

Volume 82 No. 2

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

January 24, 2024

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**From Toledo To Tinseltown!**

*Moira "Fingaz" Frazier Conquers Hollywood!*

# Listening Through the Cracks: Potential Moves in Toledo Politics

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

The Truth Contributor

*Even closed doors have cracks.*

- Proverbs



Anita Lopez's selection to fill the retired Tina Skeldon Wozniak's seat on the Board of Lucas County Commissioners has lit a match to behind-the-scenes whispers, murmurs and subtle indications of potential moves that could shape Toledo's evolving political future.

When a prominent figure like Lopez ascends to the eighth floor of One Government Center, it sets off a chain reaction of potential appointments and vacancies. Who will fill the void? Who will be the new voices shaping policy decisions? What political actors are rising or falling, becoming relevant or irrelevant?

Here are some rumors and speculations about the consideration of key appointments, the formation of political alliances, and the negotiation of policy decisions that, although hidden from public view, have slipped through the cracks of the city's complex closed-door politics and intricate networks of influence.

## Lucas County Auditor:

The whispered conversations behind closed doors paint a vivid picture, with one name and one name only mentioned as the favorite to succeed Lopez as Lucas County Auditor. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with experience in auditing large corporations, City Councilwoman Katie Moline brings a wealth of financial expertise to the table.

From real estate assessments to overseeing intricate details like gas pumps and butcher scales, the role demands someone who can ensure the smooth operation of these functions. Her background and qualifications align seamlessly with the duties and responsibilities of the position, particularly in the realm of auditing and financial assessments.

Without question, Katie Moline possesses the operational acumen to excel in this capacity. When the Lucas County Democratic Party's central committee meets on January 30 to appoint Anita Lopez's replacement as Auditor, Katie Moline will get that position, thus creating a resulting vacancy on the Toledo City Council.

## TWO (not one) City Council Vacancies

In addition to Moline's exit, at-large Councilperson Tiffany Preston Whitman, Ed.D., will also leave council this week to take a role in Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz's administration as Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Whitman was appointed to her seat on Toledo City Council on September 22, 2020, was elected on November 2, 2021, and her term would have ended on January 5, 2026, if she were not to join the mayor's administration.

Highly touted as a potential future mayoral candidate, Whitman replaces former DEI Director Lacy DeBerry, just hired in 2022. Whitman's professional experience includes working as the director of academic innovation and testing services for University College at the University of Toledo. She received a bachelor's degree in African & African American Studies and History from Ohio State University, a master's degree in history from Ohio



Council President Carrie Hartman



Councilwoman Tiffany Whitman, EdD

State University, and an Ed.D. in education leadership from Bowling Green State University.

## Leading Candidates for Two City Council Vacancies

The exit of Moline and Whitman could significantly affect the 7-5 advantage women currently wield on Toledo City Council.

Perennial on-again-off-again candidate Michael K. Hart has been "circling around" for the position. Hart is currently the director of the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board. He (and others) have been raising their hand, pulling it down, and then putting it back up, so to speak, for various political positions — alternatively volunteering and then subsequently dropping out, ultimately unable to commit.

Mac Driscoll is another candidate receiving buzz for the upcoming council vacancies.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo and a master's from Cleveland State University. A Lucas County Young Dems member, Driscoll performed well as a previous candidate for Toledo City Council At-Large.

Mac used his economic development and urban planning experience to campaign on neighborhood development, economic opportunity, and environmental sustainability to build stronger, safer and more economically thriving neighborhoods.

He is currently the treasurer for the Lucas County Democratic Party and has been helpful to many other candidates. Driscoll also impressed Party leaders when he ran for office previously. He has a reputation of "knowing what he was doing, pretty smart."

Driscoll is interested in the appointment and would be an excellent choice.

Finally, another exemplary potential city council nominee is Christine Varwig. Currently the executive assistant for Lucas County Commissioner Lisa Sobecki, Varwig also serves as Toledo Public School Board member and president of the Ohio School Boards Association.

Varwig is very active in the Lucas County Democratic Party, and her appointment would undoubtedly be celebrated by the council and enthusiastically approved by the Democratic Party's central committee. Yet, appointing Varwig could limit her current occupational or political flexibility and potentially necessitate a pay cut.

## Another Name to Keep in Mind:

Paula Hicks Hudson's term as Democratic Party Chair is up in March. I'm hearing that other people are "coming for it." One of the persons interested

... continued on page 3

## The Sojourner's Truth

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor  
Dawn Scotland – Assistant Editor

Tricia Hall – Reporter  
Asia Nail – Reporter  
Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist  
Megan Davis – Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz – Webmaster  
Jessica Crans – Layout

A Certified MBE

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## Community Calendar

January 25

Wayman Palmer YMCA Vision Board Workshop: 5:30 to 7 pm; 1) Create a vision; 2) Develop a visual representation of goals; 3) Receive clarity & tools to stay accountable.



# Nikki Haley: "Me No See Color!"

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Well, isn't that precious! GOP presidential contender Nikki Haley, the former governor of South Carolina, is making the media rounds insisting that there is no systemic racism in America, but only some racist acts.

At one point, the clueless governor, whose parents were immigrants from India, went so far to say that racism in America was just a few "kinks" in our system of fair play and governance!

If Nikki Haley, who is desperate for a win in New Hampshire and then goes on to her home turf of South Carolina, is averse to elaborate on her bizarre statements, I will stand in the gap for her and "unpackage" her nonsensical statement about those "kinks."

Let's take a brief synopsis of those irritating "kinks" that Nikki Haley is prone to label as being mere slight irritants to millions of Americans. KINKS: The near decimation of millions of the Indigenous/Native American population in these United States when White settlers and explorers first stepped onto these shores.

That same kink still appears to the present day with the establishment of ghettos, aka: reservations that "Indians" were assigned to when ALL treaties with the US government were broken or not honored, and which means hundreds of billions of dollars of land wealth, mineral rights and oil rights were taken by open brute force (including documented massacres) or fraud and deceit.

Time does not allow for the discussion of the devastation and intentional cruelty and the family destruction of "Indian" children being forced to attend barbaric settlement camps or schools by which the children were stripped of their native culture, language and traditions so as to, "Kill the Indian but save the man." (title of a current book).

How about the kink when Chinese immigrants were brought to America to build the transcontinental railway during which they suffered profound loss of life and limb and upon its completion became persons non gratis.

Or, consider the internment of Japanese American citizens during WWII when they were placed in concentration camps because the government was unsure of their "loyalty" to the US, and they did not first get the benefit of any due process rights and had to sue upon their release for compensatory damages.

