

Volume 89 No. 8 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* May 28, 2025



A chance for change: Pathway Inc. Sisters United and Wayman Palmer YMCA helping mothers to become sisters

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The Great Campus Capitulation

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

The Truth Contributor

There is no such thing as a neutral education. Education either functions as an instrument to bring about conformity or freedom.



Sit. Stay. Fetch. Roll over.

Like a well-trained pet dog, the University of Toledo has made it clear: it knows how to obey. Hiring James Holloway as its 19th president is just the latest command it has followed without question, signaling the completion of its ideological transformation.

The metaphor isn't accidental. Holloway, a seasoned administrator from the University of New Mexico and former vice provost at the University of Michigan, arrives not simply as a university president but as a symbol of a new University of Toledo order: a public institution once committed to uplifting its community that has now become a university eager to heel and please at the sound of political pressure and roll over without even a growl.

Student leaders, especially from the Black Student Union and other multi-cultural groups, have been outspoken about their loss of advocacy and safety. One insider put it bluntly:

"Mr. Holloway is gonna face pushback over his recent handling of the pro-Palestinian encampment and unionization efforts at his former institution, and that's who they (UT trustees) want. They want to take us backward into a buttoned-up university that doesn't seem to value free speech or workers and grad students. —I mean, they made their choice."

And that choice, the source continues, isn't just administrative—it's ideological:

"This is a Trump pick, trying to stay in line with the policies of the current administration. If you want federal money and do all that s**t, you're gonna have to dance to the autocratic, misogynist tunes of Trump's whim."

Whew!

For certain, the choice to hire Holloway cannot be isolated from the larger political context. It follows Trump's executive order declaring DEI policies presumptively illegal in federally funded institutions. At the state level, Ohio's Senate Bill 1 bans DEI offices, mandates ideological neutrality and guts entire academic departments deemed too "controversial" or under-enrolled.

UT has responded accordingly.

It eliminated its Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. It fired the DEI vice president. It suspended entire majors in Africana Studies, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Disability Studies and oth-

ers. More than mere administrative updates—these moves are likely "ideological purges dressed in the language of efficiency."

UT rationalized the cuts as an issue of low enrollment, but this is more likely a fig leaf. Notably, the programs cut are the very ones that interrogate power, center marginalized communities, and challenge dominant narratives. "I highly doubt the eliminations are coincidental—they are strategic capitulation," the insider said.

The Cost of Silence

UT's Board touts Holloway's success in boosting enrollment and research at the University of New Mexico. And yes, research matters. But let's be clear: this is not about DEI alone. At the core, it's about the soul of the university. Public education is a democratic pillar – a place where ordinary people can gain knowledge concerning truth-telling, justice and freedom.

As an alum, like many others across the globe, including a large number of Black and Brown Toledoans, it is truly disheartening to see the institution shift from academic freedom to ideological supervision, transition from community engagement to centralized control, and pivot away from equity in access to uniformity in outcomes. However, UT's not-so-subtle strategic structural evolution is now complete with Holloway's hiring. And, in doing so, it has abandoned its highest calling – to be a space where truth is pursued, not suppressed.

On paper, James Holloway is the ideal candidate: an R1 scholar, enrollment booster and research champion. But these credentials are only half the story.

In reality, the University of Toledo no longer leads. Instead, in an era demanding moral clarity, it has chosen to sit, to stay, to obey, to roll over, and surrender. Not just administratively but spiritually, morally, and intellectually.

The only question that remains is whether students, faculty, alumni, and community members will accept this transformation as inevitable or demand that our university be more than a compliant pet for its political master.

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

Community Calendar

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

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

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

Love Ye One Another Disaster Preparedness. Healthy Living. Self Defense; Noon; Frederick Douglass Community Center: Call 734-629-6588

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 eventbrite.com!

June 2-6

FREE Vacation Bible School: United MBC; Back to Basics: B.I.B.L.E --(Blessing Inspiring Believers to Live Eternally) Classes for Kindergarten -Teens & Adult: 5:30 - 7:30 pm; Free light dinner served nightly: 5:30 - 6p.m. 419-699-2656

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BEFORE

AFTER!

About One Half of Americans Said ... Go Ahead!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

People can be quick to quote that aphorism, "elections have consequences!"

No doubt about it. Based upon the recent presidential election, a micro-slim majority of voters chose the chaos president for another four years.

The "why's" of this head scratcher will be fodder for books and doctoral theses for many years to come. However, in the meantime, the American political ship is taking on water at an alarming rate with real concerns that Trump and his clown car of sycophants are steering the ship of state into an iceberg that could cause irreparable harm to the civics of government, civility in the workplace and peaceful co-existence with the so-called RED STATES v. BLUE STATES citizens.

For millions of Americans, Trump, who embodies their heartfelt aspirations and fears of being "replaced" by those others, is waging a death march campaign to subtly, and not so subtly, reduce, rid or besmirch people of color and their histories. Especially at museums by which he can cancel federal grant funds for their programming.

Unless you view current history through the prism that Trump and Steven Miller and Elon Musk have total disdain and disrespect for Black Americans, Native Americans and people from so-called third world countries, you will never understand that America never intended to accord such people permanent fairness and equality.

Like a good Mafia chief, Trump sends his lackeys signals that they rely upon to do his nefarious bidding so he can at least claim an aura of plausibility that he is above the fray.

Trump, akin to a second grader and with an attention span of the same, is easily influenced by the negative voices around him when it comes to egregious treatment against Black Americans.

Now, he is on a tear about pulling funds from institutions that have collected information and historical records about Black Americans that Trump, if he had his way, would be forever placed out of sight of the viewing public.

