

Volume 88 No. 7

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

March 19, 2025

Toledo Black Media Week



Deb Hogan, Rick Hogan, Fletcher Word, Stayce Fowler, Kristie Knighten, Toni Battle-Gaines

In This Issue...

Perryman and Pasker
Page 2

Tolliver
Page 3

Ben Jealous
Page 4

**Ebony Carter -
Woman on the
Rise**
Page 5

**Hubbard and
Hazing**
Page 6

**Taylor Automotive Teaches
Youngsters**
Page 7

**Cover Story:
Toledo Black Media
Week**
Page 8

**Black Wall Street
Community
Development**
Page 9

**Book
Review**
Page 13

Classifieds
Page 15

**St. Paul
MBC Men's
Day**
Page 16

The Battle for Toledo City Council

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

The Truth Contributor

Politics should be about solutions, not just sides

- Sherrod Brown



Has the time arrived for a shake-up at City Hall?

With six at-large seats up for grabs on the Toledo City Council, the drama surrounding this year's election indicates a high-stakes "cage match" between incumbents fighting to keep their seats and challengers looking to upend City Council's current state of affairs.

Among the new challengers is Robert Pasker III, a local entrepreneur, real estate executive and mentor who brings a fresh perspective and direct challenge to the status quo.

With all the council incumbents running for re-election, will new voices like Parker's break through, or will voters stick with familiar leadership?

In this week's interview, Pasker makes his case for why Toledo needs change and how, as a political newcomer, he plans to challenge Toledo City Council's entrenched political establishment.

Here is our discussion:

Perryman: Welcome, Mr. Pasker. Please tell our readers about your background and life experiences.

Pasker: I'm from Toledo, Ohio. I grew up out Hill Avenue. My mom and stepfather worked at the General Mills plant for 30+ years, so I grew up blue-collar and graduated from Central Catholic. My dad is a serial entrepreneur and a nurse, and he planted seeds of success, self-reliance and independence in me. He wanted me to control my fate, which contributed to my being an entrepreneur.

Perryman: Tell us about your experience as an entrepreneur.

Pasker: I started a business while in college, Entourage Productions, an entertainment production focused on hosting events and bringing people together. I took that down to Columbus, Ohio, where I got my degree in business administration from Franklin University in 2011.

I acquired Go Matcha Go, a tea company, in 2011. I sold green tea online, at coffee shops, independent distributors, and festivals. I looked to real estate to raise capital to scale my tea company and automate my supply chain. So, I put together a program to wholesale property in Columbus to raise about \$10,000, which allowed the tea to go from the plantation to the packaging plant, to the warehouse and to the end client with the click of a button.

Perryman: I have read about your involvement in real estate in the Toledo area. Tell us more.

Pasker: My homeboy was the third generation in his grandmother's real estate brokerage firm. Her name is Mary Lane, and she is a Black woman who got her real estate license in 1963. My homeboy told me instantly, "Rob, if you really want to be successful, you will get your real estate license because everybody becomes a potential client because everybody needs real estate."

They are Realists, members of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, the oldest and largest black trade association. The Realist's focus is democracy in housing and building Black wealth primarily through homeownership and real estate.

So, I got my real estate license in 2014 and immediately moved back to Toledo. I established my own brokerage firm in 2017, and I established Pasker Real Estate at age 29. To this day, I'm still one of the youngest independent brokers in northwest Ohio.

Only two other Black real estate brokers were in the entire region when I became a broker. So, establishing that independence, beyond that, is having agents trained on how to service people, pay attention to detail, be patient with the clientele and execute.

Perryman: What inspired you to run for Toledo City Council?

Pasker: I've always been passionate about serving my community. While I was building my business, I was also serving the community as a Realist, the largest Black trade association, started in 1947, and who wrote legislation for the Fair Housing Act in 1968, the Fair Voting Rights Act in 1965, and the Community Reinvestment Act.

Toledo needed a Realist presence because when you look at wealth, specifically at the homeownership rate, most Americans' net worth is in their homes. When I first looked in 2016, the white homeownership rate was 76 percent versus the Black homeownership rate, which was only 36 percent back then. So that colossal homeownership gap equated to a huge wealth gap, and that wealth gap computed to everything else: education gap, opportunity gap, quality of life gap, health gap, and others. So, when you look at Black people in Toledo, we need more wealth, and nobody's gonna come bring it to us but us.

So, to answer your question, I've always been passionate about opening doors and elevating my community, and that's what I've done for 10 years while I've been here. I believe that my seat on city council will put me in a position to open more doors for people, to help more families elevate and to bring more resources to the community, as well as be a voice to represent those who feel like they're not necessarily listened to in Toledo.

Perryman: So how will your representation be different than what's already present on council?

Pasker: I can tell you what I'm passionate about, and I can tell you about the work that I've done here in Toledo and the impact that I've had.

I took it upon myself to establish a Realist chapter here in Toledo. I was the only at-large member for about four years before I could garner enough support to start a local board here in 2019. We started with 11 Realists, and our local board has grown to over 75 members. We are the premier network of Black real estate professionals. We're brokers, agents, lenders, inspectors, and title reps. We are also lawyers, insurance agents, and anybody with an interest in the real estate industry. We also do a lot of advocacy.

... continued on page 10



Rob Pasker



**CHILD WELFARE
CASEWORKER**

CAREER EXPO!

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025
10am-2pm

301 Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604 (in The Summit Center)



IMMEDIATE ON-SITE INTERVIEWS
Walk-ins welcome, but RSVP preferred.

To register, scan QR code or visit:
lucaskids.net/career-expo

Community Calendar

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

April 27

NAACP Youth Council meeting: 3:00 pm at Sanger Branch Library; Election of Officers

Hey ... Let's Kick the Kids!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

"As you did it unto the least of these, you did it unto me." Jesus.

Well, just when you think that the social fabric that holds this country together was slowly unraveling, a large tear just happened to speed up the demise; to date, the outrage has not been heard.

President Musk and his associate, Donald Trump, have cut one billion dollars from the Department of Agriculture's budget that funds both farmers and food programs for low-income children to have nutritious meals at their school.

A lot of farmers sell their yearly produce and goods to state, county and local businesses whose task is to make sure that feeding programs at certain schools are intact so that some low-income kids can get at least one decent meal a day.

Now, that promise is in jeopardy unless the states affected by such draconian cutbacks can fill the monetary gap and keep those programs alive and well.

And as for the affected kids, why would anyone deliberately eviscerate a program whose only goal is to make sure that DeMarcus or Lakiesha can look forward to a breakfast and/or lunch at their school?

I mean, what type of craven cruelty does it take to slash and burn school programs that support kids eating a decent meal? And with the proposed and pending tariffs on farms products, the affected farmers are clueless as to what to plant and where to cut back on. Why plant 500 acres of corn when the projected forecast indicates that you will not be able to sell your excess harvest to USAID or to other local feeding programs?

The retributive mindset of Musk & Trump is frightful to behold and makes one think that Trump has declared war on the country he claims to love, but the evidence is contra to that false piety.

Trump is going amuck with his executive powers, and he is doing so to see how far he can stretch the rubber band of American civility, law, governance and the basics of compassion and empathy shown one to the other, before it snaps.

