



**Volume 79 No. 6**                      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*                      **August 9, 2023**



*Valerie Thompson, CEO Leap Graphics, President AAF Toledo*

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# There is still time to register for the 2023-24 school year.



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Toledo Public Schools strives to provide elementary school students with a strong educational foundation that will prepare them for high school and beyond.

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- Our highly trained, caring teachers support their students and guide them toward academic success
- Students have access to the latest technology
- TPS offers a variety of classes including music, art and gym
- TPS provides free transportation to students who live more than one mile from their home school

### Elementary Open House

Thursday, August 17 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

### First Day of School for Elementary Schools

Monday, August 21

### First Day of School for Kindergarten Schools

Wednesday, August 30

### First Day of School for Pre-K Schools

Wednesday, August 30

## HIGH SCHOOL

Toledo Public Schools strives to ensure high school students are college and career ready when they graduate. Students have access to an array of college prep classes and career tech focused-programs to prepare them for the future.

- Our highly trained, caring teachers support their students and guide them toward academic success
- Students attend state-of-the-art schools and have access to the latest technology and online classes
- TPS offers free transportation to students who live more than one mile from their home school
- With more than 30 career technology programs, students can begin preparing for a career path
- TPS offers music, art and gym classes, along with numerous extra-curricular activities and sports



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**First Day of School for Sophomores**  
Tuesday, August 22

**First Day of School for Juniors and Seniors**  
Wednesday, August 23



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# Embracing Change

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



*When the winds change, we must change. We have to struggle to our feet and reset the sail in a manner that will steer us in the direction of our own deliberate choice.*

- Jim Rohn

Tina Skeldon-Wozniak revealed last week that she will step down from her role at the end of 2023, a year ahead of her term's scheduled conclusion. The daughter of one of Lucas County's most legendary politicians whom a baseball stadium was named after, Wozniak recognizes that the winds of her life are changing.

Rather than holding onto her role past her metaphorical "expiration date," as we have seen manifested by other aging politicians, who have overstayed their relevance, utility and effectiveness, the long-serving Wozniak caught the "grandma syndrome" and chose to retire and spend quality time with her family and grandchildren. By "resetting her sail," she deliberately decides to steer her life in a direction that aligns with her priorities and desires at a critical juncture.



LC Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak

Wozniak arrived on Toledo City Council in 1997 and transitioned to the Lucas County Commissioners in late 2003, replacing Mark Pietrykowski, who had left for a judicial position.

A former social worker trained to listen, understand, and empathize with individuals from diverse groups within the Toledo community, Skeldon-Wozniak's friendly, caring demeanor, along with firsthand experience with the interconnectedness of social issues, from housing and employment to mental health and education made her unique as a county politician.

Her social work training in cultural sensitivity also enabled Skeldon-Wozniak to understand marginalized communities' unique challenges. She is particularly equipped to calmly and effectively navigate the crises Black and Brown communities experience.

Wozniak brought a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach that made her successful as a liaison with Scott Sylak and the Lucas County Mental Health Board. She was among the first to recognize the impact of mental health and drug addiction – including the opioid epidemic on everyday lives in Lucas County. She was a leader in the criminal justice reform that Lucas County is a national leader in and helped the County begin to take a more progressive and updated view on solutions like jail diversion and bail reform. She was also ideally suited to deal with the monumental issues faced by Lucas County Children's Services and Lucas County Juvenile Court.

Although she is still working hard and hasn't yet taken her final bow, Wozniak will perhaps be most remembered for keeping the Board of Commissioner's eyes on mental health, being an ardent promoter for the arts and the Toledo Arts Commission, and championing the rebuild of the dog warden of Canine Care and Control.

Tina shied away from controversy and conflict and was a kinder, gentler political leader than most politicians today. We will undoubtedly miss her style, which was very friendly, warm, and non-combative.

Who's Next?

Although Wozniak is still hard at work and contributing, and has earned the right to be respected as a commissioner until she finishes on December 31, 2023. Yet, the rumor mill began churning with potential successors almost im-

... continued on page 6

# Save Your Dixie Cups ... The South Will Rise Again!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

The above statement was one of the last bitter refrains from a part of the country that was thoroughly defeated and embarrassed during the Civil War. It speaks to a longing, an urging, if you will, of returning to a time of innocence and joy when the South was unencumbered with the weighty issues of resolving the matters of human bondage.

The South, decimated by the economic ravages of the Civil War, saw its free labor pool of Now-emancipated slaves, taking victory laps under the watchful eye of the Northern carpetbaggers and federal government protectors.

The newly-freed African Americans, heady with the intoxicating wine of freedom including freedom of movement and freedom to participate in the American experiment of democracy by casting votes for their preferred candidates, caused the defeated South to scheme to reclaim some of its wounded pride.

That reclamation project, called Jim Crow, was a series of calculated stratagems designed to rein in the freedom of the former enslaved individuals and have them bow again to the yoke of human misery by utilizing both the batons of physical fear of voting and economic penalty.

Saving one's Dixie Cups was a dog whistle to like-minded Southerners and any Northern sympathizers that, "It ain't over, till it's over!"

Even when you can jettison the obvious bludgeonings of Jim Crow and successfully transverse the racially tumultuous 1960s and 1970s, too many of America's collective memory cells still are in captivity to lingering bitterness, resentments and subtle rage against people of color for what they perceive as unfair perks and privileges lavished on the progeny of the former enslaved.

The recent decision by the US Supreme Court gutting affirmative action was joy to many who believed that people of color should not be allowed to obtain deferential treatment even though White America has always enjoyed the lion's share of the goodies of America, and they were not predisposed to sharing any of it.

In the recent history of the GOP, both Bush I and Ronald Reagan engaged in racial demagoguery with the blatant use of welfare queens' images and Willie Horton ads.

And the whole while, feigning ignorance as to the real intended use of those ads appealing to the racial fears of White America, they noted that if they do not "come together," those "others" will overrun our institutions.

Almost nothing works better than sustained campaigns of fear and anxiety about those "others" coming across the southern border to take your jobs and invade your pristine neighborhoods.

