

Volume 89 No. 4 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* April 30, 2025



Beaux and Belles enter and begin the Beautillion

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Poisoning Our Future: The Trump Administration's Dangerous Coal Exemptions

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

Another day, another deadly move that defies logic, morality and economic common sense.

Last week, the Trump administration granted nearly 70 coal-fired power plants a two-year exemption from the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. The move allows them to emit increased levels of hazardous pollutants like mercury, arsenic, and lead.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, particularly harmful to children and pregnant women, that causes developmental disorders and other severe health issues. The standards established to limit such emissions have been instrumental in reducing these toxins in our environment. Once all coal plants were brought into compliance, the EPA estimated the standards would prevent 11,000 premature deaths, 4,700 heart attacks, and 130,000 asthma attacks each year.

By rolling back the most recent update to those protections, the administration is senselessly prioritizing outdated, polluting energy sources over the well-being of American communities – maybe your community. The exempted power plants and coal-burning units are in every region of the country – from Arizona to Pennsylvania, Wyoming to Alabama, from the Dakotas down to Texas, and in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and throughout the Midwest.

This decision is not only a public health concern but also an economic misstep. The energy market has been shifting away from coal for years, with cleaner and more cost-effective alternatives like renewables taking the lead. Attempting to revive the coal industry through deregulation ignores market trends and the growing demand for sustainable energy solutions.

The administration's shallow argument that this is about energy secu-



ity, and even national security, does not pass the laugh test. True energy security lies in diversifying our energy sources and investing in resilient, clean technologies – not in propping up an industry in its death throes that if revived would only poison and cause the actual deaths of Americans by the tens of thousands.

Communities across the nation, especially those near these coal plants, will bear the brunt of increased pollution. This reckless regulatory roll-back is just one of the latest moves in this administration's efforts to undermine decades of progress in environmental and health protections.

So how do we hold our leaders accountable and pursue policies that prioritize the health of our people and our planet? One way is to work with the organizations and community groups pushing tirelessly to move us towards a cleaner, healthier future.

Civil society groups – those non-governmental organizations, associations, and institutions that advocate and fight for the causes Americans care about – play not just a vital role in our democracy, but a vital role in protecting our interests, our health, and even our lives.

Take the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign as one example. A single campaign. Since 2010, that campaign has helped retire more than 380 coal-fired power plants. The energy from those plants has been and remains easily replaceable by other sources. And by reducing the burning of that dirtiest of dirty fossil fuels, we saved American lives and entire communities.

In fact, the retirement of all that coal burning has now saved nearly 63,000 lives! And it has saved Americans \$29 billion in health care costs. That is due to all the heart attacks, cancer, asthma attacks and other lung disease, and heavy metal poisoning that the closure of these plants stopped in American communities from coast to coast.

So why on earth would we backslide? Why would we expose millions more Americans – especially the young children most at risk – to the irreversible effects of brain-damaging neurotoxins like mercury? Or developing fetuses to the risk of the birth defects these toxins cause?

These are the questions we need to be asking. But even as they make our air less safe, don't hold your own breath waiting for an honest answer from this administration – because it doesn't exist.

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

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Community Calendar

May 3, May 10, May 17, May 31

The Toledo-Tanga Sister City Committee's Free Hybrid Drone Training program for students – 6th – 12th grades in Tanzania, Africa and Toledo. Learn how to fly, code and program drones. UT's Nitschke auditorium; 7:45 am - 11:30 am. Contact Norma King, Drone Academy Director at njking@bex.net, 419-536-4615 or Leslie Henriquez President, Toledo-Tanga Sister City Committee at LesHenriquez@aol.com 419-699-8686.

May 4, May 11, May 18, June 1

Shutting the Door on Forgiveness: Join us for an in-person adult Bible study workshop series designed for individuals facing challenges with forgiveness; Crusaders for Christ Church; 10 AM to 11 AM; register at event-brite.com!

May 28

Annual Meeting for the Warren A.M.E. Church Vision Empowerment Board: 1:30 PM. If you would like to attend, request a link from natejacksonj1@gmail.com

May 31

A First Ladies' Affair: Registration deadline May 15. For more details, visit event-brite.com.

African Americans and Hands Off Protests

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

Guest Column

With the thousands of “Hands Off” demonstrations taking place daily throughout American cities and communities, it is disheartening to hear that a large number of African Americans are either refusing to participate or complaining that they have already done enough with the “Black Lives Matter Movement.”

Some are even complaining that whites were not as supportive as many Blacks are now saying they should have been. This is obscure. If one merely reviews the footage of many of the protests following the death of George Floyd, one will see that in some cases, white participation outnumbered Black.

But none of that should be important today. The reality is that we all are and will suffer equally under the Donald Trump dismantling of America. We are all on this ship called America, and the ship is under attack and taking on the water of racism and authoritarianism. We can all join in and bail the waters of destruction with our presence, our voices, and our votes, or we can complain as too many are doing while the rest of us seek to save the Ship.

In case you have missed the big picture, here is what the president is doing to this ship of state called America. He has removed most of the inspectors general in government agencies under the control of the executive under Article II of the Constitution; replaced the heads of Homeland Security, the CIA, FBI, Department of Justice, Department of Defense; sought to destroy Social Security, the Department of Education, placed an incompetent as head of the Department of Health & Human Services leading to the growing measles outbreak in seven states and the deaths of chil-



dren without offering lifesaving vaccines; cut CDC staffing; withdrawn from the World Health Organization; cut provisions of food and medicine to third world people we have helped keep alive; and worst of all, imposed the arrest and deportation of people speaking out against his policies in spite of the First Amendment guarantee under the Constitution of Freedom of Speech.

Dr. King did not allow the existence of racism to stop the Civil Rights movement, and neither can we. Our motto must become: “No permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interest.”

We must band together to remove from office those members of the House and Senate who have forgotten their Oath of Office and replaced it with silent allegiance to Donald Trump while he violates every constitutional principle possible during these first 100 days because he knows a reckoning is coming if we keep up the public protest and the filing of lawsuits against every illegal action he and Elon Musk continue to take.

If we must institute recalls against members of the House of Representatives and the Senate because we, America, can not wait for the mid-term elections, then we should use the power and energy of the Hands Off movement to initiate such action in every district where elected members refuse to carry out their constitutional duties such as taking control of tariffs as required by law; removing Elon Musk and placing the same check on the President's use and abuse of the executive order that Republicans attempted to place on President Obama when they sought to control his ability to carry out the duties of his Office.

