

Volume 85 No. 1      "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."      July 24, 2024



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# The Annual African American Festival Prayer Breakfast

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The 19th annual African American Festival Prayer Breakfast was held on Friday July 19 at the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion and hundreds of guests attended the 8 a.m. event to pray for various causes, to help celebrate this year's honorees and to enjoy a breakfast buffet catered by Eric Smith.

The Breakfast was the opening of the African American Festival weekend which included a parade on the following Saturday morning and the musical Festival Saturday afternoon at the Huntington Center.

Friday's Prayer Breakfast was hosted by Valerie Walston, ThD, chief officer of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships at the University of Toledo, who did an outstanding job of keeping the guests both enlightened and entertained.

After the opening remarks by Walston and Suzette Cowell, CEO/president of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and the organizer of the Festival, a worship song was sung by Shekinah Gregory of The Refreshing Place.

The opening prayer was offered by Velma Pryor of Friendship Baptist Church, followed by the prayer for the city and leaders by Elder Alisa Key of People's Baptist Church.

Ivana Butler of the Toledo Opera, accompanied by the Opera's Artistic Director Kevin Bylsma, proceeded to enthrall the audience with a spiritual selection.

Then followed the tributes to the honorees led by Cowell as she explained what each had meant to TUFUCU over the course of the 28 years of the credit union's existence.

This year's honorees are Angela Cattlidge, Kevin Cowell, Terry Crosby, Alison Day, Toledo City Councilman John Hobbs, II, Bishop Pat McKinstry, Shareese Norwood, Toledo Deputy Mayor Karen Poore, Jodie Summers, Shariva Sutton and



The Honorees

George Thomas.

Cattlidge, a member of the TUFUCU staff, started with the credit union right out of high school 24 years ago, left for a number of years to continue her financial services career in Columbus and returned in 2021 to the credit union in her current position of electronic services manager.

... continued on page 6



Suzette Cowell



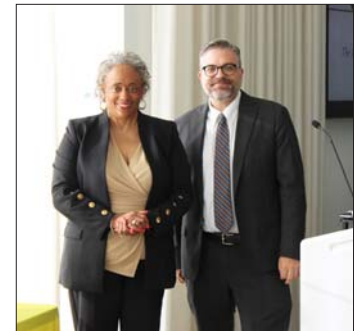
Valerie Walston, ThD



Cowell and Angela Cattlidge



Ivana Butler



Cowell and George Thomas



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# My Reflections After the Trump Ear Shot

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Yes, it is despicable that a gunman was able to access a secured area and take a possible deadly aim and shoot at the former president. It should never have been able to happen and, after the investigations, the errors committed will be glaring and protocols changed to prevent such a breach of security happening again.

It is an oddity or simply fate that the shooter was rejected from his high school rifle club because he was a bad shot! Let that sink in. Let's all be thankful that he was a bad shooter and was drummed out of the club!

An inch closer from the ear and Trump would be in eternity waiting for his judgment day. As a result of that close brush with the Grim Reaper, will Trump have a "come to Jesus moment" or just chalk it all up to he being, "The Chosen One" as he has described himself in Biblical terms?

Already, his jaded communications team is fund raising from the chilling moments that Trump could have been assassinated on live television. Nothing like making money in the moment.

Such an ad would possibly read like: "Trump took a bullet for you! He is your protector and defender! Now is your time to show your support for this valiant warrior and send your best gift of at least 50 dollars so we can end the Biden Crime Family rule in the White House! Don't wait! Operators are standing by!"

To say that America is in the throes of a monumental political correction is an understatement. Depending upon what information silo you go to for your "news", the combatants...America v. America...are engaged in a titanic struggle for the soul of this county.

If the GOP Maga faction wins, Trump will, as he has repeatedly promised, release the flying monkeys (remember that scary scene in the movie, The Wizard of Oz?) to wreak havoc on Obamacare, the federal judiciary, women's rights, civil rights, and a civil service to be flooded by vetted flunkies who have pledged undying loyalty to Dear Leader.

If the Democrats go with and win (including the House and Senate), Biden will have to "pack the court" with 3-4 centered jurists, continue support for both NATO and Ukraine and, in my opinion, serve only two years and resign to allow Kamala Harris to preside over the final two years so she can earn her "chops" and ease the fears of White America of a Black woman being commander in chief.

As the late H. Rap Brown stated back in the 60's and early 70's, "Violence is as American as cherry pie."

In America, which has more guns than its numerical population, guns occupy a mythic status in American history and folklore. Without the gun and the fictionalized American Western and its progeny of the American television diet being bloated with cops and robbers and murder stories, would we have so many mass murders where the number one weapon of choice is the gun, or the AR-15 rifle?

Will this "ear shot" of the former president push him over the top in the polls with half of America seeing him as a resurrected John Wayne/Davey Crockett/Wyatt Earp/Have Gun Will Travel personality?

Too early to tell and despite the commendable comments of President Biden speaking to the nation about the need to lower the thermostat on the vitriolic political talk. However, there is one thing that we have yet to see and that is the moral megaphone of the churches in America denouncing the high explosive situation of people taking sides against each other.

I have yet to hear any moral outrage or moral teaching from the major denominations chastising either side for their over-the-top hyperbole regarding the other side being of the devil and of being of no account.

In the past, Americans have defaulted to the teachings of the scriptures in regards to loving thy neighbor as thyself and to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Those two maxims were benchmarks in charting some moral guidelines.

No more. It is a free-for-all in the political wrestling arena and the person who can gouge out more eyes than the other is deemed the champion!

In my humble opinion, America is quickly losing its moorings about cordially interacting with each other and seeking the good of its neighbors. When either side can assail the other side with non-factual gibberish and it goes unchallenged, we are in a moral quicksand.

