

Volume 80 No. 3 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* September 27, 2023



Wendy and Leslie Robinson, Parents of Murdered Child, Dionious Robinson

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A Pop-Up Fundraiser to Document the History of the Dorr Street Corridor

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

WJUC the Juice and Bag Lady Financial, Laticia Holmes, held an outdoor pop-up fundraiser for the African American Legacy Project on Collingwood and Door Saturday 23. The event hosted over 20 vendors with live music from DJ Keith Success and the Katch Band.

"We're paying homage [with this event] to those businesses that lined Dorr Street from Division and Detroit" commented Robert Smith, executive director of the African American Legacy Project.

Since 2004, the AALP has been documenting the history of the Dorr Street corridor for future generations. The nonprofit is located at 1326 Collingwood (across from Jerusalem Baptist Church) and documents the surrounding area, where at its height, was home to nearly 400 black-owned businesses until the urban renewal polices of the 1970s.

"Our Dorr Street History Committee wanted to do something that would help to begin to educate generations who didn't know or understand the impact of African American businesses on Dorr Street", said Smith. The Dorr Street History Committee includes Lenard Bey, Pete Culp, Robert Goree, Dorris Greer, Debra Hogan, Rich Hogan and Louis Newsom.

"We want to encourage young entrepreneurs because...operating your own business... is a strong strategy to help rebuild a community. The purpose of this and other events we've done is to figure out ways that we can reimagine community," stated Smith. "It's just a wonderful feeling to watch young entrepreneurs actually be on the same ground that a few generations before kept alive."

This fundraiser is a part of the WJUC's continuing efforts of Connecting ... continued on page 5



Debra Hogan of The Juice



Angela Cattlodge and Suzette Cowell of Toledo Urban FCU



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Child Poverty Is Increasing, Especially Among the Black Population

By Paul Hubbard

Guest Column

The latest US Census report on income and poverty showed that child poverty more than doubled between 2021 and 2022, according to the New York Times' Paul Krugman, former Nobel Laureate for Economics. That's 5.1 million children pushed into misery. As we know the largest percentage are Black families and children. In general, it really is miserable to be poor and Black in America.

This didn't have to happen to our Black children. Soaring child poverty wasn't caused by inflation or other macroeconomics problems. It was instead a political choice. Republicans and a handful of conservative Democrats blocked the extension of federal programs that had drastically reduced child poverty over the previous two years, and as a result just about all the gains were lost. These programs were not expensive compared to what our country is spending on the war in Ukraine, for example.

Black child poverty in the long run is very expensive for our nation. Some of these Black kids will grow up less healthy and less productive as adults.



Some will become part of our growing prison population.

It is much less expensive for our country to invest in education, to strengthen families, tackle mental health issues and engage in conflict resolution for our low-income Black children now, than to pay more in the future when they become adults.

If we as a nation and community don't give our kids a functioning family and education; they will become educated by the streets and the gangs become their families.

Unfortunately, Black children cannot vote, and poor Black adults tend not to vote. There needs to be a national Black political movement for the survival of our low-income Black children. The movement is going to have to lead by our Black politicians, Black Greek organizations, Black professionals, Black churches, and the Black middle class. All we have to do is write letters and hold all of our elected officials accountable for budgets and legislation that will help our Black children.

Paul L. Hubbard, MSW, president of Comfort Adult Day Care.

White House Launches Office of Gun Violence Prevention to Tackle Epidemic

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

@StacyBrownMedia

Gun violence remains a pressing concern for the United States, with over 500 mass shootings and a reported estimate of 25,000 victims so far in 2023 alone. In response, the Biden-Harris administration has announced a significant step forward in curbing this crisis. President Biden has introduced the inaugural White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, dedicated to implementing crucial executive and legislative measures to save lives and heal communities.

The office will be under the stewardship of Vice President Kamala Harris, perhaps the administration's most vocal advocate against gun violence. Stefanie Feldman, a long-serving policy advisor on gun violence prevention, will take the reins as the director. Joining her are gun violence prevention advocates Greg Jackson and Rob Wilcox, who assume the roles of deputy directors.

"Every time I've met with families impacted by gun violence as they mourn their loved ones... they all have the same message for their elected officials: 'Do something,'" Biden said. He highlighted the importance of recent legislative strides and executive actions but stressed that they represent the initial required phase.

The White House noted that Feldman, the new director of the inaugural office, brings a wealth of experience. Over more than a decade, Feldman has been a stalwart member of Biden's team, officials noted. Her journey in-

cludes instrumental contributions following the tragic Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012.

Further, Greg Jackson, appointed deputy director, brings his own profound experience as a gun violence survivor. As a Community Justice Action Fund leader, he has tirelessly advocated for gun violence prevention, shedding light on its disproportionate impact on marginalized communities.

Additionally, Rob Wilcox, also assuming the role of deputy director, has a distinguished background in advocating for gun safety measures. Wilcox's artwork is a tribute to his cousin Laura, a victim of gun violence, and it draws inspiration from personal loss.

The White House said the establishment of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention builds on the historic actions already taken by Biden. This includes signing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, a landmark piece of legislation aimed at preventing gun violence.

Officials insisted that efforts to implement the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act have yielded tangible results. They pointed out that the legislation

... continued on page 4

Community Calendar

October 1

St Mark's Baptist Church Woman's Day: 10:30 am; "Living a Life Worthy of the Calling of God," Thessalonians 1:11-12

October 7

Calvary MBC Cancer Awareness and Wellness Luncheon: 11 am; At Calvary 702 Collingwood

October 10

Toledo Branch NAACP October meeting: 7 pm; Jerusalem Baptist Church

October 15

Toledo NAACP Youth Council October meeting: 3 pm; Sanger Branch Library

October 22

Calvary MBC 94th church anniversary: 4 pm; Guest Speaker Rev. Nathan Madison of 4th Street Baptist in Lima

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Protecting a Way of Life and the Planet

By Ben Jealous

The Sacred Place Where Life Begins. That's what the Gwich'in people call the coastal plain of Alaska where they live.

