The Sojourner's Truth

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 90 No. 9 | *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* | August 6, 2025

Jazz Must Be Experienced! The JazzFest Coming Soon!

Hugh Ross and Cheryl Catlin, The Great Lakes Jazz Society

Hi All! Welcome to Black Women's Equal Pay Day!

By Jobie Crawford

Guest Column

Hi all —

July 10 was Black Women's Equal Pay Day, the day when Black women's earnings finally catch up to what white, non-Hispanic men earned in the previous year. On average, Black women are paid just 66 cents for every dollar paid to white men. This pay gap reflects ongoing disparities in access to fair wages, quality jobs, and economic opportunity.

This is only getting worse in Trump's America. From limiting job access for Black women by weakening anti-discrimination policies in hiring to decreasing employment opportunities by gutting the Minority Business Development Agency, Trump's policies have made it harder for Black women to support their families and earn a living. Add to that his massive cuts to Medicaid and SNAP along with his efforts to gut funding for fair housing programs — time and again, he is putting Black women last and billionaires first.

Below are some of the ways that Trump's agenda is making life harder and more expensive for Black women:

* Dismantling the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), which fought to secure $1.6B in capital and helped businesses create or retain 23,000 jobs before Trump's executive order effectively shut it down.

+ The MBDA was the only federal agency dedicated to supporting minority-owned businesses, and Trump's decision to dismantle it puts Black entrepreneurs — especially Black women, the fastest-growing group of U.S. business owners — at risk of losing critical access to contracts, capital, and technical assistance.

* Signing a budget that will strip Medicaid coverage from 17 million people, disproportionately harming Black Americans.

+ Imposing strict Medicaid work requirements penalize people of color in a job market still plagued by racial discrimination — with one study finding that equally qualified Black applicants were half as likely to receive callbacks as white applicants.

* Pushing Black women business owners out of the market by gutting supplier diversity and federal DEI programs.

+ Black women face a loan rejection rate three times higher than white business owners and are bearing the brunt of DEI rollbacks fueled by Trump's executive orders and pressure on corporations to abandon equity programs.

* Shutting down the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), which helped protect Black Americans from racial economic inequality, and putting Black homeowners, consumers, and borrowers at risk.

+ Since 2011, the CFPB has returned nearly $20 billion to almost 200 million Americans and taken action against discriminatory mortgage lending, overdraft fees, and credit card late fees that disproportionately harmed Black families.

Jobie Crawford

* Slashing SNAP by hundreds of billions of dollars — which could rip away food assistance from more than 22 million families and worsen food insecurity in Black communities.

+ Black families rely on SNAP at higher rates due to structural inequality, and evidence shows the program helps narrow racial gaps in food insecurity.

* Attempting to eliminate Section 8 and other rental assistance programs while also slashing staff who enforce fair housing laws by over 75%.

+ These actions come as Black renters are more cost-burdened than any other racial group, with less than 10% able to afford a typical home. Meanwhile, HUD hotlines were shut down, and $30 million in grants to fair housing nonprofits were canceled.

Black women are being hit especially hard by Trump's agenda — seeing Medicaid, SNAP, and housing assistance cut and critical business support and DEI programs dismantled. His actions threaten the progress Black women have made as entrepreneurs, workers, and community leaders. Democrats are committed to fighting back — protecting civil rights, defending economic opportunity, and ensuring Black women have the resources and support they need to thrive.

Thanks,

Jobie Crawford, Spokesperson, Democratic National Committee

Ed Note: Jobie Crawford, 24, served as a press assistant for former Vice President Kamala Harris. A Spelman alumnus, Crawford traveled around the country, ensuring the press has access to the VP. Crawford previously served as a researcher on President Biden's Communications team. She's also a bit of a wunderkind, having consistently been the youngest member of every White House team she served on.

Community Calendar

August 9
Goose Hill Alumni & Friends Backpack Giveaway: Jamie Farr Park; 11 am to 4 pm; Food trucks, bouncy house, vendors, DJ: 419-250-1907
United Vision Baptist Church Community Day: Give Aways, food trucks, health screening, haircuts, fun; 9 am to 3 pm; Bookbags, school supplies, at 12:30 pm:

August 19
Toledo NAACP general public meeting: 1326 Collingwood Blvd; 5 pm

August 23
The Bible Way Church of Toledo, in partnership with Wider Circle, Early Morning Prayer, The Dr. Sam Show and The Voices of Legacy will host a Back-to-School Book Bag Giveaway; Noon to 2 pm

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Palestinians are Not Starving in Gaza. They are Being Starved!

By Wilmer J. Leon, III, PhD

Guest Column

Wilmer J. Leon, III, PhD

"The UN took a strong stand against apartheid; and over the years, an international consensus was built, which helped to bring an end to this iniquitous system. But we know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians." - Nelson Mandela 1997.

Recently I was listening to an NPR program talking about Palestine and the genocide in Gaza and the point was made that Palestinians in Gaza are starving. People need to be very clear on this point: Palestinians in Gaza are not just starving! I repeat, that's just not true. The fact is that Palestinians in Gaza are being starved to death. This is not a distinction without a difference.

It would be appropriate to say that Palestinians are starving if they were the victims of a natural catastrophe or an act of God, such as a drought. One could say that Palestinians are starving if crops could not be grown and grass were burned so the animals could not graze, such as in Sudan. When natural disasters damage the food supply, people go hungry and starve to death. That brand of horror is called famine. If a massive swarm of locusts descends upon an area, consuming all vegetation in their path and causing widespread damage to crops, this would be another cause of famine. As with drought, people would go hungry and starve to death.

That's not what's happening in Gaza. In Gaza, there is food relief available. There is medical aid available. Both are rotting in trucks on the border because Israel will not allow them into the country. People are not starving. They are being starved. Israel's final solution to its "Palestinian problem" is to weaponize food and medical aid to starve the Palestinians into submission and ethnically cleanse them from their homeland.

Leaders in the Israeli government such as Prime Minister Benjamine Netanyahu, Ben Gavir, Bezalel Smotrich, and their American guardians such as President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the US Congress are complicit in these heinous crimes. They have chosen to deny water, food and aid to Palestinians as Israel continues its inhumane assault on children, women, medical professionals, press correspondents covering the genocide and international aid workers.

According to Haaretz, Israeli soldiers in Gaza have been ordered to deliberately fire upon desperate Palestinians near aid distribution sites over the past month. Doctors say aid distribution sites have become 'a slaughterhouse' as Palestinians have been lured to their deaths under the pretense of receiving aid. Over 550 Palestinians were killed trying to get aid in the month of June alone.

After years of using precise calculations to limit Palestinians daily caloric intake, denying access to potable water, polluting accessible water with sewage and within the last week preventing Palestinian fisherman access to the Mediterranean Sea, the Zionist Israeli government claims it will allow a limited amount of food aid into limited areas.

As convoys of trucks sit at the border with Egypt awaiting Israeli government clearance to deliver lifesaving aid, Netanyahu decides to recklessly "air drop" small amounts of supplies into limited spaces in the suffering region. This is analogous to trying to extinguish the recent California wildfires with an eyedropper and calling it "action".

