

Volume 80 No. 9 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* **November 8, 2023**



“Black Men Matter Photoshoot 2.0”

In This Issue...

Black Men Matter Photoshoot Page 2	Prostate Cancer Month Page 4	CPR at Utoledo Page 7	Black Students and the ACT Page 11	Class Ads Page 14	Bertha Rivers 100 Page 16
Tolliver Page 3	Climate Conference Page 5	Maritime Academy and Lourdes U Page 10	Book Review Page 13	Poohs Kidz Page 15	

Celebrating the Essence and Importance of Black Men: CYT Images' "Black Men Matter Photoshoot 2.0"

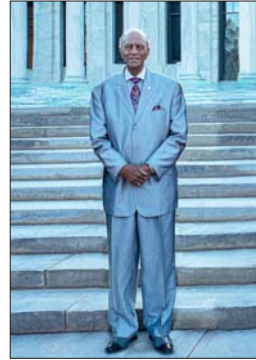
By Carla Thomas

The Truth Contributor

When asked the question, "Why a Black Men Matter photoshoot?" The answer is simple: while the value of white men is taken for granted, Black men face systemic devaluation in all facets of society. This photoshoot seeks to convey a powerful message: Black men are valuable, and their presence holds profound importance within our homes, schools, communities, and every space where we coexist as human beings. The need for such statements arises from the relentless challenges Black men confront, from being murdered by police to disproportionately facing incarceration.

The "Black Men Matter Photoshoot 2.0" was held October 22, 2023, on the steps of the Toledo Museum of Art, and gathered 28 men from diverse backgrounds, aged 18 and above, in a celebration of their value and importance to our community. The event's focus is on honoring Black men while supporting a worthy cause.

... continued on page 8



Bishop Robert A. Culp



LaVon Carter



Anton Parks



Cyrano Depp



Marcus Gaines



Moni Featchures



Melvin Wainwright

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator.

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(567) 326-4027

FREE 7-year Extended Warranty* – A \$735 Value!

GENERAC

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Donny Rayford



Dorian Rayford



Eric Butter



Ed Dixon

The Emergence of a Beast in Our Midst...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Just when you think it was safe to go back into the water, an alarm bulletin goes out and states that a beast has been spotted in the murky waters; and it is emerging from its bed of slime to wreak havoc on the half sleeping citizenry.

That beast, hoary and covered with oozing puss sores and having slits for eyes, is hoisting itself out of the brine and getting back its "land legs" because it is readying itself for a feeding frenzy on light-headed people who were and are slack in a never-ending duty of watching for and repudiating the beast and its spawn.

The appetite of the beast, now roused from a halfhearted sleep, is desirous to consume people who do not know or who do not want to know history. A history that tells a grim and sordid tale of hate, bigotry and death to those by the beast who profess to be Jews.

To the beast, to be a Jew or to sympathize with people of Jewish background is to be fair game for it to demonize, degrade, kill, maim and destroy such persons and their culture and their historical faith.

For this beast is consumed with unfathomable hatred for anyone who stands with Israel and the Jewish people. This beast has no moral compass and disdains any attempts to rebuke it for its unbridled anger and hostilities against all things Jewish.

The beast has a long and sordid history of engineering campaigns of hatred and is crafty enough to hide its intentions in abstract intellectual arguments that give the appearance that the beast, and its followers, have legitimate gripes by which they claim permission to kill all Jews.

For the beast, nothing short of total annihilation of the Jewish people will satiate its murderous lust.

When challenged, the beast will not offer any arguments of rudimentary logic or plausible validity but will simply resort to tropes and created artifacts gathered from ancient history to the present date.

The beast is able to slyly inculcate others with ancient stories of the Jew being rulers of the universe and being people who exploit others for monetary gain and who have no mercy.

The beast has been supremely successful in hoodwinking enough gullible people to forego any logical challenges to its baseless arguments, and before long, they are senselessly parroting the vile rot of the beast.

The bombastic statements of the beast invites acts of mayhem, riot, warfare, carnage, imprisonment, loss of property...just because the beast has been offended by his arch enemy (to be revealed later in this article) and it seeks revenge.

If there is one consistent theme in all human history, it is that the beast never ceases from its toil of tempting others to hate the Jewish people as much as he hates them.

His hatred is beyond volcano lava hot. If one could do so, even touching the sun would not equate the degree to which and by which the beast is committed to hating the Jew and Israel.

Not even close.

And now. And now, we have the beast being center stage in the latest iteration of that hate via the acts of Hamas in attacking Israel. The airwaves were filled with unbearable sounds and images and gruesome stories of people being beheaded, babies burned to death, parents decapitated in front of their kids...and on and on and on.

The war of Hamas and Israel will garnish much public notice and with that public notice, people will decide whose side they are on.

Anti-Semitism, both here in the US and around the world, has frightfully escalated to an all time high and with no end in sight. People's hearts are failing them for fear and a fear that this newest attack on all things Jewish will not end well for Jewish people.

How one does not condemn Hamas for their consistency in seeking the eradication of the Jewish People, is beyond belief. The very found-

ing document of Hamas in the year 1987, clearly articulates that their mission is to kill Jews. Full stop. What don't you understand?

The beast has used and will use any artifice at their disposal to conduct its mission and Hamas is one of those tools.

The ravenous appetite of the beast is to "shape-shift" itself into an organization that is fighting for liberation in Palestine. Truth be told, if the citizens of Palestine could govern themselves and make peace with Israel with a two-state solution, Hamas would be out of business and the beast would have to move on to other targets.

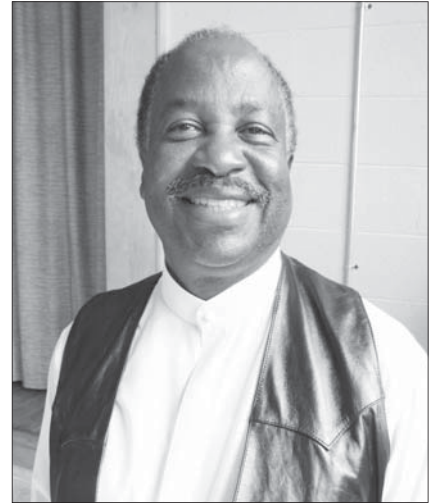
For those who ascribe to the validity of the Word of God and as stated in both the New Testament and the Old Testament, the beast is Satan who since the Garden of Eden has attacked the creation of God; and his prime target both then and now is the Jew and the progeny of the Christ who was always his first sworn enemy.

The still existence of Israel and the birth of the Christian Church, as led by Jesus the Christ is an open wound to the beast because he sees that his job is unfinished because he wrongly believes that if he can eradicate the Nation of Israel and befoul the name of the Christ...he wins.

Let it said that the beast and its allies and all their powers are temporary and will soon be vanquished when the primary object of the beast's wrath, overthrows him.

