

Volume 80 No. 8 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* November 1, 2023



Debra and Rich Hogan of The Juice 107.3

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Toledo NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

By *Tricia Hall*

The Truth reporter

Toledo gathered to celebrate the annual Toledo NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet. The 108th annual dinner was held on Saturday, October 28th at The Glass City Convention Center, located in downtown Toledo, and uplifted the theme, 'Thriving Together.'

In traditional measure the occasion featured remarkable entertainment and keynote speaker. The 2023 entertainment was Juke Box featuring Toledo's own Kermit Quinn and 2023 keynote speaker Jeff Johnson.

Kristian Brown, the seasoned event mistress of ceremonies and 13ABC anchor, officially opened the banquet. Kaylee Britt, ACT-SO winner delivered a summary of the program and official welcome. Pastor Perry Harris III of United Vision Baptist Church, located in North Toledo, presented the invocation.

"Welcome to the 108 Freedom Fund Banquet. You look good to night. I'm so honored to serve as your mistress of ceremonies," said Brown.

"Thank you for being here tonight. I welcome you here tonight to the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet. The NAACP has effected and changed so many lives including mine," shared Britt.

The banquet continued with Khali Moore leading 'Lift Every Voice and Sing,' official greetings was delivered by Toledo NAACP president Rev. Willie Perryman, Jr., PhD and special presentations given to Jeff Johnson and Toledo NAACP president Dr. Perryman.

"To our dignitaries and honorees and esteemed guests, welcome. I am looking forward to listening to Mr. Johnson. Let's applaud him, he's Toledo's own and we're so proud of him. His work has reached across all of the United States. Thank you to our Freedom Fund team, this place looks wonderful," shared Perryman.

"I have an unusual and special memory with our guest speaker, about 25-30 years ago while we were both students at the University of Toledo. He was the student government president and I was president of the Young Democrats, we met up and had a great conversation. I was trying to get him to join the Young Democrats, but he knew in his mind that he had bigger things in mind. He's a true national leader," shared Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz during the proclamation presentation to Dr. Perryman.

Immediately following dinner service, the banquet continued with the presentation of awards by Dr. Perryman and Micheal Alexander, words of gratitude by Alexander, introduction of key speaker by Robert Gabriel III and keynote speaker Jeff Johnson.

"Thank our committee, to the mistress of ceremonies and to Ray Woods. We have four of our past presidents here, can you all please stand. Thank you for what you have done, we stand on the work that you have done. Thank you to the sponsors, we couldn't do this without our sponsors. Thank you to our youth of ACT-So, thank you to my wife. Thank you, thank you, thank you," shared Alexander.

The 2023 honorees were: Zia Cooke, Alfonso Narvaez and Tony Totty.

• Zia Cooke is a Toledo native and basketball phenom. She played basket-

ball and graduated from Rogers High School, but also earned a McDonald's All-Star player and back-to-back Ohio Division II State Champion. She later attended, played basketball and graduated from the University of South Carolina. The team became national champions in 2022. While attending University of South Carolina, the team appeared in the final four NACC tournaments and

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Rev. Willie Perryman, Zia Cooke, Theresa Gabriel, Tony Totty and Alfonso Narvaez



Jeff Johnson and Willie Perryman



Councilwoman Carrie Hartman and Erika White

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Complexity Beneath the Calm

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

The Truth Contributor

Do not think there are no crocodiles just because the water is calm.

- African Proverb



The election season's progression reveals a markedly different shift from the intense, impassioned spirit witnessed during the August Special Election.

The upcoming November 7 election, with its predominately uncontested races and apparent lack of enthusiasm, appears serene on the surface. However, beneath this calm exterior lies a profound complexity intrinsic to our local community's politics.

Here's what is essential:

Toledo City Council, District One: Hobbs vs. Strong:

In this race, incumbent Johnny Hobbs III is pitted against the charismatic Shaun Strong. The District 1 contest provides a fascinating glimpse into the interplay of endorsements, personal histories and community dynamics, all vital components in understanding politics Toledo-style.

Endorsements play a vital role in swaying public opinion here. Shaun Strong's endorsement from The Blade certainly grants him a level of prestige. However, the Democratic Party's ambiguous position, in which they endorsed both candidates in the same race, introduces an element of uncertainty. But how influential is The Blade's endorsement within the Black community, where direct community engagement, access, and visibility typically outweigh other factors in a local race?

As The Blade noted, Johnny Hobbs III's tenure with the State of Ohio and finance report missteps bring their share of controversies. On the surface, it paints a tale of a job loss possibly due to potential misdemeanors. However, a deeper dive reveals a narrative encompassing lengthy shop inspections and other complexities. The pivotal question remains: how much will this affect the average District 1 voter's perception?

Hobbs possesses the advantage as the incumbent with established community ties. This leverage cannot be underestimated. Historical controversies associated with Strong might offset Hobbs' recent issues, potentially influencing the voters' final choice. But with the backing of significant groups like local labor unions and Party mogul Pete "Potentate" Gerken, Hobbs' position seems adequately secure. Yet, politics, by nature, is unpredictable, and until the last vote is cast, nothing can be said with absolute certainty.

Toledo Public School Board: The Unique Challenge of Write-In Candidates

The TPS Board race presents a "tricky" challenge due to incumbent Sheena Barnes' requirement to run as a write-in candidate for failing to submit her petitions on time. This adds layers of complexity to the voter's process and the dynamics of the race, making her candidacy an uphill battle since she is challenged by two other write-in candidates.

Yet, Barnes' campaign appears undeterred. Support from groups such as the teacher's union has helped by working with voters to remind them to remember to vote and to write Barnes' name in.

Also, Barnes' campaign staff stands with yard signs championing "write-in Sheena Barnes" scattered across locales. The active push from the Democratic Party to emphasize her "write-in" status further propels her campaign.

However, the challenges associated with a write-in candidacy cannot be downplayed. Voters must now physically write her name precisely, and any significant deviation could result in the vote being discarded. This precision pressure places even more emphasis on Barnes' campaign to educate and remind her supporters.

For those accustomed to ticking boxes next to pre-printed names, writing in a candidate's name is daunting, particularly with electronic ballots. The potential for multiple write-in lines can compound this complexity.

Many seasoned voters admit to never participating in a write-in vote, exposing the challenges. I spoke with several early voters who stated that they did not write in votes for any candidate.

