

The Sojourner's Truth

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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

June 21, 2023



THE 18TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL PRESENTS

FREDDIE JACKSON **GINUWINE** **THE ZAPP BAND**

PROMENADE PARK TOLEDO, OHIO

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8 AM ET THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PRAYER BREAKFAST WILL BE AT THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART CLASS PAVILION, 2445 MONROE ST.

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CONTRARY PERFORMANCE BY HELLY WILLIAMS

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THE COMMUNITY DAY WILL BE AT NELSON GRACE PARK, 1001 N DETROIT AVE. FROM 12 PM TO 3 PM ET

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PARADE AND COMMUNITY DAY ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL AND CONCERT WILL BE AT PROMENADE PARK, 400 WATER ST., THE GATES WILL OPEN AT 3 PM ET

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JULY 14 AND 15, 2023

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Toledo NAACP and Toledo Lucas County Library Juneteenth Celebration

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library and Toledo NAACP hosted a joint Juneteenth Celebration on June 17, 2023. The celebration was held on the rooftop of the Main Branch located in downtown Toledo. The rooftop was filled to capacity as guest enjoyed live music inspired by jazz and R&B, fellowship and supported local black businesses.

“This is our second Juneteenth rooftop event in collaboration with the library. We again, had a great turnout and even sold out this year. This is truly a blessing and a different way to celebrate Juneteenth. Kudos to the Jason [Kucsma] and the library staff for this successful collaboration,” shared Rev. Willie Perryman, president of Toledo NAACP.

According to several news sources, Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation announcement and enforcement in Texas by Union soldiers at the conclusion of the Civil War on June 19, 1865.

Over the years, the day was commemorated primarily in the Black community. In 1980, Texas became the first state to officially recognize the day as a holiday and by 2019, 47 states and the District of Columbia recognized Juneteenth.

President Biden signed the legislation into law in June of 2021 that marks Juneteenth as an official United States holiday. This follows the efforts of Opal Lee, who fought for years to ensure that Juneteenth became a national holiday.

“We’re a public library and this is just one way that we can support and

celebrate Juneteenth. This year we have seen an increase in turnout and hopefully this event will get bigger each year,” shared Toledo Lucas County Library Director, Jason Kucsma.

The celebration featured live entertainment by M.G.M. Band and refreshments by two Black-women businesses: Jera’s Heavenly Sweets and A Family Affair catering.

A Family Affair catering was formed five years ago by two local relatives Bridgette Floyd and Gwen Wyse. “Our menu tonight inspires people to fellowship and have a good time,” explained Floyd. We’re grateful for this opportunity,” shared Wyse.



Jera's Heavenly Sweet



Leslie Moore, Montalena and Roy Hodge, Kendra Smith



Toledo Lucas County Library staff - Erin Baker, Kath Selking and Library Director Jason Kucsma



Food Vendor A Family Affair



Rev. Perryman and family



NAACP President Rev. Willie Perryman with City Councilwomen Tiffany Preston Whitman, PhD, and Cerssandra McPherson

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A Jewish Prayer for Juneteenth

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

The Truth Contributor



Black liberation has never just been about Black people. It's been about a fight for our humanity, for our dignity.

– Patrisse Cullors

An illustrious history of Jewish and African American collaboration exists in our communities' shared struggles. American Jews helped found and fund some of our most important civil rights organizations, including the NAACP, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and others. Jewish activists also made up a disproportionate number of white people involved in the Civil Rights Movement, including those who participated in the momentous Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964.

Although more work is needed, in the spirit of our communities' long and fruitful partnership, Daniel Pearlman, Vice President of the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Greater Toledo, offers the following "Jewish Prayer for Juneteenth" written by married Rabbis Hillel and Sharon Barr Skolnik:

Our G-d

Compassionate redeemer,

Emancipator,

Liberator of the oppressed, downtrodden and enslaved.

You heard our ancestors' cries as slaves in Egypt

Freed us from harsh labors with an outstretched arm,

Delivered us from bondage,

Took us to be your people,

And brought us to our Promised Land.

You heard the cries of Black slaves in this country.

Freed them officially on this day with an outstretched arm.

May you continue to:

Deliver us from the bondage of injustice;

Take us to be your people, treated by all with love and equity,

And bring us to a moment when this Land fulfills its Promises.

Ever-listening, attentive One:

Hear us now.

The journey has been long,

The steps arduous and ongoing.

But we celebrate freedom this day:

With love,

Memory,

Honor,

Resolve to be a force for positive change and fervent hope for freedoms still yet to be realized.

As you have shown us compassion, help us to be compassionate.

As you have liberated us, help us stand up against injustice everywhere.

As you have delivered us, help us fight for freedom for all still enslaved.

Remember us, hear us, and be with us always.

And let us say Amen.

Hillel Skolnik is the Senior Rabbi at Congregation Tifereth Israel in Columbus, Ohio. Rabbi Sharon Barr Skolnik is the Program Director of Wexner Service Corps at the Wexner Foundation.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, Ph.D, at drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org

An Embarrassment Bigger Than Trump

By John E. Warren, Publisher

San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper

In the midst of the discussion of the second indictment of former President Donald Trump, there is an issue greater than, if not equal to, the former president's alleged crimes.

That issue is the embarrassing spectacle of those elected members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate who have taken an oath to "uphold and defend" the Constitution of the United States, which includes its laws, institutions and process of governance.

That oath respects the separation of powers as established in Articles I, II and III of the Constitution. It requires that the business of the nation be done in the prescribed manner of its laws, which gives legislative powers to the Congress, Judicial powers to the Courts and Executive powers to the President as prescribed under Article II.