As for peace in the Middle East? You can quote me on this: "There will be no peace in the Middle East until the Prince of Peace returns." Lines are being drawn in the sand! Make sure that you are on the right side of history.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Community Calendar

November 12

Warren AME Church Veterans Appreciation Sunday: Rev. Quentin White, preacher and author of Still to Fight On: The Background, Beliefs and Practices of Ministry to African American Veterans, guest speaker at 11 am

November 14

Toledo Branch NAACP General public meeting: Jerusalem Baptist Church; 7 pm

November 19

Toledo Branch NAACP Youth Council November Meeting: Sanger Branch Library; 3 pm

Take the next step to homeownership with our Community Home Loan



YourStateBank.com
877.867.4218



JacQuelon Wilson
Vice President
Community Development
Mortgage Loan Officer
C 419.508.0806
NMLS 1638079
JacQui.Wilson@YourStateBank.com



930 W. Market Street
Lima, OH 45805
1900 Monroe Street, Suite 108
Toledo, OH 43604

Redefining Strength: Prostate Screening and Health of Black Men

By Ronald Wells, Jr.
Guest Column

Hello, friends and advocates of good health! November is a special month for many reasons, and it's not just because of the beautiful fall colors or the meals we share with family.

It's also the month when we spotlight the critical issue of prostate cancer awareness, and I'm here to have a heart-to-heart with my fellow Black men (and women) about why this matters so much to us. Like many in our community, I come to you as someone whose family has been impacted by cancer.

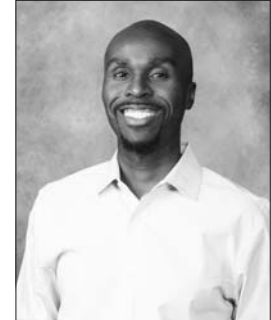
My cousin William was diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer one month after he turned 40 in 2016. He passed away the month after that. A few years later, in remembrance of him, I joined Ohio Partners for Cancer Control (OPCC) which is a statewide cancer coalition of various stakeholders that work collaboratively towards reducing the impact of cancer in Ohio. Now, as Chair-elect of OPCC, I focus on bringing a health equity lens and ensuring we have real strategies to address health outcomes in Black communities.

Conversations about health, especially prostate cancer, can be challenging. Yet, we need to have them, for ourselves, our loved ones, and the future we're building. The earlier we can find the strength to have these conversations, the better. That's the message I want to share with you today.

We must continue to be aware that prostate cancer is a real and significant threat to our community. It's the second leading cause of cancer death in men

and statistics show that Black men are more likely to develop prostate cancer than men of any other race.

You might be thinking, "Well, I'm not worried about that." But that's the kind of thinking that we need to challenge. We have a legacy to uphold, a rich history filled with strength, resilience, and doing what's necessary to build the lives we want. But to keep that legacy, we must take care of ourselves, mind and body.



Ronald Wells, Jr

Now, let's break down prostate cancer screening and why it's so important. First, the most common and straightforward test for prostate cancer is a PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood test. That's it, a simple blood test. Early detection is the name of the game for prostate cancer. This is because it often creeps in quietly, showing no symptoms until it's advanced.

Symptoms like frequent urination, blood in the urine, or back and hip pain might be a sign that the cancer has already spread. Black men should look to get screened starting between ages 40-45, especially if they have a family history of prostate cancer. Starting around 40 is like getting a baseline PSA (since you're younger and more likely to have normal levels) and doctors will have something to compare to future screenings. Regular screenings can catch it early, when it's more treatable, potentially saving your life.

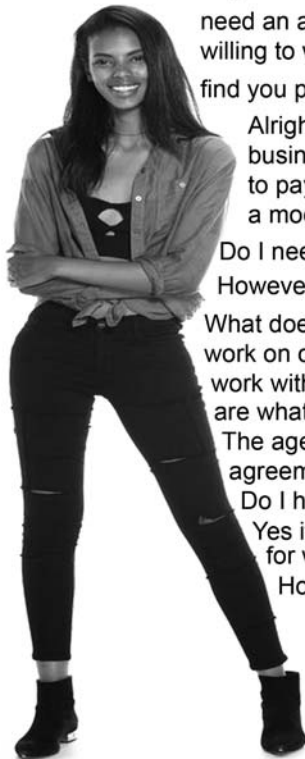
Unfortunately, many physicians are not up to speed on the current landscape of prostate cancer screenings. This is a racial equity issue in healthcare and is beyond the scope of this column. Just know that there hasn't been much urgency to reduce the death disparities from prostate cancer. Therefore, it's up to YOU to bring up screening with your doctor.

Friends, when we prioritize our well-being, we set an example for our families and friends. We show them that our lives and our presence in theirs matter. Sometimes, the changes of our bodies are frightening and we can't let fear stand in the way of taking control of our health.

Author Ta-Nehisi Coates, once wrote, "Reckon with the past to make a different future." The past has shown us the stats but we have the power to build a healthier future. I urge you to see your doctor this November and schedule that prostate cancer screening. Let's break the silence and spread awareness. Stay strong, my friends, and let's make a difference this November and beyond.

Modeling is a career, it is not an activity.

If you are seriously thinking about getting into acting or modeling you are going to



need an agency that will be willing to work with you to find you paid assignments.

Alright let's get down to business, Do you have to pay to be a client of a modeling agency? NO

Do I need to pay for photos? Yes, However not out-of-pocket....

What does that mean? Agencies work on commission and some will work with you, now that digital photos are what they work with.

The agency will have that in your agreement.

Do I have to sign with the agency? Yes if you want to be considered for work through the agency.

How much do I get paid?

You are paid 80% of what the assignment pays and the agency 20%. you will get more information from your agency.....

submit your photo to: expressionsmodels@gmail.com



151 N. Michigan St. Suite 316 Toledo, Oh www.ximodels.com

GLASS CITY GRIND

Saturdays @ 8 AM
Sundays @ NOON
Anytime on VOD

Find us on:

Environmental Justice Organization Seeks Immediate Solutions

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Climate Reality Project organized a call to action that included a panel discussion, information fair and documentary. On Thursday, November 2, 2023, 141 individuals filled the Imagination Station in downtown Toledo to watch a documentary, "How to Power a City," about how grass-root local activities lead the way towards sustainable renewable energy.

Melanie La Rosa, the film's director and producer, opened the viewing with words of gratitude, "Thank you for coming to this screening tonight, huge thank you to Julie Shapiro and Greg Breier of the Northwest Ohio Climate Reality Project for putting this event together, they approached me a few months ago with this idea to screen this in Toledo at the Imagination Station. I wish that I could have been there in person to watch the film."

The film focuses on how six communities have succeeded in implementing renewable energy solutions. Highland Park, Michigan was one of the cities mentioned which replaced streetlights with solar powered lights with the support from DTE. "People in the Midwest don't really feel the effects of climate change, like fires or floods like the coast does. We know that it does affect us, it affects us greatly. For example, remember the Smoke that began in Canada and blanked parts of the United States? Climate change is here, it's not in the future, but happening now," shared Climate Reality Toledo co-founder Julie Shapiro.

The discussion centered around the root causes and solutions to move society towards renewable energy, especially in northwest Ohio. "We have to target state level policies. Gerrymandering of Ohio maps is the problem because oil and fuel special interest gather support and get their politicians elected or re-elected. The don't have to worry about what the public wants," said event organizer and Climate Reality Project member, Dennis Slotnick.

