

The Sojourner's Truth

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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

October 23, 2024

Diversifying the Saddle



Alan Durden: A Black Cowboy Changing the Landscape of the Equestrian World

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Team Black Diamond Holds Exquisite Gem Award Dinner

Special to The Truth

On the evening of Sunday, October 6, 2024, Team Black Diamond held its second Exquisite Gem Award Dinner at the Blue Gill Fisherman Club and recognized three recent breast cancer survivors.

The 2024 Exquisite Gem Awardees were: Annissa Floure, Kim Highsmith and Sylvia Lewis. The ladies were each presented with a monetary donation, flowers and cancer awareness items. These recent cancer free survivors were humbled and very appreciative of this honor.

A full dinner was served to each awardee, along with invited family, friends and Team Black Diamond members. Team Black Diamond was formed by a breast cancer survivor, Monica Riley, with the intent of bringing awareness to

African American women regarding breast cancer, breast care and the importance of selfcare, mammograms and breast screenings.

Team Black Diamond will continue to support and uplift African American women and community members affected by such a devastating disease as breast cancer. Team Black is making plans for October 4, 2025 to hold a Pink Gala of Elegance formal event, where the Exquisite Gem Award(s) will be presented. Save the date on your calendar.

The Team offered special thanks to Steve and Wanda Galloway, Sonia Atkins, Tasha Walker, Trenene Smith, James Boatman and Majical Moments (Phyllis Stuart)



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YES ON ISSUE 9
for Fair Term Limits

YES ON ISSUE 19
for Toledo Public Schools

YES ON ISSUE 24
for Toledo Lucas County
Public Library

YES ON ISSUE 29
to Support Seniors

YES ON ISSUE 30
for Lucas County
Children's Services

Too Close for Comfort

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

The Truth Contributor

A vote is a kind of prayer about the kind of world we want to live in.

- Rev. Dr. William Barber



With less than two weeks remaining in the 2024 election season, you can almost cut the tension in the air with a knife, and it's not just a national phenomenon. Once comfortably predictable, local races have become tight, dramatic and, in many cases, impossible to forecast, making many local politicians extremely uncomfortable.

Whether due to economic anxiety, voter fatigue, or decision paralysis resulting from the constant bombardment of political ads, social media posts, and campaign outreach, shifting political winds are converging in a way that makes this election feel different. Nothing is guaranteed as the votes roll in, and even the safest races could be upended.

The Marcy Kaptur Dilemma: End of an Era?

One of the most striking examples of uncertainty is Ohio's 9th District congressional race between long-serving Democrat Marcy Kaptur and her Republican challenger, Derek Merrin. Kaptur has been a fixture in Ohio politics for over four decades, but now, for the first time in 40 years, her seat is truly up for grabs. Although Kaptur has a narrow lead in recent polling, 16 percent of voters remain undecided. This race is so significant that the outcome could determine control of the U.S. House of Representatives. Yet the contest is so tight that it's impossible to predict a clear winner even at the 11th hour.

Yet, even as voters head to the polls, they grapple with rising costs despite national economic experts debating the reality of inflation's impact. This economic anxiety plays directly into Merrin's message for change, making the once-safe Kaptur seat a toss-up. Kaptur's decades of service and connections to bountiful federal resources and demonstrated ability to bring them back to her district could prove beneficial. However, nothing is guaranteed in an environment where many voters crave something new.

Tax-Levy Hesitation

While Lucas County's congressional race is one headline, the local tax levies may be the most precarious aspect of this election. The rule of thumb has always been that levies never lose in election years in Lucas County, and no one remembers the last time it happened. However, the current economic climate, marked by a perceived rise in inflation, is fueling uncertainty and hesitation among voters, and levies that usually sail through could be facing their toughest battles yet.

With local media constantly highlighting the pinch of rising prices, voters are more aware of their financial constraints, even if the statistics show inflation to be within normal bounds.

In addition, with the repetition of negative ads drilling the misleading message that inflation is through the roof and killing single families, some levy requests for new money could fail. The other challenge for tax measure proponents is getting their story out in an environment where there's so much noise just about the presidential, senatorial and congressional elections, es-

... continued on page 12

Old Grandpa at the Dinner Table

By Lefe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

There you are. It is Thanksgiving Dinner at your home and the table is lavishly set with all the usual trimmings and festive décor. You got mom's fabled mac n' cheese, fresh cranberry compote, homemade potato rolls, sweet potatoes, broiled Brussel sprouts, combread dressing with sausage, two turkeys and a sizzling ham studded with cloves and Aunt Mandy's obligatory Jell-O fruit mold.



All 18 guests are assembled. The football game is playing in the background and then, at the front door, enters Grandpa Berry dressed in overalls and carrying his gallon jug of homemade Moonshine, straight from the hollers of Tennessee.

Grandpa grins and shouts to all, "Hey, hey looka here, Grandpa Berry has brought the cheer!"

Cousins, uncles, nieces and nephews give each other that "look" knowing what is about to happen. Grandpa is about to take the room over with his antics, stories, lies and everyone will dutifully laugh and smile at his quirks and boasting that he has the best brain in the house!

Your dad and mom quickly intervene and tells everyone to take their seats before the blessing and then the "please pass the (insert here whatever is being served)" rituals begin.

Everyone is hoping against hope that Grandpa Berry will take a middle seat at the long table but, no, he deftly claims one of the end seats with a sly move that blocks out his eldest son, Raymond.

No one is surprised because that is what Grandpa Berry does at all the family gatherings...he takes the limelight and with his body language, quietly dares anyone to challenge him.

No one does. Because, truth be known, Grandpa Berry has enough money to buy the county and everyone one in it. Grandpa made a killing in the stock market buying shares of no name stocks; and in a matter of years, his fortunes on paper would cause one's eyes to go blurry.

Yeah, he was THAT rich and he was one not to let you forget it. Everyone one at that table owed a debt of some sort to Grandpa, be it money to buy a house, scholarships for the kids and grandkids, business loans for start-ups, legal fees paid for the few errant family members; and "secret" payoffs to politicians that now makes them beholden to him.

Grandpa never let you forget who buttered your bread or who caused that zoning ordinance to go away when a family member needed a waiver to set up a franchise near a residential area. And for his fees? Simple. You support him and never speak evil of the devil. When Grandpa dumped on you because he believed that you were not supporting his latest endeavors, you smiled and swallowed your pride and keep on stepping, knowing that taking a stand against his inanities would be a losing cause because Grandpa would turn off the financial spigot when you need a loan, or two... and it would not be there.

So, you suffered in silence, as everyone else did and you licked your emo-

... continued on page 6

Community Calendar

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; With Romules Durant, EdD, TPS Superintendent and Keith Dawson, TPS Consultant

November 3

Voices of Joy Unlimited Benefit Concert: 4 pm; Indiana Ave MBC; Guest will be Toledo Community Choir

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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Toledo Schools Superintendent Named Urban Educator of the Year

Special to The Truth

Romules Durant, superintendent/CEO of Ohio's Toledo Public Schools, received recognition as the 2024 Urban Educator of the Year at the Council of the Great City Schools' 68th Annual Fall Conference.