The Porcupine Caribou on who the Gwich'in have relied for tens of thousands of years for their subsistence way of life migrate hundreds of miles each spring to give birth to their calves there. So that Gwich'in name rings true.



Ben Jealous

It was that life that the Biden administration protected for years to come with the announcement last week that it was cancelling oil and gas drilling leases in the 19.6-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and moving to prohibit drilling in another 13 million acres of protected lands bordering the refuge.

It wasn't just the Gwich'in, who have been fighting drilling for nearly 50 years, and the caribou who won. The Inupiaq people who live at the edge of the Arctic Ocean, polar bears, musk oxen, Dall sheep, and birds you can find in all 50 states have roots in the Arctic Refuge.

That corner of Alaska is one of the world's last untouched wild places, our country's largest wildlife refuge, and the only one designed specifically for wilderness purposes. Its continued existence in its pristine, rugged state signals our commitment to nature and our appreciation of its wonder. It's a sign of our national character.

But the value isn't just symbolic. We're on pace this year to produce more oil in the United States than ever before. Creating a glut will only extend our addiction to fossil fuels when we know that we need to move swiftly in the direction of burning less. And the trade-off is infrastructure needed to drill that will destroy the refuge forever.

It's a trade that the American people repeatedly have said they don't want

to make. In polls in recent years, roughly two thirds of voters opposed drilling in the Arctic Refuge. After the President's decision to allow another Alaskan drilling project to proceed months ago, this is the leadership most voters want.

The argument of proponents that Arctic drilling will boost U.S. energy independence and national security fall short when you know that all the oil under that part of Alaska is barely a year of the nation's consumption by many estimates. We won't drill our way out of the need for fossil fuels, but we certainly can drill our way to irreparable damage to the climate in just a few years.

Protecting indigenous people and their way of life in Alaska should demonstrate that we can stand firm to defend more communities on the front lines of climate change against the unabated greed of Big Oil. An unscathed, unmatched landscape shouldn't be the test for doing right be our neighbors and by the planet.

Too often, we've allowed a few people lacking political power and desperate for economic opportunities to bear the immediate cost of bad environmental choices. The flaw is that more often than not, we all end up paying.

Whether it's the cancer alleys created in the communities neighboring refineries along the Mississippi or coastal towns repeatedly crushed by extreme weather, they're only the first to feel the burden. As the hottest temperatures ever recorded showed us this summer, no one can escape the toll that fossil fuel charges the planet.

Ben Jealous 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.

Gun Violence...continued from page 3

has increased the Justice Department's ability to prosecute firearms traffickers, restricted access to firearms for those under 21 and increased mental health support for victims of gun violence.

The Biden-Harris Administration also noted they've introduced many executive actions to address the root causes of gun violence, including measures to curb the proliferation of dangerous weapons, hold rogue gun dealers accountable and provide law enforcement with essential resources.

Biden has advocated for a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines and has mandated safe storage of firearms, universal background checks and an end to gun manufacturers' immunity from liability. His Safer America Plan also proposes increased investment in community policing and gun violence prevention.

"This epidemic of gun violence requires urgent leadership to end the fear and trauma that Americans experience every day," Harris affirmed. The vice president affirmed the administration's unwavering commitment to a safer nation, pledging that "no effort would be spared in achieving this goal."

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Dorr Street Corridor... continued from page 2

to Community. "We thought about how we can bring the young entrepreneurs together... we came together with Latisha Holmes, she's the Queen of all Vendors, and put it together," said Debra Hogan, president of Fleming Street Communication Inc, WJUC radio. "We [at the Juice] will do anything we can to support community especially the African American Legacy Project."

Vendors included a wide array of products and services from food vendors to retail shopping and local awareness projects. Laticia Holmes, CEO of Bag Lady Financial, a financial improvement company, rallied the vendors for the event. Her organization helps people budget, repair and build their credit offering individual and group counseling. (Facebook/ IG BagLadyFinancial/ 567-393-0712) She plans to host future vendor and networking events.

Pamela Anderson of the Alzheimer's Association held a booth at the event raffling off prizes during the day to draw awareness of the disease. She's the organizer of Purple Sunday at Warren AME Church and host of the You are Not Alone Podcast with Pamela. She used the vendor space to bring awareness to the organization's services and sign-up people for the upcoming Alzheimer's Walk Oct 14.

"I'm here to try to develop partnerships with some of the black vendors, black businesses, black organizations because we need to get the knowledge out so they can host their own awareness event, tell somebody or even just get the information to help themselves or their family members.... This would be the best [place]", said Anderson.

Next year the AALP will be celebrating 20 years of documenting our stories with big plans to commemorate the milestone including retuning Dorr Street Live, an outdoor music event, that was halted to covid. Future fundraisers for the organization include First Friday Fish Fry, October 6 from 11- 5 p.m. and monthly jazz shows starting this winter (both at 1326 Collingwood Blvd). To donate to the AALP or learn more information visit www.africanamericanlegacy.org.

The Juice will have a Caring for the Care Giver Expo at the Glass City Center with free parking, free food and free services for caregivers October 28 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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Violence in Black America: Part II of a Special Report

By Hazel Trice Edney | TriceEdneyWire.com

Special to The Truth

Dr. Valda Crowder, director of Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, witnesses the carnage up close on a regular basis. And it's gotten so bad that while treating victims, she and other medical professionals must also protect themselves.

