A Pastoral Silver Anniversary

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As faith leader and activist, Brother Washington Muhammad faces the unenviable task of responding to the constant needs of a community of the truly disadvantaged that is, simultaneously situated in a culture that tolerates violence, and also located within a larger society that has been, up to now, insensitive to violence perpetrated upon them by police.

I had the pleasure of speaking with Muhammad in light of the increasing deaths of unarmed black men and women on behalf of police throughout the nation. The second installment of our conversation is forthright talk that deals with the topic of mass incarceration and also the dark side of policing.

Perryman: Earlier you talked about your strategic response to the April 18 neo-Nazi rally by implementing a counter rally at the Frederick Douglass Center, filled with positive activities designed to empower the black community. I would like to talk, also, about the mass incarceration problem and about the dark side of policing in the aftermath of the heinous execution of Walter Scott by police in South Carolina.

W. Muhammad: My view on mass incarcerations, as I said before, it goes back to right after slavery. One of the things that happened, some people think, that after slavery black people didn’t know what to do on their own, so they went back to the plantations. But that was furthest thing from the truth. Blacks were skilled. We were architects. We were the blacksmiths. We were the carpenters. We blew glass. So if we realized that we were free, we were like, you don’t have to tell me two times. We’re out of here.

So after that we started building towns and cities. However, the Great Compromise or the Great Betrayal of 1877 when - I think it was Rutherford B. Hayes.

Perryman: Right. A president from Ohio.

W. Muhammad: And a gentleman named Tilden, there was an electoral tie. And in order to preserve the Union; a Post-Reconstruction compromise was reached to remove all of the federal protection from those Southern towns. That gave all of the Reconstructionists the go-ahead, the Klan and everyone else, to go into these towns owned by blacks, burn them down, and seize the assets. So, black people ended up having a tradition of not building towns. Why build it if they’re going to burn it down? Why put your money in the bank if they’re going to just take it? Most of us started putting money under our mattresses, in a shoebox, and things like that.

Out of these actions, penal codes were developed, meaning that if you were loitering, if you were assembled in a group, if you looked as if you didn’t have proper identification or papers, you would be forced to become an indentured servant. So America has always benefited from various types of slave labor.

Perryman: And Khalil Gibran Muhammad, grandson of the late Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad, outlines what you’ve just laid out in a book. In that book, the Condemnation of Blackness, of which I was privileged to receive an autographed copy, Khalil Muhammad inscribed to me, ‘history is a powerful tool of social transformation.’ And so you’re quite correct. America has always benefited from, as Mr. Muhammad also note, through mass incarceration or free slave labor. It’s the same thing.

W. Muhammad: Yes. America would never survive by just feeding the people that are warehoused. Those that are warehoused are warehoused for a reason. We built roads. We built Washington, D.C. We built railroads. We’ve done it. We built cities as prisoners. So that’s why even today there will never be a legitimate conversation about immigration in America regarding Mexican and Latinos or South American people.

Perryman: Because of the role it plays in capitalism.

W. Muhammad: So we’ll always play lip service to the ignorant right-wing conservatives that want an English-only speaking America. We’ll always play lip service to that Tea Party group that wants America to go back to the time when it was great. And that scares the hell out of me when they say that. I’m like, wait, wait. When in the hell was it great for us?

Perryman: I certainly don’t remember a golden age. When were the good old days? The days of Jim Crow segregation and covenant restrictions were never good for people of color.

W. Muhammad: Right, right. So just as the immigrant labor for Hunt’s Tomatoes, for Dole, for all of those major food corporations, they need that slave labor. So you’ll always get some of them to talk about we need to do something about it. But I’ll tell you what, as long as they can have so-called illegal immigrants... continued on page 4
Test Time … For Cops Only!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

As some of you may know, one of the side businesses that I have been contracted to fulfill was that of being an outside consultant to the National Police Academy Enforcement Association based out of Tacoma, Washington.

The group was started in 1978 as a result of too many bizarre and strange shootings of unarmed black and Latino males by white police officers.

Sound eerily familiar?

One of my tasks is to provide oversight to the association of ways and means by which they can encourage local law enforcement officers and administrators to be able to successfully exclude police candidates who simply cannot pass muster due to their racial biases overshadowing common sense when it comes to making decisions during their police work.

The studies by the association have shown a proclivity for white police officers to score very low percentage points when it comes to being able to discern and quickly evaluate problem scenarios involving unarmed black men.

I was asked to devise and present to them a written test by which the local police departments can add to their repertoire of test-taking requirements so that they will be able to pinpoint a police academy candidate who appears to exhibit such a lack of discernment.

The problems identified that I have been asked to address are the myriad problems of white officers knowing what to do or not to do when they encounter black males on the streets.

Now, you may think that such encounters should not pose a problem to either the rookie cop or to the black male, but therein lays the conundrum.

On one hand you have a rookie cop who may come from a white ghetto (note: ghetto in the sense that their whole life and surroundings and friends and associates and contacts are for the most part overwhelmingly white) and, on the other hand, you have black males who have been demonized by the media as being dangerous simply due to their skin color.

