



Volume 87 No. 5                      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*                      December 25, 2024



Dr. Anthony Pattin, PharmD

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VACATION  
FLAVOR?








EUGENE F. KRANZ  
TOLEDO EXPRESS  
AIRPORT

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# The YWCA of Northwest Ohio Announces 2025 Milestone Honorees

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio held a press conference Tuesday, December 17 at the Nexxus Health Center announcing its 2025 Milestone Honorees. The upcoming annual event will be celebrating 30 years in 2025 recognizing eight outstanding women in the community who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and contributed to the empowerment of women.

Lisa McDuffie, YWCA President and CEO, announced the 2025 Honorees for the YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women Annual Awards Event. "The members of the YWCA and I are honored to recognize these outstanding women with this prestigious award," said McDuffie. "We invite the community to join us and help pay tribute to this year's Milestones Honorees."

The 2025 YWCA of Northwest Ohio Milestone Award Honorees are:

- Jori Lynch Jex - Arts
- Olivia Holden - Business
- Kim Grilliot - Education
- Lisa A. Sobecki - Government
- Kaylee Halko - Sciences
- Alicia M. Smith - Social Services
- Diane Friedman - Volunteerism
- Ebony Carter - Woman on the Rise

The YWCA 30th Annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women Awards will be held at the Glass City Center on Thursday, March 21, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. with program beginning at 12:00 p.m. Event registration will be available in January.

Honoree bios and photos will be made available at [www.ywcanwo.org](http://www.ywcanwo.org) in the coming weeks. The major Milestones 2025 sponsor is KeyBank.

### YWCA Mission

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

### About the Milestones Awards

The Milestones Awards was established in 1996 to recognize women of Northwest Ohio for outstanding accomplishments and contributions. One honoree is selected in each of the following (8) areas of focus: Arts, Business, Education, Government, Sciences, Social Services, Volunteerism, and Woman on the Rise. The purpose is to honor Northwest Ohio women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and who, through their efforts and accomplishments, have opened doors for other women to achieve their potential.

### Award Criteria

Nominees must live or work in Northwest Ohio, demonstrate outstanding

achievement or distinction in career and community work, and exhibit leadership qualities. Criteria for selection include: unique, exemplary achievements in her field, serves as a role model for women in the community, and lives a life consistent with the YWCA mission.

To learn more about the YWCA of Northwest Ohio visit [www.ywcanwo.org](http://www.ywcanwo.org).



2025 YWCA Milestones Honorees (from left): Ebony Carter, Diane Friedman, Alicia Smith, LC Commissioner Lisa Sobecki, Kim Grilliot, Olivia Holden, Kaylee Halko and YWCA CEO and President Lisa McDuffie



Lisa McDuffie, President and CEO of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio



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# Chaos Will Be The Boss

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

“When people let an alligator rule, it will smile at you while biting off your leg.” Efal Revillot, 18th century essayist.

America, get ready for the bite marks! Even though Don the Con has yet to be sworn in as president, he is in full presidential mode as if Joe Biden were already carted out of the White House in a wheelchair.

When swearing in ceremonies commence on January 20, 2025, Trump and his silent boss, Elon Musk, will have already set up their charts and graphs as to how they plan to decimate the federal government and its long-reaching service bureaucracies.

Elon Musk, the power behind the throne, is nigh giddy with excitement that he will reign and rule as a private citizen whose only claim to fame is that he is the richest man on the planet; and who practically bought the White House for his puppet, Donald Trump with over \$270 million in loyalty payments to his campaign.

Trump, ever the one to not say no to freebie money, took the treasure and in return, he has and is allowing the South African born entrepreneur to have an inordinate amount of power and influence over the now forever fractious GOP and the now delirious MAGA base.

Musk, like Trump engages in voluminous tweets to any and all and in those tweets he, like Trump, has learn the art of twisting soulless men and women in the GOP Congress to do his bidding, or else...you will be primaried!

Musk's billions of dollars provide him a political HAZ-MAT suit while he and flunky Vivek Ramaswamy tear away at the flesh of the Constitution, norms of governance and basic protocols of civility.

When you add to this toxic formula of political dilettantes, the incoming clown car of possibles like RFK Jr., Pete Hegseth, Kash Patel, Kari Lake and Tulsi Gabbard, you can only envision what an upcoming debacle of governance will hit Washington D.C., in the coming months and years.

And we have not even discussed the situation in Congress with the GOP having a one seat majority rule in the House and the Senate nigh deadlocked on all things of major importance.

Have we tossed in yet what may happen if and when there are government



shutdowns or efforts to fund the government even in short spurts fizzle out due to Musk and Trump simply saying no to anything that remotely resembles a continuation of what is needed to keep the checks rolling out of D.C.?

A sure tell-tale sign of the power of Musk will be if he is even questioned about his security clearances with the federal government when it was taped and played to the public that he purportedly smoked reefer with Joe Rogan on the Joe Rogan podcast.

The unofficial DOGE committee (Department Of Government Efficiency) headed up by both Musk and Ramaswamy, is seemingly given unparalleled powers to either initiate or demand from Congress certain draconian cuts in federal spending including the holy grails of Social Security and Medicare.

Time will tell if a feckless Congress abdicates their responsibilities to two un-elected civilians when they, vis a vis their puppet, Donald Trump want to literally chip away at the social fabric of this country.

It always amazes me when billionaire Trump and others of his ilk pretend to the public that they are populists working for the good of all but when the curtain is pulled back, their allegiance is to fat-cat corporations and the billionaires that funded his campaign.

Do you think Don The Con is going to propose generous tax cuts for the working poor and the middle class? Think again! Trump has no working knowledge of such persons and for him, they are props to use when he wants to excoriate the Deep State or pummel the media outlets that do not fawn over him.

To say that the next four years will be interesting is an understatement. Good example. He is proposing that Herschel Walker of Georgia, the former footballer who can barely cobble together a coherent sentence, will be his choice for Ambassador to The Bahamas!

Such is the state of affairs when Don The Con is attempting to bring into his cabinet a motley crew of woefully inexperienced people whose only common and singular trait is that, upon cue, they will genuflect to Trump... 24/7.

So, without casting stones as to which Democratic faction failed to vote or failed to vote in sufficient numbers in the key battleground states, suffice to say that there are consequences for those who have short memories of the first Trump administration; and now with this second go around to, “get his retribution right,” Trump will perform like a Darth Vader leading his minions to attempt to wreck, torch and burn the Constitution.

Any attempt to stop the barbarians at the gate will occur in the midterm elections, unless there is a declaration of martial law by Don the Con.

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# Diane Gordon's *Collective Work of Toledo Kwanzaa House*

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

Diane Gordon, the founder and long-time organizer of Kwanzaa in northwest Ohio, has written a book entitled *Collective Work of Toledo Kwanzaa House* detailing her experiences and the history of Kwanzaa in Toledo.

"It was a passion of mine for the last 50 something years that I've presented Kwanzaa to the Toledo community and surrounding areas," she stated.

The book is dedicated to her mother Lola Glover and her Aunt Nola Hunt (deceased)

"We celebrated the first Kwanzaa at my aunt's house," Gordon recalled. From there she began to invite people, along with her mother and aunt, into her home to have Kwanzaa every year. "The expansion of the Kwanzaa celebration in my home got so great that I could not do it any longer... we didn't have any more space," she stated.

The celebration expanded to the Grace Community Center with the help of Betty Amison and grew to be hosted at the library, University of Toledo, University of Michigan and many spaces throughout northwest Ohio and southwest Michigan over the years.

