



Volume 43, No. 5 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* February 22, 2017

Perry Burroughs Annual Celebration



Students and Faculty of Sherman Elementary School

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Spring 2017 updates effective March 19.

On Sunday, March 19, 2017, the TARTA spring route schedule will begin. As some routes will be affected by routing and time changes, new timetables and maps are available at TARTA.com/Spring2017



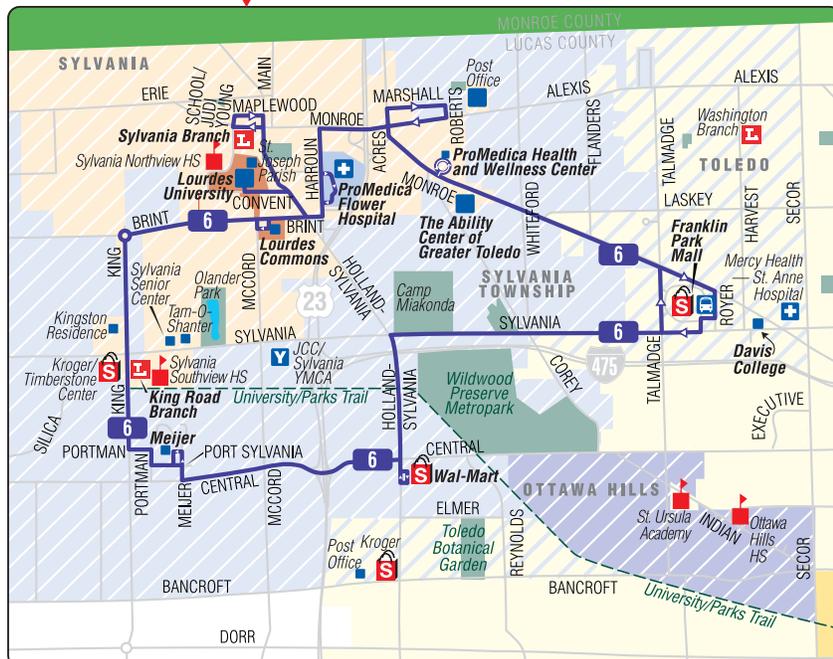
- **2C Sylvania-Centennial/Franklin Park**
- **DISCONTINUED** and replaced with 6 King Road/City of Sylvania
- **3 North/South Crosstown**
- schedule adjustments on all trips; will no longer interline with route 2C/6 King Road/City of Sylvania
- **5 Dorr via UT Main Campus/5R Dorr/Richards**
- schedule adjustments
- **6 King Road/City of Sylvania**
- experimental route to replace 2C name, routing, and schedule adjustments; modification in routing with timepoints at Franklin Park Mall, Flower Hospital, Lourdes University, Meijer, and Wal-Mart
- **7 Sylvania Township Express via Central/Meijer Dr**
- **DISCONTINUED**
- **10 Rossford Call-A-Ride**
- schedule adjustments
- **10L Rossford via Hollywood Casino**
- schedule adjustments
- **11/12/13/14 East Toledo**
- schedule adjustments
- **15A Summit/Suder/Alexis**
- **15E Summit/Point Place via Alexis**
- schedule adjustments
- **17B Lagrange/Bennett via Miracle Mile**
- **17E Lagrange/Eleanor via Miracle Mile**
- schedule adjustments
- **22F Bancroft via UT Campus/Franklin Park**
- schedule adjustments
- **24 Delaware/Kenwood via Westgate**
- **24T Delaware/Indian via Westgate**
- schedule adjustments
- **27H Nebraska/Hill-Reynolds**
- **27N Nebraska/Angola-Wenz**
- schedule adjustments
- **28/30 City Park/Indiana/Oakwood**
- schedule adjustments
- **34 Detroit/Byrne/Western via UTMC**
- schedule adjustments
- **42 Miracle Mile with stops at Owens Corning**
- **DISCONTINUED**
- **43 Maumee-Arrowhead/Western via UTMC**
- schedule adjustments
- **44X St Luke's Hospital**
- schedule adjustments



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Four Davids and a Goliath

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

The Truth Contributor



The four billion dollars African Americans spend don't go to the black community.

- Benjamin Chavis, Jr.

Just because you've won one battle (or two or three), doesn't mean that the fight is over. Surely, the adversary is going to return, and likely with more ferocity.

The Kroger Company's request for a zoning change to build a larger Marketplace Store on property owned by the Sisters of Notre Dame was denied yet again last week in a lopsided four-to-one decision by the Plan Commission.

The Cincinnati-based retailing giant is the nation's largest supermarket chain with revenues approaching \$110 billion. Kroger is now executing an all-out lobbying blitz on individual city council members in a highly politicized effort to obtain the nine votes needed to overrule the plan commission's decision.

Although victorious in past Toledo supermarket wars, Kroger now finds itself facing new industry competition from companies like Costco, Whole Foods, Fresh Market and Fresh Thyme. The 150,000 square-foot marketplace model, which Kroger would like to combine the Notre Dame high school and daycare campus with a retail mini mall to sell groceries along with clothing, furniture and other items, is the business model Kroger feels will fit its current competitive environment.

At the moment, flexing support from the powerful Northwest Ohio Building Trades, it is believed that the powerful mega retailer has a winning hand, needing merely a single vote from among council members Tyrone Riley, Sandy Spang, Peter Ujvagi or Yvonne Harper.

Yet, apparently unlike their colleagues, each of the four members is determined to stand up to the mammoth retailer.

A matter of principle, they unanimously feel.

"I am very much a supporter of Kroger, don't get me wrong," says Ujvagi, "but I am a rock solid 'no' because it's absolutely the wrong place to put it. It's really bad urban planning with everything from transportation and traffic issues to the appropriate use and intensity on a piece of land, which is absolutely the appropriate policy decision of city council."

Spang, who has also vowed that her 'no' vote will not change, sees over-commercialization she suspects will lead to mass vacancies in the Monroe-Secor corridor similar to those currently along Reynolds Road and the former Southwyck Mall, as an inevitable consequence.

"There's already a pushback from the community," she says. "Some of our best residential communities are going to be under so much stress because of the traffic problems, and they already are. They are already wanting to tear houses down to widen Secor Road because of the traffic volume."

