



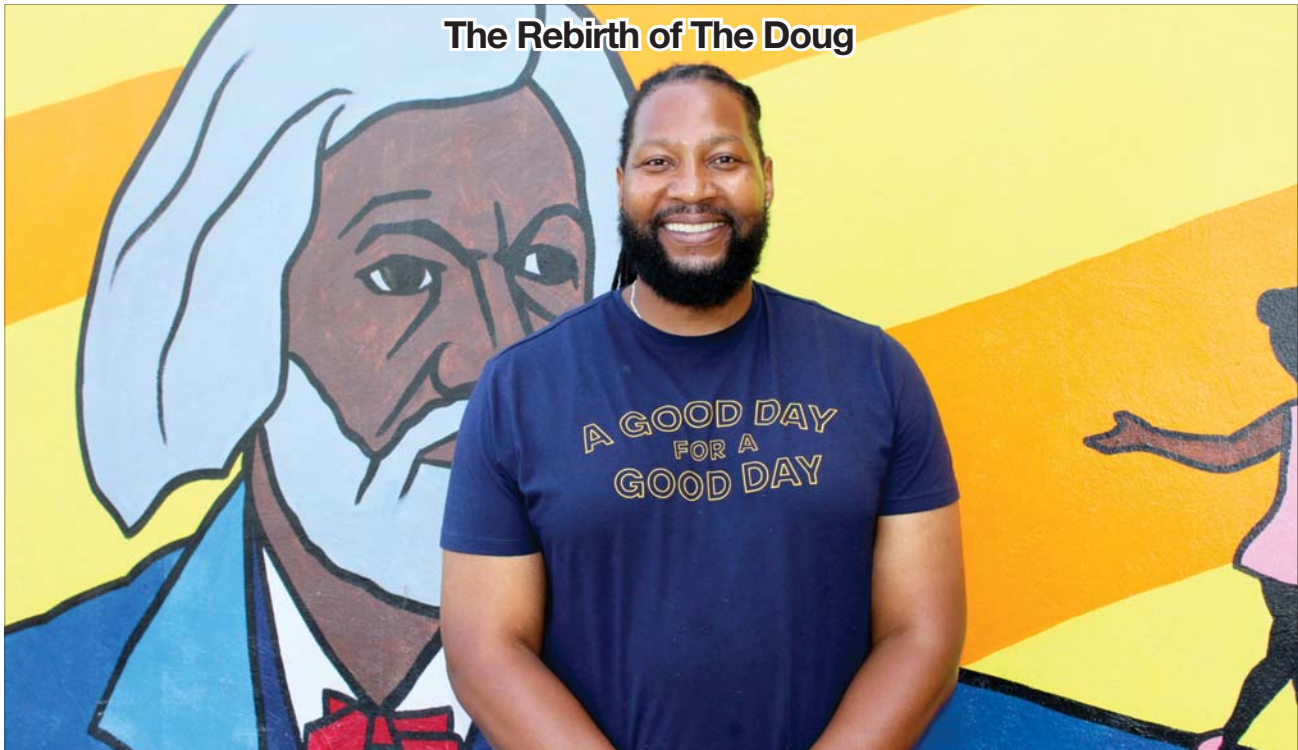
The Sojourner's Truth

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 79 No. 2

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

July 12, 2023



The Rebirth of The Doug

A GOOD DAY FOR A GOOD DAY

Reggie Williams, Executive Director, Frederick Douglass Community Association

THE 18TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL PRESENTS

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
TOL City of Toledo
FIFTH THIRD BANK
THE BLADE
TARA TAKING YOU PLACES
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BUCKEYE BROADBAND

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

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FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
JULY 14 AND 15, 2023

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Rebirth

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



You can't have a physical transformation until you have a spiritual transformation.

– Cory Booker

The Frederick Douglass Community Association was established in Toledo in 1919 by prominent civic leaders Albertus Brown and J.B. Simmons. The organization, now known as The Doug, started with a small core of people of color to provide a social gathering experience and a place for community engagement. The Doug grew substantially to become the proud busy hub and center of the community's social, political, religious, and cultural activity.

However, The Doug lost its direction and impact nearly a century later. Enter Reggie Williams, tasked with rebuilding the iconic organization which had slipped to the threshold of extinction. When he volunteered to join the Doug's board in 2014, little did Williams know that his upbringing and early life experiences equipped him perfectly as the one to bring new life to the soul of one of our community's most important cultural organizations.

The following is our conversation about his rebirth and that of The Frederick Douglass Center.

Perryman: Let's talk briefly about your journey. Where did it start?

Williams: I was born and raised in Toledo and attended Glenwood Elementary and Old West End Junior High when I first saw a blue bandana. I didn't know what that meant. After school, I started running with the "fellas" because I wanted to be a part, not knowing what I was getting into. A friend stopped me and said, 'Reggie, go home,' and I was just like, "I wanna run with y'all." He repeated, "Go home!" like he was my dad or something like that. I took it, went home, and I thank God for him because he saved my life, not getting involved with the Crips at that time, but living in that neighbor-



Reggie and Wenona Williams with son Zaniel

hood, the territory they so-called claimed. From then on, I told my mother I would like to move in with my grandmother, who lived in Springfield Township. With that, I was exposed to a different culture, and I thrived academically and athletically. I made a name for myself within that new setting.

Perryman:How did moving from an urban setting to a more rural or suburban setting and being with your grandparents affect you?

Williams:That changed my upbringing drastically. I had a consciousness and an awareness. The Holy Spirit would speak to me through nature, through the elements, and to hear the Most High's voice. My grandparents cultivated that in me and allowed me to thrive because they were spiritual people. They also planted a work ethic within me, the ability to give of yourself, to love family, or be family oriented. If I had not made that move and stayed in the urban setting, I would have gotten caught up with the wrong crowd.

Perryman:Why did you take this job?

Williams:Let me rewind the tape to walk that dog forward. I worked at Pilkington in Rossford as a glass technician and had an eight-hour back surgery to put six screws and two rods in my back. After the surgery, my surgeon told me that I couldn't walk again. I said to the surgeon's face, 'I'm going to walk again,' but it took me three years to walk, and it took me three years to get on disability. So being homebound, unable to do what I used to do, and having an infant son at the time, my wife was taking care of me. She ended up sick, so all three were lying in bed, and my 12-year-old daughter cared for us all. You're talking about the tough times of not being able to one, your manhood, and the physicality of trying to provide for your family and cannot. My faith, that's what I had to depend on. So, going through recovery, rehabilitation I went from a wheelchair to the walker to the cane, and then finally, I ended up getting a nerve stimulator implant - a battery implanted in my back and two electrodes attached to my spine, which disrupts the pain signals to my brain. That's what I had to battle. I said to myself, 'I need to reinvent myself. I need to do something to feel value in myself.'

Perryman:What initially brought you to The Doug?

Williams: I first came on the board in April of 2014. In October 2014, we were sitting in the board meeting, and information came out about an employee's misappropriation of funds. The remnant of the board was sitting at the table, and the question was asked who would be our next Board president?

So, I became the president of The Douglass Center just after six months of being on the board and just wanting to be a positive man of color to do something to keep our doors open and not understanding nonprofit business, not understanding all the components that come along with that, just a concerned positive person that wanted to do right.

