State Champions!!

Rogers Star Zia Cooke

In This Issue...

- Perryman and Spang on Regional Water
  Page 2
- Finkbeiner on Regional Water
  Page 5
- Regional Water Discussion
  Page 5
- Cover Story: Rogers Girls Win
  Page 8
- Hicks-Hudson Opens
  Campaign
  Page 11
- Classifieds
  Page 15
Sandy Spang’s Baptism of Fire and Water
By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.
The Truth Contributor

There is no short cut to utopia

Claude McKay

The show of hands for support of the proposed regional water plan currently consists of a mere two city council members who can actually be considered as rock solid. Meanwhile, Toledoans are looking to council members for guidance prior to the issue going on the November 2018 general election ballot.

Councilwoman Sandy Spang is one of the two proponents of the plan that proposes to shift governance and operation of Toledo’s wholly-owned water plant to a shared regional authority with representation from other municipalities from Wood, Monroe and Lucas County.

I caught up with Spang at Plate One, her chic, newly opened downtown coffee shop to discuss her policy views on regional water and other contentious issues taking place simultaneously with her campaign for Lucas County Commissioner. This is part one of our two-part conversation.

Spang: If council says regional water is a good deal, then voters will believe that it’s a good deal, so I am deeply concerned about where we are on the issue. Recently, in Sylvania City Council, they formally requested that a second MOU be developed, that includes all of the players except Toledo. They’re not playing chicken. And here’s the thing, many people moved out of our city and thought it was a good thing. I hear people on the radio say oh yeah, I gave up on Toledo and I moved out. However, they need to care about what happens in this city because we’re all in this together and this is powerfully important beyond even water.

Perryman: Well, my concern is what happens to the income-challenged, a class of people which has continued to increase. We have been losing the black middleclass and black working class with churches, from my perspective, being the proverbial canary in the coalmine. Many churches, formerly supported wholly or in part, by middleclass and working class African Americans, are closing or going into foreclosure in record numbers. So, I’m concerned about the impact that regionalization might have on every day black and brown people and distressed over the possible unintended consequences upon those who navigate the “real world” of racial and income inequality.

Spang: Well I think the fundamental question is do we close in or do we open up? That is really the question. We have the children of those who had the ability to separate themselves from the city, and what are their children now doing? They’re moving back into the city. They want to live downtown. They want to live in the city. In the case of water, we want as many people as possible paying for the product to bring the cost down and then that one percent set aside for low-income customers.

Perryman: Also important is whether the people’s voices will be heard to ensure that the TAWA [Toledo Area Water Authority] is held accountable and if the people will have a voice in helping to shape some of TAWA’s policies and practices. By “people,” I mean those from urban areas, which tend to have larger proportions of minority residents than the suburban districts.

Spang: I think those who have the community’s interests at heart will look at this thing and say Toledo, on their own, is never going to be able to replace its lead lines in our lifetimes. However, participants, like Monroe County don’t have a single lead line because their system is too new. But if the MOU is honored, they’re going to participate in the replacement of our lead lines. That’s a big deal.

Now the wording on the lead says that TAWA is required to annually put in two percent of the cost of the lead replacement, which would allow us to move forward on a steady basis with the lead replacement. It also says that lead mitigation could be as little as doing what Toledo already does, which is to coat the interiors of the lines, which is necessary to do until replacement can happen. But the idea that we could replace our lead lines and never be a Flint, that hope is in the agreement and there’s no hope if we stay by ourselves and lose our customers. It cannot happen under the go-alone scenario because there won’t be the resources and the one percent set aside for the low-income person. Those are the pieces that mean something to low-income people. The third piece would be the idea that the more customers you have, the better your pricing will be. And the truth is, the citizens of Toledo are going to pay more for their water, that’s a fact, but… Perryman: Won’t costs go up under either scenario?

Spang: Either way, so why not at least be hopeful that we can live with those. So I will be excited to see what (an independent expert) comes up with, because I think that their findings could be a huge piece in the public vote. Also, if there are going to be changes in the MOU framework, it would need to not come from council members saying I’m not going to negotiate with a gun to my head. It would, rather, have to come from a

... continued on page 12
We Have No King But Caesar!
By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

If you are a journeyman Bible scholar, you may recognize the heading of this column as the words that the accusers of Jesus used against him when Pilate questioned their real motives in wanting to have Jesus crucified.

In order to buttress their weak case (really, no case at all!) they piously pledged their allegiance to all things Roman when Pilate asked them if Jesus was the King of the Jews.

Those Sadducees and Pharisees, with murder in their hearts and with no allegiance to the Jewish Torah about putting a man to death without verifiable evidence, were so bent on evil and compromise that they were willing to jettison any principles in order to have Pilate turn Jesus over to them for an execution by death on a cross.

Imagine. Religious leaders caught up with pleasing an oppressive Roman governor for political expediency in lieu of doing the right thing regarding the sham case against Jesus.

These deplorables were willing to turn a blind eye and sear their consciences if it meant that they could curry favor with the Romans and, of course, for these religious frauds to maintain their seats of power.

These charlatans were willing to agitate the rabble rousers and the common folk to rise up against Jesus because they had their own agenda of supporting Pilate and it had nothing to do with conscience, righteousness or justice.

It was all about political power and access to power to maintain the status quo. Sound familiar?

Fast forward to the present day political inferno wherein the so-called white evangelicals are parading around and about as Pharisees and Sadducees and are supporting a debased and chronic liar in the person of Donald Trump.