Let's move from singing ‘We Shall Overcome’ to overcoming with our collective actions, in spite of our differences.

Words from the Community to Be Part of New Sculpture

The community will contribute to a sculpture that will be part of the next phase of Glass City Metropark. Anyone interested in participating is invited to an open house Monday, May 5 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Glass City Enrichment Center, 815 Front Street at Morrison Drive, Toledo. Participants can arrive any time during those hours.

Planners will also be on hand with information about the Glass City Riverwalk project.

Metroparks Toledo and the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo have selected celebrated sculpture artist Blessing Hancock to create an original sculpture for the next phase of Glass City Metropark. “Starburst” will feature words and phrases from the community cut into the sculpture. To gather those words, participants at the open house will answer prompts.

All answers must be submitted by Wednesday, May 7.

About the Project

“Starburst” will be a 15-foot-tall, illuminated sculpture designed as an iconic piece that visitors will pass through. The sculpture is a gift to the community from donors, facilitated by the Metroparks Toledo Foundation. The project is being coordinated by the Arts Commission.

The piece will be a feature of the International Cove area of Glass City Metropark, which will celebrate the people who came from many countries and established the Toledo community. The International Cove area is currently under construction and expected to open in spring 2026 on the site of the former International Park. It is part of the Glass City Riverwalk development, which will span both sides of the Maumee River between the Anthony Wayne Bridge and the Veterans Glass City Skyway.

The Cove and the art will be true to the original intention of International Park, which was established more than 40 years ago by Toledo's

ethnic communities.

The art was inspired in part by the late Yehia Hussein “John” Shousher, a well-known Toledo businessman and philanthropist who was integral in the development of International Park.

A contribution from Mr. Shousher's family helped launch the project. Additional gifts are anticipated as fundraising continues.

Blessing Hancock is known for her monumental, site-specific works. The award-winning artist has created more than 60 public and private art pieces worldwide. Community engagement is at the heart of Hancock's work, with each of her public projects featuring an element that connects the artwork back to the community where it is located.

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Toledo Joins Nationwide Malcolm X Centennial Celebrations

Artists salute slain freedom fighter in play at Kent Branch Library

New Works Writers Series will present an original stage production, *The Resurrection of Malcolm X*, at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 21 at Toledo Public Library's Kent Branch, to celebrate the human rights champion's 100th birthday.

Toledo's event, a one-man show written by author and journalist Eddie B. Allen Jr., and starring Cleveland-based actor Grant Walker, is among dozens of discussions, performances, lectures and other events being held throughout the country, in memory of the late Muslim leader and Black revolutionary icon.

Born Malcolm Little on May 19, 1925, his magnification into a world-renowned advocate for racial and social justice included a stint in prison that led to an introduction to the Nation of Islam. From the late-1940's to his assassination in 1965, the life of Malcolm X was "a chronology of changes," as his autobiography describes it, which ultimately impacted his fearless stance against white supremacy, and later influenced multiple generations of activists and artists.



"*The Resurrection of Malcolm X* was first performed in Toledo and Detroit in the late-1990's," says Imelda Hunt, PhD, founder and artistic director of New Works Writers Series. "We decided to revive it for this special moment in time when Malcolm's legacy is being examined by so many communities and college campuses near and far."

While similar to the original play in structure and narrative, *The Resurrection of Malcolm X* has been revised to include historic, multimedia images of its subject, for the Kent Branch performance. In a rare return to the Toledo arts scene, Walker will reprise the title role, as New Works Writers Series veteran performer Richard Brown appears as a supporting actor.

New Works Writers Series is celebrating its 40th year of producing stage plays, poetry and workshops that promote Black arts and culture throughout Northwest Ohio.

The Resurrection of Malcolm X is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a discussion with the audience. Kent Branch Library is located at 3101 Collingwood Blvd. in Toledo.

Media may contact New Works Writers Series at (419) 380-8464 or director@newworkswritersseries for interviews, or to request additional information.

NCNW Issues Statement on the Passing of Former Labor Secretary Alexis Herman

By BlackPress of America

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) deeply mourns the loss of the 23rd Secretary of Labor, Alexis M. Herman. NCNW National

Chair, Dr. A. Lois Keith, and President and CEO Shavon Arline-Bradley issued the following statements:

NCNW National Chair, Dr. A. Lois Keith said, "Our hearts are heavy from this loss. My friend, Sec. Herman provided guidance, poise, and expertise to all who had an opportunity to work with her. We continue prayers of comfort for Sec. Herman's family and friends during this time." "Sec. Herman personified American history. Appointed by President Bill Clinton, she was the first African American to serve as Secretary of Labor. A longstanding member of NCNW and affiliate organization Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Sec. Herman also served as an influential leader in the Democrat Party," said President and CEO Shavon Arline-Bradley.

She continued, "She devoted decades of her life to the empowerment of Black women nationwide, committing to intergenerational leadership, economic empowerment, and organizational development. She was a master strategist and understood that having a strategic plan was essential to achieving one's goals. Sec. Herman was a pioneer in corporate governance, paving the way for many Black women to serve on corporate boards. Being mentored by NCNW President and Chair Emeritus, Dorothy I. Height, solidified her commitment to intergenerational leadership. To Dr. A. Lois Keith, NCNW leadership, along with myself, Sec. Herman was a pillar in achieving the NCNW mission. We honor her and say well done faithful, servant-leader."



Former Labor Secretary Alexis Herman



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Parenting Yourself: A Sister-to-Sister Conversation at Franklin Perk Café

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

At the heart of Franklin Park Mall, tucked near center court, is a small gem called **Franklin Perk Café** — a cozy, inviting coffee shop where the aroma of fresh brews fills the air. And oh, the perks! The warm, relaxed setting created the perfect environment for a deep and thoughtful conversation about a topic that touches every parent's heart: **Parenting Yourself**.

Hosted by **Stayce Fowler**, publisher of *Stalwart Magazine*, and **Amy Hall**, life coach and business leader, the Sister-to-Sister Conversation was open, honest and full of relatable wisdom. Fowler and Hall both believe in creating spaces where community and conversations grow together, and this gathering was no exception.

