



Volume 82 No. 3 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* **January 31, 2024**

Promises Made; Promises Kept



The Newly Constructed Warren Commons for the Chronically Homeless

Charles Turnbough, City of Toledo; Adam Foltz, Rudolph Libbe, Inc Project Manager; Sylvester Gould TASC

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It's All About the Future: The Power of a Political Reset

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

The Truth Contributor

Without the ability to end things, people [and organizations] stay stuck, never becoming who they are meant to be, never accomplishing all that their talents and abilities should afford them.

- Henry Cloud



The courtroom witnessed a profound catharsis when former Toledo city councilman Gary Johnson was recently sentenced to four months in federal prison for his bribery conviction last year.

As the sentencing proceedings unfolded, Johnson, overwhelmed by a surge of emotions, could no longer contain his feelings. In that solemn courtroom, he broke down, offering a poignant glimpse into the toll that the bad decisions of four senior African American councilmembers had taken on the community.

"It just kind of all came up at one time because when they started talking about my life's work and how it all got swept away over one bad decision, that just kind of hit me hard," he confided.

As the last of the four councilmembers to be sentenced, Johnson's sad moment also serves as a collective purging of the community's emotions and a sobering reminder of the profound impact of a tragic end resulting from even "uncharacteristic" ethical lapses in the world of politics.

For many years, these former city council members have been unwavering advocates for our community, dedicating themselves to the betterment of our city, tirelessly working on behalf of their constituents, and earning the respect and trust of many on the way.

For example, it was these same four council members who stood up to Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz on the regional water deal (TAWA). The current council makeup has yet to come close to doing that and is not likely to.

If you remember, the transactional cost of the mayor's original TAWA deal was extremely burdensome and cost-prohibitive. It would have required Toledoans to pay a disproportionate majority of the cost. Essentially, it stipulated paying the suburbs to take control of Toledo's water assets. Gary Johnson, Larry Sykes, Yvonne Harper, and Tyrone Riley said, "No, wait! This is a bad deal for Toledoans, and we don't support it!" The administration then went back to the drawing board and redid the water commission, which, although it gave the suburbs a say, enabled the city council to override the water commission. The agreement also provided economic protections for low-income residents, a much better deal for Toledoans.

But herein lies the power of endings: the opportunity for fresh starts and new beginnings.

Although sometimes met with resistance, change is the driving force behind progress and development. Just as nature transitions from winter to spring, Toledo must navigate its own transition to adapt to changing circumstances. In the realm of governance, this means rethinking the makeup of the city council.

The Pew Research Center's analysis of Census Bureau data from 2018 revealed substantial demographic shifts in the United States.

- There were more 27-year-olds than people of any other age in 2018.

But for white Americans, the common age was 58.

- Bi-racial and multiracial were the youngest racial or ethnic groups and the only group where a majority belonged to a single generational group – Gen Z and younger.
- The median age of black Americans is 34. More than half of blacks were Millennials (24 percent) and Gen Z and younger (31 percent), while 20 percent were Gen Xers and another 20 percent were Boomers.
- Most Americans under the age of five were racial and ethnic minorities, and this higher growth rate will likely continue and ultimately surpass whites. A growing number of individuals identify as having both white and black heritage.
- As more individuals embrace their multiracial heritage and challenge the rigid categories and boundaries that have defined American race relations for centuries, the confines become blurred. Thus, the emerging trends depart from the rigid black-and-white dichotomy and reflect a more fluid understanding of race.

Like the nation as a whole, Toledo is experiencing a transformation in its demographic landscape. As these younger minorities become a more significant portion of the population, it becomes imperative for Toledo's city council to reflect this diversity as well as the perspective and thinking of this new generation.

Representation in government is not merely a matter of political correctness but a fundamental element of effective governance. A city council that is racially and generationally in tune with its constituents is better equipped to understand and address different communities' unique needs, perspectives, and concerns. Younger voices can infuse fresh insights and innovative solutions into governance, ensuring Toledo's policies resonate with its evolving demographics.

Embracing transitions in city council demographics is a proactive approach to staying ahead of the curve. It ensures that the city's leadership can respond effectively to changing trends and challenges. Policies and decisions that account for the realities of the city's diverse population are more likely to foster inclusive growth and social harmony.

More importantly, by including younger voices such as Millennials and Generation Z in its leadership, Toledo can ensure its governance remains relevant, responsive, and forward-thinking. This transition is not only about inclusivity; it is about securing a brighter future for all Toledo residents. As we bid farewell to the old and welcome the new, let us remember that embracing transitions is the key to our collective success.

Reflecting on the former council members' journey, I positively envi-

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The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

February 1

Kwanzaa Park Neighbors Meeting: Noon; A the Padua Center; Presentation by Toledo Urban FCU about services provided

February 14

Toledo NAACP Youth Council meeting; 3:00 pm, Sanger Branch Library; Doris Roberts Toledo NAACP Youth Council Adviser

February 22

Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce and Women of Toledo Speed Mentoring Session: A Black History Month Special; 5:30 to 8 pm; TolHouse: 567-970-7172

February 24-25

Soulful Praise Black History Month Gospel Concert: Friendship Baptist Church; Food Trucks, pop-up shops, gospel concert; Saturday – noon to 4 pm; Sunday – 1:30 to 5 pm – concert at 5: utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss

The Biden-Harris Administration's LNG Decision is the Hope Young People Have Been Waiting For

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

James Hiatt lives in an area along the Mississippi River in Louisiana that has been dubbed "Cancer Alley." Teeming with chemical plants and oil and gas refineries, the air the residents of this area breathe contains more carcinogens than anywhere else in the country.

