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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

November 6, 2024

A Vision for Hope in Toledo



Toledo Native and Former Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman

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The 2024 Election: A Bridge to a New America or the Collapse of an Empire?

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

The Truth Contributor

As Nicholas Kristof wrote, "The greatest problem is not with flat-out white racists, but rather with the far larger number of Americans who believe intellectually in racial equality but are quietly oblivious to injustice around them." Too many whites unquestioningly accept a system that disproportionately punishes blacks . . . We are not racists, but we accept a system that acts in racist ways.

- Jim Wallis



The United States' status as a "shining city on a hill" is frequently praised. In reality, diversity is the cornerstone upon which this prominent badge of distinction is based. America's unparalleled innovation and global influence can be directly attributed to its diversity of races, ethnicities, religions, cultures and ideas.

Yet, inside this most formidable strength dwells a fatal flaw: racism. According to theologian Jim Wallis in America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America, America's legacy of slavery and systemic racism still influences the nation, posing a threat to its democratic ideals and position as the global leader.

It is true that the nation's founding documents initially served a narrow group – predominantly white and wealthy men. Yet, the country's unique mix of cultures, ethnicities, and perspectives fueled its economic prosperity and an alluring global appeal to complement our innovative superiority. Diversity has been central to this success and America's identity.

Diversity has made the U.S. a universal leader in science and technology and arts and entertainment. In addition, research indicates that diverse teams are more effective at solving complex problems, and economists attribute much of America's economic success to its multicultural workforce.

Furthermore, America's diversity continues to provide its ability to influence the world through culture and moral authority. Its promotion of freedom, democracy, and human rights has built alliances and partnerships with countries striving to emulate these American values. Moreover, diversity is crucial for the nation's future, providing a foundation for healing and unity at a time when racial and cultural divides fracture the nation.

Nevertheless, despite its strengths, America also possesses a legacy so vile or morally repulsive that "legislative eyes" seek to ban books to prevent us from even looking at what Wallis and others have called our "original sin"—racism. From the brutal legacy of slavery to Jim Crow segregation to Mass Incarceration and up to the current day, racism has left severe wounds on American society with scars so deep that white privilege and

racial inequality are woven into the fabric of the nation's institutions and systems, creating structural barriers that undermine the nation's ideals and prevent true equality.

Indeed, the stain of America's original sin is vividly transparent in today's racial wealth gap, obscene disparities in education and healthcare, and ongoing barbarous police violence against Black and Brown communities.

Thus, the 2024 election is an opportunity for the nation to reckon with this history and work toward healing. If ignored, social and political divisions could break America apart, jeopardizing the nation's stability and evicting it from its perch as the world's leader.

Will America build a "bridge to a new America" rooted in justice, equality, and inclusivity, or destroy it by further entrenching divisions?

The outcome of the 2024 election will determine the path. The presidential candidates vying for leadership each possess starkly different visions. The potential rise of one candidate with reported ties to White Nationalism and exclusionary ideologies would be devastating. Such a leader, using chaos, division, and fear as tools to ascend to power, can be likely counted on to legitimize extremist views, intensify racial divides, and enact policies that disenfranchise minorities, communities of color, and women - all of which are certain to undercut America's diversity and moral authority.

On the other hand, actively confronting the original sin of racism, patriarchy, and economic inequality will build a bridge to a new America. According to Wallis, that means white Americans acknowledging their privilege, institutions addressing systemic inequities, and communities coming together to build empathy, understanding, and solidarity. Vice President Kamala Harris has promoted this vision of a new America. It rests on the idea that the nation's strength lies not in erasing its differences but in honoring them and creating a society where all people are included and have equal access to opportunity and justice.

As the world's most powerful democracy, embracing and choosing a leader who tolerates or promotes White Nationalism will also embolden authoritarian regimes and nationalist movements globally. So, also expect adversaries like Russia and China, which challenge the U.S.'s leadership and democratic values, to seize on America's divisions to promote their

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Community Calendar

November 7

Kwanzaa Park Neighbors Community Meeting: 6 – 7:30 pm; The Padua Center; Alondria Wright speaks on technology for seniors, TPD Officer Emily Felser will present crime statistics, Florence McLemore, City Block Chair, to be recognized: 419-460-3071

November 12

Toledo NAACP Voting: 4 to 8 pm via Election Buddy
Toledo NAACP General Membership meeting: Jerusalem Baptist Church; 7 pm

November Zepf Center Safety Net Events

- 2024 Youth HOPE Month events include:
- Safety Net Youth Shelter & Drop-In Center Tour
 - o November 7, 5-6 p.m., 2005 Ashland Ave.
 - Youth HOPE Month Proclamation – Lucas County Commissioners
 - o November 12, 11 a.m., One Government Center
 - Shining a Light on Youth Homelessness – Virtual Presentation
 - o November 14, 5-6 p.m., via Zoom Video or Facebook Live
 - Light the Night Community Walk
 - o November 21, 5:30-6:30 p.m., 2005 Ashland Ave.
 - Central Catholic vs Start HS Girls Basketball Game
 - o November 23, 3:30 p.m., Central Catholic Highschool

The Sojourner's Truth

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Dawn Scotland – Assistant Editor

Tricia Hall – Reporter
Asia Nail – Reporter
Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist
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The Clock is Ticking for the Government to Do What is Right for this Flooded Historic Black Community

By Ben Jealous

The state of Alabama destroyed their homes. Your federal tax dollars helped pay for it.

We are checking back in on the historic Black Shiloh community in Elba, Alabama.

Ever since 2018, when the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) expanded a highway running through the town, stormwater runoff floods the homes in this community whenever it rains. It is an ongoing crisis.

Members of this community have lost everything. Some of the families here have owned these homes for generations. Their generational wealth has been wiped out. They deserve justice. They deserve to be made whole. Now, the federal government could be running out of time to help.

Pastor Timothy Williams is a Shiloh community member who has been a leader in the fight to get justice for his neighbors and his own family. Back in March, when I spoke with Pastor Williams, he told me, "My house has already sunk two feet into the mud. I see my inheritance and my children's American Dream being washed away and stolen."

Since then, Pastor Williams says things have only gotten worse. He now says the frustration and hopelessness taking root in the community has led to people using alcohol and drugs as an escape, whereas several years ago that would be unheard of in this community.

It speaks to the toll on this community being more than just economic. Watching your home and community be destroyed, and your generational wealth evaporate, has physical, mental, and emotional impacts just like any trauma does. People are watching their homes sink, and living with the danger all this physical upheaval of their land has caused with power lines and gas and sewage pipes. Pastor Williams himself has been warned his sinking house could eventually hit a natural gas pipeline causing a rupture or even an explosion. Think about the impact this must have not only on the entire community's mental health, but what it must do to the kids in the community and their ability to succeed in school.

Beyond that, there is the clear racial factor here. This is Alabama after all. The reckless disregard for this rural Black community in the state's highway project was not something unfamiliar to people who have lived there for decades. Nor were years of inaction and being left behind by the state (and now the federal government) since then. And there have been acts of intimidation by outsiders aimed at community members like Pastor Williams who have spoken up – in March, Pastor Williams told me the restaurant he owns had been the target of a boycott by some local whites. And white people make up most of his clientele.