Immediately following the documentary presentation, Alicia Smith of the Junction Coalition served as moderator of a panel discussion. The panel included Julie Roth a manager of Energy Team, Bob McColister, PhD a trained climate reality presenter who represents Green Energy Ohio, State Representative Michele Grim of Ohio House District 43, and Rachel Neri the Director of Community Outreach at NeighborWorks Toledo Region.

Climate Reality and 19 organizations gathered to share information and solutions: A2Zero/solarize Ann Arbor, Clevelandowns, Citizens Climate Lobby, Environmental Services, First Unitarian Church, Green Energy Ohio, Homeland Solar, Junction Coalition, Lake Erie



Advocates, Lucas County Soil & Water, NeighborWorks, Raingarden Initiative, Rebates and Tax Credits, TARTA, Toledo MetroParks, Toledo Port Authority, University of Toledo Solar, Water Keepers and Secular Humanists.

Climate Reality Project is chapter of an international organization founded by former Vice President Al Gore. The Toledo chapter has 40 members and was chartered three to four years ago by co-founders Greg Breier and Julie Shapiro.

"Climate Reality Project is a worldwide movement that moves people from the bottom up and top down, charging people to vote to make change," said Slotnick.

"This was our first chapter event. We have worked in advocacy and want Toledo to move feaster to craft a climate action plan. Toledo City Council earmarked one percent to support sustainability. However, year to date, a director has not been hired, there's no plan and we're anxious to see the results," said Shapiro.

Join Us!
Worship EXPERIENCE
 Every Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
 Let's FELLOWSHIP together - Acts 2:42



Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
 2102 Mulberry Street, Toledo, Ohio 43608
 (419) 726-1180, FAX: (419) 726-6240
 E-mail: EasternStarMBC@aol.com
 Website: www.drjwilliams.org

Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

Hit the road with Glass City auto financing!

- New & used auto loans
- Competitive rates & terms
- Convenient payment options

Apply online or at a branch.
 Or ask for Glass City financing at an area auto dealership.

GLASS CITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Toledo • Maumee • Bowling Green
 419-887-1000 • glasscityfcu.com

Financing subject to credit approval & membership eligibility.

We're working for you!



In Memoriam

Frank A. Baker – December 2, 1940 – October 18, 2023

Frank A. Baker was born on December 2, 1940 in Carbondale, Illinois to the late Frank and Molene Baker. He departed this life peacefully on October 18, 2023 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Frank was raised in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, Pontiac Michigan and Toledo, Ohio. He received his education in the Toledo school system graduating from Scott High School and the University of Toledo. He excelled academically and played football at the University of Toledo.

After college he was drafted by the Cleveland Browns on the fifth round pick. He was also drafted by the Denver Broncos of the AFL and the Edmonton Eskimos of the CFL. Frank also played with several Continental football league clubs, including the Toledo Tornadoes, Canton Bulldogs and Philadelphia Bulldogs.

He continued his education at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and worked in management at Ford Motor Company and DuPont until retirement.

Frank leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 56 years, Juanita, and their children Nicole and Frank (Laura) Baker; daughters Cynthia Baker and Lisa Roberts; siblings Raymond (Denise) Baker, Barbara Baker, and Alfred (Beverly) Baker; sisters-in-law Ruth Keel and Julia Harrod; grandchildren Henry Baker, Asa Baker, Isabella Baker, Olivia Baker, Auggie Baker, Knox Baker, Juan Baker, LaTosha Baker, Don Granger, Doniqua Granger, Brandi Roberts, Kristen Roberts, Kortni Roberts; faithful caregivers Bryan Marshall and Edwin Stewart and special friend James Montague.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Molene Baker; uncles Vincent Baker and Melvin King; brother Dr. Donald Baker; sister Dr. Kathryn



Palmer; and nephews John Palmer, Esq and David Baker, Esq.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, October 24 at Newman AME Church, 233 Bagley Street, Pontiac Michigan. Family hour begins at 10:00am and the service will start at 10:30am. Internment will be held at White Chapel Cemetery, Troy, Michigan.

How Black Credit Unions Empower Their Communities

Leaders at credit unions want to change how Black Americans feel about banking and financial wellness, one account at a time

By Bria Oyers

Special to The Truth

When traditional banks turned away Black Americans, credit unions welcomed them with open arms.

Different from a bank, credit unions are not-for-profit financial institutions. And Black-led and Black-serving institutions understand the nuances and history of being Black.

They were created for the underserved, says Renee Sattiewhite, president and CEO of the African American Credit Union Coalition. “When banks would not take people, regardless of color, credit unions started to be a place where people of modest means could pull their money together and then loan it out to one another.”

This concept has benefited communities and created a different way of banking. A report from the Federal Reserve found that Black Americans are the country’s least banked racial group. They have the highest rates of being “unbanked” and “underbanked” at 13 percent and 27 percent, respectively, and were most often denied or approved for less credit than they requested, regardless of household income.

Black credit unions know their communities’ obstacles, says Dina Hairston, CEO of the Atlanta-based 1st Choice Credit Union. “The benefit when you come to our institutions, or even just a credit union in general, is that a lot of those barriers are removed,” she says. “We look at the full person, the full picture, from the financial standpoint.”

1st Choice is a minority-owned Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Because of its special designation, 60% of the institution’s lending must go to low- and moderate-income demographics or the unbanked, says Hairston.

There’s a clear gap and historic issue with banking. But credit union leaders focused on serving this population say increasing access to money and opportunities is ingrained in their operations.

“Credit unions are geared toward helping the community,” Hairston says. “We’re really people helping people as a cooperative.”

More than a Customer

Credit unions do not have “customers” like banks do. According to the National Credit Union Administration, they are member-owned — owned and controlled by those who use their services.

Each member owns a share of the credit union and can sit on their cooperative’s board. “That does not happen in a bank,” says Sattiewhite.

Qualifications for joining a credit union differ by institution. Requirements depend on an employer, location, affiliation to a group like a union or association, or whether a family member is already a member.

This approach is part of the appeal of working with a credit union.

“Any profits that we turn, we reinvest back into our membership with lower interest rates,” Hairston says. “We don’t have the higher fees that you’re going

...continued on page 13

THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY PRESENTS

12th Annual

FALL EXPO EXTRAVAGANZA

November 18, 2023 11AM - 4PM

SMALL BUSINESSES, DJ, FOOD TRUCKS
FREE ADMISSION & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR THE KITCHEN FOR THE POOR

ST. CLEMENT HALL
2990 TREMAINSVILLE RD, TOLEDO, OH 43613

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:
GOODNEIGHBORS FAMILY PHARMACY • THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK
THE SOJOURNER TRUTH NEWSPAPER • ADVENTUROUS TRAVELS

DONNETTA CARTER, MSW
EVENT ORGANIZER
419-367-9765
THESOCIALBUTTERFLYEVENTS@YAHOO.COM

SOCIAL Butterfly

GOODNEIGHBORS FAMILY PHARMACY

BBB

CPR Event Hosted at UToledo Rec Center

The Truth Staff

The 3rd Annual Community CPR Event was hosted by CC419 at the University of Toledo Student Recreation Center on Saturday, November 4. Hundreds of attendees earned free CPR, FA, & AED certifications for adults, children and infants and received community resources.