One of those oil and gas facilities is the Calcasieu Pass liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal, which has further devastated public health, local livelihoods, and marine wildlife. Last week the Biden-Harris administration's Department of Energy (DOE) paused the permitting of new LNG projects. The decision stops the gas industry's plans for the even larger CP2 LNG terminal right next store.

This move was perhaps the boldest rebuke ever from a US president against the oil and gas industry. President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Secretary of Energy Granholm – whose support for the move was especially crucial – did the right thing.

Millions of us are celebrating along with James Hiatt, who says, "I'm thankful for this pause in granting gas export licenses; the DOE has finally heard the wake-up call. The gas industry was planning to inundate my hometown with LNG terminals."

American families' pocketbooks will be thankful as well. Any word you hear from the fossil fuel industry or the politicians in their pockets about how this decision harms American consumers or the economy is a lie.

As Hiatt points out, "exporting LNG drives up domestic energy costs, affect-

ing everything from home heating to food prices."

Pausing the LNG boom will keep global energy markets more stable. It will help move economies and electric grids towards using less expensive and more resilient renewable energy sources. It will keep 681 coal plants worth – or 548 million gasoline-powered cars worth – of planet-warming greenhouse gasses out of our atmosphere each year.

All of this is critically important. But so is James Hiatt's point about the "finally heard wake-up call."

For years, activists, along with scientists and others, have been sounding the alarm to get those in power to wake up. Some of the most powerful voices have been those of young people. And we should all appreciate what it has taken for those young people to maintain their determination.

The American Psychological Association defines "eco-anxiety" as "a chronic fear of environmental doom." In 2021, Lancet Planetary Health surveyed more than 10,000 young people, ages 16 to 25, in 10 countries. Anxiety about climate change impacted the ability of more than 45 percent of these young people to function in their daily lives; 75 percent were "frightened" of the future. And it exposed a key feature of eco-anxiety: hopelessness.

Half the young people in the study described feeling helpless and powerless. Now, we know that despite the fear, young activists have been among our fiercest leaders in the fight against the climate crisis. They have not given in to the lingering despair. But, as a piece on eco-anxiety in the Harvard Political Review pointed out, young people have felt like they are alone in the fight. And, "if no one is listening and no change is happening, then pushing forward can feel hopeless."

That is why, aside from the emissions numbers ... aside from the economic and energy security benefits ... the Biden-Harris administration's LNG decision is a win for hope. And hope is a powerful thing.

In his statement about the decision, President Biden said, "We will heed the calls of young people and frontline communities who are using their voices to demand action from those with the power to act."

This victory for climate-concerned people the world over – and the planet itself – is proof that organizing works. Grabbing the bullhorn and telling your story – even if the crowds don't listen right at first – matters.

This LNG decision is a momentum builder. And a clarion call for even more organized action on the climate crisis – especially from young people.

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



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1900 Monroe Street, Suite 108
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Another King Dies Far Too Soon

By Rev. Barbara Reynolds, DMin

Guest Column

Not another King dying far too soon. This was the immediate reaction of many at the news that Dexter Scott King, the youngest son of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King had died from prostate cancer at age 62. In 2007 his sister Yolanda died at age 52.

At the time of his death, Dexter had served as both chairman of The King Center and President of the King Estate. In that capacity he engaged in legal intellectual property fights with corporations, federal agencies, and court suits with family members to protect his parents' legacy. His strongest crusade, however, was his battle to bring to justice those responsible for his father's murder.

Born in Atlanta on Jan. 30, 1961, he was named after Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, where his father served in his first pastorate and helped launch the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott. He was the second-born son of Dr. King and Mrs. King and was only 7 years old when his father was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

For years, Dexter King—who has an amazing resemblance to his globally acclaimed father, confessed that when he “looked in the mirror he saw his father's face trapped in mine.” In his memoir “Growing Up King,” he spoke of gazing upon the writing on his father's crypt, “Free At Last,” and feeling that same sense of freedom. Yet he was freed in a different way— not in death - but in the resolution of living his best life on his own terms and not becoming a prisoner of the King name.

As a journalist and later biographer of Coretta Scott King, I was in and out of the King household since the seventies watching their becoming years. As a teenager Dexter used to love talking about one day becoming a businessman and he started his first enterprise, a music company where he hired himself out as a disk jockey for weddings. In later years, his zest for business skills took root at the King Center, where he sometimes took the reins of the King Center with his siblings helping it to become a Beloved world house of peace and non-violence.

Coretta King said all four siblings—Martin III, Yolanda, Dexter, and Bernice had inherited specific qualities from her and their father. Yolanda had a love for the performing arts and became an actress. Martin III, a social justice activist; Bernice, a Call to ministry and pastoral and organizational leadership; and Dexter, a drive to master the complexities of life by pushing forward, overcoming the most difficult problems, even when at the very root he had to overcome himself.

Confronted with the fear of death, instead of running from it, he freed himself by running into it. At age 16, he started working at a funeral home, the same one that buried his father. The experiences in the mortuary he attributed to his quest to come to terms with death and dying. To understand the intricacies of the criminal justice system, in 1982, for a short spell, he became a police officer in Atlanta. His stance to wear a uniform with a sidearm shocked the principled non-violent, anti-gun workers at the King Center. But he was determined to understand the system from the inside out.