In a place where the shadow of Jim Crow still looms large, that justice



for this Black community seems so elusive seems like no mere coincidence. It is understandable that some in the community believe the storm drainage pipes were aimed at their community intentionally.

In the months since I first spoke with Pastor Williams, I have visited Shiloh. And I have been working closely with Dr. Robert Bullard, known as Father of Environmental Justice and this country's preeminent voice exposing environmental racism, to build pressure on both the state and federal governments to act. Elba, Alabama is Dr. Bullard's hometown. It is an example of the pervasiveness of environmental racism, that such injustice could continue in the hometown of a prominent expert who sits on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

Someone else who visited Shiloh the past few months is Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. And on October 4, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced a Voluntary Resolution Agreement (VRA) with ALDOT to address the ongoing flooding in Shiloh every time it storms. The VRA is one product of an investigation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Title VI prohibits racial discrimination – among other kinds of discrimination – in projects that receive federal financial assistance, like the Alabama highway project that destroyed the Shiloh community.

But the VRA is not a solution for the harm that has already been done to the people of this community. It is an insult to them. The agreement requires infrastructure improvements to mitigate flooding. But these people's homes are already ruined, their families are traumatized, and their property values are decimated.

Perhaps Army veteran Willie Horstead Jr., who has watched his home sink into the flood-soaked ground similarly to Pastor Williams, put it best when he told the visiting US Secretary of Transportation, "I'll tell you – I just want to be made whole."

In his 1963 Letter from Birmingham Jail, Dr. King wrote, "justice too long delayed is justice denied," paraphrasing an old legal maxim.

Justice has been delayed for far too long for the residents of the Shiloh community. And the clock is ticking.

We don't know what will happen with the presidential election. But it is possible it could result in some of the same people returning to the US Department of Transportation who originally approved the use of federal funds for the disastrous Alabama highway project back in 2018. Or people willing to have the federal government turn a blind eye to racial discrimination by a state with a deep history of it. Any more delay could mean justice being permanently denied to members of the Shiloh community.

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

Perryman...continued from page 2

own authoritarian models to other nations while arguing that democracy is inherently flawed.

As of this writing, I don't know how it will all shake out. But one thing seems clear: The current decisive moment demands that the nation truly confront both its greatest strength and its greatest flaw.

Diversity has the power to unite and elevate America. In contrast, racism, the nation's original sin, has the potential to tear it apart. The choice America makes will determine whether it builds a bridge to a new, more inclusive future or succumbs to the divisions that could spell the collapse of an empire.

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

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Revitalizing Communities: A Vision for Hope in Toledo

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

On October 18, 2024, an electrifying conversation unfolded between Robert Smith, founder of the African American Legacy Project, and former Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, a proud Toledo native. This was more than just a discussion; it was a passionate call to action, igniting a shared vision for the future. They emphasized the vital importance of nurturing our communities—especially our local artists, the Black community and our youth—to pave the way for a brighter, more hopeful tomorrow for everyone. Their dialogue resonated with urgency and inspiration, reminding us all of the power we hold to effect real change.

A Legacy of Change

Michael Coleman made history as Columbus's first African American mayor and served for an impressive 16 years. His roots trace back to Toledo, where he grew up with a vision of what could be. He often reflects on his childhood dreams of becoming an architect. "I wanted to shape spaces that would bring people together," he shared during the interview. This passion for building, both literally and metaphorically, fueled his drive to make significant changes in Columbus.

When Coleman took office, he inherited neighborhoods that were struggling. The King-Lincoln Bronzeville district, a historically significant area for the African American community, was once the vibrant heart of commerce, culture, and connection in Columbus during the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. However, the construction of Highway 71 cut off access, leading to isolation and a mass exodus of black residents during desegregation.

Over the following decades, the population plummeted from 64,000 to just 16,000, leaving behind a landscape of abandoned buildings and overgrown lots. In this context, Coleman recognized the urgent need for revitalization: "I can't be the first Black Mayor and not deal with this," he said to himself.

"Initially I revitalized an area on Morris Rd. in this district by acquiring the former Northland Mall, which I ultimately demolished despite significant controversy," Coleman shares with Smith.

"I invested millions into the streetscape, developing the area and ad-



Toledo Councilwomen Cerssandra McPherson and Brittany Jones with former Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman

ressing the long-standing issue of disinvestment, thereby transforming the community for the better."

The Power of Physical Space

Imagine a garden that has been neglected, its flowers wilted and its pathways overgrown. Coleman envisioned this garden blooming once again. He believed that transforming physical spaces could revive community spirit and reconnect people to their roots. A pivotal moment in this journey was the revitalization of Lincoln Theater, a historic venue that had long

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Michael Coleman



The AALP's Robert Smith and former Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman

Revitalizing Communities... continued from page 4

served as a gathering spot for the Black community.

"The Lincoln Theater was where our community went when they couldn't go downtown," Coleman explained. Legends like Duke Ellington and Sammy Davis Jr. graced its stage, making it a cornerstone of cultural life. But by the time Coleman took action, the theater was on the brink of being demolished. "I had a gut feeling that even with all the damage, I could change this," he recalled. Despite the pushback and controversy, Coleman purchased the theater with city funds and committed to its restoration.

This decision sparked not just renewed interest in the theater, but a broader revitalization of the surrounding area. After the Lincoln Theater was transformed into a thriving cultural hub, it attracted thousands of visitors and new residents to the downtown area. However, Coleman's vision extended far beyond the theater; laying the groundwork for a complete resurgence of economic opportunities and community pride in the region.

Building Together

As Coleman spoke about his vision, he emphasized the importance of community involvement. "You just have to do it and try to bring folks along in the process," he said. It wasn't enough to have a plan; he had to sell that vision to the people living in the neighborhoods, to those outside of them, and to the business community. "I was the biggest salesperson for my vision," he quipped, illustrating the necessity of belief and enthusiasm in leadership.

One of the key elements to his success was the idea of collaboration. Coleman invited input from diverse people within the community, integrating their ideas into the revitalization plans. "Have everyone paint on a blank canvas with different pots of paint," he suggested. By involving the community in the planning process, he ensured that the revitalization efforts reflected their desires and needs. In the end, the result was a masterpiece—an enriched community where everyone had a vested interest in success.

The Importance of Youth and Arts

Coleman's commitment to revitalization extended beyond buildings and businesses; he believed in empowering young people and supporting the arts. "What's going to make young people want to come to the City of Toledo?" he asked. His answer was simple: ask them. When Coleman engaged local youth, he discovered what they truly wanted in their city—opportunities for creativity, connection, and growth.

In Columbus, Coleman collaborated with The Ohio State University to bring students into the city's culture. They hosted events at local arenas, complete with music, fine dining, art, and activities designed to showcase what Columbus had to offer. "The kids loved it!" he beamed, noting that this engagement fostered a sense of belonging among students. Over time, this effort paid off, as many students chose to stay in the city after graduation, starting businesses and contributing to their communities.

Art, too, became a vital component of Coleman's vision. He understood that subsidizing artists in concentrated areas of the city could lead to vibrant cultural districts, attracting more people and fostering economic growth. "As for Toledo, watch your art district explode with new opportunities if you implement these strategies," he said, envisioning a future where creativity fuels revitalization and transforms areas into bustling hubs of innovation and expression. By investing in the arts, he believes, most cities can harness the power of culture to drive progress and bring people together.