This means that when Republican members of Congress take aim and condemn the Department of Justice, the same DOJ operating under its delegated authority within the prescribed conduct of the Judicial system, their conduct denies the validity of the very Constitution such members swore to "protect and defend". It is one thing for die hard Trump supporters to speak as if they are operating in support of the Constitution, and another to, at the same time, say they will not read the indictment and refuse to acknowledge the same legal process that states "No one is above the law" (including Presidents).

These same Trump supporters are joined by elected Republican members of the U.S. House and Senate who join the Trump supporters as deniers of the validity of the current Presidency and our electoral process - except when it works in their favor.

Democracy has been crippled with the failure of our two party system collapsing under such refusals by Republican members of Congress to support the very political and judicial process upon which they were elected.

It is an embarrassment to have the Speaker of the House of Representatives and members of the U.S. Senate openly attack the process and indictments brought against Donald Trump. They refuse to even read the document in which Trump indicted himself through his words, and actions while he simultaneously refuses to acknowledge the threats to national security detailed in his illegal holding and refusal to release Secret and Classified documents.

If Donald Trump were to be treated like anyone else in a similar situation, the Court would probably order a psychiatric evaluation to consider his fitness to stand trial. His actions and statements are against his personal interest. What does that say for the elected offi-

... continued on page 5



John Warren

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African American Communities Hit Hard by Plunging Air Quality Levels

By Paul Hubbard

Guest Column

There have been many news reports on the air quality we breathe being bad. It's because of the wildfires in Canada and Grayling Michigan. This smokey bad air quality has a negative effect on many African Americans and especially low-income folks and senior citizens.

Pat Williams, RN, owner of Comfort Care Day Care Services says the health challenges for this population are great. Pat Willams RN says low-income African Americans and especially seniors are at risk because many already suffer from high blood pressure, lung cancer, emphysema, bronchitis, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, all which already cause beathing problems.

Williams says part of the problem is that low-income neighborhoods have a lot of cement and black top instead of grass and trees. Grass and trees take the carbon dioxide out of the air and replace it with oxygen. Financial costs that create problems for low-income people and seniors are medications that are needed; air conditioner electric bills to clean the air; extra time for care givers to give treatment; lack of outdoor exercise and extra bottled water to drink.

Air Quality Indexes can be checked on a cell phone app. "AirCare" .50 AQI is good; AQI 101-150 older adults should be careful; AQI 151--200 is likely to have a detrimental effect on everyone; AQI 200 to over 300 is considered hazardous according to "Wired" online information and a N95 mask is recommended for protection.

Hazardous air warnings and climate change warnings from scientists date back to the 1800s according to USA today. The US Navy met with the US Congress in Feb. 1989 and 2001 to discuss climate change. They discussed



Paul Hubbard

how climate change will cause floods, droughts, poor air quality, wildfires and can lead to malnutrition and famine which will create disagreements between political groups.

USA Today says that any politician who denies the reality of climate change and the effect it has on people's lives is either grossly ignorant of more than a century of science; or is deliberately misleading the public for political reasons.

Paul L. Hubbard MSW, President Comfort Adult Day Care Services. "A Senior Moment"

Hicks-Hudson Condemns Senate Budget

Special to The Truth

Last week, state Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) issued the following statement after the Ohio Senate voted to pass their version of House Bill 33, the state operating budget.



Paula Hicks-Hudson

"The tax changes proposed in the Senate's budget may benefit some Ohioans," said Hicks-Hudson. "But when you look at the effect of these purported cuts, local governments will lose millions of dollars. That translates to severe cost burdens on communities, a weakened infrastructure, and a sweeping piece of legislation that was formed without listening to the people in our state."

As passed by the Senate, House Bill 33 expands vouchers, slashes funding for social services, and cuts taxes in a way that disproportionately and unfairly benefits Ohio's wealthiest residents. Additionally, it contains a number of controversial policy provisions, including:

- * Senate Bill 1, which would transfer almost all the powers of the state Board of Education, comprised primarily of elected members, to a new executive agency;

- * Senate Bills 83 and 117, which would dictate what may be taught in Ohio's institutions of higher education and infringe on the collective bargaining rights of their faculty; and

- * Senate Bill 21, which would allow the Senate President and House Speaker to hire outside legal counsel for whatever reason at any cost.

House Bill 33 (<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb33>) now heads to the Ohio House. If the House does not concur with the Senate's changes, the bill will go to the conference committee.

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Reimagining Public Safety and Unlocking the City's Potential

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Here in the city, a new narrative is emerging—one that challenges the conventional notions of public safety and aims to usher in a future of safe, thriving, and hopeful communities. The Toledo City Council stands poised to embrace a transformative approach, discarding outdated methods and embracing a paradigm shift that demands innovation, collaboration, and unwavering commitment. Toledo has the potential to become a shining example, a beacon of progress that leaves a lasting impact on the lives of its residents.

"This is not a call for half-hearted measures," says Tiffany M. Preston Whitman, PhD, Council Member At-Large. "It is a clarion call to reimagine public safety and unlock the city's true potential."

This past May, Toledo City Council voted 9-3 to approve a \$180,000 contract with Louisville-based Cities United to develop a comprehensive crime-reduction plan for city administrators. Per usual not everyone agrees with allocating federal relief funds in this manner.

"We've already received a grant through the State of Ohio as a result of working with Cities United," explains Whitman, chair of the Neighborhoods and Community Development Committee. "Alerts for future funding activities and federal money through this network are allowing the federal relief money we spend today to regenerate into both a solid infrastructure for administrators and redistribution of new dollars for Toledo's organizations and educational programming tomorrow."

Whitman goes on to explain that Toledo's city administrators are best equipped to confront our city's underlying crime issues head-on when we have a step by step framework to follow.

"Our internal framework is just one piece to this very important puzzle," shares Whitman. "Everything is coming full circle with the new Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, aka MONSE."