Again, it bears worth repeating: Trump is only an avatar of the crisis in much of this country. He was astute enough to sniff the putrid air of bitterness, discontentment, anger and rage coming from parts of White America; and he harnessed that bile into a political movement that started even before the birther lies about Barack Obama.

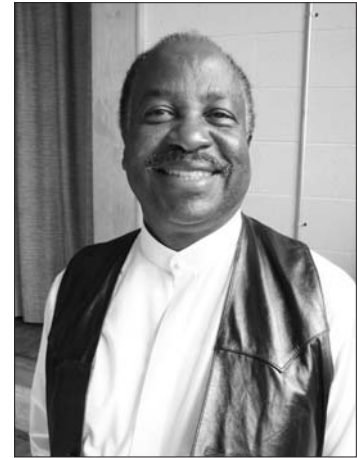
Sadly, millions of affected and disillusioned Americans bought into the Big Lie, knowing that it was a lie, but it allowed them overt coverage to vent their rage against those "others" and it propelled Trump into the White House.

Is it deja vu all over again? By the way, my take on JD Vance being the VP selection? JD Vance name is now synonymous with the word, "hypocrite." A politico who just sold his soul to the devil to be around the center of power. How sad...how crass.

Let's not forget...Vance's wife is a daughter of Indian immigrants, something some MAGA Neanderthals are apoplectic about. They are forecasting about

Hindu shrines being secreted into the White House Rose Garden! Go figure.

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



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# The City Charter Should Not Be Changed for One Person's Benefit

By Carty Finkbeiner

Guest Column

The city appointed Charter Review Commission has acted irresponsibly for the past few years – or ever since Mayor Kapszukiewicz was elected. They're supposed to act on behalf of Toledo's citizens. Instead, they do what the mayor wishes them to do – which is help his political career.

A little Toledo history. When Councilman Jack Ford, Lucas County Treasurer Larry Kaczala and I (as a city councilman) proposed to consider putting Strong Mayor-directly elected District Councilmen form of government to a vote of the citizens in 1992, we first traveled, with 40 Toledo business and labor leaders, to Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, Louisville and Cleveland to study their respective forms of municipal government.

After returning to Toledo, we met as a team, and urged, via a 100-person committee, that Toledo citizens vote in the affirmative for the Strong Mayor and a City Council split 50/50 between at-Large and District Councilpersons. Because of our study of the other cities we visited, we recommended that mayoral service be limited to two consecutive four-year terms.

The nearly 18-hour days required of a mayor tend to burnout mayors, as well as presidents and governors, almost all of whom are limited to eight consecutive years in office. Councilmembers' time demands are not as great, therefore three consecutive terms of four years was the recommendation of our committee.

Mayor Kapszukiewicz and his friends on the Charter Commission have been trying to sneak through a change in the City Charter to enable the mayor to serve a third consecutive term, rather than the terms called for in the 1992 Charter change. Could it be the mayor wishes to serve a third consecutive term on the public payroll so that his already generous retirement income will be enhanced significantly?

Just a bit more of Toledo History. When, in 2001, after having had seven productive years as mayor, I respected the two-term limit on my job and stepped down, we had just successfully secured a future for Jeep's new north Toledo plant. We had also been recently named one of the ten All-American cities in this country. But it was clear in our City Charter that a mayor be limited to two consecutive four-year terms. I sat out for four

years, before being voted back in a mayor in 2005.

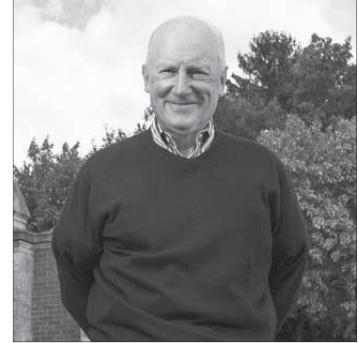
Our present mayor should seek to consider a similar course. And, with violent crime rising back up, a considerable amount of blight in our older neighborhoods and alleys, and a local economy (Toledo) that today is the poorest of the mid-sized Ohio cities, with our African-American families living at the poorest level of the top 100 metropolitan areas in the country (\$31,100 per family of four) – well there is a significant amount of problem solving on the mayor's plate.

As one of the founders of our present form of government, and somewhat of a student of local government, while the mayor ponders his future, I might suggest that the change in government that should be studied by Mayor Wade, and fellow mayors across NW Ohio, is regional governance. Dr. Richard Ruppert explored linking cities and county governments into one regional government. The cities that have done that are prospering – Indianapolis, Louisville and Nashville. I believe such a linkage would bring a much brighter NW Ohio.

Carty Finkbeiner

Mayor 1994-2001

2006-2009



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I know none of this could have been done without you, the American people. Together, we overcame a once in a century pandemic and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. We've protected and preserved our democracy. And we've revitalized and strengthened our alliances around the world.

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And

while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term.

For my part: my very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my Vice President. And it's been the best decision I've made.

Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump.

I am grateful to every member of this team for the work they've done and will continue to do to save our democracy.

Keep the faith, as always, and spread it.

Joe

Joe Biden

President of the United States

# Statement from Vice President Kamala Harris

"On behalf of the American people, I thank Joe Biden for his extraordinary leadership as President of the United States and for his decades of service to our country. His remarkable legacy of accomplishment is unmatched in modern American history, surpassing the legacy of many Presidents who have served two terms in office.