This is the same Trump who boasts of his atrocious exploits against women, mocks those of the Muslim faith, denounces black men as SOB’s, calls the nations of Africa shithole countries and has brought in mental midgets to run the country.

That is just the short list of his nefarious dealings with the country. But...and here is the kicker: Over 80 percent of white evangelicals voted for this miscreant!

Regardless of his self confessions of moral debauchery and his shameless way of dealing with the poor and his infatuation with power, money and racism, Trump still won that percentage of the white evangelical voters!

Trump realized that he had a captive and mindless voting base when he spoke in near disbelief that he could stand on Fifth Avenue in New York City and shoot someone and still his base would adore him.

That is how craven and devoid of conscience and principles these so called white evangelicals were about Trump!

All answers seemingly, at first glance, point toward their cowardly statements of justification in that Trump represented their “Christian values” and that he identified with them and that he was their protector!

Imagine black people in the South voting for George Wallace or Bull Connor under the misguided perception that those two vile racists persons would protect them.

That goes to show you the total mental and spiritual corruption of those white evangelicals who would try, with a straight face, to claim that Trump is their champion.

Never has there been a greater example of the blind leading the blind when so called evangelicals would or could support such a... continued on page 12

Over Policing the African-American Community
By Keith Mitchell, Esq

Guest Column

“White people, by and large, do not know what it is like to be occupied by a police force. They don’t understand it because it is not the type of policing they experience. Because they are treated like individuals, they believe that if ‘I am not breaking the law I will never be abused.’"

Khalil Gibran Muhammad, author of The Condemnation of Blackness

The other night, Monday, March 12, 2018 I had an opportunity to attend a meeting sponsored by Toledo City Councilman Tyrone Riley to bring the community’s attention to the intent of the University of Toledo Police Department and the Ohio State Highway Patrol to open a police station/trooper post near the intersections of Dorr Street and Secor Road here in Toledo. Captain John Altman, District Commander of the Findlay District One Headquarters for the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Captain Jeff Newton of the University of Toledo Police Department explained why this would be a great opportunity for collaboration of their two agencies to work together. While their presentation was informative and interesting, the audience had other thoughts.

One comment was that moving the Highway Patrol Post from its current location on Airport Highway would appear to be, and possibly would be, over policing. The University of Toledo is just across the street from the Village of Ottawa Hills. Already, there is the Ottawa Hills Police in the area and the University of Toledo Police. Additionally, the Toledo Police Department and the Lucas County Sheriff have jurisdiction to address police matters in the area. By adding the Highway Patrol, a fifth agency, appears to be in excess. Both Captain Altman and Captain Newton expressed their view that each of the agencies would augment each other and serve the community more efficiently.

Quite frankly, many people in the African-American community already believe that the police are an occupying force in our community. Adding another police agency in the area can make matters worse—not better. Many times, in the African-American community, routine traffic stops for minor vehicular infractions lead to overreactions by law enforcement. Stops for a missing front license plate, faulty lights on the rear license plate, a tail light being out, a cracked windshield, a driver or passenger not wearing a seatbelt... continued on page 10
Rep. Ashford Announces over $41,000 in State Funds to Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital

Funds would enhance safety for patients and staff

State Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) last week announced the release of $41,900 in state funds to the Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital (NOPH), a state-owned and operated psychiatric hospital in Lucas County, for HVAC renovations and digital control system replacements. The Controlling Board, a panel tasked with oversight of state spending, approved the state funding.

“The caring doctors, nurses and staff of NOPH look after their patients’ best interest and provide exceptional care,” said Ashford. “With mental health at the forefront of national discussion, I’m excited to see the state invest in facilities such as NOPH and in the safety of their patients and staff.”

Fedor: Arming Students Better Saved for Oppressive Foreign Regimes – not America

In the wake of Ohio Republican lawmaker Niraj Antani’s public comments suggesting students should arm themselves in high schools across the state, state Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) last week issued the following statement:

“To suggest students should carry guns at school is to turn our backs on our constitutional oath to further a free society where students have an equal opportunity to succeed. Arming students in the 21st century violates every shred of commonsense, responsible lawmaking, and is better saved for oppressive regimes in foreign lands – not America.

“We should be deeply troubled and angered by politicians who suggest arming students is an appropriate response to the national discussion on commonsense ways to reduce gun violence in our nation. Too many politicians have robbed our students of a childhood by failing to keep them safe, which has pushed them out of our schools and into the streets to fight for accountability from their elected officials. It’s clear some politicians still aren’t listening.”

House School Safety Bill Wrong Approach to the Problem

Vanita Gupta, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, issued the following statement on the U.S. House of Representatives’ passage of the STOP School Violence Act:

“Today’s House vote is a major disappointment. Legislation that should increase safety restrictions and limitations on gun purchases has instead become a ‘school safety’ bill that, while well-intentioned, will not address our gun violence epidemic. We don’t need the appearance of safety. We need real solutions to mass gun violence. Children deserve to go to a safe, high-quality school, but militarizing schools will only harm our children, especially children of color and children with disabilities. Congress should go back to the drawing board and pass the gun safety legislation that people in America actually want.”

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States. The Leadership Conference works toward an America as good as its ideals. For more information on The Leadership Conference and its member organizations, visit www.civilrights.org.

