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A Life Shaped by Art, Curiosity and Connection

Jennifer McCary, DODC, 2026 Milestones Honoree for the ARTS

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Time To Panic?

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

The Truth Contributor

Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.

- Nelson Mandela



Federal policy changes this month will strip food assistance from thousands of county families and threaten hundreds of elderly and disabled residents with the loss of long-term housing. Local officials are scrambling. Many affected residents are already panicking. Justifiably so!

This is a fact and not a warning. The One Big Beautiful Bill became law last July. Its new food assistance rules are not pending—they are now active. In Lucas County, about one in six residents relies on SNAP to eat. Officials aware of the situation are struggling to prevent collapse. They see it coming but cannot stop it.

The One Big Beautiful Bill's new rules require working-age adults (now up to age 64, raised from 55) to document 20 hours a week of employment, training, or approved volunteer activity. That alone would be a steep bar for many families. But the law goes further. It stripped the exemption for veterans. It also stripped the exemption for people experiencing homelessness. And it gutted the childcare exemption — parents are now only protected if their child is 13 or younger. A mother supervising or attempting to manage the life of a 14-year-old — the school schedule, the appointments, the ten thousand things that parenting a teenager actually requires — no longer qualifies for any relief from the work clock. The One Big Beautiful Bill decided that raising a teenager is not a legitimate demand on a parent's time.

Even more cruelly, if a person misses the threshold for three months in a row — March, April, May — they lose eligibility until 2029. Three months of noncompliance, three years locked out. Moreover, the county does not yet have a complete list of who will fall into it, because the state is responsible for notification — by mail and robocall — to people who may not have stable addresses, who may not understand the letter, or who may miss the window entirely.

The food crisis is beginning to draw attention, while the housing situation has received less focus despite its seriousness.

About 500 elderly and disabled county residents could lose long-term housing under a federal rule change that makes enrollment in substance

abuse treatment a condition of keeping a roof. The approach being discarded — house people first, sort out the rest from stability — is the one that has actually cut chronic homelessness. The one replacing it is the one that didn't. The Big and Beautiful rejects this, requiring residents to earn housing through compliance.

Anyone who has worked with people in recovery—or loved someone through it—knows what that model produces. You do not get people into treatment by taking away their front door. You get them on the street, where the chances of recovery drop through the floor. A board meeting to address potential displacement has finally been called. It is scheduled for this week. The residents who may lose their homes do not have the luxury of a slow timeline.

The panic spreading through this county is not irrational. County officials are scrambling because the situation demands it. Government offices can scramble. But they cannot knock on your neighbor's door. They cannot sit at a kitchen table and walk someone through a form. Those things require people — the kind who already know each other and already have a reason to show up.

This month, Lucas County needs a lot of those people to do exactly that — especially in a nation that prints "In God We Trust" on the money it is now withholding from the poor. The God who blessed the poor, healed the sick without a co-pay, welcomed the foreigner, ate with the excluded but, most of all, reserved His most blistering condemnation — not for sinners but for religious and political elite who burdened the poor while blessing the powerful.

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

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Yeah, That Is the Smell of War

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

Well, it is official. Trump has ordered 5,000 troops, so far, to the Middle East as "back-up" for whatever may come during his "gut" ordered war with Iran.



The Trump administration and his clown car of clueless counselors are acting like the Keystone Cops in their frantic efforts to both portray the war as being won already and also as "just finishing up some leftover business."

With oil prices in free fall and food and gas prices spiking daily, Trump wants to give the false illusion that all is well and he is in control and that a little pain now is worth the results down the road.

Apparently Trump and his toy soldier, Pete Hegseth, want to give the impression that they are like two tough guys in the Bronx ready to beat down anyone that moves without their permission.

Question: Why does and how does an American President state on social media that he is proud and honored to be killing Iranians and there is no gigantic blowback from Congress?

Answer: The GOP is complicit with him in that assessment brought on by some of their members indicating that Muslims do not belong in America!

And you wonder why the dogs of war and lone wolf type killers are being enabled to carry out their own mission of hate towards both Muslims and Jews in America.

If you have a feeling that the government in D.C. is teetering on the brink of stupidity, you are not wrong and especially so when we learn that Trump and his cabal did not factor in Iran closing the vital Strait of Hormuz.

Of course if Trump was not a self declared "stable genius" he would not have dissed so many experienced military advisors who could have given him vital information from their collective hundreds of years of military experience.

Their advice would have been valuable and necessary but only to a sane president who values collateral information other than what the discredited MAGA base may offer up. Nonetheless, here we now are, seemingly gearing up for a major expansion of this war (originally called an excursion!) with the future landing of sailors and the Marines in the Middle East? I have no love lost for the Iranian regime and its despicable acts towards humanity and its determination to obtain a nuke so as to decimate our friend, Israel.

