

Volume 86 No. 1      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*      September 25, 2024



**Follow Your Passion and Thrive in Business**

*Moni Featchurs - DJ and Entrepreneur*

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# Historic Sorority Celebrates Unions and the Community

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, Iota Theta Sigma Chapter, sponsored their third annual Labor Day Gala on Saturday, September 14, 2024 at The Holy Toledo Room in downtown Toledo.

The all-white day party had three purposes: publicly acknowledge union members and community leader honorees, celebrate two scholarship recipients and raise funds for the next round of scholarships.

Honoree and union member, Doris Jones, has worked at Chrysler for over 24 years and is a dedicated member of Local 12 UAW. She also serves as the community service chair. Second honoree and union member, Tony Totty, is the president of UAW Local 14 and vice president of the UAW Toledo Area CAP Council. He is a strong advocate for mentoring and has led a program at the Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Boys.

The sorority decided to recognize union members and community leaders for their impactful work within the union and in the community who have transcended our city through their service, dedication and commitment, said Kimberly Ward, fundraising chair 2024.

Community member and final honoree, Lutricia Prater, has worked in the mental health industry for over 18 years and currently serves as a corporate trainer. She has been a dedicated member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated since 1992, where she drives many community-driven

efforts, and is also a member of Girl Friend, Inc. and The Links, Inc.

"I appreciate the award," began Doris Jones. "I do what I can for the community."

"The values of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority mirror our union values," said Tony Totty. "We both fight not just for ourselves but for our community. When I look around this room. I see people that are doing something."

"Thank you to my family, my friends and sorors," said Lutricia Prater. "Strength has carried me through many challenges, we can be a light to others through our service."

The celebration also celebrated two scholarship winners: Cameron Knabbs and Kevontai Payne. Knabbs graduated from Woodward High School and currently attends Penn State University where he is majoring in cybersecurity. Payne is a graduating senior from the only public HBCU in Ohio, Central State University. He is the first family member to graduate from a four-year college. Locally renown TV news anchor and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. member TaTiana Cash, served as hostess.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated was organized on November 12, 1922 at Butler University located in Indianapolis, Indiana by seven community-driven educators. The sorority celebrated 100 years in 2022 and currently supports over 500 chapters of community-driven women who uphold the mission of greater service, greater progress. Locally, Iota Theta Sigma Chapter was chartered in 2001 to serve northwest Ohio. For additional information about the local chapter, contact the Basileus LaDonna Knabbs at [iotatsbasileus@gmail.com](mailto:iotatsbasileus@gmail.com)



Cameron Knabbs



LaDonna Knabbs, Lutricia Prater, Clara Petty, TaTiana Cash, Kimberly Ward



Fonda Royster and LaDonna Knabbs



Kimberly Ward, chapter treasurer and TaTiana Cash, sorority member and event MC

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Rachelle Roy, Kelly Westmoreland and Lutricia Prater



LaDonna Knabbs, chapter president and Tony Totty, honoree

# An Enigmatic Encounter: When Conservatism Meets Social Consciousness

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



*Justice cannot be for one side alone but must be for both.*

*- Eleanor Roosevelt*

Fred LeFebvre is an enigma in today's polarized political climate.

The host of the long-running "morning show," LeFebvre is arguably the preeminent voice in Toledo's media landscape and, for over 40 years, has been a part of WSPD, the dominant station in local conservative talk radio programming.

Yet, Fred defies the typical expectations given the nation's widening ideological divide and deepening partisan hostility. A child of the Civil Rights Movement, his journey from growing up in the suburbs of Detroit to settling in Toledo, where he has been embedded in the community advocating for local initiatives, has shaped his uncommon worldview.

This intersection of Fred's conservative roots with his passion for community-driven change has also produced a pragmatic approach often missing in today's hyper-partisan environment, making him an enigmatic figure who resists being easily categorized simply as a binary "conservative" or "progressive."

I caught up with Fred to discuss his enigmatic perspective. Hear the conversation in his own words.

**Perryman:** Let's start by telling us a little bit about yourself. What brought you to Toledo?

**LeFebvre:** I started in radio about 46-47 years ago in Celina, Ohio. After a couple of years of working down there, I got a call from the management at what was then WMHE 92.5 on Bancroft Street, who promised to pay me more money than what I was making, and that was enough.

**Perryman:** How old were you when you came to Toledo?



Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Fred LeFebvre, Earl Mack, Larry Taylor and State Sen. Paula Hicks Hudson (seated)

... continued on page 12

# Miss Sassy Finally Speaks Out!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq  
Guest Column

As you know, the Trump GOP party has apparently decided to hang their political fortunes on the thoroughly debunked story that Haitian immigrants living in Springfield, Ohio are kidnapping pet cats and dogs... and eating them!

I kid you not. This bizarre social media story has now embedded itself in GOP political campaigning folklore; and both Don the Con and his supplicant, JD Vance are vigorous bleating this lie so as to appeal to his deplorable base that those "others" in Springfield should cause you grave fear and concern when they some come to "your" city or neighborhood.

As a photo-journalism major graduate from Kent State University, my hackles went up when I heard this faux story and marveled at the media life span that it is enjoying.

It was or should have been a relief that the cat involved in this story, Miss Sassy, was found five days later, safe in the basement of her owner. However, no apologies from Trump & Company or his news organ, Fox News, for propagating a horrendous story of legal immigrants invited to Springfield to work in jobs that were wanting for workers.

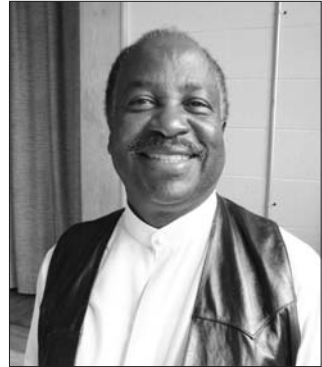
With all of the national banter and comments about this story (even the owner of Miss Sassy apologized for putting out such a false story in a remote social media outlet), no one, I mean no one, has taken the time and effort to find out the real story from Miss Sassy, the underserved protagonist.

So, in the interest of fair reporting and making sure all sides have a chance to explain what happened and how it happened, I obtained exclusive rights from the pet owner to interview Miss Sassy for her version of this still hot story.

I drove to Springfield and went to the owner's home with my tape recorder and cellphone and, after the usual pleasantries with the owner, Miss Sassy was called into the living room.

Miss Sassy, an orange Tabby cat, slowly strolled in and took a seat in her owner's lap and nervously eyed me and my cellphone. Thankfully, through the amazing advancements of animal science and the computer chip, I had on my cell phone a new app called CATTalk, which did a commendable job in translating cat talk meows into English.

... continued on page 4



## Community Calendar

### 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

St. Mark Baptist Church "Women's Day" Celebration: 10:30 am; "Women Walking by Faith, Living in Hope, Abiding in Love;" Speaker Sis. Denisee Gaston of St. Mark

### October 8

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

### October 12

Toledo Library Main Branch Genealogy and Local History Fair: 9:30 am to 5 pm; Start your genealogy journey or dig deeper into your history of history of our region

### October 20

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

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# Going to the Dogs

By June Boyd

Guest Editorial

On Tuesday, September 10, viewers witnessed a debate between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. My only comment is from the words of the famous poetess Maya Angelou: "When someone shows you who they are, Believe them the first time".

