It’s The Most Wonderful Time

Bakari Neely, Diyepriye Ngo, Keyaunte Jones, Keypathwa Gibson, Steven Thomas

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This is Not a Tribute to My Father

By Staci Perryman-Clark, PhD

Going to school wasn’t a requirement in our house. It was a sacrament.
- Julia Boyd

I don’t do tributes. You won’t find me giving a tribute as a formal speech, and you certainly won’t find me writing one anytime soon.

It’s not because I’m terrified of public speaking or writing, quite the contrary. I’m a scholar and a tenured professor. I engage in public speaking all the time. I’ve given keynote addresses, I’ve provided statements to local news agencies, I’ve given tons of conference presentations, etc. Moreover, I don’t mind writing, I’ve published multiple books, articles and book chapters. And, a couple more details about me: I teach college writers for a living and earned a PhD in rhetoric and writing. So clearly, I have no problem with speaking or writing and, perhaps, excel at both.

But, I do have a problem with tributes. The tribute is a genre with which most of us are familiar, especially, for those of us who grew up in the Black Church like I did. As a PK (Preacher’s Kid), I’ve heard dozens of tributes in church to my parents, especially my father who pastors Center of Hope Baptist Church. As a scholar, I recognize that all genres have conventions–rules and features that are characteristic of the genre; the tribute is no exception.

Good tributes honor and celebrate the contributions of individuals and how those individuals have impacted the life of the person giving the tribute. Tributes are deeply meaningful and personal: They often describe very specific experiences, reveal key insights about personal relationships between the person giving the tribute and the person being honored by the tribute. And finally, they evoke an emotional appeal that can sometimes bring folks to tears.

Perhaps the final convention, emotional appeal, is why I don’t do tributes. I don’t want to cry. I don’t want to show that kind of vulnerability publicly, especially not in speech. Really, not in writing either but there is something to be said about at least having the ability to hide behind written words (perhaps this is why folks will produce more aggressive prose on social media than through face-to-face interaction, but I digress).

As I reflect on Father’s Day, I find myself thinking about whether or not I will ever give a real tribute. I’ve been thinking about tributes more lately because my husband and daughter recorded a three minute tribute and posted it on my Facebook page this past Mother’s Day. It was a tear-jerker that concluded with my daughter singing a song she wrote for me. After I watched the video, I leaned apologetically to my husband, letting him know that he wouldn’t receive such a warm video for Father’s Day in return, because I could never provide a tribute that would compare remotely to the one he and my daughter had given me.

Each Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, my older sister, Tracee, publishes on Facebook the most lovely, carefully crafted tributes for my parents. Last year, she published her tribute to my father in The Truth. As a sibling who is gifted in so many areas, one gift that I think folks potentially miss with Tracee is her tremendous facility with language and writing, something I think I’m qualified to judge. It is her writing and personal tributes to our father that has provided me with some inspiration to use the genre as a lens to reflect a little on the relationship I have with our father for this year’s Truth article. I will call it a reflection, because I don’t do tributes.

My dad and I don’t have a sappy, warm, or fuzzy relationship. We don’t have cute and cuddly nicknames for each other (other than "knucklehead" or "mouse"). You won’t see us hugging each other, and even though we take our annual Father’s Day picture, posting it to Facebook, you won’t find my father smiling. We attempt to evoke tough exteriors, perhaps because if we think too deeply about our relationship with each other, we both will start crying.

Here’s what I can say about our relationship: We value each other’s advice and expertise perhaps more than anyone else’s. We share collective worldviews, ways of seeing, and ways of knowing the world. My worldview—the way I see and understand the world—is shaped by my father’s. One of the things I’ve learned from him is the concept of holistic balance. It was my father who taught me to balance my spiritual and physical life, and my personal and professional life. It was he who taught me that my spiritual life guides and shapes how I practice self-care, how I practice professional and academic integrity, and how I am as a mother and wife.

Finally, it was my father who taught me intellectual rigor and discipline. He taught me intellectual rigor and discipline when he was my 12-year-old son and he taught me intellectual rigor and discipline even more when he was my 18-year-old son. And perhaps one of the most important things my father taught me has been the ability to learn from failure and the ability to bounce back. The ability to learn from failure and the ability to bounce back can sometimes bring folks to tears.

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Yes...Yes...More Legal Freebies!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Please! I am doing my very best in getting these legal freebies out to my reading public as fast as my hands can type, so please be patient for these golden legal gems.

Your signed petitions that I produce faster and faster, will simply not influence me!

**Freebie One:** Landlords: If you are renting any unit and the party is working, always, always get their place of employment and demand to see a picture ID to make sure that you are renting to the person who he says he is!

Identity theft in the rental market is nothing to be casual about. If she has a car, record her license plate number to run a motor vehicle bureau check.

**Freebie Two:** Tenants: If you are asked to pay a rent deposit, either pay it with a check or get a receipt and always get a statement in writing that if the apartment or unit is not ready by X agreed upon date, that you are free to cancel the agreement and get your entire deposit returned to you on the spot....not 30 days later.

**Freebie Three:** If and when you are asked to attend a deposition as a witness, make sure that you ask for your witness/travel fees at the beginning of the deposition to make sure that such a required payment was not, “forgotten.”