Five big-city school superintendents competed for the nation's highest honor in urban education leadership, recognizing, in alternating years, an outstanding superintendent and school board member from one of the 78 largest urban public-school systems in the country.

Urban school leaders applauded Durant during the Council's 35th Annual Green-Garner Award Banquet, where he received the prestigious leadership award. Sponsored by the Council and Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education, and media company, the top prize is presented each year in memory of Richard R. Green, the first African American chancellor of the New York City school system, and businessman Edward Garner, who served on the Denver school board.

A graduate of the Toledo school system, Durant has served as superintendent for 11 years, making him the longest serving superintendent in the Council. Under his leadership, the district has had five successful levy campaigns, graduation rates have increased and gifted services for elementary students and Advanced Placement courses for high school students have expanded. In addition, the district has opened five magnet high schools, including the new Toledo PreMedical Science and Health Science Academy, a school that focuses on preparing students for careers in the medical field.

"Romules Durant has been a transformational leader and a tireless advocate for students in Toledo Public Schools to become college and career ready graduates," said Council Executive Director Ray Hart. "His passion for excellence in his 11 years of steady leadership has shown all of us in urban education what is possible. Our sincere congratulations to Romules and Toledo!"



Mona Al-Hayani

As the recipient of the 2024 Green-Garner Award, Durant receives a \$10,000 college scholarship to present to a student in Toledo Public Schools.

In addition, a second major award was given out by the Council to Mona Al-Hayani, a veteran history teacher at Toledo Early College and a graduate of Rogers High School. Al-Hayani received the 2024 Queen Smith Award at a breakfast last week in Dallas, accepting on behalf of all TPS teachers and urban educators across the country. The Council and McGraw-Hill Education present this award each year in the name of the late Queen Smith, whose life represented honor, excellence, and commitment to urban public education.

This is the first time the Council of Great City Schools named both the Superintendent of the Year and Teacher of the Year from the same district.



TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD

TPS Receives a National Award for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Last week, at the American Association of School Personnel Administrators national conference in Seattle, Toledo Public Schools received the AASPA's William L. Hunter Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award.

This distinction recognizes Toledo Public Schools for making outstanding contributions through the implementation of innovative and comprehensive teacher development programs, primarily focused on strategies designed to increase the number of teachers of color.

TPS announced that they are proud to receive this award and thanked its staff for their outstanding work related to diversity, equity and inclusion efforts within the district.



Kevin Walton Sr. AASPA President Megan McGuffin, TPS Senior Director of Employee Services; Lori Reffert, TPS Senior Director of Talent Acquisitions; Kelly Coash Johnson, AASPA Executive Di

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Diversifying the Saddle: The Importance of Representation in Equestrian Culture

By Asia Nail
The Truth Reporter

When you think of cowboys, what comes to mind? Wide-open spaces, lassos flying, and perhaps a certain type of person riding a horse. But have you ever considered the faces behind the saddles? **Alan Durden**, CEO and founder of *Just Doing God's Work*, is a Black cowboy changing the landscape of the equestrian world, and his story is one of resilience, innovation, and a deep commitment to giving back.

A Unique Perspective

Durden's journey began in a loving family that emphasized community values. "My LLC is called Just Doing God's Work," he shares, underscoring the belief that his work is a form of service. Raised in a church environment with parents Mr. & Mrs. Roye and Yolanda Durden, Alan learned early on that helping others was important. "Being an entrepreneur and training horses while interacting with the community came from my strong upbringing," he explains.

Growing up, Durden was surrounded by examples of generosity. "My dad is a therapist, and my mom has a communications degree. Through their example, I've always seen the importance of giving back." Can you think of someone in your life who inspires you to help others?

From a young age, Durden's entrepreneurial spirit was clear. "I technically started my first business at nine years old," he recalls, showing that even as a child, he was thinking about ways to make a positive impact. "From a very young age, I wondered how I could make billions of dollars—enough to change the trajectory for future generations, not just for my family." This ambition sets Durden apart in an industry where diverse representation is scarce.

Black History in the horse industry

Throughout history, the contributions of Black individuals in the equestrian world have often been overlooked. From Fort Malden, a British stronghold during the War of 1812, to the Underground Railroad that helped approximately 100,000 enslaved people find freedom, the journey of Black Americans is rich with stories of resilience and courage.

In the late 1800s, as cattle ranching expanded across the West, thousands of freed Black individuals found new opportunities as ranch hands, with historians estimating that one in four cowboys of the past were Black. These trailblazers helped shape the cowboy culture we recognize today, paving the way for future generations.

Education & Training

Alan Durden stands as a modern embodiment of this legacy. He pursued his passion for horses at the University of Findlay, where he studied Equestrian Studies with an emphasis on Western Riding and Training. His dedication paid off when he became a two-time national champion, representing the university at the IHSA Nationals in Kentucky. Graduating as the top individual in his equine program, Alan's accomplishments reflect not only his talent but also the rich tradition of Black cowboys who came before him.

With years of training under his belt, Durden worked as an assistant trainer from 2017 to 2022, honing his skills under multiple professionals across the East Coast. Now, as the head trainer and event coordinator at OH Stables in Oregon, he continues to elevate the horse industry.

The Road to Innovation

Many people dream of inventions, but Alan took action. When he realized that the horse business could be profitable, he combined his passion for horses with his business acumen. "The horse industry is where God blessed me with my greatest talents," he says. With his patent for a revolutionary horse toy, he is poised to make a mark in an industry that has traditionally lacked diversity.



Durden's journey wasn't easy. "When I did research on what it costs to get a utility patent, I found out it was roughly \$15,000. I didn't have that kind of money at 22," he explains. Determined, he took a job with Norfolk Southern laying railroads. "I worked there for just over a year, saved the money, and bought my patent."

As of 2023, Alan Durden is a U.S. registered patent holder for a revolutionary horse toy, set to hit the market in 2025. Through his journey, Durden honors the legacy of Black cowboys, ensuring that their contributions are recognized while inspiring the next generation to embrace their own equestrian dreams.

Teaching and Healing Through Horses

Durden is not just an entrepreneur; he is also an educator. He teaches lessons to people of all ages, from young children to those in retirement. "I teach lesson programs where I am blessed to reach and touch the lives of many," he shares. Imagine the joy of being the first person to give someone their first ride on a horse!

Working with horses also offers therapeutic benefits. Durden shares, "Working with horses is both healing and therapeutic." Did you know that many people find horseback riding helps with issues like anxiety and depression? The vibrations from a horse's heartbeat can even promote healing. Durden notes, "The human heartbeat vibrates less than a foot away, but a horse's heartbeat vibrates approximately 7 to 8 feet in distance." This connection to horses can create a sense of peace and healing for many.