I am talking about Donald Trump. A man who has had a history of race discrimination and is again running for President of the United States. This whole thing has gone on far too long. During the last presidential debate, with V.P. Harris obviously getting under his skin, in his anger, Trump had the audacity to state the Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio were eating the pets of the residents there, mentioning them eating cats and dogs. When corrected by the moderator, he continued to maintain his statement was true. How low can he go?

It is quite obvious he has no bottom. Racism is the norm for him. I realize this is America and voters have the right to vote for the candidate of your choice. However, I must say any African American male who is attracted to Donald Trump, get over it.

I have heard the comments that we were better off financially under Donald Trump, with the COVID stimulus checks that were mailed. Those were from the government, not Donald Trump.

The other reason I am asking my brothers not to vote for Trump is because he has used social media for at least four years (Truth Social) to spread lies and conspiracy theories over and over until far too many people believe him. Attempting to overthrow the government is an example, we saw it with our own eyes and he has denied same.

Our ancestors have fought for our freedom for hundreds of years; do not go back to the Plantation. We have come too far.

If you do not believe me; check the history of Donald Trump and his Father refusing to rent their housing units to African Americans they were sued for it. Donald Trump took out a full-page ad against the Central Park 5; young black men wrongly accused of rape and murder. He wanted them executed but they were exonerated.

=He demeans black women to the point of calling Omarosa a "Dog" when she cancelled him out. I could go on and on but by now I am sure



you can see the light at the end of the tunnel. That light is Kamala Harris; it is time that our good men join the hundreds of other men, women, generation X, Dick and Liz Chaney, several Republicans from his cabinet during his tenure; (Trump), and other people of color.

This election is bigger than we are. It is a movement of "them against us" many billionaires wanting the power to take over the U S Constitution having originated on September 17, 1787 guaranteeing basic rights for our citizens.

Do not let them take it away with Project 2025; this year no excuses, we must vote on Tuesday, November 5, and vote for Kamala Harris for President and the candidates you believe will help her maintain our freedom.

*Tolliver...continued from page 3*

The following, with brief editing for brevity's sake, is the story that you will not hear on any network about the five missing days in the now topsy turvy life of Miss Sassy, an innocent feline victim of ugly GOP politics:

ME: Miss Sassy, thank you for allowing me to meet with you and take down your side of the story of Haitians eating cats and dogs.



MISS SASSY: Thank you for hearing my story!

ME: Tell me Miss Sassy, why did you disappear for five days which led to your owner (name withheld for security reasons) filing a police report of a missing cat?

MISS SASSY: Well to my now embarrassment, I was in the house the whole time but in the basement for five days.

ME: Basement? Why?

MISS SASSY: Well, I was mad that my owner changed brands of tuna fish without telling me! There I was, already to enjoy tuna fish in oil but the brand she gave me was tuna fish packed in water!

I was devastated since I have been eating tuna fish in oil for years and then to have your life upended with eating tuna in water...it was more than I could bear, so I ran away to the basement.

ME: But didn't you hear your owner calling out to you and why did you not respond?

MISS SASSY (after a long pause and glancing at her owner): I wanted to punish her for thinking I was one of those street cats that would eat canned tuna packed in water. What an insult that was!

ME: Miss Sassy, have you any idea of the national conversation there has been about you missing for five days and thinking you were kidnapped by Haitians and eaten as a meal?

MISS SASSY: Oh yeah, I heard the comments since at nighttime I would go out the back cat door and hear what was being said by the other cats in the neighborhood.

ME: Were those other cats scared about being kidnapped and eaten?

MISS SASSY (purrs loud). No! We were all accounted for and even some cats from the Haitian community were at a loss of words because they were not worried about those stories.

ME: So, you are telling me that for five days, you went in and out of your home by the cat door and nothing happened to you or to your cat buds?

MISS SASSY: Nothing...absolutely nothing!

ME: Well, what made you show yourself again to your owner?

MISS SASSY (utters a long cat meow): I heard her opening a can of tuna and it smelled like tuna packed in oil! Yum...Yum! So, I said enough is enough and went up the basement stairs and ate like a queen!

ME: So, Miss Sassy, can we say that all is well with you and your owner?

MISS SASSY: Sure, as long as she keeps serving me tuna packed in oil!

ME: So, what is your message to the media and to the Trump GOP about this false story?

MISS SASSY: We cats are fine! Check out any missing dog stories.

Contact *Lafe Tolliver*, cat lover, at [tolliver@juno.com](mailto:tolliver@juno.com)



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# Moni Featchurs: How to Follow Your Passion and Thrive in Business

By Asia Nail  
The Truth Reporter

Have you ever felt a spark inside you, like a tiny fire waiting to grow? That's how Moni Featchurs felt when he discovered his love for music as a child. Imagine being surrounded by friends and family who come over to unwind after a long week. The air is heavy with stress, but then you press play on a favorite song and, suddenly, everything changes. People start smiling, tapping their feet, and even dancing. This magical transformation is what led Featchurs to believe in the power of music—and it sparked a lifelong journey of following his passion.

### The Power of Music

Featchur's story starts at home, where music was like a superhero, swooping in to save the day. "Music is powerful," he says. It has the ability to lift spirits, bring people together, and even heal. Have you ever noticed how your mood changes when you hear your favorite song? That's the magic Featchurs experienced growing up.

Donned with the moniker DJ M.P.R.E.S.S., anyone that has listened knows Moni truly embodies his stage name's acronym "mixes popular records ever so smoothly."

After high school, Featchurs went to college in Georgia, where he helped the school start a radio station. This was his first taste of sharing music with the world. It wasn't just about playing songs; it was about creating an atmosphere where people felt alive and connected. Can you think of a time when a song made you feel excited or happy? That's what Moni wanted to create everywhere he went.

### From DJing to Entrepreneurship

Featchurs' path took an interesting turn when he began DJing. He remembers playing basketball with a club owner who encouraged him to try DJing at their venue. "Being a DJ taught me how to read a crowd," he explains. Imagine being a detective, but instead of solving crimes, you're figuring out what makes people want to dance or stay for a while. That's what DJing is all about.

The former Jackson's Lounge & Grill, owned by Jim Jackson, a celebrated former NBA star and local hero, served as the launching pad for Moni Featchurs' DJ career. Known for its vibrant atmosphere and diverse crowd, Jackson's became a hub for music and entertainment in the Toledo community.

DJ M.P.R.E.S.S.'s debut as the venue's first House DJ allowed Moni to hone and fine tune his skills, while blending various genres and keeping the energy high. Do you think you could handle being the life of the party? Moni made it his mission. The restaurant's lively environment provided the perfect backdrop for him to connect with people through music, setting the stage for Featchurs future success in business.

