

Volume 85 No. 4 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* **August 14, 2024**



The African American Leadership Council's Chandler Fitzgerald and Jon Dorcely

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From the Ground Up

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The strength of the people is greater than the people in power.

– Wael Ghonim



The 2024 elections are heating up, and the battle for Ohio's House District 44 is, perhaps, THE local race to watch. Dave Blyth, the Democratic Party candidate, is a name The Truth's readers should definitely get to know.

In an attempt to bolster Republican Party dominance in areas like District 44, Ohio's contentious and controversial redistricting process recently combined parts of previously distinct districts. Yet, Democrats see a chance to begin dismantling the GOP's stranglehold on Ohio's legislative interests in spite of these attempts.

The district includes Toledo's western suburbs, such as Monclova, Waterville and Whitehouse, as well as portions of Lucas, Wood and Ottawa counties. Although slightly leaning Republican, District 44's sizeable number of middle—and working-class voters are eager for change. Evidently, Blyth's mantra that the Ohio GOP's supermajority has consistently pushed through policies that benefit the wealthy and well-connected while ignoring the voices of everyday Ohioans is beginning to resonate.

Blyth's grassroots experience in public education, workers' rights, and environmental sustainability, combined with his extensive background as a labor activist, uniquely suits him to address the concerns of District 44 residents.

We caught up with the Democratic Party candidate to understand how his platform aligns with his district's priorities.

This is what Blyth had to say:

Perryman: Help my readers get to know you a bit better.

Blyth: I was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, a town known for its woolen mills and strong labor presence. Eventually, an opportunity brought us to Toledo. I started sixth grade at Rosary Cathedral and later graduated from Central Catholic in 1972. That was the same year the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 due to protests over the Vietnam War, where young men were being sent to fight without the right to vote. That November, I cast my first vote for George McGovern, and I've been engaged in politics ever since.

Perryman: What was your career like after high school?

Blyth: I worked as a mobile DJ, doing gigs, but that didn't offer a pension or healthcare, so I looked for something more stable. I got a job with Lucas County in the dog warden department, where I worked for 27 years. That's when I became active in union activities, serving as a union steward and advocating for my co-workers at the bargaining table. I successfully secured pay raises for the dog wardens and other classifications, which not

only increased their wages but also impacted their pensions.

I later edited the newsletter for Local 544 in Lucas County. In 2008, I became a staff representative and business agent for AFSCME Ohio Council 8, a role I held for 12 years until I retired in 2020. I briefly returned during the COVID-19 pandemic to help with staffing shortages, but I left that position when I decided to run for office. That brings us up to date.

Perryman: How do you think your education at Central Catholic and the University of Toledo, where you earned a degree in law enforcement, has influenced your career or shaped your political views?

Blyth: My political views were shaped primarily by my parents, but they were further influenced when I started working for the county. That's when I realized that, as a county employee, I had a say in who my bosses were since the county commissioners are elected officials. I've always been a lifelong Democrat, but working for the county made me see firsthand how important it is to get involved. I learned that elections are won by reaching out to voters, knocking on doors, making phone calls, and motivating people to turn out.

Perryman: As a consultant and former business agent for AFSCME, what were some of the significant challenges that you faced and how did you overcome them?

Blyth: The learning curve was steep when I first became a staff representative, but I approached it with energy and curiosity. The job required more than a standard 40-hour workweek; most weeks, I worked well beyond that. One of my biggest challenges was negotiating my first contract with Toledo Public Schools, which involved five different AFSCME units. These units included bus drivers, custodians, skilled trades, clerical workers and custodial staff—totaling around 870 members when I left.

The challenge was managing a group of 20 representatives from these units, each with different demands and priorities. I successfully guided the negotiation process multiple times, securing good contracts and avoiding labor strife by keeping everyone on the same page and working toward a common goal.

Perryman: How has your role in labor prepared you for legislative duties if elected?

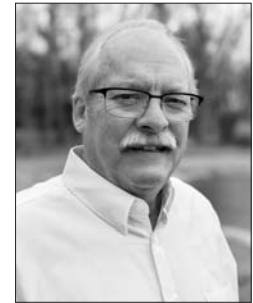
Blyth: Over the years, I've learned that, in many ways, I'm like a salesman. Whether it's encouraging someone to join a union, persuading them to vote for a contract, or supporting a candidate, the key is to find common ground and focus on shared goals. It's important to listen to others' opinions and not shut them down, as making people feel undervalued or unheard is the worst approach.

Perryman: Discuss your experience with grassroots political mobilization, such as circulating petitions and knocking on doors. Given the current divisive political climate, what strategies are most effective for grassroots efforts today?

Blyth: For me, our approach has always been to directly engage with our non-dues-paying employees. Since the Janus decision eliminated fair share fees, having those conversations has become even more important. It's about motivating and communicating with people, helping them understand the connection between their financial well-being, union membership and the impact of their vote. We need to guide them in recognizing how these factors are interrelated and how their choices can significantly affect their lives.

Perryman: What are the current priorities of the Democratic Party in Ohio?

Blyth: The policies and the candidates we support are solid, but our messaging needs improvement. If I were debating my opponent, I wouldn't fall into the trap of answering questions designed to embarrass or make me



Dave Blyth

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You Are Whom I Say You Are!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

There is life and death in the power of the tongue (Bible proverb). Recently, America has had a front row seat to both see and hear Donald Trump issue racial epitaphs regarding his fictitious power to define and articulate who you are in his estimation.

Trump, the convicted felon, has now taken on the mantle of deciding what ethnic or "race" category a person should fit into according to his alternative universe of political gibberish and race baiting.

At the recent conference of The National Association of Black Journalists, Trump, appearing in a grumpy and sullen mood, told the gasping crowd of attendees that V.P. Kamala was just now turning herself Black whereas before she was an Indian American.

Trump, ever the race-baiter, was challenging Kamala Harris, on national TV that he, Trump, was the best arbiter of her racial designation or heritage or identity.

Trump's appearance at the convention was his chance to "bogart" his way into a conversation in which he had no say, but he was itching for a scrum with the assembled journalists; and with the hopes that his acerbic remarks would gain him some airtime on the networks. It did.

True to form, Trump in antebellum style and like a good Massa, exerted himself to inform everyone that in the final analysis, it would be White folks like him who determines who you are.

Regardless of your rise in politics and in spite of any acquired fame or fortune, you can be assured that waiting in the wings is an anxious Trump like personality who is more than willing to hack your reputation to shreds because he or she is unable to fathom any minority being more than just an "other".

If that insulting comment was not enough, Trump went further to say that Kamala Harris was dumb and a "low-IQ individual" and his daughter-in-law went so far to characterize her as, "real garbage."