As the race progresses, it remains to be seen if Barnes can overcome these hurdles and translate her campaign's energy into actual votes. I'm hearing that Barnes should be fine.

Analysis of Ohio Issue One: Implications for the African-American Community

Over the past 50 years, advocacy for stringent abortion restrictions has seen vulnerable communities grappling with limited access to reproductive healthcare. Recent polls, like the July USA TODAY Network/Suffolk University poll, indicate substantial support (58% of Ohioans) for Issue One. However,

within the African-American community, perspectives on abortion are diverse, molded by a mix of personal, cultural, religious, and economic factors.


Ohio Issue One, focusing on abortion rights, holds significant implications for the African-American community. Our community, historically at the crossroads of public policy decisions, is deeply affected by healthcare disparities and socio-economic challenges.

The American government has had an invasive interest in Black women's bodies since enslaving Black people and afterward in eugenic policies, leaving a stain on the medical field's relationship with Black pregnant people.

And, from the forced sterilization of Black women to health care's current biases creating preventable disparities in Black birthing and maternal mortality, America has always "believed Black people were too ignorant to control their own reproduction, and it was up to White people to educate them and in some instances do it for them," says medical researcher Keisha Ray. So, this translates into no regard for African American women's reproductive autonomy, which can encourage little regard for their obstetric health.

Therefore, Ohio's Issue One is a powerful tool, allowing marginalized communities to influence policies that directly impact them. The shift in public opinion, often termed the "Dobbs Effect," underscores the fact that reproductive rights are not just about abortion but also encompass broader healthcare concerns. The outcome of Ohio Issue One will inevitably shape

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- **How well do you manage pain and other symptoms?**
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- **Do you have a freestanding inpatient center?**
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- **Do you provide bereavement services?**
Yes. Hospice of Northwest Ohio provides the area's most comprehensive range of grief support services. These include counseling, support groups and special workshops, which are free and open to anyone in the community.
- **What about patients who are unable to pay for services?**
Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans will cover the cost of Hospice or Sincera. As a not-for-profit agency, we receive substantial support from a variety of community sources. We care for everyone who requests our services, regardless of their ability to pay or complexity of care.





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VOTE Yes on Issue 1

By State Sen. Paula Hicks Hudson

Guest Column

When one of my Republican colleagues said to me after they had passed the Heartbeat Bill, "NOW (my emphasis) government would have to do something to help the babies." At the time, I thought maybe this would mean better benefits to families, better access to healthcare, living wages and affordable housing. But unfortunately, that is not the case.

You may be thinking, why is Paula talking about these topics when this article is supposed to discuss Issue 1, the constitutional amendment that will protect and preserve reproductive health freedom. (By now, I hope you have heard or seen the ads on Issue 1).

My opinion and thoughts are tied to how some of us in the state legislature pass laws and make decisions without looking at the real effect those decisions have on real Ohioans. The Heartbeat bill was passed with the idea to protect the unborn. However, when you look at the actions of the majority party legislators, there is a continuing struggle to provide earned income tax credits for the working poor or to provide pre-k instruction so these babies will start school ready to learn. Instead, the legislature spends time on issues that are not about Ohioans that in fact hurt us.

But the rhetoric contained in the ads opposing Issue 1 is trying to scare people into voting no. The extreme ads paint a picture which does not now exist and won't exist.

Let's be clear: There's nothing about parental rights in this amendment and independent fact checkers have already said those claims are not true. Parents will still be able to make decisions for their daughters. Doctors and families will be able to make health care decisions. The rhetoric that this campaign is fueled by out-of-state "special interests" isn't true. Hundreds of local organizations, 4,000 Ohio doctors and medical professionals, clergy, and over 700,000 Ohio voters put this amendment on the ballot. Ohioans — not out of state donors — will protect their reproductive freedom in November.

There are reasonable restrictions to having an abortion after fetal viability exist. I have heard from Ob Gyn doctors about the uncertainty of how they can practice their profession if Issue One does not pass.

The amendment will simply restore the framework that was established after the Roe v. Wade decision, a framework that is supported by the majority of Americans. I have heard from a number of young people who are seriously considering moving from Ohio — especially doctors, lawyers, teachers and young families — if Issue 1 fails.

No Ohioan should have to flee the state to get the care they need. Remember that our current law forced a 10-year-old rape victim's parents and family to travel to Indiana because it was illegal for her to receive care here in Ohio.

This amendment is about personal freedom, who makes personal decisions for yourself and your family — you or the government. No matter how you feel about abortion personally, government should not have the power to impose its will when it comes to these extremely personal decisions.

I am a Senator, but I'm not a doctor, and that's exactly the point. We need to leave these decisions up to Ohio women, their families and their doctors. Not politicians.

Issue One will allow individuals to make their own decision about reproductive health. Sure, this bill will protect a woman's right to choose whether to an abortion or not. But more importantly, it will take government out of the decision-making process for a most personal decision. I have always believed in the right for one to make decisions about their lives.

A "Yes" on Issue 1 will allow you to make decisions about your bodies. Issue 1 would enshrine reproductive rights into the Ohio Constitution, by guaranteeing the right to abortion and protecting the right to other reproductive health care such as contraception, fertility treatment, miscarriage care and the right to continue a pregnancy.



Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson

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Perryman...continued from page 3

not just reproductive rights but also the larger narrative around healthcare access, socio-economic disparities, and policy representation for the African-American community.

So, finally, as we near the end of this election season, the political landscape, though seemingly calm, is layered with complexities. The candidates and issues above reflect the broader challenges and aspirations of the African-American community. The election's results will shape not just policies but also the representation and socio-cultural fabric of our community in the years to come.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org

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Toledo NAACP... continued from page 2

was recognized as a three-time SEC Academic Honor Roll student. In 2023, she launched her professional basketball career as the 10th overall first round draft pick for the Los Angeles Sparks.

- Alfonso Narvaez is a long-time North Toledo activist who started a block watch group in 2011, in 2015 brought attention to the fact that the Greenbelt Parkway had over 100 street lights that had burnt out which resulted in a repairs one month later, has partnered with Lowe's to distribute masks and other pandemic needed supplies during Covid to Zablocki Senior Center and Salem Lutheran Church. He has served on the Lucas County Land Bank Grant review committee, Lucas County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Board grant review committee, and Toledo Police Civilian Review Board.