**Freebie Four:** Yes, you can have minor misdemeanor charges expunged if you qualify for the process of expungement. Such a “minor” charge can still follow you around and hurt your chances for certain jobs and benefits. Being a “minor” charge is not a trifle. Take care of business and have it expunged, if you qualify for expungement. The same goes for criminal charges that were filed against you but were later dismissed. Expunge them!

**Freebie Five:** Certain misdemeanor charges allow for you to delay entering a plea but rather you can be asked to be referred to the alternative/diversion program and if successful, your plea can be something other than guilty.

**Freebie Six:** Never, ever buy a house without getting a property inspection of it. If the report is derogatory, you can use those remarks to either get a price break to cover the expenses to repair or you can back out of the deal and get any paid deposit monies if such a clause is placed into the offer to purchase agreement.

**Freebie Seven:** If you have the unfortunate event to enter into a store and for no fault of your own, you slip and fall...do not remove yourself from that spot. Stay there and call out for help. If people are around you, ask them to call the manager. Always stay around an fill out an incident report and get a copy of it from the store.

If they ask you, “Are you OK?,” simply say, “I do not know yet.” Whatever you say, can be used against you if the store tries to contest your claim for injuries. If injured, always go to the ER or a hospital by ambulance. Why? You need a paper trail to support your injuries.

**Freebie Eight:** If you are driving a car and the police pull you over, do NOT lean into your car glove compartment box in order to get any papers. That can be seen as a “furtive move” and the officer will say that he felt threatened by that sudden move and that is why he shot you nine times. Freeze and obey the commands and keep a clear mind so that you can get the name and badge number of the officer (without jeopardizing your life and health) in the event that you need to file a suit for police harassment.

**Freebie Nine:** Yes, the police can ask the identity of all members in a car and can ask them to step out of the car for his or her safety. So, please do not jawbone with the officer, it only makes him mad and he will say that you were obstructing official business.

**Freebie Ten:** If the police ask to search your car trunk or car, state for the record that you refused any search. Note: If someone is with you and they have a cell phone camera, they can record the events in spite of the officers saying not to. As long as the person recording does not interfere, he or she has a right to be present and to record.

**Freebie Eleven:** If a relative dies and there is a will and the person who has the will refuses to cooperate by placing the will in the probate court for legal proceedings, you can ask the court via a written motion that such a person be required to come to court with the will and start the process. You do not have to be a victim.

**Freebie Twelve:** In your search for assets of a deceased party, check each state’s lost or unclaimed funds department in which that person lived including the websites for locating missing insurance policies and US savings bonds.

**Freebie Thirteen:** If you believe that you have been a victim of discriminatory treatment at a worksite, you can always start the process of an investigation by filing a charge with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission located at One Government Center. File right away. Don’t wait weeks or months. There is no charge to file.

**Freebie Fourteen:** Some of the ways to bypass probate court when someone dies is to make sure that during their lifetime they know that they can place your name on their savings or checking account (called either a P.O.D or a T.O.D account) so that in the event of their death, you are the sole heir to any remaining balances in those accounts.

The same goes for insurance policies or death benefits at work. These type of “contracts” are not part of a person’s estate when they die. They are separate and are governed by contract law...not Ohio probate law.

**Freebie Fifteen:** You have a house and you want someone to be able to live there for the remainder of their life and before the property is transferred to someone else? Simple. On the deed you can have a clause that allows a person or persons of your choice to live there during their natural life and when they die, the prop-

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Ohio Democratic Party Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Declining to Review Voting Results Case

The Ohio Democratic Party released the following statement from Chairman David Pepper on the U.S. Supreme Court declining to resolve the question of whether private citizens can file a voting rights lawsuit:

“Today’s decision by the Supreme Court is deeply disappointing -- the highest court has failed to step in and affirm a voter’s right to sue a state for infringing on his or her ability to cast a ballot. The lower court ruled that only the U.S. attorney general can enforce the Voting Rights Act, and the Supreme Court’s decision allows that ruling to stand. With Jeff Sessions at the helm of the Justice Department, we expect Republican legislators across the country will declare open season on the protections of the Voting Rights Act and continue to chip away at Americans' constitutional right to vote.

“Ohioans can expect no help from Jon Husted or Mike DeWine in protecting their right to vote. They are the very politicians who have been found to have violated the Constitution and federal law repeatedly in making it harder to vote. That’s why we need to elect new officials who will fight to defend every eligible Ohioan’s right to register, cast a ballot and have that ballot be counted.”

Not a Tribute to My Father... continued from page 2

Staci Perryman-Clark, PhD, is an internationally known scholar who has published widely in rhetoric and writing studies. She is associate director of the Office of Faculty Development, associate professor of English, and director of First-Year Writing at Western Michigan University. Perryman-Clark is the author of Afrocentric Teacher-Research: Rethinking Appropriateness and Inclusion (Peter Lang, 2013) and was the 2015 recipient of the WMU College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Achievement Award for Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities.

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

Not a Tribute to My Father... continued from page 2

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Freebie Sixteen: If you buy a used car, always make sure to get the VIN number and check that number to make sure that the car is not stolen and has not been engaged in any recorded car accident(s) or has suffered other damages. The seller of the car says no to your request for a VIN (vehicle identification number), run...not walk from that car lot because you are about to be duped.

