



Volume 88 No. 5

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

March 5, 2025

A Celebration of Silent Soldiers



Mt. Nebo's 2025 Silent Soldiers Awards Banquet

In This Issue...

Perryman and
Gerken on DEI
Page 2

Ben Jealous on Musk's
Directive
Page 3

Study Hour
Club
Page 5

Buffalo Soldiers
Honored
Page 7

Art in Motion
Page 8

Cover Story:
Mt. Nebo
Awards Banquet
Page 9

Healthy
Eating
Page 10

The Overdose
Problem
Page 11

Getting Fit
for Summer
Page 12

Book
Review
Page 13

Classifieds
Page 15

Bishop Culp
on The Wall
Page 16

Choosing Sides: Lucas County's Fight for DEI

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

The Truth Contributor

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

- Desmond Tutu



Almost overnight, the narrative surrounding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) has actively transfigured a widely accepted policy of fairness in workplaces, government institutions and education into "a demon of reverse racism that prioritizes racial and gender quotas over merit."

As a result, DEI has become a political flashpoint, placing the initiative increasingly under attack, facing scrutiny from political leaders, funding threats from federal agencies and silent retreats from corporations afraid of political backlash.

As external forces attempt to dismantle DEI efforts, Lucas County faces a critical decision: Will it continue its commitment to fairness, or will it be forced to adjust to political threats and financial pressure?

Neutrality is not an option in what has become the most polarizing issue in America. Therefore, institutional leaders must choose a side – either stand firm in their commitment to inclusion or abandon the work in the face of mounting pressure.

I caught up with Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken this week. Our conversation explores Lucas County's historical commitment to inclusion, Gerken's evolution on DEI, and the critical choices facing local governments today.

Perryman: How has your approach to diversity, equity and inclusion evolved under your leadership?

Gerken: We've always been about the work for the last 20 years. We started what they call DEI today, back when we started building the Huntington Arena. It would be the first major form of government here to legitimately say we will include minority contractors. We hit 15 percent minority inclusion. Nobody had achieved those numbers on a \$100 million project before, so we were always about it. You can continually look at our processes and how much goods and services we spend on the minority and women's communities even today. So, it started in 2007, and it's been an evolving journey from concept to practice.

Perryman: Besides the arena project, are there any other specific initiatives?

Gerken: We have always kept an eye informally on whether our workforce looks like our community, and it did. Our leadership has included women in key decision-making roles my entire time here. We currently

have both African American women and men serving in high-ranking positions. We didn't quantify it before, but DEI makes you show your homework.

Perryman: Now that you're starting to measure results or outcomes, what initiatives have been most impactful?

Gerken: It would be the creation in-house of a department to go out and do training amongst our employees. Do our 1200-1800 employees understand who they work for? We started to make sure our in-house language was in order, and with Crystal, Lee and Willie, we started doing purchasing and looked at economics, but we also looked at the workforce's attitudes. Do people really understand what racism is? Do people really understand what inclusion is? The first couple of years focused on training our staff, and we're still doing that.

Perryman: What metrics are you using to measure your progress?

Gerken: The measuring is rooted in and will emerge from our strategic planning process. It's not well-measured right now.

Perryman: Regarding training, critics have said that many trainings are meaningless because you're not going to change anybody's mind; if they're biased, they'll always be biased. If so, to what benefit is the training?

Gerken: I'll counter that by saying that some effort is better than no effort when giving exposure to any human brain other than their current thought. Any effort is better than no effort, and it's work worth doing.

Perryman: How do you reconcile the goals of DEI with ensuring merit remains a key factor in hiring or promotion decisions?

Gerken: I've never understood that question, and I won't get into that rationale that DEI excludes merit. That's a false narrative; I'm not going to engage it.

Perryman: It is a false narrative, I agree.

Gerken: So, I don't engage in false narratives to rationalize something wrong. I'm just not going to do that because it is a false narrative.

Perryman: Then, how do you, as Lucas County Commissioners, define merit?

Gerken: We put together an evaluation system that we're implementing. It's a long time coming. We perform internal evaluations where we sit down with employees, ask them to give goals and objectives for the year, work with them to set them and then measure whether they completed them. It's not complicated. It's just human.

... continued on page 3



LC Commissioner
Pete Gerken

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Community Calendar

March 6

Community Meeting- "How to maintain Good Mental Health" 6:00-7:00 at The Padua Center, 1416 Nebraska Ave. The Kwanzaa Park Neighbors will welcome Bernadette Joy Graham, LPCC to the regular monthly Block Watch meeting. Bernadette Joy Graham will speak on "Maintaining Good Mental Health." Bernadette Graham, a Gulf War Veteran, will bring her many skills and experiences into the conversation to assist everyone to maintain Good Mental Health.

March 8-9

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church will host their Annual Men's Day Weekend. There will be a Drive-by, Eat in Breakfast that will begin on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon all you can eat. The donation is \$15.00 dollars. We will have our Spirit Filled Service on Sunday beginning at 10:45. We invite you to come and share in our Men's Day weekend worship experience. Any questions, please call 419-246-2886.

From Elon, With Love: You're Fired.

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

It was February 14. But what nearly 400 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employees got that day were not Valentines. They were pink slips.

The firings touched critical roles in EPA offices across the country, including dozens of scientists at the agency's Chicago office.

The American people did not vote for toxic air and poisoned water. But that will be the consequence as Donald Trump and Elon Musk move not only to dismantle the programs that keep our families healthy and safe but to fire, recklessly, the dedicated civil servants who have devoted their careers to doing the same.

That same wave of civil servant layoffs ensnared about 3,400 US Forest Service employees and roughly 1,000 employees of the National Park Service (NPS). You might be struggling to make sense of a decision to institute big cuts at an agency tasked with managing forests and preventing and fighting wildfires immediately following some of the most destructive wildfires this country's ever seen. But an examination of these mass firings also shows that senselessness and sloppiness – and utter inefficiency – are hallmarks of Trump and Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Further illustrating that sloppiness: across agencies, some of the most egregious terminations of vital workers had to be rescinded days later.

Imagine vacationing with your family at one of America's beloved national parks and getting stuck in a bathroom for hours because something is wrong with the lock but the park doesn't have a locksmith.