So, with those marching orders in hand, I am presenting to my readers a small snippet of the scenarios and questions that I have devised so that the association can pass them on to the over 2,000 police agencies that they represent.

SCENARIO ONE: You are at a bar with your police friends and wives and girlfriends and two black males in the car with hoods on and take a seat at a far table. What do you do?
(1) Excuse myself and go over to them and ask for their ID’s.
(2) Tell my cop buddies to be on the watch for two suspicious black males.
(3) Tell our white women that there are black males in the car. What do you do?
(4) Call for the cops to be on the watch for them.
(5) None of the above.

SCENARIO TWO: You are in the park with your kids and about six young black males come by to play basketball on the nearby court. What do you do?
(1) Immediately leave the park.
(2) Call for backup due to possible drug gang in the immediate vicinity.
(3) Go over to them and ask for ID after you show them your badge and gun.
(4) Check their cars for possible traffic warrants.
(5) All of the above.
(6) None of the above.

SCENARIO THREE: You stop a car in the early afternoon at a crowded intersection for having a loud muffler. There are four black males in the car. What do you do?
(1) Have them pull the car over and you wait for backup with your gun drawn.
(2) Order each of them out of the car and onto the pavement!
(3) Ask the citizens standing around to make a circle so the car cannot leave.
(4) Have them roll down the windows and ask for ID from each one of them with your gun drawn out.
(5) Tell them to get the muffler fixed as soon as possible.

SCENARIO FOUR: You and your partner are just coming out of the Lickety Fingers donut store and you notice a black male wearing a suit walking towards you and he has a bulge in his front coat pocket. What do you do?
(1) Regrettably, you drop the bag of jelly doughnuts and tell the black male to freeze and get on the ground.
(2) Call for backup saying that you are in fear for your life.
(3) Ask the citizens standing around to make a circle so the car cannot leave.
(4) Have them roll down the windows and ask for ID from each one of them with your gun drawn out.
(5) Tell them to get the muffler fixed as soon as possible.

QUESTION ONE: How many times have you used the phrase, “I was in fear for my life!” when you see a black male, either by himself or in a group.
(1) More than three times a day.
(2) Seven to 10 times a day.
(3) Too numerous to recall.
(4) Just to see a black male makes me think that.
(5) Black males? I think the same when I see a black female!
(6) None of the above.

QUESTION TWO: When confronted with an unarmed black male in broad daylight, which of the following weapons would you use if the black male “dissed” you?
(1) Taser Gun. That will show him who’s the boss!
(2) Billy club. A good whack upside the head works wonders.
(3) Do a drug plant on him. That way, we have one less black male to worry about.
(4) Gun. Want to make sure that dead men tell no tales!
(5) None of the above.

I will know by July if the association will accept my draft proposals. What do you think?

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tolliver@Juno.com
working for a dollar a day, three dollars a day and things like that, it’s going to continue. As long as they can continue to create schools that don’t teach on purpose, so that young people can drop out or fail out, they recognize that those who drop or fail out are always going to be funneled into the streets. What’s in the streets is the perfect environment for crime, for drug dealing, gangs.

And they need that population to channel into those prisons that are private now. These privatized prisons are now on the NASDAQ. They’re on the stock exchanges. And they have to make a profit. So there’s an incestuous relationship between schools, the business corporate communities, and the prisons.

Perryman: I’m glad that you bring that up because some of my own research has brought to light the fact that a lot of Fortune 500 corporations, including Chevron, Bank of America, AT&T, IBM, nearly a million prisoners are making office furniture, working in call centers, fabricating body armor, taking hotel reservations, working in slaughterhouses, manufacturing shoes and clothing, and are getting paid between 93 cents and $4 a day. So these prisons are employing more people, mostly non-violent offenders, than any Fortune 500 corporation and operating in almost all 50 states.

W. Muhammad: And, in order to do that, you have to have systems working together in concert for these them to operate seamlessly. So it’s not only, the schools, the jails, and corporate America. There also needs to be a mechanism that feeds the idea that crime is popular. And our music industry has been -- those entities that profit off of prison labor are also major investors in our music.

And they pick and choose the frequency. They pick and choose the dialogue and lyrics that their paid entertainers are going to talk about, especially our black entertainers. They can decide if ‘Nigger, I’m Selling Dope’ is going to be the number one hit record or video. The rappers don’t decide that. The corporate execs decide what that is because they know what type of atmosphere it will create when they have the premier entertainers always rapping about violence, illegal activities.

Perryman: And the misogynistic depiction of black womanhood.

W. Muhammad: And conspicuous consumption.

Perryman: Right.

W. Muhammad: Now, ask people, why is it that you can have a black artist singing “nigger” every other song, however, if the same artist -- if the same entertainer’s in another field, if he’s in sports and says that, he will get fined. If he was a Hollywood A-list actor and said that, it would be a firestorm. If he was a politician and said that, it would be a huge problem. But it’s no problem using the black music industry to feed that because they know whom they’re feeding it to. And there’s no better way to enslave a people than to have one of their own as the chief enslaver.

Perryman: Exactly.

W. Muhammad: I would also like to talk about law enforcement. To do so, I think that I have to go back to its roots and foundation, which initially were slave catchers. But even today, the institutional attitude of law enforcement has always been adversarial and against black people. Before camera phones we would never know how bad it was. You would always say - - I was talking to my son yesterday be-

African Art Has Arrived!!

Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes! All at unbelievably low prices!

The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM

See more art online at www.thetruthtoledo.com

The Truth Gallery
1811 Adams Street
419-242-7650
Black Lives Matter Rally Draws Community Support

By Tricia Hall
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

Community supports, residents, and agencies gathered on April 18, 2015 on the Frederick Douglass Community Association grounds for a Black Lives Matter Rally and Celebration.

Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo, Board Members Music Group, Lyte HouseMusic, The 30 and Over Spot and Flip Flop Radio Station 109.9 served as event sponsors.

“It’s important to support this effort of Black Lives Matter, Brother Washington Muhammad and Community Solidarity Response Network because it’s positive and invigorating the community. It’s demonstrating that we can be positive, not travel downtown just to listen to negativity. We can have our own agenda,” explained Reggie Williams, Frederick Douglass Community Association board president.

Community Solidarity Response Network originally collaborated with the Frederick Douglass Community Association board members. The April 18 date was already reserved for a community clean up, so the board scheduled the festivities to run from 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. The festivities featured local supporters and entertainers: Touch A Dream, Core DJ Lyte-N-Rod of 97.3 FM, Cuntry of 97.3 FM, TDiamond, Washington Muhammad, Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, and Payne. Several community agencies and vendors shared resources and food with those in attendance.

“It’s important to participate within the community, this is a positive event and people should understand that we are a people of peace. We are people who are not afraid to challenge hard issues. Thank you for supporting this event. We are proud Toledos,” said Mayor Hick-Hudson.
This month, Pastor John E. Roberts and First Lady Mother Ber-nice Roberts celebrated 50 years of service as the shepherd of the Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church flock culminating with a banquet at the Ramada Inn on Secor Avenue. The couple were joined by hundreds of congregants, friends, family mem-
ers, elected officials.

John E. Roberts has been an active member of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church since its inception in 1946. He has served the church as custodian, usher, Sunday school teacher, president of the Baptist training union, choir member, secretary of the Trustee Board and deacon. He began preaching in 1962 and received his certificate of ordination in December 1964 and in January 1965 he was named pastor of Indiana Avenue.

During his tenure as pastor, Indiana Avenue has expanded its parking facilities, built the Stephenson-Roberts Fellowship Hall and established the Hall of Farmers.

Roberts has been a leader in the church and in the Toledo area community having been a part of the Coalition of PTA Toledo Public Schools, the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, the Baptist Ministers Conference, the executive board of Northwestern District Association, the NAACP, the board of SASI, the board of the J. Frank Troy Center and the board of the Urban League, to name a few.

Born in Bryant, Mississippi to George and Melvina Roberts, the pastor moved to Toledo in 1944 after his mother moved here. He worked for Martin Box for 21 years and then for Toledo Steel. He drove a school bus for 10 years. His jobs enabled him to put aside funds to contribute to the building of the church structure.

John and Bernice Roberts have been married for 65 years and have three sons – Derrick, Jeffrey and Tracy – five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.
May 1 Deadline Approaching for 2015 Law and Leadership Summer Institute!

Special to The Truth

The Law and Leadership Institute (LLI) is accepting applications from current eighth grade students in Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo! The 2015 Summer Institute will take place at the law schools in six cities across Ohio including Capital University Law School, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, The University of Cincinnati College of Law, The University of Dayton School of Law, The University of Toledo College of Law, Cleveland State University’s Cleveland Marshall College of Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law and the University of Akron School of Law.

The 2015 Summer Institute for current eighth grade students in Toledo will be held for five weeks Mondays-Fridays, June 29 – July 31, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at The University of Toledo College of Law. Supplies, meals and transportation (Metro bus pass) are provided FREE to participants. In fact, current eighth-grade participants who successfully complete the five-week summer program will receive a stipend upon successful completion of the program!

What is the 2015 LLI Summer Institute? LLI is your opportunity to sharpen your skills while learning the secrets to thinking, writing, and speaking like a lawyer! You will learn techniques to improve your reading, writing and public speaking while learning how to deliver a persuasive statement like a real attorney in a fun and fast-paced environment. If you want to learn about being a lawyer or just want to improve your leadership skills and confidence, then this is the opportunity for you! Meet new legal professionals each day, attend field trips, enjoy games and participate in a mock trial.

Why LLI? LLI students are placed on the path towards success! LLI builds knowledge of the law while developing critical skills such as: analytical thinking, problem solving, writing, professionalism, leadership and public speaking all with a focus on college preparation. LLI programming introduces diverse youth to the legal profession and helps to prepare them for academic and career success. Students receive free ACT/SAT preparation and assistance with college planning.

Space is limited! Applications are available on the LLI website: www.lawandleadership.org or from your school guidance counselor. Complete and return your application as soon as possible to secure your spot in this summer’s class. Completed applications may be returned by mail postmarked by May 1, 2015 to: LLI Selection Committee, 1700 Lake Shore Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43204; by fax: 614-485-3075 or by email: lli@lawandleadership.org.

