Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
Actin’ A Fool!

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

The Truth Contributor

February 13, 2013

A great many people and an even higher proportion of those who have political voice and vote … find a re- cession quite comfortable. This no one dreams of say- ing. John Kenneth Galbraith

The old-fashioned weave-pulling, pepper-spraying, fight or take flight scrapin’ near the end of last week’s Scott versus Rogers basket- ball game got even uglier with Scott versus Rogers basket- fight or take flight scrappin’. The melee proves that violent behavior on the court is as common and acceptable quite comfortable.

The melee provided more embarrassment to all the players involved, it reflects much more than the “you go, we go” culture of thinking apparent on the surface. Much, if not all, of the black-on-black violence taking place in the community derives from self-loathing or self-hatred. However, it is no different than the internecine warfare that we see on the vari- ous, political, educational, governo and even religious stages where the actors are adult.

While conflict always es- calates when times are hard or when resources are scarce or limited, the relevant ques- tion is who is acting a bigger fool – youth or adults? I think that the children whose behavior appears most problematic are those who show that 70 percent of youth (59 percent in urban minority school districts) who start ninth grade, gradu- ate four years later and less than 20 percent of black and Hispanic teens are employed. The result is an epidemic of idle young people discon- nected from school and labor markets, getting arrested or incarcerated, losing hope and engaging in dysfunctional behavior.

Is there hope for youth and us? We have seen in Toledo a rapid rise of nonprofit organi- zations created to serve these and other community needs. Most of these smaller organisations have been started by socially conscious entrepreneurs, not to make a profit but to promote com- munity salvation and justice. Although there have been both successes and failures, they have created a new and legitimate community-based economy to fill a void left by de-industrialisation, layoffs and the real estate collapse. Added to the grassroots effort to solve its own community issues, collaborations such as the Mayor Bell’s Coalition of Hope have sprung up to address issues such as youth violence.

Too often, politicians and policy-makers praise great reform ideas but layer the accolades with a “But we don’t have the funding” cop- out. The community’s greatest needs is for funding streams to be directed to efforts that bring young people into edu- cational and occupational training that will prepare them for making more than just burgers, beds, or other low wage jobs. If the public is really con- cerned about young folks acting a fool and acting out, then demand that politicians and private funders get their act together too and find the will to step up and provide the resources for interven- tions that are already known to work.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at dperryman@stmarytoledo.edu

Catholic Charities Offers Grants to Fight Poverty in Northwest Ohio

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Toledo is ac- cepting applications for two types of local grants — Community Development and Economic Develop- ment grants — made available through funding from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) annual collection. Local CCHD grant ap- plications for up to $15,000 are available to 501(c)3 non- profit organizations that demonstrate grass-roots ef- forts to break the cycle of poverty by empowering the poor within the 19-county Diocese of Toledo. Established in 1970, CCHD is the domestic anti- poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops and is funded by an annual na- tional collection in par- ishes. Applicants do not need to be affiliated with the Catholic Church but must be in compliance with Catholic moral and social teachings.

Local grant applica- tions are due March 20. To obtain an application or for more information, please visit www.catholiccharitiesnwo.org or contact Social Ministry Program Coordinator, Germaine Kirk at gkirk@toledodiocese.org or 419-244-6711, ext. 225.

Catholic Charities serves 40,000 people of all faiths in the Diocese of Toledo annually by provid- ing food, shelter, prescrip- tion and emergency rent assistance as well as adop- tion services, jail and prison ministries and guardian- ship services to the elderly.

Community Calendar

February 9
Bereavement Meeting: Bethlehem Baptist Church; 2 pm; bereavement@buckeye- express.com
Considering a Career in Law?: Conference for junior high, high school and college students; Sponsored by the Thurgood Marshal Law Association; UT Scott Park Campus; 419-249-2703

February 10
Bethesda Christian Center Women’s Day: 11 am

February 12
BGSU Student Musicians Free Concert: Manor House Wildwood Preserve Metropark; 7:30 to 8:30 pm

February 13
University Church Ash Wednesday Service: 6 pm

February 16
St. Mark’s Baptist “Sounds of Black History Month Program”: 5 pm; “Water” singers, DWI voices, “TYC” singers

Notre Dame Academy Alumnae Association “Operation Feed Those in Need”: Food drive; 9 am to noon; Bring in non-perishable food items

St. Mark’s Baptist Church “Women of the Bible”: 4 pm; Parish Council and officers

St. Mark’s Baptist Church “Women of the Bible”: 4 pm; Panelists and soloists

February 23
Friendship Baptist Black History Month Celebration: “Our Rhythm, Our Voices”; 4 pm; Rev. Dr. Perryman, D.Min, at theruthe@gmail.com

GLADetected Federated Club “Black History Extravaganza and Soul Food Buffet”: Featuring DJ Ice; 2 to 5 pm; Local 14 UAW Hall; 419-537-9042 or 419-535-5960 or 419-893-2228

March 3
Owens Community College Band Winter Pops Concert: 1:30 pm; Music from Broadway shows, marches, a patriotic medley, and more; Owens fine and Performing Arts Center: William_dalis@owens.edu
Joe McNamara Enters Mayor’s Race, Emphasizes Necessity for Jobs Creation

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner’s Truth Editor

“AFT Praises Ruling Striking Down Discriminatory Education Policies in Tucson

Special to The Truth

“This historic verdict, 40 years in the making, upholds the right of every child in America to a high-quality public education regardless of skin color, ZIP code or national origin,” says AFT President Randi Weingarten.