- Tony Totty is the president of UAW Local 14 and serves on local boards including: Toledo Technology Academy of Engineering, Toledo Fair Housing Center, and the United Way of Greater Toledo. He actively mentors at MLK Academy for Boys, was one of the litigants in the Fair Maps lawsuit that won in the Ohio Supreme Court.

"First, thank you God. Thank you to my parents for always being there for me. Thank you to everyone in the community, Toledo is always my home and I will always come home and show my love," shared Cooke.

"Thank you. I am lost for words. I've worked in the North Toledo area and was inspired by my neighbors. My goal was to change the perception of the neighborhood, we've come so far. We will continue to work to make the community a better place," shared Narvaez.

"Thank you for this great honor. I look around the room and see my friends and know that I won't be here without you. One of the first jobs that I had was a committee person and I'm active on some boards in the community. Fair Housing does a great job in the community and United Ways 211 demonstrates that the need in our community is great. We're on strike for a better deal, and thank you Toledo for your support. We're the ones that help the community, but right now the community is helping us. Lastly, MLK Academy, the work that they do is greatly appreciated. I remember when Ms. Cook pulled me aside the first day of school after I had spoken with the boys. I try to bring someone into the classroom that looks like them. So the boys can believe it and do it. People come to speak with the boys so they can see a future in any profession that they have an interest in. It's important that we support them, and I hope we can continue to support them," shared Totty.

"Thank our committee, thank you to the MC, Ray Woods, four of our past presidents are here, thank you for what you have done. Thank you for the sponsors, we couldn't do this without our sponsors. Thank you to our youth ACT-SO, thank you to my wife. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you," shared Alexander.

The 2023 keynote speaker Jeff Johnson. Jeff Johnson was born in the UK but

raised and graduated from high school in Cleveland, Ohio. He later graduated from the University of Toledo, where he served as both president of the Student Government and the Black Student Union. Johnson served as the National Director of the NAACP's Youth and College Division and combined hip hop culture with political affairs during his time working at BET. Johnson has interviewed former President Barack Obama, Minister Louis Farrakhan, testified before the United States House Committee on Homeland Security regarding the effects in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and has been published on CNN.com and the-Root.com. Personally, Johnson is married to Jacqueline, father of four children and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

"It is beyond an honor to be here. Toledo isn't where I was born or raised, but where I become a man. Thank you Dr. Perryman, Micheal Alexander, the board of Toledo's NAACP and each of the honorees. These honorees, Zia Cooke, Alfonso Narvaez and Tony Totty are doing the real work with real impact. When you're in college in a different city, without a family close by that can understand what I needed at that time. A family that made me dinner, that gave me a safe space when folks came after me, they protected me. I became a man in Toledo, I just want to say I'm thankful to the Toledo community for investing in me, when I didn't know myself," opened Jeff Johnson.

2023 NAACP Toledo Executive Branch Officers: Dr. Willie Perryman Jr, president, Micheal Alexander, 1st vice president, Doris Roberts, 2nd vice president, WilliAnn Moore, 3rd vice president, Frances Amison, treasurer, Beatrice Daniels, assistant treasurer, Valerie Brown, secretary, Kandice Saulsberry, assistance secretary. Freedom Fund Committee: Micheal Alexander, chair; Anita Madison, co-chair; Dr. Perryman, Cynthia Savage, Theresa Gabriel, Sena Friedman, Beatrice Daniels, Valerie Brown and Francis Amison, committee.



Steve Galloway, Wanda Terrell-Galloway and Michelle Fleetwood



Michelle Cooke, Zia Cooke and First Lady Perryman



Willie and Kimberly Ward, and Karen Hall

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The International Day of the Girl

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

On Saturday, October 21, The Young Women of Toledo and partners held an event sponsored by Taylor Family Automotive and Toledo Lucas County Library: International Day of the Girl.

The event was free and open to all youth in the community, with the main theme of "Quiet The Noise, Raise Your Voice" to educate, engage and empower youth and to recognize girls' rights and the challenges that girls face.

The theme and focus on this year's International Day was to address the challenges, and to promote empowerment and fulfillment of human rights. Universal Human Rights include all humans' rights to be safe and have a right to privacy. Young Women of Toledo will be sharing information and knowledge on human rights in all programming opportunities in the 2023-2024 academic year. The foundation of human rights, they teach, is respect for the individual. All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

In the beginning of the event, all the attendees had an opportunity to socialize. Food and activities were available prior to the beginning of the shared knowledge, information and motivational addresses by the speakers.

The purpose of International Day of the Girls is to "recognize girls' rights and challenges that the girls face, and this is the first time we have celebrated here in Toledo since before Covid hit. And we love for the girls to participate with us. Women Of Toledo, we empower each other," said Penny Meeker.



The Girls Hub Program is a girls' summer program, for 12-17-year-olds to learn how to design and make the chair. Many partners expressed their excitement and appreciation for the Women Of Toledo, HerHub Initiative. Julia LaBay, Program Outreach

director of HerHub, said: "The program is designed to empower young women by getting them engaged with tools, to learn skills and build confidence and preparation to face obstacles in the future."

The Girls Hub Program created opportunity to provide donations to community organizations, based on the sales of the completed chairs. Donations were made to Aurora Project, Toledo's PET Bull Project, Zepf Center and Leading Family Homes Organization. Recognition and thankfulness was also mentioned for Taylor Family Automotive's support for the Women of Toledo and Girls Hub Program.

"Good morning and I am so grateful to be here and be a part of this. It's a pleasure to be here. I just want to say, we are so proud to be part of this," said Terry Crosby, community outreach ambassador for Taylor Automotive.

The Youth Panel provided extensive information and support to surviving and avoiding Digital Harm/social media negative's impact which is a result of online harassment, bullying, stalking and images being spread around against privacy. All youth panelists provided resolution and experience to avoid pain and suffering from social media impact. The panelists and various discussions offered support and knowledge for growth and empowerment.

"There is building momentum of the city of Toledo to connect all of the non-profits," said Bill Knegendorf of "Sister Cities."



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Grace Community Center 4th Annual Harvest Festival

By Dr. Anita M. Lewis-Sewell MD

Special to The Truth

The 4th Annual Harvest Festival, sponsored by Grace Community Center, by was a "wonderful success," according to Elaine Page, GCC executive director.

"We were doubly pleased and surprised that well over 300 participants (nearly 350 participants) attended this special seasonal celebration, in spite of the pouring rain that day," she exclaimed.

