



Local and National News

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

May 20, 2015

ELEVATING Students!



Center of Hope Family Services' Braintrust: Rev. D.L. Perryman, Executive Director Tracee Perryman, First Lady Willetta Perryman

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Reconciling Black Generational Estrangement

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

I really hate the way my generation is always bitching and moaning about the hip-hop generation.

- Nikki Giovanni



Haven't you heard? There is a new generation of young African-American women who are "unbossed and unbought." They are intellectual, educated, entrepreneurial, political and powerful. Rather than complaining, or sitting back and waiting for the baton to be passed to them from stubborn, elderly white males addicted to power or faded, tarnished former civil rights superstars, these "sistas" have instead, seized the mantle of leadership without asking permission.

One such young professional is Tamaya Dennard who currently serves as the political director for youthful 2016 U.S. Senatorial candidate P.G. Sittenfeld. The following Q & A is part II of a discussion on the topic relevant public policy for a new generation.

Perryman: Tamaya, we have been discussing the limited interest in community issues and civic engagement by young people of color also known as the Millennial Generation. You laid out some powerful reasons why this demographic should be involved in the political process. How can we tap into their youthful energy to inspire them to become committed to the political process?

Dennard: Good question. So, you find out what are young people passionate about? We had a "Black Lives Matter" rally that I attended in Cincinnati, and the crowd was very diverse; it was more African-American than not, but there was a lot of other nationalities, because young people are overall concerned with police brutality, they're concerned with climate change; they're concerned with student loans.

You have to go knock on doors. One policy that we adopted at City Hall was that we know that people can't leave their offices, or their homes, or their jobs at 2:00 o'clock to come down to Council meeting, so we make a point to go where they are, and I think that's what should happen. People aren't going where the people are, and once you go where the people are you'll find out what the people care about.

Perryman: Interesting.

Dennard: Also, in addition to the student loans there is an issue of education of even having the opportunity to attend college. If someone has a drug conviction, they're not eligible for federal financial aid, and nobody is talking about that. Even if you have a marijuana charge at age 18, you can't get money for school. You could probably bankroll your education, but who has \$18,000 per year to do that.

Perryman: Right. And that's because of a nonviolent and relatively minor legal offense.

Dennard: I'm not justifying, or saying that there's anything right with it, but if you got caught with a pound of marijuana, I don't know what you're going to do with it, or whether you're going to smoke or sell, but you're 18-years-old, made a foolish mistake and then you'd think, well, I'm 18-years-old, you serve your time, or on probation, whatever is going to happen, and then a year later you go to apply for money because you want to turn your life around, and go to school. Well, you're not going to get any money from the feds, because

of your conviction. So, things like that need to be overturned, and that's not happening. A lot of people want to talk about ex-offender programs, and those are very important, but it goes a little bit deeper than that. It goes like opportunity, and education, and that's how you're going to decrease recidivism. Again, we're the only candidate talking about that, because that affects us. We have friends that are affected. I have family members that are affected by that. I'm not sure how many of Governor Strickland's, or [U.S. Senator] Rob Portman's friends are affected by those things.

Perryman: Given this contemporary context of inequality and disparities, and you've talked so eloquently about the black church, but the church I was born in evolved out of a greatly different social context and of a different generation. Basically, the leadership of Martin Luther King and many others, fighting segregation and Jim Crow Laws in the South, helped to shape its role. Today, the social consequences of mass incarceration have shaped everything. You just alluded to how mass incarceration even affects education. So, what role do you see the black church playing going forward? And how has U.S. Senate candidate, PG Sittenfeld, worked with the church to accomplish goals that will benefit communities of color?

Dennard: There's something we have locally, called Faith Community Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, where faith leaders, and community leaders come together monthly and people attend those type things when they want to get elected. Everybody goes to the black church when they want to get elected. That's what they do. They run to our churches, and they stand in front of us, tell what they're going to do, and then we don't see them again until it's time to run again.

Well, we've worked hard to be the antithesis of that. Not only have we joined the Faith Community Alliance, but we've also been a standing member of the alliance since the day we came into office. That's something that we've been very intentional about; even things like - it sounds really trite, but like going to church. PG and I still go to church together, and we go around to different churches, and we purposely do that while we're in office, because we want people to always feel like they're in touch, and have a direct line to us.

In terms of our involvement with the church, and African-American, first of all, I laugh at PG, because he thinks my church is his home church. Someone was asking him what his home church was. He was like, "New Jerusalem." And I was like, "Is it? When did that happen?" [Laughter] We laugh all the time, but we just understand that the black church has been the main institution that has served our community the most throughout the years, and just out of respect for that institution, out of respect for the Lord. One thing that PG

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The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

May 17

United Church of God Spring Cleaning Clothing Drive: Collecting unwanted clothes, toys, shoes: 567-312-7360
St. Stephen AME Annual Pew Rally: 3 pm: 419-244-0402

May 24

Ebenezer MBC 63rd Annual Women's Day: 11 am; "Well Dressed Women of Faith;" Speaker Min, Doris Thomas of Solomon Temple Baptist
United Church of God Pentecost Sunday: "Receiving God's Power;" 10 am service; 4 pm service with guest speaker Bishop Winfrey of Body of Christ: 419-810-6335

May 25

Black Lives Matter Memorial for the Fallen: 1 pm; One Government Center: 419-266-6840 or 419-973-0248

May 31

United Church of God Family and Friends Day: 10 am service

June 20

Annual Block Party/East Side Reunion: Edgar Holmes Park; Free food, family games, entertainment, vendors and raffles; All day - opening ceremony at noon: 419-309-4021 or 4567-395-0363

Center of Hope Holds Banquet to Honor Community Partners

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

The Center of Hope Family Services, Inc held its second annual celebration on Thursday, May 14 at the Toledo Club to acknowledge the support its community partners have extended in order to bring success to the agency's after school program.

The ELEVATE (Engage, Learn, Empower, Volunteer, Achieve, Teach, Enrich) Program, which engages 50 students at Old Orchard Elementary School, along with a first-year pilot program involving 25 students at McKinley Elementary, provides after school and summer programming for students in grades kindergarten through eight.

ELEVATE offers services such as academic intervention with certified teachers; education enrichment; social/emotional/physical/health/wellness education; career preparation; mentoring; parent engagement, meals/snacks and Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools Summer Program.