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Regional Water Community Discussion Raises Many Questions, Offers Few Answers

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner’s Truth Editor

The second of six community discussions about a proposed regional water distribution plan was held on Thursday night, March 15 at the Sanger Branch Library. The meeting, organized by the City of Toledo, brought out a standing-room only crowd to listen to the details of the proposed Toledo Area Water Authority (TAWA). On hand to explain the proposal was Eric Rothstein, the self-described independent utility advisor, hired by the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce to guide Toledo and surrounding communities in the discussion about forming a TAWA. The standing-room only crowd asked a number of questions about the proposal. They received few concrete answers and one very big threat.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the TAWA, which was signed by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and representatives of Maumee, Sylvania, Perrysburg, Sylvania, Whitehouse, the Northwestern Water and Sewer District and Monroe, Fulton and Lucas counties, was completed in January 2018 and is now in its 13 version after several years of discussion. This version, said Kapszukiewicz, will be placed on a ballot in the near future for Toledo voters to approve or reject.

The MOU calls for, among other items, the TAWA to purchase the Toledo water system whose replacement value is estimated at $1.3 billion for a maximum of $360 million at $12 million for year over 30 years at “net present value.” That clause means that the effective worth of the buyout would be for less than $200 million as estimated by some observers such as Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dennis Kucinich.

Additionally the MOU calls for a board of trustees to operate the facility and determine rates for Toledo and the other participating communities. The board would have only two designees from Toledo.

Among the many questions posed at the community discussion, several were repeated and garnered special interest on the part of the audience: What are the compelling business reasons to move towards this type of regionalism? What will the rates be with and without this move? Why only two of seven board positions for Toledo? What is the rush? What happens to the current Public Utility water treatment employees; will they keep their jobs?

The audience was told by Rothstein that water rates would be...

...continued on page 6

Why Is the City of Toledo Interested in Selling Its Most Precious Investment?

By Carty Finkbeiner, PROTECT OUR WATER
Guest Column

I attended the City of Toledo-Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Sanger Branch Library to listen and learn about the water “deal.” Citizens attended to obtain answers to key questions – the number one being: WHY IS THE CITY OF TOLEDO INTERESTED IN SELLING ITS MOST PRECIOUS INVESTMENT – OUR WATER SYSTEM?

At a moment in time when drinkable water has never been in greater demand, a fact that our suburbs get, the Chamber of Commerce is pushing city and county politicians to sell our valuable water system for a fraction of its worth.

After 10 years as a councilman, including two years as vice mayor and 12 years as mayor, I know what is the most valuable asset Toledo owns – our water system. This meeting was a rehearsed public relations sales pitch, where citizens could ask questions, but never offer an opinion without getting cut off and at least half of the questions went unanswered. Too many citizens left with too many unanswered questions about this very questionable push to sell our most valuable asset – our water.

You might ask who’s running the “dog and pony” show? The leader of the Chamber of Commerce presentation is a resident of Chicago, a highly-paid consultant, who’s pushing the Chamber of Commerce-suburban mayors’ proposal to force Toledo City Council members, and our mayor, to sell our water system to the suburbs.

Toledo makes up more than 60 percent of the water used and has paid for the majority of the cost of the physical infrastructure improvements recently made. That infrastructure has an estimated value in excess of $1 billion. In the last half dozen years along, the plant has received physical upgrades totaling a half billion dollars. The suburban mayors, and the Chamber of Commerce, have been vague and vacuous about what they will offer to purchase or lease the water system. Yet they are pushing our mayor and council members to commit to making this deal. With fewer than half of the serious questions answered, and too many other questions answered vaguely, no responsible citizen of Toledo, including council members and our mayor, should support this low ball and specious offer.

Lucas County Commissioners, who have put themselves in the middle of this, need to tell Toledo citizens that they are sticking with Toledo and not abandoning the citizens who put them in office. Sixty-five percent of the Lucas County voters live in the City of Toledo.

...continued on page 6
equalized – meaning they will go up for Toledoans and down for those in the outlying townships, but the rates would not go up for Toledoans as much as if they would if the surrounding towns that now buy their water from Toledo went elsewhere to buy their water. The debt on the water plant – currently around $300 million, he said, would be assumed by TAWA. And, of course, suburban cooperation would be enhanced, he assured the audience.

Toledo would receive only two seats because of a “desire to break from past practices to avoid a blocking vote,” he said. Such a structure would promote regional cooperation.

Ed Moore, director of the Department of Public Utilities, assured attendees that employee jobs will be safe.

What’s the rush? The rush to accept the TAWA and put it for a vote on November’s ballot is to assure the several communities whose contracts with Toledo end within six years that they can start to make plans immediately to either stay with TAWA or go off on their own. If they do decide to go off on their own and seek other water supplies, such a process is a lengthy one, said Rothstein.

With this came the big threat.

The current MUO is the 13th one produced in this process and work on version 14, said Rothstein, begins shortly. Version 14 will be an examination of a water authority that includes all those in version 13 with the notable exception of the City of Toledo. That version, he noted, could mean that Toledo, operating on its own, would be an examination of a water authority that includes all those in the region with Toledo not included. That version 14 will be a structure would promote regional cooperation.

The current MUO is the 13th one produced in this process and work on version 14, said Rothstein, begins shortly. Version 14 will be an examination of a water authority that includes all those in version 13 with the notable exception of the City of Toledo. That possibility, he noted, could mean that Toledo, operating on its own without suburban customers, would be forced to increase its rates for city residents by as much as 300 percent.

Unfortunately such a statement is only a estimate since an extensive analysis of rates has not been performed; neither has a thorough appraisal of the value of the Toledo water system. Both will presumably be performed after the MOU is accepted by Toledo through a vote in November. Then, at some point in the future, Toledoans will have the opportunity to learn what they voted to approve.