This new public office is significant towards building stronger partnerships between the community and local government. The City of Toledo has had recent success with its Save Our Community Initiative against violence using local violence interrupters to mitigate confusion, but having a dedicated centralized office with a Director is a game changer.

"Now we have an office specifically responding to the work needing to be done," says Whitman. "We now have a place to conduct our initiatives and training under one umbrella. This paired with Cities United comprehensive plan makes us much more organized and effective."

The mayor named Malcolm Cunningham Director of the city office, which he says will help to "formalize" crime-reduction work under a department of city government.

"I can understand those opposed to the city votes approving outside consulting services, but it was in response to a real need," shares Whitman. "This is not uncommon. We constantly engage with outside services to ensure our infrastructure is fundamentally meeting the needs

of the community organizations in our network."

Cities United is essentially about helping the mayor, administration, city council and all other department heads really look at how their resources are allocated around violence.

The City of Toledo has a unique opportunity to transform its approach to public wellbeing, says Whitman. By embracing the concept of reimagining public safety, the city council is prioritizing addressing the true root causes to violence and, this time, in an efficiently organized manner. In doing so, they are fostering community engagement and trust, investing in innovation and technology, forging collaborative partnerships, and implementing mechanisms for accountability. Through these collective efforts, it is hoped that Toledo will continue to pave the way for a future where every resident feels safe and thriving.



Councilwoman Tiffany Whitman, PhD

John Warren... continued from page 3

cial and the candidates for the Office of the Presidency on the extreme right who seek to use the Republican Party to support Trump, in spite of the laws he has violated and for which he will be tried, and should be jailed?

The solution to this crisis is for the rest of us to not lose faith in our system of government. To use our votes and even the Recall Process to remove from office those extremists who would violate and throw out our laws and system of democratic governance to support what they want: the replacement of democracy with an authoritarian form of government under Donald Trump. Their end goal is a physical war of violence against our democratic governmental institutions and those of us who support those institutions.

We must not join the embarrassment of those elected officials who are drinking the Trump Kool-Aid. Thomas Jefferson once said, "Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Freedom." Let's watch and Vote!

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Sickle Cell Awareness Day 2023

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Several organizations gathered to raise awareness and share information in recognition of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Mott Branch Library.

The event organizer, LaShardae Scott, founder of the Scott Center for Observation Treatment and Transition (SCOTT), wants to build community awareness. "There are people here with sickle cell and those that are here to just show support. It's important that we build awareness for sickle cell disease."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sickle cell disease is a red blood cell disorder and the hemoglobin is abnormal – sickle shaped – and can clog the blood flow. This can cause pain and other health complications such as stroke, infections and chest syndrome.

"We're grateful for everyone who came out to support us and raise awareness of this rare disease," explained Eric Scott, LaShardae's husband, who's affiliated with SCOTT and father of sons with sickle cell.

In order to build awareness, attendees were asked to create posters that displayed facts and dispelled Sickle Cell myths.

One attendee, Bobby Parker, known as a sickle cell warrior, shared his story about his journey with the disease. He was initially raised by a single mother, but both of his biological parents had sickle cell and he was eventually adopted. "My mother told me at age seven what I had. I spent so much time in and out of the Children's Hospital and I just hurt so much. Twenty years ago, I could bend both of my legs and now I can't."

The event was supported by Neighborhood Health Association, Scott Center for Observation Treatment and Transition (SCOTT), Ohio Sickle Cell and Heath Association, Sickle Cell Project of Northwest Ohio and the local chapters of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated.



Scott with members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporate and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated



LaShardae Scott with husband Eric and their four sons



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Billie Johnson Honored by Toledo City Council

The Truth Staff

"It's an honor for us to be able to recognize you," said Toledo City Councilman Nick Komives to Billie Johnson, longtime CEO of Area Office on Aging, on Tuesday, June 13 during the start of the weekly City Council meeting when councilmembers took an opportunity to acknowledge the many contributions Johnson has made to area senior citizens and the larger community in general.

The dedication ceremony, organized by Councilwoman Katie Moline, featured an outpouring of tributes by members and recollections of how Johnson's work in the community has impacted them directly and indirectly. "You are a giant in our community," said Moline. "This is a testament to your leadership.

Johnson started her tenure at the Area Office on Aging 41 years ago when the agency had four employees. Today the agency has 185 employees, over 2,000 senior volunteers and partners with 185 service providers.

"You've been such a positive force for so many people," said Councilman George Sarantou. "You've been helping such an important segment of our society."

"Your presence in this community makes me proud to raise my children here," added Councilman Sam Melden. "The quality of your team speaks to who you are and how you lead."

Johnson received a plaque of recognition from City Council which memorialized some of her notable achievements at the helm of the Area Office on Aging over the past four plus decades.

"Thanks to all my dear friends here on City Council," said Johnson in recognizing the many praises. "I love the city of Toledo – Toledo has been so good to me and my family. This journey has been long and tough, but we prevailed and we have groomed a lot of younger professionals who want to stay here."

Johnson will be leaving the Area Office on Aging at the end of June, but



Billie Johnson, center, surrounded by City Council members and Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

she has no plans to step away from public service, particularly the care for the elderly that she has spent her career improving. She said that she will be working on an effort to bring the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to northwest Ohio.

PACE is a federal government program designed to bring comprehensive medical and social assistance to senior citizens. PACE programs provide services primarily in an adult day health center and are supplemented by in-home and referral services in accordance with needs.

"I'm going to work hard to bring PACE to this community," said Johnson noting that \$50 million has been set aside for the state of Ohio to implement the program.

"Sheroe!" said Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson. "You have been a sheroe for all the little African American girls out there. Thank you for your commitment and your tenacity."