But who could (except for Nikki Haley) forget the date of 1619 and to

present date of America's greatest sin: human chattel, aka: slavery. From that fateful date and forward, White America has been double minded in inflicting immeasurable harm and suffering on the African American simply due to the color of his or her skin.

Hundred of books have been written on the legacy of slavery including thousands of lynchings (the ones we know about), the late effect of Jim Crow, ghettos, federally enforced red lining and banking practices, housing segregation, unequal judicial enforcement of similar crimes committed by Black people and White people, a court system that was at war with people of color, medical and educational disparities due to race alone; and the mere stress of being Black in these United States that cripples one's longevity, medical care, income opportunities and the daily scarring or micro abrasions done by the dominant society. (Note: two good reads on this: Stamped from the Beginning and Caste).

And yet, despite the voluminous evidence that is available in the public arena, Nikki Haley is prostituting herself to the White GOP/MAGA, a party that wants to fake it and downplay racism in America.

If Nikki Haley was honest about it, the White GOP/MAGA vote would punish her at the polls for a more truthful rendition of American history.

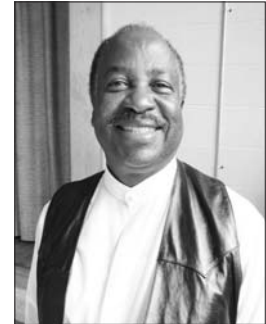
So, what does Nikki Haley do? She grins and smiles and tries to soften the blows of her ridiculous comments so that she is not viewed as a total fool regarding American History.

Nikki Haley knows who butters her political bread and it is not Black Americans in the GOP/MAGA party, so she can step on them as she tries to grasp the GOP nominee for president.

If she were to win it (not a snowball chance in Hell), then you would see a different Haley trying to pivot away from her gibberish about the disgraceful racial history in America being just a series of, "kinks."

Or, put another way: "Nothing to see here folks, move along!"

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



## Perryman...continued from page 2

is Schuyler Beckwith, who mounted an unsuccessful but impressive campaign for office in Oregon. Beckwith has been superb at organizing canvassing operations and campaigns for the Democrats. More impressive is that when she says she will do something she goes forward and accomplishes what she promises.

In the end, though, the Lucas County Democratic Party's central committee will decide on the Auditor's position on January 30. Toledo City Council will subsequently then act on the two city council vacancies, usually with recommendations from the Party.

However, the latest information indicates that City Council is "not looking to get input from the Party."

The recent vote for the position of Council President shed light on the presence of two distinct caucuses within Toledo City Council, each comprising its own members. One caucus materialized when Councilmember Nick Komives, who had sought the presidency, fell short of the required votes.


Councilmember Carrie Hartman secured the position with the backing of Komives, Sam Melden, Theresa Gadus, and those who had initially supported McPherson, including John Hobbs, Vanice Williams and Whitman, all throwing their support behind Carrie Hartman. On the opposing side, a separate faction nominated Councilmember Theresa Morris, garnering the support of George Sarantou and Adam Martinez. This history is worth monitoring closely.

Meanwhile, an ongoing effort to balance the interests of different constituencies underscores the deliberations surrounding the potential choices.

Nevertheless, when it comes down to making the final decisions, the authoritative role of Labor in the Party becomes evident.

In this context, the Building Trades, known for their decisive influence, will play a pivotal role in shaping the outcomes.

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



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# Power Grids Supplied By Clean Energy Are More Reliable. That Saves Lives.

By Ben Jealous

February, 2021. A rare Valentines Day winter storm wallops Texas with snow and a deep freeze.

The storm will knock out power for at least 69 percent of people across the state. Hundreds will die.

That was Winter Storm Uri. Many of us probably remember it as the storm that sent Senator Ted Cruz packing for a vacation in Cancun while his constituents suffered.

Captain Selena Xie, president of the Austin Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Association, was enraged when she read from a local reporter at the time: "One reader who emailed me about the issue described the power and water outages as a 'minor inconvenience' for most Texans."

One of Xie's first calls the morning after the storm was for a man who had planned to die at home, peacefully and surrounded by loved ones. That didn't happen.

Xie recounted, "When his oxygen, that was making him comfortable, went out, he started making awful grunting sounds. It is not acceptable to die like that, in agony. We had no other options at the time than to take the person to the hospital to keep him comfortable, but not before we let his wife cry against his chest for 5 minutes, which was all we felt comfortable sparing at the time."

Emergency responders started receiving carbon monoxide calls that evening. With the power out, people were so desperate for heat they burned furniture in their homes to keep their families warm. That caused carbon monoxide poisoning.

Much of the country is now getting pummeled with below-freezing temperatures and winter storms. Many are rightly nervous about the reliability of their power grids.



When grids fail, people die. Medical equipment like dialysis machines and oxygen pumps cannot run without power.

The best way to protect grids and make them more reliable? Power them with renewable energy sources like solar and wind, which are far more resilient than coal, oil, and gas.

The five winter storms we have had since 2011 that knocked down power grids should be a lesson to us all. Fossil fuel power plants are prone to mechanical and supply failures in extreme cold when energy demands are often at their highest.

Just look at what happened during December 2022's Winter Storm Elliott in the eastern and central US. In the mid-Atlantic, nearly 90% of the power plant outages when demand was highest were coal and gas plants. In the central region, coal and gas plants accounted for 75% of the power plant outages during peak demand. In Kentucky alone, more than 1.5 million homes lost electricity in sub-zero temperatures due to coal and gas failures.

Increasing the use of renewable energy sources is one part of the solution. Incorporating green technologies in demand response, energy efficiency, storage, and upgrading our transmission grid is the other. Together, they offer us the chance to make our electric grids more reliable and resilient than ever. But we need to deploy them at scale to receive these benefits.

If we choose not to do this, we need to understand the human toll.

As she has reflected on the events from Winter Storm Uri – and storms that have knocked out or threatened to knock out power since then – Selena Xie worries about unhoused populations. When the shelters and businesses where unhoused people typically seek refuge are without power, the consequences for this already vulnerable population are lethal. There is more:

"When we have our 9-1-1 system completely overwhelmed by calls from the housed population, the unhoused population gets overlooked. EMS and other emergency workers are aware of people living on the streets or in the woods and would be checking on those at-risk people. But we end up beyond our capacity, responding to calls for emergencies – and some less-than-emergencies – at people's homes, delivering charging sticks and other relief, while unhoused people are suffering hypothermic events and dying."

Xie also says that while reporting often focuses on death tolls during these emergencies, the high number of amputations from conditions like frostbite go underreported and underappreciated.

