



Volume 90 No. 1 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* June 11, 2025



<i>In This Issue...</i>				
Perryman Page 2	Toledo Museum Will Celebrate Juneteenth Page 5	NANBPWC's Founders' Day Page 8	Cover Story EC Center Opens Page 11	Classifieds Page 14
Tolliver Page 3	Rep. Rogers' Town Hall Page 7	Old West End Parade Page 9	Book Review Page 13	Senior Expo Page 16

What Happens to a Promise Starved

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

The Truth Contributor

A dream deferred is a dream denied.

- Langston Hughes



Like the dreams the late poet-activist-playwright Langston Hughes once wrote about, a promise starved doesn't just fade—it festers, sags and, in the end, it may explode.

HOPE Toledo may have been more aspirational than achievable. Still, it is one of the boldest educational and social justice initiatives this city has ever attempted. Its mission—to support and ensure high-quality education, from preschool to post-secondary and trade school, for every young person in Toledo — is certainly visionary, and it is necessary.

Within that broader mission lives its most public and ambitious program: the HOPE Toledo Promise Initiative. The Promise is more than a scholarship; it aspires to break generational cycles of poverty by offering free tuition, room and board, and fees to high school graduates—and their parents. Hailed as the first fully funded two-generation scholarship program in the nation, in addition to degrees, it promised individuals and families long neglected by policy and philanthropy: “You matter.”

From the beginning, Rev. John C. Jones has been Hope Toledo's staunchest advocate. Inserted into the leadership position by philanthropic institutional giants such as ProMedica, Jones wasn't some parachuting nonprofit executive. He is ours, a trusted native son deeply rooted in youth and community work who brought gravitas and credibility to the vision. Under his leadership, the vision caught fire, sparking national attention and inspiring similar efforts, including the highly capitalized HOPE Chicago.

But, five years later, that hope appears to be starving to death and now on life support.

Institutional leaders familiar with HOPE Toledo's internal operations “think it's over,” doubtful that an unnamed out-of-town foundation will come through with desperately needed funding to sustain the program. If the funder does,

“it's likely to be just enough to pay the bills through June—and then it's done.” Who Is to Blame?

HOPE Toledo's 2019 founder, Pete Kadens, CEO of Green Thumb Industries, a publicly traded cannabis company valued in the billions, and the Kaden Family Foundation, is certainly not the cause of the program's failure. Kadens kept his commitment to fund the post-secondary education for the Scott High School class of 2020.

Rev. Jones' name has also been unfairly dragged through the mud without acknowledging the unfulfilled, bold commitments from local institutions that ultimately cut the legs from both him and HOPE Toledo, causing Jones to shift to a “rob Peter to pay Paul” survival mode in an attempt to survive.

The warning signs have been there.

In 2020, an ill-designed City-sponsored ballot initiative attempted to tie universal pre-K access to road repairs and infrastructure investment. That measure failed miserably at the polls, likely because it tried to do too much at once, and Toledo voters may have also sensed the process was manipulating them.

Since then, Jones and others have used heavy lobbying to attempt to put together a standalone countywide Pre-K levy on the November 2025 ballot. Yet even that effort is facing headwinds: the Ohio General Assembly has thus far refused to authorize the inclusion of Pre-K language on the ballot, blocking a clear path to public funding.

It's also important to reiterate that Rev. Jones did not act alone in building the Promise. Major local institutions, including ProMedica, were initially among HOPE Toledo's strongest backers. Yet financial headwinds hit—particularly in 2022, as ProMedica faced mounting losses totaling in the tens of millions of dollars, executive shakeups, and a system-wide reorganization—their commitment quietly evaporated. While ProMedica focused on righting its own financial ship, it left this critical community initiative underfunded.

HOPE Toledo, then, faltered not because of one man's leadership but because the pillars that were supposed to hold it up stepped back and withdrew.

There is some good news, however. The University of Toledo has recently committed to ensuring that students from the high school classes of 2021 and 2022, who were promised scholarship coverage after the initial 2020 cohort, will receive scholarships and PELL grants, including all the necessary pieces so that they don't get left behind. Lourdes University will probably follow suit, raising at least \$98,000 to guarantee the promises made to students who enrolled there.

... continued on page 3

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Community Calendar

June 14

Community United Juneteenth Parade: Summit and Monroe Street start – One Gov't Center on Jackson; 10 am.

Powell's Juneteenth Celebration: Powell's Beauty and Barber Supply; 10:45 am to 4:30 pm; Live performances, food trucks, activities for all

Vince Davis Community Health and Wellness: Hosted by Omega Psi Phi Frat; MLK Academy for Boys; Noon to 3:30 pm

NAACP's Fourth Annual Juneteenth Rooftop Celebration: Main Branch Library: 7 to 10 pm

June 15

NAACP Youth Council meeting: Sanger Branch Library at 3:00 pm

June 16

Toledo NAACP Toledo general membership and Public meeting; 5:00 pm: 1326 Collingwood Ave.

June 19

Toledo Juneteenth Celebration Cultural Heritage Festival: Glass City Pavilion; 3:30 to 9 pm

Toledo Museum of Art Juneteenth Celebration: 11 to 5 pm. (See article page 5)

The Hissy Fit if the Ages

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

You could not even write a soap opera about the recent shenanigans of Dear Leader and his most “loyal” chainsaw carrying MAGA mustang...Elon Musk, formerly of apartheid South African fame.