Isn’t it time to remind the commissioners that they represent Toledo?

In the last three years, here is what the commissioners have attempted to do to their Toledo voters:

1. Force Toledo to pay for the booking of criminals into our jails at an annual cost of $10 million. Four judges have told the county commissioners “NO,” but they persist in demanding Toledo pay this large annual bill;
2. Force a new jail onto a slice of land on Angola Road in south Toledo against the wishes of the residents;
3. Force a jail onto Alexis Road in north Toledo against the wishes of the residents. There is much hostility in the air;
4. Take Toledo’s water system and sell it to the suburbs for way less than its true value.

PROTECT OUR WATER, a group of which I am a member, plans to go into the neighborhoods to discuss the sale of our water system. We will not leave until all questions are answered.

At the Sanger Branch Library meeting, we were all shoed out of the room after 90 minutes of the “dog and pony” show. This is disrespectful to the citizens who came with serious questions.

The deal Toledoans have in front of them through the “Memorandum of Understanding” is a very bad deal for Toledo. For having initiated and developed our existing regional water system, after having serviced all of northwest Ohio for decades, Toledo is not getting the respect it deserves. The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce needs to remember where it was founded and who has been loyal to it over the years.

The Chamber’s highly-paid Chicago consultant should place on Toledo’s table the same deal he struck in Detroit, where the suburbs will lease Detroit water for 40 years and pay $8 billion to Detroit – rather than the paltry offer he has placed on Toledo’s table. If he can’t put together a similar, generous deal for Toledo, Toledo City Council should reject this terrible offer and we Toledoans should thoughtfully guide our precious and very valuable water system into a promising future for all residents of northwest Ohio – just as we have done for decades. And, the politicians who have their hands in this should retire, or some of us will work very hard to retire them.
NAACP: The Struggle Continues

By Lunette Howell, Betty Valentine
NAACP Editorial Team

“MARCH FOR OUR LIVES” led by the Youth of NWO and YWCA I Rise program on Saturday, March 24, 2018, 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Toledo NAACP is partnering with the YWCA and other local groups to protest against violence in our schools and communities. The march will leave from Promenade Park on Water Street marching to the Government Center. This supports a national march held the same day across our country. Please join us Saturday!!

March is Women’s History Month and we want to congratulate some of our Board members who have made a difference in our community.

- Beatrice Daniels, our ACT-SO Chairperson was recently invited by Nancy Pelosi to Washington, D.C. for a dinner honoring our Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

- Theresa Gabriel, National NAACP Golden Life Board and Security Team, will be honored this month at the Jesup W. Scott High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame.

- Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, our Legal Redress Chairperson has been promoted to the position of Statewide Director of Regional Operations for Ohio Civil Rights Commission and moving to Columbus, Ohio.

- Willie Ann Moore, 3rd Vice President and State Education Chairperson is being honored at the YWCA Milestones Award this month.

A Lot of History for Women in America and the World!

The celebration of Women’s History Month initially began as an extension of International Women’s Day (a socialist movement) and later an extension of Women’s History Week. The socialist movement carried the day forward to many nations and in 1975 it was adopted by the United Nations. During the 1970s women in California began a campaign designed to inform the public about the contributions of women to society. Their efforts led to the establishment of Women’s History Month and they decided it should be held around the same time as International Women’s Day which was already focused on women and had an established audience.

One of the original California organizers, Molly Murphy MacGregor, brought forth their work while attending a Women’s History Institute conference in New York City and the celebration soon spread across the country. President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the first national Women’s History Week for March 2-8, 1980. President Ronald Reagan followed the proclamation and in 1987 Congress passed a proclamation that saw the week evolve into Women’s History Month.

The history of women in America dates back to its establishment as a nation. From 1804 when the Shoshone Indian, Sacagawea, led Lewis and Clark across the Louisiana Territory; when Florence Nightingale brought nursing to a profession during the Civil War; when women moved from nurses to soldiers in the military; when Bessie Coleman became the first African-American woman to get a pilot’s license and Mae Jemison became the first African-American woman to go to space; when Susan B. Anthony and Eleanor Roosevelt fought for suffrage and the passage of the 19th amendment, when women moved from the kitchen to the political arena. Females have worked hard and diligently to move this country forward and to gain equality in every aspect of our daily lives. The status of women has once again gained momentum and Women’s History Month is a wonderful time to reflect on our accomplishments!

Regional Water Forums are currently being held in each City Council District. The purpose of the meetings are to understand the impact of a regional water system that will include Toledo, Lucas County, Perrysburg, Maumee and other suburbia locations. In previous articles we talked about the power of the vote and now is a good time to educate yourself as to what impact this will have on you as a residential customer. Will your water rates increase, decrease, or stay the same? How will rates for customers in Toledo compare to rates in surrounding areas? And most important how will this affect our Seniors and other customers on a fixed income?

If you haven’t attended a meeting regarding the Regional Water system yet…….there’s still time! Members of City Council and other community leaders will be there to answer your questions and concerns. You decide how to vote on this very important issue in November!

Remainder of Regional Water Meeting dates:
- Thursday, March 22, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. District 6, Friendship Park Community Center, 2930 - 131st Street
- Monday, March 26, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., District 1, Gesu Sullivan Center, 2049 Parkside Blvd.
- Thursday, March 29, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. District 4, Nexus Healthcare, 1415 Jefferson Ave.

Join the NAACP - $30/year for adult memberships and $15/year for youth under 20 years of age. View our website at www.naacptoledo.org. Next meeting date April 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at Mott Branch Library.