... continued on page 12

Well, Since You Asked....

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

As some of you may know, I am the CEO of a small company called Innovative Solutions For Community Empowerment. Our goal is to provide solutions to small and medium-sized cities that are flummoxed about what remedies that they can employ to enrich their inner-city core constituents and keep their young and aspiring talented kids at home.

Repeatedly, I have received concerns that minority city officials including black mayors and black city council members are gun shy in promoting an aggressive agenda that would steer city funds or grant generated funds to economic projects that ostensibly would benefit a definable populace.

My answer is that being affirmative requires that you engage in tactics and stratagems that may have the appearance of benefiting one group but in the long run, the whole city receives the bounty of such progressive enrichment.

Regrettably, many city mayors and council members who are Latino or African-American recoil at the remote hint that they could be fingered out by hostile media groups as they being engaged in tactics that could resemble reverse racism.

Sufficient to state, when you make mayonnaise, you have to break some eggs and targeted economic empowerment for the least will result in some sour faces of politicians who want to make points off of such laudable efforts.

Our company's task is also to inform such minority council members or mayors that if they do not have the wherewithal to do the right thing in spite of real or perceived opposition, their safest bet is to resign from office and take a job that is non offensive to anyone and everyone; and buy a rocking chair and call it a career.

Can you imagine the status of the civil rights movement if Martin Luther King Jr.,

Dorothy Height, Marcus Garvey, Fannie Lou Hamer, Malcolm X and James B. Simmons, Jr. (Toledo native and late civil rights activist) among many others, had an attitude that was crafted in reluctance and trepidation...where would we now be?

Without a struggle, there is no progress and oft times, power does not acquiesce without a demand.

So, the choices are very stark and clear (1) say nothing and do nothing or (2) speak it out and then work it out. What category does our mayor and our five minority city council members fall into? You be the judge.

However, my company is desirous to help whenever and wherever it can and so to that end, I have proposed to the Toledo council members (who came to me at night for fear of being seen) that the following, "low hanging fruit" should be sufficient for them to work on for the near future; and when they get their sea legs or some "starch in their shirts", there is more for them to bite off and chew.

Now, remember these "low hanging fruit" (meaning on a scale of 1-10, to pull of these proposals is a three at best!) are only as good as the persistency and zeal of those who initiate these acts.

Without staying power, these positive actions will die on the vine and the city loses and the affected populace becomes even more

... continued on page 12

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Rep. Ashford Announces State Support for Owens Community College Renovation Project

Says funds will help modernize school's College Hall

Special to The Truth

State Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) this month announced the release of \$217,040 in state funds to Collaborative Inc. of Toledo to complete the facility and design master plans for the College Hall Renovation project at Owens State Community College (OSCC). The state funding was approved this week by the state Controlling Board, a panel tasked with oversight of state spending.

"The innovative ideas and visions of Collaborative, Inc. have helped to provide safe, efficient learning environments for students and employees at many of Ohio's higher education institutions," said Ashford. "The renovation of College Hall will help Owens Community College provide modern facilities that allow students to learn the skills they need to be successful."

Built in 1971, College Hall houses a wide variety of resources for the student community, such as the college bookstore, OSCC dining area, admissions offices, financial aid, advising offices and a few academic classrooms. The release of funds will help to cover fees needed for Collaborative Inc. to establish the master plan for the facility and redesign of College Hall for phase one of this ongoing project.



Rep. Michael Ashford

Senator Brown to Reintroduce Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday Legislation

Special to The Truth

This month, State Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) announced that she will soon reintroduce legislation to help Ohioans pay for major household appliances that qualify as Energy Star products. The bill would create a tax holiday for the first Friday through Sunday in April.

"My Energy Star tax holiday bill will help working families pay for major household purchases," said Brown. "This legislation helps Ohioans on two levels. The tax holiday offers significant immediate savings. And, in the long term, consumers will save on their utility bills thanks to decreased energy usage."

Products to be covered include air conditioning units, furnaces, heat pumps, water heaters, refrigerators, freezers, air purifiers, and dehumidifiers. Currently, the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia have similar tax holidays for Energy Star products.

"I think it is important to note that these products help meet some of the most basic needs of Ohio families," added Brown. "From the health and financial benefits of safe food storage, to relief from severe allergies, to heating and cooling during extreme temperatures, these products ensure the health, safety, and comfort of many Ohioans."



Edna Brown

Community Calendar

February 22

Greater St. Mary's MBC 14th Pastoral Anniversary and 72nd Pastor's Birthday: Pastor Robert and First Lady Shirley Lyons: 7 pm; Guests Rev. John Williams and Eastern Star MBC Congregation

February 23-26

Restoration Free Ministries Fifth Church Anniversary and Dedication Service: Thur-Sat - 7 pm nightly; Sun - 4 pm

February 25

St. Stephen's Black History Month Celebration: 4 pm; Guests - the UT Gospel Choir
NAACP ACT-SO Meeting: 1 to 3 pm; Accepting applications for this year's ACT-SO competitions; Lunch provided; Kent Branch Library
5th Annual Youth Skate Day: Ottawa Park Ice Rink; Sponsored by City Councilman Tyrone Riley; 10 am to 1 pm; Open to all youth - includes free admission, skate rental and hot chocolate: 419-936-2657

February 26

Indiana Avenue MBC 71st Church Anniversary: Speaker Rev. WL Perryman of Jerusalem Baptist; 4 pm; "Make yourselves ready, busy doing the work of the Lord, for He is soon to return"
Greater St. Mary's MBC 14th Pastoral Anniversary and 72nd Pastor's Birthday: Pastor Robert and First Lady Shirley Lyons: 4 pm; Guests Rev. Bobby Wilborn and Charity Baptist Congregation

March 1

Greater St. Mary's MBC 14th Pastoral Anniversary and 72nd Pastor's Birthday: Pastor Robert and First Lady Shirley Lyons: 7 pm; Guests Rev. Cordell Jenkins and Abundant Life Ministries

March 3

Phillips Temple CME Loaded Baked Potato Dinners: 10:30 am to 5 pm: 419-242-7906

March 4

Successful Christian Singles Event: Noon; End Time Christian Fellowship; Speaker Monica Lamb of Columbus: www.endtimechristianfellowship.org

www.theglasscitygrind.com



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Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority Is Recipient of 7th Annual "Play It Forward" Toy Drive

Special to The Truth

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) was selected as the charitable outreach recipient of the seventh annual, "Play It Forward Used Toy Drive". Cousino Restoration along with The Town Center at Levis Commons, in Perrysburg, OH, selected LMHA as the recipient for this year's toy drive.