I mean, one day, they are kissy-kissy with each other, throwing bouquets of love and happiness at each other and now they are engaged in the hissy fit of the ages!

As Diana Ross and The Supremes so eloquently stated in their smash song, “Where Did Our Love Go?” Trump and Musk have all but signed the divorce papers and are just waiting to see who gets the heirloom silverware and the family photo albums.

Each combatant has leveled invectives and charges against the other and then waits his turn to unload more salvos hoping to win public support of his hair-raising political divorce.

Trump has even reportedly returned the Tesla sports car that Musk gave to him as a symbol of Musk’s undying love for all things, MAGA. Now the vitriol has heated up to the point that Musk, feeling outflanked, has brought Trump’s name into the Jeffrey Epstein scandal, hoping that such an association will repel some MAGA voters against Trump.

Don’t count on it. Trump has had his own sexual indiscretions and they apparently did not hurt him with his forever and always base of voters.

Now Trump, feeling emboldened about taking on any insolence from any source, is threatening to revoke all of the Musk’s contracts with the government. If done, that would mean a loss of billions of dollars to the bottom line of Musk’s balance sheet.

Who could have predicted such a high-wire falling out of “bros” who were, “In This Love Together?” Can two objects occupy the same space at the same time? No! Both Musk and Trump, media hounds as they are, were in narcissistic love with themselves and their images. Both were performers playing to the ever hungry media who eyeballed every word from either of them as if they were speaking Delphi oracles.

And when Trump or one of his buddies raised the ire of exporting Musk, good ol’ Putin saw an opening to add his two rubles and offered sanctuary to Musk! Note to self: Musk ain’t leave the US of A for Mother Russia! Needing to get reliable answers on what the future looked like for these two charlatans, I consulted Madam DeBountibon from the voodoo capital of the US of A...New Orleans.

I called her on her cell phone and asked for an over the phone séance as to what lies in store for these warring misfits. Her answers were sobering to say the least.

ME: Madam DeBountibon, thank you for taking my call. I need some answers on this Musk-Trump dust up and where is it going.

Madam DeBountibon: Hi Lafe...! Great to hear from you. Are you still in Toledo and when do you plan to see visit me again?

ME: Hey...! Let the good times roll! I am still in T-town and maybe hope to get to your parts sometime in the Fall. If I do, you still owe me a dinner at Peche!

Madam DeBountibon: Yes! Not to worry. Peche’s is still going great.

As to your question about those two star crossed wannabee dictators, my crystal ball is telling me that Musk and Trump have too much at stake to be cross at each other for too much longer.

Musk will calm down and take a call from Trump because he wants to be in his good graces with his space program contracts.

For his part Trump will play to the media and act like the grown up in the room and mollify Musk so that Musk will not fund opposition candidates to his lackeys in the House or the Senate.

Putin will offer Musk unlimited access to their space program but Musk likes the comforts of his acquired lifestyle and will refuse sanctuary in Russia.

Putin will continue to insult Trump about the Ukrainian war and Trump, now known as TACO Trump, will continue to hee haw about standing up to Putin.

The Democrats will sweep the mid-term elections and would then have the platform to stand up to Trump and issue subpoenas to Hegseth, RFK, Jr. and Pam Bondi.

Musk will spend millions on opposition candidates to Trump simply to show him and the GOP that his money can alter the outcome of politics



Musk and Trump

but the American voter, tired of the lack of a winning domestic policy from Trump, will go in another direction.

ME: Wow! That is a lot from one session!

Madam DeBountibon: My crystal ball is showing me more ominous things about the future but I am concerned that too much information at this time will cause people to lose heart and give up.

ME: I understand completely. I will catch up with you down the road. Stay healthy and lay off of those sugary beignets!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Perryman... continued from page 2

Where Do We Go from Here?

The real tragedy of HOPE Toledo isn’t that we dreamed too big. It’s that we didn’t build big enough to hold the dream.

However, we must remember that Toledo isn’t Chicago. We don’t have an army of Fortune 500 backers or billionaire foundations. That means we have to build smarter. We need leaders with fundraising and development experience who can secure multi-year, diversified funding streams—not rely on one-time gifts or handshake assumptions.

We also need educational experts who understand how to navigate complex systems, build partnerships, and measure impact in ways that inspire public confidence and institutional buy-in. And then, we must have governance models that ensure financial transparency, strategic clarity, and accountable stewardship, not dependence on charisma or emergency rescue plans.

Let’s not allow this moment to become just another cautionary tale in a city already too familiar with disappointment.

Let’s fulfill and keep the promises made by building what lasts.

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

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Are Any of Us Really Ready for Fire Season?

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

The smoke has already arrived. This past week, thick plumes from wildfires in Manitoba and Saskatchewan have drifted into the US, triggering air quality alerts across the Midwest. Cities like Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago are experiencing hazy skies and dangerous air conditions, with the Air Quality Index reaching levels unhealthy for sensitive groups.



Fire has always helped shape our forests, especially in the West. But those forests have evolved around natural frequencies and intensities of fires. What we are seeing now is new. This early-season smoke is a stark reminder that fire season is no longer confined to the West or wild areas, and more intense and longer-lasting fire seasons are the new normal.

Megan Paxman says she lives “in a state of constant anxiety every wildfire season.” A mother to a son with asthma in Alberta, Canada, she wrote on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s website about her experience on Mother’s Day 2023.