Dexter also wanted to test his acting abilities. With his uncanny resemblance to his father, he portrayed him in the 2002 television movie “The Rosa Parks Story.” His love for the creative arts drew him to relocate to California but he also continued his work with the King Center and commitment to the King family legacy.

As deftly as he helped free himself from fear and tradition, he also took responsibility for freeing his family, especially his mother, from digging their graves with their forks. He became a strict vegetarian, giving up sugars and starches until his body craved natural foods. He said he was bothered that his grandfather, Daddy King, might have lived a longer life had he eaten differently. At her son's insistence, Coretta, who had mastered the art of rich Southern style cooking, became a vegetarian. Once when I traveled with her to a Florida spa, I was dismayed that for a week, they served nothing but raw vegetables and veggie smoothies. Yet, she also believed her strict regimen eased her pain from gout and other discomforts prolonging her life. She died at the age of 78.

Both mother and son shared an intense determination to prove to the nation that James Earl Ray did not kill Martin Luther King Jr, that his murder was the result of a conspiracy involving the U.S. government and the assassins should be held accountable.

In the early 1990's I picked Dexter up at the DC airport and took him to the National Press Club where I had helped arrange a briefing on the assassination. He spoke about his plans to meet with Ray and that he believed Ray's claim of innocence and, based on other evidence, felt along with other family members that Ray was not the lone assassin.

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Journalist, Dr. Barbara Reynolds, with Martin Luther King III (left) and the now late Dexter Scott King (on right wearing hat) in their younger years.

Modeling is a career, it is not an activity.

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

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Paula Hicks-Hudson Announces a Run for Lucas County Commissioner

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson announced her candidacy for Lucas County Commissioner on Friday, January 26, surrounded by a host of local union officials and supporters.

During the campaign opener at UAW Local 12 on Ashland Street, a number of labor officials voiced their support for the former city council president and mayor.

"She's all in," said Bruce Baumhower, president of UAW Local 12. "She was all in when she was mayor ... she's got so much experience at being a leader and she's earned her spot."

Joining UAW Local 12 in backing the state senator were the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2415, UAW Local 14 and Teamsters Local 20.

Mark Schmiehausen, president of Teamsters Local 20, said "Paula has always been right for Toledo and the unions ... she is a true champion of the community and of labor."

"She's one of the strongest advocates for labor in this community," added Randy Desposito, president AFSCME Local 2415.

Hicks-Hudson will face Anita Lopez in the March 19 Democratic Party primary for the right to move to the general election in November. Lopez, the former Lucas County Auditor, was appointed to the commissioner post this month after longtime Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak retired in December.

Hicks-Hudson, a native of Hamilton, Ohio, earned her undergraduate degree from Spelman College, a masters of art from Colorado State University and her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law.

A long-time resident of Toledo, she has practiced law specializing in business and education, among other matters. Hicks-Hudson was appointed to City Council in 2011 to replace Michael Ashford. She won a special election as well as a general election later that year and in 2013 was elected president of city council by her colleagues. She succeeded the late D. Michael Collins as mayor upon his death and won a special election in 2015 to continue in that post. She lost a general election to current Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz in 2017. She won a seat in the Ohio House of Representatives in 2019 and a seat in the Ohio Senate in 2022.

Hicks-Hudson said she will use the knowledge and experience she has gained at the state capital to better the lives of Lucas County residents.

She ticked off the issues that she hopes to address as commissioner including improving physical and mental health care, reducing crime, ensuring that women have the right to make their own health choices.

Most importantly, "this race is about bringing home state tax dollars back to Lucas County," said Hicks-Hudson.

Expressing her gratitude at the support of labor, she also noted that she was thankful "for the support of so many citizens" in the community.

"In northwest Ohio, we get the job done," she said.



Bruce Baumhower opens the press conference announcing labor's support of Paula Hicks-Hudson's candidacy



Ohio Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson and union officials



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Lucas County CASA Elects New Board Members

Special to The Truth

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Department of the Lucas County Juvenile Court proudly announces the selection of its newest members to the Lucas County CASA Advisory Board.

Kwinlyn Tyler is a graduate of the University of Hawaii and a Project Manager for the Lucas County Department of Planning & Development. Tyler was the executive assistant to Commissioner Gerken from July 2020 to November 2022. Before that, she served for two years from 2018 to 2020 as the Community Health Educator for Planned Parenthood of Greater Toledo. She was a Community Organizer for United Citizen Power from 2016-2018. In 2019 Tyler received the Black Lives Matter Award with a theme titled, "25 under 45" celebrating African American community members under the age of 45 "who are working to improve Toledo's communities."

Margie Clausing is the senior director of Federal and Local Relations for Government Relations at The University of Toledo. Clausing has been with The University of Toledo in various roles for over 15 years. In her current role, she serves as the primary contact to the university for local and federal government officials and advocates university priorities to government officials and government entities on key legislative issues related to higher education, health policy, and research.

In partnership with the Office of Research, Clausing is responsible for advancing the university's federal research portfolio and aligning university research strength to federal funding opportunities. In previous roles, Clausing managed major university-wide projects such as the successful submissions of The University of Toledo's application for the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness and Economic Prosperity (CICEP) Designation and the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification. Clausing earned a bachelor of arts from Bowling Green State University and her master of business administration from The University of Toledo.