Nate Vince, Yosemite National Park's locksmith, was also fired on Valentine's Day. He explained in a post on Instagram that he was just three weeks shy of the end of his one-year probationary period, after apprenticing for four years under the park's previous locksmith. He also noted Yosemite is the size of Rhode Island with "more locks than a small city," for everything from a federal court to administrative buildings, gun safes, and more. "Without a locksmith I'm deeply concerned for the safety and security of the park and people in it," Vince said. "The people that fired me don't know who I am, or what I do. They simply don't understand this park and how big and complex it is."

Park Ranger Alex Wild, also fired on Valentine's Day, was the only emergency medical technician at Devils Postpile National Monument, a rock formation and waterfall along California's Pacific Crest Trail.

And the layoffs hit other popular sites like Grand Canyon National Park, which prompted the Association of National Park Rangers to warn of slower rescue efforts, as well as reduced programs and more litter. Following layoffs that gutted the team managing rentals within Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, visitors received notice their reservations had been indefinitely canceled."

The list of examples goes on. And again, this is not what the American people voted for. Three quarters of Americans see the National Park Service in a positive light and 88% of Americans (including 85% of Republicans) want National Park wildlife better protected.

The financial wrongheadedness of the Trump-Musk slash-and-burn project also jumps out. Their supposed efforts to save taxpayers money by laying off thousands of hardworking civil servants and cutting food aid, science, education, medical research and more are going to end up costing Americans more out of their own pockets. In some cases, the programs and agencies being gutted will cost taxpayers far more in economic growth and direct government revenue than the amount of the "cuts."

For 2025 and the past few years, the National Parks Services budget hovers at just over \$3 billion per year. In 2023 alone, that budget (a relatively high \$3.75 billion that year) supported 415,000 jobs and \$55.6 billion in economic output. To put it another way, for every \$1 invested, American taxpayers see a nearly \$15 boost to our national economy.

This is part-in-parcel with the sloppiness – and also dishonesty – with which DOGE is operating. The total personnel costs for the federal civilian workforce are percent of our federal budget. Foreign aid – which has been at the top of the headlines since Trump and Musk decided to decimate USAID – has only ranged between 0.7 percent and 1.4 percent of the budget since 2001.

As they gut key agencies and the federal workforce, what are some ex-



amples of where this administration is focusing our tax dollars? Well, there is the \$200 million international ad campaign by the Homeland Security Department, personally requested by Trump, "thanking" the president for his immigration and border policies. And, of course, there are the massive tax cuts for America's very wealthiest that are really the crown jewel of the Trump-Musk agenda.

The great John Lewis, who would have turned 85 this past Friday, wrote "When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself."

That act of democracy must not happen only in election years. It is up to all of us to hold power accountable, keep sounding the alarm, and keep speaking out for justice for all. Because, as Rep. Lewis also reminded us, "A democracy cannot thrive where power remains unchecked and justice is reserved for a select few."

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

Perryman... continued from page 2

We're in the social services business. I don't count how many widgets people make per hour. Do we have to be accountable and state how many clients we serve and how timely we serve them? Absolutely, but we've been accountable. If you look at our Job and Family Services programs over the last two years, we've won three major awards from the state for our timeliness of service, accuracy of service and wait times. The relevant measurement is whether people get services delivered to them when they need them and in the time that they need them. For that, we just won three major awards from the state in the last two years.

Perryman: And your DEI does that?

Gerken: Our system does that, and by recognizing that a system works better when it includes all people with all skill sets, it works better.

Perryman: What lessons have you learned from your African American employees that have shaped your approach to DEI?

Gerken: People want to be seen, heard, and valued for who they are as people. People want their needs met and have different social and emotional needs. It's a matter of cultural competency. That's what I've learned: to try to understand the experiences of others.

Perryman: What personal or professional insights have helped you better understand the barriers that African Americans and other minorities face?

Gerken: I've had the opportunity to have personal, working and professional relationships with people different from me. I was reared to listen and be empathetic, and when you shut up and listen, you learn a lot. I've learned from many good people in this community, starting with people

... continued on page 6

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Make America

By June Boyd

Guest Column

MAGA is not an anthem that means what it says. There had constantly been rumors that what President Donald Trump really meant was asking for "Make America White Again"

The successful presidency of Barack Obama was just too much for a number of his followers. The people of color in the United States were outnumbering those folks and it has become bothersome to many. A direct hit at the immigration issue. Most immigrants are people of color and it was making it worse.

It is almost difficult to explain what makes people hate because someone is of a different color, race or lifestyle. Growing up, my parents always taught me to keep the Golden Rule.

This relationship between President Trump and Elon Musk has become a lesson in racism. It is no secret that Elon was born into apartheid in South Africa in 1971. Then came Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress who rose up against apartheid and elected him President of South Africa in 1994. That had to be devastating to Mr. Musk.

Go figure; following President Trump's election, two or three days later, many African Americans received texts on their cell phones that stated "a van will be there to pick you up to go into slavery, get on the plantation, and pick cotton." The recipients were named which details someone knew what they were doing.

The civil rights leaders, led by Al Sharpton, Roland Martin, Martin Luther King, III, ACLU and many others leading the way and forcing an investigation as to whether those texts were initiated by Elon Musk. If so, he needs to be held accountable and pay each recipient who can prove receipt, \$1 million dollars for damages. The young people who received the same must have been horrified.

Crisis will always unite our people; we are in a major crisis now. Every form of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) has been erased by the Trump administration and Elon Musk. There should be no turning back at this time. The boycotts are coming, the Black Power I am sure those people fear will become a reality.

Trump had the audacity to sponsor a Black History celebration, recently, which was ultimately very embarrassing. How can one deliberately attempt



What?

to take away someone's freedom and rights.... what was he really celebrating?

For our young, lift up your heads, and know we still have a constitution; We The People have no kings. Never give up and do not be intimidated because the strength of your people will endure.

MSNBC's Ethnic Cleansing

By John E. Warren. DMin, Publisher, Sand Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper

Guest Column

It appears that the leadership of MSNBC has taken the Trump Kool Aide resulting in its move to either purge and or realign people of color as it separates from NBC.



The firing of Joy Reid and Katie Phang while consolidating three of the remaining Black hosts into a panel presentation in the time slot of Joy Reid and the addition of an hour, apparently are supposed to soften the blow as to what is really taking place. So if one stops watching the time slot that Joy Reid was in, then you help MSNBC move toward eliminating the three Blacks on the panel filling Joy's time slot.

Perhaps, the most important thing we can do for Joy Reid is to help her get a Podcast going just as Don Lemon did and encourage sponsorship support so that those we spend money with will want to spend money with such a program for Joy.