“My four-year-old son has been sleepy and unwilling to eat all morning. I notice that the skin between his ribs and at the base of his throat is pulling in between every inhale.”

When Paxman called the local general health information service, a nurse told her, “get him to the hospital now.”

“The second I get a whiff of that telltale smell, I go into super-watchful mode,” Paxman says. “I’m obsessively checking the local air quality levels and his breathing while watching for haze on the horizon or an orange tint to the light.”

That haze and orange tint are becoming more familiar for Americans from California to the Great Lakes to the East Coast.

As of May 30, the US had recorded over 27,700 wildfires this year – 33 percent more than the 10-year average for this time of year. The devastating fires in Southern California this past January reminded us that the areas threatened directly by wildfires are increasing, with major cities no longer safe. The conditions that gave rise to those fires – including the Palisades and Eaton fire which destroyed more than 18,000 structures and claimed at least 30 lives – were exacerbated by climate change. That’s how it is around the world as well, where the global area considered “fire-prone” is projected to grow by 29 percent by the end of the century.

Aside from fires’ destructive impacts, the health impacts of wildfire smoke are profound. Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from these fires can penetrate deep into the lungs, leading to respiratory issues, heart problems, and other serious health concerns. Children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing conditions are particularly vulnerable. In some areas affected by the recent Canadian wildfires, residents have been advised to stay indoors and limit outdoor activities.

Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, high winds, and certain extreme weather events create the perfect conditions for wildfires to ignite and spread rapidly. But despite the growing risks, recent decisions by the Trump administration have undermined our ability to respond effectively.

Staff and budget cuts to key agencies responsible for forest management and wildfire prevention threaten to leave us even more vulnerable and less prepared. Additionally, harmful legislation like the Fix Our Forests Act threatens to weaken environmental protections and prioritize logging over sustainable forest management that could actually help address forest fires.

We need a comprehensive approach to address this crisis. This includes investing in forest restoration, supporting fire-resistant – and resilient – infrastructure, and policies that drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Public education campaigns can also play a crucial role in promoting fire safety and preparedness.

There is no safe level of exposure to wildfire smoke. It is 10 times more toxic to our health than standard air pollution from the burning of fossil fuels, and there’s no safe level of exposure. According to a multinational studies reported in the science journal *Nature*, wildfire-specific PM2.5 increased the risk of hospitalization for a range of respiratory illnesses from asthma to the flu. That’s especially true for people under age 19 or older than 60. Compared to PM2.5 from other sources, wildfire-specific PM2.5 led to a greater risk of hospitalization for all respiratory diseases.

Do a quick search online about the impact of wildfire smoke and you’ll see countless articles from public health experts, pediatricians, and other doctors about ways to avoid PM2.5 exposure or the signs that indicate you should see medical care. But isn’t it a better solution to address the actual cause of more, bigger, stronger wildfires, and the deadly pollution they bring? To make it so the air is not so toxic that kids with asthma essentially have to shelter in place deep in their homes during the very months they should be playing outside?

Communities across the country must come together to demand action. We must hold our leaders accountable and push for policies that prioritize public health and environmental sustainability. The challenges are immense, but with collective effort and determination, we can build a more resilient future.

In the meantime, preparedness is key.

Stay informed about local air quality conditions and have an evacuation plan in place. But let’s not forget to support initiatives aimed at eliminating fossil fuels and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Our health, our homes, and our planet depend on it.

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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Everyone's Freedom Day: Juneteenth at the Toles Museum of Art

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

When you walk through the doors of the Toledo Museum of Art this Juneteenth, you're not just stepping into a building filled with paintings and sculptures—you're stepping into a living celebration of freedom. A freedom that belongs to all of us.

Juneteenth, often called America's "second Independence Day," marks the day when the last enslaved Black Americans in Galveston, Texas finally learned they were free—over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

It's a moment in history filled with both pain and joy. And while the story starts in the Black community, its message belongs to everyone. Because what is freedom if not shared?

This year, the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) invites people of all backgrounds to come together—not just to remember—but to rejoice, reflect and relax in the name of freedom.

More Than a History Lesson

"Juneteenth shouldn't be something people feel confused or distant from," said Toni Gordon, Public Programs supervisor at the Toledo Museum of Art.

"We've all had to overcome hard things. This is a celebration of that spirit—of resilience, community, and forward movement."

The museum's Juneteenth programming isn't like a regular school history class. It's more like a family cookout mixed with a mind spa and a soul concert.

There will be live performances by local legends like Ramona Collins, and young dynamic talents like Thaddeaus Washington. Art galleries will hum with the sounds of music. A yoga and sound bath session will be held right inside one of TMA's Wolfe Gallery—yes, you can actually lie back, breathe deeply and feel the sound waves bounce off the artwork like a soft drumroll of peace.

There's even a session on financial wellness, where you can learn how to budget and manage money—because true freedom includes being free from stress about bills, too.

"We want people to bring themselves into the museum," said Gordon. "Your mind, your body, your wallet, your family—we're meeting you where you are. That's what art should do."

Whether you're coming for the beats, the brushstrokes, the breathwork—or just the vibe—you'll find something that speaks to your spirit.

Check out the full TMA Juneteenth event schedule here.

It's For Everyone

Sometimes people think Juneteenth is only for the Black community. But that's like thinking the Fourth of July is only for soldiers. Juneteenth is the day freedom finally reached everyone—every last person in this country. It's not just a Black story. It's a human story.