"For the last several years, we have teamed up with host Levis Commons in the annual 'Play it Forward' Used Toy Drive where toys are collected beginning the second weekend in January. We bring the toys back to our facility where they are cleaned, sanitized and get new batteries. Every year we pick a different charity to support," said Shelly Konz of Cousino Restoration.

This year, the outpouring of community support resulted in double amount of gently-used donated toys that they received in 2016. President and Chief Executive Officer, Martin LaMar says, "Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is truly appreciative to be the recipient of Cousino Restoration's generosity in having been selected as its 2017 'Play It Forward' Toy Drive beneficiary. The effort to enhance and impact lives will always be a collaborative effort. Partners like Cousino Restoration ensure LMHA has additional resources to offer clients of all ages."

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is a HUD-affiliated public housing agency that administers Housing Choice Vouchers throughout Lucas County, Ohio. Housing Choice Vouchers are given to eligible low-income residents, the elderly and the disabled, to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private rental market.

Housing assistance is also provided by LMHA, to families and individuals, with securing housing from a portfolio of more than 2,700 Affordable Housing properties consisting of multi-family housing complexes, single family homes and townhomes.

For more information, contact Martin H. LaMar, president and chief executive officer of LMHA, at 419-259-9400 or mlamar@lucasmha.org.



Lucas County Children Services Achieves Reaccreditation

Lucas County Children Services Achieves Reaccreditation Agency lauded for full compliance with child welfare practice standards

Special to The Truth

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) has once again placed itself among the leading public child welfare agencies in the nation.

As of February 2017, the agency has been reaccredited by the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA), an independent,

not-for-profit international accreditor of community-based behavioral health care and human service organizations.

According to a statement from COA, LCCS was not only reaccredited,

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Fros, Fashions & Finds

Natural Hair and the Law: Employers Locked in Litigation with Employees

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

If you've ever experienced racial profiling, then you know how humiliating it can be. Knowing that you have done nothing to warrant being pulled over and then being harassed by an officer is as unpleasant of an experience as a black man or woman may feel.

But what happens when you are profiled at work? You may be qualified, experienced and certified to hold the position that you do, but if someone else that lacks melanin feels "threatened" by you, intimidated or just doesn't like you, he may chart a course to remove you from that workplace. If you cannot be reprimanded for conduct or attendance, he may dig deeper. While an employer may not discriminate against someone because of her race, he may choose to discriminate because of her hairstyle.

During slavery, African hair was policed. Slaves were either denied the right to groom their hair or it was completely shaved off. Those who could not groom their hair, grew a matted mess called "dreadful" by white masters and others whose hair was shaved, lost their tribal identity. Once in America, they were forced to conform to the beauty standards set by the master's wives. Those slaves whose skin and hair resembled that of a white woman could be house slaves; but those who

were darker and had coarser hair were considered field slaves. Although times have changed, the mentality of the white master, now employer, has not progressed much.

In 1964, when the Civil Rights Act was passed, there was a portion dedicated to discrimination. It reads, "Title VII prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin."

This Title VII was a victory for blacks and other minorities seeking employment in those days. Many corporations have adopted the practice of non discrimination since then, however, there is a new practice of policing of employees taking place today.

In 2010, Chastity Jones of Mobile, Alabama, was an applicant at the Mobile Catastrophic Insurance Claims Company. She was selected to take part in a group interview. During that time, her hair was in blond colored coils. She was offered a position as a customer service representative. During that same day, Jones met with her new employer to discuss the training schedule when the human resources staff noticed that her hair was in dreadlocks instead of curls.

The manager in charge told Jones that the company did not allow dreadlocks and that she would have to cut them off in order to obtain employment. Jones declined to cut her hair, and the manager immediately rescinded the job offer. This incident was recorded by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission which filed a lawsuit on behalf of Jones.

The EEOC argued that the company's ban on dreadlocks was an act of discrimination based on physical and/or cultural characteristics. C. Emanuel Smith, regional attorney for the Birmingham District Office of the U.S. E.E.O.C, stated "This litigation is not about policies that require employees to maintain their hair in a professional, neat, clean or conservative manner, it focuses on the racial bias that may occur when specific hair constructs and styles are singled out for different treatment because they do not conform to normative standards for other races."

The result of the lawsuit filed in 2013 ended in the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in favor of the Mobile Catastrophic Insurance Claims Company, specifically stating that CMS's "race-neutral grooming policy" was not discriminatory as hairstyles, while "culturally

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Classes & Events

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library 

Teen Job Fair Workshops

Let the Words Speak For You
Teens, are you planning on seeking a summer job? Get help learning how to create a resume that stands out from the rest. Participants should bring a flash (USB) drive to save their workshop materials.

Saturday, February 18, 2017 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Oregon Branch - 3340 Dustin Rd. (419.259.5250)
Tuesday, March 07, 2017 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Kent Branch - 3101 Collingwood Blvd. (419.259.5340)
Tuesday, March 14, 2017 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Main Library - 325 North Michigan St. (419.259.5200)

Interviewing 101
Thinking about a summer job? A big stumbling block for many teens is how to make a good impression at the job interview. Learn the basic elements of an interview and key tips for teens to help them impress employers.

Saturday, February 18, 2017 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM West Toledo Branch - 1320 Sylvania Ave. (419.259.5290)
Saturday, February 25, 2017 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Oregon Branch - 3340 Dustin Rd. (419.259.5250)
Saturday, February 25, 2017 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Maumee Branch - 501 River Rd. (419.259.5360)
Tuesday, March 14, 2017 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Kent Branch - 3101 Collingwood Blvd. (419.259.5340)
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Main Library - 325 North Michigan St. (419.259.5200)

I've Got the Job, Now How Do I Keep It?
Thinking about a summer job - you may be ready to look for that elusive job, but do you have the skills to keep it? Employers expect some of the same basic behaviors from their employees. Learn how you can be the kind of employee they want to keep!

