



**Volume 84 No. 2**                      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*                      **May 29, 2024**



*“The Last Time that I Checked” During the Studio's Spring Production*

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# Upside Down Flags and Other Stupid Stuff

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq  
 Guest Column

Well, if you did not know it by now, it is official. Supreme Court Justice Sam Alito wears petticoats in his house. We do not know the color yet, but my inside sources indicates that they are a blush pink with lacey edges.

As you know, the right-wing judge was found to have flown an upside-down American flag at his personal home and, which flag, when flown in such a position, indicates acute alarm and distress of the first degree.

The alarm? It is a Supreme Court Justice visibly and blatantly taking sides with the MAGA movement regarding Dear Leader, Donald Trump.

The justice was clearly expressing his zeal and allegiance to all things MAGA with such a flag display and, if that was not enough effrontery, the justice went on to state to the public that it was his overbearing wife that ran the flag up the pole to punish some neighbor(s) who had placed offensive yard signs in her neighborhood.

The cowardly justice decided to "man it out" and stated that it was his wife who did it and his protestations to the contrary fell on deaf ears.

Now imagine being in that Alito household when you come home from work and find that your wife is openly plotting rebellion against the US government by displaying such a flag that is now identified with the MAGA movement and those who ransacked the Capitol Building on January 6th.

According to my trusted sources, this was the transcript of him entering his home on that day:

Alito: "Honey, I'm home!"

Wife: "And?"

Alito: "Hey, I saw the flag upside down in our yard, what's going on?"

Wife: "And?"

Alito: (starting to profusely sweat at the temples), "Well, I just thought that we should have talked about this before you did it."

Wife: "And?"

Alito: "Hey, I am a Supreme Court Justice! What about the bad PR we will get from this flag scandal?"

Wife: "And?"

Alito: "Did you and Ginni Thomas (Clarence Thomas's wife) talk about this without telling me?"

Wife: "And?"

Alito: (seeing that this is going nowhere), "Well, I am going to bed!"

Wife: "And?"

Note: Another flag identified with the MAGA movement, called: An Appeal To Heaven, appeared on a flagpole at their summer beach home in New Jersey.

Go figure! Any idea where the political sympathies of the Alito's are with?

In another newflash from the master of media manipulation; and elevating the art of the grift to a whole new level, Donald Trump is sending out fund raising emails to his MAGA base indicating that President Biden or the DOJ or the FBI, were in a conspiracy to assassinate him when they searched Mar-A-Lago.

Based upon boiler plate language that is in all FBI search warrants, that language indicates that the searching agents may, if deemed needful and necessary, use deadly force against deadly force.

Of course, Donald Trump knew this but, hey, why spoil a perfectly good fund raising email to your base that is fast and loose with the facts and when FOX NEWS has certain anchors fake shock and awe about him being a target of an assassination attempt. Oh, by the way, Trump was a thousand miles away in NY at the time of the search!

It is too easy to say shame on those commentators for their planned faux

reactions but it is part and parcel for the course for FOX NEWS to gin up their gullible base with pure gibberish.

For the reactionaries like Congressman Marjorie Taylor Greene ("bleach blonde, bad-built, butch body") and her associated minions who traffic in duplicity, such a conspiracy was too hard to resist to not send out dire and catastrophic e mails to raise some bucks.

Then, we have the spineless Nikki Haley who finally capitulates to Donald Trump and is kissing his ring finger even though there are voluminous tapes showing that she would never do such a belittling act of self-deprecation.

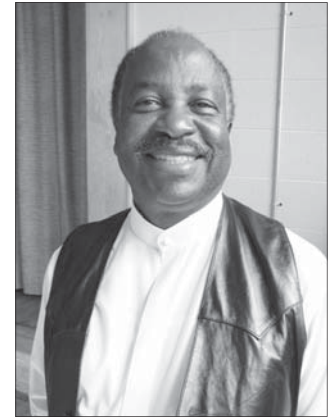
For Haley, such an embarrassment only cements the image that certain politicians are full of hot air and are not to be believed even when Haley says Trump is unhinged and is not qualified to be president. Go figure! This is the person she would vote for despite his friendship with America's enemies and his refusal to support Ukraine in their struggle for freedom against Russia and his demeaning her military husband who was away on duty.

And, finally, we have the confounding polls that seemingly indicate that a small sliver of Black Americans, males in particular, would vote for Trump even though he has ably and amply demonstrated in word and deed his venial disregard for Black America.

One of the best examples of self-hatred is when the oppressed knowingly votes for the oppressor, thinking that they can incur favor with their them.

Go figure!

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



## Community Calendar

**May 27**  
 Memorial Day

**May 31**  
 Application Deadline for UToledo Math Corps: A free four weeks summer camp for students – middle and high school – from underserved Toledo area communities: 419-530-2996, 419-530-2568, 567-343-3883

**June 12**  
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**June 16**  
 Toledo NAACP Youth Council meeting: 3 pm; Sanger Branch Library

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# How Clean Energy Naysayers Help China and Hurt American Workers

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

Electric vehicles (EVs) are the future of transportation. As a driver of an (American-made) electric vehicle myself, I know firsthand the amount of money I have already saved compared to when I drove the gas-powered version of the same model. And that is before considering the benefit to our air quality, the climate, and how fun it is to drive.

But roughly 60 percent of electric vehicles sold worldwide are made by China. That is compared to just eight percent for American EVs. Moreover, Chinese sales continue to increase at a faster rate – 79 percent compared to 55 percent for American EVs between 2021 and 2022.