And the Toledo Museum of Art is working hard to make sure everyone

knows they're welcome.

"This is your celebration too," said Gordon. "Freedom belongs to you. Joy belongs to you. This is a place where you can come exactly as you are, and we'll have a seat ready for you."

And if you're bringing kids? Perfect. The museum has activities where young minds can learn through play, music, movement, and art.

A Sound Bath for the Soul

One of the most popular events this year is the sound bath and yoga session. If you've never heard of a sound bath before, imagine a big invisible wave of music washing over you—not with splashes, but with smooth ripples of peace.

During the session, people lie on mats in the gallery, breathing slowly while sounds from singing bowls fill the room. The echo of the sound bounces off the walls like ripples in a pond, relaxing your brain and body.

It's not just cool—it's healing.

"Freedom isn't only about laws or battles," Gordon explained. "It's about your mental space too. We wanted to give people a way to feel free inside their own minds."

Toledo's Living Lesson in Liberation

Juneteenth at the museum is just one piece of a bigger movement happening all over the country. As more people learn about the holiday, cities and organizations are finding new ways to celebrate.

But Toledo has something special.

More than 20 years ago, when Juneteenth wasn't as well-known, TMA was one of the only places locally putting on events. Even some community elders have said the museum was one of the first organizations to treat the day with real honor.

Even with Juneteenth now recognized as a national holiday, our Toledo

... continued on page 12



Toni Gordon



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Graduating From College? Take These Steps to Launch Your Career

Special To The Truth

With demand for financial advisors expected to grow quickly — at a rate of 13% through 2032, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics — those with college graduation on the horizon would be wise to consider this marketable profession.

The key to launching a successful financial advising career is becoming a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® professional. Those with CFP® certification are highly valued by employers and clients alike and can expect to have more career options and higher salaries. Here are the steps to take to gain this competitive edge and begin working in the field:

Get educated: CFP® certification has a two-part education requirement. The first is attaining a bachelor's degree in any discipline from an accredited college or university. The second is completing comprehensive college-level coursework in personal financial planning areas such as investment planning, estate planning and psychology of financial planning. While many begin the certification process after graduating college, you can get a head start by working toward this goal while you're still enrolled in school.

Take the exam: After you've completed the education requirement for CFP® certification, you'll need to prove your skills by passing the CFP® exam. These exams are offered three times a year, and test preparation resources, such as practice exams, are available online to help ensure your success.

Gain experience: There is no substitute for real-world experience. That's why

CFP® certification requires 6,000 hours of professional experience related to the financial planning process or 4,000 hours of apprenticeship experience. These hours can be gained before or after completing the exam.

Commit to ethical standards: All CFP® professionals commit to CFP Board to act in the best interests of their clients at all times when providing financial advice. They do so by completing an ethics declaration and agreement and by passing fitness standards and a background check.

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Market yourself: Ninety percent of consumers see an advisor's certifications as important, so put your best foot forward by heralding your credentials. Display your CFP® marks on your LinkedIn profile and on other networking sites. Also, be sure to create a public profile on CFP Board's consumer site, Lets-MakeAPlan.org, so that potential clients can find you.

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To learn more and to get started today, visit cfp.net.

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Rep. Rogers Announces More Than \$2M in Funding for Northwest Ohio

Funding will support Port Authority infrastructure, state park cabins

Special To The Truth

State Rep. Rogers (D-Toledo) last week announced that the Controlling Board has approved two major funding allocations that will benefit outdoor recreation and economic development across northwest Ohio. The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority will receive \$1.2M to support critical infrastructure improvements and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) will receive \$820K for cabin renovations at five state parks, including Maumee Bay.

"I'm proud to have worked with local and state partners to help secure these important investments for our region. These funds will strengthen our economy, enhance our public spaces, and improve quality of life for families across Northwest Ohio," said Rep. Rogers.

The \$1.2M investment in the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority will support critical infrastructure improvements that enhance the port's capacity and efficiency. Strengthening port operations is essential to attracting new business, supporting regional supply chains, and creating good-paying jobs. This funding represents a strategic boost to Northwest Ohio's economy, helping position the region as a hub for commerce and transportation.

Additionally, the \$820K renovation of state park cabins will improve comfort, accessibility, and overall guest experience, making Ohio's parks more inviting to families and tourists. These improvements are key to attracting more visitors, extending stays, and increasing tourism-related revenue for nearby communities. By investing in these updates, the state is not only preserving its natural resources but also strengthening local economies and promoting outdoor recreation.

Protests Against Trump and Immigration Issues Dominate Elgin Rogers Jr.'s Town Hall

By Jefferson Díaz

The Truth Reporter

In a small but powerful Town Hall, Ohio District 44 Representative Elgin Rogers Jr. met with a handful of his constituents in the Mott Branch Library of Toledo to discuss the future of the state's budget, concerns about the local economy and how to push back ICE's raids.

"I'm confident that Ohio is more in favor of democracy than chaos," said Rogers, who went on for 45 minutes detailing his focal points during his two and a half years in the Ohio's House of Representatives.

Some of Rogers' priorities have been to address the poll workers shortage, raise awareness about male wellness and create a culture of proactive health care, signal to members of the armed services that they are not alone, ensure that multiple payment options are available when using public parking and keep the state as a safe and economically strong place for truckers.

