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Black Mothers of the New Movement III: A Driving Force

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

"...It’s going to be up to us to challenge the Democrats and the Republicans on the issue of democracy.

- Melvin H. King, activist and politician"

The 2008 election and 2012 reelection of President Barack Obama were able to take place, not because America had become post-racial, but rather, because of increased black political power.

As the pace of the 2016 Presidential primary quickens, sprinting towards South Carolina, Nevada, the Super Tuesday SEC primary and then arriving in Ohio on March 15, the power of the African-American vote is once again in play.

Unlike the recent Iowa caucus and New Hampshire mixed primary, minority voters will represent a sizable proportion of the Democratic electorate in many of the upcoming contests. This has led to some fierce in-party fighting for black support between hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, neither who can achieve the Democratic presidential nomination without extensive backing from the African-American community.

For whom will I be voting?

It’s still early and momentum is key. Clinton will more than likely take Nevada and South Carolina. Minnesota at this point is a toss up but Sanders is likely to win Colorado. The week following Super Tuesday is the Ohio primary, which is expected to be a hard fought battle with BIG implications for the winner in the Buckeye State.

HRC, historically an unquestioned friend of the African-American community, has had a lock on black voters and considered a shoo-in for the Ohio primary until former Ohio State Senator Nina Turner withdrew her support for Clinton to back Bernie Sanders. There are rumors that Turner felt slighted in some way by the Clinton campaign. Publicly, Nina is saying that while she respects Secretary Clinton, she feels that Sanders has a greater understanding of the needs of the black community and would thus be a stronger advocate for those issues.

Others note that conditions in the black community spiraled downward as a result of the consequences of mass incarceration and “end welfare as we know it” policies that occurred during the presidency of Bill Clinton. It is a fact that the largest federal and state increases of inmates of any president in American history took place during the “tough on crime” policies passed during former president Bill Clinton’s tenure. However, I strongly disagree with esteemed scholar Michele Alexander’s conclusion expressed in an article in The Nation, that it is proper to saddle Hillary with Bill’s baggage merely because she was married to the President of the United States.

Meanwhile, as with Turner, Sanders continues to peel small pockets of black support away from HRC by obtaining endorsements from prominent African Americans such as Cornel West, author/activist Ta-Nehisi Coates, rapper Killer Mike and others. Unless the trickle of defections is stayed, we could eventually see a contemporary mass exodus of black support walk away from Clinton similar to her 2008 Democratic presidential nomination experience.

The African-American Predicament: What we have now is not working.

The major problem for the black community is that there are no active, concrete public policies in place or being discussed that will definitively improve our general position in society. What we have now is not working and has not worked for a long time.

The source of the problem is the inability of those in office to identify with the black agenda, usually because they view it only from a position of privilege. However, going forward, in order to obtain support, those who represent or seek the African-American vote should have perspective into our community. This means from the school board, to city and county government, U.S. Congress or the presidency, whomever it is that represents the black community should not only talk our talk but also walk our walk.

Gun violence is a big issue to us. Access to clean and safe drinking water is important, as is lead prevention. A commitment to provide a diverse, high quality education to all of our children is a prime requirement. Voting rights, including the reduction of early voting and access to polling locations has had a devastating... continued on page 3
Time to Put On the Blackface

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

Well, the dust has settled in Iowa and the voting in New Hampshire is over and Bernie Sanders is the current heir apparent to the political throne of the Democratic Party.

Hillary Clinton, a brand name for decades, is probably still shell shocked at her combined political defeats by an aging socialist hail ing out of the tiny state of Vermont.

Now, with the upcoming votes in both Nevada and South Carolina, the stakes are higher than ever for the political fortunes of Hillary.

But Hillary has an ace up her pantsuit sleeve. It is her 4th, for her, of the much sought after Monopoly Get Out of Jail Free card.

Right now Hillary is probably in a secluded back room in a hotel in New York practicing her ‘southern’ accent and getting updated on the latest urban hip and cool jargon and dance moves.

She is learning to drop her “R’s” and “G’s” and Hillary is going native...real quick. She will be drinking sweet iced tea and talkin’ bout getting real with the South Carolina voters.

In other words, Hillary is going over to the dark side. Hillary needs the black vote big time in order to turn back the oncoming armies of Bernie Sanders.

Hillary will be on speed dial calling up every black preacher and black pastor she knows and pulling out all of her emotional appeals about helping the Clinton’s... “one more time!”

Why, I have even heard through the urban grapevine that Hillary is leaking to the black press that the top names of her future grandchild will be: Alacuza or

Dem’nash or Parvesseta. If a boy, it will be: Lay’trone or Vydcaraon or even Demarcus. Hey, don’t laugh...every vote counts!

Bill Clinton is taking saxophone lessons to warm up for a video on U-Tube along with his best bud, Arsenio Hall (remember back in the day, Bill had on the shades and played the sax on Arsenio’s program and black folks went nuts!) to show black folks that he is still their first unofficial black president (so coined by the famed novelist, Toni Morrison).

Not to be outdone, Bernie Sanders has already met in Harlem at the famed black soul food restaurant Sylvia’s (I have been there...good grub) with none other than Al Sharpton. Yes, that Al Sharpton.

Much to his credit, Bernie graciously declined to give any Black Power fist salutes and did not wear the offered red, green and black pork pie hat when he left the restaurant.

Again, the Democrats are going to, with no shame, chase down the “black bloc vote” knowing that in urban America, the brown and black vote will be the razor edge that can mean victory or defeat for the Democratic nominee.

The Republicans? They will do a kiss-kiss make up with Dr. Ben Carson and Herman Cain and find other black folks to carry their political water into the black community.

