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The Links Emerald Ball
Collision Course

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

One ever feels his two-ness - an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder. - W. E. B. DuBois

When Phil Copeland defeated George Sarantou in the November 6 election for Lucas County Recorder, he could not have foreseen the consequences from the “double consciousness” of his representation and departure from Toledo City Council.

While peaceful, low-key and quiet himself, Copeland leaves behind both personal and political factions - divided, unreconciled and in conflict - a result of his dual identity on council as an African American labor leader.

Persons such as Toledo Board of Education President Lisa Sobecki, past District 1 candidate Jason Schreiner, and block watch leader Michael Dearth have expressed a strong interest in being appointed to fill the final 12 months of Copeland’s uncompleted term.

However, it is the names of Jack Ford, a local African-American political icon, and little known Shaun Enright, that signal a potential political and cultural clash.

Labor unions, perhaps with elevated organizational testosterone levels and cognizant of having played a critical role in helping President Obama claim Ohio in the 2012 presidential election, have made it clearly known that they support the appointment of Enright to Copeland’s vacated seat. Yet there are other voices clamoring for Council to appoint Ford instead.

“Is Copeland’s seat a union seat or a black seat? ‘That’s the dilemma,’ says Councilman Tyrone Riley, laughing loudly. “If you ask Phil, he’ll say it’s a union seat,” he adds.

“From what I understand, labor approached him to run for Recorder,” continues Riley. “They put resources and manpower behind getting him elected and through that whole campaign. It was the unions and not the party, and he’s the only African-American office holder at the county level. And so what the union has done is to say, ‘listen, we’re going to help the black community and try to get someone elected because your party wouldn’t endorse you through the primary.’

“As for Jack, I’m a fan and nobody has more experience than he does, but I’m not 100 percent sold that he’s the best person for the job. There have been five or six others that have reached out to me for support and I plan to listen and keep my options open,” she reasons. “If labor, I think you’ll be supporting Shaun. Other camps will support Jack, and I smell a deal in the works. Jack needs support for a future campaign.”

Paula Hicks-Hudson is also currently non-committed. “It depends on what camp you’re in,” she reasons. “If labor, I think you’ll be supporting Shaun. Other camps will support Jack, who is pushing for it, or possibly Lisa Sobecki. I, personally, would like to see somebody with a clear idea of how the city should run and not be someone who will merely criticize and throw grenades, but bring policy-making skills and the ability to build consensus.

“There is a need for labor’s voice on council, but whoever the person is needs to go through the screening process with the party, who will send its recommendation to council. That’s what I did,” says Paula.

Will the Democratic Party screening process be a mere formality, ultimately leaving one fewer person of color on Council at a time when a generation of young black and brown males is drowning it own blood?

With organized labor having flooded the national election with an abundance of campaign money and volunteers to get-out-the vote, unions also provide 52 percent of the local Democratic Party’s operational support and heavily finances many local candidates.

“They have drawn a line in the sand in what is essentially a power play and said Shaun is the only African-American party endorsed person you’d endorse you through the primary.”

Can anything be done to avoid the wreck?

“Jack Ford is extremely savvy,” states the insider. “I understand that Shaun and Jack met for lunch on Black Friday. Whoever is appointed to the seat will also possibly have to run in September and November 2013 for the full term.

“At that time there will only be three incumbents – [Rob] Ludeman, [Adam] Martinez and [Steve] Steel - running for six available seats. Enright needs the platform that the temporary appointment brings right now. Jack needs support for a future campaign.”

And I smell a deal in the works.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman at drdmperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Community Calendar

November 30
St. Paul MBC Faith Friday: 7 pm; Guest speaker Minister Aaron Murray of Indiana Ave MBC

December 1
A Journey Through Tears Healing for the Holidays: Noon to 2:30 pm; Mt. Pilgrim Church; Email names of loved ones to be read by November 28 to beatricedan@msn.com: 419-531-1336

World AIDS Day Enlightenment: Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc; 7-9:30 pm; PNC Bank Auditorium; Guest speaker Justin Wooley; To increase awareness and demystify the negative stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS

December 2
Ebenezer MBC Appreciation Service: For Pastor Jimmie J. Jordan and First Lady Rosie Jordan; 3 pm

December 4
First Presbyterian Church of Maumee “Grief Share: Surviving the Holidays:” 6 to 8:30 pm; Practical suggestions and reassurance through video interviews with counselors: 419-893-0223

December 9
Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral Women’s Day: 11 am: 419-944-0984
St. Stephens COGIC “Jubilee of Praise: 4 pm New Prospect Baptist Church Annual Candlelight Services: 4 pm
AFT Announces Campaign to End Testing Fixation

Special to The Truth

AFT’s Weingarten: “Public education should be obsessed with high-quality teaching and learning, not high-stakes testing.”

The American Federation of Teachers announced last week the second phase of its campaign against excessive testing. “Learning Is More Than a Test Score,” which will include a policy agenda that takes into account what we learn from teachers, parents and others.