Rogers emphasized that he did not support Ohio's operating budget because, among other things, it reduces funding for public libraries, fails to provide real property tax relief and attacks unions.

Ohio's House of Representatives is currently divided between 65 Republicans and 34 Democrats. "Many are afraid to say that we're Democrats because they think we're cornered. That's not true; we're working for the good of our state and our communities," said Rogers.

An intense Q&A

After his presentation, Rogers took questions from the audience. One of them advocated for improving the funding of the train system and maintaining healthcare for all. "We are seeing attacks on our healthcare system, and we cannot allow this."

Among those present promoted the "No Kings!!! March" a national event on June 14, which will take place in Toledo at Promenade Park in Downtown starting at 1 p.m. The march's purpose is to speak out against the public poli-



cies implemented by the current administration of President Donald Trump, including arbitrary deportations.

The immigration issue also came up during questions with Rogers, when another attendee challenged him, saying, "You can't negotiate with ICE. Especially when they handcuff you and take you away for no reason."

Many indicated that flights depart from Toledo Airport at least once a week with migrants who have been detained in northern Ohio, about whom there is no information.

"I understand what's happening, but we must act logically. We must be smart in order to fight against these arbitrary actions. What they're doing to migrants is not only wrong, but it will also affect our economy," said Rogers.

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NANBPWC, Toledo Club, Celebrates Local Owners/Educators

Special to The Truth

The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc, Toledo Club, celebrated two local powerful daycare and pre-school owners, CEO's and founders with over 25 years of helping in the development, education and nurturing not only the infants and toddlers but, during COVID and now after COVID, school age and whole families to build character while focusing on structure.

The two honorees were Kashaundra Besteda, owner and founder of My First Days Daycare, LLC, and Kelly Hughes, owner and founder of Learning Ladders Educational Center.

NANBPWC Toledo Club also celebrated at the same event the CEO of one of the fastest growing mental health services, Janice Edwards of New Concepts. New Concepts provides whole family services with a focus on "no one left behind, all moving forward with guidance."

The event was shared by close family and friends of the honorees as each woman was celebrated with a close family member speaking words from the heart. Not many dry eyes were seen during this time of the program ut

well worth it.

While the Founder's Day/Women's History program is a national annual event for each chapter of the NANBPWC CLUBS each year it's more powerful with uplifting Business and Professional LOCAL hidden jewels in Toledo Ohio.

The event was chaired by Mironda Harris and Joy Goodner and co-chaired by Charlotte Wells.



Kashaundra Besteda and family



Honorees Janice Edwards, Kelly Hughes and Kashaundra Besteda with Toledo Club President Tyra Smith and Denise Black Poon, Governor of the North Central NANBPWC District

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The Summer Festivals Begin in the Old West End

The Historic Old West End Festival opened the local summer season with the traditional King Wamba Carnival Parade. The 116th year event brought together student musicians, agencies, elected officials, hopeful candidates, small cars, big jeeps, fancy Corvettes and Slingshots with booming music.

The parade ended at the museum's front steps for the coronation of King Wamba (Dave Kosmyrna) and Queen Sancha (Christine Palmer).

The 52nd annual Historic Old West End Festival continued through Sunday with hundreds of vendors, thousands of visitors and plenty of activities to keep everyone busy



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HBCUs are Empowering Their Programs and Their Students with New Levels of Technology

By Hazel Trice Edney
Guest Column

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) produce 20 percent of all of America's Black college graduates. That includes 80 percent of Black judges; 70 percent of Black doctors; 50 percent of Black teachers; and 25 percent of Black students who major in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Despite this level of success in educating primarily the descendants of enslaved people – many who are the first to attend college from their families - HBCUs have suffered historical challenges, including underfunding and difficulty attracting and retaining students. That is why educational experts are now applauding the fact that HBCUs are increasingly opening its virtual classrooms to non-traditional students through online learning programs. It is a strategy that is not only enhancing the lives of older adults and professionals, but also positively impacting the growth of historically Black institutions overall.

These are the crucial points made in a new report titled “How HBCUs are Using Technology to Improve Outcomes and Better Fulfill Their Mission.” It is winning wide acclaim for its research on HBCU successes in online education.

“Many HBCUs realize that traditional on-campus programs alone can't serve all the students who need them,” writes Kristoffer Adams, a board member of the Black Legislative Leadership Network and author of the report. “Online education has become a key solution – especially for working adults, military members, and students in rural areas. By working with On-line Program Managers (OPMs) – companies that help schools create online programs – HBCUs can reach students they couldn't before.”

The report, researched by Adams, is being released and discussed this week



Hamil Harris, Morgan State University



Kendrick Brown, PhD, Morehouse College



Simone Campbell, PhD, Howard University

during a Nashville gathering of the HBCU Caucus Convening, a conference of HBCU officials, advocates and associates coming together to explore ways to expand, empower and move HBCUs forward.

Adams believes his findings may be key to the advancement of HBCUs across the nation. But he is not alone as professors and college administrators laud the benefits of online learning; especially the benefits to HBCUs.

The report quotes Kendrick Brown, PhD, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Morehouse College, explaining how the OPMs have worked to extend Morehouse beyond its Atlanta campus. The college now offers an online bachelor's degree in business administration with about 20 courses, serving about 300 students, the report describes.

“At first, Morehouse didn't have the technology, experience, or knowledge to offer online classes,” Brown says in the report. But with assistance from the OPM, it not only created the program, but was able to maintain its own Morehouse admission and grading policies, which ensure that the “online program is just as rigorous as on-campus classes.”