As mothers, leaders and lifelong learners, Stayce and Amy understand that parenting isn't just about raising children — it's also about **raising yourself**. "It's not just about what we tell them," Amy said. "It's about how we show up for ourselves every day."

The conversation kicked off with Amy sharing a recent "ah-ha" moment she had while driving. "It just hit me," she said, "One day, my sons are going to bring women home. And who they choose is going to reflect some part of me — good or bad."

That realization has made her even more committed to becoming the best version of herself, not just for her own sake but also for her boys. "I have to keep doing the work. Because the example I set will live on through them," she said.

Digging deep into the meaning of **Parenting Yourself**, the evening unfolded with honesty and reflection — the idea that before you can fully pour into your children, you first have to pour into yourself. It's like the airplane rule: you have to put on your own oxygen mask before helping others.

The audience, a mix of mothers, daughters and even one awesome dad, leaned in closely as the conversation deepened. One mother shared her perspective as a Jamaican woman. "In Jamaican and African cultures," she explained, "education is extremely important. You're expected to get at least one professional degree. It's just part of our upbringing."

But she also shared how important it is to balance those high expectations with grace. "We have to guide our children," she said, "not push them so hard that they lose their sense of self."

This balance — between high expectations and loving guidance — fit perfectly into the idea of **Parenting Yourself**. As Stayce Fowler pointed out, "We're raising individuals, not mini versions of ourselves. We have to leave room for them to become who they are."

Stayce's words resonated deeply. It's easy as a parent to want to steer every decision, to want our children to avoid the mistakes we made. But sometimes, **the best parenting is knowing when to step back** and allow them the space to grow.

Throughout the conversation, Fowler and Hall modeled the same open-hearted honesty they encouraged from the audience. They didn't present themselves as having all the answers. Instead, they invited everyone to think, to reflect, and to share.



Amy Hall and Stayce Fowler

"It's not about being perfect," Fowler said. "It's about being intentional. How am I showing up every day? Am I parenting myself with patience and grace? Because if I'm not doing it for me, it's hard to do it for them."

The audience nodded along, some wiping away quiet tears. Parenting in today's world — filled with social media, pressure, fast information, and even faster judgments — feels harder than ever. But this conversation reminded everyone that **the real work starts inside**.

There were moments of laughter too, as everyone shared relatable parenting struggles — the messy rooms, the forgotten homework, the eye-rolls at family dinners. One woman joked, "I'm raising teenagers at home, and then I have to parent my co-workers and mother them too. Some days, it feels like negotiating peace treaties with tiny dictators... and full-grown ones!"

But even in those funny moments, the message stayed clear: **Parent yourself first**. Show yourself the patience, forgiveness, and growth you hope to see in your children.

Throughout the evening, coffee cups clinked and pens scribbled notes. It didn't feel like a lecture; it felt like sitting around the kitchen table with old friends. Each voice mattered. Each story mattered.

By the end of the evening, it was clear that this conversation — and others like it — are essential. As Stayce Fowler said in closing, "We have to keep creating spaces like this. Places where we can be honest, where we can lift each other up, and where we can learn how to do better — for ourselves and for the next generation."

Hall nodded, adding, "It starts with parenting ourselves. That's the real secret. That's how we change families, communities, and maybe even the world."

As the crowd lingered after the conversation, swapping numbers and hugs, the spirit of the night stayed strong. Parenting is a journey. **Parenting Yourself** is where that journey begins.

May 12, 2025 Marks 5 Years of Sisterhood! [Join The Conversation.](#)

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UrbanVolley 419 Moves to the Friendly Center Expanding Access to Volleyball and Athlete Wellness

UrbanVolley 419 has officially relocated to the Friendly Center, a move that supports the growth of its volleyball programming and deepens its roots in Toledo's core neighborhoods. The new location will allow UrbanVolley 419 to better serve a growing number of athletes while staying committed to its mission of making volleyball accessible to all youth—especially those from underrepresented and underserved communities.

The Friendly Center provides a welcoming and accessible space for training, team development, and wellness-based programming. It also reinforces UrbanVolley 419's commitment to working with the community—not just in it.

"This move reflects who we are and what we value—equity, access, and community," said Zahra Aprili Collins, director of UrbanVolley 419. "We want every athlete to feel like they belong here and that they have the tools to compete and grow."

UrbanVolley 419 is also proud to be the first program welcomed into the Friendly Center by Reggie Williams, the center's new Program Manager and former director of the Frederick Douglass Community Center. Williams, a long-time community advocate, has been intentional about partnering with programs that offer unique, high-impact experiences for youth.

"I was looking to bring in programs that stand out—ones that really connect with our kids and energize this space," said Williams. "UrbanVolley 419 is exactly the kind of partnership that helps restore vibrancy to the Friendly Center and reestablishes it as a true hub for youth and families."

In addition to year-round volleyball training and competitive development, UrbanVolley 419 will expand its Mindfulness for Athletes program, a growing wellness initiative that supports mental focus, emotional regulation, and holistic athlete development. This program is supported by the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) and reflects UrbanVolley 419's commitment to nurturing both the physical and mental well being of young athletes.

UrbanVolley 419 is also working with the Friendly Center to make key upgrades to the gym space—including plans to install double practice courts and retractable basketball rims—so the facility can be used to its full potential for both volleyball and other community sports programming.

The organization remains committed to eliminating financial barriers by offering all programs free or at a low cost to participants. This work is made possible through the support of a City of Toledo Youth Programming grant and generous private donations from individuals and community partners who believe in the power of sport to transform lives.

The Toledo Urban Volleyball Association (TUVa) is a nonprofit organization committed to increasing access to volleyball for underserved, underrepresented and under-resourced youth in the city of Toledo. Through its club entity, UrbanVolley 419, TUVa provides accessible training, competition, and wellness programming to develop confident athletes on and off the court.

The Friendly Center, located in the heart of Toledo, has been a trusted neighborhood anchor for over a century. Committed to providing a safe and supportive space for individuals and families, the center offers programs focused on health, education, youth engagement, and community empowerment. With a renewed vision under new leadership, the Friendly Center continues to expand its partnerships and services—working to restore vibrancy, opportunity, and connection across the city's central neighborhoods.



Reggie Williams and Councilwoman Vanice Williams



Reggie Williams and Zahra Aprili Collins

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ICE Raids Haven't Reached Toledo but Communities Are Prepared for When They Do

By Jefferson Díaz

The Truth Reporter

Local Toledo law enforcement officers know that they don't have the authority to enforce immigration laws. This was made clear by Lucas County Sheriff Mike Navarre in a meeting he held with representatives of nine community organizations at the headquarters of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC).

