

Volume 90 No. 2 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* June 18, 2025



<i>In This Issue...</i>					
Perryman Page 3	Omega's Wellness Fair Page 7	Book Review Page 10	Toledo GROWS and Crosby Festival Page 14	Classifieds Page 20	Juneteenth Library/ Alpha Celebration Page 23
Juneteenth Parade Page 5	What Is Juneteenth? Page 9	Ella P. Stewart Historical Marker Page 12	AA Museum Page 15	NANBPWC Yellow Event Page 22	AALP Sports Legends Page 28



THE TAYLOR AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY IS PROUD TO SUPPORT

JUNETEENTH
- FREEDOM DAY -

Terry Crosby
Taylor Ambassador Toledo

Victoria Kimmel
Taylor Ambassador Lima

Mary Helen Darah
Taylor Ambassador Toledo

Tom Cole
Taylor Ambassador Toledo

Steve Taylor Jr.

Steve Taylor Sr.

Joan Brown Kose
Taylor Ambassador Findlay



TAYLOR AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY



LOCALLY OWNED, LOCALLY COMMITTED

www.TAYLORAUTO.com



The Sound of Silence

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

The Truth Contributor

When nothing is said, a lot is being heard.

- Toni Morrison



Toledo's streets have gone radio silent. You can almost hear crickets chirping as even the barbershops are quiet — and that silence is saying something.

With a mayor's race on the line, council seats up for grabs and tension brewing beneath the surface, the political energy in Toledo feels more like an open mic night with no audience than a hotly contested campaign season.

So far, though, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz is sitting in the front seat, one hand on the wheel, the other waving casually out the window. Rightfully so. Kapszukiewicz, having secured a voter-approved change to the city charter allowing him to pursue a third consecutive term, is "on a high" — riding the wave of economic development, ribbon cuttings and a general sense that he's brought in some shiny new business.

Wayment now! (in my Bernie Mac voice). Weren't many of those deals years in the making? Sure! But in politics, whoever cuts the ribbon gets the credit. And right now, Wade is the one holding the scissors.

Yet, he only pulled 54 percent in the primary. Nearly half of the city voted for someone else. So, that's not a knockout — that's merely a warning shot.

Enter Roberto Torres —the man who got escorted out of a city council meeting for trying to speak up on behalf of the people and who represents the underdog in this mayoral campaign. Was it the right time but in the wrong place? Maybe. But symbolically, that visual of being escorted from the meeting by security accomplished more for his insurgent campaign than a polished press release could. It portrayed Torres, of Mexican heritage who grew up in a migrant camp, as a man trying to be heard, getting shut down by the system he's trying to challenge.

But I won't romanticize the rebellion just yet. Torres still has a very steep climb. Political insiders whisper that his support is hovering around 30 per-

cent — not nothing, but not nearly enough. His name recognition is low. His relationship with labor is "complicated" at best —and, at worst, irreconcilable. And while he's got experience in economic development, it hasn't quite translated into a compelling narrative — or a reason for any Wade-fatigued voters to reconsider.

Torres does have northeast Ohio backers who might drop checks into his campaign now that he's cleared the primary — but if that cash doesn't come soon, it could be lights out before November even gets close.

Still, don't count this race out. Remember: nobody's mad at Wade — except the ones who really are. Those are the voters who are not going to forget that he "bogarted" his way onto the ballot for a third term. If Torres can give them a reason to come back out, this race could get interesting.

And don't sleep on Harold Harris either. Harris didn't exactly "show out," but he did show UP in the primary when he wasn't expected to, as his supporters backed him when everyone else stayed home. That should rattle both Wade and Torres. Because if voter turnout shifts — it was low in the primary — all bets are off.

In any event, the quiet you hear? It's not apathy. That's potential energy.

Silence, according to psychologists, is never just the absence of noise — it's a signal waiting to be interpreted. And in Toledo's mayoral race, silence could mean several things: that it's still early, that voters are watching and wait-

... continued on page 16

Community Calendar

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.

June 22

Warren AME Lay Witness Sunday: 11 am morning worship; Guest Speaker Judge Derek Anderson of St. Paul AME Columbus

June 28

Warren AME Missionary Sunday: 11 am; Speaker Rev. Diane Yvonne Greer-Travis; Luncheon at noon

You may qualify for reduced property taxes if you are:

* 65 years or older, **OR**

* Permanently and totally disabled

* **AND** have an Ohio Modified Adjusted Gross income of \$40,000 or less (does not include Social Security Income)

* 100% VA Disabled, **OR**

* Surviving Spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty

* **No income maximum**

Call 419-213-4406 to request a Homestead application!



Katie Moline
Lucas County Auditor



Wishing
Everyone a
Happy
Juneteenth!

This Juneteenth, we celebrate the strength and contributions of Black Americans. Juneteenth reminds us of our shared history and the ongoing pursuit of justice, equality, and unity. Let's honor the past by working toward a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

From State Senator

Paula Hicks-Hudson,
District II

Office number: (614) 466-5204

Office email: Hicks-Hudson@ohiosenate.gov

Lost African American History - Bishop Richard Allen

By Don Valentine

Guest Column

Witness the final insult that birthed the AME Church: “You must leave this section now.” “Wait until the prayer is over and I will go,” softly replied the Black man, kneeling in prayer. “No, you must go now or I will call for aid and force you away,” warned the trustee. the commotion, Black Methodist preacher Richard Allen, a former slave, opened his eyes to see his friend, Absalom Jones, being forced from his knees. For Richard Allen, this was the last straw. He could no longer serve in a church that did not welcome his people as equals.”

pivotal moment, as described on the website Christianity.com, cemented the necessity for a church where Black congregants were truly seen as equals. An additional insult was that the Black members agreed to build the church balcony where they were relegated to worship. Not exactly in keeping with the Gospel teachings!

Born in 1760 Philadelphia, Bishop Allen grew up during the American Revolution, an era of rising individual rights and antislavery sentiment. The National Archives record Bishop Allen diligently raised \$2,000 (equivalent to \$84,000 today) to buy his freedom. He sought religious independence, a pursuit challenged by White abolitionists and ministers who, despite opposing slavery, still aimed for oversight.

An adroit broker, Allen skillfully managed relations with White benefactors, notably the Philadelphia Abolitionist Society. In 1787, Bishop Allen and Absalom Jones established the Free African Society (FAS). It drew freemen, freedom seekers, and Haitian refugees. The FAS helped them find work and homes, providing literacy and financial education, and organizing community projects.

After the walkout protest, Bishop Allen established Bethel Church on

property purchased in 1791. Refusing White Methodist oversight, he named his congregation the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, gaining Pennsylvania’s legal recognition by 1796. Allen thus founded the AME Church as the first Black denomination in the U.S. and served as its first bishop.

He spent his remaining life tending his Underground Railroad station. He also collaborated with community leaders to open schools for Black people. His work forged pathways for Black individuals—freed and enslaved—to organize, learn, and help one another, inspiring others to lead nationwide.

These efforts set the wheels in motion for others to lead across the country. Indeed, his work didn’t just start a movement; it cemented his affectionate, and entirely deserved, legacy as the “Grand Daddy of the Civil Rights Movement.”



Bishop Richard Allen

LUCAS COUNTY RECORDER MICHAEL D. ASHFORD

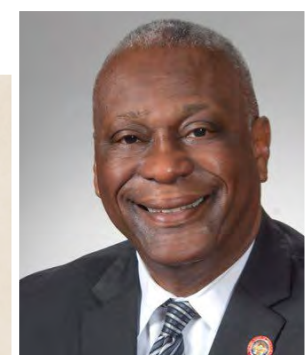
The Lucas County Recorder's Office
proudly celebrates
JUNETEENTH
a day of
remembrance, reflection, & resilience.

AlertME

A free service of the LUCAS COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE

With “AlertMe” if there is a property transaction with your name, you will be notified immediately. “Protect your most **valuable** assets”

Contact us:
We're here to help!



