

# The Sojourner's Truth

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 82 No. 4

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

Februray 7, 2024

## Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc Annual Prayer Breakfast



Denise Black-Poon, Terri Cook, Iva Brassfield, Marsha Wells, Wanda Terrell Galloway, Valerie Walston, LaShardae Scott, Clara Petty, Mary McKinley Reed

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# More Than Meets the Eye: Seeing Beyond the Headlines

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

The Truth Contributor

*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.*

**-Marcel Proust**



Last week's press conference by Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, highlighting the significant reduction in crime rates for 2023, was a striking series of impressive statistics. Yet, there's more to it than you might think.

Upon closer examination, the presentation unveiled a multifaceted strategy that reveals not merely a blueprint for safer streets but also a savvy political maneuver that could reshape Toledo's future and governance.

The mayor's decision to bring former City Council member Tiffany Whitman into his administration, coupled with the subsequent vacancies on the City Council, hints at an ambitious but strategic attempt to mold the council "in his image." This subtle yet profound move offers a glimpse into a future where governance and policy will be more harmoniously aligned with the mayor's agenda.

The crime reduction, marked by significant declines in homicides, burglaries and theft, is undoubtedly a triumph for the city. Yet, the mayor has to look no further than his appointment of Michael Troendle as the city's police chief in March 2023. Troendle was a noted disciple and mentee of late former chief Derrick Diggs and his data-driven community policing model. The positive crime results are also the consequences of the effectiveness of targeted initiatives, including the domestic violence task force and the enhancement of youth programs.

However, the strategic hiring of former councilwoman Tiffany Whitman as the mayor's DEI director and the opportunity to influence the selection of new council members suggest a more profound, more calculated plan to consolidate political power and ensure the continuity of the mayor's policy directions.

## City Council Dynamics and Future Predictions

The impending City Council vacancies, following the recent resignations of Whitman and Katie Moline, who left to become Lucas County Auditor, introduce a pivotal opportunity for upcoming strategic appointments in the next 30 days. The filling of these vacancies underscores a crucial moment for the mayor to influence the council's composition, aligning it more closely with Kapszukiewicz's vision for the city.

Whitman was one of the four newest councilpersons appointed by mayoral confidant Judge Jack Puffenberger. Her transition to the mayor's administration indicates a successful process used to replace the former councilpersons Sykes, Harper, Riley and Johnson, who were arrested and imprisoned for ethical lapses.

On the other hand, Moline has been a political thorn in the mayor's side, often clashing with him on budget and other political matters.

Therefore, the appointment process for replacing Whitman and Moline could set the stage for longer-term governance styles and priorities, mirroring the mayor's ethos.

Mac Driscoll may currently have the votes for one of the city council appointments. He's an urban planner who has done substantial footwork for the Democratic Party, has good relationships, and almost certainly seems to be a

lock for one of the vacant seats.

The Party would likely fill the second seat with a person of color. The candidates poised for this role include Randall Parker and potentially Marsha Hill or Bryan Latta, who signify diverse prospects for Toledo's legislative future.

Parker is fresh from a school board electoral victory. The recently elected board president represents the multifaceted talents that could steer Toledo towards a nuanced, inclusive approach in addressing citywide concerns. Latta is a Deputy Court Administrator with legal experience, training, and a substantial commitment to the Democratic Party. Marsha Hill is a Teamster and has called City Council President Carrie Hartman to lobby for the position. Hartman may seek to fill one of the vacancies with another woman.

Considering candidates like Parker, Hill or Latta further emphasizes the administration's intent to reflect the city's diversity in its leadership.

## Will Mayor Kapszukiewicz pursue a third term?

On God!

The city is doing well and enjoys as stable leadership as Toledo has had in the strong mayor system. In addition to the dramatic crime reduction, Wade can claim to have gotten us through COVID-19, having a slew of active economic development deals going, and investing substantial American Rescue Plan dollars in the Black community, such as the multimillion-dollar YMCA project and others.

Influential elements in the business community have taken note of Toledo's stability and steady-handed leadership. They are trying to convince Wade to run for a third term. The previous failure to amend the city charter in 2022, which would've allowed such a term extension, now finds itself in a context ripe for reconsideration. With crime declining and the mayor's approval rating reportedly above 65 percent, the political and social climate may be more amenable to charter changes that could extend the mayor's tenure. Indeed, if city councilpersons are allowed three terms, why shouldn't a mayor?

In the unlikely event that the charter amendment fails and the pursuit of a third term doesn't materialize by 2025, several candidates are poised to emerge. You can always count on Nick Komives, who has been positioning himself for a shot at mayor for several years.

John Hobbs's name, George Sarantou, and Carrie Hartman have also been mentioned as likely entrants in a 2025 mayoral campaign. I wouldn't even be surprised if Carty also took a stab at running for mayor again for the umpteenth time.

## Looking Forward and Beyond the Headlines

What is certain is that the strategic orchestration of highly publicized crime reduction statistics, upcoming city council appointments, the community's response to upcoming charter amendments, and the unfolding political landscape all contribute to a narrative much richer than the sum of its parts.

With Mayor Kapszukiewicz's approval rating soaring, the timing couldn't

*... continued on page 3*

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### 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/amss

### February 29

An Evening with State Rep. Elgin Rogers: Main Branch Library; 5 to 7 pm



# “Massa Trump, I Is Your Boy!”

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

By the time you read this opinion piece, I will have finally recovered from an acute case of which is euphemistically called, “Negro Embarrassment.”

For those who are not familiar with the term, “Negro Embarrassment,” it was first coined by the late Ethiopian essayist, Efal Revillot, in a 1968 magazine article originally entitled, “When American Negroes Go Wild.”

The thesis of the inflammatory article was that, due to the oppressive conditions of slavery and Jim Crow and the repeated micro abrasions of slavery that people of color still daily endure in America, some Black people have reconfigured their thinking processes to survive and endure in a hostile (both latent and apparent) America.

For some people of color, this reconfiguration was manifested in a self-imposed exile into what have been called ghettos; and others adapted a survival strategy of being militant in the face of racial hostility.

But others managed to salvage bits and pieces of their suppressed personhood by adapting to a lifestyle of constantly appealing to the mercy and kindness of their oppressors on the theory that such obsequious acts would ingratiate them with favors and perks from the dominant society.

The underlying goal of such obsequious manifestations was to live and hopefully to live quite well without incurring suspicion or wrath from their benefactors.

The essayist postulated that such persons were willing to submerge their own personalities into a life of service for their oppressor and thus obtain out of reach “goodies and benefits” for themselves and their family.