Well, there you have it dear readers, enough Legal Freebies to almost qualify you to get a law license...but not quite!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com.
The other day I witnessed an unfortunate traffic situation. A car had broken down in the middle of an intersection. The hood was up and smoke rose while two men hovered over the engine in disbelief.

The hazards were frantically flashing as inconsiderate people were honking, pointing and yelling, making the whole thing worse. I can only imagine that the car stopped for the light and once it began to move forward, it died on the spot.

The first thing that came to mind is the fact that 76 percent of American households have less than $400 in savings for emergencies. That means that this poor guy is more likely than not worried about how he’s going to get his car towed as well as fixed and running.

I know the stress that comes along with having an emergency and not having the money or a solution. It is what most Americans face over and over again but it’s time to break that cycle.

Let’s face it, $400 is a lot of money or everyone would have it in the bank or set aside for critical times. The first step towards changing this void is to clearly recognize a true emergency.

Many people consider their cable breakdown or the loss of other entertainment items as emergencies. I’ve witnessed families who struggle to meet their house payments while paying for fancy sneakers or kids travel to basketball activities. The fact is, an emergency is so much more imperative.

I know it should be obvious but clearly many are confused about when and where to spend their money. I define a true emergency as anything that takes you away from your active stream of income.

When you can’t go to work because your child needs medical care, that is an emergency. A broken refrigerator is an emergency.

You may ask how does a broken refrigerator interfere with my active stream of income? When you are stressed out about how your family is going to eat, how the family’s basic nutritional needs will be met, that affects your ability to perform well at work. Mess up at work too many times and you will not have a job to go to.

Ever get so hungry that you get mad? It’s called being hangry.

One of the most widely used mistakes is not having car insurance. When you are stopped by law enforcement without the proper insurance coverage, you are asking to have your license suspended. No reliable way to get to work is a deal breaker.

What should you do?

Every family needs a clear short list of unavoidable emergencies and an estimate of what those could possibly cost when it happens. My list of unavoidable emergencies consist of:

1) A Flat Tire $175.00
2) Water Tank $400.00 (Home Appliance)
3) Traffic Ticket $125.00
4) Deductible $500.00 (Medical/Dental/Auto/Pet)
5) Death Travel $750.00 (Loss of a Family Member)

Even though I can’t predict when one of these may happen, I keep the single highest possible expense in my emergency fund. I have a savings account labeled “Do not touch Money.” This account has a few thousand dollars in it but it took hard work and over a few years to get there. I never touch this account unless I have one of the five emergencies mentioned happen.

An unavoidable emergency comes from nowhere. There is no hint that something is going wrong. These are difficult to predict but it doesn’t mean that you shouldn’t have a strategy to get over these hurdles.

Open a new account or use a current savings account to begin to save for your unavoidable emergencies. Your emergency goal should equal your largest potential expense. Label the account EMERGENCY or some other motivating name. Try and avoid using your checking or

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A Few of the Best and the Brightest – 2017

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner’s Truth Editor

Every year we are overwhelmed to hear about the accomplishments of so many youngsters who have finished their senior years in style – working hard in the classroom, on their extracurricular activities, with their community service – and are off to institutions of higher learning.

So we pick out a few high achievers to spotlight and, as usual, we are just amazed by the breadth of their accomplishments. Once again – here are a few of the best and the brightest.

Bakari Neely

Three years of lacrosse at Southview High School became the ticket for a college education for Bakari Neely who was selected, in this his senior year, to the first team Northern Lakes League midfield and honorable mention on the All Region Team.

For his exploits on the field and his academic success as well, Bakari will be entering Notre Dame de Namur, in Belmont, CA, in the fall. Eighty percent of Bakari’s college education will be paid by his Athletic scholarship.

At Notre Dame de Namur, a Division II school, Bakari plans to focus on finance and economics. His long term goal is to join his father, Rodney Neely, in his real estate business.

Bakari studied financial management at Southview in preparation for his college studies.

Bakari played lacrosse for three years at Southfield, taking up the game as a sophomore and clearly progressed rapidly. A game in which few African-American males compete, lacrosse is perhaps the oldest North American team sport. The sport has apparently been played in North America, on the eastern coast, since about 1,100 AD. In fact, only in recent decades has the sport spread beyond the East Coast to the Midwest and West.

Bakari will be breaking all kinds of ground as he takes his talents to California.

Tamunodiyepriye Ngo

Tamunodiyepriye Ngo, a Notre Dame Academy graduate, is off to Northwestern University in the fall, the next step in her goal of becoming a plastic surgeon. Finishing Notre Dame with a 4.3 GPA and having participated in a host of school and community activities, Diyepryie was accepted into numerous colleges, including well-respected institutions of higher education such as Vanderbilt and Washington University (St. Louis), along with a host of public universities in the Midwest.

Diyepryie has had the opportunity to visit her father’s village of Bakara, Nigeria which was one of the incidents that has influenced her decision to become a plastic surgeon. “A lot of the children have cleft lips,” she says. “Maybe I can help.”

