

Volume 79 No. 5 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* **August 2, 2023**



Arlinda Self and Shirley Lawson of Superior Made Spaces

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Commentary: Key Ohio Leaders Oppose Issue 1

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

Over 250+ organizations in Ohio have organized to oppose Issue 1 in spite of Ohio voters passing a Constitutional Amendment in 2015 to end gerrymandering, and in spite of multiple Ohio Supreme Court orders to do so, the GOP-controlled Ohio Redistricting Commission has ignored and refused to remove the current gerrymandered district maps.

The law in Ohio and many other states permits ordinary citizens the right to organize and place a ballot issue before voters to change the state's constitution. With this right, if citizens believe that a law needs to change, they can undertake a Constitutional Amendment by placing a ballot issue on an upcoming election through a very challenging process.

Major Ohio Voter Rights organizations and many of their supporters are currently examining an effort to organize a Constitutional Amendment to end gerrymandering in the state. The Ohio Supreme Court ruled that gerrymandered districts are unconstitutional since they 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 district maps.

This is the reason why Ohio Voter Rights organizations are exploring another citizen-led Constitutional Amendment that would permanently end gerrymandering.

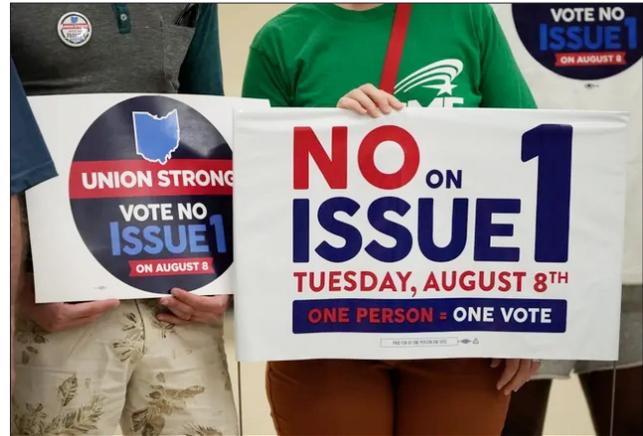
In order to insure in the future that a citizen-led ballot issue does not succeed in ending gerrymandered election districts, Ohio Politicians passed legislation and then placed Issue 1 on the ballot that will make it almost impossible to pass a new Constitutional Amendment.

One of the requirements of Issue 1 is to raise the threshold for passage from the current 50 percent of the votes, to instead, 60 percent. This will permit a minority of 40 percent of the voters to control the outcome of any citizen-led ballot issue.

As soon as Ohio law makers introduced the legislation in the General Assembly behind Issue 1, over 250+ organizations joined a coalition to oppose this proposed Constitutional Amendment.

Past Ohio governors oppose Issue 1

An article published on June 27, 2023 by Avery Kreemer in the Dayton Daily News was titled Former Gov. Taft: Issue 1 is 'state leaders trying to game the system-- and it stated:



"A former Republican Ohio governor (Bob Taft) has taken to the road to restate his opposition to State Issue 1, the proposal to make it harder to amend the state constitution . . .

"This is a fundamental change in Ohio's voting rights," Taft said, leaders-trying-to-game-the-system, according to the Dayton Daily News . . . "I just think it's a major mistake to approve or disapprove such a change at the lowest-turnout election (August) that we have."

In an article in the Toledo Blade by Jim Provance, comments from former Republican Governor John Kasich were shared: "John Kasich, Republican governor from 2011 to 2019, tweeted that it would never have occurred to him to try such a move. "Ohio is stronger when we can all lend our voices and we all have an equal chance to participate in the work of our state's democracy."

Provance also shared comments from former Democratic Governor Ted Strickland:

"Ted Strickland, Democratic governor from 2007 to 2011, told The Blade the maneuver is "dishonorable, despicable, and hypocritical."

"Just a few months have passed since they passed legislation regarding August initiatives being prohibited except in rare circumstances, and now, when they are afraid that Ohio women are going to establish in our constitution their right to control their own bodies, they are in a panic," he said. "They want to keep that from happening. "Everybody knows what is happening."

In addition to the strong opposition by former Governors Bob Taft, John Kasich, and Ted Strickland, a fourth former Ohio Governor, Dick Celeste, has also voiced strong opposition to Issue 1.

Past Ohio Attorney Generals oppose Issue 1

Five former Ohio Attorney Generals (Richard A. Cordray, Lee I. Fisher, Betty D. Montgomery, James M. Petro and Nancy H. Rogers) came together and issued a strongly worded joint letter opposing Issue 1: ". . . If the increase in the passing percentage had been in effect, many important amendments that are part of our political heritage would have failed, including the initiative and referendum, home rule, civil service reform, the Clean Ohio Fund, the Third Frontier Project, and other important bond issues to support economic development, conservation, and housing.

". . . The 60% proposal is bad for Ohio, and the General Assembly should not place this proposal on the ballot; but if they do, Ohio voters should reject this effort to change a fundamental element of our state constitution that has been in effect for more than 100 years."

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Community Calendar

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.

Preserving a Mother and Son's Story

By Ben Jealous

At the heart of the story that President Biden preserved last week by creating our newest national monument are a mother and son, Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till.

That's especially moving for me because so much of my understanding of what the Tills endured and why their story remains essential today comes from my own mom's experiences.

Like Emmett, she was in her early teens in 1955 and growing up in West Baltimore. The ritual he was taking part in by traveling from Chicago to Mississippi that summer was a universal one for Black kids living in destinations of the Great Migration, one that still happens today.

Despite the indignities of Jim Crow, everyone seemed safe when they went back to Grandma's. Emmett's torture and lynching by two White men incensed that he whistled at a White woman exposed the vulnerability of Blacks anywhere in South. But rather than cower in response to the brutal murder, my mom and many other young Black people dove deeper into a lifelong struggle for civil rights.

Mamie Till's courage to leave open her son's casket so tens of thousands of mourners in Chicago and the entire world could see his bloated, disfigured corpse galvanized that growing civil rights movement.

I went to Mississippi in my early 20s to organize opposition to the governor's plan to close three historically black colleges and turn their campuses into prisons. Nearly 40 years later, I could still see the deep trauma in the souls of Black Mississippians who were Emmett's age when he died.