### A New Adventure: Premiere Screenings

Moni's DJing career opened doors he never expected. While performing in Atlanta, he saw a massive inflatable screen set up for a movie night. This idea lit a new fire in him! He thought, "What if I brought this fun experience to Toledo?" Thus, *Premiere Screenings* was born.



Assets Board Member Moni Featchurs



Moni Featchurs

Have you ever had a moment where you felt you had to choose between safety and pursuing something you love? That's exactly what Featchurs faced. At the time, he was working a corporate job. But when that job was eliminated, he realized it was time to take a leap of faith. "I wasn't working for anyone else," he says. With his business partner, Tracy Haynes, they launched *Premiere Screenings*.

### Starting Your Own Journey

Featchurs has a crucial piece of advice for anyone thinking about starting their own business: "Just START." If you wait until everything feels perfect, you might miss out on amazing opportunities. Every business journey is filled with ups and downs. Think of it like riding a roller coaster—there are twists, turns, and sometimes scary drops. But those moments teach you valuable lessons.

He emphasizes the importance of having mentors. Who do you look up to? Do you have someone in your life who inspires you to do better? "You never want to be the smartest person in the room," he advises. Surrounding yourself with people who have more experience can help you grow faster and avoid pitfalls.

Aside from djing, Featchurs is a serial entrepreneur. Owner of several business: Premier Screenings, LLC, PLAY (Positive Learning Activities for Youth) Youth & Mental Health Program (in partnership with Revitalized Behavioral Health), Nu M1Y Custom Apparel, and a sound and recording studio, Featchurs believes in giving back and supporting the city where he was born and raised.

### Embracing Failure

One of the biggest lessons Featchurs learned is that failure is a part of success. "Failure is inevitable. Failing is winning," he says. That might sound surprising, right? Think of failure as a stepping stone—each misstep is a chance to learn and improve. If everything always went perfectly, we might never push ourselves to grow.

He also reminds us, "Nothing is ever as bad or good as you think it is."

This perspective helps keep things in balance. How do you handle setbacks? When faced with challenges, remember that they won't last forever.

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# HOPE Toledo Receives a Contribution from Huntington Bank

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

During a press conference last Thursday at the Catholic Club, HOPE Toledo and Huntington Bank announced a contribution from the bank to the education group in order to continue the work of offering high-quality early childhood education through HOPE Toledo Pre-K programs.

"We are thrilled to receive this investment in our work to ensure every child and young person has access to an equitable education," said Rev. John Jones, CEO and president of HOPE Toledo. "The confidence and support of a leading institution entity like Huntington is invaluable as we continue to expand our programs and services to those in need in our community."

HOPE Toledo was formed almost five years ago in an effort to fund Scott High School graduates' goals of attending college or other post-secondary education or training. Three years ago, HOPE Toledo became involved with pre-k education working with 20 existing day care centers to boost their education offerings. The HOPE Toledo Pre-K program reaches 800 four year olds currently.

A good deal of the funding for the program has come from city funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act, part of the COVID relief plan, that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden in March 2021. Toledo was able to grant HOPE Toledo \$2.5 million for the pre-k program but those funds had to be doled out by the end of 2024, said Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz during the press conference.

"Hope Toledo is at a really critical juncture," said Kapszukiewicz, who is also on the HOPE Toledo board, while also pointing out how very necessary



Eric Heintschel of Huntington Bank, Rita Russell, HOPE Toledo board treasurer; John Jones, HOPE Toledo CEO and president

the pre-k program has been.

"Three years ago when we began this process, Toledo was the only big city in Ohio, the only city of any size, that did not [offer] access to universal pre-k to four year olds. As a result Toledo is behind other cities in our rankings and stats on education."

While the mayor and Jones recognized the progress the city has made, they both also recognized that "we are not there yet."

Now that the government funds are drying up, other sources are necessary to continue the programs and expand it so that an additional 1,200 four-year-olds can be included to assist Toledo in achieving universal pre-k access status.

The Huntington loan is the first step to engaging the community and leveraging that gift into multiple gifts that will replace the expiring government funding.

"We are talking long-term sustainable funds," said Jones of the task ahead. "This interim step ... hopefully will spur additional resources from our corporate community - I know they understand why this is so critical. The success of our community hinges on the educational achievement of our children and our families."

"Huntington is honored to support HOPE Toledo because their work aligns with our focus on fostering economic equality in under-resourced communities," said Eric Heintschel, Huntington's market president in Toledo. "When we talked to John [Jones] about what they are doing, starting at the pre-k foundation, it was important to us to participate in a meaningful way."

But as both the mayor and Jones emphasized, the Huntington funds are only the first step in getting back to the funding level the organization had before the ARP funds ran out. The funding is needed, said Jones, for "overall operations - program dollars." HOPE Toledo's administrative costs are only about 7.5 percent of overall costs, he noted.

Funding primarily goes to supporting children and their families in accessing the program - tuition and scholarships; supporting teachers to ensure they have the wages and benefits to commensurate with their talents and credentials and supporting the high-quality material necessary to maintain the program.

HOPE Toledo, through HOPE Toledo Pre-K and HOPE Toledo Promise is striving to establish a cradle-to career education approach that will enable the region to have a stronger, more educated workforce.



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# Three Black-Owned Businesses - And What Makes Them Work

## KpK Unlimited, LLC

**Business Owner:**  
Kristie Knighten



*Kristie Knighten -KPK Unlimited*

**How would you describe your business in your own words?**

We provide customized apparel programs to business professionals and groups. We help them embody their brand and use apparel to elevate their brand and boost their income.

**What industry would you consider your business?**

Customized apparel

**When did your business open?**

2013. We first started as an event planning company that provided all that one needs for events including apparel. We pivoted to apparel exclusively during the pandemic.

**Why did you start the business?**

I was in marketing at Raceway Park and I was hired to turn the track into a more attractive event space. In a very daring project, I planned

*... continued on page 13*

## Shelmon Group, LLC

**Business Owner**  
- Theodis Shelmon



*Theodis Shelmon - Shelmon Group, LLC*

**How would you describe your business in your own words?**

We install concrete for residential properties.

**What industry would you consider your business?**

Concrete installation - pouring patios, basement floors, garages etc.

**When did your business open?**

The early 80s

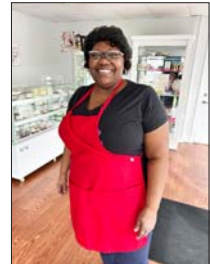
**Who started the business? Why?**

I was working for a union [in the early 80s]. It was hard to get work as a black contractor. I was never one of the first ones to get called and I then I would always be the first one to get laid off. I said things have to change. So, I decided to go into business for myself so that way I could control if I was working or not.

*... continued on page 14*

## Kim's Kakes

**Business Owner:**  
Kimberly Thompson



*Kimberly Thompson - Kim's Kakes*

**How would you describe your business in your own words?**

We are a bakery that specializes in old-fashioned cakes and pies.

**What industry would you consider your business?**

Bakery and catered desserts

**When did your business open?**

I have been in business since 1999. I first started from home selling slices at small businesses and traveling around to different cities and states.