A Journey of Representation

Representation matters. In the United States, Black riders make up only about 0.5 percent of the members of the United States Equestrian Federation. This statistic highlights a significant gap in representation. Imagine if the world of horses was more diverse—how would that change the stories being told?

Durden is working to change this narrative. His goal is not just to succeed personally but to uplift others in the process. "Doing God's work is really what

...continued on page 6

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Diversifying The Saddle... continued from page 5

I live by," he states. By sharing his knowledge and experience, he is paving the way for future generations of black equestrians.

His sister, Alaina Durden, is also making strides in her field. A medical student at Yale and celebrated graduate of the University of Toledo, she has received multiple awards for her dedication. Alan beams with pride when he talks about her accomplishments, saying, "My sister is the only person from my childhood who followed through with the things she said she wanted to do. I am so proud of her. She's an amazing role model and big sister."

It's clear that this family values hard work and education, setting a blazing trail for others to follow.

The Impact of Mentorship

Durden's influence also extends to actively working with the disabled community, demonstrating that horses offer more than just recreation; they serve as powerful tools for healing and empowerment. "Being able to reach people through horses is amazing. Every experience is a journey," he expresses, showing the joy he finds in helping others.

As you think about your own experiences, who has been a mentor for you? Durden's work reminds us of the importance of mentorship and representation in every field, especially one as historic and impactful as equestrian culture.

Looking to the Future

Alan Durden is not just a Black cowboy; he is a trailblazer. With his horse toy set to hit the market soon, his journey is just beginning. He is transforming the equestrian industry, proving that one person can leave a lasting impact on many.

As Durden continues to break barriers and inspire others, his story serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of representation in all fields. How can we each contribute to making our communities more inclusive? Whether it's

through mentorship, education, or simply sharing stories, we all have a role to play.

May Ashi journey encourage us to dream big and act boldly, ensuring that everyone can have a place in the saddle.

Follow OH Stables for investment opportunities and more information.



Tolliver... continued from page 3

tional wounds in private with the others in the extended family that smiled in public but in private railed against the day that Grandpa Berry seemingly went to the dark side and dared you to confront him, or else.

When Grandpa Berry was not around touting his wealth and contacts, you realized the similarities of Grandpa Berry and Donald Trump. Both were narcissists and devoid of any empathy towards anyone; and the slightest criticism could cause you to be "written out of the will."

You hung in there thinking that things would be better for you or that the family members would rally as one and stand up to grandpa but in your heart of hearts, you knew that was a pipedream.

You went too long being a coward towards grandpa and he smelled the cowardice coming off you like a cheap two-dollar perfume. You made excuses for grandpa's erratic behavior including the time that he came onto your property and had three trees cut down because he did not like that they were too close together.

Or the time that he went by the men's store that he financed for you, and took home, without paying, three Armani suits totaling over \$6,000 in value. You did not ask for payment because you were afraid that he would call in the loan he gave you for the store.

What about the time that he called your brother's wife, Ethel, a "stupid hen" when she forgot to serve the dessert on time. Everyone simply looked down in their laps while grandpa ranted on and on about no-class Ethel.

You would think and wonder aloud, at least by now, that Grandpa Berry has lost a step or two and he needs to be called out for his uncouth remarks and his lack of any empathy for anyone but himself.

It is your perception that his money and how that has allowed himself to be intertwined in all family matters, most of which do not concern him, needs to be called out for the good of all.

Be it in politics or in family life, there comes a time when choosing to remain silent when a voice is needed, is cowardness and leads to unhealthy relationships.

That is now going on in America with the influence of the toxicity of Donald Trump and his naysayers who have forfeited their values for peace at the dinner table and to stay in Trump's "good graces."

You know, sometimes getting the turkey leg is no big deal!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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The New ACES Exchange Student Group Are Welcomed to America

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

American Cultural Exchange Services (ACES) hosted their new exchange students with an orientation and welcoming celebration at the Kent Branch Library Oct 12. Thirteen students were welcomed to their home stays in America for the school year. The event included gift bags, food and refreshments for the students and host families. Speakers focused the students and host families on the opportunities and challenges this academic year will present.



ACES Students

Host family Awny and Maha Malik with their ACES student John from Egypt

Students were represented from all over the globe on Saturday, including Libya, Egypt, Mozambique, Mali, Cameroon, Seirra Leone, Hungary, Thailand, Indonesia and Pakistan.

The 13 students will be exposed to American life via enhancement activities related to education, culture and volunteerism while attending area high schools.

“We do those activities throughout the year,” remarked Tracee Ellis, regional director of ACES. “From shadowing City Council to University of Toledo visits, to going to the museum.”

“We have Global Youth Service Day where they focus on service projects and International Education Week where they will be doing presentations in their school. We also visit elementary schools so that kids can learn about international students on the elementary age level,” she said.

Students not only meet Americans while in the program, they also form bonds with their fellow international students. The diversity of the exchange students varies ethnically, culturally and economically. “We have students from middle class backgrounds in their countries and we have students that don’t have running water,” Ellis added.

“It’s so vitally important that we have these international relationships and that our children are globally competent,” she continued,



Tracee Ellis, regional director of ACES program



Students and host families learn about volunteer opportunities

“They are learning about global relationships and why they are so important. How we’re interconnected and how we’re inter-dependent on one another... We are citizens of the world.”

While there are many returning host families this year for ACES there are also some families that are embarking on a new experience for themselves as well. Awny and Maha Malik are Egyptian immigrants who live in Toledo and are

...continued on page 13

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A Fall Getaway: Discover Dublin, Ohio

By Shana Lee

The Truth Travel Reporter

Looking for a quick getaway this fall? Look no further than Dublin, Ohio, a charming city located just two and a half hours from Toledo. With its blend of art, history, nature and culinary delights, Dublin offers something for everyone.

Discover Public Art

Dublin is a destination for public art lovers, with over 70 artworks scattered throughout the city. From whimsical sculptures to interactive installations, these pieces showcase Dublin's history, culture, and diversity. Explore the city's public art collection through a self-guided tour, cell phone tour, or online interactive map.

Highlights:

- **Leatherlips:** A 12-foot-high stone portrait of Wyandot Native American Chief Leatherlips, located at Scioto Park.
- **Field of Corn:** A quirky installation featuring giant ears of corn, celebrating Dublin's farming heritage.
- **Feather Point:** A stunning stainless steel sculpture resembling a feather, located at Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park.
- **The Simulation of George M. Karrer's Workshop:** A wireframe sculpture that simulates a blacksmith shop from the late 1800s.