The AFT’s efforts to help all children succeed — by de-emphasizing testing and ensuring instead that instruction includes the arts and physical education and is based on high-quality standards such as the Common Core State Standards — began with an online petition and a resolution stating that testing should inform, not impede, teaching and learning.

“Public education should be obsessed with high-quality teaching and learning, not high-stakes testing. Tests have a role to play, but today’s fixation with them is undermining what we need to do to give kids a challenging and well-rounded education and to fairly measure teachers’ performance,” AFT President Randi Weingarten said.

The AFT’s campaign, “Learning Is More Than a Test Score,” includes a website, a toolkit and other items advocating an end to the over-reliance on testing and calling for the restoration of teaching and learning to its proper role at the forefront of the education process. The AFT will be working with affiliates, communities, school districts and states to help ensure that testing does not encroach on the instructional time students need to learn how to think critically and creatively.

In the next few months, the AFT will convene leaders and external experts to look at promising practices and develop a road map of promising policy alternatives to the testing fixation. The Albert Shanker Institute also will devote its Good Schools conference to this topic.

The AFT believes that tests are an important tool to diagnose students’ strengths and weaknesses and that, when used correctly, they can help teachers identify students who are falling behind and those who need more challenging work. “As we push for better, higher standards in education, we must ensure that teaching to high standards doesn’t devolve into teaching to low-level tests,” Weingarten said.

The over-emphasis on high-stakes tests has forced teachers to spend an excessive amount of time on test preparation, actual testing and data collection at the expense of more engaging instruction. The AFT is working with its affiliates on state legislation concerning the appropriate use of tests as well as on collecting and analyzing data on how much time and money is being spent on testing and test preparation. Some disturbing examples of over-testing and test prep include:

+ A superintendent in Monroe County, N.Y., testified that in the first two months of school, more than 20,000 pretests were administered to 4,000 students.
+ Teachers in Florida say their schools have some form of testing 80-90 school days a year.
+ In Texas, up to 45 days each school year are spent on testing activities.

“The public gets it, and opposition to the testing fixation is increasing,” Weingarten said. For example:

+ Thousands have signed the AFT’s petition calling for a more balanced approach to public education by prioritizing high-quality instruction informed by appropriate and useful assessments.
+ 870 school districts in Texas (or 85 percent of all Texas districts) have passed a resolution saying that high-stakes standardized tests are “strangling” public schools.
+ The Florida School Board Association and dozens of Florida school districts have passed resolutions calling for an end to high-stakes tests as the primary factor in evaluating student, teacher, school and district achievement.

View the AFT’s high-stakes testing petition and the resolution on the testing fixation passed by the AFT delegates.

Follow AFT President Randi Weingarten: http://twitter.com/rweingarten

NAACP Polls Black Voters

By Joi C. Ridley
Special to The Truth

For the civil rights community, Election Day was an unforgettable victory. Ballot initiatives promoting equality were passed in several key states and Minnesota’s attempt to restrict voting rights was struck down. An NAACP swing state poll conducted in the days leading up to the election showed that more than 432,000 new African American voters, earning the NAACP “battleground state” status.

However, support for the federal government is not support for government dependency. Eighty-one percent of respondents believe that success depends on self-reliance and determination, while only 14 percent disagree.

This poll paints a picture of how African-American interests fit into our new political calculus,” said Marvin Randolph, NAACP’s senior vice president for Campaigns.

This calculus includes an African-American voting bloc that made up more than 13 percent of the voting electorate for the last two presidential elections, according to national exit polls. The NAACP helped encourage this high turnout by registering more than 432,000 new voters and educating and activating 1.2 million voters — both historic highs for the Association.

“People have said traditional America has died. In actuality, the real America, full of diverse opinions and values, has now risen. That real America is what our nation was built upon.”

Complete polling results are found online at http://www.naacp.org/blog/entry/naacp-battleground-poll-results
Heartbeat Has Need for Baby Items

Heartbeat of Toledo, a local agency that provides assistance to families with small children, is in need of baby items. Most urgently needed are diapers, newborn through size five, as well as Similac Advance and Similac Sensitive Isomil Soy powder formula.

“During the winter months we always see an increase in the number of moms and dads who come to us for help,” notes Patricia Todak, executive director.

In addition to diapers and formula, Heartbeat is in need of wipes; baby wash; lotion; diaper rash ointment; new and gently used winter clothes size 0-6 months; boys clothing up to size 2T; outwear, especially coats, snowsuits, boots and mittens (up to size 2T); receiving blankets; hooded bath towels and washcloths; and gently used high chairs and strollers including the umbrella type.

Heartbeat also needs new toys for children from newborn through age three. These toys can be brought in wrapped or unwrapped. If wrapped, please attach a tag stating the age range on the toy.