Michael D. Ashford
Lucas County Recorder

Ph: (419) 213-4400 Fax: (419) 213-4284 Website: co.lucas.oh.us/recorder



Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration

Toledo's Juneteenth 2025 Celebration Includes a Week of Activities

The Truth Staff

Juneteenth 2025 began on Friday, June 13, this past weekend with a press conference and flag raising at One Government Center followed by a parade in downtown Toledo on Saturday morning, a wellness fair presented by the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc; a vendors' pop up event organized by Powell's Beauty and Barber Supply on Nebraska Avenue and a rooftop celebration hosted by the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, at the Main Branch Toledo Library.

Juneteenth commemorates the legal emancipation of enslaved people in the United States 160 years ago. President Joe Biden signed Juneteenth into law as a federal holiday in 2021 acknowledging the fact that Juneteenth



Calvin Powell



Jodie Summers recites his spoken word to start the Juneteenth festivities



Volunteers at Powell's Celebration

has developed into a symbol of African American culture and freedom and a day to recognize African American communities nationally.

During Friday's press conference, The City of Toledo, the Human Relations Commission and community partners, raised the Pan-African flag to honor Juneteenth and start the holiday celebrations. Speaking at the press conference were Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Tiffany Whitman, PhD, City of Toledo Chief Equity offices, Darlene Sweeney Newbern, president of the NAACP; David Ross of the Arts Commission of Greater

...continued on page 6



Juneteenth Freedom Day

The story of Juneteenth reveals that freedom and justice will always prevail. This year, and every year, let us work together to eradicate racism and inequity in our society wherever we find it.

LUCASCOUNTYLANDBANK.ORG

Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration

Toledo's Juneteenth... continued from page 5

Toledo; Richelle Watkins, president of the Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and Jodie Summers, area poet and artist.

“In my life I’ve never let the color of my skin, my melanation or ancestry dictate what I can do because I was told from childhood that I can be anything and that’s exactly what I decided to do,” recited Summers. “I was always told if you change for those around you, you will eventually lose you, so I go to everything with a smile on my face just as I am because I know someone needs to see the person that looks like you.”



On Saturday, the festivities began at 11 a.m. as when the Community United Juneteenth Parade got underway, delayed for an hour to let the rain pass. The parade which included Mayor Kapszukiewicz, several candidates for elected office such as mayoral candidate Roberto Torres and city council candidate Blair Johnson, also presented some youth marching groups, union members, Palestinians protesting the genocide in Gaza and, of course, Mickey Mouse.

Thankfully no marching infantry or aging army tanks were part of the parade.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ELGIN ROGER JR.
DISTRICT 42



OFFICE: 614-466-1401
rep42@ohiohouse.gov

A Message from State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr.

On June 19th, 2025, I invite you to join me in remembering the strength and resilience of the women and men who gave personal and generational sacrifices so that all people could enjoy, liberty, freedom, and prosperity in America. We honor and recognize their unyielding dedication to humanity, community, democracy, and America. As we come together on Juneteenth, please remember that the struggle for freedom continues and that the mission to protect and defend the most vulnerable amongst us is not over. Let us remember to be bold, imaginative, courageous, and caring in our efforts to help improve the lives of others. Stay positive and become a Difference Maker in the lives of others. Keep the faith! #Juneteenth 2025

In Unity and Solidarity,



Elgin Rogers, Jr. Representative
Ohio House of Representatives #42



Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Brings Health to the Smith Park community

By Jefferson Díaz

The Truth Reporter

The Smith Park community on Dorr Street in Toledo welcomed brothers from the Xi Tau chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. last Saturday for a health fair where both adults and children were able to receive medical checkups and interact with various medical organizations, the city's police department and the fire department.

Richard Langford, health chair of the Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., stated that they didn't let the weather get in their way and held the event with their characteristic enthusiasm and responsibility. "These events are important so that the community feels protected and they also have the necessary tools to take care of their health," said Langford.

Mercy Health staff members performed PSA and blood sugar screenings on the nearly 150 men and women who attended the fair. The Fire Department also hosted fun activities for children, including shooting cones with water and riding on the main fire truck.

"It's been a great day, and we're confident that these activities have saved lives," said Langford, who asked everyone to visit the fraternity's website: toledoques.squarespace.com to learn about upcoming activities that they will carry out during the year.

For the first time in the four years that Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has been holding this event in the Smith Park community, they decided to name it the Vince Davis Community Health and Wellness Fair in honor of one of its most prominent members.



Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc



COMMON GROUND

19 Parks | 13K Acres | 231 Miles of Trails
A Metropark Within 5 Miles of Your Front Door

METROPARKS
TOLEDO

MetroparksToledo.com

7-Day Mediterranean with Greece & Italy
Athens (Piraeus), Greece to Barcelona, Spain

Saturday, Oct 4, 2025, Sun Princess

priced from \$1352 per person

For More
Information
Scan QR Code

Tyus Tours
& Travel
866-547-5362

Every day at Center of Hope we look into the eyes of our **ELEVATE!** students and we see hope. We see the courage and the confidence to rise up and begin again each new day. We honor emancipation and freedom for African Americans by equipping children with the intellectual tools to experience greater freedom in their futures.

HOPE

Elevating Futures

Celebrating Juneteenth

Hope begins **today**.
Hope begins **with you**.

Coming soon: ELEVATE! Child and Family Resource Center. For more information, call 419-861-4400.



What Is Juneteenth? How Did It Start? What Is Its Legacy?

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. Dating back to 1865, 160 years ago, it was on June 19 that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation – which had become official January 1, 1863 – by which Lincoln proclaimed freedom for all of the enslaved in the Confederate states.

The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops that were needed to enforce the new executive order. However, with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee in April 1865 and the arrival of General Gordon Granger's regiment of Union soldiers, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain the two-and-a-half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down over the years.

Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with news of freedom.

Another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.

All or none of these stories could be factual. For whatever reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3, which began significantly with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former "masters" – attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom.

Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was the logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory.

The celebration of June 19 was dubbed "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members.

Juneteenth continued to be a highly revered in Texas decades later, with



many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Juneteenth Celebration Decline

Economic and cultural forces provided for a decline in Juneteenth activities and participants beginning in the early 1900's. Classroom and textbook education in lieu of traditional family and home-taught practices stifled the interest of youth due to less emphasis and detail on the activities of former slaves.

Classroom textbooks proclaimed Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 as the date signaling the end of slavery – and little or nothing on the impact of General Granger's arrival in Texas on June 19, 1865.

The Great Depression forced many people off the farms and into cities to find work. In these urban environments, employers were less eager to grant leaves to celebrate this date. Thus, unless June 19 fell on a weekend or holiday, there were very few participants available.

July 4 was the already established Independence holiday and a rise in patriotism steered more towards this celebration.

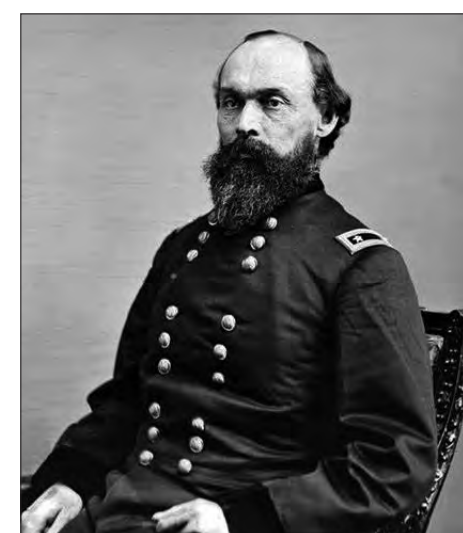
Resurgence

The Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebration.

While it pulled many of the African American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. This was evidenced by student demonstrators involved in the Atlanta civil rights campaign in the early 1960's who wore Juneteenth freedom buttons.

Again in 1968, Juneteenth received another strong resurgence through the

... continued on page 16



General Gordon Granger

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

Worship EXPERIENCE



Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

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



www.sacredstrings.com
FOUNDERS - Del & Kelli Grace
Preserving the time-honored
Hawaiian Steel Guitar from an
African American perspective!

VISIT US

NEW HOURS

STARTING APRIL 2025
Thursday: 10 AM - 3 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 3 PM
(Except the last Saturday of each month)

2108 Collingwood Blvd. Toledo, OH 43620
(Main Entrance on Floyd St.)

The Juneteenth Alphabet by Andrea Underwood Petifer, Illustrated by Ana Latese

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Your parents both hate being late.