One night, my dad called to ask me to leave the state, if only for a short time. "Your mom keeps having the same nightmare. She hasn't slept for days," he told me. "She keeps seeing your face on Emmett Till's beaten body."

The deep concern apparent in those dreams wasn't irrational. The rhetorical violence of Jim Crow always accompanied the physical violence of lynchings. That culture persisted. The Jackson newspaper where I later worked got shot up in drive-bys several times in much the same way a plaque at the place where Emmett's body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River has been repeatedly vandalized (with that site now part of the national monument, those crimes will be a federal offense).

At a time when we see racist rhetoric and dog whistles find renewed popularity, the Tills' story is a reminder to all of us that there's a well-worn path from hateful language to violence to the murder of a 14-year-old boy. As it's been since colonial times, that rhetoric exists to divide poor and working-class people of all races so that they can't unify around the political and economic interests they all share.

There are signs of hope, even in Mississippi. In November, the state could elect a populist Democrat as its governor, unseating the Republican heir of the governor I opposed 30 years ago who revived racist rhetoric from that high office.

We create national parks and national monuments to preserve

places, people and ideas that define who we are as a country. Emmett Till should be alive and relatively anonymous in his 80s, not dead from an infamous attack. His mother should be remembered for anything other than making Americans look at just how cruel they can be.

Being able to visit where Emmett's body was recovered, where he was eulogized, and where an all-White jury acquitted his killers gives us the chance to measure how far we've come and accept how far we've left to go.

Ben Jealous, former president and CEO of the national NAACP, is executive director of the Sierra Club, the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. He is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and author of "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free," published in January.



Ben Jealous



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



Mamie Till-Mobley



Emmett Till

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NJ Innocence Project at Rutgers Helps Exonerate Man After 20 Years of Wrongful Incarceration

By Laura Cohen, Rutgers Law Professor and New Jersey Innocence Project Director

The New Jersey Innocence Project at Rutgers University (NJIP) has helped exonerate a Hudson County man who served 20 years for a crime he did not commit. Dion Miller, now age 54, was released from prison on July 27. He was represented by NJIP Director, Professor Laura Cohen [1], and Managing Attorney, Nyssa Taylor. Miller was wrongfully convicted of the murder of Romeo Cavero in 2007 and sentenced to a term of 30 years in prison without the possibility of parole.

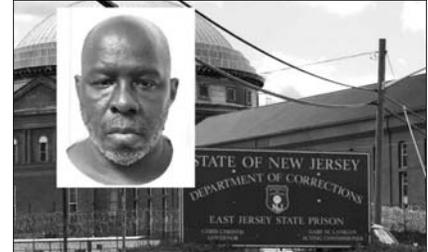
Miller's conviction was based entirely on three false confessions that detectives obtained after subjecting him to 17 hours of grueling and coercive interrogation. Those statements were inconsistent with each other and inconsistent with the other evidence in the case, and bore many of the known hallmarks of false confessions. Miller steadfastly pursued every available legal avenue to establish his innocence over two decades, often without the benefit of legal representation.

Earlier this year, the New Jersey Attorney General's Conviction Review Unit launched an extensive reinvestigation of the case and concluded that Miller was innocent of the crime. The Unit joined in the NJIP's motion for a new trial, which Hudson County Judge Mitzy Galis-Menendez granted. The Attorney General's Office then moved for a dismissal of the indictment with prejudice. Miller's exoneration is the second sought by the Unit since its formation in 2019.

"Mr. Miller, his family, and the New Jersey Innocence Project at Rutgers University are deeply grateful to Attorney General Platkin, Director Murray, and the entire team of the Conviction Review Unit for their vigorous, thor-

ough, and thoughtful work on this case, and for their determination to correct this grave injustice," said Professor Cohen. "We hope that the lessons learned from this matter, particularly with regard to the causes and frequency of false confessions, will lead to exonerations of other innocent people and help prevent future wrongful convictions from occurring in New Jersey."

Officially launched in 2022 under the aegis of the Rutgers Criminal and Youth Justice Clinic, the NJIP represents factually innocent people in New Jersey in their efforts to vacate their wrongful convictions and obtain their freedom from incarceration. It is the first New Jersey affiliate of the National Innocence Network.



DNC on Black Women's Equal Pay Day

DNC Chair Jaime Harrison, DNC Black Caucus Chair Virgie Rollins, and DNC Women's Caucus Chair Lottie Shackelford released the following statement to recognize Black Women's Equal Pay Day:

"July 27, 2023 marks Black Women's Equal Pay Day, recognizing the day that, after seven months of extra work, Black women have finally caught up to the average earnings of a white man in 2022. Despite the progress we've made in closing the gender pay gap, it is still unacceptable that it takes an average of seven extra months of work for Black women to make the same amount as their white male counterparts.

"As we recognize Black Women's Equal Pay Day, it is important to remember that the racial and gender wage gap is only one of many forms of discrimination in the workplace. Black women still face higher rates of discrimination, are more likely to be passed over for career advancement opportunities, and face harsher penalties in the workplace. Our nation's superpower is our diversity, and we must continue working to tear down the systemic barriers that make our society less inclusive.

"Since taking office, President Biden has issued comprehensive executive orders to advance pay equity and root out discrimination in the federal workforce – but that is just the beginning. Alongside the Biden-Harris administration, we're committed to finally closing the pay gap and ensuring that Black women are welcomed and valued in the workplace."

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University of Toledo Medical Center Launches Outreach Series

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The University of Toledo Medical Center (UTMC) launched a series of outreach sessions to raise awareness and remove the stigma from substance usage. The first session was held on Wednesday, July 26 at the historic Frederick Douglass Community Association located at 1001 Indiana Avenue in Toledo.

The sessions were funded by a grant from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health to organize educational events in northwest Ohio that would raise awareness about substance abuse and prevention in Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino communities.

“Substance abuse can begin with prescription medication, progress to the misuse of the prescription and overtime the patient is unable to manage or monitor the pain or usage. That could lead to attempting to monitor in a different way if the medication becomes unavailable,” said Jeremy Miller, M.S.W., LISW-S, LIDC-CS, guest speaker.

