

Volume 84 No. 9 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* July 17, 2024



AALP Takes Toledoans to Columbus

Former Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, AALP's Robert Smith, Dr. Rosemary Duffy, Frank Duffy

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A Spark is Needed

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

The Truth Contributor

Everyone has the fire, but the champions know when to ignite the spark.

– Amit Ray



The Democratic Party is trailing with the clock ticking down in the final moments of the winner-take-all 2024 Presidential race and facing a critical choice that will have a decisive impact on the outcome of the political slugfest.

President Joe Biden has led the nation with commendable policies and significant achievements throughout the past four years. However, it may be time for a “tired” Biden to consider “coming out of the game” during the contest’s waning moments in favor of a new candidate who can inject the fresh energy needed to achieve victory in this pivotal showdown between democracy and authoritarianism.

Despite the incessant narrative energized and perpetuated by a short-sighted and profit-minded media that Biden’s age and public speaking gaffes make him unfit to get the ball over the goal for an additional term, Ashton Applewhite’s insights in “This Chair Rocks” dismantle the biased stereotypes associated with aging.

Applewhite insists that older individuals often bring invaluable experience, wisdom, and resilience to their roles, countering the ageist narratives that permeate our society and have surfaced in political discourse.

U.S. Representative Maxine Waters also commented during an appearance at the Essence Festival: “Hell, I’m older than Biden, and I get up every morning, and I exercise, and I work late hours, and I take care of Black people.”

Economic advisor Jared Bernstein highlighted Biden’s 3.4 percent average annual real GDP growth compared to Trump’s 1.8 percent. Biden

has added 14.3 million jobs versus Trump’s net loss of 2.7 million and maintained a lower average unemployment rate of 3.6 percent. Additionally, Biden has overseen significant reductions in Black and Hispanic unemployment, with consumer spending and business investment growing more robustly at 4.5 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively.

One wealthy local businessman also articulated this perspective well, revealing that during Democratic administrations, including Biden’s, his business thrived: “Whenever the Democrats are in office, I make money. Whenever the Republicans are in office, I don’t.” This sentiment underscores the stability and economic opportunity fostered by Biden’s policies, which have benefited businesses and workers alike.

“Prices in the grocery store are down, and the economy is up, so your retirement is up. Everything is going the way the average working person would want. This guy is the most union president we’ve ever had,” one suburban likely voter also shared.

Indeed, concerns about his age aside, Biden’s administration has achieved notable economic successes, including robust job growth, infrastructure strides, and legislative wins for the middle class.

Yet, while there is widespread agreement that age should not be a disqualifying factor, the perception of frailty can dramatically undermine voter confidence, especially in a high-stakes election against a vigorous opponent.

For all his achievements, however, criticisms about President Biden’s perceived physical vitality are reaching a crescendo. To date, 25 Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives are reportedly prepared to urge Biden to withdraw from the race if he continues to show signs of frailty. Even voices from spectators on the street express concerns about Biden’s ability to campaign effectively due to his recent performance issues. “He’s just tired. Do you see how he walks? He’s toddling,” one community member noted. “Twenty percent of young people and a significant portion of Black people don’t wanna vote for Biden,” reflecting a critical gap in enthusiasm.

The Democratic Party, then, needs a spark to reignite enthusiasm and drive voter engagement. Even a slight improvement in candidate favorability could be decisive in such a tightly contested election. A new candidate “off the bench” could invigorate key voter bases, bringing fresh energy and perspectives that resonate more with younger and diverse demographics.

Biden’s situation can be likened to NFL quarterbacks who come off the bench and provide a much-needed spark to their teams. Players like Colin Kaepernick, who replaced an injured Alex Smith in the 2012 season, led the San Francisco 49ers to the Super Bowl that year. Nick Foles, who led the Philadelphia Eagles to a Super Bowl victory after coming off the bench, and Frank Reich, who orchestrated the most remarkable comeback in NFL playoff history, exemplify the power of fresh energy and new leadership.

Just as these quarterbacks stepped into challenging situations, revitalized their teams, and led them to significant victories, a new Democratic candidate could invigorate the Party and increase its chances of victory.

Vice President Kamala Harris has proven to be a capable and dedicated leader. Her deep understanding of Biden’s policies and her experience on the national stage position her as a strong potential candidate. Transitioning to Harris or another viable Democrat could ensure continuity of the administration’s accomplishments while addressing the pressing concerns about Biden’s electability.

What is certain is the Democratic Party needs a fresh spark to energize the electorate and navigate the complexities of the upcoming election.

Joe Biden has been widely acknowledged as one of the greatest U.S. presidents, ranking among the top 10 presidents of all time.


Yet, by “going to the sidelines” and giving someone else the opportunity to take it from here, Biden can ensure the continuation of his legacy through a dynamic and unified Party, poised to secure a just, equitable, and prosperous win for democracy.

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

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Good Old Joe – He Must Go

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

In my last column on this volatile issue of whether President Joe Biden should continue his run for a second White House term, I left it up in the air when I said: "to be continued."

Well, that date with destiny is nigh upon us and with some misgivings, I am now saying, "Good old Joe...he's got to go!"

History will give Joe Biden strong marks for his four-year presidency and how he did admirable work in bringing the economy back and standing up to Putin and Putin's favorite budding dictator, Donald Trump.

But, after 50 years of public service, Joe Biden needs to take a hard reality check and take his well-deserved kudos, bouquet of flowers and call it a day.

Aging takes no prisoners, and it can deftly deal from top of the deck or from the bottom of the deck and whatever hand you get, you have to play it.

Joe Biden played his cards and won but now he is tempting fate by walking a tightrope of being seen as a spoiler that could lead to disastrous results if the consummate conman and fraudster Donald Trump gets back in office.

The fact that Joe Biden beat Donald Trump before is no guarantee that a repeat prize fight would not lead to a different outcome. That is something Joe Biden should not risk and place the Democratic Party in the unenviable position of telling Joe Biden that he needs to vacate the premises, for the good of the country.

To date, the media has not been hounding Donald Trump for his mental blunders and nonsensical answers to basic questions; and nor do they harp on the fact that Trump is a convicted felon.

Let this sink in: Too many Americans believe that a convicted felon, adjudged rapist, con artist, serial liar who mocks the lives of deceased military personnel and who is in hock to the citizens of New York for his tax cheat schemes, that such conduct is OK for a person to be president? Are you kidding me!