It's never bad to be where you're supposed to be, you know: on time, ready, and eager for whatever's next. A party, your church service, lunch at Grandma's house, it's always best to arrive at the start with a smile. Being prompt is just good manners or, as you'll see in *The Juneteenth Alphabet* by Andrea Underwood Petifer, pictures by Ana Latese, it could become a much bigger matter.

After the Civil War ended in April of 1865, four million formerly enslaved people embraced the end of bondage, but enslaved people in Texas did not. They weren't informed of emancipation until much later, not until June 19, 1865. On that day, the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas, to spread the good news and there was a jubilee.

That was the first Juneteenth.

There are A-B-Cs for that.

A is for **album**, a homemade book of memories and clippings so that kids in the future can understand their history. B is for **Black** and for **Beautiful**. C is for **culture** and **celebration** and **community**, three very important things to remember on Juneteenth, which began in America but is celebrated in many countries.

G is for **Galveston**, the city where the celebration was born. H is for **healing**, but also for **HBCUs**, or Historically Black Colleges and Universities. K is for secrets being **kept**, and for families that were kept apart during slavery. And L is for **laws** – the good ones that made Juneteenth possible; and the bad ones, like Jim Crow laws.

c. 2025
Duopress / Sourcebooks
\$14.99
40 pages

O is for **Opal Lee**, a real person who worked hard to make Juneteenth a national holiday; she is known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth." R and S are both important parts of the celebration, **Red** for the food and drink that are traditional at Juneteenth celebrations, and **Sounds** and **Songs** that make the holiday great!

As an adult, you can probably think of many, many other representations for letters of the alphabet that are not inside *The Juneteenth Alphabet*. Civil War, notification, enslavement, parade, your list may be long and what's here is often a stretch. As an adult, you may think that author Andrea Underwood Petifer missed a few points.

And that's okay because you're an adult and this book isn't for you.

Kids who love to celebrate Juneteenth will enjoy the narrative inside this book, and children who are just learning about the holiday will get a nice, rounded education for it here. Petifer's A-B-Cs include many sidebars meant to launch discussion with older kids, while Ana Latese's illustrations will keep younger children interested – and if you still notice omissions, there's room in both word and photo for parents to make additions. What fun!

This is a great book for kids ages three to five, and it gently leads six- and seven-year-olds to learn more on their own. If your family has Juneteenth plans this summer, you'll want *The Juneteenth Alphabet*. Find it now, soon, or better late than never.



Juneteenth Alphabet author

proud supporter of

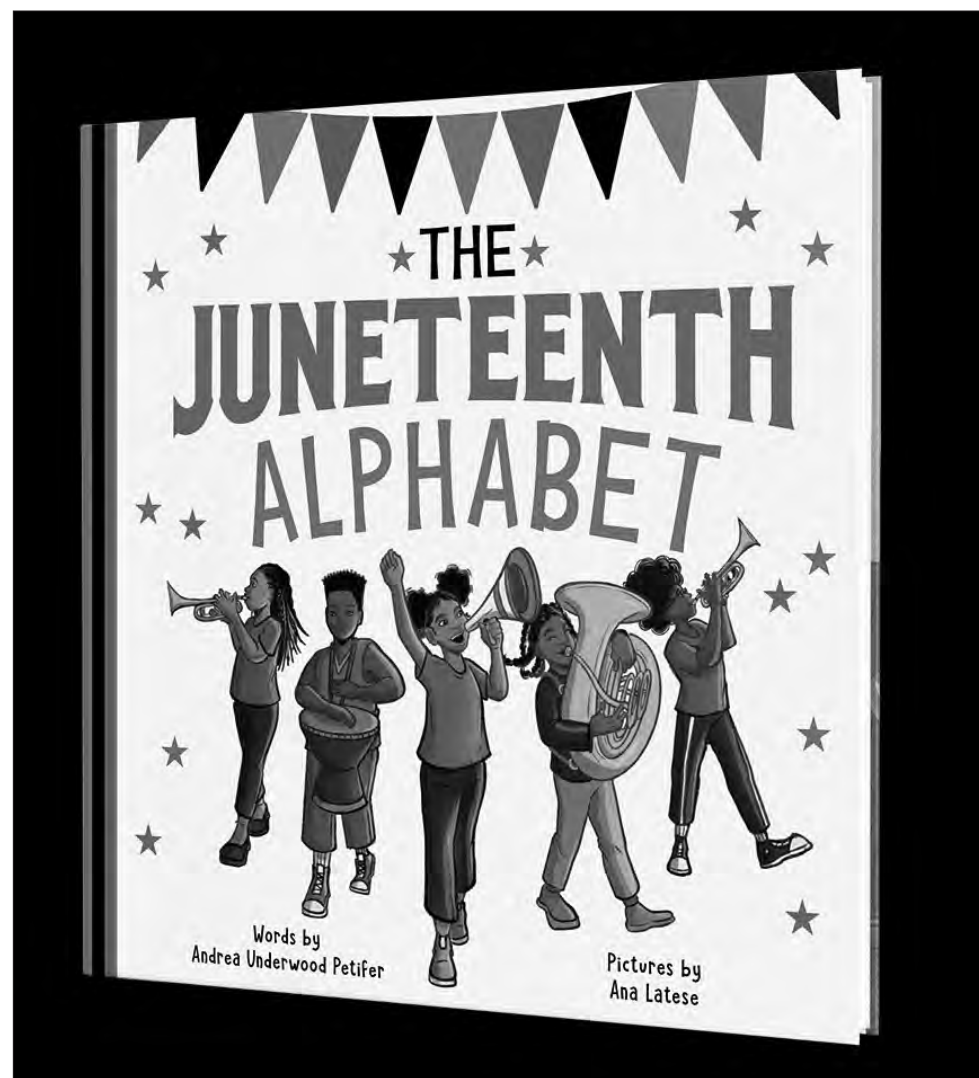
THE SOJOURNER'S TRUTH

AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

TOLEDO | LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

► **MORE THAN A Port**

toledoport.org



THE 20TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL

MUSIC FEST



**LYFE
JENNINGS**

TROOP

**MUSIQ
SOULCHILD**

**POKEY
BEAR**

ZAPP BAND

**LE'ANDRIA
JOHNSON**

**TICKET PRICES : \$45 GENERAL ADMISSION - \$65 FLOOR SEATS - \$100 VIP
JOIN US FOR THIS MILESTONE CELEBRATION!**

**DOORS OPEN
AT 2:00 PM**

**FOR MORE INFO: EMAIL
AAFESTIVAL@TOLEDOURBAN.NET
OR CALL 419.255.8876**

**19 JULY
2025**

**PURCHASE
YOUR TICKET**



**Huntington Center
500 Jefferson Ave.
Toledo, OH 43604**



**Purchase on
TicketMaster
OR Visit
Toledo Urban FCU
3053 Monroe St.
Toledo, OH 43606**

Sponsored By Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union

Deltas and the Toledo Community Honor Ella P. Stewart with Historical Marker

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. honored one of their own, the late Ella P. Stewart, on June 13, 2025, with the unveiling of a historical marker on the grounds of All Saints Episcopal Church. A number of presenters, including numerous Delta sorors, spoke of the impact the late pharmacist, civil rights leader and community activist has had upon their lives.

After a welcome by Ambershaun Byrd, president of the Toledo Alumna Chapter, Cecelia Adams, PhD, longtime Toledo Public Schools teacher and administrator, member of the Toledo Board of Education and Toledo City Councilwoman, served as the mistress of ceremonies and led the event's activities.

Adams' perspective on the legacy of Stewart's life developed from both a professional and a personal viewpoint. As a pharmacist, a business owner and a community leader, Stewart's achievements as a Black woman opened doors and set the example for countless number of Black women subsequent generations.

Stewart was the first Black woman to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Pharmacy in 1916 and the first Black woman licensed to practice pharmacology in Pennsylvania.

In 1922, Stewart and her husband, William, opened the first Black-owned pharmacy in Toledo.