For the Trump deniers, he clearly spelled out to the non-believers that his mean ambitions in the document entitled Project 2025 was his blueprint for his campaign of retribution against anyone, real or imagined, that he believed so much as stared him down.

That is how fragile his ego is and how craven he is towards societal norms of feeding the hungry and protecting the poor amongst us. What is also wearing thin and showing the world is that the hype that America is a Christian nation is not what it is cracked up to be.

When you gut the USAID program (the most benefits go to struggling African nations for food and medical needs) and your top concern is to cater to the whims and needs of the uber rich simply because they are rich, America takes a well-deserved hit at becoming more of a coarsening nation who gives short rift to the cry of the needy.

When the so called White evangelical churches observe what is happening and do not preach against these excesses for fear of being called out, they have lost their saltiness and are only good to be trampled underfoot.

When the churches in America give lip service to the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes while their main concern is not losing their tax-exempt status or losing favor with the Pharisees and Sadducees in Congress, America is slowing becoming an apostate country before your very eyes.

Food and clothing and shelter are fundamental human rights that should be both cherished and respected by all but especially so by any church association that professes that they follow the tenets of the scriptures.

I need not cite here the many admonitions and scripture imperatives that clearly speak that Jesus is on the side of the downtrodden and the oppressed and the homeless.

If Jesus was to walk the earth today, he would make a whip cord and drive out the phonies and frauds that populate any church pulpit that only preach a a soiled gospel of prosperity and living your best live now.

On our coinage, there is the phrase, "In God We Trust" and that is a blatant lie because we trust our wealth and we give worship to the almighty dollar



and do not cry out about such onerous government cuts to the less fortunate.

If those drastic cuts are not restored or if the affected local governments can not replace those lost federal funds, children will suffer harm and loss, and their educational attentiveness can be affected by a lack of a nourishing morning or lunch meal.

Between an attentive mind and not feeding an empty and growling stomach, the stomach wins out...every time.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Tips to Spring Clean Your Budget

Special to The Truth

With flowers blooming and birds chirping, you may be in a spring-cleaning mindset. As you spruce up your home, you can also channel that energy into getting your finances in tip-top shape!

According to CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNING® professionals, here's how to clear away the cobwebs in your budget:

Sort expenditures: If you've ever sorted your clothes and other items into piles during a spring clean, this budgeting principle will be familiar to you: Review your expenses and categorize them into needs, wants and expenditures you're ready to part with. Whether you do this on paper or electronically, use a color-coded system to visualize where your money is going.

Review your streaming services: Electronic subscription bloat is common, as is paying for forgotten subscriptions after free trials end. For example, you may be subscribed to several of the most common entertainment streaming services, such as Netflix, Max and Hulu. Do you really need all of them? Whether it's an online newsletter or a music streaming service, cancel unused subscriptions.

Avoid bank fees: Review your bank statements. Are you getting dinged with fees? Consider switching to a bank that doesn't charge an account maintenance fee. You can also set up notifications to avoid having your account get hit with an overdraft. If you do get charged, contact your bank to explain your situation — you may be able to have some fees waived.

Switch insurance carriers: Periodically review your insurance rates, and shop the market to see if better rates are available for home, automotive and other forms of insurance.

... continued on page 4

Take the next step towards homeownership with our Home Buying Workshop

Saturday, April 12
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

The Truth Colours Gallery
7 East Bancroft
Toledo, Ohio 43604

Complimentary
Light Lunch Provided



YourStateBank.com
877.867.4218



NMLS 403044
Loans Subject to credit approval



JacQuelon Wilson
Vice President
Community Development
Mortgage Loan Officer
NMLS 1638079

RSVP to JacQui at 419.508.0806
or JacQui.Wilson@YourStateBank.com

They Cannot Rob Us of Our History and Our Place in America's Story

By Ben Jealous
Guest Column

My grandfather's first cousin was Lieutenant Colonel Howard Lee Baugh. Cousin Howard was part of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first unit of the Tuskegee Airmen. This month marks the 84th anniversary of the activation of the Squadron at Chanute Field in Rantoul, Illinois, about 120 miles southwest of Chicago.

A few years ago, I sat with my friend Norman Lear, the late TV legend behind shows like *All in the Family* and *The Jeffersons* that became important American cultural staples. Norman and I figured out that my cousin Howard was one of the Tuskegee Airmen who escorted Norman on some of his bombing missions during World War II. (In addition to creating those social consciousness-raising shows and founding People For the American Way, Norman's patriotic resume also included 52 bomber missions in America's fight against global fascism.)

It was an amazing connection to make to this piece of my own proud piece of family history. A life-sized bronze statue of Lt. Col. Baugh stands in permanent tribute to him and the other Tuskegee Airmen in the Black History Museum in Richmond, Virginia.

This history is personal to me because of the family connection to the Airmen – Lt. Col. Baugh was actually one of two of my grandfather's cousins who were Tuskegee Airmen – but this is history that is important to countless Black Americans. It is also history the Trump administration seemingly wants to erase from existence.

Beyond the federal government no longer recognizing celebrations such as Black History Month and Women's History Month, the Pentagon is removing every program, mention, image, or individual they say is associated with diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. The Trump administration already fired Air Force General CQ Brown, Jr. – another history-making Black fighter pilot like my cousin Lt. Col. Baugh – as chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff, and Admiral Lisa Franchetti, the Navy's first female chief.

Now, it was reported last week that more than 26,000 (so far) photographs or online posts have been flagged for deletion in a Pentagon database because they apparently arouse Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's suspicion of DEI. Among them: photos of the Tuskegee Airmen.

To give you an idea of the precision of this white-washing frenzy, also targeted on the list are images captioned with or including the word "gay." And, as of last week, that included references to the Enola Gay, the B-29 bomber that dropped the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, and photographs of people whose last name is Gay. And it would not be Women's History Month under the new Trump administration without targeting references to pathbreaking women among the various war heroes and historic military firsts – women like Air Force Colonel Jeannie Leavitt, the country's first female fighter pilot, and Private First Class Christina Fuentes Montenegro, one of the first three women to graduate from the Marine Corps' Infantry Training Battalion. Also listed in the database was an image of Private First Class Harold Gonsalves, who was posthumously presented the Medal of Honor for military valor during World War II and happened to be Mexican-American.

In his perverse view of DEI, Secretary Hegseth thinks removing DEI initiatives means erasing history. And he says "DEI is dead" in the US military because it puts certain groups ahead of others and erodes cohesion and camaraderie among the ranks. But the truth is the opposite. It is not only just and moral that we recognize the contributions of people from marginalized groups (especially when they are military heroes who opened up doors for future generations). It is unifying.

We are all Americans. But some of us have just had our communities' histories and contributions ignored, and even suppressed. Protecting every community's, every family's place in the American story is vital. It is vital for the children who otherwise would not see people they identify with in our history books. And it is vital for America to be what Frederick Douglass knew we could be: "the perfect national illustration of the unity and dignity of the human family."

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



Calling all filmmakers, actors, and creative minds!
INFUSE NETWORK, Your destination for fresh and captivating content is now streaming absolutely FREE on Roku device.

Dive into a world of unique movies, shows and stories waiting to be discovered.