Such voters are in La-La land if they believe that the MAGA's dreary plan for America as seen in Project 2025 (read the abridged version online) would make America great again. Pure unadulterated hokum.

Sadly, both major political parties painted themselves into these no win corners when they consistently failed to open up the process of candidate selection but allow such selections to be determined by the fat-cat party bosses. Unless Biden releases his delegates at the convention, he will be the nominee.

In a sane world, neither an 81-year-old person or a 78-year-old person would be allowed to be their party's nominee. It just does not make any sense any way you slice it.

And as for Vice President Kamala Harris being called off the bench to sub for Joe Biden, that is a losing ticket, in my opinion, because White America is not going to put a Black woman (in this country, she is Black regardless of her ethnic background) in the White House...not yet at least.

If you think the racist "birther" issue done against Obama was wild, if Kamala Harris is the nominee, the Klan will be riding its high kicking horse against her.

Biden is in denial as to his mental and physical capacities to endure another strenuous four years of being president. His grand ego is blocking his common sense and the advice of others who tell him, "Joe, you gotta go!"

In the event that Donald Trump gets the White House and the Democrats can not control either the House of the Senate.... WATCH OUT!

If that happens, you will witness such civic unrest and draconian measures as never before because Trump will vent his spleen on revenge and changing the vast administrative state of the federal government into his own fiefdom.

In the event that Joe Biden does ride out the current political storm about he not stepping aside and wins the White House, hopefully the down ballot voters will vote Democratic so that Biden can "pack the Supreme Court" to neutralize its co-opted GOP majority that has demonstrated MAGA tendencies.

In the event of a Biden win, I suggest the following plan of action: Joe

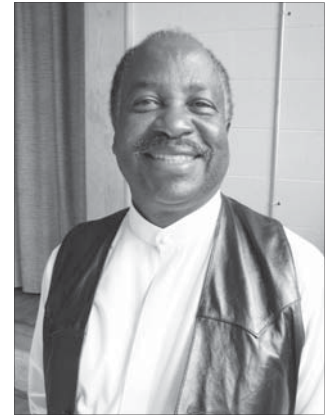
Biden serves only for two years and then resign and allow Kamala Harris to be president for the remaining two years. This will give her some on the job training; and allow her to build up some political currency within the Democratic Party and foreign leaders.

With two years serving as president, Kamala Harris can show off her chops and ease the fears of White America that she is not a California radical but would be a center line Democrat.

Would MAGA America and White Christian Nationalists howl and bay to the moon if the court is packed and if Kamala Harris is president for two years? Of course they would but let them bark and gnash their teeth. They need to have a no-nonsense Black woman exercise power over them for their own good!

In the final analysis, every voting age Black American needs to check on their voting status so as to avoid any surprises at the polls and pull the lever for Joe Biden or whoever is the standard bearer.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



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A Pastoral Rebuke and Response to the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump

By Pastor Brandon A.A.J. Davis

Guest Column

Aaron Zitner and Clare Ansberry of the Wall Street Journal authored a column that I read early Sunday Morning (7/14/24) entitled: "A Nation on Edge Fears an Election Careening Toward an Ugly Finish." Both social media, news media outlets, and televised media, are calling yesterday's shooting an assassination attempt against Donald Trump, and that very well may be what happened.

Yet still, what's more alarming than the plausibility of a dubious attempt at assassinating Trump is the fear tactics of the Wall Street Journal and others who seek to lay claim to exactly whose corruptible and damnable-evil inspired actions are solely responsible for creating the polarized and lawless culture we now live in.

At the risk of sounding misanthropic toward white people and assuming all white people feel entirely the same about Donald Trump, the fact remains that Butler, PA, a city 35 miles north of Pittsburgh and whose racial demographics are 93.6 percent white, stands to reason; exactly who shot Trump? More than that, what person skilled enough to shoot only a man's ear would risk their life to do so?

Both Zetner and Ansberry, I assumed, are innocent bystanders to this scathing rebuke; still, I must employ Black preacher prophetic language in that the troubles that have befallen Trump are of his own doing, and daringly, I say a horrible ruse of his creation to draw sympathetic attention and support to his camp.

To liken the violent end to the 2020 election and the ensuing riot in the US Capital on January 6, 2021, which was inspired by Trump, to yesterday's ear-plinking wrecks the foul stitch of a Republican overreach for a sympathetic vote. To that, I say stand firm and resist this republican base pandering that seeks to further divide this nation with a poorly played out political assassination.



Pastor Brandon A.A.J. Davis

While the Wall Street Journal polemically sought to outline precisely how shaken up this country is, I did notice how they none gleefully sideswiped President Joe

Biden regarding his debate performance and age. What troubles me the most between the media's so-called assassination attempt against Trump and the state of the country, whose political teeth are set on edge, is the uncontested reality that where we are started with the Tea Party and then the birther movement, which later it was morphed into republican cowardice who step-in-fetch-it-[ly] both kneeled and bowed down to Donald Trump.

And yes, the truth remains the same: we are in this position because of President Obama's election in 2008, which unleashed a white lash of racism and hatred coupled with their idolatrous worship of the most inept and incompetent former president this country has ever had. True to form, and unless we wake up, read, and vote, white Christian Nationalists and their ultra-conservative partners will finish the incivility overhaul of America with Project 2025.

Let me end this witness as the preacher that I am. To those who mislead society with a narrowing of the truth and have engaged in idol worship of a Godless man; hear ye the word of the Lord; "Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of deceit and pull sin along with cart ropes..." - Isaiah 5:18. God is not mocked neither is God easily made fun of. You will reap what you sow. Amen

Brandon A. A. J. Davis, DMin
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Unlocking Women's Potential: Women of Toledo

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Imagine sitting around a dinner table with your best friends, sharing stories about work, family, and the occasional office drama. Between the laughter and the sighs, a common theme emerges: the challenges women face in advancing their careers and breaking through biases. Now, what if I told you there's a place where these conversations don't just stay around the table but turn into powerful action?

Enter **Women of Toledo**, an organization that's not only listening but actively empowering women and girls to take charge of their futures. Led by the dynamic **Nina Corder**, this nonprofit is creating spaces where women can gather, learn, and tackle issues head-on, from economic advancement to workplace equity.

But what makes *Women of Toledo* (WOT) stand out in a sea of initiatives? It's the way they blend skill-building with community support. Think of it as a powerhouse combination of a professional workshop, a support group and a mastermind class, all wrapped into one.