The initiative was led by Tashara B., owner of Safety Nest; Toledo Public Safety Director Brian Byrd and Taylor Automotive Family Ambassador Terry Crosby.

"With all the current negativity in our world," stated Crosby, "this event was a clear indication that when we come together as the people, our communities are stronger and if we choose to stick together we become so much more unified and better making our residence of stay so much more positive, safer and progressive." He applauded the joint effort of the partners and supporters.

The aim of the event was to bring awareness and CPR training to an area that is generally overlooked and underserved. The certification will impact the lives of many in emergency situations where every second counts.

"There are health disparities [here]..." stated Byrd, "As a result of those health disparities, we have more people in under resourced communities who suffer from cardiac arrests. And we're less likely to have anybody in these same areas doing bystander CPR prior to the arrival of the EMS."

"Education is the key," he emphasized. "There's not a lot of people in our communities in the central city who are CPR certified."

The event welcomed people of all ages and walks of life from students to community members and children. Over 200 people registered and become CPR certified Saturday.

The partners and sponsors for the event included but are not limited to Toledo Fire & Rescue, Toledo Police, Safety Nest, Mercy Health, CC419, the Media MudTalk, 103.3fm, BCAN, The Truth, Toledo Fire & Rescue, Toledo Police Department, the Department of Water Utilities, and Bowsher Med-Tech Programs.

The group plans to host a fourth annual next year and expand the program even further.



Pamela and Brian Byrd



TaShara B



Terry Crosby inspects Chick-Fil-A table



The Truth Colours Gallery

7 East Bancroft
Bancroft & Franklin

OPEN

Tuesday to Friday
10am - 5:00pm
Saturdays for events
Mondays appointment

Follow on Facebook
Nikolacolours
For up coming events

LOVE

Celebrating the Essence and Importance of Black Men: CYT Images' "Black Men Matter Photoshoot 2.0"

...continued from page 2

One of the key elements of the event was the fundraising aspect. Participants were asked to make a minimum \$25 donation to take part in the photoshoot. These funds were directed towards Pathway Inc., Brothers United, an organization led by Avis Files. One hundred percent of the donations from the event will benefit the organization's mission which focuses on reducing poverty by providing comprehensive services that pave the way towards self-sufficiency. Through donations from the event, the community demonstrated solidarity and raised \$1858.00.

...continued on page 9



John C. Jones



James Johnson



Tyrice McCall



Xavier Bishop



Romel Hightower



Step in the driver's seat of your career

TARTA offers:

- Sign-on bonuses
- Paid training
- Excellent benefits

Visit www.tarta.com/careers to find out more and apply.



Celebrating the Essence and Importance of Black Men: CYT Images' "Black Men Matter Photoshoot 2.0"

...continued from page 8

This event was a wonderful success, not only because of the amazing men who participated, or the amount of funds raised, but in the message it conveyed. This gathering of men demonstrated the power of unity and collective action in honoring and supporting Black men, the invaluable members of our community.



Durie Hodrick



Jared Moore



Isaiah Townsend Jr.



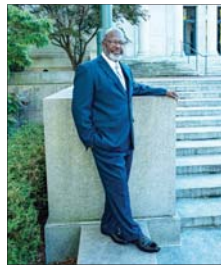
Ray Sanders



Mike Files



Jamele Hughes



Don Hicks



Steve Harris Jr.



Vongene Walker



Julian Huntley



KeJuan Mickles



Raymond Sanders



OPEN ENROLLMENT

Ends January 16, 2024
Lock in a free appointment now!

MARKETPLACE | MEDICAID
Aging Off A Parent's Medical Insurance? Or Just Confused By Health Coverage Options?
Navigators Can Help
Call 1-833-628-4467 To Schedule A Free Appointment With A Certified and Licensed Navigator

get covered | QR code | CareNET

This project is supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$2.52 million with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Your health is anything but business as usual. You need a healthcare partner who is there for you on your terms.

UTMC is pleased to work with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield to provide healthcare services to Ohio Medicaid subscribers. Connect with our 24/7 Access Center to schedule an appointment with a qualified provider who can help with your health needs.

419.383.5000
utmc.utoledo.edu/findaphysician



The Lourdes and Maritime Partnership

By Paul Hubbard

Guest Column

Maritime Academy and Lourdes University made their partnership official when Aaron Lusk, superintendent of Maritime Academy, and William Bisset, PhD, president of Lourdes University, and Paul Hubbard, chairman of Maritime Academy Board, signed a partnership agreement. Jim Hartung, vice president of Maritime board, Jada Jones and Shamarra Hayworth, students at Maritime, were also in attendance.

Jada Jones and Shamarra Hayworth, two Maritime students, say they may consider going to Lourdes University for a nursing degree. The two students went on a tour of the university campus and came back with smiles on their faces.

Jim Hartung observed that this is a win/win for both educational institutions. Aaron Lusk said this is a unique partnership because Lourdes has an incredibly diverse student population, the school is number two in the region for inclusion of students. Lusk went on to say the school wants to provide opportunities and pathways for all students including the economically disadvantaged students, and this partnership will help Maritime do this.

President William Bisset noted that Lourdes University is committed to fostering educational equity and breaking down barriers to college entry for Maritime student. Bisset went on to say that Lourdes would like to recruit and admit as many Maritime students to the university as possible. Bisset



said Lourdes wants to recruit students but also wants to see them graduate from the university.

Maritime Academy includes grades six to 12 with options to pursue studies and credentials for careers on the water of the Great Lakes and rivers including the Laker Boats, also training in culinary arts, welding, dental assistance (soon), and environmental science. There is a hands-on aquatic simulator, a river boat, swimming pool and other educational assets at Maritime. Maritime Academy is located on the Maumee River in downtown Toledo.

Lourdes will provide scholarships, math tutoring, field trips to Lourdes campus, teacher training for Maritime teachers, use of campus resources and opportunities for Maritime students to take college courses and seminars along with assistance in obtaining college financial aid. Lourdes Students will also be involved with Maritime Academy students and staff.

Toledo Parents of School Age Kids should be aware that Maritime Academy is a great opportunity for their kids to consider an education.

House of Ginnie

Custom designed clothing • sewing workshops & more!!

Mon – Wed --- 10 AM to 7 PM • 567-290-8066

LeafFilter® CLOG-FREE GUTTERS FOREVER

GUTTER PROTECTION

BEFORE LeafFilter

AFTER LeafFilter

THE NATION'S #1 GUTTER GUARD

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + 10% OFF + 0%

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE SENIORS & MILITARY APP FOR 24 MONTHS**

Promo Code: 285

FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

1-844-518-2952

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

A COMPANY OF LEAFHOME

**Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mos. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 28.99%, Effective - 01/01/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-431-5921 for complete details. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2018 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." *For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMT/Merger Group in Ohio. AR #0266620922, CA #103579, CT #HIC-0609905, FL #RCR056078, IA #IC12720, ID #HIC-011624, IL #50954, IN #51642, MD #HIC-18209, MI # 210221296, #626200022, #626200043, #1106212946, MN #H731804, MT #226192, ND #7304, NE #50145-22, NJ #13W0990390, NM #408693, NV #008690, NY #H119114, H-52229, OR #218294, PA #PA069383, RI #GC-41354, TN #7656, UT #10783658-5501, VA #2105169445, WA #LEAF#NWR0202, WV #WV05912.

Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section

ACT Scores for Black Kids Drop to New Lows

The latest ACT report raises concerns about post-pandemic learning and long-standing systemic inequalities

By Aziah Siid

Special to The Truth

From annual high-stakes state testing to high school exit exams, standardized testing is a part of student life in the United States. In the case of tests like the SAT and ACT, these exams, typically taken during a student's junior or senior year of high school, are supposed to tell us how ready a kid is for college — even as a majority of four-year colleges have adopted test-optional or test-free admissions policies.

But a new report by ACT, the nonprofit organization that administers the ACT exam, raises the question of whether or not the nation's students are as prepared as they should be, and sounds yet another alarm about the achievement of Black students.

According to the report published on Oct. 10, ACT scores for American students from all racial and ethnic backgrounds have declined for the past six consecutive years.

Black Students Score Lowest on the ACT

Across the board, Black students scored lowest on every ACT benchmark — mathematics, reading, science, and English, and a composite score, which is the average of your four scores.

In 2023, the average composite score for all students was 19.5 out of 36, but for Black students, the score was 16 out of 36 — the lowest score since 2019.

Indeed, this is not an isolated problem. Since 2019, Black students have scored lowest or tied for lowest with students who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native.

In a statement, ACT CEO Janet Godwin noted that growing numbers of high school seniors are "leaving high school without meeting any of the college readiness benchmarks, even as student GPAs continue to rise and students report that they feel prepared to be successful in college."

Godwin said the hard truth is that not enough is being done to ensure that graduates are truly ready for postsecondary success in college and career, and those systemic problems require sustained action and support at the policy level. But teachers and principals can't solve the problem alone.

"It is a shared national priority and imperative," Godwin said.

A Trend of Systemic Educational Inequity

"ACT has always measured what students are learning in high school, and connecting it to what colleges and universities tell us are most important for students to know and understand to be successful in their college courses," Rose Babington, senior director of state and federal programs at ACT, tells Word In Black.

The score decline that students experienced in the 2022 graduating class is a concern because it reflects both the impact of the pandemic on students as well as a much longer 30-year trend that points to fundamental, systemic inequities in education, Babington says.

In 2022, just under 1.4 million high school students took the ACT, down from roughly 1.8 million in 2019. The organization's research shows that

students who do well on the test have about a 50% chance of earning a B or better in college classes and a 75% chance of earning a C.

"We know that an ACT score doesn't define a student, it doesn't define the person, and represents one day that a student took a test in their life," Babington says. But she says the ACT score creates opportunities for admissions, scholarships, placement into classes, and even majors.

Is the ACT Actually Helping Black Students?

However, according to FairTest — an organization that has spent the past 40 years working "to promote equitable and reasonable assessment of teachers, students, and school systems" — the ACT contributes to inequities in education and life.

The test "consistently under-predicts the performance of females in college and over-predicts the performance of males," according to FairTest. And that's even though girls and women earn better grades at both the high school and college levels.

FairTest says that given that Black and other minority students score lower than white students, "Rigid use of the ACT for admissions will produce freshman classes with very few minorities and with no appreciable gain in academic quality."

The ACT is "very effective at eliminating academically promising low-income and under-represented minority students who apply with strong academic records but relatively low ACT scores," notes FairTest.

The organization found a move to being test-optional helps colleges be more diverse with "no drop off in academic quality."

How to Help Black Students

Babington says the scores indicate a bigger systemic question of how to work with communities and policymakers to implement changes that apply to COVID-19 cohorts so Black students can be successful after high school.

One common-sense recommendation she gives is to ensure students are taking the most challenging high school curriculum.

"When students are taking that core curriculum, they're scoring significantly higher than students who are not taking that core curriculum," she says.

However, that hinges on ensuring Black students actually have access to advanced courses, like AP classes. Research from Education Trust shows 225,000 Black and Latino students don't have access to advanced classes, even though data shows enrollment in these courses is linked to increased scores on exit exams.

One encouraging point says Babington is the number of Black students who retest for the ACT is higher than the national average of students who retest.

"Students are saying, 'I'm going to test again, and I want to get that higher score, and really show my abilities and put my best foot forward when I'm going into the college admissions process.'"

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO VIRTUAL REALITY STUDY

Experience virtual reality! (similar to a video game)
Participate in a new University of Toledo study
Earn **\$100** in gift cards!
For children and adults (ages 6 to 35)
Contact us! Phone: 419-823-7667
Email: SocialHealthLab@utoledo.edu



DIXIE Auto Leasing Toledo, OH

5880 N. Detroit
Month to Month Leasing
419-476-8674

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS



Bernadette Joy Graham, LPCC, LLC
Licensed Professional
Clinical Counselor
419.409.4929
Mental Health...Get Your Mind Right
www.bjgrahamcounseling.com
2525 W. Bancroft
Toledo, OH 43606
graham.bernadette@gmail.com



Thurs. 11-6pm
Fri. 11-8pm
Sat. 11-8pm
Sun. 12-4pm



419-386-1244  [Bertha Mae's Kitchen](https://www.facebook.com/BerthaMaeKitchen)
840 N. Summit st.  [berthamaeskitchen](https://www.instagram.com/berthamaeskitchen)
Toledo, Ohio 43604

UNSTOPPABLE COMMERCIAL ROOFING

Attention All Commercial & Residential Property Owners

New 5" & 6" seamless gutters
Gutter services: Cleaning, reinforce and reseal
Ask about Gutter guard.
Call for free quote: 419.656.1333



Welcome Home to Sylvan Lakes Apartments!

Our elegant apartments feature spacious bedrooms with ample storage, high ceilings and breath-taking views! Stop in today to see our beautifully landscaped grounds, resort-like swimming pool and clubhouse with its fully-equipped fitness center. Located just west of King road off of Sylvania Ave.

Sylvan Lakes
Apartment Homes

4045 A Langston Place, Sylvania, Ohio 43560
P: 419-842-8480 E: investekmanagement.com



America Rallies for Afterschool Programs

Special to The Truth

Afterschool programs keep children safe, inspire them to learn, and give working parents the peace of mind that comes with knowing their kids are supervised and learning after the school day ends. There is an urgent need for greater investments in these programs, as U.S. children and youth try to recover academically and socially from the pandemic.

Studies show there aren't nearly enough afterschool and summer learning programs. For every child in an afterschool program, four more are waiting to get in. Some 24.7 million U.S. children not in an afterschool program would be enrolled if a program were available to them. Additionally, there are significant inequities, with unmet demand for afterschool programs significantly higher among Latino and Black children than children overall.

Each year, "Lights On Afterschool" celebrates the achievements of afterschool students and draws attention to the need for more afterschool programs. A million people are participating in more than 8,000 "Lights On Afterschool" events around the country this fall.

Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, this year's events include academic contests, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) demonstrations, community service events, debates and discussions, student art shows and performances, family fun nights, runs and walks, and much more. Events are focused on academics, health and well-being, the arts, civic engagement, STEM learning, fitness and healthy eating, cyberbullying prevention and more.

To learn more about "Lights On Afterschool" and how to participate, visit afterschoolalliance.org.

"Communities are coming together to showcase the skills students gain and the talents they develop in their afterschool programs," says Jodi Grant, executive director of the Afterschool Alliance. "We need to celebrate and support the programs that do so much to help students succeed in school and in life. We need sustained investments and increased support, so all students and families will finally have access to the afterschool programs they need."

Five Tips to Create an At-Home Study Space for Students

Special to The Truth

Now that students are in the full swing of the school year, they will need a quiet personal area to study and tackle assignments. From research and

writing to cramming for exams, here are five tips to help create an environment that is calm and conducive to learning.

Select a study sanctuary. Choose a location free from distractions away from the front door or a television. If you have limited space, convert a nook outside of the kitchen or a large empty closet into an office; just be sure this spot is well lit with natural light or several lamps.

Keep furniture fun and flexible. Comfortable furniture can make all the difference during an intense study session, so be sure to pick out a cozy couch and chair. Add a standing desk, so students can stretch their legs while continuing with the task at hand and consider purchasing a bean bag chair to keep the atmosphere relaxed.

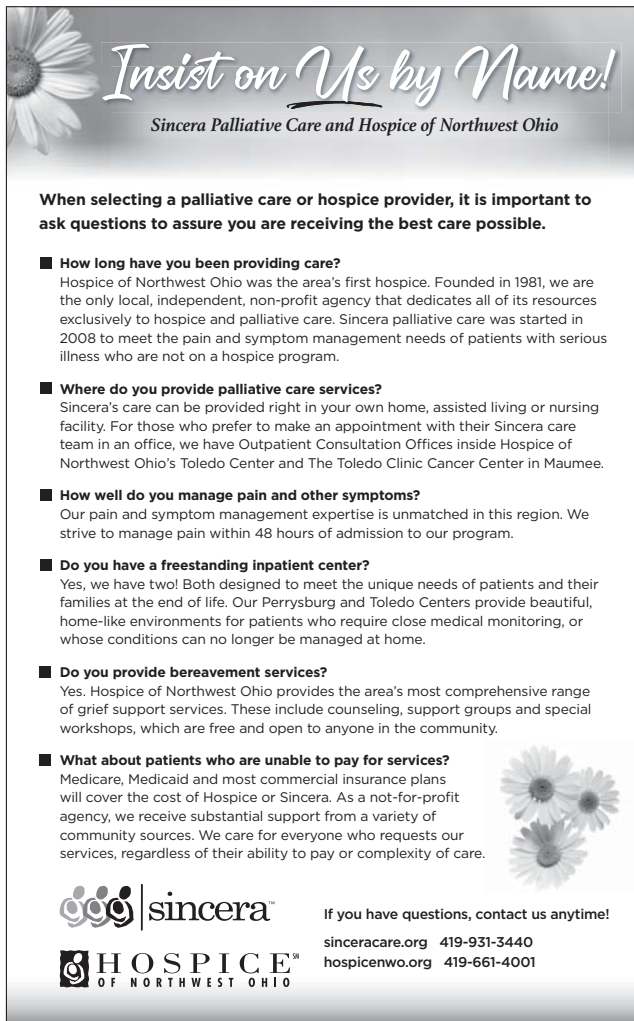
Make it neat and tidy. Students can save time and reduce clutter by mounting a bulletin board to keep track of their exam schedule and other important study materials. Use heavy-duty, double-sided tape to hang it without damaging the wall, then personalize it with fun push pins, motivational quotes and a colorful border made from one of the many available Duck Tape colors and prints. Additionally, placing small bins in the desk area will help keep track of pens and sticky notes, and file holders will keep materials from each class separate and easily accessible.

Study in style. One way to keep the motivation going during the busy school year is to make this space feel fun and vibrant. Pick a color scheme or theme for the space, then hang wall art, band and movie posters or framed photos of family and friends to go with your chosen design direction. Add some colorful pillows to the desk chair or couch, then customize school supplies and containers to match the mood. For a burst of brightness, use Duck Mirror Crafting Tape to embellish pen holders or planters.

Complete weekend resets. After a busy school week, offices can become cluttered and messy with dust, scattered papers and food crumbs from those after-class snacks. Designate time on Sunday to clean up before the new school week begins. As part of the reset, place items back into their designated spots, update the bulletin board with new to-do lists and wipe down surfaces to maintain a clean and hygienic environment.

While the school year can get stressful, making use of these tips will help foster a great at-home educational environment so students can succeed all school year long.

Courtesy StatePoint



Insist on Us by Name!
Sincera Palliative Care and Hospice of Northwest Ohio

When selecting a palliative care or hospice provider, it is important to ask questions to assure you are receiving the best care possible.

- How long have you been providing care?**
Hospice of Northwest Ohio was the area's first hospice. Founded in 1981, we are the only local, independent, non-profit agency that dedicates all of its resources exclusively to hospice and palliative care. Sincera palliative care was started in 2008 to meet the pain and symptom management needs of patients with serious illness who are not on a hospice program.
- Where do you provide palliative care services?**
Sincera's care can be provided right in your own home, assisted living or nursing facility. For those who prefer to make an appointment with their Sincera care team in an office, we have Outpatient Consultation Offices inside Hospice of Northwest Ohio's Toledo Center and The Toledo Clinic Cancer Center in Maumee.
- How well do you manage pain and other symptoms?**
Our pain and symptom management expertise is unmatched in this region. We strive to manage pain within 48 hours of admission to our program.
- Do you have a freestanding inpatient center?**
Yes, we have two! Both designed to meet the unique needs of patients and their families at the end of life. Our Perrysburg and Toledo Centers provide beautiful, home-like environments for patients who require close medical monitoring, or whose conditions can no longer be managed at home.
- 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.

sincera
HOSPICE OF NORTHWEST OHIO

If you have questions, contact us anytime!
sinceracare.org 419-931-3440
hospicenwo.org 419-661-4001

The Invisible Ache by Courtney B. Vance & Dr. Robin L. Smith with Charisse Jones

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Your skin was not even broken.

No cuts, no scratches, no stitches needed. There was no blood and no bruise, either, not even the least bit of soreness. And yet, you're wounded, raw, wincing. You're absolutely not okay right now, and in the new book *The Invisible Ache* by Courtney B. Vance & Dr. Robin L. Smith, with Charisse Jones, it's from a hurt you cannot see.

c.2023
Balance
\$30.00
268 pages

The phone call came early in the morning in the middle of the week.

Courtney Vance's father had taken his own life, leaving his adult children and a wife who was all but paralyzed with grief. Vance "felt like a boy suddenly dealing with big man stuff" but he helped his mother who, after the funeral, insisted that Vance and his sister seek therapy.

Vance had known that his father was in emotional pain for a long time, for a variety of reasons – and he came to understand that he was, too. It was almost like a legacy, one that he says many Black men suffer.