But that's not all!
INFUSE NETWORK is seeking talented individuals to join our growing family.

.Content Creators:
Do you have a story begging to be told? We're looking for passionate filmmakers with original content to submit for consideration.

.Models & Actors:
Are you ready to shine on screen? We're seeking captivating models and actors to bring our commercials and television shows to life.

Fuel your imagination and share your vision!
For more information and submission guidelines.

Email us at millenniummediagroup@gmail.com
Call 419.514.1284

INFUSE NETWORK: Stream Free. Create Boldly

Clean Your Budget...continued from page 3

Reduce debt: If your debt is costing you a pretty penny, it's time to act. A CFP® professional or credit counselor can help you craft a plan for consolidating debt into lower-rate credit card accounts, refinancing your mortgage and reducing your overall debt burden. You should also automate credit card payments (and other bills) to ensure you aren't paying late fees.

Pay yourself first: Earmark a portion of your budget to savings and investments each month. This will leave you with more money for your important goals and less for frivolous spending.

To work with a CFP® professional who can help you roll up your sleeves and get to work on cleaning up your finances, visit letsmakeaplan.org.

This spring, go beyond dusting the baseboards and mopping the floors. Refresh your finances for a fresh start to the season.

Courtesy StatePoint

Ebony Carter: Lifting as She Rises

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Imagine climbing a mountain. The higher you go, the thinner the air gets, the steeper the path, and the more challenging each step becomes. Now imagine **Ebony Carter**, not only making that climb but reaching back to help others up along the way. That's exactly what she does every day.

As the **Minority Business Assistance Center (MBAC) Program Director**, Carter has dedicated her career to guiding entrepreneurs, particularly minority business owners, through the ups and downs of growing their businesses. This year, she's being recognized for her extraordinary work with the **YWCA Milestones 2025 Women on the Rise Honor**—a well-earned accolade that celebrates the impact she has made in Toledo's business community.

But if you ask her about this award, she won't take the credit alone. "I accept this on behalf of my community," Carter says, her voice full of gratitude. "It takes a village. If it wasn't for the people who poured into me, supported me, and reminded me to keep going when things got tough, I wouldn't be here."

Carter's story isn't just about success—it's about service, vision and a fierce determination to uplift others.

Scaling Up, Leveling Up, and Breaking Through

One of Carter's biggest initiatives at MBAC is **The Art of Scale-Up**, an eight-week program designed to help business owners get out of the "startup struggle" and into a real growth phase.

"A lot of entrepreneurs get stuck," Carter explains. "They do all the right things to start—registering the business, setting up a bank account—but then they hit a wall. They don't know what's next, and they stay in survival mode."

This program is all about pulling back the layers, getting real about what's working (and what's not), and empowering business owners to take the next step with confidence.

But here's the thing: it's not about pushing people into growth they're not ready for. "We don't tell them what to do," Carter says. "We help them figure out what's right for them. Not everyone is in a place to scale up just yet, and that's okay. The key is knowing when the time is right."

And it's working. The impact is real and measurable.

"We don't want people to just take another business class," Ebony says. "We want them to finish this program and say, 'I increased my revenue by \$15,000.' Or, 'I finally opened my second location.' That's what matters."

To make sure each entrepreneur gets the hands-on support they need, MBAC keeps the class size small—only 15 business owners per cohort. The goal isn't to push out huge numbers. It's to create real transformation, one business at a time.

Keys to Scaling a Business

Recently, Carter spoke at a HerHub luncheon about the most important things entrepreneurs need to do to scale their businesses. Her top three takeaways?

1. Do Your Research—Yourself, First

"Before you even start looking at the market, take a deep dive into your



Ebony Carter

own business," she advises. "Where are your weak spots? What's slowing you down? You can't fix what you don't see."

2. Build the Right Team

"You can't do it all alone," Carter stresses. "Find people who compliment your strengths and fill in the gaps where you need help."

3. Set Dates & Execute the Plan

"Billionaires don't have some secret code," Carter says with a laugh. "They just make a plan, set deadlines, and actually do the work. That's it. No magic. Just consistency."

And that consistency? It's where most businesses fail. Tracking progress, holding yourself accountable, and making real moves—that's the game-changer.

Success Isn't Always What You Expect

One of the most powerful things Carter has seen through her work is how success looks different for everyone.

"There was one business owner who wanted a loan to buy a building," Carter recalls. "She found a lender willing to approve her, but after going through our program, she realized it would actually put her in financial trouble."

The old her might have taken the loan anyway. But through the deep dive into her business, she recognized the risk herself.

"She told herself 'no,'" Carter says, smiling. "And that's powerful. It's different when someone tells you no versus when you realize on your own that the timing isn't right."

Instead of taking the loan, the business owner made smart financial moves, increased her revenue, and ended up renegotiating her lease for a better deal.

"That's success," Carter says. "Not just growth, but growth at the right time."

More Than an Award—A Movement

When Carter learned she was the only Woman on the Rise honoree this

... continued on page 10

Join Us!
Worship EXPERIENCE
Every Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
Let's FELLOWSHIP together - Acts 2:42

Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
2102 Mulberry Street, Toledo, Ohio 43608
(419) 726-1180, FAX: (419) 726-6240
E-mail: EasternStarMBC@aol.com
Website: www.drjwilliams.org

Need a Loan? Think Glass City!

- Mortgage Loans
- Home Equity Loans & Lines of Credit
- Home Improvement Loans
- Vehicle Loans
- Personal Loans
- Visa Credit Cards

GLASS CITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Toledo • Maumee • Bowling Green
419-887-1000 • glasscityfcu.com

Federally Insured by NCUA

Loans & credit cards subject to credit approval & membership eligibility. NMLS ID #445858.

We're working for you!

Should Hazing Still Be Part of Initiation Rites

By Paul Hubbard, MSW

Guest Column

The national news has had a lot of coverage about the hazing death of Caleb Wilson. CBS news said Caleb Wilson died as a direct result of a hazing incident where he was punched in the chest multiple times while pledging to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. At no point did anyone involved in the incident call 911.



So far three arrests have been made in connection with the death at Southern University and A&M College. The charges are criminal hazing and manslaughter. I am sure the three Black university students charged were not trying to murder their future fraternity brother Caleb Wilson.

The Ricky Smiley radio show had a call in about the death and Ricky Smiley cried on the radio because he had talked to Caleb Wilson's father.

DL Hughley, who is member of Omega Psi Phi, said on his radio show this is not representative of the fraternity. There are four families or more in distress who sent their sons to college to get an education and to have a good future – Wilson's family and the three families of those arrested.

Pledging a fraternity process is to build and teach teamwork and how to work with others. It is to train the pledgees egos to work with other egos and not to be only self-centered. It's about brotherhood and having passion for the brothers in the brotherhood. Each fraternity has its own ritual; when the ritual is over it's called crossing the burning sands. The Brothers then learn secret handshakes, secret words, and secret sayings.

While pledging, a brother learns the history of the fraternity, certain poems, and frat songs. None of the national fraternity offices allow hazing anymore. If a pledgee or pledge line feel they are being abused in the wrong way or hazed, they can contact the fraternity's national office, and the national office will investigate the complaint.