From Graduate School to Groundbreaking Solutions

"*Women of Toledo* started in grad school. I am a researcher by nature who came to the United States to go to university," Corder shares. Like many, she found herself facing the daunting challenge of finding employment despite holding a degree. "My 'why' and personal passion was to navigate the workforce better. It was hard because I didn't know anyone here. So, I went to grad school."

Her journey took a pivotal turn when her organizational leadership professor challenged her to study and solve the very issue she was grappling with. "He challenged me to fix my problem and study organizational culture, looking at how we can close the network gap for someone like me."

Through her research, Corder discovered the network gap that women, especially those who move to the U.S. from other countries, often face. "I started my research right away." This gap, she realized, was a significant barrier to economic advancement for many. "My focus started with a female network group that understood my perspective through their own personal experiences. After my research, we found out that people rarely challenge organizational culture."

Challenging and Changing Cultures

"Until someone comes and disrupts the culture and challenges the systems, they can't see new perspectives," Corder notes. It's not just the environment but human nature that prefers commonality. "It's not the group, people or the environment. It is that humans are social beings that love having things in common."

Corder's mission became to break these cycles by encouraging new connections. "I challenged my focus group to break these cycles by bringing someone new to each group meeting. We started closing the gap. We found it wasn't only women struggling with the same challenges, but anyone coming from another country or area."

She discovered that while women and men build connections differ-



Mom's House ED Christina Rodriguez, Nina Corder, Toledo Board of Education's Sheena Barnes, CWA



Women of Toledo's Nina Corder

ently, neither approach is superior. "Women and men build connections differently. One is not better than another; women just function differently," explains Corder.

"When women are successful, we don't just take care of ourselves, we nurture our families and communities. That's how we build stronger communities that support each other."

Creating a Refuge and Building Belonging

What began as a personal quest evolved into *Women of Toledo*—a nonprofit that has become a beacon of hope and empowerment for many. "I didn't start this nonprofit intentionally, but I look at all as a happy ending. It has been a refuge for many of us."

Under Corder's leadership, *Women of Toledo* has expanded to manage two additional initiatives: the Northwest Ohio Women's Business Council, a female economic empowerment movement, and HerHub, an online platform connecting women with local resources, businesses, and organizations. Through her efforts, these organizations have successfully raised over \$1.5 million in grants and capital funds, serving more than 9,459 women and youth.

Mentorship: The Heart of Women of Toledo

One of the cornerstone programs of WOT is their mentorship initiative. "I believe mentoring is key," says Corder. "Humans are meant to support and take care of each other with compassion and empathy." This belief is reflected in the organization's flagship program, where women share their stories and narratives, helping others who have had similar experiences.

"We have matched over 60 to 70 women leaders in our community to

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2024 Glass City JazzFest to Be Held on August 10

The Truth Staff

Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson officially announced the details for the 2024 Glass City JazzFest on Thursday, July 11 at the site of the upcoming event, the Glass City Metropark.

"The third annual Glass City JazzFest will be held on August 10," said McPherson to open the announcement. "This has been a dream of mine for many a year."

The event is free and open to all and will start at 1 p.m. the day of the event and will continue until sunset. This year's headliner will be Bob James, the world-renowned keyboardist, arranger and composer. James founded the band Fourplay, a contemporary smooth jazz quartet, and wrote "Angela," the theme song to the 1980s television show "Taxi."

The day of jazz will include various genres including traditional, Latin, fusion, smooth and contemporary.

Not only is the festival itself free, but TARTA will also be providing free transportation from two sites, announced Laura Koprowski, TARTA CEO. JazzFest attendees can park at The Docks or at Franklin Park Mall and catch a free ride to the site of the JazzFest.

In addition to Bob James, the other acts will be Andre Wright (featuring Perry Hughes) 496 West, trumpeter Allen Denard, trumpeter and vocalist Ilya Serov, saxophonist Jeanette Harris (with special guest flutist Ragan Whiteside.

The August 10 JazzFest is only the culmination of a week of jazz. Jazz week will feature free performances in various locales around the city. On Monday, August 5, Mike Miller & Friends will be at Middlegrounds Metropark at 111 Ottawa Street. On Tuesday, August 6, Lori Lefevre will be at Manhattan's Pub 'n Cheer; Mike Fageros will be at Table Forty 4 on Wednesday, August 7; Smooth Operations Project will be at Glass City Metropark's Market Hall on Thursday, August 8 and Marion Hayden Legacy will be at Maumee Bay Brewing Company on Friday, August 9. All performances will be from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Glass City JazzFest is sponsored by the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Great Lakes Jazz Society, Metroparks Toledo and TARTA.



Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson discusses the upcoming Glass City Jazzfest



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Lourdes University Announces 2024-2025 Board of Trustees

Special to The Truth

Lourdes University is pleased to announce the newly elected members of its Board of Trustees for the 2024-2025 term, following the June 2024 board meeting.

William Carroll, retired COO at Dana Corporation, who has provided exemplary leadership as board chair over the past two years, will be stepping down from his role while remaining on the Board. The university extends its heartfelt gratitude to Carroll for his dedication and stewardship during his tenure.

Stepping into the role of board chair is Parriss Coleman II, chief litigation counsel at The Andersons, Inc., who will serve a two-year term effective July 1, 2024. Coleman brings a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to advancing the mission and vision of Lourdes University.

Coleman noted, "Lourdes University has an immensely talented board, staff, and professors who are focused on improving the scholarship and value they provide to Lourdes' students while embracing the core Franciscan values upon which the University was founded."

The following trustees have also been re-elected or appointed to key posi-



Parriss Coleman

...continued on page 11

The 900-Page Guide to Snuffing Out American Democracy

By Ben Jealous

What if there was a blueprint for a future presidential administration to unilaterally lay waste to our constitutional order and turn America from a democracy into an autocracy in one fell swoop?

That is what one far-right think tank and its contributors created. And more than a hundred other far-right organizations have now signed on to support that blueprint. What could possibly go wrong?

Maybe you have heard about Project 2025. It was cooked up by the far-right Heritage Foundation. That organization's leader says we are in a "second American Revolution" that he suggests could turn violent if those who oppose their disastrous plan to kill our democracy do not get in line behind it.

For its 51-year history, the Heritage Foundation has always been an instrument of the Far Right. Around 2016, it started to become dangerously extreme. Project 2025, and its 900-page guidebook for ending the American experiment, is perhaps its most extreme – and dangerous – initiative yet.