From this concept, we have coined the terms, “The House Negro” and the “Field Negro.” We know that the Massa favored the House Negro because he or she posed no danger or threat to the Massa or his family and thus he or she had it good as opposed to the field worker.

The House Negro ate well, slept well and did not to worry about excruciating labor from sunup to sundown picking cotton or harvesting the rice crop in the Carolinas.

Manifestations of the good and safe Negro were personified, good or bad, by a Bill Bojangles dancing and grinning with a young Shirley Temple in the early films of Hollywood. Or it was in the bulging eye antics of a Stephin Fetchit who could make White America theater audiences roar with laughter at his foolish antics.

We all know about the mammie role that we viewed with gritted teeth in the famous film, *Gone With The Wind*.

Lest we forget, we must include for the sake of discussion, the famous Rochester character in the popular Jack Benny television series and also some of the characters in *Amos n’ Andy* television series. (Note: you can view this series on You Tube).

Now, by the magic of fast forwarding to the present date, let us look at a particular person who has singularly reprised the role of Rochester and Stephin Fetchit and has seemingly done so with little effort!

Introducing the one and only Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina!

Yes, Senator Scott, without any prodding or cajoling, has with much fortitude and determination, made a political decision that he is willing to resurrect the role of playing the faithful and dutiful Negro to Massa and in this case, Massa is Donald Trump.

If you had the displeasure, as I have had, to view the post-election speech by Donald Trump after his New Hampshire win over Nikki Haley, you may have seen a grinning Senator Scott behind Trump being delirious with joy that he was on the stage with Trump.

Not only that but Senator Scott, without a signal or a prompting, impulsively jumped to the front of the podium while Trump was still speaking and positioned himself directly in front of Trump and uttered these words, “I just love you Trump!”

Trump, not thrown off guard by such hero worship, dutifully smiled at one of his diehard sycophants, shook his hand and welcomed Tim Scott into his political orbit because not only had he thrown under the political bus, his early endorser, Nikki Haley, but Scott pledged his undying loyalty for a man who has repeatedly shown that he is a racist.

Again, referring to the essayist, Efal Revillot, Senator Scott exemplified all the salient character and mental components of being a dutiful and docile



Negro who wants to ingratiate himself in the good graces of Donald Trump.

No shame. No self-pride. No dignity. Just a blather of praise for a man who called Black Women, b\*itches when he excoriated Black football players for taking a knee during the playing of the National Anthem and called them, “sons of b\*itches!”

And, if you listen close, really close, you will hear the musical refrain of Tim Scott doing a soft shoe shuffle dance for Massa that would bring tears of joy to Bo Jangles and Stephin Fetchit.

Listen.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [tolliver@juno.com](mailto:tolliver@juno.com)



Senator Tim Scott

## Perryman... continued from page 2

be more opportune. His political influence is at its peak. The mayor has taken advantage of a prime opportunity to modify Toledo’s governance structure to ensure that the initiatives and policies that have begun to bear fruit can continue to do so under his stewardship.

That’s what good politicians do.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

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# Statement from Biden-Harris 2024 Co-Chair Congressman James Clyburn On Black History Month

The following is a statement from Congressman Jim Clyburn (D-SC), Biden-Harris 2024 Campaign Co-Chair to mark the start of Black History Month:

"Black History Month offers us an opportunity to celebrate the rich history and contributions of the Black Americans who continue to play significant roles in our nation's pursuit of 'a more perfect union.' It was the genius of Lewis Latimer that made Thomas Edison's light bulb work as intended and in 2020, it was Black America's mobilization that helped send Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to the White House.

Exercising our power at the ballot box has produced good fruit including the first Black woman on the Supreme Court, a record-breaking number of Black women to the federal appellate court, and appointing the most diverse Cabinet in American history, including the first African American to serve as Secretary of Defense. The Biden-Harris administration has ushered in a 50-year low for Black unemployment. Health insurance premiums and the cost of prescription drugs are down for millions of Americans, over \$7 billion has

been invested in HBCUs, and – despite Republicans' efforts to the contrary—over \$136 billion in student loan debt has already been forgiven.

The fundamental choice in this election is between Joe Biden, who believes that everyone deserves a fair shot and will never stop fighting to make life better for the American people, and Donald Trump, who always puts himself above the interest and welfare of the American people.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we should remember: the end of Reconstruction and the beginning of Jim Crow were decided by just one vote. The power is in our hands to choose freedom and prosperity over chaos and vitriol."



President Joe Biden and Congressman James Clyburn

# Rainbow Push Coalition Holds Installation of Frederick Haynes as President and CEO

Special to The Truth

Frederick D. Haynes, III, DMin, was formally installed as the president and CEO of Rainbow PUSH Coalition on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at the Black

Academy of Arts and Letters in Dallas, TX. The sold-out installation event came six months after the announcement of Haynes as Rev. Jesse Jackson's successor during Rainbow PUSH Coalition's national convention. VIP program participants and attendees came to Dallas from all over the country, including Roland Martin, Rev. Al Sharpton (NAN); Shavonne Arline-Bradley (NCNW); Michael Sorrell, EdD; Amos Brown, DMin and Ron Daniels, PhD, among others. Tashara Parker, 4X Emmy award-winning journalist, served as the mistress of ceremonies.



Frederick Haynes, DMin

The very next day, Friday, February 2, 2024, Rainbow PUSH Coalition hosted the President's Inaugural Social Justice Conference at Paul Quinn College, Rev. Jesse Jackson was in attendance at both the installation and conference. The formal installation ceremony and the President's Inaugural Social Justice Conference was presented by Sound Design Studios, a Dallas based Black owned production company.

The Rainbow PUSH Coalition President's Inaugural Social Justice Conference was a call to action as well as a reminder that the fight for social justice is far from over and requires the collective effort of every individual to bring about meaningful change.

Speakers included author and activist Tamika Mallory; lead pastor and ex-

... continued on page 13

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# Justin Moor to Succeed Billie Johnson and Lead the Area Office on Aging

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

When Justin Moor was 24 years old, he had an opportunity to have a job interview with Billie Johnson, CEO of the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio.

She asked him, as he now recalls, "how long will you be staying with us?" He replied, "as long as you will have me."

Twenty years later, Billie Johnson, who started at the agency 50 years ago when there were four employees, is now retired. She stepped down in mid-2023. Justin Moor is still with the Area Office and, last Thursday, he was announced as the new CEO of the agency that has grown over the years, under Johnson's stewardship, to include a staff of 184, with 190 provider organizations, 300 volunteers, while helping 40,000 seniors with a yearly budget of over \$33 million.