"Many emergency rooms now have armed guards because there have been threats against emergency medical physicians, nurses, and hospitals. There have been actual shootings where emergency medical physicians were killed," Crowder said in an interview.

"So many now have armed guards as a result of the increased threats. Many also have machines and metal detectors that you have to go through just like at the airport. Patients are sometimes wanded. Those things never used to occur 20 or 25 years ago. I think people should realize that any person or entity that anyone could get mad at is a potential victim."

Crowder is one of those struggling to end the carnage. She recalls how the historic photo of the mutilated body of Emmett Till, published in *Jet* magazine, stunned the world and has been credited with sparking the civil rights movement. Crowder believes that same kind of stunning moment could work again by placing on display bodies that have been mutilated by gun violence.

"In 1955, the open-casket funeral of Emmett Till drew international attention to the savagery of Jim Crow, spurring a national civil rights movement," Crowder wrote in an op-ed early this year. "Now almost 68 years later, we must 'do something' to stop the gun violence. Opening the casket of someone who was shot by an assault rifle in a mass shooting may be the shock the nation needs. It may be the photograph that launches a bigger, broader movement overwhelming the clout of gun



Dr. Valda Regina Crowder, MD



Congressman Bobby Scott

manufacturers and other entrenched influences."

U. S. Rep. Bobby Scott, who held a "Gun Violence Prevention Roundtable" in 2019 following an incident in which 13 people were killed in a mass shooting, listed a string of Virginia killings and gun injuries. "We have evidence available to show that effective policies can reduce these shootings," Scott says.

"When they are implemented, background checks work. Every day, background checks stop nearly 250 dangerous individuals from being handed a firearm. However, these same people can go to a gun show and purchase a firearm without any background check. Virginia laws are among the worst in the country," he said, describing the state as the "gun-running capital of the world."

Scott says an assault weapons ban must be instituted because "the only thing that assault weapons are good for is killing many people quickly." He said there is also need for sizeable gun magazine limitations. There are actually limitations on the size of a gun magazine to protect ducks, but no limits on the size of gun magazines to protect people, he said.

After a rash of mass shootings, including the racist killings of 10 people at a Buffalo, New York, grocery store by a 19-year-old White man, the U.S. House and Senate finally passed a historic bipartisan gun bill that was signed into law by President Joe Biden last year. The first significant gun legislation in more than 30 years, it includes enhanced restrictions on gun ownership by people convicted of certain violent crimes, including domestic abuse.

But it still fails to include restrictions on large bullet magazines. In fact, a similar racist killing of three Black people in Jacksonville, Florida, on August 26 was committed by a 21-year-old White man who reportedly bought the AR-15-style rifle legally. Biden said he didn't get all that he wanted in the new law, but he vowed to keep trying.

Conflict resolution

Still, good old-fashioned home training that instills nonviolent morals and values is the best way to deter violence, said Bailey.

"The respect for life, how your parents raised you, matters. If you believe human beings are valuable, you wouldn't shoot someone at all, let alone shoot them for a nonviolent offense," Bailey said. "But in many shootings now that are not self-defense or life or death, people are said to have "beef" over something that's nonviolent and the person escalates it to violence by grabbing a gun and shooting someone."

Parents, teachers and school officials could be in on this conflict resolution training, Bailey says. "Children are on the playground bumping into each other all the time. How teachers and counselors handle it goes a long way in teaching a little kid that it's normal to jump around and bump into each other. But it's not normal to bump into each other and knock them down and not try to help them up or offer assistance.

"Those are the kinds of things that start the process," Bailey said. "You can also role play how to defuse arguments so that young people recognize what you should and should not say in the middle of an argument. Young men [involved in violent conflicts] are often 18, 19 and 20 years old. They can drive and move around. They just may not know how to handle conflict. We should be very involved in this process."

Hazel Trice Edney, president and CEO of Trice Edney Communications, and former editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service.

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Councilman John Hobbs III Town Hall Meetings

By Trisha Hall

The Truth Reporter

Toledo City Councilman John Hobbs III has launched a series of fall town hall meetings across District 1. The objective of the town hall meetings is to bring community members together, to receive feedback and concerns from residents and to share resources.

The first meeting in the series was held on Wednesday, September 20 at Reynolds Corner Branch Library on Dorr Street. The meeting featured a special guest from the City of Toledo who discussed transportation and sidewalk plans. The second meeting in the series was held on Thursday, September 21 at Monroe United Methodist Church on Monroe Street. This meeting featured a guest speaker from Toledo Police Department who discussed crime, gangs and other safety concerns.

The Thursday meeting opened with greetings and an update about projects that impact the neighborhood.

"There's a lot going on in the area near Monroe United Methodist Church. I want to thank you all for coming out tonight. I also want to thank Dr. [Larry] Clark and his willingness to open the church doors, he's always been supportive. I also want to thank Toledo Police for coming out tonight. Yes, Fifth Third Bank closed the branch that was in this community and there was a great outcry from the community. A letter was sent to the bank, asking why are they leaving. Ultimately, Fifth Third agreed to sell that location for \$300,000 to Toledo Urban Credit Union, so the credit union will maintain their current location and expand to the new location. A silent donor gave \$150,000, the city approved \$75,000 and the county approved \$75,000 to benefit this project. It's important to maintain financial stability in this area," shared Hobbs.

"To let Fifth Third walk away is wrong. Is anyone being held accountable?"