I was the board president from 2014-2018, resigned in February of 2018, and told the board, you guys got it and take care of The Doug. I did my due diligence and took it as far as I could, and the board asked me to come back to be the director. So, I came back in 2018 as the executive director. I'll be starting my fifth year here in August of 2023.

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JULY 14 AND 15, 2023

SPONSORED BY TOLEDO URBAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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

ECDI

TAKEA

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Toledo Museum of Art

... continued on page 15

Striving for Diversity Without Affirmative Action

By Joshua Heron

Howard University News Service

Education officials, civil rights leaders, employers and students are debating the implications of the U.S. Supreme Court's stance on affirmative action, which is forcing colleges and universities to brainstorm and implement new policies that ensure racial diversity on campus is consistent.

Janai Nelson, president and director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, reminded students and admissions officers that the Black story still matters and that diversity on college campuses is not an afterthought.

"While we are all disheartened and dismayed by this decision, we are also clear about the mandate we'll have before us," Nelson said. "And that is not to abandon the project of diversity, but to double down on it because that is what our democracy requires."

"The court said nothing in today's opinion about a student or applicant not using their race as part of their admission submissions to explain their lived experience and to talk about how it has impacted their lives," Nelson said during a press conference held by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, following the courts' decision on Thursday.

In a 6-3 vote, the Supreme Court deemed race-based affirmative action unlawful, prohibiting colleges and universities from considering race as a factor in the admissions process.

In October, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina and Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*. In 2014, conservative activist Edward Blum sued Harvard University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill over their use of race-conscious admissions.

Armando Gimenez believes race played a factor in his acceptance to Columbia University based on the demographics of the Ivy League school in New York City.

"I would like to believe that I would have still been admitted into Columbia if they did not consider my race, but I cannot deny the facts," Gimenez, a first-year student, said.

"Looking at the demographics and my fellow peers I believe race played a large role in my admittance, and I may have not been admitted if not for the consideration."

The Supreme Court's ruling affects not only predominantly white institutions like Columbia, but also HBCUs.

Howard University President Wayne A.I. Frederick fears the ruling will create an immense burden on HBCUs in terms of enrollment -- one too cumbersome to carry. He revealed those fears on CNN following the breaking news.

"Historically Black colleges and universities are carrying an outsized burden to diversify so many industries in America. We represent only three percent of the higher [education] institutions, but we are responsible for 25 percent of the bachelor's degrees," Frederick said.

"By not allowing race to be considered in admissions elsewhere, you can put an even more outsized burden on historically Black colleges and universities who don't have the capacity to carry that type of a burden."

According to a Best Colleges study, "an overwhelming majority of college students believe racial/ethnic diversity improves the social experience (62 percent) and learning environment (59 percent) of schools."

However, the study also reveals that one-third of Black students are actually against affirmative action. More students from racial and ethnic groups than white students "report negative impacts of race-conscious college admissions."

Though its intent may be to create opportunities, its impact, according to some Black students, has not been the best. Jerry Charleston, a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina, agrees to an extent, but believes affirmative action hasn't been around long enough to access its impact.

"Although affirmative action has been extremely beneficial for the minority groups that it applies to, it has also had some issues in its productivity for these groups," Charleston said.

Charleston does believe affirmative action's intent to provide equal opportunity will not be reached because of the court's decision.

"The problem now, I believe, is that it is being repealed severely prematurely before its effects can really be seen universally among all groups of people."

"An even bigger issue is that it is starting with two schools that are historically 'white legacy' schools," Charleston said. "It has only been around since

the '60s which is on average two to three familial generations of people who would actually experience the effects. That isn't long enough to create a legacy within an institution or business. I don't believe it has actually been around long enough to produce lasting effects or changes to overwrite a longer history of inequalities in education and occupation."

Chief Justice John Roberts condemned Harvard University and the University of North Carolina in the conservative majority opinion.

"The Harvard and UNC admissions programs cannot be reconciled with the guarantees of the Equal Protection Clause [14th amendment]," Roberts said. "Both programs lack sufficiently focused and measurable objectives warranting the use of race, unavoidably employ race in a negative manner, involve racial stereotyping and lack meaningful endpoints. We have never permitted admissions programs to work in that way, and we will not do so today."

The three justices who voted in favor of affirmative action included Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan. Jackson and Sotomayor wrote fierce dissent opinions in response to the conservative majority.

"The best that can be said of the majority's perspective is that it proceeds (ostrich-like) from the hope that preventing consideration of race will end racism," Jackson said. "But if that is its motivation, the majority proceeds in vain. If the colleges of this country are required to ignore a thing that matters, it will not just go away. It will take longer for racism to leave us. And, ultimately, ignoring race just makes it matter more."

Sotomayor added, "today, this Court stands in the way and rolls back decades of precedent and momentous progress."

Sotomayor defended her claims with statistics from University of California, Berkeley. California was the first state to ban affirmative action at public universities.

"At the University of California, Berkeley, a top public university not just in California but also nationally, the percentage of Black students in the freshman class dropped from 6.32 percent in 1995 to 3.37 percent in 1998," Sotomayor said.

The decline in diversity now seems inevitable, observers say.

Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce examined the success probability of six admission models. "When it comes to the goal of equalizing college opportunity across advantaged and disadvantaged racial/ethnic and socioeconomic groups, there is no good substitute for the con-



Howard President Wayne A. I. Frederick, PhD

... continued on page 4

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³Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

Summer Crisis Program Starts July 1

The Ohio Department of Development and Pathway Inc. will help income-eligible Ohioans stay cool during the hot summer months. The Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program provides eligible Ohioans assistance paying an electric bill or assistance paying for central air conditioning repairs. The program runs from July 1-Sept. 30, 2023.

To apply for the program, clients are required to schedule an appointment with Pathway Inc. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 567-803-0010.

Clients need to provide copies of the following documents during their appointment:

- Copies of their most recent energy bills.
- A list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member.
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).
- Physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health (if there isn't a household member over the age of 60).

Last year, more than 1,800 families in Lucas County were assisted through the Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program.

The Summer Crisis Program assists low-income households with an older household member (60 years or older) who can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for their health, have a disconnect notice, have been shut off, are trying to establish new service on their electric bill, or require air conditioning. Conditions can include such things as lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, or asthma.

Eligible households can receive up to \$500 if they are a customer of a regulated utility, or \$800 if they are a customer of unregulated utilities such as electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. The assistance is applied to their utility bill, or to purchase an air conditioning unit or fan, or pay for central air conditioning repairs. Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines to qualify for assistance. For a family of four the annual income must be at or below \$52,500.00.

Also, Ohioans enrolled in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) program who meet the above criteria may be eligible for assistance towards their default PIPP payment, first PIPP payment, central air conditioning repairs, or may receive an air conditioning unit and/or fan.

For more information about the features of the Summer Crisis Program and what is needed to apply, contact Claudia Rodriguez-Salazar at 419 242-7304 ext. 1155. Pathway's website: www.PathwayToledo.org. Also, to be connected to your local Energy Assistance provider visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov or call (800) 282-0880.

The Ohio Department of Development empowers communities to succeed by investing in Ohio's people, places, and businesses. Learn more about our work at development.ohio.gov.

Striving For Diversity...continued from page 3

sideration of race," the center reported.

Following the court's decision, Howard University released a statement warning of a ripple effect across the country.

"The decision will not only have a devastating impact on the diversity of colleges and universities across the country, but will also decrease access to higher education for students of color everywhere," the university said. "Education is still a top driver of economic success for all Americans, and this decision will have far-reaching ramifications for those seeking equity in the college admissions process and beyond."