"It expanded far beyond what I could have imagined. But I was persistent that every year, December 26 through January 1, that OUR people would be celebrating their culture and history and their true history. And understanding that we have more power than we really realize when we come together."

Created in 1966 by Maulana Ron Karenga, Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday that celebrates history, values, family, com-



Diane Gordon



Elsie Harbor, secretary; Zaniel Williams House of Kwanzaa committee member; Rashid Spencer executive coordinator; Diane Gordon, Kwanzaa elder; Brenda King, volunteer

munity and culture. (source:nmaahc.si.edu)

The seven principles celebrated each year are Umoja (Unity); Kujichagulia (Self-determination); Ujima (Collective work and responsibility); Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics); Nia (Purpose); Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith).

"I thought it was important that I leave a legacy for my children, so they know where Kwanzaa started from. And it started in a living room at a home with my mother and my aunt... this blended family had the courage and understanding of the importance of celebrating Kwanzaa," she said.

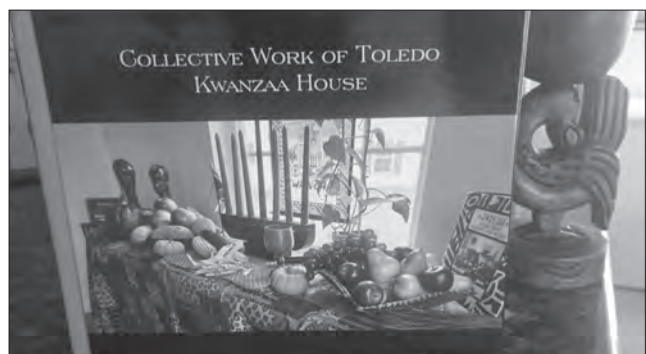
"The book is a collection of all the people in this community who have been a part of the Kwanzaa celebration over the years or been a part of the Kwanzaa committee, volunteers, vendors... It's been a journey, but it's been a good journey. It's been an amazing journey," reflected Gordon.

Collective Work of Toledo Kwanzaa House is 80 pages with vivid color photographs highlighting the history of Kwanzaa in Northwest Ohio. The book is Illustrated by Rachel Montgomery and written by Diane Gordon. It costs \$69.95.

Last year Gordon passed the torch to her grandson, Rodney Gordon, who grew up with the celebration, and Rashid Spencer as coordinators of the Kwanzaa celebration in Toledo. Kwanzaa will be celebrated at the Frederick Douglass Community Center December 26 – January 1 and also at The Padua Center on January 27.

A copy of the book is available at the Kent Branch Library Art Tatum Collection.

To purchase the book contact Diane Gordon directly at 419-410-8022.



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# A Neighborhood Gem: Dr. Anthony Pattin Brings Health and Hope to Toledo's Junction Community

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

In the heart of Toledo's Junction neighborhood, at 1339 Dorr Street, Unit A, a small but mighty pharmacy is redefining healthcare for the community. **Junction Family Pharmacy**, owned and operated by **Dr. Anthony Pattin, PharmD**, offers more than prescriptions; it provides personalized care, education, and a renewed sense of hope for an underserved area.

Dr. Pattin, a Toledo native and graduate of Central Catholic High School, combines nearly two decades of experience as a pharmacist, professor and researcher to serve his hometown. With a mission to address health disparities and create equitable access to healthcare, he's turning Junction Family Pharmacy into a community cornerstone.

### A Personal Inspiration

For Dr. Pattin, pharmacy was a calling that began in high school. "I had an elderly neighbor struggling to manage her medications," he recalls. "After helping her, she told me, 'You should consider pharmacy. Have you heard of Ella P. Stewart?'"

That moment ignited a spark. Inspired by Stewart, the first African American woman to own a pharmacy in Toledo, Dr. Pattin set his sights on a career in pharmacy.

A natural-born math and science enthusiast, he found his calling early on. "When I started, I worked at an independent pharmacy," he shares. "I attended the **University of Toledo's Pharmacy Camp** during my senior year of high school and began working at Glenbyrne Pharmacy when I was 17." That hands-on experience, combined with his passion for helping others, solidified his decision to pursue a career in pharmacy.

Dr. Pattin earned both his undergraduate degree in pharmaceutical sciences and his Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) from the University of Toledo. After graduating in 2009, he further honed his clinical expertise through the **Community Pharmacy Residency Program** with Kroger. These foundational experiences laid the groundwork for his innovative approach to healthcare.

"My journey has taken me to places like Wayne State University and the University at Buffalo SUNY, where I held teaching roles," he shares. "But my heart always belonged to my hometown. I knew I wanted to return home and make a difference here in Toledo."

### Filling a Void in the Community

When several major Rite Aid locations closed in Toledo, a pharmacy desert was created, leaving residents with fewer options for medication and care. "I saw an opportunity to fill that void," Dr. Pattin explains. "We provide an access point where patients can come in and speak directly to a pharmacist—or even call and have someone who listens."

Junction Family Pharmacy isn't just a place to pick up prescriptions. It's a clinically oriented pharmacy where pharmacists are considered healthcare providers under Ohio law. "We're excited to offer billing for counseling services and other clinical offerings," he says.

Dr. Pattin's focus is on improving medication adherence and outcomes. "It's

not enough to just take your medication," he emphasizes. "We want to ensure it's effective, appropriate and helping you achieve optimal health."

### Tackling Health Disparities

As an African American pharmacist, Dr. Pattin is uniquely positioned to address the healthcare disparities that disproportionately affect communities of color. "Research shows that having healthcare providers who look like you leads to better health outcomes," he notes. "It's also important to have staff who reflect the community—they help patients feel understood and supported."

Dr. Pattin's work is a counter to unconscious bias in healthcare, which can lead to disparities in treatment. "We focus on building relationships and trust with our patients," he explains. "When people know you care, they're more likely to engage in their health."

### Innovative Services and Research

Dr. Pattin's dedication to evidence-based practices is a cornerstone of his pharmacy. His research in 2018 focused on immunizations in African American communities, uncovering gaps in access and awareness. "I found that some pharmacies in Black communities didn't even offer vaccines," he says. "It wasn't that people didn't want them—they simply weren't available."

At Junction Family Pharmacy, he applies his findings to improve care. Services include medication synchronization, which helps patients on multiple medications streamline their prescriptions into a single monthly visit. "If someone takes five medications, they shouldn't have to come to the pharmacy five separate times," he explains. "We look at the bigger picture to make things easier for our patients."

The pharmacy also offers medication counseling and health education. Dr. Pattin is passionate about using his platform to empower patients with knowledge. "When you understand your medications and health, you're more likely to stick to your treatment plan," he says.

### Community Impact

Dr. Pattin's commitment to the Junction neighborhood goes beyond healthcare. He envisions the pharmacy as a hub for community engagement and education.

"I look forward to connecting with local pastors in hopes to create a coalition promoting health awareness," he shares. "Pastors have a significant influence in the Black community, and I know they can help spread these important health messages in our underserved areas."

Pattin's dedication to mentorship is equally inspiring. He's currently re-

...continued on page 6



Dr. Pattin

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# Gerald Rose Holds Press Conference Addressing Alleged Misconduct of TPS Teacher

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Gerald Rose, leader of the New Order National Human Rights Organization and son of former Toledo activist Floyd Rose, held a press conference Tuesday, December 17 outside of Beverly Elementary School addressing the alleged misconduct of a Toledo Public School teacher forcing students, three and four years of age, to stand outside of the school without coats during naptime.

The activist traveled from Atlanta, Georgia to address the incident with the public and request that the teacher be removed.

"When I found out that a teacher put a three-year-old child outside of the school without a coat it really affected me... so I reached out to the family. This will not be swept under the rug," he stated.