Buckeye Review Statement on Juneteenth 2023

June 19, 2023

By Dr. M. Mike McNair

Co-Publisher

When President Joe Biden signed the legislation two years ago, designating Juneteenth, as a federal holiday many considered it a tiny measure and even a capitulation to forces on the left. I for one, considered it a huge measure because it forces the media and the public to grapple with the day, the history and its implications every year. Beyond the celebrations, music and collaboration by people of color – it is most importantly a day in history that must be examined.

It doesn't take a genius or historian to ask questions and do a little research about Juneteenth. And the closer one looks, the clearer it becomes that the resistance to ending slavery in America then, appears to resemble the backlash against federal laws today. But that is only true when the federal law protects or supports citizens when local and state officials did not. Which is why when the federal government freed enslaved people – state and local governments continued, in every conceivable way – to terrorize, marginalize and intimidate people of color. Listening to the rhetoric of "Making America Great Again" and "Where Woke Goes to Die" we hear the sounds of Dixie and Jim Crow, crooning in the background, pining for the days done by of Birth of a Nation and Gone with the Wind.

Juneteenth was not simply the result of a proclamation in 1863 – (2 years into a 4-year war) or the enforcement of a general order at the end of it. The end of the Civil War can easily be attributed to the addition of nearly 200,000 Black soldiers to the fighting ranks of the Union Army against the Confederacy at that mid-point. The additional troops tipped the scales to favor the Union and the end of the gruesome human trafficking so long condoned by this nation. The lives lost, the blood spilled, continues to be

revered precious treasure that undergirds the democracy we ALL hold dear.

So, we hail JUNETEENTH, the day –the holiday and we don't hide the history but rather recall with awe the sacrifices made to get us here. We also redouble our efforts to hold all government officials, especially state and local officials accountable to support and defend ALL people. Not just the wealthy, the white and the well connected.



The 2023 AKA Juneteenth Jazz Brunch

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter held a Juneteenth Jazz Brunch program on Saturday June 10 at The Pinnacle and hundreds of guests, many in Afrocentric apparel, enjoyed the jazz stylings of Mike Williams on sax and Nate Hicks while also honoring a half dozen young scholars.

Clara Petty, mistress of ceremony, served as the chair of the program and opened the event by introducing Treva Jeffries-Martin, chapter president, for the welcome, and Cheryl Slack, chaplain, for the prayer/blessing.



With Clara Petty, AKA Event Chair (far left) and Tracci Johnson, Scholarship Committee Chair (far right) are this year's Scholarship recipients (left to right): Laila Fitzpatrick, Jones Leadership Academy; Kamari Devalt, Central Catholic High School; Jasmine Shettlewood, Start High School; Kayla Johnson, Sylvania Southview High School; Caitlyn Scott, Toledo School for the Arts; Not pictured (state track championship) Jordyn Rosales, Toledo Christian High School

The musical sounds of Nate Hicks, entertained guests as brunch was served. Kayleen Powell presented her spoken word opus.

Tracci Johnson, chair of the Scholarship Committee, introduced this year's recipients: Laila Fitzpatrick, Jones Leadership Academy; Kamari Devalt, Central Catholic High School; Jasmine Shettlewood, Start High School; Kayla Johnson, Sylvania Southview High School; Caitlyn Scott, Toledo School for the Arts. Jordyn Rosales, Toledo Christian High School, was at the state track championships and unable to attend.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated was founded in 1908 while the local chapter was chartered in 1952. The sorority's mission is to serve the mankind and cultivate high ethical and academic standards among young women.

Zeta Alpha Omega has awarded \$170,000 in the last 35 years, and will continue to seek exemplary, qualified high school female students to award scholarships.



Standing (L-R) Katrina Barry, Kayleen Powell, Andrea Price, Clara Petty, Azora Sisson-Gorman, Raquel Jones and Desiree McGhee

Seated (L to R) Patrice McClellan, Ashleigh Foster, Cheryl Slack, Stacie Sturdivant, and Connie Okoye-Nantwi



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Juneteenth at The Doug

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

A beautiful Juneteenth celebration was in full swing Saturday at The Frederick Douglass Community Association. The air was filled with an electrifying energy, a palpable sense of pride and unity among attendees.

As I stepped through the entrance, I was immediately drawn to the colorful booth of B Wreaths and Treats. Their display showcased an array of intricately crafted wreaths, each adorned with vibrant ribbons, flowers, and Afrocentric motifs. The owner, a talented artist, shared her passion for "making a beautiful house a home" as she helps customers select the perfect wreath to add a touch of warmth and culture to their living spaces.

Moving further into the festivities, I stumbled upon a lively gathering surrounding Realist Rob Pasker. With a wide smile and a wealth of knowledge, those at the booth passionately shared their expertise in real estate, guiding aspiring homeowners on their path to securing their dream houses. Pasker's real estate experience is evident in the customized advice he offers, tailored to the unique needs and aspirations of the black community.

The beautiful sounds of gospel beckoned me towards a group of talented dancers, gracefully moving their bodies in sync with the music. Their vibrant costumes adorned with traditional African patterns and colors told stories of heritage and resilience. As I watched their captivating performance, I couldn't help but feel uplifted, allowing the pulsating rhythms to guide my

feet in a celebration of freedom and unity.

As the sun began to set, the aroma of mouthwatering cuisine filled the air, leading me to a few food vendors. The flavors of the African diaspora intertwined, enticing everyone to indulge in a delightful treat or two.

A kaleidoscope of customized gifts caught my eye as I ventured deeper into the festivities. Local artisans showcased their talents, offering unique pieces that embodied the essence of Afrocentric artistry. From hand-made jewelry to vibrant paintings, each item spoke of heritage, resilience, and the power of creative expression.

I enjoyed meeting Miss Angela from Divine Designz. A fellow Black girl who blings, I can appreciate her knack for blinged out accessories! I also met the two lovely ladies of Stax on Deck, a local custom accessory brand. If you love customization and the latest fashions be sure to keep up with them!