After signing a Code of Conduct that allows Toledo communities to work with the Sheriff's Department in order to provide better transparency in police work, Navarre answered a couple of questions from attendees: all of them were about immigration.

"We cannot interfere with the work that federal agencies do," Navarre said, referring to the work that ICE does. "If they call and ask us to assist, we're going to assist because we don't want anyone to get hurt," added the sheriff, who was very keen in ensuring that northwest Ohio has not witnessed large raids, as in bigger cities, carried out by ICE looking for immigrants.

Baldemar Velasquez, president of FLOC, reaffirmed what Navarre said: "we have not seen large ICE raids in Toledo, only sporadic encounters." But that does not mean that communities are not prepared for when these operations come: "we're teaching our people, especially migrants, what are their rights," added Velasquez.

At FLOC the premise for migrants is not to escalate the situation into a bigger problem when these encounters with ICE occur, but rather to maintain their ground and know their rights. "ICE has offices in Sandusky," says Velasquez to ensure that this agency is closer to Toledo than it seems.

It's the first time that a code of conduct has been signed between the Lucas County Sheriff's Office and community organizations of Toledo and one of the main objectives is for Sheriff's deputies to respect due process in the execution of their work before all citizens who live in the greater Toledo area, whether they are citizens or have a regular immigration status or not.



Sheriff Mike Navarre speaks as Bishop Robert Culp, Darlene Sweeney Newbern, Rev. Otis Gordon, Juanita Greene, Baldemar Velasquez and Cheryl Tyler Folsom





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Councilwoman Brittany Jones Hosts Fundraiser at The Truth Colours Gallery

The Truth Staff

Joined by friends, colleagues and supporters, Councilwoman Brittany Jones, PhD, held her first fundraiser of the campaign season on Thursday, April 24, at the Truth Colours Gallery – an event catered by Charcuterie Creations and Luxury Liquors.

Jones, a first time council member, was appointed to her position in February 2024, and is running for election in this year's May 6 primary and then the November general election.

Jones has a background in both the non-profit and academic fields. She is an experienced evaluation and survey analyst working in higher education and community services.

She has noted that, as a public official, she is focused on these major issues: economic development and promoting growth that benefits all of Toledo's communities; education equity by ensuring that every child in Toledo has

access to a high quality education; affordable housing by increasing housing options, preventing displacement and addressing homelessness; environmental and food justice by preserving natural assets and addressing food apartheid.



Councilwoman Brittany Jones, PhD; State Rep. Elgin Rogers; State Rep. Michele Grim



Councilwoman Brittany Jones



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The Other Great World Wonders

By Ardenia Jones Terry

The Truth Travel Correspondent

Machu Picchu is an ancient Incan site. The Incan's building techniques, agricultural procedures, and medical surgeries were advanced, and many are used today. I flew from Lima, Peru, to Cusco, Peru. Then, I took a three-hour bus ride to the town of Ollantaytambo and checked into the Pakaritampu Hotel.

Ollantaytambo is 9,150 feet above sea level, and Cusco is 11,152 feet above sea level, making it necessary to take altitude sickness medicine. The only man-made World Wonder I had not visited prior to the cruise was Machu Picchu. It was the World Wonder I was most eager to see on the World Cruise. However, I did not get to see it!

Protesters blocked access to the Incan site over a new online ticketing system. The Protesters opposed a private company profiting from Machu Picchu ticket sales. I was one of hundreds of tourists stranded near Machu Picchu in Ollantaytambo near the train station.

The protesters blocked railways and bus routes to the site. In the end, I understood and empathized with the protesters. Oppression is worldwide. Again, I purchased a three-day private excursion to Machu Picchu with a group of cruisers from Australia. We went to an alternative plan when we could not see Machu Picchu and toured the Sacred Valley, a women's yarn production company, Centro Text'1 URPI, and toured Cusco. We spent the night in Cusco at the Monasterio Hotel before catching up with the ship in Lima.

The Great Pyramids of Giza (Cairo, Egypt, 2600 BCE). The Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx are my favorite World Wonders. The Great Pyramids of Giza are the last ancient world wonder in existence today and, as a result, Egypt claims that the Pyramids are the only world wonder. I agree. I visited Egypt in 2009. If you see only one World Wonder, visit The Great Pyramids of Giza, cruise the Nile River, and visit Nubia and Abu Simbel.

Egypt is the only country with multiple ancient structures and artifacts. Cairo is the only city where I have seen camels, horse-drawn wagons, Rolls Royce, Jeeps, and ordinary vehicles on the same road. Before the rerouting, the ship was docking in Alexandria, three hours from Cairo. I had arranged a private excursion to Cairo to see the Cairo Egyptian Museum, which recently opened with additional Pharaoh Tutankhamun's treasures and artifacts; the light show at the Great Pyramids of Giza, and dinner with an overnight stay at the Ritz Carlton Hotel next to the museum. The next day, we planned to rise at dawn, visit the Pyramids in daylight, return to Alexandria, tour the city of Alexandria, and board the ship.



IGUAZÚ - MISIONES - ARGENTINA



Great Pyramids



Temple of Artemis



Machu Picchu

Iguazu Falls (Argentina & Brazil, 1541 CE) Iguazu Falls is the largest waterfall system in the world, consisting of 275 waterfalls. The falls sit between Argentina and Brazil, forming a border between the two countries. You can view Iguazu from both countries. A boat ride also takes you around

... continued on page 12

Living With Lupus

May 16-18, 2025

MAY 16, 2025
Living With Lupus Paint & Sip
The Trunk | 3553 Franklin Ave. | 7-11 PM
 \$47 Includes painting supplies
 Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/lupuspaintandsip>

MAY 17, 2025
Karaoke w/ DJ Cheryl
Bluegill Fishing Club | 642 N Detroit Ave. | 7-11 PM
 \$10 Membership Fee Free for cardholders. Donations to the Lupus Foundation of Greater Chapter of Ohio will be greatly appreciated


MAY 17, 2025
Free Wig Giveaway
1010 Dorr St. | 1-4:30 PM
 Giveaway for any woman who has lost her hair (not just those with Lupus). New or gently used wig donations appreciated

MAY 18, 2025
Living With Lupus Walk
Ottawa Park | 2201 Kenwood Blvd. | 9 AM
 \$10 Registration (snack included) age 7+
 \$5 Registration for under age 7
 All proceeds go to the Lupus Foundation of America Greater Ohio Chapter










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I Had the Dreaded 'SSSS' On My Boarding Pass — Here's What Happened Next

By Ricky Tyus, Owner Tyus Tours & Travel

The Truth Travel Guide

Despite being a frequent traveler, I had never heard of SSSS. But on a recent trip, I learned what it meant. Turns out, it is an acronym for "Secondary Security Screening Selection," a process that started after 9/11. Normally, I love a good alliteration—but not this one. Unfortunately, it does not involve being selected for an upgrade or free airline ticket. Here is what happened to me.

