



Volume 85 No. 9 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* September 18, 2024



Raina Dawson, Attorney at Law with Advocates for Basic Legal Equality

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Erika White's Fundraising Luau Brings a Host of Supporters Together

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

Erika White, candidate for Ohio House of Representatives District 41, and supporters held a fundraising luau on Saturday, September 14, at the Yager House in Swan Creek Preserve Metropark.

Joining Democratic Party nominee White, who is opposed in the general election by Republican Josiah Leinbach of Maumee, were members of her family, assorted elected officials, the Democratic Women in Action, Students and Moms Demanding Action, among others.

"Family is the most important part," said White as she introduced her husband James White, a Toledo fire fighter, daughter and son in law, Jasmine and Alexander Buffington. "That's where it all comes from."

Family instilled in her the motivation to run for public office, said White. "You are supposed to give back to the community."

White's luau was also attended by Roy Norman of the Ohio Farm Bureau who recounted how impressed he was, as a member of that organization's screening committee about how committed and knowledgeable White was about farm policy and the need for urban residents to understand how important the agricultural industry was for the country as a whole.

"I was moved by Erika's business sense and her willingness to understand agriculture," said Norman as he presented her with a ribbon from the Farm Bureau acknowledging its endorsement.

Norman also sought to allay concerns about the agricultural sector's management of water resources and noted that White understood that farmers are "stewards of safe water," because their families need safe water as much as the rest of the community does.

Students Demand Action, youngsters who are concerned about gun safety, were also present along with a representative of Moms Demand Action.

Moms Demand Action is a grassroots movement of citizens fighting for public safety measures to protect people from gun violence. The group has a volunteer chapter in every state and works to encourage the passage of stronger gun laws and to help create a culture of responsible gun ownership.

The group, founded after the Sandy Hook school shooting tragedy, is part of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country, and helped to create a similar student group also with chapters around the nation.

District 41 includes Holland, South Toledo and parts of Maumee.

White is president of Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 4319, vice president of the Greater Northwest Ohio AFL-CIO and a social justice and health advocate. "I believe that when we feel better, we do better. Strong communities are built on foundations of good education, prosperous jobs, and mental and physical health that's accessible for everyone," said White earlier this year when she announced her candidacy.

"I've fought for workers and our community members throughout my career. From union negotiations ensuring workers get fair pay and benefits, to promoting mental health and wellness, I've always shown up to make our

community stronger, happier, and healthier. I want to take the energy and successes I've seen right here at home to Columbus. Our district doesn't take anything for granted. We know when it's time to lace up our boots and get to work, and I'm ready to do that for District 41."



The Farm Bureau's Roy Norman and Erika White



State Rep. Michele Grim and Erika White



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Toledo Board of Education's Sheena Barnes



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Make Our Voices Matter

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.
The Truth Contributor

Everyone wants a piece of the pie, but not everyone is willing to help bake it.

– Unknown



Growing up in the 1960s and 1970s era of cultural pride, African American educators like the late iconic Emory Leverette drummed into us what is now known as the principle of self-determination. We were taught to boldly speak up, speak out and speak for ourselves rather than risk having our voices silenced or someone else misspeaking on our behalf.

I would later understand that teaching as Kujichagulia, the second principle of Nguzo Saba—the cultural philosophy resulting from our African value system of defining ourselves, naming ourselves, creating for ourselves, speaking for ourselves.

Fortunately, the African American community, which has perpetually lagged behind others in terms of resources, has a rare opportunity to provide input and be heard by engaging in the Lucas County Board of Commissioners' strategic plan.

Engagement in this strategic planning process provides a platform to speak up, out and for ourselves regarding the investments the Board of Lucas County Commissioners should make in the future while ensuring that its budgeting decisions reflect a more diverse set of perspectives.

In addition, engagement gives the African American community the power to shape its own future, assures county government spending aligns with our priorities, and demands that government become more responsive to our needs.

In this week's article, Lucas County Commissioner Lisa Sobecki and I discuss the Board's current attempt to foster an approach to a more responsive and equitable governance system that better serves all of its citizens.

Perryman: Good afternoon, Commissioner. This is the Board's first strategic plan. Why is this planning process important?

Sobecki: This is very important because it gives us long-term goals, priorities, projects, investments, processes and day-to-day operations; it provides a focus and a reporting mechanism.

I envision it as a reporting mechanism that keeps us on track. If we had this strategic plan, say, had years ago, it would've driven us to this day of fully executing and being prepared financially in so many different regards to various projects. For example, like building the jail, of which we are close but yet so far.

Perryman: Does it give you a framework on which to base future decisions?

Sobecki: Yes. It always happens with any business you have coming down the pike that we can look at our strategic plan and see where this fits. In essence, the strategic plan is a process to prioritize our spending.

Perryman: What is the primary vision for the strategic plan, and what specific goals are you hoping to achieve?

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Your Eyes Are Getting Heavy

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

Remember the early days of TV programming in which the star of the show was a hypnotist who professed that he could lull your brain into a state of stupor by his suggestions and you would obey?

As a TV watcher, to see such a display of mastery over a person's intellect or will power was a Wow! factor and when the person came out of the hypnotic state, he professed not to have known what he did or said during that time of the induced manipulation.

The hypnotist would, as part of his scheme, use a watch on a chain or another object which he would swing in the face of the gullible subject until the eyes of the subject went "heavy" and then slump or go brain neutral for a period of time.

The watching audience would have laughs at the antics that the hypnotized subject would do or say under the commands of the hypnotist. When the subject snapped out of it, he professed that he had no idea what hap-



... continued on page 4

Community Calendar

September 19
Toledo Early College Open House Event: 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., located at 2800 W. Bancroft St.

The school is now enrolling students in grades 7-9 for the 2025-26 academic year

September 23
Councilman John Hobbs III Town Hall Meeting: Resurrection Baptist Church; 6 pm

October 6
Studio 32 Nine Pop Up Shop/ K'Jancee Boutique Sip & Shop: 4 to 7 pm; To be a vendor contact 419-535-1862

October 8
Councilman John Hobbs III Town Hall Meeting: Reynold Corner Baptist Church; 6 pm

October 20
Savanna's Soul Kitchen Steps Brunch: 2 to 4 pm; Harmony House Cafe: 419-740-4579 savannassoulkitchen@gmail.com

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Dear Governor DeWine,

We want to thank you for making Education a high priority on your State of Ohio agenda. We are requesting that you, as the Governor, look at the difference in regulations and requirements, between Ohio Public Schools and Ohio Community Schools. The most glaring inequities include the "72 Hour Rule", graduation calculations and the automatic closure law based solely on report card results.

Please consider these discrepancies:

72-Hour Rule

- Community Schools are required to withdraw students for the 72-hour rule which has become more prevalent during the pandemic.
- The 72-hour rule affects graduation rates, funding, and a school's ability to "find" the student and get them back in school because of limited resources.
- It is difficult to plan for a school year because all funding is based upon student enrollment which in an urban area can fluctuate significantly throughout the school year.