Our first store front is celebrating its 3rd year anniversary.

**Who started the business? Why?**

I did a fundraiser for our church. I worked in a salon and people were ordering the cakes there. From there people started calling for

*... continued on page 15*



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# Taste & Explore Elkhart County, Indiana: A Blend of Culture, Nature and Heritage

By Shana Lee

The Truth's Travel Contributor

Welcome to Elkhart County, Indiana, where vibrant culture meets rich heritage against a backdrop of stunning natural landscapes. Whether you're a history buff, a nature enthusiast, a foodie, or a music lover, Elkhart County has something special to offer. Let's dive deeper into what makes this area a must-visit destination.

Where to Stay: Hotel Elkhart

Start your Elkhart adventure in style at the iconic Hotel Elkhart, a historic landmark reimagined for the modern traveler. This captivating hotel seamlessly blends vintage charm with contemporary comfort, ensuring a truly memorable stay. Located in downtown Elkhart, it's the perfect base for exploring the area's attractions.

Hotel Elkhart boasts spacious guest rooms, each thoughtfully designed to provide the ultimate comfort. Sink into plush, queen-sized beds adorned with luxurious linens, guaranteeing a restful night's sleep. Unwind after a day of exploration with amenities like flat-screen TVs with cable access, high-speed Wi-Fi to stay connected, and in-room coffee makers for that perfect morning pick-me-up.

### Things to Do and See

#### Wellfield Botanic Gardens

Wellfield Botanic Gardens is a must-visit for anyone seeking a tranquil escape or a vibrant cultural experience. This sprawling 36-acre oasis boasts a diverse array of landscapes, captivating visitors with its serenity.



Venture along peaceful walking trails, stopping to admire the serene beauty of the reflecting ponds. Listen to the gentle lapping of water and the symphony of birdsong, allowing yourself to truly unwind in nature's embrace. Wellfield Botanic Gardens is not just a place for quiet contemplation. It's also a dynamic cultural hub that hosts a variety of events throughout the year.

#### Elkhart Riverwalk

Unwind and embrace the natural beauty of Elkhart with a stroll along the Elkhart Riverwalk. This picturesque pathway, spanning several miles, winds its way gracefully alongside the confluence of the St. Joseph and Elkhart Rivers. Whether you're an avid walker, a cyclist seeking a scenic route, or simply looking for a relaxing escape, the Elkhart Riverwalk offers something for everyone.



The centerpiece of the Riverwalk is undoubtedly the stunning scenery. As you walk, bike or jog along the path, take in the breathtaking views of the rivers. Observe the gentle current flow and admire the vibrant birdlife that frequents the riverside. Lush greenery and mature trees line the path, providing a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of the city. It's a beautiful example of how green spaces can be effectively utilized to enhance the well-being of a city's residents and visitors.

#### Midwest Museum of American Art

Art aficionados shouldn't miss the Midwest Museum of American Art, a hidden gem just a short walk from the Elkhart Riverwalk. This renowned institution, established in 1979, boasts a diverse collection of American artworks spanning centuries.

The permanent collection features an impressive array of paintings, sculptures, prints, and more, each piece offering a window into the cultural and social landscape of a specific era.

Prepare to be awestruck by iconic works from renowned American artists like Grant Wood, whose "American Gothic" is instantly recognizable. Immerse yourself in the nostalgic Americana captured by Norman Rockwell's idyllic paintings. Marvel at the bold forms and vibrant colors, characteristic of Georgia O'Keeffe's masterpieces.



These are just a few of the artistic giants whose works grace the museum's walls.

#### RV Hall of Fame and Museum

Gearheads, history buffs, and anyone who's ever dreamt of hitting the open road in an RV – buckle up for a fascinating journey at the RV Hall of Fame and Museum! This one-of-a-kind museum, located right here in Elkhart, Indiana (the heart of RV country!), is a must-visit for anyone curious about the evolution of recreational vehicles and their impact on American travel culture.



Step inside the museum and take on a chronological adventure through the history of RVs. Interactive displays bring the past to life, allowing you to explore the early days of camping trailers and marvel at the technological advancements that have shaped the modern RV industry.

#### Krider World's Fair Garden

Step back in time at Krider World's Fair Garden, a historic site featuring intricate floral designs and sculptures dating back to the early 20th century. Originally created for the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, the garden continues to charm visitors with its meticulous landscaping and colorful flowerbeds, offering a tranquil retreat in the heart of Elkhart.

...continued on page 11

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# How To Travel Luggage Free

By Ricky Tyus

The Truth Travel Contributor

My colleague and his family embarked on a grand adventure from Norfolk, VA to Paris for the Paralympics. They flew non-stop from Norfolk to Newark, NJ, only to face a four-hour ground stop in Newark, courtesy of an Air Traffic Control radar outage. This delay almost made them late for their bargain-basement flight to Paris.



Ricky Tyus

The frugal airline had a strict rule: baggage check-in no later than 90 minutes before departure, and guess what? The check-in desk was already locked up like Fort Knox when they arrived. So, a frantic call to the airline's customer service revealed their delightful options: buy new one-way tickets to Paris for the next day and use their return tickets.

But wait, there's more! Thinking outside the box (or suitcase), a party member dashed to the departure gate to plead her case about the luggage dilemma, plus she needed a wheelchair.

The gate staff heroically dispatched a wheelchair-wielder to the check-in area, and they navigated TSA with their giant suitcases as if they were contestants on a reality show. Fortune smiled upon them as TSA allowed them to process the suitcases, sans the typical forbidden goodies (large liquids & lotions, anyone?).

Surprise! The low-cost flight was an hour late leaving Newark. The airline gate-checked the big suitcases for a princely sum of \$60 per bag. Vintage grand tour or obstacle course? You decide!

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# Memphis – Blues, Beale Street and Barbecue

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

On the banks of the Mississippi lies a treasure – a lot of treasures actually – but this particular treasure is Memphis, Tennessee. And Memphis is the cradle, if not the birthplace, for American music of all kinds –particularly blues, soul and rock n roll!

When you visit Memphis, stay in the downtown area, as close to the river as possible. Visitors for decades have chatted up the Peabody – the iconic, classy Memphis hotel where one can watch the ducks parade across the lobby at Happy Hour.

The Peabody is delightful and the ducks are charming, but I'm going to suggest that a visitor check out the Big Cypress Lodge, right on the river. The Big Cypress, owned and operated by Bass Pro Shops, is contained within a pyramid that is sizeable enough to have once been a **continued on page 11**



Beale Street




The Lorraine Motel



The Mighty Mississippi

The Board of Lucas County Commissioners invites you to help map out the future of public service in Lucas County by filling out a survey that will help inform and develop a strategic plan

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Taste & Explore... continued from page 9

### Where To Eat

#### Kao's

Indulge in authentic Asian cuisine at Kao's, where flavorful dishes and friendly service await in a casual dining setting. The restaurant's menu highlights traditional Chinese and Thai flavors, with options ranging from savory stir-fries to aromatic noodle dishes, making it a popular choice for both lunch and dinner among locals and visitors alike.