Or, that those "others" are getting valued college placement seats at highly selected colleges and are routinely able to achieve high economic

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## Community Calendar

August 20

Toledo NAACP Youth Council meeting; Sanger Branch Library 3030 Central Ave; 3:00 pm Youth Works meeting 4:00 pm

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# Letter to the Editor

We viewed the television program on "Gun Violence," which Mayor Wade participated in, along with several Mayors and public safety officials. It was clear to us that violence is the number one concern of citizens living in urban American today, and each Mayor and Police Chief has their own version of how to curb the violence.

We have presented a 12-point plan to our city officials that our Mayor has complimented the citizens of our community for caring and working together to reduce the our burst of gun deaths Toledo has experienced over the past five years. Yet, there is still fear in the hearts and minds of most Toledoans that gun shots can explode at any time, no matter where you live in our city. Within the past two weeks another shooting and killing occurred in South Toledo, across from a popular church, and in a neighborhood that had been violence-free. Trilby Park, in West Toledo, experienced multiple gun shots directed at young persons that very same weekend.

The city of Toledo is offering enrichment and outreach programs to our young people, but summer jobs cleaning up our city and mentoring our youth have not been present in anywhere near the number needed. The State of Ohio is tracking drug dealers' activities, and there should be far greater arrests of those drug dealers in the near future. Should we not have a "Drug Court" to move those dealing drugs to our youth much more swiftly though the judicial system?

Finally, we believe that our murder rate is lower because our police and our citizens are working together. Let's increase the police foot patrols and the citizen-watch programs. Those two programs are vital to a safer, more peaceful Toledo.

Mike Bell  
Donna Owens  
Carty Finkbeiner



Former Mayors Mike Bell, Carty Finkbeiner, Donna Owens

## Tolliver...continued from page 4

and plum judicial positions simply because those "others" are non-white.

When for decades you feed a large population of anxious White people, who see their jobs going to China and their wages are stagnant and the evening news is skewered to show people of color rioting in the streets, things, named and unnamed, start to coalesce and organizations are formed that seek to, "Make America Great Again!"

Fear and anxiety have their own dialect of speaking to the grievances, real or otherwise, of people who believe lies that are incessantly told to them that they must fight for their country, or nothing will be left for them and their kids.

Enter stage right: Donald J. Trump. The savior of all things White and the retribution for those who have been crammed into meaningless dead-end jobs; and being told the whole time that it is the others that are causing your problems, but I, Donald Trump can fix it all!

Such a "populist" appeal reverberates in the underbelly of a vexed White America, and it does not take much for a performer, like a Trump, to rile up that dissatisfied base with a constant barrage of lies and half-truths to the point that such an aggrieved white population sees such a rumor monger as having their best interests at heart.

With certain media outlets being favorable to such a rabble rouser as Trump, those outlets made millions off the advertisers, thus showing how you can make millions ginning up the despair and bitterness of that base.

Trump and his ilk could, with impunity, say whatever and his base would do a herd nod in agreement.

How could a con and grifter billionaire capture the will and the wallet of so many GOP members?

Simple. He told a compelling narrative that he was their champion and only he could fix it because he was a stable genius!

To that implausible story line, you add in other malefactors who are guided like moths to a singular light and who also crank out the same lies, day in and day out, and there you have the recipe for what now ails America.

It is not by coincidence that one of the charges against Trump as brought by the DOJ is that The Ku Klux Klan Act, which was initially used by President Grant to fight against the white rampage of hate and bigotry against Southern Blacks, is now being used to show that Trump was indeed engaged in racial warfare against pockets of Black voters in Milwaukee, Detroit, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Phoenix and other places.

The acts and attitudes of the then Klan have resurfaced in disguised forms of gerrymandering and voter suppression laws enacted by so many GOP controlled state houses.

The spirit of the Klan only went away for a moment but to be resurrected by Trump in the dark recesses of too many Americans who call themselves Republicans and who, despite overwhelming evidence, are willing to accept a BIG LIE in the place of proven truths.

The current caustic political discourse and the corrosive atmosphere of lies being given credence and equal standing with truths, is what the upcoming election will determine.

Trump is simply an avatar of those suppressed grievances that he has given permission to come out from the attic and parade around in Congress; and which only causes a deterioration of the institutions that are needed and necessary to provide for an imperfect democracy improving upon itself.

So, the next time you rant and rave against Trump, remember, he represents the tip of the proverbial iceberg for without that base that he has awoken, Trump would still be in New York trying to resurrect his failed Apprentice game show.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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# The Artistic Odyssey of Perseverance: AAF Toledo President Valerie Thompson Empowering Women in Design & Advertising

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

In the world of design and advertising, a remarkable journey unfolds—one characterized by resilience, diversity, and a determination to overcome challenges. This is the story of Valerie Thompson, whose path illuminates the importance of representation and empowerment for black women in industry.

The Toledo Chapter of the American Advertising Federation (AAF), formerly known as the Advertising Club of Toledo, has recently appointed Thompson, president. With this groundbreaking appointment, the organization embraces a new era of representation, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Founded in 1905, the AAF stands as the oldest national advertising trade association, uniting 40,000 professionals in the dynamic advertising industry. The AAF's headquarters in Washington, D.C., serve as the epicenter of an expansive national network, comprising 200 clubs nestled in advertising communities across the country.

As part of the Fifth District, encompassing Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky, AAF Toledo has long played a pivotal role in fostering creative excellence and industry growth in its vibrant region.

Born and reared in Toledo, Ohio, Thompson is a celebrated graphic artist who discovered her artistic flair at an early age. "I was encouraged at a young age to sketch and strengthen my voice through art," she recalls. "With an artist father and grandfather, it's no wonder creativity runs in my veins."

It wasn't all smooth sailing from the get-go. Despite her natural talent and love for drawing, it wasn't until college that she stumbled upon the mesmerizing world of graphic design and art as a business profession.

"When I was a freshman at The University of Toledo, I entered the school of business and marketing," she recalls. "It wasn't until I took a graphic design class that my whole world lit up! I changed my major and the rest is history."

Intrigued and enticed by the fascinating world of graphic design, Thompson began freelancing part-time while juggling her college coursework. Like a determined painter, she blended colors of ambition and dedication to create a one-of-a-kind career.