The night before my flight from Antigua back to the U.S., I attempted to check in online, only to receive an error message stating that I was unable to do so. I thought it was odd but assumed it was just a computer glitch. Well, you know what they say about making assumptions.

The next day at the airport, I encountered another strange situation but, again, I brushed it off as just a quirk that happens at this airport. When I checked in two bags, the airline agent asked which one belonged to me and which one belonged to my friend. Since both were identical and mostly filled with dirty laundry, I had no interest in digging through them to figure it, so I replied, "They're both ours." She then placed tags on each bag.

"That was weird. Why does it matter which bag is yours or mine?" I asked my friend. She shrugged. "I don't know." That settled that.

We made our way through security to the gate, where the airport's dining and shopping options were underwhelming. With nothing better to do, I settled in with my book. Just as the plot was getting interesting, my friend interrupted. "They just called your name over the loudspeaker. You need to go to the gate." "I have never been called before. Why are they calling me?" I muttered, feeling like a kid being summoned to the principal's office. Had I done something wrong? Were they about to scold me for overstuffing my luggage with dirty laundry? Nervously, I approached the airline agent. She took one look at my boarding pass and said, "You have been selected for Secondary Security Screening Selection. Make sure you stay close by." Then, as if revealing some grand mystery, she pointed to the lower right-hand corner of my boarding pass, where "SSSS" was printed. Before I could ask any questions, she instructed me to sit down and wait. And that is when I knew—this was not going to be a normal travel day. I returned to my seat, and my friend looked at me expectantly. "What did they want?"

Curious and slightly panicked, I Googled my situation. TSA flagged me before I arrived at the airport. The first clue was not being able to check in online; the second was the SSSS on my boarding pass. My research showed this could



be due to being on a watchlist, having suspicious travel patterns, or random selection.

I panicked, wondering if I'd miss my flight or be stuck here forever. Before I could completely stress out, they called my name again. In a waiting area with four other women my age, one asked, "Do you know what this is? Why are we here?" I shared what little I knew from five minutes of online research.

My friend, standing just outside the makeshift area but obviously eavesdropping, chimed in: "We could not check in either. And I was wondering what that 'SSSS' meant." A quick consensus emerged: We were all just people who wanted to lie on a Caribbean beach for a few days. No criminal backgrounds that we knew of no shady pasts (except one woman who overindulged in the open bar at the resort, but that hardly counted). It had to have been random, right?

My name was then called for the third time that day. I glanced back at my new inmates—I mean, friends—who gave me reassuring smiles and nods, as if to say, "You'll be fine!" But let us be real, they knew just as much as I did. Which was not much. They had not even Googled "SSSS" like I had.

The tiny, partitioned area had all the charm of a budget courtroom: a table, my two checked suitcases, and a TSA officer in gloves. Oh good, gloves.

"Is this your luggage?" she asked. Now, this is the part in all those crime shows where the accused looks dramatically at the camera and demands a lawyer. And if they don't, the other characters later ask, "Why didn't you request a lawyer?!" I resisted the urge to dramatically shout, "I want my lawyer!" and simply said, "Yes, those are my suitcases," while hoping my friend did not pack anything questionable.

The officer opened both bags and began sorting through the dirty underwear, bathing suits, and sunscreen. My anxiety melted away, replaced by genuine curiosity: Is she getting hazard pay for this? I mean, gloves did not seem like enough protection. I also thought, Maybe I should have cleaned my clothes or at least my underwear—gross! The entire process felt like it lasted hours, but in reality, it was probably only about ten minutes.

After finding nothing unusual, she patted me down like when a metal detector goes off. It honestly was not that bad.

I rejoined my friends, who were relieved to see me unharmed and without handcuffs. I was not permitted to leave the area, so I had to go directly to boarding when it was time.

As I walked across the tarmac, I bade farewell to my fellow detainees. In that moment, I could not help but reflect on our shared experiences, which highlighted the challenges and intricacies of detention procedures.

While no official explanation of the SSSS selection process is available, TPG has gathered anecdotal information from our staff, readers, and public news

... continued on page 11



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Your Rich Experience and Traveling in Greece

By Ricky Tyus

The Truth Travel Agent

Are you dreaming about your next escape? Let me whisk you away to the serene beauty and vibrant charm of Greece's hidden gems—**Paros, Hydra, Tinos** and **Milos**. These stunning islands offer a perfect blend of culture, adventure, and relaxation away from the hustle and bustle of the more touristy spots.

Getting to the islands is easier than ever. While many travelers fly into Athens, you can reach these destinations via quick domestic flights or scenic ferry rides through providers like Seajets and Greek Ferries. Hoper offers helicopter transfers for island-hopping in style for a more luxurious touch.

Whether you're after sun-drenched beaches, picturesque villages, or unforgettable cuisine, these islands are best visited from May to September, with

early May and late September offering quieter, more intimate experiences. Think sun-washed afternoons and golden evenings without the crowds.

So, if you're ready to explore Greece beyond the usual, now's the time to start planning. Paros, Hydra, Tinos, and Milos are calling.

Imagine embarking on a captivating seven-day Mediterranean cruise that takes you through the stunning landscapes of Greece, Italy, and Spain. Don't miss out on this incredible journey! For more details, click <https://trips.tyus-tours.com/trip/6yw9rqkvvggbwqz2atwmhzhghbre4jdjq>.

Ready to dive in?

For more information on travel ideas for Greece click [here](#) or contact Tyus Tours & Travel at 866-547-5362.

REAL ID in Ohio

Ohio residents are **NOT** required to obtain a REAL ID-compliant ID. However, a federally accepted ID will be required starting May 7, 2025, if you need to:

- Board a domestic flight.
- Enter certain federal facilities.
- Enter nuclear power plants.