#### The Electric Brew

Coffee lovers will appreciate The Electric Brew, a local favorite known for its specialty coffees, teas, and inviting ambiance. The café's cozy atmosphere and artisanal approach to coffee brewing create a welcoming environment for guests looking to unwind with a cup of freshly brewed coffee or explore their selection of gourmet teas and pastries.

#### Venturi

Experience wood-fired pizza and local wines at Venturi, a popular spot known for its delicious food and relaxing outdoor patio. The restaurant's menu features gourmet pizzas cooked in a traditional wood-fired oven, using locally sourced ingredients and artisanal cheeses. Paired with a selection of wines from nearby vineyards, Venturi creates a perfect blend of flavors and ambiance for a memorable dining experience. Don't miss out on Indiana's first certified Neapolitan pizzeria!

#### Fruit Hills Winery & Orchard

Sip on locally produced wines and enjoy scenic views at Fruit Hills Winery & Orchard, where you can also pick fresh fruit during the season. The winery's tasting room offers a selection of wines made from grapes grown in the region, including crisp whites and robust reds, allowing visitors to sample Elkhart County's unique terroir while soaking in the beauty of the surrounding orchards and vineyards.

#### Amish Country Experience

No visit to Elkhart County is complete without exploring its Amish heritage. Enjoy a traditional Amish meal at Das Dutchman Essenhaus, known for its hearty comfort food and homemade pies. Drive the scenic Heritage Trail, winding through picturesque Amish countryside dotted with artisan shops, bakeries, and quilt gardens. The trail spans over 90 miles, allowing visitors to explore quaint villages, learn about Amish culture, and purchase handmade crafts and baked goods from local artisans and businesses along the way, making it a memorable journey through Elkhart County's rural landscape.

Moni Featchures... continued from page 5

Learning to view them as opportunities can change your whole outlook.

#### Finding Your Passion

Featchures encourages everyone to find what they love to do. "If you find things that you love, the money will come," he believes. It's like planting a garden; when you nurture your passions, they'll eventually bloom and bear fruit. Imagine waking up every day excited about your work. That's the kind of life he aims to create for himself and others.

As part of his commitment to the community, Moni also founded a program called *P.L.A.Y. (Positive Learning Activities for Youth)*. This initiative provides kids ages nine-14 with opportunities to explore different activities, like music, arts, and video games. "I noticed that many playgrounds cater only to athletes, and I wanted to ensure that all kids have a chance to shine," explains Featchures.

#### Building a Strong Community

Featchures sits on several boards including *Assets Toledo* where he also serves as the President of the Alumni.

Assets Toledo is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering small business owners through comprehensive self-employment training

...continued on page 15

### Historical Facts

Did you know? Elkhart County was named after the Elkhart River, which flows through the area and was originally inhabited by Potawatomi Native Americans. It became a hub for the RV industry in the 20th century, earning it the nickname "RV Capital of the World." Today, Elkhart County celebrates its rich heritage through its museums, cultural attractions, and annual festivals, offering visitors a glimpse into its past while embracing its vibrant present.

From scenic gardens and historic museums to flavorful dining and vibrant nightlife, Elkhart County invites you to explore its diverse attractions and embrace its warm hospitality. Plan your visit today and uncover the treasures waiting to be discovered in this captivating destination.

Memphis... continued from page 10

But after you settle into your hotel room, wherever that may be, the city of Memphis is open for a tour – a musical tour. Take a trip to the Stax Museum and see where Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, Sam & Dave, The Staple Singers, All Green, Ike & Tina Turner, Aretha Franklin and a host of others brought "the sweet sound of soul music" to the world.

Then stop by Sun Studio – "The Birthplace of Rock n Roll" – and tour the site where music legends "blended blues & country music to explode in the 'big bang of rock n roll.'" B.B. King. Howlin' Wolf and Ike Turner showed up first before Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Roy Orbison arrived to create the dominant music of the second half of the 20th century.

Beale Street beckons. Restaurants, bars and, above all, music, particularly the blues. Park your car on a side street – actually, you have to because only pedestrians can get onto Beale Street – and stroll down the entertainment center of Memphis, drinking in the ambiance.

Head to B.B. King's Blues Club, the SugaShack, Silky O'Sullivan's or Handy's Blues Hall on Beale Street, to name a few establishments. The fun is also out on the street walking from place to place, drink in hand (the only place in Tennessee where you are permitted to do so). There are few spots in the country like Beale Street for activity or excitement.

If you are lucky enough to strike up a conversation during your visit with locals, ask them if they have any good barbecue in town ... and stand back quick and wait for the explosion. There are, according to locals, no other place in the nation for barbecue – a Texas or North Carolina, for example –notwithstanding.

Memphis, you will be told, is barbecue heaven. The only question is what kind of barbecue do you want – wet ribs (with sauce, that is) or dry ribs (the dry rub recipe popularized over the decades in town and around the country by Charlie Vergos' Rendezvous Restaurant)? And it's only ribs and pulled pork that is real barbecue, you will be told, not that silly beef brisket they do in Texas.

Cozy Corner or Central BBQ are several of the names that will pop up and both are worth it.

Good food and great music ... more than enough to make a visit to Memphis worthwhile. But there's more

There are two historic and very different landmarks to attract a diverse group of visitors. Sites that commemorate iconic figures who are as different as two such figures could possibly be. The place where Elvis lived – Graceland – and the place where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. died – the Lorraine Motel.

Attached to the Lorraine Motel is the National Civil Rights Museum. Through interactive exhibits, historic collections, dynamic speakers and special events, the museum offers visitors a chance to walk through history and learn more about a tumultuous and inspiring period of change.

And the Museum is right next door to a Central BBQ restaurant where you can munch on some ribs and head back towards the hotel, walk along the banks of the Mississippi and watch the sun set before heading over to Beale Street and hear some folks "singing the blues in the night."

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Perryman... continued from page 3

LeFebvre: I was 29. I'm originally from Lincoln Park, Michigan, which is a suburb of Detroit. I went to high school in Detroit itself and actually lived in the city for a number of years. I worked in the city in the grocery industry before getting into radio and moving to Ohio.

Perryman: Please elaborate on your early formation.

LeFebvre: I was in high school from '65 to '69, so that was the best time for music. Those were the best years for rock and roll, Motown and all the changes happening. Everything was happening like the War in Vietnam, the Civil Rights Movement through all those years.

I was old enough to remember the assassination of John Kennedy. I watched the funeral on T.V. and see Jack Ruby shooting Oswald in the basement of the Dallas Police Department, Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King and Medgar Evers, and all of that stuff happened during my teenage years.

Perryman: Compare Toledo's vibe or regional culture to Michigan. What makes you unique?

LeFebvre: I grew up in the suburbs, and no African Americans were in my neighborhood. We watched the Civil Rights Movement on T.V., but I don't think my parents understood. Their attitude at the time was, "These people, what do they want?" Then they sent me to high school in the City of Detroit, and I was going to high school with African American kids whose parents were sending them to this Catholic school where there was a tuition that had to be paid, but those parents wanted their kids to have the same stuff that I had already. They also wanted their kids to have a better life and grew up in neighborhoods that were nothing like the neighborhoods where I grew up in Lincoln Park.