The Lucas County CASA Program, one of the oldest and most respected of the 939 CASA programs nationwide, is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization operating in Lucas County since 1980. CASA's mission is to serve the best interests of abused and neglected children in the juvenile court system. CASA

provides quality volunteer advocacy for children to ensure each child has a safe, permanent, nurturing home. CASA volunteers are ordinary citizens who are trained to investigate and monitor child abuse cases and be the voice for the child in the court and child welfare systems. CASA volunteers are greatly needed. Please consider becoming one. Please visit www.casakids.net for more information. The Lucas County CASA/GAL program is a member in good standing of the National and Ohio CASA/GAL Associations.



Kwinlyn Tyler



Margie Clausing

Rep. Michele Grim Elected House Minority Assistant Whip

Special to The Truth

Freshman legislator and former Toledo councilwoman will serve as assistant whip for 135th General Assembly

Ohio House Democrats last week announced the election of Rep. Michele Grim (D-Toledo) as the new minority assistant whip. Rep. Grim was appointed to the caucus leadership position following the resignation of former Rep. Tavia Galonski.

"I am honored that my colleagues have entrusted me to help lead our caucus. Ohioans deserve leaders who put people first. House Democrats are fighting to ensure all Ohioans have the freedom to be who they are, the dignity of a safe community and a secure job, and the opportunity to thrive," said Rep. Grim. "I'm excited to take on this responsibility and grateful that northwest Ohio will have a seat at the table."

Rep. Grim is currently serving her first term as a state representative. She represents the 43rd House District, which encompasses part of Lucas County.

A native of Ashland, Ohio, Rep. Grim earned her doctorate in law and policy from Northeastern University and her master's degree in public health

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Another King...continued from page 4

On December 8, 1999, Dexter and Mrs. King, on behalf of the family, pursued a civil suit in Memphis. A jury of six Whites and six Blacks unanimously implicated U.S. government agencies in the wrongful death of Dr. King. The shocking evidence convinced the jury that Dr. King had been the victim of assassination by a conspiracy involving the Memphis Police Department as well as local, state, and federal government agencies, and the Mafia. The Jury also concluded, just as Dexter had argued all along, that Ray was not the shooter, but had been set up as a patsy to take the blame.

This news, where both Dexter and Mrs. King testified, should have rocked the world, but unfortunately it landed like the noise of a feather hitting the ground. The verdict and shocking testimony were virtually ignored by the media - as it is today.

Dexter was often criticized for his insistence on following up on details ignored by the press, but he argued that it was hard for him to believe looking into his father's murder was somehow illogical.

Yet, even in this failure, Dexter believed as his mother did, that they had both freed themselves of the guilt of not pushing for the truth. So many times, they had heard their father and husband say, "Truth crushed to Earth Shall Rise Again."

And they left this world believing that one day it would.

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds is co-author of the memoir, Coretta Scott King: My Life, My Love, My Legacy.

Community Leader Organizes Series of Workshops on Settling Affairs

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Deborah Barnett, local community leader, activist and owner of N-Sync LLC, is collaborating with the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. and Toledo Lucas County Library to present a series of community resource workshops entitled, 'Getting Your Affairs In Order.'

The series launched on January 27 at the main library, with the first workshop, 'Getting Your Affairs in Order Properly.' Guests and participants received a free lunch at 12:30 p.m., followed by opening remarks delivered by Barnett.

"We all think that we have time to do this and to do that," began Barnett. "I had a conversation with the Area Office on Aging and submitted a proposal, now we are here. I want to thank the committee because we all volunteering our time. Getting your affairs in order, means everything, not just medical."

Rev. Barbie Harrison of the local Area Office on Aging delivered the invocation and then shared a list of ways that participants can begin that conversation with their family. A few of the suggestions and recommendations included: making sure that more than one person knows the end of life information, understand that in grief there may be conflict because of confusion and host a dinner with core family members and allow a family leader to be identified among those core member to keep the harmony.

"All families are not equal," began Harrison. "Families are a gift from God, but each family has its own personality and opinions. There are families that may not want to communicate about end of life.

The workshop featured two attorneys, Charlon Dewberry and Arthur Battle. The two attorneys explained in further detail how to begin the process of getting your affairs in order. The program concluded with a question and answer session that gathered questions from the participants during the workshop.

"Today is about starting a conversation, learning about documents that are necessary to make your wishes known," began Dewberry. "These documents won't give up your control while you are living, but gives you control once you pass."

One document that Dewberry spoke about in length was last will and testament. This document should include all property, even if the property is low in value. The document should include all relatives, even if your wishes are to leave them nothing because if an Ohio resident doesn't have a will, the state will make the final distribution of assets.

The remaining workshops in the series are free and open to the public:



Deborah Barnett, Rev. Barbie Harrison of the local Area Office on Aging, Charlon Dewberry and Arthur Battle



Deborah Barnett addresses audience



Barbie Harrison addresses audience

- Saturday, March 16, 2024, Bank Account Information
- Saturday, June 22, 2024, Power of Attorney
- Saturday, October 19, 2024, Living Will, Transfer on Death Deed & Insurance



Attorney Charlon Dewberry

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Junction Resident Returns Home Thanks to Habitat for Humanity

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Tressa Boles, a former Junction neighborhood resident, returned to her old neighborhood as a homeowner through the Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity's (MVHFH) homeownership program. The occasion was celebrated through a home dedication ceremony on Friday, January 26, 2024.

Erin McPartland, MVHFH's executive director, opened the ceremony with passionate words that were followed by a home dedication prayer and presentation of a Bible by Pastor Art Battle of Gethsemane Christian Discipleship Church which is Boles' church.

