

Volume 87 No. 9

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

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### *In This Issue...*

Ben Jealous on Trump  
Page 2

Tolliver on Trump  
Page 3

Cover Story:  
Boyce Safford Pays Toledo  
a Visit  
Page 5

Black History Month Events  
Page 6

Preparing for the Philippines  
Page 8

Shana and Fayetteville  
Georgia  
Page 8

Travel ID  
Page 9

A Visit to South Africa  
Page 9

The Original Kentucky Derby  
Jockeys  
Page 10

Book Review  
Page 13

Classifieds  
Page 15

UT Aspiring Youth  
Page 16

Buffalo Soldiers  
Page 16

### **A Leader In Urban Development**



Boyce Safford III, Executive Director of the Columbus Next Generation Corporation



# Trump's America Last Agenda is a Knife in the Back of Working People

By Ben Jealous

Donald Trump's playbook has always been to campaign like a populist and govern like an oligarch. But it is still shocking just how brutally he went after our country's working people in the first few days – even the first few hours – after he was sworn in last week.

Donald Trump's actions on Day One of his presidency, and each day since then, have laid bare his willingness to undermine the health and wealth of working families. He is determined to pollute our air and water.

And for all his tough talk about China, he is rapidly ceding vital economic ground to China as he attempts to shutter the new factories powering our nation with clean energy.

A true "America First" agenda would focus on American leadership on the global stage. And it would put the American people first. Instead, he is putting Americans' last by sacrificing our health and our jobs in favor of corporate greed.

In the first minutes of his presidency, President Trump promised to "drill, baby, drill" in his inaugural address. In the first hours, in a flurry of Day One executive orders, he declared an 'energy emergency' and moved to: claw back unspent Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds; withdraw the US from the Paris Climate Agreement; overturn protections against offshore drilling for more than 625 million acres of ocean; roll back federal vehicle emission standards for cars and trucks; halt the development of all offshore wind projects; remove vital protections for public lands across Alaska ... and, sadly, that was just the beginning.

Making our communities more susceptible to climate-fueled disasters, driving up respiratory and heart disease, increasing our energy bills, and shipping our jobs overseas is the opposite of "America First." And it shows Trump breaking his promises – ON DAY ONE! – to stand up for working-class families.

As you read this, the Trump administration is actively working to boost Americans' household energy costs by promoting the expansion of LNG (liquefied natural gas) exports. Those exports go to nations that will pay far more than the domestic market rate for methane gas, driving up prices here at home. And, of course, more methane gas means more fracking, more pol-



lution, and more disaster-prone transportation and refinement of yet another dirty fossil fuel. (Not to mention the national security implications of LNG producers and exporters selling this energy resource to adversaries like China that then can re-sell it to client states and leverage their status as an LNG supplier.)

The administration is driving up energy costs and threatening grid reliability – in an age of increasing extreme weather from climate change – with its hostility to the clean energy sources that are cheaper and more resilient than fossil fuels.

It is killing thousands upon thousands of good American jobs with actions like his executive order banning more development of offshore wind energy. So much for the GOP's "all of the above" energy approach. Wind energy now makes up 10% of US electricity generation and offshore wind alone currently employs 120,000 Americans. New offshore wind projects would promise many thousands more. And offshore wind has also helped revitalize domestic supply chains, support growth in American shipping, and bring in billions of dollars in investment.

The administration is killing jobs by attacking the progress and investments spurred by the last administration's Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which have already created more than 400,000 clean energy jobs.

The fossil fuel push will lead to pollution that causes heart attacks, asthma attacks, cancer, and more – and will end up killing many of the very people he pledged to fight for. It also will have an especially deadly impact in the communities that already suffer disproportionately from pollution. A recent Stanford Medicine study, for instance, found that Black Americans are far more likely to die from air pollution-related causes than other groups. This bears out in a city like Chicago, where the city's West Side, which has more Black and Latino residents than other parts of the city, has up to 32% more nitrogen dioxide (NO2) air pollution.

And one more way this administration looks to hurt both the wallets and bodies of working families is with the rising cost of healthcare that all the illness from increased air and water pollution is sure to bring. In these dark times, it is critical to remember that we are strong enough as a country to keep making progress no matter who is president. As I've seen firsthand from the frontlines of the civil rights and environmental movements, when the American people suffer setbacks, when the hill gets steeper, we do not stop climbing.

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

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# The Pain Is Coming ... Buckle Up, Buttercup!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Well, the inauguration is over and Donald Trump is in the White House again but this time, he is appearing with a cast of supporting feckless minions that would make even Darth Vader blush.

When Trump telegraphed to the world and to the gullible US citizens that he was their retribution and his administration would be chocked full of acts of vengeance against his perceived enemies, not enough people believed him and voted for his mental illness to return to the White House.

So now? So now the "boil" that is on the character of America due to our seemingly insatiable devouring of lies and half-truths that for years have been based upon the BIG LIE!, has had a deleterious effect on our ability to tell the truth.

As you know, with a boil, you must lance it...cut into it and let it drain out before it can be healed. With the Trump agenda starting to rumble and roar, that boil will become bigger and bigger with each lie and with each malevolently inspired executive order.

As the boil grows and grows and is painful to the touch, only the sharp scalpel edge of speaking truth to power will lance it.

Trump is the personification of that national boil on the skin of America. He has no shame about outright lying, being hurtful and grifting all that he can before he leaves the White House.

As the boil grows ever larger and larger with threats of mass deportation (for the innocent and the guilty) and grandiose ideas of a new manifest destiny of riding roughshod over the Panama Canal and saber rattling at Denmark to take their possession of Greenland, we lose more of our ability to tell the truth because truth is not highly exalted and valued as it should be.

Sadly, those people vested with scriptural authority and with the moral duty to be a reliable hedge against evil and idolatry, have been neutered to the point of being of no useful value.

When one of the founding documents of this country indicated that this was to be a government, of the people, by the people and for the people, those words fall on deaf ears with the Trump/Maga crowd.

Their default position is that might makes right and with muscle of military and money, we should not be beholden to anyone or any country! Tragically, such gibberish hijacked God and fabricated a gospel that Trump was God's man to make America great again.

Inside secret: God, save for Israel, has no "favorites" and even Israel was duly noticed with conditions that if not fulfilled, they too would face divine chastisement.

But, I digress! Let's get back to my boil analogy.

As the promised executive orders roll off the White House assembly line and are directed to their respective targets, America's capacity for pain, communal

or otherwise, will take a severe jolt because how much can the human psyche take repeated punches and still stand?

Only recently, Trump issued an executive order eliminating DEI in the federal bureaucracies and the military. His goal is to make it troublesome for any person who is nonwhite or a woman to advance through the ranks. For Trump, the whiter the better as to the ethnic composition of the US government workforce.

Affirmative action and equality in the federal workplace and in federal contracting will be a dinosaur in a matter of months.

Will this elimination of DEI in the federal government also affect the HB-CU's from getting federal aid based upon their status alone? Will such an attitude influence the aggressiveness of the DOJ from examining suspect racial gerrymandering that affects housing and voting rights for Black Americans?

The boil festers bigger and bigger!

When Trump, contrary to his "promise" of doing a case-by-case analysis of the convictions of the J6 rioters, suddenly issued pardons to 1500 people including the most violent of the rioters, America slid into the muck and mire that law and order is transactional at best.

Trump's trumpeting that he "Loves The Blue!" is farcical at best when he condones such criminality and the GOP wants to portray themselves as the party of law and order!

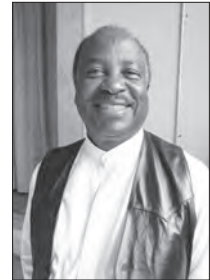
No, the coming years will not be the professed Golden Years for America as Trump loudly proclaims. It will be four years of outlandish and reprehensible acts emanating from the White House that degrade and diminish the truth and allows his cronies to become profiteers at the expense of the working and middle class.

But. Practically half of the voters, who voted, voted for Trump despite his telegraphing, via the Project 2025 papers, of his intents and yet those voters said, "Go ahead...it is alright with us!"

A convicted felon in the White House? Not a problem as long as Trump uses his white MAGA base to rule the roost and keep those "others" in place.