The program, operated by Center of Hope Family Services engages a number of community partners in order to accomplish its mission including: Toledo Public Schools, WSOS Community Action Planning Agency, the Ohio Department of Education, Toledo Mud Hens, Kistler Ford, ProMedica, Ohio State Extension Program, Lucas County Commissioners, Pathways, Inc, Toledo Community Foundation, the Children's Hunger Alliance, Plate 21 and the Children's Defense Fund.

"We are guided by collectivism," said Executive Director Tracee Perryman during the evening's opening remarks. ELEVATE, Perryman said, uses the "village model," in order to "make the American dream a reality for most if not all" of its students.

ELEVATE has had a presence at Old Orchard for two years and during that time results from an outside evaluator indicate that 50 percent of the students have improved their reading scores, compared to the state average of 31.25 percent. In math, 56 percent have improved their scores compared with the state average of 30.5 percent.

"Our goal is to continue the ELEVATE Program," said James Gault, Transformational Leader of Curriculum for TPS. "This is a successful program; we would like to replicate this program across the district, so that all students have the opportunity to learn and maximize their potential."

Kistler Ford has become part of the collective effort that Perryman touts for the success of ELEVATE. "We want to be part of the process at the beginning," said Josh Harnegie, director of community engagement for Kistler. Harnegie stated that the reason for Kistler's involvement is both a matter of practicality and a desire to be a good corporate citizen.

"When you do good, good things happen," he said of the corporate citizen aspect. However, he also noted that Kistler, as is the case with virtually all auto dealerships, is always trying to locate employees for hard-to-fill positions such as auto technicians. He estimates that there are 2,000 such positions open in Ohio alone just at dealerships, and as many as 5,000 in total.

"These are people that could get hired right away," said Harnegie. "Students aren't even aware until too late. We want to help expose them to jobs and careers in this age group."

That sentiment was echoed by Perryman who emphasized that part of the mission of ELEVATE is to make students in the K-8 grade age group aware of the career tech possibilities that TPS offers in its high schools.

The pilot program at McKinley is expected to expand to include 100 students within the next several years.



Jen Lawless, Valerie Dreier, D.L. Perryman, Stacey Perryman, Willetta Perryman, Aufwiedersehen Winfield



Trace Perryman and WSOS Jackie Wells



Toledo Councilwoman Sandy Spang, Trace Perryman, LC Commissioner Pete Gerken



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Perryman... continued from page 2

says, when they ask or allow him to speak, the one thing that he always says is, "Before anything else I'm a child of God." And that's something that, again, as we do our jobs, we're very mindful of and we've had great relationships, community-building relationships with just about all the major African-American churches because they've been there for us, and we'll make sure that we remain there for them.

Perryman: Well, tell me about PG's stance on some of the issues that are relevant to our community.

Dennard: So, actually, mass incarceration was one of the first things we talked about when we had our senate campaign kickoff. PG said that, while some things happen and some people just need to go to jail or prison, the one thing our country should not be leading in is incarceration.

Perryman: Right.

Dennard: We're not saying that everybody should be set free, but the issue is that it's not just mass incarceration but it's about over-prosecution, and that's something that we talk about that others aren't really talking about. So, what we would like to see happen is obviously reform, but reform in a sense that certain things should be legalized, because you shouldn't be thrown in the criminal justice system for merely having a joint. I'm not saying that drugs are good. PG is not saying people should have drugs, but someone shouldn't be thrown in the system for having a small amount of marijuana. But that's what happening with a lot of us and PG is pro-legalization of marijuana, and the main reason he is, is because of mass incarceration. He and I both never, ever smoked marijuana in our lives. I can put my hand on a Bible and say that, but in terms of legalization, the main reason for our stance is because there's over-prosecution fueling mass incarceration. That's one issue that's very important to us.

Perryman: Please talk about your relationship with the business community, a major stakeholder in the future of our community.

Dennard: It really is. You and I both understand the role of business and why the business community is important, but a lot of times people feel like, well, if you're pro-business, you have to be anti-community, or if you're pro-community, then you have to be anti-business. It doesn't have to be like that, but that's what we've been shown so far, because corporations, many times,

have turned their backs on the community, or have just thrown money at the problem when they don't really know what they're throwing the money at.

It really comes down to helping business to see how they can serve communities better, but also showing each other, kind of speaking both languages, and seeing how we can work together. I think that's something unique that PG and I have done. We've garnered a lot of support from the business community, and we were the number one vote getters in the African-American community. So, a lot of times if a business or a corporation doesn't really understand what's going on, if they see our names behind, or with it, they'll support it because they know that ultimately we're trying to work on things, and move things along that can benefit everyone, and not just the select few that have the money.

Perryman: Finally, you earlier talked about your pastor who was instrumental in making church more relevant to you and in turn, greatly shaped your worldview. Again, let's try to see how we can transfer that paradigm from the church to the context of the political process for young people. Many of the traditions in the black church have perhaps lost their meaning but the people in control still try to hold on to them. Do you see any similarities with the political process?

Dennard: I do. I think for a lot of young people, the previous generation made some tremendous strides in terms of civil rights, and there's different debates as to whose fault it is, but just things didn't carry over from one generation to the next. I think what was the movie? Was it The Butler with Oprah Winfrey where the father and the son had two different philosophies as an approach to equality, and things like that?

And the church for the most part, is kind of like that old guard, where they haven't really recognized the need to be contemporary yet. I was visiting a church a few months ago in another part of the state, and I looked around, and everybody in the church was older, and they also had a lot of rules. I think I had on pants; they looked at me like I was crazy. Now, I love dressing in skirts, but this particular day I just had on pants, and you would have thought I committed a mortal sin. And I'm thinking to myself, is this why there are no young people here? That might have something to do with it.

But I think it's going to take, again, I brought up the example of Marilyn Mosby, State's Attorney for Baltimore who charged the officers in the death of

... continued on page 11

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The Next Level Arts Awards 2015

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The New Works Writers Series sponsored the Next Level Arts Awards on May 15, 2015 at the Scott High School's Louise Brower Little Theater. The program celebrates dancers, actors, visual artists, graphic designers, directors, writers and scenic designers who have donated their time and efforts in promoting arts in central city Toledo.