Report Card Metrics and At-Risk for closure

- Our education system and the state report card rank schools based upon the abilities of the student population. Community Schools who willingly take on the most difficult to educate are labeled as failures.
- Being at risk to close makes it more difficult, than it already is, to attract teachers to raise test scores for the report card. For example, The Maritime Academy of Toledo starts at 6th grade and works with some of the most vulnerable students in Toledo. With no control over their elementary education it takes years to bring them to grade level.
- There is no reward or even understanding for community schools that work with the most vulnerable and marginalized students.
- No other type of school, except community schools, worry about being shut down because of what the report card states.

Graduation Rate

- Community Schools that work with the most vulnerable students consistently have a graduation rate, on the report card, that does not accurately reflect the true graduation rate of the school.
- For example, the class of 2019, at The Maritime Academy of Toledo, had an average of 24 credits with many students coming close to 40. In that class,

29% of the students had at least 3 college credits. On our report card we still had an "F" and were on the at-risk for closure list with our 2nd strike. The difference between earning a "C" and an "F" was because of 1 student that was marked incorrectly in EMIS.

Governor, the reason the above is unfair is because both Community Schools and Public Schools are funded by the State of Ohio while serving the same population of students. To have different requirements is inequitable to the families and students who chose a Community School. We agree that requirements are needed to protect the interest of the students; however, the requirements should be the same for both sectors given that in many cases statistics do not tell the entire story. Also, in general Public Schools and Community Schools work together in many situations and have realized that the most vulnerable children have suffered the most from the pandemic.

In addition, we would like to see a Conflict Resolution Program adopted in Ohio with a model curriculum available to all schools.

Governor DeWine:

Thank you for your time and we would be glad to work with your staff on the concerns listed above.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Hubbard- Board Chairman

James Hartung- Board Vice-Chairman

Aaron Lusk- Superintendent

NHA Workshop Introduces Area Caregivers to Resources

The Truth Staff

On Tuesday, September 24, Neighborhood Health Association (NHA) will hold a free workshop for grandparents and kinship caregivers raising children. "Superheroes Need Support, Too" is the title of the resource workshop and will be held at the Cedar Creek Church South Campus from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

During the workshop, representatives from local support agencies, including the Area Office on Aging, Lucas County Children Services and Nami Greater Toledo, will lead working sessions on a variety of topics, letting attendees know what resources are available through their organizations and how to best access those resources.

Sessions will include topics such as self-care, community benefit support services, the Kinship Navigator Program, mental and physical health care and social services.

"When children are in need – and someone known to them steps in – it has a huge impact on positive outcomes," said Doni Miller, CEO of NHA. "For those who are caring for adults, techniques on caring for yourself while caring for another are particularly important to reduce negative health outcomes for the caregiver."

According to statistics supplied by the state of Ohio, more than 227,000 children in the state under the age of 18 live in homes whose caregivers are relatives other than their parents and, across the nation, approximately 2.6 million children live with a kinship caregiver.

"Many resources are available to help caregivers who have stepped in to help with children and adults in need," explained Monica Morales, project coordinator for NHA. "We developed this workshop to give caregivers one place to learn about many different types of help available to them. It's about supporting someone who is giving of themselves."

Tolliver...continued from page 3

pened during that lull.

Well, in a shorthanded way of speaking, gullible America is under the hypnotic spell and commands of Donald Trump when he lulls distraught voters with his chain watch of a dystopian America in which "others" are invading us and even "imported" Haitians are eating dogs and cats and stealing geese from the local ponds in Springfield, Ohio!

Donald Trump has harnessed the grievances and gripes of a large segment of the American society that believe, right or wrong, they are being cheated out of their fair share of the goodies that they believe that they are entitled to.

Those disaffected Americans rant and rail at those Washington elites and

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Raina Dawson: Champion for Change in Toledo

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Imagine living in a city where you are surrounded by countless resources, but only a few know how to find and use them. **Raina Dawson**, a seasoned advocate and mediator, is on a mission to guide people in Toledo to do just that: find and use the resources right in their own backyard.

A Local Hero

Raina Dawson, Esq. JD/MBA, MA, has been a cornerstone of Toledo's legal community for years. Recognized in 2022 as one of Toledo's "20 Under 40," Dawson's journey is a testament to her dedication and passion for making her community a better place. She works as an advocate with *Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE)*, where she focuses on housing and community economic development. She's also the *Mediation Chair* for the *City of Toledo Human Relations Commission*.

From Mediation to Advocacy

Dawson's work is like that of a skilled chef blending ingredients to create the perfect dish. In her case, the "ingredients" are legal advice and community support. "I've always had a passion for serving the community," she says. Her role involves everything from handling individual cases to advocating for legislative changes. It's a bit like being a doctor who not only treats patients but also helps design better healthcare policies.

At ABLE, Raina splits her time between helping with housing issues and public benefits like Social Security and Medicaid. This dual role allows her to address immediate legal problems and work on larger-scale improvements. She explains, "I do both individual advocacy and legislative advocacy. Most importantly, I also go out into the community physically to understand the clients' needs."

Listening and Engaging

One of the key lessons Raina has learned is the importance of truly listening to the community. "To genuinely love your neighbor, I believe you must listen to them, listen to their experiences and believe them," she says. This approach is vital because, often, legal solutions alone aren't enough. For some issues, a social worker or community leader might be more effective.

Dawson's work at ABLE involves connecting people with the right resources, much like how a guide leads hikers to a hidden trail. "One of the things I love most about my work is hosting clinics that bring people together," she shares. These clinics are not just legal help; they are opportunities for people to find solutions and build connections.

The Perils of Digital Advice

In an age where social media and YouTube offer endless streams of advice, Dawson warns against relying too much on these sources. "Please stop taking legal advice from someone talking into a cellphone camera," she urges. Many online influencers, she points out, may not offer accurate or helpful guidance, especially if they are not familiar with local laws and resources.

Instead, Dawson advocates for engaging directly with local professionals. "Turn off social media and engage with the real people in your own city," she advises. By doing so, you not only get more relevant information but also become more connected to your community.

The Power of Doing and Being

Dawson believes that action is crucial. "We need more people to actively go out and do real things," she says. Whether it's becoming a lawyer, doc-

tor, social worker, or coach, Raina stresses that there are no shortcuts to making a difference. "We must do the WORK and get there. No more shortcuts."

Her message is clear: if you want to achieve something, you must be willing to put in the effort. She uses the example of a law student in her 70s who recently shadowed her. "It's never too late," Raina emphasizes. "Imagine how much you can do if you stop putting limitations on yourself."

