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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

July 26, 2023



Maor Wade Kapszukiewicz Explains Why the Plan Is Working ... Page 2

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Trust the Process

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

The Truth Contributor

The goal is to turn data into information and information into insight.

- Carly Fiorina



The latest crime statistics declare that the Kapszukiewicz administration has taken a large bite out of crime thus far in 2023.

Crime reduction was central to a divisive 2021 Kapszukiewicz vs. Finkbeiner mayoral contest. Moreover, crime remains a controversial policy issue today due to the complexity of its causes, effects and potential solutions. In addition, the intersection of various political, economic and social factors makes crime a difficult problem to disentangle completely.

I spoke with Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz to understand the implications of the highly publicized downward trend in Toledo's crime rates.

In our following conversation, Kapszukiewicz discusses how he "trusted the process" or utilized the power of persistence and did not allow himself to get sidetracked by disapproval, distractions or defiance in his successful quest to curtail crime.

Perryman: Violent crime can have a profound impact, not just on victims and their families, but also on communities and our city as a whole. What are the results of your most recent crime statistics?

Mayor: What's so notable is that it isn't just one statistic; it is virtually all statistics, except for auto thefts which are up just a little bit for the first half of 2023. Every other measure of crime is down, and in most cases, it's significantly down. When you look at the data, you'll see across-the-board double-digit reductions in burglaries, shootings and homicides; that shows that we're making real progress and turning the corner in addressing crime.

Perryman: During your 2021 mayoral campaign, you noted that crime rates were high everywhere as the rationale for Toledo's high rates.

Mayor: Yes, and part of the story we also need to tell is that we're doing so much better than the national average. So, while homicides are down 10 percent across the United States, they're down almost 40 percent in Toledo. Seeing how much better we're doing than the national average is incredibly encouraging. I might point out that cities are still struggling and trending in the wrong direction. Cleveland, for instance, is having a tough time this year; their homicides are up 30 percent.

Perryman: What are you doing differently than before to reduce crime?

Mayor: One mistake people made over the last two or three years in talking about violent crime was believing that there was one simple cause and effect. As a result, they felt that there was one simple solution. That thinking was wrong from the beginning. There are multiple reasons that



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

violent crime went up across America beginning about three years ago, and likewise, to answer your question, there are numerous reasons here in Toledo; I think there are also multiple reasons it's now going down.

Perryman: Can you describe specifically what has led to the encouraging downward trend in crime?

Mayor: What happened in Toledo, in my judgment, is that we adopted a plan. We were disciplined enough to stick to our plan even when voices from the sidelines were trying to distract us from what was working. So, we followed a plan we adopted last December, and even in the face of political distraction and grandstanding, we were disciplined enough to stick to it. Thank goodness, because the plan is working, and what we need to do right now is follow it and not be distracted by any outside noise.

Perryman: What elements are a part of the plan?

Mayor: It's a plan that involves a lot of things. It did involve a policing aspect. We thought it was essential to get more officers out on the streets, out of their cars, walking, and so we've done that. However, it also involved fighting blight and cleaning up abandoned tires and debris in neighborhoods.

The plan also involved programs for youth. I think everyone who's heard me talk recently about the \$4 million we spent on youth programming over the last two years and the 200 free youth programs we offer. It involved interruption, what we're calling MONSE, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Malcolm and his team, the violence interrupters, making the long-term investments in the neighborhoods and healthcare, all of those things. That was all part of the plan that we adopted, and I think all of those things, taken as a whole, are why we are seeing these encouraging numbers. As encouraging as they are, though, we're not satisfied, we're not done. Still, I think it's clear now that the plan we adopted is working, and what we need to do right now is not veer from it, not be distracted, and stick to what's working.

Perryman: As you know, just because two or more events occur together doesn't necessarily mean that one directly causes the other to happen. How can we avoid making hasty conclusions about cause-and-effect relationships based on the existence of a possible coincidence? How can we determine which elements of your plan

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Massa, You Sho' Been Good to Me!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

Believe it or not, here we go again! In a recent article coming out of the great Sunshine State of Flor-ree-da, the state education board that oversees the curriculum of history courses, including African American history, has inserted in the curriculum that one of the good things about slavery was that the slaves learned valuable "personal skills" while toiling under Massa's whip.

Yeah, read the article yourself. That board had the audacity and profound historical ignorance to even intimate that slavery was an important teaching tool, imparting valuable life lessons to people in bondage.

Imagine for a moment, so-called educated people concocting lies trying to convince you that the institution of slavery was not particularly bad since valuable skills were gleaned from those hundreds of years of oppression.

That being the case, since they are trying to convince a state of people who are ostensibly history challenged, let us see what valuable skills our ancestors learned via the whip and the lash of America's peculiar institution: WHICH OF THESE SKILLS WERE TAUGHT TO THE SLAVES FOR THEIR SKILLS SET?

- (a) basic arithmetic and numbers so they could stop being fleeced at the local plantation commissary.
- (b) reading skills so that they could not be swindled out of their money or land by hucksters.
- (c) a reading of the state and the U.S. Constitution so that they could be informed and Intelligent voters?
- (d) the use of firearms so they could protect themselves when the Klan rode up on them.
- (e) all the above.
- (f) none of the above.

If your answer is not "f," you need to be quickly referred to a deprogramming camp to be reacquainted with the basics of Black History (which is American History). It is obvious that Gov. Ron DeSantis and others of his pernicious ilk want to rewrite history (George Orwell 1984...anyone?) so that White students are not led to be ashamed or embarrassed about what their ancestors did to their enslaved populations.

Also, remember, it is always good and politically sound to harangue and denigrate people of color when the opportunity arises and thus curry the favor, money and votes of the White voting population who have not yet resolved themselves to the glaring fact that in about another 20 years, they will be a minority ethnic grouping in America.

The GOP is in the majority in Florida and despite blowback from the NAACP and teacher unions and other groups, Ron DeSantis is barreling ahead with a cockeyed revised American history to assuage the prickly sensitivity of his White voting bloc.

To him, it matters not that those historians, both Black and White, have shouted from the roof tops that such revisionism is anti-intellectual and does a grave dis-service to the contextual discussion of slavery in America.

Despite being repeatedly informed that a full and accurate portrayal of American history, with its warts and all, is beneficial, Ron DeSantis and company want no part of an American History that truthfully depicts the barbarous acts of Whites engaging in racial pogroms and denying Black Americans the same

freedoms that they enjoy.

Save for the "skills" of planting and picking cotton, running the kitchens of Massa, having his babies out of wedlock and doing the sundry jobs of working on a plantation, there was nothing skillful taught to the overwhelming number of Black men and women who did not learn a valuable trade nor were entitled to full participation in the American Dream.

Slavery was not an incubator of fulfilling the aspirations of people of color, no matter how gifted or talented they were. Slavery was a perpetual headlock and vise grip on any desire to be free and to form enduring Black families.