White America has had a rich history of demonizing people of color for no other reason than a toxic concoction of ignorance and hatred. The institution of slavery in America saw the initial denigration and imposition of racial artifices that started a propaganda war against Black people that ostensibly last to this very day.

If it wasn't enough that no Black person was worthy of being called either "Mr." or "Mrs." or "Miss", it was the object of total mental dominance that such a lack of basic respect also attached to older Black Americans with the noxious titles of "auntie" or "uncle".

Black children were not individualized but collectively called, "pickaninies" or a "Sambo" or a "jigaboo". The use of the "N" word was nigh universal.

These names had the intended message of saying to the recipients that you are nothing and you will amount to nothing and unless I change your name, you will be at my bidding and I will determine your present and your future.

Such is the power in a name. With the vile name calling, Trump and his cult followers were trying to impose their will on people of color by reminding them that at one time "we owned you and did what we wanted to you."

Trump is trying to revive those days of yore with his MAGA base so that he seems tough to them and is willing to put Kamala Harris in her place.

His latest ruse is to run up the flag that Kamala Harris "cannot talk in front of a microphone and without a teleprompter, she is flustered and unable to complete a coherent sentence!"

Flagrant lies and intentional demonization of the Black woman is par for Trump and his ugly history of name calling against Fani Willis and Letticia James and Judge Chutkan is par for the course.

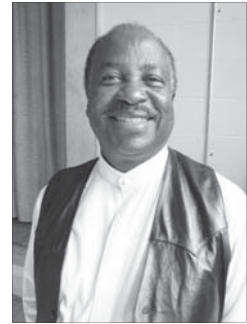
And yet, even with possessing no moral character and being a convicted felon and adjudged a sexual abuser, there are millions of Americans who are more than glad to vote for Trump.

In today's politics, character means very little to the voter who is anxious to see Trump win again because the repeated dog whistles that he utters tells them that he is one of them and wants an America to return to the times of Amos N' Andy buffoonery and the hijinks of the Little Rascals and the warm societal safety of Ozzie and Harriet.

MAGA sees the population demographics as anyone else and their inner fears are that if the Kamala Harris's and the Barack Obama's are in such powerful positions, their rule of the roost is coming to an end.

For them, a multi-cultural and multi-racial society is far more than they can emotionally and mentally bear and Trump is their last avatar to hold the color line.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



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America Needs Kamala Harris to Win

Because a 'House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand'

By Michael A. Grant, J.D.

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Vice President Kamala Harris has the vision, the intellect and the heart to lead a conversation about how to preserve American democracy. As a country, we are still struggling to make this "A more perfect union." We are an incredibly unique and beautifully diverse nation, blessed in so many ways. However, our history of cultural cleavage and racial unrest still plagues us. At times, the ideological divide seems to be an unbridgeable chasm. There are those who would use political power to exploit our differences and undermine the very democratic institutions that have held us together as a nation.



So, America is at the crossroads. What we choose to do between now and election day will determine our destiny. Will we work hard to keep our democracy, or will we be seduced to accept authoritarian rule? Let there be no doubt about it: The choice is upon us, and we will have to live with the consequences of our collective decision for years to come.

As providence would have it, the American people are now being offered two very different candidates for president: one who is the embodiment of democratic norms, individual liberty and a respect for the rule of law. The other, a candidate who has not sought to hide his vision for America: a welcoming of authoritarian rule. He and his cohorts will work through a master plan (Project 2025) for gutting the federal bureaucracy with its system of meritocracy, replacing it with one that favors cronyism and dictatorial decision-making.

For an example of how Trumpism would fundamentally change the American political system (with its checks and balances), one need only to observe how he has already transformed the Supreme Court into a vehicle of his power-grabbing. In its recent ruling on presidential immunity, six of the justices, disregarding precedent, placed the president above the law. These political hacks - parading as jurists sitting on the highest court of the land - broke with 250 years of jurisprudence to give the president powers reserved for a king. So why did we fight the American Revolutionary War?

Donald Trump is working in concert with many others who are prepared

to destabilize our sacred democracy in favor of a system that is anathema to what has made America the envy of the world: A system that celebrates the consent of the governed and the rule of law.

Yes, we are at a critical moment in American history not witnessed since the Civil War. The forces of retrenchment are highly organized, well-funded and prepared to do whatever is necessary to impose their minority will on the will of the majority. Donald Trump has publicly stated that he doesn't need the votes. Is that so? Then, tell us, Mr. Trump, how do you intend to come back into power?

Thankfully, Vice President Kamala Harris has prepared herself for this moment in our nation's history. Like Joan of Arc, she has donned her suit of armor and is prepared to confront the enemies of America's democracy! While she has announced her policy positions on a number of issues: favoring a women's right to control her own body; protect the healthcare of millions of Americans; calling major businesses for a summit to discuss price gouging; continuing her decades-long fight for equality for all Americans; continuing to address global warming; and protecting her fellow Americans from the insane proliferation of senseless gun violence, she knows that this election is about more than a civil debate about policy differences. She knows that this election is about protecting our most cherished freedoms as Americans.

We, the people, are being given the choice to continue our march towards a more perfect union, or to accept a new model of governance where some are considered above the law and the masses are subjugated to an injudicious system where revenge, retribution and cronyism are tolerated with impunity.

I think it is interesting that when the American family has become so dysfunctional, a house divided again, that Almighty God would send us a leader who has shown herself to be a proven guardian of what we hold as sacred: Democracy buttressed by the rule of law.

Kamala Harris has been groomed for this moment of greatness. She has walked through the burning sands of a determined opposition for years. She knows the road ahead will be filled with landmines and treachery. She knows hers is the herculean struggle to protect the soul of the country she loves. But she is ready to accept the challenges that lie before her and, yes, **she is endowed with true grit.**

I believe that those who have observed Harris prosecuting serious criminals, grilling unscrupulous public officials or consoling the families of children murdered by gun violence would agree with this characterization of Kamala Harris: (paraphrasing William Shakespeare) Her life is so gentle and the elements so mixed in her that nature might stand and say to all the world: This is a woman!

Yes, America, if we are willing to follow, Kamala Harris is ready to lead. And if we do, one day, history will record that America survived another existential threat to the republic because we, the people, were able to join in one grand chorus of "Hail to the Chief". And that chief was President Kamala Harris.

Michael A Grant, J.D., president emeritus of the National Bankers Association and former assistant professor of political science at Morgan State University, is a contributor to the Trice Edney News Wire.