In the midst of the celebration, various city resource organizations set up informational booths, providing valuable resources and support to the community. From healthcare services to educational programs, these organizations were dedicated to uplifting and empowering the black community, ensuring equal opportunities and access to essential resources.

This second federally recognized Juneteenth celebration is a testament to the resilience and strength of the black community, a vibrant celebration of freedom, and a reminder of the importance of coming together to honor the past, celebrate the present, and build a brighter future for generations to come.

All-in-all the Juneteenth celebration at The Frederick Douglass Community Association was a true embodiment of joy, culture, and community. It was a space where Afrocentric traditions, talents, and knowledge thrived, nurturing a sense of pride and unity among attendees. As the night drew to a close, I left with a heart full of cherished memories and a renewed appreciation for the rich tapestry of Black culture and heritage.



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The Community Unity Celebration at Gunckel Park

On Friday June 16, The Junction Coalition hosted The Community UNITY Celebration at Gunckel Park, to contribute to the annual Juneteenth Celebration and support the environment. Vendors, food and activities and fun times for children were available and appreciated by the participants!

Alicia Smith, executive director of The Junction Coalition, maintained her presence in the event and offered support and knowledge to all involved.

Those contributing to the atmosphere included: Toledo Urban Heat Island/Toledo Environmental Services; C.A.R. Transportations; Rock The Ohio Vote: Choice Voting; Cora's Mission Organization: Creating Opportunities Restricting Abuse; Fair Housing Center; TFJ Belmont LLC; Squad Goals United By Dance: Youth Program; Whole Oils; Niya's Desirable Sweets.



Hall of Fame... continued from page 16

School in 1992 and his teams appeared in 12 City League playoffs during his 16 years at the helm.

Bates' teams won six regular season City League titles and six Sectional Championships. They won three District titles, two Regional titles, two State appearances and a runner-up title in 2008.

Theodore Bey, Sr., who was honored posthumously, attended Libbey High School, was a football and track standout. Bey was the featured halfback on the football team and his track specialty was the 100 yard dash. During his high school career he earned numerous awards in football and track and upon graduation entered Fort Valley State College in Georgia.

In 1947 the Fort Valley Wildcats football team were undefeated as Bey, a freshman, led the team in scoring. He was chosen for "All-Southern Conference" for three consecutive years.

Felesha Boyd-Trowbridge was a four-time Rogers Lady Rams varsity basketball letter winner and was widely considered the best female basketball player in school history.

In 1989, Boyd-Trowbridge was named Player of the Year. A senior that year, she averaged 20 points, 14 rebounds and four blacks a game. She was also named First Team All City and Honorable Mention for the State of Ohio.

Joe Cooke, Jr., also honored posthumously, was a top City League basketball guard at Libbey High School starting in 1963. In 1966 he led his team to the Ohio State finals appearance.

Cooke played college ball at Indiana University and averaged 18.2 points over a two-year period. In 1970, Cooke entered NBA draft and was selected by the newly formed Cleveland Cavaliers in the sixth round and for two years was an integral part of the team until knee injuries forced his retirement.

Erik Kynard, Jr. attended Rogers High School and qualified for the Olympic Trials in the high jump during his junior year there in 2008. During his high school career, in addition to winning four City League titles in the high jump, he also won the 2009 Nike Outdoor and Indoor Championships and became a two-time OHSAA champion.

Kynard attended Kansas State University where he was an All-American for both indoor and outdoor seasons. He won six Big 12 championship titles.

A two-time Olympian, Kynard received the Gold Medal in the 2012 London Games and became a representative for a number of elite brand such as Nike, Jordan and Gypsum, to name a few.

Robert Lothery graduated from Macomber High School in 1960 where he played varsity basketball and attended Tri-State University in Angola, Indiana. After graduation from Tri State, Lothery played for the original Harlem Globetrotters for five years before returning to Toledo. He became a teacher with the Toledo Public Schools and ultimately became director of the Wayman Palmer and Indiana YMCAs

Lothery also served on a number of boards such as Harbor Mental Health Service, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Toledo, Lucas County Board of Developmental Disability and YMCA NOW.

Dr. Airron Richardson was an honor student and three-sport varsity athlete at Start High School – football, Track and field and wrestling. In wrestling he became a state and national champion in his senior year – with a 4-0 record as a heavyweight.

Dr. Richardson entered Morehouse College but transferred to the University of Michigan after one year on a full athletic scholarship. As a senior at UM, he was an Academic All-American and Big Ten conference champion. He was a national team member on the Olympic wrestling team during the 2000 games. He then attended Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and completed the five-year MD and MBA program.

He is currently the clinical assistant professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin and co-owner and chief medical officer of Premier Urgent Care and Occupational Health Center in Chicago.

Francella Washington attended Woodward High School and played on the first girls basketball state championship team in 1976. She was named Woodward's Most Valuable Player and Player of the Year in the City League. She also played volleyball and ran track at Woodward.

Washington was a key player on the Ohio State University's 1978 Big Ten Championship team and was named to the 1979 Kodak All-American team averaging 23.7 points a game.

Later she was a multi-talented athlete who played the wide receiver position with the renowned "Toledo Troopers," a female football team. She was inducted into the Toledo City League Hall of Fame in 1995.

"We are honored to present eight great athletes who just happen to be eight great men and women who without fail continue to contribute to our society," wrote Smith in this year's program notes.

Statement on Juneteenth from Building Back Together

Building Back Together Interim Executive Director Mayra Macías released the following statement on Juneteenth:

"Today, we celebrate freedom and recommit ourselves to fighting against the legacies of slavery which still permeate today. We confront our country's painful history with slavery in order to grow stronger. And we thank the Black abolitionists, educators, civil rights advocates, and hardworking Americans who have shaped our country for the better and held us accountable for honoring our shared vision for a country where all are free to live and work without fear of prejudice or discrimination.