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March 21, 2018 The Sojourner’s Truth Page 7
Rogers’ Girls Take Division II State Basketball Championship

By Albert Earl
Sojourner’s Truth Photographer and Rogers HS Graduate

St. Patrick’s Day is normally known for being the luckiest day of the year. However, on Saturday in Columbus, luck was nowhere to be found as the Roger’s High School girls’ basketball team brought home the school’s first state championship trophy and first to Toledo for girls since 1981 with a 51-37 victory over third-ranked Gates Mills Gilmour Academy at Ohio State University’s Value City Arena.

This win was the result of determination, team work, and the will to be the best, as the girls refused to live up to the community’s expectation of once again falling short of being a championship caliber team.

As I reflect on this overwhelming feeling of pride and admiration, I almost become nostalgic when thinking about what these girls have put in to becoming the best of the best, not only on the court, but in the classroom as well.

As we all know, the girls finished 27-3, were sixth-ranked in the state at the end of the regular season and knocked off some talented teams throughout the playoffs. What some may not know is that these girls are stellar academic achievers, and bring real meaning to the term “student athlete.” Lauren Smith, the daughter of Coach Lamar Smith, will finish in the top thee in her class, earning educational accolades. Courtney Gardner and 2nd Team All State Madison Royal Davis, both of whom are freshman are within the top five of their class and Myia McLeod will finish in the top five percent of her class.

Secondly, I am in total awe of what Coach Smith has accomplished...continued on page 11

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Democratic Lawmakers Announce $15 Minimum Wage Bill

Call for modernizing Ohio’s wages, giving 1.8 million Ohioans a raise

Ohio Democratic state lawmakers, workers and advocates last week announced a bill to address Ohio’s bad economic growth and low wages with new legislation to increase Ohio’s minimum wage to $15 per hour. House Assistant Democratic Whip Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati), Senate Assistant Democratic Whip Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) and state Senator Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) called for the legislation, which would give a raise to 1.8 million Ohioans.

“A job should lift you out of poverty – not keep you in it,” said Rep. Kelly. “America is supposed to be the land of opportunity, but too many people in Ohio know it doesn’t matter how hard they work, they still have to live paycheck to paycheck to make ends meet. By modernizing our minimum wage, more people can earn the opportunity for a better life.”

Today almost 70 percent of new jobs in Ohio pay poverty wages. And an Ohio family of three with a breadwinner who works full-time at minimum wage makes $3,500 below the poverty line, according to Policy Matters Ohio.

“When companies pay low wages, that costs the taxpayers,” said Senator Thomas. “That’s because low-wage workers are forced to rely on social safety net programs to make ends meet. When we raise the minimum wage, we recognize the dignity of work and the belief that all workers deserve the opportunity to build a better future for themselves and their families.”

Small businesses agree that an increase in income for low-wage workers is good for business. A 2014 survey found that small business owners believe raising the minimum wage will increase consumer purchasing power, boost the economy and increase productivity.

“Raising the minimum wage is good for our economy and good for business,” said Senator Schiavoni. “When people are bringing home more money, they spend it in their local economy. That means increased demand for goods and services creating more jobs.”

Despite the myth that minimum wage earners are young people, 88 percent of Ohio’s minimum wage workers are over 20. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the average minimum wage worker is a 35-year-old woman with some college education working full-time. Raising the wage helps women and their families. If Ohio increases its minimum wage, nearly 700,000 Ohio children will have a parent who gets a raise.

“No one who works full-time in our state should have to live in poverty,” said Chaundra Kidd, a Cleveland-area nursing home employee. “Working people deserve a wage that allows them to provide for their families. Raising the minimum wage gives workers a fighting chance for a better future.”

Ohio’s minimum wage currently sits at $8.30 per hour and $4.15 per hour for tipped workers. The companion legislation being introduced by the Democratic lawmakers would take a tiered approach to raising the wage, calling for $12 per hour in 2019, $12.50 in 2020, $13 in 2021, and 50 cents every following year until 2025 when the minimum wage reaches $15 per hour. The minimum wage would continue to be adjusted upward for inflation every year following, according to the Ohio Constitution.

Lawmakers cite the Ohio General Assembly’s 2016 ban on local communities raising the minimum wage as a primary reason why this bill should move through the state legislature.

The lawmakers are currently circulating co-sponsorship requests to gain support from fellow lawmakers prior to formal introduction.

Keith Mitchell... continued from page 3

... continued on page 13
Paula Hicks-Hudson Holds Fundraiser and Opens Campaign for General Assembly Seat

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Former Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson is back in the campaign spotlight again. On Wednesday, March 14, the candidate for the Ohio House District 44, opened her campaign with a fundraiser at Michael’s Bar & Grill in downtown Toledo. Hicks-Hudson is running for the Democratic Party nomination for the seat now held by State Rep. Michael Ashford who is term-limited from running again. Ashford is the endorsed Lucas County Democratic Party candidate for the Ohio State Senate seat held by Sen. Edna Brown, who is also term-limited from seeking another term.

Hicks-Hudson will be running against Robert Worthington in the May 8 primary and against Republican candidate Kenneth Cousino in November should she prevail in the primary. She said that she will be working on issues of concern for those in District 44 including business, labor, families, retirees and those involved in education.

