

Volume 86 No. 3 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* October 9, 2024



Local leaders and citizens protest the closing of the Madison Avenue BMV office

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A Seasoned Warrior's Biggest Battle

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor



Truth never damages a cause that is just.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur has never shied away from a challenge. As the longest-serving woman in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives, Kaptur has dedicated her career to fighting for her 9th Congressional District constituents since 1983 by leveraging her seniority and strategic roles on key committees to bring federal resources and meaningful policy changes to northwest Ohio.

Yet, in the upcoming November 5 election, Kaptur faces what might be the fight of her political life. This time, however, it is not only a battleground of policy or funding. Nor is the battle limited to her consistent encounter against Republican-initiated redistricting and gerrymandering. This time – it is a fight for the truth.

Despite a wave of misinformation and falsehoods from her opponent, Kaptur's record speaks for itself. Since arriving in Congress during the Reagan administration, she has strategically incorporated her initiatives into broader legislative efforts. By chairing appropriations subcommittees and negotiating amendments into law, she has influenced both national policy and local outcomes to deliver results that matter.

Join us as we dialog with the congresswoman to explore her journey and latest challenge, a battle for the truth at the heart of her service.

Perryman: How has politics, especially in Congress, changed since you first started?

Kaptur: Oh my, it's been a revolution, a sea change. When I first arrived

in Congress, leaders like Republican Bob Michel from Illinois and Democrat leader Tip O'Neal from Boston set a cordial tone on the floor. They joked together, collaborated, and even sang carols with the president during the holidays. That kind of camaraderie is gone. Today, the divide is much deeper – crossing the aisle to talk is rare and often raises suspicion on both sides.

Perryman: Your district used to be comfortably blue, but redistricting has changed that, adding more rural areas. What strategies have you used to build relationships and trust in these new areas?

Kaptur: We have worked very hard on connecting and delivering results. I've met with mayors across the district and worked closely with local leaders. For instance, we secured \$1.8 million for Terra Tech in Sandusky County and funded street improvements in Fremont. We've supported local businesses, farmers and educational systems throughout the district, including areas I hadn't represented before. It's about understanding the community's needs and building strong relationships.

We've helped secure over \$800 million in funding for the region, including fire equipment for seven out of eight counties, and provided support for police radios and infrastructure. These investments, such as helping the GM Propulsion Plant, the GM foundry in Defiance and Jeep facilities, have brought real change. It's a lot of work, but the results are starting to show, and people see that we're delivering for them.

Perryman: We are seeing unprecedented attacks and negative ads against you. Can you clarify your position on border security and respond to claims that you've been ineffective?

Kaptur: First, let me set the record straight. There isn't one of these people making the accusations who has even delivered a little fingernail compared to what we've delivered to this region. They don't do anything. All they do is move the district's boundary lines to make it more difficult for me to get elected. They have no idea what it takes to rebuild neighborhoods and an economic base for a community and improve people's way of life; they simply don't know, and Ohio shows it.

The truth is, you can't go anywhere in this district without seeing the impact of our work. We transformed the 180th Fighter Wing from a small base to a major force overseeing the northern watch and invested in the Erie Ottawa Airport and other critical facilities. We also rescued the federal research facility in Erie County and supported major companies like Cleveland Cliffs, Parker Steel, and North Star BlueScope Steel—helping revitalize our region's economic base.

Meanwhile, those attacking us haven't lifted a finger to help. They hide in Columbus and claim credit while we bring real results, like over a billion dollars for cleaning up Lake Erie and the Great Lakes and restoring rivers such

... continued on page 6



U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur

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Hey Waiter!..There is a cat in my soup!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

You know, just when you think it could not get any worse with the MAGA Knuckle-dragging crowd playing the race card, good ol' boy J.D. Vance, always ready to please his puppet master, Don the Con, created out of whole cloth, outrageous stories of Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio kidnapping dogs and cats and consuming them for a quick lunch.



Now mind you, there is no evidence whatsoever of any Haitian immigrants picking their teeth after a delicious meal of roasted Siamese Cat a l'orange with wild rice and a tart arugula salad.

For the weird duo of Don the Con and Vance, truth is an abstract construct subject to differing interpretations depending upon their mood and the circumstances and, of course, the polls.

If there is ever a subject that would cause America's dog and cat lovers to go apoplectic, it would be visions dancing in their heads of poor Fido and Fluffy the cat being barbecued over hickory pellets flavored with a sprig or two of sage.

I hear that Hannibal Lecter, one of Trump's favorite movie characters, favors such cookouts but with his preferred choice of dog being Dalmatians or small terriers.

Understand that during the recent debate, Kamala Harris took Trump's lunch money and then she circled back and took his shoes! Trump tried to divert the national attention off that debacle; and what diversion is better than telling cat and dog lovers that Haitians are devouring dogs and cats in the heart of America...Ohio.

Imagine the chagrin of the Ohio governor, Mike DeWine, having to chastise his own state's senator for generating that lie and then when confronted over the sheer nonsense of that lie, Vance doubles down even admitting that he made it up!

Why does a senator kick his own home state in the teeth with such fanciful and outrageous lies...and why?

Don the Con knows that his base has itching ears for all things race based and to race bait them is a proven winner!

Trump remembers the media mileage he sucked out of the blatant lie that Barack Obama was not one of "us" but rather he was not even born in the good ol' US of A. It was so bad that Obama had to produce a certified copy of his birth certificate showing his place of birth was in Hawaii.

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Issue 1: A Critical Citizen-Led Initiative

By State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson

Guest Column

Why have 38,000 Lucas County voters been unable to vote for their Ohio state Senate candidate for the last two elections? Politician-drawn state maps.



Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Why did citizens in all 88 counties in the state of Ohio gather signatures in the rain, sleet and snow to stop these politicians from continuing to draw unconstitutional maps? Because Ohioans, regardless of party label, believe in fairness.

Why did the "Citizens Not Politicians" campaign turn in over 730,000 signatures to put Issue 1 on the November ballot? The petitioner gatherers believe that power belongs with the people and not politicians.

Why were there no members of the public at either of the two Ohio Ballot Board meetings to offer support for the ballot language that the majority members adopted? Because politicians are on the Ohio Ballot Board and wrote the ballot language to mislead Ohioans.

Why did the majority members of the Ohio Ballot Board create misleading ballot language to trick voters on Issue 1? Simply put, because politicians don't trust voters!

There is a saying that "power begets power." The November 5 election is truly a monumental time in our state; this election decides whether power is in the hands of the citizens or politicians. Not to diminish the national election, but Issue 1 is critically important for the future of the state of Ohio.

On November 5, Ohioans will vote on this citizen-led initiative to correct the mistakes that were made in 2015 and 2018, along with electing a president and other candidates. But removing control of the map-drawing process from politicians and creating a citizen redistricting commission is critical if we truly believe in a fair, representative democracy.

We all should remember that the Ohio Supreme Court ruled seven times that the 2022 legislative and congressional maps drawn by politicians were unconstitutional. Even though citizens were given the opportunity to present various versions of state and federal legislative districts, their maps were rejected by politicians on the Ohio Redistricting Commission. Furthermore, the Ohio Supreme Court said that the politician-drawn maps did not meet the rules and directives of the 2018 laws.

In 2022, students at Jones Leadership Academy were given the assignment to draw their own state and federal district maps in accordance with the same rules that the Ohio Redistricting Commission is

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Community Calendar

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

St. Paul AME Church: Connectional Lay Sunday; 11 am; Speaker Isom Sims of St. Paul; Colors – black and gold; Masks recommended

Toledo NAACP Youth Council Meeting: Sanger Branch Library; 3 pm

October 23

Poetry, Prompts & Pens: Workshop for older adults ready to write poetry; West Toledo Library; 11 am to 12:30 pm: 419-259-5290

October 27

Calvary Missionary Baptist Church 95th Church Anniversary: 4 pm; Guest speaker Pastor Melvin Barnes of Greater Faith Fellowship Church

October 28

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

November 12

Toledo NAACP Voting: 4 to 8 pm via Election Buddy

Toledo NAACP General Membership meeting: Jerusalem Baptist Church; 7 pm

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The Unstoppable Rise of Black Women Voters

By Glynda C. Carr
Guest Column

As we approach this critical election season, a remarkable story unfolds across America. Young Black women are not just registering to vote at unprecedented rates - they're poised to make their voices heard at the ballot box like never before. With a staggering 175 percent increase in voter registration according to recent data from TargetSmart, this surge is not just a statistic; it's a powerful statement about the future of our democracy and a continuation of Black women's longstanding commitment to civic engagement.

For nearly 15 years, Higher Heights has been at the forefront of empowering Black women politically. We've witnessed firsthand the transformative power of Black women's leadership and civic participation. Now, as we face one of the most consequential elections in recent history, the importance of our mission - and the critical need to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) - has never been clearer.

The road from Mayor to the White House is powered by Black women. With 16 million of us eligible to vote, and consistently higher turnout rates than most other groups, we have been the determining factor in many races. Our voices and our votes have shaped the political landscape, leading to historic firsts:

- The first Black woman vice president
- The first Black woman on the Supreme Court
- 30 Black women in Congress

Yet, our work is far from done. We still have only one appointed Black woman in the U.S. Senate, zero Black women Governors, and we've yet to see a Black woman in the Oval Office. We are winning, but we have not yet won.

The surge in voter registration among young Black women is a testament to the power of our collective voice and the urgency of this moment. But registration is just the first step. Now, our focus must shift to ensuring every registered voter casts their ballot.

But why do Black women consistently show up at the polls in such high numbers? Recent polling with HIT Strategies provides insight:

1. We know our power. 80 percent of Black women surveyed believe we have the power to make change on issues that matter most to our communities.

2. We demand greater representation. 82 percent of Black women said it's important to them that Black women be elected and nominated to

more positions of power in our government.

We are motivated by pressing issues. From the rising cost of housing to restrictions on abortion access to threats on honest education for our children, Black women are far from single-issue voters.

4. We honor our history. We vote to honor the blood, sweat, and tears of those who fought for our right to vote.

5. We're more motivated than ever. Nearly two-thirds of Black women said they are more motivated to vote now than ever before.

But perhaps most importantly, we understand the ripple effect of our engagement. As I often say, "When you fire up a Black woman, she does not go to the polls alone, she brings her house, her block, her church, her sorority, and union." This multiplier effect is the secret weapon of Black women's political power and the key to successful GOTV efforts.

At Higher Heights, we see this surge as both a challenge and an opportunity. It's a challenge to ensure that every registered voter actually casts their ballot. It's an opportunity to harness this energy and enthusiasm to drive meaningful change in our communities and our country.

As we look ahead to Election Day, we're focused on key races that can protect, defend, and expand Black women's representation. Our GOTV efforts are in full swing, including:

- Phone banking and text banking campaigns
- Ride-to-the-polls programs
- Community outreach events
- Social media campaigns to raise awareness about voting deadlines and locations
- Partnerships with local organizations to provide childcare and other support services on Election Day

But our work goes beyond election day. Through our Sunday Brunches, convenings, and debate watch efforts, we're building a community of educated, engaged Black women who are ready to lead. We're tapping into networks of historically Black sororities and professional organizations, creating a powerful coalition of change-makers.