"It's uncalled for... they put a three-year-old infant outside to freeze to death. Somebody could have come and snatched this baby up... We want her terminated," stated Rose. "Our children are just important... what happened to this baby was uncalled for and justice will be served."

The alleged misconduct occurred with two separate children in different incidents at the school.

Deanna McCullough stated she received a call from the supervisor of Ear-

... continued on page 14



Gerald Rose and the family of three year old Khyli Love



Gerald Rose, leader of New Order National Human Rights Organization

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Pattin...continued from page 5

ating partnerships with institutions like the University of Toledo and Wayne State University to provide pharmacy students with opportunities to shadow, learn, and grow. "It's important to train the next generation and pass on what I've learned," he says, expressing his commitment to shaping future healthcare professionals.

### A Family Affair

Junction Family Pharmacy is more than a business; it's a family venture. Dr. Pattin's wife, Carla, is a professor, author and gardening coach. Together, they're raising their six-year-old daughter in a home rooted in community and service.

Opening the pharmacy has been a labor of love, met with overwhelming support. "The response on social media was incredible," Dr. Pattin says. "People are excited to have a Black-owned pharmacy in the neighborhood."

### Looking Ahead

"I have big dreams for Junction Family Pharmacy," says Pattin. In addition to expanding services, he hopes to foster a deeper connection with the community. "We're here to stay, and we want to be a trusted resource for health and wellness," he says.

His advice for aspiring pharmacists and entrepreneurs is simple: "Do your research, stay focused and don't be afraid to take risks. The work is challenging, but the impact is worth it."

### You Matter

Dr. Pattin sums it up best: "This pharmacy isn't just about filling prescriptions. It's about filling a need in our community—one patient at a time."

As you consider your own healthcare needs, ask yourself: Do you feel truly supported by your current pharmacy? Are your questions answered? Do you feel seen and understood?

At Junction Family Pharmacy, those aren't just ideals—they're the standard. Whether you're picking up a prescription or seeking guidance, you'll find Dr. Pattin listening, caring, and going the extra mile.

Junction Family Pharmacy is open 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Follow them on Facebook for updates.



# Groomed for Greatness Hosts Youth Safety Event

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

In recent decades, the number of youths who interact with assaults while navigating the internet has increased. Groomed for Greatness, a local nonprofit collaborated with Assets Toledo, Councilman John Hobbs III, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Do It For James Foundation. The December 18 session was held at Scott High School's second floor theatre.

The speakers focused on providing information and stories to keep kids safe online. Parents, guardians, youth and community leaders were in attendance.

"Welcome and thank you for coming tonight," said Michelle McCaster, Groomed for Greatness founder/executive director. "We are pleased to have experts that will speak about different topics because we must keep our children safe."

"This is important information for our kids because they are using advance networks and not just their pager with codes anymore," said Councilman Hobbs III. "We must have an open-door policy with our kids. Thank you to Michelle. The Bible speaks specifically about how we treat our children."

FBI Agent Matt Crowley shared statistics and prevention methods to combat sextortion, which is defined as the practice of extorting money or sexual favors from someone by threatening to reveal evidence of their sexual activity. A video explained that youth can become victims by interacting with people whom they believe are peers because of the profile information, or disinformation, and photo. The scammer then requests a photo or video and then uses the photo or other claims such as hacking to demand money, noting that the demand will not cease.

"We want to keep kids safe," said FBI Agent Crowley. "I work with the Violent Crimes Against Children task force that has six to eight full-time agents. These demons target our young people. Young people listen to your parents and grandparents. Parents and grandparents understand the signs because it could also be a sign of bullying. For example, if your child now wants to lock their door, you need to be aware of that."

Do It For James Foundation was formed following the tragedy that occurred to James Timothy Woods, a 17-year-old boy from Ohio. His parents formed a foundation and shared his story. In November 2022, James Woods began interacting with someone online whom he thought was a peer, and after sending a photo, the offender altered the photo and spent almost 48 hours attacking him. By November 19, his father found him lifeless in his room. During that time James Woods received 200 text messages that threatened to destroy his life and encouraged him to end his life.

"We will be vulnerable with you and welcome you to be open with us," said Tamia Woods. "Our son never came to us when he needed us. We are here for each one of you. All I have left of my son are pictures. I won't get justice. I didn't know about sextortion and couldn't prepare him. James didn't tell

single soul. You need to tell someone if this happens to you."

"He was our pride, joy, and love," offered Tim Woods. "James and I spent time together watching movies and playing games. When I found him, I was filled with so much anger. I dropped to my knees, prayed and held him one last time."

The session also provided free refreshments to all attendees and the sponsor Groomed for Greatness also made a financial contribution to Do It For James Foundation. The Foundation is an Ohio-based agency that works with communities to increase awareness, provide support and education to both parents and children on crime against students, while also supplying a wide range of assistance for those in need.

Groomed for Greatness is a local nonprofit that provides educational programs, personal development sessions, as well as mentoring and bonding opportunities that engage and strengthen families. Groomed for Greatness website (<https://groomedforgreatness.org/>) and Do It For James Foundation website (<https://www.letsdifj.org/>). The Lucas County Suicide Prevention also hosted an information table for attendees and shared the crisis phone number, 988 or text 741-741.



Kristal Barham, Tim and Tamia Woods-parents of James Woods, Michelle McCaster and board member Jermaine Griswold



Woods Family with participants



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# Last-Minute Holiday Getaway: Festive Fun Just an Hour from Toledo!

By Shana Lee

The Truth Travel Reporter

The holiday season is in full swing, and if you're feeling the stress of it all, it might be time for a quick escape. Fortunately, there's still time to sneak in a festive winter getaway—just a short drive from Toledo! Whether you're looking to cozy up by the fire, soak in some holiday cheer, or try something new, this list has you covered. So grab your favorite people, pack a bag, and let's make some festive memories!

### Stay in Style: Your Cozy Winter Escape

**Sawmill Creek Resort:** Only an hour from Toledo, Sawmill Creek Resort transforms into a holiday haven during The Season of Joy. Enjoy festive décor, twinkling lights, and cozy fireplaces throughout the resort. Sip on holiday-themed cocktails, indulge in delicious dining options, and relax in luxurious accommodations. Don't miss out on the resort's special holiday events, including live music and holiday workshops. Season of Joy takes place December 13-24 and December 26-31.

Sawmill Creek Resort: 400 Sawmill Creek Drive Huron, Ohio 44839

**SōLSTAY: Sandusky's Urban Glamping Retreat:** Experience a unique glamping adventure on the shores of Lake Erie. Stay in a cozy houseboat or waterside cottage, complete with modern amenities and stunning lake views. Unwind in the hot tub or take a sunset stroll along the boardwalk.

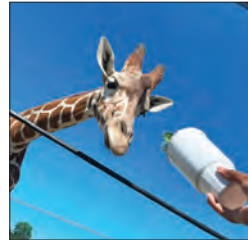
SōLSTAY: 2312 River Ave., Sandusky, Ohio

### Unforgettable Winter Activities

**Safari Secrets Giraffe Barn Experience:** Get up close and personal with giraffes at the African Safari Wildlife Park. Feed these gentle giants,

learn about their behavior, and create unforgettable memories. This exclusive experience is perfect for animal lovers of all ages.

... continued on page 14



## Your Child's Learning Ability May Be Affected By **LEAD POISONING**

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# The Plantation – Habitation Haydel

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

On my journey south to New Orleans several years ago, my host, a long-time friend, informed me that he and his family wanted to take me to a plantation on the outskirts of the city. 'Another plantation,' I thought to myself with a heavy sigh. Touring the glory of the ante-bellum South – the carved cyprus, the ornate fireplaces, the endless chamber pots – was the very last thing I wanted to do in my brief time in the Crescent City.