The premise behind Project 2025 is that our constitutional system of checks and balances somehow is skewed against the American people based on their politics. It is an argument that itself exposes the extremity of those making it.

Our Constitution provides a framework, as do our democratic institutions, for political debate and disagreement within the natural parameters of our system of government. Although our country has too often bucked the very principles of our founding, we used to be able to agree that, generally, America is a Republic that elects its leaders through representative democracy. And that for our government to serve the best interests of all its people, we must protect debate and a free exchange of ideas, as well as the mechanisms of democracy itself and the separation of powers among the three branches of government.

Project 2025 wants to throw all that out the window. It attacks democratic institutions that separate nonpolitical civil service from loyalty to any particular party or leader. It prescribes purging the federal government of anyone who might be considered disloyal to the ruling party. It allows the president to usurp power from other branches of government, like Congress's power of the purse. Project 2025 endorses presidential powers that include ignoring how Congress appropriates spending, where the president has the unquestioned authority to redirect congressionally passed spending at will.

Democracy Forward, a pro-democracy legal organization, refers to Project 2025 as "among the most profound threats to the American people." That is due to the plan's clear harm to the lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing of countless millions of Americans – "from attacking overtime pay, student loans, and reproductive rights, to allowing more discrimination, pollution, and price gouging," according to Democracy Forward.

It is no wonder that when Americans learn about the Project 2025 roadmap, they reject its policy prescriptions overwhelmingly.

A recent survey by Navigator Polling found strong opposition to Project 2025's possible impacts on healthcare: "83 percent oppose removing protections for people with pre-existing conditions, 81 percent oppose putting a new tax on health insurance for people who get coverage through their employer, and 80 percent oppose banning Medicare from negotiating lower prices and eliminating the \$35 monthly insulin cap."

Project 2025 also calls for defunding public education and eliminating Head Start, the early education program that serves a million primarily low-income children. It lights the path for actions that could reduce food assistance for 40 million people and cost hundreds of thousands of people their jobs.

Project 2025 also supports the defunding or dismantling of key fed-



eral agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is vital in tracking hurricanes and the impacts of climate change. Rather than acknowledging the urgent need for climate action, Project 2025 accuses NOAA of being "one of the main drivers of the climate change alarm industry." That is a level of climate denialism not even seen among fossil fuel companies and petrostate governments these days.

How could anyone in their right mind think eliminating agencies on the frontlines of climate science is a good idea at a time like this?? Our cities are cooking under extreme heat. Forests are burning. And experts say Hurricane Beryl, which just slammed Texas – the strongest tropical storm ever recorded this early in the season – indicates we could be facing one of the most devastating hurricane seasons ever. In Texas alone, Beryl killed at least eight people and caused power outages for more than 2.5 million in this summer's extreme heat. And, again, the season is just getting started.

We have big problems to solve. An authoritarian power grab that guts checks and balances is no way to solve them. A strong democracy that is responsive to its people is the only way we will create a rising tide of opportunity that lifts all boats. It is the only way we will protect people's fundamental rights and survive the climate crisis. We have seen enough examples of dictatorships around the world to know it is a road to failure and misery. Project 2025 emphasizes consolidating power, punishing political opponents, and making the government work for the powerful few over the many. That is not the country Americans want or deserve.

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

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African American Legacy Project's Bus Trip to Columbus

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

The African American Legacy Project, under the guidance of Director Robert Smith, organized a bus trip on Wednesday, July 10, to Columbus for about 40 Toledoans. The travelers were able to get a glimpse of the capital city's resurrected King Lincoln District and to gain some insights from those in Columbus who had been instrumental in that district's revitalization over the past three-plus decades.

The travelers included a number of long-time Dorrr Street area residents along with elected officials Ohio state Senator Paula Hicks Hudson, Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez, Toledo City Councilwomen Cerssandra McPherson and Brittany Jones. Three other city council members sent representatives.

Media presence included The Blade, The Truth and Rick and Debra Hogan of The Juice 107.3.

The Toledo visitors were treated to a day of hospitality, tours and, most importantly, information from Columbus leaders who led the turnaround in the Columbus neighborhood – Larry James, an attorney who got the King Arts Complex going in the late 1980s; former Mayor Michael Coleman who led the effort to reconstruct and rehab the Lincoln Theatre and Boyce Safford who served as Coleman's director of development and was the go-to



Toledo Councilwomen Cerssandra McPherson and Brittany Jones with former Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman

guy for the Lincoln Theatre project.

The Lincoln Theatre and the King Arts Complex are the main development projects in what is Columbus' King-Lincoln District – a district, said Coleman that once held a population, primarily African American, of 64,000. In the 1960's city and state leaders decided that the highway system – Interstates 71 and 70 – should be constructed through the city and cut off the African American neighborhood from the predominantly white and downtown areas.

The plan to devastate the Black neighborhood worked all too well. When Coleman took office in 1999 – the first Black mayor of Columbus – that Af-



Larry James, Michael Coleman, Boyce Safford



Columbus's Black owned bank, The Adelphi

frican American enclave's population had dropped to 16,000 and the area reeked of "vacant lots, broken buildings and higher crime," he told his Toledo

... continued on page 9



Date: Friday, July 19, 2024
Time: 8:00 A.M. ET
Location: Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion
 2445 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43620

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African American Legacy Project...continued from page 8

visitors.

At least there was the Kings Art Complex and a decrepit, shuttered Lincoln Theatre around which to rebuild the district.

Larry James, an attorney, had started the King Arts Complex in 1987 with "small baby steps," he said. He and his team launched community block parties and eventually brought together, on the advice of Les Wexner, a group of Black community and business leaders to gauge the commitment the community would have for the project.

Wexner is the founder and chairman of retail giants such as The Limited which expanded to include Victoria's Secret, Pink, Bath & Body Works, The White Barn Candle Company, among others. A billionaire, he is also a major contributor to numerous Columbus and Ohio enterprises and community causes.

At a meeting of the community leaders, James reached out for their support. "If we don't take the lead, the rest of the community won't follow," he recalled to the Toledoans at last week's event. "The Black folks in the private community have to step up."

They stepped up at that meeting to launch the development of the Kings Art Complex and wrote checks to the tune of \$124,000. Wexner also stepped up and wrote a check of matching funds - \$124,000.

"We knew we had to write the checks," recalled James. Writing checks, however, was only the beginning. There would be lots of hard work ahead to turn the former Garfield Elementary School into the King Arts Complex. "Sometimes you have to have the integrity to believe your hard work will make it happen."