American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten released the following statement praising federal district Judge David Bury’s verdict adopting the Unitary Status Plan, which seeks to address critical issues affecting the quality of education for African-American and Latino students, including English language learners, in the Tucson Unified School District. The verdict ended a 40-year desegregation case filed in 1974 by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF).

“This historic verdict, 40 years in the making, upholds the right of every child in America to a high-quality public education regardless of skin color, ZIP code or national origin. And it strikes down the unjust and harmful policies that have created a separate and unequal education system for African-American and Latino children in Tucson.

“While there is more work to be done to ensure equal educational opportunities for every child, this verdict addresses critical issues affecting the quality of education for African-American and Latino students, including English language learners, in the Tucson Unified School District. If the verdict and the Unitary Status Plan are implemented properly, educators will now have access to the professional development and resources they need to help English language learners succeed; discriminatory disparities in access to critical programs will be addressed; and the way will be paved for the reinstatement of the Mexican American Studies program in the district, so that students have access to a curriculum that is stimulating and relevant to their lives and backgrounds.”

State Representative Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) announced this afternoon that the state will grant the University of Toledo $174,500 for the University Hall renovations project. Built in 1931 as the school’s first structure, University Hall is known for its gothic architecture and clock tower.

“University Hall is more than just a classroom building,” said Rep. Ashford. “This is the oldest building on campus, and the place where all classes were once held. It is important that we preserve this building, as it is a significant piece of history for UT.”

Most of the building is in its original state. The roof and windows are 81 years old and leaking in various places. The renovation will replace the roof and windows in order to be considering a run. Bell ran his successful campaign for mayor in 2009 as an independent. McNamara was first elected to an at-large seat on City Council in 2006 in a special election. He was re-elected in 2009 with the highest vote total among the at-large candidates. He lost a race in 2010 for the Democratic nomination for Ohio State Senate to then-State Rep Edna Brown, who went on to win the general election. McNamara received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his law degree from New York University.

Rep. Ashford Announces Funds for University of Toledo

State support to renovate University Hall classroom building

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The Last Cowboy Standing

By Vincent LaMarr Smith
Special to The Truth

I immediately begin to reflect on my remembrance of Jesse which dates back almost 40 years. After completing Jones Jr. High School I attended Libbey High School, bypassing my passion to play football and started to work at McDonalds. Consequently, that allowed me the opportunity to sing in the choir under the direction of Mrs. Danner as well as play in the band led by Mr. Whiting. Those activities represent my first encounters with Jesse Coleman. He was in the choir and band as well.

My most prominent memory of Jesse was that he was a very gifted musician on a scale far above my training and ability. He truly knew music unlike myself who knew enough to be a part of the band and choir but had no real future as an musician or entertainer.

We were proud Libbey Cowboy band members with less than 50 members compared to our arch rival Scott High School Marching One Hundred...

We let it do what it do nonetheless.

We played current tunes like “Show & Tell” and “Life Ain’t Easy When You’re A Ghetto Child” from Soul Radio Station WKLR’s hit list.

Rewind back to that year Black History Month 1974 when Nelson Grace, a prominent community leader and businessman in Toledo at the time, was the speaker for our Black History Assembly.

Grace clearly and distinctly stated in his opening remarks – I will never forget – “When the bomb drops you won’t be ready.”

He was right. He was right then when he abruptly ended his speech to the audience’s dismay and even more so years later with the demolition of Jesse Coleman’s alma mater Libbey High School.

We were not ready for either occasion as I am not ready to say farewell to my friend Jesse Coleman. I certainly could go on and on with stories of Jesse and me in the wonderful world of entertainment, well not so much me, in Toledo the last 15 years or so with Jesse being in Toledo and my travels and return to Toledo.

My Grammy Posthumous Nominee: This Year – Mr. Jesse Coleman Sax-man, member of First Creation Gospel Group and Libbey High School Alumnus
Black HIV and AIDS Awareness Day Reaches over 350 Youth and Adults

By Artisha S Lawson
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

Since 1999, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with five national organizations started Black HIV/AIDS awareness day to increase education, testing, involvement and treatment of HIV and AIDS in the African-American community.

Over 350 college and high school students, parents, educators and community members attended the Black HIV and AIDS awareness program entitled “Condoms and Kisses.” Those in attendance received free condoms, HIV testing conducted by industry professionals and opportunities to receive answers to HIV and AIDS related questions from The University of Toledo Medical Ryan White Program and Toledo Lucas County Health Department.

“Today is February 7, the National Black HIV and AIDS awareness day. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority decided to answer our communities call, come together and present this program for the community. We need to know our status,” explained event Chairman April Gambrell.

UT Ryan White program provides treatment, outreach and testing for the university and eight neighboring counties. “In the African American community we represent 17 percent of the population, and 41 percent of all new cases annually. HIV and AIDS is rising among men who sleep with men, we’re trying to reach out to that community too,” explained kenetta White, program counselor.