Perhaps he heard my sigh for he quickly informed me that the plantation we were to visit was unique. It's the only one in the United States that has been reconstructed, he informed, to tell the story of slavery and plantation life from the viewpoint of the enslaved Africans.

And so it was.

The Whitney Plantation, located on the banks of the Mississippi River in St. John the Baptist Parish, is about 50 miles outside of New Orleans. The plantation, originally named Habitation Haydel, was founded by a German immigrant, Ambrose Heidel, in 1721. Three generations of Haydels (as the name would be spelled in the second generation) owned and operated the plantation until the Civil War, first with indigo as the main crop and then, in the late 1700's, switching over to sugar cane.

The plantation was in a state of disrepair for decades until purchased about a dozen years ago by a local Louisiana family with the idea of turning it into the museum it is today – a memorial to African slaves.

The present-day owners engaged Ibrahima Seck, PhD, a faculty member of the history department of Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal to ensure that the reconstruction would be historically accurate. Seck's academic research has been devoted to African history in Louisiana. His doctoral thesis was entitled "African Cultures and Slavery in the Lower Mississippi Valley, from Iberville to Jim Crow."

Over the years, Seck, now the academic director of the Whitney Heritage Plantation Corporation, has transformed the plantation into a memorial to the thousands of Africans who were enslaved and brought to this country to enrich European landowners and manufacturers.

Using the Louisiana Slave Database, built by historian Gwendolyn Midlo Hall in 1992, Seck gathered the names of virtually all the Africans enslaved in Louisiana from 1719 – the arrival of the first slave ship directly from Africa – to 1820 when the slave trade on the high seas had been effectively outlawed by Great Britain.

Seck has turned the Whitney into a memorial not only for the Africans who lived and toiled at Habitation Haydel but also in honor of those who were enslaved all over Louisiana. Included are names, many countries of origin and, in some cases, quotes from the enslaved Africans (gathered from the Library of Congress from work compiled by writers during the heyday of the New Deal's WPA in the 1930's).

He has also has tak-

en pains to emphasize the influence in Louisiana of the various ethnic groups to the region – the melting pot. Louisiana heritage is a combination of a variety of African, European, Caribbean and Canadian influences – "Bouki Fait Gombo, Lapin Mange Li" goes the famous Louisiana proverb from the late 19th century evoking the multicultural reality of the plantation slave communities. "The He-Goat makes the gumbo, but the rabbit eats it." Bouki – in Senegalese is the hyena who does all the work; the rabbit is the folktale ancestor of Br'er Rabbit and Bugs Bunny.

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Ibrahima Tech explaining Wall of Honor



Statues of the children



View from the Big House



Sugar cane kettles

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# Visas and Passports – What's the Difference?

By Ricky Tyus, Owner of Tyus Tours & Travel

The Truth Contributor

As of 2024, U.S. passport holders can travel to 186 countries and territories without needing a travel visa or can obtain a visa upon arrival. It's important to understand the distinction between a passport and a visa.

## Visa vs. Passport: What's the Difference?

While you likely know that a passport is essential for international travel, you may also be familiar with another travel document known as a visa. Depending on your travel itinerary, you might only require a passport, or you may need to apply for a visa as well. Here's a breakdown of the differences between the two.

### What is a Passport?

A passport is an official identity document specifically designed for international travel, issued by a country's government to its citizens or, in some cases, to noncitizen nationals. Passports include identifying details such as your name, birth date, gender, photograph, and passport number.

Many passports come equipped with electronic chips that securely store your identity information and signature digitally, making them difficult to forge or alter.

Most passports are standard or tourist passports, which in the U.S. are the blue passports you're likely familiar with. Additionally, countries issue diplomatic and official passports for officials traveling on government-related business.

### When Do You Need a Passport?

If you're planning to travel internationally, you will likely need a passport. There are alternatives available for U.S. citizens traveling to Canada or Mexico by land, but for most international travel, a passport is required. Air travel outside the U.S. always necessitates a passport.

### What is a Visa?

A visa is a document that authorizes you to enter another country for a spe-



cific duration and purpose. Whether you require a visa to enter a particular country depends on factors such as your citizenship, travel intentions, the length of your stay, and other considerations.

Countries may issue various types of visas, ranging from numerous classifications to just a few. Here are some common visa types:

- **Tourist visas** are granted for travel purposes such as sightseeing or visiting friends and usually allow for a short stay of a few months.
- **Student visas** are intended for individuals studying in the country, typically permitting residence during your studies, often with work restrictions.
- **Work visas** enable entry for employment purposes, with many countries requiring a specific visa for work during your stay.
- **Transit visas** are issued for travelers who need to pass through a country to connect to another flight. These are usually valid for a brief period, and holders are typically not allowed to leave the airport.

### How Do You Get a Visa?

For countries that require a visa, you will often need to send your passport to an embassy or consulate before your trip. Requirements vary but generally include travel bookings, a photo, a completed visa application and proof of residency. Processing times can range from a few days to over a month.

Some countries offer a tourist visa upon arrival, such as Egypt, which provides a 30-day tourist visa to U.S. citizens arriving by air for a \$25 fee.

Additionally, certain countries allow electronic visa applications. For instance, Australia permits U.S. citizens to obtain an Electronic Travel Authority online, eliminating the need to submit a passport to an embassy or consulate.

### When Do You Need a Visa?

The necessity of a visa depends on your citizenship, your destination country, travel purpose, and length of stay.

U.S. citizens can check if a visa is required using the State Department's Learn About Your Destination tool, which provides visa information for most countries.

Be aware that visa regulations can change, so it's wise to confirm entry requirements, even for countries you've visited previously.

### Visa vs. Passport Recap

A passport serves as an identity verification document, while a visa grants permission to enter a country.

For international travel, a passport is essential. Additionally, some countries may require you to apply for and obtain a visa in advance, especially if you are traveling for non-tourism purposes such as work or study.

In our upcoming articles, we will explore visa policies for the following countries:

Australia, China, Brazil, Russia, Vietnam, Bolivia, India, Thailand, Cuba, Indonesia, and various nations across Africa and Europe.

Contact Ricky Tyus at 866-547-5362 or [www.tyustours.com](http://www.tyustours.com), [Travel@tyustours.com](mailto:Travel@tyustours.com)

# Visa Requirements for U.S. Citizens Traveling Abroad

By Ricky Tyus, Owner Tyus Tours & Travel

The Truth Travel Contributor

As a U.S. citizen, traveling abroad can be an exciting adventure, but it's important to be aware of visa requirements for your destination. Visa rules can vary significantly from country to country, and understanding these requirements is crucial for a smooth journey. Below is a guide to help you navigate the basic visa requirements for U.S. citizens traveling internationally.

## Understanding Visa Requirements

A visa is an official document or stamp issued by the government of a country that allows the holder to enter, leave, or stay for a specified period of time. Visas can be for various purposes, including tourism, business, study, or work.

### Types of Visas

- **Tourist Visa:** For leisure travel and sightseeing.

- **Business Visa:** For attending meetings, conferences, or conducting business.

- **Student Visa:** For studying at a foreign educational institution.

- **Work Visa:** For employment in the host country.

### Countries with No Visa Requirement

Many countries have agreements with the United States that allow U.S. citizens to visit without a visa for short stays, usually up to 90 days. Some of these countries include:

- **Canada**
- **Mexico**
- **United Kingdom**

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Visa Requirements... continued from page 10

- France
- Italy
- Germany

However, it's important to note that requirements can change, and it's always best to check for updates before traveling.

