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Committed to Real Change and Community Growth

Darnell Smith: Entrepreneur, Community Advocate, Candidate for City Council

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Who's Gonna Tell Marcy?

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

The Truth Contributor



Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

- John F. Kennedy

There comes a moment in politics when the handwriting on the wall is so clear that all must acknowledge it.

The Democratic Party, realizing that the path forward required new leadership on the presidential ticket in 2024, finally mustered the courage to tell Joe Biden it was time to have that tough but necessary conversation. Now, the question for the Lucas County Democrats is, who's gonna tell Marcy Kaptur that the moment for transition has arrived?

In her 22nd term, Marcia Carolyn Kaptur (Marcy) is the longest-serving woman in U.S. congressional history, having served Ohio's 9th Congressional district since 1983. For over four decades, she has enjoyed the backing of her constituents, including overwhelming support from the African American community.

Marcy has been a constant voice for working families and a champion for economic fairness. She has brought millions of dollars from Washington, D.C., back to our community to help rebuild and sustain it. In return, the Black community has demonstrated its appreciation by supporting her through countless political battles.

However, her recent decision to sell out her political "fam" to join congressional Republicans in censuring Representative Al Green was a cruel and heart-wrenching betrayal that severed the long-standing bond.

This painful backstabbing wasn't just a break with U.S. Representative Green, an African American. Marcy also didn't stand with her own Democratic Party leader, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, another African American. Most of all, she didn't stand with her own district either. Lucas County is the district that was the backbone of voter support that provided Kaptur's most recent election by the thinnest of margins and trusted her to represent their interests.

The African American voting bloc, centered in Lucas County, has stood by Kaptur for years and provided her with the decisive vote margin for re-election as she got trounced by her opponent everywhere outside of Lucas County.

How did Marcy repay that loyalty?

Turning her back on that loyalty and disrespecting the African American community's devotion, Kaptur sided with those who will never support her

and have spent years harming Black communities through restrictive voting laws, cuts to social safety nets and weakening civil rights protections. The GOP has continually ignored health disparities and exacerbated cultural and racial divisiveness using coded language to appeal to white resentment.

Moreover, the Republicans have promoted education policies that harm Black students, including banning books and whitewashing the history and contributions of African Americans, and for years have used overt tools such as racial gerrymandering to dilute Black voting power and political representation.

Furthermore, Kaptur's zeal in protecting the House Chamber from Green's protest outburst of "You have no mandate!" during Trump's State of the Union speech conflicts with her inaction in 2022 when Representatives Marjorie Taylor Greene and Lauren Boebert heckled President Biden during his State of the Union speech without being removed.

So, Marcy's vote was not just a misstep; it was majoring in minors; it was choosing procedure and protocol over people who face life and death issues such as the elimination of social security, Medicaid and Medicare.

Moreover, it was a treasonous backhand slap in the face to the people who kept her in office while she tried to appease voters who don't support her or the policies that most impact the poor, working and people of color and never will support them.

Yet even worse than the act itself is what followed: Nothing! No apology. There has not even been a genuine attempt to repair the damage or mend the relationship. Only explanations, rationalizations and justifications in return for her betrayal. In politics, mistakes happen. But when bridges are burned, true leaders take the steps to rebuild them. Kaptur has seemed unapologetically defiant and tone-deaf at best.

If the national Democratic Party was willing to confront the reality of Joe Biden's limitations, the Lucas County and Ohio Democratic Party and African American leaders must also recognize when one of their own has lost the trust of key voters.

Meanwhile, hungry politicians like Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Ohio House Representative Michele Grim have the financial capacity and the political clout and position themselves as Kaptur's potential successor. At the same time, an aggrieved African American community is attempting to heal from the trauma caused by the betrayal.

Still, the uncomfortable truth is that Marcy's relationship with the African American community may be beyond repair, thereby indicating her political career is likely over. And, just as Biden was told it's time to pass the torch, maybe someone should have a word with Marcy, too.

The handwriting on the wall is clear: Marcy's leadership clock has run out, and the Kaptur era is over. Indeed, it is time to pass the baton.

Who's gonna tell her?

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

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Community Calendar

March 18
Toledo Chapter NAACP membership meeting: 5:00 PM
1326 Collingwood Ave. Toledo

April 6
Calvary Baptist Church: Celebrate Pastor Floyd Smith's Birthday by joining him for a Musical Tribute; 5 pm; Featuring Minister of Music Brian Thomas and his guest

Now You See Me ... Now You Don't!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

In case you have not heard or read about it, the Trump administration with its negative affinity for all things that are non-white, has ordered the military services to purge their websites, social postings, archives of any mention or even photographs that show minorities which can be seen as efforts to promote D.E.I.



For the sleepy heads who do not keep up with the news, D.E.I. is the new moniker or hysteria-generated curse word for Affirmative Action. D.E.I. stands for diversity, equity and inclusion and such concepts cause Trump and Musk to gag at the thought that minorities and women in the military should be shown front and center as a means to promote a military that reflects the general population.

Unless you thoroughly understand that Donald Trump harbors an intense dislike of people of color, you will be left without a baseline to understand why he is seeking a purge of anything that impinges or impacts upon equity and fairness in the armed services.

To show how utterly ridiculous this hairbrained scheme is now cannibalizing its own, the famous pictures of the bomber airplane, the Enola Gay, that dropped the atomic bomb on Japan was slated for removal from the military photos because its last name was, "Gay" and that word triggered the AI to delete it photos as being a violation of Trump's D.E.I. mandate.