Saturday, March 04, 2017 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Oregon Branch - 3340 Dustin Rd. (419.259.5250)
Saturday, March 04, 2017 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM West Toledo Branch - 1320 Sylvania Ave. (419.259.5290)
Saturday, March 11, 2017 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Maumee Branch - 501 River Rd. (419.259.5360)
Thursday, March 16, 2017 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Main Library - 325 North Michigan St. (419.259.5200)
Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Kent Branch - 3101 Collingwood Blvd. (419.259.5340)

These workshop are presented to help teens prepare for the City of Toledo Youth Commission's Teen Job Fair on April 1, 2017 at the Seagate Convention Centre or to help them with the summer job search.

Registration is recommended at workshops as seating is limited

Interpreters for the hearing impaired are available. Requests must be made at least one week in advance of all programs by calling 419.259.5266.



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The Soulcial Scene

Oh, What a Day! Arts and a Little Science Abound in Toledo

Friday, February 10, was a day for the ages here in the Glass City. From the fine arts, to the performing arts to the sweet science, there was a little something for everyone.

Kehinde Wiley, renowned painter, sculptor and glass artist, was in town to open his exhibit at the Toledo Museum of Art. Wiley, who has created a body of work by melding classical historical works with contemporary subjects, has brought to Toledo an exhibit comprised of dozens of his works, some on a breathtakingly huge scale. His exhibit will be at the Museum through May 14.



Kehinde Wiley



The Marriage of Figaro, starring Darren Stokes as Figaro and Laquita Mitchell as Countess Almaviva, opened that night at the Valentine Theater. Presented by the Toledo Opera, the Wolfgang Mozart opera continued through February 12.

On a lighter note, Lonnie Hamilton brought another open mic night to The Truth Art Gallery, an evening highlighted by a book signing and reading by noted playwright/author John Scott, PhD.



Raven and Annette Wright

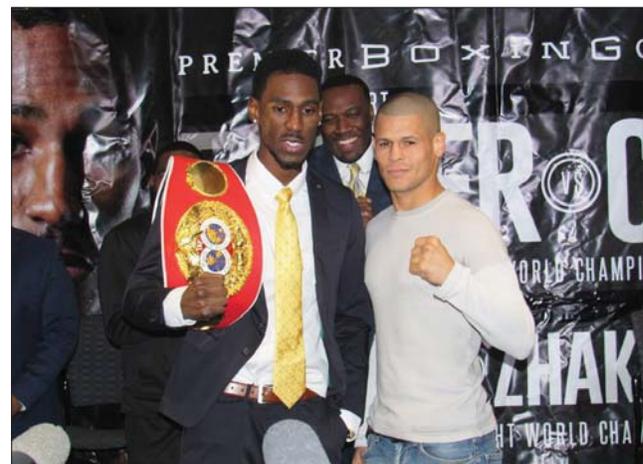


John Scott, PhD, and granddaughter Nile Scott



Laquita Mitchell as Countess Almaviva

The arts were not the only entertainment Toledoans could enjoy on this jam-packed day. The sweet science of boxing also held forth as world light-weight champion Robert Easter, Jr. defended his crown against challenger Luis Ruiz in a unanimous decision before a packed and appreciative crowd at the Huntington Center.



Robert Easter and Luis Ruiz at weigh-in

The Soulcial Scene

Jack and Jill Hosts Annual “Sapphire and Denim” Fundraiser

The Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Incorporated host its annual “Sapphire and Denim” fundraiser to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Toledo and the Wayman-Palmer YMCA on Friday, February 17 at Premier Banquet Hall.

Annually, this party with a purpose brings more than 300 members of te Tledo community together to celebrate an evening of fun, while raising funds for early childhood literacy. This is the national mission of the organization being implemented locally through the development of “reading corners” and “reading nooks” designed to be an educational resource to underserved youth across the country.

Both the Boys and Girls Club of Toledo’s Homer Hanham Club and the Wayman-Palmer YMCA of Toledo will receive micro-reading corners.

There are currently 25 mothers in the local chapter of Jack and Jill and more than 40 children ranging from ages two-18. The youth and families engage in monthly educational, civic, legislative and recreational activities as well as provide service to the community.

Over the years, Jack and Jill has partnered with and served local organizations such as Boys and Girls Club of Toledo, Mom’s House, The United Way of Greater Toledo, March of Dimes, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, the Toledo Zoo, The Toledo Museum of Art Mercy Health, Komen of Northwest Ohio, Food For Thought and more.



Members of Jack & Jill



Come discover the artistic talents of TPS students – as they show off their creativity through various mediums of art.

Fine Arts Festival

Toledo Public Schools offers an array of art-related curriculum and programs. The arts allow students to express their creativity through painting, ceramics, dance, writing and the performing arts. To showcase the talents of our students, TPS is hosting a Fine Arts Festival.

Each high school is partnering with the elementary schools in their area to host an all-inclusive event dedicated to the arts.

During each event, you will discover...

- Student musical performances
- Art demonstrations
- “Make It and Take It” art projects
- Student artwork for sale at some schools

Bowsher High School – Saturday, February 25th
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | 2200 Arlington Ave.

Woodward High School – Wednesday, March 1st
6 p.m. – 8 p.m. | 701 E. Central Ave.

Scott High School – Wednesday, March 8th
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. | 2400 Collingwood Blvd.

Rogers High School – Thursday, March 9th
6 p.m. – 8 p.m. | 222 McTigue Drive

Start High School – Wednesday, March 15th
5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. | 2010 Tremainsville Rd.

Waite High School – Thursday, March 23rd
5 p.m. – 8 p.m. | 301 Morrison Dr.



The Soulcial Scene

Prince Hall Masons of Toledo Hold Black History Program

By Tanya R. Roach
Special to The Truth

Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. the two Prince Hall Lodges of Toledo, Amazon Lodge #4 and Composite Lodge #108, came together to honor Black History Month by celebrating our past and asking the tough questions of where are we now and how do we prepare for the future..

In attendance were Sis. Wanda Terrell Galloway, Worthy Matron of Jewel Chapter #20, and Sis. Carla Fitzgerald, representing the Worthy Matron of Pride of Composite Chapter #81. Both chapters are Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star in Toledo. In attendance was Worshipful Master Darrell DeQuichi and members from Progressive Lodge #85 of Sandusky, Ohio, as well as the Illustrious Potentate of Mecca Temple #43.

