



Volume 85 No. 5 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* **August 21, 2024**



Toledo Zoo & Aquarium - A Community Jewel

Shayla Bell Moriarty, Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President

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Behind the Armor

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

A [government] that continues to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom.

— Martin Luther King Jr.



In a strategically orchestrated maneuver during its August 14 meeting, Toledo City Council, under the shadow of police and safety forces' influence, ultimately rejected a proposal that would have permitted the city to acquire a second Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) military-grade armored vehicle from the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency.

City officials pitched the MRAP as a type of disaster ambulance or armored hospital room, a tool for protecting first responders in high-risk situations like active shooter incidents and natural disasters.

On paper, the logic presented by Toledo Police Chief Michael Troendle and Fire and Rescue head Allison Armstrong at Toledo City Council's Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Committee on Monday, August 12, seemed sound.

Yet, the more profound implications of launching such a vehicle into the volatile fabric of Toledo's community sparked a firestorm of opposition that exposed far more than concerns over public safety.

Community groups, activists, and residents argued that the militarization of police forces undermines the very principles of community policing that are essential to fostering trust and cooperation between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

These community concerns are confirmed by research and rooted in history—a history that has repeatedly shown how military-grade vehicles in civilian settings can escalate tensions rather than defuse them. From Ferguson to Minneapolis, we've seen how these tools of war can become symbols of oppression and weaponized, widening the current chasm between the police and the community.

But last week's controversy didn't merely end with philosophical disagreements. The process by which the MRAP proposal was handled further fueled the drama.

Councilman John Hobbs III, chair of Toledo City Council's Public Safety and Justice Committee, pushed the legislation forward. His approach raised eyebrows throughout the Black community.

Accusations of "assembling a kangaroo court," prioritizing cherry-picked pro-MRAP voices, and sidelining dissenting opinions at Monday's public hearing sparked outrage. Some community members, feeling silenced and marginalized, were even asked to leave the hearing, which only deepened the mistrust.

Hobbs' actions—and the potential motives behind them—then became



the focal point of the controversy. Many in Toledo's African American community had expressed their disagreement about receiving the vehicles back in July. They understood that the issue had been satisfactorily dealt with, meaning it had been placed in committee and was not coming out. These people were agitated, having discovered the committee held the public hearing, and even distraught when, two days later, the issue made its way for a vote from the full council.

Rumors then swirled that Hobbs' eagerness to advance the MRAP proposal was less about public safety and more about securing political capital. As someone rumored to harbor mayoral aspirations, Hobbs' alignment with police and fire unions was seen by some as either being "pressured" by Toledo Police Chief Michael Troendle or a calculated move to win union support in future elections. Yet, this strategy appears to have backfired, alienating significant portions of the community who view the MRAP as unnecessary and emblematic of the larger problem of over-policing.

The vote on the MRAP, which ultimately ended in rejection, thus exposed the stark divisions within the council and the African American community.

To the dismay of many in the community, African American councilmembers Hobbs and Vanice Williams supported Chief Troendle and Fire Chief Allison Armstrong, who argued passionately that the vehicle would be an invaluable asset in protecting lives during crises.

Yet, their voices were drowned out by a majority of council members who sided with the community's concerns over militarization and the long-term costs of maintaining such equipment.

Councilman Nick Komives led a group that defeated the proposal to procure the MRAP. Those voting with Komives included councilmen Carrie Hartman, Mac Driscoll, Theresa Gadus, and Sam Melden, who joined African Americans, Brittany Jones and Cersandra McPherson.

Clearly, this majority sees Toledo as a city that invests in community-based solutions to crime and safety instead of one that prioritizes militarization.

Ultimately, the rejection of the MRAP is more than just a decision about a piece of equipment. It reflects a larger struggle within Toledo—a struggle over the direction of public safety, the role of law enforcement, and the trust between the police and the communities they serve. It's a reminder that decisions made in council chambers have real consequences on the streets (and at the ballot box) and that the path to authentic safety and security isn't aligned with police rolling down the streets of Toledo neighborhoods in armored vehicles.

Yet, this debate is far from over. The controversy has indeed left its mark on Toledo, and the fallout will likely influence the city's politics for years.

In the end, though, the real question isn't whether Toledo needs an MRAP—it's whether Toledo can afford the cost of what the MRAP represents.

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Is You This, Or Is You Dat?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

On Fox News, the “reporter,” Laura Ingraham, clearly stated that Kamala Harris was being rightly contested about her racial lineage because she was not, a “foundational black.”

Of course, Laura Ingraham gave no evidence or proofs for her racist statement except to intone or imply from her caustic remark that again it is White folks who are the final arbiter of who is or who is not Black.

Laura Ingraham was reinforcing the racial trope that unless White folks determine or decide where you place on the color spectrum, Black folks are subject to their capricious definitions of what constitutes Blackness.

Upon hearing that remark on Fox News, I decided to go undercover and contact some of my inside sources at Fox News whom I have developed over the years when I had the good fortune of serving in both the Clinton and Obama White House as a special liaison for media coverage.

To my shock and chagrin, my source handed me a sheet of talking points that were fed to Fox News, OAN and NewsMax so that they would be able to counter any questions about their research as to who is who in Black America.

I was astonished at the length by which these so-called news agencies were willing to go in order to diminish the concept of Blackness and to “hack it” up into sound bites.

Obviously their plenary definitions of people of color gave them the noxious ability to bring up certain Black personalities and assign them to boxes of political persuasions that allowed them to handle their on-air critiques of Black media personalities.