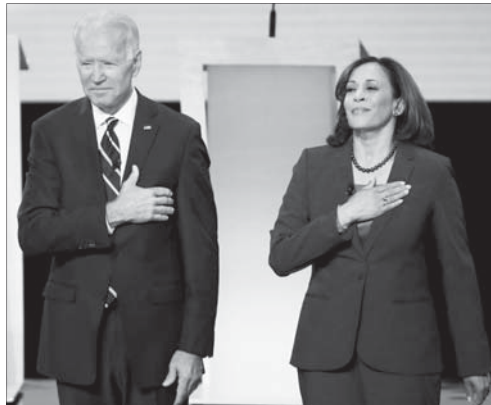
"It is a profound honor to serve as his Vice President, and I am deeply grateful to the President, Dr. Biden, and the entire Biden family. I first came to know President Biden through his son Beau. We were friends from our days working together as Attorneys General of our home states. As we worked together, Beau would tell me stories about his Dad. The kind of father—and the kind of man—he was. And the qualities Beau revered in his father are the same qualities, the same values, I have seen every single day in Joe's leadership as President: His honesty and integrity. His big heart

and commitment to his faith and his family. And his love of our country and the American people.

"With this selfless and patriotic act, President Biden is doing what he has done throughout his life of service: putting the American people and our country above everything else.

"I am honored to have the President's endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination. Over the past year, I have traveled across the country, talking with Americans about the clear choice in this momentous election. And that is what I will continue to do in the days and weeks ahead. I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party—and unite our nation—to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda.

"We have 107 days until Election Day. Together, we will fight. And together, we will win."



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*Prayer Breakfast...continued from page 2*

Cowell is the son of Suzette Cowell, the CEO of K & L Transportation and a longtime volunteer at the credit union assisting others in achieving their financial aspirations and securing their futures.

Crosby, a former star athlete in high school, college and professionally, has served this community as a youth service manager, a certified mental health and well-being professional, a youth offending mentor and a host of Terry Crosby Youth Basketball Camps. He is a community ambassador for Taylor Automotive Group and involved in many activities throughout the community

Day, a funeral director, has been in the funeral business with House of Day for three and a half decades, and is also a realtor with the Whittington Realty Group. One of her many contributions to the community is the founding of a group "Wake Up Youth" which helps get young women off the street by assisting them with obtaining GEDs, employment and starting businesses.

Hobbs was appointed to City Council in 2020 and won election in 2023. His council leadership roles include Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform committees. He is a founding pastor of Dominion Fellowship Church and is a member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

McKinstry, the pastor of the Worship Center, is also the chairwoman of the TUFUCU board. She has been in the ministry for over 60 years and is the founder of the McKinstry Midwest College of Theology and the Toledo Rise and Shine Academy. Evangelism, education and leadership have been her calling and have enabled her to impact many lives over the years.

Norwood, a licensed practical nurse, has been a member of the credit union since day one and a supporter of the African American festival. She is a member of Top Ladies of Distinction and an entrepreneur with her company, the Norwoods Concierge Laundry Service.

Poore, who serves the city overseeing the departments of Building and Code Compliance, Housing and Community Development, Economic Development and Public Safety, is a 31-year public service veteran and has been of enormous assistance to the credit union of the years as a primary contact within city government.

Summers, a poet, spoken word artist, author, illustrator, event coordinator, chef, business owner and content creator, has been a community activist for years working with countless organizations – artistic and political. This year he was the first poet to perform at the African American Festival.

Sutton, also a member of the credit union staff, is the compliance officer and collections officer for the last five years. Cowell noted that Sutton's rare gift in her duties as collections officer bring her in contact with members in a manner in which the task is accomplished and mutual good feelings are maintained.

Thomas, the CEO and general counsel of the Toledo Fair Housing Center, has served as an attorney focused on civil rights, housing, community development and nonprofit services for more than 15 years. He has been instrumental in working with the credit union in an effort to increase homeownership among community members.

After the tributes to the honorees, breakfast, a sumptuous buffet, was served and prayer continued afterwards.

Reginald Coley of Friendship Baptist offered a prayer for the credit union; Calvin Burney of the Worship Center, a prayer for the youth; First Lady Angela Savage of Lo-Salem, a prayer for women and Pastor James Willis of St. Paul MBC, a prayer for the festival.

This year's Prayer Breakfast was sponsored by TARTA and the Toledo Museum of Art.



## City Hosts Public Meetings on Upcoming Community Improvements and In-Person

The City is hosting two public meetings to discuss upcoming improvements in our community. These meetings provide an opportunity for residents to learn about the projects, ask questions, and provide input.

Residents are invited to join and share their thoughts on the proposed changes. In Addition, the August Wednesday's with Wade will be in-person at the East Toledo Family Center.

Below are the details for each meeting:

July 24 @ 5:30 p.m.

Front/Main St. Improvements

<<https://www.facebook.com/events/354623827684435>>

Glass City Enrichment Center, 815 Front St.

The City plans to make improvements to three key intersections:

- Front and Main will see some realignment and improved crosswalk conditions.
- Main and Boers-Boyer will see some realignment and narrowing as well as a new multi-use path connection.
- Main and Starr will have a roundabout with places for pedestrians to pause as they pass through.
- Discussion on how funding will support major improvements to the Front Street and Main Street corridors to better connect East Toledo to the downtown riverfront and Glass City Metropark.

July 30 @ 5:30 p.m.

Central/Detroit Ave.

Improvements<<https://www.facebook.com/events/1210064620347902/>>

Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd.

Join us for a public meeting regarding the upcoming construction at Central and Detroit Avenue.

August 7 @ 5 p.m.

Wednesdays with Wade<<http://facebook.com/events/1520592331825592>>  
East Toledo Family Center, 1020 Varland Ave.