Hicks-Hudson, an attorney, was a city councilwoman and president of City Council, when she was appointed to mayor in February 2015 following the death of then Mayor D. Michael Collins. She won election to the post in November 2015 in a special election but lost her bid for re-election in November 2017 to Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

At Roger’s High School in the past eight years. Although his work has been well documented, I believe he has gone greatly underappreciated until now. Coach Smith has worked tirelessly, sending 18 girls on full ride scholarships to various colleges and has sent 11 to Division I schools since taking over the program in 2011. He is one of the few who believed in his team during their adversity, and gave them the confidence needed to endure, when everyone else said it couldn’t be done. Kudos to you Coach Smith for raising the standard of excellence, and being a true leader in our community.

Finally, it is inspiring to know that this group of girls believed in themselves, even when others did not. The Toledo Public School district brings a negative connotation when conversations of student athletes are held. Some say that it is next to impossible for a TPS Team to win it all, produce educational powerhouses, and have participants stay out of criminal trouble simultaneously. Outside of the Roger’s High School community, Principal Kelly Welch, Assistant Principal Elberta Smith, faculty, staff, and students, many others throughout the city doubted it could be done. I am truly proud to say that this group of girls sent a message loud and clear to those who have ever doubted them. Excellence is possible to achieve, no matter the social/economic status, race, or what side of the tracks one may be from.

In conclusion, I was asked how the Roger’s High School state championship made me feel, and I can put it to you very simply. Overjoyed, inspired and motivated to continue to do great things in my own life to help inspire those I may come in contact with. I think about how the girls have given a maximum effort to achieve their yearlong goal. This includes summer workouts, tire flips, and countless hours of studying film.

However, what makes this truly special is how these girls are great citizens and scholar performers in the classroom, and that’s the real miracle here for a community like ours. Zia Cooke scored 33 points and had 14 rebounds in the finale, was the MVP and captain of her team. Yet she was seen doing homework hours before tip-off. If that’s not something to admire, I don’t know what is. They’ve excelled on the court, in the classroom, and beyond, and we all could do better by taking a page or two from their play book. Hats off to the Roger’s High School girls’ basketball team, and thanks for reminding us all of one important aspect.

It’s not hard…when you work hard.

Ed. Note: Earl, a Rogers alumnus and former member of the boys basketball team, is a member of the Hall of Fame committee and does volunteer organizing in the Rogers community centered around economic and social justice issues. He mentors Rogers students and does photography for the school. Earl has a number of family members who have attended Rogers and excelled in sports.
just think the levy is going to be a pretty heavy lift. Their criminal justice reform has already brought down the rate of recidivism like the tone that council is adopting at this point. I don’t like the direction things are currently heading and I don’t want it to be plentiful water for a long time and that’s a big piece of it, so I’m concerned. I don’t like the direction things are currently heading and I don’t like the tone that council is adopting at this point.

Perryman: Okay, let’s jump to another subject. How do you feel about the jail site?

Spang: What are your thoughts?

Perryman: After all is said and done, these type issues always seem to unfairly end up in black or brown neighborhoods because no one else wants them in their neighborhoods. I think that there should be more political equity in neighborhoods of color vis à vis that which exists in more privileged areas.

Spang: The levy for the jail will be a large one. If you own a quarter million dollar home in Sylvania Township, you’ll be paying $10 a month for the jail, so that is likely to not happen. But the county is trying to get operating costs in, and they’re trying to recoup what they lost from the City of Toledo and I get that. That was a big hit. It was a $12 million hit and it’s not likely coming back to them. The opposition to the Detroit/Alexis Road site is nothing like the opposition at the Angola site. But I just saw now that Michigan’s getting into the game. This is ridiculous because it will have a negative impact on a big investment into the community.

Perryman: But part of the investment goes towards mental health, a piece which desperately needs to be incorporated into criminal justice reform.

Spang: Well, Lucas County has already made good strides in that regard. Their criminal justice reform has already brought down the rate of recidivism and they’ve brought down the number of those being incarcerated. I just think the levy is going to be a pretty heavy lift.

Perryman: So speaking of the Lucas County Commissioners, how are you going to coexist with a majority Democratic board should your campaign be successful?

Spang: Well, I coexisted with a majority Democratic city council and I’ve done okay. And with fewer people to work with on the board of commissioners, I think the conversation will be different than it has been.

Perryman: Talk about the conversation.

Spang: Well, Pete [Gerken] already calls me about things and I feel that I can speak my mind. I’m a very persuasive person and my theory about Pete is that he’s a true idealist. He wants to fix things, I don’t always agree with Pete’s methodology and that’s probably where I think I’ll be able to sometimes temper the message.

The main thing is that Gerken cares. But just because you care doesn’t mean that you get the conversation right and that you know the right way to put it. I think people who know me well know that I care deeply about all kinds of issues that our city is facing. Do I always phrase it correctly? That can be tough, and I think that sometimes, maybe because the commissioners tend to always agree and get a lot of things done behind the curtain, that their skills are not as well-honed in taking something to the people. So I think I’m going to be able to be helpful there. I think I bring fresh ideas.

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

Lafe Tolliver... continued from page 3

lying and morally bankrupt person under the guise that Trump is defending their Christian values!

You could not invent such fantasies as what we are now experiencing with the surreal presidential acts and statements of a man who is beyond delusional that even some believe that he is becoming a clear and present danger to himself and others.

Obviously those white evangelicals are not guided by any Biblical principles of morality or deeds of faith when they are able to support such a carnal man and slough it off as he being a “baby” Christian or that they will give him a pass on morality since they are not voting for a priest but for a president!