I have with great trepidation, presented the below categories of how certain news entities described people of color, and you will see that they can now quickly label a Black personality with a name code, if you will, so that they then know best how to manage that person:

FOUNDATIONAL BLACK: Describes the Black person who can trace his racial lineage to the history of slavery in America and to the present date; and with his ancestry, both mother and father, being exclusively from Mother Africa.

MY KIND OF BLACK: A euphemism for a Black person who gladly and quickly shows deference to all things White and is apologetic when other Black folks get out of line and they give an explanation, unsolicited or not, for their course conduct.

TIM SCOTT BLACK: This is the category of a Black male who will embarrass himself in the front of White people solely for the joy of hearing them tell him that they love him; and that all is well and that White folks can continue with their systemic racism, and they will not put up much of a fuss about it, especially so if his romantic interest is a White woman.

BEN CARSON BLACK: This is the category of Black men who have reached remarkable heights of professional accomplishment and wish to remain unaffected by the racial climate, so they remain still, quietly hoping that the White people in power will not scold them for those, “others.”

NIKKI HALEY BLACK: This is the person who realizes that he must make peace with the inconsistencies of race and racism in America so they do so by calling racism, “just a kink” in society. Nothing more...nothing less. Just a kink. They perceive it as a problem but just a minor irritant soon to be vanquished.

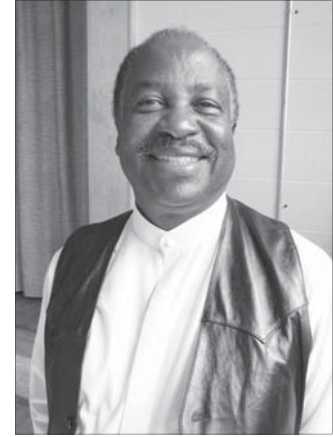
MAGA BLACK: This is the category of the Black man or woman who for reasons of profit or just to get along, will sell his or her conscience so that he or she is looked favorably upon by Trump and his crowd. They wear MAGA garb and are quick to say that Trump is a president for all the people!

CLARENCE THOMAS BLACK: This category of Black people profess a color blind approach to systemic racism in America. They hide behind contorted lines of rationalizing what their eyes see and ears hear but are fearful to acknowledge it as being true because it would mean the end of their ability to be admired by White society and being invited to their social parties and yacht outings and other perks of being a good Negro.

CANDACE OWENS BLACK: This is the person who will put her finger to the wind and will play the odds of being outraged at purportedly offensive Black conduct and will demean people of color in the public square with hopes of being invited to speak at right wing events and being paid to publicly “spank” any Black person who voices complaints against the GOP or the MAGA GOP.

KANYE “YE” BLACK: Go figure!

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The IRA is Still Our Biggest Step Toward a Brighter Future for Our Children

By Ben Jealous

I often think about a factory hallway in Dalton, Georgia that is filled with pictures drawn by children. It is a reminder of what can be, what will be, thanks to the historic Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which celebrates its second anniversary this month.

The drawings capture how these children see their parents who work at this solar manufacturing plant. There are pictures of beautiful sunny days, of the earth with pristine water. Of their parents saving the world. These children see their parents as superheroes. As I remember these pictures, I wonder: how can anyone not be inspired by these children to fight every day for a better, livable future? For more clean energy jobs, in big cities and rural communities across the country, that will power our economy – and our homes – for generations to come?

Around this anniversary, the news has been filled with reflection on what the IRA has achieved and what still needs to be done. It is – as it should be – a major focal point at the Democratic National Convention happening now in Chicago.

You do not have to look hard to find examples of its success. More than 334,000 new clean energy jobs have been created across the country. More than 3 million U.S. households have collectively saved over \$8 billion on upgrades that will save them money and make their homes more energy efficient. In Illinois alone, for example, nearly 140,000 residents claimed more than \$260 million in tax credits on their 2023 tax returns for installing solar or making other energy efficiency improvements on their homes.

One fact should loom larger than most: the IRA is still this nation's biggest single step ever toward securing a healthy and livable planet for all. No other single piece of legislation has done more to address our climate goals and support the clean energy revolution already underway. Through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program, the IRA is projected to reduce greenhouse gas pollution by as much as 971 million metric tons of carbon dioxide



equivalent by 2050. That's equivalent to the emissions from about 5 million homes' energy use every year for more than 25 years.

Need a reminder of the urgency and necessity of this investment in combating the climate crisis? Just turn on the news. Or step outside. We are experiencing the hottest summer on record ... in the hottest year on record. Supercharged storms and wildfires from all that heat are impacting more and more Americans. Hurricane Ernesto is just the latest storm to batter homes and businesses and leave hundreds of thousands of Americans without power. With so many people hurting and at risk, the IRA remains one of our most powerful tools to mitigate climate change's harm. We must continue to learn from our experience implementing it, fill gaps where we see them, and double down on our efforts to protect people, places and the planet we call home. And we must remember that throwing everything we have at combating the climate crisis is also the way America wins in the next economy.

In the decades since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the shipping of U.S. jobs overseas has helped destroy towns and cities across America. Now, the IRA is fueling a manufacturing rebirth that is creating good-paying jobs while bringing our energy economy into the 21st century.

Plans to build a new solar cell factory near Minneapolis, Minnesota are currently underway. This factory will create more clean energy jobs in the Midwest while addressing the need for more American-made solar cells. The solar company Heliene, which co-owns the project, publicly credits the IRA's tax credits for inspiring its decision to invest in U.S. solar manufacturing.