"People are often able to protect their cores but not their extremities. Not having adequate gloves or footwear means more amputations. These create lifelong disabilities that continue to haunt both the people suffering from them and the public health and emergency response systems that need to provide for their care and services."

Emergency responders should not have to choose between who they can help and who will be left on their own. Families should not have to choose between freezing to death or risking their health by burning furniture for heat.

There is a way to help ensure the power stays on during harsh winter storms. It is a future powered by clean energy.

Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

## Modeling is a career, it is not an activity.

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# City and Toledo's Annual MLK Unity Day Celebration

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

The University of Toledo and City of Toledo's Human Rights Commission hosted their annual MLK Unity Day Celebration, Monday, January 15. This year was held virtually. The event was hosted by Alexis Means of 13abc and featured keynote speaker activist Rosa Clemente. The 2024 theme was "I AM the Dream."

Alexis Means opened the event and served as the mistress of ceremonies. Welcomes were given by Dr. Gregory Postal, MD, president of the University of Toledo, and Mayor Wade Kapczukiewicz.

The weekend-long celebration, which was to kick off at Lucille's Jazz Club for a poetry night [cancelled due to severe weather] culminated in the virtual Unity Day. The celebration featured a partnership with Black-owned clothing brand Mud Made and local churches to provide exclusive MLK Day celebration apparel.

Following the presentation of Colors Toledo by local law enforcement and military, Olivia Johnson, resident artist at Toledo Opera sang the National Anthem accompanied by Emily Moran of Toledo Opera. The Black National Anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing, was performed on saxophone by local musician Mike Williams.

An Interview with Darryl Brown, founder and creative director of Midwest Kids Inc., and Darryl Brown LLC. conducted by Jeda McGhee, Creadio lead producer, was streamed. Brown had received the key to the City of Toledo the previous week in anticipation of Unity Day for his trailblazing in fashion design.

Following a rap cypher, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and Toledo City Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson offered individual virtual remarks.

Performances of the event included: The Toledo Opera, JP Dynasty, a rap cypher performed by local artist, Tahyah Dance Studio, Friendship Baptist Church and University of Toledo Gospel Choir, MyStery Music Band and Nikki D and The Browns.

The university issued a statement addressing that the annual MLK scholarship could not be awarded this year due to rulings at the Supreme Court. "...In light of the June 29, 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision on the use of affirmative action in higher education admissions, we will be pausing the distribution of all scholarships that consider race as a part of their award criteria. While we carefully review and adjust our policies to align with the implications of that legal decision, The University of Toledo remains dedicated to promoting equity and a sense of belonging within our campus community... We are review-



Toledo School Board Member Randall Parker III with Kid Mayor Gabrielle Mukiira



Mayor Kapczukiewicz and Darryl Brown



Erin Baker



Rosa Alicia Clemente

ing options to still award this year's MLK Unity Day scholarships. "

Additional remarks were given by Kid Mayor Gabrielle Mukiira as well as by Erin Baker, chair of the City of Toledo Human Relations Commission.

The keynote speaker, Rosa Alicia Clemente, an influential organizer, independent journalist, producer, and scholar activist served as the highlight of the event. Born and raised in the Bronx, NY, Clemente is renowned for her activism and advocacy in the Black-Latinx community. She is the first Afro-Latinx woman to run for vice president in 2008.

Clemente expressed the importance of community organizing, shared her background and experience and also impressed the need of people to prepare themselves for the many issues and turmoil that America is facing including the upcoming 2024 elections.

The livestreamed event can be viewed on the University of Toledo's website and the City of Toledo's Facebook page and YouTube page.

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# New FAFSA Changes Could Help Black Students Afford College

By Alecia Taylor

Howard University News Service

Students and parents may be wondering why this year's October went by like a breeze: no fussing, fighting or trying to find that piece of paper with the parental login for the Free Application Federal Student Student Aid form (FAFSA).

Usually, FAFSA opens at midnight on Oct. 1 each year, but this year it opened on Dec. 31 and will close June 30, 2024. However, the opening of the application is not the only change. Families should expect a significant decrease in questions, new language on the form and possibly larger grants for some students.

Instead of 108 questions, families will only have to fill out 36 questions. In addition, the IRS will directly import federal tax information, with the user's consent, instead of applicants having to enter it manually.

"We found the FAFSA is not just a hassle that people dread filling out but it's also so complicated that it's a meaningful obstacle to people getting help to go to college," said James Kvaal, the Under Secretary at the Department of Education.

Kvaal said the goal is to make sure that the financial aid system is effective at giving people access to college degrees.

With the form's new makeover, more than 600,000 additional students will become eligible for Pell Grants.

"Our hope is to reach Black students and help them understand the resources that are available and that, you know, college may be more affordable than you think," the Under Secretary said.

Over 70% of Black students receive loans compared to 56% of their white counterparts, according to the National Center for Higher Education. Black students were also the highest demographic to rely on Pell Grants, with Hispanic students following close behind.

The extra Pell Grant money comes from Congress and is included in the



overall federal budget. Kvaal said President Biden thinks this is "one of the best investments" the country could make and hopes to double the Pell Grant by 2029 if elected for a second term.

While there are certainly behind-the-scenes changes to FAFSA, families can expect other changes when filling out the form.

The Expected Family Contribution, commonly known as an EFC score, is being replaced with the Student Aid Index (SAI). Like the EFC score, the SAI will determine a student's ability to pay for college. With the EFC score, the minimum contribution was zero, while the new SAI's minimum is -1,500.

For first-time families – or those who may be a little rusty – filling out the form, the U.S. Department of Education has been rolling out a series of training to ensure schools, educators and nonprofits have the tools to help families navigate the new form.

Cait Belney, D.C. Public Schools Manager of the College Alumni Support program said the Department of Education made sure staff members are trained to answer any questions families may have for this upcoming FAFSA season.

Back in August, DCPS and other school districts, colleges, universities and libraries attended a national training on navigating the new form. The training was co-hosted by the Federal Student Aid and the National College Team.

"[Federal Student Aid is] working really hard to connect with state higher education agencies, college access and public school systems," Belney said. "I do think they're doing their best while also trying to rebuild from scratch an entire system."

Educators may have gotten the memo for the new changes, but some parents aren't confident in the Department of Education's communication about FAFSA.

"I'm not sure that the Department of Education has done the best job of being inclusive in their approaches," said Tameika Pope, a parent of two undergraduate students at historically Black colleges. "I see room for improvement on that."

The changes may seem sudden to some, but Pope noticed small changes dating back to 2020, which made her search for more information about upcoming changes for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 application.