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Exploring Community Wealth Building: Insights from Lunch with Leaders at "The Doug"

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

This past Thursday, August 8, the Frederick Douglass Community Association was the vibrant backdrop for an inspiring event: the Lunch with Leaders presented by the African American Leadership Council of the United Way of Greater Toledo. The gathering, centered on the theme of community wealth building and attracted a diverse group of attendees eager to explore innovative strategies for fostering economic growth and empowerment within our neighborhoods.

Setting the Stage for Change

The ambiance at "The Doug" was buzzing with anticipation as community members, local leaders, and business professionals convened for a luncheon that delivered rich discussions and actionable insights. The event underscored the United Way's African American Leadership Council's commitment to driving positive change and empowering local communities through strategic conversations about wealth building.

The discussion was organized by Jon Dorcely, United Way's director of Marketing & Engagement, and moderated by Chandler Fitzgerald, financial advisor at Savage & Associates.

Fletcher Word: Leading Excellence in Media

The event kicked off with remarks from our publisher, Fletcher Word. As the owner and publisher of The Sojourner's Truth, a northwest Ohio journalism cornerstone for the African American community, Word has profoundly impacted both local and national media.

He shared his insightful perspective on how media can drive community development, foster resilience, and advance community advocacy.

"The Truth has been a mainstay in Toledo for over two decades," Word noted, highlighting the newspaper's evolution and its significant impact.

Under his leadership, The Truth Toledo has expanded its readership to over 70,000 and has also launched The Truth Art Gallery, showcasing local and African artists. Word's passion for journalism and his dedication to amplifying voices within our region were evident as he discussed the importance of local media in fostering community wealth and resilience.

Word spoke of The Truth's involvement in activities designed to promote the growth of area Black-owned businesses. He referenced two sets of studies that have greatly influenced the paper's involvement.

First, there are number of studies conducted in recent years about the disparity in wealth between Black and white households. Such studies point to a variance of between one to eight and one to 10. That is, on average Black households have accumulated wealth of around \$18,000 compared to that of white households of \$180,000.

Secondly, he pointed to a study conducted by LendingTree that was released a year ago which measured the financial well-being of Black households in the 100 most populated metropolitan areas of the USA. The study used five metrics to make the comparisons: household income, percentage of households with an income of over \$100,000, average attainment of college

...continued on page 7



Carrie Morgan



Chandler Fitzgerald and Jon Dorcely



Kendra Smith



The attendees

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New Works Writers Series Salutes Youth in Theater

Special to The Truth

Causing drama doesn't always have to be a bad thing. Three Toledo-area youth were honored Aug. 5 in a special awards presentation at the Maumee Indoor Theater, 601 Conant St., for their contributions to a recent stage production held at the venue.

Ashanti Hinton, 16, her brother Noah Hinton, 14, and Eden Kelly, 10, provided acting talent or technical support for the New Works Writers Series performance, "Our America: Black Dramatic Monologues" in June.

Imelda Hunt, PhD, New Works Writers Series founder and artistic director, says the three students helped support one of the organization's most important performances of 2024.

"Not only did they participate in a responsible and professional manner in line with the best standards of live production," says Hunt, "Ashanti, Noah and Eden made the Juneteenth celebration for New Works an artistic success."

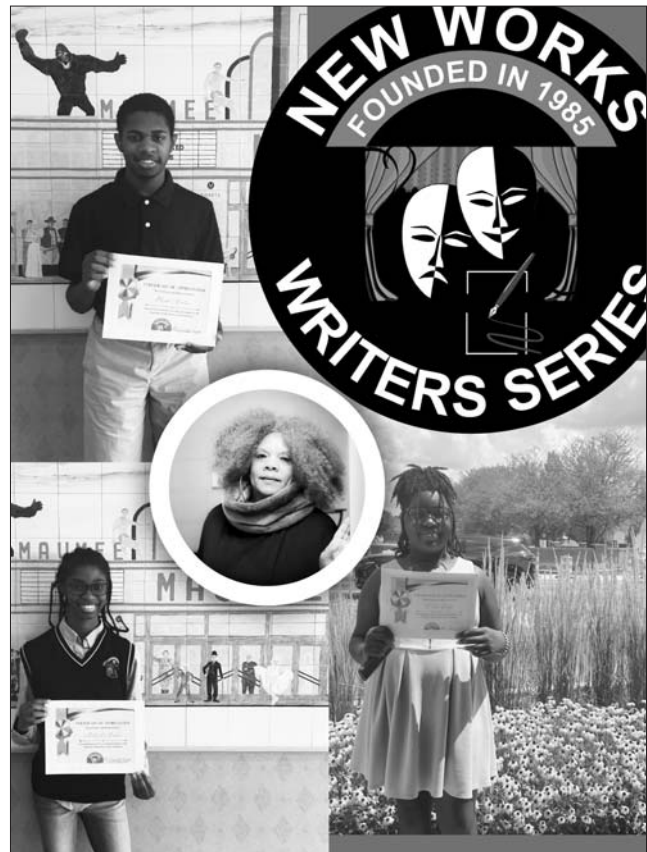
Juneteenth marks the date when the last enslaved Americans learned of their emancipation in 1865, and has often been observed with cookouts, carnivals, concerts, or other live entertainment. Presented in advance of the Juneteenth federal holiday, "Our America: Black Dramatic Monologues" highlighted the perspectives of historical figures to celebrate their sacrifices as a cultural tribute. Noah Hinton performed a monologue as Nat Turner, the enslaved Virginia man who led a deadly rebellion against Southern whites, and Eden Kelly performed as Ruby Bridges, the child who desegregated a New Orleans school. Ashanti Hinton provided technical support and graphics arts to help promote the show.

Eden attends Grove Patterson Academy. Ashanti Hinton is a student at St. Ursula Catholic, and Noah Hinton attends St. John Catholic.

"Especially since they're just getting their sea legs in the realm of stage production, this was good experience to use in their portfolios if they pursue

careers in the performing arts," Hunt adds. "But I can't stress enough how well they did in their respective roles, which is a benefit to the audience."

"Our America: Black Dramatic Monologues" was supported in part by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated by the City of Toledo and the Lucas County Commissioners and administered by The Arts Commission.



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The Impact of Social Media

By June Boyd

Guest Column

This narrative is written dedicated to our young voters. As a long-time political activist, I have been voting since 1956. As I vote, I always remember the three young civil rights workers in Mississippi who were murdered just for attempting to register people to vote. As a young woman, I realized how important voting is based on that thought.



Unless it is family, I never tell anyone who they should vote for. However, this year 2024, Tuesday November 5, the general election is the most important that we as African Americans will have had in our lifetime. My experience over the many years I have been involved has given me insight with a pulse on the system.