Adams, however, had a very personal involvement with Stewart. When Adams and her five siblings were growing up in Toledo, under the watchful eye of their own esteemed mother, Dr. Samantha Adams, they were fortunate to have Ella P. Stewart as a neighbor.

"Imagine living in a house on the same block as two very important, prominent Black women in the inner city — my mother, Dr. Samantha P. Adams, on



Ambershaun Byrd



Cecelia Adams, PhD

one side and Ms. Ella P. Stewart across the street," Adams said as she opened her remarks last Friday. Adams remembers Stewart as a "very dignified person ... soft spoken."

Rochelle Hall-Rollins, PharmD, a pharmacist herself, also shared her thoughts about the influence of Stewart on her and on the community at large.

"Ella P. Stewart was a pioneer in every sense of the word," said Hall-Rollins describing Stewart as a "fierce advocate for civil rights." Hall-Rollins noted Stewart's work beyond the Toledo community. Stewart was the 14th national

... continued on page 13

Enjoy a Summer of Independence!

**AGES 6-19 RIDE
TARTA FOR FREE
ALL SUMMER.**

▶▶ Get your Youth Summer Blast Pass at TARTA.com/blast.

TARTA

Deltas...continued from page 12

president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, for example, and was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to serve with the U.S. delegation to the World Health Organization in 1957, making her the first African American to hold such a position.

Historian Jacqueline P. Hudson, PhD, served as a consultant in the effort to honor Stewart with the State of Ohio historical marker. Introduced in 2018 to the impact of Ella P. Stewart, Hudson recounted part of the effort that began in 2022 to complete the project. Hudson described her mission as one "to honor



Mario Browne of the U Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy reads a commendation from the university as Cacia Adams, Jacqueline Hudson and Rachelle Hall-Rollins look on



The unveiling

the history and culture of Black Americans, especially Black women, not only on a national level, but also on a local level."

Stewart, said Hudson "was more than a trail-blazer, she was a beacon."

Last Friday's ceremony was especially notable for turnout of so many members of the Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. Stewart was a charter member of the Beta Lambda chapter and a past chapter president

A number of elected officials also added their comments about the legacy of Ella P. Stewart during the ceremony including State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson, State Rep. Erika White, Lucas County Commissioner and Toledo Councilwomen Vanice Williams and Cerssandra McPherson.

"I stand on the shoulders of Ella P. Stewart as do so many other women who have spoken here today," said White.

Of course, in Toledo, the daily reminder for so many residents is the fact that a school is named after the noted pharmacist. Shannon Carter, principal of Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls, spoke of the lasting impact of the late pharmacist.

"Ella P. Stewart's legacy lives and breathes in the walls of our school every day ... her light continues to shine through every Stewart girl who walks through [the school]," Carter added.

The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of the marker at the corner of All Saints Episcopal Church's lot along with remarks by Alexandria Ingley, Community Engagement coordinator with the Ohio History Connection.

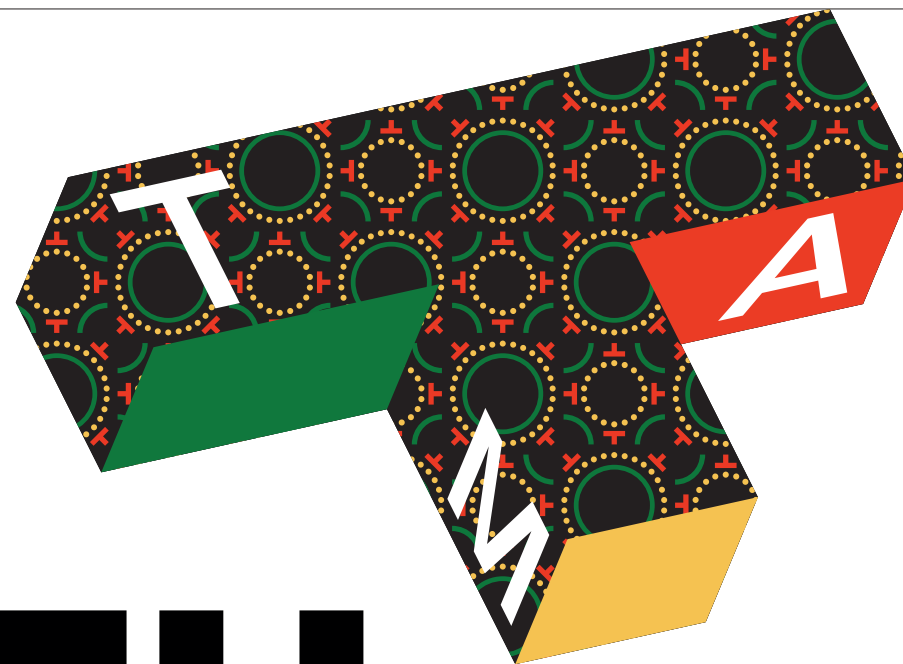
The placement of the marker on the corner was symbolic, if perhaps unintentionally so, because Stewart's pharmacy was indeed on a corner, as several speakers observed, and she was a member of the congregation of All Saints Episcopal Church.



The marker

Toledo
Museum
of Art

JUNE TEENTH



Celebrate Juneteenth at TMA

Freedom Through Art:
Emancipation to Expression

June 19,
2025

11 a.m.-
5 p.m.

Join us for a day of music, performances, and activities honoring the spirit of Juneteenth. This year's celebration will feature live jazz, R&B/neo-soul, and mindful music, along with a magician, interactive art experiences, and family-friendly programs. Food trucks, a yoga and sound bath experience, and more will make this a day to remember.



Free to the public

Scan here to learn more
toledomuseum.org

Crosby Festival of the Arts Is Back—and It's Blooming Bigger Than Ever!

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

If Toledo had a “most colorful weekend of the year,” it would *definitely* be the **Crosby Festival of the Arts**. Picture this: a two-day whirlwind of art, music, family fun, and food so good it'll make your taste buds do the cha-cha. And the best part? All of it supports something even more beautiful—helping neighborhoods grow, learn, and thrive through the power of gardening.

Yep, we said gardening.

Now in its 59th year, the Crosby Festival isn't just about pretty paintings and glass sculptures. It's the biggest fundraiser for **Toledo GROWS**, which helps people across Lucas County grow their own food, connect with neighbors, and learn how to live healthier lives through the magic of sowing seeds.

“This isn't just an art show,” said **Yvonne Dubielak**, executive director of Toledo GROWS.

“It's a *community* festival. And at Toledo GROWS, community is our middle name.”

From Farm Fields to City Streets

Yvonne isn't new to growing things—she actually grew up on a farm! After 23 years as a teacher and school principal, she traded chalkboards for garden beds and now runs the whole blooming show at Toledo GROWS.

Since 2017, she's been helping the organization expand programs, raise money, and get more people involved in gardening green spaces.

“Gardening can seem intimidating,” Yvonne said, “but we're here to remove barriers. Whether it's seeds, supplies, or just showing someone how to take the first step—we've got you.”

Toledo GROWS doesn't just plant tomatoes. They plant hope, leadership

and confidence—especially in neighborhoods where fresh food is hard to come by.

Let's Talk Festival Fun

Sarah Ryley, powerhouse development manager, has been the driving force behind this year's *glow-up*—think fairy godmother meets festival planner. Thanks to her and the team, the 2025 Crosby Festival is seriously next-level.

They listened to artists, took notes from guests, and turned feedback into fresh, exciting upgrades. “It's not the same festival you've been to in past years,” Sarah said, buzzing with excitement.

The featured artists are the real deal—visionaries, makers, and creative spirits who bring everything from hand-blown glass to fiber art, jewelry, wood, ceramics, painting, photography, and more. Each one has been handpicked through a **blind jury process**, meaning a panel of experts selected based solely on craftsmanship and creativity—no names, no favorites, just pure talent.

This year, artists from **18 states** are bringing their finest work to Toledo, offering a stunning mix of innovation, tradition, and one-of-a-kind pieces. Whether you're shopping for a new statement piece or just want to see what imagination looks like in real life, this artist lineup delivers.

Here's the scoop:

2 days—Saturday and Sunday—jam-packed with fun.

There's **art, music, games, locally owned food trucks** (yes, delicious!), and activities for everyone.