The surge in voter registration we're seeing today results from years of grassroots organizing, community building, and relentless advocacy. It's a reminder that when Black women lead, democracy wins. Now, our task is to translate this registration surge into record-breaking turnout.

As we ramp up our GOTV efforts, let's recognize this moment for what it is: a turning point. The rising tide of Black women voters is not just changing elections—it's changing the face of American democracy. We at Higher Heights are proud to be at the forefront of this transformative movement.

To every Black woman who has registered to vote, who is planning to vote, who is encouraging others to vote, who is considering running for office, or who is simply engaging in political discourse: your voice matters. Your vote matters. You are the change we've been waiting for.

The path to a more representative, more equitable democracy runs through the ballot box. This election season, let's commit to turning this surge into a tidal wave of civic engagement. We may be tired, but we continue to soldier on, often shouldering the responsibility of safeguarding our democracy and keeping our country on the right path.

Please visit BlackWomenVote.com

About #BlackWomenVote:

#BlackWomenVote, a nonpartisan voter-activism campaign powered by Higher Heights Leadership Fund is the leading, independent and trusted voice for Black women leading up to 2020 and beyond.

#BlackWomenVote provides the latest election news, commentary and tools for Black women to prepare to vote, and get out the vote within their social networks. We are reaching Black women all across the country to activate their networks and giving them the tools to raise their voice, cast their vote and flex our collective voting power.

Learn more: <https://blackwomensvote.com>.



Glynda C. Carr

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Local Officials Protest Closure of Downtown Bureau of Motor Vehicles Office

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

Civic leaders, including state, city and UAW officials held a press conference Monday, September 30 to notify residents that the downtown Bureau of Motor Vehicles office at 1600 Madison Ave has been closed. The leaders expressed their concern and are pushing for the location to be re-opened. They explained that this will create an added barrier to obtain the identification that the state deems necessary to vote in the November election.

"Sadly, this BMV closed and that has stopped the service for the citizens here. This probably would not happen in Perrysburg or Sylvania and yet it happened here," said Tony Totty, UAW Local 14 president. "We recently had someone come here for services and turned around because they discovered that this location was closed. This affects us on many different levels."

Totty, along with Ohio State Representative Elgin Rodgers, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Lucas Democratic Party Chairperson Schuyler Beckwith and Lucas County Clerk of Courts Bernie Quilter, along with other concerned citizens, voiced their concerns regarding the closure which limits access to needed services to the residents of the central city.

"The downtown BWV has been closed since June with no known plans to restore services to the people living in this community," State Representative Elgin Rogers.

"Given that we have an upcoming election and last day to register to vote is October 7. We stand here today to make sure the residents of downtown Toledo, north

Toledo, the north end and central city know they must have a state issue ID, Military ID or Passport when they go to cast their vote beginning October 8 thru November 5."

The group is addressing the Ohio governor, the Department of Public Safety and reaching out to residents of Lucas County to contact their representatives and ask them to re-open the BMV.

"This seems intentional, it's an election year..." stated Mayor Kapszukiewicz, "The timing of the closure is obvious but so is the location... they're not making it difficult for all voters to vote but some voters to vote, voters that live in neighborhoods like this and tend to vote a certain way. This is not an accident - this is intentional."

Quilter, Lucas County Clerk of Courts, has held the title office at the 1600 Madsion building since the 1990s. His title office issues titles and takes passport applications. "I offered the state to put two of their [BMV] employees in my title office so that we can still issue state IDs and drivers licenses here. I haven't heard from them. They offered to put a kiosk machine and are discussing that, but that kiosk machine will not issue a state ID or a driver's license."

"I warned the state at the time, if you shut this office down, you just shut down the whole inner city and the whole north



State Representative Elgin Rodgers



UAW Local 14 President Tony Totty speaks



Bernie Quilter, Lucas County Clerk of Courts

end of Toledo. Now they have to go up to Sylvania and Monroe or to Oregon to get their state ID or Driver's license. This is going to force me to close [my title] office," Quilter stated.

The last day to register to vote is October 7. Early voting in Ohio begins October 8. To learn more about voting requirements visit lucascountyohiovotes.gov.



Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

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Perryman... continued from page 2

as the Black River and the Maumee. We cleaned up the nuclear waste site in Luckey, Ohio. They accuse us of doing nothing, but the truth is they're playing politics. This is about real work and not a game to me.

Perryman: Are there other projects in the City of Toledo that occurred with your help.

Kaptur: Just recently, in the heart of our city where Dorr Street and, I think, 11th Street come over the I-75, that whole area will receive over \$50 million to build the heart of our city. That didn't come from the state. We also brought over \$5.8 million for the pathway that will be through Sandusky, Ohio going eastward toward Vermilion. There are several grants that are attached to that, but literally they're going to rebuild the waterfront of Sandusky.

The solar panels that are at Jet Express, I can go all across our region and point to projects that we have worked on that have actually come to fruition.

Perryman: So, legislative impact is not achieved by merely sponsoring stand-alone bills but by incorporating resources for your district into larger legislative packages, appropriations, or omnibus bills?

Kaptur: You cannot be successful in Congress just by passing "your own" bills; you need many cosponsors and 218 votes to pass. I serve on the Appropriations Committee, an exclusive committee. We appropriate the money for the entire federal government. I work hard in every account to make sure our region benefits. My seniority on the committee is very important. Bipartisan collaboration is everything to move our bills for the nation.

Perryman: What is your stand on the border that you're being criticized about?