The audience joined together in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing "Lift Every Voice" followed by the invocation of blessing to open up the program. A brief history of Prince Hall Masonry was presented by the Senior Warden of Composite Lodge #108, Brother Antonia Russell, who was also the master of Cceremony.

The conversations were presented by Sgt. Navarro Gibson and Albert "Mick" Earl. Sgt. Gibson, dressed in an authentic uniform, who is a



member of the 5th United States Colored Troops, presented an interactive conversation on blacks in the Civil War.

The audience was asked to use their smartphones and iPhone to look up several figure heads and battles that were fought during the Civil War, such as the Battle of Chaffin's Farm and the contributions of Milton Murray Holland who led Company C of the 5th Infantry in the battle.

Earl presented on where we are now and how to prepare for the future. The focus was on African Americans and economics. He started with the history of Black Wall Street to bring us forward to now. The solution offered by Earl was to use the blueprint on becoming a collective community and establishing group economics. We must leave a legacy for our children by using this plan.

The program was ended with a pledge made to be a part of the solution and to play our part in improving the community. Remarks were given by Worshipful Master Desmond Jones of Composite Lodge #108, Carla Fitzgerald of Pride of Composite #81, Worshipful Master Keith McWhite of Amazon Lodge #4, Wanda Terrell Galloway of Jewell Chapter #20, and Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Rev. James H. Willis, Sr..



Keith McWhite, Navarro Gibson, Albert Earl, Desmond Jones, Rev. James Willis, Sr




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The Soulcial Scene

I Am Black and Beautiful in the Toledo Museum of Art Little Theater

On Saturday, February 17, Author/Playwright Joyce Lewis and her cast performed her opus, *I Am Black and Beautiful*, at the Toledo Museum of Art's Little Theater.

The collection of vignettes, says Lewis, "is about the trials and tribulations that women go through mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually and financially but, at the end, they are still black and beautiful."

Lewis will performing parts of her play and signing books at The Truth Gallery's next open mic night on March 24 – 1811 Adams Street.



Denise Smith (lights and sound tech - center) with cast



Charneal Cole-Merrell



Jennifer Lewis and Joyce Lewis



Kathryn Westbrook, Jennifer Lewis, Tera Johnson



Kathryn Westbrook, Samia Dixon, Charneal Cole-Merrell



Kathryn Westbrook, Samia Dixon, Jennifer Smith

Fros, Fashions & Finds... continued from page 6

associated with race," are not "immutable physical characteristics." This ruling, however, does not apply to the state of Ohio.

This issue is being argued in schools from elementary to college as well. Jones isn't the first and will not be the last black person who will be told that her hairstyle isn't acceptable for the workplace. On January 28, 2017 at the Westerville, Ohio Public Library, Michele George MS, MHA, CRC, author of The Knotty Truth Book series, hosted a panel discussion to address the issues of natural hair, locs more specifically, in the workplace. Among the panelists were Lorina Wise, JD, healthcare lawyer; Tiffany Scott, PSM, PSPO IT business analyst; Melody Bogan, PhD, Patient Care Advocate; Jennifer Adams, owner of J. Adams Photography and Megan Davis, owner of The Kitchen Salon.

For these black, female professionals with locked hair, the discussion was opened to talk about how each individual's workplace supports diversity and inclusion. Fortunately, for each woman on the panel, no one has faced discrimination, demotions, terminations or any reprimand because of her choice in the locked hairstyle.

Each woman described ways to ensure fair treatment among their colleagues and peers: Wise stated that it is important for everyone to read their employee handbook, including the policy on dress code and appearance.

Scott, who works in a field dominated by white males, said that she is a double minority but her work and experience in the IT field speaks for itself, her employers are not as concerned with her hairstyle as they are her performance.

Bogan shared that, while having new locs was something she had to get used to, her colleagues have not questioned her professionalism because of them and her boss even said her style is beautiful.

Both Adams and Davis stated that being business owners affords them the opportunity to be themselves, and Davis added that being confident with yourself can draw others' attention away from your hairstyle and onto your skills. "When people are unsure, their potential employer may also be unsure," she continued.

As natural hair continues to be locked up in litigation throughout the world, it shows that we have come only so far from being almost criminalized over something that is naturally our own. There have been arguments to amend the language in Title VII, to no avail, yet change will come is if the language of the law and those it affects, are brought to the table to review and revise each term and point, and bridge the divide.

The Knotty Truth book series includes: *Managing Tightly Coiled Hair at Home*, *Creating Healthy Locs on a Dime*, and *I Want Locks! What Should I Do Now? The Starter Guide To Finding The Best Locks for You!* All can be found on Amazon.com or by visiting Theknottytruth.com.

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Perryman... continued from page 3

However, it will take more than arguments about good land use and smart urban planning for east side and central city residents who look for tangible returns on their electoral investments that will address the "back-against-the-wall" issues they constantly face.

Kroger has, over time, abandoned the central city and east side to strategically locate closer to suburban city boundaries, producing a ring around the City of Toledo while leaving a dramatic void in the urban core.

Attempting to attract customers from Ottawa Hills, West Toledo and Old Orchard, and also Maumee, Perrysburg, Oregon and Sylvania, Kroger has attempted to "have it all," knowing that the number of low to moderate income customers will decline as its stores locate at the mouth of suburban expressways. Their strategy, effectively, creates food deserts whereby central city residents have difficulty finding healthy, culturally relevant foods and rely, instead, on fast foods or expensive and out-of-date foods from carry-outs and corner stores. This contributes mightily to the perpetuation of poverty and higher rates of diabetes and other health issues so prevalent in the urban core.

Thus, Riley and Harper, already on record as being against the zoning change, should continue to hold out until they are able to negotiate tangible returns that benefit their constituents.

What kind of returns?

Kroger should construct smaller no-frills, low pricing store models that are stocked with store brands and fresh produce in areas of the city that may not possess the level of income that exists in the suburbs.

While they have paid lip service to constructing this model, Kroger seems to be trying to run out the clock and has failed to put anything concrete on the table.