The more she painted her dreams onto the canvas of her life, the clearer it became that graphic artistry was her true calling. "I also love teaching, presenting, speaking and pouring into up and coming designers within the industry," shares Thompson.

Fast forward to graduation, armed with her degree and her heart full of dreams, she decided to embark on an artistic adventure. With Columbus, Ohio as her chosen canvas, she dived headfirst into freelancing full-time. Her design firm Leap Graphics was born. The brushes of experience began to stroke the canvas of her life, painting a picture of passion and commitment.

But, like every compelling story, there were twists and turns that shaped her journey. "I eventually found myself back here in my hometown of Toledo,"

shares Thompson. "I joined the ranks of ProMedica as a graphic designer and have had an amazing experience working with them for the past nine years."

After dedicating five years to the realm of graphic design, Valerie embarked on a transition to environmental design, where she further honed her expertise for an additional four years.

"It was during this phase that my presentation of a particularly impactful project caught the attention of ProMedica's philanthropy department head," explains Thompson. "Impressed by my work, he extended a remarkable proposition: the role of executive director of FairWays." This pioneering initiative by ProMedica was committed to addressing and eliminating disparities in women's social health outcomes.

"As an artist it's important to learn your signature style and how to capture what a client really wants to see even though they can only describe a partial picture of what they want," says Thompson. "This is a skill you only develop through real client experience. This journey has expanded my skill set in team building, presentation, administration, and strategy."

The transition to environmental design was a smooth ride. Just as she did in graphic design, Thompson continues to put the audience front and center in her creative masterpieces. Like an artful puzzle solver, she pondered who would experience the space and what emotions it should evoke.

Representation matters. As a Black woman in the art world, Thompson is determined to shine a light on the importance of diversity and inclusion. Like an artist adding layers of depth to their masterpiece, she continues adding her unique perspective to local initiatives while making her presence felt.

"I like to explain environmental design as graphic design and interior design having a baby," explains Thompson.

As an environmental designer, Thompson orchestrated the visual and spatial elements within ProMedica's healthcare settings to enhance the overall experience of patients, visitors, and staff. She is a maestro of ambiance, using her artistic prowess to craft spaces that not only look appealing but also foster healing, comfort, and efficiency.

"I design spaces for people to have an experience in," explains Thompson.



...continued on page 6

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*Artistic Odyssey...continued from page 5*

Imagine stepping into a hospital where every corner feels like a harmonious sanctuary. That's the magic an environmental designer weaves. They consider the hospital environment as a canvas, carefully selecting colors, textures, lighting, and even the arrangement of furniture to create an atmosphere that is conducive to one's overall well-being.

You can see examples of Thompson's work throughout Toledo's landscape. From signage, to art plans for new construction, to commissioning art from all around the world, Thompson does it all.

"My personal project at Toledo Hospital is the History Hallway, leading from inpatient to outpatient. This hall brings rich visual representations from Toledo's history, and I'm very proud of it," says Thompson.

From the moment you enter the hospital lobby, Thompson's work becomes evident. Her conceptualized welcoming spaces ease anxiety and promote a sense of calm. Whether it's the choice of soothing colors or the arrangement of seating that encourages conversation, every detail is meticulously crafted to offer a positive first impression.

As you journey deeper into the hospital, you may notice thematic elements that resonate with the hospital's identity. Thompson infused these elements seamlessly, turning corridors into avenues of inspiration. Murals, artworks, and even interactive installations are all a part of her designer's toolkit, offering moments of distraction and engagement that contribute to the overall healing process.

The impact of an environmental designer is not limited to patients. Hospital staff benefit as well. "Our workspaces are optimized for efficiency and collaboration, contributing to a sense of community and camaraderie," shares Valerie. In essence, I'm both an artist and an architect of experiences."

After many years on YWCA's Milestone Event Committee, Thompson also encouraged decision makers to consider including up and coming women in the community who make a huge impact. "We thought it was important to honor Women on the Rise, too, and a category was born," she says.

Something as small as adding a category has made a big difference by way of community engagement for the YWCA. "Women of all ages can now see themselves as a part of the Y's mission, not just a supporter, but an active participant," explains Thompson.

Today as CEO of Leap Graphics, Thompson, like a skilled conductor, orchestrates design choices driven by the needs of her clients and their audiences. It's like composing a symphony of visuals that dance with the desires



of the organization's call-to-action. "I've been coined the Client Whisperer," says Valerie with a giggle.

Understanding your client's vision and marrying their goals through the customer's experience is a skill that's hard to find. Valerie is top tier.

With the appointment of Thompson, the trajectory of AAF Toledo (American Advertising Federation) is set to transform. As an African American woman assuming the esteemed position of President, Thompson becomes the trailblazing torchbearer of representation, a significance that cannot be overstated.

By welcoming Thompson to the helm, AAF Toledo is signaling its unwavering dedication to amplifying underrepresented voices and breaking the glass ceiling that has long persisted in the advertising industry. Valerie's ascent to leadership paves the way for a new generation of professionals, who can now envision themselves achieving the highest echelons of success within the organization and beyond.

Thompson's vast expertise in the advertising landscape, combined with her unique perspective as an African American woman, brings an invaluable and multifaceted approach to the table. With her at the helm, the organization stands poised to set new standards of inclusivity and innovation, cultivating an environment where diverse perspectives flourish, and creativity knows no bounds.

In a world where representation matters, Thompson's presidency is a transformative beacon, calling on other organizations to embrace change, evolve their mindsets, and embrace the mosaic of talent that exists within the advertising landscape.

As an influential figure in the advertising community, Valerie Thompson's leadership will ripple through the entire industry, inspiring other organizations to champion diversity and create an environment that empowers all professionals to thrive.

Her story, like a tapestry of colors, is a reminder that diversity is the cornerstone of innovation. Thompson invites others to join her in embracing change, celebrating differences, and allowing creativity to flourish. Just as her journey has inspired a generation, let it be a call for all to paint their narratives with perseverance, representation, and a touch of artistic brilliance.

*Perryman... continued from page 3*

mediately after she announced her retirement plans.