However, and this is the 800 pound gorilla in the room: these smitten white evangelicals have an sub text to their bewildering bloc vote for Trump and that is...wait for it....they, like Trump, are latent racists.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com
Who are you?
Spoken or unspoken, serious or in jest, you get asked that question all the time. Where are you from? Who are your parents? Have you been here before, and what do you do? In *All The Women in My Family Sing*, edited by Deborah Santana, the questions stand: who are you and what is your story?

It’s a no-brainer: every day you spend in this world is different, socially, than it was last week, last year, in your mother’s time. Great-grandma might not even recognize your world – and that’s especially so if you are women of color.

Take, for instance, home.

It’s a complicated word, to be sure. It means going back to where people love you, where your roots lie, even if your parents spent their lives leaving it. It might be the first place you experienced bullying. Maybe you wonder where “home” is – or you may already be there but you’re “just not sure how long [you’ll] stay.”

On racism: what would you say if, after learning about Rosa Parks, your child asks which water fountain he would’ve had to choose, had he lived then? Or: what do you do when your school pays homage to the historical figure who stole your ancestors’ lands? Also: if you endured racism as a child, will there ever be a time when you’ve “stopped being eight years old”?

And then there’s the matter of identity.

What was it like to be raised in an all-white neighborhood, educated in an almost-all-white school, with mostly-white friends? Many of the authors know – and they honor the elders who taught them through example what it was like to be a woman of color. Still, many write about being the “only”: the only Black English teacher, the only Asian student, the only 40-something Latina in the mom-group...

Sometimes, you may “feel like part of no people and every people.” Your hair is curly. Your political beliefs are loud. The next generation is yours to raise, if you choose, and you’ve got things to tell them. You are beautiful, and you know that “Some scar tissue knits so tight that it shores you up like a bone.”

There’s something absolutely compelling about the stories in *All the Women in My Family Sing*. They’re like an addiction.

Read one, and your eyes fly open. Turn to the middle and your heart sinks. Taste one at random and find a kindred spirit, then disagree with another that just doesn’t touch you right. That’s the appeal of this book: each of the essays in here – written by everyday women as well as those with fame – are short enough to dip into quick, you can easily skip around, and they’ll all make you think and think and think.

Yes, *All the Women in My Family Sing* is for women. It’s more feminist than not. And yes, men can enjoy it, too, because reading it is like falling into a web of nourishing voices. This is a book to have, no matter who you are.

Keith Mitchell.. continued from page 10

labors. And yet they strictly enforced vagrancy laws, catch-alls that gave them wide discretion to stop, question and arrest black citizens at will.”

Much has changed since then. Much has not.”

The perception of over policing the African American community—or the reality of over policing the African-American community is detrimental in theory and in practice. I, along with other members of the audience, believe that there are already sufficient law enforcement resources in the Dorr/Secor area. Adding the Ohio State Highway Patrol would tend to make things worse not better. I encourage everyone to contact their elected officials: Governor John Kasich at (614) 466-3555, State Senator Edna Brown at (614) 466-5204, State Representative Michael Ashford at (614) 466-1401, President of the University of Toledo, Sharon L. Gaber at 419 530-2211, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz at (419) 245-1001, and your City Council Representatives at (419) 245-1050 to urge them to abandon the plan of consolidating the University of Toledo Police Department and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Keith L. Mitchell is an attorney who has practiced law in Toledo for 30 years, having been in the private practice of law and a prosecutor and public defender. He can be contacted at 338 N. Erie Street, Suite 100, Toledo, Ohio 43604.
BUS TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

HPR Travel Club presents a bus trip to Historical New Orleans
7 days, 6 nights - Sunday, August 12 to Saturday, August 18, 2018
Includes 10 meals, 6 breakfasts, 4 dinners
Guided tours, Riverboat cruise & more
Cost - $600/pp double occupancy, 1st deposit
$75 due April 1st
Call Doris Powell at 419-537-0599

JOB FAIR AT THE TOLEDO ZOO

TOLEDO, Ohio — The Toledo Zoo will be hosting a job fair on Tuesday, March 27 from 3-7 p.m. to fill more than 200 part-time and seasonal positions. The Zoo is looking to hire friendly, outgoing individuals with customer-focused attitudes to fill a variety of guest service positions. Join the team... everybody’s Zooin’ it!

For questions regarding the job fair, please email toledozoobooth@toledozoo.org or call the Toledo Zoo at 419-243-2300.

FREE “LOVE THE EARTH DAY” EVENT OFFERED ON APRIL 14

Free planetarium shows & hands-on activities for the whole family

To better accommodate the busy schedules of participating non-profit organizations, the Appold Planetarium and Lourdes University have moved their scheduled earth day celebration to Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The “Love the Earth” event will be offered in and around the Appold Planetarium at Lourdes University, 6832 Convent Blvd., in Sylvania.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMERS

Metroparks Toledo is looking for motivated, innovative and fun individuals to deliver cultural educational programs as part of the Canal Experience at Providence Metropark, the Manor House at Wildwood Preserve and the Nature Photo Center at Secor Metropark. Some college course work in history, education, communication, theatre or parks and recreation preferred and some experience in historical re-enactment research, public speaking and programming desired. Seasonal positions up to 40 hours/week, $9.23/hr or $9.47/hr depending on position.