"As we mark Juneteenth, a federal holiday thanks to the Biden-Harris Administration, we recommit to ensuring equity, equality, and justice for Black Americans. President Biden and Vice President Harris are taking a whole-of-government approach to advance racial justice and address the lasting impacts of systemic racism on Black communities. Their administration has taken historic steps to expand economic opportunity for Black Americans, combat housing discrimination, deliver resources to HBCUs, ensure equitable representation in government, and more. Together, we will continue

our work to root out inequity in our country, and ensure liberty and justice for all."

A Great Week in Toledo

The Lucas County Fatherhood Coalition celebrated Fatherhood Week in the run up to Father's Day on June 18; the City of Toledo and various organizations celebrated Juneteenth in the run up to June 19 and some groups added their own health fairs and pop up events. June 2023 has been a busy, exciting month indeed.

The Juneteenth NY Toledo Celebration held a career day at Robinson Elementary, a Community UNITY Celebration Gunckel Park, among other events, and culminated their festivities with a salute to Black Kings on Monday evening at the Toledo Club.

The Omegas held a health fair at MLK Jr. Academy for Boys and the Frederick Douglass Community Association held a pop up/vendor – both on Friday.

The Fatherhood Coalition held a Lead to Read Luncheon, a Facts and Future program; a "Take Ya Dad to the Doctor" event and an "ignite the Change panel discussion, winding up the week's activities with a Families Day at Greenbelt Apartments.

Dozens of Greenbelt residents and visitors were treated to an afternoon of food, vendors and music – even a dance competition.



THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY PRESENTS

THE 9TH ANNUAL

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Rich White Men: What It Takes to Uproot the Old Boys' Club and Transform America by Garrett Neiman, foreword by Robin DiAngelo, introduction by Allen Kwabena Frimpong

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

One step ahead, three steps behind. That's how your life feels sometimes. You make movement forward and something comes along to push you back to where you were two weeks ago. Progress is made, and just as quickly taken away. You get to where you need to be, and you're clawed back. Welcome to the real world and, as in the new book *Rich White Men* by Garrett Neiman, come meet the culprit.

Six years ago, at a summer retreat for the nonprofit that he'd founded, Garrett Neiman felt certain that his organization – one that served students of color who wanted to attend college – reflected the diversity of its clients. His staff, though, saw things differently. They emphatically told Neiman where he could do better.

He was devastated and, seeing how white privilege affected his work, he vowed to make changes. White privilege, particularly within a patriarchy, he suggests, is the root of inequality at work and at large.

c.2023
Legacy Lit
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384 pages

We like to tell one another, for instance, that hard work pays off but it's not that easy. Even considering population rates, white men are many times more likely than Black women to be billionaires. Some of the wealth that white men enjoy was "unearned" (inherited) and some of it came from property ownership, both of which were historically difficult for people of color to achieve. These situations are often in-place even before any system is gamed by those in-charge – which can happen, beginning with students in school.

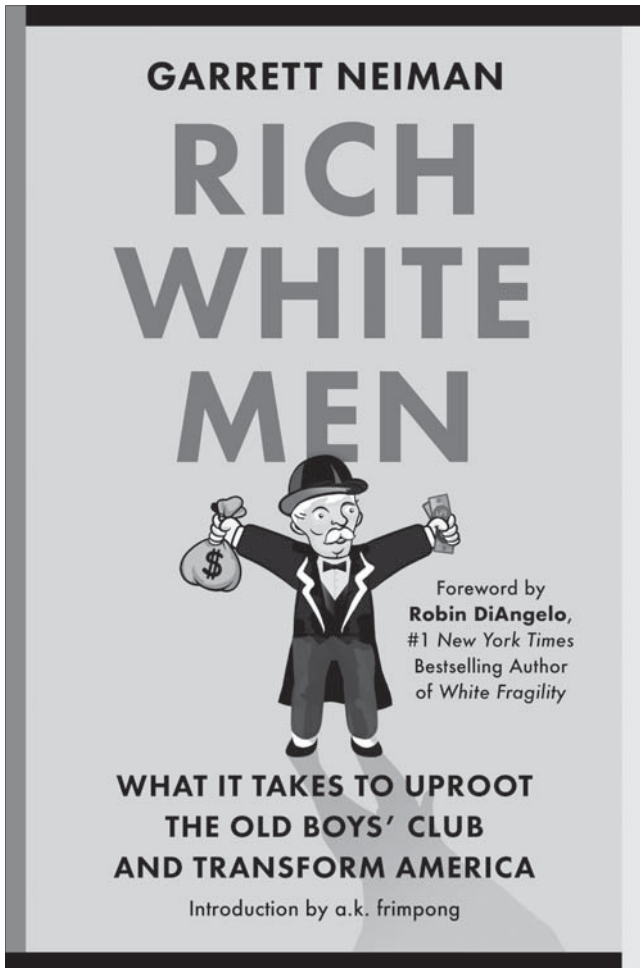
Equal opportunities do not equal outcomes, Neiman says, and the distribution of wealth today goes back more than two centuries. Bias and bigotry, whether overt or subconscious, play a part in the way things are, and that sometimes extends to stereotypes in the kinds of work non-white, non-male, non-cisgender employees are assigned to do. Tokenism hides the problem, and pretending that the past has no bearing on today only exacerbates the issues.

For sure, *Rich White Men* seems earnest and very well-meaning. Author Garrett Neiman begins with a confession that obviously plagues him, and he vows to do better in a category that's important to him. This book, alas, isn't quite it.

It's very helpful that Neiman looks at all aspects of white male patriarchy in finance, real estate, and industry – but for BIPOC, LG-BTQ, and female readers, it's preachin' to the choir. It's great that he factors in the generally un-factored, including the tiniest details that sometimes go unnoticed, but again: the choir.