The rationalization of "justification" for this ethnic cleansing is codified in Basic Law: Israel—The Nation-State of the Jewish People (the Nation-State Law). According to Honaida Ghanim in Israel's Nation-State Law: Hierarchized Citizenship and Jewish Supremacy, "The exclusivity of rights in the "Land/State of Israel" is the central organizing principle of the Nation-State Law. Jews are deemed the sole people deserving national and collective rights.

Furthermore, the law applies not only to the Jewish citizens of Israel but also to Jews from all parts of the world—regardless of the extent of their relationship, affiliation, or even desire to become part of this entity." This is at the expense of all other non-Jewish indigenous inhabitants (Palestinians) in the area. This is also why I quoted the late President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. The parallels of apartheid between South Africa and The Occupied Territories are undeniable.

The Washington Post is now reporting, "It was not immediately clear how much more aid would enter Gaza, but U.N. officials said recently that Israel appeared willing to loosen some policies at a critical juncture when the territory is nearing a humanitarian tipping point." By allowing "relief" into the region, Israel is not trying to solve the hunger problem, it is trying to address a political problem. The optics of starvation have become politically inconvenient for Netanyahu and his henchmen.

While Palestinians are being starved to death, American politicians are engaged in hypocrisy and equivocation. US Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez voted against Fellow Democrats Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar and supported the bill to send more military aid to Israel. According to Al Jazeera, another Democrat, "Congresswoman Grace Meng said in a statement that "as a mother", her heart breaks to see children in Gaza starve, but…it's important to recognize that Israel has facilitated the entry of over 1.8 million tons and over 96,000 trucks into Gaza, while Hamas continues to hold hostages, extort the aid system, and refuse ceasefire deals to stay in power and prolong the war…"

What Ocasio-Cortez and Meng, as well as other Democrats like Hakeem Jefferies and Gregory Meeks fail to recognize is that the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip have been under illegal Israeli occupation since 1967. This is according to international humanitarian law (IHL), including the Fourth Geneva Convention. International law rec-

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Revolutionizing Community Health: Empowered Wellness Foundation Launches with its "Rise and Thrive" Fair

By Candice Harrison

Special to The Truth

In a bold step toward health equity and community empowerment, the newly founded Empowered Wellness Foundation Inc. is hosting its inaugural "Rise and Thrive" Community Health and Wellness Fair—a transformative event designed to uplift Toledo families with free medical services, educational resources, and fun fitness activities.

Founded by two local African American physicians, Drs. Jaime McBride and Michael Bush-Arnold, the Empowered Wellness Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to bridging healthcare gaps in underserved communities. The mission is clear for this husband-wife team: to empower individuals with the tools and support needed to lead healthier, more informed lives.

The fair will feature 15 African American physicians from the Toledo community, offering free health and sports physicals for children, as well as ENT and cardiac screenings for adults. Additional services include glucose, cholesterol, and blood pressure checks, vaccinations, behavioral health support, mobile mammogram Unit (pre-registration is required but the service is free.)

These services are designed to eliminate barriers to care and ensure families are ready for the school year—healthy, informed, and supported.

Beyond health screenings, the "Rise and Thrive" fair is a celebration of community spirit. Families can enjoy: free food and refreshments, book bags filled with school supplies, The Imagination Station will offer STEM activities, Toledo Lucas County Public Library giveaways, A walk-through Inflatable Lung Exhibit, face painting, free dance classes (Zumba & Hip-Hop), yoga sessions.

Dr. Jaime McBride, a board-certified Emergency Medicine physician, and Dr. Michael Bush-Arnold, a board-certified Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation physician, are not only medical experts, they're parents, faith-driven leaders and passionate advocates for health justice.

"We're bringing revolutionary care directly to the communities that need it most," says Dr. Jaime Bush-Arnold. "This isn't just about medicine—it's about empowerment, education and building trust."

Dr. Jaime McBride

Dr. Michael Bush-Arnold

Event Details

Date: Saturday, August 9, 2025

Location: Wayman Palmer YMCA, 200 East Bancroft, Toledo, OH 43528

Time: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Cost: Free and open to the public

The "Rise and Thrive" fair is more than an event—it's a movement. It marks the beginning of a new chapter in Toledo's healthcare story, one where compassion, equity, and empowerment take center stage.

For more information or to pre-register for mammograms, visit ewfoundation.org

Reps. Rader, Grim Reintroduce Ohio Health Care Plan: Universal, Single-Payer Coverage for All Ohioans

Special to The Truth

State Reps. Tristan Rader (D-Lakewood) and Michele Grim (D-Toledo) last week announced the reintroduction of the Ohio Health Care Plan, landmark legislation that would establish a single-payer, universal health care system to guarantee comprehensive medical, dental and vision services for every Ohioan-regardless of income, employment or health status.

"Health care is a human right, and it's time we reflect that in our policy," said Rep. Rader. "Too many Ohioans are uninsured, underinsured, or one medical emergency away from financial catastrophe. This plan ensures that every resident has access to the care they need without co-pays, deductibles, or surprise bills."

The proposed legislation, House Bill (HB) 289, would create the Ohio Health Care Agency, overseen by a democratically elected Ohio Health Care Board, which would manage a single public fund to pay providers for necessary services. Under the plan:

* All Ohio residents would be covered for hospital care, outpatient services, prescription drugs, mental health services, dental and vision care, medical supplies, and transportation;
* Patients would have full freedom to choose their providers;
* There would be no out-of-pocket costs, no exclusions for pre-existing

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"You Can't Define Jazz. You Have to Feel It": Inside Toledo's Jazz Revival with Cheryl Catlin & Hugh Ross

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Have you ever felt music wrap around your bones like a warm breeze, lifting you off the ground before you even realized you were dancing?

That's jazz. And in Toledo, thanks to **Cheryl Catlin** and **Hugh Ross** of the ***Great Lakes Jazz Society***, jazz is not only alive—it's thriving.

As organizers of the Glass City JazzFest and Toledo Jazz Week, this dynamic duo aren't just booking performers. They're building bridges—between generations, genres, and cultures. And they're doing it with heart.

Jazz Can't Be Boxed In—And Toledo Won't Be Either

"We always say," Catlin smiles, "Jazz cannot be defined. It must be experienced." Ross nods. "And that's why we don't put it in a box. Jazz is evolving. It's a mixture. And it's whatever the artist says it is."

This year, that mixture is bold. From smooth jazz to Christian jazz, Latin fusion to hip-hop jazz—and even a Japanese ensemble transforming tsunami-inspired folk songs into jazz—every performance tells its own story.

"We want people to see how jazz has influenced the world," Catlin says. "We're showcasing Brazilian jazz with a Korean vocalist. We're bringing artists from Japan, Detroit, New York… And we're bringing them here. To Toledo."

From Local Roots to Global Sounds

While the lineup has international flavor, Cheryl and Hugh are quick to spotlight Toledo's homegrown talent.

"Toledo has a rich jazz history," Ross says, voice filled with pride. "People forget—**Art Tatum, Miles Davis, John Coltrane**... they all entertained here. This city had its fingerprints on jazz back in the '50s."

But somewhere along the way, the beat slowed. Jazz faded from the spotlight. "There was a time people said jazz was dead," Ross admits. "But we knew better. It was just waiting for someone to turn up the volume again."

So they did.

And the city is dancing once more.