Working with senior citizens, Moor noted, is something he had been inspired to do by his great grandfather who was such an integral part of his life as a child.

"The work we do in helping people live long and independent lives, I've been preparing for this work for decades," he said. "[Billie Johnson] invested in me and mentored me the last 20 years. In many ways I'm grateful she made her desire known in passing the baton over to me."

Moor, a native of northwest Ohio, joined AOoA as an associate planner and over the next two decades was promoted on numerous occasions, eventually becoming vice president of Planning and Program Development. In recent years, as vice president, Moor has worked in partnership with other organizations to secure \$15 million in grant funding for the building of affordable housing opportunity for 120 older area citizens, has led partnerships with Toledo Public Schools and has been an advocate at the Ohio statehouse on a number of issues related to older adults.

Moor earned an undergraduate degree in rhetoric and communications from Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland and a master's degree in Public Administration from Cleveland State University.

During last week's news conference announcing his new position, Moor said that over the next year, the AOoA "will focus on four areas in elevating our community."

The agency, he continued, will concentrate on its outreach efforts, increasing and improving housing opportunities, closing the longevity gap that exists in the community and maintaining funding – particularly by campaigning for the Lucas County Senior Services renewal levy that will be on the ballot in 2024.

Moor was clearly Johnson's favorite to succeed her in leading the agency upon her retirement, a sentiment she made known to the board, said board member Anita Madison.

"We knew he was her choice," said Madison. Nevertheless, the board still felt they were obligated to conduct a nationwide search, "to do our due diligence," added Madison. That search was conducted over the course of the second half 2023 as Moor assumed the duties of interim CEO and, once completed, the choice for the board was clear. Moor was the board's unani-



AOoA CEO Justin Moor with (l to r) VP Ireatha Hollie, Board President Bill Harris, wife Julie Moor, Board member Anita Madison



mous choice, said Board President Bill Harris.

"We the Board of Directors and staff the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio are excited and overjoyed about the selection of Justin Moor to lead us in our quest to serve the needs of senior citizens during such a critical time as this," said Harris in a statement released last Thursday. "More than 10-thousand people turn age 65 every day in this country, and that number will nearly double by the year 2050 to become 23 percent of the U.S. population, according to AARP International! As this agency faces the challenges ahead in our 10-county service area, I predict there are three things that will drive Mr. Moor's success: his passion for the age 60+ generation, coupled with his firm, but sensitive leadership style over his staff and his love and compassion for his community."

Moor expressed his appreciation for his predecessor's unwavering support and tutelage over the years and her decision to have him succeed her.

"She did not ask me to fill her shoes, she asked me to stand on her shoulders and take this agency to new heights," he said.

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# United Way Poised to Distribute Community Grants

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

United Way of Greater Toledo is accepting applications for community grants beginning January 8, 2024, through February 23, 2024. Funding will be awarded to grantees for the agency's upcoming three-year grant cycle from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027. United Way invites nonprofit organizations with education, financial stability, health and/or housing programs in Lucas, Ottawa, or Wood counties to apply.

"We're one of the biggest philanthropic organizations in Northwest Ohio," stated Jill Bunge, vice president of Impact & Outreach United Way of Greater Toledo, "We provide dollars to different organization and programs through this grant to support health and human services across our three-county footprint."

The previous funding window for this grant, which awarded over \$6.7Million for 2023-2024, last opened for applications in 2021.

The first step to apply is to visit [www.unitedwaytoledo.org/grant](http://www.unitedwaytoledo.org/grant). The website provides a wealth of resources for individuals wishing to apply and take advantage of this immense funding opportunity. The site includes a guidance document that can help applicants access their eligibility and if their program aligns with United Ways funding priorities.

#### In addition to funding, United Way partners receive:

- Membership in Collaborative working groups,
- Specialized support in data collection and tracking,
- Professional development and shared learning opportunities, and more!

Office hours are available for individuals with additional questions. Bunge will talk one-one-one to address any issues, concerns or inquiries via phone every Wednesday 1-3 p.m. and Friday 10:30 a.m. - noon at 419-254-4648.

"We're really looking for people who want to be in partnership with us," continued Bunge, "We know there are a ton of amazing organizations doing great work in their neighborhoods [and] communities so we want to help them put their best foot forward and provide funding for their programs but also really to see how we can better work to support change in our community at a population level."

"It's just not one organization's responsibility... but across all the programs how can we really make sure that the collaboration between all those efforts are actually making people's lives better in our community."

United Way of Greater Toledo's current investment includes over 50 programs in the three-county area. The grant minimum has raised to \$15,000 with no program receiving under that from the grant, according to Bunge. The largest grant funded program is currently \$176,000 annually. Current funding partners include programs such as the Closing the Food Insecurity & Health Disparity Gap initiative at Grace Community Center and The Tabernacle Neighborhood hubs program.

Small businesses and individuals are not eligible for this grant. Those interested must be non-profit organizations and have either 501(c)(3) and/or be eligible to receive tax deductible donations.

Email Jill Bunge, vice president of Impact & Outreach United Way of Greater Toledo, [jill.bunge@unitedwaytoledo.org](mailto:jill.bunge@unitedwaytoledo.org) for more information.

## The Toledo Library Celebrates Black History Month

The Toledo Library is celebrating Black History Month with a plethora of programs and events that magnify the invaluable contributions, rich heritage, and indomitable spirit of the Black community. In addition to the events below, each Library branch has created drop-in activities and book displays for this inclusion month.