Remedy: Don't let lies and half-truths convince you that something is wrong with you. It is not! Stay with the truth and speak audibly against the lie and support those who are in alignment with you. Fight the power!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [tolliver@juno.com](mailto:tolliver@juno.com)



## Community Calendar

### February 6

The Kwanzaa Park Neighbors will welcome Bernadette Joy Graham to the regular monthly Block Watch meeting, on February 6, 2025 at The Padua Center at Noon. Graham, a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, will speak on "Maintaining Good Mental Health." The regular monthly meeting is held in the evening but the February meeting is held at noon. A light Lunch will be served.

### February 15

Black History Speaker's Program Roots of Resilience: The African American Church's Role in Toledo's Past, Present, and Future.  
Keynote speaker: Dr. Malaika-Beauta Bell, Director of DEI, University of Toledo;  
11am - refreshment and free will offering Information: 419-2831434 Where: St Philip Lutheran Church 3002 Upton@ Central

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# City of Toledo and University of Toledo Host Annual Virtual MLK Celebration

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

The City of Toledo and the University of Toledo, in partnership with the Human Relations Commission (HRC), hosted its annual virtual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration Monday, January 20. This year's theme "Building Bridges and Breaking Bread" emphasized unity, reflection, and service while honoring Dr. King's enduring legacy.

The virtual event was broadcast on the City of Toledo's Facebook, BCAN, and the University of Toledo's website, and featured speakers:

- **Lehia Harris** – Founder of Lehia's Promise
- **Skylar Howard** – UToledo Undergraduate
- **Alexander Raby** – Student, Horizon Science Academy
- **Bryson Foster** – UToledo CCP and Early College Student
- **Kylah Griffin** – Social Work Student, University of Toledo
- **Monita Mungo, PhD** – Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Toledo

The video also features remarks from Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Councilmember Brittany Jones, UT Interim President Schroeder, Chair of The Human Relations Commission Erin Baker and other community leaders.

The master of ceremonies for the event was Gerald Harris of 13ABC News. Performances were given by Friendship Baptist Church Choir, Ta-

hyah's Dance Studio and JP Dynasty.

The University of Toledo awarded seven 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarships to the following students:

- S'Mya Jones
- Jacob Moore
- Kierra Pope
- Addison Potkanowicz
- Makayla Roberts
- Syncere Scurles
- Walker Zulch

The public was invited to join local officials, neighbors, and friends for a special in-person viewing party of the virtual celebration at the Imagination Station. The event provided an opportunity for the community to come together, reflect on Dr. King's principles, and celebrate his legacy with others.

Partners of this year's MLK Day celebration included SAME CAFÉ, Grindhrs Coffee and Community, Cause and Effect Printing, Imagination Station, Toledo Museum of Art and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

The virtual celebration can be viewed on the City of Toledo Facebook page.

## Toledo Celebrates Black History Month With a Focus on the Historic Dorr Street Business District

This Black History Month, Toledo's African American community invites everyone to honor the profound cultural and historical significance of the Dorr Street Business District. Once a vibrant center of life and commerce, the district stands as a testament to the culture, the resilience of a community, and the limitless potential of those who live, work, and raised families in the surrounding neighborhoods.

In collaboration with the Toledo Plan Commission, The African American Legacy Project is dedicated to revitalizing the district by bridging neighborhoods, addressing the needs of historically underserved residents, and fostering partnerships with diverse stakeholders. The aim is to set the stage for innovative development and growth strategies that reflect the strength and unity of the community.

This year's celebration theme, "We are One," emphasizes the collective strength derived from shared experiences and the importance of embracing and uplifting one another.

"This is a unique opportunity for our city to work together and contribute to a transformational moment that will elevate our community and change lives," said Dr. LaRome Myrick, African American Legacy Project board member.

Throughout February, the African American Legacy Project, alongside current and former residents of the Dorr Street area, will host a series of events designed to highlight the district's legacy and lay the groundwork for future community engagement and development efforts.

The month-long celebration will include a "Kid's Visioning Session" and a "Small Business Forum" among other events.

For more information, please contact Robert Smith Director. Together, let's celebrate the rich history and vibrant future of the Dorr Street Business District.

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## Rep. Rogers Will Celebrate Black History Month with Local Difference Makers

*Special to The Truth*

State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr. invites you to join him in celebrating Black History Month. On February 16 at 4 p.m. at 2340 N. Holland Sylvania Rd. We will celebrate the resilience, determination, and highlight the achievements of Black people. There will be music, storytelling, and inspiration. Together, we will smile, reflect, encourage, and uplift each other as we work towards building a brighter future for our community and the world.

State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr. will recognize individuals who are

... continued on page 5



# Boyce Safford III: Leading Revitalization Efforts in Columbus and Beyond

By Robert Smith, AALP

Special to The Truth

Boyce Safford III, a veteran leader in urban development and community revitalization, currently serves as the Executive Director of the Columbus Next Generation Corporation (NexGen). This city-sponsored nonprofit is dedicated to identifying and synthesizing real estate development opportunities to attract private-sector investment in Columbus's older neighborhoods. NexGen's mission focuses on incentivizing developers to invest in revitalizing historically significant areas, transforming these communities into thriving hubs of activity and opportunity.



Boyce Safford

Safford's dedication to community development was on full display this past July, when he joined former Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman and Columbus civic leader Larry James in hosting a delegation of 50 Toledo community members. The group explored Columbus's successful urban renewal initiatives, including the transformation of the historic King-Lincoln Bronzeville District, once a vibrant African American cultural hub that had faced decades of neglect.

As host, Safford shared insights into the strategies that revitalized the neighborhood, turning a standard bus tour into an inspirational experience for the Toledo group. Through storytelling and shared experiences, he highlighted the parallels between King-Lincoln Bronzeville and Toledo's Dorr Street Business District, both of which were once thriving African American communities that experienced economic decline.

"Under Boyce's leadership, Columbus has become a national model for economic development," according to four-term former Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "His efforts have elevated our fight against vacant and abandoned housing while initiating transformative neighborhood revitalization projects."

### A Legacy of Transformative Leadership

Safford's career is defined by a commitment to fostering economic growth and community renewal. From 2007 to 2013, he served as director of the Department of Development for Columbus, overseeing city-wide development initiatives. His tenure with the city began in 2001, when he worked as deputy chief of staff to Mayor Coleman, advising on urban development and economic strategies.

One of his hallmark achievements is the revitalization of the King-Lincoln Bronzeville neighborhood, which was once the cultural and business heart of Columbus's Black community. The area boasted theaters, jazz clubs, hotels, and thriving businesses that attracted legendary entertainers like Count Basie and Ella Fitzgerald. Today, thanks to Safford's efforts, the district is experiencing a renaissance, blending its rich cultural history with new development.

### Bringing Expertise to Toledo

Safford's visit to Toledo is part of a month-long celebration of the historic Dorr Street community. The African American Legacy Project is working to build community coalitions to pursue opportunities for growth, inclusion and cultural expression. On **Monday, February 3, 2025, at 5:30 PM**, Safford will bring his wealth of experience to Toledo, speaking at **Warren A.M.E. Church**

**915 Collingwood Blvd.** His visit provides an opportunity for Toledo leaders and residents to learn from his success in Columbus and explore how similar strategies might be applied to revitalize Toledo's own historic neighborhoods.

### A Distinguished Career

Safford's expertise extends beyond city government. He previously served as Vice President of Land Acquisition and Planning for the Columbus Urban Growth Corporation, managing over \$100 million in urban growth projects. His role included land assemblage, strategic planning, and coordinating public-private partnerships. Additionally, as Vice President of Government and Media Relations for Bank One in Cleveland, he advanced the bank's legislative agenda across multiple counties.



Larry James, Michael Coleman, Boyce Safford

A graduate of Morehouse College with a degree in Business Administration and a major in Finance, Safford combines financial acumen with a deep understanding of urban planning. His leadership continues to inspire communities to invest in their futures, ensuring that historically significant neighborhoods remain vibrant and sustainable.

For more information about Safford's visit call The African American Legacy Project at 419-720-4369. To learn more about Mr. Boyce Safford and the Columbus Next Generation Corporation visit: [www.columbusnextgeneration.org](http://www.columbusnextgeneration.org).