Jazz Week: A Love Letter to the City

Toledo Jazz Week, the lead-up to Saturday's big Glass City JazzFest, is a five-night adventure across city venues. From classy hotel lounges to open-air parks, each night is a different sound and a different scene.

"We want to show off the City of Toledo," Catlin explains. "That's why we move around. One night might be at the Hilton, the next at Metroparks or a hidden jazz club. We want people to fall in love with new places and new sounds."

This year's lineup features artists like **Leslie Deshazor**, who once played in the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, and **Lori Lefevre** with students from Toledo School for the Arts. It's a beautiful blend of talent, legacy, and hope.

Amy Hall and Stayce Fowler

"It's important for kids to see this," Catlin adds. "To see jazz up close. To see women, different cultures, people their age playing music. That's how you inspire the next generation."

Women in Jazz: Not an Afterthought—An Anthem

"We didn't have to go out of our way to include women in jazz," Catlin says with a grin. "It would be hard to exclude them."

This year, legendary vocalist **Jean Holden** will kick off the Glass City JazzFest. "We start strong," Hugh says. "No high school warm-up bands—we want people in their seats early, fully present, from the start."

Another standout? The all-female ensemble **Straight Ahead** out of Detroit.

"These women play with such fire," Catlin says. "It's jaw-dropping. And the beauty is, they're not there because they're women. They're there because they're incredible."

The Jazz Jam: A Family Reunion in Sound

After the festival winds down at sunset on August 9, the beat doesn't stop. Instead, it shifts indoors to the **Assembly American Brasserie** at the Hilton, where **Ramona Collins** will host a Jazz Jam Session from 10:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

"It's going to be magic," Catlin says. "Musicians from all over can just sit in, play together, vibe. It's jazz at its purest, spontaneous, soulful, unrehearsed."

Admission is free for performers, $20 for the public. The money supports next year's programming.

"This is our way of building community," Ross says. "Old school meets new school. Legends meet up-and-comers. And the audience gets a once-in-a-lifetime night."

Beyond the Music: Economic Power and Cultural Pride

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Toledo's 2025 Six Month Crime Statistics – Trending Downwards

Special to The Truth

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, alongside Police Chief Michael Troendle and a coalition of city and community leaders, delivered Toledo's mid-year crime update last week, marking continued progress in reducing crime while acknowledging the pain of a difficult July Fourth weekend.

Compared to the same period last year, Toledo saw significant reductions in nearly every major crime category. From Jan. 1 to June 30, 2025, homicides declined by 21 percent, robberies fell by 24 percent, and the number of people shot dropped nearly 29 percent.

Key statistics include:

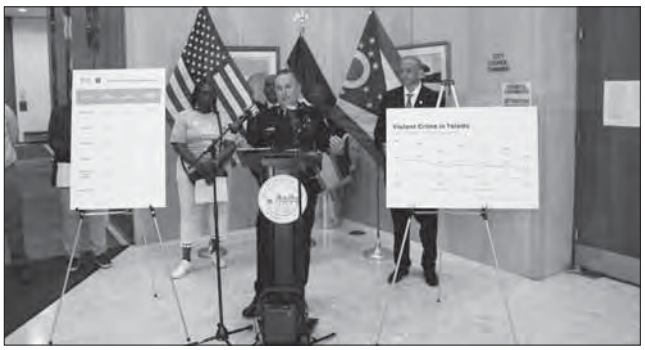
* Persons shot: Down 28.7 percent (72 in 2025 vs. 101 in 2024)
* Homicides: Down 21 percent (15 in 2025 vs. 19 in 2024)
* Robberies: Down 24 percent (142 in 2025 vs. 187 in 2024)
* Theft from motor vehicles: Down 18 percent (426 in 2025 vs. 518 in 2024)
* Burglaries: Down 15 percent (539 in 2025 vs. 632 in 2024)
* Auto thefts: Down six percent (546 in 2025 vs. 578 in 2024)

"Behind each of these numbers are names of neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Behind every stat are stories of loss, pain, and anger. We never lose sight of that," Kapszukiewicz said. "But it's also important to understand where we stand in the bigger picture. The story of the second half of this year hasn't been written yet. We will keep working to write a better ending for 2025."

Mayor Kapszukiewicz pointed to recent investments in housing, youth programs, neighborhood cleanups, and trauma recovery as critical parts of the city's public safety strategy. Key highlights include:

* 70+ summer youth programs offered this year
* 300 unsafe, vacant structures demolished
* 1.2 million pounds of neighborhood waste cleared
* 230 new affordable housing units built and 35 families became first-time homeowners
* 70 youth and young adults receiving support through Save Our Community program
* 30 community leaders trained in Rewire CBT, a behavioral intervention strategy for youth

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz explains 2025 first half year crime stats



Malcolm Cunningham addresses Toledo crime statistics

"There is no single solution. There are many approaches, each of them imperfect and incremental, but all are vital to building a safer, healthier, more hopeful Toledo," Kapszukiewicz said. "Even when it doesn't feel like it, we are still moving forward."

Toledo Police Chief Michael Troendle said the department remains focused on reducing violence while building trust.

"We are encouraged by this progress, but we are not letting up," Troendle said. "Our department remains committed to building trust and ensuring every neighborhood feels these gains. We will continue investing in proven strategies that prevent crime before it starts."

Malcolm Cunningham, director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, shared updates on the city's multi-agency prevention strategy.

"Safety is not just the absence of violence. It's the presence of opportunity, healing, and connection," Cunningham said. "In the past month, we've grieved. We've comforted families. We've sat with neighbors who are angry, afraid, and tired of seeing violence repeat itself. And we've continued working every day to build the infrastructure for long-term, sustainable change."

Cunningham highlighted several initiatives currently underway, including the implementation of the Peace in Motion strategy, creation of a Violence Review Committee, the Healing and Compassion Fund for survivors of violence, and Mowbility Aid, a youth employment program focused on maintaining vacant lots.

He also announced the launch of a $2 million federal Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative grant, which includes a Capacity-Building Academy for grassroots groups, a microgrant fund for frontline organizations, and a comprehensive analysis of violence prevention systems in partnership with Bowling Green State University.

Joe Fausnaugh, director of Parks and Youth Services, emphasized that youth programs play a central role in public safety. "In Toledo, we understand that safe communities are built around beautiful places to gather, play, and grow," Fausnaugh said. "That's where our Parks and Youth Services come in."

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More Than A Reunion: How John Glover Turned Bulldog Pride Into A Movement

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Have you ever seen a family reunion so big it fills a city park with thousands of people? That's exactly what happens every year at the Scott High School Alumni Weekend. And behind it all is a man named John Glover, a proud Bulldog who's been helping to organize this celebration for the past 15 years.

But this isn't just a party—it's a homecoming, a giveback, and a giant family hug rolled into one.

From One Class to a Community

It all started with a simple class picnic.

"The Class of 1986 used to do their own thing," Glover shared. "Then my class—Class of '89—planned our 10-year reunion, and it just grew from there." He and business partner, Tyrone Cleveland, added Friday and Saturday events to go along with the Sunday picnic. What began as a one-class event turned into a celebration for all decades of Scott High graduates.

But when their dear friend Coco, who helped plan the early reunions, lost her life unexpectedly, John and Tyrone weren't sure if they could keep going. That changed when people started coming from all over the country just for the weekend.