Here are a few names that have surfaced:

The leading angler and working the hardest to succeed Skeldon-Wozniak is Michael Hart, executive director of the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board. In his early 30s, Hart has been around and adjacent to solid political leadership since he was a teenager. He has participated in campaigns from candidates from Ted Strickland to Paula Hicks-Hudson. Groomed by Pete Gerken, Hart is a quick learner, empathetic, thoughtful, and communicates well. Hart has gathered an impressive network of support for the appointment, which will come via a vote of the Lucas County Democratic Party's central committee. Reportedly, Hart already has the backing of Skeldon-Wozniak, Tina Butts and the Building Trades union.

Former Lucas County administrator Megan Vahey Casiere is another name that has surfaced as a possible candidate. A close ally of Skeldon-Wozniak, Casiere resigned her position at Lucas County in December to take the executive director position with the Employer's Association. She is a distinguished public servant, but challenges from her tenure as an administrator could pose hurdles in succeeding Wozniak.

Finally, Paula Hicks-Hudson makes a legit case for candidacy, given Lucas County's demographics. Notably, there hasn't been a minority on the Board of Lucas County Commissioners since Bill Copeland, the first African American to hold a countywide post, retired in 2002.

Hicks-Hudson certainly has the credentials and a remarkable service record,

... continued on page 13

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# Henrietta Lacks' Family Settles Lawsuit with Biotech Company, Paving the Way for More Claims

By Stacy M. Brown

Courtesy of NNPA

Living relatives of Henrietta Lacks have reached a confidential settlement with Thermo Fisher Scientific, the multi-billion-dollar biotechnology company that has used regenerative cells taken from Lacks decades ago without her consent.

The settlement sets a precedent, potentially leading to complaints seeking compensation and control of Lacks' cells, famously known as "HeLa" cells, the world's first cells capable of replicating outside the human body.

Represented jointly by attorney Ben Crump, renowned for his advocacy for Black victims of police violence, and attorney Chris Seeger, known for leading significant class action lawsuits in U.S. history, the family called a news conference in Baltimore on Tuesday, August 1, which coincides with what would have been Lacks' 103rd birthday.

"The parties are pleased that they were able to find a way to resolve this matter outside of court and will have no further comment about the settlement," Crump and Seeger wrote in a news release.

The Lacks family's lawsuit addressed a problem that had persisted for 70 years following the unlawful removal of Henrietta Lacks' cells while she was receiving cervical cancer treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

- ADVERTISEMENT -

The family argued that the cells rightfully belong to Lacks and that companies like Thermo Fisher Scientific should pay for using them in research and product development.

In a 2022 interview, Crump called the situation "indicative of the Black struggle for equality and respect in America. Because it's a racial justice issue when you think about it in the purest form," Crump asserted. "The children of Henry Ford, they're able to benefit from his contributions to the world."

Thermo Fisher Scientific, in its defense, contended that Lacks' descendants waited too long to take legal action and that other companies worldwide also use HeLa cells without the family's consent.

Lacks' cancer treatment in 1951 was unsuccessful, and she tragically succumbed to the disease a few months after her diagnosis.

Following her death, researchers at Johns Hopkins discovered that the cells sampled from Lacks' cervix could regenerate outside the human body.

They shared those groundbreaking cells, which were instrumental in developing polio and COVID-19 vaccines and the world's most common fertility treatment.

- ADVERTISEMENT -

Crump has acknowledged that other companies besides Thermo Fisher Scientific sell Lacks' cells, and biotech companies and labs globally use them for various types of research. The family has signaled that they also may act against those companies.

For decades, Lacks' contributions to science remained unrecognized.

However, Maryland Democratic Rep. Kweisi Mfume and fellow Maryland Democrats U.S. Sens. Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin have introduced legislation seeking to award Lacks a Congressional Gold Medal posthumously.

The lawmakers said the goal is to ensure her contributions are honored and acknowledged for generations, as the cells she unknowingly provided continue to benefit millions worldwide.

Lacks' story has since become a best-selling book and, in 2017, Oprah Winfrey starred in the big-screen biopic, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks."

- ADVERTISEMENT -

"It's a real honor to have a family member that's genetic makeup is that important to the world," Lacks' grandson, Ron Lacks, said in an earlier interview.

"When people are profiting from her, and some of my family members can't even afford proper medical [care], you know, it's like she's on the auction block," he said.

"You know, as loving as my grandmother was, she would have definitely said, 'Well, what



Henrietta Lacks

about [my] family?"

Stacy M. Brown is the NNPA Newswire national senior correspondent.

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Honors College and International Affairs Executive Director Paul Schlag, Ph.D., said the college “is an interdisciplinary home for highly motivated and high-achieving students. Students’ commitment to excellence, leadership in community service, and impressive academic records qualify them to join the honors community — a select group of highly motivated, energetic, imaginative, and dedicated student leaders and scholars.”

Through the Honors College, students can graduate with general honors, honors in the major, University honors, and international honors. Additionally, Honors students have access to numerous scholarships and Honors housing, allowing them to live with peers with a similar commitment to academic excellence.

To be eligible to join the Honors College, students must have at least a 3.5 grade point average and evidence of extracurricular, leadership, or service activities. The application is open to first-year, transfer, and current students who meet the eligibility requirements.

Since its inception in 2021, 72 students have graduated with honors. As of June 2023, there were 350 Honors students and another 149 admitted first-year students and six transfer students.

The Honors College staff works closely with the administration and other institutions to provide as many opportunities as possible.

This year, Central State has deepened its relationship with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf). Schlag serves as Central State’s TMCf representative, which creates further funding and professional development opportunities for Honors students.

In addition to formal partnerships, the Honors College facilitates educational

and professional excursions. During the 2022-23 academic year,

Honors students had opportunities to visit the FBI field office in Cincinnati, Ohio, and tour the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati.

A hallmark of the Honors College, the Honda CampusAll-Star Challenge Team, advanced to the Sweet 16 at the 2023 National Championship — an academic trivia competition for Historically Black Colleges and Universities with 128 teams.

“The Honors College means opportunities for excellence. Every student can find the path of excellence for themselves, and we know that the Honors College is there to support and encourage us,” said Jeremy Jackson, Presidential Scholar and Student Honors Association President.