The discussion incorporated short videos and charts that introduced visual examples of the subject matter. According to one chart labeled the demographic summary of unintentional drug overdose deaths in Ohio from 2016-2021. All age groups from under the age of 15 to 65+, both female and male, and also all reported race and ethnicity groups saw a steady increase from 2016 to 2021. Female reported deaths were 1,284 in 2016 and rose to 1,572 in 2021. Male reported deaths were 2,766 in 2016 and rose to 3,602 in 2021.

“Many people dealing with substance abuse just want to stop, but we have to provide an environment where they are listened to. No one wants to deal with the withdrawal symptoms. It’s not easy and not everyone made the choice to take opioids,” shared Miller.

The stages of changes are defined as the following:

- Precontemplation, being unaware of or refusing to acknowledge risks.
- Contemplation, beginning to consider a change and weighing the costs and benefits.
- Preparation, deciding on and planning for a change in behavior.
- Action, implementing a plan to change and beginning a new behavior.
- Maintenance, reinforcing and making a habit of a new behavior.

“There are different stages of change precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action and maintenance. In the precontemplation stage we should listen to understand and be present, in the contemplation stage, there’s where you gather the resources, in the preparation stage that’s where you deliver the resources that were previously gathered, in the action stage that’s where you give support to support their change and in the maintenance stage that’s where their change is acknowledged,” said Miller

One of the charts displayed the number of unintentional drug overdose deaths involving Fentanyl, Psychostimulants, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Heroin and Natural/Semi-Synthetic Opioids between 2016 to 2021. The



Reggie Williams, FDCA CEO; Jeremy Miller, MSW, speaker and Mohamad Moussa, PhD panel organizer and associate UTMC professor



number one drug is Fentanyl, there were 2,000+ reported deaths in 2016 and in 2021 over 4,000+. Benzodiazepines and Heroin have trend downward, while Psychostimulants, Heroin and Natural/Semi-Synthetic Opioids have all increased.

“We’re focusing on the beginning tonight, so we can learn to listen without judgement which is important for those suffering from substance abuse. That’s one of the reasons why we are doing these sessions. Substance abuse is a condition that needs therapy and support,” said Mohamad Moussa, Ph.D, associate professor at UTMC and session organizer.

The session concluded by addressing questions from the audience.

The additional session information: Wednesday, August 9 will focus on treatment resources that are available in the community with guest speaker Renee Craft, Wednesday, August 23 will focus on spotting sub-

...continued on page 15

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Settlement Reached in Housing Discrimination Lawsuit Against Beal Properties and Tetherwood Place

Special to The Truth

In a significant development, a housing discrimination lawsuit accusing Beal Properties, LLC, and Tetherwood Place, LLC of discrimination on the basis of disability has been settled. The Fair Housing Center, which initiated the legal action, has announced that a settlement agreement was reached on June 30, 2023, effectively bringing the case to a close.

After the Ohio Civil Rights Commission's investigation found probable cause that discrimination occurred, the Plaintiffs filed suit in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio Western Division. The lawsuit alleges that the Defendants denied reasonable accommodation requests and subjected the Plaintiff to different rental terms and conditions due to their disability. The Fair Housing Center claimed that Beal Properties and Tetherwood Place violated the Federal Fair Housing Act "FHA" and the Fair Housing Laws of the State of Ohio.

The core allegations revolved around the Defendants' failure to address air quality issues and odors that exacerbated the Plaintiff's breathing impairments. Additionally, the lawsuit accused the Defendants of failing to amend their lease break policy to accommodate the Plaintiff adequately, neglecting to engage in an interactive process, and providing no valid reasons for denying the accommodation request.

Upon reaching the settlement agreement, the complainant agreed to dismiss her fair housing claim, and in return, the Defendants, Beal Properties and Tetherwood Place agreed to take several corrective actions despite not admitting any wrongdoing. As part of the settlement, the Defendants will pay the Plaintiffs \$12,500 in compensation for the harm caused. Furthermore, Defendants created and adopted a reasonable accommodation policy to en-

sure individuals with disabilities are treated fairly and equitably.

To further address the issue of discrimination, the Defendants will also participate in comprehensive fair housing training. This step aims to enhance awareness and understanding of fair housing laws and provide the necessary knowledge to ensure compliance in future rental practices.

"The Fair Housing Act ensures equal access to housing for persons with disabilities," said George Thomas, CEO and General Counsel for The Fair Housing Center. "That means housing providers must make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities to give them an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling. Our goal is to ensure that persons with disabilities understand their rights and housing providers take accommodation requests seriously."

George Thomas, Esq. and Rachael Fortlage, Esq., of Fair Housing Opportunities of Northwest Ohio, along with Jacob Davis, Esq., of Nalls Davis | Attorneys at Law, represented the Plaintiff throughout the legal process.

With the settlement agreement now in place, the case is officially closed, and it marks a significant step toward promoting fair and equal housing opportunities for all. The impact of this settlement extends to one individual, and the resolution serves as a reminder of the importance of upholding the principles of fair housing laws.

Both the Fair Housing Center and Nalls Davis | Attorneys at Law are optimistic that this settlement will set a precedent and encourage property owners and managers to be proactive in addressing accommodation requests, ensuring fair treatment for all individuals, regardless of disability.

WE HAVE MOVED!

The Truth Newspaper and The Truth Colours Gallery have moved! We left our Adams Street location after almost 16 years and relocated to the most amazing building on the corner of Bancroft and Franklin! 7 East Bancroft is our new address.



Stay tuned for our Grand Opening - Our Grand Re-opening!! Within a couple of weeks.



Any questions? 419-243-0007 or email us at thetruthtoledo.com

Vote No on Issue 1 Rally at Warren AME

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

On Thursday, July 2, at 5:30 p.m., former Ohio Governor Dick Celeste and former Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery headlined an event at Warren AME Church to provide information to the those in attendance to vote NO on Issue 1. The community was invited to come and get involved in the process to fight back. The message of the event was "This summer Ohio has a special election – your vote is your voice so make it heard. Vote."