... continued on page 8



Councilman John Hobbs III



Councilman Hobbs addresses the audience



TPD Sgt. Stachura



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Rev. and First Lady Brock Celebrate 30th Pastoral Anniversary

The Truth Staff

On Sunday, September 24, Rev. Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church celebrated 30 Years of Ministry with two services and a theme of "Dedicated to Service the Lord," I Corinthians 15:58. The guest speaker for the special event was Rev. Eric Butler, pastor of First Church of God.

Sunday's celebratory service began with praise and worship, followed by the entering of honorees and the Mt. Nebo Music Ministry.

The First Church of God Music Ministry led to the introduction of Pastor Eric Butler. Then followed the Discipleship and acknowledgements of the 30th Pastoral Anniversary by Toledo City Council and the Toledo mayor's representatives.

Closing remarks were offered by both First Lady Debra Brock and Pastor Cedric Brock.

Sunday's service was just the start of the celebration of the 30th anniversary. An anniversary banquet will be held on October 15 at 4:00 p.m. at The Premier Banquet Hall. For ticket information call 419-290-0560 or email cedbrock2@gmail.com.



First Lady Debra and Pastor Cedric Brock

John Hobbs III.. continued from page 7

asked Pastor Larry Clark.

The meeting also provided information about Toledo Police Department activities.

"People being shot are down and there is a group of people that have done the shootings that are locked up. I was even in court today. A man that shot a 10-year old child and another individual was sentenced to 39-50 years in prison. There are 25 individuals that are in court now or about to start their court hearings that are linked to violence in the city. We also watch social media, criminals put their activities on social media, all of the sites are monitored because these criminals will post their activities. I want to thank each

of you for coming out tonight, thank you for taking your time out to come down here," said Sergeant Stachura.

The remaining September and October Town Hall information, each meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.:

- September 25 and October 23 at Resurrection Baptist Church, 3360 Nebraska Ave.
- September 26 and October 25 at Heatherdowns Branch Library, 3265 Glanzman Rd.
- October 4 at Eleanor Kahle Senior Center, 1315 Hillcrest Ave.
- October 16, Reynolds Corner Branch Library, 4833 Dorr Street.
- October 19, Monroe Street United Methodist Church, 3613 Monroe Street.



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Special to The Truth

Guest Column

Crunch Toledo hosted a charity event, FUN-FEST TO FIGHT HUNGER, Saturday, September 16 from 11am – 2pm in the parking lot of Crunch Fitness in the Miracle Mile Shopping Plaza, corner of Jackman and Laskey.

This free charity event was to help bring awareness about Hunger Action Awareness Month (September) and the increase in childhood hunger insecurity in Toledo. All proceeds were to benefit a local non-profit organization called Connecting Kids to Meals, that provides hot, nutritious meals at no cost to kids in Toledo area. In fact, all month long, all donations made to Connecting Kids to Meals will be MATCHED up to \$150,000 to fight child food insecurity. {Crunch Fitness is proud to be one of the contributors to this

match program.}

This Fun-Fest charity event was free to adults and children, but donations to Connecting Kids to Meals were greatly appreciated. There were fun events including games, prizes and giveaways, free food, bouncy houses, face painters, balloon artists, photo booth, local vendors, Toledo Firetruck, Crunch Fitness Workouts and Dancing, a Live DJ & more!


All proceeds directly benefited Connecting Kids to Meals. Additionally, there was a special Crunch Fitness join offer that includes discount rates, a free month, free raffle entry, swag and a donation made in their honor to Connecting Kids to Meals.




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Imara Miles Returns to the Toledo Opera Stage in New Production of *Cinderella*

The Truth Staff

Imara Miles, a mezzo-soprano from the Washington, D.C. area and a resident artist with the Toledo Opera during last year's season, has returned as a resident artist and will perform in this upcoming season's performances of *Cinderella*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Ragtime*.

Miles, hailed for "her expressiveness and lush sound," as the Toledo Opera publicity notes, has experience on both opera and the musical theater repertoire. Last season with the Opera, she sang in *The Merry Widow*. She has also been a young artist in programs such as The Glimmerglass Festival, Grant Park Music Festival, Pensacola Opera and Des Moines Metro Opera.

A graduate of York College of Pennsylvania (B.A.) and Indiana University (M.M.), Miles, at the tender age of 28, has already demonstrated, in such performances, that her early commitment to opera – at the tender age of 14 – was indeed a wise choice.

Miles has never wavered in her love of opera and her desire to pursue a career singing and she has relished the challenges that such a career presents. One of those challenges is "being able to learn quickly," she says of her effort to incorporate the various operatic cultures and languages, along with the music, into her repertoire. For example, she has sung operatic pieces in the following languages: English, Italian, French, German, Spanish, Latin, Korean, Hebrew and Swahili.

As young as she is and as naturally gifted as she is, Miles' goal is to develop her instrument, her voice, in a



way that is appropriate, using "patience and perseverance," she told The Truth a year ago during her first stint as a resident artist at the Opera.

"The voice isn't settled yet," she said back then. The voice, she explained, typically isn't settled for such artists until the late 30s. "It is difficult to find the pieces that are comfortable right now because I know my voice will get bigger over the years."

A year later we asked Miles if she has seen any such changes in her own instrument.

"Yes, I do," she says. Miles believes that her voice "feels warmer, feels fuller." She has been trained not to listen to her own voice while singing but when she does not adhere to that training, when she does listen to herself, she can feel the growth. She can sense that there is "more body in my voice."

In fact, Miles is quite pleased with her voice. "It sounds pretty damned good," she adds. "God is on my side."

This season, Toledo Opera audiences will be able to take delight in that voice as well. Miles will be singing the part of Tisbe in Gioachino Rossini's *Cinderella* (*La Cenerentola*). Tisbe is one of *Cinderella*'s stepsisters, a role that will enable Miles to display not only her vocal talents but also her ability to portray her character's humanity.

