving her step-mother Hilda just as strongly as her new found sister Carolyn. Accepting whoever has a drop of affection for a Robinson as a person worthy of love and devotion.



An advertisement for 'Blazin Club Flyers'. The text reads: 'BLAZIN CLUB FLYERS Now Available The Sojourner's Truth No hidden fees, Design & Shipping included 5000 1/4 Page Flyers: \$285.00 Ask about our short runs Full color graphic design, printing & Photography 1811 Adams St., Toledo, Ohio Call: (419) 243-0007 or (419) 214-1234'. There is a small logo in the bottom right corner.

Of course, life had led her to be a teacher. Always there to give the children guidance and a solid start on a life she knew would not be easy. Difficult times led her family away from all the people she loved in Mississippi to come to Lima, Ohio where her step father, Ashley Brownlow, was forging a new life at the steel foundry. They were going to be rich! Well, richer, because the hard work of her mother and father providing for every need kept her from knowing the truth of her station in life.

Moving to Ohio had its own challenges. Armed with an education from Mississippi Valley State, she secured work as the elevator girl at 3 Sisters clothing store, then as the salad girl at the Alpine Village Restaurant, or even a short stint as a worker in a nursing home were all positions she readily engaged, and she treated everyone with which she worked with patience and kindness.

Strangely enough, moving to Lima from Belzoni didn't prevent her from marrying John Shurelds, whom she met in Ohio even though they had lived just a few miles from each other in Belzoni. It was another challenging relationship, but one that brought to life four children who adore their parents, in her same tradition: Rosemary – born with red hair and blue eyes! Valeria L., a medical miracle who lives in Toledo; John Audie living in Jacksonville, and Vickie Shurelds, M.Ed, candidate for Ed.D. Yes, also a teacher, of St. Marys.

She began teaching in Belzoni, in an African-American school; she was often a featured speaker at area colleges speaking to students about the effects of racial prejudice and limitations placed on people of color in varied venues. She also spoke on the sometimes overlooked fact that desegregation meant a redistribution of students, but did not mean African-American teachers were afforded those same rights. She and her husband raised four children, two labeled as physically-challenged, but soon she returned to the workforce as a pre-school teacher with the Head Start Program earning another degree in addition to the one from MVS; this one for Child Development from Owens Technical College.

Community involvement brought her joy, frustration, and sense of purpose. She's been on the executive committee of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, The Democratic Minority Caucus/Black Elected Democrats of Ohio, Lima Technical College, Rhodes State College, the NAACP, Hope Neighborhood Association, Allen County Health Partners and many others.

She was a dedicated member of Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church with which she had been associated since coming to this area. She was the Obie Wan Kanobe of politics, Roberts Rule of Order, laws and the history of organizations in Lima and Allen County. Anyone that wants to know who is who, when they did what they did, what effect it had on the community, and what happened because that happened – they called Ms. Alberta Shurelds.

An advertisement for William Lucas. It features a portrait of a young man in a suit. The text reads: 'William Lucas also known as KING KEYSER www.kingschampions.com'. There are some small icons above the name.

(Continued on Page 14)

Arts Commission of Greater Toledo Announces July Art Walk Venues & Features

The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo (ACGT) is pleased to announce that Art Walk series will continue on Thursday, July 21. Art Walk is held each summer, on the third Thursday of each month, May through September. This is the Art Walk's fourth season.

Remaining 2011 Art Walk dates are August 18 and September 15. Hours are 6 – 9 p.m.

The program is presented as part of the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo's Live Work Create Toledo initiative, embracing economic development and revitalization through the arts. Under this umbrella, Art Walk is the sister program of Artomatic 419! and The Gallery Loop.

The Art Walk has grown exponentially in its previous three short years, growing from featuring less than 10 venues in its first year and a slim attendance, to finishing the 2010

season with a peak attendance of more than 700, and featuring an average of 20 venues each month.