ABLE: A Beacon of Support

ABLE plays a crucial role in this community, serving 32 counties in north-west and west central Ohio. From defending the rights of agricultural workers and immigrants to providing legal aid in housing and healthcare, ABLE is a lifeline for many. Their Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program ensures the rights of those receiving long-term care, addressing issues from neglect to civil rights violations.

"ABLE's impact is profound," Dawson explains. "Our work touches so many aspects of people's lives—from ensuring fair treatment in education to helping domestic abuse survivors find safety." Their commitment to economic stability and consumer justice truly helps build a more just and supportive Toledo community.

Overcoming Perfectionism

Dawson also touches on an important lesson about progress. "Making sure everything is done perfectly is what stops forward-moving momentum," she explains. "It's okay to make mistakes and drop a few balls along the way. What matters is getting the work done and refining the process as you go."

A Call to Action

Toledo is rich with resources, but the key is knowing how to access and utilize them effectively. Raina Dawson's work highlights the value of engaging directly with local professionals and actively participating in your community. "Get involved, change your life and your community, you're worth it and you can do it," she encourages.

Dawson's journey is a powerful reminder that true success is rooted in dedication and genuine community involvement, not in chasing superficial trends or quick fixes. Her story encourages us to look beyond the allure of digital distractions and focus on meaningful, tangible efforts.

As you embark on your own path, let her wisdom guide you: disconnect from the virtual noise, connect with real people, and commit to the hard work that truly makes a difference. Thank you, Raina Dawson, for showing us the way and inspiring us to build more authentic paths to success.

Follow ABLE's Work: ablelaw.org



Raina Dawson, attorney at *Advocates for Basic Legal Equality*, serves as a resource

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Perryman... continued from page 3

Sobecki: I want to avoid getting in front of the plan since it still needs to be finalized and brought to us. That's why it's been very important that the first phase, the Experience Management Institute (EXMI), came, interviewed all of us individually as county commissioners and spoke with our administrative team. The next layer was our directors and then our community focus groups. They had many community focus groups anywhere from business, our union leaders, some of our church leaders, and our 21 jurisdictions within Lucas County. Right now, the staff is taking a survey.

The last part of this is the most important: Our community input survey went live yesterday on our Facebook, website, Instagram, and LinkedIn so that people could take it. I am asking different entities to help me communicate that message to our community.

Perryman: Do you have any mechanisms to ensure that whatever feedback you get is not only heard but actively incorporated into the decision-making processes? Also, how will you guarantee that you reach underrepresented or marginalized communities so that their voices are included?

Sobecki: The company we hired, EXMI, has extensive experience around very diverse areas, and that was something that I knew when I spoke with them before we even brought them on. EXMI just did The Toledo Public Schools' second strategic plan, so they are very aware of our community and its history, as well as the foresight to ensure we reach all those diverse areas. We also have urban, suburban and rural areas encompassing all the different varieties of diversity in Lucas County.

Perryman: How will Lucas County hold itself accountable if specific goals in the plan are not met?

Sobecki: Like anything, there are elections every four or every two years, so that's how the community will hold us responsible. I'm not so concerned about that because we've done an excellent job of being transparent and reporting to our community. More importantly, though, we often compare ourselves to Fort Wayne, Indiana.

When Fort Wayne developed its strategic plan, it really bolstered its economic development, workforce and population, which have increased somewhat. So, having that plan is truly important.

Perryman: Well, you don't want to wing it day to day, year to year, decade to decade.

Sobecki: I also want to point out that our county commissioners have done some amazing things. If you look at our footprint here in Toledo and what they've done, the investment in the convention center, that's economic development. The investment in 5th/3rd Field has been economic development. The investment in The Huntington Center resulted in economic development. Our strategic plan will be able to drive us to those next big things.

Perryman: So much attention has been concentrated on downtown economic development. What about healthcare, infrastructure and affordable housing? Also, in my long-term experience in Toledo, I've found that the city and county don't often collaborate with nonprofits to achieve strategic goals other than to carve out a minuscule funding niche for them. Do you plan to collaborate with any nonprofits or nongovernment organizations to achieve these strategic goals?

Sobecki: I've collaborated with nonprofits from day one in my office. I held a round-table conversation with several public nonprofits to discuss how the state went into its capital budget time. I said, "Listen, we have to come together with one, two, or three top items that all of us can collectively support each other. The state's having conversations around these capital one-time funds and then the regular capital dollars."

From that group, I went with this same group of folks. We did a fly-in to Washington, D.C., in May, to talk about those different opportunities on the federal side that we can collectively wrap our arms around and support each other. In this example, if TARTA stands successful, guess what? I'm successful as a county commissioner because people were able to get transportation to their jobs or the doctor's, so we have healthy people who can go to work.

If the Metroparks continues to be successful and we gravitate around them, look at the waterfront and what they're doing there. They are literally setting the foundation for economic development growth in Toledo and Lucas County. We'd be fools for not supporting them because economic development growth will continue.

When businesses are looking for expansion, why are we rated top in Site Selection Magazine two years in a row? It's because of things like that. It's a rewiring of our mindset here in Toledo and in Lucas County as a whole. It is having a vision and collectively getting together around it.

Perryman: Let's get down to the nitty-gritty; how are you funding the strategic plan?

Sobecki: We are funding the strategic plan through our budget. So, I thank the taxpayers for the dollars they provide to Lucas County through their hard work. I've talked to many people, and on average, they've paid for their strategic plans. I've heard anywhere from \$2 million to half a million dollars. Still, we've invested around \$200,000 in our strategic plan to do all four phases.

Perryman: Okay, now let's discuss the bigger picture regarding the county budget. When you complete the strategic plan, how will you decide what percentage of your annual budget is allocated to each priority area? Say, how much for economic development and affordable housing? I'm also hoping for economic inequality. How will you decide what percentage of that budget will go to each area?

Sobecki: First, it will be based on the dollar amount within our budget and the State of Ohio's new general assembly, which begins in January. If the marijuana money can go into our safety forces, sheriff's or other areas, that might give us some more flexibility in our overall dollars.

Is it around housing? Mental health? Education? I know there's lots of conversations about universal preschool. Are they going to take away our local government funds or deplete those local government funds?

Since John Kasich and Mike DeWine took office, they have taken our Lucas County people's tax dollars and sent them to Columbus. We have lost \$100 million to put in a rainy day fund on which they have not spent one penny. We have gone through a global pandemic, tornadoes and the recession. None of those dollars have ever been spent.

So, my question would be back to the State of Ohio: when will you release those taxpayer dollars down there that you keep holding onto? Think about

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The Elite 8 Reunited to Reflect on Accomplishments

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The Elite 8 of 1975 reunited at the Old Bag of Nails Pub Monday, September 9 to share stories and fellowship about their renowned careers as high school, collegiate and professional athletes from Toledo, Ohio.