In 2021, when Donald Trump left the White House, he took all the classified materials to Mar-a-Lago. Anyone would have to realize the fact he had been defeated, but denied it, and was attempting to continue to run the

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Community Wealth Building... continued from page 5

degrees, homeownership rates and unemployment rates.

The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, for example, boasted the highest rate of financial well-being among the 100 most populated cities. Toledo ranked dead last – number 100.

The Truth, said Word, is involved with three projects in an effort to bring awareness of the impact that Black-owned businesses can have in the community. The first is the creation of the Toledo BlackMarketPlace, a website that is compiling a list of all area Black-owned businesses. The website is up and running and open for comments and updates.

Secondly, The Truth is involved with the efforts of the African American Legacy Project and Executive Director Robert Smith to revive the Dorr Street corridor and its lost history of the Black business district.

Third, The Truth, The Juice 107.3 and Stalwart Magazine – Toledo's Black-owned media - have formed a Black Wall Street Community Development in order to bring Black business owners together to network, to find opportunities to promote their businesses and to engage with funders.

Carrie Morgan: Navigating Housing Decisions

Next, **Carrie Morgan**, vice president & Community Development Relationship manager at **Huntington National Bank**, took the stage.

Morgan brought a practical approach to the topic with her presentation on "Making Housing Decisions." Drawing from the FDIC's comprehensive pamphlet, she provided valuable insights into housing options, affordability, and key factors to consider when renting or buying a home.

Her presentation was both informative and interactive, offering us practical tools and resources to make informed housing decisions.

Her discussion vividly illustrated how financial institutions can play a pivotal role in supporting individuals and families in their pursuit of stable and affordable housing at all income levels.

"Understanding what you need and want in a home is crucial," Morgan emphasized, while highlighting Huntington Bank's commitment to community development.

"The City of Toledo is making significant strides to transform neighborhoods like Junction and Englewood into appealing areas for mixed-income

families, ultimately enriching the diversity and vibrancy of our city's overall portfolio."

Kendra N. Smith: Investing in Health and Community

The final speaker, **Kendra N. Smith**, vice president of Community Health at **Bon Secours Mercy Health**, brought a powerful perspective on community wealth building from a health and wellness position. Smith, an esteemed leader with a wealth of experience in public health and urban development, shared her vision for integrating health initiatives with community investment.

She shared, "Access to care is something we take very seriously at Mercy medical. We invest in the community the same way we invest in people's health—by providing resources, support, and creating opportunities for financial stability and growth."

Smith then asked the audience: "Need help creating a budget to buy a house? Looking to repair your credit? Saving for college? Starting a business? We're here to assist you."

Focused on the intersection of health and economic stability, she remarked, "We know that the determinants to health and well-being are extremely multifaceted."

It's a well-established fact that financial security is a crucial element of overall wellness. To support this, Mercy operates a Financial Opportunity Center at their Health Clinic on Bancroft Street and Franklin Avenue, offering on-site access to a financial coach, free of charge.

A Unified Commitment to Empowerment

Throughout the luncheon, it became clear that the collective goal was to foster a more inclusive and equitable community. Each speaker, with their unique expertise, contributed to a broader conversation about how various sectors—media, finance, and healthcare—can collaborate to drive positive change.

The event was a testament to the power of community gatherings in sparking meaningful dialogue and most importantly, action.

Reflecting on the Impact

As the luncheon concluded, we departed with a renewed sense of purpose and inspiration. The discussions underscored the challenges our communities face while showcasing innovative solutions to address them.

**Lucas County Board of Elections**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 5, 2024

Media Contact

LaVera Scott; Timothy Monaco | 419-213-4001

The Board of Elections is in need of Precinct Election Officials (PEOs), Election Day workers and seasonal workers, for the November 5, 2024, General Election.

Precinct Election Officials (PEOs) begin Election Day at 5:30 a.m., continue through the close of polls at 7:30 p.m., and are released once all post-election duties are completed that evening. PEOs are paid \$20 to attend a two-hour training class, \$50 for Monday night set-up/training and \$133 base pay for working Election Day, for a total of \$203. Positions are also available within our tabulation area and within any of our seven county substations, where shifts generally begin at 7:30 p.m.

Election Day Work Schedule and hours worked are dependent upon job specifications. Shifts available are between two and 15 hours, and Election Day workers are paid between \$15.00 and \$21.00 per hour. Some jobs require mandatory training, which is paid at \$20.00 to \$25.00 per class. Examples of Election Day workers are rovers, riders, and hospital workers.

Seasonal workers work assignments may begin on Monday, September 9th, 2024, through Election Day, dependent upon work assignment. Starting pay is \$15.25 an hour, increasing to \$16.00 an hour after working 140 hours.

Qualifications: You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age and a registered voter in Lucas County. You must not have been convicted of a felony and you cannot be a candidate for an office in the election for which you would be working. You must have reliable transportation.

If you are interested in becoming a PEO, please contact:
Robert Royster at 419.213.2043 RJRoyster@lucascountyoh.gov or
Veronica Hill at 419.213.2034 Vrhill@lucascountyoh.gov

If you are interested in any Election Day positions, please contact:
Pamela Wilson at 419.213.2644 prwilson@lucascountyoh.gov or
Patricia Smith at 419.213.2045 pasmith@lucascountyoh.gov

For employment applications, go to Lucas County Board of Elections website:
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Toast and Tap Restaurant & Lounge Opens in Classic Downtown Building

The Truth Staff

A new bar and restaurant opened last Monday in downtown Toledo in a grand old building at 413 Madison Street. The Toast and Tap Restaurant & Lounge staff and city officials held a ribbon cutting and introduced guests to imaginative cocktails and menu dotted with a spectacular array of tasty food choices.

Kanardo Whittington and Aundray Gray are the owners of the new downtown establishment and the chef is Jacqueline Smith, recently of 1 Jacques Catered Creations in Columbus, OH.

"I went all the way to Columbus to get her here," said Gray of the chef who has assembled a menu with standout items such as salmon plank & veggies, shrimp po'boy sandwich and lamb chops on an everyday basis and loaded seafood and grits, for example, during Saturday brunches.

Live entertainment is also part of the fare as jazz and blues groups will hold forth on weekend nights.

Toast and Tap will be open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight.



Aundray Gray



Chef Jacqueline Smith



Once a Bulldog, Always a Bulldog

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The Jesup W. Scott High School class of 1984 held their 40th class reunion on Friday, August 8 during Scott Bulldog Alumni Weekend 2024.

An estimated 63 alumni from Ohio, Texas, Virginia, Georgia, Michigan and Colorado gathered at Brookwood Metropark for an evening of fellowship, memories and laughs. "Everyone knows how prominent Scott High School students and alumni are," said Cheryl Phillips, planning committee member. "Our legacy and dedication to the school is unmatched, and we wanted to come together to celebrate and remember."