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# The African American Legacy Project's Community Engagement Meeting

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

The African American Legacy Project, led by executive director Robert Smith, held a community engagement session July 17 at 1326 Collingwood Ave. The meeting was a follow-up to the organization's recent trip to Columbus, Ohio's historic King Lincoln District. The AALP is preparing to lead the effort to create a historic district along what was once the Toledo's Black Wall Street – The Dorr Street Corridor.

About 20 people attended the follow up meeting arranged by the AALP to get feedback and community input regarding the creation of the historic district. Historically, Dorr Street was the hub of Black life in Toledo, featuring over 400 black owned businesses as well as residential homes before being destroyed by the urban "removal" policies of the 1970s.

The Legacy Project is in its 20th year of preserving the history of Black Toledo. Previously the organization has established the African American Sports Hall of Fame, commemorating the accomplishments of Black athletes in the area as well as establishing an ongoing Legacy Banquet inducting Black community leaders and luminaries into its esteemed Legends Hall of Fame.

The organization has also shed light on the he Black baseball presence here in Toledo, of which Toledo had three Negro League Teams, with an historic marker in 2021, among the organization's many other projects preserving our history.

Forty- eight people traveled on the bus trip to Columbus on July 10. They met speakers, key stakeholders and leaders in the King Lincoln District and engaged in tours of the district including the theatre. The King Lincoln district has been revitalized over the past three decades, becoming a thriving center of Black life for a new generation.

In Columbus, as in much of the country, former Black business districts across the USA became mere skeletons of their former selves. In Toledo, many of the businesses and homes, but not all, were completely razed because of urban renewal. Through education, documentation and planning, the Legacy Project seeks to preserve its past and rebuild for the future.

The community discussion last week was facilitated by Tessa Scott, program manager of Multicultural Programming at the University of Toledo. Guests included government representatives, community leaders, urban planners, neighborhood members, Black media and other stakeholders.

Attendees shared their experience visiting Columbus, the highlights as well as the wisdom received and how to apply the successes of Columbus to Toledo.

"We have to be diligent; it's not going to be easy," stated Ray Woods, former president of the Toledo Branch NAACP. "We have to stay focused, we have to try to incorporate the entire community... The African American community has to step up and join in this together. We can't depend on or expect someone else to see what our vision is, to see what our focus is, we have to make sure that we are steadfast and its 'not going to happen overnight."

Members shared the need to unify as a Black community to get the project completed and that the vision is long term.

Those present were asked questions regarding next steps in the process, including what possible stakeholders should be a part of the initiative. Guests were asked to share their ideas on sticky notes that were then read aloud to the group.

Ideas of possible stakeholders included but were not limited to the city, state and county governments, developers, banks, local businesses, local universities, churches, Toledo Public Schools and residents.

"The vision is to take the Columbus model and use history to help change the trajectory of our community... in addition we want to be able to stimulate economic growth development," stated Smith.

The Legacy Project will continue to engage the community further regarding the future historic district in Toledo's Dorr St. Corridor.

To learn more about the African American Legacy Project visit the AfricanAmericanLegacy.org.



Robert Smith, AALP Executive Director



Tessa Scott, facilitator



Ray Wood



Doris Greer



Harvey Savage, Jr



Members of the audience

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# Community Celebrates 19th African American Weekend in Toledo

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Toledo came out to celebrate the 19th annual African American Music Fest presented by the African American Music Fest. The weekend concluded with a spectacular music festival that highlighted local artists, nationally recognized entertainers and music for all ages.

The fest was held on July 20 at Huntington Center in downtown Toledo. Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union has served as the first and current sponsor; the credit union recently celebrated opening a second location on Monroe Street near the Swayne Field Shopping Center.

D.J. Lyte N Rod and hosts Montrice Terry and Valerie Simmons-Walston opened the festival with high energy and introduced all artists and entertainers throughout the evening.

"I talked to Shirley, she is glad to be here and considers herself a home town girl of Toledo," shared Walston.

Shirley Murdock brought the house down as she sang various selections ranging from faith-based music to classics, followed by Multimedia Creative Jodie Summers, the first poet to grace the stage of the AAF. Saxophonist Mike Williams serenaded the audience and was accompanied by a full band and background singers.

"I remember when this was smaller, look at what God has done," shared Murdock during her opening set. She was referring to the start of the AA Festival and its humble beginnings two decades ago when the event attracted only a few hundred

visitors.

Comedian Kelly Williams brought the laughter to the Huntington Center between Pokey Bear's music renditions. Raheem DeVaughn presented the 90s R&B vibe and even presented roses to women in the audience. The Zapp Band's high energy classic show featured white suits and color coded light changes and later introduced Bootsy Collins.

The show closed out with this year's headliners, Jagged Edge, who brought their R & B song stylings to the stage.



Raheem DeVaughn



Mike Williams



**The Truth Colours Art Gallery**  
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# Youth Gather in Ohio for Annual Masonic Celebration Weekend

The Truth Staff

Over 250 youth dressed in formal Masonic attire gathered at the University of Toledo's Doermann Theatre on Sunday July 14 for the Divine Service which concluded the annual Grand Session of both the young men's group called Order of Pythagorans and young ladies group called Grand Girls Assembly.

Brother Eric Warren is the Right Worshipful Director of Youth Activities. This year's gathering brought together visitors from a regional area including those from Wisconsin and Illinois.

The Divine Service was the culmination of a four-day event – July 11-14 – that brought together the 79th meeting of the Order of the Pythagorans with the 71st meeting of the Grand Girls Assembly with this year's theme of "The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves."

This year's event began with Thursday's Grand Officer meeting and residence hall checkin, a spelling bee and a Grand girls Assembly meeting rehearsal.

On Friday, there was a basketball tournament, talent and oratory events, choir rehearsal, dinner in the UT Student Union and a dance.