During her college years she will be studying psychology and neuroscience as she prepares for medical school.

Diyepryie clearly took full advantage of her four years in high school at Notre Dame. “I met a lot of people, there were a lot of opportunities and a lot of chances to perform service.” Her service experiences took her to such varied places as Harlan, Kentucky in the Appalachian region and Nicaragua with the sisters of Notre Dame.

And it was not all books for Diyepryie at Notre Dame, she also participated in lacrosse and basketball during her four years at the school.

Keyaunte Jones

Keyaunte Jones has chosen to take his talents – his baseball and academic talents, that is – to Grambling State University in the fall. “Because of the atmosphere, the athletics – it felt like a family there, it could be a second home.” he says of the historically black university.

“Playing baseball in the south optimizes my chances for success in the future and I like the idea of a smaller school with the one-on-one work with professors,” he says of his next four years. The 2017 first-team All Three Rivers Athletic Conference second baseman and 2017 Boys... continued on page 7
and Girls Club Youth of the Year who sported a 3.90 GPA at St. John’s Jesuit High School, plans to major in biology on a pre-med track at Grambling with an eye towards entering the field of sports medicine or orthopedics.

Science, in fact, was his favorite subject at St. John’s.

In order to be named the Youth of the Year or the Toledo Boys and Girls Clubs, Keyaunte had to prepare essays, present a speech and be interviewed by the judges. After the Toledo honor, he competed in the statewide competition and was named the Ohio Youth of the Year. It’s on to the Midwest regionals in July then, if he wins, on to the nationals. The ultimate prize is a scholarship in the amount of $100,000.

Keyaunte’s athletic and academic accomplishments helped him earn Youth of the Year honors but his community service also played a huge part in it as well – work with St. Paul’s Community Center, tutoring at Pickett Elementary, Meals on Wheels, etc.

Keypathwa Gibson

Keypathwa Gibson’s track exploits during her years at Start High School are the stuff of legend – this year she won the 100, 200 and 400 meters at the City League championships and anchored her team’s winning 800 relay. She then won the Division I regional 400 meter dash and went on to the State meet to finish her track career.

However brilliant her track career has been, Key’s academic achievements – such as her 3.87 GPA – have brought her almost $300,000 in scholarship offers from a half dozen colleges. Florida Southern University appears to have finished first in this particular competition for the right to enroll the young scholar/track star.

In fact, Key’s academic achievements have been so outstanding – she is part of Start’s DECA Program – she could have graduated a year early. She stayed on the additional year in order to participate in track.

At Florida Southern, Key plans to major in marketing, continuing the interest she developed in DECA – a program for students who are interested in careers in marketing, entrepreneurship, finance and management.

What did Key enjoy most about her high school years? “Being ahead,” she replies of her academic achievements and her potentially early finish. She could just as well have been referring to her athletic feats – she was virtually always ahead on the track as well.

Steven Thomas II

As he contemplates his future at The Ohio State University and beyond, Steven Thomas envisions a career in music – either as a performer or as a business executive … or both preferably. A poet since the age of six, Steven has “expanded [his] horizons” as he has gotten older and has delved into hip hop and rap.

His creativity was well served at Toledo Early College High School (TECHS) where, to his surprise when he entered four years ago, “there was lots of freedom – not a lot of people telling us what to do. They expected us to take a lot of responsibility.”

Now, Steven is off to The Ohio State University to major in business administration with an eye to obtaining the skills necessary to have a
Library Kicks-Off Summer Reading Challenge; Prizes for All Ages!

Sojourner's Truth Staff

How better to enjoy a summer day than by kicking back with a great book? What’s even better? Winning prizes for reading. That’s right, stop by your neighborhood Library and sign-up for the Summer Reading Challenge. Kids, Teens, and Adults can win prizes for reading books - even just for signing-up!

This year’s theme is Build a Better World and the Library is offering tons of FREE fun programs, activities, and (yes, more) prizes for all ages! To find out more, visit ToledoLibrary.org

And because the Summer Reading Challenge isn’t just for kids, here are some great titles hand-picked by our expert Librarians to get you started.

Great Summer Reads

Jane Crow: the Life of Pauli Murray by Rosalind Rosenberg
Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother’s Quest: a True Story of the Jim Crow South by Beth Macy

Black Privilege: Opportunity Comes to Those Who Create It by Charlamagne Tha God
I Can’t Make This Up: Life Lessons by Keven Hart
Chasing Space by Melvin Leland (adult and young reader’s editions)
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall
Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson

Books for Kids to Enjoy this Summer

Special to The Truth

Whether you are heading out of town on vacation or sticking around the neighborhood pool, kids need diversions in summer. Take some time to restock kids’ bookshelves with great reads.

“All kids love books, even if they’re too little to read. For babies and toddlers, choose kid-sized books full of bright photos that they will love looking at again and again. There’s so much research showing how important reading is for a child’s development. You can build on it by making the experience fun for parents and their children,” says Rachel Barry, vice president of marketing and publicity at DK, a publisher of adult and children’s books.

For preschoolers, consider these new titles.