Caleb Wilson

When I pledged, there was hard paddling taking place. At that time schools were also paddling kids for bad behavior. Times have changed and hard paddling is now considered hazing in frats; just like paddling is no longer allowed in schools.

There is always a fraternity brother (Pledge Master) in charge of pledging and that brother is supposed to protect the pledgees from hazing by other fraternity members.


Fraternities and sororities in 2025 are involved in their communities working with youth projects and programs, creating scholarship programs and mentoring programs. Some are involved in the schools in many ways.

Omega Psi Phi members, known as the Qs, have a health fair every summer. Alpha Phi Alpha sponsors the annual Martin Luther King Day Breakfast every year that attracts hundreds.

There is an organization created called "The Devine 9" which includes the nine major Greek college African American fraternities and sororities. The Devine 9 enjoys social events and also contribute to community efforts. Fraternities and sororities also have a positive effect on the lives of their brothers and Sisters through interaction, networking and socializing.

I am a brother in Alpha Phi Alpha Sigma Psi Phi Boule, also a 33 Degree Mason and a Shriner and I get personal satisfaction from them all. I had a wife that is a Delta and one that is an AKA, and they love the sisterhood.

I hope the death of Caleb Wilson pledging Q and the arrest of the three students who were Qs will not be forgotten. I hope it will help stop fraternity hazing (which is prevalent also in the white fraternities) and motivate fraternities to keep supporting our African American communities and youth.



Getting Your Affairs in Order 2025

A WILL IS NOT ALWAYS THE WAY


In Partnership with
Area Office on Aging
& Toledo Lucas County Public Library

Join us for a Workshop on How to be Ready for Life Changes
Saturday, April 5, 2025
at Lucas County Main Public Library McMaster Center
325 N. Michigan St., Toledo, OH 43604

Check in 9:30 a.m.
Program 10 a.m.-12 p.m. – Lunch Provided

Topic Discussions:
Living Wills & Advance Directives
Power of Attorney
Bank Accounts & Fraud Prevention
Transfer of Assets
Life & Homeowners Insurance
Talking with Loved Ones

RSVP by April 1
For registration, use the QR code or go to
<https://events.toledolibrary.org/event/12945072>
For more information,
call 419.259.5200



*This session contains information and content supplied by third parties for informational purposes only. This does not constitute or imply endorsement by the library, event organizers or sponsors.

PARTNERSHIP SPONSORS
Huntington Bank
Lucas County Recorder – Michael Ashford

SUPPORTING SPONSORS
Black & Brown Coalition
First Church of God
IMA
Legal Shield
Lucas County Auditor – Katie Moline
Lucas County Treasurer – Lindsay Webb
N-SYNC, LLC
State Farm, Sarah Ross, Agent
Tastefully Two
Toledo Community Coalition

Toledo's Jasmine Fox Is Headed for Austin – to University of Texas and the State Capital

My foundation in Toledo, OH – from my loved ones and my families at the University of Toledo, the Alpha Lambda and Zeta Alpha Omega chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as and the Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church – prepared me for the work I am doing for Texas State Representative Aicha Davis as her Policy Fellow.



JasmineFox

... continued on page 11

Blair Johnson and Lance Self Present "The Garage"

The Truth Staff

Community leaders Blair Johnson and Lance Self teamed up on Saturday, March 15, at Taylor Hyundai of Toledo, to present "The Garage," an educational event designed to teach youngsters a few basic automobile maintenance techniques.

Johnson, founder of BMJ Enterprises and a candidate for a Toledo City Council seat at large, and Self, "The People's Salesman," at Taylor Automotive, brought together about 15 youngsters, between the ages of 14 and 19, for the one and a half hour course, led by Taylor mechanics.

"Many people lack basic car maintenance skills, which can lead to unnecessary expenses and safety risks," said Johnson when he announced the class through social media. "We're excited to offer a free, hands-on learning experience to help our community become more self-sufficient."

The students were able to learn about such techniques as learning how "to change a tire, check tire pressure and learn how to check fluid levels and change

wiper blades," said Self. He noted that they also were able to see the underside of a vehicle as it would be lifted.

The youngsters also were introduced to the battery system and learning when the charge is low; how to find out if brake pads were worn, when the cooling system is unsafe and when the traction control is not active.

The kids, said Self, came from all over the community for this, the second time the class had been organized. All was free of charge to the kids, even the pizza lunch served afterwards.

The classes are sponsored by Taylor Hyundai of Toledo, BMJ Enterprises, The Lance Self Auto Group and Self Love Movement.



Lance Self and Blair Johnson



Family
~~Travel Plans.~~ **Now Boarding.**


 EUGENE F KRANZ
TOLEDO EXPRESS
 AIRPORT

allegiant.com

toledoexpress.com

This Is Toledo Black Media Week • This Is Toledo Black Media Week • This Is Toledo Black Media Week • This Is Toledo Black Media Week

Toledo City Council Recognizes Toledo Black Media Week

The Truth Staff

On Tuesday, March 11, the Toledo City Council passed a resolution recognizing and honoring Toledo Black Media by declaring the Week of March 16 as Toledo Black Media Week. The resolution was inspired by the State of Ohio's passage of a law in February that designated the week of March 16 as Ohio Black Media Week. That state resolution was initiated and promoted by State Representative Elgin Rogers.

The City Council resolution was drafted by Councilwomen Cerssandra McPherson and Brittany Jones, PhD. and presented a look at the recent history of Toledo Black media and the impact on the community.

"Black print and electronic media have a rich and important history in contributing to the diverse voices of greater Toledo," the resolution began.

Then the council resolution ticked off the various Black media entities that have served the Black community over the past 80 years:

"Frances Belcher was the founder and publisher of the Bronze Raven, a weekly newspaper, published from 1947 to 1976 ..."

"Charles Welch "Charlie Mack" started The Juice FM 107.3 (WJUC) and entered the history books by becoming the first African American in Ohio to start a radio station from the ground up ..."

"The Toledo Journal, Sandra Stewart, publisher, and Myron Stewart, editor, a National Black Chamber of Commerce award winning newspaper ... proudly serving Toledo and Northwest Ohio since 1975 ..."

"The Sojourner's Truth published by, for and about the African-American community, with Fletcher Word as publisher and editor, began publication in April 2022 ... and is an innovative weekly newspaper ..."

"The Stalwart Magazine, with Stayce Fowler as publisher and editor, is a publication that is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of individuals in the community, with a particular focus on those from minority backgrounds ..."

The City Council resolution also recognized the efforts of Toledo's Black media entities to form the Black Wall Street Community Development group that formed a year and a half ago in an effort to foster collaboration among Toledo's Black-owned businesses. The founding members are Rick and Deb Hogan of The Juice; Toni Battle Gaines of The Juice; Word of The Truth and Kristie Knighten of KpK.

After reading the resolution, various council members took turns thanking and praising the Black media companies for their efforts in the community.

Toledo Black Media Week is part of a state-wide effort to recognize Black media. Earlier this year, State Representative Elgin Rogers wrote a

bill, later signed by Governor DeWine recognizing Ohio Black Media Week – March 16.