UT Ryan White program provides year-round testing every first Monday on The University of Toledo’s Health and Science campus, every third Monday on the university’s main campus and every Tuesday and Thursday at Lucas County Job and Family Services Office on Monroe. The program offers HIV and AIDS testing free of charge, individuals 14 and under need parental consent, call 419-383-3741 for more details.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc is planning its youth symposium starting at 10:00am on March 9, 2013 at the Frederick Douglass Community Association building. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc; Iota Theta Sigma Chapter organized the event in accordance with their national partnership with the CDC and The Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative, which seeks to increase testing and raise awareness among communities at risk.

For more information about Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. visit www.sgrho1922.org or www.sgrho-toledo.org.
Library’s Black History Month Celebration

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

Library proudly observes Black History Month and 150-year anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library is proud to celebrate Black History Month this month of February with a family program titled, At the Crossroads of Freedom & Equality: Celebrating 150 Years/Emancipation Proclamation (1863-2013) scheduled from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, February 23 in the McMaster Center at Main Library, 325 Michigan St. This lively program is FREE and open to the public. Please join us and experience the anticipation, determination and joy of a people on the first step to freedom in America.

Here’s a list of scheduled performances:
- The Emancipation Proclamation & The March on Washington by Professor Angela Siner, University of Toledo
- Central Catholic High School Gospel Choir, Duane Hammond, Director
- Refreshments
- Spoken Word Artists
- Mime/Dance by Aleshia Miller “Jesus” sung by Le’Andria Johnson
- Art Exhibit, Cultural Reflections – Gallery 2nd Floor (on view Jan. 28-Feb. 28) featuring Alice Grace and other area artists
- Watch Night Jubilee by New Works Writers Series, Adapted and directed by Dr. Imelda Hunt, Cast: New Works Writers Series and the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB)

Students Attending More than 200 Ohio Schools Expected to Be Eligible for EdChoice Scholarship Program

Ohio students who attend 213 schools in 28 districts in the state are expected to be eligible to apply for an EdChoice scholarship for the 2013-2014 school year, according to a list released by the Ohio Department of Education.

The list released by the department is preliminary and subject to change until the state releases the annual school report cards.

“Ohio students who attend the state’s lowest-rated public schools, the EdChoice Scholarship Program opens the door to another education option – private school,” said School Choice Ohio Executive Director Matt Cox.

“Special to The Truth

The state releases the annual observation of Black History Month was originated in 1926 by African American historian Carter G. Woodson, as “Negro History Week.” Woodson chose February because it marked the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, two Americans who Carter believed influenced the lives of black Americans. Discover more on Black History Month at your neighborhood Library location.

NOTE: For additional information visit toledolibrary.org, or call 419.259.5200.

Notre Dame Academy Alumnae Association Sponsoring a Food Drive

Special to The Truth

Are you making a New Year Resolution to give back to your community in 2013? Then the Notre Dame Academy (NDA) Alumnae Association may be able to help. In accordance with their mission statement, the NDA Alumnae Association is providing a service opportunity to help those in need in the Northwest Ohio community. “Operation Feed Those in Need” will kick off with a food drive on Saturday February 16, 2013. Any member of the community can bring non-perishable items to NDA from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Suggested items include: canned meats, canned and boxed meals, jars of peanut butter, and jars of baby food. All items collected will be donated to Seagate Food Bank of Northwest Ohio.

The Notre Dame Alumnae Association supports and fulfills the mission of Notre Dame Academy by providing spiritual, intellectual, networking, service and social opportunities for alumnae to renew and grow lifelong bonds.

The association fosters relationships with alumnae, faculty, staff and students through the establishment of programs, activities and services in conjunction with NDA administration and under the guidance of the Board of Trustees.
House Dems Outline 3 Components Needed for Successful Education Reform

Early learning, levy relief and accountability keys to reform; Ongoing impacts of past state budget cuts must be addressed

Special to The Truth

State Reps. Teresa Fedor, Debbie Phillips and Matt Lundy say early learning, local tax levy relief and increased for-profit charter school accountability should be included in Gov. Kasich’s upcoming education reform plan. In addition to these three components, lawmakers also reiterated their concerns about the ongoing impacts of Gov. Kasich’s $1.79 billion in state funding cuts during the previous budget.

“We know early learning and smaller class sizes produce positive educational outcomes for our students,” said Rep. Fedor (D-Toledo). “If Gov. Kasich is serious about education reform, his plan must focus on these areas and address the historically deep cuts to schools in his last budget. When spending on schools is reduced as much as it was in the last budget cycle, new state programs become unfunded mandates.”

In addition to focusing on increased learning time, House Democrats also emphasized the need to address the downward pressure on local property taxpayers as a result of state budget cuts and the need to reduce the continued need for local levies.

“As a result of Gov. Kasich’s budget cuts, local taxpayers in over 194 communities have been asked to bear a greater share of the responsibility to educate our students,” said Rep. Lundy (D-Lorain). “Past budget cuts have squeezed local property taxpayers and weakened Ohio’s educational system. If we are to strengthen our economy in the long-term, we must address the very real short-term impacts of Gov. Kasich’s budget cuts on our schools and our students.”