Charleston said he would have applied to an HBCU if race-based affirmative action had been removed during his college application season.

"If my race, ethnicity or specific background is viewed as a hindrance by reviewers when processing an application, then I would rather attend a school that would accept the potential benefits and drawbacks experienced from a certain upbringing and see that the accomplishments of what I or any other minority are capable of are worth investing in to see growth, such as an HBCU dedicated to that very thing," the recent UNC graduate said.

Jimenez said his decision to apply to an Ivy League school would have remained the same if race was not a factor on his application; however, his pool of HBCU schools would have expanded.

"If affirmative action was illegal, it would not have stopped my pursuits for an Ivy League college and Columbia. I would have applied to more HBCUs and put more consideration into my environment and peers."

Proponents of affirmative action say the burden falls back on the Black race -- the Black race that shouldn't be considered when education is at stake. However, they point out, race had a role in what water fountain one drank from, how long one went to jail because of crack-cocaine disparities and whether a hoodie deems one worthy of death.

So much, they say, for "post-racial" America.

Joshua Heron is a recent graduate of Howard University and reporter for HUNewsServie.com. He will be pursuing a master's degree at Arizona State University in the fall.



Janai Nelson

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Maritime Students See Laker in Action

By Paul Hubbard, MSW, Maritime Academy Board Member
Special to The Truth

Maritime Academy students learned about the inner workings of The Andersons' facility on the Maumee River and toured the Laker Boat Algoma Sault.

The students were able to see a Laker in action by seeing the cargo holds, bridge, engine room and cabin according to Aaron Lusk, Maritime Superintendent. The tour gave the students a breadth of experiences about maritime careers from the employees of the Algoma Central.



Paul Hubbard

The skills learned from the maritime industry tour were the need for attention to details, punctuality and work ethics. These skills are applicable to any career while teaching students abstract academic skills in a real-world environment.

Mike Anderson, chairman of The Andersons, said he is glad The Andersons were able to provide this first-time experience for the Maritime students.

In addition to the maritime careers, "The Maritime Academy" also prepares students for a variety of post school options.

Given the mission of the Maritime Academy of Toledo: to provide students with rigorous academic pathways, towards college or a career, with a personalized learning experience students can find themselves prepared for any type of employment, says Superintendent Aaron Lusk.

Students have earned industry credentials in such diverse careers as phlebotomy, prostart culinary, water and wastewater treatment operators and welding. The Maritime Academy of Toledo is developing a dental assistant program which will guarantee jobs right after high school thanks to Maritime BD member Dr. Davis of the Dental School at the University of Toledo.



The graduates, of Maritime Academy of Toledo, have succeeded in many different University, the Military, and many trade professions.

Outgoing chairman of the board, Jim Hartung, says: "whichever option students choose to pursue The Maritime Academy will provide them freedom to succeed."

Former board chairman Keith Jordan says: "the students are learning in a safe environment."

Supreme Court Puts the Brakes on Student Loan Relief

By Bria Owens, Word in Black
Special to The Truth

After months of waiting, borrowers now have answers on the fate of their federal student loans. The Supreme Court struck down the Biden administration's student debt relief plan. The plan would have canceled up to \$20,000 in federal loans for eligible borrowers, totaling over \$400 billion in relief.

Because of the decisions from the Court, borrowers can expect their student loans to start gaining interest again as early as September and payments to restart in October.

The Court decided on two cases today — Biden v. Nebraska and U.S. Department of Education v. Brown. Both sought to block student loan forgiveness and challenged the president's authority to push a plan of such magnitude.

In Biden v. Nebraska, six Republican-led states argued that the student-debt plan would harm their states' tax revenues, as well as harm Missouri-based stu-

dent-loan servicer MOHELA.

The administration, on the other hand, argued they were well within their power, citing the HEROES (Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students) Act of 2003. The act was originally passed in 2001 and expanded in 2003 to allow the Education Secretary to provide relief for borrowers affected by war, military operation, or national emergency.

The Court ruled 6-3 in the states' favor, pointing out that the HEROES Act permits the Secretary to "modify" but does not permit "basic and fundamental changes in the scheme."

Student debt cancellation is significant for marginalized people, especially Black borrowers who hold a majority of the overall debt.

...continued on page 6

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Letter to The Editor

My name is Gwendolyn Hunt, and I'm 71 years old, a black female, and I've been an engaged voter for over 30 years. I love my Democratic Party, but I think that we are lacking in how we express ourselves to the minorities of our party.

What are we doing to engage our Native American population in Kansas, our Asian-American population in California, our Latino population in Texas? What are we doing to engage the coal miners in Tennessee and Kentucky that are worried about their jobs and getting addicted to drugs? What are we as Democrats doing to engage the refugees from Cuba and Haiti and Venezuela that are being snatched up and shipped around the country by Republicans?

These problems need to be addressed. Why isn't President Biden saying something to Rubio in Texas, to DeSantis in Florida, to McConnell in Kentucky? I know he is only one man, but President Biden has cabinet members who can act as surrogates. It takes voices and bodies going to these states and being firm and outspoken to put the truth over lies.

I'm not seeing this happen and I'm pissed off. If I don't see something useful from elected Democrats before the end of the year, I'm not sure I'm going to make a donation. They can't assume that black voters are going to get them over the finish line like we did in 2020; they need to start showing that they really care instead of just assuming.

I'm upset and I'm tired of old white Republicans trying to take control of the country. They claim they are more religious than Democrats - could have fooled me. The Republicans have sold their souls to the NRA and any of the

lobbyists that they get money from is gonna stop them from doing anything reasonable. They just turn their heads, open up their pockets, get all that money in their bank accounts.

What are we going to do about guns? I have never seen so much violence in my 71 years of life than I have seen in the last decade. And nobody doesn't want to do anything about it. Are background checks really gonna save a life? Maybe not. Is red flag laws gonna save that many lives? Maybe not. But what are we DOING? Doing nothing doesn't help all the people who have died because of gun violence. We absolutely need to stop all these mass shootings that we're having.

Does anybody care? Congress, do you care? Does the killing have to be right at your back door for you to do anything? I don't understand. Do you have hearts? Do you even care?

There is too much passivity. One thing I know is if you want something to get done, you've got to get fired up!

Gwendolyn Hunt

Student Loan Relief...continued from page 5

"Student loan debt is an urgent crisis that disproportionately burdens Black and LGBTQ+ students, compounding barriers in accessing post-secondary opportunities and achieving equity and justice, more generally," David J. Johns, executive director of the [National Black Justice Coalition](#), said in a statement.

"Instead, 'modify' carries 'a connotation of increment or limitation,' and must be read to mean 'to change moderately or in minor fashion,'" the decision reads.

In [U.S. Department of Education v. Brown](#), two student-loan borrowers sued the department because they were not eligible for the full \$20,000 of relief. In the forgiveness plan, those who did not receive Pell Grants while attending college but met the income threshold were eligible for half the relief at \$10,000.

The judges unanimously, 9-0, decided to toss out the U.S. Department of Edu-

...continued on page 13

Community Calendar

July 16

NAACP Toledo Youth Council Meeting: Sanger Branch Library; 3 pm

August 5

Warren A.M.E. Church Care Enough FREE Community Event; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m; Come and enjoy a variety of activities including: FREE Clothes, Commodities, Food Baskets, Music, Games, Fun, and More.