This year's program acknowledged the accomplishments of 36 local artists or organizations for their contributions to the community: Katrina Barnhill, Clark Brooks, Richard Brown, Tisha Carroll, Sylvia Carter, Geneva Chapman, Megan Yasu Davis, Stephanie Dixon, Melissa Feagin-Hinton, Darius Hall, Andrea Harris, Crystal Harris, Melvin Johnson, Andre Knighten, Kyna Kynard, Armon Miller, Leigh Miller, Rita Mister, Amber and Autumn Mitchell, Deonte Moss, Wakeso Peterson, Hunter Prey, J'nelle Pullum-Terrell, K. Laverne Redden, John Scott, Terrell Shelmon, Vicky Simpson-Brooks, Curtis Smith, Simone Spruces Torres, Tonya Steward, Kenneth Taylor, Stewart Walker, Monica Watkins, Latoya Williams and the Art Tatum Center and the Tillman Gallery.

The evening's mistress of ceremonies was Doni Miller, host of abc13TV's Bridges program.

Sponsors included the Toledo Museum of Art, WalMart, Maumee Indoor Theater, Kroger, Target, J'nell Pullum-Terrell and Washtenaw Community College.

In addition to the awards, the night also brought out entertain-

ment in the form of Scott's Dawg House Dance Team and vocalist Krystal Monique.

New Works Writers Series is the brainchild of founder and director Imelda Hunt, Ph.D.



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NFHA and 19 Civil Rights Groups File HUD Complaint Over Neglected Foreclosures

Special to The Truth

Last week, the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), the Toledo Fair Housing Center, and 18 local fair housing organizations announced the filing with HUD of a housing discrimination complaint against Fannie Mae, one of the largest owners of foreclosed homes in the United States. The civil rights groups allege that Fannie Mae maintains and markets its foreclosures (also known as real estate owned or “REO” properties) in White neighborhoods consistently better than in middle- and working-class African American and Latino neighborhoods, a practice that violates the federal Fair Housing Act. The complaint is the result of a five-year investigation.

“Fannie Mae is wreaking havoc on middle- and working-class communities of color nationwide through a pattern of neglect that is frankly appalling,” said Shanna L. Smith, President and CEO of NFHA. “Fannie Mae’s failure to take care of its massive foreclosure inventory in African American and Latino neighborhoods further destabilizes the communities hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis, in clear contradiction of its congressional charter, federal fair housing laws, and its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. This systematic failure also creates health and safety hazards, contributes to blight, and places an unfair burden on

neighbors and city governments to clean up the problem.”

Evidence gathered from 2010 through April 2015 documents an ongoing pattern and practice of discrimination by Fannie Mae and its asset management contractors. Currently, NFHA and its partners have investigated 2,106 REO properties owned by Fannie Mae in 34 metropolitan areas encompassing 129 cities across the United States. NFHA is joined in this complaint by 19 of its member organizations (see Table 1 for a full list of metro regions and fair housing organizations involved in the complaint).

The fair housing organizations investigated the maintenance and marketing of REOs for 39 different types of deficiencies that affect home value, curb appeal, the security of the home and the marketability of the property. The deficiencies assessed by investigators include: broken, boarded or damaged windows and doors; unlocked doors and windows; damaged and obstructed gutters and downspouts; safety hazards; accumulated trash; overgrown lawns and shrubs; lack of “for sale” signs; and others.

Fannie Mae properties in communities of color had broken doors and windows, unlocked doors and windows allowing access to the home, excessive litter, dead or overgrown lawns, dead animals or live animals on the property, and other major deficiencies. Conversely, most Fannie Mae properties in predominantly White communities did not. These problems are simple to fix and are the responsibility of Fannie Mae and its contractors.

“Neighborhoods of color were the first to be targeted by predatory lenders who stripped the equity and sent the homes into foreclosure,” said Michael P. Marsh, president and CEO of the Toledo Fair Housing Center. “These neighborhoods now are the victims of neglected real estate owned, foreclosed homes that Fannie Mae owns. Fannie has a responsibility to maintain and market the homes they own in all neighborhoods. They, however, do a lousy job in neighborhoods of color. If they can keep their homes well maintained in predominantly white communities, why can’t they do the same in neighborhoods of color? Fannie Mae continues to play a role in the devastation of the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis. Now it is time for Fannie to provide community relief to these neighborhoods to improve conditions and stabilize property values.”

Since 2009, NFHA has made efforts to work with the Government Sponsored Enterprises (“GSEs”) to correct their practices. The GSEs have a legal responsibility to treat all neighborhoods fairly. Smith said, “Freddie Mac looked into its practices and made good faith efforts to correct its business model, but Fannie Mae refused to take responsibility for its neglect in communities of color. The difference between Freddie and Fannie properties is striking. We now rarely find disparities in Freddie Mac’s inventory. Fannie has to take responsibility.” She added, “Fannie Mae has not only ignored the problem but has continued to award millions of dollars in new contracts to the same asset management companies that engaged in this discriminatory behavior. We have filed this complaint after having exhausted every possible means we could think of to get Fannie Mae to abide by the law and work with us to re-stabilize the damaged communities.”

The Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status, as well as on the race or national origin of residents of a neighborhood. This law applies to housing and housing-related activities, which includes the maintenance, appraisal, listing, marketing, and selling of homes.

NATIONWIDE STATISTICS

Full national statistics and data for individual cities available at www.nationalfairhousing.org

Summary of Findings:

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Economy Section • Economy Section

Social Security Column

Get Into the Act with Older Americans Month

By Phil Walton, Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH

Guest Column

In May, we recognize Older Americans Month to acknowledge older Americans and their contributions to the nation. More than 40 million people in the United States are 65 or older. By 2035, the U.S. Census Bureau projects this number will double, which makes improving the quality of life for older Americans even more important as we look to the future. It is Social Security's priority to provide a safety net for older Americans. You can learn more about Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov.

The main reason Social Security was established 80 years ago was to help older Americans. For many older Americans, Social Security benefits are their only source of retirement income. Social Security payments continue for life and are adjusted to keep pace with inflation. The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) estimates that these benefits help keep 35 percent of older Americans out of poverty. A great tool for people of all ages is the *my Social Security* account. With a personalized my Social Security account, you can:

- Get an estimate of future benefits, if you still work;
- Get an instant letter with proof of current benefits; and
- Manage your benefits.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount and join the millions of people who have already created accounts to help them plan for retirement.

Rep. Ashford Announces Funding for Developmental Disabilities Services, Corrections Facility Upgrades in Toledo

Special to The Truth

This week, State Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) announced funding for a number of projects in the Toledo area. \$2.5 million in state funds will go to the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Toledo. The funds will support services at Adult Options, a habilitation center offering vocational training, supported employment and daily activity to residents with developmental disabilities in Lucas County.