So, I went to high school with a pretty good melting pot and really learned there that we had a whole lot more in common than we had in differences.

Perryman: How did you first become engaged with Toledo's African American community groups?

LeFebvre: I first saw Earl Mack speak at my daughter's high school, Notre Dame, about the responsibility parents have for making sure graduation parties and other events don't get out of hand, and I thought, man, this guy has a lot to say.

Then, about 10 years later, I heard about his involvement with the Buffalo Soldiers and invited him on air because I've always believed we can't wait for the government to solve our problems - we have to do it ourselves. I started attending their events at the schools and in the community. Eventually, they asked if I'd like to be a member.

Perryman: What specifically about the Buffalo Soldiers piqued your interest?

LeFebvre: I'm a history student, and I've learned so much about the original Buffalo Soldiers and what they did from just after the Civil War until 1951, supposedly that I never learned in school. I had no idea there were Black cowboys. I didn't know the Buffalo Soldiers had planned out and created the roads in our national parks and that one of them was the first African American superintendent of national parks.

I didn't know they fought along the border and were the first border patrol. I didn't know they helped the settlers cross the Great Plains and fought against the Indians and fought with Indians. I didn't know they were the first

sheriffs. I didn't know the Lone Ranger was a Buffalo Soldier. The Buffalo Soldiers got the worst horses, crappy uniforms and lower pay than anybody else. However, they fought for this country to better themselves and their family's lives.

And, even though when they came back from World War I and were being lynched down south, they continued to fight to make this place better than what it was to keep that promise, as it says in the Declaration of Independence, that we're all created equal.

Perryman: WSPD is known, and even celebrated by some, for its conservative slant and perspective. How do you balance being a conservative voice while supporting initiatives that may challenge conservative policies?

LeFebvre: And that's the thing, you should see my email and my Facebook page. Seriously, in one three-hour show, I can go from being a right-wing nut job to a left-wing radical because I don't look at topics as a conservative.

We (WSPD) carry conservative shows because, number one, there aren't any liberal shows out there. We carry shows that bring us the most listeners. In the morning, I do what I do, which is mostly local because it gets the most listeners for what I want to do in the morning.

Perryman: How can communities and individuals work together to bridge this divide in political perspectives, especially regarding race?

LeFebvre: If I had taken the attitude that I heard at home into high school, I wouldn't have had any African American friends. However, I went into high school realizing that I was going to be surrounded by all these different people; I needed to take advantage of what they were offering, so I did. I had Black friends, Hispanic friends and some really good friends with whom I still keep in contact and live all over the country.

You can't do this in groups, but if you can sit down with a guy, like Earl and I did, talking about what we had in common—the fact that we wanted to move the community forward, making where we live a better place—that stuff has to be accomplished one-on-one.

Perryman: In Toledo, the African American community faces higher unemployment rates than the general population. How can our leaders address those disparities?

LeFebvre: The current administration seems more in love with creating bike and multi-use paths, changing our city flag, and doing things like that. The neighborhoods are dying, but we have major development going up downtown.

I look at Dorr Street and see that stupid sidewalk they put in for the Solheim Cup from downtown all the way to Inverness. I can't even imagine how much that costs, and the people who were coming in for the Solheim were not using that sidewalk.

Why aren't we taking some of this money spent for the sidewalk, revitalizing what buildings can be fixable and refurbished, and saying, "Look, do you want to start a barbershop or other entrepreneurial effort here?" If we can give a tax break to Jeep and any other big company, why can't we give it to this person? But no, instead, we do it for Stellantis, First Solar, Chrysler, and Jeep, and they don't need it.

Perryman: Police - community relations and criminal justice, issues of police brutality, racial profiling and over-policing of minority neighborhoods.

... continued on page 14

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# The Barn: The Secret History of a Murder in Mississippi by Wright Thompson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

You've driven past it so many times, that you haven't actually seen it in ages.

After all these years, it's just a part of the scenery, something you barely even notice anymore. But what's its story? Why is it there? As in the new book *The Barn* by Wright Thompson, could that landmark hold a horrible history?

Through the years, Wright Thompson has drawn a map of his Mississippi homeland dozens of times. Drive down this road, turn here, there, and you're at a spot that was laid out over two centuries ago, Township 22 North, Range 4 West. It's an area where the Blues were born, the Civil Rights Movement was sparked, and the Klan began.

Inside that 35-mile square is the barn where Emmett Till was murdered.

Ask anyone in that area of Mississippi where this story started and they'll point you toward a derelict building that was once a grocery store. Supposedly, 14-year-old Till whistled at a white woman there. He was kidnapped that night, snatched from his bed, and taken away in a green and white pickup truck. Thompson says he's studied this crime for years, and he thinks eight white men were involved in the subsequent beating death of Till.

So why has the barn – a place that Thompson has visited hundreds of times, a place that holds Christmas decorations, lawn equipment, and ghosts – been largely ignored? People knew what happened there. People heard things, and were intimidated into keeping quiet. Others bravely confronted Till's murderers in court.

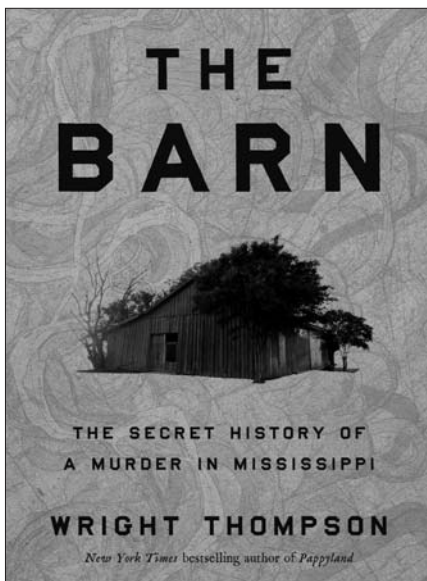
Why, in the years after the trial that freed those killers, did the barn go back to being just a barn?

No doubt, you know this story. You had nightmares about it for years. Be prepared to sleep with the lights on again, then, once you've read *The Barn*.

Much like a love letter written in arsenic, author Wright Thompson describes his beloved home area in lush words with horror behind them, which is both good and bad. You'll almost be able to *feel* the gumbo mud, but – ever actually been to this square of Mississippi? If not, there's a lot of geographical information inside this book, and it's not going to mean much to you.

No, the meaning lies in the rest of the story of a murder that changed American history and that still has the power to make readers shudder. Thompson uses a narrow barn as a pivot point to reach back in history,

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448 pages



to Reconstruction and slavery, Jim Crow and differences in racism in the North and South, Delta culture, and the biography of a boy, in a story that's both personal and local, and that'll keep you glued to your seat.

It'll also help you see how a decades-old murder can be solved, but never put to rest.