Of course, part of the reason for this is the low prices of Chinese models. And part of the reason those low prices are possible is that the Chinese government has not exactly played fair – heavily subsidizing the industry in order to maintain its market dominance. But another reason China is so competitive is because of its domestic supply chain, especially localized battery production.

US policymakers and our big automakers are finally waking up to the urgency of investing in EVs. As they are with solar and wind energy and battery manufacturing. But these staples of the next economy have their detractors – primarily the fossil fuel industry and the politicians and media outlets that often act as their mouthpieces. It goes further than that though.

A big part of the naysayers' messaging strategy is to inflame fears about economic and social change. Tuning into networks like FOX News and One America News Network, it is not uncommon to get a taste of the disinformation campaign against EVs and other clean energy solutions. They wrongly portray policies meant to reduce carbon emissions and other pollution – especially cars and consumer appliances – as an attack on consumers "freedom." They also appeal to a general nostalgia for "the



good old days" when no one was asked to think about energy efficiency or climate warming pollution.

Most Americans know, however, that we cannot afford to bury our heads in the sand. It would not only be a road to ruin for our climate but would also prevent American competitiveness in the global economy and be a disaster for American workers.

Right now, we are seeing the beginning of a green jobs boom and the rebirth of the American manufacturing sector. It is thanks to decisive actions by the Biden administration – from legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act, the bipartisan infrastructure law, and the CHIPS and Science Act to the recently announced tariffs. I wrote about it recently as President Biden's anti-NAFTA moment. This is the way we will win the next economy.

Just look at Illinois, where a \$2 billion EV battery facility in Manteno will produce 2,600 new good-paying jobs. Lion Electric's new plant in Joliet, IL will produce about 20,000 electric school buses and trucks a year, employ hundreds of workers, and is the first new vehicle assembly plant in the Chicago area since 1965. EV manufacturer Rivian, which already employs about 8,000 people in Bloomington and Normal, IL, is expanding its production in the state. And one of the outcomes of last year's strike by the United Auto Workers (UAW) is the reopening of Stellantis's plant in Belvidere, IL which was idled in February 2023 but now will produce EVs and bring at least 1,300 jobs back to that community. In addition to the federal action mentioned above, this EV boom in Illinois is being helped by state initiatives like Governor JB Pritzker's Reimagining Energy and Vehicles incentive package.

Elsewhere in the Midwest, the Department of Commerce just reached a preliminary deal with the company Polar to expand and modernize its semiconductor manufacturing in Bloomington, Minnesota. A battery manufacturing boom throughout the Southeast now has that region being referred to as the "Battery Belt." And domestic solar is also helping to revitalize manufacturing in the south. The Qcells solar panel plants in Dalton and Cartersville, Georgia, are soon expected to employ nearly 4,000 people.

In China, even green manufacturing is dirty. The building of products like EVs and solar panels is powered mostly by coal. And the production of raw materials for those products – like aluminum and steel – is rife with toxic pollution. In the US, by contrast, the transition towards powering our electric grids and industries with clean energy sources is well underway. And new manufacturing methods are making materials like aluminum cleaner than ever to produce. Add to that the boom in good American jobs, and it is clear that moving manufacturing and supply chains for the next economy to our shores is a win-win-win for the United States.

*Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club, former president of the NAACP and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.*



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# A Plan for an Historic Overlay District along Dorr Street Is Coming Soon

The Truth Staff

On Wednesday, May 22, the first step of a plan to develop a thriving “historic overlay” business district along the Dorr Street corridor was announced during a press conference at the African American Legacy Project (AALP). The concept of the plan will be to bring the area to life much as it was during the glory days of the old Dorr Street – before “urban renewal” destroyed the thriving commercial district.

“It seems like these are the first steps,” said Robert Smith, founder and president of the AALP. “But the first steps really started 20 years ago when we first started documenting Dorr Street and trying to impress upon the community the value of this community and we think that today represents a milestone that we’re about to reach.”

Smith was joined at the press conference by Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez and Esther Tetteh, Toledo city planner with the Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commission.

“The Toledo Plan Commission has agreed to work with us,” said Smith. “It has been a journey to get to this point and today represents a milestone.”

The goal of the movement is to replicate, as best as possible, the Dorr Street commercial district that contained numerous Black-owned businesses during the strip’s heyday in the 1960’s – grocery stores, shops, restaurants, professional offices, salons and barber shops, among others.

The goal is also to avoid the unpleasantness caused by last year’s City of Toledo outreach to the Dorr Street community during which the city brought onboard city planners from the Collaborative consulting firm, at the cost to taxpayers of \$25,000, to produce a study to devise development possibilities for the Dorr Street corridor. Collaborative unveiled the plans to the Dorr Street community in a meeting at the Mott Branch Library that was an absolute disaster, as Tetteh acknowledged last week.

Clearly Smith hopes to avoid that negative reaction from the community.

Commissioner Lopez has only been in office for a few months but Smith noted that she reached out quickly to help with the effort to revitalize the Dorr Street corridor.

“We look forward to seeing the work from the city,” said Lopez, referring to whatever the City’s planners can put together. “Any development along the Dorr Street corridor is

good for all of us ... we’ve talked about this for years. I still remember Edna Brown wanting to champion development along the corridor.”

Lopez noted she is looking forward to seeing “new energy, new ideas at the County” to assist in the effort.

“When we bring development, it brings jobs. When we bring jobs, it brings a brighter community for our next generation,” she added.