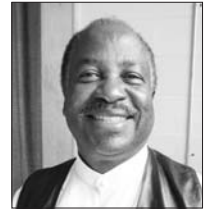
Slavery was diametrically opposed to such ideas and those who fostered such thinking were not accorded any public voice by which to call the affected slave and his or her family into the whole of American society.

But yet, Florida wants you to believe that slavery was not a grim picture as it has been portrayed, what with all its lynchings and theft and the killing of innocents. A revised history of America would have slavery as a salubrious institution full of kindly White men and women who were warm and friendly to their "darkies" and only wanted the best for them.

If the Whites were to ask the very oppressed members of their slave communities what skills would they like to learn it would be: (1) how to escape their hellhole (2) how to make money so the slave could buy his freedom and that of his family members (3) how to learn a valuable trade so that when they reached Canada or UpSouth (aka: The North), they could thrive and prosper.

When Ron DeSantis and other historical revisionists start tearing out pages of history books to insert their own version of what they want it to portray, that society is on a downward slope to illusions and lies becoming their perverted truths.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Lafe Tolliver



Photo: The Good, the Bad and the Black, 2023. Photo by Marquis Martinez

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What Shall We Do with Chief Justice Robert's Cake?

Understanding College Admissions in a Post Affirmative Action World

By Mallory Williams, MD, MPH, FACS, FICS, FCCP, FCCM

Justice Kantenji Brown Jackson in her dissent to the Supreme Court ruling on the Students for Fair Admissions Incorporated v. Harvard University and the University of North Carolina referred to Chief Justice Roberts' majority opinion as being formulated with a "let them eat cake obliviousness" concerning race.

Her dissent is a masterful composition of the intersection of Supreme Court rulings and federal policy with resulting de facto second-class citizenship for black Americans. The power of her writing soars and her dissent is a tour de force in the legal history of the negative role the Supreme Court has played in creating a more equal society. But what are we to do now? What shall we do with Chief Justice Roberts' cake?

The topic of Affirmative Action in America rightfully insights passions on all sides of the political spectrum. The most likely reason is one of distribution of opportunities. This fuels Americans. It is what makes our nation exceptional. However, the perception that one group will be considered special or preferred over another and therefore will receive opportunities even if both candidates are equally qualified has never been well accepted in this nation.

But the irony is that the idea of having to choose an individual from a group of extremely well qualified finalists has always been a reality whether in the admissions committee or executive suite. The very concept of a well-designed selection process ensures that the final group of individuals to be considered are all exceptional and credible for the position.

This means that every day in America a person is selected for a job where several other individuals are equally qualified. Or, otherwise said, many



Dr. Mallory Williams

well qualified candidates for positions are turned away. For example, when Jack Welch conducted a six-year search for his successor at General Electric the finalist were three white men: Jeffrey Immelt, Robert Nardelli, CEO of Home Depot from 2000 to 2007 and James McNerney, CEO of Boeing from 2005 to 2015. These were all very successful well-qualified executives.

The question of who really was the most qualified can be debated well into the future. Jeff Immelt emerged as the new CEO of General Electric.

The question that remains for us as a nation is when and why do we really believe in the selection process? Do we believe in the selection process more when it involves athletes and legacies than when it addresses racial groups? Do we believe that all the applicants are well qualified to fill positions? These questions lay at the heart of how America feels and responds to affirmative action as a policy, particularly in college and university admissions.

Even when America witnesses natural, financial, and health tragedies, like Katrina, the Wall Street meltdown from subprime lending, and the COVID 19 pandemic, where the nation is confronted with the consequences of long-term racial inequities, they still harbor anti-affirmative action sentiments.

The term Affirmative Action comes from the 1935 Wagner Act. The Wagner Act allowed workers to unionize without fear of being discriminated against, and empowered a National Labor Relations Board to review potential cases of worker discrimination. In 1961, John F. Kennedy became the first President to utilize the term. He issued Executive Order 10925 which included a provision that government contractors "take affirmative action

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NAMI's African American Leadership Initiative Annual Summit

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

On Friday July 21, the National Alliance on Mental Illness Greater Toledo (NAMI)'s African American Leadership Initiative 10th Annual Summit, held at Toledo Lucas County Main Branch Library, several speakers provided information and knowledge on gun violence and how it affects African American men's mental health. The goal and focus of the event was to promote mental health and wellness and safety in the African American community and to support leaders to work towards those goals.

Traumatic situations can be linked to mental health problems, a number of speakers noted. Mental health triggers can be caused by events or circumstances that can establish difficult emotional or psychiatric indicators including anxiety, panic, or negativity to self and create discouraged feelings. When trauma is experienced, it must be addressed to resolve the issues the trauma will create.

During the NAMI event, gun violence and the impact the violence has was a main point that speakers discussed and provided knowledge, possible solutions and growth opportunities to the audience. The following information was provided by speakers and panel discussion enlightenment.

"I see on the news what is happening daily in the community; someone being victimized. For this, we want to make sure we keep the conversation on mental health and the impact on the community." Sonya Quinn, NAMI.

Scott Sylak, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board executive director, shared information as well. "We are happy that we are able to participate. We all know gun violence is a major problem in our community. Gun violence harms the community and has a devastating impact on children and young people. We are working to make access to services more available in our community. And we are working to make Toledo safer: address mental wellness and violence reduction. We can create a future where gun violence is not a problem. We are here to create a better place to call home."

Michael Carter, Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board director of Community Engagement and Equity stated: "We all play a role in the environment, but family/father needs to be first. So, one thing I want to let you know, if you happen to get triggered, you have a role available with therapists."

Cecil Holston, clinical social work therapist, shared the following information to provide knowledge to the audience: "When you can relate to someone, it's easier to open up to them. Therapy is having a conversation. Black male therapist for black man. Men struggle with vulnerability; we struggle because we don't want to be vulnerable. We have to remind ourselves to be able to have opening and vulnerability; that is growth. Unpack years of trauma! Self-care...take minutes to LOVE self. Loving self in the moment, find something that you love in yourself. The brain cannot unwire itself; we all need someone to help us with that. Therapy."

Willie Knighten, CEO Above & Beyond Care Behavioral Health, provided much information from his experience and knowledge to support



Michael Carter, Cecil Holston, Willie Knighten, Charles Williams

growth in the atmosphere: "Mental health and gun violence. My sister was off work, took a shift for a friend and was shot and killed. I had a lot of trauma and triggers. But...we all have a voice. We can play a part and help those living with gun violence. Mental health is real. It's not what you do, it's how you do it. Help from a father for the youth is required. When a person needs mental health treatment, many resources are available from agencies on the First Wednesday event; every first Wednesday of the month at 11am at the Government Center. Many resources and information available."