To get a REAL ID in Ohio, you'll need to visit your local Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) office and provide*:

• **Proof of full legal name, lawful presence, and birthdate.** This may include your:

- U.S. passport.
- U.S. birth certificate.
- Certificate of Naturalization or Citizenship.

• **Proof of social security.** This may include your:

- Social security card.
- W-2 or 1099 form.
- Paystub.

• **Proof of residency (2 documents required).** This may include:

A valid OH driver's license or ID.

Ohio vehicle title or registration.

School transcript.

• **Payment for the applicable fee.**

*The BMV provides a complete list of acceptable documents.

SSSS...continued from page 10

stories to determine some items that might flag you for additional screening, either one time or with aggravating frequency.

Targeted "suspicious" activities like booking one-way tickets, purchasing tickets using cash, taking unusual itineraries, or traveling to a flagged destination.

Travel to and from Türkiye seems to have been a trigger item for repeated SSSS screenings in recent years, according to multiple TPG readers and staff members.

Subjective decisions by TSA staff on-site who see "suspicious" behavior.

Purely random selection; there may be a quota of 10% or so of passengers.

Take Your Dream Vacation This Summer With These Budgeting Tips

Special to The Truth

Whether it's a once-in-a-lifetime tour of Europe or your annual trip to a beach house, intentionally budgeting for summer vacation can ensure you don't throw your finances off course.

According to CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® professionals, here's how to plan your vacation without breaking the bank:

Be Realistic About Expenses: It's important to budget for the true cost of the vacation that you have in mind. Beyond big-ticket items, such as airfare, hotel and car rental, be sure to factor in additional expenses you might incur, such as entry to attractions, currency exchange fees, shopping, entertainment and dining out. You should also create a cushion for emergency expenses. If time off from work will mean temporarily earning less income, be sure to account for the income drop as well.

Set Up a Travel Fund: Now that you have a figure in mind, it's time to save for your goal. Create a specific savings account earmarked for your vacation and automate your contributions. If you need help prioritizing your vacation

without letting it derail your other financial goals, work with your financial advisor. You may think of them as someone who only helps you with tasks such as investing for retirement or buying a home, but a CFP® professional is trained to look holistically at your entire financial picture. They can help you plan for the fun things in life!

Stretch Your Dollar: A dream vacation and thoughtful spending can go hand in hand. Here are a few strategies for stretching your vacation dollars:

• **Consider timing:** While summer travel often centers around kids' schedules and work responsibilities, if you have flexibility, consider visiting your destination during its "shoulder season." This is the period between peak season and off-season when you can expect reduced prices and thinner crowds. Timing also matters when it comes to air travel. For example, traveling on a Friday is typically more expensive than a mid-week flight. Play around with dates to find the best rates.

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Rep. White Announces \$1.7M for Dani's Place Crisis Step-Down Facility in South Toledo

State Rep. Erika White (D-Springfield Township) last week announced that the State Controlling Board approved \$1.7M in capital funds aimed at new construction for Dani's Place, a crisis facility in South Toledo. The project will support the new construction on the grounds adjunct to the Northwest Ohio Behavioral Healthcare Psychiatric Hospital.

"Access to mental health services is essential for fostering a thriving and resilient community. I am thrilled to announce that a significant allocation of funds is being directed back to my District. These resources will be invested in a vital facility that offers critical support, including counseling, crisis intervention, and community outreach initiatives," said Rep. White. "Dani's Place is designed to address the pressing mental health needs of all Lucas County and Northwest Ohio residents, ensuring that everyone can find help and improve their well-being."

Dani's Place provides transitional residential mental health services, creating essential stepping stones for those suffering from mental illness. When patients are released from the hospital, they often don't have the proper support in place to care for themselves, like affordable housing, that allows them to fully recover. Dani's place will aid in this recovery, ensuring a full health moment for all individuals to thrive.

Great World Wonders... continued from page 9

and under the falls. Plan to be wet if you take the boat ride. We flew two hours from Buenos Aires to Iguazu International Airport with a private guide and driver. I decided to make it a day trip and only view the falls from the Argentinian side. We had a delicious Argentinian bar-b-que lunch at the La Selva Restaurant on the Falls property. The falls are located in a jungle and are hot and humid. Therefore, the walkways are made of stainless steel, making it easy to get around. While there, I witnessed monkeys harmlessly take Cokes from two little children's hands. I guess monkeys like Coke-A-Cola, too. In the park, I saw the sheer beauty of the falls, the force of the water flowing down over the cliffs, and the many languages being spoken, representing people from all over the world. We spent eight hours at the falls and flew back to the ship. The next day, we went to the Buenos Aries Hard Rock Cafe for breakfast before sailing to the next port.

Temple of Artemis (Ephesus, Turkey, 550 BCE) The Temple of Artemis is a Greek Temple dedicated to the ancient Goddess Artemis. If we had docked, the cruise line planned to host a party in the temple ruins with a choir singing and refreshments. I have never traveled to Ephesus, Turkey, toured the Temple of Artemis, or seen the Whirling Dervish, so I was looking forward to learning about Ephesus

April 24, 2025

As a child protection agency, we mourn the loss of Kai'mani Latigue and stand with our community in sorrow and reflection. As a part of the community hub for child protection, we recognize both our role and our responsibility. We share in the humanness and humility that this moment calls for, and we join with others in grieving not only the loss of a precious life, but also the broader conditions that may have shaped this tragic outcome.

Now more than ever, we believe it is essential to acknowledge the value of community engagement and the power of trust. We understand that trust must be earned and re-earned through meaningful connection, accountability, and care. We also recognize the deep importance of culture, and how honoring cultural identities helps us relate to families more authentically and build lasting bridges between systems and communities.

In the aftermath of this tragedy, we must go beyond the surface of blame and begin asking more difficult, necessary questions about the systems and structures that impact children and families especially those from communities that have long been excluded, underserved, and misunderstood.

The child protection system was created to preserve safety and promote family well-being. That mission is more than legal, it is moral. It requires that we show up not just with authority, but with compassion. Not just with mandates, but with cultural humility and curiosity. These values are not optional. They are essential to the work of serving a diverse community with integrity and care.