### Rep Rogers... continued from page 4

making a difference in our community.

There is no cost to attend this event. All are welcome but seating is limited. Please RSVP by February 7, 2025. You may RSVP by emailing [rep42@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep42@ohiohouse.gov) or by calling Johnny Hutton at 419-215-7606. The event will start at **4 p.m.** – come and enjoy.

### Difference Makers

- Wendi Huntley Connecting Kids to Meals
- Robert Smith The African American Legacy Project
- Sheila Howard The Toledo Blade
- Dr. Clarence Smith The Clarence Smith Community Choir
- Kwinlyn Tyler Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
- Harvey Savage, Jr. Martin Luther King Kitchen for the poor
- Dr. Marvin Whitfield Big Brothers and Big Sisters
- Leroy & JoRay Bates Educators, Legends Early Bird Basketball Camp
- Dr. Dione Sommerville President Owens Community College
- Chanell Phenix President Toledo Alliance of Black School Educators
- Michael T. Johnson II Lead Educator, Barber Training, Scott High School

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# Black History Month Programs at the Toledo Library

Visit the Toledo Library website to view the full event calendar, register for programs when required, and to find location details. Please note, programs are subject to change.

## ART, CRAFTS AND HOBBIES

Make a Benjamin Banneker Clock

(M) Feb. 3 | 3 - 4 p.m. | Mott

(M) Feb. 3 | 3:30 - 4 p.m. | Washington

(Sa) Feb. 8 | 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. | Sylvania

(Tu) Feb. 11 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. | Toledo Heights

(Th) Feb. 13 | 4 - 5 p.m. | Lagrange (F) Feb. 14 | 11 a.m. - noon | South

(W) Feb. 19 | 4 - 5 p.m. | Birmingham

(Sa) Feb. 22 | 2 - 3 p.m. | Main Library

(Tu) Feb. 25 | 3 - 4 p.m. | Locke

(W) Feb. 26 | 4 - 5 p.m. | West Toledo

It's time to celebrate Benjamin Banneker, an African American who invented a wooden clock that struck on the hour at age 21! Learn more and make your own working clock from simple parts and cardboard.

## BOOK GROUPS

Sanger Teens Book Group - Brooms by Jasmine Walls

(Sa) Feb. 1 | 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. | Sanger A read and complete at your own pace program that features a different book title each month chosen specifically for 9-12 grade level readers.

Steinem Sisters Collection Book Club - God Help the Child by Toni Morrison

(M) Feb. 3 | 7 - 8 p.m. | Sanger A discussion group dedicated to feminist reading from the Library's Steinem Sisters Collection.

Horror Book Club - Lone Women by Victor Lavalle

(W) Feb. 12 | 7 - 8 p.m. | Online program From eerie classics to pulse-pounding new releases, embrace the thrill of chilling tales with fellow read-

ers of all things macabre. Advanced registration required.

Online Wellness Book Club - How to Live Free in a Dangerous World by Shayla Lawson

(W) Feb. 12 | 7 - 8 p.m. | Online program Join the Toledo Library's Online Wellness Book Club for a virtual book discussion devoted to self-discovery and fulfillment. Advanced registration required.

Heatherdowns Book Club - The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

(Th) Feb. 13 | 2 - 3 p.m. | Heatherdowns Join the Toledo Library's Heatherdowns Book Club for a lively and enlightening discussion of a book. Copies of the book will be available at the branch one month prior to the discussion. New members are always welcome.

Birmingham Book Club - Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

(Tu) Feb. 18 | 2 - 3 p.m. | Birmingham Good conversation, friendly faces and great books - that's what book club is all about. We're looking forward to seeing you at our lively and engaging book discussion.

West Toledo Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club - Peaces by Helen Oyeyemi

(Tu) Feb. 18 | 7 - 8 p.m. | West Toledo Good conversation, friendly faces and great books - that's what book group is all about. We're looking forward to seeing you at our lively and engaging book discussion.

Comic Book Club - Power Man and Iron Fist Vol. 1 by David F. Walker

(Th) Feb. 20 | 7 - 8 p.m. | Online program Do you love comics and graphic novels (or looking to get into them)? Join the Toledo Library's Comic Book Club as we discuss some of the most thought-provoking and artistically striking comics from across a variety of genres. Advanced registration required.

Homeschooling Teen Book Club - Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

(W) Feb. 26 | 2 - 3 p.m. | Waterville Good conversation, friendly faces, and great books-that's what book group is all about. We're looking forward to seeing you at our lively and engaging book discussion.

## COOKING, FOOD AND GARDENING

A Folk Medicine Perspective to Black History Month with Urban Wholistics (Tu) Feb. 4 | 6 - 7 p.m. | Birmingham (Sa) Feb. 8 | 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. | West Toledo (Th) Feb. 20 | 6 - 7 p.m. | Kent Join Urban Wholistics during Black History Month for an informative talk focusing on medicinal herbs and how to use them. Experience herbal tea and take a recipe to create at home. Advanced registration required.

A Journey Through Chocolate and Black History with Lovable Sweets and Fine Chocolates

(Th) Feb. 6 | 4 - 5:30 p.m. | Mott (M) Feb. 10 | 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Heatherdowns An exploration of chocolate through the lens of Black history. Sample chocolates with a recipe to take home. Advanced registration required.

Spice Mastery Workshop: Celebrate Black History Month with Jikoni Toledo (Tu) Feb. 11 | 6 - 8 p.m. | Toledo Heights (Th) Feb. 27 | 6 - 8 p.m. | Reynolds Corners

Embark on a flavorful journey in the Spice Mastery Workshop, a Black History Month program, where you'll delve into the fascinating world of homemade spice blends. Advanced registration required.

## GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Black History Month For Kids

(Sa) Feb. 22 | 2 - 3 p.m. | Main Library Celebrate Black History month with games, activities, and crafts that teach us about different famous Black Americans throughout history.

## PERFORMANCES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Art Tatum: The Musical

Presented By Glass City Reflections

(Sa) Feb. 1 | 3 - 4:30 p.m. | Kent This one-act musical features 11 original songs celebrating the life of Art Tatum, the world-renowned jazz pianist who was born and got his start in Toledo.

African Immigrants and the American Experience

A lecture and conversation with Dr. Kefa Otiso

(Th) Feb. 13 | 5 - 6 p.m. | Main Library As part of the celebration for Black History Month, learn more about African immigrants in the United States.



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# We Shall Overcome

By June Boyd  
Guest Column

Black History month is upon us, and it will no doubt be the most important period of 2025. Our new president – I will refer to him as “47”- has recently dismantled our civil rights, our voting rights, our freedom and attempted to take our dignity.

If you recall, on July 13, 2024, an assassination attempt on 47 resulted in his raising a fist shouting “fight, fight and fight.” That will be our anthem in rebuking the blatant racist and discriminatory action taken a few days ago following his inaugural.



Lyndon B. Johnson, a president for all the people, recognized the need for a civil rights bill which he signed into law on July 2, 1964, followed by the Voting rights legislation signed May 26, 1965. Imagine, that was 60 years ago, and we must never forget and fight, fight and fight, and do whatever it takes to restore our freedom

It is time to come together, bond as a race of people in need of a power that will reverse the activity and damage done, renew our strength and send a message we will not go back.

The foregoing will be done by revisiting the struggle our ancestors en-

dured, stop killing each other, boycott, march with a non-violent theme, register, vote and let our voices be heard. Take nothing for granted anymore; we are in the fight of our lives and for our future generations.

I will always doubt the validity of the 2024 election and that is my right. However, with the richest man in the world, a former South African apartheid citizen Elon Musk, entering our political arena and contributing millions and millions of dollars in assisting Republicans, money talks.

It is the misinformation and blatant lying on social media that is so disturbing. My opinion is he may be the richest man in the world, however, this is God's world, not his and, believe me, God is in charge.

The power we have as African Americans must be exhibited through strength, education, unity, self esteem and all seven principles of Kwanzaa which are unity, self determination, collective work, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

We must begin to live same every day and celebrate our rich history and the legacy we have from the likes of Martin Luther King, John Lewis, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Sojourner Truth and hundreds of civil rights leaders before us.