Fun at the Farm

Cushioned, bumpy and shiny pages encourage sensory development, language skills, and early reading skills. As part of DK’s Touch and Feel Series, “Really Feely: Farm” also introduces babies and toddlers to a favorite pre-school subject: farm animals, including fluffy ducklings, woolly sheep and a bristly pig.

Learning Adventure

Help build your baby’s identification and language skills. In “100 First Words,” photography and labels introduce primary concepts like shapes, colors and animals, and encourage pointing, naming, and talking.

Favorite Animals

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Debutantes Honored by Toledo City Council

On May 27, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, (NANBPWC) Inc, Toledo Chapter, crowned Miss Debutante 2017, Sara Tait-Trail. In June, Toledo City Council members honored Tait-Trail and also her fellow debs; first runner up, Lyricka Robinson Smith, and second runner up, Destiney Kight.

City Council also recognized the Toledo Chapter, and particularly former Council President Wilma Smith for her longtime service as the organizer and driving force behind the Debutante Cotillion.

Best and Brightest... continued from page 7

career in music production. He will be taking with him 53 college credits that he earned during his Early College High School years.

Steven finished TECHS with a 3.79 GPA, clearly excelling in all of his classes. His favorite, however, was English in which he and his classmates were able to not only analyze works of fiction but also “write our own stories.”

Steven received the Ohio State Morrill scholarship – which will take care of his in-state tuition; the Alpha Phi Alpha Legacy scholarship, an Alpha Kappa Alpha book scholarship, a Girl Friends scholarship and a Walk the Word Church scholarship – in all, over $26,000 in OSU scholarships and nearly $6,000 from community organizations.

Books for Kids... continued from page 8

A classic board book, “Baby Touch & Feel: Animals,” helps children develop their knowledge of animals while increasing the use of their senses. Babies will meet puppies, kittens, penguins and other animals throughout the pages of this book that features photographs and touch-and-feel textures.

Pop-Up Surprises


Feel the Love

Celebrate love and promote sensory development and early language skills with this USA Today Bestseller, “Baby Touch & Feel: I Love You,” which features soft bunnies, fuzzy teddy bears, sparkly hearts and more.

More kids’ books that can make the summer season fun can be found at PenguinRandomHouse.com.

Create a love of learning and literature during the preschool years by providing kids with great reading material all year long.

Courtesy StatePoint

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We’re here for you. And we are an integral part of this community, The University of Toledo Medical Center offers best in class specialties, better outcomes, and expert physicians, nurses and medical technicians in a superior continuum of care that’s close to home and dedicated to the area’s health and healing.

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Visit uthealth.utoledo.edu

CONFIDENT. COMMUNITY. CARE.
The First Tee of Lake Erie Launches Fundraising Campaign for New Youth Leadership Center

New center will offer youth mentoring, educational sessions and job training

Special to The Truth

The First Tee of Lake Erie, an organization that is focused on character building and promoting healthy choices through the game of golf, has partnered with ProMedica to raise $4.9 million to establish a youth leadership center in metro Toledo. Both parties are currently collaborating to organize a leadership group that will assist in raising the funds to execute this project.

The center will be located off Hill Avenue in Toledo on 42 acres adjacent to the Inverness Club. It will feature a leadership center consisting of educational and activity space along with a driving range, short golf course and practice facility.

“Our aim is to create a welcoming, safe environment for area youth to grow academically, develop life skills and receive vocational training that will help transfer into employment opportunities. Having our own space for daily operations is going to be a huge advancement for our chapter and the youth we serve,” said Adam Reny, executive director of The First Tee of Lake Erie.

The First Tee of Lake Erie operates in 15 counties throughout northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. The chapter offers a specialized curriculum developed by the national organization that targets students, ages 5-18. Throughout these areas, a rapidly growing number of young people participate in year-round educational sessions at nine area golf facilities, several youth centers and at 32 elementary schools through physical education classes. With a new youth leadership center, the Lake Erie chapter will reach a broader population of students and those who excel in the program will be considered for area job opportunities through vocational training programs at the center.

“ProMedica is proud to partner with The First Tee of Lake Erie to create an innovative space in metro Toledo that supports the health and well-being of children throughout our region. We believe that by providing more options for our youth to develop life skills and preparing them for job opportunities will improve overall health and well-being in our communities,” said Randy Oostra, president and CEO, ProMedica.

Construction of the youth leadership center is scheduled to begin spring 2018.

For more information on the fundraising campaign, visit www.promedica.org/giving. For more information about The First Tee of Lake Erie and current program opportunities, visit www.thefirstteelakeerie.org.
Three Financial Must-Do’s for College-Bound High School Families

One challenge looms large for many American families as students approach high school graduation: how to pay for college.

Financial planning should ideally begin several years before college applications are even due. But no matter what financial preparation your family has done, everyone planning to attend college should take these concrete measures during senior year of high school.