We cannot afford to waste time arguing with these racist elements of a racist system. We must instead use our money, time and talents to finance alternatives that serve both our collective and those who share our views and circumstances. But notice how the new independent MSNBC is handling people of color. Jose Diaz is fired while a Latina woman is moved to prime time. Sounds familiar. Sounds like what just happened to the Joy Reid program and its replacement with the three-person panel of color.

It's interesting that Joy was making three million a year compared to Rachel's reduced salary of \$25 million for the next five years. Clearly, Rachel could afford to speak out and her doing so in support of her friend and colleague, Joy Reid, is appreciated.

Perhaps someone should suggest that Joy Reid bring her business and followers to the Black Press which already airs a daily radio program with tremendous potential if the right people talk with each other. Let us not forget that the Black press is still one of the most "Trusted Messengers" in this country, and one of the oldest, lest we forget we are celebrating 198 years of service.

With this Administration in the White House and its Agents of Destruction on the loose, this is truly the time to circle our wagons of information and options starting with the "SBC" (selective buying campaign) aimed at withholding our dollars from those corporations that are canceling DEI and other elements of fairness and equality based on ability and not color.

We have seen nations engage in efforts to remove whole groups of people based on religion or ethnicity. We have called such efforts by others "Ethnic Cleansing". Now we see the beginning of targeting people in this great nation for removing not only from this country with deportations but also from positions of visibility and authority such as the firing of the Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, apparently just because of his color.

Yes, the firing at MSNBC clearly comes from the same cup the Administration is serving in its campaign against DEI and Affirmative Action. Just like the Trump Administration's agenda, it looks like "Ethnic Cleansing."



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The Study Hour Group Hosts Historian and Author Shirley Green

The Truth Staff

Several dozen members and guests of the Toledo Study Hour group gathered at the Reynolds Corner Library on Saturday, February 22, for a sumptuous lunch preceded by a lesson during black History Month on an aspect of Black history that is not so well known.

Shirley Green, PhD, former Toledo police officer, the city's first female police lieutenant, former City of Toledo Safety Director and, currently, an adjunct professor of history at Bowling Green State University, described for those gathered her personal journey in trying to shine a light on her family's history – a history that also reflects that of a certain segment of the Black population. From that research came a book on her family's history she published in late 2023 titled *Revolutionary Blacks: Discovering the Frank Brothers, Freeborn Men of Color of Independence*.

After her public service, a public service that began in 1976 when she joined the first sizeable wave of women entering the Toledo Police Department and ended as Safety Director in the Mayor Mike Ball administration, Green turned her attention to focusing on her family's past.

While her father and his side of the family were longtime Toledo residents, her mother's family hailed from New England and, as a child, during summer visits to Massachusetts and her grandfather's home, she would notice the Canadian flag he displayed proudly. She would learn from him that he himself was Canadian – from Nova Scotia – as his family had been for many generations.

"We always thought that [grandpa's] grandparents had gotten to Nova Scotia by way of the Underground Railroad," Green told the Study Hour Club listeners.

Her faith in the accuracy of that story was shaken during her doctoral studies at Bowling Green State University when a professor informed her that Black folks had been in Canada, in Nova Scotia, for many years before the Underground Railroad hit gained steam and hit its peak during the mid-1800s.

Green would eventually ask the women on her mother's side of the family how far back the family's residency in Nova Scotia went. She could not get a clear idea from the women. They would often refer her to the men. Then she started on the men in the family, working her way up to the oldest of the group. From him, she learned that the family had indeed been in Nova Scotia for generations before the Civil War, courtesy of an ancestor who moved there in the late 1700's with a surname of Frank.

Then Green's research began in earnest. Census reports and military records uncovered two Frank brothers, William and his younger brother Ben, both free Black men, who enlisted in a Rhode Island army regiment at the onset of the Revolutionary War. William, she discovered, served for six years with honor and, after the war, returned to Rhode Island. Ben, on the other hand, served for three years ... and deserted, joining the British forces and fleeing, along with thousands of other loyalists (among them about 3,000 Black soldiers serving in the British army) at the end of the war, to Canada.

A good deal of Green's research involved uncovering why Ben had de-



Shirley Green, PhD



Study Hour Club President, State Sen. Paula Hicks Hudson, introduces Shirley Green

serted and she found a host of reasons. The Rhode Island regiments would spend that brutal 1777-78 winter in Valley Forge, their ranks were depleted through battle and such difficult conditions and, as time went on, segregation of the Rhode Island regiments occurred and those in the regiment with men of color (Black, mulattos, Native Americans) were badly treated in so many ways

... continued on page 6

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Study Hour...continued from page 5

Green's lengthy research – about 15 years in all – resulted in the published work, *Revolutionary Blacks*, that is now widely available including through Amazon and from the publisher, Westholme Publishing – www.westholmepublishing.com.

The Study Hour Club, now 92 years old, was formed in 1933 by 16 African American women who, at that time, had little access to more mainstream clubs or groups. The purpose was to focus on both education and socialization. They did so while meeting in each other's homes and hosting local and visiting authors, such as Langston Hughes, Arna Bontemps and Countee Cullen.

The Club's motto remains "Strive for Excellence."



Club members

Perryman...continued from page 3

like George Davis, yourself and, early in my career, Jack Ford. I can point to many mentors who have shaped my worldview because I was open, willing, and honest to listen.

Perryman: Finally, how would you respond if the Lucas County Commissioners were directly targeted or threatened to retreat from DEI?

Gerken: I'm not sure what they would come and tell us we can't do. Do they want us not to include people? Do they want to have us not have a diverse workforce? We already do. Do they want us to fire people of color? Again, this is a false narrative that nobody's sure what they will do. Right now, there are a lot of threats and bluster, and they are real threats, but Lucas County was about equity, inclusion and diversity before there was a term for it. So, whether there's a term for it or not, we will continue to do the work before there was DEI because we were doing it anyway.

If the Trump administration wants to come to Lucas County, Ohio, and say there are too many people in high places who aren't qualified, let them come. Our work says otherwise.

Perryman: Then, let me be more specific. What if the federal administration says you won't get any funding if you continue to have a DEI policy or approach? Some institutions have felt the backlash and gone underground, while others have caved to it and gotten rid of it, like Wal-Mart and Target. How would Lucas County respond?

Gerken: Again, the county was about equity, inclusion and diversity before there was a term for it. The ability to have that system is what's under attack right now. We have approximately \$112 million in federal monies through Workforce Development and Jobs and Family Services that we're reliant on. We must take seriously the threat that the federal people may scrutinize what words we use that say DEI.