#### Countries Requiring a Visa

Other countries require U.S. citizens to obtain a visa prior to entry. Some of these countries include:

- China
- Russia
- India
- Brazil
- Vietnam

In these cases, you will need to apply for a visa in advance, and the process can take several weeks, so it's advisable to plan ahead. U.S. citizens can check if a visa is required using the State Department's Learn About Your Destination tool, which provides visa information for most countries.

#### How to Apply for a Visa

Here are the general steps for obtaining a visa:

- **Determine the Type of Visa:** Based on your travel purpose, decide which type of visa you need.
- **Complete the Application:** Fill out the visa application form for the country you plan to visit.
- **Gather Required Documents:** This may include your passport, photographs, and other documents like proof of accommodation or an invitation letter.
- **Submit the Application:** Submit your application and documents to the appropriate embassy or consulate.

• **Pay the Fee:** Be prepared to pay a processing fee, which varies by country and visa type.

• **Attend an Interview:** Some countries may require an interview at their embassy or consulate.

#### Tips for a Smooth Visa Process

• **Check Validity:** Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your intended stay.

• **Plan Early:** Start the visa application process well in advance of your trip.

• **Stay Informed:** Visit the U.S. Department of State website for the latest travel advisories and visa requirements.

• **Keep Copies:** Make copies of your visa and other important documents in case of loss or theft.

#### Conclusion

Traveling abroad as a U.S. citizen requires careful planning and awareness of visa requirements. By understanding the visa process and staying informed, you can ensure a seamless travel experience. Always double-check the specific requirements for your destination, as policies can change. Safe travels!

In our upcoming articles, we will explore visa policies for the following countries:

Australia, China, Brazil, Russia, Vietnam, Bolivia, India, Thailand, Cuba, Indonesia, and various nations across Africa and Europe.

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Ricky Tyus

## EU Travel Information & Authorization System

Travelers to most European countries will need approval via the new European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) in 2025.

Special to The Truth

If you're planning a trip to Europe for 2025 or beyond, you may have an extra step to take before heading to the airport.

In 2025, the new European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) will require passport holders from 60 visa-exempt countries, including the U.S., to apply for approval to enter 30 European countries. "That means that even if you've previously traveled to any of these European countries, you'll need to get ETIAS authorization to revisit them. If you're traveling to multiple countries with this requirement, you only need to complete the form once," says Lael Kassis, vice president of market innovation and development for the travel company EF Go Ahead Tours

Once the program is up and running, travelers to Europe will fill out the form online or via a mobile app and pay a 7-euro charge (about \$7.47, depending on exchange rates; free for applicants 70 and older). Approval is expected to be quick (as in minutes) and sent by email or app. But officials warn that approval could take as long as several weeks for some people if more information is required. For example, if your passport number or name changed or if you entered incorrect information such as the wrong nationality, corrections could take up to 30 days.

ETIAS was proposed in 2016 and intended to launch in 2022 as part of the European Union's effort to reduce security and migration risks and facilitate the arrival process for visa-free travelers. COVID-19 delayed its initial rollout, and it was expected to launch in 2024. Now all indications point to a mid-2025 implementation, though no firm date has been released. In addition to keeping current on the official green light, here are five other important things to know.

### 1. ETIAS is not a visa

"There are reports floating around that this is a visa, which is incorrect. It's a simple travel authorization, like the USA's ESTA [Electronic System for Travel Authorization]," says travel expert Kathy McCabe, host of the PBS shows *Dream of Italy* and *Dream of Europe*.

ESTA determines eligibility for travel to the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The agency checks whether travelers pose any risk to the U.S. Like ETIAS, it is not a visa.

Though approvals won't require a visit to a consulate or biometric data collection, they do not guarantee entry into a country.

As is the case today, border authorities will still verify that each traveler meets the country's entry requirements. ETIAS allows travelers to remain for a short-term stay (90 days during any 180-day period). ETIAS does not give travelers the right to study long term or work in the country.

Approval is not required of transit passengers (people connecting to other flights) who intend to remain in the international transit area of European airports.

### 2. ETIAS does expire

Once your application is approved, it will be good for three years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. You can apply for a new ETIAS when the expiration date is approaching, but make sure to give yourself time

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# End of Year Book Roundup – A Few of the Year's Best!! Part I

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

So you looked at the calendar the other day and... eeeek.

We're in the middle of the holidays already – but there is always time to gift someone ... or even yourself with one of these great books of this past year!

## Fiction

For the reader who loves a good comedy, *The Best Way to Bury Your Husband* by **Alexia Casale** (Penguin, \$18.00) is perfect. It's the story of four women and one same old story: their husbands have been jerks and it's time to take matters into their own hands. Pair it with *How to Solve Your Own Murder* by **Kristen Perrin** (Dutton, \$28), another fine mystery that'll keep your giftee perfectly entertained.

If there's someone on your list who loves a good novel with a healthy dose of drama, you can't go wrong with *Very Bad Company* by **Emma Rosenblum** (Flatiron Books, \$28.99), the story of a group of high-level, high-money executives on retreat in Florida. What could go wrong, right? Turns out, plenty... Wrap it up with *The Divorcees* by **Rowan Beaird** (Flatiron Books, \$28.99), a novel set in a midcentury Reno divorce ranch.

That thriller-lover on your gift list will be easy to satisfy when you give *She's Not Sorry* by **Mary Kubica** (Park Row Books, \$30.00), a story of an ICU nurse, a suicidal-now-comatose patient, and secrets that come to light about an almost-deadly accident that was (maybe) no accident. Wrap it up with *Heads Will Roll* by **Josh Winning** (Putnam, \$30.00), a novel of a dumb mistake at work made by an actor who's sent away to deal with her demons. Sometimes, though, the demons are real...

Your vampire lover will want to bite into *So Thirsty* by **Rachel Harrison** (Berkley, \$29.00), a mystery of best friends and secrets with unexpected consequences. Wrap it up with *Tiny Threads* by **Lilliam Rivera** (Del Ray, \$28.00), a novel of a fashionista and a dream job that turns out to be, well, from you-know-where...

Is there a reader on your list who loves complicated family dramas? Then *April May June July* by **Alison B. Hart** (Graydon House, \$28.99) is the book to wrap. Siblings April, May, June, and brother July Barber are totally separate people with nothing in common, other than that they're family. When their missing father resurfaces after more than a decade, the family wedding they're all set to attend suddenly becomes so much more than a family wedding. Wrap it up with *A Fire So Wild* by **Sarah Ruiz-Grossman** (Harper, \$25.99), the story of a wildfire in Berkeley, California, and a group of the city's residents who must immediately reckon with the lives they've built there.

You don't have to know a thing about St. Paul, Minnesota, to want to read *Mysterious Tales of Old St. Paul* by **Larry Millett** (University of Minnesota Press, \$24.95). It's a collection of whodunits set in the 1890s and features a character you'll come to love. Wrap it up with *You'd Look Better as a Ghost* by **Joanna Wallace** (Penguin, \$18.00), an LOL novel about a killer with an unusual gift: she sees people as ghosts, just before they become one. Also try *The Mesmerist* by **Caroline Woods** (Double-

day, \$28.00), a book of magic based on a real story from the late 1800s.

For the person on your list who is a self-professed lover of Mark Twain's works, *Big Jim and the White Boy* by **David F. Walker and Marcus Kwame Anderson** (Ten Speed Graphic, \$35.00) will be a welcome gift this season. It's a re-imagining of the classic Twain tale, told in graphic-novel format. It's great for collectors, and teens would love it, too.

