



The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 27, No. 6

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

April 16, 2014

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Flora Jones: Star of The 10th



The 10th, according to the film's promotional material, is a "coming of age story of four African American families who leave their working class up-bringing in Detroit to pursue the American dream in posh Birmingham, MI."

From Us to We

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

I don't believe the accident of birth makes people sisters or brothers. It makes them siblings....Sisterhood and brotherhood is a condition people have to work at.

- Maya Angelou



A contemporary model of civil rights activism appears to be growing in the Glass City. Similar to the ultra-effective protest movement in North Carolina, led by Pastor William Barber, president of that State's Conference of the NAACP, the Toledo model also attempts to fight back against the conservative assault on rights.

The Barber template has become successful in North Carolina and elsewhere not only by waging the policy war on "moral high ground," but also by achieving solidarity in a way that transcends party or race.

Locally, however, this methodology represents a vast challenge.

African-American leadership is associated with negative connotations while it is generally believed that "black" issues cannot be adequately addressed unless and until white leaders or organizations "save the day" and step in to rescue the community.

At the center of the Toledo movement is the Lucas County Coordinating Committee, formed to fight the barrage of voter suppression bills that have come from the state legislature to dismantle voter rights in Ohio. The coalition includes several labor unions, Toledo Area Jobs with Justice, the NAACP, the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, African-American churches and others. The group's potential lies in the collective understanding of the intersections between race, gender, sexuality, class, worker rights and other

forms of oppression or discrimination.

Yet, unless the group can solve the multicultural problem, or what John Crowley called "the dirty work of boundary maintenance," the effort of this embryonic organization risks "dying unborn."

Is it possible for union workers, white-collar suburbanites, politicians, professionals, women, gay rights and marriage equality advocates and the black church to march under the same banner and confront a common enemy?

I have a few suggestions on how Toledoans from different cultural, religious, socio-economic and worldviews might work together in difference towards a common cause.

First of all, it is always best to name the elephant in the room. When differences are overtly acknowledged and responded to, hidden mistrust or apprehension can be healed rather than mutating later to become a toxic source of group dysfunction.

Also, much recent activism fails to understand the importance of culture in creating a successful movement. However, culture requires a receptive environment. Therefore, a strong desire for inclusive leadership should be demonstrated by authentic engagement with the values of the community in which the consequences of a social or political issue fall heaviest.

This engagement is accomplished by going beyond civil or individual rights to also emphasize cultural

rights, the right for minorities to be at the table and minority leadership rights.

But sadly, deep internal divisions within the black community itself often serve as an insurmountable barrier in the attempt to effect meaningful change.

The motives and public role of black pastors and their churches are often conflicted and contradictory. There are theological differences that keep ministers from working together. There are also petty jealousies where those who choose to work within the system repeatedly find themselves at odds with other black leaders who are skeptical or envious of their ties with politicians or mainstream civic or corporate leaders.

Nevertheless, while our cultural differences tend to shape different interpretations of our human values, we all believe in fairness and equality. We all want freedom and opportunity and believe that we should have a decent standard of living if we work hard for it. We all believe in a democracy which ensures maximum citizen participation.

On these democratic principles, a diverse Lucas County Coordinating Council is in solidarity. Together, we shall overcome every conservative assault on our hard won rights.

It is the American way.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min., at drdlperryman@center-ofhopebaptist.org

Community Calendar

April 18

T.G.I.G.F. (Thank God It's Good Friday) Lock-In: Bethlehem New Life Center: 9 and 11 pm; Ages 8-18; Youth basketball, music, video games, refreshments, health and hygiene tips: 419-241-9360

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church Good Friday Service: Noon to 3 pm; Attend the church service and fellowship; Free ham giveaway; Need a ride? Call 419-246-8561

Altar of God New Beginnings Good Friday Service: Noon; 419-787-8379
Christian Community Church Screening: "The Passion of Christ;" 7 pm: 419-407-0778

April 26

Casting Call for "F.A.C.E.S.:" Noon; 2727 Kenwood Blvd; All ages – male and female; Bring headshot and wear black shirt for video: 419-450-2022 or DramaticallyInspiredWorks@gmail.com

Toledo 20th Annual Take Back the Night: 7 pm; Scott Park Campus; Community rally featuring speakers address violence against women; Women's March, A Women's Survivor SpeakOut, Men's Program: 419-322-5205 and 419-464-8058

April 28

Annual Nehemiah Action Rally: Sponsored by TUSA; Friendship Baptist Church; 7 pm

May 3

Casting Call for "F.A.C.E.S.:" Noon; 2727 Kenwood Blvd; All ages – male and female; Bring headshot and wear black shirt for video: 419-450-2022 or DramaticallyInspiredWorks@gmail.com

May 10

St. Stephen's COGIC Annual Mother Daughter Luncheon and Style Show: Noon; Speaker Evang. Belinda Brown

May 14

Engaging Men Forum: 9 to 11:30 am; Discussion about the issue of domestic violence; Educational Service Center; Guest speaker Gus Funk: 419-244-3053 ext 221 or dmccarty@fcapc.org

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's **Truthful** African American
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Lafe Tolliver Way Off Base

By Deborah A. Carlisle

As a member of the Cotillion Committee, I am obliged to respond to the March 26, 2014 article written by guest columnist Lafe Tolliver, entitled "Cotton Comes to Toledo," a paraphrase of Cotton Comes to Harlem, one of the black exploitation movies of the 1970's.

This article was condescending, insulting, insensitive and disrespectful to young men and women and planners, who have contributed their efforts, time, money and talents to this upcoming Cotillion event.

Mr. Tolliver should have thoroughly researched this topic before lending his sarcastic spin to this annual event sponsored by The Toledo Club of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

Mr. Tolliver, in an awkward way, attempted to associate cotton as a metaphor to cotillion. Synonymous words they are not. However, both have historical significance in the lives of African Americans as it relates to slavery.

Mr. Tolliver demonizes the association between these two words by implying that the white cotton apparel worn by the Cotillion debutantes and their escorts is symbolic of a desire by organizers to have these youngsters embrace the purity of the dominant white culture.

White gowns, dresses, gloves and tuxedos were endemic to the rituals of the white southern post antebellum planter class, but to suggest that these items worn by black cotillion participants is implicit of a desire to be white is misguided and wrong. Cotillion during this period was a class phenomenon. It symbolized values along class lines and not racial lines.

Contemporary participation by blacks in Toledo in the Cotillion is contrary to class lines. This event gathers young men and women from various backgrounds. Some participants come from homes of doctors, lawyers, teachers, mail men, police officers, clerks, factory workers, single parents, etc.