According to a new study by Innovation Ohio, $1.1 billion in new local tax increases have been requested since May 2011, with just a 40 percent success rate. This figure does not include renewal or replacement levies, only requests for new operating funds. 194 school districts were forced to put levies on the ballot this past November, after $1.79 billion was cut to K-12 education in Gov. Kasich’s first biennium budget.

“Ohio’s constitution requires the state to provide a thorough and efficient system of common schools administered by elected boards of education, that makes it clear that all of the rules regarding transparency and accountability are supposed to apply to our public education system,” said Rep. Phillips (D-Albany). “Any reform plan must include real accountability for Ohio’s charter schools and complete transparency for the taxpayer funds that go into those schools. Furthermore, Ohio’s citizens, the parents, students and all taxpayers must have the opportunity to be fully involved in the development of the reform plans, rather than allowing special interests to write the laws in secret.”

Lastly, accountability and transparency measures must be set in place to ensure proper oversight of state tax dollars. This is particularly critical when public tax dollars are transferred to private for-profit charter school operators. These charter schools need to be re-evaluated for effectiveness; as many as 40 percent of charter schools are rated at a “D” or “F” grade level. The lawmakers also stressed the need for input from teachers, principals, parents, students and support staff to ensure effective reform.
Central Catholic Reads Is About True Love of Reading Books

By Mary Ann Wasserman
Special to The Truth

At least one administrator in a Toledo-area school is implementing a lecture event that promotes love of reading in students.

“Y ou cannot force people to develop a love of reading,” said Marie Arter, director of curriculum, Central Catholic High School. “After an author has made his book presentation, sometimes kids will come to me or to somebody else for a copy and announce, ‘I am reading it now!’

As good example, Central Catholic’s program is easy. Upon administrators selecting a book, the text is distributed throughout the building … and beyond. Some parents have asked for book copies to read along with their students.

“Everyone includes students, administrators, teachers, maintenance staff, and cafeteria people,” Arter said. “In general, adults and children are not reading anymore and that will lead to a lot of negative things. Central Catholic Reads is about true love of reading books.”

The program was initiated in 2006-07 school year. As with other project’s growing pains, CCHS also went through a term of learning. There was one crucial mistake.

“We did not put the book into every kid’s hands,” Arter said. “We just put some copies in the library, and the program was not as successful as we had hoped.”

Ever since 2007-08 until the current school year, books are purchased. Central Catholic High School has an endowment fund which allows the private school to buy about 1,200 books annually. Those books are then boxed, according to English classes and those registered. The texts are then distributed throughout the department.

“Every student is required to take English,” Arter said. In addition to working with teachers, the school maintains a matrix. As each student receives a book, he adds his name to a list.

As a plus to cooperation throughout the Central Catholic High system, publishing houses and authors have been generous to the school. Publishers usually make the books available to the school for about 60 percent of a list price, which Arter says is a big savings.

“The event is in place for about seven years and we are attracting world-class authors,” Arter said.

Certain specifications are mandated by administrators for a book to be eligible for Central Catholic High School Reads. Those standards include the title being available in paperback, appealing to high school students, the storyline must address more than one area of living or thinking, author has to be reasonably priced in appearances to match CCHS’s budget and storyline can be fiction or non-fiction.

The entire concept of Central Catholic High School Reads is to promote a love of reading. According to Arter, there is a call for teachers to also promote interesting class projects, prior to the event which complement an author’s lecture, to encourage students to read.

Most recently, Gene Kranz, author-alumnus of Toledo’s Central Catholic High School was invited to lecture. The title of his book, which was distributed throughout the school’s system, is Failure is Not an Option.

“He was the former flight director of NASA and was really instrumental in getting Apollo 13 safely back to earth,” Arter said.

Other authors have included Chris Crutcher, Sharon Draper, Tony Dungy, Steve Sullivan, Tom Mullen and Sister Helen PreJean, with her Dead Man Walking.

Before Sister PreJean’s lecture and visit, Central Catholic High School also

Continued on Page 9)
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Raises Awareness for Healthy Hearts

By Donnetta M. Carter ~ Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc; Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter Publicity Chairman

Special to The Truth

The women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, decided to support the American Heart Association’s national initiative “Go Red for Women.” Health Chairman Erin Baker, President Deborah Washington, PhD, and Vice President Katrina Johnson organized “Pink Goes Red For A Day,” a local project which included exercising and diet for all women.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) is an international service organization that was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African-American college-educated women.

Alpha Kappa Alpha is comprised of a nucleus of 260,000 members in graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Caribbean, Germany, Korea and on the continent of Africa. Its membership is comprised of distinguished women who boast excellent academic records, proven leadership skills, and are involved in the global community through advocacy and service. Alpha Kappa Alpha has dedicated itself to improving the quality of life for citizens worldwide and promoting peace.

For more information about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. go to www.aka1908.com or www.zetaalphaomega.com.

Central Catholic Reads

(Continued from Page 8)

sponsored a play based upon the same title by the nun.

“Teachers will try to make community ethics become visible in the classroom,” Arter said. “Community ethics touches upon not only right to life, but touching upon social studies including brutalities of the death penalty.”