Honors College students have been nationally recognized with high-profile scholarships. Kayla Smith, the 2023 Outstanding Senior for the John W. Garland College of Engineering, Science, Technology, and Agriculture, was a 2022 Barry Goldwater Scholar — a prestigious science award for college sophomores and juniors. Danielle Darkenwald, a rising senior, was a Boren Scholar, which enabled her to participate in an intensive Swahili language program and study abroad in Tanzania for a semester.



CSU Honors College student Asia Kimpson, a rising sophomore from Detroit, Michigan, has been named the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) Yard Ambassador & Influencer, or Yardi, at Central State University.

... continued on page 11



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# Toledo Students Shine At Annual ACT-SO Competition at 114th NAACP National Convention in Boston

Special to The Truth

Six talented high school students from the Toledo Branch of the NAACP have made their mark on the national stage at the 46th Annual NAACP National ACT-SO Competition held in Boston, MA. These remarkable young individuals showcased their exceptional skills, earning well-deserved recognition and accolades across various categories.



Toledo ACT-SO Participants Ezra Womak, Lillian Scherer, Kaylee Britt



Caitlyn Scott - Dance Contemporary



Toledo ACT-SO Chairperson Beatrice Daniels, Student Kaylee Britt, Co-Chairperson Theresa M. Gabriel



ACT-SO Student Khali Moore Vocal Contemporary and Vocal Classical



Ezra Womak explains his engineering work

ACT-SO, Afro-Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics, is a nationally acclaimed talent and academic program where students compete in six major categories: STEM, Humanities, Performing Arts, Visuals Arts, Business, and Culinary. Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners receive cash prizes, award packages, scholarships, and more.

Students participated in the Toledo ACT-SO Competition in April and gold medal winners advanced to the National ACT-SO Competition on July 26-29, 2023, in Boston, MA. The Toledo ACT-SO chapter is led by Beatrice Daniels and Theresa M. Gabriel and the Toledo Branch President is Rev. Willie L. Perryman, Jr.

Among the participants was Kaylee Britt, a 2023 graduate from Toledo Early College, who competed in Playwriting and Dramatics: Acting, where she earned a Bronze medal for her exemplary work in Playwriting. Kaylee's achievements mark a significant milestone when she became a medalist for the Toledo NAACP Branch. Notably, Kaylee's writing talent also caught the attention of national sponsors, as she was named a finalist and winner of the Write Her Future Scholarship sponsored by Lancome and presented by prominent media and fashion personalities, including Project Runway judge and former Teen Vogue Editor-in-Chief Elaine Welteroth.



Toledo ACT-SO participants with chair people and chaperones

... continued on page 11

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# Planet Fitness Outfits Waite High School's Fitness Center

The Truth Staff

"This is one true testament to serving the community," said Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, during an announcement last week about the gift from Planet Fitness (Epic Fitness Group LLC) to Waite High School that will enable students, staff and faculty to work out on first rate equipment.

"This is a great opportunity for Waite High School," noted Waite Principal Todd Deem as he echoed Durant's joy at the availability of the equipment for all those connected to the high school, not just the student athletes.

The donation from Planet Fitness includes: 15 resistance machines; a full set of dumbbells; four flat benches and free weights; three treadmills; three elliptical machines; two stationary bikes and two recumbent bikes. The result is a total renovation of the school's fitness center.

"This was a partnership made in heaven," said Art Nichols, Planet Fitness director of Facilities and Construction. "This was not just for the students/athletes but all the students and faculty as well.

This is the second such donation to TPS by Planet Fitness. Two years ago they provided Scott High School with a similar fitness center.

Both Durant and Deem took particular pleasure in the upgrade to the Waite facilities as each noted he is a graduate of the school and, now as leaders, can rejoice in the transformation of the building over the recent years.

"There's not a while lot of options over here," noted Durant of the east Toledo community and the limited choices for the students.



Principal Todd Deem announces the Planet Fitness gift as Superintendent Romules Durant, right, looks on



The superintendent gets the first workout!



**Golden Bulldog Brunch**  
 August 11, 2023  
 11:00 AM  
 Scott High School  
 Ben E. Williams Fieldhouse  
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The Golden Bulldog Brunch is for alumni out of high school 50 years or more.

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# New Academic Year for Wilberforce University

Special to The Truth

On Tuesday, August 1, more than 550 students began classes at Wilberforce University for the 2023 - 2024 academic year. It is a renaissance year for the nation's first, private, historically Black college/university (HBCU) as its newly selected president, Vann Newkirk, PhD, began his tenure in July.



Alexander Murphy

"As the summer comes to an end I look forward to the start of a new academic year," Newkirk remarked. "As I start my first semester as president, I eagerly await the return of students, faculty and staff; the rekindling of the lamp of learning in preparation for new agents of social change at this special place called Wilberforce University."

The university's elected student leadership, the SGA, is also looking forward to an advanced agenda.

"I am extremely excited for this year," said SGA president, Alexander Murphy. "We have a new president, new student leadership, and new classes all coming into our wonderful and historic university. Each entity brings new values, new ideas, and perspectives that will be truly welcomed and appreci-



ated."

The university continues to focus on its well-defined goal as being student centered. The huge banner that hung over Main St. in Xenia recently is a small, welcoming part of how we ensure our students' safety, engagement and academic success as future global citizens. Our students will always be at the forefront of our investment.

Central State University... continued from page 8

"The benefits of the membership in the Honors College are multitudinous," Schlag said.

The Honors College continues to grow with new residential and administrative buildings and more on and off-campus opportunities.

Central State University is a public HBCU and 1890 Land-Grant Institution with a 135-year tradition of preparing students from diverse backgrounds and experiences for leadership, research, and service. Central State ranks among U.S. News & World Report's best colleges in five categories, including Best Undergraduate Engineering Program and Top Public Schools.

ACT-SO... continued from page 9

- Toledo participants in the National ACT-SO Competition:
  - Deshawn Johnson, Toledo Early College 2023 graduate, Categories - Poetry: Written and Short Story
  - Caitlyn Scott, Toledo School for the Arts 2023 graduate, Category - Dance: Contemporary
  - Ezra Womack, Central Catholic High School Class of 2024, Category - Engineering
  - Lillian Scherer, Toledo School for the Arts Class of 2026, Categories - Painting and Drawing
  - Khali Moore, Sylvania Southview High School, Class of 2026, Categories - Music: Contemporary and Music: Classical

Journalist Vernon Jarrett originally presented his "Olympics of the Mind" concept to the DuSable Museum of African American History in 1977. The NAACP adopted the youth achievement program to showcase the scholastic and artistic talents of overlooked African-American students. Today,

ACT-SO encourages students of every background to strive for greatness – a challenge taken by more more than 300,000 participants since the program's inception in 1978.