Rossini's *Cinderella* has not previously been seen by Toledo Opera audiences. The opera is based on the long-cherished fairy tale that has delighted youngsters for centuries. Angelina (*Cinderella*) sweeps floors while her stepsisters, Tisbe and Clorinda, try on dresses, hoping to catch the eye of the handsome prince. Angelina, of course, will ultimately win his affection.

Cinderella, this season's opening opera, will be performed on October 6 and 8 on the Valentine stage. For information go online to the Toledo Opera website.



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The Padua Center Announces the "Peaces" of Art Celebration on October 8 at the Sullivan Center

Special to The Truth

Each year Padua Promoters are honored for their efforts supporting the work of The Padua Center. The honorees for 2023 are Bishop Robert Culp and Mary Jane Flores.

Bishop Culp, recently retired from The First Church of God after 62 years of ministry, has been an advocate for the work of The Padua Center. His list of accomplishments is note worthy and his continued passion for racial and social justice is known throughout the city.



Mary Jane Flores, a retired nurse anesthetist who served as a Navy Nurse, has been a consistent supporter of The Padua Center. Mary Jane has always had a heart for those who are poor as evidenced by twenty-seven years of mission trips to the Dominican Republic. She is a regular attendee at "Peaces" of Art and a great friend of those who need a little help in life.

The Padua Center relies heavily on volunteers and this year the Volunteer Awards go to Liz Facey and Tom McDonald. Liz and Tom are parents of two children and two granddaughters.

Because the Padua Center gives special attention to the tutoring needs of the children in the Nia Program, Liz was called to assist several children with reading challenges. Liz responded and comes three days a week to work with three special children. She also assisted in running the primary children's summer camp in 2022.



Tom McDonald, retired librarian, is one of the directors of the Tree Toledo Program, an ministry of the Holy Spirit Catholic Community. Tom has often come to The Padua Center to assist the children in potting trees that they then take home to plant and to watch grow.

A highlight of the event will be the silent auctioning of a framed counted cross stitch picture done by Kay Shrewsbury. This piece of work made of thousands of small stitches reflects the cultural and ethnic riches of the African American community. The picture, as well as some other auction items are listed on the Betterworld auction site now and bids can be made immediately. Bidding on the Betterworld site will continue through the "Peaces" of Art Event.

Art work created by the children of The Padua Center will be auctioned in the live auction.

Music will be provided by "Straight Up" and a variety of food selections will be provided at numerous serving stations. Tickets (\$40) and more information are available by calling The Padua Center, 419-241-6465, or visiting the webpage: www.paduacenter.org.

If you go: Peaces of Art, a silent and live auction to benefit the work of The Padua Center, Sunday, October 8, 2023, 5:00-7:00 at The



Sullivan Center, 2049 Parkside Blvd., Toledo, Ohio.

Bidding for selected items is open now and will continue through the event at: <https://paduacenter.betterworld.org/auctions/peaces-art-2021?>

The "Peaces" of Art Celebration includes a silent auction, dining stations, and art work done by the children of The Padua Center. Blademar Valesquez will be the keynote speaker and honoree of the Padua Promoter's award. Fletcher Word will be Master of Ceremonies.



Health Department Announces Annual Flu Shot Clinics

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department is focused on keeping the community healthy this flu season. Seasonal flu activity typically occurs between October and May. Annual walk-in flu shot clinics will start Sunday, September 24.

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department is offering the following flu clinics to the public:

Sunday, September 24 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Epworth United Methodist Church, 4855 Central Ave. Toledo, OH 43615

Tuesday, September 26 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Community of Hope Free Health Clinic, 306 Bush St. Toledo, OH 43604

Friday, September 29 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Richfield Twp. Fire Station, 11450 W. Sylvania Ave. Berkey, OH 43504

Sunday, October 1 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. St. Joseph Church, 5373 Main St. Sylvania, OH 43560

Thursday, October 12 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Village of Whitehouse Administration Building, 6925 Providence St. Whitehouse, OH 43571

Monday, October 16 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Little Flower Church, 5522 Dorr St. Toledo, OH 43615

Thursday, October 19 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Maumee Bay State Park, 1750 State Park Road #2, Oregon, OH 43616

...continued on page 12



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Health Insurance Coverage Increased in Over Half of U.S. States in 2022

Twenty-seven states had a higher percentage of people with health insurance coverage in 2022 than in 2021 according to American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau. In terms of uninsured rates, or the rate of people without health insurance, Maine was the only state where the uninsured rate increased (up to 6.6 percent in 2022, from 5.7 percent).

"The changes in uninsured rates are impacted by multiple factors including the demographic makeup of a population and the economy. In 2022, we saw the uninsured rate decrease with the driving force differing by state," said David Waddington, chief of the Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division at the Census Bureau. "For seven of the states with lower uninsured rates in 2022, the difference was driven by increased private coverage. For 10 states, the uninsured rate decrease was related to increased public coverage. In three particular states — Missouri, New York, and Virginia — the decline in the uninsured rate was a result of increases in public coverage that outweighed decreases in private coverage."

State-level uninsured rates ranged from 2.4 percent (Massachusetts) to 16.6 percent (Texas) in 2022. The District of Columbia was among the lowest with an uninsured rate of 2.9 percent, not statistically different from Massachusetts.