If you can help, please call Heartbeat at 419-241-9131. Items can be dropped off at their office at 4041 W. Sylvania Ave. Suite LL4 (across from Westfield Franklin Park Mall) Mondays through Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Heartbeat of Toledo offers free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and options counseling, as well as prenatal and parenting classes where parents can earn baby items by completing classes. Other programs include a Relationship Smarts class; Fatherhood Rap Session; and emergency services. Heartbeat has been serving Toledo-area families since 1971.

Holidays In The Manor House Returns To Wildwood This Sunday

A Toledo tradition more than three decades in the making returns to Wildwood Preserve Sunday, December 2 through Sunday, December 9.

Thirty-five differently decorated areas of the stately Manor House will sparkle with holiday spirit, courtesy of hundreds of volunteers. Displays will include themes such as A Polish Christmas dinner, Christmas Masquerade and the Manor House Railway.

Last year, more than 18,000 people toured the decorated mansion during the eight-day event.

Tours are free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

The Manor House was built in the 1930s as the family home of Robert and Page Stranahan. In the mid-1970s, Metroparks purchased the house and property with funding from a special tax levy and established Wildwood Preserve. The house has been decorated for the holidays ever since.

Wildwood Preserve is at 5100 W. Central Avenue, between Reynolds and Corey roads.
The holidays are upon us and the shopping has begun. Toledo Choose Local, a non-profit association devoted to raising awareness about the benefits of local spending, has created a “Shift Your Shopping” campaign to assist area shoppers in choosing local.

The “Shift Your Shopping” campaign seeks to match local-lovers with independent businesses. The campaign kicks off on Friday, November 30 and continues through the month of December. Toledo Choose Local is partnering with the Arts Commission’s Holiday Loop event in downtown Toledo for its Shift Your Shopping kick-off. The Holiday Loop offers participants free bus transportation to art galleries and businesses which have agreed to stay open late, as well as offer art and holiday gifts for affordable prices. Toledo Choose Local will provide space, at 610 Adams St., for some of its non-down-town members to display and sell their wares.

The Toledo Choose Local website (www.toledochooselocal.org) provides shoppers with maps of suggested locally-owned businesses. There are three maps: Westgate and Mall area; Monroe Street (Talmadge to Main St. in Sylvania); and Perrysburg-Maumee.

Shoppers are urged to use the maps to find and shop at locally-owned, independent businesses. Dollars spent locally increase the overall local economy. A research project conducted by Civil Economics found that choosing a locally-owned store generates almost four times as much economic benefit for the surrounding region as shopping at a chain. Local retailers return an average of 52 percent of their revenue to the local economy, compared with just 14 percent for the chain retailer. Locally-owned retailers and restaurants add character to a community; their owners tend to be more attentive and responsive to their customers and they rely on relationships and quality to sell their products and services.

Throughout the campaign, participating businesses will hold Facebook sales. Toledo Choose Local will post to its Facebook page a special sale offered by a local business. The sale will be of short duration and only publicized on Toledo Choose Local’s Facebook page. Shoppers will have a limited time to take advantage of the sale.

Toledo Choose Local wants shoppers to give local retailers and restaurants a try this holiday season. Retailers will be offering a variety of unique and enjoyable gift items. Between stores, stop at a local eatery and refuel.

For more information on Toledo Choose Local, visit www.toledochooselocal.org or search Toledo Choose Local on Facebook.
OWENS COMMUNITYCollege Concert Band to Honor World War II Tuskegee Airman During Holiday Concert, Dec. 9

Special to The Truth

Owens Community College will welcome the holiday season, as well as pay tribute to Northwest Ohio World War II Tuskegee Airman Col. Harold H. Brown of Catawba Island, as the Concert Band presents a Holiday and Tuskegee Airmen Tribute Concert on Sunday, Dec. 9.

The concert will begin 2:30 p.m. in the Mainstage Theatre. Owens’ Toledo-area Campus is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township. The performance is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

“We are eternally grateful to the brave service men and women who have defended our country’s freedom and democracy for hundreds of years,” said Fred Dais, Owens Adjunct Instructor in Fine and Performing Arts and Concert Band Conductor. “It is truly an honor to celebrate them and their heroism.”

Musical selections presented by the Owens Concert Band, which is comprised of Owens students and employees and community members, will include “Stars and Stripes for Christmas”, “Harlem Nocturne”, “A Jazzy Christmas”, “March Grandioso”, “Of Honor and Valor”, “A Hanukkah Festival”, “Winterfest” and “Merry Christmas Everyone”, among others.

During the concert, Brown will be honored for his dedication and commitment to his country. During World War II, Brown served in the 332nd Fighter Group and completed 30 missions before being shot down and held as a POW in Germany. He returned home in 1945 and served more than 23 years in the U.S. Air Force.

The Tuskegee Airmen were an elite group of African-American fighter pilots in the 1940s and pioneers in equality and integration of the U.S. Armed Forces. The term “Tuskegee Airmen” refers to all who were involved in the U.S. Army Air Corps program to train African-Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors and all personnel who kept the planes in the air.