WE SHALL OVERCOME and never forget.

## SC State to Commemorate 57th Anniversary of Orangeburg Massacre on Saturday, Feb. 8

South Carolina State University will commemorate the 57th anniversary of the Orangeburg Massacre on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Martin Luther King Auditorium on campus.

Columbia, South Carolina, businessman and SC State alumnus Dr. Willis C. Ham will be the keynote speaker.

Following the ceremony, a brief remembrance will be conducted at the Smith-Hammond-Middleton Legacy Plaza on campus.

About the Orangeburg Massacre

On the night of Feb. 8, 1968, Henry Smith, Samuel Hammond and Delano Middleton were killed when police opened fire on some 200 unarmed Black students who were demonstrating in the name of integrating a local bowling alley. Another 28 protestors were wounded. Smith and Hammond were both enrolled at SC State, and Middleton was a 17-year-old student at Wilkinson High School in Orangeburg.

Each year on Feb. 8, the university honors Smith, Hammond and Middleton, their families and the survivors of what has become known as the Orangeburg Massacre.

At the 2022 commemoration, the university dedicated a new monument enshrined with bronze likenesses of the three men as an additional aspect of the Smith Hammond Middleton Legacy Plaza. The busts were sculpted by internationally known artist Dr. Tolulope Filani, chair of the SC State Department of Visual and Performing Arts.



The university's convocation center/basketball arena also is named for Smith, Hammond and Middleton.

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# My Trip to The Philippines – Part 1

By Karl A. Parker  
Guest Column

I do not have many heroes outside of my father and older brother. However, Muhammad Ali is one of them. Since my father was a super boxing fan, I had the opportunity to watch many Ali fights on close circuit TV and once in person in Cleveland, when he stopped Chuck Wepner on March 24, 1975.

The Rumble in the Jungle when Ali knocked out George Foreman is my favorite fight. A close second is Ali's rubber match against Joe Frazier in the Thrilla in Manila!!! I watched that fight at the Toledo Sports Arena with my father, oldest brother, and other friends. It was a grueling special fight that I will never forget.

I was so happy when Frazier finally quit after the 14th round giving Ali the win!! The build up to the fight was outstanding. The overview of the venue and the host country piqued my curiosity of what it would be like to visit the Philippines one day to see where the fight occurred.

Additionally, for those who are baby boomers there were so many

... continued on page 11



The Chaos Basketball team



Karl and daughter Tanisha in Hawaii



Part of the Manila skyline



Manila at Christmastime





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# Discover Fayetteville, Georgia: A Must-Visit Destination Near Atlanta

By Shana Lee  
The Truth Travel Reporter

If you're planning a trip to Atlanta, Georgia, consider venturing just 25 minutes south to the vibrant city of Fayetteville. This charming destination offers a mix of small-town warmth and modern innovation, making it the perfect getaway for travelers seeking something unique. Fayetteville is home to the Trilith community, a thoughtfully designed district that blends creativity, sustainability, and culture into one extraordinary experience.

## Explore Trilith Towne

At the heart of Fayetteville lies Trilith Towne, a dynamic development that's become a hub for foodies, art lovers and travelers alike. Originally designed to support creatives working at nearby Trilith Studios (home to blockbusters like Avengers: Endgame), this walkable community offers a blend of boutique shops, artistic spaces and culinary gems.

## A Culinary Adventure

Trilith Towne is a paradise for food lovers, boasting a variety of unique dining experiences. Start your day at Woodstone Bakery & Café, where freshly baked pastries and gourmet coffee set the tone for a perfect morning. Their selection of artisan breads and sweet treats makes this spot a local favorite.

For a lively lunch or dinner, head to CT Cantina & Taqueria, where bold flavors and vibrant décor come together. From street tacos to fresh guacamole, the menu offers authentic Mexican dishes with a modern twist. Pair your meal with a signature margarita or craft cocktail for the full experience.

If you're in the mood for Southern comfort food, Thumbs Up Café is a must-visit. Known for its hearty breakfasts and warm hospitality, this local gem serves dishes like catfish and grits that will keep you coming back for more.

Sweet tooth? Stop by Honeysuckle Gelato for a scoop of creamy, Southern-inspired gelato. Flavors like honey lavender and bourbon pecan are crafted with care, making this a dessert destination you won't want to miss.

## Black-Owned Excellence

Fayetteville proudly highlights Black-owned businesses that contribute to its unique character. Nourish + Bloom Market, the first Black-owned autonomous grocery store in the U.S., offers fresh, healthy food options with a cutting-edge shopping experience. This innovative market is a must-visit for its inspiring story and commitment to the community.

## Stay in Style at Trilith Guesthouse

Located in the heart of the Trilith community, the Trilith Guesthouse offers boutique accommodations with modern design and luxurious amenities. This stylish retreat is the perfect home base for exploring Fayetteville's many attractions.

## Unique Experiences and Attractions

Fayetteville isn't just about great food and accommodations—it's also rich in entertainment and natural beauty. The Trilith Green, a central park within the community, hosts outdoor movie nights, live performances, and seasonal events. Art enthusiasts will enjoy the public art installations and murals scattered throughout Trilith Towne.

For history buffs, the Fayetteville Historic District provides a glimpse into the city's past with charming 19th-century architecture. Outdoor enthusiasts can relax at Lake McIntosh Park, a peaceful spot for fishing, kayaking, or simply enjoying the scenery.

## A Hidden Gem Worth Visiting

Fayetteville, Georgia, is a destination that combines modern innovation with Southern hospitality, offering something for everyone. Whether you're indulging in a fresh pastry at Woodstone Bakery, savoring tacos at CT Cantina, or enjoying the creative energy of Trilith Towne, Fayetteville promises an unforgettable experience.

Next time you're planning a trip to Atlanta, set aside time to discover this hidden gem—you won't be disappointed.



Shana Lee



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# Real ID Deadline is May 17, 2025

By Ricky Tyus

The Truth's Travel Consultant

A Real ID seal on all state-issued identification documents will soon be a must, especially if you plan on traveling this upcoming summer and beyond. And it's not too early to head over to your state's driver's licensing agency to get your documents in order.

Passed by Congress in 2005, the Real ID Act set stricter standards for identifying recipients of identification, such as driver's licenses, and requires that travelers on airlines in the U.S. show ID that is compliant with the new regulations. States have been upgrading their systems to meet the new requirements over the years — but now the final deadline, May 7, 2025, is within the booking window of many travelers.

Ohio is compliant with the REAL ID Act. Federal agencies can accept driver's licenses and identification cards from Ohio for travel or for Federal facilities and nuclear power plants.

You do not need a driver's license to clear airport security. Passports, military IDs and Global Entry cards, for example, are perfectly acceptable. But be prepared for long waits when applying for the Real-Id Complaint driver's license. If you already have a Passport, military Id or Global Entry card you can apply for a non-complaint driver license instead.

Travelers under the age of 18 do not require identification, as they will be covered by the ID of the adults with whom they travel.

Getting a Real ID-compliant driver's license requires showing a birth certificate or passport, so the name on some licenses might change. For travel, that means taking a moment to ensure that travelers' licenses, passports and airline reservations all have the exact same name.

The requirement was originally set to take effect in 2020 but was pushed back until May 2025 over "backlogged transactions" at Motor Vehicle Division offices nationwide amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The mountains of paperwork, according to the department, impacted agencies' ability to make any real progress on the Real ID rollout. But this time, the deadline is really real.

That means federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Ad-

... continued on page 13



# My Travels in South Africa

By Stephanie Boutte

Guest Column

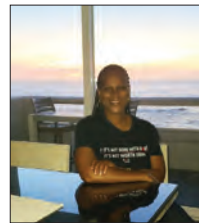
Princes and princess do exist and I met a few recently. I just returned from South Africa where I was treated like royalty by actual royalty. My objective was to finalize projects and proposals from leaders who are reimagining their economic development strategies.

Little did I know that by answering their call for assistance, I would receive much more than an approved contract in return. I received a Welcome Home Party instead! Everyone who heard my American accent told me, "welcome home."