Additional health insurance highlights include:

- Utah and North Dakota had the highest (78.4 percent) and New Mexico the lowest (54.4 percent) rates of private coverage in 2022, compared with the national average of 67.2 percent.
- Nine states experienced an increase in private health insurance coverage (Alaska, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas) and seven states (Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, and Virginia) a decrease in private coverage from 2021 to 2022.
- Utah had the lowest (22.2 percent) rate of public coverage in 2022, and New Mexico the highest (51.2 percent), compared with the national average of 37.2 percent.

- Between 2021 and 2022, the rate of public coverage increased in 13 states (Alabama, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Virginia) and decreased in one (Rhode Island). Oklahoma had one of the highest increases in public coverage (up 2.3 percentage points) from 2021 to 2022.

Additional statistics on health insurance coverage can be found in the report, Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type by Geography: 2021 and 2022.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST WEEK'S RELEASE

Income

- Median household income in the United States was \$74,755 in 2022, a decline of 0.8 PERCENT from last year after adjusting for inflation.
- Median household income increased in five states (Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, Florida, and Utah) and decreased in seventeen states (Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin) since last year. Twenty-eight states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico showed no statistically significant differences.

- New Jersey had one of the highest median household incomes of all states at \$96,346. The District of Columbia's median household income (\$101,027) was the highest in the nation. Mississippi had the lowest median household income (\$52,719) of any state. Median household income for Puerto Rico was \$24,112.

- Income inequality in the United States measured by the Gini Index increased between 2021 and 2022.

Poverty

- The poverty rate declined in nine states (Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, and South Carolina) and the District of Columbia from 2021 to 2022. The District of Columbia had among the highest rates of change with a 3.1 percentage point decline. The poverty rate did not increase in any state.

- The poverty rate for children (below age 18) decreased in 11 states (Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania) and the District of Columbia from 2021 to 2022. The child poverty rate increased in one state (West Virginia) and Puerto Rico.

- The poverty rate for those age 65 and over increased in 19 states (Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming) and Puerto Rico from 2021 to 2022. Montana had among the highest increases for states (3.7 percentage points). The poverty rate for those age 65 and over did not decrease in any state.

- From 2021 to 2022, the percentage of households that received Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)/food stamp benefits decreased in 11 states (Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington) and increased in eight states (California, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, and Virginia). Utah (5.2 percent) and Wyoming (5.6 percent) had among the lowest percentage of people that received SNAP benefits in 2022, though they were not significantly different from each other, while New Mexico had the highest among states at 19.4 percent.

Field of Degree

...continued on page 13

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Flu Shot Clinics... continued from page 11

Saturday, October 21 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tent City, Civic Center Mall on Jackson St. between Erie and Spielbusch

In addition, we will have walk-in flu clinics at the Health Department most days in September and October from 12:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. with the exceptions of 10/12 and 10/27. More clinics throughout the county may be announced.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone six months of age and older, and able to be vaccinated, receive the flu vaccine each year. TLCHD offers the high-dose flu vaccine available for those 65 and older.

All insurances may be billed, including Medicare Part B and Ohio Medicaid. Flu vaccines are available to everyone, regardless of insurance status. For additional information, please call 419-213-2013.

Bayard Rustin: A Legacy of Protest and Politics, edited by Michael G. Long, foreword by Clayborne Carson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You will never settle.

And why should you? If it's not right, you make it right. If it can be better, well, then get at it. You find the solution or you go on to the next thing because good enough is never good enough. As in the new book *Bayard Rustin*, essays edited by Michael G. Long, there's always work to do and good trouble.

Somehow, it seems, in the discussion about Martin Luther King and the leadership he brought to the Civil Rights Movement, certain things may be left out. In the case of Bayard Rustin, says Long, the record needs to be altered. Today, now.

His mother was still a teenager, and unmarried, when Rustin's grandmother helped deliver him in the spring of 1912. The boy's father refused to acknowledge him, so his grandparents gave him a family name and raised him in their Quaker faith.

Still, alongside the peaceful, gentle mandate of Quakerism, young Rustin experienced Jim Crow segregation. His grandmother left a major impact on him, teaching him compassion, kindness, and generosity – she reared him to do the right thing – but they lived in Pennsylvania, where racism was common and the Klan maintained a nearby presence. As if that wasn't difficult enough, Rustin realized he was gay, which was illegal then.

At that point, though, he had seen many wrongs around him, and he became an activist. He also worked for justice as a speaker and organizer; at one time, he'd embraced communism but eventually became a socialist. By his own

c.2023
NYU Press
\$27.95
256 pages

admission, Rustin was jailed more than 20 times and served on a chain gang for several months – but even then, his nonviolent Quaker beliefs emerged and he befriended his jailers, gaining their respect.

By the time he met a young preacher named Martin Luther King, Rustin was well-versed on civil rights work. He had direction, contacts, and the organizational skills the movement needed.

And yet, he was willing to let King take the front stage...

Pulled together as a collection of essays, Bayard Rustin has one flaw that probably can't be helped: it's quite repetitive. Each of the essayists in this book wrote extensively about Rustin, his work, and his impact, but there just doesn't seem to be quite enough about Rustin himself – perhaps because, as editor Michael G. Long indicates in his introduction, Rustin left a legacy but history left him more in the background. This means that the nearly two dozen contributors to this book had only what they had to go on, hence, the repetition.

Even so, if you look for Rustin, you'll find abundant tales about him and this book has a good portion of them. Readers will be entertained, confounded, and pleased by what they read here. It's like finding treasure you never knew you needed.

This book needs to sit on the shelf next to everything written about Dr. King. It's an essential companion to any volume about the Civil Rights Movement. If you need history, find *Bayard Rustin* and settle in.