As part of the process of collecting ideas for the Dorr Street historic overlay district, the AALP is organizing a bus trip to Columbus on July 10 to visit the King-Lincoln District. Those on board will visit the King Arts Complex, hear presentations by Complex creator Larry James and former Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman (a Toledo native). After lunch the riders will visit the rest of the District including the Lincoln Theater.



Esther Tetteh, urban planner; Robert Smith, AALP founder and president; LC Commissioner Anita Lopez

# Rep. Rogers Celebrates \$16M Expansion of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Across Ohio

State Rep. Elgin Rogers (D-Toledo) last week applauded the recent announcement of 22 new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to be built along Ohio’s interstates, state routes, and US routes thanks largely to the second round of federal funding from President Joe Biden’s National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program <<https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/12744>>.

“This is an important investment in our future. These EV charging stations not only provide a practical solution for EV drivers in need of additional charging options, but also sends a message that Ohio can be a leader in the EV space,” said Rep. Rogers.

The funds that helped make Ohio the first state in the nation to develop charging stations is thanks to support of U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown’s efforts on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The addition of these new stations moves Ohio closer to its goal of locating fast chargers every 50 miles throughout the state.

Electric vehicles will help us meet ambitious climate goals, while providing good-paying jobs and economic stimulus to the state.



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# The Getting to 1 Coalition

By Celeste Smith, Concerned Community Member

Guest Column

Nothing is more important than keeping our young children safe and healthy.

That's why I am a founding member of the Getting to 1 Coalition, a community collaborative that works to improve access to healthcare for pregnant women and improve infant health outcomes in Lucas County. Through my work with the Coalition, I've learned just how much work we have left to do.

Ohio has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country – 7.06 deaths per 1,000 births. The infant mortality rate among Lucas County African Americans was 15.9 per 1,000 live births, compared to 9.4 per 1,000 live births overall continues to be unacceptable. We can and we must do better for our children. We must work harder to provide pregnant mothers and young children the access to essential prenatal and postnatal care they need.

Hospitals and health systems play a huge role in this equation, providing vitally important care to moms and babies alike. However, due to persistent financial challenges, many hospitals are struggling to continue providing a number of services, including maternal and infant care.

Maternity wards are among the most difficult to staff and costly to maintain, so when hospitals face financial struggles, mothers often pay the price. Sure enough, new research shows that nearly 270 rural hospitals closed their obstetrics programs between 2011 and 2021. I can't stand the idea of this



Celeste Smith

happening here in Ohio, where our infant and maternal health outcomes are already lacking.

Our hospitals provide lifesaving care to mothers and their children. We need to give them our support so that they can continue providing the care we count on.

## Poor People's Campaign and National Partners Announce, 'Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington, D.C. and to the Polls'

By Stacy Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Special to The Truth

Scheduled for June 29, the "Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington, D.C.: A Call to the Polls and to Vote," aims to commence four months of outreach efforts targeting 15 million poor and low-wage infrequent voters nationwide. According to the study "Waking the Sleeping Giant: Poor and Low-Income Voters in the 2020 Elections," approximately 85 million eligible voters in the United States are classified as poor or low wage, constituting at least 30 percent of the electorate. In battleground states, the percentage climbs to over 40 percent.

"This is movement time," declared Bishop William J. Barber, president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. "We are here this morning to mobilize the power of over 33 million infrequent voters, poor and low wage, to demand attention to their concerns in the political arena."

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, national co-chair, Poor People's Campaign, echoed this sentiment. "Our goal is to center the desires and political agenda of those who are often left out of the conversation," Theoharis stated.

The coalition, comprising representatives from over thirty state coordinating committees, religious organizations, labor unions, and advocacy groups, seeks to mobilize the substantial voting bloc to demand political candidates' endorsement of a moral agenda addressing the poverty and low-wealth crisis, which claims 295,000 lives annually.

"Poor and low-wage voters are saying in this season that if you want these votes, talk to poor and low-wage folks," said Bishop Barber.

Rev. Mark Thompson, host of Apple TV's Make It Plain who also works for the National Newspaper Publishers Association, was among the many coalition members who addressed the issues during the news conference, which aired live on C-Span and at BlackPressUSA.com.

Thompson highlighted the interconnectedness of poverty with various social issues. "Wherever there is a lack of health care and voting rights, LGBT rights and immigrant rights, there is an abundance of poverty," he asserted. "Wherever there is a lack of jobs and labor unions and sensible gun laws in women's bodily autonomy, there is an abundance of poverty."

...continued on page 12

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LOVE

# First Annual Feed the Veterans Barbecue

*The Truth Staff*

A great way to start the Memorial Day weekend!

The Gold Star Veterans Life Enrichment Services held their first annual "Feed the Veterans Barbecue" on Saturday May 25 at the compound at 3 E. Bancroft Street to celebrate the opening of the Memorial Day weekend holiday.

Nearly 200 guests enjoyed a free meal and also had the opportunity to select items from the free clothing giveaway.

The purpose of the Veterans Barbecue was to "honor those who have served our country," said Mike Ivery, organizer of the special event. "Let's come together as a community to show our appreciation and support for our veterans."

The event started at 1 p.m. at the Gold Star Veterans Life Enrichment Services/Truth Colours Art Gallery compound at the corner of Franklin and Bancroft.