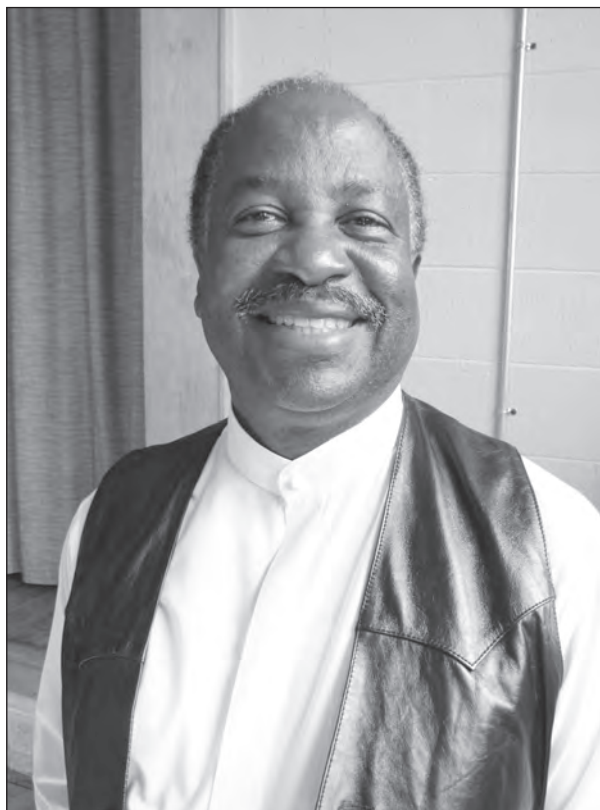
His disdain for people of color is both heartless and cruel and only serves one purpose and that is to exalt white nationalism as the be all and end all in these United States.

Trump has no working knowledge of Black History even though true American history encompasses Black history as a key and integral part of its legacy... the good, bad and the ugly.

Trump's MAGA base seemingly has no problems with their avatar playing the role of the village idiot when it comes to smart foreign policy decisions or bullying American institutions to do his bidding. He revels in the power and dares anyone to back him down. Trump rules by intimidation and threats of financial ruin if he is crossed; the congressional GOP, lapdogs reduced to grinning and smiling in his face, have no stomach to take on Dear Leader lest he threaten them with being primaried or blasting them on his social media outlets.

Recently, he laid a snare for the visiting president of South Africa, who, while at the White House was accosted by Trump with unfounded allegations of government sanctioned white genocide. Such charges have been refuted by both whites and Blacks in South Africa, but for Trump, once his feeble mind is made up, changing it would be akin to water rolling uphill!

At that farcical White House meeting, at which Elon Musk, a former



citizen of that country was present, Trump laid into the president as if he was a school kid caught stealing cookies from the cafeteria.

You will notice at such White House meetings, Trump surrounds himself with a bevy of cabinet officers so as to give him comfort with his fawning members being present.

No one would deny that South Africa has problems with the "races" as does this country; it would have been poetic justice for the South African president to remind Trump of slavery in America, the rule and ruin of Jim Crow and present days laws that perpetuate a system of racial division and unequal access.

Of course, Trump not even being an amateur historian of American history, would have agreed to such a possible retort from the African ruler and would have characterized it as "fake news!"

Such is the myopic vision of Trump and his cabinet members who are obsessed on eradicating "woke" policies (they could not define what woke even is!) and eliminating anything that remotely acknowledges the principles of D.E.I.

What is a glaring omission in all of these discussions about the GOP budget kicking poor people and reducing their access to health care and the abrupt withholding of food and medicines to third world countries, are the churches in America.

In my humble opinion, too many churches seemingly have closed their eyes and ears to the cry of the hungry and poor (both here and abroad) and have given full permission for the rich and powerful to dictate whether people will live or die who are dependent on some form of US aid.

Those churches who have knowingly or unknowingly sworn an allegiance to all things Trump have become enemies of the gospels because they have forsaken their first love and have gone, "a whoring" after the gods of mammon and access to power from Caesar (n.k.a. Trump).

Those churches cover up their nakedness with trite sayings that Trump is God's man and other blather and gibberish and which only highlights the fact that such church leaders are devoid of understanding the scriptures.

What could such apostate churches preach in their Sunday homilies that would cause their pew sitters to renounce the ungodly acts of Trump and attempt to live out the famed Sermon on the Mount?

They preach a gospel that is not the gospel and they would have it so! It appears that many believe in a non gospel Manifest Destiny that exalts human behavior above all else and thus justifies their harsh treatment of anyone in their way is an enemy to their Dear Leader.

The "best" is yet to come when the budget bill is operational and the effects apply to the MAGA members who may only then find out that their Dear Leader has never been one of them.

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Trump's Anti-Immigrant Cruelty is a National Scourge – And Would Be Made Worse by the MAGA Budget Bill

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

“Our neighbors are living in fear. And that’s what the administration wants. They want people to be scared. So, we’re combatting that by bringing the neighborhood together and saying, ‘you’re not going to frighten us into complicity; you’re not going to frighten us into hiding; we’re one neighborhood, regardless of anyone’s immigration status, and we’re going to stay one neighborhood.’”

That is how Gabe Gonzalez, an organizer in Chicago’s Rogers Park, described how his neighborhood has responded to Trump’s immigration crackdown – both during his first administration and throughout the first months of his current one.

On Martin Luther King Day this year, I gave the keynote at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition’s annual MLK Day breakfast. It was Inauguration Day. The contrast between the hope in that room and the fear outside – especially among Chicago’s immigrant communities – was sharp. Reports had already confirmed that Donald Trump’s new administration would make Chicago “ground zero” for an intense national sweep by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Raids were imminent.

The mass Day One sweep did not materialize quite as advertised by Trump’s border czar Tom Homan. But thousands of people were still swept up across the country that first week of the current Trump adminis-



tration. The fear these actions are still creating is very real. And for good reason.

Since then, the Trump administration’s deportation campaign has spread. What started in Chicago has become a national scourge. Families are being separated from Denver to Worcester. Parents arrested in front of their children. Kids coming home from school to find their homes ransacked and caregivers gone.

When armed agents grab someone without a warrant, haul them away from their family, and disappear without explanation – that is not just cruel. It is lawless. That is why community groups like Gabe Gonzalez’s have set up rapid response teams, legal observers, and know-your-rights trainings. In some cases, their efforts have stopped ICE in its tracks.

The cruelty of these raids is matched only by their chaos. ICE has arrested green card holders. Detained US citizens. Deported people who know the US as their only real home to countries they barely remember – or had fled for safety. All of this is meant to send a message: no one is safe.

The message is loud. And so is the silence that often follows it.