Here's an unusual sibling novel: *Pearly Everlasting* by **Tammy Armstrong** (HarperCollins, \$28.99). It's the story of a bear cub named Bruno, the human sister he was raised with, and the bond of love that overcomes everything when the bear goes missing. Wrap it up with *We'll Prescribe You a Cat* by **Syou Ishida** (Berkley, \$25.00), a cute novel about the "healing power" of cats.

Lovers of short stories will enjoy unwrapping *Neighbors and Other Stories* by **Diane Oliver** (Grove Press, \$27.00), a collection of tales about racism, Jim Crow, fear, prejudice, scandal, and more. Pair it with *Float Up, Sing Down* by **Laird Hunt** (Bloomsbury, \$26.99), a collection about a single day in the life of folks in a small Indiana community.

No doubt, there's someone on your gift list who loves to be really, really scared and *Nightwatching* by **Tracy Sierra** may fit on your gift list. It's a novel about a woman alone with her children during a blizzard, and an intruder who seems awfully, horrifyingly familiar...

## General Nonfiction

Someone on your gift list will love reading *Cunning Folk: Life in the Era of Practical Magic* by **Tabitha Stanmore** (Bloomsbury, \$29.99). Not only is this a history of magic and the magical arts, but it's a bit of a mini-biography about people who practice the arts.

If you know your giftee well and this year is going to mean big changes, then carefully give *Divorce Matters* by **Kathy Criscuolo Boufford** (Square One Publishers, \$18.95). Wrap it up with *I Do (I Think)* by **Alison Raskin** (Hanover Square Press, \$28.99), a book about marriage in the modern world. Together, they're perfect for the person you know needs them, now or in the near future.

On the other hand, *Somehow: Thoughts on Love* by **Anne Lamott** (Riverhead Books, \$22.00) is a book filled with hope and words on love. Why it irritates us, and why we need it. Wrap it up for the romantic in your life. Wrap it up with *Vows: The Modern Genius of an Ancient Rite* by **Cheryl Mendelson** (Simon & Schuster, \$28.99), a surprising look at the things we say at a wedding, and why we say them.

Is there a lover of Shakespeare on your gift list? Then you absolutely can't go wrong when you wrap up Shakespeare: *The Man Who Pays the Rent* by **Judi Dench and Brendan O'Hea** (St. Martin's Press, \$32). Here, Dame Judi writes about the Bard and the various roles she's played through the decades, audiences, critics, and more. Your giftee will want it "to be" under the tree, along with *The World in Books: 52 Works of Great Short Nonfiction* by **Kenneth C. Davis** (Scribner, \$29.99), a whole book full of suggestions to carry your giftee into the new year.

The runner in your life will be delighted when *In the Spell of the Barkley* by **Michiel Panhuysen** (Bloomsbury, \$24.00) is unwrapped. This story of the ultimate ultramarathon challenge is a read as wild as the race itself. Wrap it up with another book about a big sport: *Everest, Inc.: The Renegades and Rogues Who Built an Industry at the Top of the World* by **Will Cockrell** (Gallery Books, \$29.99). Wrap it up with a warm pair of gloves and a long scarf.

Is there a reader on your gift list who loves history but who's tired of the same old thing? Then wrap up *Plentiful Country: The Great Potato Famine and the Making of Irish New York* by **Tyler Anbinder** (Little, Brown, \$32.50). Why did more than a million of Ireland's citizens come to America in the mid-1800s? What did they find here, and how did Americans think of the sudden influx of new immigrants? Historians will devour this book; anyone concerned about immigration will, too.

No doubt, the history lover on your list will want *The Handy World War II Answer Book* by **Richard Estep** (Visible Ink Press, \$29.99). In an easy-to-read, easy-to-browse format, your giftee will get a nice extra peek inside and around the world at the Second World War.

The science-minded person on your gift list will want *Turning to Stone* by **Marcia Bjornerud** (Flatiron Books, \$28.99), a book about rocks but

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*Book Roundup... continued from page 12*

also about geology and the wonders of our planet. Wrap it up with *Subpar Planet* by Amber Share (Penguin Random House, \$30.00), a hilarious book of reviews and ratings of planetary wonders from real people who probably didn't quite get the whole "nature" thing.

Your proud HBCU grad will love reading *A Forgotten Migration* by Crystal R. Sanders (UNC Press, \$27.95), a book about racism, segregation, Black colleges & universities, and what American society owes them for decades of education.

Is there an activist for justice on your gift list? Then they'll be happy to open *Morningside: The 1979 Greensboro Massacre and the Struggle for an American City's Soul* by Aran Shetterly (Amistad, \$28.99). It's a story of the Klan, white supremacy, racial conflict, and how it fits in with what's going on in America today. Pair it with *Sidney Poitier: The Great Speefhes of an Icon Who Moved Us Forward* compiled by Joanna Poitier, edited by John Malahy (Running Press, \$29). Bonus: This inspiring book is packed with photos.

If there's a person on your list who's concerned with ecologically-minded things, check out *The 15-Minute City* by Carlos Moreno (Wiley, \$28). It's a book about a radical way of planning a new city so it's walkable, not congested, and greener. Pair it with *Atlas of a Threatened Planet* by Esther Gonstalla (Island Press, \$35), a book of infographics that make being greener easier to understand.

Everybody – including your giftee – loves a good treasure hunt, and you don't have to hunt far for *Lost Loot: Cursed Treasures and Blood Money* by Jim Willis (Visible Ink Press, \$22.95). It's a sometimes-swashbuckling, sometimes just plain fun look at booty, true crime, and possibilities of riches. Wrap it up with *The Heirloomist: 100 Treasures and the Stories They Tell* by Shana Novak (Chronicle Books, \$27.99), an absorbing book about random objects, collectors, and the hold that things hold on us.

Your football fan will absolutely want *The Football Game That Changed America* by Dennis Deninger (Rowman & Littlefield, \$35). It's a book about how the NFL's "Big Game" became the biggest day of football for every fan, whether they follow the teams playing or not. If your giftee loves basketball, too, then wrap up *Globetrotter: How Abe Saperstein Shook Up the World of Sports* by Mark Jacob and Matthew Jacob (Rowman & Littlefield, \$35), a book about the iconic Harlem Globetrotters basketball team, racism, and the path to become one of the sports' best-loved teams.

The person on your gift list who's working on a second chapter will be happy to unwrap *The Art of the Interesting: What We Miss in Our Pursuit of the Good Life and How to Cultivate It* by Lorraine Besser, PhD (Balance, \$30). Based on science and psychology, this book helps your giftee create the best life and be happier and healthier in mind and spirit.

**Biography**

Did your giftee spend a childhood immersed in books about growing up? If so, they'll cherish those memories when they read *The Genius of Judy* by Rachelle Bergstein (One Signal Publishers, \$28.99). This biography fills readers in on who Judy Blume was, why she wrote the novels she penned, and how her stories fit in with today's adolescence, feminism, current events, and literature. Wrap it up with this great biography: *Rulebreaker: The Life and Times of Barbara Walters* by Susan Page (Simon & Schuster \$30). It's the story of Walters, her times, and her impressive works.

If your giftee is riled by this years' politics and feminism, then they'll love reading *A Well-Trained Wife* by Tia Levings (St. Martin's Press, \$30). It's the story of Levings' life as a wife in a Christian patriarchy-based marriage, the submissiveness, the expectations, and her ultimate resistance. The right kind of giftee will love this book completely.

The British history lover on your list will absolutely want *The Eagle and the Hart: The Tragedy of Richard II and Henry IV* by Helen Castor (Avid Reader Press, \$35). This book takes a deep dive into history, the lives of two cousins, and a shocking assumption to the throne. Pair it with a bookmark and *Henry V: The Astonishing Triumph of England's Greatest Warrior King* by Dan Jones (Viking, \$35), a book about the life and times of this English king in the fifteenth century.