Election day is Tuesday August 8 and Issue 1 is viewed by many Ohioans as an attack on democracy. Issue 1 asks voters to make it more difficult for citizen initiated constitutional amendments to pass. The event provided very much knowledge and information to support and motivate the community to vote No. Along with the information, attendees were provided food and giveaways.

Pete Talley of the Ohio Unity Coalition shared the following information: "Voters have power but it's only good if we use it. We have to use our power to vote in every election. This election is probably one of the most important. Issue 1 is bad for Ohioans and especially for black Ohio voters, as it limits our freedom to vote on issues that matter to us, our families and our community. Go vote No August 8."

that the State Assembly has put this on the ballot!"

The organizers provided the following talking points for attendees to use with friends, neighbors, colleagues and family members:

I am voting NO on Issue 1 because we have the freedom to amend the state Constitution when politicians will not act.

I am voting NO on Issue 1 because it is an assault on majority rule by an Illinois billionaire and other special interests to control our democracy.

I am voting NO on Issue 1 because we have amended our constitution to do things like raise the minimum wage, provide bonuses to war veterans and pass measurers to create jobs and help our economy. Issue 1 robs our freedom.

I am voting NO on Issue 1 to send a message to special interests that are trying to buy corrupt politicians and our state that enough is enough.

I am voting NO on Issue 1 because four former Ohio Governors and five former Ohio Attorney Generals from both parties have come out against this attack on simple majority rule.

I am voting NO on August 8 because special interests are trying to cheat the system by putting this on a low-turnout Special Election, thinking most of us Ohioans aren't paying attention.

I am voting NO on Issue 1 because we should maintain the right and freedom, we have had in Ohio for the past 111 years to amend our state constitution by majority rule.

The event provided multiple interactions with many individuals to support and motivate them to vote No on Issue 1 along with knowledge, information, resources and interactions were large and beneficial to help them spread the word.

Tom Rose, Ohio Federation of Teachers Field Coordinator made the following statement: "We care, we fight!"

Bill Finnegan of UFCW Local 75 added: "My feeling is amazing



Pastor LeRoy Williams



Ohio Unity Coalition's Pete Talley



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Countdown to an Exciting Venture: *Superior Made Spaces* Set for Grand Opening Soon

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Downtown Toledo is abuzz with excitement as the highly anticipated grand opening of Superior Made Spaces draws near. With just a few weeks left until August 19, local business owners are eagerly awaiting the chance to see these office suites firsthand.

Superior Made Spaces, the brainchild of sisters Arlinda Self (president) and Shirley Lawson (VP), are offices they describe as, “nestled in the heart of downtown Toledo.”

With a prime downtown Toledo address, they enjoy close proximity to the Main Branch Library and other professional hubs, offering businesses a well-connected locale near city and government buildings.

Their concept is simple yet ingenious: to create an inclusive and diverse community where entrepreneurs from all walks of life can thrive.

Their aim is to foster an ecosystem of support, collaboration and growth by offering conference rooms for every suite and other customized rental amenities for their spaces. Just stop by the grand opening or give them a call.

“We have a variety of room options and look forward to meeting our local businesses needs,” shares Arlinda.

Lawyers, hair stylists, counselors, masseuses and more – all are welcome.

During the grand opening, local business owners will be treated to the unique opportunity of touring the office suites, while networking with other local businesses and organizations.

“We will have food truck vendors outside and many of the businesses invited will showcase their services by setting up shop within the available



rentals,” explains Shirley. “This way everyone will get a true feel of things as we all get to know one another.”

As the countdown to the grand opening begins, the excitement is palpable. Local business owners eagerly await the chance to tour the office spaces, connect with like-minded individuals, and witness the realization of a dream that was sparked by resilience and perseverance.

... continued on page 9



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Superior Made Spaces...continued from page 8

"The story behind this unique venture traces back to our parents," says Arlinda.

The sister's parents, Nathan Lawson and his wife Alicia, are proud born and reared Toledoans. The family's journey to this grand opening began years ago when the 2008 economic crash hit, and the couple saw an opportunity within the real estate market.

They decided to take a bold step. With determination and foresight, they purchased over 30 properties and went on to be successful landlords in the City of Toledo for more than 10 years.

After years of hard work and financial success, they yearned for a change in their lives. They made a daring decision to sell all their rental properties, hop in their big-rig RV, and embark on a journey of exploration and solitude. They traveled the country in their RV, discovering new places, and making cherished memories.

"We looked and looked for an RV park that met our needs but we're unsuccessful. My husband and I said to ourselves, 'Maybe we should build one,' recalls Ms. Lawson.

During the pandemic, they came across a piece of land in Alabama that perfectly fit their vision. Without hesitation, they bought it and, despite the challenges, within six months turned it into a beautiful RV park, named Time Away RV Resort.

What set this park apart was not just its stunning location right next to a NASCAR venue, but the fact that its owners were African American. "We focused on catering to Big Rig Luxury RVs like their own," recalls Ms. Lawson. "We figured it was an untapped market and we were right."

With hard work and dedication, they managed to create 100 spacious spots on five acres, offering various recreational activities like swimming, basketball, and walking trails. This has never been done before and was essentially a resort. After much success, they received numerous offers, and one particularly amazing offer led them to a significant decision – to sell, come home to Toledo and build a legacy with their kids.

"Our parents are amazing. My sister and I had come to the RV park to help manage when we both realized we'd like to bring this concept back home to Toledo in a different way," recalls Shirley.

The daughters had seen firsthand the hard work and dedication their parents poured into the RV resort, and they were inspired to follow in their footsteps. Their parents' entrepreneurial spirit was contagious, and they wanted to contribute to the family legacy.

With the RV resort sold and the earnings invested wisely, Superior Made Spaces was born.

"Superior Made Spaces is our dream come true enabling us to give back to our community and help other local businesses flourish," says Arlinda.

The grand opening will be more than just a celebration of a new business venture; it is a testament to the power of unity and the fulfillment of dreams.

Mark your calendars for August 19 and be part of this remarkable moment in Toledo's entrepreneurial landscape. The grand opening promises to be more than just an event, it's also a beacon of hope for professionals in need of a space to call their own.

The Lawson family would like to thank The City of Toledo, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, The Toledo Fire Chief, The Toledo Police Department and a host of professional friends & family for their continued support.