The history of Black Media in the United States began almost two centuries ago when the first Black-owned newspaper was published – Freedom's Journal in New York on March 16, 1827 by Jamaican-born John Brown Russwurm, Bowdoin College's first African American graduate and only the third Black person to graduate from an

American college, and Samuel Eli Cornish, a graduate of the Free African School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania who also founded Shiloh Presbyterian Church, the first Black Presbyterian church in Manhattan in 1822.

In Toledo, in addition to the Bronze Raven, early Black-owned media newspapers included the Toledo Observer in the 1940s and the Toledo Script in the 1950s.



The Juice 107.3 Staff



Deb Hogan of The Juice, 107.3; Fletcher Word of The Truth; Stayce Fowler of Stalwart Magazine



Toledo's Black Media with Toledo City Council

ACCULEVEL
Since 1996

YOUR LOCAL FOUNDATION REPAIR AND WATERPROOFING EXPERT.

For a basement, crawl space, or slab foundation, we guide you on the right path to a healthy home.

Family owned and operated since 1996, we treat your home like our own.

OUR SERVICES

- Cracked or Bowing Walls
- Sump Pumps
- Settling Foundations
- Waterproofing & Encapsulation
- Concrete Leveling
- Sagging Floors
- Crawl Space Repairs

CALL FOR YOUR FREE HOME INSPECTION
855-933-1343

ACT NOW!
\$250 off*

Must be presented at time of estimate. Please call for details.

ERIEHOME
Basement/Crawl Space Crew

94%

*Coupons must be presented at the time of inspection. This offer may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Valid through 3/31/2025.

Musty Basement? WE CAN HELP!

- Basement Waterproofing
- Indoor Air Quality
- Foundation Repair
- Crawl Space Service

BEFORE **AFTER**

\$750 OFF
Plus FREE Home Air Quality Test (\$399 value)

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE
1-888-501-2812

New orders only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homerepairs.compliance.com. All rights reserved.

This Is Toledo Black Media Week • This Is Toledo Black Media Week • This Is Toledo Black Media Week • This Is Toledo Black Media Week

The Black Wall Street Community Development Hosts Business Networking Event

The Truth Staff

The Black Wall Street Community Development, a collaborative effort formed by The Juice 107.3 radio, The Truth newspaper and Stalwart Magazine, hosted a networking event for Black-owned businesses on Wednesday, March 12, at the University of Toledo's Business Incubator. More than 50 Black-owned businesses were represented during the session.

Three of the business owners present were Rob Pasker, Blair Johnson and Darnell Smith, also recently announced, first-time candidates for Toledo City Council (Smith's petition was later denied due to errors on the form).

The event was opened by Toni Battle-Gaines of The Juice, who explained to those gathered the point of the BWSCD and why the group had gathered at the UToledo Business Incubator.

The BWSCD began in August of 2023 and since then has held networking events about every two months along with organizing speed funding events for participants as well as instructional sessions on managing businesses.

Last week's attendees represented dozens of different types of businesses – auto dealers and detailers, digital creators, photographers, hair and beauty salons, government contractors, event planners, caterers, to name a few.

All of the attendees were able to introduce themselves and their business ventures to the rest of the gathering.

The final introduction was that of Pam Moore with the University of Toledo Business Incubator.

The incubator works to encourage economic development in the northwest Ohio region by providing access to capital, business resources and networking opportunities. One goal is to enhance collaboration and partnerships. The staff provide assistance in taking business ventures from concept to commercialization.

The next BWSCD networking event will take place in May.



Blair Johnson, Darnell Smith, Rob Pasker



Blair Johnson and Stayce Fowler



Virgilio Baker introduces a new podcast and network



Lary Sykes and Rob Pasker



Ricky Tyus and Virgilio Baker




sonobello
ONE VISIT PERMANENT FAT REMOVAL

- ✓ Targeted fat removal from stubborn areas like: Stomach, chin, arms, thighs and more!
- ✓ 150+ Board-Certified Surgeons
- ✓ 25,000 5-Star Ratings

855-200-8068

LIMITED TIME OFFER! GET \$500 OFF TODAY



Kristen B., Age 34
 Sono Bello Ambassador
 Individual Results May Vary

LET THE PROS HANDLE IT! LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters. Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

20% OFF + 10% OFF
 Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

USA, A+ BBB Rating, ++ We offer financing that fits your budget!

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION! 1-844-518-2952

*See Representative for full warranty details. Offer subject to inspection. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Subject to credit approval. Call for details. All warranties are void where prohibited. © 2025 LeafFilter, Inc. All rights reserved. LeafFilter, Inc. is a registered trademark of LeafFilter, Inc. in the United States and other countries. LeafFilter, Inc. is a registered trademark of LeafFilter, Inc. in the United States and other countries. LeafFilter, Inc. is a registered trademark of LeafFilter, Inc. in the United States and other countries. LeafFilter, Inc. is a registered trademark of LeafFilter, Inc. in the United States and other countries.

BEFORE AFTER
 We're looking to install our NEXT GENERATION gutter guard on your home!

FULL SERVICE GUTTER PROTECTION – SCHEDULE YOUR FREE INSPECTION NOW! 1-844-518-2952

Perryman...continued from page 2

We brought to the table and advocated for legislation enacted in the State House, such as the Homebuyer Protection Act, which creates a new disclosure for sellers that says that they can't discriminate for homebuyers based on their names or any other factors. We've built relationships with influential real estate organizations in the city, such as the Lucas County Land Bank, LMH, LISC and so on. Beyond that, we've helped our members build their brands, elevate their businesses and find new avenues to make money in the real estate industry.

Perryman: How do you plan to support local small businesses, given that you've successfully built businesses and mentored others in financial literacy?

Pasker: The City does a good job. They had a diversity initiative for contractors, but initiatives like that I want to see more of and sustain those that open the door to educate local entrepreneurs on doing business with the government as well as supporting them through potential grants and low-interest loans to help them over the hump.

Perryman: What are your thoughts on the current state of public safety in Toledo?

Pasker: Toledo is no different than any other major city. There's crime everywhere, but what I want to see more of is community engagement between the police and the community. I'd like to see more community policing, public forums and more communication to enable police officers to build relationships with the communities they serve.

Perryman: What role do you believe city council should play in supporting education and career pathways for young folks?

Pasker: I believe that Toledo Public Schools and Dr. [Romules] Durant have done a great job of vocational training and providing options for the students to make money directly out of high school and obtain college credit within high schools. I know that Dr. Durant is working to revitalize and develop the Scott Park Campus, so what can the city do that is a win-win situation for Toledo Public Schools and the Scott Park neighborhood? Toledo should continue supporting Toledo Public Schools as long as it makes sense.

Also, I would like to see Toledo continue to support summer youth programming. I haven't seen anything like it in any other city, and idle hands are the devil's workshop. If we want to reduce crime, the City of Toledo should increase funding to give our youth things to do, specifically in the summer and after school.

Perryman: What investments should Toledo prioritize in their infrastructure and community services to improve the quality of life for its residents?

Pasker: I would like to see neighborhood roads prioritized. I know a lot of side streets that have potholes and other damage. Even on my street, Broadway, there's a sinkhole in my neighbor's driveway. Putting more money on side streets that may not be main roads but people still must pass through every day.

Perryman: What key issues do you believe need immediate attention in Toledo, and how would you address them?