The Republican presumptive nominee Donald Trump will of course say that he has wonderful relations with “the black” people and will take the normal and usual photo ops with swooning black pastors who seemingly cannot get enough of themselves in camera shoots with The Donald.

Will anyone sharply question Hillary regarding her record with black voters and the record of her husband (which she championed) as to his practice of wrecking political mayhem on black people but under the guise of being bold and firm?

It seems that everyone loves black people when it comes to election times and they put on their best face and gives the usual preg anant speeches of hope and change but when they are elected, they can hardly be found and much less found aggressively pushing an agenda that confronts structural racism in America including the prison system, disparate sentencing, police brutality and draconian welfare principles some of which are purely punitive.

It seems that the politicians will say the right words when around a black audience or at a black church. They will sing with gusto the song, Lift Every Voice And Sing and they will invoke the image and words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and they may even their wires over gun violence that strikes down so many black males in this country.

But! Do they have the courage to offend their white voters, North and South, with policies and reforms that directly attack an economic system that is stacked against people of color and poor people?

Can they tell a stubborn Congress that any policy that they put on their desk to sign that has the effect of just the intent to discriminate or which values whites more than blacks, that such a bill will be vetoed?

Is the black and brown vote easy to get? Is all that is required is a little tap on the head and a few crumbs of appointments to highly visible governmental positions and all is well?

Is there a coalition of black and brown voters who can stand in the gap and demand (not ask) for certain and needful changes in how America behaves itself with its minority populations?

Will Donald Trump or Hillary or Bernie, be willing to be seen as seemingly “soft” on black and brown folks and thus lose the white votes in the critical areas around Upper Virginia, outside of Hamtramack, Michigan, the panhandle of Florida, the rich enclaves of Houston, Texas and Columbus, Ohio?

Understand that if the polling numbers show that any of the candidates can soft sell the minority vote, they will do so in a New York minute and let the accusations and tears fly later.

If the political needs can read the tea leaves in the political maps of the states and carve out those areas that are minority major- ity voters but are not needed to win and no need to campaign in those areas, they will do so.

Whatever black and brown leaders that Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders seek out for their anointing and blessing, those “leaders” unless they are fortified with a mental toughness to say No! to any mush being offered for their votes and their influence, the election at the end of this year for the black and brown voters will be another. ‘Heads I Win, Tails, You lose!’

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tolliver@Juno.com

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impact on our community. Police brutality and the jus- tice system as a whole, from how people are profiled to how they’re charged, disparities in sentencing, the system from start to end, is a major concern.

Despite Obamacare, access to healthcare is still a problem as the program is constantly under attack even as many people are falling through the cracks. The working poor are employed at places that don’t offer insurance and a lot of minimum wage jobs strategically keep people from being full-time to avoid of- fering insurance.

What we have is not working and we cannot chal- lenge the inequities and problems by merely ignoring them.

The Bottom Line?

Hillary Clinton, with her cache in the black com- munity, would make an amazing president. But the reality is that, the nation should be abuzz about the prospects of the first woman president in United States history. Yet, there is much more excitement being gen- erated by Sanders, a self- proclaimed democratic so- cialist, whose message exhilarates (although he hasn’t actually accomplished much in his years as a Senator). I must confess that I, like others, am very attracted to Sanders’ message, despite perhaps, the lack of an electoral mainstream broad enough to accommodate it.

... continued on page 5
State Rep. Mike Ashford (D-Toledo) recently stood in opposition to House Bill 294 (HB 294), which passed the Ohio House during a concurrence vote yesterday along largely partisan lines. The legislation will implement restrictions that redirect public funds away from providers who perform or promote legal abortions in Ohio. The bill comes amid a national right-wing effort to defund Planned Parenthood, a move that could leave thousands of women in the Buckeye State with limited or no access to affordable preventative healthcare.

“On a national level, Republicans have politicized Planned Parenthood and created the perception that the health care facility performs illegal abortions,” said Ashford. “So far, no investigation conducted by Congress or state officials has shown evidence that Planned Parenthood illegally performs abortions.”

In Ohio, Planned Parenthood provides comprehensive healthcare to some 80,000 patients each year. By defunding Planned Parenthood, the state is denying access to sex education programs, HIV/AIDS testing procedures, infant mortality prevention programs, breast and cervical cancer screenings and domestic violence education programs. Ultimately, House Bill 294 puts tens of thousands of women at risk by stripping away federal grant money to these essential life saving health care programs and procedures.

“Instead pursuing a politically motivated agenda that cuts off access to healthcare for tens of thousands of Ohio women, we should be focused on supporting Ohio families and taking action to lower our state’s unacceptably high infant mortality rate,” said Ashford.

The GOP-controlled House’s passage of House Bill 294 comes amidst nationwide Republican push to defund Planned Parenthood after heavily edited, politically motivated videos surfaced appearing to show the organization discussing the sale of fetal tissue for research. The videos have since been widely discredited, and two Republican led investigations into Ohio’s Planned Parenthood also showed the organization’s activities are only in furtherance of Ohio women’s access to comprehensive healthcare.

Recently, Attorney General Mike DeWine accused Planned Parenthood of illegally disposing of fetal remains in landfills. Independent investigators later discovered that the state of Ohio contacts with the same disposal company used by Planned Parenthood, and follows the same disposal procedures when handling a miscarriage. No unlawful activity was found following the investigation.

Black History Month Celebration: February 2016

Each year, Black History Month offers a unique opportunity to celebrate the historical achievements and remember the struggles of African-Americans. It is also an occasion to recognize the traditions of excellence, family and cultural values which have characterized the African community and which serve as benchmarks within... continued on page 5
Hillary Clinton Statement on Endorsement of Congressional Black Caucus PAC

Hillary Clinton released the following statement after earning the endorsement of the Congressional Black Caucus PAC. The CBC PAC is the political arm of the Congressional Black Caucus, and works to increase the number of African Americans in the United States Congress.