In addition to retail store opportunities, Kroger also owns dozens of grocery manufacturing and bakery, dairy and beverage plants, which produce its private label and regional brand products. Providing a manufacturing facility in the urban core would provide much needed jobs, restore vibrancy to the area, and increase consumption and ultimately secure additional market share.

Is there a risk of Kroger leaving Toledo because of the four "standup" councilpersons?

"No," says Spang, emphatically. "I am totally calling Kroger's bluff."

Toledo's a very good market for them. They will stay on the Monroe/Secor corner because that location is a cash cow for them and the bank branch inside is one of Fifth Third's highest performers. We just have to stand up and quit being such a needy city that we accept the dregs of anything.

So, no, Kroger isn't going to leave Toledo. They will solve the problem. This is their own corporate problem to figure out."

In other words, the Kroger battle will result in victory and bring tangible benefits to residents living in the urban core if the four councilpersons will only continue to cling to their principles and face the giant.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Tolliver... continued from page 3

disillusioned with the power of government to positively impact their lives:

Low Hanging Fruit:

(1) city to set up an advertising fund to "sell" Toledo opportunities and benefits to Atlanta, Raleigh, Columbus, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit.

(2) city to target "black media"...be it Ebony, Jet, professional publications, journals of black sororities and fraternities and social media about job openings and inform the reader why Toledo should be on their radar as a place to come to, or return to.

(3) city to joint venture with minority professional groups and inform them personally and via e mail and social media of job openings in both city and county government. This includes openings for firefighters, police officers and public school teaching jobs.

(4) city to joint venture with local corporations to have minority high school and college students intern with corporations for short periods of time.

(5) city to joint venture with TPS regarding the recruitment of both school administrators and the recruitment of teachers at predominantly black colleges and universities.

(6) city to work with the many local black churches to advise and mentor junior high school students and work with and assist single parents who are overwhelmed with "kid" issues.

(7) city to work with the local NAACP to have local contractors increase their outreach to minority students regarding apprenticeship programs and to increase the number of minority workers at their job sites. Note: City of Oregon will soon employ about a thousand workers to build a new and upcoming power plant. How many of those workers will be named, DeMarcus or La'Tanisha?

(8) city to provide "city" scholarships in conjunction with Owens Community College and Lourdes and the University of Toledo for students to enter into academic studies regarding careers in public service, public administration and law enforcement.

(9) city to sponsor public service announcements on local radio and TV and social media advising kids to wait until they are married and have a job before they start a family.

(10) city to have an ongoing campaign of going door-to-door to recruit students to either finish high school and to start college prep or to obtain a two-year degree.

(11) city to solicit foundations and corporations for funds to provide needed child care services so that single parents can start and/or finish high school or a degree program.

The mayor would set up an office called: The Office Of External Affairs and the mayor would appoint a person of a MBA ranking who would, with a staff, initiate these agendas.

It is novel and different but I surmise that with the current bleakness of Toledo losing many of its best and brightest to other cities, nothing ventured is nothing gained!

Don't you think so, Mayor & Company?

There you have it. A bunch of low hanging fruit that can be expanded and accomplished IF there is a will to do so.

To not do so, is to tacitly admit failure and to agree that Toledo will remain a city mired in petty politics and a city that those who can... leave and those who can't...stay and fumble around in the dark for a helping door handle.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@Juno.com



Undefeated Spirit Essay Contest 2016™

The Chuck Ealey Foundation, with assistance from Leadership Toledo, invites current high school seniors (public and parochial) in the greater Toledo community to participate in the **2017 Undefeated Spirit Essay Contest™**.

Contest Rules:

- Contest entrants must be a senior attending high school in the greater Toledo community
- Contest entrants must submit a written essay describing their *undefeated spirit* in 500 words or less (the format of the essay must be in any 12-point font and lines must be double-spaced). Essays must also contain the student's name and the name of his/her school
- The essay must be submitted electronically to kristina@leadershiptoledo.org by Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 4:00 pm
- Essays entered into the contest will be scored by a panel of judges assembled by Leadership Toledo and The Chuck Ealey Foundation

Contest Awards:

- Judges will determine five finalists and one winning essay
- One \$500 scholarship award will be offered to assist the winner with educational expenses and four \$125 scholarships will be offered to the remaining finalists

Awards Ceremony:

- Work of the five finalists will be celebrated and the scholarship awarded during a reception on the campus of The University of Toledo on Sunday, April 2, 2017. Finalists will be notified through their school principal/contact.

Please direct questions to Kristina White at 419.241.7371 or kristina@leadershiptoledo.org



Never Caught by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

Special to The Truth

Run, run, run.

Some days, it feels like that's all you do. Run the kids to school, dash to work, rush with errands, and run yourself ragged before bed. You're always on the go, always moving, and in the new book *Never Caught* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, your breath isn't the only thing to catch.

c. 2017
Atria
\$26.00 / \$35.00 Canada
254 pages

Twenty-one-year-old Mulatto Betty must've breathed a sigh of relief.

When Martha Custis married George Washington, slaves were shuffled as the mistress moved to Mount Vernon; miraculously and notably, Betty moved and was allowed to keep her baby son with her. She was pregnant, too, by a white man with an "indenture agreement" and an eye for opportunity; their eldest daughter was born in mid-1773, and given the unusual name of Ona Maria.

At age 10, "Oney" Judge was brought inside the Washington household, in service to Martha Washington. There, the illiterate girl learned to care for Martha's clothing, to bathe the mistress, tend her grandchildren, and soothe anxieties – one of which was that Martha's husband had been asked to be the nation's first president, a post that Martha Washington wasn't keen on – and neither was Judge.

But, of course, Washington *did* take the position, which meant a household move from Virginia to Manhattan (the site of the first Executive Mansion) for the family and a handful of slaves, including Judge. It's there, says Dunbar, where Judge most certainly tasted freedom through rare autonomy.

She was undoubtedly unhappy, therefore – but couldn't speak her mind – when the Executive Mansion was relocated to Philadelphia in 1790.

But there was a twist, for Judge and for the Washingtons: laws in Pennsylvania mandated freedom for any slave living in the state for six continuous months, meaning that the Washingtons would shuttle their slaves between Philadelphia and Virginia, to "reset" their status. Judge surely knew what was going on, but when she learned that she would be permanently gifted as a wedding present to Martha's moody granddaughter, she could stand things no longer.