"It became bigger than us," Glover said. "When folks say they haven't been back to Toledo since high school—but they come for this—it means something."

The Scott Bulldog Spirit

So what makes Scott High School so special?

Glover's eyes lit up as he remembered his high school days. "Those were some of the best years of my life," he said. "No bills, just school, friends and fun."

Back then, Scott was the only predominantly Black high school in the city, and that meant something powerful.

"There was this feeling—like it was us against the world," Glover said. "When the media ignored the good and only reported the bad, we stuck together even tighter."

That tight bond still shows up today. And it's not just about current friendships—Scott's pride runs deep. For Glover's family, it goes back generations.

"My mom is 93 years old," he shared. "Out of nine siblings, eight of us went to Scott. And that's not even counting all the nieces, nephews and cousins."

A Weekend With Heart

The Scott Alumni Weekend isn't just a one-day cookout—it's a full-blown celebration, organized by decade.

"If you graduated in the 50s or 60s, your meet-up spot is the Blue Gill Fishing Club," Glover explained. "The 70s are at Golden Rule, and the 80s and 90s are at what used to be the Lighthouse. We try to give every generation their space to reconnect."

There's also brunch, bingo, and the Black Affair—a Saturday night event where everyone dresses in black and raises money for Scott seniors headed to college. But Sunday's picnic at Detwiler Park is the crown jewel.

"We started at Ottawa Park," Glover said, "but it got so big we couldn't go back. We had to move to bigger spots like the GM Powertrain Park—and now Detwiler."

Imagine thousands of people bringing grills, games, music, and memories to one giant field. "It's like one huge cookout where everybody's your cousin," he joked.

Teachers Who Taught More Than Books

When Glover talks about what made Scott so meaningful, it's not just the parties or the pride—it's the people.

"We had teachers who really cared," he said. "They lived in our neighborhoods. They'd invite us over, talk to us after school, check on us."

One teacher, Mr. Roy Allen, even paid John $75 every two weeks to mow his lawn. "He was a mentor and a father figure. Told me to grab a snack if I got thirsty. That kind of trust? You don't forget it."

That feeling of family—that people at Scott truly looked out for one another—is what Glover says shaped who he is today.

Giving Back, Year After Year

2013 Scott Reunion Picnic

Organizers John Glover and Tyrone Cleveland

John and Tyrone don't just throw a reunion—they give back all year long.

From raising scholarship money to giving away 300 turkeys at Thanksgiving, their commitment goes far beyond the weekend. "We help feed kids in schools, donate Christmas gifts, and support places like the Mom's

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The Power of Presence: A Father's Journey from Prison to Parenthood

By Lidya Hollingsworth, Pathway Inc. Coach

Special to The Truth

Mwakini Johnson, a Pathway, Inc. Brothers United alumnus, whose story of fatherhood highlights the importance of being mindful and using values to steer your life in the right direction.

Mr. Johnson was referred to Pathway, Inc. Brothers United by his case manager. He was learning how to be a father again after serving 16 years in prison, after having two daughters.

During his time served, he learned to appreciate the ability to be present as a father and experience your children learn and growing every single day. He is now a grandfather and is adapting to a changing relationship with his now adult daughters and 1-year-old son, Amir.

Johnson completed Pathway Inc. Brothers United in April 2024 and

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Mwakini Johnson and Amir

From Prison to Parenthood... continued from page 8

was later reunified with his son in October 2024. During his time with Pathway Inc. Brothers United, Johnson says that, "Brothers and Sisters United are great classes." They not only helped him develop intellectually but also empowered him to see parenting as a reflective process.

"We are a reflection to our kids," he noted. "The program reminded me of the values my father taught me and how to pass them on to my own children." Johnson wants his son to have a balanced life that emphasizes the importance of education, discipline, and hard work.

Amir is currently enrolled in Early Head Start, where his social-emotional skills are developed in the classroom through the power of play and creative curricula that focus on motor skills.

The Pathway Inc. Brothers United alumnus recently transitioned from his employment at the Wayman Palmer YMCA, a place he considers family, and will continue to spend his leisure time there.

The Director of Operations says that, "Mr. Johnson displayed great leadership skills with the youth and mentored them as they visited the facility." He now works at the airport for Amazon Cargo. He continues to incorporate the values his father and grandfather taught him as a boy, as well as the skills necessary to foster an ever-growing relationship with his children.

"Fatherhood" to Johnson means to lead your children on a path of success by setting an example and living according to your values, regardless of trials. He appreciates Pathway Inc. Brothers United for the opportunity. He wants to encourage other fathers to remain present in their children's lives and appreciate the milestones in a child's life as childhood ends all too quickly.

Pathway Inc. Brothers and Sisters United would like to highlight the success story of this dedicated father whose community not only helped to uplift but also build pathways to success. If you or someone you know is interested in Pathway Inc. Brothers United, call or text (419) 279-0798 for additional information.

Palestinians... continued from page 3

ognizes the right of occupied peoples to resist foreign occupation and to pursue self-determination. Even though, some US Democrats are calling for aid to urgently be provided to Palestinians in Gaza, very few of them can find the backbone to condemn Israel for its deadly blockade and war crimes.

As we examine the difference between starving and being starved, it's about causation, decisions, and solutions. If starvation is caused by "Acts of God", other nations can assist in ameliorating the circumstance, they won't solve the problem, but their support will minimize the number of people who are starving. In Occupied Palestine, people being starved to death is the result of a decision to weaponize food, withholding food and causing people to die.

You can't negotiate with drought, you can't change or control the weather, you can't negotiate with locusts. You can change a conscience decision; you can stop starvation by allowing people to be fed. Failing to do so is collective punishment. This is a war crime. This is ethnic cleansing! This is genocide!

Wilmer Leon is a national broadcast radio talk-show host. Author of Politics Another Perspective, he is also host of the podcast Connecting the Dots w/ Wilmer Leon and columnist for the Trice Edney News Wire. Go to www.wilmerleon.com or email: wjl3us@yahoo.com. www.twitter.com/drwleon and Leon's Prescription at Facebook.com

The Truth
HEALTH

Versatile Vegetables

By Patrice Powers-Barker, Ohio State University Extension, Lucas County
The Truth Contributor

It's summertime and plants are ripening. What are the easiest ways you can enjoy a rainbow of vegetables? The following highlights are on a few local products that are currently or soon to be available in gardens, farm stands and farmers markets. The benefits to us are peak freshness and low cost as they are in season.

Dark, leafy greens like collards, kale, mustard greens, etc. are very versatile because they can be harvested now as smaller, more tender leaves or they can keep growing until fall when the weather turns cold. Many people prefer the sweetness of collard greens or kale after the first frost of the year, but we don't have to wait until October to enjoy some.

Selection: Choose bunches of green leaves with no yellowing or withering. Stems should look freshly cut not dried out, browned, or split.

Storage of dark, leafy greens: Gently wrap green leaves in damp paper towels and store loosely in plastic bags or reusable container. Keep moist and cool in the lower part of the refrigerator in the high-humidity bin. Store for up to five days.

Nutrition Benefits of dark, leafy greens: Fat free, cholesterol free, very low sodium, low in calories, excellent source of vitamin A, vitamin C and folate; good source of calcium, potassium and fiber.