"Adult Options provides essential services to promote the well being and independence of many here in Toledo," said Ashford. "It has become a vital thread in the fabric of our community and has touched many lives, especially those of the families they serve."

Adult Options serves as a habilitation center through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and provides support, programs and services to enhance independence and community access while promoting physical, mental and emotional well being of area residents with developmental disabilities.

Ashford also announced \$36,125 in capital funds for the Door Control Upgrade project at the Toledo Correctional Institution (ToCI). ToCI has employed the same computerized door control system since the facility was built in 2000. Corrections officials found the current system to be outdated and beyond repair.

Funding will enable the institution to obtain design services to upgrade and replace the electronically controlled locks on approximately 665 doors and the computer systems that operate them.

ToCI opened in 2000 and operates as a medium, close and maximum security facility. The prison houses approximately 1,041 inmates.

This May also marks the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act. Congress passed the Act in 1965 in response to a lack of community social services for older persons. Medicare, in effect since July 1, 1966, will also celebrate its 50th anniversary soon. Medicare provides health insurance to more than 42 million Americans age 65 and older. If you aren't familiar with the four parts of Medicare, they are:

- Part A (hospital insurance): Hospital insurance helps pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility (following a hospital stay), some home health care, and hospice care.
- Part B (medical insurance): Medical insurance helps pay for doctors' services and many other medical services and supplies that hospital insurance doesn't cover.
- Part C (Medicare Advantage plans): If you have Medicare Parts A and B, you can join a Medicare Advantage plan. Private companies offer Medicare Advantage plans approved by Medicare. These plans generally help you pay the medical costs not covered by Medicare Part A and B.
- Part D (prescription drug coverage): Prescription drug coverage helps pay for medications doctors prescribe for treatment.

To learn more about applying for Medicare, read our publication *Applying For Medicare Only—Before You Decide*. To learn more about Social Security, read *Understanding the Benefits*. Both are available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

We're making a difference.

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Lucas County Children Services salutes the hundreds of foster families in our community. They have opened their hearts and homes to children who have suffered abuse or neglect.

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Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson's Campaign Gets Boost with Support from Community Groups

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson found herself the recipient of some much-needed cash for her campaign coffers last week as both the Friends of Paula Hicks-Hudson and Latinos for Paula Hicks-Hudson held fundraisers in support of the Toledo chief executive.

Hicks-Hudson, who will be running for election in November to complete the four-year term started by her predecessor, Mayor D. Michael Collins, attended two fundraisers on Thursday, May 14 – the first a small, intimate gathering at the Toledo Club and the second a larger, raucous affair at Our Brothers Place.

On Saturday, Hicks-Hudson was at The Believe Center in the Aurora Gonzalez Center to meet with some mainstays in Toledo's Latino community and receive more funds for her election campaign.



LC Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Sen. Edna Brown, Mayor Hicks-Hudson, Tina Butts, LC Commissioner Pete Gerken



(Standing l. to r.): Margarita De Leon, Kelly, Lisa Canales, Ramon Perez, Linda Alvarado-Arce, Chaz D. Boes; Seated - Louis Escobar, Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson



Hicks-Hudson and FLOC youth group



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Indiana Avenue MBC's Senior Citizen Weekend

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Committee members (standing) and inductees to the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame (seated) and Pastor Roberts (far left)

The congregation of the Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church celebrated the 34th annual Senior Citizens Weekend with a kickoff prayer breakfast on May 16 in the church's Stephenson Roberts Fellowship Hall. Mother Shirley Ware was the guest speaker for the breakfast.

The church also celebrated the 10th Annual Senior Citizens Hall of Fame induction ceremony as six senior church members were inducted into the Hall in six different categories. Brother David Jones was honored for his contributions to athletics; Sister Wanda Butts for community service; Sister Ethel Scott for business administration; Sister Ina Dowell for education; Brother McLaurin Neyland, Jr for arts and Sister Mary Edwards for mentoring.

The prayer breakfast, with a theme of "Enabled to be fruitful even into old age by the rock hewed out of the mountain," opened with a responsive reading and song. Sister Mary Ann Adams served as mistress of ceremonies. Sister Cora Jones offered the welcome and Ware addressed the day's theme.

Jones, a Scott High School graduate and record-holding triple jumper at John Carroll University (also a member of that university's Athletic Hall of Fame), was also a member of the football team during his college years. He is currently a member of Indiana Avenue and participates in the Mass Choir, Vacation Bible School and Men's Corner.

Butts founded The Josh Project upon the death of her 16-year-old son in a swimming accident and has since helped to teach thousands of inner-city children to swim. A member of the church since childhood, Butts has been recognized and honored nationally for her efforts.

Scott, vice president for market operations at Key Bank, has been active with the church's Mass Choir, volunteering for annual days and has served as a role model and inspiration to young women both in and outside of the church.

Dowell is a 36-year veteran with the Toledo Public Schools and has been with the church for the same length of time. She has served as a tutor and mentor to many young people both inside and outside of the church setting.

Neyland, a musician, has been instrumental in preparing the congregation for service, inspiring wounded spirits to rise to their feet in praise.

Edwards has spent years teaching and mentoring children – at Sunday School, the Youth and Young Adult Choir – during virtually her entire adult life and has served in the church's Missionary Department and the Mass Choir.

This year's Senior Citizen's Weekend committee members are: Chairman Sister Clara Jackson, Co-chairman Deaconess Jean Williams, Mother Florence Butts, Sister Wilma Brown, Sister Maxine Forney and Pastor John Roberts.

Open Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day.

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Economy Section • Economy Section

Four Home Projects to Turn Chores to Checks on Your To-Do List

Special to The Truth

Home improvement doesn't have to be a hassle, and you don't necessarily need an abundance of time or an expensive tool set for quick fixes. Yet, 52 percent of homeowners between the ages of 25 and 45 have unfinished tasks they need completed, and more than three-quarters of them say they don't have enough time or money to finish their projects, according to a 2014 survey by Black+Decker.

Here are four projects you can check off your to-do list quickly and cost-effectively, leaving you more time to enjoy the weekend.

Fill Wall Cracks

Over time, small cracks in walls will grow bigger and more noticeable. Fix them yourself with a simple formula. Mix together one-eighth cup of baking soda and two to three drops of Krazy Glue to create a paste and fill in the crack. After a few seconds, the paste will become a hard plastic that you can sand down easily. With a touch-up of paint, the wall will look brand new. For quick touch-ups in the future, keep a spare baby jar of extra paint on hand.