But, so much for his repeated promise of no more foreign wars and no boots on the ground in the Middle East. A good campaign promise but any-

one who knows Trump and his proclivity for being a perpetual prevaricator, should have dismissed that promise as groundless.

And, in the background noise, do I hear the dreadful word, "draft" being bandied about if these 5,000 Marines are overwhelmed if they try any sneak invasions into Iran?

The world has been thrown into turmoil due to the capriciousness and mental folly of one person... Donald Trump. And we all will pay for it and pay for it also in part because the GOP in Congress are like blind mice chasing their tails because they are totally emasculated by the bully language of their Dear Leader and do not want to cross him because the "base" will be enraged if Trump is attacked.

Would continued diplomacy have worked with the Iranian government as opposed to starting this war? We will now never know but we do know that the Iranian government which has named America, the Great Satan, is insatiable with its zeal to attack the US (in whatever format) and Israel; will forever be on our watch list as a nation to be closely monitored.

And if United Nations sanctions cannot caused the Iranian government to step away from any military use of its nuclear products, Iran bears forever watching (like other similarly situated countries) for the good, safety and welfare of the planet.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at lafe5x@gmail.com

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Community Calendar

March 22

Toledo NAACP Youth Council: 3:00 pm at Sanger Branch Library; Toledo NAACP Youth Council election for new officers - 4-8:00 pm election will be administered electronically using Election Buddy. Should a run-off election be necessary it will be April 4 @ 12-2:00 pm

March 28

Coach Price retirement celebration: Scott HS Field House; Noon to 3 pm; Come share laughs, memories and celebrate this milestone

The Black Press: Our History, Our Crisis

By John E. Warren, DMin, Publisher

San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper

Chairman of the Board of Directors, NNPA

This month, the Black Press celebrates 199 years of existence. It has been a time of advocacy for a people otherwise erased from the growth and history of this country. We have been the ones to "Lift Every Voice" as the trusted messengers and storytellers of our struggle. We have shed tears for and with each other; we have been the ones to carry hope in the midst of a struggle that so often seemed hopeless. We have survived not "Not Because of," but "In Spite of" every effort to dehumanize and deny us the equality of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness the founding fathers swore to as a right to all people.

James Weldon Johnson really stated our history in his song, Lift Every Voice & Sing, when he wrote: "We have come, over a way that with tears have been watered." The stories we have reported, often at great personal cost, have made a difference in the quality of life so many take for granted today. But today, we, as a people, are in much greater danger than the physical slavery that held us for too many years. Many of the very brothers and sisters, we have sacrificed and struggled to save, have forgotten our past. Too many have allowed social media and the illusion of progress, through personal achievements, to take us away from the national sense of pride and unity we once held so dear

Today, we, the Black Press, are once again confronted with survival. The



reality is that neither President Trump, nor his social policies seeking to eliminate us, is the real problem. "We" are the problem ourselves. We, the Black Press, in our efforts to survive, have lost much of the ability to engage our communities in a changing environment, so that they remember who we are and how important we remain as a part of our collective survival.

Likewise, our communities of churches, social organizations, and the very businesses we do business with, must be engaged again in support of the Black Press. Now is the time to re-tell our own story, lest we be forgotten. The future of the Black Press belongs to all of us.

This Is Ohio Black Media Week: A Legacy of Truth, A Future of Power

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

In the heart of Ohio's legislative halls, a historic moment has unfolded—one that speaks directly to the soul of Black America. House Bill 368, penned by **Ohio State Representative Elgin Rogers Jr.**, passed in 2025, marking a new chapter in the ongoing fight for representation, equity and truth in journalism. With this bill, Ohio formally designates the week of March 16 as **Ohio Black Media Week**.

The Power of the Black Press

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

—James Baldwin (*The Nation*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The New York Times*)

From the earliest days, Black-owned newspapers like Freedom's Journal in 1827 to the modern digital platforms amplifying our voices today, Black media has been the heartbeat of our truth. It has told our stories when the mainstream media refused to. It has given us heroes, exposed injustices and reminded us of our worth when the world tried to silence us.

Building a Legacy of Change

"Racism is not just a matter of personal attitudes or prejudices. It is about the power to define who belongs, who gets resources, and who gets justice."

—Dorothy Roberts (*The Nation*, *Harvard Law Review*)

Change is never the work of one person—it takes a collective. That's why Representative Elgin Rogers Jr. garnered support from a bipartisan group of legislators, including **Senator Dr. Vernon Sykes of Akron**, who has served in the Ohio legislature for over 40 years, and **State Representative Josh Williams of Sylvania Township**. These leaders understand that Black media plays a crucial role in shaping public discourse and ensuring that the voices of marginalized communities are heard.