That hard work, begun in 1987, progressed through the decades as the neighborhood became a site for economic development, as new houses were built and old ones renovated, as the renovated Lincoln Theatre (completed in 2009) became an integral part of the neighborhood and as a Black-owned bank – the Adelphi – would open in recent years. In 2018 the Harlem Renaissance's 100th anniversary was celebrated in the district and, as the New York Times reported, the Columbus celebration was markedly better than the New York City one.

About a dozen years after the Kings Art Complex opened, Michael Coleman was sworn in for his first of four terms as Columbus mayor. He was the first African American mayor of Ohio's capital city and would eventually become the longest serving mayor.

The plight of the predominantly Black community of the city, bounded by I-71 on the west, Atcheson Street on the north, 20th Street on the east and East Broad Street on the south, troubled him greatly. "It became a constant thing in my mind, in my heart, in my soul, he recounted last week.

He turned to Boyce Safford, deputy chief of staff and, later, director of the Department of Development, to work closely with him in reworking the district. And then, one day, he wandered into the once-great Lincoln Theatre.

The Lincoln Theatre sits in the heart of what was

once a solidly Black community, the community where virtually all of Columbus Black residents lived for decades during legal segregation. "Before desegregation Lincoln was the only theatre that Blacks could attend," said Coleman of the pre-civil rights days.

It was the entertainment focus, and more, of the Black community for decades. Virtually every Black musician coming through town had played there. Sammy Davis Jr., at the age of three in 1928, began his professional performing career there. During the 1960s, the civil rights meetings during the 1960s in Columbus were held there.

But when Mayor Coleman saw it, during his first term in office, some 30 years after it had been closed, it was slated to be demolished. As he recalls, the theatre was in shambles – holes in the walls and ceilings, no floor left. However, he saw the possibility of restoring the once-grand entertainment facility.

"There were dirt floors, no stage, no ceiling, an empty shell ... but the voices and spirit of Black folks were there," said Coleman. The theatre was owned by a "slumlord." Not just any slumlord but one who "hated me and I hated him."

The mayor brought in police and fire officers, established the building as part of the safety forces headquarters and announced during his 2004 "state of the city" address of his intentions to revive the building.

The mayor and Safford got busy forming partnerships with state and county governments, with the private sector, forming a plan, sharing their vision and ultimately putting together about \$24-25 million to restore the facility – city funds, private funds, other government's funds. In 2009, the new Lincoln Theatre opened and "thousands of people came to see it remembering what it was like

...continued on page 10



The Toledo Visitors



King Arts Complex Executive Director Demetries Neely and Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson



Suzan Bradford, Lincoln Theatre Executive Director and Boyce Safford



The Lincoln Theatre marquee



Former Mayor Coleman discusses the art of Aminah Robinson in the lobby of the Lincoln Theatre

African American Legacy Project...continued from page 9

when they were kids.”

In 2012, Columbus City Council voted to create the Columbus Next Generation (CNG) Corporation, a private, non-profit real estate development group focusing on the city's neighborhoods - Linden, the Near East Side, south side, Parsons Avenue and Franklinton. The vision is to take underutilized property in the neighborhoods and create opportunities for commercial real estate.

Out of this group has come the formation in the Near East Side (which includes the King Lincoln neighborhood) of the Adelphi Savings and Loan, a building that also includes a 130-unit apartment complex with retail space, and that is in addition to the with other retail and residential developments in the area.

Coleman offered his formula for success to his Toledo visitors.

“Three things – number one – leadership; number two – a vision and number three capacity to execute the vision – the organizational capacity and the financial capacity.”

Columbus was able to salvage neighborhood structures as part of the vision to resurrect that part of the city. In Toledo, all those structures along Dorr Street were razed.

Given the task in Toledo of working with a virtually blank slate, those on the trip emphasized the even greater need in the Glass City of having a clear unified vision.

“It was a good way to find out what will work and what doesn't work,” said Councilwoman Jones. The next step “is to get more of the community on board looking at what we have now and what can we do. We have to look at how to bring up more economic development.”

“This was a good opportunity for folks to see what is possible if they all come together,” said Sen. Hicks Hudson. “There has to be a plan, we have to create an organic plan and identify what our purpose is ... economic development is a combination of different things, we have pockets on Dorr Street, but not yet cohesive.”

“Micheal Coleman made it happen,” said Commissioner Lopez. “He made it a priority and it's been a 22-year experience that is just coming to fruition. But are we as passionate, can we have something similar? Is this what we want and can we have the political and financial support in the community – are we unified with support?”

The next step for The AALP is to hear the voices of the men and women who visited the King-Lincoln District and give them an opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences about their recent Columbus visit. This meeting will serve to help frame the future direction of subsequent series of community meetings and engagements including a presentation to area ministers by Rev. Keith Troy, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church Columbus, Ohio.

Rev. Troy's church sits in the middle of the King Lincoln District, Rev. Troy, nephew of the late J. Frank Troy, will visit Toledo in the fall to discuss the impact of the King-Lincoln District on the churches, residents, people and busi-



nesses in the King-Lincoln District.

The Legacy Project will offer a series of community engagements to seek input and share information in an effort to galvanize support across the entire community for the proposed Dorr Street Historic District.

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Taylor Automotive Community Day

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Taylor Automotive organized an afternoon of fun and food to benefit families residing in Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northwest Ohio on Thursday, July 11, 2024. The festivities brought smiles to the faces of over 20 families.

"We've partnered with the great staff at Ronald McDonald House previously, they are an awesome team and provide an essential service," said Tom Cole of Taylor Automotive. "This house provides relief for families during a difficult time."

The families enjoyed live music by Nicole Khoury, Mobile Video Game Theatre, a bounce house, free food from two local food vendors: Queso Kitchen and Maumee Bay Brewing Company. Also on hand were Steve's famous Big Wheel Spin that gives out prizes, fresh kettle corn provided by King of Corn, food donated by McDonalds and a live artist rendering by Greg Justus Modern Impressionism.

"We want to honor the families who are bravely fighting through illness and the remarkable Ronald McDonald House staff who support them every step of the way," said Steve Taylor. "This celebration is our way of showing our gratitude and bringing a little joy into their lives."