For more information about the Toledo ACT-SO chapter and its initiatives, please contact: toledoactsochapter@gmail.com and visual assets from the competition can be found here.

## How to Help Keep Your Child Safe and Healthy This School Year

Special to The Truth

As students return to classrooms, doctors say that it's important to ensure that children are up-to-date with routine childhood vaccinations.

"The evidence around vaccinations is abundantly clear; they're safe, effective and will help protect you, your loved ones and your community from preventable diseases. If you have questions about vaccines, their safety, or effectiveness, please speak to your physician. We are here for you, eager to answer your questions, and ensure your family is protected," says Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, M.D., M.P.H., president of the American Medical Association (AMA).

In an effort to promote a safer, healthier school year for everyone, the AMA is sharing these vaccine facts and insights:

- Vaccines are safe, effective and save lives. Routine childhood immunization is highly effective at preventing disease over a lifetime, reducing the incidence of all targeted diseases, including measles, mumps, rubella, polio and chickenpox. For the U.S. population in 2019, vaccines prevented more than 24 million cases of disease.
- The benefits of vaccines can be quantified. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), vaccination of chil-

...continued on page 12

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# Central State University Receives over \$1.6 Million in Research and Education Funding

Central State University has received over \$1.6 million in research and education funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA).

The three innovative projects that have received funding will focus on unmanned aerial systems (UAS), nutrition education and weight management, and the use of a perennial flower species to improve honey production.

One proposal, "Building Education and Research Capacity of Unmanned Aerial Systems at Central State University," received \$598,814 in USDA NIFA funding. It will strengthen Central State's unmanned aerial systems educational capacity by developing new courses and providing practical teaching materials.

Xiaofang Wei, Ph.D., leads the Central State research team, supported by Ramanitharan Kandiah, Ph.D., and Deng Cao, Ph.D. The project will take three years and plans to involve a total of 30 students for three academic years.

"This effort expands undergraduate student participation in UAS research through internships and fellowships opportunities. It enables faculty to participate in UAS research and add to the knowledge of thermal remote sensing, especially UAS thermal sensing for surface temperature, evapotranspiration, and soil moisture research," Wei said.

A total of \$600,000 in USDA NIFA funds will support the Central State-led initiative, "Nutrition education and outreach program to address and prevent obesity in minority communities: Application of nutrigenomics." Researchers will utilize cutting-edge technology to understand the interaction between nutrition and genes, ultimately aiming to reduce obesity in the targeted populations.

The Central State research team consists of Pratibha Gupta, Ph.D., re-

search associate professor of food nutrition and health, and project grant director; and Mortenous Johnson, director, TRIO Student Support Services. The research will be supported by individuals from Lincoln University, Kentucky State University, the University of Toledo, and Ace Integrative Health in Mason, Ohio. Two Central State students will be involved as research assistants and data analysts. The project will take three years and include 300 participants.

"Our service is tailored to provide personalized nutrition plans and lifestyle recommendations based on one's unique genetic profile. We believe that this groundbreaking approach will revolutionize weight management for those facing challenges in this area," Gupta said.

The agricultural project, "Perennial flower species to improve crop and honey production in sustainable agricultural systems for Ohio," received \$497,884 from the USDA NIFA. It will investigate the use of silflower, a perennial prairie plant, to increase the honey production of honeybees in Ohio.

Central State's Marcus Nagle, Ph.D., research assistant professor of soil science, and Hongmei Li-Byarlay, Ph.D., research assistant professor of entomology, will collaborate with Ebony Murrell, Ph.D., of The Land Institute (TLI). Central State students will fill two assistant positions to support the research, which will take place from 2023 to 2026.

"CSU and TLI will combine crop, honeybee, social, and economic data gathered through the project, which will be used to inform Midwestern farmers and beekeepers on the benefits of perennial crops for improving yields and profits, while increasing the sustainability of both industries," Nagle said.

"These projects are a demonstration of Central State University faculty's pursuit of academic excellence. These Extension educational and research grants will greatly benefit the public as CSU seeks solutions to address societal issues," said Morakinyo Kuti, Ph.D., interim dean of the John W. Garland College of Engineering, Science, Technology, and Agriculture, director of the 1890 Land-Grant Programs, and associate provost for research.

## Keep Your Child Safe... continued from page 11

dren born between 1994 and 2021 will prevent 472 million illnesses, almost 30 million hospitalizations and more than 1 million deaths, saving nearly \$2.2 trillion in total societal costs, including \$479 billion in direct costs.

- Vaccination rates have fallen. Even before the rise in vaccine misinformation and disinformation associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine hesitancy was increasing, elevating the risk of community outbreaks, which put under- and unvaccinated children at risk for serious illnesses, like measles. According to a mid-January 2023 report from the CDC, vaccination coverage decreased in most states for all vaccines among kindergarteners for the 2021-22 school year when compared with the previous school year, which was already below pre-pandemic levels.

- Speak to your child's physician. With increased misinformation around vaccinations, it is critical that you seek out reliable, evidence-based sources for information. These sources may begin with websites like [getvaccineanswers.org](http://getvaccineanswers.org), but they should also include your child's physician.

Physicians can also answer questions on the new monoclonal antibody therapy, nirsevimab, available for infants and children under the age of 19 months, for the prevention of RSV disease.

- Don't let cost be a barrier. Programs like Vaccines for Children (VFC) are federally funded to provide no-cost vaccinations to children whose families otherwise could not afford them. Parents can learn more by contacting their state or local health department.

"Make an annual well-child visit and immunizations a part of your household's back-to-school routine," says Dr. Ehrenfeld. "Doing so will protect you and your family from a number of preventable illnesses. It's something I do for my own children, and I urge you to do so, too."