I will respond by doing what will be best for the people who need our services. We will continue to do the work, and whatever we call it - a relabeling or a shuffle - I'll do that. We can't afford to lose \$112 million.

So, the question should not be what are we going to do, but the better question is, what are we going to do to stop them from making this happen? We're asking the wrong questions here. What are you going to do if they threaten you with DEI? We need to return to the offensive and say we have a good program. Why are you threatening us?

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@enterofhope-baptist.org

Jones Leadership Students Visit Honduras

Special to The Truth

Students from Jones Leadership Academy, in partnership with Art Tatum Zone, recently returned from an unforgettable week in Honduras, where they explored servant leadership and sustainable business models in action. Their journey took them to a tortilla factory empowering Honduran women, a tilapia farm, an after-school program, a medical clinic, a nonprofit organization, and a coffee plantation engaged in international trade. Each stop provided a powerful look at how economic development can uplift communities and create lasting change.

The most life-changing experience of the trip? Building a new home for a Honduran family. The moment students handed over the keys was nothing short of transformative—one they will carry with them for years to come. Now back home, they're reflecting on what they learned and developing plans to put their servant leadership skills to work right here in our community.

With the success of this trip, it's set to become an annual tradition, strengthening the partnership between Art Tatum Zone and Jones Leadership Academy. More than just a travel experience, this initiative broadened students' perspectives, deepened their understanding of global impact, and reinforced the power of service and leadership in creating meaningful change.

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Daughters of the American Revolution Honor Toledo Buffalo Soldiers

By Emily Evans

The Truth Reporter

The Daughters of the American Revolution honored the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers this past Friday February, 28, at the Maumee Branch Library with an award for excellence in community service.

The brief meeting was nothing less than a joyous occasion with lots of memories being shared and information swapped. The daughters recognized the Buffalo Soldiers and invited them to accept the award and share experiences and further info about the organization with this invitation:

"The DAR CSA for 2024 is presented to Toledo Buffalo Soldiers. This award is given for outstanding volunteer service in the community. The Community Service Award is a national level award, approved by the National Chair. Nominations are submitted by individual chapters, along with supporting documentation, press articles, publications and letters of recommendation. At our chapter meeting a few months ago we heard your description of all the wonderful community service projects sponsored by the Buffalo Soldiers in the Toledo area, and we knew that your organization was more than deserving of the award.

Please accept the NSDAR Community Service Award from the Fort Industry Chapter and accept our thanks for promoting peace and trust in the community."

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

The Buffalo Soldiers do a lot of community work in helping with the homeless, providing necessary assistance, clothing and food when available

and they also assist with community patrol. They also provide life-saving information on how to prepare for disasters and personal safety, assist with free meals to military veterans on Veterans Day and deliver meals to those veterans who are shut in and cannot get out.

The soldiers also offer a workshop called what to do when stopped by the police it provides the citizens and students with options and making the right decisions if stopped by the police so everyone can get home safe.

...continued on page 13



Daughters of the American Revolution honor Toledo Buffalo Soldiers



Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Post Commander Earl Mack and Public Information Officer Fred LeFebvre



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Art in Motion – A Celebration of Creative Expression

The Truth Staff

Local artistry was in full display on Saturday night, February 22 at The Underground in the Collingwood Arts Center as a number of local individuals displayed their creations for an appreciative audience.

The highlight of the evening occurred when Klaire Russell painted live – a speed painting exhibition she calls it – on stage bringing a blank canvas to life before the audience's eyes.

The Saturday night Art in Motion celebration was a Black History Month tribute to the Toledo Queer Black Collective, a non-profit group dedicated to fostering unity and empowerment within the Black LGBTQ community.

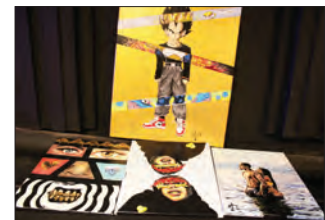
The TQBC's mission is "to create safe and inclusive spaces where individuals can freely express their identities, connect with like-minded peers and build meaningful relationships," according to its website.

Russell is a Toledo native and a graduate of DeVilbiss High School. She started painting in 2007 and has been a live performing "Speed Painter," a self-described "Fastest 3D Artist in the World."

Russell's art is not limited to canvas. She also paints on clothing, furniture, purses, shoes, glass, glassware, rocks, appliances, recyclables, among other media.



Klaire Russell



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Admission: \$25

Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church Fills the Room for a Celebration of Silent Soldiers

By Alexandria Leatherberry

The Truth Reporter

The 2025 Silent Soldier Awards Banquet filled the banquet room of Delta Hotel on Sunday, March 2. Guests gathered in support of 16 honorees who were selected for their unsung work in the community. "This is a moment that we tell them 'thank you'" said Rev. Cedric M. Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo.

Mt. Nebo's Voice of Hope Outreach Ministry has sponsored the Awards Banquet for over 20 years in order to recognize some of the unsung heroes from throughout the city and surrounding communities.

The Outreach Ministry also sponsors numerous community services such as: Rdio Outreach, Adopt a Haircut, Adopt a Belt, Coat Give Away, Sock Give Away, Good Friday Ham Give Away and a weekly broadcast.

Sunday's program host was, as always, Larry Jones, who has served as master of ceremonies from the very first banquet. The event opened with a welcome from Councilwoman Cassandra McPherson which led into more remarks from leaders such as Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

After the musical selection, the invocation was offered by Bishop Darrell Sheares, pastor of Fresh Wind Church.

After dinner was served, Mt. Nebo First Lady Debra Brock sang in tribute to the honorees. The program continued to vibrate with celebration of unity amongst a diverse community to commence the presentation of the honorees led by Alan Crawford. This year's silent soldiers included: Winda Birt, Alicia Boes, Michael Files, Del Ray Grace, Pastor Damon L. Horton, Jonathan James, Betty Johnson, Kevin Mikolajczk, Dan Ridi, Vera Sanders, Pastor Latonya M. Sheares, Steve Taylor II, Rev. Brandon Tucker, Rev. Mark Williams, Ray Wood.

The evening closed with remarks by Rev. Brock.

Rev. Brock has served as the pastor of Mount Nebo Baptist Church for over 30 years and began the Silent Soldiers initiative early in his term. The Silent Soldiers Awards recognizes those that contribute to the resources for their noble devotions.