This cycle's changes are a direct result of the FAFSA Simplification Act. However, modification started in the 2021-22 application with the removal of limitations on those enlisted in the military as well as removing questions about drug convictions and the restoration of Pell Grants for incarcerated individuals.

Now, questions that Kvaal called "obscure" will be eliminated to ensure more students have access to grants, according to the Department of Education.

Pope said she's gotten the majority of her information from the announcement section of Federal Student Aid site. Still, she worries that people who are not tech-savvy are missing out on useful information about the changes.

Kvaal said Federal Student Aid is working with educators and nonprofits to get the word out.

"We have one of the most diverse systems of higher education in the world, and there are a lot of choices for young people," he said. "We have resources available to help them consider their college options and make informed decisions."

As of right now, this year is the only exception for a delayed opening of the applications. Students and parents can expect the application to open on its usual Oct. 1 date in 2024.

Alecia Taylor is an education reporter for HUNewsService.com and a Spring Intern for the Chronicle of Higher Education.

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# People, Politics, Primaries and Results

By John E. Warren, Publisher, San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper  
 Guest Column

Now that the New Year is fully underway, MLK celebrations are over and Black History is on the horizon, let us not forget that the "Political Season" is also upon us with primaries and special elections.

While conservative White America has reviewed that racism is more important than law and democracy, through the Iowa caucuses overwhelming endorsement of Donald Trump for another term as president of the United States, alarms should be sounding for those of use who still believe that Joe Biden is the lawful president of the United States and that Donald Trump is both dangerous and should probably be in jail as well as bared under the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, from running for office again.

Let's be very clear. America is in a crisis of leadership and laws. The caucuses and primaries will determine which candidate receives the required number of delegate votes by the time of the Party Conventions to compete for the presidency under our two-party system.

With the high frustration with Biden over the border crisis and unrelated influx of migrants, more people could be encouraged to vote for Trump just to close the borders. Instead of complaining about the failure of the Republicans in the House and Senate to act on border legislation, Biden could order federal troops to close the entire border until such legislative action is taken.

He could also federalize the National Guard in Texas, taking authority for their use away from the Governor who has used them to lock out federal border agents seeking to deal with migrants. Biden could also take a firm stance with Israel on the Palestinian crisis in Gaza and he needs to find a way to help Ukraine so that Russia does not win this war outright.

The frustration with Biden and Trump, could lead to a third-party candi-

date which would all but guarantee that Trump would be elected, whether or not he gets the "Orange Jumpsuit" that will come with a conviction if he loses in federal court.

In California, we are just a little over 40 days away from our State Primary. and other state primaries follow. Every ballot position is important from local City Council seats to the State, U.S. House of Representatives positions and White House.



John Warren

Now is the time to determine if the candidates who are promising to solve all our problems, line up with our personal needs and interests. Are you registered to vote? Do you remember Dr. King's 1957 speech in which he said: "Give us the ballot and we will elect the people needed" Or do you remember the struggle for both the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act and the price for those freedoms?

Well, now is pay up with the use of our rights to vote; with the use of our ability to examine the issues and the ability to see that America is truly divided by race and color and that to a minority of Whites, the fear of race is greater than the respect for the Constitution and the laws we agreed to live by. The failure to register and vote is like expecting to win the lottery without buying a lottery ticket.

Let's not vote personalities like voters in the Iowa caucuses did. Let's look toward the much-needed results and put pressure on both the parties and the people that we think can save America and our allies.

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**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.
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# Moira “Fingaz” Frazier: A Luminary in the Dazzling World of Hollywood Hairstyling

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

In the dazzling world of Hollywood hairstyling, Moira “Fingaz” Frazier has emerged as a luminary, recently nominated for an *Emmy* as the *Department Head of Hair for Abbott Elementary*. Her journey from Toledo to Tinseltown mirrors the transformative power of her craft.

Moira’s extravagant hairstyles, a testament to her swift hands earning her the moniker “Fingaz,” is a product of the vibrant salon culture right here in Toledo. “The salon is not just a place for hair but a hub of stories. I’ll never forget all the good times shared with my mom at *Mixed Company* Hair Salon back in the 90s,” shares Frazier. “Watching my mom weave her magic, shaped me into the hairstylist I am today.”

With a touch of nostalgia, Frazier harkens back to those special salon days in Ohio, where teachers sought refuge in hair care. From *Abbot Elementary*’s character Barbara’s chic side-bang to Janine’s embrace of natural curls, Frazier paints a picture of empowerment and freedom, bringing the salon world onscreen for teachers to relate to the masses.

“In my world of contemporary hairstyling, there is a misconception surrounding the craft’s complexity.” Fingaz explains, “There is a delicate balance of making hairstyles both aesthetically pleasing and character-driven in the world of TV and film.”

Today, Frazier weaves tales of past, present, and future, not with words, but with hair. As personal stylist to luminaries



Speaking at the Abbott Elementary Panel



Fingaz and her mother, Michelle Taylor

like Sheryl Lee Ralph and Nicole Byer, she transforms strands into narratives, crafting a visual symphony that resonates through the realms of beauty and individuality.

Her nomination for *Outstanding Contemporary Hairstyling* is a tes-

..continued on page 9



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*Fingaz... continued from page 8*

tament to the impact of black hairstyling in the entertainment industry. Fingaz, along with her dedicated team, acknowledges the collaborative effort that makes hair excellence possible.

"As the news of our nomination unfolded, I felt a surge of emotions," says Frazier. "When my husband delivered the news, all I could do was cry and thank God!" As Moira checked her cellphone to see the nomination with her own eyes, the weight of recognition for her tireless work and sleepless nights washed away, affirming that consistency and dedication do indeed pay off in the end.

Navigating the challenges of a fast-paced 22-episode show like *Abbott Elementary*, Fingaz emphasizes the importance of having an exceptional team. She unveils instances where last-minute changes demanded quick thinking and immediate action, highlighting the resilience and creativity demanded by the entertainment industry.

Despite the demands of celebrity hairstyling, Fingaz's infectious enthusiasm shines through as she shares stories of overcoming challenges, acknowledging the invaluable lessons she's learned along the way. "From unexpected script changes to impromptu wig-making sessions, each obstacle is a stepping-stone to greater creativity and accomplishment," she says.

Beyond the glitz of awards, Fingaz extends her expertise through her *Fingaz Beauty Academy*. Offering a chance to learn from a celebrity hairstylist, the academy promises insider knowledge, a comprehensive curriculum, and flexibility to suit any schedule. "I love encouraging aspiring stylists to continue their education while elevating their skills to new heights," says Frazier.