- Seek Federal Aid. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible. The FAFSA is your first step to securing financial aid for college, including federal student loans, and most state and institutional aid. Unfortunately, many students don’t realize they are eligible for such aid, leaving tons of money (and potential educational opportunities) on the table. To complete the FAFSA, visit fafsa.ed.gov.
- Search for Scholarships. Because scholarship money typically does not have to be repaid, it’s important to secure as much of it as possible. Begin your search using online scholarship databases, such as TuitionFundingSources.com, and meet with your school counselor to discuss other available scholarship opportunities. Micro-scholarships are another option to consider. Check out sites like raise.me to learn more about how you can earn scholarship money for your high school achievements.
- Understand Family Finances. Now is the time to have some important family discussions. Parents should set expectations about money with their students, letting them know what, if any, portion of college expenses they plan to pay. Students should find out if any funds have been set aside for their education, as well as what their responsibilities will entail — whether that involves holding down a part-time job or maintaining a particular grade point average.
- Consider Private Loans. After exhausting grants, scholarships and other aid options that don’t require paying interest, private loans may be worth some consideration and can, in some cases expand your educational opportunities as a college-bound student.

“It’s important to keep in mind that there are often many unanticipated expenses associated with the college years — from taking an extra course to paying for materials and technology to spending a term studying abroad,” says John Rasmussen, head of Wells Fargo’s private student lending business, who cautions against a cavalier attitude where loans are concerned. “Whether you take out a private student loan or leverage other financial products to pay for miscellaneous expenses, it’s important to understand the terms of repayment.”

More tips, as well as free college planning resources, can be found at blogs.wf.com/collegeplanning.

Don’t leave the future uncertain. If you are college-bound, plan ahead to ensure that you can meet the costs of your education.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

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Lourdes University Upward Bound Program Receives $1.2 million in Funding

The U.S. Department of Education has renewed funding for the Lourdes University Upward Bound program. Throughout the five-year grant period, Lourdes University will receive $1,287,500 or $257,500 each year. The renewal is effective September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2022. The U.S. Department of Education’s Upward Bound program was established in 1965 to help American high school students attain a post-secondary education.

Each year, up to 50 Waite and Woodward High School students will participate in the program. Throughout the academic year, they will receive intensive one-on-one academic instruction and tutoring and participate in a six-week summer program on the Lourdes University campus.

During the on-campus summer program, students will receive:

- Exposure to the latest higher education digital technology
- Rising seniors will live on campus for one week as part of the residential immersion component
- Tour universities
- Learn more about math and science at local, regional and national venues
- Best tips for transitioning to college
- Financial literacy training
- Intensive one-on-one academic instruction
- Personal and career counseling
- Exposure to the latest education digital technology
- Valuable workshops and training
- Part-time job or maintaining a particular grade point average
- Rising seniors will live on campus for one week as part of the residential immersion component

2017 Upward Bound Summer Program

On Monday, June 5, the Lourdes Upward Bound program welcomed 40 Waite and Woodward High School students for the six-week program. The program concludes on Tuesday, July 11 with the Upward Bound Educational Excursion to Washington, D.C.

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**Hospice of Northwest Ohio**

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WE ARE A FULL BUSINESS
On July 21 and 22, 2017 the Glass City Quilt Commission will host the *Kaleidoscope of Quilts 2017 Show* at the Sylvania Sports & Exhibition Center at Tam O’Shanter; 7060 Sylvania Ave.; Sylvania, Ohio 43560. This well-respected longtime regional quilt show will feature bed and wall quilts, art and modern quilts, classes, mini-demos, quilt appraisals, special displays and a variety of vendors.

More than 200 judged quilts, created by area quilters and quilters from across the United States, will be exhibited. The *Best of Show* quilt will receive a $500 prize and a glass kaleidoscope. Cash prizes of $100 each for the best bed quilt, wall quilt, and art quilt will also be presented. In addition, local quilt guilds will be sponsoring cash prizes and ribbons in several categories. In addition to NACQJ certified quilt judges, local celebrity judges will be selecting their favorite quilt.

The theme of 2017 Invitational Challenge is *Barn Quilts*. Participants are invited to use their imagination and creative abilities to design a quilted item that reflects their own interpretation of the theme. No fee is charged for entries in the challenge.

This year, the nationally known quilter and author, Corey Yoder, of LittleMissShabby.com, will be here as an instructor for one of the workshops. Yoder has been designing fabric for Moda, with her newest line, *Lala Lane*, out in February, 2017. She is the author of many quilt patterns, through Coriander Quilts, and the book, *Playful Petals*. Yoder puts a modern twist on traditional quilts! We also have Robyn House-Guettler teaching a unique variation on the Split Drunkard’s Path quilt in her workshop. Our lectures feature House-Guettler’s trunk show and Carol Hicks with her “Journey with the Millefiore Quilt Along.”

Quilt commission members have created a quilt featuring forty eight pieced blocks to be raffled. This quilt is titled “On the Farm” from the book *Farm Girl Vintage*. Raffle tickets may be purchased at the show or from any commission member: one for $1.00 or six for $5.00. Proceeds from the quilt raffle will be donated to *Sunshine Communities*, a local organization which supports men, women and children with developmental disabilities, offering residential, vocational and clinical support as well as therapeutic and recreational programs.

The show will be open on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission for adults is $6 for a one-day pass and $10 for a two-day pass. Admission for children under 16 is free when accompanied by an adult. Parking is free.

Additional information regarding registration of quilts or for a class can be obtained on our website, www.gcqc.org.

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**Save Your Way...continued from page 5**

Christmas fund. It rarely works and fails just when you need it.