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# Touch a Dream's Spring Production – "Love Story"

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The Touch a Dream Studio presented their annual dance recital on Saturday, May 25 at the Franciscan Center of Lourdes University titled "Love Story." The studio's 40 company members, along with an additional 15 dancers, presented 40 dance routines in a variety of dance styles – ballet, jazz, tap, tumbling, hip-hop – for the Franciscan Center's appreciative audience.

Touch a Dream, now in its 16th year, is, above all, a family affair. The creative partners, choreographers and co-owners are mother and daughter Terri and Tanisha Shelmon. The studio is sponsored by Terri's husband/Tanisha's father, Theodis Shelmon, owner of The Shelmon Group, L.L.C., concrete specialists.

...continued on page 9



Terri and Tanisha Shelmon



Aaliyah Johnson and Raionna Shelmon



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"Love Story"... continued from page 8

Other family members and contributors to the effort are son Ramone, who is DJ Money Mone; daughter Sharlyn runs Sharlyn Modeling Studio and daughter Kia Shelmon Richardson is in charge of nursing.

... continued on page 11



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# The Black Wall Street Community Development's Fourth Coaching Session

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Black Wall Street Community Development held its fourth coaching session at TTEC (5212 Hill Ave.) featuring Olivia Holden, executive director of Assets Toledo. The interactive presentation provided exclusive tips on business planning for entrepreneurs. The event is part of a free six-session series of training leading up to BWSCD's upcoming Juneteenth Speed Funding event June 13.

The Black Wall Street Community Development is an organization established by local Black-owned media – The Juice 107.3 radio station, The Sojourner's Truth newspaper and Stalwart magazine. Started in 2023, the group has hosted a wealth of events and sessions to help empower the Black business community in NW Ohio.

During April and May, the group is hosting a six-part series of events for Black entrepreneurs on topics pertinent to success and viability in today's market. The sessions include such topics as "Scaling Your Biz," "Brand Strategy" and "Financial Snapshot."

The final upcoming session will be a marketing coaching session entitled "The Must of Marketing" and will be held at TTEC Wednesday, May 29 at 6 p.m.

This past week's session featured Holden. Assets Toledo offers a 13-week entrepreneurial training program that is offered three times a year. Holden states that since its inception in 1999 the organization has serviced over 4900 individuals that have gone through the program. Holden has been with Assets Toledo for over 20 years.

Assets Toledo's services include a comprehensive consultation and training to help identify gaps and opportunities, comprehensive report that includes a project plan with timelines and milestones, a cost analysis, and a schedule and more. (source: assetstoledo.com)

Holden provided attendees Wednesday with a sample business plan, re-

sources, strategies, and tips to create and maintain a successful business plan through the life of their business. Guests also had an opportunity to network with likeminded entrepreneurs in the room.

June 13th the BWSCD will be hosting an epic speed funding event held at TTEC for Juneteenth at 6 p.m., in partnership with Toledo JuneteenthNY, to help entrepreneurs catapult themselves into the next level of their business.

"We will have traditional and nontraditional funders. We [also] have a lot of individuals actually who are looking to invest in small firms who will also be here," stated Stacye Fowler, publisher of Stalwart Magazine.

"We appreciate everybody's desire to want to do better in their businesses and that's why we're here as Black Wallstreet just to help them out. To help them get there," she added.

The Black Wall Street Community Development's mission statement "is to empower a community of business owners through activities such as mentorship, networking, leadership coaching and financial literacy initiatives for advocacy, support".

To learn more about BWSCD visit Facebook @ Black Wall Street Community Development. To learn more about Assets Toledo visit [assetstoledo.com](http://assetstoledo.com) or their Facebook page.



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Greater Toledo Community Foundation created a specific fund to support the removal of barriers to equity and access for all in our community. If you are a nonprofit organization in the Greater Toledo Region that has a program that supports this mission, you are encouraged to apply for funding by July 2nd.



For more information, contact Artisha Lawson at 419.241.5049 or visit [toledocf.org/equity-access-initiative](http://toledocf.org/equity-access-initiative)



Speaker Olivia Holden of Assets Toledo



# Five Financial Tips for New College Graduates

*Special to the Truth*

Graduating college? If you're like many young adults, this is the first time you'll be managing your finances independently. There's more to it than ensuring you have enough money in the bank to pay for your next bill.

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professionals say these five strategies can help you hit the ground running during this transitional phase of life:

1. **Live without regret:** According to a 2020 NerdWallet study, 83% of Gen Zers and millennials have experienced regret about spending decisions. Break the cycle of spending too much and stressing afterward by creating a spending plan that prioritizes the expenditures you value most. Remember, finding a budgeting framework that builds confidence and security without feeling restrictive may require trial and error. A CFP® professional can help you draw up a plan and reassess it whenever there are changes to your income, fixed expenses or overarching goals.

2. **Make sound housing decisions:** To say that buying a home is always better than renting oversimplifies a complex calculus. Renting — with or without roommates — may actually make more sense for a young adult's lifestyle. While homeownership comes with the benefits of built-up equity and potential real estate appreciation over time, it also means being on the hook to fix issues like leaky plumbing and broken appliances as they arise. And while you could pay someone to attend to these tasks, that's something you'll need to account for in your cost-benefit analysis. Before making a major financial commitment, talk to a CFP® professional to figure out whether renting or owning is right for you now.