Within a high school career, CCHS students are introduced to four great authors, who have exceptional abilities and profound stories to tell. Arter expressed the hope that by dwelling upon the experience as love of reading, the formation of a quality-thinking individual will be achieved.

Arter is not aware of any other diocesan school involved in the same event. She believes the program was initiated with Toledo’s Central Catholic High School.

“I have never read of any other school doing it,” she said.

A difficult part of the event for Arter and the other administrators is making a decision to select a particular book.

“It has to appeal to all our students,” she said of a teen population which numbers about 950 for the 2012-13 school year. One of her future goals is to sponsor a book by an international author.

“Places to be represented, hopefully, would be locations in Africa or Ireland,” Arter said. “I would just hope by having the experience of these selected authors, Central Catholic High School students would learn to be lifelong learners.”
Lourdes University Celebration of Black History Month Features Live Entertainment, Speech Contest

Keynote speaker Shirley Green, City of Toledo Deputy Mayor

Lourdes University is pleased to host its annual Celebration of Black History on Wednesday, February 27 featuring keynote speaker Shirley Green, PhD, Deputy Mayor for the City of Toledo. The event will be held in the Franciscan Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and features finalists in the institution’s speech writing competition as well as live music by the following performing groups:

**Performers:**
- The Scott High School Concert Choir, with Director Robert Duris
- The David Carter Symphonic Choir, with Director Deborah Carlisle
- Lourdes University Chorus & Good Company Ensemble, with Director Karen T. Biscay
- Annette McClair, local poet & artist

**Speech Contest:** Lourdes University undergraduate and graduate students in good academic standing are eligible to enter. Participants will present their four to six minute speech (in oral and written form) to a panel of judges in the preliminary round. Up to three finalists will be selected and invited to present their speech during Lourdes University’s annual Celebration of Black History Month. Prizes awarded for first through third places. Topics for the speech include:
  - Malcolm, Martin, Obama – are we still living the dream?
  - Trailblazers in Black History and how they affect your life.
  - What does it mean to have a black president?
  - Inclusion.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Larry Murphy, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Justice Studies, at (419) 824-3825.

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Owens Community College to Host Green Industry Career and Job Fair, Feb. 20

Special to The Truth

Area residents and students with career aspirations in a green industry-related field are invited to learn about and explore various seasonal employment opportunities available throughout the region as Owens Community College serves as host to a Green Industry Career and Job Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

The Green Industry Career and Job Fair will take place from 3-4:30 p.m. in the College’s Audio/Visual Classroom Center Rooms 125-127 on the Toledo-area Campus. Admission to the event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Throughout the event, individuals can meet with local green industry representatives and ask them questions about their professions or how to go about choosing a career path in the green industry field. In addition, attendees will be able to fill out applications for various seasonal employment opportunities.

Owens students and area residents attending the event are encouraged to bring several copies of their resume and to dress professionally in preparation for any impromptu interviews.

Approximately 20 area employers within such areas as landscape, golf course and small scale farm will be in attendance. Area employers will include Envirocare Lawn and Landscape, Schedel Arboretum and Gardens, Premier Gardening Services, Toledo Country Club and Smith Road Farm, among others.

In addition, Owens will have information available for those individuals interested in pursuing a college education. Owens offers a wide variety of academic programs through the College’s Department of Science specific to the natural sciences areas of Landscape and Turfgrass Management, Golf Course/Athletic Field Management and Urban Agriculture and Sustainability.

For more information about the Green Industry Career and Job Fair, call (567) 661-7623 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7623.
The Sojourner’s Truth

February 13, 2013

The Amistad Rebellion by Marcus Rediker

c.2012, Viking

$27.95 / $29.50 Canada

288 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

History is filled with half-truths, especially about our heroes. Lincoln, for instance, wasn’t the stern, humorless man that old photos lead you to believe. Queen Victoria was very definitely “amused” quite often. Roosevelt made mistakes, Boudica had her fears, even Churchill undoubtedly had his doubts. Or so we hope, because we want our heroes to be human, too. And for that, author Marcus Rediker dug deep to present a few surprises in his new book The Amistad Rebellion.

It should’ve been a routine trip for Ramon Ferrer, captain of the Amistad. He was hired to accept cargo, sail it from Havana to another port in Cuba and drop it off, where it would be sorted and sold. Routine, but it cost him his life because the cargo, 49 men and four children, had other ideas.

Up until then, the journey for these men and children had been like that of every other slave who came through the Middle Passage: most had been snatched by slave hunters (although some had been taken in exchange for a family member’s debt), they were crammed beneath the deck of the ship, stacked on shelves with little-to-no room to move, often with less than three feet of headroom. Food was scarce, water was often denied, the stench of bondage choked them, and many died. Of those who did not, it was said that their bodies sometimes never recovered from the voyage.

But on the moonless night of July 2, 1839, the Amistad Africans, as Rediker calls them, had had enough. One broke a padlock that held them below deck and, through the leadership of four men from various tribes who shared membership in a cultural society, they snatched cane knives, snuck up from below, and immediately killed the ship’s slave-cook, who had been taunting them for days. They attacked other crew members, slashed at the captain, seized the ship, and forced their Spanish “owners” to sail back to Sierra Leone.