Rogers also engaged Black media outlets for feedback, ensuring that the bill was crafted with the community in mind.

"I could have done the bill alone," Rogers reflects, "but there's power in numbers."

That power translated into bipartisan support. House Bill 368 passed with backing from lawmakers across the political spectrum. But this wasn't just about politics—it was about ensuring that Black media continues to be recognized and supported by many.

"Every year, hopefully for generations to come, this bill will continue to bring awareness that Black Media is important—not just for Black people, but

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Jennifer McCary: A Life Shaped by Art, Curiosity and Connection

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

For many people in northwest Ohio, the **YWCA Milestones celebration** shines as a symbol of impact, leadership and service to the community.

Each year, the event honors women whose work quietly shapes the region, leaders whose dedication leaves a lasting imprint on the arts, education, business, and beyond.

This year, **Jennifer McCary, DODC**, joins that legacy as the event's **Arts Honoree**.

"It's such a huge honor," she says softly. "I don't even know if there are words to describe how I feel."

Gratitude runs quietly through McCary's story. It shows up again and again across a career shaped by creativity, leadership and an unwavering commitment to people.

Where Art and Leadership Meet

Today, McCary serves as Chief Culture and Brand Experience Officer at the **Toledo Museum of Art**.

Her work reaches beyond strategy or branding. She helps create the emotional connection visitors feel when they step into the museum and encounter its collections. At the same time, she works behind the scenes, bringing departments together, encouraging collaboration and making sure the museum's mission guides everyday decisions.

But before the executive titles and strategic plans, there was something simpler.

She was an artist.

"I have a Bachelor of Fine Arts," she explains. "First and foremost, I am an artist." That creative spark never left.

Over time, she added new tools to her toolbox. She earned multiple degrees from **Bowling Green State University**, including a master's degree in college student personnel and a doctorate in organization development and change.

Each degree expanded her perspective.

Art sharpened her ability to see the world differently. Education deepened her understanding of how people grow.

Leadership revealed how organizations change, and how culture shapes everything inside them.

Together, those experiences formed something rare: a leader who understands both creativity and systems.

So when the **Toledo Museum of Art** invited her to join the institution, the moment felt full circle.

"I get to work in a cultural icon," she adds. "And I believe deeply in the mission of integrating art into the everyday lives of people."

The Power of Communication and Collaboration

At the center of McCary's leadership philosophy sits a simple truth.

Communication matters.

"Communication is at the heart of everything we do," she says.

McCary jokes that she sometimes "has difficult conversations for a living." But those conversations are often where real progress begins. When communication works, something shifts.

People begin to understand one another.

Barriers soften.

Ideas move.

Whether she is guiding organizational culture, supporting diversity initiatives, or strengthening staff engagement, McCary returns to the same focus: the human experience.

"It's really about improving how people interact and connect," she explains.

At the museum, collaboration stretches far beyond office walls. Partnerships link departments. They reach across the city. Sometimes even across the world.

Those relationships expand what the museum can offer, exhibitions, classes, conversations, community programming.

One conversation builds a bridge.

Another strengthens it.

Curiosity That Never Stops

Jennifer McCary often describes herself as a lifelong learner.

Even after reaching senior leadership roles in higher education, she returned to school to earn her doctorate.

"There's always more that we can learn and do," she shares.

But learning doesn't just belong in the classroom.

It lives in everyday moments.

A conversation with someone you've never met. A fresh perspective from a colleague. A visitor seeing a painting for the very first time.

"People are fascinating," she says with a smile. "And that keeps me curious."

That curiosity shapes the work happening inside the museum. It helps guide decisions, what classes to offer, which exhibitions to highlight, how to invite new audiences into the space.

Understanding people, their questions, interests, and reactions, helps keep the museum vibrant.

Alive.

Relevant.

A Museum Entering a New Chapter

The **Toledo Museum of Art** has recently earned national recognition, being named both the **Best Free Museum** and the **Best Museum in the United States** for the second year in a row.

But McCary is already looking toward the future.

Right now, the museum is in the middle of its most comprehensive gallery reinstallation in nearly a century. The transformation will reshape how visitors move through the galleries and experience the artwork.

For long-time supporters, the changes may bring a little uncertainty.

For first-time visitors, the experience may feel entirely new.

"I'm excited to see how people react," she admits. "Both the person who has never been here before and the person who already loves the museum."

Creating Moments of Wonder

At the heart of McCary's work sits a simple hope.

When someone walks through the museum doors, she wants them to feel welcome.

Nothing complicated.

Just welcome.

Then something else happens.