A planning committee was re-established in March 2024, since the class of 1984 attempts to reunite every five to 10 years. Committee members: Sharron Cayson, Michael Edwards, Burnette Williams, Willie Shelton, Annette Jones, Kim Barker, Cheryl Phillips and Tim Barker.



The male attendees



The female attendees



The reunion committee

Classmates honored deceased 1984 graduates with photos, names and words of comfort; gathered around news articles and photo albums and received catering services by Flava Spot in Toledo.

Classmates honored deceased 1984 graduates with photos, names and words of comfort; gathered around news articles and photo albums and received catering services by Flava Spot in Toledo.



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Democratic Women in Action Annual Golf Scramble

The Truth Staff

The Democratic Women in Action had a busy week. On Tuesday August 6, members of the political action group that was founded 10 years ago, held their executive committee meeting at Mott Branch library. On Friday, August 9, the group, along with sponsors and supporters, gathered at the Whiteford Valley Golf Course for their annual four-person golf scramble.

About 30 golfers checked in for the 9:00 a.m. shotgun start and a day of golf, lunch, prizes and contests. The proceeds from the fees and the sponsorships will go to the YWCA Domestic Violence Center.

The Democratic Women began donating proceeds from its fundraising efforts 10 years ago, said group president Essie Wiggins. The donations are part of the strategy the group undertook to donate accumulated funds to community projects, said Wiggins.

Wiggins founded the DWIA in order to bring like-minded women together to help on elections, to assist on outreach to community projects and to support women candidates. There are about 40 members of the DWIA.

This year's sponsors included UAW-Region 2-B; AFSCME Council #8; Lucas County Auditor Katie Moline, Communications Workers of America District #4; Sheet metal workers Int'l Assoc. Local #33; IBEW Local Union #8; Professional Registered Nurses UAW Local #2213; Teamsters Pilot Local #20; United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local #351; U.A. Plumbers and Steamfitters Local #50; CWA District 4 and First Church of God, among others.



Chris Monaghan, Kyle Dockery, Mike Garber and Eric Stack from Local 33



Democratic Women in Action



Debra Overton, Debbie Bennett, Cheryl Wallace and Alisha Gant



Rob Voight and Rodney Cook from UAW Local 50



Sherman Thomas, Leo Thomas and Mark McBee



Twila Butler

A Sip and Paint Party at The Truth Colours Gallery

The Truth Staff

Pearl Middlebrooks and six of her close friends spent an eventful at The Truth Colours Gallery on Saturday, July 27. On that date, her friends helped Pearl celebrate her 11th birthday with a Sip and Paint Party under the guidance of Nikola Welcome-Bovell, the gallery's artist and art instructor.



The birthday girl, Pearl (seated) and friends display their paintings

Cora Middlebrooks, Pearl's mother was also part of the celebration as she guided the young birthday girl through the present opening at the conclusion of the painting. All the girls had their own creations to take home with them.



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Perryman...continued from page 2

look bad. Instead, I'd shift the focus back to the real issues, like the corruption in Columbus or how out of touch the opposition is. Democrats often get caught up in debates and lose ground. We need to simplify our message—make it something people can easily grasp, like a bumper sticker.

Perryman: If elected, what key issues or priorities would you focus on addressing?

Blyth: The first priority is what I refer to as personal freedom. By that, I mean the protection of women's reproductive rights, which the voters overwhelmingly supported by approving Issue One last November. Despite this clear mandate, Republicans are ignoring the results, acting as if nothing changed. They're now suggesting that existing laws on reproductive healthcare will require legal challenges to be repealed rather than acknowledging that these laws should be voided immediately. So, the fight continues on that front.

Secondly, I firmly believe that the government should not interfere with what is taught in our schools. Look at what's happening in Florida—they actually proposed adding language to history classes, suggesting that, while slavery was terrible, it provided enslaved persons with life skills that benefited them later. That's outrageous. The government shouldn't be meddling in education merely to score political points. For the past 250 years, our educational system has thrived on free thought and open discussion, particularly in our universities and colleges, and we must preserve those freedoms.

Perryman: Those are the two main issues. Are there any other key concerns you'd like to address?

Blyth: I do. As I mentioned, I attended Rosary Cathedral and graduated from Central Catholic. My mother was a devoted Roman Catholic, and I lived near Central, so it was a natural fit for me to go there. However, my concern now is with the voucher system. I believe the Republicans are intent on dismantling public education by diverting funds that should go to public schools and giving them to private schools without proper oversight.

For example, a family of four in Ohio with an income of \$135,000 can qualify for \$8,000 in vouchers. Even affluent families in districts like Anthony Wayne can receive this money. This is not means-tested, and it's simply wrong. Many students receiving these vouchers were already attending private schools, and some schools are even raising tuition because of the vouchers.

If people choose to attend private schools, that's their decision, but I wasn't asked if my tax dollars should fund them. I'm strongly against this.

Perryman: District 44 leans slightly more Republican than Democrat. How do you plan to effectively advocate for policies that might not align with the majority of constituents in this district?

Blyth: I believe the key is to stay true to my principles. On the issue of reproductive healthcare, for example, my campaign manager has informed me that 57 percent of this district supported reproductive healthcare rights, which aligns with my stance and will likely resonate with voters.

My opponent holds an extreme view on this issue, equating abortion with murder without exceptions, and he avoids discussing it. I can't, in good conscience, change my beliefs just to get elected. I aim to connect with voters who share my views on personal freedoms, supporting public schools, environmental protection like cleaning up Lake Erie, and implementing common-sense gun control measures.

If those positions don't resonate with someone, then it's fair for them to support another candidate. My priority is to be honest and principled, even if that means not winning everyone over.

Perryman: Finally, why should we vote for Dave Blyth?

Blyth: You should vote for me because I'm focused on the needs of everyday people, not the wealthy. Rich people have plenty of influence in Columbus and Washington and always find a way to land on their feet.

I'm concerned about those who lie awake at night, trying to figure out how to make ends meet—I've been there, and I know how tough it is. Ohio needs politicians in Columbus who will focus on reducing the tax burden on the middle class, addressing the student debt crisis from public universities, and prioritizing safe drinking water, clean Lake Erie, and safe communities.

My priorities are rooted in my own experiences and those of average working people because that's who I am and who I represent.

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

Impact of Social Media... continued from page 6

country and undermine President Joe Biden through social media. In fact, his network was named "Truth Social" when not much truth has come from same.