Safety Director Brian Byrd

Charles Williams, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Manager, provided his personal information to support the atmosphere very well. "Who I am.... a professional husband and father. There is nothing wrong with being a family man. Generational success, black success, we have to share! Young people...own your space. We all need to expand our accountability and our responsibility is to do something. Fight and Refuse the thoughts and feelings that you're not important."

In addition to the shared knowledge and panel discussions, NAMI provided lunch and networking opportunities throughout the event to connect with community members. Opportunities provided to learn from experts and gain knowledge and strategies to improve mental health issues in our atmosphere.

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Ohio's Issue 1 Designed to Protect Unconstitutional Gerrymandering: Citizens Being Asked to Forfeit Their Voting Rights

By DemocracyIssues.com, an Ohio-based Voter Rights initiative

Ohio Issue 1 that is on the ballot for an August 8 Special Election is being opposed by major Voter Rights organizations in the state. If Politicians who created Issue 1 succeed, it will be almost impossible to pass most future citizen-led ballot issues.

The result would be to take away the current right held by ordinary citizens to initiate ballot issues that challenge and replace laws put in place by anti-democratic or out of touch Politicians.

One key provision of this anti-democratic legislation is to raise the threshold for voter passage of a citizen-led Constitutional Amendment from the current 50 percent, to instead, 60 percent.

If it passes, Issue 1 will allow a minority of 40 percent of the voters to control the outcome of a citizen-led ballot issue supported by 60% of the voters.

Ohio Politicians working to keep Unconstitutional Gerrymandered Election Districts Ohio Representative Brian Stewart (R-Ashville) who is the primary sponsor of

House Joint Resolution 1(HJR1) that is the law authorizing Issue 1 explained in a private letter to members of his political party the purpose for this legislation (Statehouse News Bureau-March 10, 2023).

According to Stewart's letter, one of Issue 1's main objectives is to protect the Ohio GOP's current practice of gerrymandering that has created rigged election districts in the state and that guarantees the continued reelection of a majority of GOP candidates in the future.

Issue 1 is being put forward in spite of the overwhelming wishes of Ohio voters. In 2015, over 71 percent of Ohio voters approved The Ohio

Bipartisan Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment in order to end gerrymandered election districts for all state of Ohio elections.

In 2018, Ohio voters approved The Congressional Redistricting Procedures Amendment for all federal contests in the state.

For the 2022 midterm elections, in spite of the 2015 Constitutional Amendment being in place in which voters overwhelmingly demanded that districts for state elections be fair and nonpartisan, the Ohio Redistricting Commission (ORC) repeatedly created gerrymandered district maps that assured that the GOP would control the outcome of elections in a large majority of the districts for years to come.

And on five (5) separate occasions, the Ohio Supreme Court ordered that the 2022 gerrymandered district maps were unconstitutional and must be redrawn. These highly manipulated district maps deprive many voters of their right to vote by rigging in advance the outcome of an election in favor of the political party in control of setting up the maps.

Each of the Court's orders was ignored and with time running out until Election Day, the Ohio Supreme Court permitted the use of a set of the gerrymandered maps in the 2022 midterms.

Independent Ohio Redistricting Commission

Voting Rights organizations in Ohio are now examining a new Constitutional Amendment to establish the Ohio Independent Redistricting Commission in order to permanently end gerrymandering. It will be similar

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Young Artists At Work Art Sale

By Angie Hayes

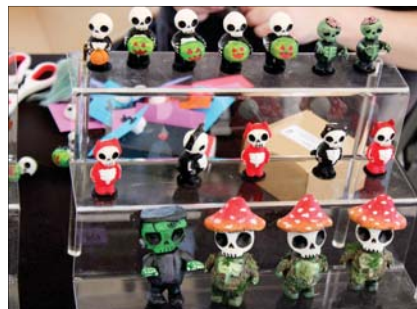
The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Art Commission Art Loop Summer Spectacular Event was held on July 22 2 p.m. -6 p.m. on Adams Street with a variety of free events, activities and art sales. In addition to the Art Loop, the YAAW event also held at the same time: Young Artists At Work Art Sale, hosted by Handmade Toledo at 1717 Adams St.

The YAAW Program is established to inspire young artists to ensure a greater commitment to creativity and community. The program runs from June 26 to August 4 for the 2023 schedule. The YAAW program has been active since 1994.

The Toledo Art Commission Art Loop Summer Spectacular and the YAAW activities were free events and free activities to the community. A family friendly event day! Artwork sales were the main goals and knowledge of the benefits of the Youth Artists At Work Program benefits for the youth and the future was a main focus as well.

In addition, the benefits of the Youth Artists At Work Art Sale, a variety of food sources (food truck and restaurants), Glass City Steel Drum Band, face painting, sidewalk chalk opportunities, classic car show, aerial performances by Bird's Eye View Circus, and dance groups were also active in the Art Loop.



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Issue One... continued from page 6

to the new Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission that has eliminated partisan districts in that state.

Issue 1's 60 percent threshold for passage along with an almost impossible set of signature petition requirements were designed with the specific purpose and intent of preventing a Constitutional

Amendment for an Ohio Independent Redistricting Commission that would end gerrymandering in the state.

Issue 1 is critical in order for a small group of Ohio GOP Politicians to be able to continue unconstitutional and anti-democratic gerrymandered election districts that predetermine the outcome of future elections in the state even before the first ballot is cast.

J. Frank Troy Booster Club Holds Annual Summer Picnic

The Truth Staff

The J. Frank Troy Booster Club hosted its annual summer picnic on July 14 at the Walbridge Park Shelter House and featured lunch, raffles, games and live music for the more than 75 guests in attendance.

The afternoon's events also included speeches by local elected and government officials such as Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford, Lucas County Board of Elections Director LaVera Scott and representatives of the Lucas County Commissioners and Toledo City Council.

However much the luncheon guests enjoyed the speeches, the food and the raffles, the highlight of the afternoon was the music provided by Bobby G and Friends Band. The blues and R & B standards definitely heightened the excitement of the afternoon.

Bobby G has been on the blues scene in Toledo for about 50 years. Originally from a small town in Mississippi, he was inspired by juke joint singers in the area. He was been working with his Friends Band since 2010.



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In Memoriam

Jan Scotland, March 26, 1956 – July 18, 2023

Jan Krishna Menon Scotland was born on March 26, 1956 in Harlem, New York to Iris (Jackson) Scotland and the late Rev. Felix A. Scotland, both of Guyana.

Jan grew up in Queens, New York with siblings Felica (Benzo), Excillie Scotland, Dom Scotland and mother Iris following the passing of his father at an early age. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School and graduated from Andrew Jackson High School in 1974.

Jan was a proud HBCU alumni of Hampton University (Hampton, Virginia) c/o 1978 "Creative Source" where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Organic Chemistry. He enjoyed returning to his cherished Hampton University every fall, helping to host the university's Homecoming celebrations.