Kaptur: I'm the only one in the political discussion who has real experience. I served on the Homeland Security Committee when it was first created and secured funding for the Border Patrol building in Ottawa County over a decade ago. This office and its officers manage the northern border, focusing on Lake Erie and the Canadian connection, especially boaters. I doubt those criticizing me were even in office when we built it.

Additionally, we improved US 24, which runs from Toledo to the Indiana border—a major route for fentanyl trafficking. Border Patrol assists the sheriffs along this road, and I helped fund those efforts. Critics claim I haven't done enough, but the truth is they voted against the Homeland Security bills that funded these initiatives. We even supported a bipartisan bill to add 1,800 more agents and streamline immigration cases, but it's stuck in the Senate because of political games. If they were serious about border security, they'd let that bill move forward instead of misleading the public.

Perryman: You haven't stayed silent against Derrick Merrin's attacks. You've highlighted his support for corporate tax breaks and utility rate hikes, calling him a corporate puppet. How do you plan to protect Northwestern Ohio families from rising costs and inflation and prioritize their interests over corporate profits?

Kaptur: I have data showing which presidents benefited which groups. Under Republican leadership, the wealthiest gained the most, while our focus is building the middle class. Kamala Harris says she wants to move the middle class forward, and I fully agree. We can't keep rewarding the top one percent and expect our society to thrive—people need affordable medicine, homes, and groceries, and stagnant wages are a big barrier.

Since 1975, the U.S. has faced a trade deficit fueled by companies moving jobs abroad for cheap labor. We need to help industries that create and grow here. My motto is: "What America makes and grows, makes and grows America

Perryman: Merrin and the Republican Party have attacked your record on abortion and reproductive rights. How are you communicating your stance to voters, especially in a way that could bridge the divide in this competitive district?

Kaptur: Well, it looks like Trump and Vance are shifting their positions 15 different ways, so I don't think that we can trust whatever they say. The Ohioans I've talked to want to make these decisions within their families—not have



Joaquin Cintron Vega, Kattie Bond, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur



Congresswoman Kaptur joins attendees at the Doug

politicians in Columbus or Washington deciding for them. It's their civil right to choose whether or not to have children. Denying a woman that right, especially in cases of rape, is cruel and punitive.

None of these lawmakers, like my opponent, will ever face that situation themselves. Ohio voters made their stance clear by passing Issue One, and I believe they'll continue to stand for reproductive freedom in this election. These are deeply personal rights, and no narrow-minded politician should take them away.

Perryman: Your opponent is positioning himself as a fresh face. How does your long experience make you more effective compared to his lack of experience?

Kaptur: My opponent was the Mayor of Waterville at 21, but I haven't seen any meaningful achievements from his time there, and he doesn't even live there anymore. He opposed important lead removal ordinances in Columbus. When he tried to become Speaker of the Ohio House, he failed to gain support from a majority in either party—which suggests he can't work with others.

In contrast, I have a proven track record with tangible results. For instance, we're finally building the new federal courthouse in downtown Toledo, a project I fought for over 25 years. It wasn't easy, but perseverance delivered results for our community. Meanwhile, my opponent supported Larry Householder and HB-6, which led to higher utility bills for First Energy customers and involved him in a corruption scandal. I think voters should consider who has genuinely served and delivered for this community.

Perryman: Finally, let's talk about your vision for northwestern Ohio. If reelected, what are your top priorities for the next term?

Kaptur: First, the economy. I want to continue investing in local companies like Kraft Foods, and First Solar, as well as support the rebirth of our steel and automotive industries. We also need to encourage new businesses and innovation, along with strong workforce development. A recent success I'm proud of is the reopening of the community college on Parkside Boulevard, thanks to collaboration with Toledo Public Schools, Owens, and the University of Toledo.

Housing is another key focus. We need better local financing options, and I hope to work toward restoring a system like the old savings and loans model to support affordable housing. I also aim to support small businesses, including expanding the Toledo Federal Urban Credit Union to offer more loans and credit counseling to local families. Revitalizing our neighborhoods is a priority too, in partnership with the city and county, to bring new life to areas that have been neglected.

Perryman: What final point would you like to leave with The Truth's readers and your northwestern Ohio constituents?

Kaptur: I want people to know the facts. In the last 15 years alone, I've passed 19 bills into law, including the Butch Lewis Act, which saved over a million Teamsters' pensions nationwide—62,000 of those right here in Ohio. The Great Lakes Authority Act is another major achievement, similar to the Tennessee Valley Authority, aimed at protecting our precious Great Lakes. And let's not forget my work adding 10,000 border agents over the past 30 years.

Despite false claims, fact checks by WTOL, WTVG, and Spectrum News have proven many of the attacks against me to be lies. I've also brought back over \$850 million to our district this year alone, thanks to initiatives like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the American Rescue Plan. My focus is delivering real results, and I'm proud of what we've achieved for northwestern Ohio.

Perryman: Thank you, so much.

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

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Publication Date 10/24

State Rep Elgin Rogers Holds Fall Harvest Event

Special to The Truth

About 80 people gathered at Hannon's Block Bar and Grill on Monroe at Erie in Toledo on October 3 to support State Representative Elgin Rogers' Fall Harvest Event. Attendees enjoyed spicy chicken wings, hamburgers and vegetable sticks.

Formal speeches and individual conversations were held on the following topics: economic justice; people who live first class lives at the expense of others; reproductive rights of women; importance of November 2024 Election; fighting for our population that has been wronged in many ways;

standing up for justice through community building; establishing an educational system that provides all children, including Black and low income students, with a quality education; voting the whole ticket in November; public safety planning from the bottom up and not the top down. In addition, those at the gathering showed lot of support for Kamala Harris for president.