To truly support families across lines of race, culture, language, and socioeconomic status, we must move away from standardized interventions and toward culturally responsive approaches. That means asking not only "Is this child safe?" but also "How has this family been supported or failed by the systems around them?" It means recognizing that safety and support are intertwined and that lived experiences matter deeply in how families interact with public systems.


Cultural humility demands that we acknowledge what we don't know. It reminds us that no system is immune to bias, and no professional is above the need to listen, learn, and grow. As we examine our practices, we must also confront the historical harms, inequities, and assumptions that still influence decisions in child welfare, often to the detriment of Black, Indigenous, and other families of color.

Let us be clear: this is not about lowering the bar of child protection. It is about raising the bar of cultural understanding, relational integrity, and family-centered practice. When we fail to see families in the fullness of their identities and strengths, we risk compounding harm, despite our best intentions.

As a community and as a system, we have an opportunity and an obligation to do better. That means investing in continuous learning and training. It means hiring and promoting staff who reflect the communities most impacted. It means building authentic partnerships with families, not just during moments of crisis, but throughout the continuum of care. It means ensuring that families have a voice in decisions that affect them. It also means being willing to name harm when it occurs and committing ourselves to repair.

We carry this responsibility with humility and resolve. We owe it to Kai'mani. We owe it to every child and family. And we owe it to one another as neighbors, partners, and people who believe that all children deserve to grow up in safety, dignity, and love.


Mr. Randall Muth, J.D., Executive Directive
Lucas County Children Services


Dr. Hope M. Bland, Ph.D, MSW, LSW
Director Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Strategy
Lucas County Children Services



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and having new experiences in Turkey.

Cancellation Due To Weather The Great Barrier Reef (Queensland, Australia, 20,000-6,000 CE) The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system. The Aborigines indicate the reef is more than 600,000 years old. It is the world's largest single structure made of living creatures and can be seen from outer space. The excursion to The Great Barrier Reef from Carins was cancelled due to strong waves and storms. The African Renaissance Monument (Dakar, Senegal, 2010 CE) should be a World Wonder. The monument is a 171 feet tall bronze statue showing an African family drawn up to the sky with the man carrying his child on his chest and his wife by the waist. There are elevators and 150 steps that take you to the top. I was proud to see and stand in front of this statue. I felt like someone was finally seeing the Black family. Later, I used the monument photo to barter with the Senagalese brothers I met on my journey from port to port. The people of the world share so many things and the World Wonders are just one of them.

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Mother's Day Books for Kids by various authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Every day, your Mom or Grandma does nice things for you.

She fixes your lunch and dinner, makes sure your clothes are clean and that you have a safe place to sleep. Whose cookies are best? Mom's! Who hugs better? Grandma does (but Mom's a close second!) They love you a lot, you know, so why not share one of these great books about Moms, Grandmas, and kids for Mother's Day this year...

The littlest readers – those who are 1-to-3-years-old – will love a read-aloud with **My Mama Bear and Me** by **Sophie Beer** (Dial, \$12.99). Polar bears live in the snow. Grizzly bears live in the mountains. But Mama Bear lives in your house and she's the best kind of bear. Be sure to grrrrrowl when reading this book for maximum giggles. Bonus: this is a board book, so it's sturdier, and meant for little kids.

Even kids who hate baths or hair-washing day will love to see **Wash Day Love** by **Tania Moore and Raissa Figueroa** (Scholastic Press, \$18.99) and **Wash Day with Mama** by **Monica Mikai** (Crown, \$18.99). Yes, there are two new books on this subject and both books tell the story of taking care of Black hair, from the special wash to the even more special styling afterward. There are subtle differences between them, though; one is more humorous; the other, more celebratory. For kids ages four to eight, either or both of them will make them proud of the hair they've got and the Mamas who help make that hair look its best.

You've heard the song. Maybe you've even sang along, so now read **A Thousand Years** by singer-songwriter **Christina Perri**, illustrated by **Joy Hwang Ruiz** (Viking, \$18.99) Based on the famous and heart-touching tune, this book shows the love between mother and child as the little girl grows in both body and bravery. If you love the song, you'll be happy to know that the book is just as beautiful, and perfect for kids ages four to six. Hint: play the song often and this book will become a favorite.

And for the little chatterbox who also loves the outdoors, **A Cup of Quiet** by **Nikki Grimes**, illustrated by **Cathy Ann Johnson** (Bloomsbury, \$18.99) is a great book to read out loud. Sometimes, things get too noisy for Grandma, and she asks for a cup of quiet. For her granddaughter, that's the silliest thing ever because you can't put quiet in a cup. Or can you? This book is perfect for the five to eight-year-old child who likes to garden, especially when the time is spent with Grandma.

And if these Mama-and-Grandma-themed books aren't exactly what you want, if you want more like them, or if you need something good for an older child or teen, be sure to head to your local bookstore or library. You'll find lots of books there, and people who'll help you find the exactly right one for your young reader. Then grab what you need. It'll be a nice thing.

c. 2024, 2025
various publishers
\$12.99 - \$18.99
various page counts



Beautillion...continued from page 16

supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African Americans and people of color around the world. Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans, was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York by seven college men who recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country.

Locally, Alpha Xi Lambda, an alumni chapter, was chartered November 3, 1928 at the Frederick

Douglass Community Center. Alpha Phi Alpha's college chapters: Epsilon Alpha and Epsilon Theta were chartered May 15, 1954 (University of Toledo) and May 15, 1959 (Bowling Green State University).



Dream Vacation... continued from page 11

- Eat in: Restaurant bills can really add up. If your vacation home has a kitchen, consider preparing some of your meals. Or visit a local grocery store and pack a picnic lunch to enjoy midday during your explorations.

- Do a home exchange: Rather than run up a large hotel bill, stay in your dream destination free by doing a home exchange. Online home exchange platforms can help ensure there are no surprises at your destination or at home when you return.

To find your CFP® professional who will help you seamlessly work your dream vacation into your budget, visit LetsMakeAPlan.org.

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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.

ABOUT US

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The Sojourner's Truth

www.thetruthinohio.com

20 years
2002-2022

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DESIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

To be publicly announced April 15, 2025 and advertised on April 22, 2025

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is accepting qualifications from design professionals to provide services for its Holland Branch and New Whitehouse Branch phased Project. Interested firms may request an RFQ from Nick Hamilton, Project Coordinator, at Nick.Hamilton@toledolibrary.org. Qualifications will be accepted until **12:00 p.m.** local time, **May 13, 2025**.