Enjoy a smoothie! A refreshing way to "eat" dark leafy greens in the summer is to add them to a smoothie. The Produce for Better Health Foundation suggests combining the following ingredients in the blender to puree for a **Strawberry, Pineapple, Greens Smoothie:** ¾ cup frozen strawberries, 1 cup packed greens (such as baby kale or spinach), 1 banana, 1 cup ice, 2 cans (8 oz each) pineapple chunks in juice, (drain the juice) and 1 cup of milk (your choice, low fat milk, almond milk or low-fat yogurt). Optional ingredients: 4 fresh mint leaves.

Green Beans, Yellow Wax, or String Beans might be a little bit different and might go by different names but they can be used interchangeably in recipes.

Selection: Choose fresh, well colored beans that snap easily when bent.

Storage: Refrigerate beans in plastic bag or reusable container and use within 1 week.

Nutrition Benefits: green beans are fat free; sodium free; cholesterol free; low calorie; good source of fiber; good source of vitamin C.

Stir fry: Green beans make a tasty addition to stir fry vegetables. Add the cut pieces of green beans to the pan when other vegetables with similar cooking times are added, such as broccoli and cauliflower. Stir fry until tender crisp.

Summer Squash and Zucchini. Zucchini is a type of summer squash, so the following information is good for green zucchini or yellow summer squash and other varieties.

Selection: For all summer squash varieties, choose glossy, small- to medium-sized squash, heavy for size. The skin should be firm and free of cuts and bruises.

Storage: Refrigerate summer squash for use within three to five days.

Nutrition Benefits of summer squash: Fat free; saturated fat free; sodium free; cholesterol free; low calorie; high in vitamin C.

Steam some quick and easy **"Vegetable Ribbons":** The recipe calls for one medium zucchini and one large carrot. After washing the vegetables and cutting off the ends, use a vegetable peeler to shave the vegetables into paper thin ribbons by moving the peeler from top to bottom and making quarter turns until you reach the seeds.. Heat 1 teaspoon of oil in a large skillet (or lightly coat the pan with cooking spray). Add the vegetable ribbons, stir, cover with a tight-fitting lid and cook for two to three minutes, or until vegetables are tender but not overcooked. Remove from heat, add pepper and salt, if desired, and serve immediately.

Growing your own? Are you new to vegetable gardening and looking to learn more? If you have any questions about gardening, call the Master Gardener Horticulture Hotline with questions on Monday and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at 419-578-6783.

Have extra fresh produce? Many local food pantries, kitchens and food banks will accept fresh produce but check with them first to make sure they can. If you have extra and would like to share on Friday, August 8 from 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at "Sneak a Zucchini" on Our Porch at OSU Extension at Toledo Botanical Garden, 5403 Elmer Drive, Toledo, OH, 43615. Bring your clean, homegrown vegetables and fruits to add to the donations that will be shared with local food pantries. For more information about the event and more recipes for summer squash, visit lucas.osu.edu/zucchini

Do You Have Alopecia? Let's Take a Close Look

By Dr. Hope Mitchell, MD

The Truth Contributor

For many, it starts slowly. First, more strands than usual. Then, a little too much hair in the comb. Next, breakage around the edges or top of the scalp. The part that used to be full now looks thinner and wider. A small, soft spot near the temple where the braids had once pulled too tight or now hair thinning on the crown like that seen in your grandmother, mother or father has you wondering; "do I have alopecia?"

When you finally make the appointment, it has been almost a year or two since you first noticed the changes. Perhaps it was fear of the unknown - how much longer will this continue? Maybe tired of covering up the condition, or simply wanting to get to the root of the issue that brought you to the dermatologist. Regardless, you are not alone.

With my many years of experience as a dermatologist who has seen this many times before, I understand your concern when you say: "My hair is falling out and I am concerned."

The comprehensive hair loss appointment starts with a thorough history which includes questions about styling habits, diet, stress, medications, surgical procedures and family history. You should remember to arrive without a confined hairstyle, regardless if you are only concerned with your edges, so that your entire scalp can be examined with ease.

You did not realize the itching, burning, tingling, or crawling feeling in your scalp is common in Black women with hair loss and that it could be tied to the inflammation that I can see in the scalp with my dermatoscope. As with the inflammation that attacks the joints and causes arthritis, inflammation can attack the hair follicles and cause hair loss.

The scalp exam may also reveal miniaturized follicles seen in male or female pattern genetic hair loss or unfortunately, there may be irreversible scarring noted. Everyone is born with all the hair follicles she or he will have in a lifetime; therefore, time is of the essence when experiencing hair thinning and loss, as we cannot make new follicle units.

What you're experiencing is likely a combination of traction alopecia and chronic telogen effluvium, with some early signs of central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia—or CCCA. These are all common types of hair loss in Black women, but they're often misdiagnosed or ignored until they've progressed. Yes, often more than one form of hair loss is documented during the appointment.

"Is it permanent?"

"It depends. "With traction alopecia, the good news is that if we catch it early, hair often grows back once the stress on the edges or crown from tight hairstyles is removed. But if there's been long-term tension—tight braids, ponytails, or extensions over years—some follicles may be permanently damaged."

"And the breakage?"

It is often due to dryness, over-processing, heat damage or harsh styling techniques. Many women think their hair 'isn't growing,' when in reality, it's growing but breaking off at the same rate."

"And CCCA, I think I have heard of that."

Yes, that is possible because it is the most common cause of scarring hair loss in Black women. It is not curable but has a good prognosis if caught early. Research in the last five years, has proven there to be a genetic defect in the hair shaft in about 25 percent of people, in addition to hair styling practices, that predispose to this type of hair loss.

"So what do I do?"

The first order of business is to get a diagnosis as there are nearly 15 different types of hair loss. A scalp biopsy may be necessary to confirm the type of alopecia or hair loss you have. Blood work may also be considered to correct any underlying systemic abnormalities that may be contributing to the hair loss.

Dr. Hope Mitchell

I always sense a shift at the end of the appointment —maybe it is relief. Maybe for the first time, someone has been given hope, felt heard or understood their diagnosis. As a dermatologist, who treats all conditions of hair and skin, including eczema, acne, razor bumps, uneven skin tone, and hidradenitis suppurativa (HS), conditions in which African Americans carry the burden of disease, I understand how shared cultural background and experiences may lead to better communication and a feeling of being more fully heard and understood.

Final Thoughts from Dr. Mitchell

Time is follicles - See a board-certified dermatologist who is passionate about treating hair loss as soon as you notice thinning.

Scalp Care = Skin Care - Clean your scalp every 1-2 weeks. A healthy scalp is the foundation for healthy hair.

Partner with a stylist that will help you care for your hair. Avoid tight styles that pull at your edges and crown. Limit wigs and weaves and give your scalp breaks from those styles. Sleep with a silk pillowcase, preferably.

Address internal health with your primary care physician and recommended blood work at least yearly.

Be patient when undergoing treatment. Depending on your overall health, stress level and nutrition, it can take at least three months to reduce shedding, three to six months to notice new growth, and six to 12 months to notice visible length retention.

Join Dr. Hope Mitchell, board certified dermatologist and Joycelyn Dumfeh, PA-C, on Thursday, September 18th, 5:30-6:30, at Mitchell Dermatology, Perrysburg for Rooted in Truth, to learn more about hair loss. RSVP required as space is limited.