People are afraid to report wage theft or unsafe working conditions. Parents fear school pickups, or taking their kids to church on Sunday. Victims of domestic violence stay silent, worried that asking for help will get them deported. And even documented immigrants live in fear.

This is not security. It is terror. And it is why so-called “sanctuary cities” like Chicago – and “sanctuary states” like Illinois have put policies in place making it illegal for local law enforcement to participate in immigration crackdowns. Police already face enough trust barriers with many of the communities they work in. That makes their job harder. Being part of Trump’s anti-immigrant terror campaign would in some cases make it virtually impossible.

It also could be about to get even more dangerous. The Republican budget bill moving through Congress would supercharge ICE with \$80 billion in new funding. More agents. Fewer guardrails. And a leadership culture that seems more interested in punishment than justice.

And the strategy is broader than immigration. This is a movement that spreads fear, then exploits that fear to divide us – Black from Brown, citizen from immigrant, neighbor from neighbor. But as Gonzales and other organizers in Chicago have shown, solidarity still wins.

This fight is about more than policy. It is about who we are. It is about remembering that every person – no matter where they were born – deserves dignity. Deserves due process. Deserves safety.

The poem engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty reads, “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” It makes no mention of any race, religion, or country of origin. It speaks to immigration making our country what it is. Making us stronger. Making us what Frederick Douglass called the most “perfect national illustration of the unity and dignity of the human family that the world has ever seen.”

That is the American Way.

Back in January, at Rainbow PUSH, I said that when a nation is divided, we stop seeing our own reflections in our neighbors. But our neighbors are still there. They are helping care for our kids, growing our food, rebuilding our towns after floods and fires. They are us.

So, all of us must respond as if it were happening to us – because one day, it could be.

That means fighting the cruelty with clarity. Standing shoulder to shoulder with immigrant communities – and sometimes, in front of them. Supporting Congress to pass good bills and reject bad ones that undermine due process.

Organizing non-violently. Voting. Showing up for our neighbors and the rule of law.

And it means calling this what it is – immoral, unjust, and defiantly at odds with the real American Way.

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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Ohio's Budget Cuts Raise Concerns Among Area Citizens

By Jefferson Díaz

The Truth Reporter

June 30 is the deadline for the Ohio Senate to approve the state budget, a budget that for State Senator Paula Hicks Hudson represents a setback for the safety and well-being of the Ohioans.

The "Leading Ladies of the Legislature Town Hall Tour" arrived at Sanger Branch Library on Friday, May 23, as Hicks-Hudson and State Representatives Michele Grim and Erika White led a discussion focused on what the current budget proposal, sponsored by Ohio Republicans, would mean to their constituents if accepted in its current form.

A \$3.9 billion cut to Medicaid, zero property tax relief, cuts to childcare and a \$100 million deduction from Ohio's libraries system are some of the consequences that state residents would face if this budget is approved.

"We want the people who voted for us, who trust us, to be aware of

what's happening. We also want to listen to them and have them propose solutions for the good of Toledo and Ohio," Hicks Hudson said.

One of the attendees, representing the neighborhood coalition opposing the expansion of I-475 in West Toledo, indicated that it would be better if the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) invested the \$217.5 million that the expansion would cost in the state's childcare system. That way there would be at least more than 50 caseworkers available and better child protection mechanisms.

Shareen Strozier, supporter of the Kei'Mani bill proposal, asked Senator Hicks and Representatives Grim and White to support this legislation.

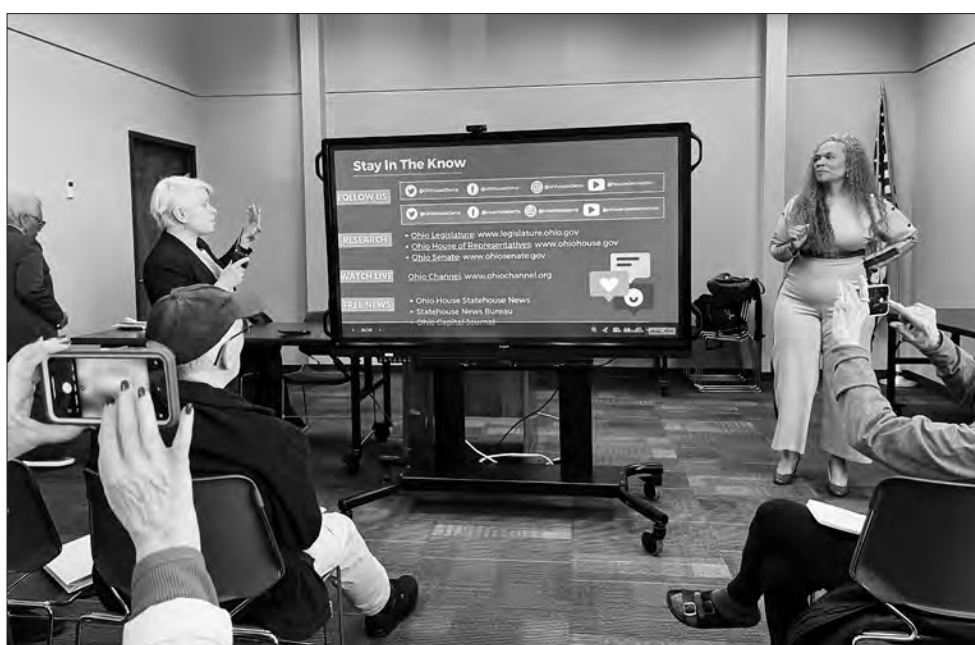
This bill, named for Kei'Mani Latigue, the 13-year-old victim of a homicide earlier this year, seeks to ensure that children in danger and who were kidnapped can find safe homes where they will receive protection and support.

"The community must come together to take care of our children. If we put all our effort into this, we can have a law that protects all children who need safe environments," Strozier said.

The bill's potential cost has yet to be determined, but Senator Hicks Hudson indicated she's working closely with Strozier to make it a reality, because "the number of Black and Brown children reported missing in north-west Ohio is concerning."

Representative Grim stated that her priorities are focused on providing support for victims of domestic and sexual violence, expanding access to public transportation, and reforming medical debt; while Representative White noted that she is focused on raising Ohio's minimum wage and improving access to higher education.