NATURE AND OUTDOOR SKILLS PROGRAMMERS

What a great opportunity to work outdoors in the summer! Metroparks Toledo is looking for individuals to join our team to deliver nature and outdoor recreation programming at Wildwood and Oak openings parks. Must have completed sophomore year towards a college degree in environmental science, biology, education, outdoor recreation or related college program or equivalent work experience. Some experience working with children and leading outdoor education programs required. Previous camp counselor and leading recreational trips preferred. Seasonal positions up to 40 hours/week $9.47/hr

DAY CAMP COORDINATOR

Metroparks Toledo is looking for an individual to provide a positive and educational experience for park visitors and program participants in our children’s summer day camp. Must have completed sophomore year towards college degree in environment science, biology, education, outdoor recreation or related college program or equivalent work experience. Previous experience working with groups of children and previous experience as a counselor or naturalist at a children’s camp required. Leadership experience preferred. Seasonal position up to 40 hours/week. $10.22/hr

www.metroparkstoledo.com/careers for complete job requirements and descriptions, must submit online application and resume. EO
On Sunday, March 18, 2018, 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/Spring2018.

- **1 Ottawa Hills/Sylvania/Sylvania Twp Call-A-Ride**
  - 1/4 renamed to 1; Saturday and Sunday hours adjusted to 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

- **2 Franklin Park via Toledo Hospital**
  - ProMedica Health added Wellness Center via Starlite Plaza added; no 11 a.m. weekday lineup

- **3 North/South Crosstown**
  - adjusted schedule: 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- **5 Dorr via UT Main Campus/Walmart**
  - Dorr/Reynolds timepoint added; schedule adjustments

- **6 King Road/City of Sylvania**
  - adjusted schedule: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Holland-Sylvania/Brent/McCord/Sylvania loop added

- **8 Maumee/Waterville Call-A-Ride**
  - 8/29 renamed to 8; Monday through Friday hours adjusted to 6:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday hours adjusted to 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

- **10 Rossford Call-A-Ride**
  - downtown routing updated: Erie/Jackson/Summit/Washington to/from I-75; Monday through Friday hours adjusted to 6:00 a.m.-9:15 p.m.; last return trip to downtown 9:45 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday hours adjusted to 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; holidays 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

- **12 Front/Starr**

- **14 East Broadway/Oak**
  - schedule adjusted for new weekday 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. trips to downtown

- **15A Summit/Suder/Alexis**

- **15E Summit/Point Place via Alexis**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup

- **16 Alexis via Meijer**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup

- **17B Lagrange/Bennett via Miracle Mile**

- **17E Lagrange/Eleanor via Miracle Mile**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup

- **19F Cherry/Franklin Park**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup

- **19S Cherry/Secor/Franklin Park Mall**
  - schedule adjustments; 19S via Franklin Park to/from Secor timepoint only on Secor Rd

- **19T Cherry/Talmadge/Franklin Park Mall**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup; schedule adjustments for 19T via Franklin Park to/from Secor timepoint only on Talmadge Rd

- **20F Central Ave/Franklin Park Mall**

- **20M Central/Meijer Drive**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup; service every day

- **20W Ottawa Hills via Westgate**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup; three 20W trips added: 7:30 a.m. inbound arriving downtown at 7:55 a.m., 10:25 a.m. inbound arriving downtown at 11:10 a.m., and 11:10 a.m. outbound arriving 11:55 a.m. at Westgate; Executive Pkwy 20W routing eliminated; weekday-only service

- **22 Bancroft via UT Campus/Franklin Park**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup

- **26D Berdan/Dougis/Miracle Mile**

- **26L Lewis/Alexis/Miracle Mile**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup; schedule adjusted for Saturday and Sunday lineups and to end after the 1:30 p.m. lineup; no holiday service

- **27H Nebraska/Hill-Reynolds**

- **27N Nebraska/Angela-Wenz**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup; schedule adjustments; discontinuation of the McTigue/Nebraska via 27N replaced by all trips via Walmart; Central Ave

- **28 /Indiana/Smead/Oakwood**
  - schedule adjusted for weekday trips prior to 8 a.m. and following 7:30 p.m. lineups; new weekday 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. trips to downtown

- **29X Waterville Express**
  - downtown routing updated: Erie/Jackson/Summit/Washington to/from I-75

- **31G Glendale/Southwyck**

- **31H Heatherdowns/Southwyck**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup

- **32H South/Airport via Home Depot**

- **32R UTMC/Southwyck**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup

- **34 Detroit/Byrne/Western via UTMC**
  - no 11:00 a.m. weekday lineup; schedule adjusted for weekday trips prior to 6:30 a.m. and following 6:00 p.m. lineups; no holiday service

- **35 Airport/Maumee-Arrowhead**
  - schedule adjustments for new starting times at 6:15 a.m., ending at 11:30 a.m.; new starting time for trips starting at 3:10 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m.

- **39 Franklin Park/City of Sylvania**

- **39M Monroe/Sylvania-Centennial**
  - trips reduced to an adjusted schedule starting at 6:00 a.m. and ending at 8:40 a.m.; new afternoon starting times at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m.; new downtown routing: Erie/Jackson/Summit/Washington to/from I-75

- **41 Glendale-Southland/Maumee-Arrowhead**
  - trips reduced to an adjusted schedule starting at 6:25 a.m. and ending at 10:25 a.m.; new afternoon starting times at 2:00 p.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m.; new downtown routing: Erie/Jackson/Summit/Washington to/from I-75

- **43 Maumee-Arrowhead/Western via UTMC**
  - schedule adjusted and trips reduced to a new starting time at 7:37 a.m., ending at 6:57 p.m.

- **44X St. Luke’s Hospital**
  - new downtown routing: Erie/Jackson/Summit/Washington to/from I-75

TARTA serves the communities of Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Rossford, Sylvania, Sylvania Township, Toledo, and Waterville.