There was a wide range of Democratic office holders, party operatives and supporters in attendance.



LC Commissioner Anita Lopez, State Rep. Elgin Rogers, City Councilwoman Brittany Jones



Don Huss, Todd Michaelsen, State Rep. Elgin Rogers, Judge Joe McNamara, Mark Sobczak



Paul Hubbard, State Rep. Robers, Johnny Hutton

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Hometown Author Donates to Local Elementary School

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Vincent Flowers attended Spring Elementary School years ago and recently returned to Toledo on Thursday, October 4, 2024 to donate 75 books to students at the school. The donated books were authored by Flowers and based upon a true story about his children, titled, *Zoe and Zion Love to Bounce*.

Spring Elementary first and second graders filled the cafeteria to hear the home-grown author read from the book. Following the reading, Vincent Flowers welcomed questions from the audience of youngsters and answered each question. Students asked about his life in Toledo, his life in Florida, the inspiration for the book and many other questions.

According to the Spring Elementary's principal, the school plans to look into adding the book to the school's onsite library.

"I wanted to continue to partnership since Mr. Flowers donated two years ago," said Principal Sherry Coogler, EdD. "It's also important because he was a previous student. I believe these students can connect with him and see that literacy is needed and [he will] serve as encouragement."

Flowers published his first book, *Zoe and Zion Love to Build* in 2020 and copies were also donated to Spring Elementary. The first book is currently available through the Toledo Lucas County Library system. The first and second books are also available to purchase on Amazon.

"I didn't find many children's books for Black and Brown children, except for books written about athletes and presidents," shared Flowers. Flowers published his second children's book on Father's Day 2024 and centers around the love of two siblings and conquering fear.

Spring Elementary was selected to receive both donations because Flowers attended that school and was recommended to become an Ohio State Young Scholar, a program that provides first-generation students the opportunity to achieve higher education. Flowers credits his fifth-grade teacher, Anne Redmond, who recommended Flowers for the program. For additional information about the author or book, visit <https://zoeandzionlove.com>



Vincent Flowers



Flowers speaks to Spring students about his latest book



First Lady Debra Brock and Pastor Cedric Brock celebrate 31 years of the pastoral anniversary at Mt Nebo Baptist Church

November 26th - 30th, 2024

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

A Once-In-A-Lifetime Trip to the Big Apple

<p>OVERNIGHT PACKAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round Trip Private Airfare from Toledo, OH 1 Night at the Marriot Marquis Transfers to and from Whiteplains Airport <p>From \$3155 /Person</p>	<p>OVERNIGHT PACKAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round Trip Private Airfare from Toledo, OH 1 Night at the Marriot Marquis Transfers to and from Whiteplains Airport Thanksgiving Day Parade Viewing Party <p>From \$5204 /Person</p>	<p>4-NIGHT PACKAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round Trip Private Airfare from Toledo, OH 4 Nights at the Marriot Marquis Transfers to and from Whiteplains Airport Private Thanksgiving Experience Package <p>From \$6736 /Person</p>
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In Loving Memory of Dr. France A. Collins

A WONDERFUL WOMAN

Dr. Frances A. Collins was a Wonderful Woman – devoted, doting, diplomatic. She was an educator, a friend, and a trusted individual. She was devoted, dotting, diplomatic, & empathetic. Dr. Collins proudly served her community. She believed in supporting African American people. Her memory is forever etched in our hearts. Her legacy is that she instilled in her children, students, and others a love and dedication to serve. Dr. Frances Collins was a true American patriot who helped make the world a better and brighter place. Her memory lives on – *State Rep. Elgin Rogers*



Frances Collins, PhD

Rest in Heaven, Kathy Denise Perkins

Kathy Denise Perkins passed away on September 10, 2024 and in a blink of an eye she received her golden wings and crowns. She was preceeded in death by her parents, Ida and Archie Perkins Sr., and 11 siblings. Her legacy is left to her siblings, Dr. Deborah Perkins, Wendelin, Cynthia Marie, and brother Kim Perkins and also a host of nieces, and nephews, relatives and friends.

Kathy is a Jesup W. High School alumna, as well as being a graduate of Tennessee State University. Her services were Saturday October 5, 2024 at New Beginnings Faith Ministries. Family Hour was at 11 AM, and the funeral at noon.



Toledo Library Youth Writing Contest Is Underway

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is proud to once again host the Ruth Blank Venner and Mary Jane Blank McCormick Youth Writing Contest. The 2024 topic is: Something funny that happened to you or someone you know.

Entries are due by Saturday Nov. 16, 2024 and may be dropped off at any Library location, submitted online at toledolibrary.org/writing-contest, or mailed to Youth Services (see information below.)

Ways to enter:

Download the entry form online (<https://www.toledolibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/Writing-contest-entry-form-2024.pdf>)

Stop by any location to get a form

Submit online (https://form.jotform.com/211933997506062?utm_source=Toledo+Lucas+County+Public+Library&utm_campaign=9970919ddb-)

Winners will be notified by telephone after December 12, 2024. With their guardians' permission, winning entries will be posted on the Toledo Library's OverDrive website after January 11, 2025. Winners will be invited to pick up their prizes on January 11, 2025. Call 419.259.5200 (tel:419.259.5200) for more information.

Entries may be dropped off at any Library location, submitted online, or mailed to: Youth Services at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, 325 Michigan St., Toledo, OH 43604.



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November 8TH

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Toledo Opera Brings Tosca and Alex Britton to the Valentine Theatre Stage

The Truth Staff

Who is Alex Britton?