Bishop Edward Cook, Rev. Damon Horton, Michael Files



Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson



Kevin and Ambrea Mikolajczk with Rev. Brock



Steve Taylor, Ray Wood, Mark Williams



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Food Connects Us, National Nutrition Month

By Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension, Lucas County

The Truth Contributor

Eat Right, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers the following 20 tips in honor of 2025 National Nutrition Month. The theme for 2025 is, Food Connects Us. I encourage you read this list, note what you are already doing and give yourself some credit! Pick one or two tips to make improvements in your life. This is not an end-all-be-all list but it gives great suggestions. What are some small steps you can take this month to improve your health?

1. **Start your day with a healthy breakfast** that includes lean protein, whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Try making a breakfast burrito with scrambled eggs, low-fat cheese, salsa and a whole wheat tortilla or a parfait with low-fat plain yogurt, fruit and whole grain cereal.

2. **Make Half Your Plate Fruits and Vegetables** to add color, flavor and texture plus vitamins, minerals and dietary fiber to your plate. Make 2 cups of fruit and 2 ½ cups of vegetables your daily goal. Experiment with different types, including fresh, frozen and canned.

3. **Watch Portion Sizes.** Use half your plate for fruits and vegetables and the other half for grains and lean protein foods. Complete the meal with a serving of fat-free or low-fat milk or yogurt. Measuring cups may also help you compare your portions to the recommended serving size.

4. Regular **physical activity** has many health benefits. Start by doing what exercise you can. Children and teens should get 60 or more minutes of physical activity per day, and adults at least two hours and 30 minutes per week. You don't have to hit the gym – take a walk after dinner or put on music and dance at home.

5. **Get to Know Food Labels.** Reading the Nutrition Facts panel can help you choose foods and drinks to meet your nutrient needs.

6. **Healthy snacks** can sustain your energy levels between meals, especially when they include a combination of foods. Choose from two or more of the MyPlate food groups: grains, fruits, vegetables, dairy, and protein. Try raw veggies with low-fat cottage cheese or hummus, or a tablespoon of nut or seed butter with an apple or banana.

7. Whether you want to lose weight, lower your health-risks or manage a chronic disease, consult the experts! **Registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN)** can help you by providing sound, easy-to-follow personalized nutrition advice.

8. **Follow Food Safety Guidelines.** Reduce your chances of getting sick with proper food safety. This includes: regular hand washing, separating raw foods from ready-to-eat foods, cooking foods to the appropriate internal temperature, and refrigerating food promptly. Learn more about home food safety at eatright.org.

9. **Drink More Water.** Quench your thirst with water instead of drinks with added sugars. Stay hydrated and drink plenty of water, especially if you are active, an older adult or live or work in hot conditions.

10. **Preparing and cooking foods at home** can be healthy, rewarding and cost-effective. Master some kitchen basics, like dicing onions or cooking dried beans.

11. You can **eat out and stick to your healthy eating plan!** The key is to plan ahead, ask questions and choose foods carefully. Compare nutrition information, if available, and look for healthier options that are grilled, baked, broiled or steamed.

12. **Enact Family Mealtimes.** Plan to eat as a family at least a few times each week. Set a regular mealtime. Turn off the TV, phones and other electronic devices to encourage mealtime talk. Get kids involved in meal planning and cooking and use this time to teach them about good nutrition.

13. Whether it's for work or school, **prevent brown bag boredom** with easy-to-make, healthy lunch ideas. Try a whole-wheat pita pocket with vegetables and hummus or a low sodium vegetable soup with whole grain crackers or a salad of mixed greens with low-fat dressing and a hardboiled egg.

14. **Reduce Added Sugars.** Foods and drinks with added sugars can contribute empty calories and little or no nutrition. Review the new and improved Nutrition Facts Label or ingredients list to identify sources of added sugars.

15. **Eat Seafood Twice a Week.** Seafood – fish and shellfish – contains a range of nutrients including healthy omega-3 fats. Salmon, trout, oysters and sardines are higher in omega-3s and lower in mercury.

16. **Explore New Foods and Flavors.** Add more nutrition and eating pleasure by expanding your range of food choices. When shopping, make a point of selecting a fruit, vegetable or whole grain that's new to you or your family.

17. Expand variety in your menus with **budget friendly meatless meals.** Many recipes that use meat and poultry can be made without. Vegetables, beans, and lentils are all great substitutes. Try including one meatless meal per week to start.

18. **Try to Reduce Food Waste.** Check out what foods you have on hand before stocking up at the grocery store. Plan meals based on leftovers and only buy perishable foods you will use or freeze within a couple of days. Managing these food resources at home can help save nutrients and money.

19. **Slow Down at Mealtimes.** Instead of eating on the run, try sitting down and focusing on the food you're about to eat. Dedicating time to enjoy the taste and textures of foods can have a positive effect on your food intake.

20. **Choose foods first** for your nutrition needs. A dietary supplement may be necessary when nutrient requirements can't be met or there is a confirmed deficiency. If you're considering a vitamin, mineral or herbal supplement, be sure to discuss safe and appropriate options with an RDN or another health-care provider before taking. Information from www.eatright.org/about-national-nutrition-month

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Preventing Overdose Deaths in Black Communities

By Tracie Gardner and Daliah Heller

Special to The Truth

On December 8, the air was crisp as Kimberly Douglas made her way to her son Bryce's gravestone in National Harmony Memorial Park in Landover. It's been nearly 18 months since she lost the 17-year-old to a fentanyl overdose. On this day each year, known as Worldwide Candle Lighting Day, families light candles honoring loved ones gone too soon, like Bryce. This day of remembrance is a stark reminder of the urgent need to prevent similar tragedies.

The pain of the day Kimberly lost her son is seared into her soul. She worked at her home office in Bowie in the early afternoon. Bryce was home early from school and napped in his bedroom, just one room away. When Kimberly found him unresponsive, she frantically searched her home for naloxone, a medicine that reverses an overdose and prevents death. In her panic, she couldn't find it. It wasn't until later, through tears of grief and disbelief, that she discovered the naloxone — in Bryce's pocket. He had it all along.

This country's overdose epidemic has generated a large and active ecosystem of advocacy groups, support organizations, and grieving parents. But Kimberly finds she is often the only Black parent engaged. She has started her own Facebook group, Black Moms Against Overdose, seeking a safe place for Black families whose loved ones overdose. She prays more Black parents will step forward, join the fight, and be part of the solution.