Economic Empowerment

Central to Coleman's vision was economic empowerment. He recognized the significant wealth gap faced by Black and Hispanic communities, often stemming from a lack of access to banking services. To address this, he and other leaders founded the Adelphi Bank, the first Black-owned bank in Ohio. "It's important as a community that we embrace black-owned banks and do everything we can to help them succeed," he stated, underscoring the need for financial institutions that truly represent and serve every community.

The creation of Adelphi Bank was not just about providing loans; it was about restoring financial dignity and fostering entrepreneurship within the Black community. Coleman's vision for the bank was rooted in the belief that when individuals have access to resources, they can create their own opportunities, invest in their communities, and build generational wealth.

Learning from History

Coleman's reflections were deeply intertwined with the history of the Black community in Toledo and beyond. He lamented the loss of historical businesses and cultural landmarks in our hometown, recalling how Dorr Street once buzzed with life. "I didn't see a single business that I remember, not one," he said, a sense of sadness in his voice. "Toledo destroyed its Black heritage. It's time to re-build."

He emphasized the importance of remembering the past as a guide for the future. "You don't know where you're going until you first understand where you come from," he advised. This understanding is crucial for the Black community in Toledo as they navigate their path forward. "If Black people in Toledo want to restore their heritage, they must speak up and work together," he urged, reinforcing the need for unity and collective action.

A Brighter Future

As the interview wrapped up, Coleman's hopeful vision for Toledo shone brightly. He believes that by nurturing artists, supporting the Black community, and engaging youth, the city can become a thriving landscape of culture, commerce, and connection once again. "In ten years, we will see an urban transformation," he predicted, his eyes sparkling with optimism.

Toledo shares many similarities with Columbus, including a strong educational presence with institutions like the University of Toledo. Coleman sees immense potential in identifying and engaging young people, ensuring they feel valued and invested in their city. "When young people stay in the city, they're going to start businesses, start families, and create jobs," he explained, painting a picture of a vibrant future.

The Canvas of Community

The conversation with past Mayor Michael Coleman was not just about one man's legacy; it was a broader call to action for cities everywhere. By fostering collaboration, supporting the arts, and empowering communities, we can create environments where every voice matters and every dream has the potential to flourish.

In a world that can sometimes feel overwhelming, Coleman's story reminds us that change is possible. Just as an artist approaches a blank canvas, we all have the power to contribute to the masterpiece that is our community. With hope, determination, and a commitment to unity, we can nurture our cities and create spaces where everyone can thrive.

Watch the AALP Interview w/Mayor Michael Coleman on Facebook.



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Getting Your Affairs in Order

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Getting Your Affairs in Order, presented by the Area Office on Aging and the Toledo Lucas County Public Library was held October 19 at the Main Library Branch. The informative workshop helped attendees to prepare for a Living Will and Transfer on Death Deed. The sold-out event included lunch and was free and open to the public.

The workshop was held from 12:30- 2:30 p.m. and featured a host of experts that spoke on various aspects of estate planning for those in attendance. This was the fourth and final event in the series.

The Welcome was given by Jason Kucsma, executive director Toledo Lucas County Public Library, followed by Justin Moor, president and CEO of the Area Office on Aging.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Barbie Harrison and the Program Purpose by Deborah Barnett of N-SYNC, LLC.

The event was organized by Barnett, Harrison and Celeste Day who saw the need to have a program to encourage people, young and old, to get their affairs, especially financial affairs, in order.

"We experienced that our friends, who are getting older, affairs may not be in order. We've seen our friends go through this in traumatic ways. Because if you don't have your affairs in order all kinds of things can go wrong," stated Harrison. "We thought this would be a good thing to have so that we could start to have the conversations."

Topics ranged from how to communicate wishes to the family, final ar-



Deborah Barnett, N-Sync LLC

rangements instructions, living wills, trusts and more.

The event, which started earlier this year, has grown to over 200 people. "We had to stop registration. It tells us that the need is great and it's getting greater," said Harrison.

"Everyone should start getting their affairs in order as soon as they begin to think about it," she shared. "Young adults, especially young adults with kids, need to start having these conversations now, the focus has been on the seniors but everybody should be talking about it," she remarked.

Speakers Included:

- Rev. Barbie Harrison
- Pastor Arthur Battle, Esq.
- Nichole Rodriguez, Fifth Third Bank
- Katie Moline, Lucas County Auditor
- Douglas Johnson, Lucas County Treasurer Office
- Laura Watt & Andrea Dhondt, Lucas County Clerk of Courts
- Michael Ashford, Lucas County Recorder

The event concluded with a question & answer session moderated by Celeste Felix.

Major sponsors included Fifth Third Bank, Lucas County Clerk of Courts, Lucas County Recorder's Office and supporting sponsors Black and Brown Unity Coalition, Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA), Lucas County Auditor, Lucas County Treasurer, N-SYNC, LLC, Tastefully Two, Toledo Community Coalition, United Pastors for Social Empowerment (UPSE).



Justin Moor, Area Office on Aging



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Toledo's Black Wall Street Community Development: Media Outlets Take Action to Rebuild Economic Power

By Carla Thomas

Special to The Truth

What's in a name? While many adopt the title "Black Wall Street", the once thriving African American business district in the early 20th century, as a symbol of prosperity and empowerment, few take actionable steps to live up to that legacy.

However, one organization that is making a tangible effort to embody this legacy is Black Wall Street Community Development (BWSCD) which consists of three media entities: The Sojourner's Truth newspaper, Stalwart magazine, and WJUC 107.3 The Juice radio station.

For Fletcher Word, publisher of The Sojourner's Truth, the need for such an initiative became clear after years of observing the economic struggles many Black-owned businesses in Toledo faced.

"I realized it years ago when we started compiling lists of businesses to create an inclusive online directory of Black-owned businesses," Word said. "But to really make an impact, it wasn't enough to just catalog them—we had to help them

network, support each other, and grow together."

That realization led to the formation of Black Wall Street Community Development, a collaborative effort among Black-owned media outlets with a shared mission to rebuild and empower Toledo's African American economic community.

The BWSCD team, often behind the scenes telling others' stories, are now taking an active, hands-on role in bettering their own community. To them, Black Wall Street is not just a metaphor; they're driving real community development efforts aimed at rebuilding a thriving African American economic community in Toledo, Ohio.

In the heart of Toledo, these three prominent Black-owned media outlets have come together with a mission: to revive the spirit of Black Wall Street and empower the city's African American business community. Through collaboration,

...continued on page 14

Marketing Contest Announced at BWSCD Meeting

A marketing contest was announced at Toledo Black Wall Street meeting which includes Juice FM 107.3 Grand Prize 1 month radio/online advertising package valued at \$5,000.

If you weren't there, we're making sure you don't miss it! Toledo Black Wall Street media founders are putting their money where their mouth is as they encourage and support local business to increase their marketing efforts and maximize potential growth. At the Toledo Black Wall Street meeting held last Wednesday October 30 at The Truth Colours Gallery, a phenomenal marketing competition was announced.

Knowing the importance of incorporating mass media in every business plan, Juice FM 107.3 is leading with a Grand Prize Package valued at \$5,000. Stalwart Magazine added a full page ad & the Sojourner Truth Newspaper is adding in as well with a full page ad or its equivalent. A customized apparel package from KPK Unlimited is also a part of the Grand Prize Package.