Create Clean Air

Air conditioning units require maintenance. Use a shop-vac or long vacuum add-on to remove dust and debris that have built up in the unit during the off-season. Replace the filter to ensure clean air comes into your home. You can even add a few drops of essential oil to the filter to keep your house smelling fresh between cleanings.

Tend to Trim

To easily repair chipped crown molding or peeling baseboards, use a long-

lasting formula, such as Krazy Glue's new Maximum Bond Industrial Speed & Strength formula, which works quickly on wood, bonding in less than 30 seconds. Apply a few drops to broken or peeling pieces and hold them against the baseboard or molding.

Beyond aesthetic fixes, you can use glue for functional repairs that can save you money, such as mending ripped rubber weather stripping. A few drops of glue can improve energy efficiency in your home by keeping cool air in and summer warmth out.

Deep Clean Decks

Your yard may have taken a beating over the last several months. Deck maintenance usually costs less than \$100 a year, but replacing a deck completely could take up to \$10,000 from your pockets. Maintain a tidy backyard deck by removing all leaves and twigs between the floorboards and scrubbing down the surface with a deck cleaning solution. For a cost-effective, DIY mixture, simply mix bleach and water. Freshen up the surface with a wood stain or sealant to prevent it from rotting.

Your deck is the perfect place for entertaining and summer cookouts, so it's important to keep it looking its best

From small indoor fixes to large outdoor tasks, you don't need to a lot of time, skills or money for many home improvement projects that can help you maintain an enjoyable living space.

Courtesy StatePoint

NFHA... continued from page 6

- 49.5 percent of the REO properties in white communities had **fewer than five deficiencies**, while only 24.4 percent of the REO properties in communities of color had **fewer than five deficiencies**.
- 22.1 percent of the REO properties in communities of color had **10 or more deficiencies**, while only 8.0 percent of the REO properties in predominantly white communities had **10 or more deficiencies**.

Highlights of Significant Racial Disparities:

- 40.6 percent of the REO properties in communities of color had a **broken, boarded, or unsecured window**, while only 21.2 percent of the REO properties in white communities had the same problem.
- 38.5 percent of the REO properties in com-

munities of color had **trash or debris** on the premises, while only 15.1 percent of the REO properties in white communities had the same problem.

- 29.8 percent of the REO properties in communities of color had **holes in the structure of the home**, while only 13.9 percent of the REO properties in white communities had the same problem.
- 27.3 percent of the REO properties in communities of color had **wood rot**, while only 17.8 percent of the REO properties in white communities had the same problem.
- 23.9 percent of the REO properties in communities of color had **unsecured, broken, or boarded doors**, while only 11.6 percent of the REO properties in white communities had the same problem.
- 21.7 percent of the REO properties in communities of color had **exposed or tampered-with utilities**, while only 9.7 percent of the REO properties in white communities had the same problem.

Summary of Findings in Toledo, Ohio Metropolitan Area:

- Investigation
 - In the Toledo, OH metropolitan area, the Toledo Fair Housing Center investigated 110 REOs owned by Fannie Mae.
 - 38 located in African-American communities
 - 2 located in non-white communities
 - 70 located in white communities
 - 34 percent of the REOs in white communities had fewer than five maintenance or marketing deficiencies documented, while only 7.5 percent of the REO properties in communities of color had fewer than 5 deficiencies.
 - 40 percent of the REOs in communities of color had 10 or more maintenance or marketing deficiencies documented, while only 12.9 percent of the REOs in white communities had 10 or more maintenance or marketing deficiencies.
- Racial Disparities
 - 32.5 percent of the Fannie Mae REOs in communities of color had trash or debris on the premises, while only 5.7 percent of the REOs in white communities did.
 - 35 percent of the REOs in communities of color had an unsecured, broken, or boarded door, while only 12.9 percent of the REOs in white communities did.
 - 68 percent of the REOs in communities of color had a broken, boarded, or unsecured window, while only 29 percent of the REOs in white communities did.
 - 10 percent of the REO properties in communities of color had graffiti, while none of the REOs in white communities did.
 - 48 percent of the REOs in communities of color had missing or out of place gutters, while only 21 percent of the REO properties in white communities did.



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Economy Section • Economy Section

Entrepreneurship – Who Should You Partner With or Hire? - Part I

Karl A. Parker, P.E., MBA, Board Chairman, Parker Family of Businesses

The Truth Contributor

At the end of the day, people are the most critical asset of any business. We often hear that leaders, managers and supervisors want to hire the right talent, with the right skills, to deliver the right results at the right time!

As an intrapreneur, where you are working to drive growth for someone else, you very seldom, if ever, have an opportunity to hire family members to work with or for you. However, hiring friends and former coworkers happens often. We frequently hear the words nepotism or favoritism as an organizational issue. As an entrepreneur, you can hire whomever you want to hire.

I was asked a question: How does an entrepreneur choose which people to work with? Family, friends, or former co-workers? How do you approach that issue?

The question intrigued me and sent me back down memory lane! I was raised in a family owned and operated business. My father was a serial entrepreneur who had several businesses. He landscaped, performed small construction jobs, ran a taxi service, started a food delivery service, had a fleet of ice cream trucks and operated an 'after hours joint.' My father operated primarily in the informal or underground economy as described by Phillip Cochrane, PhD. I mean those businesses operated in the untaxed and unregulated segment of the U.S. economy.

As a result of the space that he played in, his employees had to be people he knew and could trust, i.e. family and friends. I very seldom saw a stranger working for him. If a new 'stranger' was hired, it was someone recommended by one of his VERY close friends or a family member. Although you were a family and friend, you had to be able to perform as in any business or organization. If you didn't deliver (literally in some cases), you were demoted, redeployed or in some cases, terminated, especially if your efforts directly reduced profits.

However, one of the glaring weaknesses in his human capital strategy is that he often allowed underperforming family and friends to return to work after he cooled off. His rationale – 'They are loyal people that I can trust.' He was adamant that his role was to provide opportunities for those close to him, which meant family or friends.

Unfortunately, more often than not that same employee would often make a similar mistake and cost him more money! That mistake in turn limited real growth and compelled him to continue to operate in the informal economy. I often heard my siblings describe the repeat offenders as 'butchers' and 'botchers' who were not too smart.