Over the past five years, a staggering half million people overdosed in the United States. But recent reports suggest a steady upward trend over two decades is reversing. The latest data from the CDC shows a 17 percent decline in deaths from September 2023 through August 2024.

Over the past decade, however, deaths have skyrocketed in Black and Indigenous populations, and now overdose rates have begun to diverge by race. A recent analysis of CDC data from the O'Neill Institute shows that through 2023, in many states, while deaths were leveling off and even declining among white populations, they were still rising in Black and Indigenous populations.

Why have Black communities not experienced the same decrease in overdose deaths? Through our work nationwide, we found that critical preventive information and resources often don't reach Black communities. We see two main problems: first, information and resources are not promoted or distributed effectively in Black communities, and second, fallout from America's destructive war on drugs still affects Black communities.

For example, access to the lifesaving medication, naloxone, can reduce overdose deaths. But efforts to expand naloxone distribution have not sufficiently reached Black and Indigenous communities. A modeling study shows overdose deaths among Blacks and Hispanics would dramatically decrease if their access to naloxone were at the same level as whites. Intentional collaboration with community leaders by local and state governments and local health providers can ensure access to naloxone is equitable and will save lives.

Despite the reality that levels of drug use are relatively uniform across racial groups, the opioid-driven overdose crisis has been widely represented as predominantly impacting white communities, leaving Blacks less informed. Drugs popularized in hip-hop culture, like Percocets and lean (codeine), aren't cast as opioids. Many people are unaware that ingredients such as fentanyl are widespread in the drug supply, increasing risk across the board.

The legacy of the racist war on drugs, which subjected Blacks to community-level criminalization, unequal sentencing, and mass incarceration, wields a lasting influence. Services and public health messages directed at people who use drugs are less impactful for those who fear being stigmatized by a connection to drug use. Messages that can save lives are not being heard. We need to address the stigma of drug use to improve health for all communities, and especially for those historically targeted for drug-related harm.

As a visible advocate, Kimberly fights stigma by providing Black families a space to grieve and take action. Rallying Black voices into this work is crucial

to turning back the tide on overdoses and pushing against calls for harsher penalties. The misguided drug policies of decades past have created lingering damage that Black communities still struggle to overcome.

The time for action is now, and community leaders play a vital role. Local governments should establish and support partnerships with Black community leaders to share overdose prevention information and naloxone resources with local communities. Engagement is especially critical now, to ensure equitable access to naloxone and reduce disparities and overdose deaths for everyone.

Naloxone is easy to use and available for free from most local health departments and from a growing number of community partners in cities and towns across the country. It is also available for purchase over the counter at any pharmacy.

The key to saving a life with naloxone is administering it as soon as you recognize any sign of an overdose. Anyone who is in community with someone who uses drugs — family, friends, local businesses, neighbors, and associates — can be activated and prepared to help.

With community partners, we are launching a seven-city "Naloxone in Black" media campaign in late March to promote access to the lifesaving medication.

Every overdose death is a preventable tragedy. With naloxone in hand, you can save a life.

Tracie Gardner is the executive director of the National Black Harm Reduction Network. Daliah Heller is VP of Overdose Prevention Initiatives for Vital Strategies. This article was first published exclusively by the Washington Informer.

Celebrating the Healthcare Professionals Who Keep Millions Moving

Special to The Truth

March is POP Month, a celebration of a vibrant and vital healthcare field of more than 15,000 professionals who make it possible for millions to overcome mobility challenges and improve their quality of life.

Children wearing back braces, veterans walking with artificial limbs and Paralympic athletes all likely receive care from a prosthetist, orthotist or pedorthist—or POP—professional. Certified POP professionals help nearly 6 million people in America with limb loss or limb difference move better. They create devices to restore independence for people of all ages while boosting confidence and well-being.

The Best Healthcare Career Many Haven't Heard Of

POP professionals are committed to helping people reach their mobility goals. They do it by designing devices, creating treatment plans, leading rehabilitation and working with insurance companies to ensure coverage.

POP is the 16th "Best Health Care Job" and 49th "Best Job" according to a "U.S. News & World Report" ranking of best jobs in 2025. Yet awareness of the profession is lower than for many other healthcare jobs. POP Month

...continued on page 12

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Getting Fit for Summer

By Ryan Rollison

The Truth Contributor

Summer approaches AGAIN and many people aim to get in shape to feel more confident and energized. Whether you want to lose weight, tone up, or increase muscle, the key is consistency and a well-rounded approach. Here's how you can achieve your summer fitness goals effectively.

Set Realistic Goals

Start by defining what "getting in shape" means to you. Do you want to lose weight, build muscle, or increase your stamina? Setting specific, measurable, and realistic goals will help you stay motivated.

Examples:

Lose 10 pounds in two months.

Cut out sugars

Build visible muscle tone in arms and legs.

Improve endurance or all of the above.

Clean Up Your Diet

Diet plays a crucial role in fitness. Instead of crash dieting, focus on sustainable, healthy long term eating habits. This is 90% of your results

What to Eat:

Lean Proteins: Chicken, fish, lean beef, and eggs help build muscle and keep you full. and avoid insulin spikes

Complex Carbs: Whole grains, sweet potatoes, and brown rice provide sustained energy.(limited! 25 grms or less per serving)

Healthy Fats: Avocados, nuts, and olive oil, real butter.

Fruits & Vegetables: Packed with vitamins, fiber, and antioxidants.(limit fruits)

Hydration: Drink at least 8-10 glasses of water daily to stay energized and reduce bloating.(good rule to follow is .55oz of H2O per LB of body weight)

What to Avoid:

Processed foods, sugary drinks, alcohol, and late-night snacking. most boxed items. Try to stick with grown or once alive foods.

Follow a Structured Workout Plan

A mix of cardio, strength training, and flexibility exercises will help you get in shape efficiently. Do cardio after weight training to burn more body fat.

Workout Routine:

Cardio (3-5 times a week): Running, cycling, swimming, or HIIT workouts boost fat loss and endurance.

Strength Training (3-4 times a week): Focus on full-body workouts.Focusing on larger muscle groups. Back, legs, chest.

Core Workouts (2-3 times a week): Planks, sit-ups, and Russian twists help define your midsection. I find it is easier to do abs at the beginning of the workout. Many times people neglect them if they put them at the end of the workout because they are too tired to do them.

Flexibility & Recovery (2-3 times a week): Yoga or stretching prevents injury and improves mobility and nutrients to the muscles.