That reckless decision was quickly reversed when it was found out the historical significance of that photo! It goes to show you that President Musk and his associate Donald Trump are two ninnyes who are spooked by anything that could possibly be seen as D.E.I.

Even pictures of the famed Tuskegee Airmen are up for removal from the various government-controlled websites because, after all, we do not want White people to feel offended by any exploits that were not done by their own. I have seen pictures of Black women in military garb that have been purged because it might trigger some weak-minded viewer to think that Black women are equal in their military uniforms to that of White male soldiers!

Defense Department Secretary Hegseth is all in on this systematic purge of women and people of color being afforded any "special treatment" by the viewing of these armed services historical pictures.

Of course, no one complains when the White soldier is lauded and promoted over minorities who may be more qualified because that is the way things should be and has been and should continue...hegemony by the White male.

Trump & Company want to return to the 30's and 40's when it comes to the proper place and role of people of color and women in this society. Their fragile male egos are not equipped to see White Women and Black men being in positions of power and influence.

Will Crispus Attucks, the first person to die in the initial war with the British regarding American independence, be replaced in the military archives because his presence was and is so pronounced that Trump will grandfather D.E.I. back to the colonial wars and excise him out of military lore?

How far can D.E.I. go you say? Well, if Trump gets his pit bull Elon Musk to continue to waive his chain saw, look out for serious cuts in the following services: (1) HUD payments for subsidized housing (ever hear of Section 8 housing?) (2) Pell Grants which funds billions of dollars for college bound students including grants to the HBCU universities and colleges; (3) Medicaid cuts that will affect both urban and rural health care facilities including nursing homes (tell grandma to be ready in a moment's notice to, "hat up!"); (4) psychological and medical care for veterans including treatment at VA hospitals and clinics; (5) a purging of federal contracts directed to minority contractors to even allow them to stand and compete with their White counterparts.

That is the short list. My advice to anyone that has their ears attuned to the news is that you need to take stock of your assets and liabilities and if at all possible, pay down and off any credit card debt and start a savings account that will last you for six months, if all things go south.

If you are young and need some advice, that is simple: stay in school, learn all you can. Get your degree(s) and spend prudently and be engaged in your

... continued on page 6

March 6, 2025,
Rep. Marcy Carolyn Kaptur
U.S. Representative
Ohio 9th Congressional District
2314 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515



Pastor Brandon A. AJ Davis

Dear Congresswoman Kaptur,
In the time we have known each other, I believe you have sensed my deep commitment to the people I serve at Historic Warren AME Church and the broader community. As a lifelong member of the AME Church, I am firmly grounded in the principles of social holiness and social justice that have shaped the oldest Black Church institution in the United States. As your constituent, a proud resident of Toledo, and the pastor of this historic Church, I must express my profound disappointment with your decision to vote with Republicans to censure Rep. Al Green (D) of Texas.

While I recognize the importance of decorum and respect as hallmarks within congress, we are living in a time where the urgent issues of racism, dishonesty, corruption, and political manipulation demand that we speak truth boldly and without reservation. We have a fiduciary responsibility to confront President Trump regarding his unjust actions, particularly the attempt to cut Medicaid for those in need.

Scripture reminds us in Isaiah 10:1-2 (CJB), "Woe to those who enact unjust decrees and draft oppressive legislation to deprive the impoverished of justice and rob my people's poor of their rights." The Minor Prophet Amos further cautions us in Amos 6:1 (ESV): "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria..." These messages resonate powerfully with our current realities and call us to hold our leaders accountable for their commitments to their constituents during this critical moment in history.

This is not a time for political expediency but for unwavering political courage, and that courage is essential! President Trump and his associates are orchestrating harmful policies that impact real lives, and these decisions will take years to rectify.

You have a long history of standing on the front lines for democracy, yet your recent vote siding with Republicans raises significant concerns. You narrowly secured your seat with overwhelming support from the people in the 9th Congressional District and yet, it is puzzling why you chose to censor the one courageous Democrat who boldly called out the failures of a corrupt administration. Moreover, what about the lack of accountability for Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene and others who have disrupted the dignity of State of the Union addresses during the Obama and Biden Administration respectively? Where was your outrage then?

The constituents of your district deserve a clear explanation for your vote. You have a responsibility to articulate your position, especially to the Black community that has steadfastly supported you since 1983. This is a moment that requires accountability and unwavering commitment to the values we hold dear.

Opus Justitiae Pax
"The work of justice [shall be] peace" [Is. 32: 17]
Dr. Brandon A. A. J. Davis,
56th Senior Pastor of Historic Warren AME Church



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Rewriting the Narrative: Five Phrases Black People Must Unlearn to Reclaim Power

By Carla Thomas

The Truth Contributor

If there was ever a time when we needed each other, it's now. The safety nets that once offered a semblance of security are being stripped away, policies continue to disproportionately harm our communities and systemic barriers remain firmly in place. In the face of this, we cannot afford to be divided.

But unity isn't just about proximity, it's about shared consciousness. It's about challenging the narratives that have been weaponized against us, narratives that make us question our worth, our history and our collective power. Language doesn't just describe our world; it creates our reality. It defines how we see it, how we move through it and what we believe is possible. The way we speak about ourselves directly influences how we think, how we move and how we build. And some of the phrases we've come to accept do more harm than good.