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Time to Vote and to Preserve the Concept of One Person, One Vote

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

“Democracy is at a tipping point,” said Ohio state Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson on Friday morning at the Frederick Douglass Community Association as she opened a meeting with a number of Toledo’s community and faith leaders to explain the importance of the upcoming August special election.

The event, organized by the Ohio Unity Coalition’s local convener, Petee Talley, was an effort to make sure that Toledoans get to the polls for the August 8 special election, particularly during the early voting phase which begins on July 11. There is only one issue on the ballot, an issue designed to dilute the voting rights of the Ohio citizens.

This year, the General Assembly Republicans decided that in order to thwart a citizens move to place a pro-choice amendment in the state constitution in November, they would change their stance on putting an end to costly special elections. Such elections typically cost state taxpayers around \$20 million and result in low voter turnout.

However, low voter turnout, decided the Republicans, is exactly what they needed to ensure approval on a measure to raise the threshold for a proposed citizen amendment from 50 percent plus one to 60 percent would pass because Democratic voters, especially those of color, do not usually turnout in large numbers for special elections.

Citizen-proposed constitutional amendments rarely reach the 60 percent threshold – only twice in recent history – a 2015 measure to create an Ohio Redistricting Commission and a 2018 amendment to change congressional redistricting.

The 60 percent threshold has been passed by the Republican majorities specifically to prevent the Ohio electorate from passing a citizen-initiated pro-choice amendment but, in general, the change will prevent citizen initiatives



Petee Talley



State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson

on most issues from passing. It will prevent, in the words of Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, a Republican, at the time of passage in the upper chamber “the tyranny of the majority.”

According to Huffman, citizens don’t always know what they want and he and his colleagues, who apparently know what is better for Ohio’s citizens, are trying to prevent “a temporary emotion of a majority to change or take away folks’ rights.” He is seemingly not worried about a tyranny of the minority.

“If we don’t get people out to vote, all the things we were taught in school

... continued on page 8



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Time To Vote... continued from page 7

about one person, one vote are going out the window," said Hicks-Hudson last week at the Ohio Unity Coalition event.

Talley said that her group is focused on getting citizens registered to vote, knowledgeable about the issues and ready to go to the polls. "We have to change these numbers," she said of the low voter turnout numbers in the city's wards where predominantly Black residents dwell. Those wards – 4, 8, 10, 13 and 14 – had voter turnout numbers in the 2022 general election mainly in the teens. Even lower turnout numbers are typically expected for primary for special elections.

This election, emphasized Talley, as did Hicks-Hudson before her, is critically important to maintain Ohioans one person, one vote tradition. "This is fundamental to our democracy," said Talley. "If we get 10 percent more [voters] than would typically turn out for a special election, it's a game changer."

A fact sheet being distributed by the Ohio Unity Coalition notes, among other matters, that voters should vote NO on the August issue (there is only one issue on the ballot because over the years citizen-initiated proposals have enabled the state "to raise the minimum wage, provide bonuses to war veterans and pass measures to create jobs and help our economy." None of these measures would have passed under the Republican proposed 60

percent initiative.

"They want to remove the power from the people and place it in the hands of a given few," said Hicks-Hudson. "They want to silence our voices."

Here are some of the points the Ohio Unity Coalition and the Lucas County Board of Elections wish voters to know and remember about the August 8 special election:

1. July 10 was the deadline to register for this election;
2. You may vote early in-person at the Early Vote Center at 3737 W. Sylvania Avenue, Entrance C at back of building – the hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. July 11 – 14; July 17 – 21 and July 24 – 28; 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on July 31; 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. on August 1; 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. August 2 – 4; 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. August 5; 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday August 6
3. Tuesday August 8 the hours in individual polling sites are 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
4. If you are planning to vote by mail, the written request for a ballot



... continued on page 9



The Junction Coalition's Alicia Smith and Ohio Unity Coalition Anita Madison



Local UAW President Tony Totty and State Rep. Elgin Rogers

INSTRUMENT MECHANIC

Are you ready to fuel your future?


Toledo Refining Company LLC (TRC) is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a throughput capacity of approximately 180,000 barrels per day and processes a slate of light, sweet crudes from Canada, the Mid-continent, the Bakken region and the U.S. Gulf Coast. TRC produces a high volume of finished products including gasoline and ultra-low sulfur diesel, in addition to a variety of high-value petrochemicals including nonene, xylene, tetramer and toluene.

Toledo Refining Company LLC has an exciting opportunity for:
Maintenance Instrument Mechanics

Instrument Mechanics will complete assignments relative to the inspection, repair, installation, and maintenance of refinery equipment. Work will be performed inside the maintenance shop as well as outside in all weather conditions.

Compensation & Schedule	Competitive Benefits Package	Required Qualifications*
Starting Pay Rate \$46.18 per hour	Medical, Dental, Vision	Must be at least 18 years old
After Completion of 12-Month Probationary Period Pay Rate \$50.52 per hour		
8-hour Shifts M-F	401k Match	HS Diploma or Equivalent
	Pension	Legally authorized to work in the US without restrictions
	Paid Parental Leave	Must have a current driver's license
	Much More!	


*For consideration, candidates must have completed a 2-year Technical Degree in Process Control OR have equivalent work experience of no less than 4 years as an Instrument Mechanic.





Fuel Your Future with Toledo Refining Company
Apply online today!
www.pbfenergy.com/careers

Application deadline is 11:59pm July 16, 2023

Applicants MUST apply online and review the entire job posting. Resume MUST be submitted in Microsoft Word or .pdf format. Applicants MUST provide a valid email address where they can be contacted regarding updates on the recruiting process.



EOE/M/F/D/V

REFINERY PROCESS OPERATOR

Are you ready to fuel your future?

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Toledo Refining Company LLC has an exciting opportunity for Refinery
Process Operators.


A Refinery Process Operator is responsible for: Ensuring safe work practices; making thorough rounds to maintain process equipment in all weather conditions; climbing ladders, tanks and towers up to 250 ft.; taking samples/readings of various process streams; maintaining good communication throughout the shift; providing proper shift relief regarding key process unit and equipment information.

Compensation & Schedule	Competitive Benefits Package	Required Qualifications
Starting Pay Rate \$35.13 per hour	Medical, Dental, Vision	Must be at least 18 years old
Pay increases every 6 months during the apprenticeship program		
12 hour Rotating Shifts	401k Match	HS Diploma or Equivalent
	Pension	Legally authorized to work in the US without restrictions
	Paid Parental Leave	Must have a current driver's license
	Much More!	

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EOE/M/F/D/V

CSRN Continues to Pursue the Truth; The Village of Swanton Makes It Difficult

The Truth Staff

On Wednesday, July 5, Kawana Hunter's two sons, aged 13 and 16, were due in court in the town of Wauseon to face felony 4 charges of assault. The boys, who are Black, were involved in an altercation with white boys on May 13 and only Hunter's sons were charged by the Swanton police.

"We continue to pursue the truth," said Washington Muhammad, of the Community Solidarity Response Network, during a press conference on Monday, July 3, arranged to bring to light the charges in Swanton. The recent arrest of this minor left us no other choice."

According to Hunter, her younger son was at play in Swanton Memorial Park, when he encountered the white youths, one of whom was his age and attended school with him. That youth was accompanied by two older boys. The two older boys, said Hunter, encouraged the younger white boy to verbally

Hunter's son by calling him the N-word before physically attacking him causing numerous injuries.