Stay Consistent & Track Progress

Tracking your progress keeps you motivated and helps you to see your progress. Use a fitness app, take weekly photos, or note your improvements in a journal.

Get Enough Rest & Recovery

Muscles grow and repair when you rest. Aim for:

7-9 hours of sleep per night for proper recovery.

Active recovery days, including light stretching or walking.

Stay Motivated

Find a workout buddy or hire a trainer.

Mix up your workouts to keep things interesting.

Reward yourself with non-food treats (like new workout gear). I am a believer that you also have to eat something that you crave once in a while in order from crashing and burning. After a while your cravings will subside. Know yourself and your breaking point. If you need something to get you over the hump then do it and get back to the program.

Getting in shape for summer requires a balanced plan of healthy eating, exercise, and consistency. Start now, stay motivated, stay committed, and enjoy the benefits of a fit and improved summer body!

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Healthcare Professionals...continued from page 11

celebrates the profession and the many achievements of its professionals, who use expertise in medical care, art and engineering to improve mobility.

"POP professionals make a lasting difference in the lives of their patients," said Catherine Carter, executive director at the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics (ABC), the credentialing organization for professionals in the field. "They help people return to everyday life and the activities they love. No matter the mobility challenge, POP professionals meet their patients where they are and help them move forward."

During POP Month in March, more than 30 organizations that have partnered with ABC will host educational activities, open houses and more. Check out POPMonth.org to learn more and follow along on social media.

Do You Have Experience with POP?

• **Share Your Story:** Is there a POP professional in your life who helped you or someone you care about move better? Highlight them on social media using the hashtag #POPMonth2025.

• **Learn about the People in POP:** Visit WhatIsPOP.org to learn about POP students and professionals who make a difference in their patients' lives.

• **Spread the Word:** See and share news about POP Month by following @what.is.pop and @abc.opp on Instagram.

People who work with prosthetics, orthotics and pedorthics make a profound, immediate and visible difference for patients, families and communities. Help celebrate this vital, life-changing work in March 2025 and beyond.

Courtesy StatePoint

Firstborn Girls: A Memoir by Bernice L. McFadden

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

The Bible includes a lot of begatting.

Cush begat Nimrod. Jacob begat Joseph. Abraham begat Isaac. Salmon begat Boaz and Boaz begat Obed and on and on and on. You might notice that those lines are all fathers and sons, sons and grandsons but in the new book, *Firstborn Girls* by Bernice L. McFadden, it's like mother, like daughter.

For most of her life, Bernice McFadden was followed by her "angelcestors," who watched over her and kept her safe. They swung into action when she was a toddler trapped in a fiery car accident; they subtly stopper her many times when, as a young girl in Brooklyn, she considered killing her abusive, alcoholic father, Robert.

She was never sure why her mother, Vivian, stayed with Robert. Maybe it was because Vivian's mother, Thelma, had loved abusive men, and other women in the family had had man-problems. McFadden's matriarchal tree was riddled by that kind of thing, by domestic violence, hasty marriages, and early death and early pregnancies. In addition, it seemed like every firstborn girl in McFadden's lineage ran away at age 15.

And yet, for McFadden, there were a lot of saving graces through her life. As a child, she spent time every year in Barbados, summering with extended family; there was always family around for support. Neither of her parents graduated from high school, but she did – in fact, because of the car accident, she was able to escape her father's abuse and attend a private high school in Pennsylvania, and then college, later.

And she kept tucked away a dream of being a writer.

When she was still quite young, McFadden cried when the main character on TV's *The Waltons* published his first book. John Boy was a white man,

c.2025
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400 pages



Firstborn Girls author,
courtesy Britt Smith
Photography

though, and she didn't dare think the opportunity was there for a Black girl but she grew and learned, watched and learned some more. And she began to understand that knowledge is just another kind of seed, and seeds can grow into stories.

Have you ever accidentally eavesdropped on a stranger in a public place and before you know it, whatever she's saying makes you want to lean in and hear more? That's what it's like to read *Firstborn Girls*. You'd gladly give up your afternoon or skip your bus or train stop because you simply have to know what's next.

And when you do, it's unbelievably satisfying. Author Bernice L. McFadden's style invites her readers into her life, even in – especially in – the messy parts, and her candor is casual and comfortable without a speck of overwrought embellishment, which will make you feel as thought you were there, right with her, in every event. She's funny and gossipy and relatable, which is exactly what you want in a memoir.

If you're a fan of McFadden's novels, *Firstborn Girls* is a peek inside the making of a writer, and it plainly proves why Black authors are important. If you just want a great memoir from a first-rate storyteller, you should be getting it.

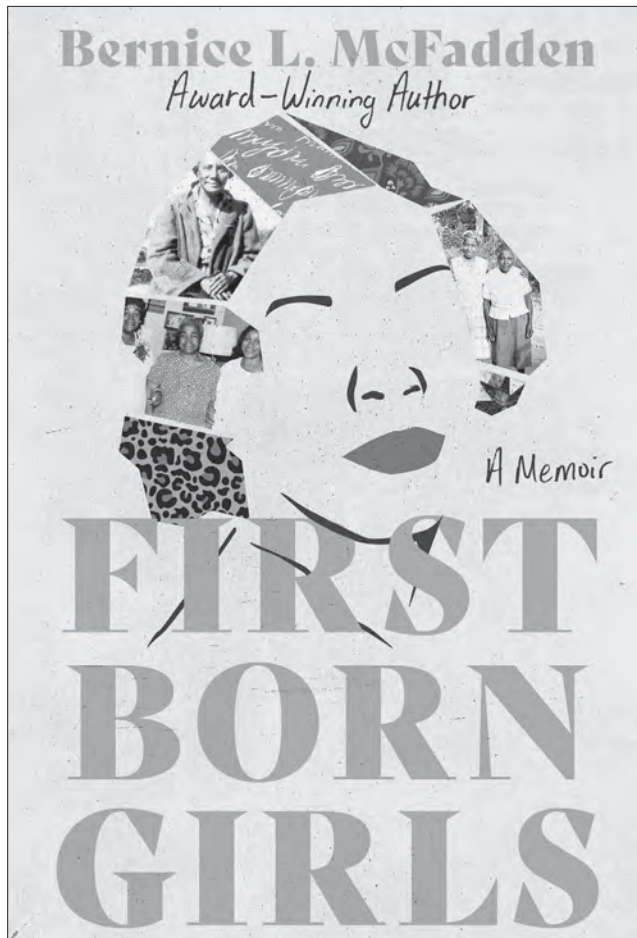
Toledo Buffalo Soldiers... continued from page 7

The soldiers are also a part of a program called "Let's build beds" which provides bed and bedding for those in need. The program members will come assemble a twin bed for you in your home and provide bedding for children who need a bed. You can find this program on Facebook at build a bed Toledo. There are people out in the community such as this program that are trying hard to make the community better.