The Harvest Festival, which was held on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., is a free community event created as an opportunity for families to come together each fall to share a time filled with food, fun, and fellowship in thankfulness of the essential work of the Center, particularly the urban farm.

"We truly appreciate our community partner agencies, the team of volunteers, and the GCC staff, and our board members whose dedication and hard work made this year's festival possible," the director commented.

"This year's gala event was particularly meaningful as it was the first festival held since the Pandemic ended," she added.

Participating Agencies included the Toledo Museum of Art, Mercy Health, the Area Office on Aging, Engage Toledo, Here's My Turning Point Inc., The Movement, Children Services, UMADAOP, Central State University Extension, Assure, Moms Demand Action and Care Source!

Activities included table games, face painting, decorating pumpkins, and a raffle for prizes. The Harvest Festival theme was "Reclaiming Health: Mind, Body and Spirit. In addition to the life enhancing information provided by the partnering agencies, participants also enjoyed a delicious meal and received free bags of fresh fruits and vegetables, including tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, greens, zucchini and squash to take home.

Most of the planned activities that usually take place outdoors had to be shifted indoors due to the deluge of drenching rain that fell prior to and on the very day of the Harvest Festival. Fortunately, the people still attended and everything worked out.

The Grace Community Center, located at 406 W. Delaware Ave, in Toledo,

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A candidate who cares about Toledo because he was born and raised here.

A candidate who understands working class families because he is a part of one.

A candidate who is already involved in and cares about your community.

STRONG for 1
Toledo City Council • Democrat • District One

Can you imagine?

Hobbs Supporters Gather for Community Rally

On Sunday, October 22, Toledo City Councilman John Hobbs, who is running to retain his District 1 seat, joined his supporters for a community rally at 3117 Nebraska Avenue. Hot dogs and hamburgers were served and visitors were also treated to exhortations from Hobbs' supporters why he should be kept in place as District 1 councilman.

Hobbs was appointed to the District 1 seat in September 2020 by Judge Puffenberger. He currently serves as vice chair of the Public Safety & Criminal Justice Reform Committee; the Regional Growth, Development & Small Business Enterprise Committee and the Water Quality & Sustainability Committee.

Hobbs is running for a full four year term to represent District 1 – facing opposition from Shaun Strong.



Anita Madison and Tony Totty



Carty Finkbeiner and Rev. Tim Pettaway



James Cousineau, Councilman John Hobbs, Larry Jones, and Arron Woods

Grace Community... continued from page 7

OH, has provided critical services to people in need for over 50 years. GCC operates a food pantry every Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to address food insecurity. The center's afterschool program provides social development learning, physical movement and homework assistance for area children. Grace also features a unique urban farm and facilitates various classes for adults and youth in honing their growing skills.

If you would like to make a donation, volunteer or partner with us, or learn more about Grace Community Center, please contact the office or visit our website at gctoledo.org



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City of Toledo Honors Jan Scotland

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The city of Toledo honored the late Jan Scotland for his dedication to youth athletics by renaming the Sleepy Hollow Ballfield to Jan Scotland Memorial Ballfield Saturday October 28. The Toledoan led the Sleepy Hollow Athletic League that served the areas youth for 27 years until his passing this July.

Councilman John Hobbs (District 1) led the effort to rename the ballfield that is located in the Reynolds Corner neighborhood at Sleepy Hollow Park. It was at this park and ballfield that Jan Scotland started the Sleepy Hollow Athletic League in 1996. Scotland felt the need to create the program after the teenaged son of one of his friends was gunned down in a parking lot as he often stated "for being at the wrong place at the wrong time." He wanted to create a program that would keep the city's youth out of trouble and provide them with constructive activities.

Scotland championed athletics in the area and through the program taught hundreds of the area's youth the fundamentals of sports and good sportsman like conduct. The volunteer-led league, at its height, taught the areas youth t-ball, baseball, softball, soccer, football, tennis, golf, cheerleading, and basketball while always remaining affordable and allowing all children to play regardless of ability and gender. Many players of the league went on to continued future successes. Sleepy Hollow was the league where Zia Cooke started playing basketball.

Scotland led the program as its founder and director for 27 years, later continuing the program while battling many illnesses, until his passing this summer to cancer at the age of 67.

Family, friends, church members, former players and coaches gathered at the ballpark to celebrate Jan Scotland and his legacy to the community.

Speakers included Councilman John Hobbs, State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson, Councilwoman Vanice Williams District 4, Tiffany Preston Whitman, Councilwoman at Large, Cerssandra McPherson, Councilwoman at Large,

Joe Fausnaugh, Director of Parks and Recreation, Pastor Stanley Clark, assistant minister at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Tina Butts of the Movement, Worshipful Master Bobby Pope of Prince Hall Amazon Lodge
... continued on page 13



Jan Scotland's daughter Dawn Scotland, son Alexander Scotland and widow Margie Scotland at the newly dedicated field



Councilman John Hobbs renames Sleepy Hollow Ballfield to Jan Scotland Memorial Ballfield



Senator Paul Hicks-Hudson and members of Toledo City Council with family and friends of Jan Scotland



Former coaches of Sleepy Hollow Athletic League celebrate at the Jan Scotland Ballfield

VOTE for Councilman John Hobbs III for Toledo City Council District 1

My District 1 constituents know why I am running to represent them on City Council. They know what I have been fighting for during my time as a member of Council:

Safety; Robust Neighborhoods; Growing Small Businesses

We have worked hard, along with the City's Police and Fire Departments, to reduce crime and to help citizens feel safer in our communities;

We have worked hard, along with community groups to create vigorous, robust neighborhoods, especially by becoming more involved with our young people;

We have worked hard to help small businesses start and grow because small businesses bring pride and joy to our communities.

Help us continue our work to make our residents feel safer, take pride in our neighborhoods and help us thrive economically!

VOTE to RETAIN Councilman John Hobbs in District 1

Paid for by Hobbs For Council





Caring for the Caregiver Expo 2023

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

The second annual "Caring for the Caregiver Expo," presented by "The Juice" 107.3 FM, was held on Saturday, October 28, at the Glass City Center as hundreds of area residents turned out to view the displays of various vendors, to participate in healthy activities and to receive vaccinations as a precautionary measure.

The Juice FM 107.3 has created the caregiver expo in order to thank local essential workers, parents, guardians and first responders, said Debra Hogan, president of Fleming Street Communications, Inc, The Juice parent company.