After the attack, Hunter's son found his older brother who then located the white boys and defended his brother physically.



Washington Muhammad, Anika Fields, Kawana Hunter

...continued on page 13

Time To Vote... continued from page 8

must be received at the Lucas County Board of Elections by 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2023;



5. In order for the Absentee Ballot to be counted, it must be received by the Board of Elections by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day – whether hand delivered or mailed;

6. There are new ID laws – voters must bring identification to the polls – a current and valid Ohio driver's license, a state ID card, interim ID form issued by the BMV, U.S. Passport or passport card, U.S. Military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card or a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card.

It's now time to vote and to preserve the long-time American ideal of "one person, one vote."



HOPE Toledo's John Jones and Earl Murry

JOURNEYMAN PIPEFITTER

Are you ready to fuel your future?

Toledo Refining Company LLC (TRC) is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a throughput capacity of approximately 180,000 barrels per day and processes a slate of light, sweet crudes from Canada, the Mid-continent, the Bakken region and the U.S. Gulf Coast. TRC produces a high volume of finished products including gasoline and ultra-low sulfur diesel, in addition to a variety of high-value petrochemicals including nonene, xylene, tetramer and toluene.



Toledo Refining Company LLC has an exciting opportunity for:
Journeyman Pipefitters

A Journeyman Maintenance Pipefitter is responsible for completing assignments relative to the inspection, repair, installation, and maintenance of piping within the refinery. Work will be performed inside the maintenance shop as well as outside in all weather conditions.

Compensation & Schedule	Competitive Benefits Package	Required Qualifications*
Starting Pay Rate \$46.18 per hour	Medical, Dental, Vision	Must be at least 18 years old
After Completion of 12-Month Probationary Period Pay Rate \$50.52 per hour		
8-hour Shifts M-F	401k Match	HS Diploma or Equivalent
	Pension	Legally authorized to work in the US without restrictions
	Paid Parental Leave	Must have a current driver's license
	Much More!	

*For consideration, candidates must have completed a state approved Pipefitter apprenticeship program with no less than 4 years work experience OR have equivalent work experience of no less than 8 years as a Journeyman Pipefitter.



Fuel Your Future with Toledo Refining Company
Apply online today!
www.pbfenergy.com/careers

Application deadline is 11:59pm July 16, 2023

Applicants MUST apply online and review the entire job posting. Resume MUST be submitted in Microsoft Word or .pdf format. Applicants MUST provide a valid email address where they can be contacted regarding updates on the recruiting process.

EOE/M/F/D/V

JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN

Are you ready to fuel your future?

Toledo Refining Company LLC (TRC) is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a throughput capacity of approximately 180,000 barrels per day and processes a slate of light, sweet crudes from Canada, the Mid-continent, the Bakken region and the U.S. Gulf Coast. TRC produces a high volume of finished products including gasoline and ultra-low sulfur diesel, in addition to a variety of high-value petrochemicals including nonene, xylene, tetramer and toluene.



Toledo Refining Company LLC has an exciting opportunity for:
Journeyman Electricians

A Journeyman Electrician is responsible for completing assignments relative to the inspection, repair, installation, and maintenance of refinery electrical equipment. Work will be performed inside the maintenance shop as well as outside in all weather conditions. Journeyman Electricians will be expected to perform tasks in other incidental craft areas as assigned.

Compensation & Schedule	Competitive Benefits Package	Required Qualifications*
Starting Pay Rate \$46.18 per hour	Medical, Dental, Vision	Must be at least 18 years old
After Completion of 12-Month Probationary Period Pay Rate \$50.52 per hour		
8-hour Shifts M-F	401k Match	HS Diploma or Equivalent
	Pension	Legally authorized to work in the US without restrictions
	Paid Parental Leave	Must have a current driver's license
	Much More!	

*For consideration, candidates must have completed a state approved Electrician apprenticeship program with no less than 4 years work experience OR have equivalent work experience of no less than 8 years as a Journeyman Electrician.

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Apply online today!
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EOE/M/F/D/V

Toledo Sister Cities Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

On Saturday, July 8, Toledo Sister Cities International and Voices of Tomorrow Choir celebrated the 25th Anniversary with an event at The Graystone Banquet Hall in Perrysburg Ohio. The event included dinner, socialization and communication with the choir members and future members, the choir's performances, youth performances, various speakers including members of the Sister Cities International, Toledo City Council members and Director Quinsey Hammond.

The Voices of Tomorrow Choir celebration event to acknowledge and recognize the choir's tours and impact they contribute to the world. The Voices of Tomorrow Choir is committed to engaging the world through music, their voices and songs. Over 35 countries have experienced the benefits and excitement of having The Voices of Tomorrow Choir present in their environment.

Information and details that were provided and made available for review and recognition:

"MUSIC IS ONE OF LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT SURVIVAL TOOLS IT GIVES US HOPE HELPS US HEAL AND GIVES US THE STRENGTH TO KEEP GOING EVEN IN THE TOUGHEST TIMES."

"They've done some great things in the 25 years. It's nice to see so many of you here, with your support. To celebrate with us. Bear with us, as we begin this program of celebration," said Hammond. "Thank you for coming out to celebrate with us. I definitely appreciate everyone. I got 55 choir robes that we hope to fill with young people. I need to show you and let

... continued on page 11



Quinsey Hammond



Voices of Tomorrow youth



Voices of Tomorrow Choir

IMA Donates to Connecting Kids to Meals



Continuing their practice of distributing funds to non-profit organizations in the area, The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance gifted Connecting Kids to Meals' Executive Director Wendi Huntley a \$500 check at their monthly meeting on Monday, July 10.

Connecting Kids to Meals is an agency that does exactly what its title suggests – distributes meals year-round to thousands to children and families throughout the greater Toledo area.

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Toledo Opera Appoints New Development Staff

Toledo Opera has appointed Leah Whitaker as Development Officer and Ikpemesi Ogundare as Finance & Development Administrator.

Special to The Truth

As a fundraising professional, Leah Whitaker brings an exuberant passion and curiosity for global diversity, experience, and understanding into her development work for non-profit organizations and private, educational institutions. Wherever she goes, Leah has a rollicking story to tell and finds welcome in most social circles intrigued by her rich life experiences. As such, Leah has successfully campaigned for all types of organizations such as grassroots political groups, international non-governmental organizations, universities, K-12 schools, churches, community centers, environmental & animal groups, and much more.

As Toledo Opera's Development Officer, Leah is excited to bring together her fundraising expertise with her passion for the operatic artform. "Whatever I can do to make my hometown a happier and healthier place for kids and families, I am happy to help. I believe the Toledo Opera provides a one-of-a-kind experience for our community, and those who listen will find more than just entertainment. Opera has the power to transport you out of the ordinary. The powerful sounds, costumes, and songs convey the weight of human love and hardship, along with the mysteries of the world. I just can't wait to share that with everyone," she shared.

Ikpemesi Ogundare has been recognized by her peers and colleagues with multiple awards and honors. Her past professional highlights include serving as the Vice President and President of the Bowling Green State University Graduate Student Senate. In this role she was passionate in advocating for over 3,000 graduate students and sharpened her leadership and administrative talents. Ogundare first joined Toledo Opera as a member of the Toledo Opera chorus.