And so, as the Washingtons dined on a Saturday evening in May, 1796, Oney Judge slipped out the door and ran...

It's been a long time since I've read a thriller as heart-pounding as the one I found in this book. The difference is that *Never Caught* is all true.

But Judge's astounding, audacious story isn't the only thing author Erica Armstrong Dunbar brings to vivid life: she also sets the tone by explaining the times in which Judge lived, and what life was like for slaves and whites alike. Thanks to Dunbar, it's easy to feel the busyness of Manhattan, to absorb the fear Judge surely felt, and to picture the elegant drawing rooms of the Washington home. On that note, we learn some not-so-savory things about George Washington, which makes the meat of this story an even bigger reason for gleefulness.

Now you have to find out what happened. If you love biographies, history, stories about remarkable women, or really exciting thrillers, *Never Caught* you need to read this book. Run for it.

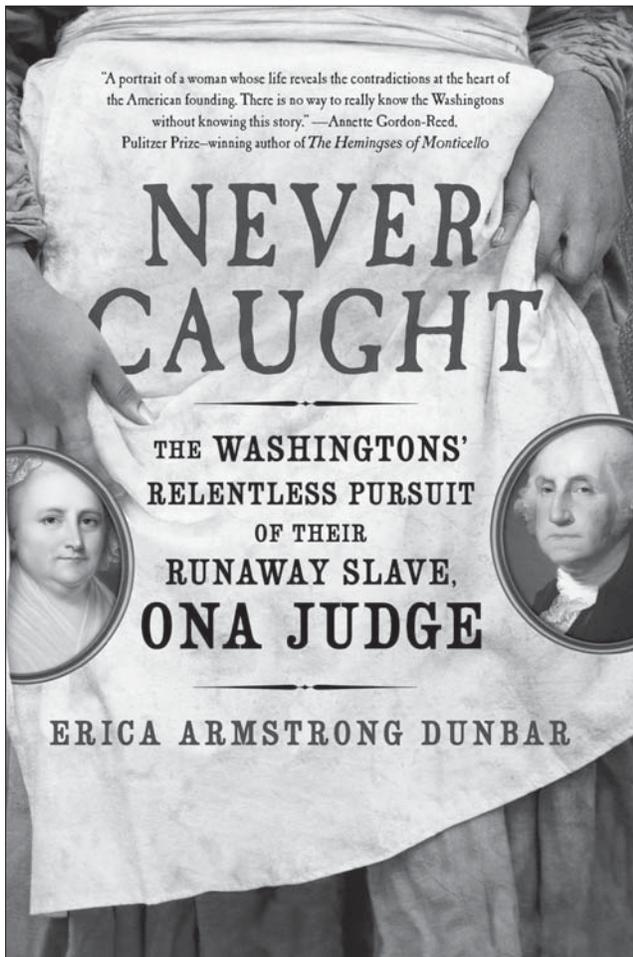
Lucas County Children Services... continued from page 5

but," was expedited through the Pre-Commission Review Report (PCR) process as a result of not receiving any out of compliance ratings in any of the fundamental practice standards."

The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

LCCS first achieved accreditation in February 2005, following a four-year evaluation of the agency's practices and policies. The reaccreditation process involves a yearlong, detailed review and analysis of LCCS' administrative operations and its service delivery practices.

"Reaccreditation is a tremendous achievement for our agency, and our employees," says Robin Reese, executive director. "It demonstrates that we have not only been able to maintain the high performance standards that we first achieved in 2005, but that we have continued to find ways to provide more and better services to the children and families of Lucas County. I am grateful for our caring staff – they do a tremendous job every day," she says.



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Head Teller-Coordinate and supervise all aspects of teller operations within the branch ensuring the daily activities of the tellers are performed in a timely, accurate and courteous manner. Well versed in all branch operational procedure. Customer Service & Banking experience required. Apply in person or email resume toleourban@gmail.com

Teller (Part-Time) -Greet and welcome members to the credit union in a courteous, professional and timely manner, providing prompt, accurate and efficient member transactions, and answering questions in person or on the telephone. Customer Service experience required. Apply in person or email resume toleourban@gmail.com

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS LAWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The Lucas County Land Bank is seeking qualified and efficient lawn maintenance contractors for the upcoming season. If your company specializes in grass-cutting at a large volume, we want you to apply!

Deadline to return Request for Qualification applications is March 13, 2017 at Noon to the Land Bank's office, One Government Center, Suite 580, Toledo, Ohio, 43604. A mandatory contractor informational meeting will be held on February 22, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at One Government Center, 1st Floor Conference Room. Complete details and the Request for Qualifications application can be found at the Land Bank's website at www.LucasCountyLandBank.org or by visiting the Land Bank's office.

The Lucas County Land Bank is a community organization whose mission is to return vacant and abandoned properties to productive use. MBE/WBE/EDGE contractors in the Toledo region are encouraged to apply.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Metroparks of the Toledo Area is looking for a qualified individual to serve as Environmental Education Specialist. Position will involve development, production, implementation, and presentation of programs and special events. Requires associate's degree in biology, environmental science, communication, education, or related field, or work experience equivalent to a degree. Experience presenting public or educational programs, producing special events, educational and public program development, production, and evaluation required. Part time, up to 35 hours per week. \$13.02/hr. Go to www.metroparkst Toledo.com for complete list of position requirements and duties; must submit online application and resume by March 2nd. EOE

LAND STEWARD

Metroparks of the Toledo Area has an opening for a Land Steward. Associate's degree or equivalent work experience in biology, natural resources, environmental education or studies or related field. Minimum one year in environmental education or natural resource management. Valid driver's license required 35hrs/wk. \$13.67/hr.

Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view detailed position description and job requirements. Apply online by March 2nd. EOE

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The Soulcial Scene

Marriage of Figaro Stars Greet Toledoans at Truth Art Gallery

Sojourner's Truth Staff

During rehearsals for the Toledo Opera's *Marriage of Figaro* – staged at the Valentine Theater on February 10 and February 12 – the stars took some time out on January 27 to meet a roomful of guests at the Truth Art Gallery and to celebrate the 261st birthday of composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Bass/baritone Darren Stokes and soprano Laquita Mitchell mingled with invitees and spoke of their delight at being able to sing the music of Mozart, particularly in starring roles. Stokes sang the role of Figaro – for the fourth time in his career. Mitchell sang the role of the Countess Almaviva – her first time in that role.