"This event is the brainchild of a friend of ours, Brenda Spencer, of Columbus and they have been doing it for four or five years in Columbus," said Hogan. "She asked us to be her second city and we agreed to it."

Spencer, CEO of Spencer 4Higher Media, LLC, approached The Juice to start a similar event in Toledo with the idea of also expanding it to Cleveland and Detroit in the next few years.

"It's just something good for us to do and to give back to the community, which we do all the time," Hogan added. "So, everything is free – free parking, free lunch, free resources. It's a day of pampering and services for caregivers and first responders."

The Juice had numerous partners as they presented the second annual Caring for the Caregiver Expo. Among the partners were the Area Office on Aging which presented the event's first Vaccine Room offering flu and COVID vaccines; Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield which sponsored the Pampering Room and Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association.

The day was filled with opportunities for visitors to hear from experts in the healthcare system. Annie Ross-Womack of the Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association was the event's first speaker, followed by Brenda Spencer who shared her experiences as the founder of the original event in Columbus.

Michael Carter of Lucas County Mental Health spoke about maintaining the mental health of caregivers and Dr. Karen Moss of The Ohio State University addressed the topic of advanced care planning.

The Area Office on Aging presented workshops on Medicare benefits and getting financial help in caring for a loved one.

The pampering programs included sessions on meditation, yoga, CPR, Zumba, line dancing and dance fitness.

One of the event attendees was Detroit's Angelina Taylor, a military caregiver for her father, an Army veteran. Taylor is also a Ms. USA Ambassador who will be competing in further pageants over the next year. Taylor heard about the Expo that was held last year and made it a point to attend this year's since she hopes to help bring the event to Detroit in the near future.

Fittingly, the final remarks of the day were offered by Rich Hogan of The Juice, by Brenda Spencer of Spencer 4Higher Media and by Ireatha Hollins of the Area Office on Aging.

The Caring for Caregiver Expo 2023 was a lead in to November National Caregivers Month.



Debbie Barnett, volunteer



Deb and Rich Hogan



Preparing for flu vaccines



Angelina Taylor



Vendors and presentors booths



A vertical advertisement with a dark background and a photo of a young girl with curly hair. The text reads: "Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County", "Funding Opportunity OPEN NOW", "Mental Wellness Community Grants", "Seeking proposals that reduce the impact of mental illness & addiction on individuals and families, and reduce violence and its effects in Lucas County.", "Up to \$20,000 per awarded project.", "Apply to make a real community impact!", and "Visit www.lcmhsb.oh.gov/minigrant for more info and to apply."

Take Charge of Tomorrow

By Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension, Lucas County

The Truth Contributor

In the month of November, communities seek to bring attention to diabetes as a way to learn more, support others, and take steps to prevent diabetes health problems. As we age, we are at higher risk for developing diabetes. We cannot do anything about our age or our genetic predisposition. There are things we can do to help prevent type 2 diabetes, delay onset until much later in life or live well with a diagnosis of diabetes. As with many health conditions, the recommendations are to maintain a healthy weight, get enough sleep, avoid a sedentary lifestyle, and avoid smoking. The good news is that by making these healthy choices, we can help prevent diabetes and related health problems.

Please note that these health recommendations are important for everyone, not just those who have been diagnosed with diabetes. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases recommends:

- **Manage your blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels.** A1C is the test that is used to measure average blood glucose levels (sometimes called blood sugar levels). Some people with diabetes also use devices to track their blood glucose throughout the day and night. Work with your health care professionals to know where your personal blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol levels should be.

- **Take your medicines on time.** Even if you feel OK, don't skip taking prescribed medications. If that's a challenge for you, talk with your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

- **Reach or maintain a healthy weight.** A healthy weight and active lifestyle can help with many health conditions. If you have problems with physical movement, ask your doctor for advice and recommendations like chair exercises or other ways to be physically active.

- **Take care of your mental health.** We know that mind-body health goes hand-in-hand. Like other medical conditions, a diagnosis of diabetes can be challenging. It is perfectly normal to feel overwhelmed or down or sad. There are healthy ways to cope with stress. Don't be afraid to meet with a counselor or to seek out a support group.

- **Work with your health care team.** Your health care team might include many or all of these people: primary care provider, specialists, registered dietician, certified diabetes educator, and/or social worker. If there is an area where you need extra assistance, please ask your current team members about additional resources and professionals that can help.

- **Take small steps towards healthy habits.** Start slow with new habits and move forward from there. Decide how to increase physical activity or plan healthy meals. Look at your sleep patterns and decide if you need a new routine. You don't have to do it all at once but remember that these habits can make a positive difference.

Foods, meals and recipes can be an important part of living a healthy life. For those with diabetes, monitoring and managing blood sugar levels are important. Food can help with this when people eat the right amount of foods at the right times so that their blood sugar stays within target range. Work with your dietitian or diabetes educator to create a healthy eating plan to make it easier to eat well.

The following foods are highlighted by the American Diabetes Association. These foods are rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and fiber that are good for overall health and may also help prevent disease. How many of

them can you enjoy this week?

Beans - Kidney, pinto, navy or black beans are packed with vitamins and minerals such as magnesium and potassium. They are very high in fiber too. Beans do contain carbohydrates, but ½ cup also provides as much protein as an ounce of meat without the saturated fat.

Dark green leafy vegetables - Spinach, collards and kale are dark green leafy vegetables packed with vitamins and minerals such as vitamins A, C, E and K, iron, calcium and potassium. These powerhouse foods are low in calories and carbohydrates too. Try adding dark leafy vegetables to salads, soups and stews.

Citrus fruit - Grapefruits, oranges, lemons and limes or pick your favorites to get part of your daily dose of fiber, vitamin C, folate and potassium.

Berries - blueberries, strawberries or others are all packed with antioxidants, vitamins and fiber. Berries can be a great option to satisfy your sweet tooth and they provide an added benefit of vitamin C, vitamin K, manganese, potassium and fiber.

Tomatoes - no matter how you like your tomatoes, pureed, raw, or in a sauce, you're eating vital nutrients like vitamin C, vitamin E and potassium.

Fish high in omega-3 fatty acids may help to reduce the risk of heart disease and inflammation. Fish high in these healthy fats are sometimes referred to as "fatty fish." Salmon is well known in this group. Other fish high in omega-3 are herring, sardines, mackerel, trout and albacore tuna. Choose fish that is broiled, baked or grilled to avoid the carbohydrate and extra calories that would be in fish that is breaded and fried. The American Diabetes Association Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes recommends eating fish (mainly fatty fish) twice per week for people with diabetes.