“I’m honored to have earned the endorsement of African-American women working full- time on average earn 60 cents for every dollar a white man earns. African Americans are nearly three times more likely to be denied a mortgage as whites. And African-American children are 500 percent more likely to die from asthma than white kids.

As the “conscience of Congress,” the CBC and its members fight for progress every day for African Americans and for all hardworking people in this country. They are working to give 35 million working people a raise by increasing the minimum wage, and to protect all Americans’ sacred and hard-won right to vote. They are working tirelessly to help get more African-American candidates elected and, thanks to their efforts, more African Americans are serving in the United States Congress today than ever before.

I have been proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with my close friends in the CBC in these fights. As a Senator from New York, I partnered with CBC members on bills to ban racial profiling, prosecute hate crimes, and promote equal pay for women. As Secretary of State, I created the Global Diaspora Forum, which helps Americans of African descent build partnerships with the countries their ancestors came from.

The stakes in this election couldn’t be higher. African Americans can’t wait for solutions, they need results now. We need a President who can stand up to the Republicans and win. I’ll take on the gun lobby to address the epidemic of gun violence. I’ll take on the Republicans who are disenfranchising voters and rolling back voting rights. And I pledge a new and comprehensive commitment to equity and opportunity for communities of color. That means reforming our criminal justice system and rebuilding the bonds of trust between our communities and our law enforcement officials. But it also means making major new investments to create jobs, to make it easier to start and grow a small business, to end redlining in housing, and to build reliable public transit systems.

Black History... continued from page 4

our communities, not only in the United States but also in the Caribbean.

The long-standing cultural ties between the Caribbean and the United States are well known, and have been fostered by outstanding leaders, such as our National Hero, the Rt. Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey.

Garvey did not seek to separate the importance of cultural expression from his vision of economic empowerment for the peoples of African descent in the United States and the Caribbean, instead, he saw cultural expression as a means by which the Black race could achieve harmony, pride and economic advancement.

As we celebrate National Black History Month, let us continue to build on the rich heritage and accomplishments of African American pioneers, by committing ourselves to higher standards of achievement in all our endeavors, as we move into the twenty-first century and beyond.

Patriotically yours,
Earl B. Mitchell
President, Jamaican Social Club of Toledo, Inc.
EBM/

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While we need Sanders’ strong voice and continued advocacy, however, I think higher on the priority list for African Americans is a president who can dismantle the dysfunction of Washington gridlock. We need a president and Congress that will not major in minors or traffic in trivia, but will come together and finally work together.

Who would be the best president to work across party lines AND actually get things done?

Hillay?
Or Bernie?
I don’t know. Not yet.
Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org
Toledoans United for Social Action Holds Youth Forum

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

A youth forum held last Thursday evening at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church provided some young Toledoans an opportunity to voice their feelings and concerns about the city, their communities, their schools and authority figures in general.

Toledoans United for Social Action (TUSA) hosted the forum – the first of five such events focusing on youth participation – that will ultimately lead to the formation of a justice leadership team, said Rev. James Willis, pastor of St. Paul and the host for last week’s gathering.

About 200 were in attendance including approximately 60 youngsters. The evening began with interviews of the group of eight to 10 year olds who spoke about their school issues and their views of law enforcement officials.

The second group of youngsters – those in the 13 to 17 year-age range – then spoke, in greater detail about their views of the impact of school and society on their lives.

The youngsters were addressing those in power such as Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, Toledo Police Chief George Kral and Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, Ed.D., along with a host of community leaders and other adults in attendance.

The critical impact of the session, Willis summed up, was “to get information to adults and the City on things they were not aware of.”

Durant spoke after the youngster and told them that “the buck stops here,” and expressed his pleasure that the students were able to speak out.”

Kral also spoke on the fact that the information he had received during the evening was important for his department in improving job performance.
Millennials: Tips on How to Invest for a Brighter Financial Future

Special to The Truth

The majority of Americans say retirement investing is a priority, but more than half consider Social Security a top-three source for funding retirement, and 40 percent of millennials expect Social Security (along with 401(k)s and pensions) to fund their golden years, according to Capital One Investing’s Financial Freedom Survey.

“With the future of Social Security uncertain, all Americans, and millennials in particular, should be proactively planning for their financial futures,” said Yvette Butler, president of Capital One Investing, a full-service brokerage. “There are consequences to sitting on the sidelines, most importantly a smaller nest egg in the long-term.”

Capital One Investing found 93 percent of millennials say that distrust of the markets, lack of knowledge, little understanding of pricing and costs, and general complexities make them feel less confident about investing.

“Now more than ever, the onus is on the individual investor to plan for a financially stable future,” said Butler. “The industry needs to offer millennial investors educational tools and transparent products that will support them as they do so.”

With that in mind, Butler offers several ideas that may help younger investors establish a straightforward financial plan they can stick to:

- Start early: The earlier you start planning and investing, the better. Once you have an emergency fund saved, you may want to consistently contribute to a diversified retirement account to try to maximize your long-term gains. Even small amounts invested today can add up over time. Tools like the ShareBuilder Investment Plan enable you to invest a set dollar amount and buy fractional shares of stocks, ETFs and mutual funds.

- Go online: An online investing account is easy to open and doesn’t require a lot of cash to get started, and online investing and mobile apps give you increased on-the-go flexibility.

Low-cost portfolio building tools that take into account your investment horizon and risk tolerance can also help develop a strategy that works for you.