"Thank you for joining us. Tressa is really loved," began McPartland. "We know that, and we love her. Tressa gives so much love, and today reflects what she gives to us. Tressa was born just one street over, and today she will receive a new Bible because she buried her Bible in the porch foundation. I want to also thank our donors, our staff and volunteers for making this happen."

Kind remarks and gift were presented to Boles by Emily Buller and Jan Mills of MVHFH, Anita Filas of Schindler, Sue Wiedmer of Toledo Needle Arts Guide and from Lucas County Landbank employees Shantae Brownlee and Stephanie Shackelford.

"This project started in 2014 when Lucas County Landbank provided the land," began Shantae Brownlee, Lucas County LandBank, senior vice president for Operations & chief financial officer, during the presentation of the home key to the homeowner. "There are people that think this land has no value. This land does have value and we have value."

Boles' home is the second of two homes built in the Junction neighborhood on Belmont, the overall goal is to build 15 new homes. The homes



Tressa Boles' new home



Pastor Art Battle of Gethsemane Christian Discipleship Church during dedication



Erin McPartland, MVHFH's Executive Director and Tressa Boles



Friends, family and supporters in attendance

were funded by Greater Toledo Community Foundation, ProMedica Junction, Owens Corning, City of Toledo, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

..continued on page 10



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The UToledo Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The University of Toledo held its 40th Annual UToledo Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth Saturday January 27 in Lancelot Thompson Student Union. The event featured media specialist Roland Martin and hip-hop icon Black Thought of the Legendary Roots Crew and The Tonight Show.

Alexis Means, anchor for 13abc, served as mistress of ceremonies for the Saturday morning. The event is believed to be the longest-running free conference of its kind in the country. This year, over 1,400 students, parents and community members registered for the 4-hour conference.

The annual UToledo Conference for Aspiring Minority brings notable speakers from across the nation and the world to speak to Toledo area middle school through high school students, their parents and the community. For 40 years the conference has encouraged students to better understand the importance of education, social justice, and wellness, to their lives.



Black Thought and Roland Martin with Alpha Phi Alpha youth group Alpha Esquires

Established in 1988, Toledo EXCEL helps underrepresented and low-income students, including African, Asian, Hispanic and Native Americans, achieve success in college. Through summer institutes, academic enhancement activities and guidance through the admission process, students increase their self-esteem, cultural awareness, and civic involvement.

Among EXCEL's services to high school students are Saturday School, Summer Institutes, tutoring, academic retreat weekends, campus visits, advis-

... continued on page 11



Romules Durant, EdD and Toledo Public School students



Roland Martin speaks one-on-one with Grammy Award Winning musician Black Thought



David Young, Director of Toledo Excel

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Tanya, UTMCM primary care patient

utmc.utoledo.edu

New Year, New Finances: Why You Should Work With a Financial Planner

Special to The Truth

As 2024 gets underway, it's time to set new financial goals and make a plan to reach them.

Whether you have a fixed, short-term goal, such as paying down debt, or you're looking to draw up a comprehensive roadmap for your financial future, a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional can be integral to the process.

To find a professional you can trust and to get the most out of working with them, consider the following answers to commonly asked questions.

Can I trust my financial planner?

The credentials of a "financial planner" can vary widely. It's best to ensure that your financial planner is a CFP® professional. Certified by CFP Board, CFP® professionals commit to high ethical standards and have made a commitment to CFP Board to act as a fiduciary, meaning they act in your best interests when giving financial planning advice. They must also acquire several years of experience delivering financial planning services and pass a comprehensive exam. These rigorous qualifications can offer you peace of mind that your financial planner is someone knowledgeable who has your best interests in mind.

Is financial planning for me?

A common misconception is that financial planning is only for those with a certain level of income or wealth, or for those who are nearing retirement. The truth is that financial planning is for everyone at every life stage.

For example, if you're newly graduated and just starting your career, you may need advice on how to pay off student loans while saving for the future. A financial planner can help you prioritize these competing goals. Likewise, if you're established, a financial planner can help you manage and safeguard your wealth for the next generation.

What value does a financial planner offer?

A CFP® professional will learn about your financial goals and needs and can develop a holistic financial plan tailored specifically to you. Their education and experience make them uniquely suited to help you choose

investments that align with your time horizon and risk tolerance, to help you save money on taxes and to assist you in planning for the future – including for the unexpected. With a CFP® professional by your side, you can feel more confident in your financial future, whether you're planning for college, retirement or growing your family.

How do I plan for my first meeting?

While you don't need to have all your goals set in stone at your first meeting, being prepared is helpful. In addition to any paperwork that the advisor sent you ahead of time, gather copies of financial statements from your banks, brokerage firms and retirement account custodians, as well as tax, insurance and estate planning documents. Come prepared to discuss your income, expenses and debt. Finally, prepare a list of questions. This is your opportunity to find out about the feasibility of your dreams and goals.

How do I find the right planner for me?

Perhaps you are estate planning and have unique concerns due to family dynamics. Perhaps you're launching a new business and need assistance with cash flow and budgeting.

If you have specific financial goals or challenges, it may be helpful to work with a CFP® professional who specializes in that area. You can use the "Find a CFP® Professional" tool at letsmakeaplan.org to search by specific planning services and your location.

As you set your financial goals for 2024, consider how a financial planner can help you.

Courtesy StatePoint

Habitat For Humanity... continued from page 8

nati, Lucas County LandBank, Toledo Design Collective and many others. The Junction project is also supported by Buckeye Broadband, Cree Lighting, Fypon, Junction Coalition, Nicole Kaptur-Cacharyasz, Ring, Yale Locks, MVHFH Board of Trustees and also Feller, Finch & Associates.