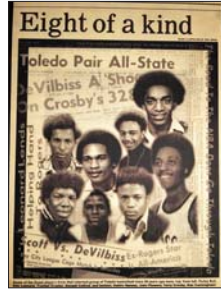
"We call it the Elite 8," remarked Ken Cunningham organizer of the gathering, "[it was] probably one of the best photos that ever came into the Toledo Blade, I thought if we could just get all the guys together that's from that photo it would probably one of the best things that happen in Toledo in a long time to see all of us that are here."

"We're all brothers... this is once in a lifetime," stated Cunningham "it's so good to see everybody and we all can sit here and laugh and talk about the things we used to do."

The photo was a promo in the Blade in 1975 of eight premier high school basketball players: Kenny Cunningham, Terry Crosby, Kelvin Ransey, Donald Collins, Truman Claytor, John Flowers, Kim Leonard and Farley Bell (now deceased).

"It was a picture of all of us together as being the best eight that ever came out of Toledo," he stated. "Five of us were drafted by the NBA: Don Collins, Truman Claytor, Terry Crosby, Kelvin Ransey and myself."

"It's [great] for the guys that are coming up today that can see something like this, and it gives them some incentive," he continued. "It makes it real



Original Blade photo highlighting The Elite 8 in 1975



(L-R) Truman Claytor, Kim Leonard, Donald Collins, Terry Crosby, Ken Cunningham, Kelvin Ransey and John Flowers wearing their collegiate jerseys at Waite High School

big for us."

The seven dined at Old Bag of Nails Pub and later went to Waite High School for a photoshoot all wearing their collegiate jerseys. Collins was recently inducted into the Washington State Hall of Fame earlier this month.

"I'm hoping that after today we will constantly get together," reflected Elite 8 member John Flowers, "To get together and to be in the same place --it's fantastic."

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Elite 8... continued from page 8

Kenny Cunningham led the Roger's Rams to play in the City Championship game in his three Varsity seasons and was inducted in the Rogers High School Basketball Hall of Fame in 2011. Cunningham started his College Basketball career in 1977 at Monroe Community College in Monroe, Michigan where he received many distinctions and accolades. In 1978, he was named as a member of the Junior Basketball Olympic Team, in preparation for the 1980 Olympic Basketball Team.

In the fall of 1979, Cunningham joined the Western Michigan University Basketball Team. Within one year he was voted Most Valuable Player, first team all-District and second team all-conference. In 1980, he was voted first team all-conference and the All-Mac team in 1979 and 1980. He was voted most Valuable Player and named as the Mid-American Conference Player of the Year with a scoring average of 24.6 points per game. Cunningham then was Inducted into the Western Michigan University Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016.

In 1980, he was drafted to the National Basketball Association by the Utah Jazz, then was moved to try out with the Philadelphia 76ers. He was also Inducted into The City of Toledo Athletic Hall of Fame in 2023.

Terry Crosby is a former National Basketball Association (NBA) player with the Kansas City Kings. Raised in Toledo, Crosby is hailed as one of the city's finest two-sport athletes in basketball and football, leaving an

indelible mark on the local sports scene as the first DeVilbiss High School athlete to have his jerseys retired in the history of Toledo Athletics Professional Achievements

With a full basketball scholarship, Crosby pursued his higher education at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, earning a BA Degree in Sociology. His passion for basketball took him on an extraordinary 17-year professional journey, competing in various countries such as Great Britain, France, Switzerland and Italy. Throughout his time on the court, Crosby achieved

...continued on page 12



The Elite share stories



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St. Paul MBC's Annual Women's Day Celebration

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church celebrated their Annual Women's Day Sunday, September 15. The theme for the celebration was "The Transformative Power of a Woman's Voice" using scriptures from Psalms 141:3; Proverbs 18:21 and Ephesians 4:29. The colors were white accented with shades of blue.

The spirit filled worship service featured speaker Reverend Barbie Harriston, associate minister of United Missionary Baptist Church as well as guest soloists and special tributes to the women of St. Paul.

Sunday School began at 10:00 a.m. with Worship Service at 10:45. Praise and Worship was led by Sister Deborah Gardner, Sister Daisy Fisher and the St. Paul Deaconesses.

Elder Jenai Hicklin of New Leaf Group, Inc served as guest worship leader for the service providing her powerful testimony and praise.

The chairperson for this years' Women's Day celebration was Sister Sharonda Diggins along with Co-Chairperson Valerie S. Walston. Walston provided the welcome greeting guest and opening the service.

"Here at St. Paul, we say welcome by the feeling and the power of the holy ghost," stated Watson, "We say welcome by singing the songs of Zion so you can feel the sweet, sweet spirit of the Lord in this place. You are welcome to praise the Lord, make some new friends, give some tithes and offering. You are also welcome to help us honor the women at St. Paul and all over this world. Welcome in the precious and matchless name of our Lord and Savoir Jesus Christ."

The Women's Day Choir was led by Sister Deborah Gardner and featured guest soloists Sister Barbara J. Crowell of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church and Sister Eloise Hutchen of Jerusalem Baptist Church.

The Women's Day Litany was led by Sister Cherine Mitchell, The Altar Call by Sister Pamela Clark, Altar/ Offertory Prayer by Sister Fannie Ivery and Scripture by Sister Mary Liggins.

Special tributes included a candlelight memorial led by Sister Kimberly Cunningham commemorating the women of St. Paul that had passed within the year, an Unsung Hero Award that was presented by Sis. J'Vann Winfield to Deaconess Yvonne Gayle and a special presentation of flowers to First Lady Linnie Willis.

The speaker for the celebration was Reverend Barbie J. Harrison who spoke on the theme "The Transformative Power of a Woman's Voice." Harrison is a native of Shreveport, LA. She attended Grambling State University in Grambling, LA. She holds a post master's degree in education with an emphasis in Agency Counseling and Clinical Studies from the University of Toledo. She completed two years toward a Master of Divinity Degree from Winebrenner Theological Seminary in Findlay, Ohio.

She was president/CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio for 20+ years receiving many accolades, awards/grants and citations for outstanding leadership locally and nationally. She worked in leadership positions at United Way of Greater Toledo and the Lucas County Mental Health Board. Harrison has been a leader in the community volunteering in many civic groups and community activities. Currently, she is the first in

... continued on page 11



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The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) is offering eligible property owners a free lead risk assessment. Services are provided by the Lead Risk Assessment Demonstration Project. Registration is easy. You may also utilize qualifying assessments to complete the City of Toledo's Lead Safe Certification. **Let us, help you, keep families lead safe!**

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Rev. Dr. James H. Willis Sr, First Lady Linnie Willis, speaker Rev. Barbie Harriston, Worship Leader Elder Jenai Hicklin, Chair Sheronda Diggins and Co-Chair Valerie Walston



St. Paul women lead morning devotion



LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING
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St. Paul... continued from page 10

coming Chairwoman of the Area Office on Aging's Board of Directors.