As the spotlight shines on Fingaz it illuminates not only her personal journey but also underscores the profound significance of hair within the black community, intertwining stories, culture, and identity into every strand.

In the black community, hair is much more than a mere adornment – it's a symbol of identity, culture, and resilience. "As women, our hair is a crown we wear proudly," explains Frazier. Black hairstyles reflect a rich history of traditions and personal expression. Just as a crown signifies royalty, our hair is our natural crown, embracing a spectrum of textures, styles, and creativity.

From intricate braids to natural curls and afros, each hairstyle carries a narrative. "It's a celebration of diversity, a connection to our roots, and a declaration of pride," explains Fingaz. The versatility of black hair is a testament to the versatility of black culture, constantly evolving and adapting while preserving its essence.

The resilience embedded in our hair echoes the resilience of a community that has faced adversity with grace. In a world that often misunderstands or misrepresents black hair, Frazier turns strands into statements!

With an embrace of both her handcrafted wigs and the beauty of natural textures, her styling prowess emerges as a compelling form of empowerment. "Fear and fabulous hair don't go together," asserts Frazier. "My goal is to always challenge conventional beauty norms, showcasing a person's power through their hair."

Beyond personal expression, hairstyles carry communal significance, too. Hair can signify milestones, cultural events, or even convey a sense of unity within the community. Black hair is a source of connection, with each style telling a story of heritage and shared experiences.

Fingaz, the maestro of strands, explains that each character's hairdo is a carefully crafted masterpiece, an extension of their unique character's personality. In this hair saga, Frazier's journey from *Key Hair Stylist* to *Department Head* reads like a novel, a narrative filled with the joy of creative freedom and the ability to showcase her teaching prowess through her team's diverse hairstyles.

Frazier emphasizes the importance of being prepared, narrating instances where her quick thinking and inventory saved the day. She highlights her team's commitment to keeping actors' natural hair healthy and offers simple tips for general hair care. Frazier also genuinely appreciates her relationship with Sheryl Lee Ralph and the care given to male characters on the show.

"We adapt quickly behind the hair scenes and create intentional looks that contribute to the character's story," shares Fingaz.

Amidst the scripted chaos of *Abbott Elementary*, Frazier cherishes the field trip episodes – her personal excursions into the wild of creativity. Yet, the true spectacle lies in her arsenal of over 100 wigs, each a chameleon ready to transform, a testament to Frazier's mantra: "If you stay ready, you don't have to get ready."

She recounts tales of urgency, like the impromptu creation of Janine's sister's wig, a feat accomplished with swift hands and a sewing machine.



Makeup Artist Hairstylist Guild Award Winner



Hair Battle Spectacular TIME SQUARE; Moira going in for a touch up

The story unfolds like a thrilling drama, where fierce wigs and unexpected challenges are conquered, showcasing Frazier's ability to think fast and adapt.

Wigs or hair extensions, Frazier is a virtuoso playing both. In the symphony of hairstyling, her versatility shines through – from natural curls to half-up, half-down styles, each note played with the finesse of a seasoned musician.

Frazier's artistry extends beyond  
... continued on page 10

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*Fingaz... continued from page 9*

the surface, showcasing her commitment to the well-being of her actors' natural hair. She employs scalp massagers, formulated creams, and lace melting sprays to ensure that, beyond the whimsical world of wigs, the actors' hair remains healthy and vibrant.

For those not graced by the hands of trained professionals, Frazier offers a simple yet profound truth – "Moisture!" – a key refrain in the anthem of healthy hair. It's a reminder that, like any cherished garden, your hair flourishes when tended to with care.

In her role as Sheryl Lee Ralph's personal stylist, Frazier's words dance with adoration. "Working with Sheryl is not just a job; it's an amazing collaboration. It's truly a match made in Heaven that allows me to create iconic looks for the wise-cracking teacher of Abbott Elementary."

Fingaz also worked with Sheryl Lee styling her tresses for the 2022 Emmy Awards. Communicating her vision to Sheryl Lee, Fingaz received a hearty response, a laughter-laden acknowledgement from the star herself. "Ha-Ha-Ha, I am prepared to be sick of you and your magic," Ralph exclaimed in a voice message, embracing the enchantment that Fingaz promised to weave into her hair.

The culmination of this artistic dance unfolded during Sheryl Lee Ralph's acceptance speech, a moment filled not just with the triumph of her first Emmy nomination and win, but also with the sweet serenade of Diane Reece's "I am an endangered species...but I sing no victim's song." The blinged-out ponytail crafted by Fingaz adorned Ralph, becoming the crown of her victory.

In the heart of this historic night, Sheryl Lee Ralph's hair became the talk of the town, an emblem of Fingaz's artistry. The ponytail, fit for a queen, radiated regality, a symbol of the collaborative magic between the hairstylist and the star.

Amidst the glimmering lights, Fingaz finds herself blessed by the humility and loyalty of Sheryl Lee Ralph. Every styled strand echoes encouragement and wisdom from the star, who, in her own right, is an advocate for the next generation. "Every time I style her hair, she encourages me, imparting her wisdom. She's an advocate for the next generation to win!" Fingaz exclaimed, reflecting on their divinely shared crowning moments.

"Divas fix each other's crowns," Fingaz says.

Fingaz is not just creating hairstyles; she was scripting history. Sheryl Lee Ralph's flawless look, a manifestation of Fingaz's creativity, became the perfect complement to this monumental moment. The blessing was not lost on Fingaz as she marveled at being a part of such an historic juncture.

And let's not forget the men of "Abbott Elementary," whose grooming symphony is orchestrated by Dustin Osborne. From massages for Mr. Johnson to durags and creams for Tyler James Williams, the hair magic extends to all, embodying Frazier's ethos of equal care.

As Frazier unveils the magic behind the curtain, her most remarkable feat is the ability to conjure looks at the last minute. Working closely with Nicole Byer, Frazier finds joy in the fun vibe of their collaboration. From red carpets to shows like *Nailed It!*, the creative flex is mutual. Shows like the Halloween season of *Nailed It!* stands as a testament to Frazier's prowess, where every wig is a manifestation of her artistic brilliance.

"I love creating fantasy hair and have showcased my work in several hair shows both large and small," shares Fingaz.

With a specialty in hair extensions, Fingaz breathes life into fantastical hairstyles. Inspired by luminaries like John Galliano and captivated by the pages of *Vogue* and *Bazaar*, her creativity blossomed into a unique style that caught the eye of *Hair Battle Spectacular's* producers.