As Finance & Development Administrator, Ogundare is excited to step into her new role at Toledo Opera: "I am looking forward to bringing about changes that make things easier for our staff in the office and for our donors!"

Executive Director, Suzanne Rorick shared, "the Toledo Opera staff and board have long prided themselves as being a 'scrappy, little team.' We have intentionally functioned with a reduced office staff during the pandemic and the ensuing economic uncertainty. But, we are now very cautiously increasing our bench strength and it is exciting to welcome both Leah and Ikpemesi! Leah has experience, contacts, and expertise to move Toledo Opera forward. Ikpemesi brings a tenacious, cheerful spirit to the Toledo Opera development team. I look forward to introducing them both to the opera patrons. They will absolutely love working with the team."

Leah Whitaker is a proud Toledo native with deep family ties to the local music scene. She was raised in a choral family and sang soprano/mezzo-soprano in school, church, and community choirs. As a child, Leah attended Toledo Opera's children's summer camp with her older brother Bennett. And danced as a toy soldier in the Opera's production of Babes in Toyland. Following graduation from MVCDS, Leah completed her undergraduate degree at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, in Native American ethnographic studies. Her work with the Native American Community Center of Central Ohio (NAICCO) and participation in Native ceremonies led her to pursue graduate coursework in theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. While earning two master's degrees, Leah studied abroad in Tanzania and fell in love with the people, the culture, and the East African lifestyle. Returning to Tanzania later in life, Leah worked for two years in various business industries, including helping a Ukrainian-owned international gaming group open East Africa's largest casino.

Ikpemesi Ogundare (she/her) is a Nigerian-American soprano, poet, and administrator. She has proven to be an artist that can't be boxed in. Since



Ikpemesi Ogundare



Leah Whitaker

spending the summer of 2019 singing in Graz, Austria with the American Institute of Music in Graz (AIMS) program. International Opera singer and award-winning poet are just a few feathers in her cap. Her past performance highlights include Calliope in Orpheus in the Underworld, the 2nd Lady in The Magic Flute, and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez in The State of the Union. Ogundare's creative achievements can also be seen outside the field of opera and singing. Most recently, she was named a winner of the Black Brilliance Competition for her series of poems titled "Love, Identity and Purpose." Ogundare recently received her Master of Music Performance from Bowling Green State University and she currently studies with Dr. Jennifer Cresswell.

For more information about Toledo Opera please visit toledoopera.org.

Sister Cities... continued from page 10

you really see what this choir did in 25 years. You will be very entertained."

"I'm honored to stand before you. In 1998, the youth were bold enough to say 'I want to travel across the globe, I want to sing to strangers.' Mr. Quinsey's vision was clear, each choir member had a chance to see more, do more, and grow more. Quinsey you are a hero and without you, the tour would have never become a reality," said Bill, Sister Cities International Member.

"Gifts for Quinsey, an awesome man of God, a plague for his excellence. He's ready to keep celebrating with us. Thank you, we love you and appreciate you," voiced the choir members.

"I do appreciate your love. The 25th anniversary, it's all about you – the choir. We have a lot more support now than we have had in the past," replied Hammond.

The celebration also served as the launching pad for the future voices of the choir, recognizing and supporting the Youth of Toledo who are the future participants of The Voices of Tomorrow Choir. The future members also sang and showed the audience their skills and preparation for the future participation in The Voices of Tomorrow Choir.



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Lace-Up Your Running Shoes and Join Us for the Inaugural “Run Discrimination Out of Town” Virtual Walkathon/Runathon

The Fair Housing Center is thrilled to announce the launch of our inaugural “Run Discrimination Out of Town” virtual walkathon/runathon aimed at creating inclusive communities that enhance opportunities for all. We invite individuals and teams to join us in this transformative event as we work together to eliminate discrimination and promote social justice.

Taking place from August 26, 2023, to September 30, 2023, participants can register as individuals or gather their friends and register as a team. As part of the event, you will have the chance to set your own mileage goals and make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

The Fair Housing Center will host three in-person events at Metroparks Toledo to foster camaraderie and encourage participants to work towards their goals. These events will provide an opportunity for participants to come together, share their progress, and find inspiration from one another. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- August 26, 2023, from 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. at Wildwood Metropark at the Whitetail Shelter
- August 26, 2023, from 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. at Oak Openings Metropark at the Mallard Lake Shelter
- September 30, 2023, from 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. at Pearson Metropark at the Pearson Playground Shelter

Why support fair housing? Housing plays a fundamental role in our overall success in life. By supporting fair housing, we can stabilize our neighborhoods, foster diversity, and improve life outcomes for individuals and families. Every dollar raised through this event will directly contribute to furthering the mission of The Fair Housing Center, ensuring that everyone has access to equal housing opportunities.

For registration and sponsorship opportunities, please visit <https://rdot.my.canva.site/> or email events@toledofhc.org.

Getting to 1 Coalition Hosts Film Viewing and Discussion

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department is happy to announce that the Getting to 1 Coalition is hosting a viewing of the film “Birthing Justice.”

WHO: Getting to 1 Coalition

WHAT: “Birthing Justice” film viewing and group discussion

WHEN: Monday, July 17, 2023 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (doors open at 9:45 am)

WHERE: ProMedica Ebeid Center, 2nd Floor 1806 Madison Ave. Toledo, OH 43604 Pre-Registration is optional: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/birthingjustice-film-viewing-tickets-658425206517>

This film viewing is in place of the Getting to 1 Coalition’s general meeting for Quarter 2 and is in celebration of the two-year anniversary of their relaunch. The film sheds light on the struggle and experiences of Black women within the healthcare system during pregnancy and childbirth.

This event is a great opportunity to learn about advocating for maternal healthcare equity while connecting with others who share this passion. Members of the public along with healthcare professionals are welcome to attend.

Light refreshments and snacks will be provided.

Getting to 1 Coalition is a community-driven effort committed to saving Black/African American babies, eliminating disparity gap, and reducing infant mortality in Lucas County. The coalition works with community partners and helps facilitate collaborations to address preterm births, low birthweight, and infant death in Lucas County, especially among our Black/ African American families.

Local, state, and national data is utilized to create policy with the purpose of improving birth outcomes. For additional information about the Getting to 1 initiative, please visit: <https://gettingto1.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/Gettingto1lucascountry/>

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THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS:

Youth Gather... continued from page 16

scripture Isaiah 40:28-31. He spoke with the youth and adults in attendance about why it’s important to wait on the Lord, that waiting is a verb, and waiting must be done by a collective and not just an individual.

“You can’t mount on wings if you haven’t waited on the Lord. If you implement what I will share with you, you will be successful. I’m not teaching you anything new or that you don’t know,” shared Heller.

Traditionally the Grand Session rotates the annual gathering by convening in different Ohio cities. The gathering also includes a weekend for all youth affiliated with Order of Pythagorans and Grand Girls Assembly.

The order was established over 75 years ago in the State of Ohio to emphasize programs for education, social, vocational and moral development. The session also includes youth fellowship, breakout sessions that focus on educational topics and the election of officers.

Books for a Kid's Summer

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

The B-word has shown its ugly face in your house a time or two this summer.

Not birds or bats, not babies or bunnies. No, this B-word tells you that it's time to give your kids something new to do. No more BOREDOM when you've got BOOKS, and these great books will keep your kids entertained.