Contrary to Mr. Tolliver's theory, Cotillion is not a night of acting white as much as it is an evening of celebration, which honors the talents, dedication, academic achievements and community service contributions of senior girls of color

before an audience of their parents, relatives, friends, sponsors, teachers and community supporters. It is the culmination of hard work of women like me, Wilma Brown, Beverly Tucker, Denise Black-Poon and many others.

The Debs and their escorts wear white attire out of tradition and not in tradition. The Debs-in-Waiting, who are junior girls, wear red and they receive a string of pearls and are encouraged to meet the criteria that would see them honored as Debs in the coming year.

The couples do a traditional waltz. They are also free to do the macarena, electric slide, wobble, etc. Fathers have a chance to dance with their daughters. Mothers have a chance to dance with their sons. It is a night of joy and fun.

Young boys and girls of color are given an opportunity to learn refinement, poise, and grace that comes from preparing for the Cotillion. This is important to our community, which has been bombarded with negative images of black males and females. These images of black male criminals and loose girls are prevalent in the news, media and movies.

The gangsta movies and gangsta rap have distorted the image of young black males. Characters like Flip Wilson's Geraldine and Martin Lawrence in *Big Momma's House 2* depict the buffoonery of women. Movies like *Monster's Ball* and songs like *Brown Sugar* show black women as sex objects to be exploited. BET music videos and rap videos, and "Booty Call" have tarnished the images of black womanhood. Young black men and women suffer from an image problem.

These negative images have resulted in misconceptions and have contributed to white fear. This white fear has led to the untimely deaths of young men and women of color like Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis in Florida, Jonathan Ferrell in North Carolina and Renisha McBride in Michigan. While the Cotillion is not a panacea to negative images, it does give us a portrait of accomplishment, recognition, celebration and pride.

While it is true that whites don't spend hundreds of dollars each year preparing their kids to be introduced to black society, young whites overwhelmingly patronize black music,



rap, and movies that promote black-sponsored negativity and stereotypes.

Mr. Tolliver would have us boycott the Cotillion (cotton). Would he have us boycott rum, sugar, rubber, rice, tobacco and coffee, all of which along with cotton laid the foundation for America's capital and wealth? Mr. Tolliver, would you have us boycott the Christian religion, a practice which has been heavily influenced by white images and ideas?

In touching on the subject of acting white, Mr. Tolliver hit on a puzzling subject. He jousts with the concept of white versus black values. In doing so he set himself up as a guardian of values. To what degree do we accept white values over black values and traditions? This is a sensitive problem, which

hangs on the question of racial identity. Our history has been one of miscegenation and a call for assimilation. Struggling with identity has been a challenge for people of color.

The line of demarcation between Eurocentric cultural values and Afrocentric values has been blurred by the need of a despised people to be able to survive in a dominant white culture, and the need of that culture to be engaged with black people for the benefit of their labor, spirit, art, music, physical pleasure and cultural exchange.

If Mr. Tolliver would have us resigned to acting black, would he have Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin not sing country and western music to

... continued on page II

Come join us for the **2014 Spring Health & Wellness Women's Retreat** on Sat., April 26th, 2014, 9 a.m. until noon, at **GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER**, 406 W. Delaware Avenue in Toledo, OH 43610.

This event is FREE and open to public but RSVP is required.

Enjoy continental-style refreshments and meet our delightful keynote speaker, **Cheryl Edwards-Cannon**, and an amazing panel of women who will share a wealth of wisdom on ways to lead healthier and happier lives.

Mrs. Edwards-Cannon is a published author and the Lead Consultant for **CLEAR PATH CHOICES, LLC**, a consulting company that provides direction and support for families facing elderly care challenges.

Ms. Edwards-Cannon holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from Central Michigan University and a Masters in Management Degree from Aquinas College.

Her writing is featured in "*Chicken Soup for the Soul: Alzheimers and other Dementias*" -release date: 4/22/14.

Our panelists include **Marian Brannon**, Strengthening Families Coordinator, Lucas County Family Council; **Min'i'mah Garrett**, Domestic Violence Advocate, Lucas County Victim's Witness Assistance Program; and **E. Elaine Page**, Executive Director, Grace Community Center, Inc.

Register with Dr. Anita M. Lewis-Sewell M.D.

By PHONE: 419-386-8831 or EMAIL: amlsewell@gmail.com

This National Minority Health Month event is sponsored by **THE LIGHTHOUSE ROAD: A PATHWAY TO WOMEN'S HEALTH & WELLNESS**, P. O. Box 1355, Toledo, OH 43603.



Toledo Area American Baptist Association Holds "Domestic Violence Awareness Session"

Special to The Truth

The Toledo American Baptist Association of Toledo and Vicinity held its first "Domestic Violence Awareness Session" on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, pastor Rev. John H. Willis, Sr., located at 1502 N. Detroit Avenue. The Awareness session became a part of the pastor's quarterly meeting discussion in early 2013.

At that meeting there was a lengthy discussion on the topic of domestic violence during the meeting after which Regional Minister Rev. Jane Gibbons was instrumental in seeing that the discussion went further than just conversation.

She spoke with Willis about the possibility of getting a grant through ABC/Ohio which is our state local. The churches came together at their board meeting and agreed to seek the grant funds. Rev. Marcia Dinkins, an associate minister of St. Paul, wrote the grant and the grant was accepted.

A meeting was then held with Lucas County Child and Family Services Abuse Center to establish a curriculum that would fit the needs of the Awareness. This would also allow the pastors and lay people to get a better understanding of the process. From the meeting, a five-phase module was set up along with a two-day training session. The first training was held on April 12 and the second will be on April 26, also at St. Paul.



Rev. Ruby Radford, pastor of Cass Road Baptist in Maumee
Rev. James Willis_ Rev. Jennifer Jackson, pastor of Haskins
Community Church in Haskins, OH



Tammy Knighten



The opening was given by Rev. Willis, prayer by Minister Augustine Abbott, associate minister of St. Paul and

the training was directed by Sister Tammy Knighten from

Child and Family Service Abuse Center. The training was established on a Scripture-based presentation which was the intent of the Awareness, in order for it to be done and in order. This training was the start of a new Awareness for the Toledo Area American Baptist Association.

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There are nine American Baptist Churches active in the Toledo area under the direction of the moderator Willis: Ashland Church, the Church of the New Covenant, Cass Road, First Baptist, Good Shepherd, Haskins Community, Third Baptist, St. Paul Baptist and Whispering Winds.

***The 10th* Debuts This Month in Toledo – It's Certainly not The Cosby Show**

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

In 1903, W.E.B. Dubois offered the notion of a class of educated African Americans – the “talented tenth” he called them – who would, through virtue of their education, their writings and their promotion of social change, lead their race out of the darkness created by an oppressive American society.