Please visit the Law and Leadership Institute website for more information (www.lawandleadership.org) or call us with any questions: 614-485-3503.
The University of Toledo’s Annual Summer Volleyball Camp

The University of Toledo Volleyball program is hosting summer camps July 6-12. Each camper will work with experienced staff members including University of Toledo head and assistant coaches as well as current players and high school coaches.

Rocket Volleyball Camps are designed to provide campers the opportunity to improve their fundamental skills including attacking, serving, setting, passing, blocking and defense, as well as increase their understanding of the game. All-Skills Camp will be held July 6-10 (grades three-12) and Position Camps will be held on July 11th and 12th (grades six-12).

For detailed camp information and registration please visit rocketvolleyballcamps.com. For any additional information please call (419) 530-7255. Come Fly with your Rockets this summer!

Women’s Soccer ID Camp Scheduled for High School Players

Lourdes University Head Women’s Soccer Coach Jackie Donovan is pleased to present a Women’s Soccer ID Camp for high school age players on Saturday, June 6, from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the new mid-campus field at 6832 Convent Blvd., in Sylvania. Players looking to improve their game and showcase their talents are encouraged to register.

Women’s Soccer ID Camp participants will receive position-specific training by the Lourdes Gray Wolves soccer staff, a Lourdes University women’s soccer T-shirt, and lunch. A Q&A college panel is also scheduled.

Registration fee is $50 per camper and the deadline for registration is June 1. Those interested can register at www.lourdes.edu/soccercamp. Participants should bring proper equipment, water, a soccer ball and complete an activity waiver.

The inaugural Lourdes University Gray Wolves men’s and women’s soccer teams will take the field this fall. To learn more about the program and teams, visit www.lourdesathletics.com.

For more information about the Women’s Soccer ID Camp, contact Coach Donovan at 419-824-3731 or email her at jdonovan@lourdes.edu.

St. Paul MBC’s 98th Anniversary Celebration

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate 98 years of service May 9, and 10, 2015 at the Radisson UTMC Hotel, 3100 Glendale. On May 9 we will host a banquet with live entertainment and food. The ticket donation is $50.00 per person and $400.00 for a table. Tickets may be purchased by calling Deacon David Taylor at 419-243-1954.

On May 10 we will have a glorious time in worship and invite you to come and fellowship with us at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, 1502 North Detroit Avenue, Toledo Ohio where the Rev. James H. Willis, Sr. is Pastor. Interested, but cannot make it? We invite you to purchase a congratulatory ad in our St. Paul Family Reunion Souvenir Booklet. For further information or to purchase an ad, please contact Sister Barbara Tucker at 419-244-7062.

The Sojourner’s Truth
Vacations are good for you. But they can also be tough on the wallet.

For more than one-third of Americans, the cost of a vacation will be one of their largest expenses in the coming year, according to Wells Fargo’s recent “How America Buys and Borrows” survey.

How can you avoid vacation sticker shock? One option is sitting in your wallet, as certain credit cards offer rewards with virtually every purchase.

Here are five tips for how you can use your credit card to turn your vacation dreams into reality.

• Read the terms and conditions thoroughly and understand how you can earn and redeem rewards. Some cards offer cash back while others offer points. Some credit cards allow customers to redeem for a variety of options, while other cards -- such as those offered by some airlines and hotels -- connect you to reward redemptions for their specific product. Know what, if any, fees or charges occur when redeeming and whether your rewards ever expire.

• Some consumers track rewards and redeem them regularly. Others rarely think about them. If you fall in the second category, check your rewards balance. You may have earned enough rewards to offset vacation costs like airfare, hotel stays or gift cards to merchants you plan on visiting while vacationing. Alternatively, you may prefer to redeem your rewards as an account credit and use the cash while traveling.

• The average vacationer spends just over $1,300 for travel, including food, lodging and transportation, estimates the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. By responsibly using your rewards credit card for vacation costs, rewards can add up. You can redeem them later -- perhaps, for next year’s vacation!

• Traveling with your credit card offers a safer way to pay because if a card is lost or stolen, a quick call to your bank can stop charges to your account. In addition to rewards programs, many cards offer little known perks that may help make your travel smoother. For example, some credit cards offer 24/7 concierge services that can help you plan your trip or even make dinner reservations.

Your card may also offer rental car insurance, no-fee currency conversions, competitive currency conversion rates, and travel protections like insurance for lost or damage luggage. To learn more about these benefits, read your credit card agreement.

• Look for special travel offers from your rewards program. Also, check to see if your credit card offers special travel deals that come with additional rewards from specific retailers. To learn more about available offers, cardholders can typically check their rewards program website. To review Wells Fargo’s available offers, visit www.MyWellsFargoRewards.com and www.MyWellsFargoRewardsEMM.com.

As you plan vacation, keep budgeting and money management basics in mind. Be sure to let your bank know you’re going out of town, and consider using free tools -- like online banking or your bank’s mobile app -- to stay on top of your finances. That way you’ll come home refreshed, with no worries about having derailed your financial goals.