Taylor Automotive is dedicated to serving our community with a commitment of excellence and a passion for making a difference. With a range of dealerships and a focus on customer satisfaction, Taylor Automotive is proud to support local initiatives and events that bring positive change to the lives of our neighbors. For additional information visit, <https://www.taylorauto.com>

Ronald McDonald House provides a 'home away from home,' for families with children facing serious illnesses, offering comfort, support, and resources during challenging times. Their timeless dedication to the well-being of these families makes a significant impact on the community. The local house is located on Monroe Street, for additional information visit, <https://rmhctoledo.org>



Ronald McDonald House Charities Toledo staff, Chad Bringman, president; Adam Simpson, Communications and Marketing coordinator; Traci Sturdavant, director of People and Operations; Wendy Bejaige, director of Engagement; Carol Bublick, Family Services manager; Robin Miller, accountant; Robin Hagans, Programs and Facilities coordinator; and Kayleen Jurski, Development coordinator



Nicole Khoury



Tom Cole and Steve Taylor with attendees

Lourdes University... continued from page 6

tions on the board effective July 1, 2024:

- James Gant: Approved for a second 4-year term
 - Sean Savage: Approved for a second 4-year term
 - Richard Sweeney: Approved for a second 4-year term
 - Pariss Coleman II: Approved for an additional 2-year term and elected as Board Chair
 - Thomas Dillon: Approved to serve as Vice Chair for a 2-year term
 - Thomas Winston: Approved to serve as Treasurer for a 1-year term
 - Chrys Peterson: Approved to serve as Secretary for a 1-year term
- Additional members of the Board of Trustees include Kaye Aldridge,

Dr. William Bisset, George Brymer, Susan Conda, David Enstone, Carrie Haddix, Jay Jindal, Maureen Kenney, Michael Koralewski, Sr. Rachel Nijakowski, Sr. Lauren Painter, Sr. Rebecca Rutkowski, Alan Sattler, Patrick Trompeter and Martha Vetter.

Lourdes University, founded in 1958 and nestled in Sylvania, Ohio, offers a values-driven education rooted in Catholic and Franciscan traditions. Committed to academic excellence, Lourdes integrates liberal arts and professional studies, ensuring a holistic education that prepares students for success. Accredited by nine national and regional organizations, our robust liberal arts curriculum and Franciscan-inspired service learning enrich lives and foster professional and personal growth. Proudly sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Lourdes University is dedicated to shaping future leaders.

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Rep. Grim Announces \$548K for City of Toledo Department of Transportation and YMCA of Greater Toledo

Special to The Truth

State Rep. Michele Grim (D-Toledo) last week announced that City of Toledo Department of Transportation and the YMCA of Greater Toledo have received \$548,431 from the Ohio Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program, to support the construction of additional sidewalks and crosswalks surrounding schools in the Toledo area.



"Children's only worry should be what they learned during that school day, not of any possible dangers on the way home. Motorists have an innate responsibility to remain vigilant while driving and keep an eye out for our most vulnerable pedestrians. I am thrilled that funding from the Safe Routes to School program will directly support local students and most importantly, their safety," said Rep. Grim.

Funding will be directed to the construction of:

* A sidewalk on the south side of McGregor from Secor Rd. to Hiawatha Elementary and a walkway on the north side of McGregor between Secor and Gay.

* A sidewalk on the east side of Fairgreen Rd. between Photos Ln. and McGregor including a crosswalk and pedestrian ramps.

* A sidewalk on the west side of Rambo Ln. from Quast Ln. to Alexis Rd. and on Quast Ln. from Rambo Ln. to Jr. High School.

Additional funding will be directed through the YMCA of Greater Toledo for continued programming related to safe ridership practices, community

safety, and educational campaigns. Funding through the YMCA will also help to support Girls in Gear, a bike education program for young girls to gain confidence, learn about bike maintenance, and safety.

The Area Office on Aging is Now Assisting Northwest Ohioans to Beat the Heat

The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern and the Ohio Inc Ohio Department of Development are aiding Ohio's families in staying cool during the hot summer months.

From July 1 through Sept. 30, income-eligible Ohioans can receive assistance in paying their electric bill, purchasing an air conditioner or fan, or making repairs to their central air conditioning unit through the Ohio

...continued on page 14

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Sharks Don't Sink: Adventures of a Rogue Shark Scientist by Jasmin Graham

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Oh, those teeth!

Your finger practically bleeds just looking at them: three rows of perfect, razor-sharp white triangles that you know are gonna hurt. They're inside a mouth made for swallowing you whole, that's obvious, but when you think about it – are sharks really as bad as they seem? As you'll see in the new book *Sharks Don't Sink* by Jasmin Graham, maybe dentism isn't the problem. In studying them, maybe racism is.

Growing up near the ocean by Myrtle Beach, Jasmin Graham fell in love with the water early in her life. She fell in love with the creatures there when she was 10, with her father, fishing –something her forebears had done on local piers for decades.

She knew then that she wanted to be a "shark scientist."

She was 18 when she first held a live shark, and that cemented her dream.

Not long afterward, though, Graham felt like she "had burned out completely." She'd been trying to make it in "a toxic, white, male-dominated... environment laced with... casual and overt sexism and racism..." and it was harming her well-being. She was about to quit when she found a few other Black women who were shark scientists, too, and who were going through the same thing. Graham received instant support and it was

c. 2024
Pantheon Books
\$28.00
213 pages

life-changing.

Two weeks later, the new friends had decided to mobilize. They met a Miami investor who lent resources and who helped them found Minorities in Shark Science (MISS), an organization that gives BIPOC young women an introduction to shark science. By then, Graham had decided to become a "rogue scientist" – one without academic backing, but whose research on sharks is essential in the field.



Sharks Don't Sink author, courtesy Sonia Szczesna

Sharks, says Graham, are not always the fearsome creatures that Hollywood wants us to believe. Yes, some sharks attack humans, but others are "kinda silly" sometimes, and some are "cutie-pies." And there's still a lot we don't know about them.

Says Graham, "So many questions. But that's where science begins: with questions."

Alright, here it is: the STEM book you can share with your young adult, a book that's not stuffy or academic but that'll teach you something truly interesting. Here: all the things you wanted to know about all kinds of sharks, in plain words that are friendly, thorough, smart, awed and easy-to-understand. Right here.

And if the shark science doesn't fascinate you enough, author Jasmin Graham uses *Sharks Don't Sink* to draw analogies between freedom and bias and between shark lives and Black lives. That's done in the sweetest of ways, through Graham's own story and that of her ancestors who steadfastly, fiercely stood up to racism and big business through the years. We also meet Graham's father, an easy-going man who makes you want to sit on a quiet front porch with some sweet tea and a church fan. Ahhhhh.