Nuts - An ounce of nuts can help in getting key healthy fats along with helping to manage hunger. In addition, they offer magnesium and fiber. Some nuts and seeds, such as walnuts and flax seeds, are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids.

Whole grains - The first ingredient on the label should have the word "whole" in it. Whole grains are rich in vitamins and minerals like magnesium, B vitamins, chromium, iron and folate. They are a great source of fiber too. Some examples of whole grains are whole oats, quinoa, whole grain barley and farro.

Milk and yogurt - You may have heard that milk and yogurt can help build strong bones and teeth. In addition to calcium, many milk and yogurt products are fortified to make them a good source of vitamin D. More research is emerging on the connection between vitamin D and good health. Milk and yogurt do contain carbohydrate that will be a factor in meal planning when you have diabetes. Look for yogurt products that are lower in fat and added sugar.

Would you like to learn more about living well with diabetes? The Ohio State University Extension Diabetes Education team is offering three online classes during November. All of the classes are live, online at noon (EST) and on Mondays. The classes are free but you need to register: go.osu.edu/diabetesseries

- Monday November 6, Holiday Snacking Guide
- Monday, November 13, Be Savvy with Holiday Spirits
- Monday, November 20, – Team up with your A1C – Tailgates

Information for this article was from National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Diabetes Association.

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Mental Health and Female Veterans

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC, LLC

The Truth Contributor



Women have been serving in the U.S. armed forces for over 200 years in numerous roles and numerous conflicts. Just 10 years ago, in 2013, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta lifted the ban on women in combat and they were allowed to serve in direct roles of combat. Women since have graduated from Army Ranger School and Navy Seals training. Of course, during earlier years, segregation practices were still in place in the 1940's and WWII. Black women were not excluded from serving in the armed forces but trained and worked together.

Stepping back further, and reported by the Wounded Warrior Program Project historians, there is only one known black female who was able to pass as a male due to the lack of care given during physical examinations of newly freed slaves; Cathay Williams. She is the only documented black woman to serve in the Army and in a unit as a soldier of the Buffalo Soldiers.

After the Civil War, newly freed slaves had very little job opportunities and Williams decided to stay in for medical benefits, education, and a pension. Unfortunately, Williams contracted small pox and visits back and forth to a medical unit a surgeon discovered her gender.

Once out of the Army, Williams kept her role as passing as a man and joined an infantry that later became a part of the Buffalo Soldiers. After many battles as part of that unit, again, the men found out and pushed her out of their regimen. She continued to work various jobs as a laundress and seamstress but William's health declined after serving in the military with loss of hearing, rheumatism, amputations from diabetes and neuralgia. She had no choice but to apply for military disability pension but denied due to a doctor stating she did not deserve or qualify as she posed serving in the Army units as a man but was really a woman. She died in 1893 shortly after denial of compensation.

Air Force Veteran Irene Trowell-Harris served in the New York Air National Guard from 1963-1986 and 1994-2001 and the Air Force active duty 1987-1993.

Of her many accomplishments, she wrote the book "Bridges: A Life Building and Crossing Them." The story describes her challenges from working in a cotton field to earning her status as a two-star general. It also highlights the challenges and opportunities for a trailblazing woman of color as a commander and general officer in a predominantly male environment.

I served in the Air Force on active duty for five and a half years starting in 1990 and two years with the District of Columbia Air National Guard. I separated to complete my education and with an honorable discharge. I have no regrets and I honor those women especially of color who came before me to allow the opportunities I later received such as education benefits and medical care.

Women's acceptance into the armed forces has come a long way, especially for women of color. I am often asked whose car am I driving due to having veteran status plates. Mental health diagnoses do not often differ due to gender but there are more male veterans than female veterans. If both genders are now in combat side by side, they may both return home to receive a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The role of women is not the same as that of men nor do we express the same hormones and societal norms? I think I answered that with my veteran status vehicle plates. Some women are mothers, some are wives, we go through menopause and have menstrual cycles and no one would think twice about us crying in public holding a gallon of ice cream. Many female veterans now have a box to check during appointments asking about military sexual trauma (MST) which if filing a claim for disability can be anything from sexual harassment to rape.

November 11 is Veteran's Day. Take a mental health moment and think about the many women who have and still are putting their lives on the line for the USA. Also, think about how many children are missing their mother who is on active duty, or has lost their mother in combat or a tragic mental health diagnosis that causes negative behaviors.

To my lady veteran comrades, keep eating your ice cream, allow the tears to fall, hug your children at your worst feeling moments, drive your cars showcasing your veteran status and do not fall to a state of mind of victim if you were sexually assaulted or insulted. You had every right to defend and serve this country. Embrace your mental health if you are diagnosed with a disorder.

When Air Force veteran and author Irene Trowell-Harris was asked during an interview if she could choose one woman from any point in time to share a meal, whom would she choose? She responded none other than.... Sojourner Truth

If you are a newly returned home veteran or have been home for a while and need help please reach out for help and resources. <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home>

Contact Bernadette Graham at Graham.bernadette@gmail.com

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The Reformatory by Tananarive Due

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You'll do better next time.

You're sorry, deeply sorry, sincere in your apology, and it won't happen again. You had a chance to think about your transgressions and you were wrong. What can you do or say to make things better? How can you properly make amends? As in the new book *The Reformatory* by **Tananarive Due**, how long should you pay for something you didn't do?

The north Florida countryside was passing by fast as Robert Stephens sat small in the passenger seat of the fancy car. Any other time, he'd be enjoying himself but not now. No, this time, he was on his way to The Reformatory, a school for boys who'd broken the law.

How did things get this far, this fast? It wasn't but a day or so that Robert and his sister Gloria were walking down the road when Lyle McCormack, son of Gracetown's richest man, tried to kiss Gloria and Robert kicked Lyle, in defense of his sister. It was 1950 and every Black person knew that you didn't do that to somebody who was white, but Robert kicked before he could stop himself and he was arrested. And here he was, 12 years old, on his way to a place where Papa said was where the killing started.

But Papa wasn't around anymore, having been run out of town for his union work. It was just Gloria, Robert, and old Miz Lottie, and Robert was terrified.