But the surviving Spaniards tricked the Africans and kept the Amistad near American shores, hoping that U.S. authorities would help. And they did – which ended in a major trial, political wrangling, and a 19th-century media circus that changed history.

So you saw the movie and you know all about what happened on the Amistad. But you don’t until you’ve read this book. Author Marcus Rediker does an exceptional job in putting individual faces on each of the ships passengers and those who assisted them on their journey home. We come to see their strength, wisdom, and playfulness, which softens this story with personality and turns these men into more than just historical figures. I appreciated that Rediker doesn’t stop there, but carefully explains how the Amistad Rebellion affected slavery and history in general.

Though I must admit that I liked the first two-thirds of this book better than the latter part, I think it’s an exciting, horrifying, triumphant tale overall, and definitely worth reading. If you’re in need of a story like that, then The Amistad Rebellion is truly what you want.
TARPS Ridership Continues to Set Records, While TARTA’s 2012 Ridership Shows Improvement over Previous Year

Ridership among “choice passengers,” those who chose to use the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority’s various transit services, continued to grow in 2012.

TARTA recorded increased ridership levels for adults and senior citizens, up nearly eight percent, as well as continuing the record-setting growth pattern of the Toledo Area Regional Paratransit Service. TARPS ridership increased 11.4 percent during 2012.

“TARTA continues to be a success story. Last year, we again recorded increases in our ‘choice passenger’ categories—adult and senior citizen ridership as well as TARPS ridership for residents with disabilities,” said James K. Gee, TARTA’s General Manager. “These increases are indicative of the critical role TARTA plays in this area’s economic development. Our surveys clearly show the major reason people use our service is to get to work.”

Additionally, in 2012, TARTA added service to the new Hollywood Casino on Toledo’s east side and made modifications to some routes, which improved the transit Authority’s overall efficiency.

“Further, TARTA is confident ridership will continue to increase in 2013, provided the economy in general continues to make positive strides,” Gee said.

TARTA provides a variety of transportation services to eight communities in Lucas and Wood counties. These services include fixed-line service on regularly scheduled specific routes, seven days a week; TARPS for the disabled; Call-A-Ride, door-to-door service in seven suburban member communities; and shuttle service to Toledo Mud Hen and Walleye professional sporting events. Both TARPS and Call-A-Ride are call-in-advance services to arrange pickup times.

TARPS Sets Record

2012 is the 16th consecutive year TARPS has set ridership records by recording more trips than in the previous year. By comparison, TARPS ridership in 2012 was 300,466, compared to 269,768 in 2011. At one point recently, TARPS was the fastest growing service of its kind in Ohio and one of the top five in the nation.

According to Gee, “We’ll be watching closely the number of TARPS-eligible passengers who take advantage of our TARPS Ride TARTA For Free program that started in November.”

During the program’s first two months, November and December 2012, 4,277 free trips on TARPS fixed-line, Call-A-Ride and sports shuttle buses were recorded by TARPS-eligible passengers. To participate, TARPS-eligible passengers are required to be present at a TARTA stop when the bus arrives and to get on and off the bus without driver assistance.

TARPS’s fixed-line service does not provide door-to-door service and follows specific routes and timetables, making the larger TARTA fixed-line buses less expensive to operate on a per trip basis.

It is too early to tell how many TARPS-eligible riders will utilize this free service.

2013 Improvements

2013 also will see the use of technology to inform riders of bus locations as well as assist suburban riders get to more locations without having to go downtown and change buses.

TARTA will begin phasing in the Automatic Vehicle Locating (AVL) Passenger Information System in 2013. Riders of TARTA’s fixed-line service will be able to tell in real time when their bus will arrive at their stop. Also, if there is an interruption or delay in service, the rider can receive a text with current information specific to their bus.

Furthermore, TARTA is developing a free, downloadable application that will permit riders with mobile devices also to access this location information.

Additionally, message boards are being installed at downtown locations as well as at The University of Toledo and other major destinations that will display expected arrival times at those specific locations.

As well, TARTA will be revising and expanding its popular Call-A-Ride service, expanding the current coverage area into larger districts, enabling Call-A-Ride patrons to ride outside of their home communities.

Work also continues by TARTA and the city of Toledo on the development of a downtown central bus terminal and the elimination of the downtown Loop.

TARTA’s 2012 total ridership was 3,415,007, up from 3,359,675 in 2011.
February 13, 2013