He has done a lot of damage to President Biden. I kept trying to figure out why Joe Biden and Donald Trump were even in the polls in spite of all the alleged illegal things Trump had been charged with. The common sense analysis is that he and his network have been busy the past three years attempting to destroy Joe Biden and create Project 2025. That would give him a lifetime of the presidency much like Vladimir Putin has grasped.

It is a new day; the honorable President Joe Biden made a decision to step down and endorse his Vice President Kamala Harris to run instead. My spiritual being had noted that COVID kept Donald Trump's chances of getting re-elected; this year it is called KAMALA pronounced comma la, Mr. Trump.

At a press conference on Thursday, August 8, Trump let us all know he is not presidential.

The untruths he told as he addressed the media were absolutely unbelievable. He even mentioned Martin Luther King's March on Washington ("I Have a Dream") audience in 1963 which had 250,000 in attendance. He compared his January 6, 2021 crowd – estimated at around 53,000 – which he encouraged to overthrow the elected government. "We actually had more people," he said in another lie.

Today, he is absolutely devastated that he is having to run against a "Black" female. As an example, recall his horrible behavior recently at the National Association of Black Journalists conference.

The untruths continue wherein he stated he has had 55,000 to 88,000 in attendance at his rallies in comparison to Kamala's 1,000 to 1200 people at her rallies. Stevie Wonder can see through him and his fantasies. It is almost a sickness.

The political pundits have commented that Vice President Harris and her choice for vice president, Governor Tim Walz, have broken records of attendance and have opened up the race to a new path of success.

In closing, if you want to understand Donald Trump; just watch every name he calls an adversary or any statement made relative to same, it is really him. He should look in the mirror.

Please vote on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 as if your life depended on it. Believe me, it does. One additional note. Convicted felons, if you have served your time, even on probation, you can register or re-register to vote. That deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 5, 2024. It is up to us.

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Rep. Grim and Rogers Announced \$67.3M in Demolition Awards, Creating Redevelopment Opportunities Throughout Ohio

Special to The Truth

State Reps. Michele Grim (D-Toledo) and Elgin Rogers (D-Toledo) last week announced that The Ohio Department of Development is awarding \$67.3M in funding for the Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program. The funding is intended to tear down 1,277 blighted structures in Butler, Clinton, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Logan, Lucas, Muskingum, Preble, and Richland counties.

"I am proud to announce that Lucas County received over \$9 million for redevelopment opportunities and projects across the region. These funds will help support the continued revitalization of the greater Toledo community," said Rep. Grim.

"Through this transformative award, Lucas County has received over \$9M. This investment is a great opportunity to turn forgotten properties into valuable community assets. I will continue to fight to build a strong local economy, these revitalized structures are another step in doing so," said Rep. Rogers.

The Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program is funded by the Ohio General Assembly as part of the current operating budget, which Reps. Grim and Rogers supported.

The program was created in 2021 and was intended to help communities demolish dilapidated commercial and residential buildings and revitalize surrounding properties to attract investments, businesses, and jobs.



State Rep. Michele Grim



State Rep. Elgin Rogers

The program was created in 2021 and was intended to help communities demolish dilapidated commercial and residential buildings and revitalize surrounding properties to attract investments, businesses, and jobs.

Lucas County Clerk of Court's Bernie Quilter Announces the Re-opening of the Heatherdowns Automobile and Watercraft Title Office

Lucas County Clerk of Court's Bernie Quilter announces the re-opening of the Heatherdowns Automobile and Watercraft Title office.

Lucas County Clerk of Courts J. Bernie Quilter announced last week the Heatherdowns Branch office of the Automobile and Watercraft Division, located at 4456 Heatherdowns Blvd. officially re-opened for business effective August 5, 2024. Business hours will be the same as were previously. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. With the re-opening of the Heatherdowns Auto Title office, we now are back to having all four offices open for business, which includes offices at 4900 N. McCord Rd, 3034 Navarre Ave. in Oregon and the Downtown Toledo office at 1600 Madison Ave.

The office has been closed for over a year due to a fire that occurred in June of 2023 which resulted in a total loss of all equipment and contents within the office. This resulted in a complete renovation and build out of the entire office including equipment from both the State of Ohio and Lucas

County. "It has been a long journey getting to this point stated Mr. Quilter and re-opening this South Toledo office will once again provide the needed convenience for our citizens living in the South Toledo area. Maumee and the communities in the Southwest part of Lucas County." "Once again, the citizens of Lucas County will have four Auto Title offices conveniently located throughout Lucas County." "I appreciate the patience that our citizens have shown during this renovation process" said Mr. Quilter.

The Heatherdowns office will process all auto title transactions, and U.S. Passport applications for our citizens. All the automobile dealers in the surrounding area will now have less travel time to process their title transactions as well.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Lucas County Clerk of Courts Bernie Quilter at 419-213-4405.

Hawkins STEM Academy Dedicated as WILD School Site

Special to The Truth

Hawkins STEM Academy in Lucas County was recently dedicated as a WILD School Site, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. Wild School sites are supplementary education programs created by schools where students, teachers, and the community can

come together and learn about wildlife and the environment. Hawkins STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) Academy is

...continued on page 12

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Trump's Chilling Rally Confirms His Plans for Dictatorship If He Beats Harris

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

@StacyBrownMedia

In a series of alarming rallies, former President Donald Trump has made his intentions clear, signaling plans that many critics describe as dictatorial. At Turning Point Action's Believers Summit, Trump urged Christian voters to turn out for the 2024 election with an unprecedented promise: "Christians, get out and vote, just this time. You won't have to do it anymore. ... You got to get out and vote. In four years, you don't have to vote again. We'll have it fixed so good you're not going to have to vote." With these words, Trump moved beyond veiled rhetoric, outlining a vision for America that directly threatens democratic principles.

Trump's campaign has highlighted Agenda 47 as its official policy platform for the 2024 presidential election. This agenda, closely aligned with Project 2025, proposes sweeping changes to U.S. governance that align with authoritarian ideals. Both plans, shaped by Trump loyalists, aim to reshape the government and civil society under what can only be described as a fascist framework, asserting their mission is to rescue the country from radical leftist influences. Project 2025 envisions ending the administrative state by placing the entire federal bureaucracy under direct presidential control, a "Unitary Executive" approach often seen as a pathway to autocracy. Similarly, Agenda 47 aims to dismantle the so-called "deep state" by firing thousands of civil servants and replacing them with loyalists, referred to as "patriots who love America." According to Trump, this restructuring would make federal bureaucrats and politicians accountable to the American people. However, the plans fail to explain how the people would hold these officials accountable, raising fears of unchecked presidential power.