Courtesy StatePoint

**Toledo Public Schools**

**2015 Summer Camps**

**Toledo Technology Academy Summer Camps**

Open to all students in 5th - 8th grades

Choose LEGO Camp or STEM Camp

- Session 1: June 8 - June 11
- Session 2: June 15 - June 18

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Toledo Technology Academy Summer Camps are designed to focus on robotics and STEM activities. Students should register for one session in either LEGO Camp or STEM Camp. Cost is $490 per student. Each camp is limited to 20 students, so register today!

**Construction Careers Academy Summer Camp**

Open to all students in 8th - 12th grades

- June 8-12 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Rogers High School

Construction Careers Academy Summer Camp explores the various skills and technologies of the construction industry. Students will experience practical learning with hands-on activities. Don’t wait because space is limited!

**Digital Marketing Camp**

Open to TPS Career Technology students enrolled in Business or Marketing

- June 8-12 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Digital Marketing Camp will take TPS Career Technology students enrolled in Business or Marketing to the next level with hands-on activities using the latest technology in marketing, studio production and graphic design. This camp has a maximum enrollment of 25 students, so be sure to register today!

**Attention Parents:** Registration deadline is May 15, 2015
In Observance of Small Business Week 2015, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and SBA Present Special Forums for Very Small Businesses, Home-Based Businesses, Start-Ups and Small Manufacturers

Special to The Truth

As part of the annual observance of National Small Business Week, the U.S. Small Business Administration, together with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, will present seminars on how to grow a small business. Attendees will learn how to grow your business the SBA way (SBA loans, technical assistance, selling to the Federal Government), and how to conduct e-commerce. In addition, the following panel discussions will take place: “Strategies for starting or growing your business” and “What bankers need to say yes!”

The sessions will also include testimonials from business people who have grown their businesses with SBA Programs, including a 2015 Small Business Week Award Winner. The event will end with a question and answer period.

Every year since 1960, the U.S. Small Business Administration takes the opportunity to highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and others from all 50 states and U.S. territories during National Small Business Week. Every day, they’re working grow small businesses, Create 21st century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America’s global competitiveness.

The Toledo session will take place at The University of Toledo on Monday, May 4 at 10 a.m. at the Savage & Associates Complex for Business Learning and Engagement, Room 2140. Registration will start at 9:30 a.m. Registration can also be accomplished online at https://small-business-week-5-4-15-and-Engagement, Room 2140. Registration will start at 9:30 a.m. Registration can also be accomplished online at https://small-business-week-5-4-15-morning-session-toledo.eventbrite.com

Workshop Explores Issues of Race

Special to The Truth

The Lourdes University Office of Diversity and Multicultural Services is offering a workshop about diversity and inclusion on Monday, April 27, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. in St. Joseph Hall Room 110 at 6832 Convent Blvd., in Sylvania. The workshop, “Let’s Talk: Exploring Issues of Race and Other Differences at Lourdes University,” is open to students, faculty and staff. Facilitator of the workshop is Dionardo Pizaña, diversity and personnel specialist for Michigan State University Extension.

Dionardo Pizaña has over 25 years of experience developing, teaching, and facilitating diversity education programs through Michigan State University Extension, Adrian College, and Siena Heights University. He is a nationally-recognized, multicultural consultant, speaker and trainer. His work as an activist and educator is grounded in his conviction that deep and lasting institutional change requires an equally strong commitment to “working on oneself” while nurturing authentic relationships across the difference.

“The Lourdes workshop explores issues of power, oppression, privilege and change at four levels - personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural. Issues of race and other differences are daily occurrences in our lives and on college campuses. Turning on the nightly news, reading the daily newspaper or interacting with other social media provides us with vivid examples of discrimination, prejudice, harassment and other forms of fear or hatred based on differences related to race, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, and other differences,” says Tonya Colbert, coordinator of the Lourdes University Office of Diversity and Multicultural Services.

“It is important to offer these types of educational opportunities and to learn across our differences and realities. Seldom are there opportunities to dialogue, in a constructive manner, on ways that these issues are impacting all of us and what we might be able to do at the personal, interpersonal, institutional or cultural levels,” adds Monica Smith, multicultural assistant for student life.

The Lourdes University Office of Diversity and Multicultural Services fosters an understanding of cultural and human differences so all members of the Lourdes community feel honored, valued and respected within their unique cultural frameworks. Committed to justice and social change, the goals of the office are to enhance students’ understanding of their own culture, heritage and identities as well as those of others; and to provide opportunities for interactions, exchange of ideas and reflection.

The workshop is made possible by an Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges grant by Libbey Inc. that was awarded to the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Services. The Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges solicits financial support from corporations, foundations and other donors and distributes those funds to member colleges and universities for educational programs, scholarships and collaborative efforts.
Senator Edna Brown Announces Over $3 Million in Funding for Toledo Institutions

$3,647,469 capital appropriation approved for three projects in Toledo and Lucas County

Special to The Truth

This week, State Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) announced the state Controlling Board has approved over $3.6 million in funding to three Toledo institutions for infrastructure improvements.

“It is vital that we continue to make important investments in Northwest Ohio’s infrastructure,” said Senator Brown. “Projects like these create jobs and improve the public services available in our region.”