Just an hour drive away from Minneapolis is the town of Becker. It is the home to one of the largest coal-burning power plants in the country. Yet Becker will soon be known for something else: being a national leader in the transition to clean, renewable energy. Xcel Energy is fully retiring the Sherco coal-burning power plant by 2030. Literally within eyesight of the old plant, they are building what will become the fifth largest solar project in the United States. Taking advantage of new and extended tax credits and grant programs, the Sherco solar and energy storage facility will bring 1.8 million solar panels online in 2026. It will employ hundreds of workers – many of them moving over from the coal plant – and power more than 150,000 Midwest homes each year.

The IRA was always designed to set us up for long-term economic success. Part of how it achieves this is by putting money back into Americans' pockets and ensuring that no community is left out of the transition to cleaner, safer, and more affordable clean energy. Tax credits and rebates are lowering the cost of home improvements and electric vehicles that themselves will save consumers money. The Solar For All program is awarding \$7 billion to projects across the country that will help over 900,000 low-income households benefit from solar energy.

We owe it to ourselves and to our kids to build on this momentum. On this IRA anniversary, I think of those children in Dalton and children in communities big and small across the country. I am excited for all the pictures to come if we get this right.

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



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Toledo Zoo & Aquarium: A Community Jewel

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Nestled in the heart of Northwest Ohio, the *Toledo Zoo & Aquarium* stands as a guiding light of community engagement, education, and conservation. Under the visionary leadership of *Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President Shayla Bell Moriarty*, the Zoo has continued to evolve, cementing its place as a beloved institution that is not only a local treasure but also a model for wildlife reserves across the nation.

Moriarty, a Notre Dame Academy and John Carroll University alumna, has been in the number two position at the Toledo Zoo since November 2022 (Jeff Sailer serves as the Zoo's CEO). Her journey began in 2016 when she joined the Zoo as Chief of Staff & Senior VP. With nearly a decade of experience, Moriarty has been instrumental in driving the Zoo's mission forward.

A Passion for Innovation and Community

Her passion for the Zoo is clear. "Every day is different, and I think that's the fun part of what I do," she shares with a smile.

"What matters most to me is demonstrating results and tangible impact."

With a strong background in communications and development, Shayla is equipped with a unique perspective on how to engage the community and create innovative programming that resonates with people of all ages.

Reflecting on her journey, she recalls, "Before I began working here, I remember participating in a charity event at the Hollywood Casino, where we supported the Zoo. I've always believed in its mission and the impact it has on communities. This belief has driven my leadership, guiding my efforts through the years to make our Toledo Zoo a place the community loves to visit."

It's simple. The executive team and staff make it their mission to make the Zoo a place everyone loves to explore. "We want people to find the zoo relevant no matter their age, background, or where they live," Moriarty explains. This inclusive approach is evident in the wide range of programs and events that the Zoo offers, ensuring that there is truly something for all.

Bringing the Zoo to Life

One of the most exciting aspects of the Toledo Zoo is its ability to bring the community together through a variety of events and programs. From the highly anticipated **Lights Before Christmas** to the fun and festive **ZOOtoDO**, the Zoo's events offer multi-generational experiences, no matter the season.

ZOOtoDO, a fan-favorite event, has become a staple of the Zoo's annual calendar. "Every year, we seek to offer innovative elements to all of our top-rated events," says Moriarty.

But the zoo is not just about entertainment; it's also about creating cherished memories. The Lights Before Christmas event, which features over one million lights, illuminated animal images, and a newly redesigned Winter Village, is a perfect example of this.

"Our team worked tirelessly to create the enhanced Winter Village, and we hope it will become a cherished holiday tradition for years to come," Shayla shares.

A Commitment to Education and Conservation

Beyond its engaging events, the Toledo Zoo is deeply committed to edu-



Shayla Moriarty

cation and conservation. The mission—**'Enjoy. Inspire. Educate. Act.'**—reflects the staff's dedication to inspiring guests to become advocates for wildlife and conservation.

The Zoo's educational programs are vast and varied. From behind-the-scenes tours that provide exclusive encounters with ambassador animals to community preschool programs offering free educational experiences, they are committed to making education accessible.

One of the standout educational initiatives is **Project PRAIRIE**, a collaboration between the Zoo's Conservation and Education Departments. This program installs native prairie habitats on public school campuses throughout northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, turning these spaces

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Kaptur and Area Office on Aging Celebrate Social Security Birthday

The Truth Staff

On August 14, 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act, a retirement program for some retired workers 65 years and older. On Tuesday, August 14, 2024, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur joined the staff of the Area Office on Aging to celebrate the 89th anniversary of the historic program that, in addition to providing retirement benefits, also provides life insurance and a disability insurance protection.

"This is an important milestone that has had a profound impact on older adults," said Justin Moor, CEO of the Area Office on Aging. "We're grateful for all you do to protect Social Security," he told Kaptur.

Kaptur thanked Moor and the AOoA staff for their work over the years. "You make life better for our country," she said.

Kaptur noted that there are over 175,000 recipients of the benefits of Social Security in her House district. "It is a lifeline," she said of the program that is important, she added, for three things. "If you work, deductions come out of your paycheck; it is insurance for the disabled and it is a survivorship program.

Indeed, according to the Social Security Administration's fact sheet, about

90 percent of those in the workplace – ages 21 to 64 – were insured by the program in case of severe disability. Most critically the program provides a foundation of retirement protection for just about everyone in the United States – 97 percent of older adults, aged 60 to 89 – either receive retirement benefits through Social Security or will receive such benefits.