I am originally born in Columbia, South America my father is from a small island south of Jamaica. I grew up in Los Angeles, went to school to become a doctor, I had a really bad car accident and realized at a very early age that you should do what you love to do. I came to opera relatively late in my late 20s. I always loved to sing and was always into music as a hobby and as a vocation.



Where did your love for music start?

From my parents and from always being a church. When I was 10 years old, I was in the California Boys Choir... I was exposed very early to very high caliber music. All kinds of music from jazz to classical and everything in between.

Why Opera?

I love every facet of Opera. I also design and build sets. I directed this opera four times. Opera is probably one of the hardest art forms. I'm not sure if people know about it - the sheer physicality of it. To make unamplified sound fill a hall over a 40-piece orchestra is in itself just a real exciting challenge.

Also, it's an art form that's usually in a foreign language - so you have to master that language. The acting also has to be impactful. You have to master three or four different things.

What I have discovered is that when a lot of people are exposed to opera but in proximity - in a small place -people feel it on a visceral level that is kind of changing. I experienced that the first opera that I ever saw.

What was your first exposure to Opera?

I was in East Germany, before the wall came down, on a choir tour. We were singing spirituals and all-American music and people loved it. Our guide said that I should sing opera and she took me to one. I went and saw Jerome Hines and Cesar Siepi, two of the greatest basses in the history of opera, in Don Carlos and I was hooked after that... when you feel that vibration that kind of hits you it's just hard to describe. I find that in opera more than anything else.

Why should we come see Tosca?

This opera was kind of scandalous when it first premiered. It's like a television or a James Bond film. The biggest thing is the music - from the start of the first chords the orchestra is playing! It has what I consider some of the best elements of opera: great tunes, tremendous amount of passion, a story of good versus bad, a story of political unrest and violence...the arts are very relevant to today.

What is your role in Toledo Opera's Tosca?

I play Sciarrone one of the villain's henchmen. It's an interesting character. They're both from Sicily and they're coming to Rome and the villain Scarpia is trying to put on the trappings of a sophisticated man but he's from the streets. I'm one of his henchmen and we're part of a political party that's at war with Napoleon. So, we're against any kind of republic. We like dictators.

What I love about this company (The Toledo Opera) is that they make things relevant both from a community and inclusive standpoint and a statement on where we're at.

Alex Britton Biography

Alex Britton, a bass-baritone, has sung leading roles with Opera Salamanca in Spain, Teatro de las Bellas Artes in Medellin, Colombia, West Bay Opera in Palo Alto, CA, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera Pacific, LA Metropolitan Opera, and Aspen Opera Theater. Known for his compelling performances and wide-ranging repertoire, his roles include Giorgio Germont (La Traviata), Scarpia (Tosca), Leporello (Don Giovanni), and the title roles in Don Pasquale and Gianni Schicchi. He has also performed in numerous musical theatre productions, portraying characters such

as King Triton (The Little Mermaid), Emile DeBecque (South Pacific), Javert (Les Misérables), Lurch (The Addams Family), and the voice of Audrey 2 (Little Shop of Horrors). Recently, he was seen as Principal Hawkins in the Crosswell Opera House production of The Prom. In April, he was thrilled to be part of Toledo Opera's production of Ragtime. As a set and lighting designer, Alex has been honored with two prestigious Los Angeles Ovation Awards for outstanding set design and best production, as well as a 2023 Michigan Broadway World Award for scenic design for The Prom. He has served as the Artistic Director, Technical Director, Set Designer, Lighting Designer, and Set Builder for numerous organizations including The Pasadena Playhouse, Chelsea Opera, El Dorado Opera, Lyric Opera of Los Angeles, and Regina Opera. In addition to his theater work, Alex has designed and built sets in the film and television industry and worked as a set dresser and art director on major productions like Marvel's Jessica Jones and Luke Cage. Alex finds joy in his personal life as well. He is happily married to Virginia Stewart and takes pride in being a loving father to five children: Zoe, Reese, Danika, Ian, and Claire.

Tosca - October 18 & 20, 2024 (Valentine Theatre)

With Puccini's richly romantic score, Tosca is one of the world's most loved operas. The year is 1800 and Rome finds itself caught in the middle of a war between Napoleon and the Austrian empire - leading some to flee from the police. Spying, double-crossing, and torture have become the order of the day. Beloved opera singer, Florida Tosca would do anything to protect her lover, the painter Cavaradossi - a fact that the lustful police chief Scarpia is all too ready to exploit. When Cavaradossi is accused of harboring political prisoners, Scarpia implores Tosca to make an unthinkable decision. Little does he know how fiercely she will fight to protect herself and those she loves. This heart-pounding new production is brought to life by conductor Geoffrey McDonald (Suor Angelica/Cavalleria Rusticana and Ballad of Baby Doe) and stage director Jeffrey Buchman (Toledo Opera's Carmen, 2018 and La Bohème 2020).

Starring Lindsey Anderson (The Ballad of Baby Doe) as Tosca, Brendan Boyle (Ragtime) as Cavaradossi, and Corey Crider (Cavalleria Rusticana) as Scarpia.

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

Learn more about Tosca or purchase tickets at ToledoOpera.org



Alex Britton (Sciarrone) and Corey Crider (Scarpia) rehearse Tosca for the Toledo Opera

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John Lewis: A Life by David Greenberg

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You give, and you give, and you give.

No problem. If you can be of service to your community, then that's what you'll do. You'll volunteer where you're needed. You'll offer up your time to organize events and gather other helpers. You've dedicated your life to public service because, as in the new biography, *John Lewis: A Life by David Greenberg*, you've got it to give.

c. 2024
Simon & Schuster
\$35.00
704 pages

Born into a large but poor family in 1940, John Lewis grew up dodging chores in his father's fields, in favor of time spent reading anything he could get his hands on. Lewis's extended family – numbering in the hundreds – never minded much. They knew young John as someone who had big plans for getting off the farm and making something of himself.