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 5101:2-25-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) will hold a public hearing prior to the submission of the County's final 2026 Title XX County Profile to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for incorporation in the Comprehensive Title XX Social Services Plan for the State of Ohio.

PURPOSE:

To highlight pertinent data and information regarding identified social services problems, needs, resources, and gaps in service along with recommendations to the proposed 2026 county profile.

To elicit public comment, suggestions, and recommendations relative to the County's proposed 2026 county profile.

DATE: April 30, 2025 **TIME:** 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

LOCATION: LCDJFS, 3737 West Sylvania Ave, Toledo OH 43623
Toledo Room, 1st floor

Entities wishing to have their points of view captured in the County's submission to the State must submit proposals (not to exceed two pages) to Lucas_Contracts@jfs.ohio.gov by 4 P.M. on April 25, 2025. If individuals would like to present their proposals in person at the hearing as well, they must indicate that at the bottom of their proposal. This should include the speaker's name and contact information. Those wishing to speak must register upon arrival at LCDJFS on the 30th and all efforts will be made to accommodate everyone who would like to speak. If time constraints don't allow for that to happen, individuals will still have their written proposals reviewed and included in the LCDJFS summary report to the State.

SEEKING MBE/WBE SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS

On behalf of Developer Pivotal Housing Partners, West Chester Ohio, General Contractor Ruscilli Construction Co. LLC 5815 Wall Street Dublin, Ohio 43017 is building a new build 20-unit townhouse affordable housing apartment project called The Grand at 1157 Grand Ave., Toledo Ohio 43614 and a new build 50 unit 4 story affordable housing apartment project called The Glen at 3440 Glendale Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43614. Ruscilli is requesting interested MBE/WBE subcontractors/suppliers and Section 3 Businesses or Section 3 individuals to contact Sylvester Gould at Gould Development Company LLC, Nitschke Technology Complex, 1510 N. Westwood Ave., Suite 2025 B, Toledo, Ohio 43606 for potential project opportunities at 419 -787-7837.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): Clerical Specialist, Inspector, Maintenance Team Lead. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. Deadline: 05-04-25. These are Section 3 covered positions. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

TOLEDO OPERA TO HOLD AUDITIONS FOR NEW CHORISTERS IN CARMEN AND THE ELIXIR OF LOVE

Toledo, OH— Toledo Opera is holding auditions for chorus positions for the 2025-26 season. The 2025-26 season will feature: Bizet's *Carmen* (August - October 2025 commitment) and Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* (November 2025 - February 2026 commitment). Auditions are scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 17, 2025 from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M., and on Sunday, May 18, 2025 from 3:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. Those interested in auditioning should prepare one or two selections which best demonstrate their vocal range and abilities. For the adult chorus, one selection in either Italian or French is preferred. A pianist will be provided. Toledo Opera is seeking the following singers: all voice types for a SATB chorus.

Carmen by Georges Bizet

October 10 & 12, 2025

Valentine Theatre

Mixed voices: soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass. Music rehearsals begin on July 27 and run weekly on Sundays. Staging rehearsals will begin September 22 and typically run Monday through Friday in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays in the afternoons/evenings.

The Elixir of Love by Gaetano Donizetti

February 13 & 15, 2026

Valentine Theatre

Mixed voices: soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass. Music rehearsals begin on November 9 and run weekly on Sundays. Staging rehearsals will begin on January 26 and typically run Monday through Friday in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays in the afternoons/evenings.

For more information regarding auditions, visit <https://www.toledopera.org/performances/auditions-2025-2026/>. To schedule an audition, please email James Norman at jnorman@toledopera.org. For more information about the 2025-26 season, visit toledopera.org. For media access, please contact Rachael Cammarn at rcammarn@toledopera.org.

The Second Annual Alpha Esquires Beautillion

By Alexandria Leatherberry

The Truth Reporter

The Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. held its second Annual Alpha Esquires Beautillion at the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion Saturday, April 19. The event served as a rite of passage for the organization's youth group, Alpha Esquires.

Alpha Esquires is a youth mentoring and leadership development group designed for young men of color in sixth-12th grade. The group serves students in the greater Toledo area to promote leadership, communication skills, social awareness, community involvement and other areas of personal growth.

Prior to the Beautillion event, the men of Alpha Phi Alpha conduct several workshops to prepare the Esquires: financial literacy, public speaking, college readiness and etiquette. Upon completion of the program, the Esquires will be better prepared to meet the challenges of college, their future professions and daily life.

President of Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Calvin C. Burney, EdD, opened the ceremony followed by a welcome from the Director of Belonging and Community Engagement of the Toledo Museum of Art, Rhonda Sewell.

Zuri Hall, an Emmy award winning TV personality and host, led the main event of the evening as mistress of ceremony introducing the Beaux and Belles. The Beaux included: Meikhi Bailey, a senior at Rogers High School with a 3.9 GPA, Langston Allen Baker, a senior at Toledo School for the Arts, Xavien Bofia with a 3.2 GPA at E.L. Bowsher High School, Kavon Riley from St. John's Jesuit High School with a 3.5 GPA.

The Belles held their own accomplishments in their community academics in their perspective classes, the young ladies of the cohort included: Jaila Bofia of Start High School, Samara Coleman of Rogers High School, Kaitlyn Diggins of Notre Dame Academy and Celina Winfield-White of Central Catholic high School.

The introduction was commemorated with a dance among the Belles and

Beaux, followed by a mother-son dance, concluding with community highlights. The Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will be accepting applications for the Alpha Esquires and sharing more upcoming events at: toledoalphas.com

Since its founding December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has

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Beautillion Committee Chair Keenen Fisher and host Zuri Hall stand with committee members JeTahn Avery, Andre V. Page, Nathaniel J. Young, Devonte Williams and Calvin Burney, EdD



Beautillion Cohort Beau Kavon Riley, Belle Celine Whitfield White, and Beau Langston Baker



Beautillion Cohort Beau Meikhi Bailey, Belle Samara Coleman, Beau Xavien Bofia, Belle Jaila Bofia



Kaitlyn Diggins is introduced as a part of the 2025 Beaux and Belle cohort for the Beautillion



BLACK VIOLIN

FULL CIRCLE TOUR 2025



Valentine  Theatre

MAY 8, 2025

valentinetheatre.com