To complete the celebration at the AOoA last week, Kaptur and Moor cut the cake for the staff to enjoy.



Justin Moor and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur



Moor and Kaptur cut the cake



Area Office on Aging staff

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Toledo Zoo... continued from page 5

into living labs for students and teachers.

"Teachers and students develop a strong connection to ecology and the meaning behind our conservation program," Moriarty explains. The project is an example of how the Zoo extends its reach beyond its physical boundaries, impacting the community in meaningful ways.

"The Zoo's educational offerings are extensive. It features over 266 camps and family programs, 290 community preschool sessions, and 1,160 school programs annually. These initiatives serve as a hub of learning and engagement, educating and inspiring the next generation of conservationists."

Building a Legacy for the Future

"Our Toledo Zoo membership program has achieved the highest per capita membership rate among zoos in the United States," Shayla proudly states. With over 76,000 households as members, the Zoo has created a community of supporters who agree that it is a vital and cherished part of the Toledo area.

As the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium continues to grow and evolve, Moriarty is focused on ensuring that the Zoo remains welcoming to all.

This commitment to inclusivity is evident in the Zoo's Membership For All program, which provides sponsored memberships to third-party organizations like Moms House and others, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to experience the magic of the Zoo.

"When you have a membership you're not limited to visiting the zoo on Lucas County Mondays, now you can come whenever you want and access

your discounts anytime you visit," says Shayla.

The Zoo's impact on the community is vibrant and undeniable. Programs like the Toledo Clinic Early Birds early walking sessions energize your morning, offering visitors a behind-the-scenes look as keepers prepare exhibits and staff get event spaces ready. "We walk from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. every morning, from spring until the end of fall," Moriarty shares.

"Not only will you see the Zoo come to life, you will see your taxpayer dollars hard at work."

From adult beverages at zoo events to concert series and all types of activities, the Toledo Zoo offers a diverse range of experiences that cater to different interests across all ages.

A Model for Other Zoos and Wildlife Reserves

The Toledo Zoo's success is not just a source of pride for the local community; it is also a model for other zoos across the nation. The Zoo & Aquarium's commitment to conservation, education and community engagement sets it apart as a leader in the field. As an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the Toledo Zoo is highly regarded for its excellent care for animals, outstanding visitor experiences, and contributions to global wildlife conservation.

With an impact extending far beyond its Toledo gates, the Toledo Zoo's programs and initiatives are inspiring other zoos to adopt similar approaches, creating a ripple effect of positive change in the world of conservation and education.

Go to toledozoo.org for events & updates

SC State... continued from page 14

the international relationship as fulfilling the university's global outreach objectives and its educational commitment to SC State students.

"When we help others, we help ourselves," Conyers said. "When we teach others, we teach ourselves. These relationships and experiences are key for our students as they compete on a global scale. It's essential for SC State to be involved globally."

Dr. Louis Whitesides, SC State's vice president for PSA and research, described how the impact of the university applying its knowledge around the world. He noted that SC State's next Gambian venture will be the introduction of a new goat species in hopes of mitigating nutritional deficiencies causing stunting in children.

"As a global citizen, SC State University has a responsibility to invest in communities around the world who would benefit from our expertise, particularly in agriculture education, research and outreach," he said. "SC State Public Service and Agriculture leads this work on behalf of the university by leveraging its resources, technical expertise and research-based knowledge to transform communities, not just in South Carolina but globally.

"For Gambia, much like the U.S., agriculture is the leading economic industry," Whitesides said. "The work we are doing in the country will advance agriculture innovation and practices that will produce far-reaching outcomes that will impact Gambians for countless generations."

A Jubilant Celebration

On Aug. 6, Conyers, Whitesides and Drammeh joined Gambian officials and

SCnState PSA scientists in handing over the water system to the garden's farmers. The event was a joyous occasion filled with song, dance and a traditional Gambian feast.

"Ladies, South Carolina State University heard your request, and this is for you," Conyers said as he addressed the farmers with an interpreter. "You deserve this and more.

The SC State president drew parallels between the agricultural economies of South Carolina and the West African nation, including the production of sweet potatoes and peanuts.

"What we are doing for you today is what we do for the citizens of South Carolina, and that is to innovate, educate and elevate," he said. "When we empower women in the Gambia, we empower the entire Gambia, just like when we empower women in the United States, we empower the entire country. When we empower women, women help us empower children, and those children help us empower the entire community.

"We continue to pray for your blessings, and I ask that you pray for South Carolina State University so that we can continue to do this type of work throughout the world," Conyers said. "Many blessings to you, your family and this great country."

A Thankful Nation

Conyers was joined on the program by Gambian and village dignitaries, including North Bank Region Gov. Ebrima KS Dampha and Minister of Agriculture Demba Sabally, who both expressed gratitude for SC State's intervention at

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“Kids in Divine Service” Hit the Runway

The Truth Staff

The first annual back-to-school fashion show of the Worship Center's Kids in Divine Service Ministry was held on Saturday, August 17. Displaying a wide variety of fashion – from sports to Sunday best – kids from two to 12 years old strutted down the runway and thrilled an audience of family members and churchgoers.

with assistant leader Hannah Jenkins, Dymond Austin an Akira Gross. The Ministry of Ushers leader is Marisha Raymond who opened the fashion show and introduced the mistress of ceremonies, Elder Bridgette Byrd.