These discussions will be repeated throughout the state as an initiative promoted by the Ohio Democratic Women's Legislative Caucus (ODWLC).



State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson addresses town hall audience members



State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson addresses town hall audience members

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New Writers Work Series Commemorates Malcolm X's Centennial

By Dawn Scotland

Guest Column

The New Writers Work Series presented "The Resurrection of Malcolm X" in celebration of Malcolm X's 100th Birthday at Kent Branch Library Wednesday, May 21. The original stage production, written by Detroit author and journalist Eddie B. Allen, Jr., featured Cleveland-based actor Grant (Steward) Walker and local actor Richard Brown III. The performance was free and open to the public.

The unique stage play featured a one-man performance by Walker with supporting acting by Brown. The production highlighted historic multimedia images of the life of Malcolm X.

"We have a great admiration for Malcolm X and in the spirit of the celebrations that were taking place and are still taking place across the country— it just made sense," stated Allen. [We're hoping] that folks that weren't as familiar would learn from a dramatization of his life. We didn't want [Toledo] to be left out."

Born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska on May 19, 1925, Malcolm X's 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, his life 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 play is a revision of the original work which was first written in the late 1990s and re-staged for this historic moment honoring the revered icon.

"Malcolm's dignity and his integrity and his honor – it grows and grows – particularly in this world we that we live in right now. We don't have a lot of people that have honor and integrity. And in portraying him I at least try to feel some of his spirit and it's timeless. He was a very, very kind and very decent man," reflected actor Grant Walker.

"Malcolm is very personal and very much an inspiration," he continued.

Following the performance the audience and the production team engaged in a discussion about the play as well as topics ranging on the life, death and legacy of Malcolm X.



Dr. Imelda Hunt - Artistic Director, Richard Brown- Supporting Actor, Grant (Steward) Walker - Malcom X, Eddie B. Allen, Jr. - Playwright, Tisha Carroll - Technical Support

Established in 1985 by Imelda Hunt, PhD, The 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 New Works Writers Series will present *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf* on Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14 at 8 p.m. at Maumee Indoor Theatre.

To learn more about the New Writers Work Series visit their Facebook and Instagram page.

MALE WELLNESS BREAKFAST

HOSTED BY: ST. MARK BAPTIST CHURCH
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Topic Of
Discussion

Join State Representative Elgin Rogers Jr., Rep. Brian Lorenz, Reverend Curley L. Johnson, and a group of health professionals for a discussion on male wellness, mental health, and Ohio House Bill 207, which designates the third Monday in June as "Take Your Dad to the Doctor and Dentist Day," also to be known as "DAD Day." All are welcome!

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MAY 31, 2025

State Representative
Elgin Rogers Jr.



Grant (Steward) Walker portrays Malcom X

A Ribbon Cutting for the New Wayman Palmer YMCA

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Reporter

Local city, state and federal officials held a ribbon cutting at the new Wayman Palmer YMCA on Monday, May 12, to celebrate the opening of the grand new facility in the heart of Toledo's inner city. The new Y has been open for six weeks and already an additional booming membership shows that the new building is going to be a huge success with area residents.

"The kids in this neighborhood deserve all of the nice things that kids in any neighborhood deserve," said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz during his remarks before the ribbon cutting. The mayor pointed out a number of successes his administration had had during his almost eight years in office but stated that the construction of the new Wayman Palmer Y is the accomplishment he is most proud of.

"This is the best YMCA that can be built," Kapszukiewicz added. Swimming pools, a splash pad, expanded meeting rooms and workout rooms, Toledo Public Schools Head Start classrooms, a day care center for student-parents, a computer/game room are among the many amenities that will to continue to bring in an expanded membership.

The project began in 2021 with federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, as Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur noted. The overall price tag for the new building of about \$31 million began with \$19 million ARP Act monies, supplemented by \$7 million in community development dollars and \$5 million in federal tax credits, said Kaptur.

"The federal government makes a difference," she said.

Rosalyn Clemens, the City of Toledo director of Housing and Community Development, is the person who put the project together and made it work even as the initial financial projections were insufficient to complete the building with all the services and amenities that city leaders desired for the neighborhood.

"This is probably the most impactful [project] I have ever done," said Clemens. Clemens certainly had her work cut out for her. When the project was announced in August 2021, the price tag for the building was estimated at \$21 million. During the construction phase, Clemens was determined to maintain the vision of the complete package of amenities and services in the original concept rather than cutting into that vision to stay within the \$21 million budget. Her task therefore was to find additional funding.

She not only found that money but also has managed to put together an additional \$1 million in annual funding to upgrade all of the city's parks.

"We will continue to do the work [to fund] our underserved neighborhoods," she said.

Also speaking at the ribbon cutting ceremony were State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson and Councilwomen Vanice Williams and Cerssandra McPherson, all of whom have personal connections now or in the past to the Wayman Palmer Y.

"This is a full circle moment for me," said Williams, who lived for many years in nearby Moody Manor.

The new YMCA is on track to meet its future financial goals. According to Clemens, the new facility needs 2200 memberships to break even financially. That would be a tremendous increase in the number of memberships the former building generated. According to YMCA officials, the old building averaged 500 memberships annually. In just six weeks after opening, the new Y already has 1600 memberships.



LaSonya Jelks, Pathway Inc. Brothers and Sisters United Supervisor; Suzette Rushing, Wayman Palmer YMCA Director of Operations; Eric Williams, Executive Director Wayman Palmer YMCA; Avis Files Pathway Inc. Director of Family and Supportive Services; Cynthia Savage, Pathway Inc. CEO



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A Book Signing Brings People Together from All Walks of Life

By Fonda Royster

Special to The Truth

It feels incredible when people from all walks of life—different walks of life - rich/poor, black/white, Christian/Muslim, able-body/disabled, homemaker/politician—can come together to confront a growing issue that touches every community: unaccompanied youth navigating the cruelty of the streets.

I held a book signing on May 9 at The Truth Colours Gallery at 7 E. Bancroft – a free event during which refreshments were provided. My new work, *We Do Exist*, is an attempt to expose the invisible world of youth homelessness.