The Sojourner’s Truth

Cops Are the Bigger Problem

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Summer 2008.
I and about 10 of my peers were leaving the Lighthouse Club on Broadway.
A small fight breaks out in the parking lot blocking us from our cars. Four Toledo Police officers inter-
vene and the hostility of the brawler is now directed squarely at them.
A few of the guys causing the trouble get out of hand with their resistance to the police.
I remember the one guy wearing a yellow shirt and tan shorts. He spit directly in one of the officers face.
A friend of his cursed the officers and yelled at them.
I remember thinking to myself that things were about to get very ugly.
Another friend of the guy in the yellow shirt swung on an officer trying to calm him down.
After repeated in-
sults, being spit on and swung on... the Toledo Po-
lice officers reacted with
“Please, get to your ve-
hicles now!”
That was it. No pepper spray. No handcuffs. No tasers. No chokeholds. Just stern yelling.
Needless to say, every last member of that parking lot brawl was a white male no more than 20, maybe 22 years old.
Several acquaintances of mine have been injured by local law enforcement.
I’m sure you all remember the story of the young woman driving her senior-aged father home through Ottawa Hills who was then beaten by Ottawa Hills police.
Bruised collar bones and other injuries have been the results of incidents with TPD endured by two women I know personally. This has become a regular occurrence.
But even dash cam videos and eyewitness accounts of previous excessive uses of force weren’t enough to stop local law en-
forcement from making worse a bad situation last week at the Scott vs. Rogers basketball game.
Two students get into a fight in the stands.
The fight doesn’t grow to include more people, no one chooses sides.
It erupts and is already de-
escalating by the time lo-
cal law enforcement inter-
vened.
Look at the video online. Talk to people sitting in the section where it all hap-
pened.
The fight was over by the time the spray was used so why use it?
I’m a friend of the person, who wasn’t fighting and weren’t obstructing.
Pepper spray is supposed to be a non-lethal option to neutralize an aggressor.
Spraying pepper spray over a wide section of people, many of whom are moving away, seems like a more sinister act.
Look at the video. No one was attacking anyone by that point so why spray the crowd?
That’s what you do to kill roaches. You spray harmful chemicals as they run away.
You really want to squash them, but the spray will just fine.
Now let’s just stop right here.
For real, whatever emo-
tion you may be feeling... even if you agree with the sadistic tactics needlessly used in this situa-
tion because you just happen to be that type of person, let’s just take a step back right quick.
Look at the information I’ve presented to you so far.
Ask yourself why, when a fight broke out among white people and the inter-
vening law enforcement was actually being attacked... why was there no forceful response?
Why was it just “Get to your vehi-
cles”?
Then ask yourself why, the response was differ-
ent... you already know where I’m going with this.
And the truth is, you don’t give a damn.
You could be a black per-
son reading this, a white per-
son, a criminal or a cop…
Don’t give a damn.
Did you instantly gain more fair judgment when you got dressed for work today?
Hell no.
So what makes you think that a person putting on a uniform is somehow more ethically capable of hand-
ling out justice without their own bias becoming a fac-
tor?
The rest of us can keep our prejudice and intoler-
ance to ourselves, it poses no potential lethal conse-
quency in the day to day.
But an officer of the law has a gun.
An officer of the law has weapons.
An officer of the law can inflict serious harm on damn anyone they want un-
der the auspices of “duty”.
But who’s to say that their judgment of when to use the force that causes the harm is actually sound judgment?
Dozens of babies, some with asthma and other medi-
cal issues were rendered helpless last week at Scott High School.
The paramedics didn’t show up because of the damn fight, they were there because of the pepper spray used by the damn cops.
Parents, students and fac-
culty were huddling together trying to find protection from what the cops had done, not the two students whose fight was over as quickly as it started.
Any officer of the law who treats the citizens of this community with the re-
spect we deserve and does not endanger or harm us, keeps his or her job and hopefully builds a reward-
ing career for themselves.
Those are the ones who ac-
tually protect us and serve us.
But a civilian oversight committe will allow us to level the playing field and remove the badge from those who do not deserve it.
If any law enforcement officers are reading this, do you understand the power you hold?
Do you understand that you can make an error in judgment that may cost you a few extra hours of paper-
work but cost us our lives?
No exaggeration, our very lives.
What gives you the right to such a responsibility?
No amount of training, evaluation and exercises can repair fractured reason-
ing.
We need a defense against those of you with obviously impaired judg-
ment.
We need protection from you.
We need a way to police those who are policing us.
If you are doing a fine job, you keep your job.
But if you recklessly abuse the force you have at your discretion, you should be treated like a criminal.
And to Scott High… my alma mater.
If the media is going to spin the story and lie, stop talking to them.
If the people securing an event turn on the attendees, find alternatives.
No more meetings, marches or none of that.
I rarely get on that whole “I’m a bulldawg” stuff, and I do mean rarely. But we have put up with this for far too long.
And lastly, to the two girls who got in a fight.
I hope you learned that it wasn’t that serious to fight about.
I also hope that you are punished by your parents for your acts but not viliifed for parts of the incident you didn’t create.
This has been one hell of a Black History Month ya’ll.

Peace.

IF A MEMBER OF LOCAL LAW EN-
FORCEMENT IS WITNESSED USING EXCESSIVE FORCE OR HARMFUL TACTICS AGAINST NON-
AGGRESSIVE MEM-
BERS OF THIS COMMUNITY... THEY
FACE THE FOLLOW-
ING:
1. Permanent re-
moval of their rank and em-
ployment in law enforce-
ment
2. Criminal charges on behalf of the citizens at large and individuals af-
fected
3. Mandatory reim-
bursement to those affected
American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten released the following statement on the AFT executive council’s adoption of the recent report issued by the AFT Teacher Preparation Task Force, “Raising the Bar: Aligning and Elevating Teacher Preparation and the Teaching Profession.”