The campus of the University of Toledo will receive $2,800,040 in funding for infrastructure improvements. The university is in the second phase of funding towards improvements that will extend the Main Campus South steam and chilled water lines, connecting the east and west branches, and completing the South campus utility loop. Extending lines from the centralized plants lessens maintenance costs, provides reliable heating and cooling, and reduces overall utility costs.

The Toledo Correctional Institution will receive $177,644 in capital funds for a Fuel System Replacement project for diesel and gasoline tanks that are showing signs of deterioration. The fueling system was installed when the institution opened approximately 15 years ago and is used to dispense fuel for department vehicles.

Lastly, the Controlling Board approved $669,785 for Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) hospitals, including Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital in Toledo. The hospital will use the funds to improve its technology infrastructure.

Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services hospitals rely on external applications and data to operate on a daily basis and it is critical access to this information is maintained. Work will include installing two main fiber lines underground to the main network room inside the building on each hospital campus.
Helping Ohio Families Afford College

By U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown

Guest Column

College costs are sky-high and climbing. Right now, many families across Ohio are waiting on their financial aid packages. For many students and their families, those aid packages can force agonizing choice over budgets, savings, and which school to attend—or whether a student can afford school at all.

Investing in college shouldn’t bankrupt families. We can and must do more to make college affordable for middle class families.

That’s why I am supporting legislation that would increase and expand eligibility for a tax credit that supports working families paying for a college education. Millions of students and their parents already take advantage of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), which allows families to offset some of the cost of college tuition.

This credit is a lifeline for many families struggling to afford college and give their kids the best possible education. Last week my office released a report showing that more than 373,000 Ohio families used the AOTC tax credit in 2012 and saved more than $426 million.

My legislation would expand the AOTC, increasing the savings a family can receive up to a maximum of $3,000 per year, per student. It would also make the credit available to all families earning up to $200,000 per year. And it would make the AOTC permanent, eliminating uncertainty for the families who depend on it.

College is the surest onramp to the middle class. But its price is out of reach for too many students, and it breaks the bank for too many families.

And each year students take on more and more debt to finance their educations. It’s crippling Ohioans and hurting our economy. That’s why providing help to families now, before students take on even more debt, is critical.

I urge all Ohioans to visit the IRS website and find out if they are eligible to claim the AOTC. While Tax Day has passed, you can claim a past AOTC for any of the past three years by filing an amended tax return. Information on filing amended returns can be found on the IRS website.

Ohioans are already saving money with this tax credit, and could save thousands more if we pass this legislation. A college education shouldn’t be bankrupting Ohio families.

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Perryman...continued from page 4

cause he was talking about Walter Scott. And I said, well, when I was your age, we didn’t have cameras phones. If you got beat up or killed by the cops, obviously you did something wrong.

Perryman: We instinctively always took the police at their word.

W. Muhammad: Right. No matter what cop beat you up, you ain’t going to go back to your hood and say, ‘man, they beat me up. Oh, man, that ain’t true. Show us. I can’t show us. I can’t go back and get the police officer.’ So the reality is that this is a culture that is racist in and of itself. But I had a really good mentor in a gentleman named Johnny Mickler, when he led the Toledo Urban League. And he was talking to me about language. He said ‘language is like a set of master keys, and language is like a chessboard. Whatever you say, think about the next two moves. So if you say something stupid, they can take your queen, and your chance of surviving in a chess match without your queen against someone that has theirs is almost impossible.

Perryman: It’s over basically.

W. Muhammad: It’s over. And in language we make that mistake, too, especially when we start talking about something being racial. And Mickler told me: ‘Well, sometimes, just present the gaps in service. Talk about the gap between how many unarmed black men have been killed by police and how many white men have been killed. Then explain the gap there.’ That way it’s off of you arguing over racism or a racist cop, which can be distracting. Because, as soon as I shout out racism, they will say, ‘Well, how do you know? I just know. Well, what do you mean by that?’ Okay. So now they shut me down because I can’t say for sure that he is racist or not. So if I’m coming out of the gate with that rather than setting some of my ducks in a row, I’m doomed to fail.

So you must get your ducks in a row. And if you want to insert that racism word, well, you insert it to get a particular emotional reaction to it. That’s like the slam-dunk. But then you’ve got to be mindful not to be arrogant. I’ve seen many guys do a slam-dunk to excite the crowd and miss in the process. So it’s better to try to be as principled as you can in battle rather than arrogant.

But for police, that institution has always historically been always the leader in creating the gap in service to black people. The big difference now since we’ve had a lot of wars going on, a lot of those young men and women that served in the military are coming back, and they’re joining the police force. A lot of the young - - the people that they recruit from, lack education and have no cultural competence whatsoever. And sometimes that lack of cultural competence has been fueled by racial teachings of whatever community they come from.

So you already have police already amped up, already talk about the dangerous black people in the community. And they’re led this, and I think even now that’s why you see so much of it happening because we can record it now. You can see it now. It’s always been here, but now we see it.

Perryman: Finally, what strategy do you feel would be most effective in shifting the relationship between the police and the black community from that which is primarily adversarial to one of close engagement and mutual respect?

W. Muhammad: That starts with the mayor. The mayor is the boss of the police.

Perryman: So what does a conversation need to sound like with both the mayor and the police chief?