Deconstructing old beliefs means breaking free from these inherited limitations, rejecting the language that undermines us and embracing narratives that affirm our strength and possibility. It means being intentional about the words we use and the truths we pass down.

I said all that to say, there are five phrases we, as Black people, need to retire—phrases that may seem harmless but actually reflect limiting mindsets. Instead, let's embrace the powerful truths that will push us forward.

1. "We Are Not Our Ancestors"

This phrase is often used to suggest that we are bolder, less tolerant of injustice, and more prepared to fight than those who came before us. But that assumption is false, dangerous and dismissive.

Our ancestors were not weak, they were warriors. They endured whips, chains, water hoses and lynch mobs and still fought back. They revolted aboard slave ships, burned down plantations, escaped captivity and built institutions of resistance. They launched legal battles, created underground networks and organized against oppression with a strategic brilliance that still guides movements today.

They didn't just suffer—they strategized. They didn't just march—they



built. From the Underground Railroad's secret networks of resistance to thriving Black economies in places like Rosewood and Greenwood (Black Wall Street), they laid foundations that white supremacy sought to destroy.

So, no. We are not our ancestors. But we should aspire to be. Because their resilience, discipline and collective power are what allowed us to stand here today. Instead of dismissing them, we should be asking ourselves: Are we living up to their legacy?

2. "A Seat at the Table"

For generations, we have been told that progress means assimilation, that success means gaining entry into spaces that were never built with us in mind. But why should we continue fighting for a seat at a table that was never meant to feed us?

Every time we've built our own, we've thrived. Black Wall Street in Tulsa, the Freedom Farms Cooperative created by Fannie Lou Hamer and thriving Black media platforms today are proof that our power is in ownership, not acceptance.

Instead of asking for a seat, let's construct our own tables. Instead of fighting for inclusion, let's fight for control—of our communities, our resources and our destinies as Black people. The moment we stop seeking permission to exist in spaces that were not designed for our liberation is the moment we become unstoppable.

3. "Black-on-Black Crime"

This phrase is a lie. A distraction. A tool of control.

It even has some of us Black people, saying, "How can we expect them to stop killing us if we won't stop killing us?" Please stop. This way of thinking is not only wrong, it's harmful. It shifts blame from oppressive systems to the oppressed, forcing us to internalize the violence inflicted upon us as if it were our own fault. Police brutality, state violence and racist policies have done far more harm to our communities than we could ever do to ourselves.

The truth? Crime is about proximity. White people commit crimes against other white people at nearly the same rate as Black people do against Black people. Yet, no one calls it "white-on-white crime." That's because this phrase was never about stopping violence in Black communities—it was about blaming us for our own oppression.

This narrative didn't just appear out of nowhere—it was pushed in the 1970s to justify over-policing and mass incarceration. It painted Black communities as dangerous while completely ignoring the real causes of crime—poverty, economic exclusion and systemic neglect. It gave the state a free pass to surveil, arrest, and brutalize us, all while claiming it was for our own good.

We cannot afford to internalize narratives designed to harm us. If we want to reduce violence, we must address the conditions that create it: lack of economic opportunities, underfunded schools, and the ongoing legacy of redlining and racial segregation.

Stop saying "Black-on-Black crime." Start saying systemic disenfranchisement. Start saying economic violence. Because that is the real issue.

4. "Invited to the Cookout"

I understand the sentiment behind this saying and I know the desire to foster unity comes from a genuine place. But at what point did we start handing out cookout invitations like party favors? A non-Black person hits the electric slide on beat? Invitation! They recite a few rap lyrics without fumbling the words? VIP pass! They season their chicken? Somebody grab them a plate!

Question: What are we really celebrating?

The cookout isn't just about dancing, slang or knowing the right cultural references. It's a sacred space—one built on generations of resilience, love and tradition. It's where we gather to pour into each other, to reconnect, to laugh and to exist in a space where our expressions, culture and habits are understood—free from the weight of outside judgment. When did it become a reward for people who seemingly appreciate Black culture?

When we extend invitations just because someone can bust a move or quote a Kendrick verse, we risk trivializing what it actually means to be in true solidarity with Black people. Allyship is not a performance, it's a commitment.

So before we dish out invites for the bare minimum, let's ask the real questions: Are they fighting for us when it matters? Are they challenging anti-Blackness in their own communities? Are they standing in the trenches, not just vibing to the culture but actively working to protect and uplift Black lives?



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Darnell Smith's Journey to Toledo City Council: A Leader for the People

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Darnell Smith is not your typical politician. He isn't polished by years of political maneuvering or softened by the comforts of establishment backing. Instead, he is forged from the streets of Toledo, where resilience is the currency of survival. He has walked paths familiar to many—some bright with opportunity, others shadowed by hardship—and now, he stands at the threshold of a new journey, one that leads straight to **Toledo's City Council**.

"I don't have to do this," he says, his voice firm with conviction. "But I choose to—because the people deserve it. They need someone who can bridge divides, someone who sees beyond party lines and focuses on what truly matters—community, progress, and unity. We're all in this together, and that's the only way forward."

Smith, a self-made entrepreneur and community advocate, recently submitted his signatures to secure a spot on the upcoming ballot. His campaign isn't backed by party politics. He's running as an independent, determined to stay loyal to the people rather than a political machine. "I don't want to be a Democrat. I don't want to be a Republican. I just want to work for the community," he explains.

His life's work has been about connection—whether through business, mentorship, or civic engagement. Now, he hopes to bridge the gap between government and the people who feel most unheard.