Saturday's event included a basketball championship game, joint kickball, a GGA workshop and a banquet and promenade ball.

Sunday morning's breakfast was followed by opening meetings and the Divine Service. The Divine Service began with a procession led by the top two youth officers who were newly elected during the course of the weekend sessions. Companion Joshua Cook was re-elected Most Valiant Grand Master Counselor and Princess Maria Glaze was elected Grand Royal Queen.

The Order of Pythagorans was established in the state of Ohio in 1945 through the efforts of Grand Master Charles Casterman; the Grand Girls Assembly was organized in 1952 under the leadership of Hattie Alexander, the Grand Worthy Matron



Joshua Cook (in white) re-installed as Most Valiant Grand Master Counselor



Grand Royal Queen Maria Glaze and MVGM Joshua Cook lead the walk into the Divine Service site



Grand Girls



Right Worshipful Director of Youth Activities Eric Williams and Sister Pamela Edwards enter the Divine Service



The Divine Service begins

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THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS:

# Kaptur Statement on President Biden's Announcement To Not Seek Reelection

This week, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) released a statement following the announcement by President Joe Biden that he will not seek reelection to the presidency, and will choose to retire at the end of his term in office:

"When President Biden leaves office, he will do so after more than five decades of devoted, effective, and honorable public service. His gentlemanly endurance has moved our nation forward through recovery following the COVID-19 Pandemic, while achieving the highest job creation of any President in modern history. He has kept America strong, and expanded Freedom's canopy abroad. History will record and look fondly on this significant progress.

"Throughout his service, he has walked fiercely at Liberty's side at home and abroad. He has stood tall as a steadfast champion of working men and

women. Despite enduring profound personal tragedy, he has always been driven to make life better for his fellow Americans. His gift for finding the common ground of compromise has been essential to America's progress as the 21st Century dawned.

"His work as President resulted in long overdue passage of the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and targeted investments to rebuild our roads, bridges, and rail systems. He has overseen the rebirth of the American auto and steel manufacturing and energy sectors right here in Northern Ohio. He assured passage of the Butch Lewis Act, and major projects across our oft-neglected Great Lakes Region.

"I deeply respect his selfless decision to step aside, and know he will continue to use his talents to look for allies and partnerships in our complicated world to help our region and nation thrive for the generations to come."

# Young Democrats of America Endorse Kamala Harris for President of the United States

Today the Young Democrats of America are proud to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris to be the next President of the United States of America following a unanimous vote by the Executive Board. Since 2020, the Biden-Harris Administration has made incredible strides in advancing the interests of America's young people. This administration has addressed key issues including student debt forgiveness, climate change, reproductive healthcare, affordable housing, and LGBTQ+ rights. We are eager to see this work continue onward, and we are proud to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris to be the one to do so.

Vice President Kamala Harris has dedicated her accomplished career to championing the rights of young people and fighting for justice. As Attorney General of California, she established Open Justice, an online platform that improved police accountability by making criminal justice data publicly available. As a U.S. Senator, she continued to defend democracy and promote a fair society by advocating for progressive legislation. The American people now have the opportunity to reject fascism, protect our democratic values, and embrace a positive vision for our nation's future—one that Young Democrats across the country enthusiastically support.

As Vice President, Kamala Harris has worked to unite the American people. Convicted felon Donald Trump and JD Vance seek to divide us. Vice President Harris has fought for women's freedom to make decisions about

their own bodies. Convicted felons Donald Trump and JD Vance support a national abortion ban and the end of reproductive freedom. Vice President Harris has fought to secure clean drinking water for millions of families and address the climate crisis. Convicted Felon Donald Trump and JD Vance think climate change is a "hoax." The decision facing the American people - and especially the young people - could not be more stark.

As President, Kamala Harris would be the first Black woman and the first person of Indian descent to become leader of the free world. The historic nature of a Harris Presidency presents an opportunity for America to demonstrate to the world, and to ourselves, that we are truly a nation where diversity empowers the very best of us.

The Trump-Vance agenda is a threat to American democracy and the rights we hold dear. If elected, they will stop at nothing to roll back decades of progress in reproductive, environmental, LGBTQ+, racial, and criminal justice. Trump's Project 2025 is an existential threat to the future of our nation and the sanctity of the free world. Now is the time to unify our party for the good of our nation, behind a force for good—a woman who will serve us with dignity, honor, and fight passionately to expand democracy. The Young Democrats of America are proud and honored to endorse Kamala Harris to be the next President of the United States of America.

# What if Crooks Had Been a Black Man?

By Hazel Trice Edney

Can you imagine what would have happened to a Black man who showed up at a Donald Trump rally acting "suspiciously" around the metal detectors?

It is no secret to any conscious American why the 20-year-old shooter of former President Trump was not stopped although police and security deemed him to be acting "suspiciously" around the metal detectors at the entrance of the July 13 Trump event in Butler, Pennsylvania.

There is a reason that the 20-year-old Crooks was reportedly not interro-

gated for identification. He was not chased, not followed; not heavily surveilled as he climbed to the roof of a building and aimed an AR-15 styled rifle only about 130 yards away from where former President Trump was speaking.

It is evident by only a brief review of recent American history that the reason Crooks was not stopped at the gate and caught before he pulled the

...continued on page 12

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# Rep. Rogers Announces Passage of Final State Capital Budget, Securing Transformative Community Investments in Lucas, Ottawa, and Wood County

Special to The Truth

State Rep. Elgin Rogers (D-Toledo) last week announced the passage of House Bill (HB) 2, the state's biennial state capital budget, in both the Ohio House of Representatives & Senate. The record-setting \$6.2B investment makes appropriations for state-owned infrastructure, colleges, universities, and school districts as well as other community projects.