Shirley Lawson and Arlinda Self

For business inquiries please call: 567-408-0452

SUPERIOR MADE SPACES

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Black Lives Matter ... But They Are Much Shorter

By Paul Hubbard, MSW, President Comfort Adult Care Services
Guest Column

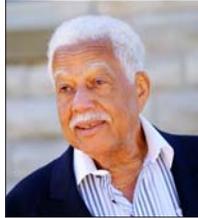
According to AARP, on average life span of Black Americans is six years shorter than for their White counterparts. The National Urban League says the average Black life span is four years shorter than the comparable White life. COVID accounts for the difference in life span analyses because the assessments were made at different times.

Both assessments show Black folks are leaving this Earth faster than White folks. Mark Morial, president of the National Urban League, says a Black child born in 2023 is expected to live up to 74.7 years which is four years less than a White child born in 2023.

Black women are 59 percent more likely to die during and after child birth. They are also 31 percent more likely to die from breast cancer. Black men are 52 percent more likely to die of prostate cancer, according to Marc Morial. The Associated Press said Black men are nine times more likely to die of homicide than White men. The Centers for Disease Control said Black people are twice as likely to die from COVID than White people who contract it.

Brookings Edu.org says the Black life expectancy is lower in the low-income Black neighborhoods because of lack of health care and poor economic conditions. A Kaiser Family Foundation report says lack of access to health care is one of the major reasons for the difference in life spans. The National Institutes of Health says life expectancy in the USA increased between 2000-2019 but widespread gaps among racial and ethnic groups still exist.

The AARP says higher disease rates and greater life challenges, among other factors, mean that African Americans have suffered a cumulative loss of 80



Paul Hubbard

million years of life compared with White people in the 21st century, according to a study of U.S death certificates data. The findings raise a critical alarm about the need for new health policies aimed at improving longevity for African Americans, researchers say in a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Pat Williams RN, of Comfort Care Adult Day Care Services, says for senior citizens to extend their life spans they need to do the following: socialize with other people in activities, have a routine of daily exercises, keep at least quarterly visits to their doctor for health care testing, stick to their prescribed diet, get mental health counseling if needed and pick up skills in counseling their kids and grandkids.

Black Folks, let's take care of our bodies.

Versatile Vegetables

By Patrice Powers-Barker, Ohio State University Extension, Lucas County
The Truth Contributor

It's summertime and plants are ripening. What are the easiest ways you can enjoy a rainbow of vegetables? The following highlights are on a few local products that are currently or soon to be available in gardens, farm stand and farmers markets. The benefits to us are peak freshness and low cost as they are in season.

Dark, leafy greens

Dark, leafy greens like collards, kale, mustard greens, etc. are very versatile because they can be harvested now as smaller, more tender leaves or they can keep growing until fall when the weather turns cold. Many people prefer the sweetness of collard greens or kale after the first frost of the year, but we don't have to wait until October to enjoy some.

Selection: Choose bunches of green leaves with no yellowing or withering. Stems should look freshly cut not dried out, browned, or split.

Storage of dark, leafy greens: Gently wrap green leaves in damp paper towels and store loosely in plastic bags. Keep moist and cool in the lower part of the refrigerator in the high-humidity bin. Store for up to five (5) days.

Nutrition Benefits of dark, leafy greens: Fat free, cholesterol free, very low sodium, low in calories, excellent source of vitamin A, vitamin C and folate; good source of calcium, potassium and fiber.

Enjoy a smoothie! A refreshing way to "eat" dark leafy greens in the summer is to add them to a smoothie. The Produce for Better Health Foundation suggests combining the following ingredients in the blender to puree for a Strawberry, Pineapple, Greens Smoothie: ¾ cup frozen strawberries, 1 cup packed greens (such as baby kale or spinach), 1 banana, 1 cup ice, 2 cans (8 oz each) pineapple chunks in juice, drained and 1 cup of milk (your choice, low fat milk, almond milk or low-fat yogurt). Optional ingredients: 4 fresh mint leaves.

Summer Squash and Zucchini

Zucchini is a type of summer squash, so the following information is good for green zucchini or yellow summer squash.

Selection: For all summer squash varieties, choose glossy, small- to medium-sized squash, heavy for size. The skin should be firm and free of cuts and bruises.

Storage: Refrigerate summer squash for use within 3-5 days.

Nutrition Benefits of summer squash: Fat free; saturated fat free; sodium free; cholesterol free; low calorie; high in vitamin C.

North Dakota State University gives directions for quick and easy "Vegetable Ribbons": The recipe calls for one medium zucchini and one large carrot. After washing the vegetables and cutting off the ends, use a vegetable peeler to shave the vegetables into ribbons by moving the peeler back and forth. Heat 1 teaspoon of oil in a large skillet (or lightly coat pan with cooking spray). Add the vegetable ribbons, stir, cover with a tight-fitting lid and cook for two to

...continued on page 11

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Youth Suicide..... A Mental Health Moment (Part 1)

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC, CCHt, Licensed Mental Health Therapist

The Truth Contributor

I remember as a child hearing from my grandmother, my father and many other adults that children should be seen and not heard. At that time, I took it to mean I could be in the room with adults but not allowed in the conversation nor was I to interrupt the conversation. I was often times told to just “go away and play, adults are talking.”

Unfortunately, that old school style has paved the way for children to not have a voice. Youth lost a space to express their thoughts, feelings and definitely not their pain and suffering whether by abuse and/or trauma.

Many of those children grew into adults carrying severe pain, sometimes so severe they could not endure life and attempted or completed a suicide. This is not new news being brought to the table and the statistics have continued to grow throughout the decades but currently it is not only adults taking their own lives, it is also youth, some as young as age six. It is happening worldwide and includes all genders, races and socio-economic status.

Losing a child is one of the most painful experiences not just for the parents or guardians of these young ones but also communities and schools. In my practice I only work with ages 13 and older. I did not choose to be trained to work with children and it is out of my scope of practice and I refer parents with younger children to Registered Play Therapists (RPTs). These are licensed clinical therapist whose focus is solely on children and provide therapy through play as that is how children communicate and can better view the world.