“The world is changing at breakneck speed, and so are the knowledge and skills educators need so they can help students be prepared for life, career and college. That’s where the AFT’s task force report ‘Raising the Bar’ comes in - to accomplish our work, we must raise the proficiencies of our educators and align them with what works in - to accomplish our goals...”

American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten
**Director of Education**

United Way of Greater Toledo is currently seeking an individual to act as a Director of Education. This position is responsible for leading community-wide education initiatives as well as building and managing cross-sector relationships and partnerships.

Additional responsibilities include:
- Manage the development and implementation of community-wide education initiatives and select education strategies.
- Cultivate local and national relationships and partnerships that will advance select education strategies, and community-wide initiatives.
- Develop excellent, trusting, and credible relationships with school districts’ administrators and key staff.
- Work as part of cross-functional teams to develop strategies that advance integrated education, income, and health goals through giving, advocacy, and volunteerism.
- Provide leadership to a team of staff and internal coordination and alignment with organizational goals.
- Provide staff leadership to internal volunteer committees.

Applicants must possess a Bachelor’s degree in Education, Public Administration, Communications or related field.

- Minimum of five years experience in the area of community development.
- Minimum of five years experience in collaborative / multi-system initiatives, or project management.
- Minimum of three years working with community programs.

Qualifying candidates should submit a cover letter with salary requirements along with a resume to: kant.anthony@unitedwaytoledo.org – subject: EDUCATION


We encourage a diverse & inclusive work environment.

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**Urban Farm Manager**

Toledo CDC is looking for an Urban Farm Manager. Please see website for detailed job description. Anyone interested in position, go to www.tolc.co.org, select the “contact us” button and complete the contact form. Be sure to put in the message box that you are interested in Urban Farm Managing and briefly list your experience. DEADLINE February 28, 2013. RESUMES ARE WELCOME. NO PHONE CALLS OR WALK-INS! NO EXCEPTIONS.

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**AOD Therapist Full-time**

Seeking an experienced Therapist to provide individual, family and group counseling, complete diagnostic assessments and provide case management services in our AOD programs.

Candidate must possess a Master’s Degree and have a minimum of two years experience working with adults with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Independent mental health license (LISW, PCC) and chemical dependency license (CDCA, LCDC II, LCDC III or LICDC) required.

Human Resources - QHHS
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org
EOE

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**Qualified Health Home Specialist**

Assists with care coordination, referral/linkage and follow-up, consumer, family, guardian and/or significant others support and health promotion services.

Must have a two or four year degree in a mental health field. Previous experience in mental health preferred.

Human Resources - QHHS
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org
EOE

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**Clinical Therapist- Genesis Partial Hospitalization Program Full-time**

Unison is seeking an experienced Therapist to provide services to adults with mental illness in the Genesis Outpatient Partial Hospitalization Program. Duties will include completing diagnostic assessments, developing and coordinating treatment plans, and providing individual crisis management, group therapy, advocacy, and outreach.

Position is based at Unison’s Woodruff site. Candidate must possess a Master’s Degree, current Ohio License as LSW or PC, and have a minimum of two years experience working with adults with mental health/substance abuse/trauma/criminal justice issues. LISW or LPCC preferred.

Send resume with salary requirements or apply to:

Human Resources - CTPHP
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org
EOE

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**For Rent**

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Our First Love Residential Services: Now providing homemaker/personal care and more HCBS Waiver and supported living. Call Mary – 419-450-8601 or email robinson1106@bcglglobal.net

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**Weekend Personality for URBan Radio Broadcasting’s WIMX-FM**

URBan Radio Broadcasting Toledo Ohio has an immediate opening for a Weekend talent for WIMX-FM (Mix 95.7) The Best Variety of Hits and Oldies. This position requires an experience person who can entertain our adult audience. You must be very organized, extremely motivated, driven and have a burning desire to win. Working knowledge of digital production equipment is a must. This position is now available and we will start an immediate interview process. Please get us all the details about you and your abilities for a on air shift immediately including an air check. Send to:

Brandi Brown
Program Director
URBan Radio Broadcasting
720 Water St 4th Floor
Toledo OH 43614

e-mail your presentation along with your air check to Brandibrown@urbanradio.fm

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**STAFF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER**

The City of Toledo is currently seeking a Staff Professional Engineer, registered in the State of Ohio, for employment in the Department of Public Services at the Hoffman Road Landfill. The Staff Professional Engineer will develop plans, contracts, specifications and cost estimates for improvements for the Hoffman Road site. This position will require the review of project plans to ensure compliance with environmental regulations. Requirements include a Bachelor’s degree in chemical, physical or environmental engineering and four (4) years of administrative experience in environmental regulations, permits and enforcement, of which two (2) years shall include municipal engineering work or closely related public sector engineering experience as a Professional Engineer. Experience with Title V, NPDES and landfill operations is preferred. Salary Range: $57,464 to $67,604

An application may be obtained at the Department of Human Resources, One Government Center, Suite 1820, Toledo, OH 43604 or on the City’s webpage at: http://www.ci.toledo.oh.us/Departments/HumanResources/EmploymentOpportunities/

The City of Toledo is an equal opportunity employer.
January 27 - March 2, 2013

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