3. **Pay yourself first:** In financial speak, "compounding" means earning returns on both the initial investment and the previously acquired returns. It's a powerful phenomenon both when saving for retirement and with any other investing you do, particularly if you start young. While it's easy to be distracted by imminent expenses, you should regard saving and investing as "paying yourself first." Set aside a consistent portion of

your income to your own savings before attending to other obligations. After you've established a sufficient emergency fund, seeking the guidance of a financial advisor is a smart way to ensure that investments are properly diversified to be in line with your risk tolerance, time horizon and goals.

4. **Look way, way ahead:** Plan for retirement now? That advice can sound unbelievable when you're just starting your career. But the earlier you can make retirement contributions, the better off you will be. Don't just sock retirement money away into a typical savings account, however. You'll earn more with a dedicated retirement plan, such as an employer-sponsored 401(k), 403(b) or 457, particularly if your company offers matching or profit sharing.

Another option is an individual retirement account (IRA). Whether you open a Roth or traditional IRA, you won't pay taxes during the life of the account. And because these funds can't be tapped into without penalty until you're 59-and-a-half, it's a great way to shield your future financial security from today's spending temptations.

5. **Work your benefits into your plan:** Beyond retirement benefits, your employer may offer additional perks such as life insurance, medical and dental coverage, and disability insurance. Evaluating plan options is not always a straightforward apples-to-apples comparison though. A CFP® professional has the experience and expertise to look at how your new job could interact with your overall financial plan.

To find a CFP® professional committed to acting in your best interest as you navigate post-college life, visit [LetsMakeAPlan.org](http://LetsMakeAPlan.org).

With a smart financial plan, you can use your 20s and 30s to not only get into a rhythm of sensible cashflow management but to lay the groundwork for a secure financial future.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

*"Love Story"... continued from page 9*

Both Terri and Tanisha Shelmon have vast training and extensive experience in a variety of dance styles. Terri brings her background in ballet, tap, jazz and tumbling to the company, while Tanisha specializes in jazz/contemporary, hip-hop, ballet, flexibility and tumbling to the group.

Terri started in ballet as a child and continued in ballet through her college years, gradually expanding her repertoire into other dance forms, particularly tap.

Tanisha also started dancing at an early age and during her college years was chosen to become part of the WNBA Detroit Shock Women's Basketball dance team — the "Shockwave." She was eventually selected to be part of the Detroit Pistons Dance team, "Automation."

Over the years, Touch a Dream has grown to include both a recreational portion, which is open to all comers, and a competitive group that prospective dancers audition for. According to Tanisha Shelmon, the first part of the year — from September to December — is spent in preparation for competition. After the Christmas holiday season, Touch

a Dream dancers begin participating in competitions in earnest.

Additional staff includes Chris Robertson as a hip-hop coach; Morgan Russell as a tumbling coach, Carlos Rodela as a coach in the jazz/contemporary, tumbling and tap disciplines. Brandon Allen and Raionna Shelmon assist as guest choreographers with the senior company.

Raionna Shelmon, by the way, is a dancer also with the senior company. She is one of the company's two graduating high school seniors this year, along with Aaliyah Johnson. Raionna is graduating from Bowsher High School and Aaliyah from Toledo Early College High School. Both young ladies will be attending the University of Toledo in the fall.

This past weekend's production involved the company's recreational stars, the mini company, the pre-junior company, the junior company, the preteen company, the teen company and the senior company in the 40 different routines, opening with "Sushi" and closing with the "Finale" and a closing bow to the audience.

The hundreds of audience members in attendance were enthusiastic in their appreciation of the dancers' efforts in the 40 presentations.

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*Empowering Women... continued from page 16*

3.5 GPA, ambassador, athlete- and involved in student organizations. She plans to continue her education at University of Cincinnati.

• Reagan Quinn of Notre Dame Academy, Quinn was presented by Montriese Quinn, sponsored by Kitchen For The Poor and Robert Royser, and escorted by Jaden Bridgett. Quinn has maintained a 3.4 GPA, athlete and member of several student organizations. Quinn plans to attend Kent State University.

• Taylor Scribner of Central Catholic high school. Scribner was presented by Jermaine Scribner, sponsored by Harold Stevens and escorted by Jaylen Watson. She has maintained a 4.2 GPA, student leader and your guide, active in student organizations and athlete. She plans to attend University of Findlay.

2024 Escorts: Jaden Bridgett of Rogers high school; Ward Barnett of Jones Leadership Academy; Dharon Flowers, Rashod Johnson, and Jaylen Watson of Central Catholic high school.

The Debutantes and Escorts presented the Cotillion Promenade, Presentation of Pearls by Debs-in-waiting, Cotillion Waltz and Parents Waltz. The evening concluded with the presentation of awards. Terry Crosby presented one of the awards.

"Thank you for giving me this opportunity," began Crosby, Ambassador of Taylor Automotive. "We need to give these young ladies and these escorts a round of applaud."

- Miss Congeniality 2024: Courtney Jones
- Mr. Escort 2024: Ward Barnett
- Talent Awards: Courtney Jones earned first place and Taliyah Jones earned second place
- Miss Debutante 2024: Courtney Jones

2024 Committee: Wilma Brown, Cotillion Chair; Karen Jarrett and Denise Cardwell, Co-Chairs; Beverly Tucker and Deborah Carlisle, Talent Co-Chairs.

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Judges: Marie Latham Bush, Sheree Holden, Kaye Cooke and Anthony Pattin

*Poor People... continued from page 6*

He continued:

"Wherever there is a lack of racial justice and legal rights, criminal justice reform, access to adequate legal representation, an alternative to incarceration and police reform, wherever those things are in lack, there is an abundance of poverty. Wherever there is a lack of what is now under attack, diversity, equity, and inclusion, affirmative action, investment in education, a lack of educational opportunities, there is an abundance of poverty. Wherever there is lack of religious tolerance, racial harmony, and beloved community, there is an abundance of poverty."