The Art Walk offers Toledoans an opportunity to come out and explore

their Downtown, visiting great locally-owned galleries, businesses, artist studios and other venues while perusing and purchasing unique, locally-crafted one-of-a-kind art

work and gifts – all while enjoying the fresh summer air and getting a little exercise, be it walking, biking, or otherwise.

This year, ACGT will continue the 2010 implementation of sponsoring local performers with "busking" (a.k.a. street performing) licenses from the City of Toledo, allowing them to perform legally on city sidewalks during

the event while collecting tips.

July's sponsored street performers will be musicians Meaghan Roberts and Lucian Townes (both solo acoustic guitar players), musician Ian Welch, performance artist Katie Komuniecki, performance artist Bianca Marcia, experimental rock/jazz duo What's Next and the funky musings of Earl Cookie.

Also up-coming this season will be the installation of nearly 20 more "Art Benches" installed in the Arts Zone/Warehouse District. Ten of these colorful benches were installed during the 2010 season to help spruce up the streets of the neighborhood and increase its identity and visibility as an arts district. The benches were painted by youth apprentices in the award-winning Young Artists at Work program, which employs diverse and at-risk teens for six weeks in the summer, exposing them to an intensive multimedia arts training and long-lasting job training skills.

Continuing this year will be the use of ACGT's teal Live Work Create Toledo flags, which Art Walkgoers can use to identify participating venues during the event, and creative-based businesses throughout the season.

New this year is the addition of a local pedicab (bicycle taxis) service offering event goers rides from the St. Clair Village to Uptown, and vice versa.

July Art Walk Venues: Maps and venue/artist details are available for download from www.acgt.org. Maps will also be available at participating venues the day of the event.



Unison Behavioral Health Group Announces "Live to Celebrate Another Day"

Allison Langdon, a student at Whitmer High School, decided that she was ready to "Live to Celebrate Another Day." Allison and her mother, Amy, along with hundreds of other area high school students and their parents, entered Unison's "Live to Celebrate Another Day" sober contract signing contest earlier this spring in the hopes of winning an Apple iPad2.

The sober contract signing was one part of Unison's spring prom and graduation prevention campaign - which was funded by the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHRSB). The prevention campaign, "Live to Celebrate Another Day," was designed to increase awareness of alcohol and drug use, misuse, and abuse during the 2011 prom and graduation season. The campaign targeted Lucas County teens and their parents.

According to Courtney Weiss, chief operating officer for Unison Behavioral Health Group, "Lucas County students and their parents were asked to join

the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County and Unison as we worked to keep teens safe during prom and graduation season. Part of that effort included formalizing a teen's commitment to stay away from drugs and alcohol during prom and graduation by encouraging both parents and students to sign sober contracts. Kids think they are invincible, but all it takes is one bad decision to destroy a teen's life."

One third of alcohol-related traffic fatalities involving teens occur during the prom and graduation months of April – June. According to the Ohio State Highway Patrol, during Lucas County's 2011 Prom/Graduation Season (April – June), there were no fatalities involving teenagers. "This is good news," said Weiss, "but there is still work to be done." A recent survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) indicates that on average 13.2 percent of all persons 16 or older drove under the influence of alcohol and 4.3 percent of this age group drove under the influ-

ence of illicit drugs in the past year. Ohio had a high rate of driving under the influence of alcohol compared to other states and was in the mid-range of people driving under the influence of illicit drugs.

With over 35 years of experience, Unison Behavioral Health Group is the community's recognized and preferred leader in caring for the behavioral health and substance abuse issues of adults, adolescents and children. Unison accepts Ohio Medicaid and most private insurances. Through their contract with the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, Unison is able to offer subsidized services to Lucas County residents who are unable to afford the total cost of treatment. Unison is certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, and accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. For more information, visit www.unisonbhg.org



CLASSIFIEDS

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July 20, 2011

Alberta Robinson-Shurelds

(Continued from Page 12)

She's been nationally recognized as an extraordinary citizen and exemplary volunteer. State representatives, city council members, they all know if they want to know – Who you gonna call? Ms. Alberta Shurelds.