Pasker: With inflation going up, the cost of living going up, rent going up and wages staying the same, people are starting to struggle in ways that they haven't struggled before, and with housing being the largest expense for most people, we have to find a way that we can ease some of that pressure. The best way to ease some of that pressure is to create more supply. It can't be addressed overnight, but we must find a way to start building affordable homes, especially in neighborhoods with these vacant lots. With the land bank owning so much property in areas like

Rob Pasker



... continued on page 13

Ebony Carter... continued from page 5

year, she was surprised.

"I know in past years they selected multiple women," she says. "So, to be chosen as the sole recipient is really special."

But again, Carter doesn't see this award as just hers.



"This is a team win, a community win. I'll be the face of it because they put my name on it," she says with a laugh, "but I couldn't rise without my people."

She credits women like Amerah Archer, Olivia Holden, Alicia Smith, Arlana Alexander and Carlena Johnson for being inspirations and examples of leadership in action.

"I'm blessed to be surrounded by women who constantly pour into me," Carter says. "They remind me that, yes, there's more work to be done, but it's possible."

The Heart Behind Her Work

What keeps Carter fighting for minority entrepreneurs every day?

"The people," she says without hesitation.

As a proud Toledo native, Carter sees firsthand the hustle, resilience, and talent in her city. But she also sees the lack of resources and recognition.

"We have some truly amazing, hardworking business owners here," she says. "And if the fight is making sure they get the exposure and opportunities they deserve, then that's the fight I'm in until the end."

Because for Carter, it's not just about business. It's about breaking barriers, building wealth, and creating a stronger community.

What's Next? Bigger & Bolder Moves

So what's next for MBAC and Carter's mission?

More accessibility. More engagement. More impact.

"We want to expand *The Art of Scale-Up* to make it available to even more entrepreneurs across the city," Carter says.

And beyond that?

"Collaboration over competition," she says. "It's all about bringing people together, sharing resources, and making sure that success isn't just for the few—it's for everyone."

As Ebony Carter continues to rise, uplift, and empower, one thing is clear: her work is changing lives. And if you ask her, she'll tell you—she's just getting started.

Congratulations to Ebony Carter on this well-deserved honor! Learn more about the YWCA Milestones Awards here.



Hurtling to the Future!

By Steven Flagg

Guest Column

As dawn breaks on a cold, cloudy morning in January, a small crowd has gathered in Independence Square in central Kyiv. The sun has not shined for days, and the wind is brutally blowing the spitting snow as the crowd shivers to stay warm. It was just a few days ago that the world celebrated the arrival of 2028.

Russian soldiers have been present for hours establishing a security perimeter to protect Putin and a small group of his advisors. A hastily built gallows stands in the middle of the square. On it is a lone figure with a noose around their neck, coatless, and clothed in black from head to toe. He has defiantly declined a hood so Putin and his minions would see the last measure of his defiance. With his trademark beard and trim, rugged appearance he is easily identified as Volodymyr Zelenskyy the former president of Ukraine. For the past year he has been the leader of Onip, the Ukrainian resistance movement. Onip was formed by Zelenskyy and his rabid followers after Russia invaded and quickly conquered a battered and exhausted Ukraine that was just beginning to rebuild.

In the fall of 2025, Ukraine having been bludgeoned, bloodied and abandoned by America had no other option but to capitulate to President Trump's demands for peace and signed a treaty giving Russia full control over 30 percent of Ukrainian territory. The agreement had no security guarantees and prohibited Ukraine from ever joining NATO. The treaty did provide for a small number of French, Polish, and British soldiers tasked with monitoring negotiated border crossings and patrolling the new border.

In December 2026 after several Russian provocations and accusations, Putin again invaded Ukraine. NATO, now without its largest military partner as America had withdrawn in early 2026 and undermined by the constant bickering of its European members, was paralyzed by the swiftness of the brazen attack. Peace keeping troops, so few in numbers, were easily surrounded and taken hostage with no significant injuries. Lightly armed

they decided surrender was better than certain death.

Zelenskyy with many of his military advisors fled Kyiv to the Ukrainian countryside. Once there they formed Onip, gathered arms and supporters, and started a guerilla campaign to harass the Russian invaders. They gallantly continued persistent and deadly raids for months. Money corrupted a trusted advisor and while traveling to another command center a Russian Spetsnaz team captured Zelenskyy. Zelenskyy was the heart of Ukraine, and his leadership was the last glimmer of hope. Onip continued operations for a few more months but eventually Russia's brutal treatment of Ukrainians smashed all but isolated incidents of terrorism.

Russia was now on the borders of the European Union with a weakened NATO and a rebuilt and reamed military. After Putin begins threatening and bullying Estonia for access to Tallinn port facilities, an alarmed President Vance calls for increases in defense spending and begins negotiations with NATO and the European Union to regain its membership. Vance who refuses to publicly acknowledge his role in the disaster is now isolated politically after the death of Donald Trump and the loss of Congress in the 2026 mid-term elections.

You say it will never happen. It can if we fail to stand on guard! Let us all work to keep it fiction.



Steve Flagg

Jasmine Fox... continued from page 6

I am honored to have been selected to work on the team and serve the constituents of House District 109 of Dallas, TX and the support and en-

couragement from Toledo to get me here. I am so excited to be working for a proud advocate for public education as I continue obtaining my masters of education degree in Educational Policy and Planning at the University of Texas at Austin.

DIXIE Auto Leasing Toledo, OH

5880 N. Detroit
Month to Month Leasing
 419-476-8674

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS

Bernadette Joy Graham, LPCC, LLC
 Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor
 419.409.4929
 Mental Health...Get Your Mind Right
 www.bjgrahamcounseling.com
 2525 W. Bancroft
 Toledo, OH 43606
 graham.bernadette@gmail.com

Welcome Home to Sylvan Lakes Apartments!

Our elegant apartments feature spacious bedrooms with ample storage, high ceilings and breath-taking views! Stop in today to see our beautifully landscaped grounds, resort-like swimming pool and clubhouse with its fully-equipped fitness center. Located just west of King road off of Sylvania Ave.

Sylvan Lakes
 Apartment Homes

4045 A Langston Place, Sylvania, Ohio 43560
 P: 419-842-8480 E: investekmanagement.com

WHAT'S YOUR VACATION FLAVOR?

EUGENE F. KRANZ
TOLEDO EXPRESS
 AIRPORT

allegiant.com

Hicks-Hudson Responds to Governor's State of the State Address

Last week, state Senator Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) issued the following statement in response to Governor Mike DeWine's State of the State address:

"I am disappointed that Lucas County in Northwest Ohio got little notice in Governor DeWine's address to the state," said Hicks-Hudson. "Governor DeWine did mention a few accomplishments and listed new state policies that will help our voters. However, the reality is that these incremental successes are not matching the ongoing challenges Ohioans are facing, especially our children and their parents. The governor's statements on el-

derly and child tax credits are a start but don't go far enough. Instead of shrinking words out of the Revised Code, we should be shrinking the gap for Ohioans not having their needs met."

Following the governor's State of the State address, Senate and House Democrats held a joint press conference to discuss how they're fighting for an Ohio that protects, houses, educates, supports, and empowers workers and families.