Rev. Harrison accepted the call to preach the Gospel in January 2012 and publicly announced her calling in 2013. She preached her First Sermon June 8, 2014, at the Historic Third Baptist Church where she was ordained as one of the church's first women Deacons. Rev. Harrison was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel under the tutelage of Pastor Robert Bass at United Missionary Baptist Church in June 2021 where she now serves as Associate Minister, Superintendent of Sunday School, Sunday School Teacher and the Missionary Ministry.

The Announcements / Recognition of Guests was given by Sister Debbie

Tolliver... continued from page 4

other governmental officials whom they blame for their misery and lack of upward mobility.

They are malleable to suggestions that a strong and vigorous personality type (like Trump) will be their savior by leading them out of the wilderness of denied opportunities and to new vistas that they are clamoring to experience.

In their opinion, traditional politicians have failed to deliver them the goods and services that they believe are being enjoyed by everyone else but them. To many of them, those "others" are hoarding the feed trough thus making no room for them. It is at such times that their resentments and injuries, both real and imagined, cause them to recalibrate their opinions and impressions of what it means to "wait and take your time" and your turn will come.

No more.

While under the induced spell of the hypnotist, Donald Trump, they are told that they have been abandoned by the current in-place institutions and that they are repeatedly told to fight for their space in the sun.

Images of "others" receiving ill-gotten governmental benefits and being recipients of affirmative action; and with right-wing venues of information feeding them an unrelenting diet of grievances and half-truths, which, left unchecked, leads to pent up anger and hostilities.

Enter stage right: Donald Trump and his bombastic and shrill offerings that only he can right the ship and only he can return "their" America to a past in which they were sitting at the main dining table and not at the kiddies' table.

Enter stage right: Donald Trump and his fire hose of lies and distortions that are eerily manufactured to seem as if his audience's grievances are his grievances; and as if their fight is his fight, even though he is a billionaire who has never once identified with their plight.

Perryman... continued from page 6

what we could've done with \$100 million. We could've been putting it up for housing, we could've been looking at universal preschool, we could've been with some money to tuck back in a piggybank to be able to build a jail, but no, our hard-earned taxpayer dollars went to Columbus, and they stayed down in Columbus. So, we're stuck, in a lot of regards, with crumbs.

Perryman: My questions attempt to express the anxiety of our residents, who are concerned that this budget is utilized efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of all of its residents. Yes, we understand what the state has done, but some local people and groups get overlooked more than others. So, how can we be sure that the planning process will be utilized efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of all of Lucas County's residents?

Sobecki: Sure. I've actually heard the phrase coined, "We have to pick losers and winners." But, I look at what the commissioners have done around housing. I look at the work of what we've done within the Junction Avenue area. See the work we did there by Franklin Avenue when we did the housing there. I look at what the county commissioners have done with the YWCA, with the ARPA dollars that we had there, and at what we do with our community funding and the resources we have that can help, for example, through Jobs and Family Services.

We might have a small pot of money, but the Lucas County Commissioners have really spent money in areas that are some of our most needed and often get overlooked by our state government in many different ways.

Dean Mitchell, following were remarks from Women's Day Chairperson Sister Sharonda Diggins and Benediction/ Remarks by Senior Pastor of St. Paul MBC Dr. Rev. James H. Willis, Sr.

"We are grateful to God for another opportunity to celebrate our Annual Women's Day here at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. We are grateful for the things He has done and will continue to do. Our celebration this year speaks volume for the women of St. Paul as they have invested so much time on this assignment. There has been so much love shown in the process," remarked Rev. Dr. Willis.

Guests enjoyed light refreshments following service. The service can be viewed on St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church's livestream on the church's Facebook page.

But, when you are under a spell of hypnosis, truth and facts are malleable and, when necessary, can be dispensed with altogether as being too much of a bother to verify.

Under the spell of the hypnotist, you are given permission to act out your anger and frustrations because the hypnotist encourages you to Make America Great Again and to follow him to your economic and political nirvana.

Under the delusional power of Donald Trump, up is down and down is up. Truths are negotiable. Right is wrong and wrong is right. All that is needed is for you to believe and act according to your Svengali's instructions.

And don't worry. Your strongman will pardon your indiscretions with pardons if you are convicted and with jobs if he is elected. What could go wrong!

The presumed power of the hypnotist is so wonderful and powerful that men and women who are not directly under his spell, voluntarily place themselves under his sway because it just seems so right to be a part of such a wonderful and glorious movement of making America great again!

And if, perchance, you are questioned as to what makes this movement so alluring, you simply mouth the platitudes and blather provided to you while under his spell.

Such is the abysmal state of the political landscape in America in which one political party has jettisoned any semblance of being moored to values and safety checks that would in any other time, throw out such a charlatan and consummate con as this hypnotist.

But until the hypnotized wake up and regroup and come to their senses and sheepishly recognize that they been fooled and hoodwinked, Donald Trump will spout his unending political lies and gibberish until the voters end his amazing but dangerous American carnage.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at lafe.tolliver@juno.com

Comments to: tolliver@juno.com

Perryman: Will there be opportunities for some of the marginalized groups or their representatives to review and provide input on the budget allocation as a part of the strategic planning process?

Sobecki: This is an excellent opportunity for people to fill out the survey, and we can capture that within the survey. I don't want to get ahead of the strategic plan coming out, but if there are people who are in our community in those marginalized areas, as you say, who feel that they have been left out, this is their opportunity to talk to us through a confidential, anonymous process because we want people to think that they have a safe place to be able to express themselves and that we will capture it as we go through putting the plan together.

Perryman: What's the next step to ensure that ordinary people can have input?

Sobecki: The next step is for them to fill out the survey. If you go to Lucas County, on our Facebook page, The Board of Lucas County Commissioners, or they can visit our website. If they are Instagrammers, they can find us on Instagram, and if they're part of LinkedIn, feel free to go onto LinkedIn.

Perryman: Alright, Lisa. I wanted to understand the plans, objectives, some of the processes, and hopefully the long-term impact, and let the citizens understand how their input could help shape the future of Lucas County.

Sobecki: I'm excited to see the output of this.

Perryman: Thank you.

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

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Elite 8... continued from page 9

remarkable milestones, including a phenomenal 73-point performance that solidified his place in the esteemed World Genius Book of Records.

Currently, Crosby channels his passion for community and engagement as a Corporate Ambassador for the esteemed Taylor Automotive Family and is the recent author of a book "Do You Have the Balls?*" available on Amazon.

Bishop Kelvin Ransey was a three-year starter for Macomber where he earned first Team All-City Honors his junior and senior years. He was also first Team All-State his senior year. The young Ransey received numerous offers to play college basketball. He ultimately decided to attend Ohio State University on full scholarship. While playing at Ohio State Ransey broke many records and became the second All-Time leading scorer in OSU history. Bishop Ransey rests in the OSU Hall of Fame.