From the *Bronner Bros. Beauty Show's* to the *Oxygen Network's Hair Battle Spectacular*, Frazier's artistry takes different forms, but the common thread is attention to detail. Every curl, every comb stroke tells a story, maintaining the integrity of the character or project.

Moirá "Fingaz" Frazier, your Emmy nomination stands as a testament to your exceptional talent and dedication to celebrity hairstyling. Your creative prowess, exemplified by your intricate and imaginative hairstyles, has truly earned you a well-deserved spot among the best hairstylists in the world! Toledo takes pride in your remarkable achievement. As we extend our heartfelt congratulations, we look forward to witnessing you weave your magic, as you continue to inspire the world with your groundbreaking contributions to the art of hairstyling. Cheers to your extraordinary talent and your well-deserved Emmy nomination!

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# The Taylor Cancer Research Center to Benefit All Area Cancer Patients

*Special to The Truth*

The Toledo Clinic Cancer Centers (TCCC) and the Taylor Automotive family have joined forces to create the "Taylor Cancer Research Center," a non-profit clinical research program to benefit all cancer patients in the northwest Ohio area. The Center has been funded in large part through a donation of \$1 million from the Taylor family and will help to make innovative cancer treatments available to cancer patients in the region.

The science is based on recent discoveries in the last few years related to molecular biology of cancer and the use of new therapies that target and destroy molecular pathways which drive cancer growth and development.

"This is cutting edge technology," said family member Peter Demczuk during last week's announcement. "We are at the brink of finding new challenges to cancer."

"The Taylor Automotive family has a deep legacy of philanthropy in Toledo," Steve Taylor commented earlier. "We have given to multiple charitable causes in northwest Ohio. Julie and I always believed we were greatly blessed, and we have always felt the need to share these blessings with our community. I wanted to show my appreciation to Dr. Tim Kasunic who cared for Julie, my wife and the matriarch of our family, throughout her cancer journey in a way which honors her generous spirit."

The Taylor family was introduced to Dr. John Nemunaitis, a nationally known expert in precision oncology who has published over 500 peer review papers and book chapters, which have been cited over 30,000 times and has directed extensive interaction with the FDA and clinical trial development of Precision therapy with multiple programs in the USA.

"I'm honored to be here," said Dr. Nemunaitis during the announcement. "This is a team effort ... we can reverse that genome effect and go in a different direction with less side effects."

The Toledo Clinic Cancer Centers (TCCC) recently built a state-of-the-art center in Maumee which will serve as the primary research treatment site, providing research opportunities for all cancer patients at all centers in the area. Speaking for the TCCC, Dr. Rex Mawat, managing partner, recently comments: "Our mission is to expand our current clinical trial research program and to now provide more cutting-edge treatment close to home so that Toledo



region patients can receive nationally acclaimed therapy without having to leave the area. We welcome patients from other nearby cancer centers to benefit from ongoing trials we have available and we will be reaching out to our colleagues at other cancer centers in the region, also encouraging their participation."

Precision therapy targets the disrupted (mutated) DNA which causes cancer growth. The Taylor Cancer Research Center will expand the testing opportunity of mutated cancer signals, followed by Precision therapy when recommended by the treating physician.

Knowledge of distinguishing cancer targets enables use of Precision therapy which impacts these cancer targets to stop the growth of cancer cells. More than 100 Precision therapies have been approved by the FDA over the last decade for routine therapeutic use in the management of cancer and even more therapies are being currently used for experimental Precision therapy through clinical trials.

# Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) Annual Poetry Contest Connects Creativity and Artistic Inspiration

"Discover, Inspire, Create: TMA Poetry Prize" accepts entries, Jan. 22-March 22.

Starting this week, the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) will accept entries for its annual poetry contest that invites youth and adults to draw inspiration from 12 objects in the museum's rich collection of artworks. The contest closes on March 22.

"Discover, Inspire, Create: TMA Poetry Prize' aims to foster a connection between visual art and the written word, encouraging participants to explore their creativity and express emotions through poetry," said Doreen Cutway, senior public relations manager, Toledo Museum of Art.

Middle and high school teachers can request docent-guided tours that include a poetry writing activity for their classes and encourage their students to submit their resulting poems to the contest. Adults can register for a writing

workshop with Lucas County Poet Laureate Jonie McIntire on Feb. 3 or March 16.

### Contest Categories

- \* Youth: 11-17 years old.
- \* Adults: 18 years and older.

### Awards

Winners in the youth and adult categories will receive:

- \* First prize: \$200 and one-year Toledo Museum of Art membership.
- \* Second prize: \$100.
- \* Third prize: \$75.
- \* Honorable mention: \$25

*...continued on page 13*

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# Common Homebuying and Renting Scams and How to Avoid Them

Special to The Truth

In difficult economic times, fraudulent housing schemes become more prevalent, impacting homeowners and renters alike. To help you avoid becoming a victim of fraud, Freddie Mac is sharing the following insights and tips about the most common tactics and scams.

## Predatory Lending

Previous financial disasters have led to more robust consumer protection laws. Nevertheless, you should remain vigilant about predatory lending. Look for warning signs, such as pressure tactics, incomplete, confusing or contradictory loan terms, and high rates and fees, including penalties for paying your loan off early. Additionally, lenders should not suggest you take out more credit than you need or suggest a monthly loan payment that does not cover the interest due on your loan. It's important to work with someone you trust. If you're hesitant to move forward with a lender, consult a HUD-certified housing counselor or lawyer to gain a better understanding of the loan terms.

## Foreclosure Rescue Fraud

Fraudsters often target those in distress. During times of financial hardship, be especially aware of foreclosure rescue fraud, where someone falsely promises to be able to save your home from foreclosure. Common elements of this scheme include the fraudster requiring you to sign over the title to your home, asking you to sign unfamiliar documents or share personal information, and charging you rent to stay in your home. They may also offer to pay your delinquent mortgage by purchasing your home with the promise that you can repurchase it when your financial situation improves. If you're struggling with mortgage payments, don't deal with unknown entities. Directly contact your loan servicer, a HUD-certified housing counselor or a Housing Finance Agency for legitimate options to help avoid foreclosure.

## Fraudulent Leases and Units

Millions of Americans have lost money due to fraudulent rental listings. You can avoid becoming a victim of this scam by always seeing a unit in person or over video conference before renting it, and by never

paying a security deposit until you have signed a lease. Be sure to read your lease thoroughly before you sign it, asking questions about any concerning details early in the process. When rental unit hunting, be wary of red flags such as prices that are too good to be true, listings riddled with grammatical errors and property managers asking for personal information before you've seen a unit.