Find this book for yourself, loan it to your 14-to-18-year-old and be sure to ask for it back. *Sharks Don't Sink* is the kind of book you'll want to bite into twice.



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Women of Toledo... continued from page 5

mentor women across industries,” Corder proudly states.

The impact is profound—women transitioning through the mentorship program often find that their mentors help them navigate challenges and seize opportunities they might have missed on their own. “We have seen the impact on a woman when a mentor helps elevate their quality of life to the next level.”

Corder credits much of her success to the women who mentored her, emphasizing that collective success is far greater than individual achievements. “I don’t believe we are as successful alone as we are together. I appreciate all the women that came before me that helped me become the woman I am today.”

Corder’s dedication to women’s empowerment extends beyond local efforts. From 2017 to 2018, she was appointed by the *United Nations Women’s Empower Women Initiative* as a *Global Champion for Change*. She also initiated a *UN HeforShe* campaign here in Toledo.

On a national level, Corder has served on the *White House Council on Women & Girls* under the Obama Administration and is a mayoral appointed Executive Member of *Toledo’s Human Relations Commission*. Her advocacy work includes supporting the passing of the *Pay Equity Act in Toledo* and the *CEDAW Gender Equity Convention*, an international legal agreement requiring countries to end discrimination against women and girls in all areas.

Corder was also selected as one of 25 delegates for the *International Alliance of Women in Geneva*, joining thousands of delegates at the United Nations to discuss and advance gender equality.

Cultivating Culture and Advocacy

Women of Toledo’s advocacy program is another powerful force for change. Their quarterly heritage month celebrations, such as Black History and Immigrant Heritage, shine a spotlight on diverse cultures and stories. “You can’t be what you can’t see. When you see another person that is successful in your own culture, it makes a huge difference,” says Nina.

Their *Economic Empowerment Initiative* advocates for equity in the workplace and marketplace, highlighting the need for women’s voices and stories to be heard. “Women have been silenced for too long; we must get our stories out to the world. Our stories are a refuge that builds resilience,” shares Corder.

Empowering the Next Generation

Women of Toledo is also deeply committed to empowering the next generation through the *Girls HUB Project*. This program encourages young girls to build their own “seat at the table,” inspired by the legacy of trailblazers like Shirley Chisholm.

“The girls learn how to safely operate power tools. It empowers them to NEVER wait until someone provides you the chair, bring your own. Then they paint their chair telling their story to the world,” explains Corder. “When you own your story, no one else can take that away from you.”

The project culminates in a powerful exhibition where the *Girls HUB* showcase their work and stories, proving that they matter and their contributions are valued. “They never thought at this age they mattered or that people cared. It truly adds value to a young woman’s life!”

Looking Ahead

As *Women of Toledo* continues to grow, Corder envisions expanding their reach. The mentorship circles are divided into specific target groups, including the *Northwest Ohio Business Mentoring*, *Discovery Mentoring*, and *Young Women of Toledo*. Each program is tailored to meet the unique needs of its participants, ensuring that every woman and girl who joins can find the support and guidance they need.

Corder’s impact on women and girls is global. In 2023, she joined the *University of Toledo ADVANCE Catalyst* team as an External Evaluator for a National Science Foundation grant project aimed at addressing gender equity in STEM. She has also served as a Mentor for the *Professional Fellows* program funded by the U.S. Department of State, working with emerging leaders from around the world. Her vision is to expand *Her-Hub Global* to all seven continents, beginning with pilot expansions in Europe, the Far East, and Southeast Asia this 2024.

The Fearless Builders class of 2024 is a testament to the organization’s impact. These young leaders spent weeks learning about leadership and STEAM careers, and their finished “Seat at the Table” hand-made wooden chairs symbolize their journey and achievements.

Corder’s journey from Malaysia, to now one of Toledo’s own, is a testament to her resilience and dedication. She holds a master’s and bachelor’s degree from the University of Toledo and a post-doctoral Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership from Northcentral University. Recognized for her leadership and advocacy, Nina has received numerous accolades, including the *Jefferson Award*, the *Ernest M. Pon Award* and the *YWCA’s Women on the Rise 2024*.

Above all, Nina is proud to be a mother to Isabella Ashira Corder, who is currently pursuing her graduate degree at Columbia University.

Women of Toledo isn’t just an organization; it’s a movement that’s making a tangible difference in the lives of women and girls, one skill, one bias interrupted, and one empowered woman at a time. So next time you’re at that dinner table, sharing stories and seeking solutions, remember there’s a place where those conversations can turn into real-world impact. Join the movement and be part of the change.

For more info: <https://womenoftoledo.org>



Nina Corder

Area Office On Aging...continued from page 12

Department of Development’s Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program (HEAP).

The Summer Crisis Program assists low-income households or those that have a disconnection notice, have been shut off, are trying to establish new service on their electric bill, require air conditioning, or those with an elderly household member (60 years or older) who can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for their health. Qualifying medical conditions can include lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, asthma, and others.

To qualify for assistance, Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a family of up to seven members, and 60 percent of the State Median Income for a family of eight or more members. For a family of four, the annual income must be at or below \$54,600.

Last year, the Summer Crisis Program assisted more than 44,000 households in Ohio, providing a total of \$13.4 million in benefits.

To apply for the program, clients are required to schedule an appointment. Clients need to bring copies of the following documents to their appointment:

- * Copies of their most recent energy bills.
- * A list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member.
- * Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- * Proof of disability (if applicable).
- * Physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member’s health (if there isn’t a household member over the age of 60).

Ohioans enrolled in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) program who meet the above criteria may also be eligible for assistance towards their default PIPP payment, first PIPP payment, central air conditioning repairs, or may receive an air conditioning unit and/or fan.

For more information about the Summer Crisis Program, and what is needed to apply, contact the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624. To be connected to your local Energy Assistance Provider visit www.energy-help.ohio.gov or call (800) 282-0880.

The Ohio Department of Development empowers communities to succeed by investing in Ohio’s people, places, and businesses. Learn more about our work at development.ohio.gov.

CLASSIFIEDS

Page 14

July 17, 2024

BUS TRIP

Blue Chip Casino Trip. Sat, June 22nd also shopping at 47 store outlet mall.
Firekeepers Casino Trip July 6th and 7th. For more info contact Ms. Mixon at (419)901-1515.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Each year, Lucas Metropolitan Housing is required to submit an Annual Plan to HUD. Every five years LMH is required to submit a five-year plan to HUD. Drafts of the proposed plans can be reviewed at LMH's website: <https://www.lucasmha.org/upages.php?id=120>.