*The Barn* is a tale that's hard to read, but also one you can't look away from. If you need an update, or a book to help you better understand the Till case, you'll want to see this one.

KpK Unlimited, LLC... continued from page 8

my wedding reception at the park to change peoples' perspective of the park. Through that experience I had all perspectives – it caused me to be the planner, the venue and the client. From there, I created my own event planning company.



Kristie Knighten organizes a drawing

**What services do you offer?**

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We custom create the plan based on YOU. We offer all that you need to get the look that you desire – even if you don't know what that is yet. We offer our clients a comprehensive service from start to finish and provide creative solutions.

**Do you have plans to grow or expand your business in the future?**

Yes. We're in the process of perfecting the online sales experience.

**How has the community benefited from the existence of your business?**

I'm helping business professionals utilize apparel as a tool for success. Especially entrepreneurs. We need all that we can get. Appeal is a marketing tool. That's what we specialize in apparel as marketing – which should affect their bottom line. We help businesses owners address their marketing needs.

**What advice would you offer to other aspiring business owners?**

Embrace mentorship. Don't be afraid to admit that you need help and don't give up.

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*Perryman... continued from page 3*

Do you want to talk about that?

**LeFebvre:** I would like to see more cops on the beat in the streets. I think that's important. People in the neighborhood need to see a face they recognize, and the police need to recognize those residents. They need to know who the store owners are, who the teachers are when they come out of the classroom, and who the neighborhood kids are.

Not only that, but one of the things I learned a lot from Earl is that there has to be training. You can't just take a new cop, like a new white cop, and throw him into a Black neighborhood unless that's where he grew up, so he understands because he doesn't get it. He doesn't understand the attitude. He doesn't understand the ingrained fear and distrust that African Americans have for the police. Cultural awareness and competency are essential for every neighborhood. You must know the people you're working with.

**Perryman:** Let's discuss disparities in healthcare and healthcare access, including reproductive rights.

**LeFebvre:** There are local events like The African American Male Wellness Walk, but until you convince people just how important it is to maintain their own health to the best of their ability, to demand healthcare and eat properly, stop smoking, and do the things that they can do, you can put all the hospitals out there you want, somebody's going to have to pay for that healthcare somewhere along the line.

As far as reproductive rights go, I'm not a woman, so I don't control any woman's body. I can only control my own. If I don't want my girlfriend or my wife to get pregnant, then I better take some precautions on how I approach her when it comes to sex.

**Perryman:** Did you read the Toledo Blade article based on a CNN report about the United States being last among wealthy nations in healthcare and access to healthcare? The article points out that the U.S. spends more than other countries on healthcare and gets the worst outcomes. I recommend reading Black Health by Dr. Keisha Ray, which might further educate you on that issue.

**LeFebvre:** Certainly.

**Perryman:** Lastly, let's play a little word association.

**LeFebvre:** OK.

**Perryman:** Soul food?

**LeFebvre:** In Detroit, while working on 14th Street, every Saturday, the ladies in the neighborhood would come in and take our orders. Then, about an hour later or so, they'd come back with chitterlings, hog maws, pigs feet, collard greens, and all this stuff. I tried it once. I never acquired a taste for collard greens.

**Perryman:** Ethnic festivals?

**LeFebvre:** I love them and have learned much from them.

**Perryman:** Hip hop?

**LeFebvre:** I like hip-hop. "I like it when you call me Big Poppa." I like Biggie. I go with everything from hip-hop to country, rock to rhythm and blues.

**Perryman:** Comedy?

**LeFebvre:** I love comedy. Queen Cookie was on with me just the other day. She just makes me laugh, and I love that it wasn't until she was 63 that she said, "You know what? I'm going to try something..." and it took her all the way to The Apollo Theatre in Harlem where she got a standing ovation and success all around the country.

**Perryman:** Wade Kapszukiewicz?

**LeFebvre:** I don't like the mayor at all. I don't think he's done enough to get our police in line. The cops that sicced the dog on that guy, there should've been more consequence for that.

**Perryman:** Marcy Kaptur?

**LeFebvre:** We know a much better way to spend our money here than sending it to D.C. I don't want anybody to be in office, whether it's a Democrat or a Republican, for more than 20 years; that's your term limit.

**Perryman:** Mike Bell?

**LeFebvre:** I like Mike Bell. I don't see him often, but I've spent time talking to him after he retired, and I think the story is that he and his brother grew up being a part of the active community and swimming pools. He told me when he became fire chief, he wanted to do the rescue on the river stuff, and they looked at him and said, "Well, you know you gotta know how to swim?" Mike hadn't told anybody that he spent every summer with his brother at the local swimming pool racing, so he said, "Oh really? Okay." He's just unassuming; just go out and get it done.

**Perryman:** Pete Gerken?

**LeFebvre:** I don't like Pete Gerken at all. This dog warden thing, he's got his name all over that. That's a problem that had been brought to his attention sometime before.

**Perryman:** Kamala Harris?

**LeFebvre:** I like Kamala Harris. I just wish she would just be direct. I

don't care that you grew up middle-class, that your mom was a single mom, or that you worked at McDonald's. I want to know from every politician what your plan specifically is. Like Trump said the other day, "Well, I've got ideas for a plan; a concept." I don't give a crap. Just tell me what you're going to do, and then I will decide if I think that would work or not.

**Perryman:** Finally, Donald Trump?

**LeFebvre:** Not a fan. I didn't vote for him last time, so I won't again this time. It's a temperament thing. If you're an asshole, then you will not be in my circle of friends. I don't treat people the way he treats people. It's demeaning, it's wrong, and I don't want the face of my country, no matter what plans he might have in place. I don't want the face of my country to be that ugly American that he is in so many cases.

His son Eric was in the studio with me in 2016, actually, and when we were done, he said, "So did I convince you to vote for my dad?" I said, "No, I'm sorry. I can't vote for your father. I'm never going to vote for your dad. He's just not the person I want to see as the President of the country I live in."

He kind of looked at me like crap. "That's not the answer I was expecting," he said.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)



Buffalo Soldiers PIO Fred LeFebvre



Fred LeFebvre, Sheila Cook and Earl Mack

*Shelmon Group, LLC... continued from page 8*

#### How did you get started in the industry?

My dad worked in construction. When I was in high school they would have me baby sit the concrete that they laid keeping kids from stepping in it. I really wish more young people would become more interested in trades.

#### Who operates the business now? (Is it family owned)?

Myself, my brothers, nephews and cousins

#### What services do you offer?

We do it all. Front porches, sidewalk repairs, steps, foundation cracks, basement floor garages etc. We also do free estimates.

#### What makes your business unique?

We try to make ourselves available and try to price it so that people can afford it. We try to help people. When they call us, they know they're going to get a fair price.

#### Do you have plans to grow or expand your business in the future?

I'm looking to train the next generation of concrete workers. I'm looking for young people who are interested in learning the trade and to start subbing work out.