More than a century later, the idea of a talented tenth is still alive and well. It's a concept embraced at least by artists, if not entirely by today's social scientists.

On Friday, April 25, the southeastern Michigan-based Emerald Sky Performance Arts presents the Toledo debut of *The 10th* at the Maumee Indoor Theatre. Written and produced by Barika L. Pace and directed by Jerry J. Hayes, *The 10th*, according to the film's promotional material, is a “coming of age story of four African American families who leave their working class up-bringing in Detroit to pursue the American dream in posh Birmingham, MI.”

The star of *The 10th* is Toledo's own Flora Jones – actor, screenwriter, producer, model.

Jones plays Sharon Dupre Cash, “a powerful attorney who has just moved back to the Detroit area,” she says. To secure the role during open casting calls, Jones took possession of the Cash character from the start, she recalls. She was so taken with the script and the character that she “became” Sharon Dupre, from the audition and on through filming.

Jones film career took a serious turn back in 2000 when she attended the Bill Duke Actor Boot Camp. Duke, a well-established actor and film director, has appeared in or directed dozens of Hollywood feature films over the past 40 years. His resume includes directing *A Rage in Harlem*, *Deep Cover*, *Hoodlum* and *Sister Act: Back in the Habit*, among others. It was Duke who taught Jones how to “own” a character, a lesson she put to good use in her most recent endeavor.

In addition, Duke impressed upon Jones and all of his students the need for aspiring actors to do more than just wait for roles to

find them. In order to be part of the filmmaking process, he preached, you must take charge of the filmmaking process. That instruction was taken to heart by Jones, who later started Svelte Productions, LLC and began writing and producing projects such as *Watch and Pray* and *Choices*. “That class taught me that I was more interested in taking control of my destiny,” she says.

The 10th, in fact, is Jones' first leading role in someone else's production. “I wanted to experience it so I could watch actors in other productions,” says Jones.

Emerald Sky Performance Arts is the brainchild of co-founders Pace and Charmeka Whitehead, PhD.

Pace, who earned her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University, her masters of arts from Wayne State University and an advanced graduate certificate from Harvard University, is a former McNair Fellow. Her essay “I Sing Because I'm Free: Music of the Black Church” was published in the Journal for African American Studies.

Whitehead earned her master's degree in community psychology and her doctorate in clinical psychology from Penn State University.

The goal for *The 10th*'s production team is for the film to ultimately be picked up by a company such as Netflix and perhaps used as a pilot for a ongoing series.

Also in the cast in the leading roles are Jerome Crawford as Dre Cash, Delany Bayham II as Nia Landon, David Solomon as David Landon, Christopher R. Davis as Marcus Hayes and Keyna Reynolds as Nicole Hayes, Derrick Walker as Ronald Ellis and Morgan Breon as Monica Ellis.

Tickets are available at the Maumee Indoor Theater's box office or online at www.10thfilm.com.



Flora Jones



Barika Pace

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Abundant Life Ministries – Unleashed to Do All They Can Do

Sojourner's Truth Staff

During the first week of October, 2013, the Abundant Life Ministries, under the guidance of Pastor Cordell Jenkins, took a big leap forward and celebrated the church's third anniversary by moving into a new facility – the building at 5025 Glendale, the former site of the Calvary Assembly of God congregation. On Easter Sunday, the ALM congregation will be introduced to Abundant Life Ministries Unleashed, a campaign to secure the church's future in their new facility.

Abundant Life Ministries Unleashed is not a radical departure from the church's ongoing mission, says Jenkins. "It is something in addition to what we are doing, so we can

generate income so we can do what we need to do – in this case – for purchasing the building we are in now," he explains. "We are moving to the place and to new levels in God – to be unleashed to do all we can in the service of God."

Starting Sunday and for the next two years, the congregation will be focused on a campaign to raise the approximately \$2.5 million needed to purchase the 70,000 square feet building in which Jenkins anticipates a greatly expanded offering of services over time. "It's a facility that has everything we need," he says.

Jenkins envisions a school, day care, training operations, conferences, workshops all coming together in the multi-

purpose facility which has a kitchen, a dining room and a gymnasium, among other amenities. "We want to capitalize on that," says the pastor.

Resurrection Sunday, says Jenkins, is an appropriate time to start such a drive. It's one of those days "when the most people are in church," he notes. "A time for unleashing and releasing."

One of the fast-growing congregations in the Toledo area, Abundant Life Ministries has the potential to vastly increase its congregation over the next few years in such a full service facility. For more information on ALM Unleashed, call the church at 419-382-1300 or go to their website after Sunday – www.almtoledo.org.



First Lady Laura Lloyd Jenkins and Pastor Cordell Jenkins

Golden Senior Luncheon Serves Up Helpings of Health, Happiness, and History

Special to The Truth

Health and happiness were "piping hot" topics of conversation at the **Senior Golden Luncheon** on Wed., April 9, 2014, from noon until 2 p.m. at Phillips Temple (PTC) CME Church, 565 Palmwood Ave., in Toledo, OH.

The Senior Golden Luncheon is always held the second Wednesday of each month at noon to provide senior citizens with the chance to socialize and share a nutritious meal in a comfortable and festive setting.

Circle of Friends (COF) Sister-to-Sister Leadership Development program, a project of the Center for Health and Successful Living (CHSL) at The University of Toledo (UT), co-sponsored this month's luncheon in celebration of National Minority Health Month (NMHM).

Over 35 senior citizens ranging in age from 60 to 90 years old attended the luncheon provided free of charge to church members and others from the community.

Many early birthday greetings were shared with Rebecca Tucker Davis, the most senior among luncheon attendees, who was born April 13, 1924.

Tucker Davis' life has spanned an amazing breadth of history. This has included the rise of post-Civil War Jim Crow segregation, the Great Depression, a World War; regional conflicts in Korea, Viet Nam just to name a few; and the Civil Rights Era of the 50's and 60's which ultimately led up to the watershed event of 2008 – election of the 44th and first African American President, Barack Hussein Obama.

This long-time PTC church mother, stewardess, and great-great grandmother who remains active, is still able to drive, and ambulates with the assistance of a cane, was praised by PTC Pastor Antoine Shyne for her many years of faithful service during a surprise 90th birthday party given in her honor.

Emma Branford, a PTC church trustee, said she really enjoys working with and helping elderly people. Branford and other members at PTC church donate their time and finances to make this event possible. Phyllis Boyd and Laverta Latson assisted with food preparation and serving.

A group discussion on the relationship between health and happiness was led during the luncheon by Dr. Anita M. Lewis-Sewell M.D., COF community outreach director.

Have you ever heard this scripture – "A merry heart maketh like a good medicine," Dr. Anita asked?

Citing one of her favorite Biblical passages from the book of Proverbs, Dr. Anita, (as she likes to be called) asked the audience questions about how health and happiness are connected.