The Kids in Divine Service Ministry is led by Alethea Easterly, along

Soloist Kailyn Wilson, a former Kids in Divine Service Ministry member

... continued on page 9



Soloist Kailyn Wilson

Marisha Raymond



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Runway... continued from page 8

and University of Toledo graduate with a degree in classical vocal performance, warmed the audience with her rendition of "He Wants It All."

Then followed the models.

Sports Wear apparel opened up the fashion show, followed by the Back to School set.

After an intermission, the C & S Mime Ministry delighted the audience

before the two closing fashion sets – Generational and Sunday's Best.

The fashion show's models were: Honesty Johns, Loyalty Johns, Brittain Campbell, Christopher Campbell, Bailee Arnett-Allen, Rodney Everage III, Mikel-Adjei-Tabi, Mia Adjei-Tabi, Aria Cowell, Nahla Palmer-Wilson, Kameron Wilson, Karsyn Wilson, Micah Bridges, Demarco Simmons, Braylen Richardson, Brandon Richardson Jr, Israel Cothran, Tiaja Bowling, Addisyn Leigh Ali, Calvin Burney III, Mi-Khel Atwell, Messiah Austin.



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Toledo Museum of Art to Receive \$500,000 for Capital Improvements

The Truth Staff

In 2006 when the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion opened, the entrance to the new building was not quite what the original architectural plans had intended. Instead of the vestibules for the entrance ways as planned, financial issues meant they had to be replaced with doors with overhanging awnings.

Now, the state of Ohio has included in its recent \$6.2 billion dollar capital budget, funds for the TMA to install the vestibules and also to make improvement to the climatological system of the Glass Pavilion.

On Thursday, August 15, the TMA leadership joined state Rep. Michele Grim at the Glass Pavilion to announce that the allocation of a \$500,000 grant has been included in the state budget.

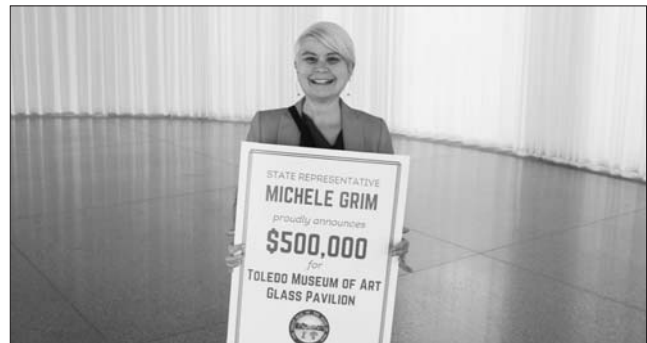
"This speaks directly to our strategy ... quality and belonging is what the Toledo museum is all about, and this speaks directly to our mission," said Adam Levine, the Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey director of the TMA. "We will put the grant to incredibly good use."

The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce was also credited with the acquisition of the half million-dollar grant. The Chamber's Whitepaper Committee reviews and provides recommendations to the State of Ohio on projects related to the capital budget.

Rep. Grim also noted that the grant will "make sure that the Glass Pavilion has upkeep for generations to come ... the Museum is a really important institution for Toledo and we have to ensure it is preserved and that everyone can enjoy the Glass Pavilion and the Museum of Art."



Adam Levine speaks as Rep. Michele Grim and Rhonda Sewell, TMA Director of Advocacy and External Affairs look on



Rep. Grim with TMA staff

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New Agent Compensation Rules Threaten Black Real Estate Professionals and Create New Barriers to Black Homeownership and Wealth

Special to The Truth

Courtney Johnson Rose, PhD, president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), warned last week that imminent changes in the agent compensation formula for home purchases threaten the financial stability of Black real estate professionals while creating new barriers to increasing homeownership for African Americans.

"We are entering an uncertain period for Black families and the real estate professionals who serve them," cautioned Rose. "For decades, the public, private, and non-profit sectors have worked to overcome the blatant racism that prevented many Black families from becoming homeowners and building generational wealth. We must ensure that new barriers are not constructed that stall or jeopardize our progress."

The real estate industry is aligning with a negotiated settlement in a Missouri case that challenged a decades-old system requiring the agents of home sellers to split the commission on sales with the agents of home buyers. Starting Saturday, August 17, home sellers and their agents can no longer outline compensation for agents representing buyers within their MLS listings. They can, however, negotiate outside of the official listing.

In practice, buyer agents can no longer depend on the seller's payment from the sales proceeds. That burden may now fall upon the buyers, adding to the cash they need at closing. With average commissions ranging between five and six percent of the home sales price, even a modest home of \$300,000 requires an additional payment of \$15,000 to close the deal. This can be a challenge for Black homebuyers, who often struggle to save for their downpayment. Adding the agent commission could be even more burdensome for the buyers.

Meanwhile, Black real estate agents (members of NAREB are known as realtists), who serve on behalf of the buyers over 70 percent of the time, will potentially suffer the most financial hardship within the industry. Their livelihoods may be at stake.

"This is a devastating hit for our realtists and other Black real estate professionals," Rose said. "Hispanic and Asian agents, who also disproportionately serve as agents for buyers, will also be impacted. This is harmful to the entire real estate industry, from agents to appraisers to loan officers to mortgage companies, because, with white homeownership at 74 percent, substantial growth will have to come from people of color. Increasing our homeownership will become more difficult once these rules are in place."

Specifically, Rose cited a study by the National Association of Realtors

projecting that 1.5 million Black households, 775,000 Asian households, and 2.2 million Hispanic households are expected to reach the median homebuying age over the next five years. She warned that changes that disrupt this projection could have far-reaching impacts on the nation's economy.