Upon arriving in South Africa, I was humbled by the warm welcome and hospitality I experienced, unlike anything I had ever encountered. His Royal Heritage, Zolani Mkiva, a former member of Parliament in the Republic of South Africa and known as President Nelson Mandela's Poet Laureate and Cultural Advisor - often referred to as "The Poet of Africa," hosted our trip and organized a welcome party.



Johnny Muteba, CEO and founder of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce; His Royal Heritage Zolani Mkiva, poet laureate to Nelson Mandel, the Poet of Africa and president and director general of the Institute of African Royalty; Dr. Byron E. Price, strategic diplomatic officer, African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region High Council



Stephanie Boutte

For the last three years, I've worked with prominent individuals across Africa to help with workforce development, targeting youth. Senegal was the first stop, followed by

... continued on page 13



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# The Black History of the Kentucky Derby

By Ricky Tyus

The Truth's Travel Consultant

The Kentucky Derby, an iconic American sporting event steeped in tradition, boasts a rich and complex history that is often overshadowed by its modern-day glamour. A significant, yet frequently overlooked, aspect of this history is the substantial role played by Black jockeys in the early years of the race.

From the first Derby in 1875 until the early 1900s, Black jockeys and horsemen were dominant figures in thoroughbred racing. Fifteen of the first 28 Derby winners were ridden by Black jockeys who were among the highest-paid athletes of the day. Of the 15 jockeys who thundered across the finish line in the first Kentucky Derby in 1875, 13 were Black.



Willie Simms was an American National Champion jockey in Thoroughbred racing and a U.S. Racing Hall of Fame inductee who won five of the races that would become the U.S. Triple Crown series.

Murphy rode in 11 Kentucky Derbies, winning three times: on Buchanan in 1884, Riley in 1890 and Kingman in 1891.

Kingman was owned by Jacobin Stables (co-owners, Preston Kinzea Stone and Dudley Allen) and trained by Dudley Allen, and was the first horse co-owned by an African American to win the Derby. Murphy is the only jockey to have won the Kentucky Derby, the Kentucky Oaks, and the Clark Handicap in the same year (1884).

**Jimmy Winkfield was a Thoroughbred jockey and horse trainer from Kentucky, best remembered as the last African American to ride a winner in the Kentucky Derby (1902).**

Jimmy Winkfield in 1900 rode Thrive in the Kentucky Derby, finishing third. He rode in the race again in 1901 and 1902, winning on His Eminence and Alan-a-Dale respectively. In 1901, he won 220 races. He competed in his final Derby in 1903, finishing second on Early.



Winkfield later was blackballed in the US, but he was offered a chance to race in Russia, where he quickly rose to fame. He won the Russian Oaks five times, the Russian Derby four times, the Czar's Prize on three occasions, and the Warsaw Derby twice. The Russian Revolution caused him to leave the country in 1917, and he moved to France where he resumed racing, scoring numerous wins including the Prix du Président de la République, Grand Prix de Deauville, and Prix Eugène Adam. He retired as a jockey at age 50 having won more than 2,500 races, then began a second successful career as a horse trainer.

While he was treated with respect in Europe, segregation still ruled American society. When Sports Illustrated invited Winkfield to a reception at the Brown Hotel in Louisville in 1961, he was told he could not enter by the front door. He was admitted after the magazine explained that he was an invited guest. Winkfield made an appearance at the Kentucky Derby that year to celebrate 60 years since his historic victories. In 2004, he was inducted posthumously into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. The Jimmy Winkfield Stakes at Aqueduct Racetrack is run in his honor.

Black jockeys were pushed out of the sport by the early 20th century, despite their initial success.

An Anti-Colored Union was in place, intending to run the black riders off the racetrack. The key push to exclude Black jockeys came when White jockeys began violently attacking their African American counterparts by boxing them out during races, running them into the rail, and hitting them with riding crops. These attacks prevented Black jockeys from finishing in the money and endangered fragile and valuable racehorses.

Owners tacitly participated in the expulsion of African American jockeys as a business decision. Why employ a Black jockey if White jockeys would use violence to prevent them from finishing in the money, and risk damaging a valuable horse in the process?

**The late Arthur Ashe, writing in his A Hard Road to Glory:**

A History of the African-American Athlete, described their success this way: "Black domination of horse racing then was analogous to the domina-

... continued on page 11

**One notable figure is Oliver Lewis, who won the first Kentucky Derby in 1875 riding Aristides.**



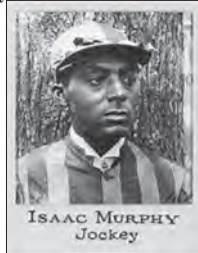
Oliver Lewis, winning jockey of the first Kentucky Derby

son for unknown reasons.

**Another prominent jockey was Isaac Murphy, who won the Derby three times in the late 1800s.**

Isaac Burns Murphy was an American Hall of Fame jockey, considered one of the greatest riders in American Thoroughbred horse racing history. He won three runnings of the Kentucky Derby and was the first jockey to be inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame at its creation in 1955.

Murphy began his racing career riding for Williams and Owings stables in 1875 at the age of 14. What followed was one of the most illustrious careers in the history of the sport, during which Murphy became one of the highest paid athletes and among the most famous black men in America.



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**Kentucky Derby... continued from page 10**

tion of the National Basketball Association today.”

**“The Jockey Club was formed in the early 1890s to regulate and license all jockeys,” Ashe wrote. “Then one by one the blacks were denied their license renewals. By 1911, they had all but disappeared.”**

The Jockey Club today has 128 members. None are Black.

This sport -- and the Kentucky Derby in particular -- is about as textbook an example as you can find of a thriving group of Black professionals being driven out of a lucrative enterprise by petty racism that became systemic. It offers a clear view of the historical effects of that banishment and demonstrates how those effects are still being felt -- acutely -- a century later.

Ashe called it the “saddest case” of discrimination in American sport.

**There are several initiatives and efforts underway to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of Black trailblazers in horse racing:**

**Kentucky Derby Museum:** The museum has expanded its “Black Heritage in Racing” exhibit, which highlights the achievements of Black jockeys, trainers, and horsemen. This exhibit includes artifacts, artwork, and oral histories that showcase the impact of Black individuals in Thoroughbred racing.

**Ed Brown Society:** Founded by Greg Harbut and Raymond Daniels, this organization provides internships and scholarships for underrepresented young people of color. The goal is to give them opportunities to pursue careers in Kentucky’s equine industry.

**Legacy Equine Academy:** This educational program, founded by Ron Mack, offers middle- and high-school students in the Lexington area

hands-on experience with horses. The program also connects participants to their heritage through tours of the International Museum of the Horse and other historical sites.

**Diversity Derby Week:** Organized by Tawana Bain, this initiative aims to boost diversity and economic inclusion in horse racing. The event includes activities that highlight the contributions of Black jockeys and horsemen and works to increase the participation of Black businesses in the economic opportunities surrounding the Derby.

**The Heart of the Turf:** Racing’s Black Pioneers: A temporary exhibit at Keeneland Library that features many unsung heroes, including Sylvia Bishop, the first African American woman licensed to train horses in the US.

These efforts are helping to ensure that the rich history of Black horsemen and their contributions to the sport are recognized and celebrated.

The story of Black jockeys in the Kentucky Derby is a poignant reminder of the enduring struggle for racial equality in America. It is a story of triumph over adversity, of talent and skill overcoming prejudice, and of a legacy that refuses to be forgotten. As we celebrate the Kentucky Derby each year, we must remember and honor the Black jockeys who played such a pivotal role in shaping the race’s history. Their story is not merely a footnote; it is an integral part of the rich tapestry of the Kentucky Derby, and their contributions deserve to be recognized and celebrated.

“This moment in Black history is brought to you by Tyus Tours, specializing in private jet and luggage-free travel. Ready for an unforgettable experience? Book your Kentucky Derby package today! Call 866-547-5362 or visit [www.tyustours.com](http://www.tyustours.com) | [travel@tyustours.com](mailto:travel@tyustours.com)

**My Trip to The Philippines.. continued from page 8**

news stories in mid-seventies and early eighties regarding President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda Marcos. The media bombarded the world with how many shoes Imelda purchased.