Black History Month Program Schedule: (<https://www.toledolibrary.org/bigidea>)

- Vintage collection sneaker program  
(Th) Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 | 5 - 6 p.m. | Kent
- Black Boy Joy  
(Tu) Feb. 6 | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Lagrange  
(Tu) Feb. 20 | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Lagrange
- Poonam dance  
(Tu) Feb. 6 | 5 - 6 p.m. | Point Place  
(Th) Feb. 8 | 4 - 5 p.m. | Oregon  
(Tu) Feb. 13 | 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Sylvania  
(Tu) Feb. 20 | 4 - 5 p.m. | West Toledo
- Better Toledo: The Right to Read  
(Th) Feb. 8 | 4 - 6 p.m. | Main
- Cultural cooking: Congolese cuisine  
(Sa) Feb. 10 | 2 - 3 p.m. | Main
- Damen Cook & Friends jazz trio  
(Sa) Feb. 10 | 2 - 4 p.m. | Mott
- Black History Month for kids  
(Sa) Feb. 17 | 2 - 3 p.m. | Main
- Summer of Soul film screening  
(Sa) Feb. 17 | 2 - 4 p.m. | King Road
- Step into Black History  
(F) Feb. 23 | 3:30 - 5 p.m. | Mott
- Film screening: Simple as Water  
(Sa) Feb. 24 | 1 - 3 p.m. | West Toledo
- An afternoon with Little Amal  
(Sa) Feb. 24 | 2 - 5 p.m. | West Toledo
- Small Town Pride Book Club  
(M) Feb. 26 | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | King Road
- BIG IDEA book club  
(Tu) Feb. 27 | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Virtual

The BIG IDEA (Build, Improve, Grow with Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access ) is TLCPL's action plan to build, improve, and grow in inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Please join us for great programs in February including the celebration of Black History Month.

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# Sidney Outlaw: Opera Powerhouse to Sing the Role of Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

"When I'm on stage, I bring everybody that has ever helped me," said baritone Sidney Outlaw during a conversation with The Truth recently. On February 16 and 18, Outlaw will be bringing everybody who had ever helped him onstage at The Valentine when he sings the role of Mercutio in Charles Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Outlaw has been praised as a "terrific singer ... with a deep, rich timbre," by the New York Times and as an "opera powerhouse ... with a weighty and forthright sound" by the San Francisco Chronicle. For such reviews, he has a lot of people to thank for helping him, as he is the first to acknowledge.

And from the very beginning. "I grew up in a musical family," he said of his childhood in Brevard, NC, which is about 35 miles southwest of Asheville. From the moment of his birth, he said only half-jokingly, music was an important part of his life. Church music, of course; learning an instrument – the French horn – as a youngster; studying classical music in the 10th and 11th grades with Mrs. Shumate and a field trip down to Bob Jones University to see his first opera, *Aida*, while in high school.

Music, always music. And singing, always singing, one type of music or another.

Then came college at the University of North Carolina Greensboro where he had the opportunity to study with Levone Tobin Scott, a mentor then and to this day.

"That's when the fun started," he said. "She took me under her wing and mentored me ... and even now! She recognized something in me that needed to be cultivated."

Scott still is a huge influence in Outlaw's life and on his career, as are so many who have worked with him over the years.

His four years at UNC Greensboro were followed by three years at The Juilliard School and study with luminaries such as Marilyn Horne, a celebrated

mezzo soprano, and Warren Jones, pianist, conductor and vocal coach.

"If it wasn't for him and Ms. Horne, I wouldn't be here," said Outlaw paying tribute, as always, to those who have guided him along this path of vocal accomplishment. "I have roots under my tree."

After earning his master's degree at Juilliard, the fun really began ... or increased for the baritone. Outlaw has performed all over the country – New York, San Francisco, St. Louis, Florida, to name a few – and all over the world – from England to Germany to Africa and Asia.

But Outlaw is more than a singer, he's also a teacher and an ambassador for his art. Outlaw is a teacher at the Manhattan School of Music – work that he feels fortunate to be able to blend in with his performance duties. "It's my calling, not a job," he said of his Manhattan School of Music endeavors. What he learns in rehearsal, on stage and with his mentors, "I take it back and teach to my students."

And as if the performing and teaching have not been enough to fill up his waking hours, Outlaw is also an ambassador. He started working with the U.S. State Department during President Barack Obama's administration as a cultural arts ambassador for the ARTS Envoy program. In that program he has performed and continues to perform all over the world.



Sidney Outlaw

... continued on page 8



Romeo and Juliet Principal Sing Through - Suek & Outlaw



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LOVE

# CSRN and Local Officials Raise Pan African Flag at One Government Center

The Truth Staff

In honor on Black History Month, local elected officials joined the Community Solidarity Response Network in raising the green, black and red Pan African flag over the local city and county government building on February 1.

"This symbolizes diversity and those contributions to the nation," said Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken opening his remarks. "Why? To honor the contributions of people who don't get seen all the time. We want the truth told."

However, Gerken also noted that acknowledging diversity in such polarizing times is not always the popular course to take.

"There are forces that want to make this illegal," he declared. "We raise this flag in defiance of those that want to disagree."

That message of the increasingly vocal disparagement of diversity initiatives locally and around the nation was repeated by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz during his time at the podium. Having recently appointed to his administration Councilwoman Tiffany Preston Whitman, EDD, to the new position of director of diversity, equity and inclusion, Kapszukiewicz said that in his years as mayor he has never received such negative feedback.

"The hateful rhetoric will only get louder," he said. "This work [DEI] is under attack. I was met with the most vitriol of any announcement I have made."

Nevertheless, the mayor noted that Toledo has a long history of being openminded. "Baked into our DNA is a willingness to meet with everyone."

For her part, Whitman agreed that "DEI work is under attack," but regardless of the obstacles, "I'm ready to dig in."

Newly appointed Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez, who will be running for election to the office starting with the primary election in March, spoke of her plans to be active in the pursuit of increasing diversity "with honor and dignity." Lopez said she plans to make sure that African Americans are well represented in county government "on all levels." She added that "diversity and inclusion is not just a title, this is the beginning



Washington Muhammad - at podium - explains the reasons for raising the Pan African flag

of a new era and we need to make sure the talk is followed through with the walk."

The raising of the Pan African flag for Black History Month was the brainchild of Washington Muhammad and the Community Solidarity Response Network (CSRN) four years ago. Muhammad, as is the custom, introduced an elder, on this occasion Terry Crosby, to continue the rest of the program and explain the importance of Black History Month and the symbolism of raising the Pan African flag.

Jodie Summers, poet and spoken word artist, introduced his poem for the occasion speaking about the burdens African Americans have had to overcome in their history.

Also on hand for the flag raising were Willie Perryman and Micheal Alexander of the Toledo NAACP along with State Sen. Paula Hicks Hudson. The Pan African flag will fly over One Government Center for the full month of February.



Sidney Outlaw... continued from page 7

For now, Outlaw is excited to be in Toledo, singing a role he relishes, in an opera he loves, with "an amazing cast." He has worked on numerous occasions with other members of the cast – tenor Zach Borichevsky as Romeo, coloratura soprano Kathryn Lewek as Juliet, mezzo-soprano Imara Miles as Gertrude, for example – and considers this production to be somewhat like a reunion.