I was so deep in my zone, talking about something that fuels my soul—youth who suffer from abuse, violence and exploitation. The room at The Truth Colours Gallery, felt electric.

Thank you, City of Toledo! They tell me over 50 folk (standing room) showed up to hear me, and DA DOPEST... and I meant DA DOPEST emcee **TaTiana Keisha Marie** and panel **Amerah Rihaneh Archer, Sheena Marie Barnes, Celia Williamson** shared truths that need to be heard. There wasn't a boring or timid moment. Each queen (excluding myself) dropped gems.

My second mom, **Georgia Daniel**, was our honorary panelist— and it's only right. She gave me a second chance of life. So, my book signing became her book signing

Advocating Opportunity, One Me To Be, **Toledo Public Schools Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County Cherry Street Mission** and all the other influential community leaders and organizations that showed up in solidarity.

Oh—and let's not forget... **Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz** pulled up!

Thank you for listening—not just to me, but to the community's concerns. He said he heard listened and heard us. Let's get this work in.

Nikolacolours Art Colours - Nikola Welcome-Bovell, thank you for being a wonderful hostess.

My Sweet Thang **Kathy Balbaugh-Gonyea** (and her hub) for the poster board did a great job with the poster board promoting youth homelessness awareness.

For those who came, thank you for understanding me and not judging me. **EMPATHY MATTERS**

We are here. We do exist. We are exposing the invisible world of unaccompanied youth homelessness.

For those of you who purchased and read my book - **THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK**



Fonda Royster



Fonda Royster and TaTiana Keisha Marie



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Tea Around Town

By Ricky Tyus, Owner Tyus Tours & Travel

Travel Contributor



Event Curator Pamela Coleman Tea Around Town Tour in Washington D.C.

I traveled to Baltimore for a Legal Shield convention and spent four days visiting my sister, Sonya Horton Thomas, who lives in the D.C. area. On my first day, Sonya and I enjoyed a bus tour called "Tea Around Town." This tour offers a unique tea experience in Washington, D.C. aboard a charming double-decker bus that combines sightseeing with a luxurious afternoon tea service.

We delighted in a scenic tour of Washington, D.C., sipping fine teas and enjoying delectable treats.

The journey featured iconic landmarks and an assortment of freshly

baked scones, finger sandwiches, and elegant pastries, each crafted to complement the tea.

Our guide shared engaging anecdotes and historical insights, enriching the experience.

The bus, adorned with floral decorations and cozy seating, provided the perfect setting for a relaxing afternoon.



Choptank

After our delightful bus tour, we continued our culinary adventure with a dinner at The Choptank, a renowned fish and crab house in Maryland. The menu featured local seafood, including their famous steamed blue crabs and crab cakes seasoned with a special proprietary recipe. The aroma of freshly cooked seafood filled the air as we savored the Lobster Roll and Salad, each bite bursting with flavor.



On Thursday, we (my sister and I) stopped by Blue Moon Too for breakfast. I had the Sweet Baby Jesus hashbrown dish, (see picture below for reference) which was a delightful combination of crispy hashbrowns that crackled with each bite, topped with juicy tomatoes, fluffy scrambled eggs, tender crab meat, and gooey melted cheese and my sister Sonya had a breakfast burrito (see picture below for reference)



Sweet Baby Jesus Hashbrown, Tomatoes, Egg, Crab Meat and Melted Cheese



Sonya's Breakfast Burrito at Blue Moon Too!

After attending the Legal Shield conference on Thursday, I had dinner with colleagues Aaron Hill, Kaala Omazing and Jennifer Virginia at Lord Baltimore. The dinner at Lord Baltimore was a delightful end to an insightful conference. We enjoyed a variety of dishes, each prepared with care and bursting with flavor, while discussing our experiences and insights from the day."

LegalShield is a subscription service that provides access to lawyers for a small monthly or annual fee. This service helps with tasks like creating a will, estate planning and resolving bill disputes without incurring high legal fees for more information on Legal Shield please contact me.

... continued on page 11



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Evermore Resort Orlando: The Ultimate Elevated Escape for Families and Groups

By Shana Lee
Travel Consultant

If you’re looking for the perfect family getaway, girls’ trip, multi-generational vacation or even a serene solo escape—Evermore Resort Orlando delivers a dreamlike experience that feels like a private island retreat tucked into the heart of Florida.

I recently had the pleasure of staying at Evermore with my family, ranging from toddler, teens to adults, and I can confidently say: there was something for everyone. Whether you’re chasing sunshine, relaxation, or adventure, this resort offers the kind of elevated, thoughtfully designed experience that’s rare to find.



A Room With a View—and So Much More

Our home for the trip? The Evermore Bay View four-Bedroom Flat, located in one of the resort’s 5-story Tower Flats. With 1,900 square feet of stylish space, four full bathrooms, and accommodations for up to 11 guests, it was the ideal setup for our group.

Each flat is designed for luxury and comfort:

- Three Master Bedrooms with plush king beds, ensuite bathrooms, blackout shades, 55” TVs, and luxe Beekman amenities.
- A Bunk Room with three twin beds and a queen—perfect for the kids, and



yes, it even had its own bathroom! A full kitchen outfitted with top-of-the-line appliances, cookware, a large fridge, and even a dishwasher.

- A private laundry room (a lifesaver for families).
- And best of all—a large, private balcony with sweeping views of Evermore Bay’s shimmering blue water and white sand beaches.

Each space was thoughtfully decorated with modern, neutral tones and cozy details that made it feel like home—but more luxurious.

Private Paradise at Evermore Bay

Evermore is centered around an incredible, private bay—stretching the length of six football fields. It’s Orlando’s only beach paradise resort, and it genuinely felt like we were transported to a secluded Caribbean island.

During our stay, we had access to:

- Complimentary kayaks (single and double!)
- Paddleboarding and hydro bikes
- The Family Waterslide & Pool (a big hit with the kids)
- The Megalodon Ride and Blue Hole High Jump & Rope Swing for thrill-seekers
- Hammock Grove—where I start-



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... continued on page 11

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.

- **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.