Six Month Crime...continued from page 6

Fausnaugh cited more than $28 million in park upgrades since 2018 and the recent opening of the new Wayman Palmer YMCA as important physical investments, but stressed that true prevention work is about people.

"We know that youth engagement is one of the most powerful tools we have to prevent violence and build safer neighborhoods," Fausnaugh said. "That's why, since 2021, the City of Toledo has invested $7.2 million directly into youth programming, funding 322 programs that served nearly 200,000 children and teens."

Audrey Johnson, program director for Shoot This Not That, and Pastor William Foster, from the Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, also offered remarks about the community's role in continued progress. They urged residents to stay engaged, speak up, and continue playing an active role in shaping a safer, stronger Toledo for everyone.

A Mental Health Moment

Access To Mental Health; Under Pressure for Lucas County's Black Medicaid Community in 2025

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC, LLC

The Truth Contributor

As Ohio lawmakers weigh sweeping budget changes in 2025, vulnerable residents in Lucas County—especially Black community members on Medicaid—face mounting barriers to mental health services. Medicaid cuts in rural Ohio have already strained access, and urban centers like Toledo come under growing policy and funding pressures.

Recent policy shifts cause great concern. Sub House Bill 96 (Sub HB 96), part of the state's fiscal 2026 budget, has proposed cutting Medicaid reimbursement for community mental health and substance abuse services. That includes eliminating long-standing provisions allowing rates above Medicare levels and tying Medicaid provider rates to private-insurance. Advocates warn these measures could devastate local providers and restrict care.

Funding uncertainty looms large. The legal trigger in the budget would terminate Medicaid expansion coverage if the federal match rate went below 90 percent, putting over 770,000 Ohioans at risk—including many in Toledo. A loss of federal funding, estimated at more than $1 billion annually, would force local agencies to either scale back behavioral health services or shift costs onto an already strained system.

Local providers on alert. Lucas County Mental Health organizations may have a possible service disruption and if Medicaid expansion is rolled back, the cost of inpatient treatment, medication-assisted therapy, and outpatient counseling could suddenly shift to county budgets or emergency systems. Longer wait lists, less providers accepting Medicaid and more patients turning to emergency rooms.

Take a mental health moment as this is a matter relevant not just to Medicaid recipients and providers that accept Medicaid but how it affects Toledo and our community as a whole. Medicaid is a critical lifeline for many Black Toledoans with mental illness, yet providers report low reimbursement rates discourage them from seeing Medicaid patients. When combined with the threat of cuts, this poses serious access risks for culturally competent care providers who serve deeply impacted communities

Misuse of Medicaid has been an ongoing issue. A December 2024 compliance audit revealed roughly $1.75 million in improper Medicaid payments made to a local behavioral health provider, between 2020 and 2022.

Concerns for 2025 Medicaid:

• Mental health and substance use treatment access may decrease sharply.

• For those relying on care rooted in cultural understanding, provider shortages will deepen.

• Medicaid expansion rollback could remove coverage for Black working-age adults, parents, and those with behavioral health needs.

• Ongoing policy advocacy seeks to reverse legislation in Sub HB 96 before full implementation

Why this matters:

Given systemic inequities and a shortage of culturally responsive mental health providers, Black Medicaid recipients in Lucas County already face significant hurdles. Fiscal policy decisions at the state and federal level threaten to compound those barriers, risking worse outcomes for mental health access and care.

Local leaders and agencies urge community members to speak out. Advocacy groups have grounds by contacting state legislators ahead of hearings on Medicaid provisions. Ensuring continued funding and equitable reimbursement remains vital to sustaining access for those most in need of Medicaid care especially for Mental Health.

Resources:

publicnewsservice.org

Ohio Capital Journal

mhaadvocacy.orgcssbh.org

Health Policy Institute of OhioSpectrum Local News

cssbh.orgmhaadvocacy.org

reddit.com+10cssbh.org+10Health Policy Institute of Ohio+10hoodline.com+12mhaadvocacy.org+12Ohio Capital Journal+12

Ohio Health Care Plan..continued from page 4

conditions, and no disruption to care due to job loss or income changes; and

* Services would begin two years after passage to allow for a comprehensive and smooth transition.

"I'm proud to support the Ohio Health Care Plan. Medical debt should not exist. Families shouldn't face financial ruin just because someone got sick. The Ohio Health Care Plan would guarantee health care for every Ohioan," said Rep. Grim. "No copays, no deductibles, no surprise bills. Ohioans are struggling under our current system; they deserve a chance to access the healthcare they need without fear of bankruptcy or medical debt."

The Ohio Health Care Board will also seek federal waivers to integrate Medicare and Medicaid into the state plan. Until those waivers are secured, the Ohio Health Care Plan will serve as a secondary insurer for eligible individuals.

To guide implementation, the legislation creates a Technical and Medical Advisory Board, composed of provider and consumer advocates, and established a Division of Consumer Affairs to represent patient interests statewide.

The plan will be funded by a combination of employer payroll contribu-

... continued on page 13

Human History on Drugs: An Utterly Scandalous but Entirely Truthful Look at History Under the Influence by Sam Kelly

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

c. 2025
Plume
$22.00
400 pages

You worked hard. The outdoor chores are done.

Your household tasks are also finished, you're home for the evening, and you know what would taste good right now. You can almost feel an icy-cold glass in your hand, condensation wetting your fingers. You can taste it, can't you? As in the new book, ***Human History on Drugs* by Sam Kelly**, it'll be historically epic.

Dates and names, battles and acts. In the past, that may be what you learned about history, which might make you think that the subject is "dull and lifeless." Sam Kelly didn't want to know about boring things; he wanted to read something more interesting, more "dramatic," and maybe a little gossipy, so he created this book.

As it turns out, "many historical figures were on drugs" of one sort or another.

Imagine, for instance, the surprise that was waiting for archaeologists studying the tomb of Ramses the Great. Hiding in the pharaoh's abdominal cavity were a scattering of grains cannabis pollen.

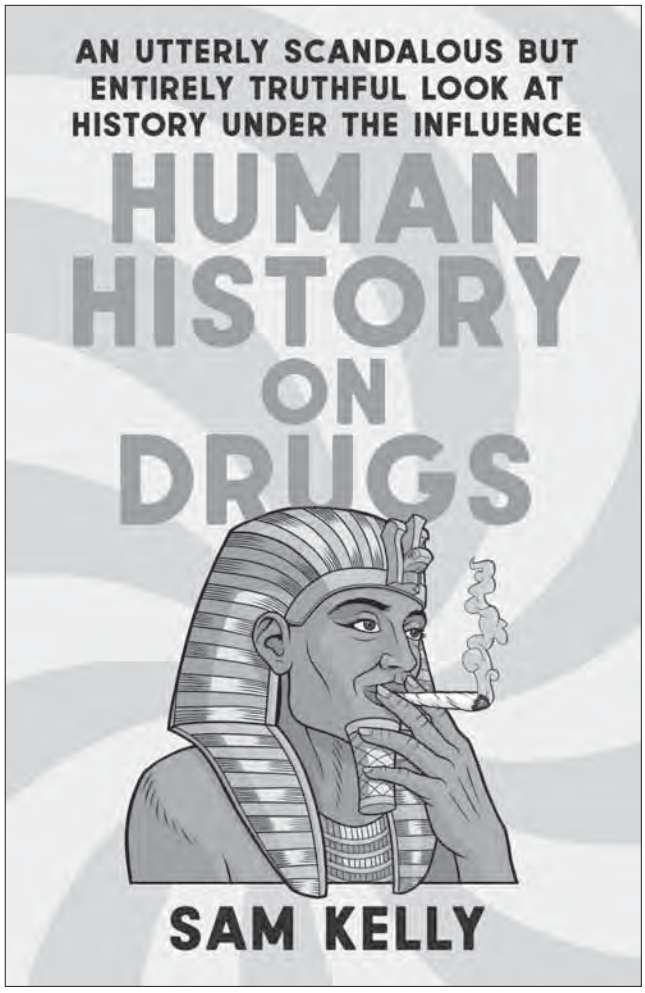
And speaking of "Great," there was Alexander. Kelly says old Alex liked to imbibe. Oh, and the warrior was "also a big fan of opium." either of which could have hastened his death.