How to enter? Simply submit a 30 second audio or video message promoting your business to TheJuice1073info@gmail.com by midnight Friday, November 22, 2024. Creativity is the name of the game. Impress the judges! The Grand Prize winner will also receive support creating the print components of the prize. Included in the Juice FM 107.3 Package are online digital banners

that click through to the business website.

The best part is that all entries are eligible for 20 percent off of a \$500 or more one month Juice FM 107.3, The Peoples Station, advertising campaign.

The exciting thing is that any video created can usually provide audio needed for the radio commercial and also be shared on Tik Tok, YouTube Shorts & Facebook.

So let's get started!!! Collaborate with staff, young people in your life and partnering businesses to help with the creative explosion.

For more information contact Toni Battle of Juice FM 107.3 at 313.920.2270. Remember, deadline for entries is Friday November 22nd at Midnight. Multiple entries welcome. Start working on your digital entry today!!!



Organizers of Black Wallstreet Community Development with apparel Designed by Kristi Knighten owner of KK Apparel (middle)



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NHA, Junction Coalition and Jones Leadership Host Halloween Party

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The Neighborhood Health Association (NHA) in partnership with the Junction Coalition and Jones Leadership Academy hosted a Halloween Party at Cordelia Martin October 26. The free event featured activities, food and a trunk or treat for the entire family.

Shantell Fryson, director of Clinical Supports Services and Patient Experience, said that the event also featured blood pressure screenings, blood sugar screenings, lead testing, cholesterol testing and appointment scheduling for new and existing patients. The clinic included two pediatricians and brought fun as well as health awareness to the neighborhood.

The event which was held from 1-4pm hosted over 1000 during the day she stated. NHA plans to host the event annually.

The Halloween party was coordinated by Tastefully Two Catering and Event Planning. It included a DJ, bouncy houses, arts and crafts and trunk or treat with local vendors and organizations participating and contributing.

About the Neighborhood Health Association
Neighborhood Health Association ensures access to quality medical care for anyone in need. Through effective delivery of services, Neighborhood Health Association strives to become a national model of care for the under and uninsured in our community-empowering patients through responsiveness to their needs and fostering a workplace invigorated with enthusiasm for our singular purpose (source: nhainc.org)



Joanne Menefree and Gwen Wyse of Tastefully Two Catering and Event Planning



Naylani dressed up as a princess for the event



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The Black Wall Street Community Development Networking Event

The Truth Staff

The Black Wall Street Community Development, a group of Toledo Black business owners, met again on Wednesday, October 30, at The Truth Colours Gallery, to mingle, trade information, form collaborative efforts and hear several individuals talk about various opportunities for business owners.

The Black Wall Street Community Development is a collaborative effort formed by Toledo's Black media companies – 107.3 The Juice Radio station, The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper and the Stalwart Magazine – to bring Black owned businesses together. The networking, speed funding, educational gatherings started in August 2023 and have been ongoing since then.

Last week's event at The Truth Colours Gallery, an art gallery and event center operated by resident artist and BWSCD member Nikola Welcome-Bovell, was opened by Toni Battle, sales manager at The Juice, who conceived the idea of the BWSCD. After her welcome, Fletcher Word, publisher of The Truth, led the attendees in an introduction session – each speaker had the opportunity to explain his or her business or organization and what that business offers to the community.

The keynote address was delivered by Robert Smith, executive director of the African American Legacy Project, who spoke of his organization's plan to revitalize the Dorr Street corridor and the inspiration his group and others have received by contact with the efforts of the Columbus Ohio planners who did the same though their 20 year project.

Crystal Darnell, director of the Department of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion office of Lucas County, spoke of the plans her office is undertaking to grow and strengthen minority-owned businesses.

Stayce Fowler, publisher of Stalwart Magazine, addressed what membership in the BWSCD will mean in the future – more collaborative opportunities, expanded funding connections – and Kristie Knighten of KpK Unlimited, LLC, described how group members can interact during upcoming BWSCD programming.

Pulling it all together was Shanice Sample of BottlesUp Bartending. Sample brought her signature cocktails to the party to the delight of the

attendees.

The BWSCD began in August 2023 with an introductory meeting at 32NINE Studio. Subsequently the group has held bi monthly networking meetings along with a speed funding session and a variety of business instruction meetings.

The holiday networking mixer will be held at the Entrepreneurs Club on December 4.



Shanice Sample



Terrie Cook and Debra Hogan



Donnetta Carter and Kristie Knighten



Mike Ivery and Kristie Knighten



Rich Hogan and Suzette Cowell



Alethea Easterly and Donnetta Carter



Crystal Darnell and Stayce Fowler



Erik Johnson and Debra Sue



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Take Charge of Tomorrow

By Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension, Lucas County
The Truth Contributor

In the month of November, communities seek to bring attention to diabetes as a way to learn more, support others, and take steps to prevent diabetes health problems. As we age, we are at higher risk for developing diabetes. We cannot do anything about our age or our genetic predisposition. There are things we can do to help prevent type 2 diabetes, delay onset until much later in life or live well with a diagnosis of diabetes. As with many health conditions, the recommendations are to maintain a healthy weight, get enough sleep, avoid a sedentary lifestyle, and avoid smoking. The good news is that by making these healthy choices, we can help prevent diabetes and related health problems.

Please note that these health recommendations are important for everyone, not just those who have been diagnosed with diabetes. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases recommends:

- **Manage your blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels.** A1C is the test that is used to measure average blood glucose levels (sometimes called blood sugar levels). Some people with diabetes also use devices to track their blood glucose throughout the day and night. Work with your health care professionals to know where your personal blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol levels should be.
- **Take your medicines on time.** Even if you feel OK, don't skip taking prescribed medications. If that's a challenge for you, talk with your doctor or pharmacist for advice.
- **Reach or maintain a healthy weight.** A healthy weight and active lifestyle can help with many health conditions. If you have problems with physical movement, ask your doctor for advice and recommendations like

chair exercises or other ways to be physically active.

- **Take care of your mental health.** We know that mind-body health goes hand-in-hand. Like other medical conditions, a diagnosis of diabetes can be challenging. It is perfectly normal to feel overwhelmed or down or sad. There are healthy ways to cope with stress. Don't be afraid to meet with a counselor or to seek out a support group.
- **Work with your health care team.** Your health care team might include many or all of these people: primary care provider, specialists, registered dietician, certified diabetes educator, and/or social worker. If there is an area where you need extra assistance, please ask your current team members about additional resources and professionals that can help.
- **Take small steps towards healthy habits.** Start slow with new habits and move forward from there. Decide how to increase physical activity or plan healthy meals. Look at your sleep patterns and decide if you need a new routine. You don't have to do it all at once but remember that these habits can make a positive difference.

Foods, meals and recipes can be an important part of living a healthy life. For those with diabetes, monitoring and managing blood sugar levels are important. Food can help with this when people eat the right amount of foods at the right times so that their blood sugar stays within target range. Work with your dietitian or diabetes educator to create a healthy eating plan to make it easier to eat well.

The following foods are highlighted by the American Diabetes Association. These foods are rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and fiber that are good for overall health and may also help prevent disease. How many of them can you enjoy this week?