For a truly restful, rejuvenating experience, make sure your travel doesn't cause you money-related stress. Being realistic about your expenses and working with a financial advisor can help you see the world on a budget.

Courtesy StatePoint

Evermore Resort...continued from page 10

ed one quiet morning, coffee in hand, swaying in the shade. Pure peace.

Even during peak travel season, the resort never felt crowded. There's a calm, spacious vibe throughout the property that makes everything—from family time to solo moments—feel more intentional and relaxed.

Everything You Need, Right on Property

The resort's commitment to convenience extends beyond accommodations and recreation. Guests enjoy 24-hour security, designated parking (with EV charging stations!), and easy access to on-site dining, bars, and shopping.

From morning lattes to sunset cocktails on our balcony, it was the kind of elevated vacation that checked every box—and then some.

Evermore Resort is perfect for:

- Families seeking a spacious, stylish, and activity-packed getaway
- Large friend groups or multigenerational families
- Couples or solo travelers looking for tranquility and luxury in Orlando
- Anyone who wants more than a basic hotel stay—Evermore is an experience

You can explore more about the resort's amenities, room options, dining, and more at evermoreresort.com.

Final thoughts? This was one of the most seamless, stunning, and spacious stays I've had in Orlando. If you're planning your next group getaway or family trip, Evermore Resort should be at the top of your list.

Tea Around Town...continued from page 9



Pamela's New Friend from the Legal Shield Convention in Baltimore

My stay was at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, which is rich in historical and architectural significance, all coming together to create one of the most unique and interesting hotels in downtown Baltimore. Guests arriving are greeted by a magnificent lobby featuring a beautiful grand piano, classic oil paintings, polished brass and an award-winning vaulted fresco ceiling with an immense Murano glass chandelier.

On Saturday after the conference, I joined my sister Sonya and her friend Mary at Yebo Kitchen, a hidden gem in Baltimore. The kitchen opens at 5 pm, and when we arrived at that time, the place was already packed with people eagerly waiting to taste the delicious Southern-inspired dishes. The



Pamela's Hotel Room at the Lord Baltimore Hotel



cozy ambiance and mouth-watering aromas immediately made us feel welcome.

Yebo Kitchen is a culinary oasis in Baltimore that offers unique American dishes with a Southern influence. Dishes Curated by Food Network Chopped Winner Chef Sammy Davis. This quaint restaurant, is Baltimore's new best kept secret, serving up an innovative blending of Eastern taste with Western techniques and presentations, using only the freshest and most flavorful of ingredients. They are passionate about food and believe that every dish should be a work of art, while tasting exquisite.

As the week unfolded, the experiences continued to enrich both my professional and personal journey. From savoring the culinary delights of Baltimore to diving deep into the intricacies of Legal Shield's offerings, each moment added a layer of discovery. I found myself reflecting on

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Rep. White Celebrates Bipartisan Bill Honoring Black, All-Female WWII Unit Being Voted Out of Committee

HB 204 designates March 9th as 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day

Special to The Truth

State Reps. Erika White (D-Springfield Township) and Melanie Miller (R-Ashland) Wednesday were excited to announce that House Bill (HB) 204 was unanimously voted out of the House Veterans and Military Development Committee. The bill honors the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, commonly known as the “Six Triple Eight,” the only Black, all-female unit serving in Europe during World War II.

“As these courageous women overcame obstacles and shattered stereotypes, they not only fulfilled their military duties but also illuminated the vital contributions of Black women in the armed forces, paving the way for future generations of all to follow in their footsteps. We honor their undeniable contributions, indelible impact, and remarkable bravery—a legacy, an undeniable testament to the truth that acknowledges that diversity in all roads inclusively leads to Ohio!” said Rep. White.

On February 3, 1945, the U.S. Army boldly deployed a unit of over 800 Black women to England with their mission initially unknown. Today, we know their mission and their motto. This trailblazing unit was entrusted with the mission and monumental task of sorting and delivering mail over two years of backlogged mail to American troops stationed overseas, a mission that

significantly boosted morale during a critical time. As the unit shared, “No Mail, Low Morale”.

This mission was lead under the exceptional leadership of Ohioan Lt. Colonel Charity Adams, the highest-ranking Black female officer in World War II, this battalion—also comprising of dedicated women recruited and trained in Ohio—played a pivotal role in this historic mission.



6888th Central Postal Director Battalion

Ohioans can watch House Veterans and Military Development Committee on the Ohio Channel at 2:00pm EST.

HB 204 is now headed to the House floor for a vote.

Are Your College Savings on Track?

Special to The Truth

If you're like many Americans, college savings may be taking a back seat to other financial priorities right now. Financial advisors want you to know that there are options to maximize education savings that you may not be taking advantage of.

New research from Edward Jones, a leading North American financial services firm, and Morning Consult found that 52 percent of Americans don't know what 529 plans are, and only 14% note they have or intend to use one as part of their education savings strategy.

“As a parent myself and as a financial advisor, I've seen the impact that 529 plans have had for my family's and my clients' education savings,” said Andy Esser, a financial advisor at Edward Jones. “With education costs and borrowing costs on the rise, it's more important than ever for Americans to understand the savings options available to them.”

To help you get your education-specific and broader financial goals on track

this 529 Day—celebrated May 29—Edward Jones is sharing these fast facts about 529 plans:

529 plans, defined: A 529 plan is an education savings investment account that offers federal and state tax benefits. Earnings grow tax free and distributions are tax free, when used for qualified education expenses, and many states plans offer state income tax deductions for contributions

Distributions are flexible: While 529 plans offer a variety of options for how beneficiaries use the funds, this fact is widely misunderstood. In fact, the majority of surveyed Americans are not aware that 529 funds can be used for qualified apprenticeships (72 percent), K-12 expenses (65 percent), or possibly even for rollover funds to a Roth IRA (81 percent), among other options.

Account management offers options: If your family has multiple children, you may choose to open just one 529 account, or different accounts for each child.

... continued on page 13

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The Battle for the Black Mind by Karida L. Brown

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

"Use your brain!"