For more information about Owens’ Holiday and Tuskegee Airmen Tribute Concert, contact the College’s Fine and Performing Arts Department at (567) 661-7081 or 1-888-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7081.
December 1 is World AIDS Day

By Michelle McCaster, NA, ProMedica
Special to The Truth

Can you recall in 1991 when Magic Johnson made the courageous decision to share with the world that he was HIV positive? Well, it has been over two decades and he is now a hugely successful businessman, a basketball commentator and a loving husband and grandfather who is living life to the fullest. Most importantly, he still raises money and awareness in an effort to create the same limitless future for others. He is only one of many success stories of individuals living with this once devastating and detrimental disease.

December 1, 2012 is World AIDS Day and I have to ask this one question, “Do you know your status?” African Americans account for the greatest number of new HIV infections in the United States. (And although African Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, they accounted for 44 percent of new HIV infections in 2009.) To date, over 230,000 African Americans have died of AIDS - nearly 40 percent of total deaths - and of the more than one million people living with HIV in the United States today, almost half are black. And yet, as a racial group, African Americans represent just 13 percent of the U.S. population.

The disparity is due to unique issues African Americans face, including a greater incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, poverty and the negative perception of AIDS, which encourages less awareness of the disease and associated risky behavior.

While the reasons for infections being high in the African-American community are complex, there is hope that through prevention and programming there will be raised awareness and people will get the information they need to help combat this disease. Technology has also allowed us to improve testing and medications regimens so that people with the disease are able to live improved qualities of life.

We openly talk about and advocate for diseases such as breast cancer, sickle cell anemia and diabetes. It is now time to break the silence regarding HIV/AIDS. The disease no longer has to be a death sentence so I encourage you to know your status and get tested because knowing is so much better than being in the dark.

For information on a testing site near you please call 1-800-CDC-INFO or refer to the information on the right for local testing sites.

Toledo Ballet and Library partner to present an excerpt from The Nutcracker – Saturday!

The Toledo Ballet and the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library partner for their 3rd annual spotlight on The Nutcracker. Dancers from the Toledo Ballet are scheduled to perform an excerpt from this holiday favorite from 11 a.m. to noon this Saturday, December 1 in the McMaster Center at Main Library, 325 Michigan St.

Enjoy crafts and refreshments, and one lucky winner will win two tickets to The Toledo Ballet’s performance of The Nutcracker. See details here: www.toledoballet.net

Registration is required. Call today to see this free and open to the public performance!

NOTE: For additional information visit toledolibrary.org, or call 419-256-5200
The members of the Toledo chapter of the Links, Inc. celebrated their 40th Anniversary Emerald Ball, November 17 at the Parkway Place in Maumee. Links incorporated is a women’s service organization based on friendship and service with over 12,000 members nationally and internationally. The Emerald Ball is an event held to raise funds for the chapter’s programming. This year, the proceeds will benefit the “Girls Circle” program which is a partnership with the YWCA and Toledo Public Schools. The program helps sixth and seventh grade girls from Jones at Gunckel Park Elementary School work and participate in enrichment and self-esteem building classes. Guests adorned in formal attire enjoyed a grazing style buffet, followed by a short program. They topped the night off with dancing.

Family House Open House

Family House, the second largest emergency shelter for families in the state of Ohio, located at 669 Indiana Ave, held an open house November 15 in Celebration of Community Support. The open house was held as a way of showing appreciation to the City of Toledo and United Way as well as area universities, businesses and foundations that come together to support the homeless families served by Family House. According to Reneé Palacios, executive director, what makes the Family House’s mission different is that they keep families together. She states, “A lot of shelters segregate by gender and we don’t because when you lose your home, the last thing you have is your family so you want to keep them together. Our mission is very important in that it keeps families together so that they can stay strong together.” With the holiday season fast approaching, when asked what their needs for Christmas were, Palacios replied, “Every year we have kids who ask, ‘Will Santa know I’m at the homeless shelter?’ or because they don’t live where they used to live they want to know, ‘Will Santa find me?’” We assure them that Santa comes to Family House so we are always looking for donations of new toys.” She emphasized the need especially for infants and teens and suggests gift cards for teens who can be a little finicky and hard to shop for.
The Liberian – American Association of Toledo’s, “Elegance of African Fashion & Installation of Officers” event was held November 10, at the Lucas County Recreation Center. The organization serves as an umbrella for Liberians in Toledo and strives to promote peace, unity, and to continuously improve their community while motivating the lives of other people. Deborah Washington, Ed.D served as mistress of ceremonies and the Installation of Officers was overseen by Rev. Wynston Dixon. Alfonso Anderson was installed as president; Nathan Stubblefield, vice-president; Nearl Venn, secretary and Sarah Guobadia, treasurer. Guests enjoyed a show of African fashion, food, music and dancing enriched with cultural flair.
D. Pierce DeBoe and Ahmad J. Jacobs

Donnetta Carter and Tina Butts

Denise Baldwin and Larry Davis

Dwele and Carla Yvette

John Perryman and Shanel Nickelson

Ivy and Joy Fulillove

Kathleen Greely, Dwele and Donnetta Carter

Vince and Latossa Napper

Ramona Cojine, Jesse Coleman and Tina Butts

Joyce A. Stubblefield, Glenn Stubblefield and Ruth Strozier

Salsa dance-off with dancers from Toledo Salsa

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The Power in Teams: How to Build, Support and Sustain Team Programs

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www.phoenixtoledo.org
The Holiday Book Gift Guide, Pt 1

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Last January, you loaded up. You loaded up on all the left-over, on-sale, clearance-priced Christmas wrapping paper you could lay your hands on. You bought Hanukkah bags, Santa wrap, gifty things with poinsettias and reindeer and holly and you put it all away because you knew darn well that you'd use it in due time.