My oldest brother Edward M. Parker Jr. was also blessed (or cursed) with the entrepreneurial spirit as well. He, however, was intent on operating a legit business in the formal economy. (Well, during the day! That is an offline conversation!)

He and his best friend launched Parker & Carter Home Improvement in 1970, funded by my father's entrepreneurial activities. Since his business was one that required 'specialized' skills, he had to adopt a modified friends and family human capital strategy.

To be continued in June's Economy Section: Part II - Entrepreneurship – Who should you partner with or hire?



Karl Parker

Perryman... continued from page 4

Freddie Gray. It will take more examples of that to show young people what can happen when you vote and your voices are heard. But more has to happen.

Perryman: Well, how do we get more Marilyn Mosbys in office? How do we get more young people involved, particularly when these stubborn old folks want to hold onto everything forever?

Dennard: Well, I didn't bring it up, but look at the Democratic Party. They endorsed Governor Strickland, when they also had a solid candidate in PG. And one thing that PG has done, he has out-raised Governor Strickland. Governor Strickland is a one-time governor and a six-time congressman. We've out fundraised him, flat out, but they're saying, "Oh, we don't have a bench; we don't have any young candidates." But when a young candidate comes along, you push him to the side, and young people see that.

So there has to be an embrace of not just diversity, but more inclusion. There has to be a concerted effort to recruit more candidates. Politics is so white-male dominated it just makes me sick. There are a lot of really smart, gifted young people who could run, but we're not engaging them. Everybody should feel as if they're represented, but as of right now, people aren't, and that's part of the problem. So, there has to be a concerted effort to recruit diverse candidates, and once we've recruited those diverse candidates, get behind them from a financial standpoint, and from just a human capital standpoint. That has to happen.

You think about the mayor of Baltimore, she's a black woman, the lead prosecutor; she's a black woman. I think the head of the one of the military divisions, is a black woman. I always thought that was a beautiful thing, because these are black women, and women, in general. There are certain things politically that we stand for, talk about, and do that no one else can, and that has to continue. These women have been in the spotlight, and I'm hoping that other young people see them, and see what's possible for them, also. That's what has to happen, too.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

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TOLEDO ZOO & AQUARIUM

Corruption Officer by Gary L. Heyward

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Sometimes, you have to choose sides.

c. 2015
Atria
\$16.00 / \$18.99 Canada
276 pages

Republican or Democrat? For something, or against it? Grateful for what you have or irritated by what you don't? And you want fries with that?

Sometimes you choose your sides, and sometimes they're chosen for you. And in the new book *Corruption Officer* by Gary L. Heyward, the preferred option is outside.

"Big Hey" had "the shakes."

Evenings, he spent almost all his paycheck shaking dice, winning some nights and some nights, not. He still lived with his Moms because of that, which was shameful – he was 29 years old, a Gulf War veteran – but, though a good friend

urged him to job-search, Heyward figured that better employment was out of reach.

When he learned that his application to Corrections Academy was accepted, he grabbed his mother and danced in their kitchen. "Hello, pension," he says.

Hello, Rikers Island.

In the first days of Academy, Heyward had plenty to learn: inmates knew how to intimidate, which Corrections Officers were taught to ignore. Counting "mates" was essential, avoiding "undue familiarity" was important, the hours were lousy, but the money was good. Heyward was flush with cash for the first time in a long time. He bought a car.

Then his Baby Mama took him to court for child support.

Weeks later, shortly after his paycheck amounted to \$68 post-deductions, after the "hood booga" said she was pregnant and his car was repo'ed, Heyward started hearing temptation. Inmates had been bugging him to smuggle in cash, drugs, and smokes. He'd done it once; the money was there and he knew it was easy. Other COs got away with bending the rules, and just about every male guard was doing whatever he could to pay child support. If they did it, why couldn't Heyward do it, too?

"I begin to panic," Heyward says. "I got to get this money up." And so, he went in search of someone to introduce him to an

inside partner, a move that would prove dangerously, devastatingly risky...

At first, I was quite unimpressed with *Corruption Officer*. There's a lot of profanity in here, and what's left after that is mostly sophomoric. I kept waiting for this book to grow up.

And then it hit me: it didn't need to. This memoir of jail from both sides of the bars is really better suited for a young audience anyhow, since it's ultimately more cautionary tale than not. In the end of his story, author Gary L. Heyward even writes, "Prison should be feared at all times. [It] should be thought about every time a person thinks about doing something wrong."

Doesn't that put a different spin on what, in its first many pages, felt like a jokey book? That sure seemed the case to me, as I read *Corruption Officer* in one sitting, alternately horrified and fascinated.

Grandma isn't the targeted audience for this book. Young people are; they'll like reading it and it may scare some straight. They'll find that *Corruption Officer* has very powerful words inside.

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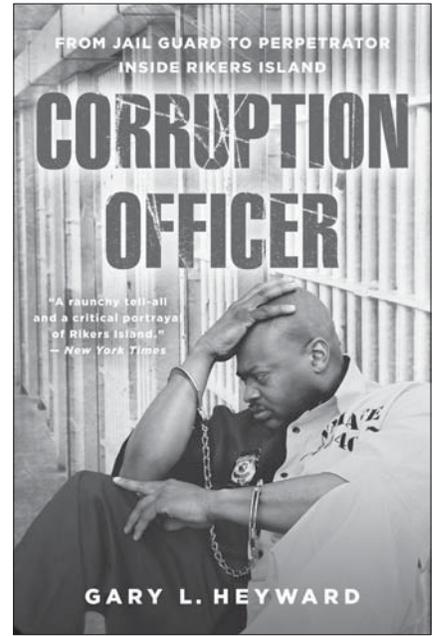


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The Toledo Refining Company, LLC is currently hiring First Class Maintenance Pipefitters.

Overview

The Toledo Refining Company is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a crude oil processing capacity of 170,000 barrels per day. Our company is committed to a foundation of safe and environmentally compliant operations so all employees must follow all procedures and safe work practices. Starting pay is \$34.89 per hour. After completion of a six month probationary period, the rate of pay is \$37.86.

Scope of Work

First Class Maintenance Pipefitters are responsible for completing assignments relative to the maintenance or installation of equipment within the Refinery utilizing First Class prime skills. Work will be performed inside the maintenance shop as well as outside in all weather conditions. Pipefitters will be expected to perform tasks in other incidental craft areas as assigned. Successful candidates will be held accountable for the quality and quantity of work; participate in training programs as assigned to maintain and/or upgrade skill set; and understand and comply with Toledo Refining work rules, the Code of Conduct and Company Policies and Procedures.