If you had a dime for every time a teacher, parent, or supervisor told you that, you'd be rich. Stop fooling around. Consider what you're about to do. Act with resolve, not impulse. It's the best way to work, the optimal method for learning and, as in the new book

The Battle for the Black Mind by Karida L. Brown, it's what so many have fought for.

In the months after the Civil War ended, it became apparent to both Black and white people in both North and South that education for four million suddenly-freed former slaves was "a matter of national security." It was obvious that those citizens would require formal learning soon, maybe job training – but what kind and how much?

While Mary Smith Peake had "laid the foundation" for Hampton University already by then, two white men with vastly different intentions traveled south after the war to seize control of Black education. Edmund Asa Ware, who became the first president of Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University) built schools that "aimed at nurturing Black intellectualism and potential," while General Samuel Chapman Armstrong, who was the first president of Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University) had plans to "'civilize'" formerly enslaved people through physical labor and farm work.

Booker T. Washington was one of Armstrong's best-known proteges.

In 1881, Washington became the first president of Tuskegee Institute and was later instrumental in forming the "Tuskegee Machine" which, says Brown, didn't altogether help "Black families and shoved a singular curriculum down their throats." There were 45 Black colleges and universities in America then, though education for most Black children was still lacking.

It remained so in the Jim Crow era when, although literacy rates grew, education beyond a few years of elementary school was "rare" for Black Americans. By then, says Brown, Black women had stepped up to do the work, becoming teachers, bookkeepers, experts in strategy, fundraisers, staffers. Managers and marketers – sometimes, all at once...

Blending personal observations and experiences with good backgrounding, author Karida L. Brown tells this story in a conversational tone that invites readers to peek down the halls of history's HBCUs and into classrooms. She writes to readers, rather than at them, which helps to open minds for what's inside *The Battle for the Black Mind*.

You may not need to be reminded about racism in Black American education, but the secrets she shares and the lines she draws are highlighted to seem like new information. Here, readers can see more clearly the connections between the early twentieth-century and now, and how Project 2025 could change the trajectory. Fortunately, Brown also offers advice and ideas for taking action and ensuring that upcoming generations can win the next "battle."

c. 2025
Legacy Lit
\$30.00
256 pages

beware: it might make you want to get up, contact your Representative or Congressperson, and *act*. It's the kind of book that'll make you think.

College Savings... continued from page 12

Either way, if a named beneficiary decides not to attend school, the account owner can change the beneficiary to another eligible family member.

Contributions are easy: 529 plans accept contributions from anyone, regardless of whether they are account holders, making it easy for loved ones—from grandparents to family friends—to contribute to tax-advantaged education savings.

Savings are falling short: Only 38 percent of Americans feel like they are saving enough to reach their education savings goals, meaning most families will likely need to lean on student loans to meet costs. A 529 plan can offset what your family might need to borrow, helping position you for a debt-free future.

Financial advisors can help: The majority of respondents (78 percent) do not typically consult a financial advisor before making decisions related to education savings, but 21 percent say that working with a financial advisor would help them feel better about covering the costs of future education expenses. Financial advisors can act as impartial third-party experts to develop tailored strategies to meet your savings goals within the context of your big-picture financial goals.

To learn more about 529 plans, visit www.edwardjones.com.

"Amid inflation and high interest rates, a growing number of young people are considering skipping higher education altogether. Understanding the many savings options available can help them make an informed decision about whether college is within reach," says Esser.

Courtesy StatePoint

Tea Around Town...continued from page 11

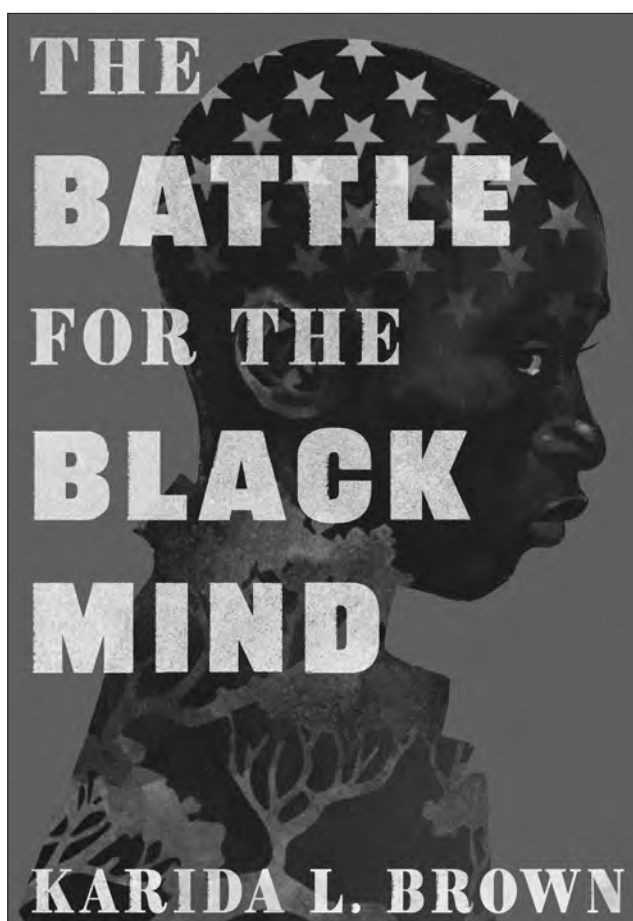
the connections made, the wisdom shared, and the warmth of new friendships forged during the convention. The grand architecture and timeless charm of the Lord Baltimore Hotel served as a backdrop to this tapestry of experiences, reminding me that every trip carries the promise of adventure, growth, and the joy of embracing the unexpected.

Follow Pamela as she travels around the world. Her next travel is a four-day cruise aboard Virgin Voyages, where she will explore the Caribbean islands and enjoy luxurious amenities on board. You can follow Pamela by visiting her Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pamela.coleman.526/>. Ahava Destination Travel

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Pamela at Yebo Kitchen having Brussels sprouts and crab eggs rolls



The Battle for the Black Mind is a lively book that you can read for information, history, or just because. But



Battle for the Black Mind author CREDIT Marie Thomas

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Partial 2025 Program of Projects

TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

5307 FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025

Partial Funds Available for 2025 Capital Projects Section 5307: Federal Fiscal Year	Activity	Fed Share	Total Budget
5307 FY25	Vehicle Replacement	\$4,288,000	\$5,360,000
5307 FY25	Rehabilitation and Renovation	\$1,434,547	\$1,793,184
5307 FY25	Operating Assistance	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000
Total Section 5307 funded items		\$7,722,547	\$11,153,184
5339A FY25	Vehicle Replacement	\$668,644	\$835,805

Written public comments on the proposed Program of Projects will be accepted by the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority until the close of business on **June 13, 2025**. Comments received by the closing date will be considered in preparing and carrying out the program. An opportunity for a public hearing will be offered if requested in the comments.