Authoritarian leaders have long used propaganda to manipulate public opinion, and experts suggest that Trump's rhetoric follows this playbook. By framing checks and balances as "corrupt obstacles to the popular will," Trump seeks to justify their dismantling, creating an illusion of serving the public while concentrating power in the executive branch. Despite ongoing controversies, including the police murder of Sonya Massey, Trump has doubled down on his

rhetoric of providing "federal qualified immunity" to all officers. This stance aligns with his earlier declarations that police should have the authority to shoot perceived criminals on sight, a policy that could lead to increased instances of unchecked police violence.

Adding to the controversy is Trump's legal history. He has received 34 felony convictions, a judge found him guilty of committing significant business fraud, and a civil jury found him guilty of sexually assaulting a writer. Many have noted that these convictions and allegations paint a troubling picture of a leader advocating for policies that could undermine democratic norms and the rule of law.

As the 2024 election approaches, Trump's statements and policy proposals have raised alarms about the future of American democracy. His calls for Christians to vote as if it's the last time, combined with plans for sweeping governmental changes, suggest a vision of America that could lead to authoritarian rule. "When Vice President Harris says this election is about freedom she means it," the Kamala Harris campaign said in a statement. "Our democracy is under assault by criminal Donald Trump." Washington Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal called Trump's rhetoric "terrifying."

"We cannot let this be the case," she asserted.

YWCA... continued from page 16

"Our work in healthcare is really about the impact we can have on someone's life. I am so proud of our team. Each of them brings a unique set of talents and experiences that allow us to enhance services and care, expanding access to care for more children and families."

Strauss's work goes beyond the hospital walls as she actively partners with several nonprofit organizations dedicated to enhancing children's health. Strauss's dedication to the well-being of children and families makes her a vital force in the Toledo community.

Amanda Kato: From Fitness to Fine Dining

The final honoree, introduced by **Lauren Clarke**, Strategic Marketing Leader for Owens Corning, was **Amanda Kato**, the owner of **Cbk Boutique Fitness** and partner at **Kengo Sushi & Yakitori**. Kato has built a reputation not just as a personal trainer, but as a visionary entrepreneur. Her boutique fitness studio offers personalized training that caters to a diverse clientele, from postpartum mothers to active seniors chasing after their grandchildren.

...continued on page 13

STEMM... continued from page 11

the 211th WILD School Site in Ohio and the sixth in Lucas County. This is the first Toledo Public School to be certified as a WILD School Site.

Students created a certified monarch waystation to provide nectar sources and host plants for monarch butterflies. They also wrote a Hawkins STEMM Academy Monarch Pledge based on the Mayor's Monarch Pledge signed by Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz in 2021. The Hawkins STEMM Academy Monarch Pledge was signed by Mayor Kapszukiewicz, principals, teachers, and students.

In addition to a monarch waystation, Hawkins STEMM Academy also has a prairie, an important habitat for pollinators, birds, bats and other small mammals, snakes, and more. The students explore and research this habitat to become conservation stewards. This WILD School Site will continue to raise awareness about monarchs for students and adults alike, while serving as a community science project.

The WILD School Sites program, administered in Ohio by the ODNR Division of Wildlife, is considered an action extension of the national Project WILD program. Any educational property used by students, educators, and the local community as a place to learn about and benefit from wildlife and the environment can be certified. The sites function within the premise that every site, regardless of size and location, can provide outdoor educational opportunities that can and should be part of an integrated environmental education program. WILD School Sites that demonstrate program development and site enhancement consistent with the premises outlined in this program are eligible for certification as an official Ohio WILD School Site.

Learn more about WILD School Sites and outdoor education opportunities at wildohio.gov.

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Kid Olympians: Summer by Robin Stevenson, illustrated by Allison Steinfeld

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You can kick a ball harder than any kid you know.

You just haul your leg back, point your toe, and let go! You're also good at smashing a ball, swimming, running, jumping, it's all fun. Like you, lots of kids love sports, including the Olympics. And guess what? As in the book *Kid Olympians: Summer* by Robin Stevenson, illustrated by Allison Steinfeld, those Olympians were once kids, too.

Take, for instance, the famous athlete Jesse Owens, who was born at a time when Black people had very few rights. When he was 15 years old, a track coach spotted Owens' talent because young Jesse ran almost as fast as an adult could run!

Track and field star Wilma Rudolph had polio when she was young and had to re-learn how to walk. Little Usain Bolt was such an active kid that his parents were concerned but when he was just chilling, Bolt only wanted to play arcade games.

Paralympic wheelchair racer Tatyana McFadden was born with spina bifida, which left her paralyzed from the waist down. Because of that, her first years were spent in an orphanage, where she didn't even have clothes of her own. She was five years old when she was adopted and brought to America.

Gymnast Nadia Comăneci once tried to climb a Christmas tree, and her mother knew little Nadia needed an "outlet for her energy" so she took Nadia to the gymnasium. Swimmer Michael Phelps likewise "simply could never sit still." Megan Rapinoe was an athletic kid who learned soccer by copying her soccer-playing older brother.

And little Simone Biles? Early in life, she spent time in a foster care home where there was a trampoline to play on. When her grandparents adopted her, she was excited to find a trampoline there, too. She "twirled and flipped and somersaulted" for hours before becoming the G.O.A.T of all G.O.A.Ts.

Your child is riveted to the television this summer, cheering on their favor-

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ite athletes half a world away. Wouldn't your young fan love to know more about their favorite athletes? Sure they would, and *Kid Olympians: Summer* is the perfect companion for this year's games.

This is the book for kids who run, jump, tumble, slide, whack, leap, and twirl, because author Robin Stevenson lets children know that their heroes were once active kids, too, and that their needs to go-go-go sometimes got-got-got them into trouble. Some of the stories are funny, but most are inspiring for a variety of reasons, and will teach kids about overcoming bad situations; that there's some history to be had isn't a bad thing, either. Add in the fun illustrations by Alison Steinfeld, and you've got a book that will thrill your future Olympian long after the games are over.

Get this book for your nine-to-12-year-old, but don't feel ashamed if you find yourself paging through it quick when you have the chance. *Kid Olympians: Summer* will be fun for you, and your future Olympian will get a kick out of it, too.



YWCA... continued from page 12

But Kato's influence doesn't stop at fitness. She's also made waves in Toledo's culinary scene, helping to fulfill her and her husband's dream of bringing authentic ramen to the city through **Kengo Sushi & Yakitori**.

"I owe so much appreciation to my husband," Kato said as she accepted her award.

"Because of the love you share with every dish served, we have not only been able to contribute to the revitalization of downtown Toledo, we have also evolved from one restaurant to soon include four."