In addition to the \$3.51B in traditional capital funds and a \$1.98B appropriation for ongoing projects, HB 2 includes an additional \$700M in state funds that will be directly invested into transformative community projects designed to generate further development & economic opportunity across the state. These state funds were able to be set aside due to the influx of federal relief dollars that helped to supplement the state's balance sheet during the most recent state operating budget.

Rep. Rogers helped secure \$20.5M for House District 44.

"This budget represents a historic investment in our communities, addressing critical infrastructure needs and driving economic growth. I am proud to secure funding that will significantly enhance public services and quality of life in Toledo," said Rep. Rogers

The \$8.15M of those funds will be distributed to several local entities, including:

- \$4.25M Lucas County Seawall and River Edge Reconstruction Project
- \$2M Toledo YMCA Domestic Shelter Project
- \$1.6M Ottawa Park Revitalization Phase I

\$300K Walbridge Railway Park Improvements

Additionally, HB 2 includes approximately \$1.6B of capital budget funding for the following state entities:

\$600M to provide funding for K-12 school classroom facility projects overseen by OFCC.

\$575M for the Public Works Commission to issue grants and loans to local governments for road and bridge projects, fresh water treatment and distribution systems, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, storm sewer systems, and solid waste disposal facilities.

\$415.7M for state-supported higher education institutions to conduct construction of new facilities, major renovations of existing facilities, or basic renovations at public universities and their regional campuses and community colleges.

HB 2 now heads to the governor's desk for his signature.



Crooks... continued from page 11

trigger was because he was White. Period. Once again, it was the lone White male syndrome.

There is no question that had Crooks been a Black man, he would have been commanded to show identification. Had he not concurred, he would have been wrestled to the ground and likely shot dead or choked to death like D'Vontaye Mitchell, who was killed by hotel security June 30 right there in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where the Republican National Convention is being held this week.

Unlike Trayvon Martin, 17, out for Skittles and ice tea in Florida; Tamir Rice, 12, with a toy gun in Ohio; or Airforce Senior Airman Roger Fortson, 23, in his own apartment in Georgia, among dozens of other household names, Crooks was somehow given the benefit of the doubt, allowed to slide on by.

It ultimately ended with Crooks shooting and wounding former President Donald Trump in an assassination attempt, killing firefighter husband and father Cory Compechello and critically injuring two other people before he was killed by a police sniper.

As authorities now intensely investigate, the debacle has been described as an "epic failure" of security, mainly the Secret Service. But we all know what it really was. The failure of security was catastrophic because Crooks was White.


As President Joe Biden quickly took authority, met with Homeland Security, the FBI and Secret Service and promised the nation a thorough investigation.

But, Americans have witnessed this all too familiar scenario many times before. When thousands of predominately White Confederate flag-waving Trump supporters headed for Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021, none of the federal law enforcement agencies responded with the appropriate level of force, resulting in the violent January 6 attack and insurrection.

Clearly, had those rioters been Black, the Capitol Police and other security agencies would have been prepared in advance with military force, dogs and high-powered rifles. They were unprepared for the destruction that occurred that day for the same reason that they were unprepared for the attack on former president, Donald Trump's life in Butler, Pennsylvania. They have yet to become fully sensitized to the danger of the lone White male syndrome. The spirits of racism and White supremacy in America have trained authorities that the Black man should be treated as a threat and the White man should be given a pass.

Fortunately, the would-be Trump assassin did not succeed although a family man took the bullet and died. Donald Trump, shot across the top of his right ear, escaped serious injury and was given a hero's welcome at the Republican National Convention this week. In an iconic photo seen around the world, he pumped his fist seconds after the shooting, shouting to the crowd,

...continued on page 13





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- **Where do you provide palliative care services?**  
Sincera's care can be provided right in your own home, assisted living or nursing facility. For those who prefer to make an appointment with their Sincera care team in an office, we have Outpatient Consultation Offices inside Hospice of Northwest Ohio's Toledo Center and The Toledo Clinic Cancer Center in Maumee.
- **How well do you manage pain and other symptoms?**  
Our pain and symptom management expertise is unmatched in this region. We strive to manage pain within 48 hours of admission to our program.
- **Do you have a freestanding inpatient center?**  
Yes, we have two! Both designed to meet the unique needs of patients and their families at the end of life. Our Perrysburg and Toledo Centers provide beautiful, home-like environments for patients who require close medical monitoring, or whose conditions can no longer be managed at home.
- **Do you provide bereavement services?**  
Yes. Hospice of Northwest Ohio provides the area's most comprehensive range of grief support services. These include counseling, support groups and special workshops, which are free and open to anyone in the community.
- **What about patients who are unable to pay for services?**  
Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans will cover the cost of Hospice or Sincera. As a not-for-profit agency, we receive substantial support from a variety of community sources. We care for everyone who requests our services, regardless of their ability to pay or complexity of care.





If you have questions, contact us anytime!



sinceracare.org 419-931-3440  
hospicenwo.org 419-661-4001

# 54 Miles by Leonard Pitts, Jr.

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

c. 2024  
Agate  
\$19.95  
344 pages

Deep down inside, there's a part of you that always wants to do right.

Did someone teach you that? Or were you just modeling what your elders did when they did what was true and right? Either way, your moral compass points the way, always. You do right for the world, even if, as in the new novel *54 Miles by Leonard Pitts, Jr.*, it's the wrong personal decision for you.

Sitting in church, hundreds of miles from home, Adam Simon felt the distance keenly.