After college, Bishop Ransey was the fourth person selected in the 1980 NBA draft. He played six years in the NBA: two years for the Portland Trailblazers, one year with the Dallas Mavericks, and three years with the New Jersey Nets. In 1980, he lacked one vote from being named Rookie of the year. After six years of playing in the NBA, in September of 1985 God called him to preach the gospel. Bishop Ransey heeded the call, left the NBA at the age of 27 and committed to the ministry full time.

Donald Collins is a retired professional basketball player. Collins was a two-year starter for the Toledo Scott Bulldogs in 1975 and 1976. During that time, he was All City both years and earned All State his senior year. His senior year, he was also named Co Mr. Basketball of the State of Ohio along with Macomber's Kelvin Ransey. Collins and the Bulldogs went to the State Sectionals his junior year and led the Bulldogs to the State semifinals his senior year. He left Scott with a 23.1 scoring average and was inducted into the Scott Athletic Hall of Fame.

Upon leaving high school, Collins was then recruited and attended Washington State University. He was selected as the Pac-10 Player of the Year, after averaging 23 points per game for Washington State University, in 1980 and leading the Cougars to their first NCAA Tournament berth since 1941. All-Pac 10 honors in three of his years there along with Pac 10 Player of the year in 1980. After his senior year, he only trailed Kareem Abdul Jabbar as the PAC 10 leader in points scored. This month, he was inducted into the Washington State University Hall of Fame.

In 1980, Donald was drafted #18 by the Atlanta Hawks. He played 6 seasons with stints with the Golden State Warriors, Washington Bullets, and the Milwaukee Bucks as well. Collins played in 333 National Basketball Association (NBA) games, for four teams, over six seasons, averaging just under 10 points per game for his career.

Collins starred in basketball minor leagues after averaging more than 30 points per game, in the United States Basketball League (USBL). A mem-

ber of the Continental Basketball Association (CBA's) 50th best players Anniversary Team, Collins is regarded as one of the most prolific scorers in the history of minor league basketball.

Truman Claytor is a 1975 graduate of Jesup W. Scott High School. He received his Bachelor's Degree (1979) majoring in Elementary Education from the University of Kentucky. At Scott High School, he was a member of the 1974 & 1975 Toledo City League basketball championship teams. Also, in 1974 his Scott team made it to the AAA Division state basketball tournament "Final 4" losing in the semi-final game. In 1975, Truman was named to the 1st Team All-City Basketball Team by the Toledo Blade and Times, and also, named the City League Player of the Year. That same season, he was named to be the 1st Team All District Basketball Team, All District Go-Player of the Year and to the AAA Division 1st Team All-Ohio Basketball Team.

His college basketball career continued at the University of Kentucky where his teams won the 1976 "NIT" Championship, and the NCAA Division 1 Championship in 1978. In 1979 he was drafted in the 6th round of the NBA draft by the Detroit Pistons. In 1980, he signed as a free agent with the Philadelphia 76ers. Truman was inducted into the Toledo City League Hall of Fame in 1991 and the African American Sports Legends Hall of Fame in 2018.

Claytor has officiated high school basketball for 31 years working all the conferences and leagues in Northwest Ohio. He's officiated numerous boy's and girl's sectional, district and regional assignments over the last 20 plus seasons.

As a basketball official on the court, Claytor gives a 100 percent effort and exhibits a positive and professional attitude toward the players, coaches, administrators and fans every game he works. Off the court, he continues to inspire many people, if not everyone who comes in contact with him, because of his work with young people in the Toledo community as a youth drug and alcohol counselor.

John F. Flowers Jr. as a freshman at Macomber High School he led the team in scoring and rebounding and to a City League Championship. As a sophomore, he averaged 11 points and 12 rebounds a game en route to another championship and the regional semifinals he was named honorable mention all-city. His junior year with the Sylvania Wildcats he achieved a Great Lakes League Championship and was he was named first team GLL, second team Northwest District and honorable mention all-district.

Flowers played basketball for Southview for just one season. The six-foot, five-inch center scored 398 points and pulled down 915 rebounds and led the Cougars to be Northern Lakes League Championship in 1977. He set seven school records graduating in 1977.

For his efforts, Flowers was named first team NLL, first team district and Northwest

District first team and player of the year. The all Ohio cager was a second team pick by the Associated Press and & third team selection by the United Press International.

In the Ohio-Michigan high school senior all-star team he played on with

...continued on page 13

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Rage: On Being Queer, Black, Brilliant... and Completely Over It by Lester Fabian Brathwaite

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Somewhere up in the clouds.

That's where your blood pressure is, right there as high as it's ever been. Hoo, boy, are you angry. Your teeth are clenched, your eyes are slits, and you can't trust yourself to speak in more than a growl. You're plenty steamed and, as in the new book *Rage* by Lester Fabian Brathwaite, it shouldn't have to be this way.

When he came with his family to America from Guyana at just four years old, Brathwaite couldn't believe what his new home country offered. Malls, new kinds of food, cable television? Shirtless white men on TV and in magazines? Yes, please!

He's always had crushes on white men, but he loves being a gay Black man – even though racism, overt and subtle, can be an aggravation. When Brathwaite is on a dating app, white men sometimes dismiss him with a racial comment. He's heard and seen the "n-word" more than once and he doesn't tolerate it. Wouldn't a greeting and a no thanks be less rude?

He is bothered by unnecessary meanness.

He is bothered in a different way by bodybuilding. Hot, muscular bodies, to be exact and he's sure that whoever created the sport was a genius. Brathwaite participates in bodybuilding himself sometimes – it's expensive and he does it for himself, not for other men – though he believes that gay men are bodybuilding's biggest subset. For sure, he's paid homage to his share of bodybuilders, superheroes in movies and hot shirtless boys on TV.

There were many times, years ago, that Brathwaite ended up drunk and in a stranger's bed or looking for an old hook-up, and he was arrested once.

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Nearing 30, though, he realized that that life wasn't what he wanted any more. His knees couldn't take it. Besides, he liked who he was and he liked his blackness. He realized that he didn't need anyone else to be a hero of his tale. He could do it better himself.

One thing's for certain: *Rage* lives up to its title.

At times, author Lester Fabian Brathwaite rails against so many things: racism and desire, club society, being a writer and editor, the generational differences between gay men, politics and loss. At other times, he's outRAGEous and hilarious, writing to readers as though he's holding court in a cafe somewhere and you'd better listen up.

You should know that that means honesty – poking in the corners, calling things out for what they are, chastising people who need schooling on how to behave in a way that doesn't leave room for nonsense. This arrives unabashed and raw, accompanied by plenty of profanity.

You've been warned.

And yet, Brathwaite's candor and his blunt talk is fresh and different. This gay man doesn't pussy-foot around, and getting his opinions without fluff feels good and right. Readers will appreciate that, and they might come away educated.