Rigor is largely the key, says Hamil Harris, a veteran journalist who reported nearly 25 years for the Washington Post. Harris has been teaching online at Maryland's Morgan State University and is set to teach three additional online courses at Morgan this fall.

... continued on page 12



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Grand Opening Weekend at EC Family Event Center

Special to The Truth

This past weekend marked a heartwarming and unforgettable celebration as the EC Family Event Center, located at 1402 Indiana Avenue in Toledo, officially opened its doors to the public. The two-day grand opening event was filled with joy, gratitude, and deep community spirit, paying tribute to the legacy of the late Ms. Ernestine Carter while also celebrating the visionary leadership of co-owners Alethea Easterly and Charsena Braswell.

Saturday – A Block Party to Remember

The celebration began on Saturday with a vibrant soft opening featuring a lively block party cookout. Families from across the city gathered to enjoy classic cookout food, upbeat tunes from a live DJ, and fun-filled activities including games and bouncy houses for children. The atmosphere was electric as family and friends came together for live interviews, congratulating Alethea and Charsena on their remarkable accomplishment.

This day of fun and fellowship also served as a heartfelt tribute to their beloved mother, Ms. Ernestine Carter, whose memory now lives on through the dedicated community space. The block party was more than a celebration—it was a unifying moment for all those touched by her legacy.

Sunday – A Spirit-Filled Formal Dedication

Sunday's formal grand opening began with a sacred ribbon-cutting ceremony. The day included a powerful prayer led by Bishop Pat McKinstry and a building blessing led by Pastor Mike Prince, both setting the spiritual foundation for what promises to be a cornerstone of the community. There were four individuals who actually cut the ribbon to include Albert & Alethea Easterly, Charsena Braswell and one of her brothers, Spencer Braswell. After the ceremony the formal program included multiple guest speakers. Both Kevin and Spencer Braswell shared touching remarks about the pride they had for their sisters. The Each of their adult children shared tear-jerking remarks about their parents' work ethic and the anticipation of making new memories. The names of adult children are Latasha Tyree, Charles Owens, Anita and Laquita Hackett, and Corvez Braswell. Guests were treated to a formal dinner catered by family members, full of soul-warming dishes that echoed the warmth of the occasion.

Valerie Simmons-Walston, PhD, served as the Emcee and masterfully guided the event, reminding attendees that "The EC Family Event Center is the place where new memories are made." Raffles and prizes added an extra layer of excitement, making the day one to remember for all in attendance.

A Legacy of Impact

Alethea and Charsena are more than just co-owners—they are trailblazers continuing a legacy of service and dedication. Alethea Easterly is the proud owner of Quality Time 1, 2, and 3, a flourishing educational campus committed to nurturing the youth of Toledo. Her work is shaping the future, one child at a time.

Charsena Braswell, owner and visionary behind Sena Adult Daycare, is equally committed to the enrichment of our elders. Her facility offers a dynamic and engaging space for seniors to thrive and find purpose in their golden years.

A Space for All Generations

With the EC Family Event Center now open, the community has gained not just a venue—but a haven for building lasting memories, celebrating milestones, and bridging generations. The love and passion poured into this project by Alethea and Charsena are a testament to the enduring power of family, faith, and vision.

The EC Family Event Center: Where memories are made, lives are celebrated, and the community comes home.

For bookings or inquiries, visit EC Family Event Center at 1402 Indiana Ave, Toledo, OH. Or our Facebook page at E.C. Family Event Center/ Contact number 567-694-1863



Spencer Braswell, Alethea Easterly, Albert Easterly & Charsena Braswell

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HBCU... continued from page 10

"This is not for the lighthearted," says Harris, an adjunct professor. "People think that online is just talking and listening. No. It's so important to know what online teaching means. It's not just to go to Zoom. Online education is evolving."

Harris says there are students who have not passed his online class because they failed to adhere to the high ethical standards such as using artificial intelligence "in an improper way... There is zero tolerance for cheating."

The students are coming from every walk of life. Though Harris teaches in the School of Communications at Morgan, most of his students are non-journalism majors.

Students in his online media literacy class have included bankers, engineers, chemists, Fortune 500 executives, sports stars, police officers and even FBI agents, he said, illustrating the professional diversity of those who are now being drawn to HBCUs due to online programs. As technology advances, working people often find the need to increase their education in order to advance.

Symone Campbell, Ph.D., a researcher at the Siegel Family Endowment and professor of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics at Howard University, agrees as she is currently teaching in a graduate program that is entirely online. It is Howard's newest master's degree program - a data science and analytics program.

"So, the whole point of this program being online is to be able to market to people who are not able to come to the campus. That allows us to reach so many hundreds of more people than we would be able to if it was an in-person program," says Campbell, who describes herself as being passionate about advancing technology that serves the needs of underrepresented students.

In an interview, Campbell points out that the program is also in sync with the historic and cultural mission of HBCUs to provide educational experiences that enhance the progress of African-Americans and other historically oppressed people.

For example, "we need more black data scientists; we need more data scientists that are coming from backgrounds that are not White males because all of these technology innovations that are being created over the years, we know that White men are creating them. And they're being created with their biases. So, we need to train Black data scientists and scientists of color with social justice mindsets, etc.," Campbell said. She adds that most of the classes are also in the evening, which is a major convenience for people who work during the day.