Well, now's the time. You got the paper out. You just need to find things to use it with. But sometimes, it's hard to find just the right thing for everybody on your list, isn't it? There's always somebody who's impossible to buy for... and that's when you should head to the bookstore to look for these great reads...

NOVELS

Set in Minnesota as the last century began, The Lighthouse Road by Peter Geyer is a book about homesickness, love, survival and life the way our ancestors lived. This novel is set in the winter and is so evocative that you'll want an extra blanket when you take it by the fireplace. And speaking of snow, here's another cold-weather novel to give: The Vanishing Act by Mette Jakobsen. It's the story of a father and daughter who live on a snow-covered island. When a dead boy washes up on the shore one day, the young girl tries to learn the truth about him and about her mother's death.

So your giftee loves his (or her) cell phone above all else? Then wrap up Hidden Things by Doyce Testerman. When a mysterious text message arrives from her best friend, a woman wonders what he's talking about... and then the police arrive. Her BFF is dead. So how did he leave her a message an hour before he died? (I'm not telling. Give the book.) Another book about friendship and dastardly secrets is The Unfinished Work of Elizabeth D. by Nichole Bernier. It's the story of a journal found when a woman dies, and the realization of the woman's best friend that she never knew the woman at all...

Novel lovers will be so happy when they unwrap Motherland by Amy Sohn! This is a book about five mothers and fathers in various places around New York City, and how they deal with modern marriage and relationships. This book is perfect when teamed with a new mug, a box of hot cocoa... Another book novel lovers will eat up is One Last Thing Before I Go by Jonathan Tropper, which is the story of one man's last days and his attempt to fix what's broken before he's gone.

Is someone on your list bereft because there's no new Twilight book this season? Fear not, and wrap up Dark Frost by Jennifer Estep. This book - the next in the Mythos Academy series - is dark, mysterious, and romantic, and it's just the thing for your favorite undead novel-lover. Another book to try is You Get What You Play For by Jeff Farley. That's the story of a Brooklyn girl with dreams, and what happens when she gives them up for the love of a boy who's wrong for her.

If your giftee can't get enough of the Undead, then you can't go wrong with Zombie: A Novel by J.R. Angelella. It's the story of a boy who's obsessed with zombies, watching as many of those kinds of movies as he can. It serves him well when something mysteriously happens to his father. Wrap it up with a nightlight.

Your giftee has seen The Godfather so many times, you lost count. So this year, wrap up The Family Corleone by Ed Falco, based on a screenplay by Mario Puzo. This prequel to The Godfather doesn't sleep with the fishes. It's really something they can't refuse (sorry. I couldn't resist). Another family-type novel, this one of a different kind of edgy, is The Lola Quartet by Emily St. John Mandel. This is the story of a man who tries to find the child he recently learned he had, for himself, and to save her life.

Definitely for a grown-up to unwrap, The Water Children by Anne Berry is the story of four children, each touched by tragedy and water, and how they come together to survive and heal. I also liked Austin and Emily by Frank Turner Hollon, the story of a 347-pound man, his stripper girlfriend, a car filled with cats, and their cross-country trip together in search of happiness.

You already know your giftee is a mystery fan. You know you want to wrap up a mystery for her to wrap up. So why not give Someone Bad and Something Blue by Miranda Parker? The main character in this novel is a gritty single mom / bail recovery agent / PI sleuth, definitely suitable for grown-ups only.

(Continued on Page 12)
Behind the season? Then wrap up about the things we say. Give it to your favorite student, and in story line, then you'll want to give her losing her very identity.

Another mysterious read I think your giftee will like is which pretty much tells you that this is a good gift, doesn't it? Another historical novel to give is Heaven Should Fall by Rebecca Coleman. It’s the story of love and tragedy, an unexpected baby, and a woman’s sacrifice. Another book for the Civil War fan is Wilderness by Lance Weller. It’s the story of an elderly man who moved to the wilderness after the Civil War, but at the end of his life, must undertake a journey that won’t be easy. Another historical novel to give is Illuminations by Mary Sharratt. Based on the life of Hildegard von Bingen, this novel-based-on-fact will delight anyone who’s a fan of this medieval healer.