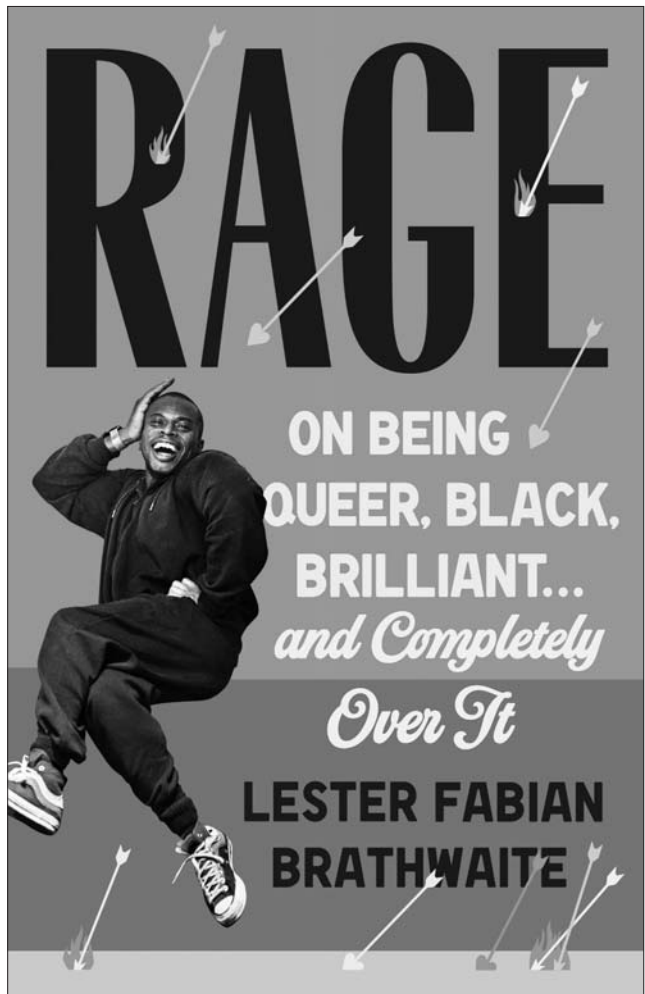
Generally speaking, this ain't your Grandma's book, unless Grandma likes real talk laced with profanity. If that's so, then get *Rage*. You'll both be mad for it.

Elite 8... continued from page 12

Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Jay Vincent that beat a touring Russian junior squad in 1977: Flowers was the top rebounder and second highest scorer in the game.

Flowers accepted a scholarship to Bowling Green State University. He was sidelined his freshman year with a wrist injury. And a horrible accident that nearly ended his collegiate career before it began. In 1978, he was driving a forklift and his right leg was crushed. Four months in a body cast and surgeries on both knees followed. Flowers' determination, hard work and positive outlook made the devastating injury memory. He lettered in basketball from 1980 to 1982.

Kim Leonard is a 1976 graduate of Robert S. Rogers High School and is considered one of the Greatest City League Basketball Players of All Time. Kim was named twice to the First Team All-City and All District teams in 1975, his junior season, 1976, his senior season. He was also a part of the Blade's Magnificent 8 that included his Rams teammates Ken Cunningham, Truman Claytor, Kelvin Ransey, Donald Collins, Terry Crosby, Farley Bell and John Flowers. This 1975-76 class is still considered the Greatest Basketball Class of All Time in Toledo City League History and featured 5 players that were Drafted to the NBA and two players to the NFL. Kim was also an All-Ohio selection his senior year averaging 18 points per game. After graduation, Leonard would play college basketball for Ohio University and later worked for TPS Schools.



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The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority ("TLCPA") is requesting qualification statements from Design/Build ("D/B") firms to provide design and construction in connection with the new ToledoLucas County Port Authority (TLCPA) support facility project. The project involves design and construction of one (1) Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) at Facility 1 located at 3445 St. Lawrence Drive in Toledo, Ohio. The TLCPA will select and retain a (D/B) firm for the design and construction of this project. This project will be performed as a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract. Only qualified firms/contractors are eligible to participate in this project.

The required format for the proposal to be submitted to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is described in detail in the full copy of the Request for Qualifications, and is available by either (1) emailing Tina Perkins at Tperkins@Toledoport.org or (2) visiting the Port Authority's website at <https://www.toledoport.org/public-notices>. Qualification Statements are due no later than Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (local time).

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

INVITATION FOR BIDS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES AMP 131 COMMUNITIES IFB24-B013

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for Snow Removal Services for AMP 131 Communities in accordance with IFB24-B013. Received in accordance with law until September 24, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259- 9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



TOLEDO LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Assistant Public Defender and TLAS Fellowship Program positions in Lucas County, Ohio. See <https://www.nlada.org/node/77206> for more detailed descriptions and requirements for the attorney positions. See <https://www.nlada.org/node/77211> for more detailed descriptions and requirements for the TLAS Fellowship Program. Email cover letter & resume by September 27, 2024 to ToledoLegalAidSociety@Yahoo.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES AMP 121 COMMUNITIES IFB24-B011

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for Snow Removal Services for AMP 121 Communities in accordance with IFB24-B011. Received in accordance with law until September 24, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259- 9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



INVITATION FOR BIDS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES AMP 122 COMMUNITIES IFB24-B012

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TOLEDO LIBRARY HOSTS JOB FAIR

The Toledo Library is once again excited to partner with Ohio Means Jobs Lucas County to host a job fair (<https://events.toledolibrary.org/event/10649897>), bringing employers and job seekers together in one place! Meet with recruiters from a variety of companies and organizations at Main Library on (F) Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Whether you're exploring new career paths or seeking advancement in your current field, this event is your gateway to success. The job fair will take place in the Main Library Atrium, where attendees will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from a variety of local businesses, non-profits, government agencies, and more.

Companies Attending:

- * Betco Corporation
- * Chick-fil-A
- * City of Toledo
- * Directions Credit Union
- * The Honey Baked Ham Company
- * Imagination Station Toledo
- * Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- * Kroger
- * Lucas County Child Support Services
- * Lucas County Children Services
- * Maumee Assembly and Stamping
- * McAlear Group
- * Midwest Tape I hoopla
- * Northwest Ohio Behavioral Healthcare
- * Ohio Department of Transportation
- * O-I Glass, Inc.
- * Otterbein Sunset House
- * Securitas
- * Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA)
- * Toledo Lucas County Public Library
- * Toledo Museum of Art
- * Toledo Public Schools
- * Unison Health
- * United Parcel Service (UPS)
- * The University of Toledo
- * US Army
- * Velocity, A Managed Solutions Company
- * WIS International
- * Zepf Center

*Employer list may change since time of listing.

Before the event, ensure you are ready to make a lasting impression. Attend one of our free Resume Workshops, hosted by OMJLC and receive online job searching tips, resume and cover letter writing help, and more.