*Courtesy StatePoint*



# The Peach Seed by Anita Gail Jones

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Your entire life has been filled with milestones to meet, and many firsts.

Your first tooth and first steps were celebrated. Your first word and first day of school were recorded; graduations, proms, puppy love, and beyond, you've enjoyed years of achievement. It's true that milestones are fewer as you age; still, as in the new book, *The Peach Seed* by Anita Gail Jones, life sometimes throws you a pleasant surprise.

There was no mistaking that perfume.

He hadn't smelled it in decades but Fletcher Dukes, on his weekly visit to Piggly Wiggly with his sister, Olga, knew that scent immediately. He didn't say anything; he figured Olga smelled it, too, and if the as-yet-unseen woman wearing the fragrance was who he thought she was, it'd take Olga a minute to find the girl Fletcher loved once and who broke his heart.

In the years since, Fletcher had moved on but he never forgot the woman or her perfume. So what was she doing back in Albany after all this time, after Fletcher married another woman, had three daughters, helped raise a grandson? Could he still think about her when he had his hands full trying get his 20-something grandson, Bo D, to step up like a man?

Fletcher tried not to worry, there was no use in it. But it pricked his mind: the woman he loved as a young man – all during Civil Rights protests, arrests and marches and beatings – was back in town for reasons he didn't know.

It was probably complicated, just like his relationship with his grandson was.

Fletcher had recently found a peach-pit carved monkey necklace in a fruit bowl where Bo D must've thrown it, rejecting Fletcher's long-ago gift and a precious right of passage that every Dukes male had enjoyed for more than a century. Rejecting it. That hurt.

Knowing, but not really knowing where the first monkey Fletcher had ever carved was kept... now, that hurt, too.

Who says you can't learn history from a novel? You can, as you'll see

c.2023  
Henry Holt and Company  
\$29.99  
448 pages

when you're inside *The Peach Seed*, where author Anita Gail Jones leans heavily on real events in World History to tell a story that spans from 1796 to 2013, across two continents and several states.

Yes, that's a chasm to cover and it may be too wide.

Jones does something difficult here: the dialogue in this tale is easy, like a casual conversation but the story seems over-padded. There's a lot of randomness here, pages of bickering siblings, aimless musing, characters that feel like they belong in another kind of book.

Still, these flaws are mostly overcome by good main characters that are sometimes caricatures, but aren't totally disagreeable. A few, in fact, are downright pleasant, like an elderly neighbor you've grown fond of.

Had this book been 50 pages shorter, it would've been a big winner; as it is, it's not bad, just too long. *The Peach Seed* is worth a try. For the right reader, it might still meet your expectations.



*Peach Seed* author, courtesy Adriann Mathiowetz

## Perryman... continued from page 6

including terms on Toledo City Council, city council president, mayor, state representative, state senator, and Lucas County Democratic Party interim chair.

The county commissioner position would be preferable to most than driving back and forth to Columbus regularly. In addition, an appointment would provide Hicks-Hudson with decision-making authority instead of the frustration that comes with being a Democratic Party minority in a state legislature where Republicans hold a super majority. Yet, Hicks-Hudson's candidacy could also block the navigational channel for newer and younger perspectives.

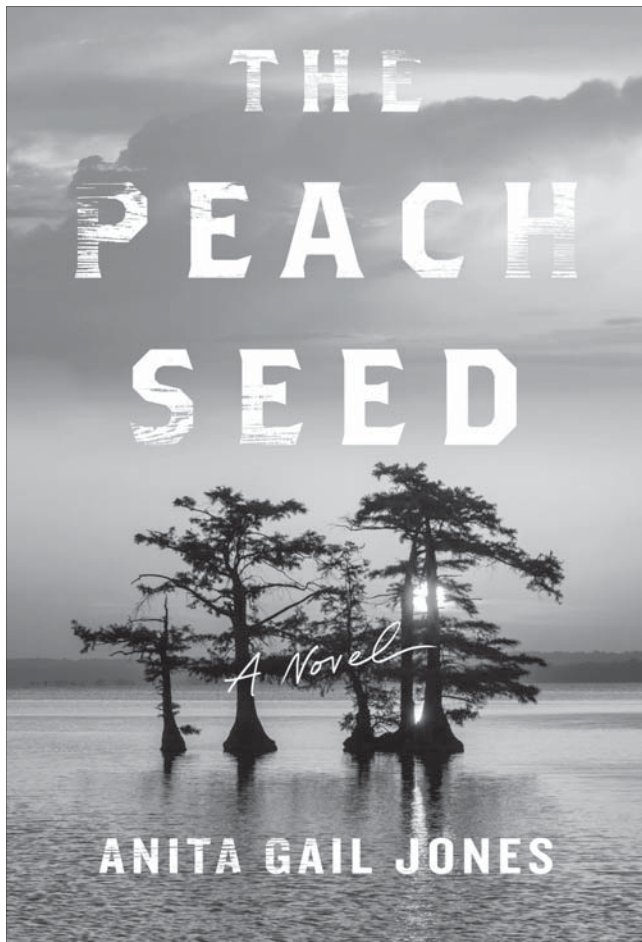
As the winds of society shift towards fresh perspectives and ideas, it remains to be seen whether the Lucas County Democratic Party will follow Skeldon-Wozniak's lead and reset the sail in a manner that will steer us in a direction that aligns accordingly.

It appears that Tina Skeldon Wozniak's claim of "grandma syndrome" is a classy way of telling us that it's time for a new generation of leadership.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org)



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# CLASSIFIEDS

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August 9, 2023

## Notice of Public Hearing

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) is drafting its 2024 Annual Plan to submit to HUD. Review it at LMH's website: [https://www.lucasmha.org/plugins/show\\_image.php?id=1060](https://www.lucasmha.org/plugins/show_image.php?id=1060)

You may submit comments during the next 45 days to [sclark@lucasmha.org](mailto:sclark@lucasmha.org).

You are invited to a public hearing on September 5, 2023, at 8:30 am, at 424 Jackson St. Toledo, OH 43604. At the hearing, LMH will provide information about LMH's Plan. LMH invites you to attend and provide comments.