If you’re looking for something small, perhaps for a stocking-stuffer, then look for Big Ray by Michael Kimball. It’s a skinny novel about a man’s love for his dead father, despite that the father was less-than-loving when the man was young. Yes, this is a small novel but it’s big on emotion.

Another romance to try is Heaven Should Fall by Rebecca Coleman. It’s the story of love and tragedy, an unexpected baby, and a woman’s sacrifice. Another book for the Civil War fan is Wilderness by Lance Weller. It’s the story of an elderly man who moved to the wilderness after the Civil War, but at the end of his life, must undertake a journey that won’t be easy.

Another book that’s a book about learning to winnow through the fact to spot a lie and vice versa. Good stuff, in this age of internet “forwards,” don’t you think?

Another book to look for is White Lilies in Autumn by Dustin W. Bradshaw. It’s a book about getting through adversity, surviving bad times, and finding beauty and love in the everyday.

The Holiday Book Gift Guide, Pt 1

by Stacy London. This is a book that will help her get the most out of accessories, ideas, color, and shoes. It will make her look her best, which is what she wants, not just for the holidays, but for the other 11 months of the year, too.

This is a book that will help her get the most out of accessories, ideas, color, and shoes. It will make her look her best, which is what she wants, not just for the holidays, but for the other 11 months of the year, too.

The Truth About Facts in the Age of Misinformation by Loren Collins. It’s a book about how a teensy little bug has beaten up gigantic deforestation, tree history, our relationships with trees, and vice versa. Good stuff, in this age of internet “forwards,” don’t you think?

Another book to look for is White Lilies in Autumn by Dustin W. Bradshaw. It’s a book about getting through adversity, surviving bad times, and finding beauty and love in the everyday.

For the artist-at-heart, or for your giftee who claims to be unable to draw, look for The Artist’s Eye, Drawing Techniques and Figure Drawing by Richard Quinney. This book is a book about learning to winnow through the fact to spot a lie and vice versa. Good stuff, in this age of internet “forwards,” don’t you think?

Another book to look for is White Lilies in Autumn by Dustin W. Bradshaw. It’s a book about getting through adversity, surviving bad times, and finding beauty and love in the everyday.

Ezell and Jon Bear, PhD. It’s a book about an industry that tells lies and steals, and how you can educate yourself against fraudulent “experts” with faux degrees. You also might want to look for Bullspitting: Finding Facts in the Age of Misinformation by Loren Collins. It’s a book about learning to winnow through the fact to spot a lie and vice versa. Good stuff, in this age of internet “forwards,” don’t you think?

Another book to look for is White Lilies in Autumn by Dustin W. Bradshaw. It’s a book about getting through adversity, surviving bad times, and finding beauty and love in the everyday.

You also might want to look for wrap up Eating Dirt by Charlotte Gill. Canadian Gill spent recent time planting trees in the mountains, and this book is about her adventures, what she saw, and what she thinks about deforestation, tree history, our relationships with trees, and nature in general. Another book that would be greatly appreciated is Empire of the Beetle by Andrew Nikiforuk. It’s a book about how a teeny little bug has beaten up gigantic forces and what can be done about it.

Is there a dancer on your gift list? or maybe someone who loves “DWTs”? Then you should find Dancers Among Us by Jordan Matter and wrap it up. This book is filled with photos of dancers in all kinds of situations and places; professionals, amateurs, weddings, and street dancers. It’s also filled with people who are dancing for sheer joy. What’s not to love about that?

So there you are. Part one in a bunch of ideas for every- body’s whose name on your gift list makes you grin. What will you buy? Now you know.

Keep in mind that availability isn’t guaranteed, titles may have changed, and some books might have to be ordered. But if these ideas aren’t good enough, then ask your friendly bookstore for hints, and favors. They love to talk books—it’s why they get paid the big bucks, you know. So go. Get outta here. Go shopping.

Keep reading in future weeks for the rest of the list. And Gaston’s readings!

The Sojourner’s Truth

November 28, 2012

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The Josh Project: A Local Community Program Gains Worldwide Exposure

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

CNN’s Hometown Hero program identifies ordinary citizens making extraordinary impacts on their communities. The Top Ten Heroes are rewarded for their efforts to improve the lives of others and a Hero of the Year is chosen from the 10 finalists. The global news leader lending a hand to the little guy/gal is truly a big deal. But the fact that it has brought the world stage right to Toledo, Ohio is a huge deal!

I want you all to read this interview and see why Wanda Butts is our very own Hometown Hero.

1. Please explain to our readers exactly how the Josh Project began and what its goals are.

On August 6, 2006, my 16-year-old son, Josh, went to Bird Lake in Michigan with some of his friends from school. He had gone over there the day before and spent the night. The following day, a Sunday, I called his cell phone several times but couldn’t get an answer. I tried calling him several times early in the afternoon around 1 p.m. That evening around 6 p.m., someone called the house and hung up when I answered. They called back a few minutes later and said that Josh had drowned, and they couldn’t find his body. The events that occurred throughout the rest of that day are a story that is filled with emotional pain and turmoil that ensued knowing that Josh was gone; dead by drowning and the confusion surrounding the fact that the rescue divers were unable to locate his body. He was never coming home again.