Indulge in Delicious Cuisine

Dublin's culinary scene is thriving, offering a variety of dining options to suit every taste. Here are a few must-try restaurants:

- **Song Lan:** For authentic Japanese cuisine, head to Song Lan, a contemporary restaurant offering creative sushi creations.
- **Mezzo:** Enjoy Italian-inspired dishes in a cozy and elegant atmosphere at Mezzo.

Explore the Outdoors



Dublin offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy nature and outdoor activities. Take a walk or bike ride along the Dublin Link, a scenic pedestrian bridge spanning the Scioto River. Visit Indian Run Falls or Hayden Run Falls for a refreshing escape, or explore the beautiful parks and trails in the area.

Shop and Explore

Discover unique shops, boutiques, and galleries in Dublin's Historic District. Browse local artisans' work, find one-of-a-kind treasures, and enjoy the charming atmosphere.

Where to Stay

For a comfortable and convenient stay, consider the Marriott Columbus Northwest. This hotel is located close to many attractions in Dublin and offers



Our reporter enjoying the Dublin dining experience

... continued on page 10



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Cruising Around The World in 274 Days

By Ardenia Jones-Terry

A Travelogue – Part One!!!

In the song, 'Happy Feelin's,' Frankie Beverly and Maze, sing "Happy Feelin's in the air Touching people everywhere. . . And these Happy Feelin's I'll spread them all over the world."

In the last couple of weeks, when asked about my recent cruise, I have used "fabulous," "extraordinary," "awesome" or "phenomenal" to describe this life-altering, epic world cruise. But, those terms are inadequate. 'Happy Feelin's' captures my excitement and joy about the world cruise and my desire to spread those feelings all over the world.

My journey to the world cruise began over 30 years ago when I was sitting in Heather Downs Country Club attending a Zonta International Meeting and a Toledo Blade reporter spoke to the club about her recent world cruise. I was hooked before she finished talking. I knew immediately that I wanted to go on a world cruise. I just did not know "how" and "when" I would be able to travel around the world. I told all my friends about my desire to see the Terracotta Warriors and Machu Picchu. Remember, exposure to possibilities is a key motivator!

Then, in October 2021, the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line announced the 2023-2024 Ultimate World Cruise. It was the longest world cruise ever scheduled. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the uncertainty of the future made my decision easy; I booked the cruise that week.

The cruise started in Miami on December 10, 2023, and ended on September 10, 2024 in Miami. It consisted of seven Continents, 65 Countries, 156 ports of call/cities and 11 World Wonders.

The cruise was for nine months or 274 days with overnight stays in 30 ports/cities. The cruise was divided into a nine-month cruise, four Segments (60+ Days each) as well as 17 individual mini-cruises. Cruisers could select the nine-month cruise, any of the four Segments or one or more of the individual mini cruises.

There were 2200 cruisers and 859 hand-selected crew members on the ship. Seven hundred of the cruisers were on the cruise for the entire nine months. Twenty-five of the nine-month cruisers were African, Caribbean, and/or African

America people who formed a group on the ship called, The Neighborhood.

The oldest cruiser was 89 years old and the youngest cruiser was 2 years old. The majority of the cruisers were 65 years old or older and retired. Sixty school-age children were ship-schooled and 78 cruisers worked remotely from the ship via Starlink. And, from time to time, we had as many as 15 TikTokers on board.

Both the cruisers and crew were from all over the globe. Cruisers were from the USA, South America, Australia, Singapore, Japan, and Italy to name a few home countries. The majority of the ship's crew were from Jamaica, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Brazil, South Africa, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe and China. Only a small number of the crew members were from the USA.

The cruise covered the four corners of the planet and traversed 78,770 miles around the world. We crossed the Equator eight times and celebrated the crossings with the 400-year-old Navy Ritual called "The Line Crossing" involving Shellbacks and Pollywogs.

Almost every country I visited, from the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, South America to Europe, was involved in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. When I think of



RCCL's Serenade Of The Seas in Miami



Serenade of the Seas

Jessica Nabonga signing a book for Ardenia Jones Terry, PhD



The author with the first World Wonder-Chichen Itza in Yucatan, Mexico during early stage of the cruise

...continued on page 11

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Dallas, Welcomes Me Back

By Ricky Tyus

The Truth Travel Contributor

Back in the late 80s, I embarked on a thrilling journey as I temporarily worked in the bustling city of Dallas, TX. My wife (may she rest in peace) and I called Lima, Ohio our home base, creating an exciting routine.

Every Sunday or Monday, I would set off on a road trip from Lima to Detroit Metropolitan Airport, ready to catch my flight to Dallas, TX. Upon landing, I'd hop into our vehicle and head to our cozy apartment, gearing up for another week of adventure. Some weeks kept me in the vibrant heart of Dallas, while others whisked me off to intriguing destinations across the U.S.

Most Thursdays had me flying back home, only to be off again by Sunday or Monday. Our time in Dallas was filled with lively nights at Dallas Alley, a buzzing hub of nightclubs, each offering a unique musical experience. To this day, I'm thrilled that Dallas Alley continues to thrive!

My recent adventure took me back to Dallas to experience the electrifying atmosphere at AT&T Stadium as the Cowboys faced off against the Lions. I secured an action-packed sports package from Tyus Tours & Travel, which included a ticket to the thrilling game, two nights at a fabulous hotel, round-trip transportation from DFW Airport, and an unforgettable Bill Bates tailgate party and stadium tour.

My journey hit its first snag amid the I-75 northbound construction, delaying us by 45 pulse-racing minutes, eventually reaching the airport at 2:30 p.m. With my flight's boarding set for 2:59 p.m., the stakes were high. Fortunately, my Spirit Airlines Go Comfy package became my ally as I swiftly navigated



... continued on page 11

Thailand – A Country Full of Wonders

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

Everyone who visits Thailand starts in Bangkok, the nation's capital city which is located in the southern part of the country. From Bangkok, visitors can easily reach nearby cities such as Ayutthaya, Pattaya, Rayong, Hua Hin and the far southern reach areas such as Phuket.

However, the northern part of the country is equally as fascinating and often overlooked – so why not head north by plane to Chiang Mai, Thailand's second largest city and the capital of its northernmost province.

Set amidst a stunning backdrop of mountain ranges, Chiang Mai is visually impressive for its natural scenery and also for what man has wrought over the centuries.

Chiang Mai ("new city" in Thai) was founded in the late 13th century and sits in a valley on a river basin in the Thai highlands. Over the years, more than 300 Buddhist temples have been erected in the metropolitan area, including the famous 600-year-old Wat Chedi Luang ("The temple of the Big Stupa") at the historic center of the city, the Wat Phra Singh Temple, ornately decorated with gold, and the Tapae Gate, part of the ancient city walls that were restored in the 20th century.

Other impressive sites in and around the city include the Wat Pha Lat, a temple hidden in the forest near waterfalls, and the not-so-secret Secret Elephant Sanctuary. Don't overlook the extensive Chiang Mai night bazaar, a night market featuring vendors and the delicious street food that is an ever-present feature of Thailand.