And for the kiddos? **There's a magical place called the Secret Forest**. But shhh... let them find it like a garden treasure hunt.

... continued on page 16



Yvonne Dubielak



June
21
10 am - 2 pm

2025
Homeownership
Fair

Workshops • Giveaways
Scott High School



Black Soldiers to Be Celebrated at African American Civil War Memorial on Juneteenth

June 19 to begin steps toward grand opening of new museum

*By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to The Truth*

Juneteenth, the June 19 federal holiday that commemorates the end of America's slavery and celebrates freedom for African-Americans, comes this year amidst diminishing respect for the contributions of enslaved people and their descendants.

But leading historians around the nation are intent on restoring and growing that respect. That includes by honoring those Black soldiers who not only fought for freedom, but who traveled to Galveston, Texas with General Gordon Granger to inform the more than 250,000 enslaved people there that their freedom had been won.

Frank Smith, PhD, founder and executive di-



The general public will be given a sneak preview of the construction renovation at the African American Civil War Museum on Juneteenth following an 11 am ceremony honoring Black soldiers who fought in the Civil War. PHOTO: Hazel Trice Edney/Trice Edney News Wire



The African American Civil War Memorial on U Street NW across from 1925 Vermont Avenue NW in Washington, DC. PHOTO: National Park Service



Dr. Frank Smith, founder and executive director of the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum, stands next to the U Street Memorial in Washington, DC where the Juneteenth celebration will take place under a big tent starting at 11 am on June 19th. The names of 6,000 of the more than 200,000 soldiers and sailors will be read that day in honor of those who traveled to Galveston, Texas to announce the end of American slavery to those people still enslaved. PHOTO: Hazel Trice Edney/Trice Edney News Wire

... continued on page 19



Honoring the Past, Building a Brighter Future Together.

SSOE Group proudly commemorates Juneteenth—a day marking the end of slavery in the United States and a powerful reminder of the ongoing journey toward equity and justice. As we reflect on this historic milestone, we reaffirm our commitment to uplifting African American voices, fostering inclusive leadership, and celebrating their resilience. By fostering this environment, we believe we can make a significant impact on our community and beyond.



Crosby Festival... continued from page 14

Food, Family, and One Really Resilient Food Truck

One of the stories that really warmed our hearts was about a beloved vendor, the Jikoni food truck, known for its mouth-watering East African cuisine. His entire food truck was stolen in January of this year, but the Toledo community rallied—raised nearly \$20,000—and now he's back, better than ever.

Yvonne beamed, "People were literally asking months ago, 'Is Jikoni going to be there?' And we're thrilled to say **YES!**"

Why It Matters More Than Ever

Toledo GROWS started back in 1995 with the simple idea that people could work together to clean up their neighborhoods, grow their own food, and reconnect with each other.

Fast-forward to now, and they support more than 125 community gardens across the city.

"During the pandemic, we saw just how much people need community," Yvonne shared. "Once we couldn't gather, we realized what we were missing. People need a reason to come together again—and gardening gives us that."

Now, people volunteer every week, learn how to grow vegetables, and share their harvests with neighbors, churches, and schools. And get this—Toledo GROWS gives away thousands of seedlings every spring, and collects feedback from each garden so they know exactly how they're making an impact.

"We even ask kids after a field trip, 'What's one thing you learned today?'"

Sarah said. "And the answers are so fun—everything from 'tomatoes grow on vines' to 'I like worms now.'"

A Festival with a Purpose

Yes, the festival is a good time. Yes, it's beautiful and fun and full of creativity. But it's also a way to keep the important work of Toledo GROWS thriving.

"Every ticket sold helps us grow more gardens, teach more kids, and give more people the tools they need to grow their own food," Sarah explained.

So when you're sipping lemonade, buying local art, or dancing to live music at the Crosby Festival, just know—you're part of something way bigger. You're helping Toledo bloom.

Quick Tips Before You Go:

- **Get your tickets early** at CrosbyFest.com
- **Only \$12** in advance for adults, and kids under 12 are free with an adult.
- **Date: June 28-29** at Toledo Botanical Gardens.
- **Take the free shuttle** from Meijer—parking limited!
- **Bring the whole family**—kids will love the games, crafts, and exploring.
- **Support local artists and vendors**—they travel far and work hard to be there!
- **Leave room for food**—trust us, you'll want seconds.

Whether you've been every year or it's your first time, this is the summer weekend to circle on your calendar. Come for the art, stay for the joy, and head home with your heart—and maybe a flower pot—full.

Grow with purpose. Learn more at toledogrows.org

Perryman...continued from page 2

ing. However, it could also be something more telling — that neither candidate has sparked enough enthusiasm to stir the public, or even that voters are just simply content. In addition, silence often

serves to mask tension. So, here, it might be hiding disinterest, uncertainty, or a passive acceptance of the status quo.

Perhaps more than anything, though, the silence in this race isn't about strategy, or fatigue, or quiet

consent at all. Maybe it's something even more profound — the kind of silence Simon and Garfunkel captured in their 1965 global hit song, The Sound of Silence. It was a "hush that held a generation's anxiety" during the turbulent unrest of the 1960s. The kind that has crept in when voices stop connecting, when public life becomes more performance than purpose, and when truth is left to whisper from the margins.

For sure, the danger isn't just in what's said — it's in what's ignored. And that silence, too, has a sound. Even for this generation.

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



Greater Toledo Community Foundation

Strength in giving. Hope in action.

Simplify your giving and amplify your impact. With over 50 years of local expertise, we make it easy to support the causes you care about — on your schedule, your terms and with tax-smart benefits.

Reach out for more information on charitable giving options.

email toledocf@toledocf.org
phone 419.241.5049

toledocf.org

What is Juneteenth?... continued from page 9

Poor People's March to Washington, D.C. with Rev. Ralph Abernathy's call for people of all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to come to Washington, to show support for the poor. Many of those attendees returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity. In fact, two of the largest Juneteenth celebrations founded after this march are now held in the far northern reaches of Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

Texas Blazes the Trail

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday through the efforts of Texas State Representative Al Edwards, an African American legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition. Representative Edwards has since actively sought to spread the observance all across America.

Juneteenth in Modern Times

Throughout the 1980's and on into the 21st century, Juneteenth has continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and organizations across the nation. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum, the Toledo Museum of Arts and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities.

In recent years, a number of Juneteenth organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations — all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

... continued on page 19

Ten Juneteenth Facts

Special to The Truth

Fact #1: Following the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, not all enslaved people immediately found freedom.

The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in states then in rebellion against the United States. Union troops operating in said states gave teeth to the Proclamation. This, however, did not apply to the border states.

Fact #2: The Civil War ended in the summer of 1865. Union General Gordon Granger and his troops traveled to Galveston, Texas to announce General Orders No. 3 on June 19, 1865. June 19th would go on to be known and celebrated as Juneteenth.

General Orders No. 3 stated: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor."

Fact #3: Part of General Order No. 3 encouraged the newly freed people to remain with their past owners.

"The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

Fact #4: The period after Juneteenth is known as the 'Scatter.'

Undeterred by the recommendation to remain in place, many former slaves left the area during the original reading. In the following weeks formerly enslaved people left Texas in great numbers to find family members and make their way in the postbellum United States.

Fact #5: Juneteenth has been celebrated under many names.

Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Cel-Liberation Day, Second Independence Day, and Emancipation Day to name just a few.

Fact #6: Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas was bought specifically to

celebrate Juneteenth.

The 10-acre parcel of land was purchased by former slaves, Richard Allen, Richard Brock, Jack Yates, and Elias Dibble for \$800 in 1872.

Fact #7: During the early 20th-century Juneteenth celebrations declined.

The enactment of Jim Crow laws dampened the celebration of freedom. In addition, the Great Depression forced many black farming families away from rural areas and into urban environments to seek work—resulting in difficulty taking the day off to celebrate.

Fact #8: The celebration of Juneteenth was revived during the civil rights movement.

The Poor People's March planned by Martin Luther King Jr. was purposely scheduled to coincide with the date. March participants took the celebrations back to their home states and soon the holiday was reborn.