Ever since he was little, he'd been able to see things nobody else could see. He told Gloria that Mama visited him sometimes, even though she'd been dead for months. He knew things, too; the closer the car got to The Reformatory, the more he knew he couldn't stay there for the next six months. The place smelled like smoke, but there were no fires.

It smelled like death and fear.

He had to trust that Gloria would get him home. He'd trust Mama to watch over him.

He could see "haints" at *The Reformatory*. The place was full of them...

c.2023
Gallery / Saga Press
\$28.99
576 pages

Though it might look like one, The Reformatory is not just a ghost story. It's tighter, scarier, more ominous because this tale has deep roots based in truth.

Like the tentacles belonging to some sort of evil creature, Jim Crow laws ooze into every corner of this book, wrapping tendrils around the characters and their lives. That's a terror that's told authentically and is (un)easy to imagine, but then author Tananarive Due kicks the frights into maximum overdrive with ghosts and madmen that you can sometimes barely tell apart. Even scarier: they're inside The Reformatory, and outside it, and they want revenge – both of the otherworldly kind and based in reality. Scarier still: they're willing to make deals.

If you have a heart condition, you might want to pass on this book because it'll raise your pulse rate to the roof. If you're healthy and brave, though, look for *The Reformatory*. When it comes to scary novels, you'll never do better.



Reformatory author, courtesy Melissa Herbert

Jan Scotland... continued from page 9

No. 4, Dana Matthewson, State Farm Agent and Tom Duncan, Sleepy Hollow Athletic League coach.

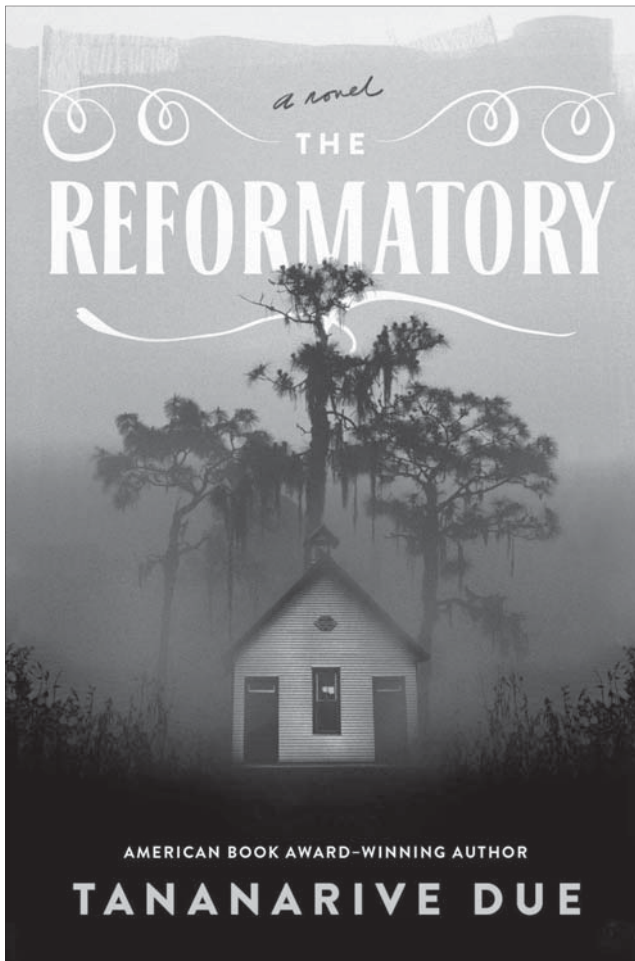
Councilman Hobbs provide a proclamation renaming the park and a certificate to the widow of Jan Scotland, Margie Scotland, for her dedication to the league and to her husband's efforts. The widow organized the program for many years providing the backbone of the organization.

"Mr. Jan Scotland truly touched our lives... he touched my life..., stated Hobbs, "people ask what can we do about gun violence..." Hobbs noted to many luminaries who've lead the way. "[Young men] can't be what they can't see... Until our black men start doing, and lift up the baton that was carried by Jan Scotland.. that's the only way to stop the violence," commented Hobbs.

State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson provide the park with a state flag and remarked, "There was one thing that was really clear: his love of family, of the church and of children. When the city decided to cut the recreation programs, Jan was tirelessly working for ways to keep this park and those programs going... he had a commitment and belief that the city could and should do better for the people here and especially the young people."

It's really easy to build a park..." remarked Joe Fausnaugh, director of Parks of Recreation, "but it takes someone really special to make the park the fabric of the community... I'm extremely grateful that Mr. Scotland poured himself into this park and poured himself into our community... I really hope that what he did here will inspire other people [to do the same]."

Special thanks to friends and family including son Alexander Scotland and



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Responsibilities of Accountant Position

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- 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 Micro-soft 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

Starting Salary: \$25.00 per hour

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

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITY!!

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board (MHR SB) of Lucas County is pleased to announce the Community Mental Wellness Grants funding opportunity. MHR SB seeks to provide up to \$20,000 per proposal in funding to grassroots organizations in Lucas County. We are looking for submissions that aim to reduce the impact of mental illness & addiction on individuals and families in Lucas County and reduce violence and its effects in Toledo.

Interested grassroots organizations are encouraged to apply.

For more information and qualification criteria and to submit your proposal on our easy-to-fill online application, please visit www.lcmhrsb.org/publicnotice/ <<http://www.lcmhrsb.org/publicnotice/>>

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Mecca Court Commandress Ball

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The community celebrated at the 56th annual Commandress Ball of the Daughters of Mecca Court No. 73 on Saturday, October 21.

In annual ball tradition honors the current and past Commandress. The 2023 Illustrious Commandress is Dt. Dianna Johnson and past honorees were: Past Illustrious Commandress Dt. Wanda Terrell-Galloway of 2022, Dt. Rita Brown of 2021, Dt. Teronica Betts of 2020, and Dt. Barbara Brown of 2021.

The Commandress Ball opened with comments from the Mistress of Ceremonies Dt. Debbie Dean Mitchell and Past Commandress 2010, procession of honorees and dignitaries, singing of the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance, welcome and presentation of Temples, Courts and dignitaries was completed by Deputy for the Oasis and Past Commandress Dt. Lena Davis, singing of Lift Every Voice and Sing, and also the invocation and conclusion benediction was completed by High Priestess Dt. Clerissa Criswell.