What about avoidable emergencies? These are situations that you know are coming but have yet to set aside the money you will need. Your tires are bald and you are well aware that you need new ones but you put it off. What about the over-due electric bill that’s been growing out of control and you pay just a few dollars towards the bill.

We all make bad decisions sometimes but to avoid crushing emergencies, take care to address them as soon as possible. Stop letting the things you want interfere with the things you need. There may come a time that all extras have to get put on hold for a month or two to handle tough situations. Freeze your cable TV; reduce your mobile phone to a minimum data plan; stop eating out until you get those new tires.

Drastic times call for drastic measures. Be vigilant about where you spend your money and treat each dollar like it is the one that will get you through a real emergency.

Banks love customers who open accounts. Go to your bank and open another savings account. My second savings is called “Short term Needs." I save for expenses that I know are going to happen within the next three to six months. This is in addition to the “Do Not Touch Fund.”

Start your savings journey with any emergency you know is coming that will interfere with you getting to work. This means putting those dollars in the “Short Term Fund.” Once you have taken care of those needs, begin to put any extra money into the “Do Not Touch” account.

Create the habit of asking yourself if you are prepared for basic emergencies. “Should I spend $65.00 at the movies with the kids or save $50.00 and make popcorn and watch a movie at home. This will drastically reduce the amount of emergencies that occur and put you in the top 25 percent of all American families.
It was a Sure Thing.
A can’t-miss, a safe bet that you couldn’t possibly fail — or could you? Isn’t there always a danger of losing in a gamble, or at least not winning? What kind of odds would make you take a risky bet? As in the new book *Be Free or Die* by Cate Lineberry, would you put your family’s lives on the line?

Because the law in 1839 said that a slave woman’s children were automatically enslaved, Robert Smalls was owned by Henry McKee the minute Smalls was born. Because his mother was a house slave, the illiterate Smalls spent his childhood toiling inside the McKee home, rather than being put to field work. There, he was said to be smart, capable, articulate, and “well-liked by the McKee family.”

That, perhaps, is why McKee trusted Smalls enough to send him, alone at age 12, to Charleston where he was “hired out…and largely left to fend for himself.” There, Smalls worked a series of odd jobs until he ultimately found work on cargo ships. He’d gotten married by then, and his wife’s owner promised that Smalls could buy Hannah and their daughter for $800. With that in mind, Smalls landed work on the *Planter*, a 147-foot-long paddle-wheel steamer owned by a Southern businessman and docked in Charleston, near the Confederate general’s headquarters.

Though he was able to save the $3 a month McKee gave him, Smalls knew that his wife’s price could change on a whim. Hannah was pregnant, and that worried him, too.

There was only one choice.

After observing carefully for weeks, and deciding to trust his likewise-enslaved fellow shipmates, Smalls waited for the right time. “On a mild May evening… in 1862,” when the white crew of the *Planter* disembarked, Smalls seized control of the steamer, eased the Planter upstream to fetch his family and a few others who’d hidden in another ship, then snuck the *Planter* back downstream past heavily-armed guards, soldiers, and Fort Sumter. He skillfully brought the steamer out of the harbor and delivered it, loaded with cannons and Confederacy secrets, directly into the hands of the Union…

Oh, my, if you’re looking for a thriller for your summertime reading, you just found one. *Be Free or Die* is more exciting than any old novel.

Beginning with the daring escape itself, author Cate Lineberry moves back-and-forward-again to tell Smalls’ story, which gives readers even more of a sense of why his actions were so astounding. No such saga is complete without more about the era itself, of course, which will delight Civil War buffs – and then Lineberry storytells even further, from the unique point of view of 1870s-era Charlestonians, Northerners, newly-released slaves, and Reconstructionists.

Be sure you find out what happened to the Planter. That’s all I’m saying…

This is one of the better almost-forgotten stories from history, and you can put it on your reading list now. Go ahead. If you’re in search for that one book this summer, *Be Free or Die* is a sure thing.

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**Social Security Column**

On Vacation? Social Security Is Still Here for You

By Phil Walton
Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH

Summer is here and millions of vacationers are packing their bags to visit a new locale and soak up some sunshine. You might be traveling quite a ways. You’re used to staying connected to important information like your bank accounts and social networks, especially on the go. Social Security is there in the same way — easily accessible when you’re away from your home or office.

When you’re going on vacation and want to be sure your Social Security benefits arrive, use my Social Security. When you open a personal and secure my Social Security account, you can access it on your terms. We put you in control of your financial future. A my Social Security account is important whether you receive benefits from Social Security or not. You can:

Request a replacement Social Security or Medicare card if you meet certain... continued on page 16
ASSISTANT MANAGER OF HUMAN RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

Lucas County Children Services is seeking an Asst. Mgr. of Human Resources and Administration to assist in creating a work environment that promotes personal growth and excellence of LCCS employees. Additional requirements can be viewed at www.lucaskids.net. No Phone Calls Please. EOE valuing diversity.

Calls Please. EOE valuing diversity.

can be viewed at www.lucaskids.net. No Phone

day, July 5, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, Bids will be publicly opened that same day before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 12, 2017.