Joining the performers on the evening were Garnett Bruce, stage director, and Sara Tobin, assistant conductor. The event was sponsored by the Toledo Opera and the Truth Gallery.



Toledo Opera Assistant Conductor Sara Tobin speaks as Garnett Bruce, stage director; Darren Stokes and Laquita Mitchell look on



Soprano Laquita Mitchell, Bass/Baritone Darren Stokes and Deborah Barnett



Deborah Barnett, Soprano Laquita Mitchell, Penny Rouse, Councilman Larry Sykes

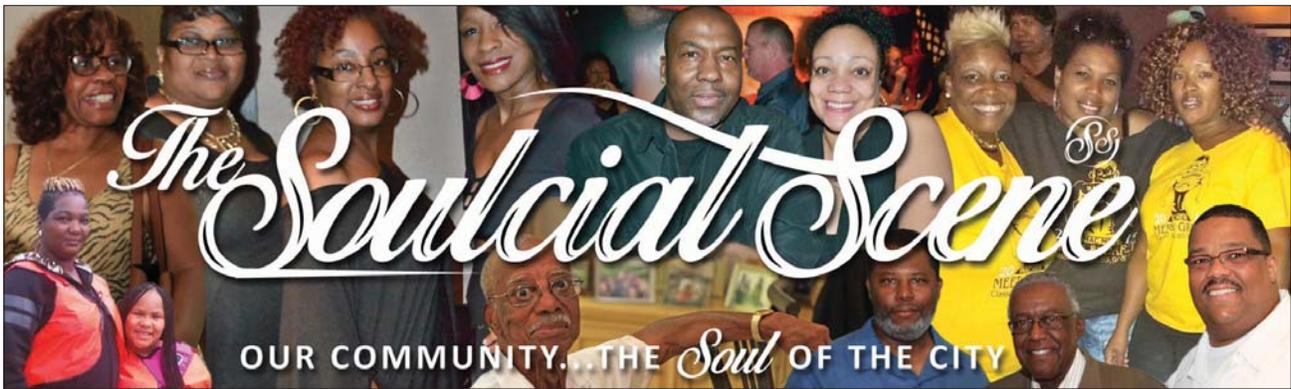


13th Annual Celebration... continued from page 16

friends and neighbors. That isn't the measure, you have to define your measure of success. I'm excited about the young people in this room," said Bowman-English during her speech.

Various champions for education-sponsored tables for youth who wanted to attend this event, included: Andre' Washington sponsored Grove Patterson Academy; Judge Ian English sponsored Robinson Elementary; Hicks-Hudson and Judy Stone Gaynor sponsored Pickett Academy; Ohio State Senator Edna Brown sponsored Navarre Elemen-

tary; George Gussess, Esq and John Moore sponsored Woodward High School; UAW Local 14 sponsored Toledo Early College High School; Scott Boosters and Labors Local 500 sponsored Scott High School; Neighborhood Health Association sponsored Jones Leadership Academy; Toledo Federation of Teachers sponsored Ella P Steward Academy for Girls; Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez, Esq. sponsored Rosa Parks Elementary; Northwestern Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council sponsored Old West End Academy; Labors Local 500 sponsored Bowsher High School; Sheet Metals Workers Local Union #33 sponsored Toledo Technology Academy; Competition Corvette Club sponsored City of Toledo Youth Commission; Rev. John Roberts sponsored Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church; the Law Offices of Wittenberg, Phillips, Levy & Nusbaum; John Chapman, and Judge Ruth Ann Franks sponsored Sherman Elementary; Judge Myron Duhart, Local 45 and Heat & Frost Insulators & Asbestos Workers sponsored Martin Luther King Academy for Boys; Oregon Democratic Club, Maumee Democratic Club, Michael Alexander, Kenyetta Gable-Jones, Gary Johnson, Angelita Cruz Bridges and United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local 351 sponsored Groomed for Greatness.



Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club Hosts 13th Annual Black History Month Celebration

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Students, youth group advisors, political leaders and community residents gathered on February 18 for the annual Black History Month celebration. It also marked the 75th anniversary of the historic organization.

The guest speakers for this year's events were two local elected officials – Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson and Toledo Clerk of Courts Vallie Bowman-English.

"I want to thank every individual who supported this organization today. Look at our children. TPS is an awesome school system. Thank you, sponsors," said Yvonne Harper, club president and Toledo City Council member.

The program opened with the Negro National Anthem, led by Jones Leadership Academy student, Whitney Hughes. Nyasia Kynard of Old West End Academy led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and, then, a special recognition of guests by students. Presentations included a Hidden Figures-inspired poem recited by Ella P Steward Academy for Girls students; flowers, gifts and a school-rhyme introduction by Rosa Parks students and words of encouragement by girls from Groomed for Greatness.

"I cannot imagine what it's like to be the first African-American female mayor in Toledo. We present you with pearls, you are an exceptional role model," said eighth grader Kayleigh Wilkes of Hicks-

Hudson.

"Ms. Bowman-English' actions have shown that I can be a leader one day. We're encouraged to chase our dreams," shared eighth grader Aliyah Johnson.

Immediately following gift presentations, the invocation was led by Brenda Oliver and the National Anthem was led by three Scott High School students, Aniya Burrell, Jeremiah Duncan and Tanaysia Young.

"I applaud the students and staff that are here today. Our students look beautiful and represented their families, and communities well. We appreciate the support from our sponsors and Perry Burroughs for this opportunity today. There presentations today inspired me, gave me goosebumps, these young people lead today. I'm TPS proud and Toledo proud," said TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD.

Then Harper introduced the two guest speakers: Hicks Hudson and Bowman-English.

"There are opportunities. Your life can change in an instant. Its' about actions. My time in the mayor's office is sometimes challenging, but it's not about me but this city," said Hicks-Hudson during her brief speech.

"We sometimes wait for others to acknowledge us, including family,

...continued on page 12



Bowsher High School



Ella P Steward Students



Navarre Elementary with Durant



Old West End



Sherman Elementary School



Scott High School boosters



Perry Burroughs Club members