In my 20 years of practice, I can proudly say I have never lost a client to suicide, not that none of them have struggled with suicidal ideation or don't have the means when they come under my care but the majority of them have a surmount of pain that stems from their childhood. Many of them share experiences of sexual, physical, mental and emotional abuse sometimes so extreme they were taken out of their homes. Yet others who were not helped stated they had no one to confide in, no one to talk to, were too scared to tell anyone due to threats from their abuser or not believed and told they were making it up.

Another factor that teens face that make them vulnerable to suicide risk is due in part to the physical developmental stage they are in. Teens have an underdeveloped prefrontal cortex—this area of their brain is not fully developed until their mid-20's. An underdeveloped prefrontal cortex leads to increased impulsivity and they are unlikely to think about their actions longer than an adult.

Rates of suicide of youth, according to U.S. News, were higher during the pandemic globally. That report noted that within the United States, Georgia, Virginia, New Jersey, Indiana and Oklahoma were higher than other states. Yet no data has been shown as to why rates were higher in these states. Across the board if you are asking yourself how in our present day with all the mental health community non-profits and increase in the importance of mental health are youth still so at risk? From my perspective as a mental health provider, anxiety and depression mediates the relationship of childhood trauma and suicide.

While much has changed to give youth a voice with availability of school counselors and programs dedicated to assist youth challenges, at the end of the day, these youth still have to return to their home environments where they may be being abused, sit in overcrowded classrooms with an underpaid and overworked teacher and incur social media bullying.

I have asked youth personally why they are having suicidal ideation or past suicide attempts and the answers often fall into: they have no one who cares, they are unable to escape the abuse in their homes, or they have been so trau-

mized for so long they see it as an only way out. When asked how do they know how to hurt themselves, quite frankly the answers are the internet such as YouTube, Tik Tok, Google or other youth. Access to means were stated as loaded and accessible firearms in the home, drugs – prescription, over the counter and illicit street narcotics, knives, razor blades or other sharp objects and a rope, belt or other material.

In the follow-up to this mental health moment for part 2 in the September issue, you can look for a better understanding of risk and protective factors for youth suicide prevention as well as what to do in the aftermath of a youth who has completed a suicide. The month of August schools are back in session. Please take a mental health moment if you are responsible for a youth in any form, parent, guardian, teacher, coach or mentor and take note of the following as warning signs and resources.

Reach out to someone struggling to let them know they are not alone. Learn how to offer safe, non-judgmental support.

Have a conversation that helps reduce the stigma associated with suicide.

Offer support to those who have lost a loved one to suicide.

Take steps to increase awareness of the significance of suicide as a global concern.

Learn more about what can we all can do to prevent suicide.

Share information about suicide prevention on your own social media platform.

Share this post to raise awareness of the connection between early childhood trauma and suicide.

Look for and report signs such as depressive symptoms, conduct disorders, withdrawal from activities, isolation, and drug/alcohol use or abuse.

While this is not an exhaustive list you may Visit the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website. Call 988 which is the suicide and crisis lifeline.

Next month I will provide information on how to talk to the youth in your life which starts with paying attention and listening to them. Children are our responsibility and they should always be both seen and heard at all times. To any families, parents, guardians, or friends who have lost a child to suicide you are not alone. May you seek help and support as needed to heal and please advocate for others to save others from this traumatic experience.

Versatile Vegetables... continued from page 10

three minutes, or until vegetables are tender but not overcooked. Remove from heat, add pepper and salt, if desired, and serve immediately.

Green Beans

Selection: Choose fresh, well colored beans that snap easily when bent.

Storage: Refrigerate green beans in plastic bag, use within 1 week.

Nutrition Benefits: green beans are fat free; sodium free; cholesterol free; low calorie; good source of fiber; good source of vitamin C.

Stir fry: Green beans make a tasty addition to stir fry vegetables. Add the cut pieces of green beans to the pan when other vegetables with similar cooking times are added, such as broccoli and cauliflower. Stir fry until tender crisp.

Growing your own? Are you new to vegetable gardening and looking to learn more? If you have any questions about gardening, call the Master Gardener Horticulture Hotline with questions on Monday and Wednesdays, 10am – 12pm at 419-578-6783.



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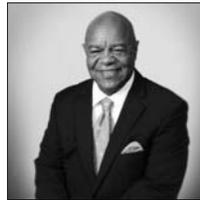
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The Leader Within Me

By Samuel Hancock, EdD

Guest Column

A \$300.00 Bribe. Why would a Probation Officer (PO) bribe a client he was responsible for supervising? Why would the PO refuse to refund the money the client had given him when he could not do what he had promised to do for the client? The PO had promised the client that he would be granted probation when his day of sentencing arrived. The client had violated his probation and was in custody awaiting sentencing. However, instead of receiving Probation, the client received 10 years in the Penitentiary, which had been his original sentence. After the client began serving his sentence, he sent a letter to the sentencing Judge complaining about the PO's behavior.



Sam Hancock, EdD

The PO refused to plead guilty, requested a trial by jury and was found guilty. Normally, after a jury has rendered a verdict, the judge sets a date for sentencing which could occur a couple of weeks or a month after the verdict. In this situation the PO was sentenced almost immediately after the jury rendered their verdict. The judge was probably very disappointed and upset because a person had been placed in a leadership position by the courts and had abused their authority. Being awarded a leadership position is a *privilege* not an *entitlement*.

This tragic, but true, story also illustrates how Leaders don't always lead in a positive way. This PO used his position and the power of his personality to *influence* another person to give him money in exchange for something he did not have the authority to give. Leadership is all about *influence*.

When I began my career as a probation officer I had just graduated from college, and I had no experience. I was asked to assume responsibility for the caseload the convicted former PO had been responsible for. *Being thrust into a leadership role does not make you a Leader* and although I had a tremendous amount of potential, I had no clue about what the word Leadership meant. **I had to discover the leader within me.**

I was being asked to assume responsibility for a group of ex-offenders that I first had to find! They had absconded (meaning leaving hurriedly and secretly

to avoid detection) to the far ends of the city and state. Some of the excuses I was given as to why they had not reported were so absurd that even I had to laugh. Some thought their probation had ended because the PO had gotten in trouble, some said that nobody had contacted them and some simply said they forgot about it.