A Businessman With a Bigger Vision

Smith isn't just a candidate; he's a blueprint for what's possible. A seasoned businessman, he has built multiple enterprises, all designed with the community in mind. His popular commercial space is a one-stop hub, offering a beauty salon, barbershop, daycare and car detailing service. "The concept was to save a person two or three hours out of their day," he says. "The husband gets his hair cut, the wife gets her hair done, the kids are in the daycare, and the car is getting cleaned—all at the same time. So when you leave, it's just family time."

Beyond this, he owns rental properties across the city, making affordable housing accessible to families in need. Smith also owns and operates a car lot where he prioritizes financial literacy for his customers. "I tell young folks, don't just hand me cash. What's your credit look like? Let's work on building that first. That's how you set yourself up for homeownership."

Darnell Smith's commitment to economic empowerment doesn't stop at his businesses. He is vocal about the need for minority dollars to circulate within our own communities. He stresses the importance of supporting small businesses, particularly those led by black/brown entrepreneurs, women, and local families. "Many people come into small businesses and often haggle," he says. "Yet so many of us will happily pay full price at big-name stores without question. We need to shift our mindset and invest in our own communities."

A Past That Fuels His Purpose

Smith's strength lies in his authenticity and willingness to grow. Community members, civic leaders and local business CEOs alike admire his

ability to acknowledge his past judicial matters and use them as a catalyst for positive change. His vulnerability in embracing the highs and lows of life, while correcting his course, has made him a relatable and respected figure—a true testament to his character, inspiring others to believe in second chances and continuous self-improvement.

"It's not where you start, it's how you finish," he says.

For nearly three decades, Darnell Smith has dedicated himself to mentorship, business, and community service. He has

given back to his alma mater, Scott High School, in ways that go far beyond financial donations. One of his most impactful contributions was personally funding the school's workout facility, the **Josephine Fitness Center**, in honor of his late mother, who dedicated 30 years of service to the school.

Smith also helped secure new football field turf across Toledo, a resource that will impact generations of student-athletes.

"The kids see me in the hallways, in the cafeteria, and at their games. They know I'm still here for them."

For Darnell Smith, running for City Council isn't about politics—it's about responsibility. "I was mentoring our young men, coaching football, telling them they could be anything they wanted," he says. "But then I had to ask myself—am I showing them that with my own actions?"

Understanding the Council, Making It Work for the People

The process of getting on the ballot is just the first step. The real work begins once elected. But what does a City Council member actually do? Smith breaks it down simply:

City Council members act as the voice of the people. They propose and vote on laws, allocate city budgets, and advocate for changes that affect neighborhoods. They are the bridge between the community and the mayor's office, bringing concerns directly to city leadership.

Smith wants to make sure that bridge is strong.

His vision? A team-based approach to civic engagement, much like a football team. "If you want to be on my team, you gotta be a registered voter," he says. "You want to make the starting lineup? Come to community town hall meetings, bring ideas, get involved."

His message is clear: input at City Hall shouldn't be a mystery. The com-

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Darnell Smith

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Emory Whittington and Friends Celebrate His Lengthy and Successful Real Estate Career

The Truth Staff

For 34 years now, starting March 4, 1991, Emory Whittington has been a licensed real estate broker. On Tuesday, March 4, 2025, his friends and colleagues – Toledo's realists, among others – joined him at the Toast & Tap to celebrate this milestone and his accomplishments of more than a third of a century in business.

During those years, Whittington has sold over 1,000 homes and established his own real estate firm, Whittington Group Realty, which has also become a property manager for 150 different properties.

A podcast is coming soon so Whittington can share thoughts about the real estate business.



Mykayla Monroe, Emory Whittington, Rayshan Newell, Kim Dixon

Tolliver...continued from page 3

community so when the "pain hits the fan" you will not be found gasping for air.

Trump & Company do not mean well for you. If he can stomp on relations with Canada and Mexico for contrived reasons (or for no reasons), you are

fair game for his bizzarro thinking.

Being informed is a means of resistance. Don't get played by thinking that Trump has your interests at heart. Get a plan. Tell your family members and friends to understand the signs of the times. Stick with a plan until this menacing storm passes over. Don't get angry...get smart.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Rep. Elgin Rogers, Jr. Announces Bipartisan Passage of \$11.5B Transportation Budget, Creating New Jobs, Infrastructure Projects, and Expanded Economic Opportunities for Ohioans

Special to The Truth

State Rep. Elgin Rogers, Jr. (D-Toledo) voted to pass the bipartisan Ohio Transportation Budget (House Bill 54) through the Ohio House of Representatives. The budget's appropriation of \$11.5B is a significant investment into the future of Ohio jobs, connecting the workforce to the worksite, and the bill will improve roads, bridges, and transit systems across Ohio.

"Mobility and accessibility are essential to promoting economic growth, sta-

bility, and development in Toledo and Northwest Ohio. By investing in our highway and road infrastructure now, Toledo and Northwest Ohio residents, and all Ohioans, will enjoy the benefits of greater accessibility. This bill makes great strides in bringing Ohio's rail system up to date, ensuring that alterna-

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March is Women's History Month • March is Women's History Month • March is Women's History Month • March is Women's History Month

Women of Toledo Open Women's History Month at School for the Arts

The Truth Staff

The Women of Toledo and the Toledo School of the Arts held a press conference on Friday, March 7, to highlight the variety of events to be held during Women's History Month and to present the offerings created by the TSA students that are serving as a fundraising opportunity for both TSA and WOT.