After Toledo, the singer is taking a trip to Colorado to sing Beethoven's 9th Symphony and releasing a new album on March 15, *Zwei Gesänge Op. 91*, ("I want to take classical music and modernize it visually") all of which "allows me to fulfill a dream ... I still have hopes and dreams."

And in between performing, he will be back to the Manhattan School of Music to teach and inspire others as he has been inspired by so many.

"My cup runneth over because it is full," he said of his busy life and his desire to do as much as he can to bring the joy he has experienced through music to as many others as he can.

"I want to leave the industry better than I found it."

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## 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!

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

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# UAW Local 14 Celebrates the Legacy of Dr. King

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

UAW Local 14 honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the local's 15th annual celebration on Saturday, January 27.

The speakers and presenters all reflected on the importance of unions in the area of civil rights and that Dr. King's call for equality isn't over. Andrew Kinsey served as the program master of ceremonies and opened the celebration, followed by the University of Toledo's Color Guard presenting the flag, Pastor Jon Michael Talbert delivered the invocation, and U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown delivered pre-recorded remarks.

"Thank you for organizing this event," began Senator Brown, who has represented the state of Ohio since 2006. "The UAW understands workers rights are human rights."

Toledo's own MLK Academy for Boys, named in honor of Dr. King Jr., delivered a special presentation. The presentation began with remarks from the school's principal and community advocate Willie Ward, EdD, with support provided by Sheila Cook, the school's Community/Family Resource & Outreach Representative. Two exceptional students, Josiah Ridley and Dylan Savage, recited the school's mission and received a standing ovation from the audience.

"We stand on the shoulders of giants, while trying to instill the morals of Dr. King into these boys," began Ward, MLK Academy for Boys principal. "Our school draws boys from all over Toledo and I invite you to learn more about this academy."

UAW Local 14 President Tony Totty introduced Marcy Kaptur, US Representative, who delivered remarks. Willie Hall introduced Larry Robinson, the International UAW Civil and Human Rights Department leader, who also delivered remarks.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," began Kaptur. "Thank you for the invitation, we know that UAW does the work."

Jamele Walker presented a spoken word. Brian Van Pelt delivered the introduction of the keynote speaker, André Washington. Washington began his labor career at the University of Michigan Medical Center, and was eventually hired as a community organizer for AFSCME Council 25 in Detroit. He has remained in the labor organizing, advocacy and union space ever since. He current serves as the Midwest Regional Representative and Ohio State President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute overseeing 10 states.

"Time to move from position to purpose," began Washington. "It's in your DNA. What do you do with that position, when you move from position to purpose? You bring influence to purpose to purpose. Remember all of Dr. King's the work, he was assassinated at a young age. He moved from position to purpose in the civil rights movement. The UAW doesn't run away from a fight, they run towards a fight."



Karen Hall (Retiree UAW 12) and Kimberly Ward (UAW local 12 recording secretary)



Josiah Ridley and Dylan Savage, MLK Academy for Boys students with staff member Sheila Cook and principal Willie Ward



State Sen. Paula Hicks Hudson and event volunteers (NAACP Youth Council of Toledo)



Tony Totty, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Andrew Kinsey and Andre Washington

## Happy Black History Month



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-Frederick Douglass

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# Unlocking the Doors to Timely Care: The After Hours Clinic at Nexus Health Care

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

In the intricate web of healthcare accessibility, after-hours care emerges as a crucial thread, often overlooked but essential for weaving a safety net against unforeseen health challenges.

In the heart of the central city, the Neighborhood Health Association (NHA) is unfurling a beacon of hope for working class Toledoans— the Harry F. Brown After-Hours Clinic at Nexus Health Care. As expanded hours unveil, it's not merely a change in schedule—it's a revolutionary act in the realm of healthcare equity.

Imagine this as a bridge connecting patients with timely healthcare when most primary care offices strictly adhere to closing at 5 p.m. The clinic, open Monday through Friday, will accept walk-in patients until 4 p.m. on Mondays and 7 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Future plans include weekend hours.

### Beyond the Clock: The Life-saving Truths of Extended Hours

Tamara Bumpus works for the NHA as a tenured family nurse practitioner. She is excited for patients who will benefit from the flexibility that this clinic offers. "During these extended hours, we navigate the complexities of chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and COPD," explains Bumpus. "Additionally, we offer same-day access appointments graciously on a first come, first served basis."

These appointments become a saving grace refrain for moments of acute need— whether you're feeling unwell, running out of crucial medications, or seeking prompt attention for a refill, the After-Hours Clinic at Nexus Health Care has you covered.

Examples of other symptoms that can be treated at the after-hours clinic include upset stomach, sprains, earache, rashes, flu or upper respiratory symptoms, seasonal allergies, sports physicals or even vaccines for school for your child.

"When we see patients early on and provide the proper medications we can prevent critical outcomes like, loss of vision, kidney transplants or amputations drastically," explains nurse practitioner Bumpus.

### The After-Hours Maze: Understanding the Gaps

The after-hours care oasis is not equally accessible to all, creating a land-

scape where certain communities find themselves on the outskirts of timely health care. As nurse Bumpus explains, "Most people work 9-5 and can't get off to see a doctor. Having the ability to be seen from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. is a game changer."

To comprehend the labyrinth of after-hours care disparities, we delve into the findings of a recent study. The Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice conducted a national study in 2021 on the disproportions in access to after-hours care in the U.S. It reveals that the majority of disparities exist along lines of income, geographic location, and insurance type.

Only 29 percent: The Stark Reality of After-Hours Care Availability

In the vast expanse of healthcare, only 29 percent of U.S. primary care practitioners extend their services beyond regular office hours. Compare this to the Netherlands, with a staggering 97 percent, and 89 percent in the United Kingdom, and suddenly the landscape of after-hours care availability in the U.S. transforms into a stark contrast, leaving many in the dark when they need health care the most.

### Beyond Office Hours: The Urgent Need for Access

"The importance of after-hours care is evident," says nurse practitioner Bumpus. "We recognize most of our working-class patients often face urgent medical issues outside the conventional office hours and the NHA decided to do something about it."

For those battling chronic conditions or experiencing acute exacerbations, after-hours care is more than a convenience—it's a lifeline. Timely access not only aids in early diagnosis but also prevents complications, reducing the need for high-cost emergency interventions. As nurse practitioner Bumpus says, "When we see patients early on or even provide the proper medica-

...continued on page 11



Tamara Bumpus - right - NHA Nurse Practitioner



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A Mental Health Moment

# Love...A Catalyst for Change in the Black Community

Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC, LLC

The Truth Contributor

Welcome to the month of February when both love and Black history are celebrated. While love should and commonly is embraced all year long, attention to and education of Black history in decades past was only given a mere 28-29 days out of 365.