Beans - Kidney, pinto, navy or black beans are packed with vitamins and minerals such as magnesium and potassium. They are very high in fiber too. Beans do contain carbohydrates, but ½ cup also provides as

... continued on page 11

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A Mental Health Moment

November: International Stress Awareness Day

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC, LLC

The Truth Contributor

Each month is dedicated to many causes and issues. The month of November focuses on many but when it comes to mental health, the greatest focus is on International Stress Awareness Day which occurs on the first Wednesday of each November. While that statement can be very misleading as we all face stressful situations in our lives often on a daily basis, it is important to bring this cause to the forefront as how it relates to mental health.



The World Health Organization (WHO) defines stress as a state of worry or mental tension caused by difficult situations. Stress can be defined as a state of worry or mental tension caused by difficult and/or challenging situations. While stress is a natural human response, health deficits and diseases can often be the outcome if not dealt with in a healthy manner. Also, many try to treat stress as ghosting a friend as if they pay no attention or respond the issue will go away.

Signs of stress often include cognitive deficits such as impaired ability to remember things, concentrating, worrying and anxiety well above one's normative response. Other signs are emotional – being irritated, angry, agitated, fearful or moody. Then there are the physical signs such as high blood pressure, headaches, feeling sweaty/clammy, digestive problems, frequent illnesses as colds or other low immunity issues, changes in sex drive and even menstrual cycle. Behavioral signs present often as lack of self-care, not making time for things you used to enjoy or relying on substances such as drugs and/or alcohol to cope. Stress is caused by external events, while anxiety is caused by your internal reaction to stress. Stress may diminish once the threat or the situation is no longer prevalent, whereas anxiety may persist even after the original stressor is gone.

Allowing stress to go untreated or recognized can wreck havoc on your mind, body and spirit. Stress will not just magically disappear. It needs

to be identified. Once identified ask yourself how it is affecting you and then what is in your power to address it. Feeling stressed before taking an exam for school for example is normal. If you studied or not there will be a level of stress, but you had a choice. On the other hand, if you have been feeling stressed over weeks of pain in your left leg that does not seem to be getting better then it's way overdue for you to see a medical provider. Again, there is a choice. Stressing over the future of your life, well that's a bit much but fair. We all want the best for our future endeavors but again it comes down to choices. Preparing logical plans for our future will allow us much better sleep as opposed to going day in and day out hoping for the best with no plan in place.

Take a mental health moment to assess your stress. If you are having thoughts or feelings of worry that begin to affect your mind and body, take some time to address the issues. What is in your control what is not? Stress factors are the top issues for which many individuals seek out mental health professionals. Take stress seriously. Many individuals feel they have the ability to cope but when you feel unable to cope on your own, it's time to take extra measures. Friends and family can have some good input but often contribute to one's stress; having a non-biased and non-judgmental approach such as a mental health therapist to assist you in moving through those times of unknown will create a much healthier space.

"Stress is caused by being 'here' but wanting to be 'there.'" --- Eckhart Tolle

For help in finding a mental therapist, you may contact your insurance provider and/or visit www.psychologytoday.com

Bernadette Joy Graham, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor and Certified Grief Recovery Specialist can be reached via Email: graham.bernadette@gmail.com

If you feel you may be in a mental health crisis, please call 988 or go to the nearest emergency room.

Take Charge of Tomorrow... continued from page 10

much protein as an ounce of meat without the saturated fat.

Dark green leafy vegetables - Spinach, collards and kale are dark green leafy vegetables packed with vitamins and minerals such as vitamins A, C, E and K, iron, calcium and potassium. These powerhouse foods are low in calories and carbohydrates too. Try adding dark leafy vegetables to salads, soups and stews.

Citrus fruit - Grapefruits, oranges, lemons and limes or pick your favorites to get part of your daily dose of fiber, vitamin C, folate and potassium.

Berries - blueberries, strawberries or others are all packed with antioxidants, vitamins and fiber. Berries can be a great option to satisfy your sweet tooth and they provide an added benefit of vitamin C, vitamin K, manganese, potassium and fiber.

Tomatoes - no matter how you like your tomatoes, pureed, raw, or in a sauce, you're eating vital nutrients like vitamin C, vitamin E and potassium.

Fish high in omega-3 fatty acids may help to reduce the risk of heart disease and inflammation. Fish high in these healthy fats are sometimes referred to as "fatty fish." Salmon is well known in this group. Other fish high in omega-3 are herring, sardines, mackerel, trout and albacore tuna. Choose fish that is broiled, baked or grilled to avoid the carbohydrate

and extra calories that would be in fish that is breaded and fried. The American Diabetes Association Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes recommends eating fish (mainly fatty fish) twice per week for people with diabetes.

Nuts - An ounce of nuts can help in getting key healthy fats along with helping to manage hunger. In addition, they offer magnesium and fiber. Some nuts and seeds, such as walnuts and flax seeds, are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids.

Whole grains - The first ingredient on the label should have the word "whole" in it. Whole grains are rich in vitamins and minerals like magnesium, B vitamins, chromium, iron and folate. They are a great source of fiber too. Some examples of whole grains are whole oats, quinoa, whole grain barley and farro.

Milk and yogurt - You may have heard that milk and yogurt can help build strong bones and teeth. In addition to calcium, many milk and yogurt products are fortified to make them a good source of vitamin D. More research is emerging on the connection between vitamin D and good health. Milk and yogurt do contain carbohydrate that will be a factor in meal planning when you have diabetes. Look for yogurt products that are lower in fat and added sugar.

Information for this article was from National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Diabetes Association.

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ProMedica Community Events in November

ProMedica will offer the following community events in November:

ProMedica Weight Loss Surgery Support Group - The ProMedica Weight Loss Surgery Support Group is for patients who have had weight loss surgery or for community members who would like more information about weight loss surgery. The group meets the first Monday of every month at the ProMedica Health & Wellness Center, Education Conference Rooms 1 & 2 (5700 Monroe Street, Sylvania OH 43560) beginning at 6 p.m. No registration is required.

Nov. 6, 2024 - Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Support Group - The Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Support Group is supported by the National MS Society. The support group will take place at the ProMedica Neurosciences Center (2130 W. Central Avenue, Toledo, OH 43606) beginning at 6 p.m. The group is also open to friends and family. No registration is required.

Nov. 14, 2024 - Neurosciences Therapy Open House - The Neurosciences Therapy Open House will take place at the ProMedica Neurosciences Center (2130 Central Ave, Toledo, OH 43606) from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Meet and interact with specially trained physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists that specialize in treating neurologic diseases. Attendees can tour the therapy gym and learn about different exercises and treatment plans. This event is open to the public and offered by the ProMedica Stroke Support Group, ProMedica Multiple Sclerosis Support Group and the ProMedica Critical Illness Support Group. Registration is not required.

Nov. 19, 2024 - Women's Cancer Support Group - The Women's Cancer Support Group is a gathering of women who have a cancer diagnosis. It is a safe harbor to come to give or receive support. The group provides education, encouragement and sharing in an informal social environment. Meetings are on the third Tuesday of every month at ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital's main campus, 4th Floor Conference Room A - 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Nov. 20, 2024 - Chronic Illness Peer Support Group - The Chronic Illness Peer Support Group provides an opportunity to engage with others to share experiences, wisdom, skills, and resources that can help in navigating your journey through chronic illness. The support group will take place at the Pro-

Medica Neurosciences Center (2130 W. Central Avenue, Toledo, OH 43606) beginning at 6 p.m. The group is also open to friends and family. No registration is required.