Project Estimate: $1,000,000.00; Breakdown:

HVAC: $950,000.00; Electrical: $50,000.00.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY17-73, (Project # 1130-17-981) for Mechanical System Improvements (Phase 2) for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 12, 2017. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of $75.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from John Koss of Design Engineers & Consulting Associates at 419-891-0022. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: $1,000,000.00; Breakdown: HVAC: $950,000.00; Electrical: $50,000.00.

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Need a great location? At a great price? We may have the office space you need. Located in Toledo's UpTown area. Call 419-243-0007 or email fhword@att.net

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"Now Accepting Applications for 1 and 2 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.

Notice of LUCAS COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

The Lucas County Sheriff’s Department has openings for Registered Nurse & Licensed Practical Nurse. For more details, please visit our website at www.co.lucas.oh.us and click on the “Apply for a Job” link to review the job description, minimum requirements, salary and to apply online.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
CONSULTING SERVICES

RFP#17-R008

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Chief Operating Officer Consulting Services/RFP#17-R008, Received in accordance with law until June 23, 2107 at 3:00 PM ET. For documents: www.lucasmhha.org; 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Proposers are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246, Sec. 3 Compliance Applicable.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

CORRECTIONS OFFICER-
LUCAS COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

The Lucas County Sheriff’s Department has openings for Corrections Officers. For more details, please visit our website at www.co.lucas.oh.us and click on the “Apply for a Job” link to review the job description, minimum requirements, salary and to apply online.

UNISON HEALTH

Join us for a Career Fair!

Wednesday, June 21, 2017
3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
at our Starr Ave. location
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, Ohio 43605

Bring your resume, complete an application, speak with hiring managers, and enjoy refreshments.

Available Opportunities Include:

Registered Nurses – SPMI Team
Medical Assistants
Community Care Specialists
LSW/LPC (various licensed positions available)
LISW/LPCC (various licensed positions available)
CPST Clinicians
Psychologists
Desktop Server Support Specialist

For additional information regarding position requirements, please visit our website at www.unisonhealth.org. If you are not able to make our Career Fair and are interested in these or other employment opportunities, please contact us directly at 419-936-7576 for an application or email your resume to hr@unisonhealth.org. Competitive compensation and benefits.

Equal Opportunity Employer

UNISON HEALTH

Toledo, Ohio - Unison Health, the community’s recognized and preferred leader in caring for the integrated behavioral health, substance abuse, and primary care needs of individuals in our community for nearly 40 years, is set to host a career fair on Wednesday, June 21 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the agency’s 1425 Starr Avenue location. The agency’s rapid growth over the past year has created opportunities in the following areas:

Registered Nurses - Clinic
Registered Nurses - SPMI Team
Medical Assistants
Clinical Care Coordinator/Community Care Specialists
LSW/LPC (various licensed positions)
LISW/LPCC (various licensed positions)
CPST Clinicians
Psychologists
Desktop Server Support Specialist
Support Clerk-Contingent

Individuals should bring an updated resume, be prepared to complete an application and speak with hiring managers. Light refreshments will be provided. Additional information regarding position requirements can be found at www.unisonhealth.org. If you are unable to attend Unison Health’s Career Fair and are interested in these or other employment, please contact us directly at 419-936-7576. Candidates are also encouraged to email resumes to hr@unisonhealth.org.

Unison Behavioral Health Group Equal Opportunity Employer and provides a competitive compensation and benefits package. We look forward to seeing you Wednesday, June 21.
A Celebration of 24 Years in the Ministry

**Sojourner’s Truth Staff**

A multitude of church leaders, representing different faiths, joined Rev. Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock on Sunday, June 11, to celebrate the couple’s 24th pastoral anniversary at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church.

“A Heartfelt Ministry” was the theme for this year’s service and celebration.

Among the celebrants were Pastor Richardson and the Spring Street Baptist Church Music Ministry; Pastor Andrew Maize and the New Beginnings Church Music Ministry and, from Detroit, Bishop Welton Lawrence and the East Grand Boulevard Church of God in Christ Music Ministry.

The Mt Nebo Music and Praise Dance ministries were also part of the day’s service.

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**Social Security Column...continued from page 13**

requirements:
- Check the status of your application or appeal;
- Get your Social Security Statement; or
- Get a benefit verification letter stating that:
  - You receive retirement, disability, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Medicare benefits; or
  - You never received Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicare; or
  - You received benefits in the past, but do not currently receive them. (The letter will include the date your benefits stopped and how much you received that year.); or
  - You applied for benefits but haven’t received an answer yet.

There’s also more you can do with your my Social Security account. We’re always adding new features and resources to make your life easier and give you greater control over your benefits. Placing the “Application Status” feature behind the my Social Security portal provides a secure service delivery channel that allows us to provide detailed status information about your claim without requiring a confirmation number.

With the new Application Status, you can see:
- the Re-entry number for in-progress online applications;
- detailed information about the current status of the application or appeal;
- the location where your claim is being processed; and
- scheduled hearing information for appeals.

Whether you’re vacationing or on a staycation, Social Security’s online services are at your fingertips. With an easy-to-access my Social Security account, you can use our multiple online services while barefoot on the beach. How convenient is that? You don’t even have to put your lemonade down at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.