**Location:** PO BOX 788, Maumee, OH 43537

**Phone Number:** 419-349-5677

**Email:** shelmonconcrete@aol.com



# Taylor Auto Teams with Connecting Kids to Meals

The Truth Staff

Taylor Automotive employees from all over the region came together last week at the Perrysburg headquarters to help assemble food bags for youngsters as part of Connecting Kids to Meals' mission to alleviate hunger in the area. The food was donated by Taylor Auto and the bags also contained messages of encouragement for the youngsters.

"If you are an eight-year-old kid, just getting this bag, what positive message would [you receive]?" asked Wendi Huntley, CEO of Connecting Kids to Meals as the Taylor staff was just about ready to line up to assemble the bags. "Do you appreciate hearing 'you can do anything if you put your mind to it' or 'you are loved. Any message to a kid ... a lot are facing challenging times and your positive message may be the only kind thing they see that day or that weekend."

The Taylor staff then filled 400 bags of food which are to be distributed to the various partner organizations in the Toledo area, said Huntley. As for Taylor, this was another chapter in a partnership that has lasted for almost six years. The past donations have included a van that is used for delivery



Terry Crosby (right) and Taylor staff fill bags and load carts



Taylor Auto's State Taylor and Connecting Kids to Meals Wendi Huntley

of meals to various school locations.

"We are proud to partner with them," said Steve Taylor. "It's a great partnership.

The mission of Connecting Kids to Meals (formerly, Feed Lucas County Children) is to provide hot, nutritious meals at no cost to children in low-income and underserved areas throughout the entire year.

## Kim's Kakes... continued from page 8

holiday cakes etc. and I turned it into a business.

**Who operates the business now? (Is it family owned)?**

It is family owned and operated by myself, my husband and my daughter.

**What services do you offer?**

We cater weddings, birthdays, corporate events, anniversaries --- anything that needs a dessert we're there for it all.

**What is your signature item? Bestseller?**

We have at least 12 signature items. My first signature is my espresso cake. The second is my strawberry lemonade cake. We play with flavors and try new things. We have customers come in and suggest new flavors and we give it a shot!

**What makes your business unique?**

We always come up with new flavors. We have flavor profiles that are like no other.

Everybody is family – nobody is a stranger to us. We do everything with love because we love what we do, and it comes out in the product. We use the freshest ingredients. We don't cut corners.

**Have you achieved the level of success you had hoped for?**

I'm not there yet. I'm still striving. I thank God for where I am. I thank Him everyday when I come turn that key [to the bakery] but I'm still striving to get to the level that I want to be at.

**Do you have plans to grow or expand your business in the future?**

I would love to have another location and would love to be in restaurants and stores and leave a legacy.

**What have you learned is the most important aspect of running a business like yours?**

To be kind and courteous to people. You never know what a person is going through when they come through the doors. For me, that's why I greet everybody with a smile and love everybody. My goal is for you to have an experience with whatever [dessert] you choose that will take you to a happy place.

**Location:** 480 Dixie Hwy Unit B, Rossford, OH 43460

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/kimskakesllc/](http://www.facebook.com/kimskakesllc/)

**Phone Number:** (419) 214-9019

## Moni Featchurs... continued from page 11

and support. "We offer practical, experience-based training at Assets Toledo, helping individuals start or expand their businesses," says Featchurs.

Through his work with *Assets Toledo*, Featchurs helps aspiring business owners gain the training and support they need, empowering individuals to take charge of their economic futures. He believes that entrepreneurship can create stronger families and neighborhoods. Imagine if everyone in your community had the tools they needed to succeed. What kind of difference would that make?

Moni's journey from a young boy who loved music to a successful entrepreneur is a testament to the power of following your passion. Whether you dream of being an artist, a scientist, or starting your own business, remember: the most important step is to **START NOW**. Don't let fear hold you back. With hard work, determination, and a little help from your mentors, you can achieve amazing things.

### Embracing Your Dreams

Reflecting on Moni Featchurs' remarkable journey can inspire you to pursue your own passions with determination and courage. Think about your own dreams. What are you passionate about? What steps can you take today to move closer to those dreams? Remember, the road may be bumpy, but every twist and turn brings you closer to your destination.

So, are you ready to ignite your spark and start your adventure? Embrace the journey ahead, and remember that every small step can lead to extraordinary possibilities. "The world is waiting for your unique talents and ideas," says Moni, "You have the power to change lives—starting with your own."



# Toledo Museum of Art Hosts a Day of Excitement – Ninth Annual Block Party

The Truth Staff

What a block party it was!

On Saturday, September 14, the Toledo Museum of Arts closed off the portion of Monroe Street separating the original museum with the Glass City Pavilion so that visitors could move freely between the two buildings and on the grounds. Families were able to watch artists at work, learn to create art, receive a face painting, listen to a steel band or a Jamaican music band, visit the galleries of the museum, sample the food of numerous food trucks and watch folks wandering around on stilts.

The day started at 1 p.m. with the House of Yatrede Coffee Ceremony in the Glass Pavilion. The House of Yatrede, a highlight of the "Ethiopia at the Crossroads" exhibition showcasing 1,750 years of Ethiopian artistic traditions, blends ancient traditions and legends of Ethiopian culture with 21st century blockchain technology.

Then at 3:00 p.m., the party really started. The grounds were open for listening to music, creating art and eating from numerous food trucks.

In addition, the House of Yatrede began a coffee ceremony at 3:30, to be repeated at 5:30

For the third year, TMA presented the key to the museum to a member of the Toledo community who exemplifies the core values of the Toledo Museum of Art, namely "diversity community, innovation and trust."

This year's award recipient was Steven Ahn, who with corporate strategy at Owens Corning. Ahn was honored, said TMA officials, for his commitment to the Asian American and Pacific Islander culture around Toledo.

The purpose of the Block Party is not only to have a good time but also to recognize key figures in the local art community. This year Jordan Buschur, TMA's Community Artist in Residence. Buschur unveiled her digital art piece Handiwork, Shadow Play.

At 4:45, visitors were treated to curator-led tour of Ethiopia at the Cross-

roads in the Levis Gallery. Ethiopia at the Crossroads transports visitors through centuries of that nation's "extraordinary history, artistic impact and global connectivity," according to TMA's literature.

It is the first major United States exhibition to examine Ethiopian art in a global context and highlight the country's influence that reached from the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, the Nile River and Mediterranean Sea which served as a bridge between Africa, Asia and Europe.

Over 225 objects are on display including devotional paintings, manuscripts, coins, textiles, metalwork and carved wood crosses in conversation with vibrant photographs, paintings and sculptures by contemporary artists and the Ethiopian diaspora as displayed in the works of Merikokeb, Julie Mehretu and Elias Sime.

The "Ethiopia at the Crossroads" exhibition was co-organized by the Toledo Museum of Art, Walters Art Museum and Peabody Essex Museum and curated for TMA by Sondra Ong, assistant director of Strategic initiatives.

The Block Party's entertainment included Glass City Steel, Toledo School for the Arts' steel drum band and Island Guys, a Caribbean steel drum band from Detroit.

The entertainment concluded with a performance by the Ethio Dankira Traditional Music Group, an Ethiopian music and dance group based in Washington, D.C.




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