Central State University College Preview Day '24 Offers On-the-spot Acceptance for Eligible High School Students

Special to The Truth

Central State University has announced its College Preview Day, set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 9 at Madison W. Beacom/Gaston F. Lewis Gymnasium on the CSU campus.

Check-in begins at 8 a.m. This is a fantastic opportunity for prospective students and their families to explore all that Central State has to offer as a Destination Learning Environment. CSU is Ohio's only public Historically Black College or University (HBCU) and 1890 Land-Grant Institution.

What to expect

This year's College Preview Day promises to be a memorable experience with on-the-spot acceptance for those who qualify, contingent upon maintaining the academic requirements of Central State University. This initiative aims to streamline the admissions process and provide immediate feedback to students. Registration [1] includes a light continental breakfast and a ticket to the Marauders football game against rival Kentucky State University, ensuring a fun-filled day for attendees.

Students are encouraged to bring their official high school or college transcripts. "College Preview Day is a sneak preview for all those students who will make Central State their home," said Dr. Tammi Love, director of the Office of Admissions and Recruitment. "I am confident that when students and families step foot on our campus, they will feel the sense of family and the intentional effort from our faculty and staff to walk alongside them as they press toward their goal."

Activities throughout the day include academic showcases, where attendees can disperse to colleges of their choice for Q&A sessions and interactive lab experiences; information sessions on admissions, financial aid and campus life; an overview of academic programs (including speakers from departments such as the Honors College); and a meet-and-greet with faculty, staff and current students. Students will see the Marauders football team go against their big rival, Kentucky State University.

"The excitement for College Preview Day continues to build," Love said. "The passion and outreach from our Admissions team and campus community, the commitment of our alumni, and the support from the community at large are pivotal to this day's success."

Connect and engage

Teria Jewett, assistant director of Orientation, Campus Experience and Transfer Students, emphasizes the importance of this event for prospective students: "College Preview Day is an exciting time for students and their families. It allows them to connect with faculty, staff and students. They can speak to organizations and see some of the activities offered."

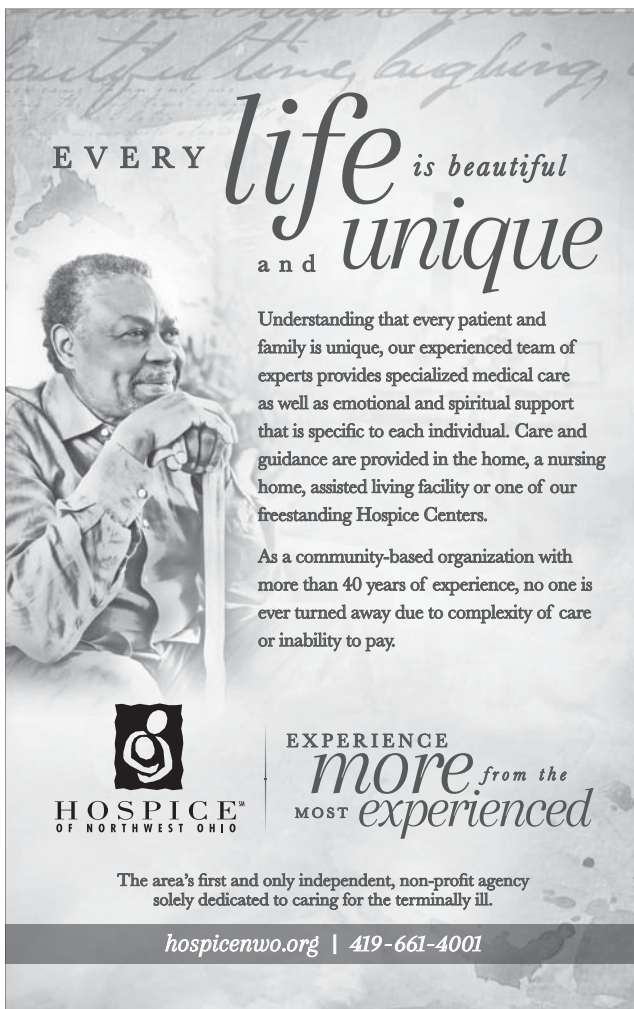
This will be Jewett's first College Preview Day.

"I think I am as excited as the students and families who have reached out to me," she said. "School leaders have expressed their enthusiasm about the variety of experiences their students will receive by attending the College Preview Day."

Registration details

For additional information, contact Central State's Office of Admissions at 937-376-6249 or admissions@centralstate.edu.

For more information about Central State University, visit centralstate.edu/admissions.



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Groundbreaking Magic: A Black Woman's Journey Through the Happiest Place on Earth by Martha Blanding with Tim O'Day

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Your dream job is still a job.

You still must be there on time, looking presentable and ready to go. You can love the work and dislike your coworkers, embrace the challenge but hate the drudge, enjoy the process but dread the politics. And in the new book, *Groundbreaking Magic* by Martha Blanding with Tim O'Day, you can relish your unique employment and still have to represent.

On the day she retired from a job she'd had for half a century, Martha Blanding took a tour of her workplace as she took stock of the years.

Her parents, who'd lived under Jim Crow in their younger days, wouldn't have believed the changes Blanding helped make.

Born in 1950, she'd watched Disney programming on television; living in South Central Los Angeles, she had been aware of the construction of Disneyland nearby. She visited the park for the first time when she was seven years old.

Needing money for college in the early 1970s, Blanding applied for a job at Disneyland and was told that they had no employment available – even though she'd seen postings for job openings. Some weeks later, her roommate encouraged Blanding to re-apply.

Reluctantly, she did. And that time, she was hired to work in the kitchen but before her first day on the job, Blanding was tapped as a tour guide and given training at "Disney University." Due to her stellar work ethic, she was later promoted to VIP guide; over the years, she moved up the ladder to series of positions that made use of her managerial and promotional skills.

c. 2024
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As time passed and the Civil Rights Movement made strides in America, so did Blanding at Disney. She became a gentle activist, so that other minority workers had opportunities to be Cast Members, office staff, and management.

Oftentimes, she said, "...I was the only Black girl there" and "there was no hiding..." it.

None, in fact; instead, she used it to everyone's advantage.

When you first start *Groundbreaking Magic*, you know right away that you're in for a sweet, charming story from a hidden-until-now trailblazer.

You may or may not continue to feel that way.

In this biography, author Martha Blanding (with Tim O'Day) writes about creating equality in one small corner of an iconic business, and the story's told from a POV that's unique, engaging, and interesting. Fans of Disney will truly enjoy backstage peeks and insider info that takes readers through the decades and to various Disney locales.

What's not so interesting is that the authors seem to mention every-single-one they worked with, including everyday people who are long gone or that you'll probably never meet. That isn't initially the distraction it becomes later but as the abundance of names grows thicker, don't be surprised if your attention lags.

If you're business-minded, then, and want to read about a corporation changing with the times, you may eventually be disappointed in *Groundbreaking Magic*. Read it for the personal parts though, especially if you're a Disney fan, and it's a dream story.