Jan started his career at B.F. Goodrich in Akron, Ohio. In 1981, he relocated to Toledo, Ohio to work at Owens Corning Fiberglass where he served as a Supervisor of Chemical Purchasing and met many lifelong friends. He met Margie (Garner) in 1981 and they married on November 24, 1984. The couple have two children, Alexander and Dawn Scotland, through their union.

Jan served the city on Toledo City Council in 1987 and campaigned and held numerous positions in the state of Ohio throughout his life. He was a proud lifelong member of the Republican Party and was not shy of his affiliation, eager to debate any one on any politics of the day. He most recently ran in the 2021 mayoral race.

In 1990, Jan became a State Farm agent where he served the community through his office on Dorr St. faithfully for 33 years until his passing.

One of his greatest accomplishments was serving the community's youth through the Sleepy Hollow Athletic League where he coached faithfully for 27 years. The co-ed program taught the city's youth the fundamentals of sports, encouraging good sportsmanlike conduct rather than competition. The unique program was affordable for all and completely ran by volunteers and parents. Jan founded the program in 1996, after the teenager of a family friend was shot and killed in a parking lot by being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Jan truly believed in the importance of having programs for children before they got into trouble to keep them off the streets.

Jan was a devoted member of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church where he served decades as Treasurer, Trustee, Chair of Men's Day and Youth Day, Vacation Bible School Chair, and served the youth through the Christian Board of Education. When their children were younger, Jan and Margie hosted children after church in their home every Sunday for dinner. Jan could be found happily playing the bongos in the music pit every Sunday.

Jan was a staple in the Toledo community with a track record for advocating for youth and black interests. He formerly volunteered for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and was previously a board member and board president of both the East Toledo Family Center and Fredrick Douglass Community Association. Most recently, he was the president of PCARS (President's Committee on African American Recruitment and Retention) at the University of Toledo Medical School where he served until his passing.

Jan was the recipient of many awards for his public service including but not limited to Big Brother of the Year, Board of Community Relations Youth Empowerment Award, East Toledo Distinguished Citizens and one of the inaugural recipients of the Jefferson Award for Public Service in 2004.

Jan was a joy to everyone he met and was known for his jovial spirit and humor. He enjoyed spending time with his dear friends and family, playing

... continued on page 10



Jan Scotland

In Loving Memory of Weldon Douthitt

March 18, 1933 – July 14, 2023

Mr. Weldon Douthitt, my Godfather, a construction and political genius, and a dear friend and support to many, has gone on to Glory.



Weldon Douthitt addresses crowd

Weldon was born on March 18, 1933 in Columbus, Ohio and came to Toledo, Ohio in 1954. And we all the better for his physical and active presence on this earth, in the City of Toledo, and the great State of Ohio at large.

Through his construction work, Weldon repaired homes and improved the quality of life for countless Toledo residents. And his active and relentless involvement in Toledo politics brought about immeasurable and historical change. During his storied and remarkable career, Weldon was senior advisor and campaign manager to Ohio Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson, who was the first Black female mayor of Toledo.

Weldon was also senior advisor and campaign manager to the late Mayor Jack Ford. Mayor Jack Ford was also a member and president of Toledo City Council, an Ohio State Legislator, and the first African-American elected as House Caucus Leader in Ohio. And Ford preceded Hicks-Hudson as Toledo's first African-American Mayor.

For over 30 years, Weldon worked on campaigns for mayors, judges, county commissioners, city council and school board members, state representatives, members of the United States House of Representatives and

...continued on page 10



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This story is about _____. What do you know about _____? What do you think we might read about?

Asking children to recall what they already know will help them recognize words as they read.

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Jan Scotland... continued from page 9

with his beloved dog Duke, hosting parties and music gatherings and hanging out at his favorite place on Reynolds road: City Hall.

Jan Scotland was a proud Prince Hall Mason, Amazon Lodge No. 4 where he served in numerous capacities. In 2011, he was raised to the 33 degree, St. Matthews Consistory No. 24 and he was a Past Potentate of Mecca Temple No. 43. Jan spearheaded the effort along with seven other members to acquire the building Octagon Number IV on 638 N. University St.

Jan is preceded in death by his father the late Rev. Felix A. Scotland and sister Excillie Scotland. Jan leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 39 years Margie (Garner) Scotland (Toledo, OH), mother Iris Scotland, sister Felica (Benzo) and brother Dom Scotland (all of Deltona, Florida); son Alexander (Erica) Scotland and grandson Ellis Scotland (Fort Wayne, Indiana); daughter Dawn Scotland (Toledo, Ohio), a host of nieces, nephews and cousins and best friend and co-worker Vinson Shells.

Special thanks to University of Toledo Medical Center, Advanced Specialty Hospital, Right-at-Home, Ohio Home Health and Miss June for their care of Jan during his illness.

Services for Jan Scotland will be held at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church 1502 N. Detroit Ave, Toledo, OH 43607. Visitations are Friday, July 28 from 4-6pm with Masonic Rites following at 6-8pm. The wake services



Jan Scotland

begin the following day, Saturday July 29 at 10am and the funeral service is at 11am. The church requires that visitors wear masks. Rev. James H. Willis, Sr., officiant. Interment will follow at Ottawa Hills Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Anita Moore Ellis Scholarship Fund.

Weldon Douthitt... continued from page 9

the United States Senate, and even for presidents of the United States, which include Former President Bill Clinton and Former Vice President Al Gore! Weldon was a community leader, a civil and voting rights champion, and an inspiration to people far and wide. **Some people are not aware of his extensive involvement in the political arena because he was a humble servant who just did the job.**

We are so grateful for his leadership and for his example in politics and construction and all he did to provide and increase opportunities for minority contractors in the City of Toledo. Mr. Weldon Douthitt is a model for what it means to engage in steadfast and relentless efforts to make Ohio a better, fairer, and more inclusive State.

Mr. Weldon, you said, "I will give out before I give up" and that's exactly what you did!

"Well-Done, Brotha' Weldon. Well-Done."

Love,

Your Goddaughter LaFonda Willis—and countless Toledo residents who love and admire you, including Arthur Taylor, Alan Bannister, Bill & Derrick Mosley (posthumously), and Regina Willis (posthumously).

Weldon Douthitt: Lucas County Commissioners Honor A Toledo Icon

Published in The Truth in the February 26, 2020 issue

Describing the honoree as "a personal friend of all of us," former State Rep. Michael Ashford had the final say during a Lucas County Commissioners' Black History Month celebration. On February 18, 2020, the Commissioners honored the 86-year-old Weldon Douthitt for his contributions to the community in a number of different areas – social services, politics, community organizing and a lifelong commitment to helping others.