TSA's Porter Gallery is displaying the portraits and information for a number of Toledo women – historical figures such as Ella P. Stewart, Margaret "Rusty" Monroe and Gloria Steinem, among others. Local young women have built and decorated chairs in honor of these women. The chairs are for sale as part of the WOT and TSA shared fundraising effort.

"It's an annual observation that highlights women's contribution in history and celebrates social, economic, cultural and political achievement," said WOT member Mary Brucker as she led off the press conference that was attended by a number of TSA students.

Brucker went on to describe some of the upcoming events that are of special interest during this year's Women's History Month: International Women's Day Luncheon on Monday, March 10; Northwest Ohio Business Mentoring Program on March 12; HeForShe Connectors Social at Quench & Tempered on March 19; HerHub Networking Luncheon at Toledo Botanical Garden on March 20; Women's History Month Bunch So Hard at TolHouse on March 23.

Julia LaBay, program coordinator for WOT, spoke of the displays, the chairs, a critical part of the fundraising campaign, that have been created by GirlsHub.

"Each chair is a unique expression of identity and achievement," said La-Bay. "Through carpentry and art our builders have created chairs that reflect



Mary Brucker



their experiences, the voices and beliefs of the women that came before them ... it challenges the status quo and inspires others. It is a call to action."

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Annual Black Student Union Fashion Show 2025

By Emily Evans

The 55th annual fashion show hosted by the Black Student Union was held in the Student Union Auditorium on February 28. It was an event showcasing clothing created by the African American community with the scenes relaying different forms of music.

The fashion show was also an artistic masterpiece representing solidarity. The students marched out one by one in their best outfits with handwritten signs that described different important topics they wished to highlight such as "say No to Senate Bill 1," "equal opportunity isn't Radical, it's Right," among others

Each student struck poses showing strength in numbers to the room. This was more than a fashion show, it was a statement. The BSU demands to be heard and seen and they showed appreciation for the programs that make them feel safe while on campus.

They want all students to feel welcomed, supported and loved and the main message for the show was that the BSU refuses to remain silent on Senate Bill 1.

"(S.B. 1) is a direct attack on the academic independence that has long been essential to the success of our state's public higher education system. This bill, which bans diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in higher education, along with curtailing tenure protections and collective bargaining power, sends a chilling message to students, faculty, and businesses that Ohio is not committed to fostering academic and institutional freedom." State of Ohio Senate website.

The BSU students are demanding that representatives of the University of Toledo sit down to speak with them about things that were promised to the Black Student Union regarding funding and support etc. The students are highlighting the importance of keeping funding available for the DEI programs. Without those programs, they fear that the lack of resources and mentorship opportunities will have a negative future impact on students.

The Black Student Union helps many students feel free to show up as their authentic selves in classes, events, the dorms or for extracurricular activities. These organizations are vital safe havens for many students who need these spaces to feel comfortable while furthering their education.


"One of the most glaring issues with S.B. 1 is its direct impact on Ohio's competitiveness through a complete ban on DEI programs at universities. Our universities are incubators for talent, innovation, and economic growth." State of Ohio Senate website.

Majesty Ali (president of the Black student union) said: "Six scholarships were given away to well-deserving students to assist in furthering their education. The issue is the organization on campus that values and hears all students. All students should be informed about efforts being made on policies made regarding them on campus."

The members of the Black Student Union stated that students should thrive and never be worried about safe spaces or the future of diverse leadership on campus. They hope that they will be heard so the future will be brighter especially for those who are under-represented or from diverse backgrounds.

Said one such student: "The students only want to be treated fairly, supported and feel safe at all times, not just inside of organizations that were specially created to make them feel included."





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The Magnet Tour: An Exploration of TPS Choices

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

“These kids are getting regional and worldly experience,” said Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, at the conclusion of a morning’s tour of the school district’s magnet schools. And if the kids who conducted the tours that day of the magnet schools are any indication, they are enjoying that experience immensely.



TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD explains a school project to bus passengers

The magnet school tour began at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5, as 79 visitors climbed aboard three buses to visit the Aerospace and Natural Science Academy of Toledo, the Toledo Pre-Medical and Health Science Academy and the Toledo Technology Academy of Engineering.

Last week’s bus riders included a number of Toledo elected officials along with school board and staff members from public school districts around Ohio – Dayton, Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland-area districts, as well as school districts in northwest Ohio.

The four-hour tour concluded with lunch at TPS headquarters on Summit Street and a wrap up by Durant on what students in the district’s magnet schools have accomplished and what the plans are for future expansion.

The first stop for Bus 1 was the Aviation Center of the Aerospace & Natural Science Academy of Toledo. The Aerospace campus is located, appropriately enough, at the Eugene F. Krantz Toledo Express Airport and 240 students are enrolled at the campus.



Council members Nick Komives, Vanice Williams and Cerssandra McPherson with TPS Deputy Superintendent Jim Gant - third from left

The students have the opportunity to achieve industry-recognized credentials in high-demand fields immediately after high school while also earning college credits.

Students led the visitors through the campus explaining not only what they are learning but also how airplanes work. “I love to do mechanics and see how planes work,” said Tito Montoya, a junior at the school.

Student Quinn Hanifin already has completed 80 hours towards his pilot’s license – 20 hours of solo flight. Quinn plans to obtain a commercial license and become an aerial firefighter in Idaho.