Dr. Anita shared that unhappiness causes many illnesses; and symptoms like headaches, back pain, stomach aches, insomnia, anxiety, and stress are brought about by or due to poor health, financial difficulties, and family and relationship problems.

"It is hard to be happy when you are sick," she noted.

Dennis Galloway, age 71 and vice president of PTC trustee board, was among many seniors in attendance. He



shared an incident about going to a doctor's appointment one day and wondering why everyone in the office seemed so gloomy and serious that day, which stimulated a round of discussion.

It is nearly impossible not to feel upbeat around Galloway, who kept the guests at his table laughing at his jokes and witticisms. This proud grandfather, at well over six feet tall, has a deep booming voice, a wonderful sense of humor, and a cheerful demeanor that is infectious.

Sharing these words of wisdom, Galloway noted: "We worry too much about the wrong things, and don't worry enough about the right things."

Simple acts of kindness go a long way. Gift bags filled with nail polish, hand sanitizer, lotion and candy

and other tokens of affection given to each senior in celebration of the Easter season generated smiles of gratitude and joy.

The Senior Golden Luncheon was wrapped up with everyone agreeing that you are never too old to find happiness, then all together singing several rounds of the song "If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands."

Pamphlets and materials on healthy nutrition, exercise for elders, managing diabetes, heart health, breast cancer screening, and other topics related to health disparities in African Americans were provided at the Circle of Friends information station.

NMHM is sponsored on an annual basis to draw attention to disparities affecting minority groups, to highlight health promotion and disease prevention initiatives, and to showcase health-care resources in local communities.

The Sojourner's Truth Economy

OHFA Joins the Nation in Commemorating Fair Housing Month

Special to The Truth

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) proudly joins the nation in observing April as Fair Housing Month. OHFA's celebration, "Justice for All," marks the 46th anniversary of the act, which provides equal access to affordable housing for

all regardless of race, color, nationality, familial and military status, disability or ancestry.

"OHFA has advocated for the advancement of equal access to housing for all Ohio homebuyers and renters for more than 30

years," said OHFA Executive Director Doug Garver. "As the nation and State of Ohio celebrate Fair Housing Month, it is important to not only recognize the great strides made in eradicating housing discrimination, we must also continue educating Ohioans on their rights."

or they fear retaliation

As the state's affordable housing leader, OHFA ensures that every Ohioan is given the opportunity to obtain safe, decent and affordable housing through a variety of programs. Through its First-Time Homebuyer program, the Agency offers stable financing options for Ohioans with low- to moderate-incomes. In addition, the Agency has helped to finance more than 100,000 units of affordable rental housing across the state.

For more information on OHFA and its programs, visit www.ohio-home.org or call 888.362.6432. For more information on the Fair Housing Act, visit http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp

Seasonal Home Maintenance Tips That Save Time and Money

Special to The Truth

If you're not careful, basic and seasonal home maintenance can cost you a pretty penny and a lot of time. Take steps to simplify these tasks.

Clean and Organize

Even if you use a professional cleaning service, you'll still need some in-between maintenance:

- Divide clutter into three groups: junk, charity and undecided. Toss the first, give away the second and store the third until you decide whether it's worth keeping.
 - To reduce dirt, use only one entry door into your home and use doormats inside and outside.
 - Clean the house and each room from the top down. Dust first, vacuum last. Scrub, wipe and polish in straight lines instead of circles. Squeegee windows and mirrors with an initial horizontal stroke across the top, then vertical strokes, wiping the blade after each stroke.
 - Store basic cleaning supplies in an apron or bucket and carry them with you from task to task.
 - Change furnace filter and replace vacuum bags monthly.

If you own an air conditioning system breakdowns down, a home warranty can help protect you from unexpected repair costs. It covers the repair or replacement of many of the most common home system component breakdowns regardless of age, and can be purchased any time, not just when a home is bought or sold. Last summer, American Home Shield responded to nearly 700,000 requests for air conditioning repairs during record-breaking heat waves. To learn more about home warranties, visit www.YouTube.com/TheAHSTeam.

Fight Pests

Termites cause more than \$5 billion in annual damage across the country. Unfortunately, termite destruction can go unnoticed for years and is rarely covered by homeowners' insurance.

Eight Pests

- Store basic cleaning supplies in an apron or bucket and carry them with you from task to task.
 - Change furnace filter and replace vacuum bags monthly.

"If you detect a termite swarm, it could mean your house has already suffered damage," says Paul Curtis, Terminix entomologist.

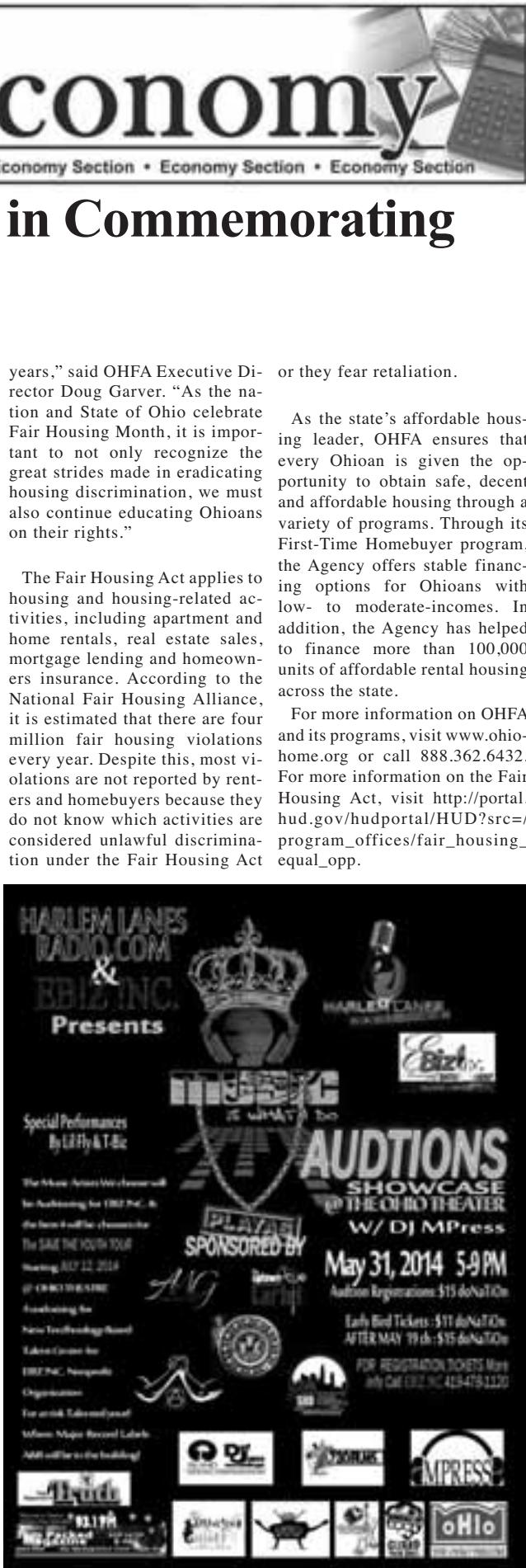
visit www.MerryMaids.com.