Fast forward to after the funeral and daily visits by well-wishers and sympathetic friends, I began researching “drowning” on the internet. Through my grief, I was looking for answers to questions like “Why did this happen?” “How did this happen?” “What could I have done, if anything, to prevent this from happening?”

One of the first things my research revealed was that 10 people drown every day in the United States. Two of the 10 deaths are of children ages 14 and younger. Drowning is the second leading cause of death for children ages 1-14.

The flip side of these statistics became the inspiration for the creation of The Josh Project, and can be summed up in three simple words: “Drowning is Preventable.” The mission of The Josh Project is to build basic swimming skills and knowledge of water safety to prevent drowning.

Our approach to preventing drowning is through water safety education and swim instruction.

2. Has our community and our city met The Josh Project with support or has it been an uphill battle trying to get the message out and find backers?

The members of our community and beyond the borders of northwest Ohio have been very generous with their support of our mission. We have been able to provide swim instruction and water safety education to over 1000 children and adults with help from every segment of our community. We have received invaluable help from a wide variety of community groups: churches, members of the legal and academic communities, foundations, small business owners, Greek organizations, social and special interest clubs, local schools, water safety organizations and individuals have been very active through monetary donations and countless hours of volunteer time. We are very humbled by the outpouring for their support.

If I were to describe any “uphill battles” as you say, it would be for parents and students to take our message seriously and make the commitment to ensuring that their children are water safe. Let me explain. Lots of kids went to the pool this summer, got in, splashed around and maybe even put their heads under the water, but that’s not swimming. Swimming is being able to go from one side of the pool to the other without touching the bottom of the pool or holding on to the side. Whenever we visit a group of children and ask how many of them know how to swim, every hand in the room goes up. But, when I ask the follow up question, “how many of you can jump into 12 feet of water and swim to the other side?”, all but two or three hands go down. If the answer to the latter is no, then that child, someone’s son or daughter, is not water safe and at a greater risk of drowning.

Facts:

70 percent of African-American children can NOT swim
62 percent of Hispanic children can NOT swim
Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that African-American children between the ages of five and 14 are three times more likely to drown than white children of the same age range.

3. Please explain to our readers exactly what it means to be a CNN hometown hero, how you got involved and how they can lend you their support.

For me to be a CNN hometown hero is a chance of a lifetime! I never thought The Josh Project would receive international attention. I just wanted to help change the statistics, help others to know the facts and emphasize im-

portance of water safety in our community. I was never informed of any these facts. I got involved because I was nominated to be a hero by a church family member. My community can support me by voting every day until 11/28/12 at cnnheroes.com - up to 10 times a day.

We can support each other by encouraging everyone we know to learn how to swim and making sure that we know what to do in case of a water emergency. Learn CPR, if you can’t swim: wear a life jacket; put life jackets on children under four feet tall, even if they can swim.

4. Overall, what impact do you hope to have on our area?

Our hope is that every child in the Toledo area learns how to swim. Knowing how to swim goes beyond water safety. The world of aquatics is huge. Children who learn to swim are able to participate in a wide variety of individual and team sports: racing, diving, water polo, rowing, sailing, and canoeing are just a few. As young adults and college students, knowing how to swim can open the opportunity to jobs as lifeguards, swim instructors, swim coaches etc. Swimming is the only sport that can save a life.

5. What are your thoughts on various initiatives to get children to become more physically active?

We definitely support the “Let’s Move” initiative spearheaded by First Lady Michelle Obama. Much like drowning, health complications from a sedentary lifestyle can be prevented through education and opportunity. Childhood obesity and diabetes are at epidemic levels in our community. We would like to see more attention focused on getting children into the water who may have limited mobility due to excessive weight gain. Also swimming is great for children who aren’t ready for or are uninterested in other sports. Water is the “great equalizer”, we all weight the same in the pool and it’s a great form of exercise that can be enjoyed by all ages and fitness levels.

6. What does the future hold for you and The Josh Project?

The Josh Project would like to continue to grow and expand. Immediately, we are in our sixth year of lessons and we plan to continue forever. Last year we started an outreach program with schools and church groups in order to reach as many children as possible. Many families have barriers such as transportation that limit their ability to access swim facilities on a regular basis. Usually, it only takes one incident that happens by chance, when a child goes to a hotel party or a lake with friends. We’d like to make outreach a regular part of our program services.

In the near future, we’d like to invite the community to celebrate what would have been Josh’s 22nd birthday on December 9 at our annual Soul Food for Swimming Dinner. Please visit our website for ticket information.

For the years to come, we’d like to expand our efforts here in Toledo. We currently offer lessons year round, one day a week. We’d like to offer our lessons more often and possibly in more locations. With the continued support of our community and grant funds from the CNN Hero of the Year contest, we hope to do just that.