Moreover, Rose is concerned that Black homebuyers, many of whom will be purchasing homes for the first time, may proceed without the assistance of an agent because they can't afford the cost. "Predatory lending scams target Black communities the hardest," she said. "Our families badly need financial literacy counseling and other information about the steps to buying a home. They need Realtists by their side."

Further, Rose said these changes are not the only threat. Recently, she met with the U.S. Department of Justice, which is reviewing the practices within the real estate industry. She asserted that many families and agents could be hurt by their actions and specifically mentioned the vulnerabilities of Black families and real estate professionals.

"Today, we are devising ways to survive the hand that the settlement has dealt us," Rose said. "It will be a major adjustment and shift for agents. I receive calls from agents worried that they won't survive in the business as buyers' agents. We are assisting and tooling our members with the resources and training they need to continue despite these recent changes. We hosted several sessions on these issues at our recent conferences and are releasing a toolkit to assist our realtists further."

Rose said, "The goal of all parties is to increase homeownership because of the societal benefits from building wealth to safer neighborhoods. That should be the priority by all entities and stakeholders rather than altering the industry."

About NAREB

NAREB was formed in 1947 to secure equal housing opportunities regardless of race, creed, or color. NAREB has advocated for legislation and supported or instigated legal challenges that ensure fair housing, sustainable homeownership, and access to credit for Black Americans. Simultaneously, NAREB advocates for and promotes access to business opportunities for Black real estate professionals in each real estate discipline. From the past to the present, NAREB remains an association that is proud of its history, dedicated to its chosen struggle, and unrelenting in its pursuit of the REALTIST®'s mission/vision embedded goal, "Democracy in Housing."

TPS Reminds Parents to Keep Student Immunizations Up to Date

Health Partners of Western Ohio is ready to serve families at the School-Based Health Centers. Make sure to schedule your well-child visit to stay up to date on immunizations as the new school year is upon us.

Health Partners of Western Ohio accepts insured, under-insured and uninsured patients. They offer sliding fees based on family size and income, no

one is turned away for inability to pay.

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Health Centers are located at the following TPS high schools: Bowsher, Rogers, Scott, Start, Waite and Woodward.

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Sisters 4 Unity...continued from page 16

[homicides] then we will have met our goal."

Also speaking was Crystal Taylor of the Maumee Bay Club (part of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club - Toledo Chapter). After explaining her group's reason for its alliance with the Sisters 4 Unity on march day and describing the other services they brought - such as the book bag giveaway, Taylor informed the attendees that a Zoom community conversation will be held on Friday, August 23 with Teny Gross of the Institute for Nonviolence in Chicago. Teny, noted Taylor, is a "paramount peacemaker" who has brought together "former gang members who go out and change the community"

Councilman Nick Komives, who has been a supporter of Sisters 4 Unity



In back from the left: Reverend Dr. TK Barger, Senior Minister, Joyce Moran, Joe Moran, Patt Church, Tom Sheehan. Front row from the left: Gini Gottman, Arenz Higgins and his grandmother, Gwen Wilson, Colette Córdova, Julia McGhee. Photo courtesy of Tom Sheehan.



Councilman Nick Komives speaks



Malcolm Cunningham addresses marchers

for a long time, also praised their efforts "to come out and do the work ... it's moving the needle on violence in our community."

Komives urged those in attendance to pay attention to the Healing & Compassion Fund which is coming up for a vote in City Council. The Fund is a result of the work of Community Action Table Victim and Survivor Services group that is part of the mayor's office. The Fund will supplement current resources and help to ease barriers to survivors' recovery.

Also speaking were Byron Davis and Chris Matthews, both part of the Violence Interrupters, to describe their efforts in various parts of the community.

Saturday's Sisters 4 Unity march and engagement session at Smith Park was also accompanied by the Unitarian Action Committee of First Unitarian Church of Toledo which set up an information table for the second



Chantal (CJ) Jindani. CJ is a community resource advisor at the United Way 211 System. That is, she is one of the people who answer the phone when folks call 211 to get help. She set up her information table at the 2nd Annual Back to School Extravaganza and 2nd Annual Communities Against Violence March. Photo by Tom Sheehan.



SC State... continued from page 7

the garden and their hopes for the relationship's sustainability.

We are very grateful for this. Your works here will transform lives," Sabally said, "It will transform livelihoods and make these women increase their income, increase their access to health and increase their access to education.

"NARI being under the Ministry of Agriculture will continue to work with these women to move this garden to a better height," he said.

Dr. Demba B. Jallow, NARI's director general, described the water project's domino effect for the people of Illiassa.

"Horticultural needs a lot of work, but if they do not have access to water, the garden is there, but nothing will grow in it," Jallow said "About 400 women are working this garden, so this will help them a lot. They grow all kinds of vegetables, but the major ones are tomatoes, onions, okra and garden eggs (a small type of eggplant).

"For this community, it will create a source of income for them, especially for young people," he said. "Young people have some beds here where they can produce and sell for themselves. This area is known for having some migrating youths, especially to Europe and the U.S. If they have something like this, it will keep them home with their families."

In that same vein, Jallow lauded Drammeh, a native of Gambia, for his leadership in connecting his native country to his adopted home in the U.S.

"This is what is expected of every Gambian," Jallow said. "If you go abroad, you bring back something that will uplift the living conditions of your people."

...continued on page 13

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The Insatiable City: Food and Race in New Orleans by Theresa McCulla

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You've spent a lot of time scouring the internet in search of menus.