"Thank you for coming. I want to thank God," said Boles as she began to sing, "Thank you Lord." "I am so overwhelmed by this blessing from God. Thank you, Habitat, thank you to my family and thank you all for being here."

According to the MVHFH website, Tressa along with MVHFH future homeowners must complete a minimum number of 250 volunteer hours also known as Sweat Equity Hours, homeowner education courses and meet other eligibility requirements. The entire process can take between 12-18 months to purchase the home. Tressa's process took 17 months. For additional information about MVHFH, visit www.mvhhabitat.org

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Shantae Brownlee, Lucas County LandBank, Senior VP for Operations & Chief Financial Officer giving Tressa the house key

Branden Cook Soaring to New Heights

By Sheila Annette Cook

Special to The Truth

Former TPS Student, Branden Cook is soaring to new heights as he blossoms into a famous actor. Born in Toledo, he attended Old West End Academy and Elmhurst Elementary before moving to Charlotte, NC with his mom, Terri-lynn Cook.

He enjoyed football and played for the Redskins, an intramural team in Toledo. In his journey through school, he was introduced to theater in the fourth grade by his then teacher, Brenda Huff (current OWEA Teacher). From there, as they say, the rest was history!

Branden continued being involved in theater throughout elementary, middle and high school! He starred in many stage productions throughout the years and began his official acting career in high school by participating as a background extra and in small supporting roles.

In 2013, Branden attended Wake Forest University as the Presidential Scholar in Theater! He continued his pursuit of acting by relocating to London, England and obtaining his graduate degree at the prestigious London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts!



Branden Cook



Since then, he has built his resume to include a starring role on NBC's Chicago PD (Season 8 - Episode 15) and his newest project, Masters of the Air, which began airing January 26 on AppleTV and is produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. Branden is a die-hard OSU fan and returns to Toledo often where his grandparents, Bishop Edward T. Cook and First Lady Sheila L. Cook, as well as other family members reside.

Ed. Note: Sheila Annette Cook is the Community/Family Resource & Outreach Professional Services and YMOE Advisor, TPS Family and Community Advisory Board, Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Boys

Perryman... continued from page 2

sion their future as mentors and guides. If Johnson and the others embrace change, the valuable experience and lessons learned from their time in office will serve as a beacon for others.

A powerful reset might include serving on boards or forming or participating in nonprofit advocacy. Former city councilperson Karyn McConnell's example proves that a mistake does not have to be fatal to a career and is a powerful model of a successful personal reset or reinventing oneself.

While the seasoned council members' departures mark the end of an era, it also creates an opening. This void can be filled by a new generation of leaders with fresh ideas and innovative solutions.

The former council members are yet a vital part of the community and have the ability to help other people.

Indeed, by embracing necessary endings, we can pave the way for a future that is even more fulfilling, productive, and prosperous and ensure that our journey toward growth is continuous and hopeful.

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

Michele Grim... continued from page 6

from the University of Toledo. She is committed to economic policies that abolish medical debt, create good jobs in the industries of the future, revitalize neglected communities, and improve the lives of working people.

House Minority Leader Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) welcomed Rep. Grim to the Ohio House Minority Caucus leadership team.

"Rep. Grim has been a vital part of the Ohio House Minority Caucus for the past year. A strong advocate for the people of Ohio's 43rd House District, Rep. Grim has been a champion on issues such as workers' rights, free feminine hygiene products in schools, expanding access to healthcare, and protecting public education," said Leader Russo. "I am confident that she will be a valuable asset to our leadership team, the Ohio House Democratic Caucus, and to the State of Ohio. I look forward to working alongside her to ensure that we continue to put people first."

UToledo... continued from page 9

ing for strategic admissions and financial aid, and ethnographic field studies in the U.S. and abroad. (source: u.toledo.edu)

Speakers for the conference included Will Lucas, chairman of the University of Toledo Board of Trustees; Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz; Don Retting, director of Community Affairs and president of the OC Foundation at Owens Corning; Londell Smith, founder of Londell Smith & Associates, LLC, and David Young, director of Toledo EXCEL.

Special performances were given by Tahyah's Dance Studio and a poem recited by UT EXCEL and University of Toledo Alum Davion Desean Williams.

The featured speaker for the evening was **Roland Martin**, host and managing editor of #RolandMartinUnfiltered, who had been named four times by Ebony Magazine as one of the 150 Most Influential African Americans in the United States.

A longtime journalist, Martin is the host and managing editor of "#RolandMartinUnfiltered," the first daily online show in history focused on news and analysis of politics, entertainment, sports and culture from an explicitly African American perspective. Martin was a senior analyst for the Tom Joyner Morning Show, where his twice-a-week segment was heard by millions of listeners on upwards of 100 stations. He is the author of three books: *Listening to the Spirit Within: 50 Perspectives on Faith, Speak, Brother! A Black Man's View of America* and *The First: President Barack Obama's Road to the White House as originally reported by Roland S. Martin*.

Martin conducted an interview with **Black Thought**, co-founder of the legendary band The Roots, iconic hip-hop MC, four-time Grammy Award winner and a leader of The Tonight Show house band. As co-founder of The Roots, the beloved house band for "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" for more than a decade, and a multi-hyphenate creative, Tariq Trotter — aka Black Thought — has quietly affirmed himself as one of the most prolific and powerful voices in hip-hop, winning four Grammy Awards and three NAACP Image Awards.