Douthitt, who has spent decades with the Economic Opportunity Planning Association (EOPA), now Pathway, working with housing issues in underserved neighborhoods as project director for the agency's Home Rehabilitation department, was just recently in a home that needed work done.

"Last week, imagine this 86-year-old man in a 70-year-old senior's base-

...continued on page 15

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.

VOTE **NO** 8
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For more information visit www.votenoinaugust.org

WE WON'T
BLACK
DOWN

Chief Justice Robert... continued from page 4

to ensure that applicants are employed, and employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin."

The term simply meant to make intentional forward progress. What are the facts regarding Affirmative Action policy in college and university admissions? In the past sixty years, women have surpassed men in earning four-year degrees while Black and Latino students are still underrepresented in college admissions and graduation rates, especially in four-year colleges.

Just under seven percent of physicians in the United States identify as Hispanic, while 5.7 percent identify as Black or African American, and only 0.3 percent of physicians identify as American Indian or Alaska Native. However, if you look at the population, almost 20 percent of the U.S. population identifies as Hispanic or Latino, over 13 percent identify as Black or African American. And over 1.3 percent identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Since 2017, the number of matriculants to medical school from underrepresented groups declined by 16 percent. This means that even in the setting of Affirmative Action policies in undergraduate and medical school admissions minority admission and graduation rates are still lagging. And when we examine successful black students, the data demonstrates that while only 8.5 percent of Black students attend Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs), 18 percent of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) bachelor's degrees are awarded by HBCUs.

Of the top eight institutions that graduate black undergraduate students that go on to earn doctorates, seven are HBCUs. One third of all black students who have earned doctorates have graduated from HBCUs. So one third of black students who achieve doctorates owe their higher educational origins to HBCUs - institutions where the average enrolment of non-blacks is 25 percent

Combined Hispanic and Black enrolment at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill is 18 percent and 26 percent at Harvard University, the subject institutions of the Supreme Court decision. HBCUs whose birth and mission is born out of American segregation are more or just as diverse as institutions that are 100 and 200 years older.

It is important to understand Chief Justice Roberts has written in the court's opinion. It is just as important to understand the current environment in which the opinion is written. Most Americans do not favor Affirmative Action. In the Regents of the University of California Berkeley v. Bakke case, Justice Powell rejects most of the rationale given for the considerations of race by the university in their admission process. In fact, he states, "racial and ethnic distinctions of any sort or inherently suspect."

However, Justice Powell accepts what he sees as a compelling goal – "obtaining the interests that flow from a racially diverse student body." Justice Powell calls this a "constitutionally permissible goal for an institution of higher education." This legal rationalization was considered the "Touchstone" in race conscious admissions.

However, Justice Powell's un-joined opinion surrounds his "Touchstone" with several guard rails. Race could only be considered "a plus" for an applicant, but could not be used solely to deny admission. Furthermore, the use of race had to be balanced with all other relevant elements of diversity within applicants.

Chief Justice Roberts interprets Justice Lewis F. Powell's "Touchstone" standard very closely and seemingly rejects how others have applied it. Chief Justice Roberts relies heavily on Justice Powell's language critiquing the University of California Berkeley's admissions goal of "remedying . . . the effects of 'societal discrimination'" as insufficient because it was "an amorphous concept of injury that may be ageless in its reach into the past." Furthermore, it cannot "justify a [racial] classification that imposes disadvantages upon persons . . . who bear no responsibility for whatever harm the beneficiaries of the [race-based] admissions program are thought to have suffered."

Instinctively, he, like Justice Powell, is suspicious of the broad rationale utilized to justify Affirmative Action and seeks to limit the scope of the policy. Justice Powell does not limit the scope by time, however, Chief Justice Roberts recites both Justice O'Connor's 25-year legal limitations on

the policy and Fisher II language which stated that they did not necessarily mean that going forward the "the University may rely on the same policy."

He reinforces in his interpretation a time limitation requirement. The architecture of the current court and law interpretation under contemporary conservatives will reject the rationale of a fair and just society as justification for Affirmative Action policy without end. Chief Justice Roberts' opinion stated that the goals of the admissions programs were not measurable and "fail to articulate a meaningful connection between the means they employ and the goals they pursue."

He rules that the admission programs are in violation of the Equal Protection Clause. Specifically, that they impose racial stereotyping and do not define an end point. Finally, he allows for the discussion of race only as a methodology for the applicant to detail how it has "affected his or her life."

Chief Justice Roberts sees race as requiring a further explanation. And similar to Justice Powell he strikes an equivalency of race to other diverse elements of an individual. This is an illogical conclusion. However, it may be seen as rational to most Americans. However it is illogical because there is no other immutable artificial barrier that is adjoined to legally sanctioned discrimination and torture in the history of American life that is more deterministic of health and socioeconomic wellbeing in our society than race.

To be Black in America unfortunately speaks for itself with regards to so many social, economic, political and health outcomes. In Chief Justice Roberts' America, history is not sufficient, the burden to inform the majority of the impact of race lies with the applicant or those yet to be college educated. The unconscious impacts of race on our college applicants therefore are not to be considered. The impact of race that cannot be appropriately discussed by applicants by virtue of the individuals' limitations or understandings are therefore to be disregarded.

The inability for the majority of non-diverse admissions committee members to understand the written realities of our minority students is not considered by the Chief Justice's opinion. To state that their race cannot be considered is to ignore that their race has always been considered and will never not be considered. It is to refer to an America as equally invisible as the Equal Protection Clause for most of Black people's existence. It is in this critical moment call upon our nation's highest aspirations as though they already existed.

The opinion will likely have at least two tremendous impacts: It will lower minority admissions at the nation's most competitive colleges and universities. This impact will be particularly harmful at state university professional schools. Because of this America's social, economic, and health disparities will widen.

The strategy for minority college applicants going forward must be a significantly expanded process and the development of a portfolio that will allow for a successful recommendation after holistic review. The traditional athletic-artistic pathways that were heavily adjoined to race conscious admission strategies should be considered in doubt. The lack of emphasis or quality education on race at the high school level mixed with an all too common absence of emphasis on culture and blackness in our homes impedes our students' ability to engage in substantive discourse about how this complex construct impacts their lives.

We have desperately and unrealistically wanted to be color blind. Not even Black presidents consistently discuss these matters to the full satisfaction of white Americans. Therefore, the readings of Herman Melville, Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Nikki Giovanni and Cornel West must re-emerge in not only Jack and Jill and Key Club, but also in new organizations built to resist a post Affirmative Action America. And so the irony is that we may be forced by the Supreme Court using their flawed philosophical machinery, in which we all must be skeptical, to contemplate a color blind society.

We are faced with a very simple proposition we are to not only to unmistakably be impacted by our race, but also our children must understand and successfully discuss why Race Matters. Amidst this judicial tragedy if our children intelligently understanding their blackness is a result, then despite the horror of a Chief Justice who would lead the dismantlement of the demo-

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Perryman... continued from page 2

are more effective or useful?