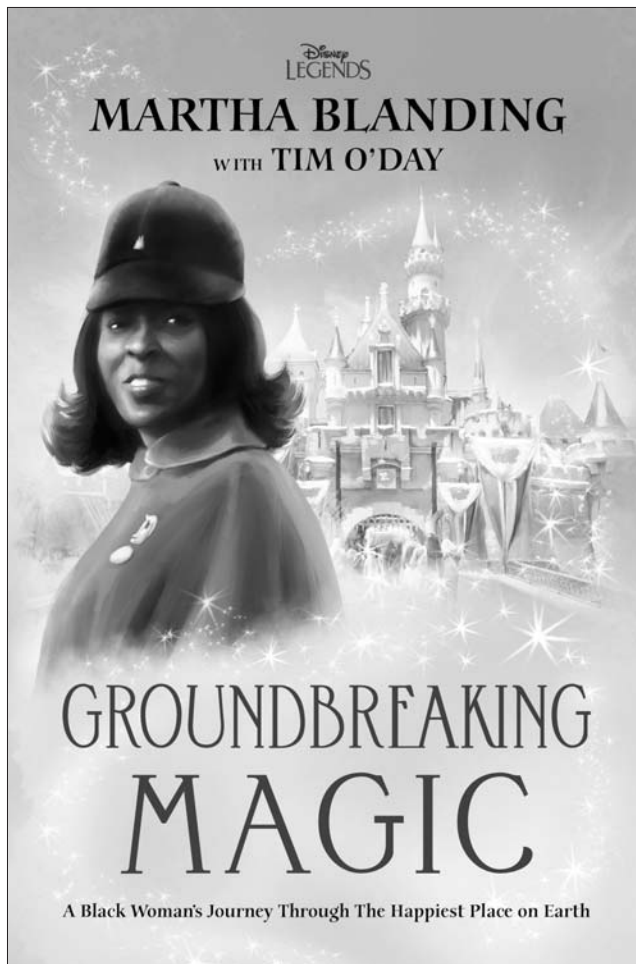


Groundbreaking Magic author

Deltas... continued from page 16

and the dangers of social media," said McCaster. "Because knowledge is empowering, I hope girls also feel inspired by their future."

International Day of the Girl Child was established by the United Nations and recognized annually on October 11th. The day highlights the need to address the issues of gender inequality, promote girls' empowerment, and advocate for the fundamental human rights of girls.



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Pathway, Inc. of Lucas County Appoints Cynthia E. Savage as New Chief Executive Officer

Pathway, Inc., a leading agency in Lucas County dedicated to providing essential community resources and support, proudly announces Cynthia E. Savage as its new Chief Executive Officer. Cynthia transitions into this role following her impactful three-year tenure as Director of Community Resources. In that capacity, she demonstrated a strong commitment to client advocacy and community engagement, but ensuring the continuity of these values within the organization.

With over a decade of experience in community resource and organization development, Cynthia brings deep expertise and a comprehensive understanding of Lucas County's unique challenges and opportunities. Her extensive experience reinforces confidence in her ability to lead Pathway, Inc. toward its mission of fostering self-sufficiency, access to resources, and delivering holistic support for all clients.

"I am honored to step into this new role and am eager to work alongside the dedicated Pathway, Inc. team," said Savage. "Together, we will strengthen our connection with our clients, adapt to their evolving needs, and enhance our community outreach across Lucas County. My vision is to ensure Pathway, Inc. serves as an accessible and impactful resource for every resident we support."

Cynthia's strategic priorities will include expanding outreach initiatives throughout Lucas County, strengthening community partnerships, and providing innovative programs to equip every individual and family with the resources necessary for success.



Cynthia Savage

Pathway, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency in Lucas County. It is dedicated to assisting individuals and families by providing essential services, resources, and programs that empower people to reach their full potential. Since 1965, Pathway, Inc. has been committed to fostering a supportive, inclusive community through education, empowerment, and advocacy.

Black Wall Street... continued from page 7

mentorship, and resource sharing, the media leaders are working to recreate the success of the original Black Wall Street of Tulsa, Oklahoma—a symbol of resilience, entrepreneurship, and community that still holds powerful meaning today.

Historically, Black Wall Street was a community in Tulsa, Oklahoma, known for its prosperous Black-owned businesses in the early 20th century. It represented economic self-sufficiency and collective success, only to be violently destroyed during the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. That legacy, however, has endured as a symbol of what can be achieved through collaboration and community support. The media leaders behind Toledo's Black Wall Street Community Development aim to emulate that spirit.

"The name 'Black Wall Street' is a reflection of what was built in Tulsa—a community that helped each other grow despite immense challenges. It's not just a reference to the past; it's a model for what we aim to do here," said Word.

While Tulsa's Black Wall Street was a geographically concentrated community, today's economic landscape is vastly different, with businesses often relying on digital tools and global markets. But the underlying principle remains the same: collective uplift.

In Toledo, a city with a rich history of Black entrepreneurship, the echoes of Black Wall Street resonate deeply. During the 1950s and 60s, Dorr Street served as Toledo's Black downtown, bustling with Black-owned businesses, social clubs, and a vibrant community life.

Toni Battle-Gaines, sales manager at WJUC 107.3 The Juice, remembers the era well. "Toledo was a good example in the 60s when we were centered around Dorr St. I witnessed my father's business, Unity Beauty and Barber Supply, experiencing a lot of success," she recalled. "But today, businesses are scattered across the city, and some are even looking beyond local markets for customers. The need to build a communication network for our businesses to thrive was clear."

The transformation of Dorr Street from a vibrant, walkable, community hub into a five-lane thoroughfare due to urban renewal projects dealt a significant blow to Toledo's Black community. In many ways, Toledo's Black Wall Street initiative is an effort to recapture that sense of unity and shared prosperity, albeit in a different era.

Battle-Gaines emphasized the role of media in this effort. "The same collaboration theory applies to media outlets. We are a powerful voice in the community that is available to other businesses to communicate their value proposition," she said. "How many cities today have a Black-owned radio station, newspaper, and magazine? It's rare. But it's also an incredible asset for other Black-owned businesses."

For Battle-Gaines, the power of Toledo's media collaboration lies in its ability to amplify Black businesses' voices, offer education and training, and build a network of mutual support.

Central to Black Wall Street Community Development's mission is ensuring

that Toledo's Black business owners have access to the resources, training, and networking opportunities they need to succeed. Word sees this as a crucial aspect of economic empowerment.

"The success of the business community directly impacts the needs and aspirations of the local community," he explained. "By keeping money in the community, by growing wealth here, we open up job and investment opportunities. It's about creating a cycle of prosperity that benefits everyone."

One of the organization's first major initiatives was a "Speed Funding" event held as part of the Juneteenth Celebration. During this event, local Black business owners had the opportunity to connect with potential investors and learn about funding opportunities. But the event also revealed a critical gap: many of the participants lacked essential business training, particularly in areas like accounting and financial management.

"We rose to the challenge of addressing those gaps," Battle-Gaines said. "Black Wall Street members with expertise stepped up to coach and train. We also aligned ourselves with other organizations like The Entrepreneurs Club and Ternion Training and Education Center for additional support."