The event's organizers emphasized their commitment to empowering impoverished and low-wage individuals, aiming to amplify their voices in the political discourse. Rev. Thompson concluded, "I contend we do not need to ask permission to finish Dr. King's work. He did not retire. It is our duty to pick up his baton and move forward. They always talk about the people who don't want to vote. They never talk about the impoverished and low-wage individuals. We want to lift them and bring them forth. If we address these issues, we will address all these others."

As the nation gears up for the 2024 elections, Bishop Barber, the Poor People's Campaign, and its allies assert that they are poised to make their presence felt, advocating for policies that address the systemic issues perpetuating poverty and economic inequality across the country.

"We want to lift them up and bring them forth. If we address these issues, we will address all these others," Thompson insisted.



Rev. Mark Thompson

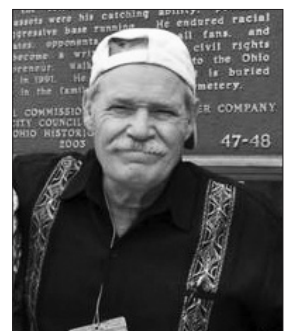
**In Memoriam**

**Richard M. Neller –  
March 11, 1946 – May  
20, 2024**

Richard was born on March 11, 1946 to Earl Neller and Doris Neller Bass Landfather in St. Louis, Missouri. From the moment that he could walk Richard had a tremendous amount of charm and energy, which contributed to many early successes, including high honors throughout high school. He was captain of his high school wrestling team, editor of the high school yearbook, and was awarded with a full scholarship to Washington University.

Richard's successes continued throughout college, becoming captain of his college wrestling team and working on the university newspaper (his true passion). He graduated with honors receiving a degree in Sociology/Anthropology.

Richard married his college sweetheart and followed her to Toledo, Ohio to begin his career as a high school teacher in Toledo Public Schools and to start a



*...continued on page 13*

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on SAX

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# The Black Girl Survives in This One, edited by Desiree S. Evans and Saracicia J. Fennell

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Don't go into that room.

Don't start downstairs, there's something down there you don't want to meet. Don't open that door. No, NO, don't look inside the cabinet. You'll scream and you'll be sorry. Don't go into the woods alone and don't ever go into the tool shed – although, in the new book, *The Black Girl Survives in This One*, edited by Desiree S. Evans and Saracicia J. Fennell, there are times when you don't have to worry so much.

c. 2024  
Flatiron Books  
\$19.99  
368 pages

Dive into your favorite scary media and you can almost immediately tell who will live and who will gruesomely die in each story. If there's a Black girl in the cast, well, you know what's coming next. But, says author Tananarive Due in her foreword, Black women are tired of that old trope. Rarely are fictional Black girls given a chance to "use their courage, strength, and wits to survive."

All that changes in this book.

Who among us hasn't taken a shortcut home? In "Harvesters" by L.L. McKinney, Jo's best friend and her new beau want to party back at his place. So does the hot guy Jo just met, and a quick trip through a cornfield seems like the quickest way to get there – even though word is that the cornfield is haunted.

Theater actors know that there's a certain Shakespearean play that you don't ever mention aloud, and in "Ghost Light" by Erin E. Adams, a white girl bends the rules at the worst possible time. No big deal, right? Except that it is, and the deadly mess is left up to the producer-director to fix – if she lives.

Meeting your favorite celebrity is fun, but what if they're not like you expect them to be? In "Tmi" by Zakiya Dalila Harris, the celeb in question is oddly too willing to connect with a fan, and too more-than-happy to take selfies. That can be a lifetime memory but then again, sometimes, when someone famous shares too much, it's not a good thing at all.

The windows are open, the night is quiet. All you hear is cicadas, crickets, and... a hair-raising scream. Don't worry, though, the night sounds are normal. The scream is yours and you're reading *The Black Girl Survives in This One*.



Black Girl Survives in This One editor Desiree S. Evans



Black Girl Survives in This One editor Saracicia J. Fennell, courtesy Visco Illusion

Sometimes, all you really want in a story is short. Seriously, you have a busy summer and that's where this book comes in: fifteen authors present tales to scare you good, and they mostly succeed in their mission. Here, you'll read about a family curse, an inheritance that you wouldn't ever want, an otherworldly indication of danger and death, and a reason why you wouldn't want to have a party in a cemetery. Any of these tales might make you laugh a little, nervously.

And you'll be scared.

While *The Black Girl Survives in This One* is meant for readers ages 12-to-18, it's absolutely also for adults who love a little scream in their story. Don't leave this one behind.

Don't miss this book.

Don't stop reading.