For young readers ages three to five, *Sam and the Incredible African and American Food Fight* by Shannon Gibney, illustrated by Charly Palmer (University of Minnesota Press, \$17.95) is a fun book about a boy who's just plain hungry, but cultures clash in his kitchen and his stomach's growling! Will dinner ever be finished? This book is yummy.

Kids who love comic books will want to read and re-read *Like Lava in My Veins* by Derrick Barnes, art by Shawn Martinbrough with Adriano Lucas (Penguin, \$18.99). It's a comic-book-like story of a young man with superpowers but good luck getting a teacher who can understand him. When he changes classes, everything else changes, too, and your seven-to-10-year-old will love knowing about it.

Your six-to-10-year-old dinosaur lover will roar over *How to Survive in the Age of Dinosaurs* by Stephanie Warren Drimmer (National Geographic Kids, \$9.99). Filled with lots of full-color illustrations, plenty of "Hey, listen to this" sidebars and stories, and all kinds of stats, your child will become a dino expert in short order. Heads up: it's a great take-it-on-vacation read, too.

The kid who got a puppy this summer, or who wants to more about dogs will beg for *A First Guide to Dogs: Understanding Your Very Best Friend* by Dr. John Bradshaw, illustrated by Clare Elsom (Penguin, \$7.99). Part chapter book with a fictional story, part instruction, it'll make any dog-loving seven-to-11-year-old happy and quite knowledgeable. Woof!

Your future doctor or nurse will very much enjoy *Why? The Human Body* by Page Towler (National Geographic Kids \$12.99). Why can't you stare at the sun? Why do you breathe air? Why does a tasty ice cream cone sometimes hurt your teeth? This is a book that answers all kinds of questions about how we move, think, and experience the world in our human

c.2023
various publishers
\$7.99 - \$25.90
various page counts

bodies, and your nine-to-14-year-old will devour it.

And finally, don't be surprised if you want to borrow back *The National Geographic Kids Almanac 2024* (National Geographic Kids, \$15.99 paperback / \$25.90 hardcover). There's a little something for everybody ages 11-and-up here: jokes, quizzes, cartoons, chapters on food, mythology, weather, science, history, and more. Dip in her and learn about Amelia Earhart, page over there to find out about ways to be an ecology hero, flip again and read about animals. This book is truly a browser's delight.

If these great books don't quite fill your child's summertime wish list, then be sure to check with your favorite bookseller or librarian. They'll know exactly what will hold your young reader's interest, no matter how old the child. They'll know how to keep away the B word (bored) and replace it with these B words: beautiful books!



Student Loan Relief... continued from page 6

ation v. Brown and stated the cases lack of standing as the cause.

In this case, the decision reads, "Because respondents fail to establish that any injury they suffer from not having their loans forgiven is fairly traceable to the Plan, they lack Article III standing, so the Court has no jurisdiction to address their procedural claim."

"I believe that the Court's decision to strike down our student debt relief plan is wrong. But I will stop at nothing to find other ways to deliver relief to hardworking middle-class families. My Administration will continue to work to bring the promise of higher education to every American."

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

The statement also pointed to "hypocrisy" from the Republican party for forgiveness of loans from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Outside of today's rulings, the Biden administration previously announced in Nov. 2022 a plan to restart payments 60 days after implementation if the Supreme Court ruled in their favor. Or 60 days after June 30 if the Supreme Court struck it down.

However, Congress recently passed legislation to block Biden's relief program and end the payment pause, guaranteeing the restart regardless of the Court's decisions.

The Jobs Creator Network Foundation, part of the support for legal challenging, claims the Court's ruling will help address rising tuition rates, a growing issue among colleges.

"With this ruling, the Supreme Court has protected hardworking Americans who have paid back their student loans or never went to college from having to unfairly cover the college debt of others," the statement reads.

Other organizations, along with several prominent politicians, who are advocates for the plan, urge Biden to take a new route to fulfill his campaign promise of relief for borrowers.

"Student loan relief is a promise from President Biden to more than 40 million families," Melissa Byrne, student loan activist and executive director of *We The 45 Million*, said in a statement. "It is our chance for dignity. He must immediately implement a plan B including finding a different path to ensure no repayment begins until cancellation is delivered. Failure to deliver student loan relief is not an option."

CSRN... continued from page 9

Swanton police were called, said Hunter, and took statements only from the white children. As a result they went to the older brother's school the next day and arrested him in front of his schoolmates and did not bother to inform a parent.

Later they brought the felony 4 assault charges against both of the Hunter boys.

"They told my children they should have walked away," said Hunter.

During the Monday press conference, Hunter was accompanied by another African American Swanton resident, Anika Fields, who spoke of the long-time simmering racism within the community and particularly among the village police officers.

"I'm a resident and no stranger to the racism in Swanton," said Fields. "There's been no progress. There is still a lot of work to do, still a lot of African American families experiencing racism ... a weaponizing of the police. We are asking for pressure to be applied ... if it can happen here, it can happen anywhere."

An early result of the arrest is that Hunter's older son was unable to finish the school year.

"This is a hate crime," said Fields last week. We spoke to Swanton city council but nothing has happened. This is not a plantation any more. Swanton has been successful in moving people out of the community with tactics like this."

Hunter's sons were in court for their July 5th appearance but the procedures were postponed until July 26.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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July 12, 2023

PUBLIC BID ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed proposals for furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment necessary for the 2023 Kent Branch, Reynolds Corners Branch and Sanger Brach Parking Lot Reconstructions will be received by the Fiscal Officer, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library until 12:00 noon (Toledo Time) on July 18, 2023 at the Security Office of the Main Library Building, 325 N. Michigan Street, Toledo, Ohio, attention: David Scanlan. The bids will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. Proposals received after this time will be returned to the bidder unopened.

General scope of work consists of asphalt pavement removal and reconstruction, catch basin reconstruction, dumpster pad and enclosure construction and concrete curb and walk reconstruction.

Electronic copies of the bid and contract documents can be obtained at Lewandowski Engineers, 234 North Erie Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604, phone 419-255-4111, at a non-refundable cost of \$20 per set, plus shipping, if requested. All requests for information must be received no later than 12:00 noon on July 12, 2023.

LIBBEY 50TH REUNION

Libbey High School Class of 1973 are celebrating our 50th Class Reunion on Labor Day Weekend. The event will be held Friday, September 1st and Saturday, September 2nd.

Please contact Cassandra Day-Moore for tickets at 419.450.7227. Tickets are \$50 single and \$75 couple.

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.

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

INVITATION FOR BIDS LEAD HAZARD ELIMINATION – BIRMINGHAM TERRACE IFB23-B009

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Lead Hazard Elimination – Birmingham Terrace in accordance with IFB23-B009**. Received in accordance with law until **July 28, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative



INVITATION FOR BIDS LEAD HAZARD ELIMINATION – PULLEY HOMES IFB23-B010

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Lead Hazard Elimination – Pulley Homes in accordance with IFB23-B010**. Received in accordance with law until **July 28, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



INVITATION FOR BIDS FIRE PUMP REPLACEMENT AT DORRELL MANOR IFB23-B011

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Fire Pump Replacement at Dorrell Manor in accordance with IFB23-B011**. Received in accordance with law until **August 11, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS BIOHAZARD CLEANING SERVICES (ON CALL) RFP23-R007

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Biohazard Cleaning Services in accordance with RFP23-R007**. Received in accordance with law until **July 27, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



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Perryman... continued from page 2

Perryman: What accomplishments are you most proud of?