Temples, mountains, tea gardens, street food, beaches are all part of the wonders of Thailand – more beach resorts than any other country, in fact. In the north, as in much of the country, such wonders are endless. Chiang Mai is the gateway

... continued on page 11

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A Mae Sai village



One of the structures in the Black House



The author and a few new friends in the hills around Mae Sai - I'm the tall one in the rear!



Chiang Mai temple entrance



Part of the White Temple



Mae Sai flower garden

Fall Getaway... continued from page 8

spacious rooms, friendly service, and modern amenities.

Plan Your Visit

Dublin is a perfect destination for a fall getaway, offering a mix of culture, nature, and delicious food. With its proximity to Toledo, it's an easy day trip or weekend escape.

Additional Tips:

- Check the Dublin Arts Council website for upcoming events and festivals.
- Consider visiting during the week for a less crowded experience.
- Pack comfortable shoes for exploring the city.
- Don't forget to bring your camera to capture the beautiful scenery and public art.
- Enjoy the local coffee shops and breweries.

Start planning your Dublin adventure today and discover all that this charming city has to offer!

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Thailand... continued from page 10

to a variety of scenic and historic areas, particularly due north of the city. Chiang Rai (city of the "Rai" named for a 13th century founder) is 175 kilometers north of Chiang Mai and is renowned for a number of fabulous sites including two artist-created villages – the Wat Rong Khun ("white temple") and Baan Daam ("black house"). Both creations sit on acres of land housing numerous museums, temples and displays. Chiang Rai also hosts the "blue temple" of Wat Rong Suea Ten and the Clock Tower which lights up at night in a spectacular fashion. Again, while visiting all of these sites, please don't forget to eat – whether in some of the many restaurants, in the various markets or even at the numerous street food shops. Head a little farther north after a day or two in Chiang Rai to Mae Sai – on the northern border with Myanmar. Mae Sai is also in a valley and a trip up the surrounding mountains will take you to villages inhabited by the Hmong people and tea gardens and coffee plantations. When the border with Myanmar is open, you can go through the market and visit the neighboring village.

If you rented a car to drive around up north to Mae Sai (bus day trips are available everywhere), when you enter Myanmar, remember to move back over to the right-hand side of the road. After driving in Thailand for a while, you have probably become adjusted to the British-influenced left hand side driving. Time to reconnect with your American training ... for a while. Remember the incident in 2018 when 13 young footballers and their coach were trapped in a cave by flooding water and divers converged from around the world to rescue them? That cave is in Mae Sai and has become something of a destination for local and international visitors. You can go into the cave itself and see why the youngsters were so curious to venture farther in. Then take a side trip to Chiang Saen (named after a 14th century founder) and see the Golden Triangle – the junction of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos, separated by the Mekong River. There's a lot to see in this northern area, among the cities of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Sai and Chiang Saen. A full week – even two – in this region would not be out of the question. If you have another week or two at your disposal on this or perhaps another trip, take a visit to the area northwest of Chiang Mai – the Mae Hong Son province. More on that later.

Dallas... continued from page 10

ticketing and TSA, reaching the gate just in time. Hats off to Spirit Airlines for a seamless adventure from start to finish! Upon touchdown in Dallas, I received crisp, timely instructions from my driver even before my plane hit the gate. After grabbing my luggage, I signaled my location and outfit, and within four minutes, my ride had arrived. As we zipped towards Loews Hotel, the driver highlighted sights like Six Flags, Texas Rangers Stadium, and the buzzing bar and restaurant scene around the hotel. Loews Hotel in Arlington, Texas, wowed me! Within its expansive walls, you find everything an adventurer needs. It's a destination in its own right, offering cutting-edge meeting spaces, unique dining, and endless amenities, including a full-service spa, fitness center, and a resort-style beach club with dazzling pools, cabanas, fire pits, a waterslide, and a real sandy beach. Linked by a sky bridge to Live! by Loews – Arlington, it offers two diverse atmospheres in one place. Game day began under the scorching 97-degree sun as I trekked 15 minutes to the pre-game tailgate party at Boiling Tails Restaurant. The vibrant atmosphere was unforgettable, packed with delicious food and the 1 pm games on big screens. Excitement buzzed in the air as we stood just across the street from AT&T Stadium. AT&T Stadium took my breath away. I snapped the picture above in the stadium fairgrounds, a lively area where you can enjoy food and catch the game. Inside, I hurried to my seat high in the upper concourse, but the gigantic screen ensured an unbeatable view from anywhere. The Lions put on a stunning performance, soundly defeating the Cowboys. The next day's expedition led us on an exclusive tour of AT&T Stadium, exploring the Cowboys and Cheerleaders locker rooms. We engaged in an A.I. interactive session with Jerry Jones and visited a store showcasing College Football starring the Ohio State Buckeyes, though it wasn't open yet. Finally, we stepped onto the revered field for group photos, capturing a memorable moment on the iconic star. Catch all the photos from my Lions vs. Cowboys adventure on my Facebook page Ricky Tyus or my website at www.tyustours.com/blog. For details on our adrenaline-filled sports packages, call 866-547-5362.

ACES Exchange... continued from page 7

ACES Exchange... continued from page 7 serving for their first time as a host family. They will be hosting John, who also from Egypt. "We're very excited for him to be introduced into the new culture and new places," said Awny Malik. John will be attending Waite High School. He stated he's most excited to experience the food and culture of America. "It's nice to help kids from other countries and expose them to American culture." remarked Maha Malik. "We are immigrants from Egypt and we've benefited from being in the United States. It's nice for other kids to have this kind of experience even if it's just for one school year." The host families and students played trivia, fellowshiped with the other exchange students and families and were given gift bags upon departing. Some students were heading to their first homecoming dance that evening – one of the many new experiences they have this year! ACES – American Cultural Exchange Service was founded in 1995 in Little Rock, Arkansas, with the support of a group of professionals including lawyers, accountants, university professors, business and community leaders who believe in the value of international exchange in the pursuit of world peace. ACES is a non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to international cultural and educational exchange. With the national office located near Seattle, WA, ACES maintains a network of dedicated and trained Local Coordinators in communities throughout the United States who provide program services at the local level to participants, host families, and schools. Local Coordinators and the national office are com-

...continued on page 13



Cruising... continued from page 9

slave trade countries as experienced during the cruise were Portugal, the UK, France, the Netherlands, Spain and Denmark. During the stop in South Africa, Germany was also identified as being actively involved in slavery and genocide in Namibia. I have personally traveled to 141 countries. We were fortunate to have author and traveler, Jessica Nabongo, a native Detroitier as the guest lecturer for the first week of our world cruise. Ms. Nabongo has the distinction of being the first Black woman to visit every country in the world. She traveled to 195 countries. Her book is entitled, "The Catch Me If You Can: One Woman's Journey to Every Country In The World." She discussed her book and one of the most important points emerging from her lectures was that "Most people around the world are good."