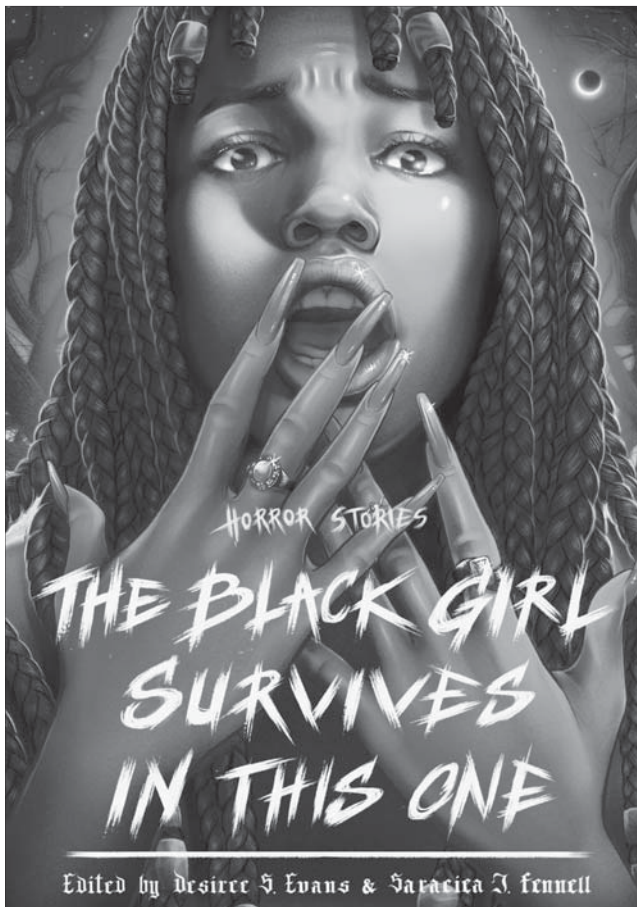
**Richard M. Neller... continued from page 12**

family. After several years teaching Richard continued his education, studying law at the University of Toledo. He was a highly respected criminal defense attorney for many years.

Richard could never shake his true passion of journalism and founded La-Prensa Newspaper in 1989. In addition to publishing the newspaper, Richard was also the founder of LatinoFest@ Promenade Park, which brought in artists such as Ramon Ayala, lil Joe, Mazz, Vicente Fernandez, la Sombrero...to name a few...and also started the Midwest Tejano Music Awards in Downtown Toledo and the Mud Hens Latino Scholarship fund.

Richard was preceded in death by his mother Doris Landfather and father Earl Neller. He is survived by his siblings Earl Neller Jr., Diana Huff, and Timothy Neller, children Julie Picknell (Brian), Becky Berland (David), Elizabeth Pinkstaff (Michael), Ricky Keel, Mary DiVeto (Dan), and Anna Queen (Zach), grandchildren Steven, Shannon, Michael, Brian, Jr, Kayla, Madison, Julian, Nicholas, Anthony, Adrienne, Jr., Serenity, Ethan, Jacob, Annabelle, and Ava.

A celebration of life will be planned for later in the summer.



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### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio, by the Purchasing Department, One Government Center, Suite 480, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2247 until 2:00 P.M. (local time), July 12, 2024 and opened immediately thereafter for **#2147- Brand Refresh & Logo Upgrade** for the Lucas County Commissioners and Lucas County Canine Care & Control (LC4), according to specifications available for examination, or download the proposal by going to the site, <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.asp>. Suppliers interested in doing business with Lucas County must register in the Supplier Portal.

To access the Lucas County Oracle Supplier Portal, please visit:  
[https://eieb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuld=30000007278812&\\_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3\\_1&\\_afLoop=7126760101772357&\\_afWindowMode=0&\\_afWindowId=avudlxmca&\\_afFS=16&\\_afMT=screen&\\_afMFW=1920&\\_afMFH=932&\\_afMFDW=1920&\\_afMFDH=1080&\\_afMFC=8&\\_afMFCI=0&\\_afMFM=0&\\_afMFR=96&\\_afMFG=0&\\_afMFS=0&\\_afMFO=0](https://eieb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuld=30000007278812&_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3_1&_afLoop=7126760101772357&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=avudlxmca&_afFS=16&_afMT=screen&_afMFW=1920&_afMFH=932&_afMFDW=1920&_afMFDH=1080&_afMFC=8&_afMFCI=0&_afMFM=0&_afMFR=96&_afMFG=0&_afMFS=0&_afMFO=0)

Prior to 2:00 P.M. (local time), July 12, 2024 each proposal shall contain the full name of each person submitting the proposal and the name of every person or company interested in same.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.  
By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Pete Gerken – President  
Lisa A. Sobecki – Commissioner  
Anita Lopez – Commissioner

**#2147- Brand Refresh & Logo Upgrade** – Lucas County  
Publish: May 29, 2024

### SCOTT HS CLASS OF '69 REUNION

Calling all SCOTT HIGH CLASS OF "69" CLASSMATES. We are currently updating all addresses and phone #'s for our 55th reunion. Please contact Evelyn Wilson at 419-490-6851 or Tommy Johnson at 419-704-1835 for details. See you all soon. The Class of "69" Reunion Committee

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### PATHWAY, INC. CEASES EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Pathway, Inc. has announced that effective immediately they will no longer accept Emergency Rental Assistance Program applications via the American Rescue Plan Act Home Relief Grant (ARPAHRG).

In a statement, Pathway said the completed applications previously submitted will be processed subject to the availability of funds. They encouraged individuals facing a housing emergency to contact 2-1-1 or 800-650-HELP.

Since late 2020, Pathway, Inc. has disbursed more than \$30 million in rental and utility assistance to individuals and families in Lucas County, including current, past due, and future rent, security deposits, and utility payments.

For more information on Pathway, visit [pathwaytoledo.org](http://pathwaytoledo.org).