The initiative's efforts have been well received, and there's a clear hunger in the community for more. Battle-Gaines explained, "The response has been very positive. Businesses want more of the same—more training, more opportunities to connect, more chances to grow."

Looking forward, Black Wall Street Community Development has both short- and long-term goals to build on this momentum.

"In the short term, we want to offer more impactful training and support," Battle-Gaines said. "Long term, we're aiming for stronger collaboration and for our members to be able to access financial resources on a larger scale because they're better prepared."

The organization's leaders are also excited about upcoming projects, though Battle-Gaines teased that some of these initiatives are still under wraps. "Stay tuned," she said with a smile.

In many ways, Black Wall Street Community Development represents a modern reimagining of the principles that guided the original Black Wall Street of the 1920s. The focus on collaboration, mutual support, and economic self-sufficiency remains central.

"The historical significance is reflected in our desire to emulate what those predecessors accomplished during very difficult times," Word said. "But it's also about addressing the contemporary issues our community faces today."

For Toledo's Black Wall Street leaders, the future is bright. They've laid the foundation, but the real work is just beginning.

"We are not simply Black-owned businesses," Battle-Gaines said proudly. "We are successful businesses that happen to be Black owned."

With that spirit of resilience and determination, Toledo's Black Wall Street Community Development is poised to make a lasting impact on the city's African American business community and beyond.



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.

PUBLIC BID ADVERTISEMENT (ELECTRONIC BIDDING) STATE OF OHIO STANDARD FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

0051-25-375

NE WEST LOW ROOF REPLACEMENT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY, OH

Bids Due: November 26th, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. through the State's electronic bidding system at <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal: 5.0% of contract of the contract sum with EDGE-certified business(es) AND **additional** 10% EDGE-certified OR Diverse Supplier vendors including MBE, WBE, VBE, BSVI, SDVOB, and LGBTBE.

Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Trade	Estimate
General Contract	\$680,000.00
Alternate 1 - Inner CY Tunnel Roof	\$40,000.00
Alternate 2 - NW Valve/Piping Rm. Roof	\$20,000.00
Alternate 3 - NC Low BUR gravel surf. Vent Roof	\$10,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: November 12th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. – Main Campus, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606

Walk-Through: Immediately following Pre-Bid.

Bid Documents: Available electronically at <https://bidexpress.com>.

More Info: Buehrer Group Architecture & Engineering, Inc., Brent Buehrer, (419) 893-9021, brent.buehrer@buehrergroup.com

MINORITY COMMUNITIES ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

NAMI Greater Toledo seeks a dynamic coordinator to connect and educate minority and underserved communities on mental health resources.

Key Responsibilities:

- Build partnerships with community leaders, organizations, and businesses.
- Promote NAMI's support services at local events, with a focus on Black & Brown communities.
- Organize monthly leadership meetings, community forums, and annual NAMI Walks.
- Develop donor relationships and engage in fundraising efforts.
- Conduct presentations and diversity training to advance inclusion and awareness.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's in Social Work or related field preferred.
- 2+ years in public speaking or event coordination.
- Knowledge of mental health issues impacting minority communities.
- Bilingual skills a plus; experience with diverse communities essential.

Schedule: May require some evening/weekend hours for events.

Apply to help NAMI make a difference in Toledo's minority communities @ mkornowa@namitoledo.org

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

Deltas Celebrate International Day of the Girl Child

By Tricia Hall
The Truth Reporter

The ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Toledo Chapter's International Awareness and Involvement Committee in collaboration with Delta GEMS, Delta Academy and Groomed for Greatness celebrated International Day of the Girl Child on Saturday, October 26, 2024. The 2024 themes were, "Digital Generation, Our Generation," and "Girls' Vision for the Future."

"This International sorority initiative is to recognize International Day of the Girl Child," said Michelle McCaster, committee chair. "All chapters were asked to recognize this occasion because girls all over the world are facing disparities. There are girls forced into early marriage, dealing with improper hygiene and don't have the right to vote."

Participants collectively created a Girls' Bill of Rights that was displayed. The attendees enjoyed a culinary feast from around all seven continents. The menu included: fried rice to represent Asia, Jollof rice and fried chicken to represent Africa, slushes to represent Antarctica, pizza to represent North America, empanadas and guaraná to represent South America, macarons to represent Europe, and koala bear cupcakes to represent Australia.

Attendees also played a jeopardy game that focused on culture, technology, music and social media and closed out the afternoon by writing down and releasing future affirmations in Chinese lanterns.

"I hope girls leave here with knowledge about the positive of digital tech

...continued on page 13



NAACP Toledo Chapter Honors and Celebrates Community Changemakers

By Alexandria Leatherberry
The Truth Reporter

NAACP Toledo Branch held their 109th Annual Freedom Fund Celebration banquet on October 26, 2024. Members and supporters gathered for a night to honor those that contribute to the Toledo community in acts that fulfill the mission NAACP. Kirstian Brown of 13abc led the guests through the night of events to celebrate the esteemed contributions. There were live jazz selections by Brandon "Sax B" Monford that moved the room to enjoy the night of fellowship, recognition of advancement, and a soulful buffet provided by We B Ribs.

Honorees included Romules Durant, EdD; Debra Brown; WilliAnn Moore; Frances Amison; Ohio Unity Coalition, and a surprise honoree presented with the Daisey LaRose Huff Citizenship Award, granddaughter of Ms. Huff, Charlotte M. Jones.

The Freedom Fund Celebration banquet raised approximately \$50,000 to fund initiatives that promote the advancement of political, educational, social, and economic equality. Especially for programs such as ACT-SO, the NAACP's yearlong achievement program for high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students.

Chapter President Rev. Willie Perryman Jr., and Vice President Micheal Alexander Sr. shared gifts from the sponsors as they presented the awards and highlighted the significance of the Honorees. Alexander, the Fund's chairman, closed inviting final remarks from Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur on the civil and political significance of the NAACP.



Brandon "Sax B" Monford



Frances Amison reminisces on her participation in the impact of NAACP



Kristian Brown of 13abc, opens the presentation of Honors with President, Rev. Willie Perryman Jr., Vice President, Micheal Alexander Sr., and Honoree, Debra R. Brown



Romules Durant, TPS Superintendent, accepts his award

Getting Your Affairs in Order Workshop 2024

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And to Our Extraordinary Volunteers

Althea Baldwin	Barbara Elliott	Paula Hicks Hudson
Deborah Barnett	Terri Ellis	JoAnn Menefee
Pastor Arthur Battle, Esq.	Darlene Evans	Clara Petty
Donnetta Carter	Celeste Felix	Donna Richardson
Phyllis Crockrel	Rev. Barbie Harrison	Gwen Wyse
Attorney Charlon Dewberry	Felicia Howard	

Ahoy, Adventure Seekers!

SET SAIL ON A FABULOUS 10-NIGHT ROUND-TRIP CRUISE FROM SAN JUAN, HITTING THE DREAMY SHORES OF TORTOLA, ST. VINCENT, BARBADOS, AND BEYOND! FROM JANUARY 11-21, 2025, YOU CAN HOP ABOARD THE MAGNIFICENT VIRGIN VOYAGES VALIANT LADY FOR JUST \$1962 PER PERSON. GET READY TO MAKE WAVES AND UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES!

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