Many of you have asked me if nine months was too long. For me it was not. In fact, it was too short. I could have cruised an additional nine months. I was not ready to get off the ship. Over time the ship became like a home away from home. Was it expensive? It was cheaper than paying airfare, hotel, and food in 156 different places. Did I miss home and get homesick? I have traveled since I was a very young girl. I do not get homesick; I am always looking for my next adventure. However, I do miss my Toledo family and friends. The cruise was exhilarating and my heart was racing every time we pulled in to a new port in anticipation of new discoveries. Make no mistake about it, I have been blessed. A Black girl from Vance and Hawley was able to travel around the world! Happy Feelins!

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Perryman... continued from page 3

pecially with so many levies being simultaneously on the ballot.

The recent rise in property values provides an even more challenging variable, complicating new levies and adding financial pressure on voters already overwhelmed by economic uncertainty.

However, if you are looking for a couple of "must-support" options, a yes vote for Issue 29, Senior Citizen Services, and Issue 30, Children Services tax measures are at the top of my list.

Candidates in Traditional Democratic Strongholds: Safe, But Not Without Drama

Despite the overall political anxiety, many Lucas County Democratic candidates still seem to be in strong positions. Candidates like Pete Gerken, Anita Lopez, Katie Moline and Elgin Rogers are expected to secure re-election easily. These incumbents have maintained a grip on their local strongholds by remaining insulated from the broader dissatisfaction sweeping through national and state races.

That said, the contest between Republican incumbent Josh Williams and Democratic challenger David Blythe is a serious campaign. It perhaps is the local race to watch, especially in terms of the state legislature.

While Williams, the incumbent, is slightly favored to win, Blythe's strong campaign efforts and the district's redrawn lines could prove that no race is a foregone conclusion and possibly flip the seat to the Democratic Party column.

Notably, in the 2020 election, Lucas County was 76th out of Ohio's 88 counties in terms of turnout and below Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati. We have not been able to generate a blue wave in terms of voter interest recently. So, in this environment, turnout will be crucial, and the unpredictability of voter engagement still makes even the safest-seeming races feel vulnerable to last-minute shifts.

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and the Term Limit Referendum in the Spotlight

The Mayoral Term Limits Charter Amendment has generated significant discussion among the key local ballot issues. With a yes vote, this measure would increase the number of consecutive four-year mayoral terms from two to three. A no-vote majority would potentially end Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz's future political career in the city's top office. The measure is polling too close for comfort, with a razor-slim majority favoring the term limit expansion.

While many voters are satisfied with Wade's performance, there's still a growing sentiment that fresh leadership is needed. In a year where change is

a prevailing theme, the referendum's outcome is uncertain but could reshape local politics for years.

Issue One: The Redistricting Puzzle

Adding to the political guesswork is Issue One, the Citizens Redistricting Commission initiative. This measure, designed to end partisan gerrymandering in Ohio, has created a fog of confusion among voters. Both supporters and opponents claim their vote will end gerrymandering, leaving many unsure of which side to support.

Nevertheless, the stakes are high, as the outcome could drastically reshape Ohio's political landscape by aligning district representation more closely with the state's actual voter distribution. Yet, with the odds of passage at 50/50 and a lack of clear messaging on either side, the fate of Issue One remains one of the most unpredictable elements of this election cycle.

Considering all of this, it becomes clear that this is a pivotal moment in this election season, if not history. Lucas County voters are headed to the polls in anxiety amidst deep uncertainty.

From Marcy Kaptur's possible end to the wave of local tax levies on the chopping block, which candidates will survive? What tax levies or referendums will make the cut?

With only a handful of days left to November 5, what remains clear is that every race, levy, and issue is precariously tight and too close for comfort; every decision hangs in the balance, waiting to be shaped by the voters' final say.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org

T. Parker & Co. LLC ... continued from page 16

master's degree. I worked for various agencies and eventually ventured out on my own doing business in Detroit for several years.

Prior to leading my business full-time, I was creative director for the Toledo Blade for 13 years. I was also an adjunct professor at the College of Design in Detroit.

When The Blade started their layoffs, I moved into my business fulltime, and I've been here ever since.

What services do you offer?

Our strong hold is our branding and creative services. In addition to that, we serve as a strategic thought partner for clients. It starts with their mission and their vision. We try to really get a sense of the business, and we go in and make advertising and marketing recommendations that are really going to boost or strengthen their brand.

What makes your business unique?

We use the combination of traditional marketing as well as digital marketing. We like to do cross platforms for consistency.

Also, long before covid we were already working a hybrid model - some people came into the office and some worked remote. It helped us to keep our overhead and cost down. We're a small entity that does a lot of impactful work through our diverse team of experts.

Have you achieved the level of success you have hoped for?

I have been successful, but I am not quite at the level I'd like to be at yet.

...continued on page 13

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K'Janée Boutique... continued from page 16

What are some of your signature events?

I have my semi-annual 'Sip and Shop' events-- one for my Spring/ Summer collection usually the first week of April and one for my Fall and Winter collection that is usually the first week of October. Those are generally amazing turnouts and when people get to see the new pieces for the first time.



Small business Saturday will be at Studio 32Nine November 30.

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

ness like yours?

You have to be committed. You really have to show up for your own business like you would for another job and be your own cheerleader.



What piece or pieces of advice would you offer to other aspiring business owners?

Don't give up. Just start it -- nothing's going to be perfect. Be honest, be real and be true to your brand. Put God first and it will fall in line for you.

Business Name: K'Janée Boutique

Location: 4064 Monroe St, Toledo, OH 43606

Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 11 AM - 5 PM, Saturday: 10 AM - 4 PM, Sunday & Monday: Closed

Website: kjanee.com

Phone Number: (567) 694-6439

T. Parker & Co. LLC ... continued from page 12

There are still levels of growth. I think there is more to come.

What piece or pieces of advice would you offer to other aspiring business owners?

Don't be afraid to venture out into the world of entrepreneurship. It helps to have--not good mentors--but great mentors: those that have history, that are from this new era of technology. Embrace technology, don't run from it and always educate yourself. Also don't forget to give back.



Terri Parker

Business Name: T. Parker & Co. LLC

Hours: By Appointment

Location: 6800 W. Central Avenue Suite C #3 Toledo, Ohio 43617

Website: www.tparkerco.com

Phone Number: 419-720-1711

Studio 32NINE Salon Suites and Spa ... continued from page 16

come in here and feel welcomed and feel home. It's a family environment. This is what I constantly hear from the clients.

We customize our services to your uniqueness and we're able to service the entire family at one location under one roof. Also, our attention to detail to make sure that we understand our customers' needs and wants. You can book with us 24/7 with online scheduling. We offer early scheduling and free Wi-Fi.