Says Vance's co-author, "Society's mirror doesn't reflect how varied Black men really are..." Black boys are not supposed to cry or be vulnerable, although Smith says that "To be vulnerable is to be strong." Black men are taught to deal with their problems alone, in silence, but Smith says that talking through trauma allows room for reclaiming power.

Seek support, she says, and remember that "life isn't virtual," so draw boundaries and step back from social media sometimes. Don't be afraid "to talk to young men [and] young women, about the sanctity of their bodies." Find your sense of gratitude and remember that church isn't the only place to pray.

"Feel free to frolic. Walk barefoot through a mud patch if it makes you happy. Plant a garden. Pick up a hula hoop. Plunge into a pool."

And remember: when it comes to mental self-care, "silence isn't golden. It is actually deadly. So let's talk it out."

Have you hit your discomfort level yet? If not, well, just wait. Authors Courtney B. Vance and Dr. Robin L. Smith will take you there soon enough – and in *The Invisible Ache*, they'll bring you back whole.

Part autobiography, part advice, this book is like getting poked and prodded until a deep self-inspection is performed – and then being asked to look again. It's very raw, like removing the bandages the day after cutting off a piece of yourself, but it's oddly cathartic. Vance tells his tale and that of his father in a calm way that makes readers want to keep going, despite that it hurts; Smith then takes over and soothes the pain with leading statements that feel like having your hand held. It's a nice mix, and very helpful.

While this book is primarily meant for Black men, young and old, it's not a bad read for a woman who wants to help, understand, or do some introspection of her own. Find it; *The Invisible Ache* is not just for the broken.



Invisible Ache author, courtesy 2022 Nick Onken



Invisible Ache author, courtesy 2022 Nick Onken

Black Credit Unions... continued from page 6

to see with the banks."

Sheila Montgomery, CEO of Florida A&M University Federal Credit Union, says traditional banking systems are "exclusive," but Black credit unions "allow us to be inclusive for the communities we serve."

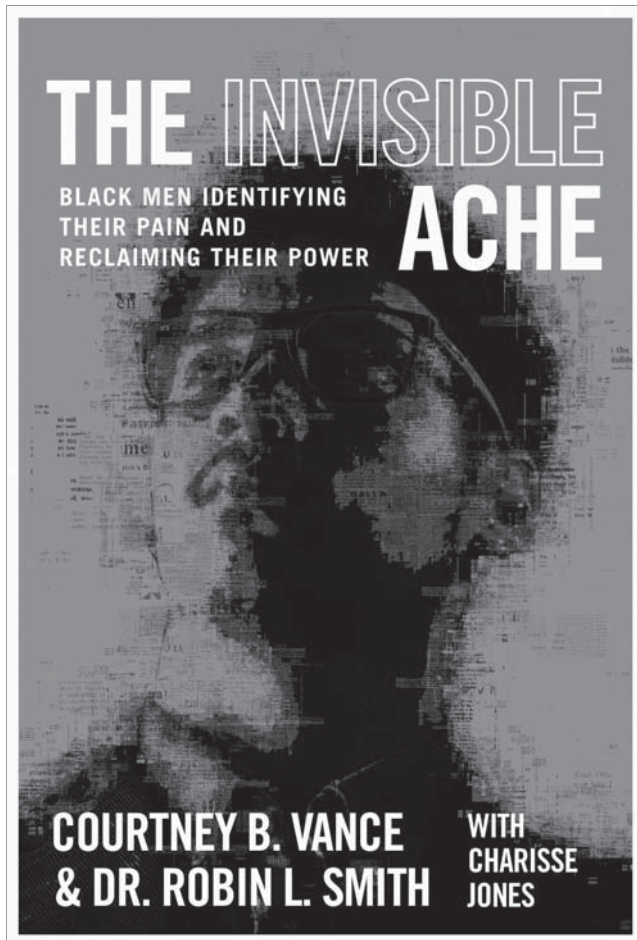
Florida A&M University is a Historically Black College and University. Its credit union is one of the oldest in the state and the second-largest HBCU credit unions in the nation. Members are alumni, students, employees, and local community members in Tallahassee, Florida.

Financial institutions rely on credit scores to determine interest rates and eligibility for some banking products. Montgomery says this is "risk-based pricing." Black-owned and -operated credit unions know this factor disproportionately affects their members.

According to Bankrate, Black communities have fair credit — one step above poor — and the median credit score is 627. Those with fair credit see higher interest rates, unfavorable terms, fewer loan options, more expensive security deposits for housing, and more.

Sattiewhite, Hairston, and Montgomery agree that credit unions seek ways to work with their members instead of denying them opportunities.

"Most credit unions will operate the same," Sattiewhite says. "You will find the same level of service or the commitment to be of service. At credit unions, you're a person, not a number, not a dollar sign."



America's urban community alternative station!

iHeartRADIO

Entrepreneurs
Independent Artist & Producers
Actors
Sports
Fashion
Book Authors
Educators

With your host **DeYonn** aka The Musical Teddy Bear!

Jam Packed Emagazine Morning Show!

All Genres Welcome!

Community Awareness
Health Awareness
Safety Awareness

"We Make Stars Happen!"
Independent Music & Majors welcome!

www.blackbeatmusicgroup.com

Call in days Monday 12 noon - 2pm & Wednesday 12 noon - 2pm
(712) 770-4010 use access code 760462

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DESIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is accepting qualifications from design professionals to provide services for its New Washington Branch Project. The Project is anticipated to include renovation of an existing 55,000-square-foot structure for a new Washington Branch and ancillary Library services. Interested firms may request an RFQ from Mike Graybeal,

Director of Operations/Deputy Fiscal Officer at Mike.Graybeal@TOLEDOLIBRARY.ORG<mailto:Mike.Graybeal@TOLEDOLIBRARY.ORG>. Qualifications will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. local time, DECEMBER 8th, 2023.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS DEVELOPER PARTNER(S) QUALIFICATIONS RFQ23-Q002

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Developer Partner(s) Qualifications in accordance with RFQ23-Q002**. Received in accordance with law until **November 15, 2023 at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE (CNI) – GRANT WRITER SERVICES RFP23-R008

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **CNI Grant Writer Services in accordance with RFP23-R008**. Received in accordance with law until **November 30, 2023 at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS RFP23-R001

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive proposals for **Project Based Vouchers for the HCV program**. Interested parties should be owner/developers, management agent, and/or project sponsors for projects concentrating on Supportive Services. LMH has reserved up to 250 PBV for this rolling RFP. Received in accordance with law until **December 07, 2023, at 3:00 PM ET**. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS LEAD RISK ASSESSMENT SERVICES (LRAD) RFP23-R011

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Lead Risk Assessment Services (LRAD) in accordance with RFP23-R011**. Received in accordance with law until **November 17, 2023 at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



PAYROLL MANAGER Lucas County Auditor

Salary:\$45,000-\$55,000
(Dependent Upon Qualifications)
Normal Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Position Summary

The Payroll Manager reports directly to the Payroll Director. This position is responsible for supervising all payroll operations for Lucas County, thus, interpersonal communications, both written and verbal, are critical. The payroll Manager will support the Payroll Director for all internal auditing functions for payroll. Additionally, this position must prepare payroll and related items for the Lucas County Auditor. Therefore, it is essential the Payroll Director displays strong payroll, time and labor knowledge; extensive experience and strong applied knowledge of Oracle Cloud/PeopleSoft and any other applications or systems used in the processing of payroll.