Cooling Costs

Want to reduce cooling costs? Follow these tips:

- Have air conditioning systems professionally inspected and cleaned before the season.

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Economy Section • Economy Section

Social Security Goes Green on Earth Day and Every Day

By Phil Walton

Social Security Manager in Toledo, Oh

Special to The Truth

For years, Social Security has been at the forefront of offering convenient, easy-to-use, and secure online services. We, along with those we serve, have saved a lot of paper, shipping costs, and fuel—and cut back on a lot of carbon exhaust and pollution—by going online instead of doing things the old-fashioned, less efficient way. We are committed to conserving energy, reducing waste and protecting our environment.

Earth Day (April 22) is the perfect time to highlight ways we serve the earth while serving you. We have buildings across the nation that boast high-efficiency lighting, solar hot water heating systems, high-performance windows, solar lighting in parking lots, improved heating and air conditioning systems, chilled water system improvements and more. We're most proud, though, of our online services, which allow people to conserve their own fuel (and time) by completing their business with us where they are instead of where we are.

Our online services are popular because they're convenient, easy to use and great for the environment. You can conduct so much of your business with us from the convenience of your home or office—no paper, printing, postage or petrol needed. Here are a few of our most popular online services:

- Connect with us by creating your own my *Social Security* online account that allows you quick access to your personal Social Security information. For example, during your working years, you can use my *Social Security* to obtain a copy of your *Social Security Statement* to check your earnings record and see estimates of the future retirement, disability, and survivor benefits you and your family may receive. If you already receive *Social Security* or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, you can use my *Social Security* to view, save, and print a benefit verification letter and check your benefit payment information. Social Security beneficiaries also can change their address and start or change direct deposit information online.

your future Social Security retirement benefits. www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator

- Prepare for retirement by visiting our Benefits Planner page. You can also use the disability and survivors planners to find out how much you or your family might qualify for if the need arises. www.socialsecurity.gov/planners

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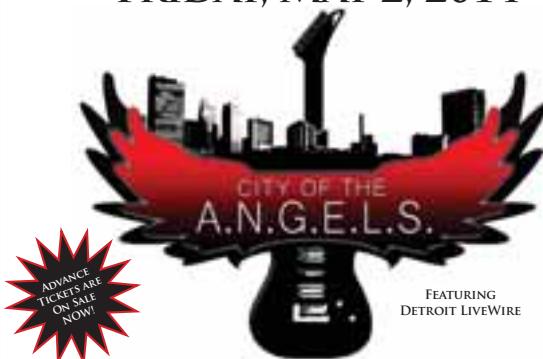
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Spiritually - A.N.G.E.L.S. - is ready to grow and expand. The organization's first formal fundraiser, City of the A.N.G.E.L.S., will take place at the Toledo Yacht Club on May 2, 2014.

City of the A.N.G.E.L.S., the organization's premier fundraiser, will not only provide the funds needed to allow A.N.G.E.L.S. Outreach to continue to provide food baskets, it will help the organization as it seeks to expand its services.

A.N.G.E.L.S. Outreach will rock the yacht club with Detroit LiveWire. The event will also feature specialty priced drinks, a photobooth, a silent auction, raffles and more! One hundred percent of the proceeds will go back to the community.

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Economy Section • Economy Section

State Supports Minority Business Development

State Releases New Plan to help grow business and create jobs

Businesses in every county in the state have a Minority Business Assistance Center ready to serve their needs. The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) announced the locations of each center and the counties they will serve.

ODSA encourages minority business owners to take advantage of the free professional consulting services that are available. These centers will focus on certifying business owners to do business with the state, help create business plans and capability statements and assist with access to capital.

"We are committed to supporting minority business growth," said David Goodman, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. "These centers are strategically located across the state to align with minority populations to best serve our existing and emerging minority businesses."

"The purpose of the centers is to support the growth and sustainability of minority-owned companies," said Jackie Williams, chief of the Minority Business Development Division.



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Economy Section • Economy Section

Kroger to Discuss Economics of Supermarket Industry

Special to The Truth

The business behind the doors of supermarkets is always moving. There is a constant wave of new products coming in, and old products going out. Understanding the process of landing a product on the shelf is the first step of creating success.

The Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT) will host a seminar for food-related business owners, aspiring entrepreneurs and those who are producing products to sell at supermarkets and/or other retail establishments. **Wednesday, Apr. 23 from 5 – 6:30 p.m.** at the Northwest Ohio Cooperative Kitchen (NOCK).

Mark Nolting, regional merchandising manager for the Midwest region, The Kroger Co., will discuss the basic fundamentals of merchandising in supermarkets. He will discuss the economics of a supermarket, basics of category management, pricing and cost and distribution. Nolting is responsible for identifying regional items, manufacturers and producers for the grocery, dairy, frozen food, meat and other food items relevant to the Midwest region. He is a 38-year veteran of the food industry with experience in retail management, procurement, production, merchandising, advertising and customer relationship management.

The cost is just \$25/person or \$20/person for two or more guests (cash or check at the door, payable to Agricultural Incubator Foundation, or AIF) which includes great networking opportunities and light refreshments. The NOCK/AIF is located at 13737 Middleton Pike (St. Rt. 582) in Bowling Green, Ohio. Directions: I-75 to St. Rt. 582, exit 187 (Luckey/Haskins). Travel west on St. Rt. 582 approximately 2.2 miles (located on the south side of St. Rt. 582).

Advanced registration is required. Visit ciftinnovation.org to register and pay online, or contact 419-535-6000, ext. 140

or rsvp@ciftinnovation.org.

About the Center for Innovative Food Technology

The Center for Innovative Food Technology is a developer and provider of technical innovations and solutions for the food processing, agribusiness and agricultural sectors of the economy in our region, our state and beyond. These innovations and solutions are developed in order to enhance the economic performance of the food processing and agricultural sectors. More information is available at www.ciftinnovation.org.

Maintenance... continued from page 7

- Clean gutters to avoid water accumulation near the foundation.
- Don't pile mulch, firewood or soil against your house, which can

hide termite activity and allow easy access into the home.

- Prompt treatment and annual inspections can save thousands of dollars in damage repair.

For more information on this year's

termite swarm season or to schedule an inspection, visit www.Terminix.com.