Mayor: That's a great question and one that I've put a lot of thought to. At the end of the day, though, and maybe this will feel really simplistic, numbers don't lie. The old expression is numbers don't lie, but liars sure know how to use numbers. When you look at the data, there is no question that fewer people are being shot, fewer people are being killed, and fewer people are being robbed. There are 400 fewer crimes of all kinds across the board. Those numbers are genuine and significant, and I think they argue for us maintaining our plan.

Yet, your point is correct. Maybe what's happening is a recalibration of societal norms post-pandemic, which has nothing to do with officers walking or violence interrupters.

Perryman: You suggest that policing and prevention are complementary solutions rather than alternatives. Yet, fiscal hawks may oppose the \$4 million spent on youth programming or question the contract amount paid to an outside violence interventionist like Cities United. Research tells us that more police don't necessarily lead to reduced crime. In contrast, we do know that more investments in the inner city such as social services or community centers improve crime outcomes. Do we really need Cities United?

Mayor: When it comes to our youth programming, we are measuring and finding that there has been greater participation among more individuals. Cities United has a number of specific deliverables and measurables that can be ascertained. Again, they work with 130 different cities, so there's a blueprint we can follow and check our progress versus the progress made in Indianapolis or pick a random city. At the end of the day, everything seems to be working, and it would be surprising to me if, at this moment, when we're seeing success, people would want to change course.

I guess the last thing I'll say about Cities United is there has been a lot of discussion about Cities United, almost all of it political, just put forward by political actors who I think fundamentally care more about themselves than Toledo.

At the end of the day, though, let's debate its merits. The contract we signed with Cities United was \$180,000. It's not an ongoing cost; it's not a legacy cost; it's a one-time, one-year contract. We hire consultants all



the time. When we build a sewer, we hire consultants; when dealing with a challenging legal issue, we might hire outside counsel. It is a routine normal part of how the city government has worked for 200 years. It's \$180,000, that's real, but our police budget is \$96 million. The fact that there has been so much conversation about the \$180,000 out of a budget of \$96 million really tells you everything you need to know about the sincerity of some of the voices that have rallied against Cities United. It is 17/100 of one percent of what we're doing.

Perryman: We know that within the past year, there has been a change in the chief of police. So, how much of the crime reduction is the result of just plain old good leadership?

Mayor: To a great degree, good leadership has made a difference, and I'm not critical of Chief Kral. On the other hand, this is a result-oriented business, and the results under Troendle's leadership have been good. Chief Troendle has made some tactical decisions regarding deploying resources that appear to have made a difference. He has deployed resources differently, there's a different attitude.

So, the tone Troendle sets, some of the policies, the deployment of resources, and the use of data again are strengths. Like former Chief Diggs, he believes in data-based policing and a real-time crime center.

Perryman: Are there other leaders who have contributed?

Mayor: When I talk about leadership, that also includes some folks within city hall, including the city council. There has been a false dichotomy of Carty [Finkbeiner] versus me or the former mayors versus me. Carty was taking just as many shots, in fact, making more shots at the city council than anyone else. The city council deserves some credit for staying strong, not being distracted by Carty's silliness, and sticking to our plans. I think leadership across the board and steadiness across the board for the police chief, steadiness from the city council. Again, the discipline to stick to our plan even when an outside intruder is pushing their own agenda, trying to take you off the path, city council and the chief and others were smart enough and disciplined enough to stick with the plan.

Perryman: What is a blueprint to sustain your success?

Mayor: Now don't get me wrong, Toledo is far from perfect, but we're making real progress, and it's essential for people to know that. If you're constantly beaten down by negativity and defeatism, and wild hyperbole, I don't think that's positive for an individual, a family, or a city.

Again, the media has a fear industrial complex. They benefit when people are afraid. I think we have to continue to follow what we're doing. The worst thing we could do right now is veer off the plan and make decisions based on political considerations; that's the most important thing.

Perryman: When we're talking about crime, the success of your interventions is reflected after the fact by lagging indicators. So, basically, you're saying "Trust the Process."

Mayor: Yes, I won't be around to reap the benefits of the greater sense of economic fairness sprinkled throughout our city due to what we passed and implemented, but it's part of it. In the classical sense, politicians are hesitant to do all these things because they rarely get credit for them.

These longer-term investments in neighborhoods that I believe will reduce crime might take a couple of years to really take hold. Just the nature of politics is that everyone has moved on and gotten elected or defeated.

So, they're not there to benefit from things like the disparity study, the Wayman Palmer YMCA, or the many things we've done. It's the nature of it, but again, I just want to continue to do work that I think will make a real difference for people; I'll let the political consequences fall where they may.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, Ph.D. at drdperryman@centrofshopebaptist.org

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THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS:

An Army Afire: How the US Army Confronted Its Racial Crisis in the Vietnam Era by Beth Bailey

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Spine straight, shoulders back, arms at sides, feet pointing front.

Atten-SHUN! There you stood with your fellow soldiers, all in formation, upright and alert, waiting for words of release from your position. Chevrons on a uniform indicates who has rank and can set you "at ease." Ribbons are significant, pins can tell tales but, as in the new book *An Army Afire* by Beth Bailey, skin color should have no bearing here.

From the beginning, "Black men... fought in America's armies" though, for decades, they did so mostly in segregated units. Occasionally, the idea of equality surfaced before Harry Truman moved to desegregate America's military but nothing lasted and separation of races in the ranks continued until serious efforts were put forth. Even then, some experts continued to predict "massive resistance to racial integration."

By the mid-1960s, when Black Americans were fighting for civil rights and Black soldiers were being drafted into the Army to fight in Vietnam, the issues of equality seemed to expand on two continents. Major Lavell Merritt made news in 1968 when he took the Army to task, forcing President Johnson to see "that we do have race problems." In the months to come, "Racially charged violence exploded throughout the army..."

"By... the 1970s," Bailey says, "race was tearing the army apart."

This didn't go unnoticed by politicians; in fact, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara "did mean to use the full power of the Department of Defense to bring about change." There was progress, but there was a story behind every bit of forward movement: the army wasn't the only place where issues of racism lurked. Racism continued in the whole

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341 pages

country and until the problem was addressed off-post as well as on, here and abroad, inequality would be around despite everything the Army tried to do.

Even today, with a volunteer army in America, Bailey says "Fundamental questions remain. New questions have emerged. But the affirmative actions to which the US Army committed itself in the 1970s continue to provide the institutional framework for solutions."

Here's a sentence you should not take lightly: *An Army Afire* is probably not going to be anybody's idea of a beach read. It's interesting, but it will demand a fully-engaged brain or you'll be lost within a few pages.