Up to that point I had yet to meet anyone from the Philippines. However, one day in the fall of 1984, while I was president of the Black Student Union at the University of Toledo, I met two beautiful Filipina twin sisters Teresa and Isabell Yuzon in the Black Student Union office.

They had recently moved to Lorain with their parents from the Philippines. I was introduced to them by one of their friends as the BSU president. I will never forget hearing Teresa say to her sister El Presidente while pointing to me.

Eventually, we had an opportunity to connect outside of the BSU office where they provided me with a broader overview of their home country which included the unfortunate political turmoil that existed during that time.

We did not develop a profound friendship and as life evolved, we went our separate ways. However, meeting them once again piqued my interest in one day visiting Manila.

Ironically, I did not have regular interaction with another person from the Philippines until 2005 when my immediate supervisor at GE Military Systems was a descendant of the Philippines and US Military officer. We worked together for about 14 months until I moved on from GE in 2007. Once again, my interest to visit the Philippines was enhanced.

My desire to visit the Philippines became more profound when I lived in Saudi Arabia from 2014 to 2024! While there I had an opportunity to meet and interact with a multitude of Filipinos.

Saudi Arabi has a large population of OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers) which include nurses, engineers, nannies, house cleaners, bus drivers, waiters, massage therapists, secretaries, finance and human resources analyst, strategy professionals, cooks, etc.

I developed a remarkably close bond with the Filipinos that I played basketball with, especially Ritchie Pragle. We played on different teams during the 2015 summer basketball league. He played for a team called the Dragons and my team was Helter Skelter. Ritchie suggested that we merge our team to win championships, we did and formed Controlled Chaos!!

If you did not know, basketball is the #1 sport in the Philippines. From 2014 to 2015 I played basketball weekly with so many Filipinos and learned so much about the culture, language (Tagalog, Bisaya), food (Jollibee, Adobo, Pancit) etc.

There are so many stories regarding what I learned that would need to be shared in another article or podcast. At any rate, my desire to visit the Philippines continued to grow. Unfortunately, I did not have an opportunity to visit the Philippines while working in KSA. However, once I retired from Saudi Aramco 7/31/2024 I made visiting the Philippines a number one priority.

Upon my return to the USA in August 2024, I accepted a job to teach as adjunct professor at Owens Community College. Initially, I was scheduled to teach an eight-week course that would have concluded the second week in October and thus I had tentatively planned to travel to the Philippines at the end of October.

However, the department chair asked me to teach two - 16-week courses that would end on December 6, 2024. Therefore, I changed my plan to travel to the Philippines from the end of October to December 8, 2024. I was finally going to travel to Manila to experience the culture and more importantly have a chance to visit where the Thrilla in Manila was held. I was so happy and fired up!

I was excited. Ritchie provided suggestions on where to stay. Other Filipino friends provided me an overview of the things and places that I should see as well. I was all set to roll out! Then a super bucket list surprise emerged.

My daughter Tanisha Parker, a national trainer for mental health and wellness was selected to travel to Hawaii to certify regional trainers from December 8 to December 12, 2024. She decided to bless me and take me to Hawaii with her!! Therefore, my plan to visit the Philippines shifted again! Thus, I enjoyed several days in Hawaii with my beautiful daughter at Waikiki Beach.

Then I booked a ticket on Philippines Airlines from Hawaii to Manila! It was an 11-hour flight. For some reason, I thought it would be shorter. At any rate, I was presented with a surprise at the airport in Hawaii that I thought would derail my trip.

I will continue the story about my journey to the Philippines in Part 2.

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# Imagination Station Temporarily Closed

Imagination Station is temporarily closed as repairs are made to restore service following a water line break on Wednesday, January 22. City of Toledo crews were promptly notified and shut off the water to prevent further damage.

The city discovered a leak in the private water line, and as the property owner, the city will need to install a new water line to the building.

Thanks to the swift and diligent response of the Imagination Station team, damage to the facility and interactive exhibits was minimal. Imagination Station will remain closed while repairs are completed.

The science center's outreach programs will continue as scheduled, ensuring the community can still engage with exciting educational experiences.

Updates on the progress of repairs and the reopening date will be shared on Imagination Station's website and social media channels. Imagination Station members will receive communication regarding events.

"We appreciate the quick action by City crews and our team in addressing this unexpected issue," said Chief Executive Officer, Lori Hauser. "Our top priority is ensuring the safety of our visitors and the integrity of our exhibits. We look forward to welcoming everyone back soon and sharing our new exhibition, HOCKEY: Faster than Ever."

For further updates, along with at-home activities and videos, please visit [imaginationstationtoledo.org](http://imaginationstationtoledo.org) or follow Imagination Station on social media.

# Ode to the ZIP Code Poetry Contest Call for Entries

*Your ZIP Code matters. It's not just an address, it's an identity.*

It is time to send us poems inspired by your ZIP Code. Entries are currently being accepted for the tenth annual Ode to the ZIP Code poetry contest, a partnership of The Fair Housing Center, The Arts Commission, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Toledo City Paper, and Toledo Area Parent. This free poetry contest invites local residents to submit short poems inspired by their ZIP Code, where the number of words in each line of the poem is determined by the corresponding digit of their ZIP Code. All ages and neighborhoods are welcome.

Entries will be accepted January 27, 2025, through February 24, 2025, at <https://toledocitypaper.com/the-city/ode-to-the-zip-code-2025>. <<https://toledocitypaper.com/the-city/ode-to-the-zip-code-2025>>

Poems must be five lines each, with the number of words in each line

determined by the corresponding digit in your zip code.

Participants can contact their Library for help completing the online form.

Winners selected from youth (11 and under), young adult (12-17), and adult (18 and older) categories will be awarded CASH PRIZES.

Top poems will also be published in Toledo City Paper. All entries will be judged, and finalists will be featured in a special event in April.

April is both National Poetry Month and Fair Housing Month. The Ode to the ZIP Code event is a fun and creative way to engage the community in talking about how our life experiences are shaped by where we live. Inspiration for the contest came from the O, Miami Poetry Festival and WLRN-Miami Herald News, the originators of the "zip ode" concept.

# Rep. White Announces New House Committee Assignments for 136th General Assembly

State Rep. Erika White (D-Springfield Twp.) this week announced that she has been assigned to the following House Committees for the 136th General Assembly:

- House Financial Institutions Committee
- House Commerce and Labor Committee
- House Public Insurance and Pensions
- Technology and Innovation



"Hard work met with good opportunities helps our economy grow and strengthens our communities. I am committed to ensuring every Ohioan achieves economic stability while also protecting their hard-earned savings for a secure retirement. The future starts now!" said Rep. White.

Rep. White has committed to using her committee assignments to continue to ensure all Ohioans—no matter their race, gender, or economic status—have the freedom to be who they are and are provided with the dignity of a safe community and secure job, and the opportunity to thrive.

## Youth Conference... continued from page 16

acceptance and awareness of her ability and talent to achieve amidst social and economic inequalities. "Now I get to enjoy who I am and live authentically" said Guerrero.

Following Diane Guerrero's address, Rhonda Sewell, the Toledo Museum of Art's director of Advocacy and External Affairs, led a discussion with Jason Reynolds, a number one New York Times bestselling author.

Reynolds award-winning written work includes, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* (with Ibram X. Kendi), *All American Boys* (with Brendan Kiely); and *Long Way Down*. Most notably Reynolds authored two books of the MARVEL comic book series: *Miles Morales-Spiderman*. Reynolds proposed that attendees not limit their ideas of achievement based upon systematic merit.

"If any of you happen to not be 4.5 students, you can be excellent too," said Reynolds reminding the attendees that there are measurements of success based upon character and ethics.

The former members of Toledo Excel, along with Director David Young, closed out the ceremony with final remarks. The conference in fellowship ended so that attendees were allowed to meet the star-studded guest of the session.

The African American Legacy Project cordially invites you to join us 4:45 pm, Monday, February 3, 2025 to welcome

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# In Open Contempt: Confronting White Supremacy in Art and Public Space by Irvin Weathersby Jr.