In 2022, Black Thought teamed up with Danger Mouse for their acclaimed collaborative album, *Cheat Codes*. In 2023 he authored a book entitled *The Upcycled Self: A Memoir on the Art of Becoming Who We Are*.

To learn more about Toledo EXCEL and the Aspiring Youth Conference visit www.utoledo.edu/success/excel/

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Black History Month Events • Black History Month Events • Black History Month Events • Black History Month Events • Black History Month Events

The Jazz Collective's Black History Month at The Peacock Cafe

We are approaching Black History Month and here is our schedule for the month of February

Brendon Davis is Artist of the month!

February 8 --- Roger Jones will be doing the compositions of Thelonious Monk!

February 15 --- Sky Covington will be doing the compositions of Billie Holiday

February 22 -- Dr Shawn "Thunder" Wallace will be doing the compositions of John Coltrane

February 29 --- Dwight Adams will be doing the compositions of Miles Davis

These are some of the most popular musicians in the Midwest in this Art Form called Jazz . Jazz Around The World (J.A.W) Is so excited to bring These outstanding musicians to Toledo at the Historic Peacock Cafe and the Jazz Collective!

The University of Toledo Office of Multicultural Student Success & The Music Ministry of Friendship Baptist Church PRESENTS

Souful Praise BLACK HISTORY MONTH GOSPEL CONCERT

FREE ENTRY
2 DAYS + 3 EVENTS

FEBRUARY 24
FOOD TRUCKS + POP-UP SHOPS
NOON - 4:00PM

FEBRUARY 25
FOOD TRUCKS + POP-UP SHOPS
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
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VISIONSMADEPOSSIBLELLC@GMAIL.COM

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2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BHM 2024 Calendar*

*Dates and details subject to change. Events will be added throughout the month, so please check InvoNet for the most up-to-date event details!

1	BHM Kick Off w/ Keynote Speaker, Steve Pemberton Thursday, February 1 6 p.m. Location: UHall - Doremann Theatre	24	Community Food Trucks + Pop-Up Shops (Day 1) Saturday, February 24 12 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Location: Friendship Baptist Church
9	African American Legacy Project Exhibit Friday, February 9 10:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. Location: AALP 1326 Collingwood Blvd, Toledo, OH	25	Community Food Trucks + Pop-Up Shops (Day 2) Sunday, February 25 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Location: Friendship Baptist Church
16	Service Project: Feed My Starving Children Friday, February 16 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Location: Health Ed. Bldg.	25	Souful Praise: Gospel Concert Sunday, February 25 5:00 p.m. Location: Friendship Baptist Church
21	Beautyshop + Barbershop Talk Thursday, March 30 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Location: Student Union 2592	26	BSU-CAP Movie Screening: Higher Learning Saturday, February 24 6:00 p.m. Location: UHall - Doremann Theatre
21	Barbershop Talk Thursday, March 30 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Location: Student Union	27	BHM MasterClass: Professional Panel Discussion Tuesday, February 27 6:00 p.m. Location: Student Union
22	Coffee & Conversations Thursday, March 30 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Location: Jera's Heavenly Sweets	29	54th Annual BSU Fashion Show Thursday, February 29 4:00 p.m. Location: Student Union - Auditorium

Office of Multicultural Student Success
Thompson Lancelot Student Union 2500
2801 W. Bancroft St.
419.530.2426
@omssutoledo

invo.net.utoledo.edu

Gray Areas: How the Way We Work Perpetuates Racism & What We Can Do to Fix It by Adia Harvey Wingfield, PhD

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Well. This wasn't what you wanted.

It was supposed to be better than this, wasn't it? But it's not anywhere close to what it should be. No, you expected different and that's not right. Read the new book *Gray Areas* by Adia Harvey Wingfield, PhD, and you might have to think about this again.

c.2023
Amistad
\$29.99
304 pages

There you are, logged into your work computer after a long weekend and it hits you: an email or IM from a racist who uses vile words and hides behind a pseudonym. It happens, and for many Black employees in America today, it happens so often that it's become "a core part of the Black experience..."

But hey, your jobsite established diversity programs and workshops on inclusion, right? Yes, but the truth, says Wingfield, is that they don't help; in fact, she believes that those well-intended workplace efforts actually "perpetuate and maintain racial divides."

Part of the problem is that today's workplace thrives on "cultural, social, and relational aspects." These are things built into most workplaces, but that ignore Black experiences.

There are four classes of culture at work and, for various reasons, any or all of them can "make it hard for Black workers to fit in..." by subtly forcing them to hide their true selves. Social aspects in the workplace deal with connections, mentors, and relationships. It's not what you know, but who, and networking – something with which Black workers sometimes struggle – is key. And relational aspects relate to "soft skills" and leadership

abilities, although most top-echelon positions in corporate America are filled by white men.

So what can a supervisor or CEO do to make the workplace less racist?

End mandatory diversity training, Wingfield says, and hire diversity managers instead. Admit and anticipate racial issues. Don't let employees or customers to get away with bigotry against your workers. Start a mentoring program in your workplace and strive to promote workers of color to top positions.

With these, and other ideas, Wingfield says, "We can do better."



Gray Areas author

Reading *Gray Areas* is a little bit of a struggle.

For an African American reader, author Adia Harvey Wingfield, PhD, shares the lives and words of several people at various kinds of workplaces, but the case studies mostly repeat what you probably already know. It'll get your dander up, but it won't tell you much.