Aerospace students Nyanon Houston-Roach and Tito Montoya

The visitors were treated to an assortment of small airplanes that students use to learn flight procedures and airplane maintenance along with engines and control tower boards.

After the visit to the Aviation campus, the bus riders were treated to a “drive by” of the Commercial Driver’s License Program (CDL) which will be housed at Rogers High School.

As Durant explained, the school district, along with many other districts in the country, is facing a school bus driver shortage. The answer? Train their own.

... continued on page 11



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The Magnet Tour... continued from page 10



Quinn Hanifin

The site already has 148 buses on site which are being converted from diesel to propane. When all the buses are converted, said Durant, the school district will realize savings of \$1 million annually. The students will be able to earn licenses to drive buses and/or large trucks through a comprehensive 200-hour program including 56 hours of classroom instruction and 144 hours focused on range and road training. They will be ready for such careers immediately upon graduation.

The next stop on the magnet tour was at the Natural Science Academy, located next to the Toledo Botanical Gardens – and with good reason. The Academy and the Gardens are quite complementary.



Toledo City council members and Aerospace students

The Natural Science Academy offers students – about 240 of them in grades seven through 12 – three courses of study: animal science, wildlife and sustainability, and urban agriculture. Once again students led the way and, once again, their mastery of the subject matter was impressive.

Carla, Abby and Dayvonna led the visitors through the sites where small animals, sea creatures and plants were cared for by the students who benefit from such hands-on experiences.

The animal science course is offered in collaboration with institutions such as the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium. The wildlife and sustainability course prepares students for careers in environmental preservation with internships with organizations like the City of Toledo and Toledo Metroparks. The urban agriculture course immerses students in sustainable food sources and prepares them for careers in greenhouse management, small livestock management and hydroponic vegetable production.

Another “drive by” was in order after the bus was boarded. The riders stopped by the new location of Toledo Early College High School on the University of Toledo campus. At TECHS students may begin taking college courses during the second semester of their eighth grade year and can graduate with associate’s degrees before they receive their high school diplomas.

The drive by included a stop at the Scott Park campus which has been acquired by TPS to be converted into a state-of-the-art campus featuring residential housing for faculty, staff and community, high school through higher



education through on-site partnerships with UT and Owens Community College and a blended campus of TPS students and adult learners.

The next stop on the public magnet tour was the former Devilbiss High School which now houses the Toledo Pre-Medical & Health Science Academy and the Toledo Technology Academy of Engineering.

Students at the pre-med school led their visitors through the three primary disciplines of pre-med, kinesiology and nursing. The school currently has an enrollment of 225 students in grades seven through 11.

Once again students led the way and introduced their guests to such marvels as a computerized cadaver machine that enables them to examine the anatomies of actual deceased patients, labs in which they learn to care for patients in



care of need and workout facilities where they are able to monitor the progress of those who are in need of physical therapy.

The Toledo Technology Academy of Engineering is the only seven through 12th grade manufacturing and engineering sciences school in the nation and has been recognized by U.S. News and World Report in the top five percent of America’s Best High Schools in 2023.

The school has a five-star rating on the 2023 Ohio School Report Card, a 100 percent graduation rate and graduates who have won admission over the past five years to universities such as Harvard College, Columbia University and Stanford University, along with the University of Toledo’s esteemed College of Engineering.

Student Juan Rogers, who will be headed to The Ohio State University to

...continued on page 14



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The Magnet Tour... continued from page 11



Juan Rogers leads the TTA tour

study computers and electrical engineering, guided the guests through the first part of the TTAoE facility.

While the TTAoE has been operating for more than 25 years, only recently



did the school open an electric vehicle center. Students are now introduced to a course in developing an understanding of energy conservation by constructing such vehicles from scratch and also converting vehicles from gasoline powered to electric powered.

The day concluded with an address by Durant who summed up the virtues of the schools and the opportunities they offer the students. "They are getting in airplanes," he noted of the Aviation Center. That hands-on approach, he would explain, applied to all the magnet schools where the students are working with



machines, animals, plants and vehicles.

The student bodies of these magnet schools are not limited to students from Toledo. As Durant stated, they also come from other places as a few families have relocated from places such as West Virginia, Texas and even Jamaica to get their children into such programs. One of the student tour guides the visitors encountered is from Findlay and traveled daily to and from until her family found Toledo relatives this academic year to house her.



More school choice is coming, of course, as the new facility at Scott Park starts construction next year. That site will house a construction and architecture design academy, an education academy and a business academy, along with the residential and recreational facilities that are planned.

All in all, quite an extensive look at what TPS is doing in those extraordinary magnet school sites and an impressive display from well-informed student guides who led the way.

"The best asset we have are our kids," said James Gault, chief of Educational Development.



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Books about Integration, Schools & HBCUs by Various Authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

The anticipation is high.

Your soon-to-be-graduate has been checking every day to see if there's good news or bad news from the college of their choice, and to determine if they need a change of plans. It's an unnerving time, but also one of hope. So why not be prepared, and read these great books about education in the Black community...

c.2025
various publishers
\$28-34
various page counts

More than 70 years ago, something happened in rural Tennessee that was almost lost to history: three people – one of them, a white man – joined forces to help Black southerners get past Jim Crow laws and vote. As you'll read in *Spell Freedom: The Underground Schools That Built the Civil Rights Movement* by Elaine Weiss (One Signal, \$29.99), they accomplished this feat by opening Citizenship Schools which, by 1965, had grown from one little room in the back of a grocery store, to over nine hundred such schools. How this happened, and what these schools accomplished, is a story you can't miss.