Will you try this dish, or that one? Sample two entrees, or three? Can you understand the people in a city without tasting their best dishes? You'll know soon enough because you've chosen the restaurants for your dining experiment but remember: as in the new book *Insatiable City* by Theresa McCulla, the taste of the truth may be bitter.

c. 2024
The University of Chicago Press
\$32.50
345 pages

In the early summer of 1719, the slave ship, the Aurora, "the first ship bearing enslaved people to arrive in Louisiana from Africa" dropped anchor just off the French territory of Basse-Louisiana, near the city of New Orleans. Once the ship was emptied, her human cargo was fed and then immediately taken and sold on a large auction block at a market inside a "luxurious hotel" while white buyers ate and drank their fill at a nearby bar.

This one act forever tied New Orleans's famous cuisine with its racial history

McCalla says that enslaved women who were known to be "good cooks" were in high demand by white owners who dreamed of the meals to come. What those men probably never thought about was that, because slaves were forbidden to read or write, recipes for those meals were shared verbally, having sprang from a variety of cultures and lands. The ingredients for those meals were planted by Black hands, harvested by Black hands, prepared by Black cooks, served by Black slaves, and the table was cleared by Black servants.

In later years, when the French Market was first opened, Black marchandes sold their wares – cheese, coffee, fruits and vegetables – both at the market and to white homes that lined the streets – and gained a little upward mobility. Black cooks found their way out of white homes, and onto ships that

docked nearby, and into the city's opulent hotel kitchens.

Ultimately, restaurateurs were forced to acknowledge Black and Creole contributions to their menus – but not without a lot of fight, and a lot of Jim Crow, too.

Despite that its subject is such a fascinating one, *Insatiable City* could be a bit of a struggle to read. The topic is narrow – how African Americans left a hidden-in-plain-sight thumbprint on the many famous dishes of New Orleans and, indeed, Louisiana – and so there's a lot of the same inside the narrative here.

Dig in, though, just a little deeper.

Fortunately, author Theresa McCulla includes a wealth of stories that save this book – stories that came from former slaves, courtesy of the WPA; advertisements, photographs, and menus; and accounts from Black and white journalists and eyewitnesses traveling in the city. Through these old documents, readers will not only learn about the many dishes of New Orleans, but also about individual people and cooks, and the politics of food in decades past.

This book will appeal to anyone who reads cookbooks for fun, and for anyone planning a trip to the Crescent City any time soon. Find *Insatiable City*. It should be what's on your reading menu.

SC State... continued from page 12

This is really commendable on his side. Dr. Drammeh can stay in America and have everything, but he came back home and contributed to the development of his country."

Further Needs and Next Steps

While access to water was the farmers' most pressing necessity, Jallow said they still have unmet needs to tend to their fields and protect their crops. He said NARI's top priority is a storage facility to prevent crops from wilting before the farmers can get them to market.

"Most of the vegetables are highly perishable – tomatoes for example.

They need a place they can store the vegetable and get what they can to market," he said. "If they do not have a place to store these things, it means their hard work can be in vain."

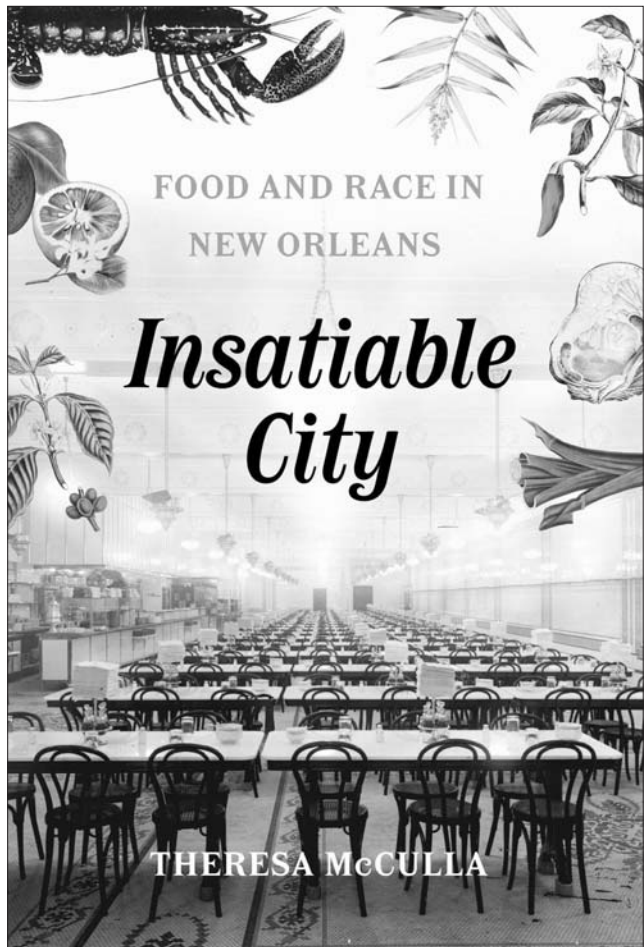
Next on the list would be machines to help them plow rather than relying on "muscle power."

"They use donkeys and horses and their own muscles, which is not very efficient," Jallow said. "What they need is small power tillers to help them till the soil and prepare their beds."

Jallow expressed his gratitude for SC State's transformational partnership with NARI and the promise of the ongoing relationship.

"To the people of South Carolina, the government of the U.S. and South Carolina State University, I want to say thank you very much," he said. "This is a rare thing for us to have something of this magnitude."