Fortunately with patience and perseverance of devoted individuals, the African American History Act of 2023 was introduced in the House on February 1, 2023. This Act requires institutions of higher education and museums to provide African American history as American history period.

During the Civil Rights era, African Americans stood, marched and fought side by side to gain equal rights as white America. Now just a few decades later, Black communities around the country seemed to have turned toxic by killing those of their same race, destroying Black communities and the absence of Black fathers weakening Black family dynamics. It is as if those in the Black communities went from being in a very healthy loving relationship to a toxic, hateful state of no longer wanting a relationship.

To be fair there were often other factors involved around black communities that were in full blown love to an ugly break-up. Why would a community with strong God-fearing families, business and property ownership and fashionable dress whether to the grocery store or Bible study, beautifully kept homes with well-kept lawns just begin to crumble?

Outside forces and politics began a rapture of pure desolation. Homes were lost, businesses demolished, separation of families, loss of faith, hope and love. What happened? Two words...Dorr Street.

A once thriving community destroyed by the hands of decision-making officials not part of the Black community forcing families into project housing and a beginning dependence on food stamps and other programs made to look like help but instead created a future of helplessness breaking the heart of a once loving and very independent community.

We all know the negative ramifications of a broken heart; the pain seems unbearable with no known medical cure. Anger, rage, and hate begin to develop in the mind. Feelings fold into destructive behaviors with no concern of consequence. The broken hearted seeks revenge on the self or anyone (man, woman, or child) in their path or both.

The increasing crime rate in the Black community and the surmountable rise in Black on Black violence emerged due to decades old actions destroying a strong love relationship of a once thriving community.

Imprisoning offenders, removing guns from the streets and increasing law enforcement will be a never-ending cycle not to mention costly and costly to those who can barely afford the rising cost of living as it is.

As a therapist one of my main jobs in helping clients is to find the healthiest solution to encourage the wellness of their mind, body and soul as quickly as possible. This often involves change. A broken heart can be healed with a change in perspective, change in emotional understanding as well as willingness to do things differently. Soon the individual is one day once again in love, with a return of faith and hope and most important with lessons learned. They are very unlikely to repeat the same mistakes.

Toledo's Black community can heal and return to a state of strength in family, supporting one another not killing each other but it's going to take a great amount of change and a wanting to return to a state of love. Falling in love again after getting your soul crushed takes a lot of courage.

Taking a life is not courage its weak. Regardless how we came to be here with countless grieving mothers of Black children and children without knowing the pleasure of having a father, love can be utilized as a tool to rebuild the Black community; after all love is the strongest emotion we have as human beings.

For the generations having never known a healthy thriving Dorr Street take the time and make the effort to learn your Black history. You may just fall in love with the thought of being part of a community of individuals who supported one another, raising strong future generations not destroying them.

Take a mental health moment to envision a long life of love. Get your minds right. Today we delve into the transformative power of love as a catalyst for change in fostering mental health within our community. Find a therapist, get counseling to rid yourself of the anger, hate, rage and unfulfilled purpose you were most likely born into. Learn to love yourself and others like yourself caught in the middle of a dying community. Love is the catalyst for change in the Black community. Love for one another, love for the return of Black pride, love for our children so they may know successes through opportunities of positions of power to ensure the existence of the Black community that will never be broken hearted again.

The irony of Black History Month being celebrated along with the celebration of love..... the solution has been in front of us all along but we instead chose to complain about it being the shortest month of the year.

**Bernadette Joy Graham, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor and Certified Grief Recovery Specialist can be reached at 419 409 4929. [www.bjgrahamcounseling.com](http://www.bjgrahamcounseling.com) Email: [graham.bernadette@gmail.com](mailto:graham.bernadette@gmail.com)**

**To learn more about the history of Dorr St. contact the African American Legacy Project located at the corners of Dorr and Collingwood.**

**If you feel you may be in a mental health crisis, please call 988 or go to the nearest emergency room.**

Nexus Health Care... continued from page 10

tions, we can prevent some critical outcomes like, loss of vision, kidney transplants or amputations."

**Emergency Room Odyssey: The Cost of Inefficiency**

The U.S. sees between 12 percent and 56 percent of emergency room visits categorized as non-serious or non-urgent problems. "Many patients have medical conditions that can be efficiently managed through primary care and early interventions," explains Bumpus. "We are one of few facilities equipped to assist those maintaining chronic conditions as well."

The journey to the emergency room for non-serious medical concerns and chronic care maintenance is not just a health care choice but an economic inefficiency. After-hours care at the Clinic at Nexus Health Care, not only helps to redirect these visits, but also optimizes Toledo's health care resources.

**A Model for Future Research: Unlocking Opportunities**

Beyond its immediate impact, the extended hours Clinic at Nexus Health-care may become fertile ground for future research endeavors. This model offers a unique lens through which researchers can explore the efficacy of after-hours care in addressing health disparities. By delving into the clinic's operations, studying patient outcomes, and understanding the dynamics of healthcare delivery during extended hours, researchers can glean valuable insights into the effectiveness of such initiatives.

...continued on page 12

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# Mayor and Police Chief Release End-of-Year Crime States

Special To The Truth

Last week, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Police Chief Michael Troendle discussed the 2023 fourth-quarter and year-end crime statistics, highlighting a notable decrease in crime rates across multiple categories compared to the same periods last year during a press conference at One Government Center.

The fourth-quarter results of 2023 illustrate a significant number of changes when compared to the fourth-quarter in 2022.

The biggest news is in the area of homicide. The number of reported cases decreased significantly by 31.6 percent, with 13 cases in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared to 19 cases in the corresponding period of 2022.

"While we are thrilled with the progress made both in the fourth quarter and year over year, we are not satisfied with where we are, and we won't be satisfied until these numbers continue to go down. But this is a story of progress and it's a good and encouraging story," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said.

Robbery also experienced a downturn, with 96 reported cases, reflecting a notable decrease of 22.0 percent from the fourth quarter of 2022. Moreover, shooting incidents resulted in a substantial reduction of 23.8 percent, with 506 incidents reported in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared to 664 incidents in the same period in 2022.

Theft from motor vehicles (TFMV) followed suit, with a decrease of 25.3 percent, totaling 299 reported cases. However, auto theft witnessed a significant upswing, with 474 reported cases, marking a substantial 37.0 percent increase compared to the same period in 2022.