William Shakespeare was "a stoner" who wrote about drugs in subtle and clever ways to get around church laws of the time. George Washington took laudanum – an opiate tincture – not for pleasure, but to manage the pain of ill-fitting dentures; the teenage Queen Victoria also liked laudanum but her "personal preferences" for fun were cocaine chewing gum and wine. The Nazis claimed to be anti-drug but they "made a special exception" for meth. World War II hero Audie Murphy was addicted to sleeping pills at one time. Pope Leo XII loved cocaine wine so much that he appeared in an advertisement for it. And Richard Nixon, who started the "War on Drugs" obviously didn't mean it to include himself…

In his introduction, author Sam Kelly makes a promise to readers that he doesn't glorify the use of drugs or alcohol here, a promise he's kept inside *Human History on Drugs*. Instead, he's honest about how such substances have affected history. He's fun, flippant and playful about it, and he invites readers to engage in that pure lack of stuffiness.

And yet, despite the light tone here, what you'll read is real, actual history, albeit from a back side that you may not have learned in your high school history class. Kelly writes about battles and world issues, conquered nations, personal flaws, and events of which his subjects surely had to be mindful, thus time-framing their substance abuse without condoning it. Readers will be sympathetic while enjoying some of the stories here, astounded at others, and gleeful at the ones that are humorously, wonderfully outrageous.

Readers who devour history books will appreciate that this is a good in-between book to read after and before heavy-duty tomes. It's great for anyone who wants nonfiction lite, including older teens. Truly, to enjoy *Human History on Drugs* is no chore.



Ohio Health Care Plan..continued from page 12

tions (up to 3.85%), a gross receipts tax on businesses (up to 3%), a 6.2% tax on personal income in excess of the amount subject to the Social Security payroll tax, and a 5% surtax on income above $200,000. These funds are in addition to existing state and federal dollars already used in Ohio for services rendered under Medicaid and Medicare. Importantly, 91% of Ohioans would see no increase in their taxes under the proposal.

"This is an investment in a healthier, more equitable future for our state," said Rep. Rader. "It's about dignity, economic security, and common sense."

HB 289 was referred to the House Insurance Committee and awaits a first hearing.

Young Women...continued from page 16

The welcome, presentation and storytelling by the mistress of ceremonies, Mary Brucker. Brucker is a past WOT board member. Class 2025 presenting partners were Terry Crosby and the Taylor Automotive family; the welcome was offered by WOT board president Nichole Beltran, and an overview and partners recognition by Executive Director Nina Corder.

Acknowledgments were made by keynote speaker Candice Harrison of the SSOE Group .

The women from each class were presented 2025 with the program coordinator Julia LaBay girls hub builder chair presentations. Aluminum toolbox presentations and the bench for charity presentation, fearless builder recognition and certificate were presented by Toledo City Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson.

The fearless builders, a group of wonderful young girls, offered their themed chairs for the public to view.

Audrey Soltes, age 14, had a theme chair that looks like a beautiful sunflower. Her theme was about family connections, symbolizing different pieces for different people and her family. She says what she enjoyed the most that girls hub was making her mosaic art.

Augystana Ross, age 12, had a fall-themed chair in memory of her six-year-old self with her uncle and a trip that they took camping for the first time. What she enjoyed most about girls' club was spending time with a friend and sister. Something new that she learned was to build her chair and staining wood.

Brooklyn Whitney, age 13, had a music-themed chair which was a very beautiful piece of art. Brooklyn says as a first-time fearless builder, her theme was music because she loves it and will always listen to any music that represents determination and confidence. She learned how to sand a chair and use a drill and completing her project has made her feel successful.

Delilah Washington, age 12, also had a music theme chair. Her project's theme was to magnify music and express how projects, her and others, feel because having mutual feelings with songs from singers makes them relatable. What she enjoyed the most was making friends and learning about new tools

Eris Katner, age 14, had a theme that included pop art, animals, and building, which is something close to her heart. What she enjoyed most was using power tools to create her chair she learned how to use the jigsaw and even even though she first viewed it as intimidating, once she got used to it, she felt fearless.".

Gabriella Munoz, age 12, chose a monarch butterfly because she had a vision of doing a random and cool idea that represents nature and outdoors. Gynessei Ross, age 13, chose the theme of flowers because of memories of her grandmother .What she enjoyed most was using power tools, and learning new skills. Hannah Depp, age 12, crafted a wonderful chair with a SpongeBob and Patrick theme representing her best friend.

Isla Merritt, age 12, chose the theme from the movie Caroline because she loves it and she loves to sew .what she enjoyed the most at Girl hub is cutting the extra pieces of wood, sanding, using tools and all the heavy work. Jaya, age 12, chose the theme baking because she loves to bake especially with her grandmother and siblings. What she enjoyed most was meeting everyone. Josefina Richards age 12 ,chose the theme of the beach and summer Juliana Martin, age 12, chose the theme based on Christianity; Justice Johnson, age 13, had a chair that represented music.

Kaylee Reyes, age 13, had a sports -themed chair. Kenley Kipplen age 12 had a chair that represented her cat. Kylee Reyes, age 13; Lea Claire Sokasits, age 1; Madisen, Lee, age 14, had an amazing chair based on Erykah Badu, fashion, style and music.

Maleah Reyes, age 14; Olivia Marshall, age 14; Pearl MiddleBrooks, age 11; RicNyia Davis, age 11; Sophia Marshall, age 14; Sydney White, age 15, were all fearless builders who created beautiful pieces of art and learned very important lessons in a short amount of time with the girls HUB.

Ariel Thomas -Wilson, age 13; Eden Hicks, age 16; Gabriella Paracchini, age 14; Hope Hicks, age 13; Isabella Hall, age 13; Justyce Savage, age 12; Kamya Robertson, age 15; Kasidy Savage, age 15; Kynnedy Knighten, age 16; Lienna Rausch, age 17; Lily Ugorowski, age 18 Lucy Harbick, age 12; Madison Perales, age 16; Manhattan Cook, age 16; Serenity Hall, age 13, and T'mya Hall, age 13, were all a part of the girls HUB alumni classes before 2025.

The 2025 bench for charity was built by Manhattan Kennedy and Eden as an art donation to a local park in the community.