In all her 79 years she held her dignity. As one of her best friends put it: She was a Diva! Many tried to bring her down; of course they failed, because she is a child of God. Women, bosses, fellow board members, family members, loss of a husband, watching her kids get beat up by life - heart attack, cancer - she was even through the very last moment, an unstoppable force.

She continued to be in the fight to preserve what's right and decent and important in the world, and couldn't stand a liar, or a deceiver. And, she let it be known, that after God to her - nothing was as important as FAMILY.

Because her daughter was in the media, she was ineligible for many awards for which she was more than worthy, but she was often acknowledged by state and national organizations: MLK I Had A Dream Award

2000, the Heart and Soul award 2004, and the Rosa Parks Award 2006. On September 11, 2002, the ABC Radio Network recognized her as the Hero of the Day. The award was presented to her by nationally known radio personality: DeWayne Dancer.

She was the backbone of her family - and they are devastated by her absence. It would be accepted for them to say "we love her as much as she loved all of us", but that may not have been possible.

Here left with her memory are her sisters Annie Mae Banks of Lima, Edna (Brownlow) Owens of Maryland, and Caroline Minley of Milwaukee, Wi, her brothers: Ashley W. Brownlow, and Joseph L. Brownlow; her children Vickie, Valeria, Rosemary and John Audic (A.J). Number two son: Cardell Daniel (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) Grandchildren: Shayna D. Shurelds of New York City, Thomas (TJ) Smith of St. Marys, John Audic Shurelds, II of Jacksonville, and two great-grandchildren: Dayveon M. Smith, and Chandler G. Smith. A host of nephews, nieces, cousins, uncles and aunts and friends across the United States.

Coordinator of Faith Formation

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church is seeking an enthusiastic person with experience and leadership abilities to direct its Faith Formation Programs. This position will be part-time (24 hours) with an adaptable schedule. The Coordinator of Faith Formation, who will be a practicing Roman Catholic, will have a degree in Religious Studies, Theology, Education or have experience in the field. The Coordinator will be able to work in a multicultural situation, and creatively adapt to various teaching styles and schedules. Complete job description will be furnished upon request. EOE. DEADLINE to apply is July 30, 2011. TO APPLY: Send cover letter, and resume or inquiries to Search Committee, St. Martin de Porres Parish, 1119 W Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606 or email: stmartin@totalink.net

The Lucas County Land Bank Program Manager

The Lucas County Land Bank seeks an attorney licensed in Ohio to support our mission and operations as Program Manager. Must have at least one year of experience in real estate and public sector practice. To read more about the position qualifications and to apply, please visit our website at www.LucasCountyLandBank.org and click on "Job Opportunities." The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal opportunity employer.

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Woodley Court - \$259,000
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CLASSIFIEDS

July 20, 2011

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Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for an Environmental Engineer. The Environmental Engineer will assist the refinery in maintaining compliance with environmental regulations which include: communicating with regulators, neighbors, and employees. Candidate will be required to perform duties that are legally required such as regulatory inspections, waste characterization, oversight of waste shipments, developing procedures, data collection, and reporting. Candidate will also be responsible for regulation evaluations and making recommendations for compliance programs. Environmental Engineer will evaluate MOC's, project environmental checksheets, and FELs to ensure that permitting issues are identified and addressed. Candidate will contract with vendors to provide inspection services for USEPA and State required third party inspections. Other duties include but are not limited to: ensure compliance with Title V, develop indicators of performance, identify trends, conduct investigations to determine cause of nonconformance, and support the refinery in meeting environmental objectives and goals.

The qualified candidate shall possess a BA/BS in Engineering or Environmental Science. A minimum of 3 years related work experience and regulatory knowledge. Experience in LDAR and Consent Decree is preferred.