Here's another book that presents another side of history: *Integrated: How American Schools Failed Black Children* by Noliwe Rooks (Pantheon, \$28) challenges the narrative that says Brown v. Board of Education fixed what was wrong with separate-but-equal laws for schools. Author Rooks says, in fact, that there's so much more to this story, and that understanding what integration actually did for Black students is to understand how it can be so much better. Bonus: Rooks includes personal stories here, which are as entertaining as they are informative for readers concerned about their children's education.

If your student is heading for an HBCU in the fall, be sure to check out *With Faith in God and Heart and Mind: A History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity* by Maurice J. Hobson, Eddie R. Cole, Jim C. Harper II, and Derrick P. Alridge (University of North Carolina Press, \$29.95). Started in the fall of 1911 by four students at Howard University, Omega Psi Phi was a place for students to join, to bond, and to get support. But it was also a place for greatness: many of its members went on to serve in the military in high places, to serve in society, medicine, science, and politics. In this book, you'll read a history of the fraternity, and you'll learn about its prominent alumni.

And finally, if your student isn't sure if college is in their future, look at *Who Needs College Anymore?* by Kathleen Delaski (Harvard Education

Press, \$34). There are other ways to get an education, says the author, and it may still involve a formal education or new twists on old methods of finding a career. Some of them may be controversial. Others may be just the key for a new grad with an aversion to school.

And if these books on education aren't enough for your or your student, be sure to ask your librarian or bookseller for more suggestions. There are many more books on the history of education for you to read, addressing elementary schools, college-level, and high school.

TPS CEO/Superintendent Wins National Award

Toledo Public Schools CEO/Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, is the recipient of the inaugural Leading Through Innovation Award by AASA-The School Superintendents Association.

The organization recognized Durant for his efforts on leveraging innovative technology and practices to improve outcomes, efficiency and sustainability at TPS.

The AASA board collectively chose to honor Durant for his visionary leadership, specifically pointing to the plans at the Scott Park campus, a commitment to workforce development and the creation of the Electric Vehicle Training Center.

Durant accepted the award during the AASA's National Conference on Education held last week in New Orleans.

Durant is receiving additional national attention as he was recently interviewed by the Discovery Education channel. Link to the interview segment: <https://videos.discoveryeducation.com/watch/DQni5nEe4Ts32pw7SZdHnB>





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Darnell Smith... continued from page 5

munity should have a seat at the table.

The People's Candidate

Smith isn't waiting until election day to make a difference. He's already registering voters, having tough conversations and challenging the status quo. "If nothing else, I win by getting more people to vote," he says. "This week alone, I registered 20 people who have never voted before."

He also wants to dispel myths that keep people from civic participation. "A lot of folks don't know that you can vote with a felony," he points out. "Even if you're in jail, as long as it's a misdemeanor, you can vote. We need to be educating people about the laws that affect them personally."

Smith's campaign isn't about making promises—it's about proving that change is possible, even when the odds seem stacked against you. "I didn't plan this," he admits. "But I want to show the next generation that if I can do it, they can too."

With his name officially in the race, the next step is clear: rallying the community. His campaign is powered by the people, and he's calling for volunteers who want to see real change. "I don't need big money. I need

good ideas, good people who care," he says.

Stepping Up for Toledo: A Commitment to Real Change and Community Growth

Darnell's story isn't just one of resilience—it's a testament to what's possible when someone rises to the occasion. He has been the young man searching for direction, the successful entrepreneur, and now, the leader answering the call to serve.

He believes Toledo deserves representation from someone who has lived in every corner of the city, who understands the struggles of its people firsthand. "I know the community. I know the city. I can connect the dots," he says with certainty.

To support the campaign, reach out to DarnellSmith2025@yahoo.com.



Rewriting The Narrative...continued from page 4

Because the real measure isn't who can do the Cha Cha Slide, it's proven in moments of struggle

5. "Crabs in a Barrel"

This is one of the most insidious myths ever told about Black people.

As I heard someone else say, instead of comparing Black people to crabs in a barrel, we should be asking—why are the crabs in the barrel in the first place? Crabs don't naturally belong in barrels. They have been placed in an environment that forces them to fight for survival. The same is true for us. Generations of economic exclusion, racist policies and intentional destruction of Black wealth have forced us into competition over what we deem as scarce resources.

But the idea that Black people don't support each other is simply not true. Our history is filled with examples of cooperation, mutual aid, and collective economics.

Take Glen Echo Amusement Park in Maryland, for example. It was a whites-only establishment, where Black families were banned from enjoying the rides, pools and attractions. Instead of accepting exclusion, several Black businessmen pooled their money together and built Suburban Gardens, Washington D.C.'s first and only Black-owned amusement park.

Let's be reminded that long before integration, Black people built entire communities like Black Wall Street, Seneca Village, Rosewood, and Para-

dise Valley, where businesses flourished, wealth was circulated, and residents supported one another. These communities thrived because Black people understood the power of collective economics and self-sufficiency. All built by Black people, for Black people, before they were systematically destroyed.