On the other hand, burglary showed a marginal uptick of 1.1 percent, totaling 381 reported cases. When considering the grand total of all tracked crimes, the fourth quarter of 2023 saw 1,769 reported cases, indicating an overall decrease of 8.3 percent from the 1,929 cases reported in the fourth quarter of 2022.

The year-end comparison between 2022 and 2023 reveals significant shifts in various crime categories. Homicide cases experienced a notable 30.8 percent decrease, dropping to 45 cases in 2023 compared to 65 cases in 2022.

Similarly, robbery cases decreased by 21.5 percent, totaling 402 cases in 2023. Theft from motor vehicle (TFMV) cases notably decreased by 26.4 percent, with 1,458 cases in 2023. Burglary cases showed an 11.5 percent decrease, with 1,403 cases in the same period. Auto theft witnessed an 18.4 percent increase, totaling 1,498 cases in 2023.

The overall grand total of all tracked crimes decreased by 8.8 percent, with 7,075 cases in 2023 compared to 7,758 cases in 2022.

These positive developments in crime trends, reflects the effectiveness of increased safety measures and crime prevention efforts in the region. The notable declines in homicide, robbery, and theft from motor vehicle contribute to an overall improvement in public safety.



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Chief Troendle

Mayor Kapszukiewicz emphasized the commitment to the well-being of all Toledo residents, focusing on health, economic stability, and overall quality of life. This ongoing effort is aimed at creating a safe and prosperous environment for everyone.

While acknowledging that there's still work to be done, the positive trends provide hope that the City is making strides against crime and creating a thriving and secure environment. Mayor Kapszukiewicz also highlighted the importance of collective strength and commitment from every Toledo resident and encouraged collaboration with law enforcement to ensure the City's safety.

In addition, Mayor Kapszukiewicz recognized Chief Mike Troendle's leadership. Chief Troendle has continued to implement data-driven, tactical approaches within the Toledo Police Department. This includes increased foot patrols, strategic use of technology, and targeted operations through the Toledo Enhancement Area Method (TEAM). These efforts demonstrate the police department's dedication to preventing and deterring crime in the community.

Nexus Health Care... continued from page 11

### Toledo as the Catalyst: Insights for Systemic Change

As the clinic navigates the challenges inherent in the U.S. health care system, it not only provides tangible benefits to the community but also offers a case study for systemic change. Future researchers can examine how Nexus Healthcare overcomes hurdles related to funding, policy support, reimbursement, and provider communication skills. These promising insights, derived from real-world implementation, could possibly become a blueprint for refining healthcare policies, advocating for funding reforms, and addressing organizational barriers on a much broader scale. Thanks to this transformative work, Toledo can now explore the socio-cultural factors that contribute to the clinic's success, providing valuable context for future initiatives.

### Closing the After-Hours Gap: A Call for Equity

After-hours care should not be a privilege but a right, ensuring that no one is left suffering when seeking essential healthcare beyond the traditional office hours. The after-hours clinic is located at the south entrance of the Nexus Health Care building, located at 1415 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, Ohio, 43604.

We honor your efforts in reaching every corner of our community, dispelling the shadows of disparities and illuminating the path to timely, accessible, and equitable healthcare for all.

About NHA: Through exceptional health care services, the Neighborhood Health Association empowers and educates, aggressively working to eliminate health care inequities, while supporting personal responsibility for one's own health regardless of the ability to pay. For more information Visit [www.nhainc.org](http://www.nhainc.org).

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# What Winners Won't Tell You: Lessons from a Legendary Defender by Malcolm Jenkins

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

It's as plain as the nose on your face.

Right in front of you, that's where it is – or, at least that's where success should be but you sometimes wonder if you don't have all the facts. You've need to research being successful, and do some thinking on it. Or read *What Winners Won't Tell You* by Malcolm Jenkins, and you can try following the clues.

Hard to believe, but when former NFL defensive back Malcolm Jenkins was a boy, he tried to quit playing Pop Warner football twice. His father wasn't hearing it, though; he told Jenkins "You got to finish what you start," even when you hate it.

The lesson stuck: as a 13-year-old, Jenkins went out for track and excelled. He "wasn't dreaming about being in the NFL" then, nor did he particularly want to play football in college. He "just loved to compete" but later, after a week at football camp caught the attention of the right coach, things were different. By time he got home from that camp, a letter with a full scholarship was waiting on his doorstep.

As a first-round draft pick, 14th overall, for the Saints and later having played for the Eagles, he writes about being strategic in his career, being a good team-player, and about having the confidence to reach beyond and grab for success.

You can be accomplished, too, he says, if you remember that "for fear to win, you have to be afraid..." Don't let other people's opinions become "self-fulfilling." Know who works for you, and be sure they have your back. Give back to your community. Learn where you came from. Be open to change in your organization and your outlook, and trust science.

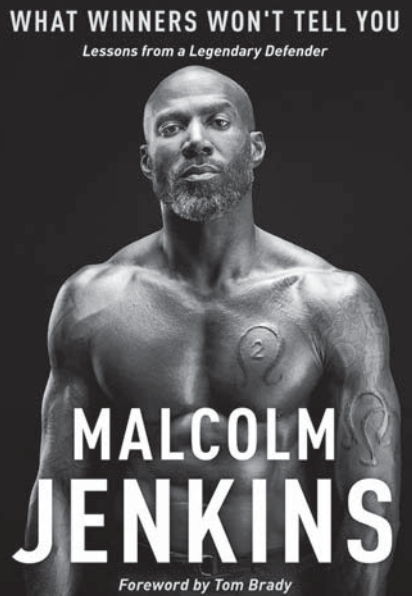
Finally, collaborate, cooperate, and "show up every day to get better."

Is *What Winners Won't Tell You* an odd choice for a business book?

Yes... and no.

Deep, deep within this memoir are many interesting and worthwhile nuggets of inspiration and advice, but you'll have to look for them. They're buried inside tales of football – so much so that if you don't understand football even just a little bit, you'll be too lost, too fast, and you'll never find them. Indeed, this book contains more football anecdotes, strategies, and swagger than there are the "lessons" promised. Still, the lessons are there for you to find, and the stories serve to illustrate the importance of them.