W. Muhammad: I think that the conversation needs to start at presenting points of dissatisfaction and examples of dissatisfaction in the way that law enforcement is engaged not only those who may break the law, but also with law-abiding citizens.

Now, regardless if they’re going to change the attitude or not, what’s going to end up happening is there needs to be more dissatisfaction. The greater the dissatisfaction, the greater the chances that change is going to come. But we are simply early warners to the police that the way that they currently engage us has got to stop.

This whole Black Lives Matter movement is like a warning from God, because there’s nothing else that has brought people together to speak truth to power. And there’s never been a time that I was a part of anything that we protested something and never went home. In the Black Lives Matter movement, we’re not going home. The young people are still active.

They still want to do different things in the community that’s going to bring awareness, and nobody’s gone home. Nobody’s tired. There’s no fatigue.

So everybody has a really good attitude because we’re not asking for something that we know no one’s going to give us. We’re just creating an image that’s going to get people’s attention, that’s going to get people to start talking and having a conversation.

Perryman: Thank you.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min., at dretperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org
One Night by Eric Jerome Dickey

Would you look at that.

Actually, probably, you already have. You’re one of the most observant people you know, never missing a thing, always noticing. You make a great witness because you see everything. And in the new book One Night by Eric Jerome Dickey, you see two people about to make a mistake.

It was pouring rain that evening and it perfectly matched her mood.

Once she’d been a comedian and an actress. She’d been someone’s mother but now she was dressed in a pilfered shirt from an electronics store, driving a stolen truck and trying to con somebody into paying for a box of rocks because the rent was due and she didn’t have it. The man putting gas in his expensive car looked like an easy mark.

He had a bruise over his eye, which was fine: she had a bruised heart. She offered the box for sale and he handed her the money, knowing full well that it was a con. He also handed her a business card with an Orange County number before he drove off. She knew he wouldn’t get far; L.A. traffic was backed up, police were everywhere, sirens blasting. Her boyfriend wasn’t answering his phone, so she dialed the man’s number to explain that conning really wasn’t what she was all about.

He was skeptical. She challenged him to meet her at a diner.

Dinner was strained but pleasant, a get-to-know-you where very little information was exchanged. She didn’t want to be alone; he didn’t want to go home to a wife he no longer loved, so they went to a movie before he kissed her in a way she’d never been kissed. She was the first to mention a hotel. He paid for the luxury room.

She thought she’d been in love before: with the father of her daughter, certainly with her daughter but she’d never been with a man who did to her what the man from Orange County did. He made her moan and call out things that she didn’t know she had a voice for calling.

It was only supposed to be a one-night stand. But she wasn’t being entirely truthful with him. And he definitely wasn’t telling her everything, either...

Let’s start here: One Night is steamy. Like, burn-your-mind, hot-with-two-Ts steamy.

But it’s not just that. Author Eric Jerome Dickey ekes this novel out slowly, minute-by-minute, like a slow dance between two people who aren’t forthcoming with facts to one another—or to readers. That can be snail-like, but it’s also fascinating: we know there’s something we’re not quite seeing, but we’re too distracted by the tryst to figure it out–that is, until Dickey repeatedly interrupts the action with smartly-timed shocks that reset everything.

There are a few moments of silliness in this book but overall, I couldn’t let it go and if you can handle the lengthy bedroom scenes, you won’t be able to, either. For readers who crave a boatload of spice with their novels, One Night is worth two...
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The Sojourner's Truth
April 22, 2015
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Request for Proposals
Flooring Installation and Replacement Services
RFP#15-R009

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Flooring Installation and Replacement Svs. Received in accordance with law until Fri., May 7, 2015, 3 PM ET. Pre-Prop. Conf.: Apr. 22, 2015 11AM ET 425 Nebraska Ave. For Documents: www.lucasmha.org. 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Proposers required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Is now accepting resumes for Senior Pastor
Send resumes to NHMBC, 833 Nesslewood Ave., Toledo, OH 43610 or nhmbc@bex.net
Attention or Subject: Pulpit Committee

Regional Director of Development
Make a Difference in the Lives of Others
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) a Toledo based non-profit law firm that provides high quality legal assistance in civil matters to low-income individuals and groups, seeks a creative, energetic, and outstanding individual to serve as Regional Director of Development. ABLE partners with Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) to provide a full range of legal services in western Ohio. The Regional Director of Development is responsible for the development and implementation of an enhanced annual campaign and event in the Toledo area, major gift and planned giving campaign, volunteer engagement and community collaboration, targeted prospecting and outreach, and stewardship activities.

Position Requirements:
Candidates should have a Bachelor’s degree or equivalent work experience; law experience or degree is a plus. 3 to 5 years fundraising and development leadership experience, business development and/or related field required. Supervisory and leadership skills required. Must have excellent verbal and interpersonal skills, including public speaking, excellent writer, and a positive attitude. Proficiency with fundraising software and experience with social media highly preferred. A commitment to the mission of ABLE and LAWO is a must. Candidate should be highly organized, creative and a self-starter with a high degree of dependability, trustworthiness, and loyalty. Must be able to mentor and to coach, motivate, and work effectively with people, work with diverse individuals in an inclusive, collaborative environment, and work effectively in a team oriented, collaborative decision-making environment. Attention to results and accountability. Must be accessible for meetings before and after normal work hours and willing to travel as necessary.