Health Insurance Coverage... continued from page 12

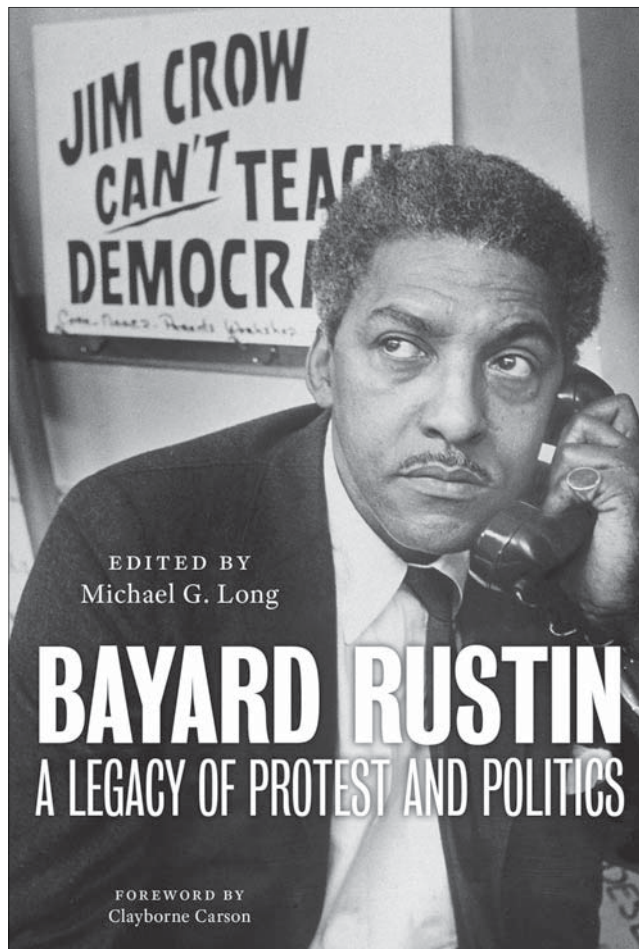
- Among adults ages 25-64 with a bachelor's degree or higher, median earnings of men were higher than those of women within the same field of degree. Median annual earnings were about \$25,000 higher for men than women among those with physical and related sciences, business degrees, and in the social sciences. Median earnings of men were \$12,000 higher than women in education fields.

- Among all people with a bachelor's degree or higher, engineering degree holders had the highest (\$106,736) and visual and performing arts degree holders the lowest (\$54,765) annual median earnings in 2022.

Additional Annual Releases

The Census Bureau is set to release additional ACS statistics over the next few months, including 2022 ACS 1-year supplemental estimates and 2018-2022 ACS 5-year estimates. For more information on ACS topics, ranging from educational attainment to computer use, visit the Subjects Included in the Survey webpage. Visit data.census.gov to access all statistics released today.

These statistics would not be possible without ACS respondents throughout the country.



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LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING ANNOUNCES THE OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING WAITING LIST

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will be opening the waiting list for public housing throughout Lucas County, Ohio, beginning Monday, October 16, 2023.

- **When to apply:** Applications will only be accepted from **Monday, October 16, 2023**, beginning at 12:01 a.m., through **Wednesday, October 18, 2023**, at 11:59 p.m.
- **How to apply:** You must apply online at our website: www.lucasmha.org. Click on "Apply Online," then complete and submit the online application for placement on the waiting list.
- **For questions:** Contact us at (419) 259-9477 or (419) 259-9427. Please allow at least 48 hours for a response.
- Applications will not be available at any LMH office. You must apply online.
- Placement on the waiting list does not guarantee eligibility for admission.
- There is never a fee to apply for rental assistance programs operated by LMH.

If you require a reasonable accommodation because of a disability to apply, please submit a written request on or before October 14, 2023, by email to jhicks@lucasmha.org; or by U.S. mail to: Lucas Metropolitan Housing, Public Housing pre-application, 424 Jackson St. Toledo, OH 43604, or contact us at one of the phone numbers listed above. Please include your name, address, telephone number, and email in your request.



ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICE BOARD OF LUCAS COUNTY

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is accepting applications for the Accounting Specialist position. The position requires a highly responsible professional that will maintain accurate and complete records, including ledgers, invoices and receipts in accounting. Reconciles Oracle expense reports as well as monitoring cash availability on a weekly basis. The salary range is \$39,800 - \$44,400 annually, plus a full range of benefits. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County website (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Accounting Specialist" from the list to read more and apply. Resumes are also accepted by email to ssylak@cmhrsb.oh.gov

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Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm that provides free, high quality legal assistance to people living in poverty in western Ohio, seeks a Long-Term Care Ombudsman for ABLE's Ombudsman program. The position will be based out of ABLE's Toledo office.

Please visit ABLE's website at <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able/> to review full details for the position and apply.

ABLE 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. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator at ablejobs@freelawyers.org.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Job Overview

TUFCU CFO will assist in managing day-to-day accounting and finance requirements. Will be expected to work with large amounts of numerical data, handle multiple tasks with deadlines and provide transparent and complete reports to management. The ideal candidate will have a firm grasp of accounting and financial practices and industry regulations.

Ideal candidate will work in Confidentiality, have excellent organizational skills, honest, detailed oriented, professional, and analytical. Candidates should have excellent customer relation skills, the ability to communicate clearly and effectively, and presentation skills with the ability to communicate complex quantitative, data to decision makers. Ideal candidates are skilled multi-taskers, reliable and committed to consistently meeting deadlines.