One problem that I encountered right away was that I had been in contact with some of these ex-offenders, although I did not know it at the time, because they hung out at the same clubs I frequented, at that time. John Maxwell Author of the book entitled *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* once said that that *integrity is who we are, who we are determines what we see and what we see determines what we do*. If inconsistency exists between what we say and what we do, then our integrity has been compromised.

My effectiveness as a leader was greatly diminished because I did not see myself as a leader. I simply did not understand something I learned a long time ago. People cannot hear what you're saying because they are too busy looking at what you are doing. A flaw had been developed in my character and others saw it, co-workers, and clients. I did not understand that being a leader involved being lonely at times and it occasionally will be painful because your journey is supposed to be different than the journey of followers.

Eventually I was able to locate most of the ex-offenders. However, I learned a valuable lesson in Leadership and integrity. If you don't take yourself seriously nobody else will. You can't separate the way you behave privately or in your personal life from the way you behave publicly or in your professional life. For example, one of my former supervisors became very intoxicated at one of our office parties and when he saw me, he said "I hope you will respect me in the morning." It was difficult for me to view him the same way that I did prior to that incident.

Definition of Leadership and a Leadership Paradigm

One of the best definitions I have been given about Leadership is taken from the book *The Spirit of Leadership*, written by the late Myles Monroe, PhD. He defines leadership as the, "*The ability to influence others through Inspiration motivated by a passion, generated by a vision, produced by a conviction, and ignited by a purpose.*"

When my career began as a PO, I was not familiar with Monroe's definition of leadership or his work in this area. But I was very familiar with Blake and Mouton's work, the Managerial Grid. This paradigm involved five different management/leadership styles. Blake and Mouton characterized the 1-1 manager/leader as a person who had one degree of concern for productivity and one degree of concern for the person. The 1-9 Manager/Leader as a person who has one degree of concern for productivity and nine degrees of concern for the person.

In addition, they described the 9-1 manager/leader as having nine degrees of concern for productivity and one degree of concern for the person. The 5-5 manager/leader was described as having five degrees of concern for productivity and five degrees of concern for the person. The empirical Manager/Leader, the 9-9 Manager is one who has nine degrees of concern for productivity and nine degrees of concern for the person.

In retrospect I was functioning as a 5-5 manager. I had a "country-club" type of mindset which involved me being a "middle of the road" kind of Leader, trying to have it "both ways." However, as I matured and began to realize that others around me were being much more productive than I and were being rewarded and recognized for their productivity, I decided to become more consistent in the way I lived privately and publicly.

The first thing I did was to quit "hanging out" in places where many of the clients I supervised frequented. Also, I began meeting with clients on my caseload in small groups and making a more concerted effort to hold them accountable (*working toward developing nine degrees of Concern for Productivity*) but to also to become more interested and getting involved in helping them receive (*working toward developing nine degrees of concern for the person*) what they really needed (housing, employment etc.).

I did not realize it at first but gradually I became convinced that I had been *inspired* by the managerial grid. I could feel myself developing a *passion* for the work, because I began to believe in the mission of the department. I also began to believe in the *vision* of community-based corrections and consequently a *purpose had been ignited in me*. Monroe's definition of Leadership was manifesting itself in *me* and I did not even know it. I had discovered the leader within *me*.

There were at least four ways a probation officers performance was measured. One was how often your clients reported. Two was how many paid on their court costs. Three was how well did you get along with the clients you

...continued on page 13

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Trinity by Zelda Lockhart

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

If at first, you don't succeed...

The old saying recommends trying three times, but that can be nothing but frustration: if it ain't working, what says it might work later? Try, try again is fruitless but then... there are those days when a third attempt, or a fourth or a fifth is all it takes to get things done. As in the new book, *Trinity* by Zelda Lockhart, the third time's indeed the charm.

Bennie Lee was somewhere around 10 or 11 years old when his mother, Lottie, left Bennie and his toddler brother, Lenard, in the care of their father, Big Daddy. That care, though, was given through fists and slaps and overwork and denial.

Lottie always said she wanted to go to St. Louis and she'd take her boys with her but Bennie knew she was at a bar a few miles away, selling her body to men. He tried to bring her home, but she acted like she didn't know him. When she came back to their Mississippi farm on her own, he shot her dead, chasing away the girl-spirit that waited in Lottie's womb.

And then Bennie bolted.

He left Mississippi, joined the Marines in Korea and when he came home, wounded, he brought alcoholism with him. Still, he stayed sober enough to meet Rebecca, who dreamed of marrying a Marine and she and Bennie conceived a child, so she got her wish.

They named that baby Bennie Jr., and they called him BJ. He would have had a sister but when Rebecca Lee was four months pregnant with their second child, Bennie shot her and then himself, and the girl-spirit was chased away again.

Lenard Lee was glad to take his nephew in after the murder-suicide of the boy's parents. Six-year-old BJ grew up with every opportunity America in the 1950s could offer and when he was old enough, he fought in Vietnam like many young men his age.

Also, like many young men his age, he fell in love with the girl next door

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when he came home.

When she told BJ that he was going to be a father, the girl-spirit rejoiced...

Despite the wince-worthy violence inside this story and a few pages of surprising explicitness, *Trinity* is really a very pretty book. The imagery inside is dusty and lush, and it's helped along with gorgeous turns of phrase and occasional sly sarcasm, both of which poke the imagination: you can almost feel the Mississippi heat, the suck of mud on a creek bank, and kudzu choking your ankles. Beginning each chapter and appearing elsewhere when needed, its spirituality feels like a bucket of cool water on a hot day; the ancestor love that author Zelda Lockhart allows for her characters fits perfectly into the rest of what happens.

Because of its flowing language and metaphors, this book may take some patience to embrace and its spirituality isn't for everyone. Still, if this doesn't sound like your kind of book, pick up *Trinity* anyhow, and try, try again.

Leader Within Me... continued from page 12

were supervising. Four was and how effective were you in influencing your clients to comply with their conditions of probation. On one occasion I was recognized for having collected more court costs during one quarter. On another occasion, I was asked to work with a client who every other Probation officer he had been assigned to had been unsuccessful in working with. He was big, loud, very intimidating and had a serious alcohol problem.