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

The issue appears to be permanent. It's been happening for a long time. It doesn't look like it'll stop any time soon, either, and though you've been able to work around it, you shouldn't have to. Some say it might be better some day but you're not holding your breath. As in the new book, *In Open Contempt* by Irvin Weathersby Jr., some things are too set in stone.

Cemeteries are filled with them. So are parks, campuses, galleries, museums and courtyards where, for centuries, humans have left their carved and constructed monuments and artwork celebrating and commemorating our heroes. Those works may be so familiar, in fact, that you might barely notice them, although many of the monuments have lauded white supremacists.

Says Weathersby, while some works have been removed in the recent past, many still stand, quietly, unobtrusively.

In his hometown of New Orleans, for instance, there was great controversy over the removal of statues honoring Civil War figures. The Ninth Ward street that Weathersby lived on as a child honored a slaveholder. Schools he attended nearby were named after men who established racist laws and ways of life.

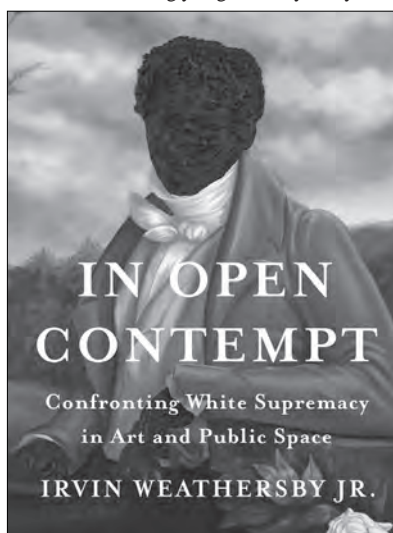
He didn't know to question those things when he was a child, or even as a young man. When he enrolled at Morehouse, an HBCU, though, he "began... unlearning...white supremacist culture." Stories from his great-grandmother helped him see white supremacy clearer.

He found it in South Dakota, at Mt. Rushmore and at Wounded Knee, and he saw its effects at an Indigenous Writer's Festival where he learned of the Dakota 38.

He sees it in art everywhere. He saw it once, when he was jailed overnight for a bike ticket he'd already dealt with. White supremacy is there when he thinks about the innocent people killed by police, and he thinks about how close he came to being a policeman himself.

"Look," he says, "white supremacy everywhere." And, he says, if we have the courage to actually see it, to look hard and clear at it, "there exists a chance to heal and become empowered."

You know how you can stare and stare at something, only to suddenly realize that there's something about it that's surprising, even shocking, right in front of you? That's the sense you'll get as you read *In Open Contempt*, that smack-your-forehead, duh feeling you get when your eyes are opened wide.



c. 2025  
Viking  
\$30.00  
256 pages



*In Open Contempt*  
author, courtesy  
Boris Brenman 2024

And yet, like many of the things he discovered and points out, author Irvin Weathersby Jr. keeps a quiet presence in his book. His words are soft, but urgent. Gentle, but insistent. Firm, but prodding, leading, like having a presence sitting on your shoulder, whispering in your ear and urging you to see, to notice, demanding that you tell others, too.

Readers who drive or walk past a monument to a historical figure every day will surely be spurred to regard it with fresh new eyes, after reading this book. You may never view artwork quite the same, either, because what you'll learn inside *In Open Contempt* is monumental.

*Real ID... continued from page 9*

ministration, will not accept driver's licenses and state-issued identification cards that are not Real ID-compliant.

The last thing you want is to show up at the airport and not be allowed to board your flight.

When do you need a Real ID to fly?

May 7, 2025.

Any individual over the age of 18 who does not have another TSA-approved form of identification to fly domestically must have a Real ID compliant identification card, or driver's license by the enforcement date. If you already have another form of TSA-approved form of identification like a passport, then you probably do not need a Real ID.

What are the alternatives to a Real ID?

TSA-approved alternatives include:

- U.S. passport
  - U.S. passport card
  - DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
  - U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents
  - Border crossing card
  - An acceptable photo ID issued by a federally recognized Tribal Nation/ Indian Tribe
  - HSPD-12 PIV card
  - Foreign government-issued passport
  - Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card
  - Transportation worker identification credential
  - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
  - U.S. Merchant Mariner Credential
  - Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Written by Ricky Tyus  
Tyus Tours & Travel,  
866-547-5362, Travel@tyustours.com, www.tyustours.com

*South Africa... continued from page 9*

Zimbabwe and South Africa. After our feasibility study, we decided to focus on South Africa to start the workforce development project.

After I presented our strategy to combat youth unemployment to HRH Mkiva, he awarded me a fellowship with the Institute of African Royalty (IAR). As president and director general of the IAR, HRH Mkiva is recognized as a leader across the continent's five regions and serves as the official representative for traditional leaders in the African Union and the Pan-African Parliament.

Africa has the world's youngest and fastest-growing population, with 60 percent of its population under 25, and it has the highest unemployment rate among its youth. Through the IAR Fellowship, HRH Mkiva has enlisted me to develop a comprehensive workforce development plan for the five continental regions.

During my visit, I felt as if I were in Wakanda. The love, hospitality and diversity of languages were truly remarkable. The trip lasted an entire month, starting in Cape Town for the first 10 days. Those first days were breathtaking, as our accommodations were located directly on the Atlantic Ocean.

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3-5 Days Deluxe Motorcoach Tours 2025  
Includes, Round-Trip Transportation, Lodging, Meals, Excursions  
Deposit \$75 per person

<b>Mackinac Island:</b>	May 12-16, 5 days 4 nights, \$750*
<b>The Ark Encounter:</b>	June 10-12, 3 days, 4 nights, \$479*
<b>Chicago:</b>	August 4-8, 5 days, 4 nights, \$729*
<b>Niagara Falls USA:</b>	September 1-5, 5 days, 4 nights, \$750*
<b>New York City:</b>	October 24-28, 5 days, 4 nights, \$899*

\*per person, double occupancy  
For more pictures, video, and information visit [www.GroupTrips.com/tyustours](http://www.GroupTrips.com/tyustours)



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# MINORITY WAY

CORNER OF BANCROFT & FRANKLIN



## optigo

By Twix 'N' Between

Kristin Moncrief, the owner of Optigo by Twix 'N' Between, has opened a new shop in the Minority Way Plaza (corner of Bancroft and Franklin) in order to provide vision care in a setting anyone can find at any time of the day or week.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call or text 419-754-0278 or visit [twixnbetween.com](http://twixnbetween.com).

**SINCERE LEARNING LADDER**

**ABOUT US**

Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for all early childhood education and development support. We will serve children aged 3 months to 5 years, with specialized programs for preschool and school aged children including one-on-one tutoring. The center will operate 24 hours a day to accommodate the needs of working families.

Helps create a nurturing and stimulating environment for our little learners! We're counting thousands of essential items to welcome our diverse experiences. From educational toys and art supplies to sensory play equipment, and more. It's all in one place. We support the development and joy of our children. Your generosity will help us reach it all. Imagine little learners, happy, play and grow. Thank you for considering a gift that will make a lasting impact every day in our community!

Monday - Friday  
24 HOUR CARE  
Saturday - Sunday  
6:00AM - 6:00 PM  
CRYSTAL SCOTT @ S1  
NCHBELEARNINGLA  
10081 C-301

## The Truth Colours Gallery

### ART & CRAFT WORKSHOP

Painting, Crafting and Drawing!

check out the Gallery studio

STAY COOL

I LOVE STREET ART

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Franklin n Bancroft

Facebook  
The Truth Colours Gallery

Nikola colours  
347-286-9227

## We Care Home Healthcare Agency

Gerald B. Aaron is a dedicated and compassionate Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) who has made significant strides in the healthcare industry. As the owner of We Care Home Healthcare Agency LLC, Gerald has been pivotal in delivering exceptional home healthcare services to individuals in need. His agency is renowned for its unwavering commitment to compassionate care, helping chronically ill, disabled, and injured individuals receive the support they need in the comfort of their own homes.

567-702-0329 - [wecarehcc@hotmail.com](mailto:wecarehcc@hotmail.com)

## JEWEL REALTY

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### GOLD STAR VETERANS LIFE ENRICHMENT SERVICES

is a non-profit corporation and shall operate exclusively for educational and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code. Our mission is to provide support to our veteran community through various veteran assistant programs, volunteer help and donations. We are committed to assisting our veterans to rebuild their lives in thanks for preserving our right to live in freedom in the United States of America.