Salary
Depends on experience. Excellent benefits.

How to Apply:
Please submit a cover letter, resume and three professional references in one document to: philanthropy@alysterling.com
** Only Applications submitted via email will be accepted**

Equal access to ABLE offices is available. Those applicants requiring accommodation in the interview/application process should contact us at the e-mail address listed above. EOE

Residential Care Specialist
Contingent
Contingent Residential Care Specialist needed to work every other weekend, holidays and weekdays as needed to provide services to adults with serious mental illness. Position will work primarily at the Teneyck Towers location providing services to assist the client to live independently including monitoring, crisis intervention, assistance in daily living skills and recreational activities.

Applicants must possess current CPR, CPI and First Aid certification. Experience in mental health or direct care is preferred.

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
Human Resources -RCS
2310 Jefferson Ave.
Toledo, OH 43604
Fax: 419-936-7574
Website: Unisonbhh.org

EOE

New York Bus Trip
Want to go to New York Memorial Day Weekend?
For reservations call Ms. Jones @ 419-490-4848

Search-Lite Community Baptist Church
Is now accepting resumes for
A Youth and Young Adult Pastor–Part-time
Send resume to: Search-Lite CBC 200 East Broadway, Maumee Ohio c/o P.O. Box 80426 Toledo, Ohio 43608 or search-lite10@bex.net
Attention P. Williams: Church Administrator

ADVERTISE FOR BIDS
TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Directors that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for:

City of Toledo Energy Project
PHASE 4 – BID PACKAGE 1
GREENBELT PARKWAY LIGHTING RETROFITS
Toledo, Ohio

This contract is for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the project, entitled “CITY OF TOLEDO, PHASE 4 – BID PACKAGE 1, GREENBELT PARKWAY LIGHTING RETROFITS” in accordance with the drawings, specifications and Appendices A and B for the Greenbelt Parkway, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The project, “City of Toledo Energy Project, Phase 4 – Bid Package 1, Greenbelt Parkway Lighting Retrofit,” is for removal of the existing light fixtures and installation of new LED light fixtures, on existing light poles. Project includes new LED fixtures on each of the existing light poles and terminating existing supply wiring in the base of the existing poles.

Sealed bids will be received at the Port Authority’s administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604 until Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at 1:00 PM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Drawings, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract to be submitted to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is described in detail and is available by either (1) emailing Gilda Mitchell, Property Development Administrator, at gmtitch@toledoportauthority.org or (2) visiting the Port Authority’s website at http://www.toledoportauthority.org/PublicNotices.aspx.

Please note that there will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting for all prospective bidders on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 10:00 am. The Meeting, which will be followed by a site walk through, will be held in the office of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority on the 7th Floor of One Maritime Plaza 720 Water Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604. Attendance is mandatory.

TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
Paul L. Toth, Jr., P.E., President & CEO

Toledo Refining Company has an immediate need for a Technical Service Engineer. Technical Service Engineers perform process engineering services in support of operating units. Responsibilities of the Technical Service Engineer include day-to-day troubleshooting and technical support by interacting with assigned unit to optimize performance and efficiency; develop knowledge of the facility and an advanced understanding of assigned unit; issue regularly scheduled reports; support incident investigations and other process safety related programs; fully develop small projects and develop larger projects through their initial phase; and provide technical support during unit shutdowns and major refinery turnaround maintenance activities.

This position requires a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering or similar field of study and 0-5 years of relevant experience.

All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbenergy.com/careers. Once on the career page, candidates can view current job opportunities and apply to desired position.

EOE/M/F/D/V
LMHA Girls’ Leadership Academy

By Tricia Hall
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

LMHA staff and volunteers invited 11 young ladies from various LMHA properties for an overnight experience at Maumee Bay State Park Lodge on April 18-19. The Girls’ Leadership Academy agenda began with a two-hour service project at Nightgale Harvest Food Pantry, in support of Global Youth Day of Service and then lunch at Tony Packo’s. Ohio State Senator Edna Brown served as keynote speaker, and Audrey Johnson facilitated a series of workshops which related to leadership methods.

“Our objective is to develop leadership abilities within girls residing in public housing. We want to take advantage of opportunities, available resources, and introduce them to women in leadership positions,” explained Linnie Willis, LMHA executive director, who conceived and oversaw the implementation of the program.

This group of girls originally met over the summer and resided on the UT campus for a weekend experience. These girls were introduced to college students, who served as team leaders and assisted participants with goal setting and mentoring. Participants range in age from 14-18 years of age and reside in various LMHA properties.

“I think the girls have enjoyed reuniting with girls they met over the summer. The opening featured Senator Edna Brown, who talked about growing up in Toledo and issues that these young ladies are probably facing now. It was a great discussion,” stated academy consultant Ardenia Jones Terry, PhD.

The current group will meet once more, while a second group will begin their experience over the summer. Willis created the framework for the academy, and LMHA board members recently renamed the program; it’s now called The Linnie B. Willis Girls Leadership Academy.