The problem isn't Black people pulling each other down—it's the system that keeps us in the barrel in the first place. Historically, when we built wealth and power, we faced destruction, displacement, and discrimination. But even after being torn down time and time again, Black people continue to rise, rebuild and support one another. Instead of reinforcing the myth of the 'crabs in a barrel,' we must recognize our history of resilience and push forward with that same spirit of unity.

Let's Rewrite the Narrative!

Words shape reality. The stories we tell about ourselves define how we see our potential and our power. If we want to build stronger Black communities, we must be intentional about the language we use.

- We *are* our ancestors' wildest dreams, and we should honor them accordingly.
- We don't need a seat at the table—we need ownership of the building.
- Crime is not a "Black problem"—it's a *systemic issue rooted in oppression*.
- We are not crabs in a barrel—we are architects of our own liberation.
- We have always been resilient. We have always found ways to thrive. The question is: *How will we shape the future?*

It starts with the words we speak. Let's make them powerful. Let's make them true. And let's make them ours—not the narratives imposed on us.



Elgin Rogers...continued from page 6

tive means of transportation are not just available, but reliable. Fostering mass transit usage will help us save money in the long run, and ensure all Ohioans are more connected. The unanimous vote on this bill proves that its provisions will benefit all Ohioans. We believe that this budget is something that everyone can support, and we encourage the Senate to concur," said Rep. Rogers, Jr.

Selected provisions brought forward by Rep. Rogers, Jr. and included in House Bill (HB) 54:

- * Provides \$8B in statewide highway construction and maintenance projects over the Biennium;
- * Makes progress toward meeting the state's significant public transportation needs by appropriating nearly \$200M for public transit, including \$30M to continue the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program;
- * Appropriates \$18M for Transportation Improvement Districts to invest in local infrastructure across the state;
- * Protects construction workers on the highway by establishing the Road Safety Pilot Program to assess speed compliance in construction zones, but prohibits using traffic law photo devices for any purpose, including a citation, summons, or ticket;
- * Authorizes the continued distribution of gas tax revenue to cities, counties, and townships across Ohio to support local road maintenance;
- * Adopts the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact which creates the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission and earmarks \$25K in each fiscal year to pay for the costs associated with joining the compact;
- * Continues funding commitments to the Brent Spence Bridge;

HB 54 passed the House by a 97-0 vote. It now heads to the Ohio Senate for consideration.

CLASSIFIEDS

March 12, 2025

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

0034-25-351
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.

Contract	Estimated Cost
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

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

1130-25-370
Electrical Systems Enhancements FY25-26
The University of Toledo
Lucas County, OH

Bids Due: April 01, 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
Bid Package 1 - GC Main Campus	\$890,000.00
Bid Package 2 - GC Health Science Campus	\$650,000.00
Alternate-1	\$145,000.00
Alternate-2	\$85,000.00
Alternate-3	\$90,000.00

And any proper combination submitted on electronic Bid Form

Pre-bid Meeting: March 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. – Main Campus, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606

Walk-Through: Immediately following Pre-Bid.

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

More Info: JDRM Engineering, Inc., Bill Link, 419-824-2400, blink@jdrm.com

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- * 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 or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.

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=15ps8sau3_1&_af_rLoop=7126760101772357&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=avudlxmca&_afFS=16&_afMT=screen&_afrMFW=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

The New Wayman Palmer YMCA Opens

The Truth Staff

The new Y is now open and the community will benefit greatly from the added space and services that will be available. The new facility, on Bancroft Street, between 14th Street and Franklin Avenue, will undoubtedly be a major boon to the Warren-Sherman neighborhood and residents, workers and students from neighborhoods from far away.



Since the downtown Y on Summit Street will be closed, the Wayman Palmer Y will have an influx of new members from more than just neighborhood residents.

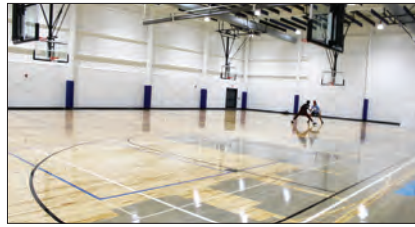
The 50,000 square-foot building, constructed

at a cost of more than \$28 million is a dramatic improvement over the 50-year-old building it replaces.



The new Wayman Palmer has a gymnasium with NCAA-approved flooring, a kids zone, multipurpose meeting rooms, state-of-the-art computers, among its many amenities. Most importantly, for many in the neighborhood, it will have a pool.

The pool, not yet finished, will contain sections for beginners on up to a section for lifeguard instruction. The pool should be completed later this spring.



Partnering with Toledo Public Schools, the building has a whole wing for a Head Start program, said Gordon MacRitchie, YMCA of Greater Toledo, chief development officer. That wing has its own

separate entrance and will contain four classrooms for toddlers and pre-K students. In the same area will be a daycare center for those TPS students who are parents. They can drop their kids off in the morning, go to school and pick up



Locker rooms



Meeting rooms

their young ones later in the afternoon.

There are so many additional facilities for every generation but children will enjoy some exceptional opportunities. The new computers,

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for example, will enable the Y to "have an e-gaming league for kids to join," said MacRitchie. E-gaming leagues are gaining in popularity around the country, he added.

Also in the Kids



Zone are a slide indoor playground and activity rooms for exercise classes.

For families, there is a family lock-room with "changing suites for different sizes," said MacRitchie. Some of the changing

rooms have showers as well.

The Wayman Palmer is now open for members and memberships are available on an income based sliding scale. Families and individuals can also apply for scholarships.



The computer room



Swimming pools - in progress