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

EOE/M/F/D/V

Coordinator of Faith Formation

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church is seeking an enthusiastic person with experience and leadership abilities to direct its Faith Formation Programs. This position will be part-time (24 hours) with an adaptable schedule. The Coordinator of Faith Formation, who will be a practicing Roman Catholic, will have a degree in Religious Studies, Theology, Education or have experience in the field. The Coordinator will be able to work in a multicultural situation, and creatively adapt to various teaching styles and schedules. Complete job description will be furnished upon request. EOE. DEADLINE to apply is July 30, 2011. TO APPLY: Send cover letter, and resume or inquiries to Search Committee, St. Martin de Porres Parish, 1119 W Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio 43606 or email: stmartin@totalink.net

Request for Proposals Maintenance, Painting and Janitorial of Vacant Units RFP #11-R026

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Maintenance, Painting and Janitorial of Vacant Units. Proposals will be received in accordance with law until **Monday, August 1, 2011 at 4PM EST. Pre-Proposal Conference held on July 18, 2011 at 10AM EST, 201 Belmont.** RFP documents are available in the LMHA offices, 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604, 419/259-9438 and LMHA's website at: www.lucasmha.org. All proposers required to meet the Affirmative Action requirements and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246.



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AOD THERAPIST

Unison Behavioral Health Group Inc. is seeking an experienced AOD Therapist to work with adults, children or adolescents providing individual, family and group counseling, case management and prevention services.

Candidate must possess a bachelor's degree, a minimum of two years experience working with children and adolescents with chemical dependency issues and one of the following Ohio licenses - LSW, LISW, PC, PCC, LCDC II, LCDC III or LICDC. A Master's degree and dual mental health /chemical dependency licensure preferred.

Send resume or apply to:
Human Resources Director -AOD
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org

EOE

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY12-002,

(Project # 0103-11-689) for Research and Technology Complex 1 Rapid Prototyping Lab Upfit for the University of Toledo. 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, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 26, 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 Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$50.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Tim Fry of The JDI Group, Inc., at 419-725-7161. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operation Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$287,500.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$78,000.00; Plumbing: \$34,000.00; HVAC: \$97,000.00 & Electrical: \$78,500.00.

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Diabetes Supplies Earn up to \$12 per box of 100 test strips Must expire after May 2012. Leave labels on boxes. We remove and shred. Call 419-740-7162 and leave message.

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INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS - JESUP W. SCOTT HIGH SCHOOL FURNISH- INGS AND EQUIPMENT PACKAGE

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on August 10, 2011**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the **Scott HS FF&E package**, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by SSOE Group and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

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

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **Wednesday July 20th, 2011 which can be purchased from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615, phone: (419) 385-5303. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for **July 29, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.** at Toledo Public Schools Board Room, 420 Manhattan Blvd, Toledo, Ohio 43608.

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

Bid Item #1 School Desk & Chairs Package
\$479,325.00

Bid Item #2 Tables Package
\$239,660.00

Bid Item #3 Office Desk & Chairs Package
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Bid Item #4 Music Package
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Total Estimate:
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Fifth Third Checking account required. \$10 minimum deposit to open new account, accounts closed within 90 days will be charged a \$25 fee, and returned check and overdraft fees apply to all checking accounts. Earn rewards points by using your Homeowner Plus Value Credit Card with Homeowner Plus Value Package Rewards. Points are used to make principal reductions on your mortgage. See banker for details on the rewards program. An example of using thousands assumes a 3% interest rate (3.250% APR) on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage of \$200,000. Saving \$6,348 over the life of the loan based on an average monthly home improvement/home furnishing spending of \$100/month and average monthly spending for all other credit card purchases to be \$200/month. A 20% down payment with no private mortgage insurance (PMI) is assumed, with a monthly payment of \$1,071.04. Loans are subject to credit review and approval. Fifth Third Bank, Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. Mortgage products offered by Fifth Third Mortgage Company and Fifth Third Mortgage M, LLC.