Fact #9: Celebrations of Juneteenth continue today.

Traditions include public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, singing traditional songs, and reading of works by noted African American writers. Celebrations can also take the form of rodeos, street fairs, cookouts, family reunions, park parties, historical reenactments, and Miss Juneteenth contests.

Fact #10: Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial holiday, a day of observance.

New Hampshire became the latest state to formally recognize Juneteenth in 2019.



The Board of Lucas County Commissioners



Lisa A. Sobecki



Pete Gerken



Anita Lopez

joins The Truth in celebrating

Juneteenth
Freedom Day
2025

PATHWAY INC. BROTHERS UNITED
wishes all Fathers a

HAPPY
Father's
DAY



BROTHERS UNITED



We See You. We Believe You. It's Time to Heal. Toledo—let's protect, empower, and restore our people.

Human trafficking and sexual assault are happening right here. Our sons, daughters, sisters, and brothers are being harmed.

Whether you've experienced trafficking, abuse, domestic violence, or assault—you are not alone. This is not the end of your story.

Black survivors deserve healing that reflects our strength and resilience. It's time to break cycles—not spirits.

THE HEALING PLACE OF SUPPORTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

A sanctuary for healing, freedom, and restoration

Individual trauma therapy, weekly trauma groups, and a new Accountability Group

"I learned to enjoy life again. To let go of shame and take back my power."
— A Survivor

23 N. Summit St., Toledo, OH 43604

419-855-2299 | info@thptoledo.org

YWCA RAPE CRISIS CENTER

24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline

419-241-7273 | Toll-Free 866-557-7273

Confidential. Compassionate. Always here.

Your healing matters. Your voice matters.

Let's rise up—together.

Black Healing. Black Power. Black Joy.

If you are an agency and would like human trafficking training please contact Amy LaGesse at amy.lagesse@utoledo.edu

Black Soldiers... continued from page 15

der renovation and reconstruction. That gathering, under a huge tent, will start at 11 am on June 19th, and will begin a 6-month long celebration – steps toward the grand opening of the new museum.

"We will celebrate by assuming a team of readers who are going to read the names of about 6,000 African-American soldiers of the United States Colored Troops who went to Galveston, Texas with General Granger on that fateful day in June to announce to the last holdouts that the Civil War was over, that the 13th amendment had passed, and that the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed," Smith describes. "They stayed there for two years to ensure the newly freed people were truly freed and not re-enslaved to the same corn and sugar cane fields that they had been forced to work."

Once the names of those heroic soldiers are read, the public will be given the first opportunity to take a "sneak peek" at the renovations across the street, set to open amidst a grand celebration on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. That grand opening had been set for July 18, the Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Wagner during which Black soldiers proved themselves to be valiant fighters, winning wide respect and attracting thousands more Black soldiers into the Union Army.

But the July 18 date had to be postponed after Congress cut federal funds from the District of Columbia budget; including money for construction on the museum project, which is costing about \$45 million. The cut funds will be recovered in August in time to complete the construction for the Veteran's Day grand opening celebration.

Just across the street from the museum, which is housed in the historic Grimke School building on Vermont Avenue North West, is the bronze memorial, a statue of three soldiers standing guard. The statue is surrounded by a wall with the carvings of 209,145 names of those who served among the United States Colored Troops.

Smith says between Juneteenth and Veterans Day, "We're going to read aloud the names of all 209,145 Black soldiers. We're going to render them unto the universe. We're using the names they used on the battlefield."

That museum and memorial – fixtures in the U Street community for the past 21 years – are about to undergo a \$45 million expansion project that will accomplish the second purpose for which the museum was built.

The Juneteenth celebration of freedom across the nation will be followed by the July 18 celebration of the Battle of Fort Wagner, which will feature a film festival showing the movie, "Glory", starring Denzel Washington, Smith says. Those two dates will represent the first two steps toward the grand opening. The next step will be on September 22, a commemoration of the Battle of Antietam. It was after that historically bloody battle that President Abraham Lincoln first issued the Emancipation Proclamation demanding that the seceded states return to the Union by January 1 when the Proclamation went into full effect.

"Every one of these will be a steppingstone to flinging the doors wide open on Nov. 11, 2025," Smith said.

The opening comes six years after the groundbreaking for the new museum during which Smith explained his vision for honoring the Black soldiers of the civil war who literally fought themselves out of enslavement into freedom.

"You all know that we started this African American Civil War Museum for two purposes – one was to correct a great wrong in history, which pretty much ignored the contributions of African-American soldiers ending slavery and keeping America united under one flag," Dr. Frank Smith, executive director and founder of the African American Civil War Museum, told a packed house in D.C.'s historic Shaw neighborhood on Oct. 17, 2019.

Smith continued the brief history lesson before the rapt audience: "When the Civil War started, African-Americans had no pathway to citizenship in the United States. We were defined in the Constitution as being chattel slaves. And every court decision from that point up to the Civil War reinforced our position and our status in society.

We don't get a chance to fight for our freedom until Lincoln gets himself caught up in a war that he can't win without doing something about slavery. And so, he ended up enlisting two hundred thousand Blacks in the Union Army. The nation paid no attention to these soldiers until we built a monument to them."

What is Juneteenth?... continued from page 16

Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride continues to grow.

Interestingly, the orders issued on Juneteenth by General Granger applied

only to Texas. Slavery didn't end in states like Kentucky and Delaware, which hadn't seceded and therefore weren't covered by Lincoln's proclamation freeing slaves in the Confederate states, until Dec. 18, 1865, when the 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was adopted.

In 2021, President Joe Biden made it official – for the entire nation – by signing the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, making Juneteenth, June 19, a federal holiday.

DIXIE Auto Leasing Toledo, OH

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

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS



Bernadette Joy Graham, LPCC, LLC
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor
419.409.4929
Mental Health...Get Your Mind Right
www.bjgrahamcounseling.com

2525 W. Bancroft
Toledo, OH 43606
graham.bernadette@gmail.com



Welcome Home to Sylvan Lakes Apartments!

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

Sylvan Lakes
Apartment Homes

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



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

5004-25-1932
UMC Fan Roof Replacement
The University of Toledo
Lucas County, OH

Bids Due: July 08, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. through the State's electronic bidding system at <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal: 5.0% of contract of the contract sum with EDGE-certified business(es).

Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Base Bid – Gen. Contract	\$ 250,000.00
Alternate 1	\$ 20,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: June 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. – Health Science Campus, Facilities Support Building, – Room 1300, The University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 1135 East Medical Loop, Toledo, OH 43614.

Walk-Through: Immediately following Pre-Bid.

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

More Info: Brian Linc Architect, LLC, Brian Linc, AIA, 330-352-2456, brian@brianlincllc.com

SERVICE & SUPPORT SPECIALIST

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 position: Service & Support Specialist

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from an accredited program.
- Bachelor degree from an accredited college or university and one (1) year of experience in case work
- Valid driver's license with acceptable driving record

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.



Uniform Vendor

The Toledo Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) seeks proposals from capable vendors to provide high quality, durable uniforms and accessories to transit operators, ambassadors, customer service personnel and transportation supervisors.

TARTA is accepting electronic bid submissions. Bidders shall create a free account with OpenGov Procurement by signing up at <https://procurement.opengov.com/signup>. To view a complete list of project details and requirements, visit <https://tarta.com/work-with-us/doing-business-with-tarta>, and click the Open Procurements button.

Those submitting proposals should also provide samples of garments for evaluation to: Oscar Correa, Director of Transportation, TARTA, 1127 W. Central Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43610 and/or Sylvester Jones, Operations Manager, TARTA Move, 130 Knapp Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604. Samples should include:

- Dress Shirt - In light blue; long or short sleeve
- Polo Shirt - In grey, black, light blue or navy blue
- Middleweight pants
- Cargo pants
- Cargo shorts
- Lightweight jacket
- Parka

TARTA reserves the right to award this project to multiple firms.

Proposals must be submitted by 3 p.m. on June 26. Questions may be directed to: Oscar Correa, Director of Transportation, at ocorrea@tarta.com.