For more information on companies that can save you time and money on home maintenance, visit [\[viceMaster.com\]\(http://viceMaster.com\).](http://www.Ser-</p>
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By working smarter, not harder, you can save money and free your weekends to better enjoy your home.

Courtesy StatePoint



J.A.M. 2014

Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month with us!

Saturday, April 26, 2014 Noon - 5 p.m.

**Jazz Alchemy: A Love Supreme,
pays tribute to saxophone legend John Coltrane.
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Economy Section • Economy Section

Protecting Your Future: Stopping Credit Report Error

By U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown

Guest Column

Your credit report has an enormous impact on your financial future. Banks, credit card companies, and employers all reference credit reports when they decide whether to make a loan to a potential customer or offer a job to a prospective employee. That is why it's critical that credit reporting agencies maintain and provide accurate credit information about consumers.

Yet too often millions of Americans have errors – not of their own making – on their credit report. Making

matters worse, these mistakes can be nearly impossible to fix. A 2013 study by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) found that one in five consumers had an error on their credit report. While some errors are minor, others are financially devastating. One in 20 Americans has an error on their credit report serious enough to raise costs or make it harder to take out a loan.

American consumers shouldn't have to pay the price for errors made by credit reporting agencies.

Tolliver... continued from page 3

prove their blackness? What about Charlie Pride? Would he not have Art Tatum, Duke Ellington or Wynton Marsalis incorporate classical music as a part of their musical style? Should we as black people choose and pick our values solely on racial identity?

Pat Boone did not become black because he covered Little Richard's song "Tutti Frutti". He became rich. There is little danger of blacks doing the waltz of becoming white. Dress and putting on airs won't do the trick. Whites who purchase rap music are in no danger of becoming black. Mr. Tolliver sees a boogie man where one does not exist.

The Cotillion, which is alluded to by one of the main characters in Tennessee Williams' play *The Glass Menagerie*, originated out of black slaves dancing and doing a parody of white Southern gentry in the form of the Cakewalk. The southern aristocracy adopted the cotillion out of black slaves performing the Cakewalk. They used it to perpetuate social relationships of young whites along the lines of class.

Cotillion as practiced by our African-American young people gives them the opportunity to display etiquette, class, style, elegance, and scholastic and philanthropic achievement. Cotillion is a forum in which this occurs for which these young people are celebrated. We had these forums in Africa, where elegance, sophistication, achievement of young people were celebrated in the ritual of the dance. This was taken away from us in slavery.

The fact that today we use a European model as a part of display is no cause to demonize this event. Many of our participants are inspired to be lawyers (like Mr.

Tolliver, my husband and my son).

Some are inspired to be accountants, nurses, entrepreneurs, etc. Some are just inspired to be more than what they are in terms of education and upper mobility. We would do more to embrace them and applaud them for their academic achievements, scholarship, tenacity, talents, and community service. We should crown them the kings and queens that they are and for the fine citizens we want them to be.

If Mr. Tolliver would join us in this endeavor, this would be music to all of our ears.

Last week, I introduced the Stop Errors in Credit Use and Reporting (SECURE) Act to ensure that all have accurate information on their credit report to ensure they are being treated fairly.

The SECURE Act would require credit reporting agencies to improve their processes for collecting and matching consumer credit information and hold them accountable by requiring agencies to inform the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) about the consumer complaints they've received and their resolutions. If agencies' sloppy reporting practices cause widespread errors, the FTC would have new power to impose penalties.

The Act would also give consumers the tools they need to make informed financial decisions and to correct the record

if there are errors on their report. Consumers would finally be able to request a free credit score each year, and they would automatically receive and a free credit report with the information their lender saw if they are denied a loan or given an unfavorable interest rate because of their credit history. And consumers disputing an error on their credit report would be able to request that a judge order the credit reporting agency to stop using a practice that causes inaccuracies.

Ohioans' financial futures should not be held hostage by an inaccurate credit report or credit score. The SECURE Act finally gives consumers the tools they need to correct the record on their financial past and make the right decisions for their financial future.

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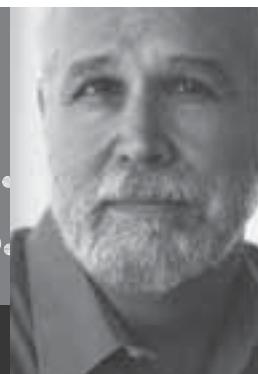
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In Memoriam: James C. Caldwell

James C. Caldwell entered into eternal rest on April 5, 2014. Born July 16, 1929 in the remote metropolitan Pittsburgh village of Grindstone, PA to a coal-mining father, Willie, and a housewife mother, Mattie (Mitchell), Caldwell was the second of three surviving children born to this union.

His early education was completed at Madison Elementary and Brownsville High School, (Class of 1947), Brownsburg, PA. Upon completing high school, he migrated to Toledo following his uncle James Mitchell (one of two uncles for whom he was named). Like many of others in his generation, Caldwell came to Toledo in pursuit of employment.

From 1947 to 1949, Caldwell sought employment alternately between Toledo and Detroit and eventually gained work with the City of Detroit, Public Lighting Division. He was drafted into the Army in 1951 and served for two years in the 101st Airborne Division. He later returned to Toledo after securing employment with Unit Cast, an East Toledo foundry.

Subsequent to re-establishing residency in Toledo, Caldwell joined the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of the Rev. Elijah Benton. During his affiliation with Mt. Zion and later with United Missionary Baptist Church, Caldwell held a number of leadership positions including chairman, the board of trustees; chairman, annual Men's Day celebrations; chairman, the Mt. Zion's 50th Anniversary Committee; chairman, the Mt. Zion Building Committee and organizer and advisor to the Young People's Usher Board. Throughout his life he thoroughly enjoyed church work and was committed to the Christian journey.

Upon completing his military tour of duty, he returned to Detroit and began a college degree program at Wayne State University. He held fondest reminiscences of the times that he spent at the Old Main building at Wayne State.

Later, Caldwell returned to live in Toledo and gained employment with the City of Toledo in the Water Department. He continued his employment with the City in the Department of Health serving as a sanitarian. In this capacity, he became the first African American to serve as an inspector of meat.

Caldwell was introduced to Mary Jane Lawson on a blind date arranged by mutual friends in 1953. The two wed in 1954. To this union, two children were born – Kimberly Marie and James Michael.

In 1964, Caldwell graduated from The University of Toledo with a B.S. Degree. Shortly

thereafter, he joined the Toledo Public Schools as a social studies teacher at Woodward High School under then principal, Virgil Sloan. He also taught summer school at Start High School.

In 1969, Caldwell left Toledo Public Schools for employment with Midland Ross Corporation. There he served as a minority recruiter/affirmative action officer. While holding this position, Caldwell facilitated employment opportunities for minority youngsters from Scott, Libbey and Woodward high schools.