- Get educated: From stocks and bonds to mutual funds, ETFs, IRAs and 401(k)s, there are a lot of strategies and vehicles out there, and it may seem overwhelming at first. In fact, according to Capital One Investing’s survey, more than half of investors of all ages say their lack of knowledge and experience in investing hinders them from feeling confident about taking action. You may eliminate this barrier by exploring free financial resources and educational tools that can help you sort out the facts and learn about tried and true investing principles.

- Ask for help: A trusted professional can offer unbiased advice, and may help you develop an investing strategy you can follow and adjust, while instilling confidence about your future.

When it comes to establishing a financial plan, stay motivated by determining clear goals, and don’t forget to pat yourself on the back as you reach various milestones. Remember, the work you do today should pay off for years to come.

Courtesy StatePoint

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority and Lucas County Sheriff’s Office Kicked Off Water Drive for Flint Housing Authority

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) in conjunction with the Lucas County Sheriff’s Office kicked off a water and baby wipe drive to support the residents of the Flint Housing Commission and its community from February 8-12. Both water and baby wipe donations were accepted at LMHA drop-off sites located at 211 S. Byrne Rd. and 201 Belmont Ave., between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The donations were delivered to River Park Apartments, 7002 Pemberton Dr., Flint, MI on Friday, February 12, 2016 between 1:00-2:00 p.m.

The Toledo Chapter of Pretty Brown Girl Cordially Invites You To Meet Our New Members and Celebrate International Pretty Brown Girl Day

February 27, 2016
2 p.m.-5 p.m.
Garden Lake Hall
5339 Dorr St. Toledo, Oh. 43615
Cost: $10 per person
R.S.V.P.: LaTesa Callaway - 567-277-7125
Michelle McCaster - 313-623-9313
Entrepreneurship – Who Should You Partner With or Hire? - Part VIII

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

The Truth Contributor

In previous articles, if you recall, I shared my experiences growing up in a family business located in Toledo, Ohio that buttered its bread with a hiring strategy which primarily employed a family and friends model with mixed results. I also shared my observations that other business entities, and public/governmental organizations, also tend to hire friends and family, as well as conduct business with those they know and trust.

Starting a new business enterprise requires courage, bold thinking, an acute knowledge of the market that you will compete in, access to capital and committed, loyal, talented employees and partners. The people whom you partner with or hire can make or break any business! This is especially true for new business ventures! The kind of people and/or partners required heavily depends upon the business venture that you decide to start, and the location where you start the business.

When I left Parker Construction, our family business, in 1990 to pursue other professional and personal goals, I had no desire, at that time, to lead a family business.

In June 1992. Finishing my degree was a true game changer! That will be the focus of the next series of articles.

From 1990 to 2009 my career pursuits provided me with a plethora of experiences that shaped my current thoughts related to talent acquisition and development, and strategic partnerships associated with creating a high performing organization. My first stop after Parker Construction was at Orion Engineering located in Jackson, Michigan.

Wait, officially, that was my second stop. I worked for one week at Omni Source on Hill Avenue. That definitely was not the right fit for me! I will have to share those details during a private conversation!

Why Orion Engineering, in Jackson, Michigan, of all places? If you are old enough to recall, the company was in a serious recession in 1990. Jobs in NW Ohio were scarce for non-degreed technical professionals. Especially, if you were African-American!

The partners of Orion Engineering, however, wanted an electrical design professional with field experience and I fit that profile. In retrospect, I think the partners were pleased to find diverse talent to add to the team as well. Yes, I was the ONLY African American on the team. That surprised me down the road when I found out that they were huge fans of all people - Rush Limbaugh!

For the record, the partners of Orion Engineering were friends and colleagues who decided to leave a larger engineering firm to pursue the dream of owning and running their own engineering firm! They even recruited two administrative assistants from the larger firm to join them too! By the way, those administrative assistants were a part of a friends and family connection as well.

I commuted from Toledo to Jackson from 1990-1993. Yes, that is a three-hour round trip commute. I worked full-time and went to school full-time from 1990-1992 as well. It was definitely worth it. My immediate supervisor was an amazing power systems engineer. He was also the lead partner in the firm as it related to organizational design and customer acquisition. Additionally, he was an excellent technical mentor. He, along with the lead mechanical engineer, taught me a host of valuable technical and business aspects of running an engineering firm. Specifically, as it related to preparing engineering estimates, engineering project development, engineering management and execution.

The dynamics of the partnership was intriguing. They all were professional engineers with stellar credentials. Each had established positive reputations while leading multiple large projects across several industries at their former place of employment. Two were alpha males and the third partner was not. How they made decisions related to people, process, technology and product/service offerings was extremely interesting to me.

I learned so much from those gentlemen. I truly thank them for the opportunity they afforded me because their investment exposed me to a ‘different world,’ provided me with new skills, and quite frankly, dramatically changed my personal circumstances that actually saved my life! (Yes, another story over a Chai Latte!)

The true game changer for me occurred in December of 1992, when I decided to accept an invitation to attend, of all things, The Nutcracker, with a friend whom I used to play pick up basketball with in the late 80’s at UT. During the intermission she asked me if I was happy at Orion Engineering. I said yes. I worked with great people, on great projects, and have learned a ton; however, the commute was getting old. She asked me a few other questions and then said: Would you consider other opportunities? I said: Of course, Why?

She then said: The new CEO where I work is looking to bring in diverse talent throughout the company. I said: Who do you work for again? She said: Owens Corning Fiberglass in Toledo. I said: What do they again? She said: We are a building materials company headquartered in downtown Toledo that makes the pink insulation. I said: Ok, cool, What’s next? She said: Send me your resume and I will send over to Mr. Robinson. I am sure he will give you a call.