"Good evening everyone. I am grateful to see all of you and to serve as your mistress of ceremonies," shared Dt. Mitchell.

"I hope all of you enjoy your stay thus far and enjoy yourselves this evening. Thank you," shared Dt. Davis.

The celebration concluded with the reception and introduction of Past Commandresses Dt. Barbara Brown who was escorted by Noble Eric Summers, Dt. G. Rita Brown who was escorted by her son Adrian Brown, and Dt. Wanda Galloway who was escorted by her husband Steve Galloway. The crowd then received and celebrated the 2023 Illustrious Commandress Dt. Diana Johnson.

Dt. Johnson became a member of Mecca Court #73 in 2013, has chaired several community-service projects, associate member of Palestine Court #49 the Oasis of Mobile the desert of Alabama. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Lourdes University, another Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Toledo and associate degree in law enforcement from Owens College. She is a certified Physical Fitness Instructor and Defense Driving Instructor with the Ohio Peace Training Academy in London. She has an extensive criminal justice career and in her spare time volunteers at the Zablocki Senior enter, member of the Refreshing Place and member of the Democratic Women in Action Club.

"This is our annual ball of Mecca Court and I am honored to serve as Commandress. The ball celebrates the current Commandress and past Commandress as well. People should understand that Mecca Court is all about charity. We donate to shelters, schools, senior programs and our community at large. In that same spirit of charity, giving and helping others is very important to me. I've volunteer at Zablocki Senior Center and served the community throughout my career by acting as a Liaison for the victims and witness program, assisting victims of violent crimes with filing reparation applications and preparing them for court proceedings and just helping my community with public assistance applications. Mecca Court has been and will continued to be involved in our local Toledo community by promoting charity and benevolence within the community and within our state," shared Commandress Dt. Johnson.

The occasion concluded with remarks presented by Illustrious Potentate of



Past Commandress Barbara Brown, Past Commandress G. Rita Brown, Commandress Diana Johnson and Past Commandress Galloway



Dt. Johnson, Commandress



Adrian Brown and Dt. G. Rita Brown



Dt. Mitchell


Mecca Temple No. 43 Noble Darryl Blair, Imperial Deputy for the Desert of Ohio and Past Commandress Dt. Stephanie Strawbridge, Imperial Court 2nd Ceremonial Daughter and Past Commandress Dt. Lisa Bonds.

Mecca Court No. 73 has served from the Toledo, Ohio for decades. The organization stresses and focuses on the development of powerful leaders, encourages health awareness and career planning among youth and adults, provides services to help disabled and senior citizens, provides for effective networking among its members and other organizations, recognizes and celebrates the historic and current achievements of African American women, exerts positive influence, and utilizes role models for youth, teenage mothers, high school and college students. The organization of 12 Courts in its inception has grown to over 200 Courts located in the United States, Canada, The Bahamas, Germany, Italy and Japan. Mecca Court No 73 has 64 members and has been instrumental in community involvement over the years.



Dt. Wanda Terrell-Galloway and Steve Galloway

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The Alpha Phi Alpha Candidate Forum

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The men of the Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. hosted a candidate forum at Toledo Public Library Main Branch McAllister Hall Thursday, October 26. The forum provided a platform for candidates for City Council and the Toledo Public School Board to share their views in anticipation of the upcoming November elections.

"We decided we needed more than ever to bring community in to have this conversation with candidates ..." remarked Rev. John C. Jones, president of Alpha Xi Lambda chapter. "We thought it was critically important [whether contested or not] to hear voices from those on the ballot."

The moderator of the event was Dr. Calvin Burney, vice president of Alpha Xi Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

The evenings forum was divided into three rounds and featured candidates for Toledo City Council and The Toledo Public School Board. Round 1: candidates for District 4, District 5 and District 6; Round 2: candidates for District 1, District 2 and At Large seat; Round 3: candidates for Toledo Public School Board.

Each round provided three questions for each candidate to answer, allotting them a three-minute response time. Questions ranged from topics such as the allocation of Toledo's budget, inequity, and gun violence. Attendees were also given the opportunity and encouraged to write in questions for the candidates. Refreshments were provided.

Councilwoman Vanice Williams (District 4), Theresa Morris (District 6) and Anthony Martinez (District 2) are seeking reelection uncontested in the upcoming election.

Incumbent Councilman John Hobbs (District 1) is vying against Shaun L. Strong former City of Toledo employee. In District 5, Tom Names, retired engineer, is challenging incumbent Sam Melden. The At-large council seat is contested between incumbent Councilwoman Carrie Hartman and Christie Kellie, former caregiver.

This election, two Toledo Public School Board seats are up for grabs. Incumbents Sheena Barnes, president of the Toledo Public School Board and Randall Parker are seeking re-election while Jason Sobb and Zach Mercer are also contending for the positions. Parker will be on the ballot while Barnes, Sobb and Mercer are write-in candidates.

Important Voting Dates

Early Voting Polling Times:

November 1-3: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

November 4: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

November 5: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

November 6: Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by this date.

November 7: General Election: Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

November 7: Absentee Ballots may be returned by mail or personally delivered to your county board of elections. If not returned by mail, absentee ballots must be received by your board of elections by 7:30 p.m.

November 13: Last day for boards of elections to receive absentee ballots that have been postmarked on or before November 6.



John Jones and Calvin Burney of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity with 2023 candidates

Halloween – Such a Special Time of the Year!

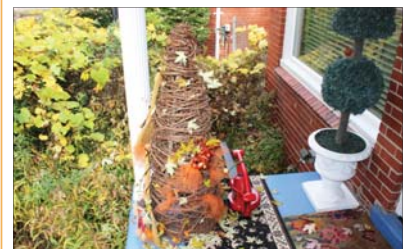
It's that special time of the year again! I get extremely excited about Halloween – pumpkins, fall and the colorful leaves and, of course, "trick or treat!" And, those wonderful costumes, the children playing, running and laughing.

I absolutely adore this time of the year!

Such fantastic smells and tastes of pumpkin spice, pies, cakes, cider mills, fresh fried donuts and caramel apples ... we can't forget candied apples, so yummy.

I have so many memories of my children and I passing out treats, making bonfires, warming up apple cider and taking it all in and enjoying priceless quality time with family.

Don't forget to be safe, get your treats checked and enjoy every moment of the start of the holiday season. Happy Halloween from my family to yours!



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Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford with Purple Heart Vietnam Veteran Robert Stewart

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