In accepting the position of executive director of the North Toledo Community House in 1971, Caldwell committed to revitalizing the agency to fiscal soundness and heightened social viability. To this end, he enlisted the aid of a broad base of community resources. Also it was during his employment with the Community House he also reaffirmed his personal commitment to public service.

For 12 years, from 1974 to 1986, Caldwell served as both vice president and president of the Toledo Council for Business (TCB). The aim of this organization was to ensure that minority entrepreneurs had access to business training, funding sources and other forms of economic development.

Caldwell was the first lay and the first African-American president of the Toledo Area Council of Churches (TACC). First elected in 1975, his tenure as president concluded in 1979.

Fund raising was Caldwell's special gift. He used this talent to benefit the Toledo Branch of the NAACP, where he served as both vice president and chairman of the Life Membership committee. He helped raise more than \$350,000 during his tenure in office. From 1979 through 1980, he worked to reactivate the local United Negro College Fund drive and worked to raise several thousand dollars to benefit both young African-American scholars and historically black colleges and universities (HBCU's)

In 1971, Caldwell was the first African American elected to the presidency of the board of trustees of the Economic Opportunity Planning Association (EOPA). Elected to the board in 1967, he assumed the vice presidency in 1970 before moving on to the board presidency in 1971. EOPA was part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's national "War on Poverty" initiative. Locally under Caldwell's direction, millions of dollars were granted to the metropolitan Toledo area for Head Start and other programs aimed at economic uplift. Caldwell's stint in office concluded in 1975. He returned to serve as board president in late 1989.

Under Caldwell's leadership, the programs of the North Toledo Community House grew

to the point that it became apparent that the physical facility would have to expand. The expansion and remodel, which included a gymnasium, administrative offices, restrooms and classrooms was completed on July 20,

1987. Also during this time, the interior garage facility and the second floor Otto G. Hartman room were remodeled for community research programs. Post expansion, the NTCH actively renewed its charge to serve the residents of north Toledo.

Throughout his career, Caldwell sought to realize his goal of establishing an organization of like-minded men and women who would foster and promote the academic and eventual financial and social success for minority youth in Toledo. To this end, Caldwell tapped into his arsenal of community resources and in November 1983, founded the Fifty Men and Women of Toledo, Inc.

In addition to providing academic scholarships, the mission of the Fifty Men and Women of Toledo, Inc included sponsoring educational career days, fostering personal enhancement by way of interpersonal mentor/mentee relationships and follow-up assistance for scholarship recipients that successfully completed degree programs.

Caldwell's proudest accomplishment of the Fifty Men and Women of Toledo, Inc is its ability with the assistance of the Toledo corporate community, to provide upwards of one million dollars in scholarship assistance to deserving minority youth in our city.

In late 1999, the North Toledo Community House was renamed the James C. Caldwell Community Center in honor of the executive director and his nearly 30 years of service. Additional awards include: SERTOMA (Service to Mankind Award – 1982); Ohio Council of Community Health Award (1982); Ruth S. Ide Community Mental Center Award for 15 years of service (1983); United Negro College Fund Silver Eagle Award; Better Business Bureau (BBB) Award (fr 15 years of service).

Caldwell was further honored when, in acknowledgement of his lifelong community service, former Mayor Jack Ford supported the renaming of Stickney Avenue at Ketcham James C. Caldwell Way. The Caldwell Center continues to serve the needs of residents on north Toledo.

Caldwell retired from the Caldwell Center in 2004.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 59 years, Mary Jane (Lawson); daughter, Kimberly M. Caldwell, Ed.D and son, James M. Caldwell; brother, Cauley T. (Fannie of Detroit.



James Caldwell



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A Wanted Woman by Eric Jerome Dickey

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

If there's one thing you've learned in life, it's that the Boy Scouts were right: Always Be Prepared.

Look ahead and get ready for what's next. Don't leave your guard down. Cover all bases and expect the unexpected. Still, as you'll see in the new novel *A Wanted Woman* by Eric Jerome Dickey, there are some things you simply can't foresee.

She was known as MX-401.

It wasn't always that way; when she was born, she was named Goldilocks to spite her father, who refused to think a Bajan man and a black woman could have a white child with yellow hair. And yet, it was he who laid claim to her when her mother died, and it was he who taught her

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Dutton

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451 pages

to fight with hands, feet, and brain. It was he, known as Old Man Reaper, who reluctantly allowed her into The Barbarians, an organization feared around the world.

Few men had earned the M or the X before their agent numbers, but MX-401 had. She was a "woman with a thousand faces," she was the best of her father but with her own style, much to the chagrin of her superiors. To them, she was a loose cannon but they sent her to Trinidad to do a job nonetheless.

It was supposed to be an easy kill. Intel placed the target – a high-ranking politician – at a party held by the Laventille Killers, a gang of ruthless drug lords who practically ran the island. MX-

401 had her orders – to eliminate the target at all costs - but things went horribly awry.

The target wasn't where he was supposed to be and she had to kill him in broad daylight, along with three others, including two LK gunners. She knew it wasn't sanctioned. It wasn't according to plan, which would anger her superiors, but she didn't know just how angry they were until they hid her in Barbados - and left her there.

Barbados was purgatory. It was an island-prison, and the Barbarians refused to send help. What's worse: Barbados was a short Jet-Ski ride from Trinidad, and the LK would never let things slide...

Whooo-eee. *A Wanted Woman* is one of those books that gets so under your skin that you're compelled to turn to the last sentence early, just to reassure yourself that the main character lives. (And don't bother. You can't tell).