POSITION AVAILABLE: SENIOR ATTORNEY – AGRICULTURAL WORKER AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PRACTICE GROUP

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) seeks a Senior Attorney to join its AIR Practice Group to provide legal representation, community outreach, and systemic advocacy for low-income immigrants and agricultural workers. The position is based in Toledo with hybrid work possible.

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 hrteam@ablelaw.org.

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:

- Organizational Culture and Inclusion Manager
 - Requirements Bachelor degree in HR, BA, SS or related
 - Two years fostering positive workplace
 - Valid driver's license with acceptable driving record

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.



Your **Medicaid.** Your **Choice.**

Choose the Plan Ohioans Trust


CareSource[®]

The NANBPWC TOLEDO CLUB, Inc.

Inaugural Yellow Event

Special to The Truth

With the theme of "Walking in the Pathway of Light," the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc, Toledo Club, held the inaugural Yellow Event on Saturday, June 7, 2025.

This fundraiser event was held downtown by the water in a hall with the crystal chandeliers highlighting ALL of the ladies in the room young and seasoned.

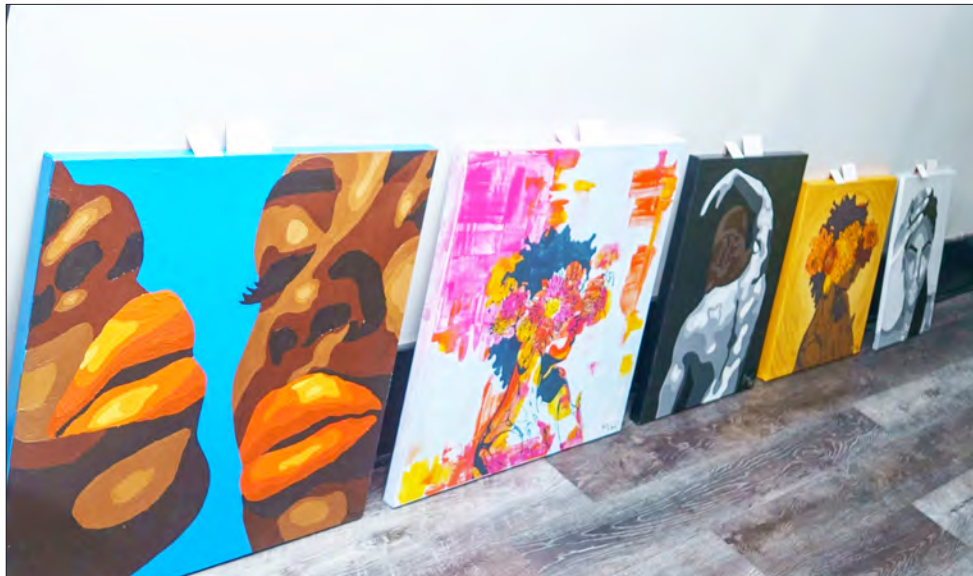
President Tyra Smith wanted to introduce young ladies to professional businesswomen while refueling the women into their next season. It started the moment one entered the room and walked down the yellow brick road to her seat.

This event was full of empowering sisterhood and supporting character building workshops

Each speaker spoke on the difference in Self Esteem and Confidence One guest speaker was the 2024 Debutante to reach the young generation and the Keynote Speaker was Lady Deneen Winans

The atmosphere was set with the warm yellow accents and attire worn by each person, the workshops at the end of being filled with wisdom and encouragement was the icing on the cake for the woman and young ladies who partnered up to fill the ladies cup (heart, mind, and soul) with affirmations, future plans and wisdom.

This event was chaired by Pastor Marquisa Horton and Sherry Coogler, EdD. Both of the NANBPWC CLUB, INC.



June 28-29
Toledo
Botanical
Garden

For tickets
CrosbyFest.com

cfa TOLEDO GROWS
crosby festival
of the arts

 Proceeds benefit Toledo GROWS



Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration

Sports Legends... continued from page 28

- Coach Willie Oliver – Track & Field (Scott High School) – honored posthumously
- Mahogany Green – Basketball (Bowsher High School, Cleveland State, Head Coach at Hamilton College)
- Ann Archer – Basketball (Waite High School)

The evening's first honoree was Elizabeth Ann Archer, who made history as the first African American female to play basketball at Waite High School from 1974 to 1978 where she graduated. She was a multi-sport athlete who excelled in track and field, earning a spot on the All-City Track Team. She competed in multiple events in track where she consistently placed high in those events and paved the way for a whole new generation of athletes making her city, school as well as her family very proud. She has earned many



Elizabeth Ann Archer tries on a little Red



Mahogany Green is helped on with a Red Jacket

accolades later in life as being one of the Midwest's top female electricians.

Archer is an advocate for women in skilled trades among many other things. Starting off as the first African American female to play basketball at her school, she says "it was very intimidating and scary at first" but she felt welcomed once she got on the team. It was intimidating being the only one that looked like her but once she settled in she felt comfortable and the coaches and everyone made her feel loved. That's when she started to tell other women that they were also welcome and they should come join the team and start playing basketball and get involved in more sports.

Toledo City Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson was present to award each honoree with a resolution recognizing their achievements in the city of Toledo and beyond. She noted that "Toledo is ecstatic to have them be a part of the community and of all of their achievements." Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez came to the stage next to also congratulate all of the honorees and to state how proud she was of everyone in attendance.

Next to be presented with her award was Mahogany Green. Since 2018,

... continued on page 26



“

**THE CITY IS
ENFORCING THE
LEAD ORDINANCE.
ARE YOU IN
COMPLIANCE?**

”

Walden Wilson
Property Owner

LeadSafe
TOLEDO

TOL
City of Toledo

www.toledoleadsafe.com

Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration

The 4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration at Main Library Promotes Defense of Freedoms

By Jefferson Díaz

The Truth Reporter

Fighting for our freedoms and not taking them for granted was the main message at the fourth annual Juneteenth celebration organized last Saturday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) - Toledo Branch -, the Alpha Xi Lambda chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

Starting at 7 p.m., people began arriving at the Main Branch of the Toledo Public Library in Downtown, where food, drinks, and entertainment provided by a DJ were available. Everyone was enjoying the celebration when the main event began at 8:30 PM with the keynote speakers.

Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, president of the Toledo Chapter of the NAACP, was emphatic in her defense of the civil liberties enjoyed by Americans, which "should not be taken for granted." She also advocated for Juneteenth to become an educational day where all young people learn about the history and importance of the Emancipation Proclamation which ended slavery in our country.

Sweeney acknowledged that many problems still affect the African American community: in the workplace, with the promotion of racist language, and with law enforcement abuses but these problems "at the NAACP, we receive complaints and we are working to ensure they don't happen anymore."

Rodney Eason, director of community affairs for the Alpha Xi Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, said that in Toledo, despite the prob-

... continued on page 25



**You have the right to choose where you belong.
Your ideal living space awaits, free from
housing discrimination.**

**If you feel that your rights have been violated, please call
The Fair Housing Center today at (419) 243-6163.**

**Helping Unlock the Doors to
Opportunity Since 1975**

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."

Toledo’s Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo’s Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo’s Juneteenth Celebration • Toledo’s Juneteenth Celebration

4th Annual... continued from page 24

lems affecting African Americans, “which are diverse and we need to solve them, there is also room for opportunity and for being proactive.”

Eason also expressed his gratitude for the partnership with the Toledo Public Library and announced that in October they will hold a forum to meet the candidates running for mayor of Toledo. One of the fraternity’s main goals is to educate citizens about their rights as voters and the importance of voting.

Jason Kucsma, general manager of the Toledo Public Library, thanked everyone and emphasized the importance of Juneteenth. “Through our incredible team of librarians we promote these types of activities and readings so the community understands the significance of this date for our city and our country.”

Originally this celebration was held on the rooftop of the Main Branch of the Toledo Public Library, but this year, given what could have been a bad turn for the weather with a forecast of rain, they decided to move it to the main hall.



REPRESENTATIVE
ELGIN ROGERS, JR.
TOWN HALL



TIME :
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
THURSDAY,
JUNE 19, 2025
JERUSALEM
TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY HALL
9501 JERUSALEM
ROAD, CURTICE,
OHIO 43412

Please join State Representative
Elgin Rogers, Jr. for a community
Town Hall. Make your voice heard,
and bring your ideas, concerns, and
solutions for our community!