## Moving Fraud

Typically, moving fraud occurs when scammers who act like legitimate movers provide a low estimate and, once you move, demand a higher price and withhold your belongings until you pay. To avoid this scam, research the company to ensure it is legitimate, insured and has good reviews. You should also know that reputable moving companies never require advance payments or use high-pressure sales tactics.

## Report Scams Immediately

If you believe you've been a victim of a scam, take the following actions:

- If a criminal has your identification information, call your creditors to cancel your credit cards. Review your transactions to make sure you recognize them. You can also request that creditors receive your written consent before changing your mailing address or sending a replacement credit card. Your creditors may advise additional precautions.
- Contact the credit bureaus to freeze your credit reports so that there's no activity on your reports unless you approve it.
- Report the scam to one or more of the following entities: the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, HUD's Office of the Inspector General Hotline, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

To access Freddie Mac's collection of fraud prevention resources, visit [myhome.freddie.mac.com](http://myhome.freddie.mac.com).

Whether you're a prospective homebuyer or seasoned renter, a scam could potentially impact you. Familiarizing yourself with common tactics can help you identify a scam before it's too late.

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# Legacy: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine by Uché Blackstock, MD

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

c.2024  
Viking  
\$28.00  
304 pages

Ugh, suddenly, just now, you don't feel well. Not at all.

It might help to lie down somewhere for a few minutes or maybe there's something in a drawer in the bathroom you could take to feel better. Need a doctor? Having the right skin color might help, as in the new book *Legacy* by Uché Blackstock, MD.

Her career choice seemed like the most natural thing in the world.

Uché Blackstock and her twin sister, Oni, practically grew up in a hospital, doing homework in a staff room while their physician-mother made her rounds. The girls got a front-row peek into what it was like to be a Black female doctor and because of their mother's influence, it never entered their minds to choose another career.

That inspiration lingered: after their mother died young of cancer, Blackstock chose to work as an ER doctor, caring for her Brooklyn and Bronx neighbors like her mother did. Blackstock knew the history: Black people had long been objects for experimentation, without painkillers and without their permission. Early in the last century, Black midwives were forbidden from practicing because of a testing matter. A document called the Flexner Report led to low numbers of Black doctors for nearly a century.

She also knew the statistics: Black patients are less likely to get pain medications than are white patients. Black mothers are at a higher risk than white mothers for maternal death, miscarriage, and problems at delivery. Half of all medical treatment in the U.S. today happens in an ER, and many of those patients are Black, poor, and without a safety net.

Knowing these things, working under those facts, took its toll.

When she was small, Blackstock played with her mother's leather medical bag and the treasures inside it. She dreamed of carrying it to her own patients

someday but her job, meant to help people, left her exhausted, frustrated, and emotionally tangled.

It was time to try something else...

This year, if you're average, you'll spend roughly fifteen minutes face-to-face with your doctor at an appointment. You'll come prepared, and so will your physician; bring *Legacy*, and you'll come with stats that are alarming, although very little of it's new.

Indeed, the news lately has been full of stories of Black patients and sub-par care and author Uché Blackstock underscores every bit of that news with personal experiences to support the facts, scattered inside a dual biography of her and her mother. Readers will enjoy the stories of Blackstock women becoming physicians and you'll be dismayed at generational and historical roadblocks they overcame. Read these triumphs, but don't lose sight of the other important thing here: remember, as Blackstock often urges, that advocating for one's self or a loved one is key to maintaining health and surviving.

Readers concerned about their well-being will be glad they read this book. Biography fans will love it for different reasons. Either way, getting what you want out of *Legacy* is easy, and you'll feel quite well about it.



Legacy author, courtesy Diane Zhao

TMA... continued from page 11

### Judging

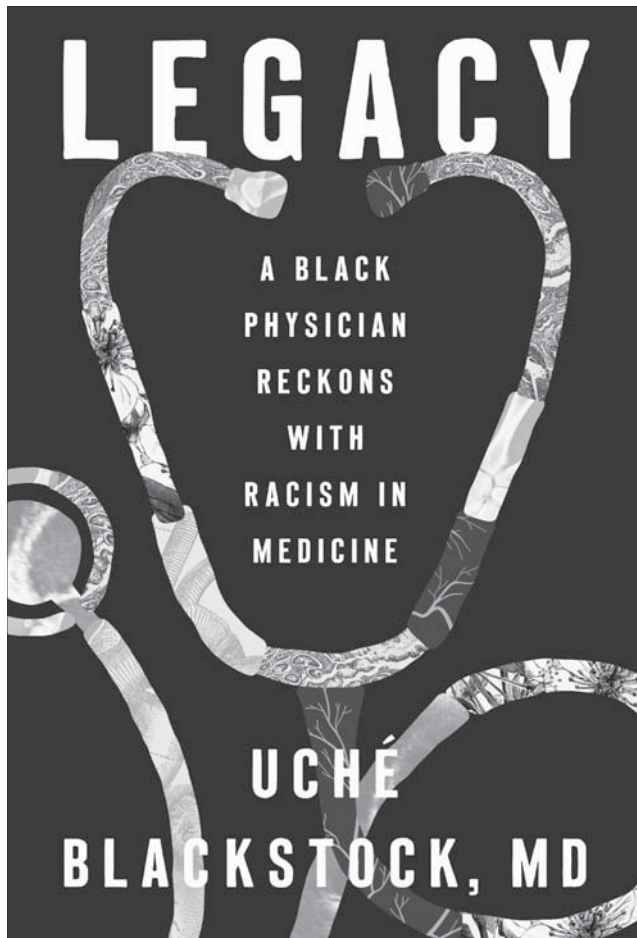
A panel of three poets will review and rank each entry based on originality, form, language, grammatical skill and the creative interpretation or reflection of the writing. Judges include:

- \* Ryan Bunch.
- \* Hedyeh Elahinia.
- \* Dustin Pearson.

### Important Dates

- \* Jan. 22: Contest opens.
- \* March 22: Contest closes.
- \* April 17: Winners notified.
- \* April 27: Awards ceremony and reception.

For complete details about contest requirements, submission guidelines, list of eligible artworks and adult workshops with Poet Laureate McIntire, please visit: [toledomuseum.org/learn/poetry-competition](https://toledomuseum.org/learn/poetry-competition)



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For more information on this project, please contact Andy Wren at 419-725-3291.

### LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Electronic Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Plaza Repairs Phase 2 project at One Government Center, Toledo, Ohio 43604, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The One Government Center Plaza Repairs Phase 2 project consists of waterproofing replacement and structural concrete repairs at the One Government Center. Demolition includes the removal and storage of existing granite pavers and removal of existing concrete fill slab, insulation, and waterproofing system in designated areas. A new waterproofing and drainage system will be installed on top of the existing structural slab with a new concrete fill slab and reinstallation of existing stored granite pavers on new mortar setting bed. Structural concrete repairs include delamination and crack repairs to the existing structural slab at the plaza and basement levels. The project also includes carpentry, joint sealant, flashing, plumbing, electrical, and landscaping work. Phase 1 repairs were completed in 2023. The engineer's estimate for the base bid is approximately \$564,000.00. Bids that are in excess of 10% above the engineer's estimate would be considered non-responsive. This project may be awarded by the ToledoLucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion.

Bids will be received through Bid Express, an online electronic bidding system until Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM, at which time all bids will be opened through the Bid Express website.

The plans and bid proposal documents are available through Bid Express at: <https://www.bid-express.com/businesses/66075/home>. Bidders new to the electronic bidding system must first register on the Bid Express website ([www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com)). Registration is Free. It can take up to five (5) business days to process a Digital ID and it is highly recommended that a Digital ID be enabled 48 hours in advance of submitting an electronic bid. Bidders must plan accordingly. For additional guidance regarding electronic bidding, bidders must contact Bid Express directly. Each bidder shall be responsible for submitting its electronic bid before the bid deadline. Electronic Proposals must be submitted on the form(s) included in Bid Express and shall be accompanied by a certified check or an acceptable Proposal Bond with satisfactory surety specifying the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority as the obligee, in the sum of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 1:30 PM, at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions through the Bid Express service by Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10:00 AM local time. Questions submitted after the deadline will not receive a response. Additional information can be found at [www.toledoport.org/projects/public-notices/](http://www.toledoport.org/projects/public-notices/)

Thomas J. Winston  
President and CEO  
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority



### LUCAS COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION:

Manager of Prevention and Recovery  
Services

#### SUMMARY

The Manager of Prevention and Recovery Services is responsible to facilitate the development, management, and monitoring of substance use and gambling prevention, mental health promotion, and recovery related services and activities. The position reports to the Senior Manager of Programs and Services.

#### EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

The Manager of Prevention and Recovery Services will have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field of study and appropriate licensure (RN, OCPs, LSW, LPC and/or LCDC.) Requirements also include a minimum of 5 years' experience in developing, implementing, and administering prevention and recovery support services for the mentally ill and addicted populations. Individuals with a Master's degree, independent licensure, advanced mediation and facilitation skills, systems planning experience, and excellent communication skills are preferred.

**Starting Salary Range is up to \$58,125  
dependent on license and experience.**

**For detailed position descriptions and  
to apply please visit:  
<https://www.co.lucas.oh.us/Jobs>**

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

### OUTDOOR SKILLS INTERPRETER:

Metroparks Toledo is looking for an individual to be our Outdoor Skills Interpreter at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. The person in this position will connect people to parks through the development, production, and presentation of high quality park programs, special events, and experiences. Bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and work experience. Moderate experience in educational and public program development, production, and evaluation and presenting public or educational programs. Some outdoor skills-specific experience required. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Full time position with benefits. \$19.943/hr. EOE

Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) <<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com>>/careers to view the job description, position requirements and apply online.

Inviting all 7th-12th grade students, parents and community.

40TH ANNUAL ASPIRING MINORITY YOUTH CONFERENCE

Saturday, Jan. 27 8:30 a.m.

Lancelot Thompson Student Union Auditorium

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

utoledo.edu/success/excel/youth.html



Keynote Speaker: Black Thought



Keynote Speaker: Roland Martin



Toledo Excel

Toledo Museum of Art Celebrates MLK Day

By Angie Hayes The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Museum of Art celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 15 with a free community event open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to honor and celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Attendance, activities and parking were all free to participants.

Doreen Cutway, Sr. Manager of Public Relations noted: "What is important is that we are normally closed on Mondays...but we wanted to make sure it was recognized in the world. We want to create a place of belonging where people can celebrate and recognize Dr King!"

The following events and activities were presented for the entertainment of participants:

Silent Hip Hop Dance Party: A personal headphone set was provided to all participants to listen to Hip Hop music for dancing. Another opportunity for the headphone set provided was the chance to listen to Martin Luther King Jr.'s powerful "I Have A Dream" speech. Most participants listened to Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech and also spent time celebrating in a dance party.

Digital Artwork Collectible: Artists created unique digital artwork that is possible for members of the community to collect if interested. Information and knowledge was provided to the attendees for a digital art experience.

Art Activities: Presented in the Family Center atmosphere was a variety of activities to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Many kids and attendees had a great time making and designing art activities.

Bishop Robert Culp Conversation: Bishop Culp provided information and communication with the attendees in the Little Theater in the Museum, to honor and explain Martin Luther King Jr.'s commitment to the communities. Rhonda Sewell, the Toledo Art Museum director of belonging and community engagement, also provided information in regard to the Toledo Art Museum. WTVG 13 Re-

porter, Alexis Means, participated in the conversation with Bishop Culp and supported his interaction with the audience.

The conversation and interaction provided insight on Martin Luther King Jr.'s activities and also Bishop Culp's lifelong contributions to his community.

"It's a pleasure to open our doors on a Monday and we have been very intentional to open our doors to honor Martin Luther King Jr.," said Sewell. "This day means so much to all of us in the community."

"First let me express my experience," shared Culp. "The march in Washington was the best and so pivotal in my life! And to hear Dr. King share his DREAM SPEECH, it was such a tremendous experience. Getting to hear Dr. King about what serving people was supposed to be."

At the end of the speech with Bishop Culp, he acknowledged and recognized all the attendees and numerous area pastors that were in attendance for the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration day. The event was extremely inspirational and supportive to recognize and engage the benefits and contribution that Martin Luther King Jr. provided for our world!

Studio Activities: An area was available to make a mixed-media button; with motivation and inspiration by Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement.

Ask Me Docents: Docents provided information, examples and view of artwork that has been created by Black artists. Some of the artists recognized and acknowledged were Elizabeth Catlett, Wangechi Mutu and Kehinde Wiley.

African Art Teaching Collection: African art objects were presented to view and also were touchable, to experience and closely view the awesome artwork and objects.

William Ellis, security guard: "Well Martin Luther King Day is such a special day, and it is special so we can bring everyone together!"



Alexis Means and Bishop Robert Culp discuss the meaning and impact of Dr. King's life