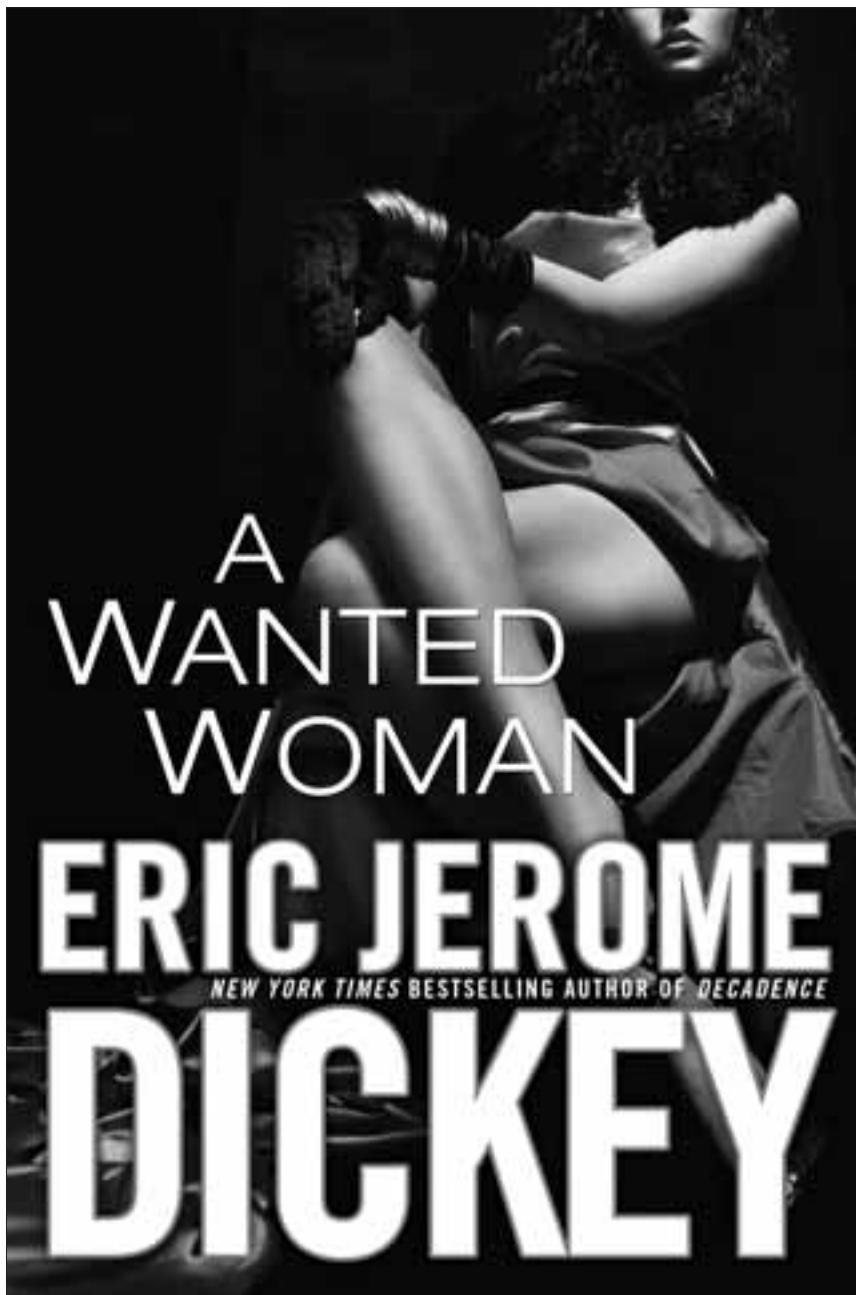
It's Die-Hard-meets-Jackie-Brown-meets-Chuck-Palahniuk, but with rocket launchers. It's fast-paced, gruesome, and violent with wry veins of surprising humor and one of the smartest secret agents you'll ever meet. Author Eric Jerome Dickey excels at making his thriller heroines over-the-top resourceful and steel-tough, and MX-401 is no exception. This book had me at the introduction, and it's a miracle that I didn't

rip its pages because I was turning them so fast.

You should've already figured out that this isn't Beaver-Cleaver territory; *A Wanted Woman* is filled with bloodshed and profanity, but there's nothing iller than a thriller like this. If an action-packed book is what you need, grab it – and be prepared.



Eric Jerome Dickey - photo courtesy Joseph Jones



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CLASSIFIEDS

April 16, 2014

Page 15

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EOE

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY14-68, (Project # 1010-14-953) for South Chilled Water - Underground Piping for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$35.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from David Oz of The JDI Group at 419-725-7161. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$450,000.00; Breakdown: HVAC:\$450,000.00.

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Notice to Bidders:

Inquiry # FY14-80, (Project # 0043-14-958) for Urgent Parking Structure Repairs 2014 for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 6, 2014. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$50.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Thomas Stuckey of Poggemeyer Design Group at 419-352-7537. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$1,200,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$1,200,000.00.

Notice to Bidders:

Inquiry # FY14-70, (Project # 0093-14-939) for President's Hall Chiller Plant Improvements for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 1:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$40.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from David Desjardins of JD RM Engineering at 419-824-2400. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$400,000.00; Breakdown: Electrical: \$400,000.00.

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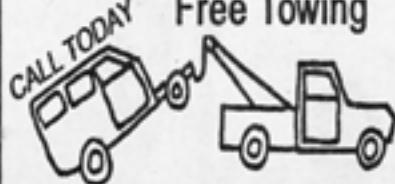
Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY14-71, (Project # 0040-14-938) for Savage Arena Boiler Replacements for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$45.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Bob Taeuber of Fosdick & Hilmer at 513-241-5640. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$510,000.00; Breakdown: Mechanical: \$500,000.00; Electrical: \$10,000.00.

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TUSA Sponsors First Annual Conference

*Artisha S Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter*

Toledoans United for Social Action (TUSA) held their first annual conference the weekend of April 4, 2014 that featured Rev. F. Douglas Powe, Jr. PhD. the author of New Wine New Wineskins.

The conference opened on April 4, and featured a workshop and dialogue on justice, and continued on Saturday with a prayer breakfast. Powe was the featured speaker and facilitated a dialogue about how

congregations can reach new generations and how it may work in various settings. Prayer breakfast guests dined on fruit, breads, grits and assorted morning beverages at the historic Monroe Street United Methodist Church on Monroe Street.

"The idea of today's event is to bring Dr. Powe to Toledo, and share with the African-American congregations how to reach the next generation to engage in church. Dr. Powe will share his



Rev. Payne II, Rev. Marcia Dinkins, and Rev. Powe Jr.



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knowledge and experience from his researched book," said Rev. Dennis G. Payne II, host pastor of the 2014 conference and pastor of Monroe Street United Methodist Church.

Powe earned a bachelor's degree in business from Duke University and began a career at Principle Financial Group before moving into ministry work. He went on to earn a seminary degree and PhD. He has worked as an associate professor of evangelism and associate professor of Black Church Studies, currently he's the professor

of evangelism and professor of Urban Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

TUSA, a collaboration of faith-based institutions that advocate for social justice, was founded in March 1992. The mission is to enable people of faith to work powerfully and effectively together to redress injustice in our community. TUSA current has nine active member congregations throughout the Toledo area. Congregations that are interested in membership should contact, lead organizer Marcia Dinkins at womenforchange@gmail.com.

There are nine values upheld by TUSA member congregations: the members of all segments of the community should be heard and valued; that people themselves have the power to determine their future and have a responsibility to speak up and demand justice for all; God is first and we seek divine guidance for all our actions, human beings are created in the image of God and therefore deserve to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect; we value the diversity of our multi-lingual, multi-cultural communities; display the highest level of integrity in all of our activities and actions; and uphold moral and ethical standards in our congregations and in public life.

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