Part of that may come from the non-linear way that this tale is told. Author Beth Bailey shares a wide story that necessitates some looseness in timeline, which can both clarify and confuse, depending on a reader's previous knowledge of the subject. That's not to say that you need to be a PhD to read this book, but a walking knowledge of the Vietnam War and/or politics from the Johnson and Nixon administrations will help.

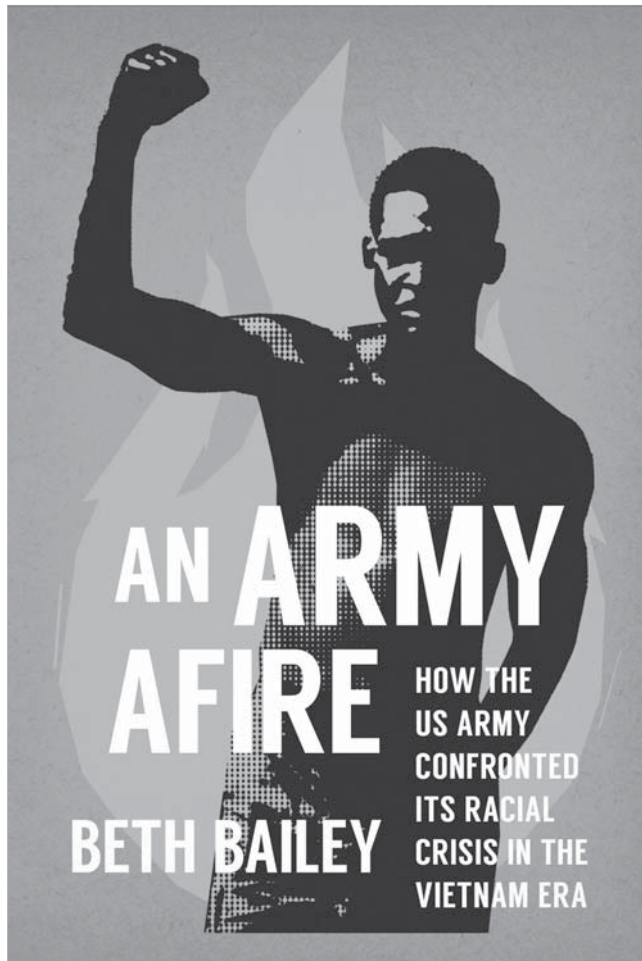
Having said that, though, surprisingly, a casual browsing through this book may yield a reward, too, in the small stories that stack up to make a bigger picture for veterans or for fighters for equality. *An Army Afire* is history, and heavy-duty at that, but it still might capture your attention.

Chief Justice Robert... continued from page 11

cratic infrastructure for inclusion in our nation (without much of a remedy) premised upon foundational law contaminated with the necessarily flawed opinions of the chosen few who serve inside this morally vacillating institution which has enshrined and insured inequality for most of its existence, I personally find no fault in him for this inadvertent but laudable outcome.

But it is unforgivable though allowable to flaunt the self-serving opinions that creation of a more inclusive society fails the strict scrutiny test for the justification of Affirmative Action policy in America. The resulting conundrum that flows from this legal rationalization is not contemplated nor deeply considered in the arguments of those that author such opinions. How do we both equally prioritize and protect the historically victimized with the "non," less, and potentially future victimized and arrive at laws that support a viable democratic society, particularly from the position of having significant responsibility for the inequality at hand.

The rather uncomfortable answer is, we must carefully measure and choose. And with time our considerations and choices change as our measurements do the same. We cannot all conveniently be equal under the law (and nowhere else in the consequential status of American society) through a 25 year a priori judicial fortune telling.



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CLASSIFIEDS

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July 26, 2023

TOLEDO OPERA SEEKS SINGERS FOR SUPPORTING ROLES

Toledo Opera to Hold Auditions for Choristers and Supporting Roles in *Ragtime*

Toledo, OH— Toledo Opera is holding auditions for small roles and chorus positions for the Broadway musical *Ragtime* (February - April 2024 commitment), on Saturday, August 12 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Those interested should prepare two arias or Broadway songs, which show off voice and acting ability. In addition, those auditioning must bring a resume, headshot, and sheet music. A pianist will be provided. Auditions will be held at Toledo Opera Offices, 425 Jefferson Ave., Suite 601. Toledo Opera is seeking the following singers:

Ragtime by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens

April 19 & 21, 2024

Valentine Theatre

In addition to the forty (40) member chorus (SATB), Toledo Opera is seeking performers for the following supporting roles: **Willie Conklin** (tenor, bigoted Irish fireman). Music rehearsals will begin February 25 and run weekly on Sundays. Additionally, Toledo Opera is seeking performers for the following spoken roles: **Stanford White** (50 year old Caucasian architect), **Harry K. Thaw** (31 year old Caucasian heir), **First Officer Henson** (20-40 year old black male), **Admiral Peary** (40-70 year old male), **Coalhouse's Followers** (3) (20-40 year old black males), **Baron's Assistant** (20-50 year old female), **Bureaucrats** (2) (20-50 year old white males), **Black Lawyer**, **White Attorney**, **Clerk**, **Conductor** (white male), **Doctor** (white male), **Reporter**, **Kathleen** (Irish servant), **Policeman** (white male), **Newsboys** (3), **Fireman** (20-40 year old white male), **Welfare Official**, **Harlem Man** (black male), **Harlem Woman** (black female), **D.A. Whitman** (40-60 year old white male). Staging rehearsals will begin on April 10 and typically run Monday through Friday in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays in the afternoons/evenings.

For more information regarding auditions, visit <https://www.toledoopera.org/performances/auditions-2023-2024/>. To schedule an audition, please email James Norman at jnorman@toledoopera.org. For more information about the 2023-24 season, visit [toledoopera.org](https://www.toledoopera.org). For media access, please contact Rachael Cammarn at rcammarn@toledoopera.org.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Electronic Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Parking Structures Restoration 2023 project at 227 N. Saint Clair St., and 334 N. Superior St., Toledo, Ohio 43604, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The project "Parking Structures Restoration 2023" project consists of the following scope of work: Port Lawrence Parking Structure: structural concrete repairs, replacement of joint sealants, expansion joint replacement and repairs, removal and installation of traffic coatings, and repainting of pavement markings.

Superior Parking Structure: structural concrete repairs and replacement of floor drains. Also included in this project is an alternate allowance to purchase light fixtures to be installed by others. This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion. The engineer's estimate for both structures is approximately \$328,100.00, Alternate 1 allowance is \$25,000.00. Total engineer's estimate is approximately \$353,100.00.