This is the first in a series of articles regarding South Carolina State University's academic exchange and agricultural extension partnership in the developing West African nation of The Gambia.



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SC State Helps 400 Women Farmers with Solar Water System in The Gambia

The agricultural extension project is intended to mitigate food insecurity in the developing West African nation.

Special to The Truth

ILLIASSA, North Bank Region, Gambia – For over two decades, Saffiatou Jammeh has worked the soil in a community garden near her village to grow onions and other vegetables to feed and earn money for her family.

“I have been working here 22 years. When we were coming here in those early days, we even had to cut the trees because it was bushy,” Jammeh said through an interpreter. “In the past, one of our challenges was fencing around this garden to keep animals out. We had to go into the thick bush and cut some wood to make a fence.”

As the years went on, yields from the garden diminished because of insufficient water. Wells dried up, and the equipment used to draw water was worn out. Approximately 400 women who tended plots in the garden saw their livelihoods jeopardized by the conditions.

“In the past, my gardening was very bad,” Jammeh said. “My husband asked me to stop because the production was limited because of the scarcity of water. My husband asked me to stop working because the benefit wasn’t coming.”

Now, thanks to a project led by South Carolina State University’s Public Service and Agriculture division (SC State PSA), the community garden has an abundant supply of water.

Funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture via the 1890 Universities Foundation Center of Excellence for Global Food Security and Defense (GFSD) at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the new solar-powered well and pump system delivers water to 49 new and renovated concrete reservoirs throughout the fields. The system’s tanks have a 30,000-liter capacity. SC State also provided buckets and watering cans for water distribution.

“When we had limited water, I used to have about six bags of onions from my garden, but now with this water supply system here, I can have double or even more because of the availability of water anytime we need it,” Jammeh said.

“So, I will have more and more yield with more onions to sell.

“These days, I come twice a day,” she said. “I can come in the morning because there is abundant water, and I even come back in the evening and then I can go back and sleep. It has been transformative and has eased my life and constraints these days.”

The water system resulted from the GFSD’s 2021 needs assessment of agriculture sector and food supply chain systems in several African countries.

With SC State PSA’s Dr. Lamin Drammeh, the grant’s principal investigator, coordinating the efforts, the university entered a partnership with Gambia’s National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and the Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. Joshua Idassi, SC State PSA’s state program leader for sustainable agriculture and natural resources, worked alongside Drammeh, Gambian officials and the farmers to design and implement the project.

Fast facts about the project:

* Title: Cultivating Productivity and Resilience to Mitigate Food Insecurity in the Gambia.

* Beneficiary: Illiassa Women Garden Kafo, Gambia

* 10 new concrete reservoirs.

* 39 renovated reservoirs.

* 30,000-liter water tank system.

* 12 units of solar power system (385W/32V) per unit.

* Water network to the reservoirs.

* Water meter system.

Global impact and benefits for SC State researchers and students. The garden project represents the first of a series of ongoing initiatives between SC State and the West African nation, which also include an academic and research exchange with the University of the Gambia. SC State President Alexander Conyers described

... continued on page 7



Dr. Louis Whitesides, SC State vice president for Public Service and Agriculture, dances with Gambian farmers



Gambian farmers celebrate the completion of the solar-powered water system for their community garden




Gambian Minister of Agriculture Demba Sabally speaks



SC State President Alexander Conyers dances with Gambian women farmers at the transition ceremony for the water distribution project




A Gambian farmer harvests crops at the community garden



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August 21, 2024

Page 15

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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, Deffame Candles, Optigo, among others.

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

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****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.

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

Sisters 4 Unity Stage Second Annual Communities Against Gun Violence March

The Truth Staff

Once again, the Sisters 4 Unity brought together a variety of organizations, community leaders and attendees focused on the goal of making the Toledo community safer, especially for youngsters.

A community march on Saturday, August 17 began at Smith Park and also concluded in the same area so that a range of speakers could address issues on violence and commend the efforts of those bringing awareness of such issues to community residents.

The Sisters 4 Unity stand out among those who are placing an emphasis on community violence – Aviance Hill, Abena Rowland, Lashawnda Kinnebrew and Jannell Ector have all had the misfortune to experience the catastrophe of losing a child to gun violence. However, instead of giving in to that sorrow and trying to heal by themselves, they have come together in an effort to use their families' misfortunes to help prevent others from undergoing similar experiences.

The Sisters were joined in their Saturday march by the Maumee Bay Club and New Life Church of God in Christ. In addition, Smith Park on Saturday as the site of numerous other exhibitors and vendors. Visitors could register to vote, eat lunch or even ride a horse.

"Despite their pain, they continue to show up for our community," said Malcom Cunningham, director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, of the Sisters 4 Unity as he addressed the crowd following the march. "They are deeply committed to this work. But it's not just about losses, it's also about hope. They are working to address this issue [of violence] by getting to its true causes."

"This right here is the type of concern that put me in the Fire Department," said former Mayor Mike Bell, who also was the city's longest serving fire chief. "They care about service and care about issues. What this group of mothers is doing, it's going to take all of us to come together – it's

about caring about people. So, I appreciate anything these mothers are doing to move this agenda forward ... maybe the city of Toledo will be one of the first places in America to see if this will work ... when there are zero

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Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, former Mayor Mike Bell, Malcolm Cunningham



Sisters 4 Unity - Aviance Hill, Jannell Ector, Abena Rowland, Lashawnda Kinnebrew with Rev. Le Roy Williams in the background



The march begins



Toledo City Councilman George Sarantou, Rev. LeRoy Williams



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