Jazz...continued from page 5

The Glass City JazzFest isn't just about notes and rhythms. It's about economic development, tourism, and pride in Toledo.

"In year one, we had 2,500 attendees," Hugh recalls. "Then 4,800. Last year, over 8,000. People are coming from Cincinnati, Michigan—even Florida."

Their goal? To turn this one-day festival into a weekend destination.

"We want people to get hotel rooms, eat in our restaurants, walk our waterfront," Cheryl says. "Toledo has amazing infrastructure. It deserves to be seen."

And sponsors are catching on. From the **Mud Hens** to **Taylor Kia**, from **Destination Toledo** to **Lucas County**, more local partners are stepping up to support this musical movement.

The Legacy Lives On

One of this year's headliners, Akira Tana, played at Rusty's in Toledo decades ago. Now, he's returning with his global jazz group Otonowa, bringing stories and sounds inspired by the tsunami in Japan.

"That tells you something," Ross says. "Artists are calling us. They remember Toledo. They want to come back."

Catlin adds, "We've had agents from Sweden reach out. Musicians are saying, 'There's something special happening in Toledo.' And they're right."

Final Notes: Why This Matters

Jean Holden

Straight Ahead

As we wrapped our call, Cheryl and Hugh were still buzzing, not just from coffee, but from purpose.

"You know," Cheryl said softly, "you never know who's in the audience. A little girl who sees a woman making magic with her saxophone. A teenager who's never heard live jazz before. These moments change lives."

So if you're in Toledo this August, come. Feel the beat. Bring your kids, your grandma, your lawn chair. Let jazz grab you by the hand and whisper, "You belong here."

Because in Toledo, the music isn't background noise.

It's a heartbeat.

John Glover...continued from page 7

House," Glover explained.

And it's not about getting credit—it's just who they are. "Somebody helped me once," he said. "Now it's my turn."

Glover is also passionate about supporting Black-owned businesses. "It's very important to me," he said. "Whenever we can use a Black-owned venue or vendor, we do. It's a chance for them to connect with new customers."

That support even extends to practical needs—like making sure people with disabilities have proper restrooms at the picnic. "We always make sure everyone feels welcome," Glover said.

Weathering the Curveballs

Of course, pulling off something this big isn't easy.

"Every year, it feels like we get hit with a curveball two weeks before the event," Glover said with a laugh. "Something always goes wrong. But we get it done."

And despite the challenges, one thing never changes: the vibe.

"In all these years, with all those people, we've never had an incident at the picnic," he said. "Not one."

That's the power of love, community, and good old-fashioned Bulldog pride.

A Legacy That Lives On

For John Glover, the Scott High School Alumni Weekend isn't just a reunion—it's a reminder.

A reminder that schools can be more than buildings. They can be villages. They can be home. And when that home raises you right, you come back—not just to visit, but to lift others up too.

"If we're able to do it, we do it," Glover said. "And that's just how it's always going to be."

Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding)

State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

1130-25-372-1
Space Replacement/Consolidation
One-Stop Student Services Renovation – Phase 1 MacKinnon Hall
The University of Toledo
Lucas County, OH

Bids Due: August 26, 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.

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	$4,000,000.00
Alternate M-1	$150,000.00

And any proper combination submitted on electronic Bid Form

Pre-bid Meeting: August 12, 2023, 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: Hasenstab Architects, Inc., Ben Rantilla, 330-434-4464, brantilla@hasenstabinc.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
for
2024 Program Year – July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

The City of Toledo (COT) is directed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to notify the general public of the undertakings, activities, and accomplishments completed in and at the close of each Program Year through a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The CAPER provides an assessment of the federally funded programs administered by the COT's Department of Housing and Community Development: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP), and Lead Hazard Control & Healthy Homes Grant.

The Draft CAPER will be available for review beginning **Wednesday, August 27, 2025**, on the website of the following entities:

Department of Housing and Community Development
One Government Center, 18th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: https://toledo.oh.gov/departments/housing-community-development

Office of the Mayor
One Government Center, 22nd Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: https://toledo.oh.gov/government/mayor

Clerk of Council
One Government Center, 21st Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: https://toledo.oh.gov/government/city-council/

The Fair Housing Center
326 N. Erie Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledofhc.org

Lucas Metropolitan Housing
424 Jackson Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.lucasmha.org

Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board
1220 Madison Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.endinghomelessnesstoledo.org

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
325 Michigan Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledolibrary.org

Lucas Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities
1154 Larc Lane
Toledo, Ohio 43614
website: www.lucasdd.info

A Public Hearing on the Draft CAPER is scheduled as follows:

Thursday, September 4, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 1st Floor
One Government Center, Toledo, OH 43604

The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing beginning **Wednesday, August 27, 2025**, through **Wednesday, September 10, 2025,** at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2024-2025 CAPER
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

The City of Toledo supports the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion ADA coordinator at (419) 245-1198 or submit a request online at toledo.oh.gov/ada.

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

A first-floor 1,100 square-foot office suite, close to downtown in a revitalized Warren Sherman area, is available. The space is in a large office building with an enclosed parking lot. HVAC included. The space includes a waiting area, 3 separate rooms for individual offices and a storage space as well as access to a backyard. It's ready to occupy, no remodeling necessary. The neighboring area is flourishing due to recent construction of a large community center. Call 419-509-0492 for more information.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s):

Administrative Assistant II
Assistant Property Manager
Clerical Specialist – Customer Service Representative
Field Operations Lead
Maintenance Team Lead

For complete details, visit https://www.lucasmha.org and click on Careers. ***Deadline: 08-15-25.*** This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant.

Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is requesting statements of qualifications pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 9.33, et seq., from firms to provide construction manager at risk services for its Holland Branch Project. Questions may be directed to, and Requests for Qualifications may be obtained by written request from Nick Hamilton, Project Coordinator, at Nick.Hamilton@toledolibrary.org. Qualifications will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. local time, August 8, 2025.

Young Women of Toledo Girls HUB Class 2025

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm

By Emily R. Evans

The Truth Reporter

On July 17 a ceremony to recognize all of the young women that are members of the Girls HUB was held at the Main Library. This program helps young women all around the city. It includes mentors to assist with the program as well as offering the young women the chance to learn from each other in a safe, loving environment.

The young women initiative offers an opportunity for participants, ages 12 to 26, to share, discuss and debate constructively to help build skills, mentorship and empowerment. In Young Women of Toledo initiative, girls hub, a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) program/activity for girls and young women ages 12 to 17 that provides a dedicated workshop and designing construction through classes and carpentry, art texture and civic art support from mentors. Girl hub builders, use their creative voices and uniqueness, while examining the value of identity, voice and lived experiences and civic spaces.

"The HUB 's main objective is to equip a community of fearless builders. Integrating mentors, technical skills, we believe our programs equipped you with a personal power and literal power tools to build the world they want to see "(according to the program). more info @ www.womenoftoledo.org/girls hub.

The night started off with a 5:30 PM reception and appetizer in the Main Library lobby area of the McMaster Hall after everyone had mingled and viewed all of the art that the young women had put together. Everyone lined up to attend the ceremony inside of the auditorium. Each young lady was awarded recognition and given time to share with the crown strengthening her public speaking skills and giving each a chance to build confidence.

...continued on page 14