On the other hand, CEOs and supervisors need to absorb what's inside this book, to glean understanding from the various viewpoints and experiences and to uncover that which they may not see. Just know that, aside from end-of-chapter bullet-points, advice is pretty well buried – although golden nuggets do exist. For instance, if you're a people-watcher, it's interesting to see how different folks deal with difficulties at work. On that, readers may come away wishing that Wingfield's subjects could've networked among themselves.

Should you decide to tackle this book and its information, taking extra time to think and absorb will help immensely. Do that, let yourself cogitate, and *Gray Areas* could be everything you've wanted.

GRAY AREAS

HOW THE WAY WE WORK PERPETUATES RACISM & WHAT WE CAN DO TO FIX IT

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INVITATION FOR BIDS RENOVATIONS OF 3 CASUALTY LOSS UNITS IFB24-B001

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Renovations of 3 Casualty Loss Units in accordance with IFB24-B001**. Received in accordance with law until **February 6, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET**. 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.



FACILITY OPERATOR:

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a Facility Operator for Glass City Metropark. The person in this position will perform a variety of housekeeping, janitorial and basic maintenance. HS diploma or equivalent required as well as a valid driver's license. Some experience in janitorial and minor building maintenance is preferred. Full time position with benefits. EOE

Go to www.MetroparkToledo.com/careers to view the entire job description and to apply.



TAKING YOU PLACES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

FY 2024 through 2026 Goals

The purpose of this notice is to afford certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), general contractor groups, minorities, and woman's organizations an opportunity to participate and comment on the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) draft FFY-2024 to FFY-2026 DBE program and Goal.

The TARTA DBE program proposed goal and methodology may be reviewed for 30 calendar days starting with the first day of publication of this notice.

Questions and comments regarding the goal setting process, the draft DBE goal and the final FFY-2024 to FFY-2026 DBE goal may be mailed or emailed to the email addresses below.

It is the policy of TARTA to provide Disadvantaged Business Enterprises with the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or part with federal funds. In accordance with the requirements of Title 49 CFR 26.45, TARTA is publishing its DBE goal for Fiscal Years 2024 –2026 of 10%. TARTA's proposed goal and its rationale are available for inspection at tarta.com/news-alerts/tarta-business.

A virtual public meeting will be held on February 7 at 10 a.m. To register, get the link at the TARTA website under tarta.com/news-alerts/tarta-business.

To request a copy of the DBE Program or goal, or further information about the DBE program please call Zach Morrison at 419-245-5237 or email zmorrison@tarta.com.

TARTA will accept comments on the goal for 45 days from the date of this notice.

Comments may be addressed to:

Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
TARTA DBE & Ethics Officer – Sean Smith
1127 West Central Avenue
Toledo, OH 43610
ssmith@tarta.com

It is the policy of TARTA that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds race, color, national origin, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.



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>

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS RFP24-R001 F

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 151 PBV for this rolling RFP. Received in accordance with law until **February 29, 2024, 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.



Promises Made, Promises Kept at Warren Commons

Special to The Truth

When taxpayer dollars are in play, the public has a right to expect that when promises are made, the promises are kept.

That's exactly what happened in the construction of the new Warren Commons, a 46-unit supportive housing community for the chronically homeless in Toledo's Warren Sherman neighborhood. The project, a partnership between Community Housing Network and Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities of Northwest Ohio (TASC), has reached its goals for minority and women business enterprise (MBE/WBE) participation.

"When we set these goals, our intention was to make sure minority- and women-owned businesses were strongly considered in all areas of the project," said Sylvester Gould, president and CEO of Gould Development Company LLC, which served as TASC's Owners' Representative and as a consultant for the project. "Through a combination of hard work, careful planning and excellent communication, we've reached our minority and women-owned business goal."

The MBE/WBE goal for the \$10 million construction process was 21 percent participation. The project, which is expected to be completed by mid-January, currently has 21.5 percent MBE/WBE participation. That equates to about \$2.1 million of MBE/WBE participation.

"This project is good for the neighborhood, good for the city, good for the taxpayers, and good for some of our unhoused Toledoans," said TASC Executive Director Johnetta McCollough. "This project has supported the community's interests and will continue to do so."

City of Toledo Director of Neighborhoods and Community Development Rosalyn Clemens said meeting the city's MBE/WBE goal gives the community confidence that all parties involved will follow through on other commitments.



Charles Turnbough, Adam Foltz and Sylvester Gould in the building's common room filled with supplies for the apartments

"The project was a long time in coming, but it will help alleviate homelessness, create jobs and hopefully add stability to the community," Clemens said. "We're grateful to all those who helped accomplish this significant milestone."

The development at 2021 Franklin St. is being built by local builder Rudolph Libbe Group.

"We're proud to have played a part in not only helping the Warren Commons team reach its goals for minority and women-owned business participation, but in all phases of this worthwhile project," said Jeff Schaller, president of Rudolph Libbe Inc.

MBE/WBE Contractors at Warren Commons Project

- 84 Lumber
- Ebony Construction Co. Inc.
- Edco Contracting LLC
- Green Earth Transportation Services
- HGI Inc.
- Ivy Development Agency LLC
- Jackson Security Services
- Lymco Fire Protection LLC
- Approved Components & Systems, Inc.
- Midwest Rehab 7 LLC
- ByPas of Toledo
- Rath Builders Supply
- The L.E. Smith Company
- Your Computer Needs
- Williams Interior Designs
- Peak Electric
- Gross Electric
- Turner Security

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