If you need auxiliary aids due to a disability, contact LMH at 419-259-9400 or TRS 711, at least one week prior to the hearing date. If you require language assistance services, contact LMH at 419-259-9400, at least one week prior to the hearing date.

如果您需要语言协助服务，请至少在听证会日期前一周致电 419-259-9400，与 LMH 取得联系。

Si necesita servicios de asistencia del idioma, comuníquese con LMH al 419-259-9400, al menos una semana antes de la fecha de la audiencia.

قبل أسبوع واحد على الأقل من (19/419 - 259 - 9400) على الرقم LMH إذا كنت بحاجة لمساعدة في خدمة الترجمة، عليك الاتصال بموعد الجلسة.



Alisha Gant, Chair  
Joaquin Cintron Vega, President & Chief Executive Office

## 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/Employment](http://TheArtsCommission.org/About/Employment)

## 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](http://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.



## TARTA SEEKS FEEDBACK ON UPCOMING SERVICE CHANGES

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) has scheduled a series of public events to collect community feedback on upcoming proposed major service changes. Proposed changes, which would go into effect in January of 2024 if approved by TARTA's Board of Trustees, include:

- The extension of Route 2 to Walmart in Oregon via Downtown Toledo
- Increased weekend frequency of Route 52
- Removal of Route 51

These events will include two in-person forums and one virtual feedback session. These forums will focus on the Title VI equity analyses surrounding the service changes. Public meetings are scheduled for:

- In-person meeting, **Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023**, 12-1 p.m., Lucas County Shared Services building, 3737 W. Sylvania Avenue, Toledo (accessible by TARTA routes 3 and 19)
- In-person meeting, **Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023**, 6-7 p.m., Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Main Branch, 325 N. Michigan Avenue, Toledo (accessible by TARTA routes 20, 22, 27 and 33)
- Virtual meeting, **Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023**, 10-11 a.m. Register at [tarta.com/publicmeetings](http://tarta.com/publicmeetings).

TARTA will also host public informational meetings in the Oregon area specific to extending service to Oregon, with dates and locations to be announced soon.

All language assistance services for TARTA programs are provided to the public at no charge. In-person translation services for events can be provided and should be requested at least 5 business days prior to the event.

Registration and additional details will be available in the coming weeks at [tarta.com](http://tarta.com) or by calling 419-243-7433. Customers and others from the public interested in submitting questions may do so by sending them to [customer-relations@tarta.com](mailto:customer-relations@tarta.com).

## 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](mailto:jnorman@toledoopera.org). For more information about the 2023-24 season, visit [toledoopera.org](http://toledoopera.org). For media access, please contact Rachael Cammarn at [rcammarn@toledoopera.org](mailto:rcammarn@toledoopera.org).

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

## 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.



# House of Ginnie Hosts Re-Opening Celebration

Autumn Gineen is back. The fashion designer's House of Ginnie held its re-opening celebration on Sunday July 30 at its new location at 7 E Bancroft Street – on the corner of Bancroft and Franklin. Dozens of guests stopped by to take a look at Gineen's new fashions and her new shop in The Truth Colours Gallery.

An assortment of vendors were also on hand so guests could view an array of goods while they picked over the fashions, listen to DJ Miss T or the live band assembled by Tariq McKinney El. Ramona Collins was also on hand with her incomparable jazz stylings.

The House of Ginnie will be open Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Gineen can be reached at 567-290-8066.



DJ Miss T and Autumn Gineen



Tariq McKinney El and fellow musicians



Autumn's designs



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Shawn Wallace, Vendor



Ramona Collins



# Buffalo Soldiers 10th Year Anniversary Celebration

By Angie Hayes  
The Truth Reporter

The Buffalo Soldiers 10th Year Anniversary celebration was held at The Pinnacle in Maumee Ohio. July 29 2023. The event included socialization and networking opportunities, food, a cash bar and entertainment. Also, Buffalo Soldiers shared information and details in regards to the impact they contribute to the community.

Earl Mack, president and post commander, shared this information with the audience: "It's our 10th anniversary. Lots of deeds not words. This is our celebration."

Entertainment was provided by Ramona Collins, vocalist, and Wesley Reynoso, pianist. Dinner, drinks and dessert was provided to the guests. Prior to the entertainment benefits, speakers informed the audience of many details in reference to the Buffalo Soldiers. In addition to the 10th year anniversary recognition, the event also acknowledged a one year anniversary of the state of Ohio's Buffalo Soldiers Day. In 2022, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine established the Ohio Buffalo Soldier's Day.

When The Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club began in the Toledo area in 2013, the organization established programs serving the community to provide support for safety and quality life in the community. The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers believe in effective community service by fostering collaborative relationships with youth, and the private and public business entities. The organizational goals and efforts are to aid community peace and to support the environment for success.

The Buffalo Soldiers provided scholarship awards to two graduates who are moving to college experience; many volunteers donated for the scholar-

ships and many are committed to the youth. The first award was provided to Conor Houser, a 2023 graduate of Toledo Technology Academy. Houser received a \$5,000 award to support his attendance in the University of Cincinnati. Da'Nyah McWilliams, a 2023 graduate of Rogers High School, received an award as well to support her college attendance at the University of Phoenix. Williams received a \$2,500 award to support her goal of becoming a traveling nurse.

Councilman John Hobbs III provided the following information to the audience:

"I grew up in a community where we have strong Black men like Earl Mack. If we want the violence to change in our community with our young Black men, we have to get involved with them again. It takes a man to teach a boy, how to be a man!"

Fred LeFebvre, Buffalo Soldiers public information officer and secretary, shared this information: "Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, We are celebrating a decade of deeds not words."

Kenneth Reeves, riding name Nuf Ced, added: "The organization is what I would consider a premier organization in Toledo that supports the youth and homeless."

The celebration event continued with a group of participants happily recognizing, acknowledging and respecting the impact and contribution The Buffalo Soldiers make to the community. Many participants support and provide assistance to the organization, when possible, to support their positivity in the atmosphere!



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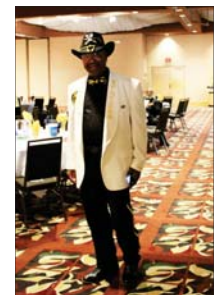
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Fred LeFebvre



Earl Mack



Ramona Collins