But technology at HBCUs have proven to be as beneficial to the institution itself as it is to the students. Online programs have been credited for the re-

vival of Morris Brown College, which 22 years ago lost its accreditation and thousands of students amidst financial and legal problems. With its accreditation reinstated only three years ago, its current president, Dr. Kevin James, says in Adams' report that - partially because of online programs - "The fact that we're still here, still open, is a miracle in itself."

Adams says he believes the benefits of online teaching and the growth of technology by HBCUs could grow astronomically for HBCUs and students in the years to come.

"I think the ultimate benefit is that the Black community can now reconvene and figure out how we want to go about taking care of our families," says Adams in an interview. "Things are being reshuffled. We don't have to worry about having to go to class in the morning or the middle of the day. We don't have time for that. But we can go online and kind of work at our own pace or something similar to it. This will allow us to pursue newer and brighter opportunities."

Juneteenth... continued from page 5

Museum of Art is still setting the standard for how to celebrate it with heart.

And they're already dreaming bigger.

When asked what a "perfect" Juneteenth could look like in the future, Gordon didn't talk about big budgets or fancy decorations.

Instead, she said: "If I knew I couldn't fail, I'd want TMA's Juneteenth celebration to always be something special that really brings people together—black people, white people, everyone. Something where people leave feeling changed. Like they learned something, but also like they felt seen."

A Freedom That Still Grows

Juneteenth is not the finish line. It's a flag in the ground that says: We made it here. Now let's keep going.

It reminds us that justice can be delayed, but never denied. That sometimes, people don't know they're free until someone tells them. And once you know, it's your job to pass that freedom forward.

See You at the Museum

This year, Juneteenth at the Toledo Museum of Art is more than an event—it's an invitation.

Come see the art. Hear the music. Rest your mind. Laugh with your neighbors. Learn something new. Celebrate freedom—not just Black freedom, but human freedom.

Because when we all show up to celebrate together, we create a world where everyone's story matters.

And that? That's real liberation.

Learn more: Juneteenth at TMA.

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Books for Father's Day by Various Authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Your Dad is the best.

He gives great hugs, first of all. He teaches you things, fixes what's broken, and he likes to play with you sometimes. Dad works hard, he's really smart, and he picks great books to read before your bedtime, books like these...

c. 2025
various publishers
\$14.99 - \$30
various page counts

Who doesn't like to go camping with Dad? In the new book, *You Make the World* by **Múon Thi Vãn**, illustrated by **Phùng Nguyễn Quang & Huynh Kim Liên** (Orchard Books, \$18.99), a young child goes out in nature with their father, and learns a few things about what makes the world go 'round – at least, in Dad's eyes. It's a book that sings with joy and love; but it will also help your child understand that emotions actually mean something. Just don't be surprised if this sweet little story makes Dad tear up a bit because it's that kind of book. *You Make the World* is perfect for bedtime, and it's great for kids ages three-to-seven.

Another book full of love is *Love, Dad: Inspiring Notes from Fathers to Kids* by **Dr. Joel Warsh and Andrew Gardner**, illustrated by **David Elmo Cooper** (Random House, \$14.99). Here, authors Warsh and Gardner asked "lots of dads" what they wished their kids knew, and what they "hoped to teach their kids." It starts with the words, "When you grow up, I hope you..." and the rest of the sentences are warm, loving, funny, inspiring, empowering and good for kids of any age. Read this book now to your five-to-seven-year-old, then make it a tradition by reading it every year for the next five or 10 years.

And finally, if you're looking for something your Dad might love to read, or if you're a father yourself, consider *Fatherhood: A History of Love and Power* by **Augustine Sedgewick** (Scribner, \$30).

"By any measure, fatherhood is one of the most meaningful concepts in human culture," the author says, but it can also be filled with aspects that today's society might find oppressive, to one degree or another. For example, the idea that men must provide for and protect partners and offspring has been around a long time – though it's changed and adapted with modern attitudes, feminism, and other forces. You'll see it through Sedgewick's portraits of influential, powerful men throughout history, men who happened to be fathers.

This is a thoughtful, aha! kind of book for the dad who wants to read something different, for an older teen who'd like a history of an unusual sort, or for Mom, who wants a peek into the other side of parenting.

Of course, there's more to being a Dad than biology, and there are more books on the subject at your favorite bookstore or library. To find them, you just need to step inside and ask for books on being a Dad, being a child with a Daddy, or getting to know the man who was your father. Indeed, your librarian or bookseller can help you find the Father's Day books that are the best.



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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Electronic Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Access Road at Toledo Shipyard project at 2245 Front St., Toledo, Ohio 43605, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The "Access Road at Toledo Shipyard" project is intended to improve and repair access drives at the Toledo Shipyard. The project will include re-grading existing stone access drive, installation of approximately 682 L.F., of 12" storm sewer and 5 catch basins, construction of heavy-duty asphalt pavement, removal and replacement of damaged section of existing concrete pavement, (approximately 500 S.Y.), and restoration work.

This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion. The total engineer's estimate is approximately \$516,995.00.

Bids will be received through Bid Express, an online electronic bidding system, until Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 1:00 PM, at which time all bids will be opened through the Bid Express website.