Responsibilities of Accountant Position

- Report Directly to CEO
- Reconcile all general ledger accounts
- Assist in the preparations of financial reports such as financial statements and budget performance
- Prepare prepaid and depreciation schedules,
- Assist in securing grants for the credit union
- Complete CRA reporting
- Prepare quarterly Call Reports.
- Ensure compliance with applicable standards (i.e GAAP, FASB), rules, regulations, and system of internal control
- Provide accurate, timely and relevant recording, reporting and analysis of financial information
- Identify areas for improvement and implement improvements to processes
- Assist with and act as the primary point-of-contact for auditor request
- Handle sensitive information in a confidential manner
- Must be a team player

Qualification for Accountant Position

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance or a related field or an equivalent combination of education training and experience
- 2-5 Years of accounting/ finance experience
- Demonstrate intermediate to advance skills and knowledge of Excel as well as other Microsoft Office applications
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills to communicate effectively across the organization
- Thorough knowledge of general ledger accounting and account reconciliation. Highly detailed oriented

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: \$18.00 - \$25.00 per hour

Physical setting – Office; Schedule – Monday to Friday; Work Location – In person

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Remembrance Day... continued from page 16

Bell. The group began its mission by bringing together local gang leaders as part of the process to develop a plan to create a space that will be an "evolving environment for our at-risk and disadvantaged youth, a permanent location where victims of gang violence can go to find solace and hope, a gathering place for all citizens of Toledo, a common ground landmark that helps establish Toledo as a community of Peach and Healing and a place that further reinforces Toledo's appreciation for the arts," notes the group's literature.

Saturday's event was the first such connection between the plaza and the area parents suffering from such losses.

"Until you have lost a child yourself, you don't know how much it hurts," said Bonnie Breitigam as she spoke of her son who was killed seven years ago, at the age of 29, when he went to a Waffle House to bring home food for his family. He was a father of three.

"He was good to people," said Breitigam. "Always would give. He was shot in the left temple."

Breitigam emphasized the devastation that such crimes of violence cause to those left behind.

"The damage to the family ... the fear and loss of trust," she said. "We didn't want pity but we wanted something."

Breitigam has joined the Northwest Ohio Parents of Murdered Children and takes solace in sharing her grief with them.

"With the help of this group, I've gotten through some days; but it's a club you don't want to ever have to join."

Shonda Striker lost her son, Demario Striker, when he was 23 years old, to a 15-year old gun-toting assailant who would eventually be arrested at the age of 21 and sentenced to 18 years to life in prison.

"I would like for him to be accountable for everything he put us through," said Striker who was unhappy that she was not able to address the court or the murderer at sentencing. "I didn't get a chance to say what I wanted to say."

Also speaking at Saturday's event were Joshua and Miara Carpenter, the brother and sister of Isaac Carpenter, Aviance Hill's son.

Isaac Carpenter was killed by Miara's boyfriend, the father of her child, when he tried to step in and protect his sister during a domestic dispute. The blame, the guilt, the recrimination has traumatized the family over the past 15 months since the incident.

"Isaac was the best of us," said Joshua. "It happened to him but it also happened to me."

"My brother was murdered protecting me



Miara Carpenter



Shonda Striker



Northwest Ohio Parents of Murdered Children Co-leader Marquita Ford, Chapter Leader Aviance Hill, Board Secretary Taren Lutchey

from my son's father," said Miara Carpenter. "A person I cared about killed the person I loved in front of five people."

Northwest Ohio Parents of Murdered Children will be holding such events on a regular basis in the future, particularly in the Toledo Spain Plaza/Peace & Healing Commons. This past Monday, September 25, was a National Day of Mourning organized by the national organization, Parents of Murdered Children. The national organization was founded in 1978 with the concept of honoring the memory of victims killed by violence and in order to acknowledge the resulting long-term trauma for families, communities and the nation.

AGELESS & ACTIVE SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

October 12, 2023
11:00AM - 2:00PM

The Indiana Avenue Baptist Church
Stephenson Roberts Fellowship Hall
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A variety of area organizations with products and services geared towards seniors will be on hand with resource information and giveaways. Don't miss the chance to ask one-on-one questions directly to the people who can answer them! Bring your friends, neighbors, and anyone else you

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Northwest Ohio Parents of Murdered Children Host Day of Remembrance

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

On Saturday, September 23, the Northwest Ohio Parents of Murdered Children gathered at the Toledo Spain Plaza at the corner of Collingwood Avenue and 23rd Street to observe a day of remembrance for their lost ones and to share those recollections with each other and the community at large.

Aviance Hill, the organizer of the event and the mother of Isaac Carpenter who was murdered just over one year ago, resurrected the Northwest Ohio Parents of Murdered Children chapter in February of this year.

Wendy and Leslie Robinson, parents of Dionious Robinson who was murdered in 2005 when he was just 20 years old, were among the parents there who shared their grief over their child's murder and their disgruntlement with the way the justice system handled the crime. The murderer was sentenced to nine years incarceration.

"He was a good kid and it was totally meaningless," said Wendy Robinson. "Nine years for taking a life – it is ridiculous. We need to all get involved and voice our opinions."

Saturday's event was held at the Toledo Spain Plaza which will be undergoing some major changes in the next few years and will also be named the "Peace & Healing Commons."

Peace & Healing is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2021 in order to "address gun violence and the deaths of these kids," said co-founder Thomas Douglas. The organization has a 30-year lease with the City of Toledo for the Toledo Spain Plaza and plans to invest about \$2.5 million in converting the plaza into a space dedicated to its mission of addressing the gun violence issue. Such public gatherings are part of the planned mission.

Peace & Healing will be raising the funds through grants and donations. The group's board consists of local prominent people such as former mayors Donna Owens and Mike



Bobbie Breitigam



Joshua Carpenter



Wendy and Leslie Robinson



Aviance Hill

...continued on page 15

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Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County
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This publication was made possible by Grant Number 2300579 from SAMHSA. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the [SAMHSA].