Though he was already a victim of Jim Crow laws, and racism kept him from the books and education he craved, Greenberg says that "John's teenage years coincided with the emerging civil rights movement..." and that became Lewis's focus. He avidly followed the radio broadcasts of Martin Luther King, Jr., who became a beacon for him.

When it was time to choose a college, Lewis attended the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, but he "began... to 'drift away'" from the church because it frowned on his interest in the NAACP. He chose another church and eventually made a name for himself there as a gentle, level thinker and a leader.

By 1960, Lewis had become more active in the effort for equality; in 1961, he met Dr. King, who "had a high opinion of Lewis..." King, in fact, offered Lewis a job but Lewis "felt committed to SNCC," and turned the great man down.

Still, Lewis kept in contact with King after he went to work with Robert Kennedy in 1968. He was organizing on behalf of Kennedy in Indianapolis when Dr. King was assassinated; he was in New York when Kennedy was shot...

It's almost impossible in a small article like this to explain the breadth and depth of John Lewis's days, or of this book. There's so much to learn, so many anecdotes to explain his work and his life. Since distilling what author David Greenberg offers won't do justice to either subject or saga, just know that *John Lewis* is about as comprehensive as it gets.

Using archives and other, newer sources, Greenberg dives into Lewis as a whole, taking us back even before he was born. Readers who've spent considerable time studying the politician will be pleasantly surprised to find new information here; those who are familiar with Lewis's Civil Rights work or his politics will devour the until-now unfamiliar parts, making each page a pleasantly dramatic new discovery, like a treasure hunt with an old friend.

Be aware that Greenberg peoples this account of Lewis's life and his career abundantly, which can be overwhelming unless you devote your time well. *John Lewis* is a book for students, historians, biography-lovers, political fans, and activists.

Find it for yourself. Consider it for gift-giving.

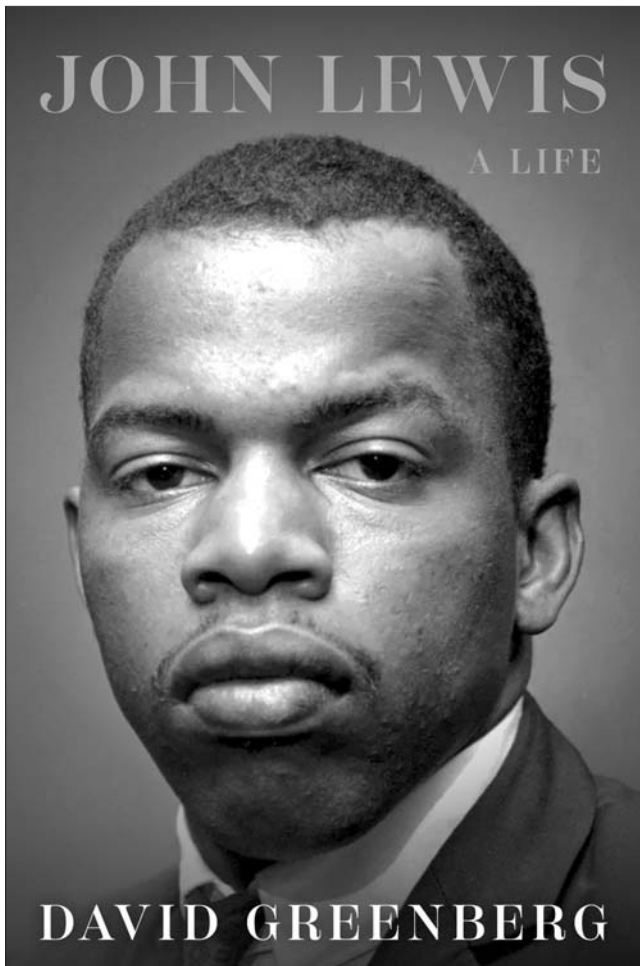
Buffalo Soldiers... continued from page 12

that were lawless; etc. The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments also conducted campaigns against Native American tribes on the western frontier who were engaged in raids, that wreak havoc throughout the southwest, extending from Montana in the northwest to Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in the southwest. The nickname Buffalo Soldier was given to the Soldiers by the Native Indians, due to their bravery and fierce fighting skills like the buffalo and because of the Buffalo Soldiers' dark curly hair and beards, which resemble that of the buffalo's coat.

Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Post Formation

On October 1, 2013, six people from Toledo came together and formed the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club. The group was later granted a corporation charter by the Ohio Secretary of State as a not-for-profit corporation. Later, the IRS approved a determination as a 501(c-3) federal tax exempt charitable organization. The mission of The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers is to represent and educate people about the heritage and rich past of the U.S. Army's Cavalry and Infantry Buffalo Soldiers, through participating in community service events; assisting in enhancing the quality of life in the community they represent, with emphasis on young people; providing educational opportunities through their scholarship program; partnering with agencies with the same or similar mission and promoting safe and enjoyable motorcycling.