This surprised him. It wasn't like he was close to his parents. No, his father, a white minister, had over-preached to Adam for too long, and his Black mother never showed Adam much warmth. With no siblings to help soften these facts, Adam left college to head to Alabama, to work with SNCC's voter registry efforts.

That was the plan, anyhow, but down-deep, Adam had no idea what he was doing. It was a good cause, a great and righteous one, but not without danger: he was almost killed while marching across the Edmund Pettis Bridge.

And that's how his frantic parents learned where he was: alerted by Adam's parents, his Uncle Luther tracked Adam down in a Selma hospital, took the young man in, and notified Adam's parents that he was safe.

By that time, George Simon was on his way to Alabama for his son's sake.

Years ago, George and his now-wife, Thelma, had busted almost every racial law the South imposed, and they married. Shortly afterward, George's father sent the new family north, for safety. And now Adam was in Alabama, in the mouth of the dragon.

But Adam had other troubles on his mind.

He knew he shouldn't have snooped, but while staying with his Uncle Luther, he found a stash of old letters, and he read them. What he learned shocked him, and he had to leave Luther's home immediately.

The problem was, Adam had nowhere to go.

Were you there? If not, can you imagine what it was like to live in 1965,

at the height of the Civil Rights Movement? Readers who don't know or can't picture it will get an eyeful of what was possible inside *54 Miles*.

In setting his novel roughly in the years 1945 to 1965, author Leonard Pitts, Jr. doesn't make reading this book easy. There are passages inside this novel that will make you want to wince and turn away and – caution! – they're not for the weak-stomached. Just remember, they're essential to the story and to why the characters act as they do.

On that, you'll enjoy most of these characters as they look to the past and future, working their ways through personal struggles and one of the more tumultuous periods in American history. Details help, making this books' cast feel more authentic.

Be aware that *54 Miles* can be slow, at certain points, but stick with it and you won't be disappointed. Especially if you're a historical novel fan, this book will do you right.



54 Miles author, courtesy Carl Juste

## Crooks... continued from page 12

"fight, fight, fight!"

But fight for what?

Ironically, it has been Donald Trump himself who has been a ringleader in fanning the fumes of racism and White supremacy in America.

- He implied that the Central Park Five, Black and Latino men who were ultimately exonerated of rape after a wrongful conviction, deserved the death penalty. Trump has never apologized.

- He led the birther movement claiming President Barack Obama was not born in the U. S.

- He called Haiti and African nations "sh\*thole countries."

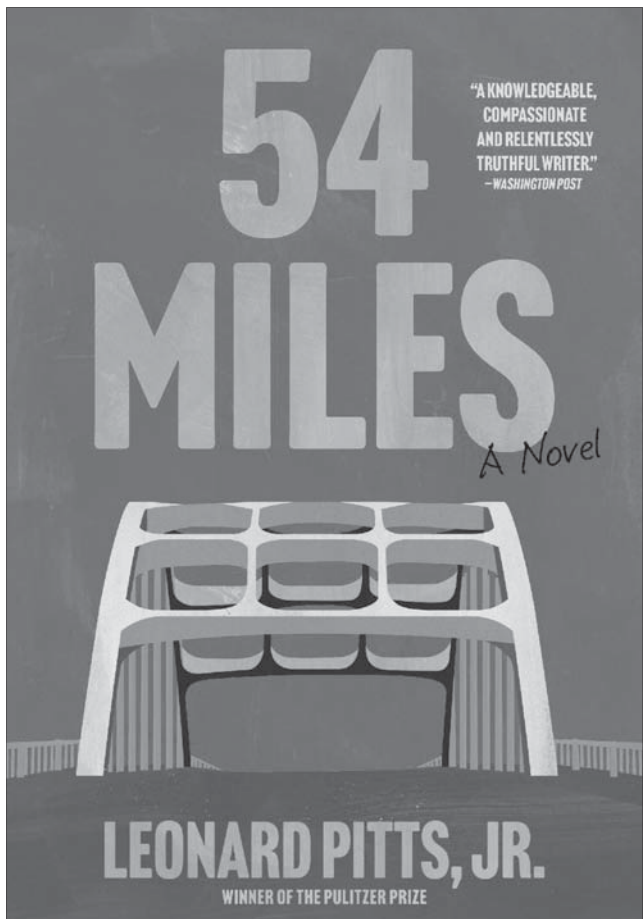
- He called football players protesting wrongful police killings of Black men and women "sons of bitches."

- During the Charlottesville "Unite the Right" rally that drew White supremacists from across the country in 2017, Trump said there were "very fine people on both sides."

- And most recently, during the CNN debate against President Biden, he referred to "Black jobs", apparently espousing a stereotype that he has yet to explain.

Thankfully, Donald Trump survived the assassination attempt. But the fact is that the so far unrepentant former president was nearly killed by the same evil that he has helped to perpetuate.

Hazel Trice Edney is editor-in-chief of the Trice Edney News Wire.



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# CLASSIFIEDS

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July 24, 2024

## TARTA SEEKS FEEDBACK ON UPCOMING FARE SYSTEM UPGRADE

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) has scheduled a series of public events to collect community feedback on the planned rollout of an account-based ticketing system. If approved by TARTA's Board of Trustees, this fare-capping system will allow customers to get the value of extended passes without paying the upfront fee. For card-holders, the day cap would be \$3, the 7-day cap will be \$15, and the 31-day cap will be \$45.

These events will include two in-person forums and two virtual feedback sessions. These forums will focus on the Title VI equity analyses surrounding the service changes. A virtual session will be recorded and posted on the TARTA website. Public meetings are scheduled for:

Virtual meeting, **Monday, August 19, 5-6 p.m.**, Register at [tarta.com/publicmeetings](http://tarta.com/publicmeetings)

In-person meeting, **Tuesday, August 20, 6-7 p.m.**, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Kent Branch, 3101 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo

In-person meeting, **Wednesday, August 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**, TARTA Transit Hub, 612 N. Huron Street, Toledo

Virtual meeting, **Friday, August 23, 10-11 a.m.** Register at [tarta.com/publicmeetings](http://tarta.com/publicmeetings).