Comments can be submitted via mail to: Chief Executive Officer, TARTA 1127 W Central Ave., Toledo, OH 43610. Alternatively, you can email your comments with the subject line "Program of Projects" to info@tarta.com.

This program will become final and will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration on completion of the public participation process unless amended by the action of the Board of Trustees of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority.

Laura Koprowski, CEO, TARTA

INVITATION FOR BIDS BIRMINGHAM LEAD HAZARD ELIMINATION – PHASE III IFB25-B007

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Birmingham Lead Hazard Elimination – Phase III in accordance with IFB25-B007**. Received in accordance with law until **June 9, 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.



The African American Sports Legends in Pursuit of Excellence

By Emily Evans

The Truth Reporter

The African American Legacy Project announced the Sports Legends Class of 2025 on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at The Back Forty Catering. The location was a perfect setting to formally unveil the latest Class of Champions. The honorees shared great conversations of success, memories and stories of their journeys.

"We are thrilled to recognize these trailblazing athletes and leaders," said Leroy Bates, spokesperson for the African American Sports Legends of Northwest Ohio. "Their legacy is not just one of victories and records, but of resilience, mentorship, and a relentless pursuit of excellence."

The Class of 2025 inductees are: Nate Washington – football (Scott High School, Tiffin University, Pittsburgh Steelers,

Tennessee Titans); Todd Mitchell – basketball (St. Francis de Sales, Purdue University); Ted Jobe – track & football (Scott High School, University of Michigan); Chris Wormley – football (Whitmer High School, University of Michigan, Baltimore Ravens,

Pittsburgh Steelers); Dan McLemore – basketball (Libbey High School, Bowling Green State University; Coach Willie Oliver – track & field (Scott High School); Mahogany Green – basketball (Bowsher High School, Cleveland State, head coach at

Hamilton College); Ann Archer – basketball (Waite High School)

Additionally, the evening celebrated three previously inducted legends who will be formally

presented with their official Hall of Fame Red Jackets:

• Linda Jefferson – Libbey HS, Toledo Troopers; Woman Sport Magazine Athlete of the Year. Before Title 9, women had few opportunities to participate in sports. Jefferson paved the way for women and helped to change the

mentality of others when it came to women playing sports that were dominated by men. Jefferson was one of the unsung heroes that made a huge difference.

• Curtis Johnson - Waite HS, member of University of Toledo football team's 35 & 0 campaign in the early 1970s, later with the Miami Dolphins. He was the only athlete to go undefeated in a season in both college and in the pros. In college he was named to the Associated Press All American first team. He started out as an All City team member and then All MAC and All American by the time he departed The University of Toledo. He then went on to win the Super Bowl in Miami. He's one of the greatest Athletic leaders.

• Mel Long - Macomber HS, member of University of Toledo 35 & 0 campaign and then the Cleveland Browns. Long joined the military service before going to college. He walked on the team then was immediately awarded a scholarship. He was a true leader of the team and spent a lot of time guiding his brothers to multiple victories.

He was an All American on five different All American teams and was the first one in the history of the University of Toledo. During his Marine Corps service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Navy Cross, which is the most prestigious award that a Marine can win.

All of the legends received beautiful red sports jackets and smiled for pictures among family and friends who came to celebrate them.

The Sports Legends will host a Smoker on Friday June 13, 2025 at the Pinnacle in Maumee. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased through team members or by calling 419-720-4369.

The public is invited to a free ceremony to witness the Class of 2025 receive their Hall of Fame Red Jackets 1:00 p.m, Saturday, June 14, 2025 at Jerusalem Baptist Church.



Al Baker



Jodie and Joie Long, Curtis and Tara Johnson



Linda Johnson receives her red jacket



Mel Long



Robert Smith

A Center of Hope Hosts “Life Keep Living It” to Support Mental Wellness

By Alexandria Leatherberry

The Truth Reporter

On Saturday May 24, 2025, the Center of Hope Family Services held a free community event to support mental wellness awareness, prevention efforts and access to community resources. Spirituality was at the foundation of the event with divinely energetic sets performed at Warren AME Church.



Tracee Perryman, PhD

Grammy award winning producer Darius Brooks and Grammy Lifetime Achievement award winner Elbernita “Twinkie” Clark headlined the “Life Keep Living It” event that was opened by renowned saxophonist, Mike Williams. Their performances left no room for a still body in the room as their accompanying bands and choir filled it with soulful sound, while the leads charged the audience by joining them with praise.



Mike Williams



Charlie Mack of 107.3, The Juice, returned to host the event as an avid supporter. “We don’t always put our mental health as a priority” stated Mack, after sharing his own spiritual perseverance through a challenge of losing his eyesight temporarily. “Getting over that hump is very important to living a happy life,” he continued.

Center of Hope Family Services has been the resource that has been helping others overcome those life humps for 25 years. They have a mission to remove barriers to achievement through culturally relevant and innovative programs and services that close the opportunity gap for those in need. Center for Hope aims to increase access to high quality education, mental wellness services, job readiness, court advocacy, and family support.

“Life Keep Living It” was a celebration of one of the many wellness programs



Charlie Mack





Musiq Soulchild

Troop

Pokey Bear



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that a Center of Hope has fostered in the community. With support from the Lucas County Commissioners, CHFS provides nutritious sack suppers designed to reduce food insecurity at MLK School for Boys, Old West End Academy and Robinson Elementary. They continue to grow their programs and reach in the Toledo community to address present needs like mental wellness. You can find more on their programs and upcoming events at cohfs.org.