We definitely support the “Let’s Move” initiative spearheaded by First Lady Michelle Obama. Much like drowning, health complications from a sedentary lifestyle can be prevented through education and opportunity. Childhood obesity and diabetes are at epidemic levels in our community. We would like to see more attention focused on getting children into the water who may have limited mobility due to excessive weight gain. Also swimming is great for children who aren’t ready for or are uninterested in other sports. Water is the “great equalizer”, we all weight the same in the pool and it’s a great form of exercise that can be enjoyed by all ages and fitness levels.
Friends of the Library 2012 Book Sale! December 6, 7 & 8

Friends of the Library (FOL) announces its 2012 Book Sale scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on December 6, 7 & 8 at the FOL Book Center, 1301 Reynolds Rd., located in the Reynolds Corners Shopping Center (southwest corner of Reynolds Road and Dorr Street).

Friends of the Library is a nonprofit organization that supports the ongoing development and use of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. FOL is a 2,000 plus-member organization. Proceeds from Friends’ Book Sale events directly benefit library programs such as Authors! Authors!, Summer Reading programs, Brown Bag Summer Concert Series, and more!

Hardcover books $1
Paperbacks 50¢
Books on tape $1
Videos $1
Children’s hardbound 50¢
Children’s paperbacks 25¢
Magazines 25¢

Scanning devices are not allowed at Book Sales.

NOTE: For additional information visit toledolibrary.org, or call Friends of the Library at 419-259-5455

Come shop with us, The Mildred H. Gibson Center
Sat. Dec. 8 – Great Lakes Crossing Outlet Mall, Auburn Hills.
Leaving center at 8:00am
Returning at 6:00pm
$30 movies and snacks included
Mrs. Glover – (419) 810-5284

The Sojourner’s Truth
November 28, 2012
Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for a Senior Accounting Analyst, Budgeting & Reporting. The selected candidate will ensure accurate, timely cost tracking, forecasts and analysis activities. This position will also serve as a resource for other employees regarding SAP matters and serve as the back-up to the Plant Controller when necessary. Additionally, the Sr. Accountant will manage and lead a team of accounting professionals while performing the following responsibilities: develop, recommend and implement systems that improve cost and internal controls; project reporting and forecasting; contractor management and overall refinery performance tracking. The Sr. Accountant will also work with the Plant Controller to develop annual operating expense budgets. Other projects and assignments will be assigned as needed.

Candidates must have a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting or related discipline, CPA or MBA is preferred. A minimum of 5 years’ SAP experience is required as well as 10+ years’ working in a manufacturing, oil or energy environment. Previous supervisory experience and a working knowledge of accounting theory and principles (GAAP) is a must.

All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbfenergy.com and selecting the Career tab. Once on the career page, candidates can view our current job opportunities and apply to desired position.

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1REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR DESIGN/BUILD SERVICES
RELATING TO THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW VESSEL OFF-LOADING & STOCKPILING SYSTEM

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (“TLCPA”) is requesting qualification statements from design/build (“DB”) firms to provide design and construction in connection with the subject project. The project involves building a new vessel (Great Lakes self-unloader) off-loading and stockpiling system at the Lake Erie Port Manufacturing and Industrial Center, Ironville Terminal (2863 Front Street, Toledo Ohio). The TLCPA will select and retain a design/build firm for the design and construction phase of an approximate $2,400,000 project. All work of the project will need to be completed by July 12, 2013.

Summary of Project Elements:
- Receiving No. 2 Oil
- Series of Conveyors including Radial Stacker
- Elevated Motor Control Center
- Electrical Drive System

This notice shall serve as a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from qualified firms to oversee the design and construction of this project in accordance with the performance specifications included within the entire RFQ. The DB firm selected will be responsible for completing review of the programmatic requirements, final design submittals for owner/operator approval, construction, independent material testing and securing appropriate permits. Responses to this RFQ will be used to select three DB firms for an informal price proposal presentation to the TLCPA’s selection committee. The entire RFQ may be viewed at http://www.toledoportauthority.org/en-us/publicnotices.aspx.
Artz and Soul Fundraiser

“Artz and Soul,” a fundraiser presented by the “Grant Writers for the Arts Foundation” headed by Kathleen Greely, was held, November 11 at Club Evolution. The purpose of the fundraiser was to celebrate the launch of the Grant Writers for the Arts Foundation whose mission is to improve the creation and production of artistic works of children in grades K-8. The event showcased diverse, artistic talent in Toledo and featured salsa and ballroom dancing and live entertainment throughout the evening.

In addition to serving as the mistress of ceremonies, Ramona Collins charmed the crowd with her sultry jazz sound. Other local features included, “Jesse Coleman and the Jamm Band,” “U.G.E.,” “Carmen Miller” and local band “The Price of the Ticket.” “That Band” out of Detroit also brought the noise but the highlight of the evening and most anticipated performer was the featured artist, Grammy Award-nominee, neo-soul artist Dwele, who entertained, engaged and left the crowd satisfied yet wanting more.