On October 1, 2013, six people from Toledo came together and formed the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club. The group was later granted a corporation charter by the Ohio Secretary of State as a not-for-profit corporation.

Later, the IRS approved a determination as a 501(c-3) federal tax exempt charitable organization. The mission of The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers is to represent and educate people about the heritage and rich past of the U.S. Army's Cavalry and Infantry Buffalo Soldiers, through participating in community service events; assisting in enhancing the quality of life in the community they represent, with emphasis on young people; providing educational opportunities through their scholarship program; partnering with agencies with the same or similar mission and promoting safe and enjoyable motorcycling."

The contact information for the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, Inc. 6725 W. Central Ave. Ste M – 229, 43617 -- telephone/fax 419-536-7048 ---website www.toledo Buffalo soldiers.org ,email tbsmc@toledobuffalosoldiers.org



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio, by the Purchasing Department, One Government Center, Suite 480, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2247 until 2:00 P.M. (local time), March 31, 2025 and opened immediately thereafter for #2162-Request for Proposals for Centralized Record Storage for the Lucas County Clerk of Courts Records Center, according to specifications available for examination, or download the proposal by going to the site, <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.asp>. Suppliers interested in doing business with Lucas County must register in the Supplier Portal. To access the Lucas County Oracle Supplier Portal, please visit: https://eieb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuld=300000007278812&_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3_1&_af_rLoop=7126760101772357&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=avudlxmca&_afFS=16&_afMT=screen&_afMFW=1920&_afrMFH=932&_afrMFDW=1920&_afrMFDH=1080&_afrMFC=8&_afrMFCI=0&_afrMFM=0&_afrMFR=96&_afrMFG=0&_afrMFS=0&_afrMFO=0 Prior to 2:00 P.M. (local time), March 31, 2025 each proposal shall contain the full name of each person submitting the proposal and the name of every person or company interested in same. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio. Lisa A. Sobecki – President Pete Gerken– Commissioner Anita Lopez – Commissioner #2162-Request for Proposals for Record Storage – Lucas County Publish: March 5, 2025

Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding) State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

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FY25 Carlson Library Renovations
The University of Toledo
Lucas County, OH

Bids Due: March 25, 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.

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
General Contract	\$2,301,250.00
Alternate-1	\$188,400.00
Alternate-2	\$191,900.00
Alternate-3	\$20,050.00
Total Base Bid Plus Alternates	\$2,701,600.00

Pre-bid Meeting: March 11, 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: The Collaborative, Paul Meneilly, 419-242-7405, pmeneilly@tc.design

INVITATION FOR BIDS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES IFB25-B001 AMP 111 COMMUNITIES IFB25-B002 AMP 122 COMMUNITIES IFB25-B003 AMP 131 COMMUNITIES IFB25-B004 AMP 133 COMMUNITIES IFB25-B005 AMP 133 SCATTERED SITES IFB25-B006 AMP 121 SCATTERED SITES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for Snow Removal Services at LMH Communities & Scattered Sites in accordance with the above-mentioned IFB's. Received in accordance with law until March 11, 2025, at 3:00 PM ET. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

WGTE Public Media is seeking a highly organized and detail-oriented Accounting Assistant to provide administrative and operational support to the CFO. This is a full-time, 30 hours per week position with excellent benefits including health insurance. This role is essential in ensuring the smooth execution of financial operations, reporting, and strategic initiatives by assisting with day-to-day tasks, financial documentation, and communication.

Key Responsibilities

- * Input financial transactions, donations, and membership contributions into the accounting system.
 - * Generate vouchers for invoices and track payments to maintain financial accountability.
 - * Process and record raffle ticket sales and membership contributions.
 - * Assist in financial reporting, budget preparation, and data analysis to support strategic decision-making.
 - * Manage and maintain financial records, reports, and presentations for the CFO.
 - * Coordinate with internal departments to gather financial information and ensure compliance with reporting deadlines.
 - * Support the CFO in monitoring financial policies, procedures, and regulatory compliance requirements.
 - * Assist in preparing materials for board meetings and finance committee meetings.
 - * Perform other administrative and support tasks as assigned to enhance the efficiency of the finance department.
- Qualifications & Skills**
- * Bachelor's degree in, Accounting, Business, Finance, or a related field preferred.
 - * 3+ years of experience in accounting preferred.
 - * Strong organizational and multitasking skills with keen attention to detail.
 - * Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word) and financial software applications (Microsoft Dynamics SL preferred)

Send your letter and résumé to: Human Resources at employment@wgte.org <<mailto:employment@wgte.org>>, or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

Bishop Culp Inducted into the Wall of Friends

In February Bishop James Robert A. Culp was inducted into the Wall of Friends by the Board of Lucas County Commissioner's Office. President Lisa Sobecki, Pete Gerken and Anita Lopez.

Bishop Culp a community leader and servant in the church and the community-at-large has shown exemplary true leadership.

A former president of the Toledo NACCP, he has served on several community boards in Lucas County. He is a pillar in the community and has set the standards for upcoming leaders. He also served as the pastor for 61 years at the First Church of God, Toledo, OH.

Several community leaders spoke eloquently words such as Christina Rodriguez, executive director of Mom's House; Pastor Butler, First Church of God; the Honorable Judge C. McConnell; Baldemar Velasquez, FLOC president and others.



First Lady Maggie and Bishop Robert Culp



LC Commissioners Anita Lopez, Lisa Sobecki and Pete Gerken with Bishop Culp


COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

136th General Assembly

- House Technology & Innovation Committee
- House Public Insurance & Pension Committee
- House Financial Institutions Committee
- House Commerce & Labor Committee

“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!”

Representative Erika White
House District 41



In Unity, Erika D. White



The chance to change anyone's life is simply creating a harbor where opportunity meets hard work. For me, that opportunity was my union, and that hard work was taught by my mother and fostered through public education. Black History Month 2025 leaves one rhetorical question: If not now, then when? My boots are workin'!! -- *Representative Erika White, proudly serving the people of Holland, Springfield Township, Maumee, and portions of Toledo at the Ohio Statehouse.*

“The time is always right to do what is right.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.