The argument could be made that white, wealthy men might read this book and make changes, but the tone of it seems to doubt that possibility. Advice on moving things forward is hard to find and clear-cut help is in here, but it's scarce.

There are a lot of personal tales inside this book, and a propensity to nickname transgressors (and then explain the nicknames!), both of which are rather irrelevant and may just irritate some readers. Yes, *Rich White Men* might be of some help, or you may want to set it behind you.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL COMMERCIAL INSURANCE BROKER FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Preferred Properties is seeking written proposals from a brokerage firm and representative broker(s) to provide insurance broker services that include risk exposure analysis, as well as general insurance advisory services.

P2 currently maintains the following insurance policies and coverage:

- Business Personal Property
- Inland Marine
- General Liability Coverage
- Automobile
- Umbrella
- Director & Officers Liability
- Cyber Liability
- Crime

Deadline for Submittal is July 28, 2023 @ 12pm EST. A full timeline and more information can be found at our website, www.preferred-properties.org, or contact Rachel Grup at 419.244.9609 x307, or rgrup@preferred-properties.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LAWCARE SERVICES 2024 FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Preferred Properties is seeking written proposals from qualified, licensed, and bonded entities to provide professional lawn care services for their properties; a total of 69 sites including multi-family housing and single-family homes.

Contractors will submit proposals to enter into a one-year contractual agreement with P2 with an option made by P2 to extend the contract for two subsequent, one-year agreements.

Deadline for Submittal is July 28, 2023 @ 1pm EST. The full RFP and timeline can be found at our website, www.preferred-properties.org, or contact Rachel Grup at 419.244.9609 x307, or rgrup@preferred-properties.org.

LEGAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY MAIN LIBRARY ACCESS CONTROL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received at the main Toledo Lucas County Public Main Library, 325 N. Michigan, Toledo, Ohio 43604 (Dispatch Office addressed to the Fiscal Officer) until Tuesday July 11, 2023 12pm to be opened immediately thereafter for furnishing the necessary labor, equipment tools and materials for replacement of the access control system and door hardware.

Copies of the bid and contract documents including instructions to bidders and specifications may be obtained at Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615, 419-385-5303.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at Ohio plan rooms and similar locations/services and online at orders@beckerimpressions.com.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee and Contract Bond in the amount of 100% of the bid: or a certified check; cashier's check or letter of credit in the amount of 10% of the bid which will require a 100% Performance bond upon award of the contract. All bids shall be submitted on forms of proposal supplied by the Engineer. All bidders, by bidding, agree to pay wages not less than the minimum as determined by the State of Ohio, Department of Industrial Relations, and agree to comply with Executive Order No. 11246 of the President of the United States.

The Board of Trustees, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in bidding. No Bidder may withdraw his or her bid for a period of sixty (60) days after bid opening.

A pre-bid conference/walk through will be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 27, 2023 at the Toledo Lucas County Main Library 325 N. Michigan St., Toledo, Ohio 43604. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

By order of the Board of Trustees, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.

TEEN ADVOCATE/FACILITATOR

(2) Full-time position for school-based youth development program for middle and high school youth in TPS. Responsibilities: Delivery of pregnancy prevention programming using creative teaching, lesson planning/reporting, working with girls, boys, and their families; provide after-school programming and transportation. All encouraged to apply. A minimum of an Associate's degree in Education, Social Work, Psychology, or related field, required. Experience working with diverse populations required. Applicants must be at least 21 years old with a good driving record. Full-benefits available. Hourly rate: \$19.00

Email resume to admin@ywcanwo.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CAPITAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Preferred Properties, Inc is seeking proposals for Capital Needs Assessments of its properties. The Provider for these assessments must possess valid and current licenses and necessary certifications as listed in the Statement of Work of the full RFP and as regulated by all applicable state, county and/or local laws and ordinances.

The Provider must have prior training and experience in evaluating site & building systems, health & safety conditions, physical & structural conditions, environmental concerns, and other funding to cover the anticipated costs. Have complete knowledge of current standards, details and critical dimensioning related to total accessibility for a family and/or senior residential property, as defined by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), United Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) as well as local jurisdictional codes & requirements related to the specific properties.

Deadline for Submission is July 28, 2023 @ 2pm EST. More information can be found at our website, www.preferred-properties.org, or contact Rachel Grup at 419.244.9609 x307, or rgrup@preferred-properties.org

Email resume to admin@ywcanwo.org



PROJECTS SPECIALIST

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to build and strengthen our community's neighborhoods. Since our founding 13 years ago, the Land Bank and its energetic staff have renovated ~1000 abandoned properties, demolished thousands of blighted buildings, and improved quality of life & increased property values throughout our community.

We are seeking a talented individual to join our diverse and energetic team as a Projects Specialist. The Projects Specialist is a professional who provides support to the Land Bank's property planning & acquisition, demolition, development, and disposition projects with high attention to detail. The most attractive candidate will have training or experience in real estate transactions, paralegal services, or community development work.

Salary range of \$53,500 - \$63,500, with excellent benefits including affordable health, dental, vision, and prescription drug coverage, a retirement plan with generous employer match, and robust paid time off. The position will remain open until filled.

Join the movement to rebuild our neighborhoods!

To apply, visit <https://lucascountylandbank.org/>

The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal-opportunity employer.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL HVAC SERVICES FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Preferred Properties is seeking written proposals to provide HVAC MAINTENANCE and SERVICE to properties it owns and manages; a total of 69 sites including multi-family housing and single-family homes.

Deadline for Submittal is July 28, 2023 @ 11am EST. The full RFP and timeline can be found at our website, www.preferred-properties.org, or contact Rachel Grup at 419.244.9609 x307, or rgrup@preferred-properties.org.