To learn more about the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers or to join visit toledobuffalosoldiers.org.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thomas M. Wernert Center (TMWC), a peer support and recovery mental health center in Lucas County, is seeking a highly skilled Executive Director. Reporting to the Board of Trustees, the Executive Director will oversee the strategic and operational functions of programs and staff. This experienced leader will not only understand current trends in peer support and mental health recovery but will also have knowledge in developing and implementing a successful fundraising plan. With oversight of approximately 25 staff members, experience in supervising and managing staff is essential. Established relationships with local community groups is a plus. Above all, the executive director should be greatly effective in a leadership role that requires clear communication skills and decisiveness. Lived experience with mental illness is desirable. This position is 40 hours per week with medical, dental, life, short term disability, employee assistance program, retirement (403B), and paid time off. Salary Range: \$75,000 - \$85,000

To apply, you must submit a current resume and a cover email or letter that highlights why you are interested and why you would be a good candidate for this position. Submit via email to executivedirector@wernertcenter.org no later Friday, October 18. For a complete job description and requirements visit <https://www.wernertcenter.org/about-mental-health-recovery-center/job-openings>

INVITATION FOR BIDS RAVINE PARK HVAC UPGRADES IFB24-B007

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Ravine Park HVAC Upgrades in accordance with IFB24-B007**. Received in accordance with law until **November 6, 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 BOILER REPLACEMENT AT PORT LAWRENCE HOMES IFB24-B014

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Boiler Replacement at Port Lawrence Homes in accordance with IFB24-B014**. Received in accordance with law until **October 31, 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

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for Snow Removal Services for AMP 122 Communities in accordance with IFB24-B012. 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 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 | 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 Detroit Black Food and Wine Experience

By Donnetta Carter, *The Social Butterfly*
Special to *The Truth*

The Black Food and Wine Experience was held on Saturday, September 14, 2024 at the historic State Savings Bank building in downtown Detroit, Mi. The Black Food and Wine Experience Detroit was truly a unique experience and as you enter the venue all guests received a large wine glass with the Experience logo as a souvenir.

We were able to taste various wines from Black-owned wineries and sample numerous cuisines such as Curt Got Crabs, Irie Bites, Carib Fusion Cuisine and many more. There was also culinary competition between two chefs with a live demonstration of their favorite cuisines prepared for the guests.

The ambiance of the venue was extraordinary with display table of vendors with their products and a female DJ rocking with different genres of music while guests were dressed with the theme of dresses, gowns and suits with sneakers.

Aminah "Chef Mimi" Robinson-Briscoe is the founder of the Black Food and Wine Experience. Chef Mimi is an Oakland, California native and a graduate of the California Culinary Arts Academy in San Francisco. Since 2016 the Black Food and Wine Experience has supported more than 150 Bay area businesses. Chef Mimi's concepts generate revenue, customers and growth for small businesses. This has enhanced sales by more than \$1 million and added 50 jobs to the food service industry in the Bay area.

Chef Mimi's mission is to create a platform that enhances and celebrates Black food and beverage to promote diversity and connect and fosters meaning collaborations and connections.

Chef Mimi traveled the Food and Wine Experience on the road for the first time to the City of Detroit, MI and she plans to travel to Atlanta, Georgia in the near future.



Donnetta Carter



Chef Mimi and guest



Donnetta Carter and Chef Mimi



Deborah Barnett's Diamond Jubilee

Debbie Barnett celebrated her 75th birthday with family and friends at Tol-House Sunday, September 29.

"I have strong shoulders that I've stood on over the years that helped me take this journey to 75 - starting with my mom," stated Barnett.

In a toast, she celebrated her friends, "I have so many wonderful girlfriends that have travel this journey with me—some old from years back and some brand new. I am so blessed that the Lord has blessed me with positive awesome women, and some men, in my life."

Her sons, Pasa Barnett and Jay Barnett, orchestrated the celebration. Guests enjoyed food, drinks and desserts from Easton's Bakery for Debbie Barnett's diamond jubilee.
Happy Birthday Debbie!



Debbie Barnett and friends celebrating her 75th



Rachel Barnett, Pasa Barnett, Debbie Barnett, Jay Barnett and Garrett Barnett

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Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Celebrate Anniversary and Award Scholarships

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club held their 11th Year Anniversary Party Saturday, October 5, at the Premier. The celebration featured dinner, music from Zion Lion Reggae Band and scholarships awards to two deserving recent high school graduates.

"This is our 11th Anniversary and every year we give two scholarships," said Earl Mack, president Post Commander of the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club. "This year we're honoring Irin Anderson, the young boy that was killed that went to Maritime Academy. We're giving a scholarship to a specific graduate of Maritime Academy in his name."

The Buffalo Soldiers conduct a large amount of community service throughout the year focusing on youth. "We've adopted several schools, including Ella P. Stewart [Academy for Girls], Martin Luther King Academy [for Boys], and Pickett Academy," he stated. "We have our Angel Tree where last year

we gave over 500 students gifts. We also provide meals for veterans, among other initiatives in the community. Tonight, we're celebrating what we do all year long."

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: LANTZ DENTAL PROSTHETICS AWARD (\$5000.00) – Courtney Jones

Courtney Jones is a 2024 graduate of Roy C Start High School who excelled academically with a 3.5 GPA while in Dual Enrollment courses at the University of Toledo and Owens Community College School of Business earning 26 college credits. Courtney is attending Kent State University majoring in Fashion Merchandising and a minor in marketing.

WHETRO -WEALTH MANAGEMENT- AWARD (\$2,500) - Sandraya Turner

The scholarship is in loving memory of Irin Anderson, a dedicated and accomplished honor stu-

dent at the Maritime Academy. Earlier this year, Irin's life was tragically cut short due to a fatal gunshot incident, leaving a profound impact on all who knew and cherished him.

Sandraya Turner is a 2024 graduate of The ... continued on page 12



The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club and friends



Scholarship recipient Courtney Jones with Clarence Jones



Scholarship recipient Sandraya Turner with Serykia Layton



The family of Irin Anderson which the Wealth Management Award scholarship was in memorial of



Zion Lion Reggae Band Performs




Tim Whetro, Sandraya Turner, and Sandra Holmes

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