3.02 Non-Profit

GOLD STAR VETERANS LIFE ENRICHMENT SERVICES is designated as a non-profit corporation.

20 years 2002-2022

# The Sojourner's Truth



# CLASSIFIEDS

January 29, 2025

Page 15

## VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED

St. Philip Lutheran Church, 3002 Upton at Central is seeking tutors in Math and English for our "Raise a Child" tutoring programs. This will be for 4th to 6th graders from McKinley Stem Academy on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm, from February to May. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your time and talent with children who need assistance in these subjects. Background checks and child safety classes will be required. Please call 419-283-434 if you are interested.

## LUCAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO RUN FOR OFFICE; SEEK PARTY ENDORSEMENT

This week, the Lucas County Democratic Party (LCDP) has opened its 2025 endorsement application for candidates running for public office who would like to do so as an official "endorsed Democrat." "The May Primary is quickly approaching," said Schuyler Beckwith, chair of the LCDP. "Many local races will appear on the ballot – Mayor, Council, and Municipal Court. We have strong Democratic incumbents but we also know there are many Democrats across the County who are ready to run." The deadline to submit an endorsement application to the LCDP is February 6, 2025. It can be found on LCDP's webpage at [lucascountydemocraticparty.com/screening](http://lucascountydemocraticparty.com/screening). Signatures to run for office are due to the Lucas County Board of Elections on March 7, 2025, with the May Primary happening on May 6, 2025.

In Lucas County, May primaries will be occurring in the City of Toledo, Village of Berkey, Village of Holand, Village of Ottawa Hills, City of Sylvania, City of Waterville, and the Village of Whitehouse, as well as judgeship seats on Toledo Municipal Court.

"If there are Lucas County residents who want to run for office but don't know where to start, please contact the LCDP. We want Democrats who believe in expanding personal rights, who believe in organized labor, and who believe in community-centered solutions to make that leap to run for office," said Beckwith.

Being an endorsed LCDP candidate has numerous benefits, such as access to volunteers, fundraising opportunities, and a greater connection to active local Democrats. Again, the deadline to submit an endorsement application to the LCDP is the end of the day, February 6, 2025.

## NOTICE

CONCESSIONAIRE PROPOSALS marked "Operation of The Wheelhouse Food and Beverage Concession" will be received by the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, 5100 W. Central Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43615, until: **1:00 PM Local Time on Friday, January 31, 2025.**

Proposals received after the specified due date and time will not be considered.

Metroparks Toledo is accepting Proposals from qualified vendors capable of operating a food and beverage concession at The Wheelhouse at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. The Wheelhouse is positioned near the popular Beach Ridge Singletrack mountain biking Trail and Cannaley Treehouse Village in Swanton, Ohio.

RFP packets for the Qualification Statement requirements may be obtained electronically by contacting Mike Keedy, Director of Enterprise Development, at [mike.keedy@metroparkstoledo.com](mailto:mike.keedy@metroparkstoledo.com), (419) 407-9707. Submit one (1) PDF electronic copy of the Proposal as instructed in the RFP packet. The Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area may elect to interview short-listed firms but reserves the right to award a contract based solely upon Metroparks' review and ranking of Proposals received.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners  
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA  
David D. Zenk, Director

## REPORTER NEEDED

The Sojourner's Truth is seeking a part-time reporter. Call 419-243-0007 for more information.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Accounting Specialist, Housing Specialist. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. Deadline: 02-05-25. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SERVICES RFP25-R001

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Environmental Review Services in accordance with RFP25-R001**. Received in accordance with law until **February 6, 2025, at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



## Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding)

State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

1120-25-374  
Demolition – International House (IH), Academic House (AH), and Sullivan Hall (SL)  
The University of Toledo  
Lucas County, OH

Bids Due: February 11, 2025, 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.

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$1,600,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: January 28, 2025, 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: Verdantas Architecture, Inc., Megan Dougherty, 513-792-8508, [mdougherty@verdantas.com](mailto:mdougherty@verdantas.com)

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

# The Annual Aspiring Youth Minority Youth Conference

By Alexandria Leatherberry  
The Truth Reporter

Toledo Excel held the 41st Annual Aspiring Minority Youth conference at the University of Toledo Student Union Saturday January 25. The conference has held space for the youth to be empowered and connect with community leaders since 1984. The conference is a highlighted youth development experience for their community partnerships and drive for exceptional leadership through workshops, discussions and notable keynote addresses. Past conferences have included speakers such as: Yusef Salaam; member of the Central Park Five, now known as the Exonerated Five, and actor Hill Harper.

Leading the keynote address this year was award winning actress and author, Diane Guerrero. A star of "Orange is the New Black;" Disney's "Encanto;" and CW's "Jane the Virgin," Guerrero shares her experience with government deportation actions in her book *In the Country We Love*, where she details the effects of such governmental actions on family separations. Guerrero shared with the attendees of the Aspiring Minority Youth Conference her endeavors to make her experience of family separation "worth it." She described how she found confidence through the

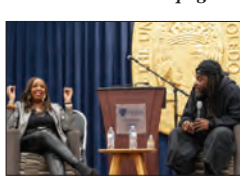
... continued on page 12



Diane Guerrero



John Jones,  
David Young,  
Roberto Torres



Rhonda Sewell and Jason  
Reynolds

# Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Honor Local Students

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

On Friday, Friday January 24 students at Ella P Stewart Academy for Girls and the MLK Jr. Academy for Boys were honored for their participation in the 2024 Wreaths Across America program at Toledo Memorial Park. Toledo Buffalo Soldiers and Jeff Clegg, CEO of Toledo Memorial Park, awarded each student a certificate with his or her name and signed by Earl Mack, Commander of the Toledo Buffalo Soldier, and by Clegg. Students will also be allowed to keep the pens used in those signings much like a presidential bill signing.

The Wreaths Across America program was established to honor "the sacrifices of our military – those sacrifices are what make us free today," said Earl Mack, post commander of the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club. "The program supports those military soldiers."

"Part of our mission is to teach not just about what the Buffalo Soldiers did but also about what all the military has done. And the military is also a perfect option for kids who are not going to college – to follow up on their dreams," said Fred LeFebvre, PIO/secretary of the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers.

Ten students were honored at Ella P. Stewart: Da'Riyah Brown, Je'Rae Carter, Pandora Fench, Tonenyah Gilmer, A'maurri Haney, Janaya Haynes, Justyce Kelson, Dutchess Smith, Lalaya Smith, Damarria Williams. They were given certificates from the Buffalo Soldiers along with a signing pen to keep as a reminder.

Sixteen students were honored at MLK Academy: Rico Perez, Josiah Roberts, Joseph Burton, Anthony King, Anthony Williams, Davion Miller, Dylan Savage, Lorenzamide Thompson, Darryl Jones, Jeremiah Walker, James Osley, Ridge Wormely, David Larkett, Pierre Henderson, Jaylen Harrison, Cayden James.

In addition to the certificate from the Buffalo Soldiers, the MLK students were also honored with a certificate from Toledo Memorial and were treated to lunch at Texas Roadhouse.



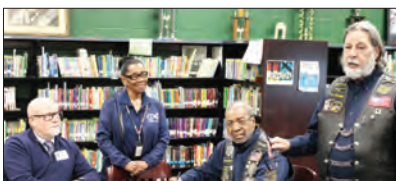
MLK Academy's Sheila Cook (left), Toledo Memorial's Jeff Clegg (second from left) with Buffalo Soldiers and MLK Academy students



Toledo Buffalo Soldiers - President Earl Mack, Treasurer Lorinda McCaleb, PIO-Secretary Fred LeFebvre



Buffalo Soldiers with Ella P. Stewart Academy students



Jeff Clegg, Sheila Cook, Earl Mack and Fred LeFebvre



Ella P. Stewart Academy Principal Shannon Tisdale-Carter accepts her certificate

TOLEDO OPERA

# SOUTH PACIFIC

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN · FEBRUARY 14 & 16, 2025  
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