That conversation was the beginning of a structural shift that would redefine my worldview on recruiting, developing and deploying talent along with developing skills to assess business partnerships.

To be continued in Part IX - Entrepreneurship – Who should you partner with or hire?
Social Security: Questions and Answers

GENERAL

Question: Do I need a Social Security card? I want to get a summer job and my dad can’t find my card.

Answer: If you know your number, you probably don’t need to get another card. If you find out that you do need a replacement card, the best place to go to find out how to get a replacement is www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber. In some states and the District of Columbia, you might even be able to request a replacement Social Security card online. In other areas, you can download the application to print out, complete, and submit by mail or in person. If you do get a replacement card or find the original, you shouldn’t carry it with you. Keep it in a safe place with your other important papers. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Question: Can I get a new Social Security number if someone has stolen my identity?

Answer: We don’t routinely assign a new number to someone whose identity has been stolen. Only as a last resort should you consider requesting a new Social Security number. Changing your number may adversely affect your ability to interact with Federal and State agencies, employers, and others. This is because your financial, medical, employment and other records will be under your former Social Security number. We cannot guarantee that a new number will solve your problem. To learn more about your Social Security card and number, read our online publication Your Social Security Number and Card at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/.

RETIRED

Question: I just got back from an overseas military deployment and I want to plan ahead. How will my military retirement affect my Social Security benefits?

Answer: Your military retirement won’t affect your Social Security benefits at all. You can get both. Generally, there is no offset of Social Security benefits because of your military retirement. You will get full Social Security benefits based on your earnings. The only way your Social Security benefit might be reduced is if you also receive a government pension based on a job in which you did not pay Social Security taxes. You can find more information in the publication Military Service and Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html. Or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question: I’m retiring early, at age 62, and I receive investment income from a rental property I own. Does investment income count as earnings?

Answer: No. We count only the wages you earn from a job or your net profit if you’re self-employed. Non-work income such as annuities, investment income, interest, capital gains, and other government benefits are not counted and will not affect your Social Security benefits. Most pensions will not affect your benefits. However, your benefit may be affected by government pensions earned through work on which you did not pay Social Security tax. You can retire online at www.socialsecurity.gov. For more information, call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

DISABILITY

Question: I was turned down for disability. Do I need a lawyer to appeal?

Answer: You’re entitled to hire an attorney if you wish to, but it is not necessary. And, you can file a Social Security appeal online without a lawyer. Our online appeal process is convenient and secure. Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal. If you prefer, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to schedule an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to appeal.

Question: It’s hard for me to get around because of my disability. Do I have to go to a Social Security office to apply for benefits?

Answer: Not anymore. You can prepare and submit your Social Security disability application and all the needed forms right over the Internet. Our online disability application is convenient and secure. When you decide to apply, begin by taking a look at our Disability Starter Kit at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Question: My brother has been completely disabled from birth. He gets Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Our grandfather died recently and left him a little money. Will this extra money stop his SSI benefits?

Answer: It all depends on the amount of the inheritance. Inheritance money is considered income for the month he received it. You’ll have to report the income and we will adjust his benefit for the month accordingly. If he keeps the money into the next month, it then becomes a part of his resources. To get SSI benefits, he is limited to $2,000 in total resources, although there are exceptions. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and report the inheritance. We’ll tell you how his brother’s eligibility will be affected. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: My dad receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. He soon will be coming to live with my brother. Does he have to report the move to Social Security?

Answer: Yes. He should report to us within 10 days any change in living arrangements. The change could affect his benefit. Failure to report the change could result in a penalty being deducted from his SSI benefits. Also, we need his correct address so we can send correspondence. Please have him call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Or, he can report the change by mail or in person at a Social Security office. Visit our website for more information at www.socialsecurity.gov.

MEDICARE

Question: Should I sign up for Medicare Part B if I am working and have health insurance through an employer?

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Block Advisors Set Up New Shop to Provide Year-Round Services

There’s no doubt that tax season is once again upon us and there’s no question that Block Advisors has for decades specialized in providing assistance during this time of the year to millions of citizens. The tax specialists have recently opened a new office at 7626 W. Sylvania Avenue and, tax season notwithstanding, the staff will be there year-round to provide tax planning advice and small business services.

“Block Advisors focus on reducing tax liability for our business clients by providing ‘customized solutions’ and ‘strategies that go beyond the return,’” said Donna Moore-James, district brand ambassador, last week during the grand opening of the office. “Our staff of highly-qualified financial advisors provides support to taxpayers in the current year, while guiding and preparing them for the next year.”

The new office will be staffed with seven tax planners and three customer service representatives, said Steven Dixon, client service leader.

“Block Advisors also provide accounting services: bookkeeping, payroll, bill payment, tax - sales and use, sole proprietors, partnerships, trust returns and more,” said Moore-James. “While we have Block Advisors for our business clientele, we have a broad spectrum of services for the public at large,” she continued. “NonProfit Partnerships offer 501c3 organizations an opportunity to earn $20 for every new client that is referred to H&R Block using an ID number assigned to their organization. Our Dollars and Sense/Budget Challenge program offers educational institutions an opportunity to raise literally thousands of dollars for students, classrooms and schools.”

Block Advisors corporate partner, H&R Block, has 25 offices located in Toledo, Lima and Findlay, servicing taxpayers on a daily basis. Call 1-800-HR-BLOCK or 1-800-472-5625, or www.hrblock.com online to make an appointment to receive 50 percent Off of What You Paid last year (conditions apply).