For the person on your gift list who loves music, *How Women Made Music: A Revolutionary History from NPR Music* edited by Alison Fensterstock (HarperOne, \$40) is exactly the right gift. It's a look at female musicians from the 1920s to more recent years, from country music to hip hop to guitar players and beyond. Wrap it up with *I Heard There Was a Secret Chord: Music as Medicine* by Daniel J. Levitin (Norton, \$32.50), a book about music and how it contributes to healing and well-being.

*Friendly Fire: A Fractured Memoir* by Paul Rousseau (Harper Horizon, \$29.99) may be the exact right gift for anyone who loves a unique memoir. Just before he graduated from college, Rousseau was shot in the

head accidentally. How he survived, both physically and in the friendship with the man who shot him is the basis of this very well-done book.

The science-minded person on your gift list will be happy to have *The Elements of Marie Curie: How the Glow of Radium Lit a Path for Women in Science* by Dava Sobel (Atlantic Monthly Press, \$30). Chances are, your giftee knows exactly who Madame Curie was, but do they know about the women who came after her in the laboratory. This book tells the tale in an engaging, interesting way.

For your fashionista who loves make-up, *Becoming Elizabeth Arden: The Woman Behind the Global Beauty Empire* by Stacy A. Cordery (Viking, \$35) could be the best gift beneath the tree this year. It's a sweeping story of a businesswoman, glamour maven, revolutionary, visionary, her work, her times, and the controversy she lit.

**Business**

For the designer or design student on your list, you'll want to wrap up *Design for a Radically Changing World* by Andy Cohen FAIA and Diane Hoskins FAIA (Oro Editions, \$70). It's a heavy, gorgeously-illustrated book full of ideas and works by designers your giftee may know. This is a book they'll love for years to come.

Everybody knows that work requires a certain sense of humor, right? And so *The Customer is Always Wrong* by Scott Seiss (Harper Celebrate, \$22.99) is a book that'll help your giftee keep a smile on that overworked face.

Here's a unique little gift for the businessperson on your list: *Pencil by Carol Beggy* (Bloomsbury, \$14.95). It's a small book, perfect for a stocking-stuffer, and it's all about the writing instrument we know, love, and of which about two billion are used by Americans each year.

For the young entrepreneurial couple on your list, *Tightwads and Spendthrifts: Navigating the Money Minefield in Real Relationships* by Scott Rick (St. Martin's Press, \$28) may be something they'll both appreciate. It's a book that offers advice and a guideline for making sure both finances and love triumph in the end.

The gamer on your list – the one who's also an entrepreneur – will like to unwrap *Playing with Reality* by Kelly Clancy (Riverhead, \$30). What do games teach us about science, business, and risk? Looking at games from antiquity to AI, this book will tell it.

If the giftee on your list is trying to achieve a good work-life balance, then wrap up *Over Work: Transforming the Daily Grind in the Quest for a Better Life* by Brigid Schulte (Henry Holt, \$31.99). This book will help your giftee understand how some everyday tasks are considered "work" and how such unpaid jobs can contribute to your happiness. Wrap it up with *Directional Living: A Transformational Guide to Fulfillment in Work and Life* by Megan Hellerer (Penguin Life, \$29.00). The subtitle says it all.

For the person who loves their job but struggles with the workplace, *Toxic Productivity* by Israa Nasir, MHC-LP (Bridge City Books, \$19.99) might help. It's a book about overcoming stress and pressure at work and how to become a healthier employee, mentally.

*Next week, Terri will present Part II of some of 2024's best!!*

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*Last Minute Holiday Giveaway... continued from page 8*

**African Safari Wildlife Park:** 267 S. Lightner Rd., Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

**Cheers Trail:** Enjoy a festive journey along the Shores & Islands Ohio Cheers Trail. Discover a variety of local breweries, wineries, and distilleries, each offering unique flavors and holiday cheer. Sample craft beers, sip on fine wines, or indulge in handcrafted cocktails.

**Liberty Aviation Museum:** Step back in time at the Liberty Aviation Museum. Explore a collection of historic aircraft, including World War II planes. Take a ride in a vintage aircraft, enjoy a meal at the 1950s-themed Tin Goose Diner, and immerse yourself in aviation history.

Liberty Aviation Museum: 3515 E.State Dr., Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

**Where to Eat: A Foodie's Delight**

**Orchard Table & Bar:** Indulge in a culinary experience at Orchard Table & Bar. This family-owned gem is a must-visit for fresh, seasonal dishes crafted from ingredients grown right on the property. Don't miss the opportunity to try festive cocktails at the Christmas Coop, a cozy bar with holiday cheer.

**Orchard Table & Bar:** 3350 NE Catawba Rd., Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

**The Sushi Room:** Delight your taste buds with expertly crafted sushi rolls at The Sushi Room. From classic favorites to innovative creations, there's something for everyone. Enjoy a sophisticated dining experience in a modern and stylish setting.

The Sushi Room: 3984 E. Harbor Light Landing Dr., Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

**Gideon Owen Wine Company:** Unwind at Gideon Owen Wine Company, a historic winery with stunning vineyard views. Sip on fine wines, savor delicious food, and enjoy live music. Take a cellar tour to learn about the winemaking process and the rich history of the winery.

Gideon Owen Wine Company: 3845 E. Wine Cellar Rd., Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

**Wrap Up Your Holiday Escape**

Whether you're indulging in a luxurious resort stay, marveling at the giraffes, or sipping cocktails by the fire, this last-minute winter getaway offers the perfect mix of relaxation, adventure, and festive fun. So grab your loved ones, hit the road, and make this holiday season one to remember—all just an hour from Toledo!

**Happy Holidays & Safe Travels!**

*The Plantation... continued from page 9*

The Whitney Plantation sits on 40 acres and consists of a blend of restored original buildings and buildings newly constructed to resemble the originals.

The Big House, an original building, is neither imposing nor big. Habitation Haydel was a working plantation and the owners' dwelling was not their primary residence. The house, initially built on stilts, reflected the practicality of living so close to the volatile Mississippi.

The plantation houses the oldest kitchen in Louisiana, a French Creole barn, a blacksmith shop and quarters for the enslaved Africans. These cabins originally numbered 22 but most were torn down in the 1970's. There are currently seven on the property – two original structures.

However, the memorials to the enslaved distinguish this plantation from any other. Opened in 2014, it's still a work in progress. The Wall of Honor is dedicated to all the people enslaved on Habitation Haydel – the names and related information is engraved on granite slabs.

Allees Gwendolyn Midlo Hall is a memorial dedicated to all of the 107,000 Africans enslaved in Louisiana from 1719 to 1820. The Field of Angels is a section of the slave memorial dedicated to 2,200 Louisiana slave children who died in St. John the Baptist Parish. Most recently, a memorial comprised of bronze heads has been erected to commemorate the participants of a slave revolt in 1811, those who were captured, tried, found guilty and decapitated – their heads then placed on stakes at the sites of various plantations to warn others not to entertain thoughts of fighting for their freedom.

The most moving part of the plantation, however, are the 40 life-sized statues – in terra cotta and bronze – of the slave children of the plantation. Located in the chapel and in various other buildings, the life-like sculptures are a stark reminder of life on the plantation and the very real children who would grow up to perform the brutal work of the plantation – growing and harvesting the sugar cane, boiling it into the raw sugar product so it could be turned into rum or sold to sweeten the coffee of Americans and Europeans.

The bronze heads representing the rebels of 1811 and the children's statues are the work of Akron artist, Woodrow Nash.