Qualifications

Must be at least 18 years of age; be legally authorized to work in the United States without restrictions; hold a High school diploma or equivalent; and hold a current driver's license.

Completion of a state approved Pipefitter apprenticeship program with no less than 4 years work experience. Equivalent work is no less than 8 years as a Pipefitter. Successful candidates must possess First Class Pipefitter work experience and First Class Pipefitter skills. Candidates must be able to demonstrate First Class performance. Candidates must have the ability to read blueprints and hand-sketching related to prime skill. Candidates must also have the ability to coordinate work; function as a member of a team to get work done; work from written and verbal direction; perform tasks in any craft as incidental work; and must have working knowledge of equipment and tools required to expedite the efficient installation and repair of refinery equipment. Candidate must also have the physical ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.

Unusual Working Conditions

Must be able to perform physically-active assignments which include work on high structures and within confined spaces. Mandatory overtime is required as well as occasional shift work required.

Conditions of Employment

Written tests and assessments; meeting physical criteria for the job; a physical skills demonstration test; ability to demonstrate basic computer skills; and pass a post offer pre-employment physical, background check and drug screening.

All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbfenergy.com/careers. All resume and contact information must be accurate and up to date. Once on the career page, candidates can view current job opportunities and apply to desired position. Selected candidates will be notified and assigned a testing date and time by email and letter.

EOE/M/F/D/V

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Is now accepting resumes for

Senior Pastor

Send resumes to
NHMBC, 833 Nesselwood Ave., Toledo,
OH 43610
or nhmbc@bex.net

Attention or Subject: Pulpit Committee

PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION THERAPIST GENESIS PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION PROGRAM

Unison is seeking a Clinical Therapist for the Genesis Outpatient Partial Hospitalization Program. Primary duties include coordinating and completing diagnostic assessments and providing ongoing engagement and follow up. The individual will also provide group therapy for PHP groups on "as needed" basis.

Position is based at Woodruff site. Master's degree and current Ohio licensure as an LSW or PC required. LISW or LPCC preferred. Experience working with SPMI population preferred.

Send resume or apply to:

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

EOE

RISK MANAGER

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for a Risk Manager. For complete details of the position and to apply, visit our website at www.lucasmha.org. **Only online applications received at the above website will be accepted.** This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note on your submittal if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS.** Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, sex, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



Early Head Start Family Advocate and Early Head Start Teacher Mentor Positions

Lucas County Family and Children First Council has openings for the Early Head Start Family Advocate and the Early Head Start Teacher Mentor positions.

For more details, please visit our website at www.co.lucas.oh.us and click on the "Apply for a Job" link to review the job description, minimum requirements, salary and to apply online.

Please submit employment applications by Friday, May 29, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Legal Notice

Proposals will be received by Lucas County Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) until **4:00 p.m., June 10, 2015** for the selection of Providers to provide **Work Experience Program (WEP) Site Development and Client Participation Services** for eligible participants. Submitted proposals must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The contract period will be from approximately **July 1, 2015** through **September 30, 2016**.

No proposals will be accepted after **4:00 P.M. on June 10, 2015**; proposals that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFP will not be accepted.

The Request for Proposals will be available on **May 19, 2015**. It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

An Electronic Question & Answer (Q&A) process will be from May 19, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. to May 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. **PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.** Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing and received via email at Lucas_Contracts@jfs.ohio.gov by May 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.; the posting of the Q&A will be on May 27, 2015. If any changes are made to the RFP as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RFP will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted, as of **May 19, 2015**, at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Tina Skeldon Wozniak - President

Pete Gerken - Commissioner

Carol Contrada - Commissioner

Bid 48-15-RFP-01



The Toledo Refining Company, LLC is currently hiring First Class Maintenance Instrument Mechanics.

Overview

The Toledo Refining Company is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a crude oil processing capacity of 170,000 barrels per day. Our company is committed to a foundation of safe and environmentally compliant operations so all employees must follow all procedures and safe work practices. Starting pay is \$34.89 per hour. After completion of a six month probationary period, the rate of pay is \$37.86. Once completely qualified as an Instrument Technician, the rate of pay is \$38.81.

Scope of Work

Maintenance Instrument Mechanics are responsible for completing assignments relative to the maintenance or installation of equipment within the Refinery utilizing First Class prime skills. Work will be performed inside the maintenance shop as well as outside in all weather conditions. Instrument Mechanics will be expected to perform tasks in other incidental craft areas as assigned. Successful candidates will be held accountable for the quality and quantity of work; participate in training programs as assigned to maintain and/or upgrade skill set; and understand and comply with Toledo Refining work rules, the Code of Conduct and Company Policies and Procedures.

Qualifications

Must be at least 18 years of age; be legally authorized to work in the United States without restrictions; hold a High school diploma or equivalent; and hold a current driver's license.

Completion of a state approved Instrument Mechanic apprenticeship program or a 2 year Technical Degree in Process Control with no less than 4 years work experience. Equivalent work is no less than 8 years as an Instrument Mechanic. Successful candidates must possess First Class Instrument Mechanic work experience and First Class Instrument Mechanic skills. Candidates must be able to demonstrate First Class performance. Candidates must have the ability to read blueprints as it pertains to instrumentation and follow written and verbal directions to complete tasks. Candidates must also have the ability to coordinate work; function as a member of a team to get work done; perform tasks in any craft as incidental work; and must have working knowledge of equipment and tools required to expedite the efficient installation and repair of refinery equipment. Candidate must also have the physical ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.

Unusual Working Conditions

Must be able to perform physically-active assignments which include work on high structures and within confined spaces. Mandatory overtime is required as well as occasional shift work required.

Conditions of Employment

Written tests and assessments; meeting physical criteria for the job; a physical skills demonstration test; ability to demonstrate basic computer skills; and pass a post offer pre-employment physical, background check and drug screening.

All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbfenergy.com/careers. All resume and contact information must be accurate and up to date. Once on the career page, candidates can view current job opportunities and apply to desired position. Selected candidates will be notified and assigned a testing date and time by email and letter.