MITCHELL MD
DERMATOLOGY



Healthy Skin Begins With HOPE!™ DR. HOPE MITCHELL MD, FAAD

Hair Loss • Acne • Hyperpigmentation
Eczema • Skin Care

Over 25 Years of Dermatology Excellence &
Experience You Can Trust
Accepting New & Returning Patients

To schedule an appointment:
419.872.HOPE (4673)

Two convenient locations:
815 Commerce Drive, Perrysburg
567 Barton Road, Fremont

www.mitchellderm.com

Sports Legends... continued from page 23



Ted Jobe tries on his Red Jacket

Green has coached the women's basketball team at Hamilton College. She is a Toledo native and a Bowsher High School Rebel. She had a decorated playing career at Cleveland State University, scoring 1,366 points and earning All-Conference honors before playing professionally in Turkey. She returned to Cleveland State as a coaching assistant launching a Division I coaching career that includes stops at Colgate, Loyola Chicago, Kansas, Central Michigan, Eastern Kentucky, Purdue Fort Wayne and Cleveland State.

She stated that she was very humbled to be a part of the ceremony and excited that her family was there beside her including her sister who motivated her to start her sports career. She noted that she was just blessed to be here and a part of the festivities.



Dan McLemore

Ted Jobe was the next honoree. He was born in Mississippi and later moved to Toledo with his family where he was the youngest of five and attended Sherman Elementary. He attended Scott High School where he placed high in the 440 yard dash on the track team and played for the football team. He was a four-time state finalist in track, amongst many other achievements.

He attended the University of Michigan on a football scholarship graduating with a degree in education and has served Toledo Public Schools for 36 years. He stated that during his career he has met over 18,000 children that he may not remember if they approached him now but he loved them all just the same.

Pastor Dan McLemore has dedicated his life to faith, education and community service. He is a graduate of Libbey High School, He pursued higher

... continued on page 27



JUNETEENTH 2025



Phillis Wheatley
She was the first African American woman to publish a book of poetry, using her eloquent verse to challenge slavery and assert the intellectual power of Black people in Revolutionary America.



Albert Ely Edwards
Known as the "Father of Juneteenth" and a former Texas State Representative Albert Edwards spent over four decades leading the charge to enshrine Juneteenth in the national consciousness.



Sojourner Truth
Sojourner Truth was a fierce abolitionist and women's rights advocate whose powerful speeches, like "Ain't I a Woman?", helped challenge racism, sexism, and push the nation toward the abolition of slavery.



**State Representative
Elgin Rogers, Jr.**

Juneteenth (June 19th) marks the day (June 19th, 1865) union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced that all enslaved people were free, nearly two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. It's the oldest known holiday celebrating the end of slavery in the United States and is now a federal holiday. The name is a Black English contraction of "June" and "Nineteenth," referencing the date of the announcement.



Todd Mitchell is escorted to the podium by fellow hoopsters Terry Crosby and Truman Claytor



Willie Oliver's daughter accepts his Red Jacket



Nate Washington

Sports Legends... continued from page 26

education at BGSU university where he earned a bachelor's degree in education, a master's in Counseling and a doctorate in Biblical Studies. He served two years in the U.S. Army, 22 years in the National Guard where he retired with the rank of Sergeant First Class. His advice to anyone listening is "to keep your spirit, your faith and your beliefs."

Todd Mitchell attended St Francis De Salle High School helping to lead the basketball team to the school's first ever Division I championship. He entered Purdue University on scholarship and finished his college career with 1,699 points and 740 rebounds ranking as one of Purdue University top performers in both categories.

Mitchell played professionally in the NBA with the Miami Heat and the San Antonio Spurs before heading overseas for a decade-long career in Europe and Israel.

He is committed to youth development has many sports accomplishments and has co founded Toledo Basketball camp. He was joined by a proud group of family and friends who expressed their love and support all of his many accomplishments.

Coach Willie Oliver was recognized next as a very memorable man who served his community in a with distinction. His award was accepted by his daughter and his achievements were celebrated by all in attendance as well as city wide. He earned a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and then taught history and government at Jesup W. Scott High School for nearly 40 years. He was a head coach at Scott for the girls' and boys' track team. He was a mentor and father figure to many generations.

Nate Washington is a Toledo native who started his football journey at Scott High School, where he developed as a standout wide receiver. He attended Tiffin University and became one of the most decorated athletes in school history. At Tiffin he had his jersey retired and was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers and during his impressive 11-year career in the NFL with four different teams, he appeared in 159 games, had 7,000 receiving yards and 44 touchdowns. He also was on



Chris Wormley is escorted to the podium for his award

two Super Bowl-winning teams,

He is now the leader of the 85th foundation with support youth foundation and mentorship and education. He has accomplished so much more and his award was accepted by his mother. His mother related that as a child he was very busy and very determined and she is very proud of his accomplishments and also very proud that he continued his education.

Chris Wormley was the last to be honored at the night's ceremony. He is a graduate of Whitmer High School where he earned all-state honors as a defensive lineman. He played football at the University of Michigan where he was on a team that won 51 games. He was drafted by the Baltimore Ravens and after three seasons in Baltimore, he then went on to Pittsburgh Steelers. He joined the Carolina Panthers in 2023 before going back to the Ravens the following year. He has over 150 tackles among many other achievements.

Wormley is now a real estate investor and the founder of the Wormley Family Foundation which is a nonprofit dedicated to supporting the kids and strengthening our community. He stated that it's important to him to give back to the youth since the city of Toledo has supported him for over 20 years and he would love to give back to those who come after him.

This year's eight members of the Sports Legends Class of 2025 were formally inducted into the African American Sports Legends of Northwest Ohio on Saturday, June 14, in a ceremony held at Jerusalem Baptist Church. The induction ceremony was the culmination of a weekend of activities that enabled family, friends and admirers to salute the area's sports heroes.

As usual, BCSN's Tom Cole served as the master of ceremony and, as usual, Cole's deep connections with the Toledo athletic scene, as a commentator and author, allowed him to share his observations about the honorees with the audience.

The Sports Legends ceremony is the brainchild of Robert Smith, founder and director of the African American Legacy Project. Over the years, Smith has assembled an outstanding group of former athletes to form the board that is responsible for selecting new members to the Sports Legends Hall of Fame.

Smith provided his own observations about the individuals in the latest Class to close out the ceremony on Saturday.



Tom Cole and Robert Smith preparing for the induction ceremony

Lucas Metropolitan Housing



The 2025 African American Sports Legends Northwest Ohio

By Emily R. Evans

The Truth Reporter

"The mission of the African American Sports Legends of Northwest Ohio a component of the African American Legacy Projects (AALP), is to honor and preserve the history and contributions of African American athletes, coaches and distinguished individuals who have made a significant impact in sports. In alignment with the AALP's broader mission, this initiative seeks to discover, document, and celebrate those whose achievements have positively influenced both the African American community and the world. Honorees may be permanently recognized as sports legends of northwest Ohio and a dedicated venue" (This year's Program).

The ceremony started off in a beautiful setting on Friday June 13, 2025, at The Pinnacle located in Maumee. The event included a meal that was served along with refreshments and entertainment music. This year's honorees were accompanied by their family and friends.

The Class of 2025 Inductees:

- 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)

... continued on page 23



The Sports Legends Board



June TEENTH FREEDOM DAY

Happy Juneteenth Toledo!

**With love,
Councilmember
Dr. Brittany Jones**

**Vote
November 4**

Paid for by Friends of Brittany Jones



**TOGETHER,
WE'RE
BUILDING
A BETTER
TOMORROW**

At the Rudolph Libbe Group, we're committed to building an inclusive community that works for everyone, celebrating the contributions of our associates past and present. As we continue to build a diverse team that recognizes the distinct skills, backgrounds, and areas of expertise of each of our employees, we invite you to consider adding your unique talents to our growing group of Rudolph Libbe Group construction professionals.

Learn more at:
rlgbuilds.com/careers
Build your future with us.
resume@rlgbuilds.com