Please don't misunderstand me. I was not a miracle working PO nor was I the smartest or more competent than other PO's. But I did have two qualities that helped me tremendously. One was patience and the other was that I genuinely liked people. As a result, I was able to identify what this client's most serious problem was and what drove his anger and alcoholism. He needed adequate housing. That's all.

Once I was able to help him in this area and once, I became more serious about my work I was able to influence him to seek treatment for his drinking problem to lower his voice when he came to the office and to just behave in a more mature way. But of course, I had to use one aspect of Kotter's eight-stages of change theory, I had to model the way. I even requested that he seek help spiritually and he visited a Church.

Finally, remember that PO who was convicted of bribery? After he served a few years in a minimum-security prison, he was released and turned his life around. A little while later he joined me and my family for dinner. The Leadership in you involves empathy as well.

I learned how to lead, and I am still learning. And to think it all started with a former colleague taking a \$300.00 bribe.

Samuel H. Hancock Ed.D. SHRM-CP

Samuel Hancock, EdD, is SHRM (Society Human Resource Management) Certified in Human Resources and is currently the vice president for Human Resources at the Area Office on Aging NW Ohio. Hancock is also the former assistant to the president for Institutional Diversity at the University of Toledo where he held a faculty appointment in the Department of Medicine. He is also a licensed, ordained Minister of the Gospel.



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CLASSIFIEDS

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August 2, 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. For media access, please contact Rachael Cammarn at rcammarn@toledoopera.org.

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.



Position Available Attorney



Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO), a non-profit law firm that provides high-quality legal assistance to eligible low-income individuals and groups in western Ohio, seeks a resourceful, culturally competent, hardworking attorney.

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Please visit LAWOW's website at www.lawolaw.org to review the full details and apply for the supervising attorney position.

LAWO is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in our workplace, including diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability. We strive to create an environment welcoming to all individuals and we encourage applications from individuals traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the recruitment coordinator at lajojobs@freelawyers.org.

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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.

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Fundraising Cookout... continued from page 16

Finkbeiner.

The 19th annual fundraiser, a fun event as always, was not without its moments of sorrow and reflection. Ashford, in his opening remarks, said "2023 has been the most unusual year I've seen in a while with people passing away."

He spoke of the very recent tragedies of the deaths of Weldon Douthitt, a longtime advocate for assisting those in the community with their home repair needs as well as a longtime Democratic Party operative, and Jan Scotland, a former city official, insurance agency owner and Republican Party operative. Scotland's funeral was held on Saturday morning before the Ashford event.

After Ashford's comments, State Rep. Michelle Grim, District 43, spoke of the contributions those in the Democratic Party have made in recent months in Columbus in spite of having to push forward against the Republican super majority.

Fair school funding, innovation hubs, brownfield remediation, rape kit accountability and free period products in public schools are some of the accomplishments of the Democratic minority which she touted.

Grim also addressed the importance of the current Issue 1 on this August 8 special election ballot. She explained the difference in requirements to place citizen-initiated constitutional amendments on the ballot if Issue 1 is approved by voters – the 88 county requirement for signatures (up from 44 currently) to place the proposal on a ballot, in particular – and the change in passage requirement from 50 percent plus one approval to 60 percent.

Of course, among the predominantly Democratic audience, filled with active operatives and voters, Grim's message was well received.

Ashford, former city councilman and state representative, was last on the ballot, for re-election to his post as Lucas County Recorder, in November 2022. He won over Republican John Rozic, with 55.7 percent of the vote.



University of Toledo Medical... continued from page 5

stance use and the risk factors in adolescents with guest speaker Sharon Thomas and August 30 will focus on Covid-19 effects on behavioral health and substance use with guest speaker Victoria Kelly. All sessions will begin at 6:00 p.m. and held at the Frederick Douglass Community Center and was organized by a team led by Mohamad Moussa, Ph.D an associate professor at UTMTC.

Local substance abuse resources:

- NAMI Greater Toledo, <https://namitoleo.org/>, 419-243-1119
- Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County list of providers, <https://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/service-providers/>
- 24/7 CrisisCare Line, 419-904-CARE (2273)



**VOTE
TUES.
AUG 8**

Ohio politicians are trying to rewrite the rules and sneak through Issue 1 in the August 8th election.

They want to make it harder to pass issues that matter to us, like access to affordable healthcare, increasing minimum wages, funding public schools and preventing police brutality.

They want to change passage of these kinds of issues from a simple majority (50%+1) to 60% in order to win.

THIS IS NOT RIGHT!

When WE the VOTERS come together, WE create positive change for our communities. Voting is one way that WE can make change and flex our collective POWER.

**DON'T BE FOOLED INTO GIVING AWAY YOUR POWER!
MAKE SURE YOU VOTE IN THE AUGUST 8TH SPECIAL ELECTION**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: 888-502-1117

Ashford's 19th Annual Summer Fundraising Cookout

The Truth Staff

Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford and his wife Ruth sure know how to throw a party ... after all, they have been doing it for 19 years now. And the party continued on Saturday, July 29, in the beautiful backyard of the Ashfords' home on Collingwood as guests were treated to some grilled food, some cold drinks and a few speeches about Democratic Party politics.

Over of the Ashfords' friends, colleagues and supporters stopped by on Saturday, including political notables such as Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and former mayor Carty

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Ashford with Fred Jeffries and his daughter Sharon Jeffries



Suzette Cowell and Aletha Easterly



Grillmaster Herb Puckett serves up the edibles



Ruth and Michael Ashford

Golden Bulldog Brunch
 August 11, 2023
 11:00 AM
 Scott High School
 Ben E. Williams Fieldhouse
 \$35.00



The Golden Bulldog Brunch is for alumni out of high school 50 years or more.

Tickets Available
 For Purchase at:



HENRY'S JEWELRY
 4909 Dorr St.
 Toledo, OH 43615

For more information
 Contact:
 419-482-8685
 or email
 ScottAlumni@gmail.com

And ONLINE
 www.jesupwscottalumni.org



Tina Butts and State Rep. Michelle Grim



Tina Butts, Ruth Ashford and Cecelia Cook