The Fatherhood Week: Ignite The Change Event

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

The Lucas County Fatherhood Coalition: Ignite The Change Event at Mott Branch Library on June 15 continued the group's Fatherhood Week with an exchange of ideas. The event offered knowledge, information and support to encourage growth for the fathers in our environment. Various speakers provided information and support by sharing their individual experiences, skills and motivation.



John Jones

"There is no cost to the county to do this," said Avis Files, co-chair of the Coalition. "A couple of months ago this came out and years ago, they did this whole project in 2013. And we just kind of talked about it and thought it would be good for us to do this again. So, we look in our community, to do a county assessment. So, we are still in the process of doing the assessment. I need two hundred fathers to be surveyed. Because that's where we get good data. Two hundred is a good sample size, to be able to say, 'This is what our county needs.' So, we are still working on that. We want to produce that data for you; so that you will be able to see and know what fathers are saying about what they need help with. And again, we are being intentional about serving and working with African American fathers."

"What we talk about today, we want some action with as well," Files continued. "So, we needed to develop a county leadership team; the interesting part and the good part about our leadership team is that we already had it going. The Lucas County Fatherhood Coalition is getting bigger and bigger. It started out as just a coalition of people; but now we have every single area. You'll be able to see that every area in Lucas County is represented. If you are interested in joining us and being on the Coalition, please let us know."

The afternoon's panelists and speakers included: Christina Rodriguez, executive director of Mom's House; Bob Jordan, Pathway, Inc. CFO; David Kontour, Coalition co-chair and John Jones, president and CEO of HOPE Toledo "Every social ill, we have had conversations in this community about social ills: children not learning how to read. Children having issues can be solved

with one word: one person: Dad/Daddy! In this community I want us to practice something. I am going to ask everyone to stop saying this and it will be helpful, and it will change the trajectory of children's lives. Don't use the term baby mama or baby daddy. When we say baby daddy, we just mean 'he over there being nothing' and when we say baby mama, 'she ain't nothing.' When we say that and our children hear that and we continue to say things like that, then we become the perpetrators of what we are experiencing in our community. So please, as you work together, when you hear somebody say baby daddy...uh-huh no that's co-parent! Let's change our dialogue, let's change our approach because if we do that, that alone will change our community," added Files.

"It's important to have fathers involved so we're running the program: Dads Matter" Christina Rodriguez, executive director, Mom's House. "We have started pouring into Dads; we have to invest our time."



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GIMWINE THE ZAPP BAND

Friday, July 14, 2023
8 AM ET the African American Prayer Breakfast will be at the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion, 2445 Monroe St.

Saturday, July 15, 2023
The African American Festival Parade will be at 10 AM to 12 PM ET on the corner of Dorr St. & Detroit Ave.

The Community Day will be at Nelson Grace Park, 1001 N Detroit Ave. from 12 PM to 3 PM ET

The African American Parade and Community Day are FREE to the public to attend

The African American Festival and Concert will be at Promenade Park, 400 Water St., the Gates will Open at 3 PM ET

Tickets are \$45/Person General Admission prior to the Festival Increasing to \$50/Person the Day of the Festival

V.I.P. Tickets are \$65/Person prior to the Festival Increasing to \$70/Person the Day of the Festival

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JULY 14 AND 15, 2023

SPONSORED BY TOLEDO URBAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

The African American Sports Legends 2023 Hall of Fame Induction

The Truth Staff

Eight gifted athletes were welcomed into the African American Sports Legends Hall of Fame this past weekend with ceremonies at the Holland Garden Banquet Hall on Friday night and an afternoon induction on Saturday at Jerusalem Baptist Church.

Robert Smith, founder and director of the African American Legacy Project, introduced a new aspect to the annual event with the unveiling of a red jacket for the inductees. The red jacket, adopted by the committee after researching similar practices from around the country, was unveiled at a "smoker" on Friday night. Each inductee received his or her jacket on Saturday.

"Young people need to know what it takes to be great," said veteran broadcaster Tom Cole, who shared master of ceremony duties with Smith. "Nothing is fast and easy. You don't quit and you don't sit down and cry. You get up and get back in the race. Sport teaches you to get back up."

The 2023 inductees are: Leroy Bates, Theodore H. Bey, Sr; Felesha Boyd-Towbridge; Joe Cooke, Jr; Erik Kynard, Jr; Robert "Raymond" Lothery; Dr. Airron Richardson and Francella Washington.

Accompanied by Legends committee members, the inductees were introduced by Cole and Smith, escorted to the front of the church sanctuary, praised for their sporting accomplishments and presented with a red jacket.

Leroy Bates, a five-time City League coach of the year, taught in the Toledo Public Schools district for 35 years and served as an assistant coach under the legendary Ben Williams at Scott High School from 1984 to 1992. He became the head basketball coach at Libbey High

...continued on page 11



Billie Lothery accepts a red jacket for her late husband Robert Lothery surrounded by James Coogler, Wes Harper and Robert Gore



Robert Smith and Tom Cole



Land Battles of Libbey, Terry Crosby of Devillbiss and Doug Allen of Scott getting along together nicely these days



Coach Leroy Bates is honored accompanied by James L. Jones, Keith Mathis Smith and Eddie Norrils



Felesha Boyd-Towbridge adds to her wardrobe in the company of Rob Jackson, George Snelling and Land Battles



Dr. Airron Richardson adds to his wardrobe with the aid of Keith Mathis Smith, Willie Loper and James L. Jones



Fran Washington accepts her red jacket from presenters Doug Allen, Jackie Allen Jackson and John Preston



Ted Bey, Jr. accepts the red jacket in his father's stead, accompanied by Willie Loper and Terry Crosby



Wes Harper helps Erik Kynard, Sr. accept the red jacket on his son's behalf



Joe Cooke's sister, Sharon Cooke Parker, dons the red jacket accompanied by Truman Claytor, Ed Jaynes and Terry Crosby