The plans and bid proposal documents are available through Bid Express at: <https://www.bid-express.com/businesses/66075/home>. Bidders new to the electronic bidding system must first register on the Bid Express website (www.bidexpress.com). Registration is Free. It can take up to five (5) business days to process a Digital ID and it is highly recommended that a Digital ID be enabled 48 hours in advance of submitting an electronic bid. Bidders must plan accordingly. For additional guidance regarding electronic bidding, bidders must contact Bid Express directly. Each bidder shall be responsible for submitting its electronic bid before the bid deadline.

Electronic Proposals must be submitted on the form(s) included in Bid Express and shall be accompanied by a certified check or an acceptable Proposal Bond with satisfactory surety specifying the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority as the obligee, in the sum of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 1:00 PM, at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions through the Bid Express service by Friday, June 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM local time. Questions submitted after the deadline will not receive a response. Additional information can be found at <https://www.toledoport.org/public-notice>

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE AND INCLUSION MANAGER

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is now hiring, and offers competitive compensation and a comprehensive benefits package. We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

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Please visit our website at www.lucasdd.org for additional details and to apply. All candidates must submit a resume and cover letter along with an employment application via the online application process. We are an equal opportunity employer. If in need of ADA accommodations, contact us directly at 419-380-4033.

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Requirements: Licensed to practice law in Ohio or eligible for admission by motion/temporary certification. Minimum 5 years of litigation, policy advocacy, or community legal experience. Experience in immigration law, including USCIS and removal defense. Strong leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills. Spanish proficiency preferred.

Salary and Benefits: Annual salary ranges from \$81,000 to \$108,202, with comprehensive benefits including health insurance, loan repayment assistance, and paid leave.

To Apply: Submit applications via ABLE's Careers Page <<https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able>>. Position open until filled.

Equal Opportunity Employer: ABLE values diversity and encourages applicants from underrepresented backgrounds. For accommodations, contact hrtteam@ablelaw.org <<mailto:hrtteam@ablelaw.org>>.

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

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Alternate 1.....	\$ (100,000.00)
Alternate 2.....	\$ 75,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: June 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. – Main Campus, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606.

Walk-Through: Immediately following Pre-Bid.

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

More Info: Buehrer Group, Brent Buehrer, AIA, 419-893-9021, brent.buehrer@buehrergroup.com

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.



Film about 5th U.S. Colored Troops to Be Shown at Hayes Presidential for Juneteenth

In celebration of Juneteenth, a film featuring the story of the 5th U.S. Colored Troops in the Civil War will be shown Tuesday, June 17, at the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums.

"Camp Delaware" chronicles the recruitment, training, battles, bravery and service of the regiment. The film is a recording of a stage production.

It incorporates speeches of political figures of the day, letters from the soldiers and sounds of popular music of the era will bring the unit's story to life.

"Camp Delaware" will be shown at 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the filmmakers.

Tickets are \$10 and are available online

Proceeds from the film will benefit the Community Arts Network Performing Arts Scholarship. The scholarship is for Ohio graduating high school Seniors who will be attending an Ohio college or university to pursue a degree in the performing arts. For information on the scholarship, visit the Community Arts Network website

This is the third time this film is being shown at Hayes Presidential. Previous screenings took place in October in conjunction with Hayes Presidential's Civil War Winter Camp and in February for Black History Month. The film was well-received on both occasions, and the filmmakers and Hayes Presidential wanted to share it again for Juneteenth.

Hayes Presidential is America's first presidential library and the forerunner of the federal presidential library system. It is partially funded by the state of Ohio and affiliated with the Ohio History Connection. Hayes Presidential is located at Spiegel Grove on Buckland Avenue.

For information, call 419-332-2081, or visit rbhayes.org. Like Hayes Presidential on Facebook and follow on Instagram at [rbhayespres](https://www.instagram.com/rbhayespres) and on Bluesky at [rbhayespres.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/rbhayespres.bsky.social).



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The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government."

Indiana Avenue MBC Hosts the Senior Expo

Special to The Truth

The Senior Expo, held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, was a true celebration of faith and community.

With the theme A Legacy of Faith, A Celebration Across Generations from Psalms 71:18, the event brought together seniors and youth, including members of Ladies of Distinction, who graciously assisted those with mobility challenges.

Attendees enjoyed valuable resources from 15 vendors, covering financial management, property protection through the Lucas County Recorder's Office Alert program, and legal guidance from Legal Shield. Health services were available such as blood pressure checks, immunizations provided by Junction Pharmacy, and A1C screenings from Mercy Health helped support senior well-being.

Delicious food, exciting activities and prizes added to the lively atmosphere, with the highlight being the Family Feud showdown, where Old School triumphed over New School, courtesy of NEON Entertainment LLC.

The event truly blessed the more than 100 participants, fostering a spirit of joy and connection. The Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church is pastored by Reverend William C. Foster.

The Senior Expo Committee would like to thank the volunteers, Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church's Kitchen Committee, the participating vendors (the Area Office on Aging, Fifth Third Bank, Health Partners of Western Ohio, House of Day Mortuary, Huntington Bank, Junction Pharmacy, Legal Shield, Lucas Metropolitan Housing, Lucas County Recorder's Office, Mercy Health, Neighborhood Health Association, Pathway, the Sight Center, State Bank), and everyone involved who made this event a success!



David Perkins, Vivian Crawford, Carolyn Ward, Rob Pasker



Arthur Bates and Justin Moor, CEO of Area Office on Aging during the fireside chat



Keith Miller and Kelly Westmoreland



Sharon Jones and Deb Hill