EOE/M/F/D/V

**Dispatcher
Lucas County**

Lucas County Emergency Medical Services is accepting applications to fill the position of Dispatcher through June 2, 2015. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Dispatcher" from the list to read more or apply.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Director of Economic
Development
Lucas County**

Lucas County Planning & Development Agency is accepting applications to fill the position of Director of Economic Development through June 12, 2015. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Director of Economic Development" from the list to read more or apply.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

EOE

**ABUNDANT LIFE OF
PERRYSBURG
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment facilities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age requirement and an annual income requirement of no more than \$21,150.00 for one person or \$24,200.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden apartments offer one bedroom, private patios, with individually controlled thermostats for heat and air conditioning.

Abundant Life #1 offers bathtubs, while Abundant Life #2 offers walk-in showers and pull cords for emergencies.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous facilities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at abundantlifeperrysburg.org.



The Toledo Refining Company, LLC is currently hiring First Class Maintenance Electricians.

Overview

The Toledo Refining Company is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a crude oil processing capacity of 170,000 barrels per day. Our company is committed to a foundation of safe and environmentally compliant operations so all employees must follow all procedures and safe work practices. Starting pay is \$34.89 per hour. After completion of a six month probationary period, the rate of pay is \$37.86.

Scope of Work

First Class Maintenance Electricians are responsible for completing assignments relative to the maintenance or installation of equipment within the Refinery utilizing First Class prime skills. Work will be performed inside the maintenance shop as well as outside in all weather conditions. Electricians will be expected to perform tasks in other incidental craft areas as assigned. Successful candidates will be held accountable for the quality and quantity of work; participate in training programs as assigned to maintain and/or upgrade skill set; and understand and comply with Toledo Refining work rules, the Code of Conduct and Company Policies and Procedures.

Qualifications

Must be at least 18 years of age; be legally authorized to work in the United States without restrictions; hold a High school diploma or equivalent; and hold a current driver's license.

Completion of a state approved Electrician apprenticeship program with no less than 4 years work experience. Equivalent work is no less than 8 years as an Electrician. Successful candidates must possess First Class Electrician work experience and First Class Electrician skills. Candidates must be able to demonstrate First Class performance. Candidates must have the ability to read blueprints as it pertains to electrical work and follow written and verbal directions to complete tasks. Candidates must also have the ability to coordinate work; function as a member of a team to get work done; perform tasks in any craft as incidental work; and must have working knowledge of equipment and tools required to expedite the efficient installation and repair of refinery equipment. Candidate must also have the physical ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.

Unusual Working Conditions

Must be able to perform physically-active assignments which include work on high structures and within confined spaces. Mandatory overtime is required as well as occasional shift work required.

Conditions of Employment

Written tests and assessments; meeting physical criteria for the job; a physical skills demonstration test; ability to demonstrate basic computer skills; and pass a post offer pre-employment physical, background check and drug screening.

All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbfenergy.com/careers. All resume and contact information must be accurate and up to date. Once on the career page, candidates can view current job opportunities and apply to desired position. Selected candidates will be notified and assigned a testing date and time by email and letter.

EOE/M/F/D/V

St. Paul's Family Reunion Kicks off Upcoming Centennial

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church sponsored a family reunion utilizing the theme, "Keeping the family connected through all generations," on May 9, 2015 at the University of Toledo's Radisson Hotel.

"We're celebrating 98 years, which is leading to our 100 year celebration in 2017. We wanted to give the membership an opportunity to show their appreciation for how far we have come over these 98 years," explained Rev. James H. Willis Sr.

The program opened with a meet-and-greet starting at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed over 150 guests. Yvonne Gayle served as mistress of ceremony; Deaconess Loretta Quinn officially welcomed all family members and guests in attendance; Aufwiefersehen Winfield read a prepared statement explaining the history of the church, while a video presentation outlining past accomplishments and members was viewed.

"I challenge each of you to reflect on the past, as we continue our journey into the future," shared Winfield.

The congregation's history dates back to July 1917, when services were held in Mamie Porte's home on Howard Street. Rev. Joseph Smith served as the pastor for 41 years, then Rev. Smith led the church until Rev. John McKissick was installed in October 1969. Current pastor, Rev. James Willis Sr was elected as pastor in October 2003.

"Once we decided to pull this together, we brought in former members, we wanted to bring the family together. That's why it's called a family reunion. Brother [Joseph] Sommerville wanted to organize

this actual reunion activity," said Willis.

Deborah Gardner sang a soulful selection for attendees, Total Praise presented two ministry routines, Deaconess Mary Reed delivered a special recognition, and Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson presented a proclamation to Rev. Willis and church membership.

"This is my church home. I remember the names and faces from the video presentation and booklet from over 30 years ago. Those faces welcomed me to the church, the true spirit of love was welcoming. Our pastor has helped me, not just as Toledo's mayor, but throughout my public life. I present this proclamation to honor our pastor and the church family," explained Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson.

"We're excited by the fact, our mayor is a member of St. Paul, the honorary Paula Hicks-Hudson," said Willis.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church invites the community to join Sunday worship at 10:45 a.m. The 2015 Family Reunion Committee Chairmen Mary McKinley-Reed and Madeline Hampton; Arrangements and Entertainment Committee Chairman First Lady Linnie Willis; Souvenir Booklet Chairman Barbara Tucker, and members Madeline Hampton, Sharon Hubbard, Deacon Jesse Phifer and Madeline Standard; Publicity Committee Chairman Rev. Marcia Dinkins, and members: Linda Garner, Margie Scotland, Cliffie Hunter, and Michelle Jenkins; Correspondence Committee Chairman Sharon Hubbard, and members: Yvonne Gayle, and members: Y'Vann Winfield, Rev. Marcia Dinkins, Deacon Joseph Sommerfield and Ted Patton; Hospitality Chairman Deborah Gardner, Finance Chairman Celine Winfield, Tickets Chairman Deacon David Taylor, Decorations Chairman Beverly Beasley and History Chairman Cliffie Hunter.



First Lady Linnie Willis and Pastor James Willis, Sr



Rev. Willis and St. Paul MBC Reunion committee

W O M E N S J A Z Z E R C I S E

LADIES GETTING FIT

United Church of God's Women's Ministry is inviting all women to participate in a **FREE** jazzercise class. Instructor Bea Peeples will lead the class.

Sessions will be held at United Church of God, 701 Phillips Avenue. Each session will begin and end with prayer.

JOIN US!

Classes are every Friday from 5:30pm-7:00pm.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Ronsha Allison at (419) 810-6335
www.ucogchurch.com