Comments may be submitted to slcark@lucasmha.org during the 45-day comment period. The comment period ends August 22, 2024.

You are invited to a public hearing on September 3, 2024, at 8:30 am, for the Annual Plan and at 9:00 am for the Five-Year Plan at 424 Jackson St. Toledo, OH 43604.

Contact LMH at 419.259.9400 one week prior to September 3rd, if you require auxiliary aid or language assistance.



Alisha Gant, Chair
Damon E. Duncan, Interim President & Chief Executive Officer

PUBLIC BID ADVERTISEMENT (ELECTRONIC BIDDING)

Electronic proposals will be received by the Board of Lucas County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio, at their office, One Government Center, Suite 800, Toledo, Ohio 43604 at **10:00 am** local time on **July 9, 2024** and opened immediately thereafter for the **Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Home Elevation Project located at 11025 Dorr Street, Spencer Township.**

Specifications are to be downloaded from the Lucas County website: <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/36500/home>.

By order of the Board of Lucas County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio.
Pete Gerken, President
Lisa A. Sobecki
Anita Lopez

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) POSITION AVAILABLE AT PATHWAY INC.

Pathway Inc., Ohio's number one community action agency, seeks a dynamic and visionary Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to lead our organization. Reporting to the Board of Directors, the CEO will provide strategic direction and organizational leadership and oversee Pathway's administration and programs. This full-time position requires a 40-hour workweek and involves collaborating with management to oversee various departments. Salary is commensurate with experience, and a comprehensive benefits package is included.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide supervision and leadership to the organization's staff
- Manage the organization's finances, including budget development and fiscal oversight
- Develop and implement programs in line with Pathway's mission and goals
- Foster positive relationships with the Board of Directors, community leaders, and civic organizations
- Represent Pathway in various activities and forums
- Communicate information on programs and policies to the public and government officials
- Oversee facilities management
- Lead fundraising initiatives to secure financial support for Pathway's programs and services.

Qualifications:

- College Degree or nonprofit leadership experience
 - Proficiency in computer operations and programs
 - Strong public speaking and strategic analysis skills
 - Proven fiscal management skills
 - Comprehensive understanding of federal and state standards, auditing requirements, nonprofit structures, community demographics, grant management, and crisis intervention techniques
- Demonstrated success in fundraising and development, with experience in donor engagement and grant writing.

****Application Process:****To apply, please submit your resume and cover letter to Kristie Clark at kclark@pathwaytoledo.org (<mailto:kclark@pathwaytoledo.org>). We kindly request no phone calls. Pathway Inc. is an equal-opportunity employer.

SCOTT CLASS OF '69

Calling all Scott class of 69 alumni. Our 55th reunion will take place on Saturday and Sunday, August 10 and 11. Please call Evelyn at 419-4906851 or Tommy Johnson at 419-7041835 ASAP. So we can update your info and send your reunion information and registration packet. Looking forward to a wonderful reunion. Hope to see you there!

Scott class of 69 reunion committee



CONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST

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The Lucas County Land Bank is looking for a hard-working and capable Construction Specialist to join our team! The Construction Specialist works with our Director of Construction to manage our residential construction projects, support homeowners, inspect properties, estimate renovation costs, and oversee contractor relationships.

Annual salary of \$60,000 - \$75,000, depending on experience. Very generous benefits, including high-quality health care coverage, significant paid time off, a retirement plan with competitive employer match, and a company-provided vehicle. The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to build and strengthen our community's neighborhoods. Since our founding 14 years ago, the Land Bank and its energetic staff have renovated almost 1,000 properties, completed hundreds of construction projects, demolished thousands of blighted buildings, and made countless contributions to the stability of Lucas County neighborhoods and residents. To learn more and to apply, visit lucascountylandbank.org

Position open until filled. The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal-opportunity employer.

Call to place your ad:

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www.TheTruthToledo.com

Women of Faith Celebrated by the First Lady Network

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

A local organization, First Lady Network, celebrated local places of worship's First Ladies and Lady Pastors on Saturday, July 13, 2024 at the downtown Toledo Club.

"We're here to celebrate First Ladies and Lady Pastors," said Tiffany Lewis. "We will also facilitate leadership training that better the best in pastors' wives and lady pastors."

The morning opened with a networking opportunity where attendees were asked to learn about their similarities through a 10-minute conversation. The morning transitioned into a leadership workshop facilitated by Tiffany Lewis and her mother Pastor and Lady Celeste Mitchell of Crusaders For Christ, Maxwell Leadership Certified Coaches. The ladies were each given a mirror to reflect.

"Are you zooming in or out while you are looking into the mirror?" said Lewis. "Mirrors are good to reflect on your journey. Use the mirror to reflect on what happened and how it shaped who you are now."

Pastor Lady Celeste Mitchell spoke about the responsibilities and expectations of accepting the calling to serve as a First Lady of a place of worship.

"There are stories that come along when reflecting on being a Pastor's Wife," said Mitchell. "We want to be the best wife that God has called you to be because what you want to do, may not be what God has called you to do. We have to be obedient to God because all experiences are brought by God to teach us."

The morning concluded with certificate presentations and brunch. The celebration brunch concluded a year-long journey of facilitated leadership workshops that utilized a book which outlines the 15 valuable laws

of growth. The group would meet once per month, complete pre-work and discuss themes during brunch. For additional information visit www.first-ladies.network

Celebration attendees: Pastor & Lady Celeste Mitchell, Crusaders For Christ Church; Pastor Jessica Jefferson, Christian Fellowship Church of God; Lady Janice Steven, New Covenant Church of Living God; Pastor Carletta Williams and daughter Christine Burch, Tabernacle of Faith; Mother Jeannette Jefferson, Christian Fellowship; Lady Dara Jones; Pastor Francine Brown, Peace Tabernacle Family Worship Center.



Seated (L to R) Pastor El Lady Celeste Mitchell, Mother Jeannette Jefferson, Pastor and Lady Celeste Mitchell. Standing (L to R) Pastor Jessica Jefferson, Lady Janice Steven, Pastor Francine Brown, Tiffany Lewis, Pastor Carletta Williams, Christine Burch, and Lady Dara Jones



Tiffany Lewis (center) with her team Ashley Leydickey and Leah Hauffman

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