All language assistance services for TARTA programs are provided to the public at no charge. In-person translation services for events should be requested at least 5 business days prior to the event.

Registration and additional details will be available in the coming weeks at [tarta.com](http://tarta.com) or by calling 419-243-7433. Customers and others from the public interested in submitting questions may do so by sending them to [customer-relations@tarta.com](mailto:customer-relations@tarta.com).

## \*\*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 [klark@pathwaytoledo.org](mailto:klark@pathwaytoledo.org) (<mailto:klark@pathwaytoledo.org>). We kindly request no phone calls. Pathway Inc. is an equal-opportunity employer.

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING FIRMS BLDG. ENVELOPE/ WEATHERPROOFING FY25-26 PROJECT #: 1130-25-359

The University of Toledo is soliciting qualifications for professional design services for the repair and/or replacement of building envelope / weatherproofing components on multiple buildings on several campuses. Interested firms may find the full RFQ instructions at:

<https://ofcc.ohio.gov/project-opportunities/bids-rfq/qualifications-based-rfq>

Submit all questions regarding this RFQ in writing to Nicole Baden at [Nicole.Baden@utoledo.edu](mailto:Nicole.Baden@utoledo.edu) with the project name included in the subject line (no phone calls please). Questions will be answered and posted to the Project Opportunities page on the OFCC website. Submit the requested Statement of Qualifications directly to Erin Homer at [Erin.Homer@utoledo.edu](mailto:Erin.Homer@utoledo.edu) with the project name included in the subject line by 2:00 P.M., Friday, **August 16, 2024** to be eligible for consideration.

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING/ DESIGN FIRMS CARLSON LIBRARY RENOVATIONS PROJECT #: 0034-25-351

Calling all Scott class of 69 alumni. Our 55th reThe University of Toledo is soliciting qualifications for professional design services for Carlson Library Renovations. Interested firms may find the full RFQ instructions at:

<https://ofcc.ohio.gov/project-opportunities/bids-rfq/qualifications-based-rfq>

Submit all questions regarding this RFQ in writing to Nicole Baden at [Nicole.Baden@utoledo.edu](mailto:Nicole.Baden@utoledo.edu) with the project name included in the subject line (no phone calls please). Questions will be answered and posted to the Project Opportunities page on the OFCC website. Submit the requested Statement of Qualifications directly to Erin Homer at [Erin.Homer@utoledo.edu](mailto:Erin.Homer@utoledo.edu) with the project name included in the subject line by 2:00 P.M., Friday, **August 16, 2024** to be eligible for consideration.

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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 [lucascountylanbank.org](http://lucascountylanbank.org)

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[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

# Michael and Ruth Ashford Host Annual Summer

*The Truth Staff*

Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford and his wife Ruth hosted their annual summer cookout/fundraiser on Saturday, July 13, at their house on Collingwood Avenue. Over 100 friends, colleagues, elected officials and candidates turned out to show support and, in some cases, to share their personal stories.

The annual event, which the Ashfords have been holding for 20 years, took place in the backyard amidst the beautiful landscaping that Ruth has planted and nurtured over the years.

Among the political guests were Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez, Toledo City Councilwoman Brittany Jones, State Representative Michele Grim and Lucas County Clerk of Courts Bernie Quilter. All of the above addressed the guests as did Michael Ashford.

Candidate for State Rep Erika White (House District 41) also spoke as did Justin Moor, CEO of the Area Office in Aging, whose agency has a levy on November's ballot.



*City Councilwoman Brittany Jones, LC Commissioner Anita Lopez, State Rep. Michele Grim, LC Recorder Michael Ashford, LC Clerk of Courts Bernie Quilter*



*LC Commissioner Anita Lopez, City Councilwoman Brittany Jones, State Rep. Michele Grim, LC Recorder Michael Ashford, Erika White, LC Clerk of Courts Bernie Quilter, Local 500 Business Manager David Fleetwood, Area Office on Aging CEO Justin Moor*



*Michael and Ruth Ashford*



*Michael Ashford, Cheryl Tyler-Folsom, Judge Joe McNamara, Bernie Quilter*



*Bruce Rumpf and Ruth Ashford*



*Suzette Cowell and Alethea Easterly*



*Harold Mosley and David Fleetwood*



*State Rep. Michele Grim and June Boyd*



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# Everyone Loves a Parade!!

On Saturday, July 20, The African American Parade filled the Dorr Street corridor. Hundreds lined the streets as the parade, which started at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, the organizers of the parade, at the corner of Detroit Avenue and Dorr Street and continued down Indiana Avenue.

Businesses, city and elected officials, cheer squads, sling shots, tiny cars, sleek corvettes and even a city water truck and more lined Dorr Street from 10 a.m. to noon preceding the music festival held at the Huntington Center that afternoon. Residents old and young got the chance to experience the Black pride in Toledo.

This was the 19th annual African American Festival Parade. Each year the parade participants and spectators grow. It was a beautiful and picturesque day on Dorr Street Saturday!



Erika White's contingent



Councilwoman Brittany Jones (left) and supporters



The Toledo Urban FCU Staff



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and local leaders



Rick Hogan, Wayne Liggons, Toni Battle Gaines



Pedro Lopez, Larry Sykes, LC Commissioner Anita Lopez



Reggie Williams and the Frederick Douglass CA contingent



Jodie Summers