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

We're in the community -- we're connecting the dots. Studio 32Nine does not exist without our community. It's very important that we put ourselves in the community and bridge the gap through education, health care, community involvement, providing different forums and businesses that can help us, our community and our clients.

What piece or pieces of advice would you offer to other aspiring business owners?

Have a plan A, B, C, D and sometimes E -- because your first two don't always work. If you only have a plan A and B -- then you're in trouble. Also be disciplined, stay true to your identity, have an open mindset to learn and evolve and hold yourself accountable. Share the wealth and grow other people. If we as businesses owners adopted that motto -- we'd be strong.

Business Name: Studio 32NINE Salon Suites and Spa

Location: 4062 Monroe St, Toledo, OH 43606

Hours: Mon - Appointment only
Tues -Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 8-5pm

Website: www.studio32nine.com

Phone Number: (419) 535-1862

ACES Exchange... continued from page 11

mitted to providing the best possible exchange experience to participants, host families, and schools.

Since its founding, ACES has developed partnerships in more than 50 countries around the world and with hundreds of high schools throughout the United States. ACES has served thousands of program participants, including elementary and high school students, teachers, athletes, coaches and performing artists. ACES is a well-established and respected international exchange organization and will continue to offer outstanding exchange programs for people from around the world. (Source: ExploreTheWorld.org)

To learn more about the program or to apply to be a host family visit ExploreTheWorld.org

Rev. Tim Clark... continued from page 15

from Texas for the occasion. Pastor Gaylon Clark, his young brother, now also a pastor, reflected on how Pastor Tim Clark influenced him to come to Christ.

"Nobody's life has been more impacted and nobody's future and been more shaped by Timothy Clark than mine," he shared. I'm always very grateful that my bother led me to Jesus." Clark prayed for him and encouraged him at a pivotal point in his life. "Over 30 years ago my brother prayed for this season in my life... when I am discouraged, when I don't have anything to say... I remember my brother saying 'I pray that you finish well'.... I'm here because of prayers being prayed," he shared. This was just one of the many stories shared attributed to Clark's work of ministry in the lives of others Saturday afternoon.

Harvest planning committee, his wife First Lady Felicia Clark, and Donnetta Carter were instrumental in organizing the celebration. Ramona Collins provided entertainment for the western themed and packed event.

Clark is currently a partner of the firm at New York Life Company and has been with the company for seven years with 23 years in the finance industry. He serves on a host of boards in the community and including the President of the Society of Financial Service Officials and is a member of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA).

To learn more about Pastor Clark's ministry visit the church's website at www.toledoohcc.com or on Facebook @ Harvest Christian Center Toledo.





POSITION AVAILABLE TENANT ADVOCATE

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit regional law firm with a long history of representing people living on low incomes in Ohio in achieving equal justice and opportunity, seeks a Tenant Advocate supporting the Housing and Community Economic Development practice group's access to counsel project providing tenant representation in eviction actions. This position will be based out of ABLE's Dayton office.

About ABLE

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) is a nonprofit law firm established over 50 years ago to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities have the same access to justice as people and companies that can afford to retain an attorney. ABLE and its partner law firm, Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO), are the only law firms available for comprehensive legal representation in non-criminal matters for more than 425,000 people living, working, and raising their families in poverty in Northwest and West Central Ohio. ABLE advocates for – and with – financially disadvantaged individuals and communities to effectuate just and equitable policy changes that address the structural causes of poverty and to protect their right to fairness and justice in the legal system.

The Opportunity

The Tenant Advocate will:

- **Support Legal Representation:** Assist attorneys and clients in the legal process by facilitating communication, collecting factual information and documentation, and advocating for client needs.

- **Client Access to Services:** Ensure clients have access to ABLE services by engaging with them, facilitating referrals, and coordinating with external organizations.

- **Crisis Prevention and Resolution:** Provide immediate crisis prevention and resolution strategies to address client emergencies.

- **Community Outreach:** Conduct outreach presentations to client groups and partner organizations to raise awareness of ABLE services and promote community engagement.

- **Relationship Building with Service Providers:** Develop and maintain relationships with service providers to facilitate effective referrals to and from ABLE and other community organizations.

- **Professional Development Coordination:** Coordinate and facilitate staff training on topics such as poverty, working with vulnerable populations, and cultural competency to enhance service delivery.

- **Supervision of Social Work Students:** Provide supervision and mentorship to social work students during their field placements at ABLE, ensuring they gain practical experience.

- **Collaboration with Legal Advocates:** Collaborate effectively with legal advocates and other professionals to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, including those with no income, limited English proficiency, and mental health consumers.

- **Client Advocacy and Equal Justice Commitment:** Uphold the principle of equal justice by treating clients, staff, and the public with dignity and respect, while maintaining strict confidentiality regarding sensitive matters.

- **Program Policies and Procedures:** Implement ABLE policies and procedures effectively and ensure that program guidelines are followed to meet the organization's goals.

- **Cultural Competency:** Demonstrate an appreciation for diverse cultures and communities by working equitably with clients and colleagues from varied backgrounds.

- **Independence and Team Work:** Work effectively with a team consisting of a staff attorney, paralegal, community organizer and administrative assistant to stabilize housing for clients and support community driven housing initiatives.

The successful candidate must have the following skills and experience:

1. Bachelor's degree in social work or commensurate experience required; Master's Degree preferred.
2. 0-3 years of experience in social work preferred
3. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team, with a high level of initiative and creativity in problem-solving.
4. Experience working with limited income clients and knowledge of local social services is required.
5. Must possess excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills, with the ability to handle and prioritize multiple tasks and deadlines.
6. Computer proficiency in MS Office applications is necessary.
7. Spanish language skills are preferred.
8. Must hold a valid driver's license, auto insurance, and be willing to travel throughout the service area.

Compensation, Benefits, and Work Location

ABLE is committed to providing an equitable work environment, including a commitment to pay equity. The starting annual salary range for this position is \$50,600-\$68,400 depending on experience. Comprehensive fringe benefits, including health insurance, supplemental language compensation, annual leave, and paid parental leave.

To Apply: Please visit <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able> to submit your application. Position will remain open until filled.

ABLE is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in our workplace, including diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability. We strive to create an environment welcoming to all individuals and we encourage applications from individuals traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the recruitment coordinator at hrteam@ablelaw.org.

MANAGER OF SENIOR SERVICES

Neighborhood Health Association (NHA) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of seniors in our community. We are committed to fostering a supportive environment that promotes health, well-being, and social connection for individuals aged 55 and over. As the Manager of Senior Services, you will play a pivotal role in developing and implementing multi-service programs tailored to the medical, cultural and social services needs of our seniors (age 55 and over) throughout the organization. You will serve as a key liaison collaborating with community stakeholders and representing NHA at planning meeting with the Area Office on Aging and other relevant organizations, and make recommendations for the implementation and expansion of programming to the Executive Management Team.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Program Development:** Identify the evolving needs of seniors through demographic analysis and market research, including focus groups. Propose new programs and enhancements to existing services to address barriers faced by our seniors.

- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Build and maintain partnerships with community organizations to ensure comprehensive support for our senior population.

- **Budget Management:** Prepare and manage the departmental operating budget, ensuring timely reporting and adherence to financial constraints.

- **Project Management:** Lead projects with a focus on delivering measurable outcomes, utilizing key data for continuous quality improvement initiatives.

Job Qualifications:

- Minimum of **2 years of management experience** in a leadership role serving seniors..

- Relevant training in **gerontology, recreation**, or a related field, or relevant experience in developing and implementing senior-focused programs.

- Oversee the daily operations and fiscal management for two Senior Center locations, including preparing and managing the departmental budget and the timely submission of required reports.

- Proven ability in **budget preparation and management**, along with experience in project management.

- Flexibility to adapt work hours as needed to support senior programs, typically following a Monday to Friday schedule.

- A genuine passion for serving seniors and enhancing their quality of life.

- Demonstrate a strong commitment to understanding and respecting the diverse cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds of our seniors in a community health environment.

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

Apply Today NHAINC.ORG/CAREERS

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

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.



The Rev. Tim Clark Celebrates 40 Years of Ministry

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Tim Clark, lead pastor of Harvest Christian Center, celebrated forty years of ministry October 5 at the Toledo Museum Glass Pavilion. The pastor was honored with tributes from family, friends, church members, co-workers and area leaders for his special day.

"I never thought I'd be here 40 years later. When I look back my motto was always 'changing lives, changing futures' and to see the people that are here today they represent people we've been impacting over the years... We're just really excited about the moment," he remarked.

Clark has led Harvest Christian Center currently located at 6540 Central Ave. for 18 years. He started the ministry in Dallas, TX at just 19 years old. "I was a young kid just loving the Lord. I preached my first sermon called "You Must Be Born Again." I really wanted to make a change in people's lives. I didn't want to just preach opinion -- I want to preach truth," he reflected.

He studied the scriptures and the biblical languages and grew his ministry in Texas for 20 years before relocating to Toledo, Ohio and continuing his work transforming lives through the gospel at Harvest.

Clark was flooded with tributes Saturday afternoon, including special proclamations from the Lucas County Commissioners and the City of Toledo, presented by Crystal Harris Damell, director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, family tributes and acknowledgments from the IMA (Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance).

Rev. Otis Gordon Jr., DMin, senior pastor of St. Stephen AME Church, provided remarks on behalf of the IMA, "He has been a stable for the ministers of the IMA, for the city of Toledo and Lucas County. We listen to him when he speaks because he's a voice of wisdom, a voice of direction and he's a voice that speaks the word of God... Harvest Christian Center I know that you are blessed every Sunday because this man is on fire for the Lord," Gordon stated.

Clark's family, including his 80-year-old father, Pastor Clyde Clark, traveled

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First Lady Felica Clark and Pastor Timothy Clark



Pastor Clyde Clark, Pastor Tim Clark's father, gives remarks



Gifty Clark and Michael Clark



First Lady Lillie Gordon; Rev. Otis Gordon Jr., DMin; and Pastor Cedric Brock



Pastor Gaylon Clark and Kathy Clark

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TO
RE-ELECT**



ELGIN ROGERS Jr.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

*TOGETHER
WE'RE Making it Happen!*

November 5TH

VOTE EARLY OCTOBER 8TH - Nov.
3737 W.Sylvania

PAID FOR BY CITIZENS FOR ROGERS

Three Black-Owned Businesses - And What Makes Them Work

T. Parker & Co, LLC

Business Owner: Terri Parker



Terri Parker

How would you describe your business in your own words?

We are a full-service branding, marketing and communications agency. We service both small and large businesses – anywhere from startups and single entrepreneurs to multimillion dollar companies.

What clients have you serviced?

We've serviced a lot of clients throughout the years: local governments, Toledo Lucas County Health Department, the City of Toledo, the Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio is one of our longest standing clients.

When did your business open?

We've been around since 2006.

Who started the business? Why?

I've always loved the arts and creativity. I graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in graphic design. I later went back and started taking classes in marketing towards my

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Studio 32NINE Salon Suites & Spa

Business Owner: Doug Keetion



Doug Keetion - 32NINE Studio

How would you describe your business in your own words?

We are the premiere salon of Toledo and the surrounding areas. We are a one-stop shop for the entire family.

When did your business open?

We started in November of 2007. We're coming up to our anniversary. We went from an 1100 sq ft salon to a 6200 sq ft salon which we facilitate now. We've been at this location since 2022.

Who started the business? Why?

I wanted more for my clients. I wanted a conducive environment... clients wanted more than just their hair done, their nails done... they wanted all of that and then some... I had a desire for more so the only way I was going to do that was to do my own thing. I've been in the industry as a stylist now for 30 years.

What services do you offer?

Hair coloring, hair cutting, locs, natural hair styling, hair weaving, facials, massages, pedicures, manicures and designer nails.

We have a team of 14 and we service the entire family from men's grooming, to women's styles and the little ones.

What makes your business unique?

Our vibe. Our clients

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K'Janée Boutique

Business Owner: Curtina Keetion



Curtina Keetion - K'Janee Boutique

How would you describe your business in your own words?

A boutique that caters to small and plus sized women and helps you to elevate your original style.

What products do you sell?

Women's apparel, handbags and accessories

When did your business open?

I started originally as Boutique Me in 2011. I changed the name to K'Janée Boutique in 2016.

Who started the business? Why?

I was a stay-at-home mom, and I've always loved fashion. When my kids became older, my husband and I decided to make the salon a one-stop shop.

What additional services do you offer?

I offer personal styling and personal shopping events. I also revamp customers' closets: I go in and help clients to style and restyle the old pieces in their closets.

What makes your business unique?

My customers say: Me. They like my store because I am honest and genuine, and they know that they can come here and find something different and they won't see a lot of the same pieces around town.

Everybody comes to look for unique pieces. Something that is different and a little bit out of the box, to elevate what you already have. It may just be that one piece that elevates your style.

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DR. BRITTANY JONES
TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

A Champion For:
Education Equity:
Ensuring every child in Toledo has access to a high quality education

Economic Development:
Promoting growth that benefits ALL communities in Toledo

Affordable Housing:
Increasing housing options, preventing displacement, and addressing homelessness

LUCAS COUNTY DEMOCRATS
ENDORSED CANDIDATE

Paid for by Friends of Brittany Jones

Marcy Kaptur for Congress

Working to reduce everyday costs

Capping monthly insulin at \$35 for seniors

Fighting unfair trade deals to protect Ohio jobs

DELIVERING FOR US ALL

Vote for Marcy Kaptur, She works for YOU
Election Day: November 5

Paid for by Kaptur for Congress

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