Rep Erika White Believes the Real State of the State is Ohioans Deserve Better

State Rep. Erika White (D-Springfield Twp) last week responded to Governor DeWine's State of the State address:

"Working individuals from various sectors-farmers, teachers, and professionals all contributing to local economies-have dedicated their lives, hard-earned savings, and the futures of their families to this state. Governor DeWine's recent speech centered on the importance of workforce development; however, this focus fails to address the alarming dismantling of public education. This dismantling has now spread to public higher education institutions, exacerbating the ongoing brain drain as talented individuals leave the state in search of better opportunities. Without a strong com-

mitment to valuing education and supporting the teaching profession, we risk losing our ability to attract and retain young families and skilled professionals. A state that neglects the education of its youth cannot expect to build a vibrant future or cultivate a thriving, skilled diverse workforce.

The basic necessities of Ohioans cannot be met without a committed investment in essential services and resources. It is imperative that we ensure access to healthcare, housing, food security, and mental health support for individuals, especially our most vulnerable populations," said Rep. White.

House Democrats are committed in fighting for a future for all...for affordable healthcare, safer communities, strong local economies, financial relief for seniors, fairer taxes for the working people, veteran & mental health resources, community development, workers' rights, and an equitable future where Ohio is leading the way for all its citizens.



THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY PRESENTS

THE 14TH ANNUAL

BUSINESS & HEALTH EXPO

SATURDAY APRIL 5TH 2025

10AM - 3PM

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

THE YMCA WAYMAN D. PALMER

**2053 N. 14TH ST
TOLEDO, OH 43620**

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

YMCA City of Toledo UTMC BCAN	Mercy Health The Juice 107.3 FM Taylor Automotive Family MetroParks	Area Office on Aging The Huntington National Bank The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper Buckeye Broadband
----------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

FOR VENDOR INFORMATION:
CONTACT VIA EMAIL EVENTS@THESOCIALBUTTERFLYLCC.COM
OR VISIT WWW.THESOCIALBUTTERFLYLCC.COM

DONNETTA CARTER, MSW
EVENT ORGANIZER
419-367-9765

THE SOCIAL Butterfly

PROUDLY MEMBER OF
A+ Building

Rep. Grim Says Real State of the State is Ohioans Deserve Better

State Rep. Michele Grim (D-Toledo) last week responded to Governor DeWine's State of the State address.

"Ohioans deserve a budget that puts people first-one that lowers costs, strengthens public schools, and ensures families can thrive. While the governor's budget includes positive steps like a child tax credit and expanded childcare, it neglected to address the high prices and rising property taxes that are squeezing families - and ignored the looming threat of severe cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, Head Start, and Pell Grants being pushed by his party in Washington. Ohio House Democrats are fighting for a budget that prioritizes working families, seniors, and students over tax breaks for the wealthy because Ohioans deserve better," said Rep. Grim.

House Democrats are committed to making sure people deserve better: better pay, better healthcare, fairer taxes, safer communities, real opportunities, and a future where no one is held back.



Women's History Month Books for Kids by Various Authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Mom and Grandma know a lot of things.

They know what you like for breakfast and for lunch. They help you find the coolest clothes and the best toys. They're really good at telling stories, teaching you chores, and giving you hugs. You know they do great things and so have other women throughout history – so grab these great books and learn more...

c.2024, 2025
various publishers
\$17.99 - \$20
various page counts

March is Women's History Month and learning about it is easy when you have **The ABCs of Women's History** by **Rio Cortez, illustrated by Lauren Semmer** (Workman, \$18.99). From artists and activists to Zora Neale Hurston, this book takes very young readers on a tour through the decades, other cultures, countries, and careers, music and more. Parents will be surprised at the breadth of this book and the women in it; kids ages three to six will love the fun, vibrant artwork.

The child who likes to draw and create will find inspiration inside **Make Your Mark** by **Jacci Gresham with Sherry Fellores, illustrated by David Wilkerson** (Dial Books for Young Readers, \$18.99). It's Gresham's story of being the first known Black female tattoo artist, the struggles she had and the boundaries she ignored on her way to a career in ink. This is a great tale that parents won't mind reading aloud because each short chapter starts with words meant to empower kids and to remind them that they can do whatever they put their minds to doing. Be sure to call your four-to-six-year-old's attention to the afterword.

Slightly older children who are looking for a good Women's History Month book can't go wrong with **Valiant Vel** by **Jerrienne Hayslett, illustrations by Aaron Boyd, afterword by Michael Phillips** (Wisconsin Historical Society Press, \$20). Even when she was a kid in the 1940s, Vel Phillips was an activist in her Milwaukee hometown, speaking out against racism. She became a lawyer in 1951 and she continued to fight for equality and Civil Rights through politics and protest. For the nine-to-13-year-old who longs to make a difference in the world, this book is full of photos, artwork, kid-friendly chapters, and inspiration.

And finally, for readers ages nine and up, **The Six: The Untold Story of America's First Women Astronauts** by **Loren Grush with Rebecca Stefoff** (Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) may be just right for Women's History Month. This "young readers edition" is all about America's first female astronauts – Sally Ride, Anna Fisher, Kathy Sullivan, Rhea Seddon, Judy Resnik, and Shannon Lucid – and their groundbreaking, history-making work at NASA

and beyond. Here, your child will thrill to tales of their training, their work, what it's like to be an astronaut, and what it's like to struggle while focusing on a big dream. Older children will think this book's out of this world.

And if these books aren't enough, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for help on finding more. They've got books for you to consider and take home. Plus, for Women's History Month and otherwise, they know lots of things.

Perryman...continued from page 10

Junction, how can we mobilize that land to create affordable homes, especially for first-time homebuyers? That's a big thing for me.

Perryman: What message do you want voters to remember about you and your campaign?

Pasker: My campaign is about building stronger communities together because no person can exist on an island. My goal is to create more opportunities, bring more resources to the community, and put more people in a position to elevate their lives.

Perryman: How can residents contact you to discuss issues that might matter to them?

Pasker: People can contact me at paskerfortoledo.com to learn more, leave feedback, volunteer, donate, or become involved with the campaign.

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



Tyus Tours & Travel





Snag The Hottest Deals To Mexico & The Caribbean

Experience the ultimate getaway with our all-inclusive packages, featuring luxurious accommodations, delectable food and drinks, and convenient round-trip airfare all in one price.





STARTING AT \$1499
7-DAY ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE



Scan me

More information
866-547-5362

Visit our website
tyustours.com

MINORITY WAY

CORNER OF BANCROFT & FRANKLIN



optigo

By Twix 'N' Between

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

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call or text 419-754-0278 or visit twixnbetween.com.

SINCERE LEARNING LADDER

ABOUT US

Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for all early childhood children and their families. We will serve children aged two to five years, with specialized programs for preschool and school aged children, including on-site learning. The center will operate 24 hours a day to accommodate the needs of working families.

WHY?

Help to create a nurturing and stimulating environment for our little learners! We're providing thousands of essential items to enhance our day care experience. From educational toys and art supplies to outdoor play equipment, and having daily conversations that supports the development and joy of our children. Your generosity will help us provide a safe, imaginative space where little can explore, play and grow. Thank you for providing a gift that will make a lasting impact on our children's lives!