Resume Workshops: (<https://www.toledolibrary.org/search-page?dropdownoption=Programs&q=One%20Stop%20Resume%20Shop>)
(Tu) Sept. 17 | 5-6 p.m. | Main Library
(W) Sept. 18 | 5-6 p.m. | Main Library

For more details or assistance, visit (<https://www.toledolibrary.org/locations/main-library>) or call the Computers and Media Department at Main Library 419.259.5200. We're here to support you on your journey to success!

The 24th Annual Collard Green Festival

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The streets surrounding Belmont Street filled with people excited to taste various delicious receipts that included collard green.

The 24th annual Collard Green Festival occurred on Saturday, September 14 at Belmont Enterprise, located at 1699 Belmont. The festival opened with a welcome, a Glenn Stubblefield Sr. special tribute and jazz sensation Ramona Collins.

Belmont Enterprise is a neighborhood sanctuary that features community gathering, fellowship, entertainment and memories. According to event organizer, Joyce Stubblefield, Glenn's widow, the original concept of expanding into a neighborhood festival came about because of an assignment from her mother.

"My mother loved collard greens and sent me to look for green collards," said Stubblefield. "There are several strands of collard greens, and I wanted to learn and try them all."

The festival began in 2000 as a private family and friends gathering, yet over 150 individuals showed up. For 24 years, the festival has remained on Belmont Street, even after receiving support to move the festival outside of the neighborhood.

"The festival grew and grew, my husband used to say that we created a monster," shared Stubblefield. "I want people to feel a sense of community because this a labor of love. Whatever we have, we share it at no charge."

Guests dined on collard spaghetti casserole, collard greens & mac and cheese, collard mozzarella balls, chili & cheese collards, loaded potato collard & buffalo chicken casserole and jerk chicken rice collard casserole.



Washington Muhammad and Don Lynn



Ramona Collins



GLASS-CITY SHOWCASE PRESENTS



ART TATUM: *The Musical*

Featuring the Doug 419 Community Youth Choir & Ann Jerkins-Harris Academy of Excellence Select Choir

Written & Directed by Dianne Webb & Assisted by Autumn Harris
Saturday, **October 12th 2024**

3 - 4:19pm

1001 Indiana Ave at the Frederick Douglass Center

Admission cost: **Free**

For more information call: 419 215 1459

Neighborhood Health Association



Manager of Senior Services

Administers, coordinates, and oversees the various components of the senior services programs provided by Neighborhood Health Association at two senior center locations in Toledo. This leadership position ensures the effective operation and management of the senior centers including program development, budget administration and supervising program staff and volunteers.

Requirements

- 2 years of management experience working with the senior population required.
- 2 years training or experience in gerontology, recreation, or a combination of professional background, training, and experience in activities development and coordination.
- Regular work schedule is Monday - Friday, with availability to be flexible at times to meet the needs of the senior center activities and programming.
- Prepares and oversees the operating budget including the timely submission of report requirements.
- Ensures the delivery of supportive services to our seniors including transportation, health assessments and social services.
- Bilingual in Spanish is a plus.
- Must be sensitive to cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity.

We are a drug-free workplace, and an Equal Opportunity Employer. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package, including health insurance, paid time off in addition to 11 paid holidays. Candidates must provide salary requirements when applying.

Apply Today



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Our Mission: Through our exceptional health care services, we empower and educate, aggressively working to eliminate health care inequities, while supporting personal responsibility for one's own health regardless of the ability to pay.

Community Men Honored and Crowned at Toledo Club

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporte

Toledo residents gathered at the Toledo Club located in downtown Toledo to celebrate the Black Kings of Kwanzaa. The audience for the black tie occasion on September 12, 2024 witnessed 30 men receive crowns and receive a token of appreciation. The Black Kings event is the brainchild of Kathleen Greely and Juneteenth NY.

Guests experienced a cocktail reception and live jazz performance by Sax Fifth and Friends starting at 5:00 p.m. The program opened with a traditional Kwanzaa celebration libation, in which ancestors were acknowledged and elders were honored. The ceremony was led by Diane Gordon and Donald Lynn. Nicole Wilson and Clarence Smith, Jr. shared information about African drumming and led the Black National Anthem. Mistress of ceremony, TaTiana Cash, warmly welcomed everyone and facilitated the award presentations.

"Thank you to each of you for coming to honor these men with your attendance," said Cash. "Thank you to these men for being here to allow us to honor you for the work that you do."

The occasion acknowledged traditional Kwanzaa customs by uplifting spirituals, respecting elders and celebrating family within the seven principles.

- Umoja Award recognized Change Agents who bridge the gap between the community and their peers,
- Collective Award recognizes outstanding community leaders who have made a significant contribution to solving a community problem.
- Nia Award recognizes outstanding mentors, fathers or father-figures who have restored people to their purpose.
- Kuumbj Award recognizes architects or artists who have impacted the community.
- Kujichagulia Award recognizes outstanding leaders who continue to use

their voice and influence for community issues,

- Ujamaa Award recognizes outstanding business owners who have grown their businesses while supporting other community businesses.

The 2024 honorees: Anthony Atkins, Rev. Cedric Brock, Calvin Burney, Jr., Victor Coleman, Truman Claytor, Edward Cook, Judge Myron Duhart, Judge Ian English, James Gant, John Glover, Kendall Harvey, Roy Hodge (post-humously), Richard Jackson, Larry Jones, Tracy Knighten, Willie Knighten, Joseph Peterson, Wakeso Peterson, John Preston, Shawn Mahone, Milt McIntyre, Maurice Morris, Randall Parkers, Emilio Ramirez, Ronald Rice, State Rep. Elgin Rogers, LeSean Shaw, Clarence Smith, Jr., State Rep. Josh Williams, and Lee Williams.

"I appreciate the opportunity, I do this work for the community," noted Kendall Harvey during his acceptance, a sentiment that would be shared by all of the honored gentlemen.

The evening continued with a short performance and keynote address by Ben Tankard, former professional basketball player and Grammy-nominated musician.

According to the 2023 event history page the celebration was funded in part by a grant from the Greater Toledo Community Foundation to proactively address concerns raised by communities that are still disproportionately impacted by inequity and lack of access in the greater Toledo area. St. Martin De Porres Parish was awarded a grant to launch a resident-driven leadership training program and job readiness program for Englewood neighborhood in collaboration with Community RE Reinvestment Coalition Englewood SW and Robinson Elementary.

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John Preston, Emilio Ramirez and Rev. Cedric Brock



Mother Frances Crenshaw, Kathleen Greely, Debra Brock, Rev. Cedric Brock, Kiki Brock



Rev. Cedric Brock; Judge Myron Duhart; State Rep. Josh Williams; State Rep. Elgin Rogers; Calvin Burney, Jr., EdD; and Judge Ian English



Terry Crosby and Rev. LeRoy Williams



Wakeso and Joseph Peterson



TaTiana Cash and LC Commissioner Anita Lopez