Essential Duties And Responsibilities

Supporting the Payroll Director in the day-to-day operations of the department and administration of department goals.

Minimum Qualifications

Bachelor's Degree majoring in Accounting or Certified Payroll Professional or equivalent work experience. Six (6) years of experience working in professional setting, with at least three (3) years in relation to payroll processing or equivalent.

To apply: email: tmbundy@co.lucas.oh.us

Lucas County Auditor Dedicated To Public Service and Citizens of Lucas County
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Poohs Kidz Present Warmth and Wellness Fair at Scott High

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

On Saturday, November 4, the Warmth and Wellness Fair at Scott High School, presented by Poohs Kidz, provided free kids coats and accessories for upcoming cold weather and winter season. Poohs Kidz is a non-profit organization that provides resources and support for the kids in the Toledo area. The purpose for the Warmth and Wellness Fair was to ensure that school-aged children would have access to a warm winter coat. Hats, gloves and socks were offered and provided also. Pooh Kids has donated hundreds of winter coats to the community children since 2016.

All guests were invited into the area to select a new coat, hats, gloves and socks. Snacks, drinks and artwork and activities were present and available for anyone who wanted something and to participate in fun times and activities. The atmosphere was open and welcoming to all who attended the event!

Ronnita Holyfield, Poohs Kidz president, has strong partnerships with participants who volunteered and supported the event. Ronnita acknowledged the positive impact the participants provided by recognizing all those who contributed to The Warmth and Wellness Fair.

"She Speaks, Save Our Community-City of Toledo, Toledo-Lucas County Healthy Start, UAW Local 12-Women's Committee, Toledo Public Library. My community partners!" said Holyfield in appreciation of community partnerships.

UAW Local 12 Women's Committee, Maggie Thornton, Jaleesa Plant, and Megan Fagan, provided the following information to explain its role: "The Women's Committee is dedicated to enhancing our community through their tireless efforts, fostering inclusivity, and empowering women to be catalysts for positive change."

Resources and information were provided by staff to share the benefits of connecting with the Toledo-Lucas County Healthy Start program. The Healthy Start Program is a program of the Health Department, to make it easier to have a healthy baby, to help babies and families with a healthy start in life with outreach, coordination, education and to assist with health insurance.

All guests and participants experienced a positive atmosphere that provided free merchandise and positivity with care and consideration for all the presence of children and family. A beneficial event for the community. Holyfield did indicate that she anticipates future events to continue to support the community. The contribution of all participants was respected and appreciated by the community kids who received benefits from attendance.



Ronnita Holyfield, Maggie Thornton, Jaleesa Plant, Megan Fagan



Where could **lead** be in my home?

Lead can be found in the air, soil, dust and paint inside or outside of some homes and other buildings built before 1978.

ToledoLeadSafe.com

TOL LeadSafe
City of Toledo TOLEDO

“Cheers to 100 Years” – Bertha Mae Rivers Celebrates Her Centennial

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

Bertha Mae Rivers, affectionally known as ‘Mother,’ celebrated a special milestone this weekend. The Tennessee native and longtime Toledoan turned 100 years old Saturday, November 4. Rivers was born November 4, 1923 in Brownsville, Tennessee and when asked how she reached the milestone the centenarian shared “[through] God’s grace and mercy.”

“I just thank God I know where I am and who I am and I know when the sun rises in the east and sets in the west” said Rivers. The honoree walked jubilantly into a room full of family members, friends and church members Saturday at her daughter’s home. In total there were seven generations celebrating with her that day, she noted.

Rivers is the last surviving of five siblings and has two children, Pearlle Williams and Willie Rivers, who were both present at the celebration. Rivers moved to Toledo, OH in 1951 and retired as a practical nurse from Mercy Hospital at the age of 61. She stated that her health changed when, at the age of 68, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Now at the age of 100 she has been a breast cancer survivor for over 30 years.

She credits her good health, memory and long life to her faith in God. “She highly believes in God, and God has gotten her through the years that she has lived so far” remarked Laveeda Scott, eldest granddaughter. Rivers is a devoted member of the Glass City Church of Christ where she has been serving for over 35 years. In her spare time Rivers enjoys reading her Bible, watching TV and crossword puzzles.

The great, great, great grandmother is blessed with two children, five grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, six great, great grandchildren and one great, great, grandchild --many of whom were present for her special day.

While the origins of her nickname ‘Mother’ from so many who lovingly know her, are unclear, her impact in her family’s life is certain.

“She’s a blessing in my life,” remarked granddaughter Kelly Williams. “When I was first hired [at General Motors 26 years ago] she watched both of my boys, got them off to school, taught them how to walk, potty trained them.” She reflected, “if it wasn’t for her I don’t know what I would do.”

“Bertha [has been] the greatest Auntie that I’ve ever known,” stated Tina Beauchamp niece. “She took me in a young kid and cared for me until I was able to stand on my own feet. My second daughter was born in her home and lived there for 16 years.” Beauchamp shared that people thought Rivers was



Great and (great great) nieces and nephews attend the celebration in honor of Bertha Mae Rivers



Bertha Mae Rivers celebrates 100 years on Saturday November 4!



Carmen Williams, Pearlle Williams, Lamont Rivers, Willie Rivers, Kelly Williams, Laila Rivers and the honoree



Family members William Peterson, Regina Peterson, Theresa Campbell and Minnie Peterson



Family celebrates Bertha Mae's 100th birthday milestone



Members of Glass City Church of Christ with long time member Bertha Mae Rivers

Connect Anywhere, Anytime.

Enjoy Free Internet Data on Your Mobile Devices with ACP

You qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program if a household of two has an income of less than \$39,440, or if you receive:

- Medicaid
- Veterans Pension
- SNAP
- Survivors or Lifeline Benefits
- SSI
- Tribal Assistance Program
- WIC
- Housing Assistance



maxsip TELECOM

Get a subsidized 4G Android Tablet for \$20

CALL TODAY (833) 431-2358

TRUGREEN

Caring for next spring's perfect lawn starts now.

Save now with **50% OFF*** Your First Service

Let the experts at TruGreen® provide a tailored plan that can help your lawn look its very best year-round.

TRUGREEN GUARANTEE TruGreen will gladly visit your property as needed between scheduled visits to ensure your satisfaction*

Our tailored lawn plans utilize the latest technology and techniques that help make your lawn green and healthy.

Our TruGreen Lawn Assessment® will examine your grass and soil types and tailor your plan based on the results.†

Call for your FREE, no-obligation quote today!
1-833-978-4736

*Special price is for first Lawn service only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay, MonthlyPay, or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services and/or products may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. †Purchase of annual lawn plan required for TruGreen Lawn Assessment, which is performed at the first visit. America's #1 lawn care company based on U.S. market share of professional lawn care companies. 2022 MMR Brand Health Tracker. *Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2022 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.