Job Hunting? What Careers and Skills Are in Greatest Demand this Year

Understanding the evolving job market can help you focus your energy productively and land a coveted new job. The recently released 2016 Hot Jobs List, published by Randstad US, one of the largest HR services and staffing companies in the United States, sheds light on important trends and predicts the jobs in greatest demand for the coming year. Some hot areas include information technology, human resources, finance and accounting, office and administration, engineering, and manufacturing and logistics. And there’s good news — experts say that across the board, job candidates can raise their expectations.

So what are the most in-demand jobs and skills needed to secure employment in these fields? Consider the following insights and predictions from the Randstad 2016 Hot Jobs study:

- Engineers will be highly sought after this year to support innovative technologies, especially in sectors that have typically required engineering talent in the past, such as healthcare and entertainment.
- Technology will continue to transform finance and accounting, presenting a tremendous opportunity to elevate these types of roles. The key will be helping to shape company strategy through a comprehensive data approach.
- Organizations will likely gravitate toward human resource candidates with specific skills to cope with an increasingly complex workforce environment, particularly around critical matters such as talent acquisition and retention, succession and compensation planning and workforce engagement.
- There continues to be a lack of skilled information technology talent, particularly in industries that deal with the increasingly complex issues related to cyber risk and business compliance.
- Companies will continue to seek those with soft skills, like strong writing and communication abilities.
- As the economy continues to improve, manufacturing companies are expanding their businesses. This will require an increase in highly-skilled talent. With industry workforce shortages, employers will need to consider different ways to attract and retain talent.
- The administrative role continues to evolve, particularly as new technologies are introduced into workflows. Additionally, many organizations are coping with baby boomers retiring at a rapid pace by advancing current employees into more senior roles, rather than replacing the positions outright. These trends create great opportunity for administrative talent.

For full study results, including HR insights and salary projections, visit randstadusa.com/workforce360.

With a little research and industry trend insight, you can achieve career success in 2016.

Congratulations for School Success

Community Conversations for School Success

WINTER/SPRING 2016 Schedule

We are bringing together parents, citizens & students, K-12 administrators & teachers, and university faculty & students to POOL OUR KNOWLEDGE about what is needed for ALL people to succeed in K-12 & university.

Conversations occur alternate Mondays

Sunday, February 1, Kent Branch Library, 6:00-8:00 pm
3101 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo, OH 43610 (Corner of Collingwood & Central), 419.259.5300

February 15, Lagrange Branch Library, 6:30-8:00 pm
3422 Lagrange St., Toledo, OH 43606 (Corner of Manhattan & Lagrange), 419.259.5290

February 29, Kent Branch, 6:30-8:00 pm
March 14, South Branch Library, 6:30-8:00 pm
1736 Broadway St., Toledo, OH 43609, 419.259.5395

March 28, Kent Branch, 6:30-8:00 pm
April 11, Kent Branch, 6:30-8:00 pm
April 25, Kent Branch, 6:30-8:00 pm

Please help spread the invitation to anyone you know who might be interested. All are welcome! For more information or to start sharing ideas, please contact Lynn Hamer, 419-283-8288, lynn.hamer@udel.edu, or Willie McKethen, 419-309-4933, willie.mckethen@udel.edu, or, www.communityconversations.org.
In Memoriam

Oona Denise Temple-Lucienne –
August 22, 1957 – February 11, 2016

Born to Consuelo Artis and Calbert Temple, Sr. on August 22, 1957, Oona Denise Temple-Lucienne peacefully departed this life on February 11, 2016 in the Montgomery County Casey House Hospice in Rockville, MD. The Toledo native was an alumna of St. Ursula Academy (‘75), graduated from Kent State in 1979, and later started her own recruiting firm, Cosine Technical Group, in 2007. She leaves her daughter, Runa, and son, Adrien, in addition to her grandchildren, brothers, sister, special cousin, and numerous family members and friends.

Black History Month Celebration at SunBridge

Special to The Truth

SunBridge Schools is celebrating Black History Month Celebration on February 19 at 1:30. Everyone is welcome to its SunBridge Preparatory building at St. James Church, “The Armory”, located at 3319 Nebraska, Toledo.

SunBridge has the tremendous honor of having Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson at the school to celebrate and enjoy our children’s performances. Other special guests include:

- “Push” Program’s C.E.O. Deonte Moss
- University of Toledo’s Black Student Union President, Lance E. Price Jr.
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.
- Ernest Martin, Sr., community liaison for SunBridge Schools, is thrilled about welcoming Mayor Hicks-Hudson and other community leaders to the school to participate in the celebration...

“We count it as a privilege and an honor to have such prestigious individuals come speak at our event. We’re excited for our students to be inspired by them and to learn from them.”

The event will feature of performances by the SunBridge’s Men of Change (MOC) and Women of Change (WOC). MOC and WOC are organizations unique to SunBridge that gives the students the opportunity to develop into leaders excelling in self-discipline and teamwork. Membership in these groups is earned through academic and personal accountability. Their creed is:

“Go therefore, and do that which is within you to do. Take no heed to gestures that may beacon you aside, and ask of no man/woman permission to perform.”

Participants in MOC/WOC must meet these requirements:

- Maintain a least a (C) average
- Show positive leadership skills
- Be accountable for fellow member’s wrongdoing; for we are a team of leaders and therefore carry more responsibility than our peers.
- Keep a positive attitude at all times
- Attend all practices
- Be a remarkable person. No member is allowed to be anything less than extraordinary. To fall short of this standard will result in immediate ejection from the program. Remember “there is nothing enlightening about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We were all meant to shine; as children do!”