There's a bigger issue than hidden lessons, though: readers searching for inspiration will find a lot to rattle them. Author Malcolm Jenkins adds plenty of needless profanity in this book, and though some can be expected, there's also a highly disrespectful obscenity about women, and other casual but largely-unnecessary insults flung here and there. Readers who can tolerate that may still find it disrespectful.



c.2023  
Simon & Schuster  
\$28.99  
304 pages



What Winners Won't Tell You author  
CREDIT copyright  
Malcolm Jenkins

## Rainbow Push... continued from page 4

ecutive director Pastor Mike McBride; preacher, scholar and researcher Rev. Brianna K. Parker, DMin, pastor, author, and activist Rev. Tisha Dixon Williams; civil rights and social policy advocate, attorney, and CEO Jennifer Jones Austin; author, activist, and educator Former Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.; and Haynes himself. Sessions include the Social Justice Master Class, Creating Economic Structures that are Just, the Disinherited Conference, and Curriculum for the 2024 Election, the last of which is applicable for churches, organizations, and individuals.

Haynes, a 2016 inductee to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame, is already focused on making positive change in his new role, with a national agenda to address issues with courts, the end of affirmative action, economic justice, educational equity and justice, and the effects of climate change on communities of color. Dr. Haynes is best known as a social justice pastor and advocate for marginalized communities. Known nationally as "the drum major for justice," he has modeled his ministry and leadership like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., focused on the intersections of faith and justice.

Haynes has received numerous awards and honors for his ministry and activism, which match his agenda. In 2011, Dr. Haynes had the prestigious honor of being the featured speaker at The Congressional Black Caucus' Annual Prayer Breakfast. In 2012, Ebony Magazine named him to its Power 100 list of most influential African Americans. He was also inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2013, Haynes was honored to give remarks at the memorial service of one of the most respected world leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries, President Nelson Mandela. As a reflection of his commitment to community transformation and social consciousness, Dr. Haynes serves in various leadership capacities in organizations that champion social change and education. In 2003, he founded the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference along with Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. DMin, and Iva E. Carruthers, DMin. Haynes is on the board of the Conference of National Black Churches, the National Action Network, and the IC3 Church Growth and Development Conference.

The installation's location in Dallas holds great significance not just to Haynes, but the greater Dallas community which he has faithfully served and poured into for decades. In addition to this new role at the helm of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Haynes is the senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church, a megachurch in Dallas, Texas, with more than 13,000 members. The location of the conference at Paul Quinn College also holds significance for Haynes.

He teaches college courses and workshops at several institutions of higher learning, including Paul Quinn College. Haynes also serves on the Board of Trustees for Paul Quinn College as well as various other boards, particularly those in underserved and minority communities. Additionally, he is the namesake of the Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III Global Preparatory School, located on the campus of Paul Quinn College, which serves students grades 6-12 who seek to enter the International Baccalaureate program.

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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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.



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# Top Ladies of Distinction Hold Annual Prayer Breakfast

The Truth Staff

The Top Ladies of Distinction held their annual prayer breakfast on Saturday, January 27, at the Heatherdowns Country Club with the theme of "Celebrating Our Legacy, Transforming Lives and Making a Difference, One Teen, One Lady, One Community at a Time."

The banquet room at Heatherdowns was awash in pink – pink attire for the Top Ladies, pink décor, pink ornaments and the program was reflective of and emphasized the mission and programs of the club: Sickle Cell, Literacy, National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).

Saturday's program began with a welcome by Lady Mary McKinley-Reed, chapter president, and by Teen Latrice Parmer, the local Top Teens of America president.

The Ladies brought together a number of individuals who are part of the chapter's Programs, Projects and Partnerships.

LaShardae Scott, CEO/president of the Scott Center for Observation, Treatment and Transition and the Sickle Cell Director for the Neighborhood Health Sickle Cell Project of Northwest Ohio spoke of her program.

Scott is a supporter of those with sickle cell disease because she is, in fact, the mother of two children with the disease. Her goal is to ease the transition from pediatric to adult treatment though educating individuals and families.

The chapter's Literacy program was represented by guest authors Terri Cook and Iva Brassfield. Cook is one of the authors of a recently released work entitled, *The Audacity To Phenomenally Become Her! Volume II It's Not Personal – It's Business!*



Top Ladies of Distinction

Terrie Cook's chapter is entitled, 'Trust God, Stay the Course,' and she hopes to inspire readers.

Brassfield is the author of *Yucky Dialog*, which explores the trauma she experienced as a teenager.

Deborah Gardner sang the opening number, accompanied by pianist Mike Odoms.

Also part of the Programs, Projects and Partnerships presentation was Rev. Willie Perryman, pastor of Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church and president of the Toledo Chapter NAACP. Perryman spoke of the history of the civil rights organization and the chapter's goals and objectives for the future.

After breakfast was served, Valerie Walston, special advisor to the University of Toledo President for Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, the keynote speaker addressed the guests. Reflecting the theme of the event, Walston spoke of the importance of "transforming lives."

Walston noted that "transforming lives is more than just a conversation ... it's the action we need to undertake to change the community."

Lady Wanda Terrell-Galloway serves as the chapter's president; Lady Clara Petty as First Vice President Program Chair and Top Teen Advisor; Lady Denise Black-Poon as Second Vice President, Project Chair and Prayer Breakfast Co-Chair; Lady Mary McKinley-Reed as Director of Operations and Recording Secretary, Teen Latrice Parmer as Top Teens President.

Lady Ann C. Battles is the Organizer; Lady Barbara Tucker is Financial Secretary; Lady Pamela Effinger is the Treasurer and the other members are Lady Denise Cardwell, Lady Pamela Effinger, Lady Rachel Ridley, Lady Clara Brank (Chaplain), Lady Delores Anderson (Sergeant at Arms), Lady Delores (Dee) Bates (Historian & Membership), Lady Madelyn Standard, Lady Shontrell Flanagan, Lady Jacqueline Jackson, Lady Dianne Johnson, Lady Bulista Kimbrough, Lady Marcia Quinn and Lady Sandy Strong.

The chapters Top Teens are Latrice Parmer, Tenaisha Parmer, Amaya Martin, Mikayla Evans Raina Terrell, Christopher Price, Colton Robert Damien Way, Anthony Price and Jarrell Terrell, Jr.

Top Ladies of Distinction have five National Thrusts: Top Teens of America, status of Women, senior citizens, community beautification, and community partnerships. The five national projects: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Council of Negro Women, United Negro College Fund, literacy, and sickle cell disease awareness.



Vocalist Deborah Gardner with Mike Odoms on keyboard



Vocalist Deborah Gardner with Mike Odoms on keyboard



1st VP Clara Petty; 2nd VP Denise Black-Poon; President Wanda Terrell-Galloway

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