Monday - Friday
24 HOUR CARE
Saturday - Sunday
6:00AM - 6:00 PM
CRYSTALSCOTT@SINCERELEARNINGLADDER.COM

The Truth Colours Gallery

ART & CRAFT WORKSHOP

Painting, Crafting and Drawing!

check out the Gallery studio



7 East Bancroft St
Franklin n Bancroft

Facebook
The Truth Colours
Gallery

Nikolacolours
347-286-9227



We Care Home Healthcare Agency



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

567-702-0329 - wecarehcc@hotmail.com

JEWEL REALTY

419-654-2487

The Realtor That Makes
Realty Dreams
A Reality



GOLD STAR VETERANS LIFE ENRICHMENT SERVICES

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



3.02 Non-Profit

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

20 years
2002-2022

The Sojourner's Truth

www.thesojo.net

CLASSIFIEDS

March 19, 2025

Page 15

DIRECTOR MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS

WGTE Public Media seeks a strategic, creative, and organized professional to lead its marketing, communication, and community engagement efforts. This role involves developing and implementing innovative, cost-effective strategies for platforms that include online, television, radio, and public events.

Responsibilities include managing WGTE's website, social media, and app to enhance user experiences, overseeing digital marketing (SEO, SEM, display ads, email, and content marketing), and crafting promotional campaigns to expand reach and enable greater engagement.

Candidates should have a bachelor's degree in marketing, communications, or a related field, and/or possess 3 to 5 years of equivalent experience. Strong skills in writing, campaign development, project management, and digital marketing are essential. Experience in media, nonprofits, fundraising promotions, and team leadership is preferred.

Send your letter and resume to: employment@wgte.org or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.

MISS SARAH'S PITTER PATTER CHILDCARE, LLC

For children 1½ -3 years-old,
8 am-5 pm
Monday -Friday
State- Licensed Program
Home Cooked Meals 419-534-2466

CASINO TRIPS

Rising Sun Casino – April 7-6
Motor City Casino – April 15
Call for info – 419-901-1515

CAREER EXPO!

for Child Welfare Caseworker
Saturday, April 5, 10am-2pm
Lucas County Children Services
301 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604
(in The Summit Center)
Immediate On-Site Interviews
Walk-ins Welcome, but RSVP preferred.
For more information and to register,
visit: lucaskids.net/career-expo

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.



REPORTER NEEDED

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

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Justice – Victim of Fraudulent Divorce, Bigamy, Forgery, Perjury, and Immigration Fraud

I am reaching out to seek media attention and legal assistance regarding a grave injustice that has profoundly affected my life. By sharing my story, I hope to raise awareness about fraudulent divorces, bigamy, and immigration fraud that victimize unsuspecting spouses.

My name is Dr. Maria Liza Vinas Pangilinan, and I have been fighting for justice after discovering that my husband, Fernando T. Pangilinan, secretly divorced me without my knowledge, forged my signature on legal documents, and remarried in the U.S. to gain immigration benefits and avoid deportation. Despite his fraudulent marriage, he is not even living with the woman he married but has a live-in partner instead.

Summary of My Case:

- My husband left me and our five young children in the Philippines in 1997 while he lived in the United States.
- In 1999, he filed for divorce without informing me, forged my signature on legal documents, and successfully remarried to obtain a green card.
- I only discovered this fraud in 2018 when I arrived in the U.S.
- In 2024, I was wrongfully evicted from our marital home, leaving me homeless and struggling for justice.
- Despite filing legal complaints and seeking help from authorities, my case has faced delays and setbacks due to legal technicalities and lack of proper representation.

Legal Violations Committed by My Husband:

- ✓ Forgery – Falsifying legal documents, including my signature
- ✓ Bigamy – Marrying another woman while still legally married to me
- ✓ Immigration Fraud – Obtaining a green card through fraudulent means
- ✓ Perjury – Lying under oath and providing false information

Wrongful Eviction – Forcing me out of our marital home without just cause
I am seeking legal assistance, media coverage, and public support to shed light on this serious case of deception, fraud, and abuse of the legal system. I firmly believe that justice must prevail, and I refuse to be silenced. If you are interested in covering my story or can offer any assistance, please contact me at (301) 201-4608 or micalalayay6464@gmail.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Maria Liza Vinas Pangilinan

#JusticeForMariaLiza #FraudulentDivorce #LegalHelpNeeded
#Bigamy
#ImmigrationFraud #FightingForMyRights #WrongfulEviction

St. Paul MBC's Annual Men's Day Celebration 2025

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church held its annual Men's Day Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9. Pastor James Willis and congregants celebrated this year's weekend with the theme "Men of God Striving to Get on the Right Side of God."

As usual, the weekend opened on Saturday morning with a prayer breakfast. The event typically is a sit-down breakfast buffet. This year, however, the event also included a drive through service for attendees. All together about 150 guests attended the breakfast – an open fellowship, said Pastor Willis.

Sunday's service opened with a musical selection by the St. Paul's Men's Day Choir – the men adorned in green ties and pocket handkerchiefs – the color of the day.

Brother Aaron Cooper led the Call to Worship, followed by Deacon Charles Mathews' invocation and a welcome to the congregation by Brother Orlando Gray.

A responsive reading by Deacon Darryl Reed was followed by a congregational hymn, musical selections by the St. Paul's Men's Day Choir, a scripture reading by Deacon Thomas Kirby and an offertory prayer by Deacon Michael Evans.

Pastor Willis then introduced this year's speaker, Rev. Stanley E. Clark, Sr, St. Paul MBC assistant pastor.

Rev. Clark, a Pine Bluff, Arkansas native, is an Army veteran and a former student at the University of Toledo, Stauzenberger College and Toledo Bible Institution. He founded United Vision Baptist Church and served as pastor from 2010 to 2016. He serves his ministry in the community by helping those recovering from drugs and alcohol and others who need help.

The Men's Day celebration closed with remarks by Deacon Joseph Diggins and a benediction offered by Pastor Willis.

Numerous congregations and groups congratulated St. Paul MBC for its celebration of Men's Day, including: Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church; Mount Ararat Missionary Baptist Church; Third Baptist Church; Mt. Nebo Baptist Church; State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson; the board of the John H. McKissick Senior Apartments along with other individuals, churches and church ministries.



Deacon Joseph Diggins; Deacon Bobby McDole; Pastor James Willis, Sr; Rev. Stanley Clark, Sr.





Kentucky Derby Packages

Churchill Downs - Louisville, Kentucky, May 3, 2025

Our 2025 Derby Hotel Packages offer Kentucky Derby Tickets, unique experiences, and lodging near Churchill Downs or Lexington, along with transportation to the Kentucky Derby and Oaks.

For more information call
866-547-5362


Join us in celebration of the inaugural

OHIO BLACK MEDIA Week

In January of 2025, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 173 into law that formally designates the week of March 16th as **Ohio Black Media Week** to recognize freedom of the press, information, equity, and equality.

Celebration Reception

FRIDAY
MARCH 21, 2025
6:00 P.M.

Truth Art Gallery
7 E. Bancroft St., Toledo

Everyone is invited

Hosted by
Ohio State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr.