In addition to performances by these two groups, the Black History Month Celebration will include performances by:

- Mineasha Henderson, Josiona Bey & Eternity Townsend (6th grade) - Lift Every Voice National Anthem
- Declamation by Tyvon Allen, Tashon Johnson, Daryus Russell, Kian Pryor-Holmes (6th grade)
- Anecdotes by Kievon Mack (6th grade) & NeKera Benjamin (4th grade)
- Poems by Robert Delk (UT) & Akeala (UT), Tashaina Tucker (6th grade)
- Fashion Show - Ijanea Pressley, Destiny Childs, Timothy Anderson, Caire Fitzpatrick, Damaya Boles, Aniya Gregory, Arianna Flowers (SunBridge Students)
- Song By KaLee (UT) (Original)
- Dance Rendition by Ekomiobosi Ekeri (UT), WOC dance
- Pep Up - Lady Storm cheerleaders
- Short Skit Movie - Mr. Stevens
- Drummer Performance - Mike Hayze
- Dance Rendition by Kian Pryor-Holmes, Phoenix Hicks, Destiny Childs, Asia Garner (SunBridge Students)
- MOC Primary
- Z-PHI-B
- A-PHI-A
- PHI-BETA-SIGMA
- Speech by Daryus Russel (6th grade)
- MOC Prep

Please join us in a truly joyous celebration of African-American history and of our children’s marvelous gifts.

LEGAL SERVICES

[1] CRIMINAL DEFENSE AND TRAFFIC CASES
[3] PROBATE CASES AND ADOPTIONS
[4] BANKRUPTCY CASES (CHAPTER 7 FOR A FRESH START)
[5] WRONGFUL DEATH AND PERSONAL INJURY CASES
[6] HOUSE CLOSINGS AND LAND CONTRACTS

Free office visit or phone consult. Allow my 37 years of experience to work for you! Atty. Tolliver. 419.249.2703. Out of town, call collect. EMAIL: Tolliver@Juno.com
The Invisibles: The Untold Story of African American Slaves in the White House by Jesse J. Holland

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

If the walls could talk, imagine what they’d say. They’d reminisce about family meals, holidays, celebrations and romance, take sides in arguments and watch children grow. If the walls could talk, they’d tell of triumph, disappointment, beginnings and endings. And, as in the new book, The Invisibles by Jesse J. Holland, they’d talk of freedom and history.

When Barack Obama moved into the White House in 2009, he was, by far, not the first black man to live there. From the beginning, as soon as America had a president, there were slaves residing in the Executive Mansion. In fact, says Holland, “ten of the first twelve presidents [were] slaveholders at some point in their lives.”

When George Washington fought in the Revolutionary War, his “favorite” slave, Billy Lee, went with him so it was natural that Washington would bring Lee to New York, to the first presidential mansion. Lee reportedly loved New York but when he suffered physical disabilities, Washington summarily replaced him, sending him back to Mt. Vernon where Lee was later one of a handful of slaves who comforted Washington as he died.

As a child, Oney Judge was brought up to learn sewing at Martha Washington’s knee. Years later, Washington would say that she thought of Judge as a “surrogate daughter,” but she was more than willing to give Judge away in order to keep her enslaved. Judge, by the way, was one of a few slaves known to have escaped from a president.

Thomas Jefferson brazenly took a slave to France, where slavery was disallowed; the slave, who was the brother of Jefferson’s “concubine,” Sally, did not try to escape. When Dolley Madison fell on hard times after leaving the White House, her husband’s former slave gave her money. Andrew Jackson kept slaves in the White House stables; they were jockeys and Jackson loved racing ponies. James Monroe spoke out against slavery, even as he owned slaves. Andrew Johnson possibly had a “colored concubine.” And just one ex-slave of a president was “honored by a holder of that office.”

Wow.
Please practice saying that word — “Wow!” — because you’ll need it even more when you start reading The Invisibles.

In just under 200 pages, author Jesse J. Holland packs so many interesting stories, so many jaw-dropping facts that, even though there were small errors and minor repetition, I very much regretted this book’s shortness. Holland’s storytelling skills have a way of making a reader hungry for more, and the tales he tells are surprising and even inspirational.

Some of those tales — mixed in between those of the presidents’ slaves — precede the White House, to look at slavery from the nation’s very beginning, even before there was a president. That’s where we learn that an African immigrant was the owner of the first legal slave…

Admittedly, die-hard historians might not find much new here, but I simply couldn’t put this book down. If you want something that’s short on pages but long on interest, The Invisibles is the one you’ll be talking about.

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Social Security… continued from page 10

Answer:
Choosing to sign up for Medicare is an important decision that involves a number of issues you may need to consider. The decision you make will depend on your situation and the type of health insurance you have. You may be able to delay signing up for Medicare Part B without a late enrollment penalty if you or your spouse (or a family member, if you’re disabled) is working, and you’re getting health insurance benefits based on current employment.

In many cases, if you don’t sign up for Part B when you’re first eligible, you’ll have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B. Also, you may have to wait until the General Enrollment Period (from January 1 to March 31) to enroll in Part B, and coverage will start July 1 of that year.

Find out how your coverage works with Medicare at www.medicare.gov or contact your employer or union benefits administrator.

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NANBPWC… continued from page 16

The Sojourner’s Truth
February 17, 2016

NAACP(?:.*)

NANBPWC, INC. - Toledo Club President Denise Black-Poon stressed not to ignore the warning signs because every second counts.

Another message to the community is that at least 50 percent of adults have at least one major risk factor that can lead to heart disease and stroke:

• High blood pressure
• High cholesterol
• Cigarette smoking
• Diabetes
• Poor diet and physical inactivity
• Overweight and obesity

Prevention Matters: You can help prevent heart disease and stroke by focusing on:

• Healthy diet
• Healthy weight
• Regular exercise
• No smoking
• And limited alcohol use

Another fact mentioned was warning signs on how to spot a stroke fast. Some signs were:

• Face dropping
• Arm weakness
• Speech difficulty

Then please call 911 if a person shows any of these signs even if the symptoms go away.