Williams: Seeing that we can keep the doors open to provide a safe haven for our young people, providing resources to the whole family.

Perryman: Can you give that some context? It suggests that there's been a situation when those doors may not have remained open.

Williams: I would say that The Doug was on life support with the hand on the plug, and I felt like I was doing CPR. When you perform CPR, you must have a partner to give you relief so they can continue pumping the heart. So, a few allowed me to have some relief in that, and I was just like, 'It's still alive, it's got a heartbeat, we gotta pump it, take your hand off the plug, it's going to live!'

That was my commitment when it was in dire straits and the possibility of The Doug no longer existing in its 96th year. We had to do something and not just say, 'oh well, we can't do anything about it and leave The Doug in its state.' So I vowed not just to give the organization its funeral.

Perryman: Was that because of a lack of funding, threatening its viability, or other things?

Williams: All the above. Funding, lack of support from the community, no programs, behind on payroll taxes, no insurance, no directors' and officers' insurance, no proper oversight, internal controls in disarray, you name it.

Perryman: So specifically, what did you do to turn the organization around?

Williams: I started asking questions. What do I need to do to get out of debt? Can we set up a payment plan? Since we're a nonprofit, can something be forgiven? I asked persons to do certain things pro bono as far as legal aid is concerned, writing proposals, trying to find grants, and just the volunteerism of it all started to be birthed in me because at that time, being the president, I was a nonpaid personnel person so for that timeframe of the rough seas of The Douglass Center I was just a volunteer.

Perryman: What has been your biggest challenge?

Williams: For me, the biggest challenge was to turn the perception of The Doug at its worst and try to win the community's support and demonstrate that The Doug is alive and well.

Perryman: What programs are you now providing?

Williams: Currently, we partner with Owens Community College to provide high school equivalency classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We've partnered with The Junction Coalition to support our programs and partnerships mutually. Also, our afterschool program, The Great Outdoors Summer Experience, exposes our youth to things already in our backyard. We are also currently doing podcasting, horseback riding, and the Tacklebox Program. We are also getting youth to the pools, utilizing the Metroparks, and then just utilizing our athletic facilities component and the kitchen, which will help with culinary and expose them to cooking classes and things of that nature.

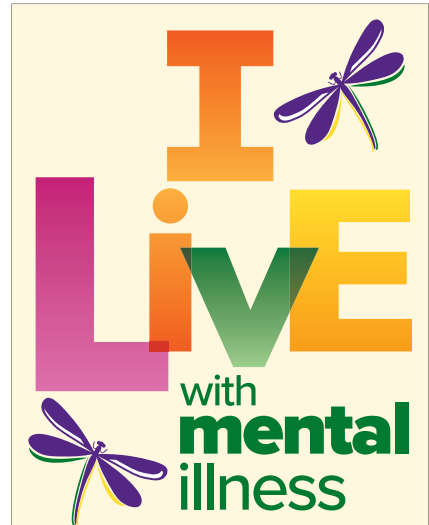
Perryman: Who are your major supporters?

Williams: Lucas County has supported our grants with the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge grants. Also, the City of Toledo has been a significant partner in funding us with grants. The Toledo Museum of Art has been a significant partner. Also, Reverend Harvey Savage with The Kitchen of the Poor, Pastor Tim Pettaway with Walk the Word, and Pastor Jerry Boose have been a good support. Bowling Green State University produced the new logo that we have now, The Doug 419. Divine Printing has been a great partner. Owens Corning has given us 20 laptops to start our computer lab. Earthly Groups, a new partnership, has been spearheading our garden. We also have individuals and silent partners who wish to remain behind the scenes. The Movement, as far as one, was instrumental in being able to celebrate The Doug's anniversary. We will be 104 years this September and I could not have done anything without respecting the foundation laid 104 years ago and the support of our great partners.

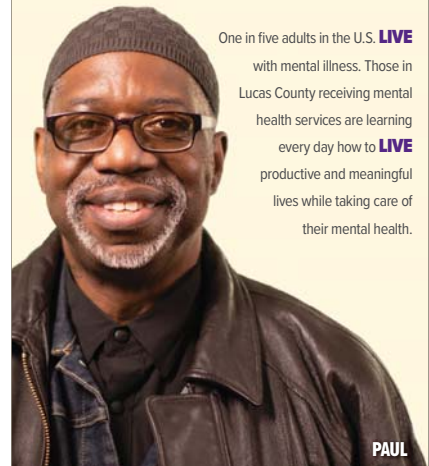
Perryman: I admire you for what you've done and the accomplishments made. Is there anything else you want to add for our readers?

Williams: We thrive on community support to keep our vision alive and fresh. So, we ask people to give, whether \$5, \$10, or whatever the Most-High God puts on their heart to give to The Frederick Douglass Center at our Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union account. Those funds will be used to provide programs and purchase new equipment such as projectors, microphones, speakers, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, and anything to keep us sustainable.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, Ph.D. at drlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org



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This program is made possible by Grant Number 5HT91082294-02 from SAMHSA. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA.

VOTE NO ON ISSUE 1

What's up this summer?

There is a **Special Election, August 8 2023**, in Ohio and its intent is to make any citizen-led amendment to the state constitution require a **SUPERMAJORITY (60%) to pass**. If passed, it will **replace the SIMPLE MAJORITY (50% plus 1) that CURRENTLY EXISTS**.

If this passes, it **threatens all future elections** where voters can decide on changes to issues like minimum wages, police accountability, education about black history, reproductive health, and other problems that help our community, including the election in 2024. This supermajority rule will **further silence and disenfranchise voters** all over our state.

This was a deliberate move by **EXTREMIST POLITICIANS** who hope that Black and other impacted Ohio Voters will sleep on this issue and not go to the polls to vote.



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Youth Gather in Ohio for Annual Masonic Celebration Weekend

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Over 100 youth dressed in formal Masonic attire gathered at the University of Toledo's Student Union to close out a weekend of activities. The Divine Service was held on Sunday, July 9 and concluded the Grand Session of both the young men's group called Order of Pythagorans and young ladies group called Grand Girls Assembly

"Thank you for being here with us this morning and we invite God to be here amongst us as we pray," shared Zada Ward, Grand Royal Queen.

The Divine Service began with a procession led by the top two youth officers who were newly elected during the course of the weekend sessions. Joshua Cook, Most Valiant Grand Master Counselor and Ward, Grand Royal Queen. Cook also read the scripture reading and introduced the guest speaker, while Ward presented an invocation and benediction during the course of the service.

The audience sang various faith-based selections which were led by John Byrd, the director, and the Youth Mass Choir also sang a selection which was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Rev. O'Neil Heller was the speaker of the service. He was born in Warren, Ohio, the father of eight children and happily married. Rev. Heller is an Army combat veteran, retired firefighter Chief, Mason and serves on the leadership staff at New Jerusalem Fellowship.

"I'm honored to stand before you today, and I'm so proud of these young people," opened Rev. Heller. The sermon was inspired by Biblical

...continued on page 12



Comazon Chapter Order of Pythagorans and Advisors



Dignitaries



John Covington (Convention Director), Rev. O'Neil Heller (Speaker), R.W. Deputy Grand Master Robert Estelle Jr and Most Worshipful Grand Master Jerry Ellerson



Mass Youth Choir



Attendees



Speaker



Women of the Eastern Star

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