Bids will be received through Bid Express, an online electronic bidding system until Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 10:00 AM, at which time all bids will be opened through the Bid Express website. The plans and bid proposal documents are available through Bid Express at: <https://www.bid-express.com/businesses/66075/home>. Bidders new to the electronic bidding system must first register on the Bid Express website (www.bidexpress.com). Registration is Free. It can take up to five (5) business days to process a Digital ID and it is highly recommended that a Digital ID be enabled 48 hours in advance of submitting an electronic bid. Bidders must plan accordingly. For additional guidance regarding electronic bidding, bidders must contact Bid Express directly. Each bidder shall be responsible for submitting its electronic bid before the bid deadline.

Electronic Proposals must be submitted on the form(s) included in Bid Express and shall be accompanied by a certified check or an acceptable Proposal Bond with satisfactory surety specifying the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority as the obligee, in the sum of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 1:00 PM, at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions through the Bid Express service by Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 10:00 AM local time. Questions submitted after the deadline will not receive a response. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org/projects/public-notices/

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

PUBLIC ART MANAGER

THE ARTS COMMISSION IS NOW HIRING for a part time Public Art Manager. Deadline to apply is August 16, 2023. The Arts Commission is committed to diversity and inclusion in the selection process and is an equal opportunity employer. For position details and how to apply, please visit TheArtsCommission.org/About/EmploymentContract, 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.

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.

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.

Celebrating Aging... continued from page 16

After intermission, couture fashion designer Autumn Gineen, of House of Ginnie, followed with upscale pieces that complemented the refined ages of her models. Host Tatiana Cash kept the crowd engaged as fashion newcomer Darryl Stubblefield's debut line 'Darryl' hit the runway with models in a plethora of matching sweatsuits and athleticwear, impressed the audience. Freemade by Corrin Stacey was next with her colorful hand-painted and repurposed designs complementing her models.

Just when all thought the show was over, show producer Monique Ward (owner of Pozativ ProMotions, LLC and QMIT Agency & Academy) announced that a special guest celebrity designer would be showcasing. Luxury gowns from celebrity designer Cheryl Kitchen of CDK Kreative Kreations graced the runway awing the already impressed audience.

The evening concluded with a thank you from the hosts, announcing the 50/50 raffle winner and winners of multiple gift certificates sponsored by Relax & Enjoy Therapy, LLC. Guests were encouraged to mingle afterward while the DJ played. Show producer, Ward closed the show by informing the audience that if anyone wanted to pursue modeling or join the cast of the next show that they could go to QMITagency.com or call 877.819.1141 for more details.



House of Ginnie

Toledo Icon... continued from page 10

ment, dealing with frozen pipes," said Ashford of Douthitt's continuing involvement with improving housing problems.

Douthitt arrived in Toledo in 1954, noted Commissioner Pete Gerken as he kicked off the tributes to his long-time acquaintance. "He came here in 1954 and was a skilled-trades mentor with EOPA/Pathway since [that agency's] inception. He left a mark on a community, on people and on housing stock. He is an iconic figure in the African-American community."

For many Toledoans, especially those who follow local politics, Douthitt's name will be forever entwined with that of his long-time best friend – former Mayor Jack Ford. For years, Ford was the very public face of local politics – elected, first, to City Council, then to the Ohio General Assembly, mayor, Toledo Board of Education and, again, to City Council. For just as many years, Douthitt provided the backing and support for the Ford campaigns – making the tactical decisions and doing the leg work to get the candidate elected.

Ashford spoke of the threesome he formed with the Ford-Douthitt duo after he entered politics. "In that threesome, Jack wasn't in charge; and I wasn't in charge. Weldon was in charge and told us each and every day what we needed to do."

Jessica Ford, the Lucas County deputy administrator and Jack Ford's daughter, has known Douthitt all of her life ... as a member of the family, more than just her father's advisor and friend.



LC Commissioners Gary Byers and Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Asst County Administrator Jessica Ford, Weldon Douthitt, LC Commissioner Pete Gerken

"Weldon is the true definition of grass roots," said Jessica Ford on Tuesday. "His community organizing during the Civil Rights movement – is a legacy no one will be able to replace. Without Weldon, you don't have Jack. Weldon spent hours doing whatever was necessary and he understood how important it was to have folks at the table."

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Celebrating Aging Gracefully Through Fashion

By Monique Ward
Special to The Truth

The doors were set to open at 5 PM, but a line had already formed outside by 4:50 PM on July 6 at the Glass City Pavilion in Toledo, Ohio. Guests eagerly secured their seats at the inaugural 'Forty Fine & Fifty Fine' Fashion Show, which mainly featured models who were proud to showcase themselves as being at or above the age of forty.

Photographer Adonis Lavale and videographer Vontez Page captured footage as the crowd filled in for the event.

The event began with a networking and shopping hour, which featured a variety of vendors. Da'Nelle Beauty, Youth Chef Erin Jai, GiftedHeart Serene Transportation, Dawn's Defense and Kaptive Kreations had a variety of products to choose from. Meanwhile, DJ Jay Roc provided sounds to set the mood for the evening.

The host for the night was WTOL11 television journalist TaTiana Cash, who opened the show with her co-hosts celebrity stylist, ReAnna Yvette and real estate agent, Valdy Perez. The show opener, veteran designer Even McKinney of EJMI Sportswear, wowed the crowd with his fall collection. A customized tribute jacket adorned with images of The Artist (formally known as Prince) was a hit and crowd favorite.

Life coach Tazima Parrish spoke to the audience about women's empowerment and had all the ladies in the audience chanting affirmations with her. Following her rousing speech was the Cincinnati-based brand, LeCuir, owned by upcoming fashion designer Greg Lawrence. His line featured custom leather pieces, including corsets, jerseys, jogging sets, shorts and skirts. Former Italian football player and real estate investor, Nick Eyde, modeled a custom LeCuir t-shirt and bucket hat.

...continued on page 15



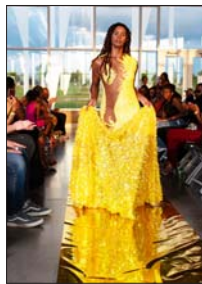
TaTiana Cash, the evening's host



CDK Creations



CDK Creations



CDK Creations



Darryl Apparel



Darryl Apparel



Darryl Apparel



EMJ1 Sportswear, Ltd



EMJ1 Sportswear, Ltd



Freemade



Freemade



Nick Eyde featuring LeCuir



House of Ginnie

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN YOUR BACKYARD RAISING AWARENESS, REMOVING STIGMA



Learn more about substance use disorder in our community and how you can access help for yourself or someone you care about at a series of free information sessions.

Wednesday, July 26

The effects of opiates on ethnic and racial minorities

Wednesday, Aug. 9

Treatment resources available in our community

Wednesday, Aug. 23

Spotting substance use and risk factors in adolescents

Wednesday, Aug. 30

COVID-19 effects on behavioral health and substance use



Scan the QR code for more program details from The University of Toledo Medical Center.

All sessions are 6-7:30 p.m.

Frederick Douglass Community Center
1001 Indiana Ave.
Toledo, OH 43607



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