See your doctor on a regular basis. The Toledo Club wishes everyone a happy, long healthy lifestyle and hopes that everyone can do the best he or she can to remain healthy. The Toledo Club wants you to remember to take a loved one to the doctor with frequent visits and not just once a year.
JOB POSTING - FIELD TECHNICIAN

The Lucas County Land Bank is an exciting, mission-driven, and dynamic organization dedicated to helping our community solve the problems of vacant and abandoned properties. With a highly-motivated and fun-loving staff, we do important work to help strengthen neighborhoods and preserve property values.

The Land Bank is seeking a Field Technician to provide inspection, maintenance, and general construction services on Land Bank properties. Interested candidates must have a commitment to the Land Bank’s mission and direct experience in commercial real estate inspection, construction, property management, and management.

Candidates must have a minimum of 5 years prior experience in construction, property management, or a related field. Salary commensurate with experience. Attractive benefits package, paid time off, and opportunities for growth.

Interested in joining our team? Visit www.LucasCountyLandBank.org to review the full position description and submit your resume.

Deadline is March 2, 2016 or until the position is filled.

LEGAL NOTICE

LETTER OF INTEREST INVITATION:
Fitness/Wellness and Advanced Outdoor Skills

The Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area (Customer) invites letters of interest from contractors to provide fitness and wellness activities or advanced outdoor skills to residents of Lucas County at various Metroparks locations.

SEALED LETTERS OF INTEREST will be received at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, 5100 West Central Avenue, Toledo, OH 43615 until 4:00 PM Local Time on Friday, February 26, 2016. Letters will not be accepted after that unless specifically requested by the customer.

The Scope of Service and Further Instructions are found at: www.Metroparks Toledo.com by clicking on Newsroom at the bottom of the page or by emailing Ashley.smith@metroparks Toledo.com. If you have any problems accessing the information, please call 419-407-9750.

Entry-Level Part-Time Recruiting Coordinator

The Toledo Zoo

Looking for an organized, customer service focused individual to coordinate full-cycle recruiting in a high volume, fast paced environment. Will conduct reference checks, new hire orientations and Zoo tours as well as schedule pre-employment screenings, coordinate orientations and complete all necessary new hire paperwork. Will plan and supervise events, answer telephones, file, complete general office work and other projects, as assigned. Average 25-28 hours per week. Must be willing to work occasional evenings/weekends. Associates degree in Business Administration, HR or other relevant degree preferred with a minimum of one year experience. Must be proficient in MS Office, have excellent organizational skills, presentation skills and the ability to work independently and collaboratively. The Zoo is an EOE and a drug/alcohol free workplace. Submit resume by Friday, February 26 to resume@toledozoo.org.

NORTHGATE APARTMENTS
610 STICKNEY AVENUE
TOLEDO, OH 43604

*Now accepting applications for One and Two bedroom Apartment Homes*

Senior Community for persons 55 years and older. Rent is based on income. Our Activity and Service Coordinators are on site. Heat included. Chauffeured transportation to nearby shopping and banks available.

Part-Time and Seasonal Positions

The Toledo Zoo

Part-Time Positions - Normal work week requires working flexible hours including weekends and holidays. Positions require working in all weather conditions, the ability to stand for extended periods of time and walk extensively on Zoo grounds. Seasonal Positions – Seasonal positions begin in the April/May timeframe and end in the August/September timeframe. Positions require working weekends and holidays in all weather conditions, the ability to stand for extended periods of time and walk extensively on Zoo grounds.

Positions Include:

Back of House Catering (Part-Time and Seasonal)
Front of House Catering (Part-Time and Seasonal)
Carnivore Café (Part-Time)
Membership Office (Part-Time)
Membership Sales (Part-Time)
Merchandise – In Park and North Star (Part-Time Positions)
North and South Concessions (Part-Time Positions)
Park Operations (Part-Time and Seasonal)
Wedding Coordinator (Seasonal)

The Zoo is an EOE and a drug/alcohol free workplace. For a list of all available positions with job descriptions and application instructions, visit www.toledozoo.org/jobs/app.

Applicants for all positions can pick up and complete an application at the Visitors Service Office located inside the Anthony Wayne Trail entrance, or submit a resume to resume@toledozoo.org

Call to place your ad
419-243-0007
www.TheTruthToledo.com
February is Heart Month

Pink Goes Red for Heart Health Month

On February 13, 2016, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority members, whose traditional colors are pink and green, wore red attire to highlight the importance of heart disease which disproportionately affects the African-American community.

Alpha Kappa Alpha members participated in a "jeopardy game," an educational health workshop that focused on heart, stroke, physical activity and food in collaboration with the American Heart Association's annual Wear Red Day.

The women of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. Toledo Club acknowledged Heart Month “GO RED” initiative during the month of February by wearing red to kick off Community Awareness of the importance of being “Heart Healthy.”

The business and professional club provided information to talk about the importance of a healthy heart and warning signs. Question and answer session took place at the Girl Scout Building on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 as Donna Todd, a member of the Toledo Black Nurses and the NANBPWC, INC, Toledo Club’s Health Committee chairman, passed out brochures to help make the audience members aware of what your body is telling you and why we need to listen to it. She also talked about checking around for the best care, your choice of doctors and questions you should ask.

The most important thing people should do is exercise, eat right and get plenty of rest.

The Toledo Club is keeping a proactive approach in spread... continued on page 13