Kato's commitment to wellness and community is a shining example of what it means to be a *Woman on the Rise*.

A Night of Inspiration and Hope

Rep. Rogers to Host Fall Community Meet and Greets Throughout the 44th District

State Rep. Elgin Rogers (D-Toledo) will host a series of community meet and greets this fall where constituents can give requests and comments regarding legislation, voice their concerns, and get to know Rep. Rogers.

There will be two events held throughout the 44th District. They will be Tuesday, September 24, at 6:00 pm and Wednesday, September 25, at 6:00 pm.

These events are free and open to the public.

The September 24 meeting will be at Point Place Branch Library, 2727 117h Street, and the September 25 meeting will take place at the Mott Branch Library, 1010 Dorr Street.

As the event drew to a close, the audience was left with a sense of hope and inspiration. The stories shared that evening were not just about individual success but about the collective impact of women supporting women. The *YWCA Women on the Rise Awards* is more than a celebration; it's a call to action for the entire community to continue uplifting and empowering the next generation of leaders.

Valerie Thompson, a YWCA Board Member, and president of the American Advertising Federation of Toledo captured the sentiment of the evening perfectly when she said, "I was especially excited to see all of the young girls from various backgrounds in attendance. This was a special opportunity for them to see themselves on that stage one day!"

The *2024 Women on the Rise* event was a night to remember, a celebration of achievements, and a powerful reminder of the importance of community, mentorship, and the relentless pursuit of equality and empowerment for all.

For more information on the YWCA: <http://ywcanwo.org>

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ANNUAL POPUP FUNDRAISER

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For more information call 419-901-1515

A GRAND OPENING AT MINORITY WAY PLAZA

The new Minority Way Plaza will open on Sunday, August 25, from 3 to 8 p.m. Vendors, a food truck and some live music will greet visitors to the Minority Way Plaza at the corner of Bancroft and Franklin Streets – 7 East Bancroft.

The event is being held to introduce Toledoans to an umbrella of Black-owned businesses at the Minority Way Plaza such as The Truth Colours Gallery, The Sojourner's Truth newspaper, Crystal Scott's Sincere Learning Center, We Care Home Health Care, Deflame Candles, Optigo, among others.

Join us on Sunday, August 25, from 3 to 8 p.m!

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.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING/DESIGN FIRMS

CARLSON LIBRARY RENOVATIONS PROJECT #: 0034-25-351

The 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 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 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 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 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 with the project name included in the subject line by 2:00 P.M., **Friday, August 16, 2024** to be eligible for consideration.

CONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST

Be a part of something incredible!

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.

Celebrating Rising Leaders: YWCA Honors 2024 Women on the Rise

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

The YWCA of NW Ohio's *Women on the Rise* event, held this past Thursday, August 8, was an electrifying celebration of young women who are not just rising in their careers but are also blazing trails for future generations. The energy in the room was palpable as leaders, community members and supporters gathered to honor these exceptional women at One Seagate.

A Warm Welcome from the Heart of YWCA

The evening kicked off with an inspiring welcome from **Lisa McDuffie**, president & CEO of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio. McDuffie, a powerhouse in her own right, set the tone for the evening, highlighting the YWCA's unwavering commitment to empowering women and eliminating racism. She reminded the audience of the crucial role the YW plays in the community, not just as an organization, but as a beacon of hope and strength for marginalized individuals and families.

"We are truly strengthening women and families in our community," McDuffie declared, as she expressed gratitude to attendees. Her words echoed the essence of the YWCA's mission, setting the stage for an evening filled with stories of resilience, leadership, and empowerment.

Kristi K. Hoffman: The Quintessential Host

The master of ceremonies for the evening was none other than **Kristi K. Hoffman**, an Emmy-nominated TV host, journalist and all-around media mogul. Hoffman, who was recently honored as a 2023 YWCA Milestones Award recipient, brought her signature charm and wit to the stage. Known for her work as a lifestyle influencer and businesswoman, Hoffman kept the audience engaged with her heartfelt introductions and personal anecdotes.

"We are writing our story for the new direction of the YWCA," Hoffman shared with the crowd, while reflecting on her own journey from a northwest

Ohio girl to a nationally recognized media figure. Her words resonated with the young women in attendance, showing them that their dreams are not just possible, but within reach.

Celebrating the 2024 Honorees

The highlight of the evening was, of course, the recognition of the 2024 Women on the Rise Award recipients. These young women were selected from a pool of community nominations, each one standing out for their remarkable contributions and leadership in their respective fields.

Nina Corder: Empowering Women Across Borders

Next, **Erin Baker**, the 2023 Women on the Rise Awardee and Maumee Valley's Habitat for Humanity Development & Engagement Director, took the stage to introduce **Nina Corder**.

Originally from Malaysia, Corder moved to Toledo two decades ago to pursue higher education. Armed with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and both a master's degree and a doctorate of Education, Corder turned her personal challenges into a mission to support others.

As the founder and managing director of **Women of Toledo**, Corder has dedicated her life to helping young women navigate the complexities of higher education and the workplace. "We have a lot of women like me, who come from different countries and don't have a network here," Corder explained. "I still believe in the importance of telling your story. It allows our community to experience the highs and lows with empathy, care, and concern. That's what being human is all about."

Through her organization, Corder has created a supportive community for women who, like her, chose Toledo as their home. Her work is a testament to the power of mentorship and the impact of building bridges across cultures.

Jennifer Strauss: A Champion for Children's Health

Jennifer Strauss, the executive director and vice president of **Nationwide Children's Hospital - Toledo**, was introduced next by **Kendra N. Smith**, vice president of Community Health at Bon Secours Mercy Health and 2023 Women on the Rise Honoree. Strauss, who has dedicated her entire career to healthcare, was recognized for her unwavering commitment to improving child health. Since the hospital's opening in 2022, Strauss has been at the forefront, ensuring that every child receives the care they need.

"Surround yourself with a diverse group of people," Strauss shared.



Lisa McDuffie, CEO of YWCA of Northwest Ohio, and Wendi Huntley, Executive Director of Connecting Kids to Meals



Amanda Kato, Jennifer Strauss, Nina Corder



Richelle Ford-Watkins of Fabuless Finder; Marie Bush of Latham Bush Consulting; Lisa Dubose, BGSU HR Director of Employee Relations and Professional Development



Valerie Thompson, YWCA Board member, and Jewell Lightner, YWCA Chief Human Resource Officer



Nina Corder

The Power To Do.
It's what drives us to provide patient-centered care, access to cutting-edge treatments and expert education to the next generation of physicians.
HEALTH.UTOLEDO.EDU

We're here **TO DO** the little things that make big impacts.

UTOLEDO HEALTH

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