# The Black Women's Roundtable Presents "Power of the Ballot"

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

The Metro Toledo Black Women's Roundtable hosted their annual luncheon on Saturday, May 18, at the Metroparks Glass City Pavilion. The signature program featured Keynote Speaker LaVera Scott, director of Lucas County Board of Elections. The theme for the event was "Power of the Ballot - Protecting our Freedoms."

"We have an annual luncheon to bring black women together and empower black women," stated Anita Madison, convener, Metro Toledo Black Women's Roundtable. "To encourage each other and to talk strategy about some of the things that most impact us in the community."

The Ohio Coalition on Black Civic Participation, (Ohio Unity Coalition) is a state affiliate of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation in Washington DC. OUC is incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in Ohio.

The chief aim is to increase political literacy and civic engagement in Black and under-served communities while building capacity in the member organizations and communities they serve. The variety of voter contact /voter service mechanisms they utilize range from registration, education, mobilization, and protection to issue advocacy around issues specific to black Ohioans. (source: www.ohiounity.org)

The local chapter of the organization started in 2019. This is the third luncheon the Metro Toledo BWR has held.

The welcome & introductions detailing the Purpose of Ohio Unity Coalition and the Black Women's Roundtable were given by Anita Madison and the invocation by Alisa Key, co-pastor of People's Missionary Baptist Church.

The program included BWR Youth Reflection by students McKinley Matthews and Chloe Cheers who were sponsored by the local organization to attend the national conference; a Spoken Word by Jamele Walker and an Introduction of the Mention Moment by Deborah Barnett.

The Mention Moment was presented by Irene Blue entitled "No more DEI. Now what?" Blue discussed this year's SCOTUS decision and the implications on minority-based scholarships in area collegiate institutions.

The introduction of the keynote speaker was given by Anita Madison followed by a presentation by keynote speaker LaVera Scotta, director, Lucas County Board of Elections. The Call to Action was presented by Barnett and Closing Remarks and door prizes presented by Madison.

Sponsors for the event included the Toledo Community Coalition, Ohio Unity Coalition, The Toledo Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionist, N-Sync and Legal Sheild. Food was catered by Tastefully Too.

"The main focus of the Ohio Unity Coalition is to empower black voters and you can't do that without engaging black voters," remarked Madison. The group is always interested in volunteers. Those seeking to learn more can visit OhioUnity.org, or their Face-



Anita Madison



Irene Blues and the 'Mention Moment'



Youth speak about experiences at national conference



Keynote Speaket LaVera Scott

book page.

The next series of events the group will host is 'Coffee and Conversations' at various coffee houses throughout the city to talk about pertinent topics throughout the year. The locations and times will be announced.

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# The Annual Debutante Cotillion Ball

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. Toledo Club presented five debutantes to the community on Saturday, May 25, 2024.

According to the sponsoring organizer, the purpose of the cotillion in 1965 was to present our outstanding young ladies to society clothed with the finer thoughts of living and endowed with a complete sense of responsibility. To accomplish these ends, the Toledo Club of NANBPWC has added life skills workshops, financial scholarships and etiquette training, whereby the debutante can step on the threshold of womanhood with success.

The program opened with a warm welcome delivered by cotillion co-chair Karen Jarrett and club president Tyra Smith.

"Welcome to the 56th annual debutante cotillion. I'm serving as co-chair this year," began Jarrett. "We have been missing in action for four years and we're happy to be back. It's been a long journey.

The program proceeded with introductions of judges, the 2024 Debs-In-Waiting, and presentation of 2024 Debutantes. The Mistress of ceremonies was current TV anchor TaTiana Cash, a Toledo native, Notre Dame Academy and Xavier University graduate who has worked for year in the industry before returning to Toledo in 2021. She is married, a mother, earned Miss Debutante in 2008 and member of several community organizations including Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

2024 Debs in Waiting: Taelynn Clark, Kailey Lothery, and Cayla Murray of Notre Dame Academy; Jenevia Graves of Scott high school; Gabrielle Knighten, Lexsey-Smith, and Paris Waites of Central Catholic high school; Kaiya Morgan-Thompson of Saint Ursula Academy; Madelyn Page of Rogers high school; Ranyiah Rogers and Sydnee Savage-Utley of Start high school.

2024 Debutantes:

- Courtney Jones of Start high school. Jones was presented by Clarence Jones, sponsored by Dawn Price, and escorted by Ward Barnett. Jones is a graduating honor student with a 3.5 GPA, currently dual enrollment at University of Toledo and Owens Community College, athlete and involved in student organizations. She plans to continue her education at Kent State University.

- Taliyah Neely of Rogers high school. Neeley was presented by Christopher Byrd, sponsored by Keary Sarabia, and escorted by Rashad Johnson.

Neely is a graduating senior, consistent honor roll and 25 in her senior class, athlete and member of the marching band. She has been accepted to four local colleges including University of Toledo.

- Rakaiya Phillips of Central Catholic high school. Phillips was presented by Kashif Phillips, sponsored by Groomed For Greatness, and escorted by Dharon Flowers. Phillips has maintained a

...continued on page 12



Wade Barnett, Jr and Courtney Jones



Dharon Flowers and Rakaiya Phillips



Jaden Bridgett and Reagan Quinn



Rashad Johnson and Taliyah Neely



Jaylen Watson and Taylor Scribner



Terry Crosby and Wilma Brown



Debutante and Escort Promenade



Escorts - Jaylen Watson, Jaden Bridgett, Dharon Flowers, Rashad Johnson, Ward Barnett, Jr



The Debs-in-Waiting



The Debs-in-Waiting promenade

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