*Gerald Rose... continued from page 6*

ly Childhood saying that there was an incident involving her four-year-old daughter Aria Weinrich, at Beverly Elementary School.

"He said my daughter was left outside in the cold under 30-degree weather without a coat on due to her crying during naptime and not wanting to wake up any other children and she could not come in until she was done crying." McCullough stated that the child was left outside of the preschool door by herself. The incidents allegedly occurred November 22, December 3 and December 4.

"I am hoping that she is removed from the school so that she cannot do this to anyone else," commented McCullough.

An alleged incident also occurred with Khyli Love, age 3, on December 4.

Her mother, grandmother and grandfather and great grandfather were present at the press conference to support and provide remarks.

"We don't want this to happen to Khyli or any other child again, something has to change," stated Keva Maddox the child's grandmother.

"[The teacher] needs to be terminated. There is no space for her behavior around children," she continued.

The family states that they are contemplating filing criminal charges against teacher who has been suspended by TPS.

"It's not the school, it's the teacher. The school is fine. The school has been a great school. It's not the school- it's the teacher. That's what we need to get rid of," stated Keith Miller, great grandfather of Khyli Love and retired principal of Scott High School.



Keith Miller, retired Scott High School Principal and great-grandfather of Khyli Love



Deanna McCullough mother of Aria Weinrich, age 4

*EU Travel Info... continued from page 11*

in the event something goes wrong. (Renewing will be the same process as for the original application.)

Make sure you apply in a timely manner and then don't let it expire. A recent traveler didn't realize her ESTA had expired and was minutes away from boarding a flight to the U.S. Thankfully, her new application was approved instantly on the phone

**3. You will be asked to provide personal and sensitive information**

To apply for ETIAS you will need:

- A valid passport
- A payment card
- An email address

you also will be asked to provide your home address, current occupation, education, the first country you intend to stay in and information about past travel to conflict zones and any criminal convictions.

You must remember that our European friends and citizens from other visa-waiver countries have been doing this for years when flying to the USA, and our government asks for information like what the Europeans will now require.

**4. There is only one official ETIAS website**

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, recently put out a news release warning travelers that the number of unofficial ETIAS websites has increased to more than 50. Once they're ready, you should use only the official ETIAS website or the official ETIAS mobile app. Once ETIAS starts, intermediaries such as travel agents and tour companies will be allowed to apply on a traveler's behalf and may charge an additional fee for their services.

**5. ETIAS will not work for travel to the U.K., where a separate system and fee are in the works**

The United Kingdom plans to roll out its own Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system, which is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2024. The approval will be required of U.S. citizens entering the U.K. ETIAS will not count for entry into the U.K.

Once the system is online, the approval process will be similar, and a fee of 10 pounds (about \$12.29, depending on exchange rates) will be charged. The approval will be valid for two years, or until the passport expires, whichever is first. Unlike Europe, the U.K. will require transit passengers to apply for an ETA.





## Architectural & Engineering Services

The Toledo Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) intends to award a master agreement for an architectural and engineering firm or firms capable of providing on-call multi-discipline support services for various potential TARTA projects within Lucas County, Ohio.

Projects may involve one (1) or more TARTA facilities, program support and any future properties the agency may acquire. Current properties include:

- TARTA Central Avenue garage, 1127 Central Ave, Toledo, OH 43610
- TARTA Move paratransit office, 130 Knapp St, Toledo, OH 43604
- TARTA Transit Hub, 612 N Huron St, Toledo, OH 43604

TARTA reserves the right to award multiple firms. There is no guarantee of work through this solicitation.

The submission deadline for questions regarding this request for qualifications is Monday, December 23. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on Monday, December 30 through [opengov.com](http://opengov.com) (free to sign up, can follow TARTA for all future procurement notices) or to:

**Kattie Bond, Director of Capital Projects**

TARTA  
1127 Central Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43610

## DRAFT NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ("RFP") FOR FURNITURE VENDOR SERVICES

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHRSB) requests qualifications for a vendor to provide furniture and associated services in connection with Dani's Place, an adult, residential mental health rehabilitation center for NW Ohio (Project) located on the campus of the Northwest Ohio Behavioral Hospital in Toledo. Hplex Solutions has been selected as Owner's Rep (OR), and NAC has been selected as design professional (DP).

Services required include working with MHRSB, the OR, and the DP for order finalization and fabrication, storage, delivery, and installation of furniture products for the Dani's Place project as indicated on the drawings and per the specifications planning & design, and at-risk construction of the Project.

As required by ORC 9.33, et seq., MHRSB requests proposals from experienced firms to provide services for the Project. The complete RFP may be obtained from the MHRSB website at <https://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/>.

Interested firms must submit **2 paper copies and 1 digital copy** of their proposal as outlined within the RFP available on the MHRSB website, to OR contact John Durda ([john@hplex.com](mailto:john@hplex.com)), Hplex Solutions, 65 Hidden Ravines Dr., Suite 100, Powell, OH 43065, no later than **12:00 pm on January 13, 2025**. Submittals received after this time may be considered solely in MHRSB's discretion. Direct all questions to the DP and OR as noted in the RFP.

This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$2 Million with 30 percentage financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

## NOTICE

Will Ms. Marcia Ricketts or anyone who can provide information of her whereabouts kindly contact JULIANNE HEWITT, Attorney-at-Law whose address is

Shop C10,  
Shoppes of Pineapple,  
Sylvia Lawn,  
Main Street, Ocho Rios, Saint Ann, Jamaica, W.I.

Telephone – (876) 208-9667 and (876) 341-1165

Email address: [juliannehewitt@outlook.com](mailto:juliannehewitt@outlook.com)

Will Ms. Karen Ricketts or anyone who can provide information of her whereabouts kindly contact JULIANNE HEWITT, Attorney-at-Law whose address is

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Will Ms. Sophia Ricketts or anyone who can provide information of her whereabouts kindly contact JULIANNE HEWITT, Attorney-at-Law whose address is

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Will Ms. Waneka Ricketts or anyone who can provide information of her whereabouts kindly contact JULIANNE HEWITT, Attorney-at-Law whose address is

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Will Ms. Maxine Smalling or anyone who can provide information of her whereabouts kindly contact JULIANNE HEWITT, Attorney-at-Law whose address is

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# Area Office on Aging's Annual Senior Holiday Party

Over 700 seniors came together from all over Lucas County on December 5 to celebrate the Area Office on Aging's Annual Senior Holiday Party at the Premiere Banquet Center.

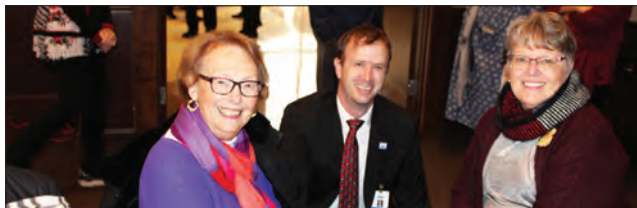
The mid-day event featured a formal sit-down lunch, a welcome from President/CEO Justin Moor and Board Chairman Rev. Barbie Harrison and entertainment by the Bluewater Kings Band and, naturally, a visit from Santa Claus. Sashem Brey, news anchor and reporter at 13abc served as the mistress of ceremonies.

Attendees came from the Lucas County Senior Center as well as senior housing centers, churches and other organizations around the area. The agency has hosted these holiday celebrations for two decades

The Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio promotes the health, well-being and safety of older adults, persons with disabilities and family caregivers to foster independence.



Area Office on Aging VP Ireatha Holli, Board Chairman Barbie Harrison, CEO Justin Moor, N-Sync's Deborah Barnett



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