As visitors wander through the galleries, she hopes they pause. Look a little closer. Feel something unexpected.

"I want them to experience wonder and awe," she emphasizes.

That quiet moment, when a painting stops you mid-step, or a sculpture sparks a new idea, is where art begins to do its work.

Like a spark catching dry wood.



Jennifer McCary, PhD

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Wes Moore's AI Warning to Black America The

By Kevin Harris and Richard McDaniel

When Amazon cuts 30,000 jobs and Black workers hold nearly 20 percent of the roles being eliminated while making up just 13 percent of the workforce, that is not a coincidence. That is a pattern. And it is accelerating.

The layoffs are part of a broader AI driven economic shift that is already reshaping who works, who advances and who is left behind. And by every measurable indicator, African American workers are among the most exposed.

Bureau of Labor Statistics data show Black workers account for nearly 20 percent of clerical and administrative support roles despite being just 13 percent of the workforce. This matters because African Americans remain overrepresented in the exact job categories AI is replacing.

Amazon diversity reports show Black employees make up a large share of fulfillment and support roles but less than eight percent of technical positions. Across many of Amazon's core business units including warehousing, logistics and transportation, Black workers are overrepresented by as much as 30–40 percent in certain metro areas, while remaining significantly underrepresented in software, data science, and AI engineering roles.

The economic consequences of such disparities are severe. The median Black household has \$44,900 in wealth, compared to \$285,000 for white households, according to the Federal Reserve's latest Survey of Consum-



Kevin Harris



Richard McDaniel

er Finances. And Black workers who experience layoffs take longer to find new jobs and face larger post-layoff wage penalties than white workers with similar credentials.

AI-driven displacement threatens to widen these gaps. A 2024 report from the National Bureau of Economic Research found workers displaced by automation experience earnings losses of 20–30 percent lasting more than a decade, with the steepest losses concentrated among Black workers without access to retraining or internal mobility.

Meanwhile, corporate investment in reskilling lags far behind automation spending. The World Economic Forum reports that while 60 percent of companies expect AI to eliminate roles, fewer than 25 percent have retraining pipelines tied to guaranteed job placement. Amazon's own upskilling programs reach only a fraction of the workers most at risk.

Lawmakers should respond aggressively to reduce harm to Black workers. Maryland Governor Wes Moore, currently the nation's only Black governor, understands the threats AI can pose for African American workers. In his recent State of the State address, Governor Moore pointed directly to artificial intelligence as one of the defining forces reshaping the economy, arguing that AI will determine who has access to opportunity in the next generation and who is left behind.

Moore framed AI not simply as a technological breakthrough, but as a workforce challenge that demands intentional public investment, emphasizing that states must prepare workers for AI-driven change rather than react after jobs disappear. He stressed that innovation without inclusion will deepen inequality, and that the government has a responsibility to ensure emerging technologies expand opportunity rather than concentrate it.

Moore's remarks underscore the stakes for Black America. If AI policy focuses only on productivity gains while ignoring who occupies the jobs being automated, displacement will fall hardest on Black communities already facing structural barriers to wealth and mobility. His call to align education, workforce development and economic growth around emerging technologies underscores the need for targeted investment in institutions that serve Black workers at scale, particularly HBCUs.

HBCUs produce nearly 25 percent of Black STEM graduates despite receiving a fraction of the funding of predominantly white institutions, and they already serve as trusted on-ramps for first-generation and working-class students into high-demand fields. With targeted investment, HBCUs can rapidly expand programs in data analytics, machine learning, cybersecurity, cloud engineering, and applied AI.

HBCU partnerships can build paid apprenticeships, AI co-ops, and credential pathways that move Black workers from declining roles into growing ones, rather than leaving them to compete in an unequal labor market after displacement. Every dollar invested in AI labs, faculty, research partnerships, and employer-linked training at HBCUs reduces the risk that Black workers will be permanently locked out of the next economy. And we must remember that Black representation matters in AI.

Currently, less than five percent of American AI professionals are Black. This lack of representation shapes which jobs are automated and which are protected. If African Americans are excluded from AI design, they will be disproportionately left out of its benefits.

Amazon's layoffs are already history. The question now is whether our policy response moves as fast as the technology did or whether Black workers are still waiting for help when the next round of cuts comes.

Kevin Harris and Richard McDaniel are veteran Democratic strategists with over 100 political campaigns between them, including the past five presidential elections and several congressional races. They co-host "Maroon Bison Presents: The Southern Comfort Podcast."



Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland

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WGTE, Sojourner's Truth Collaborate on *The Local Thread*

WGTE Public Media continues to grow its presence throughout Northwest Ohio as a leader in locally produced public affairs programming, and *The Local Thread* radio and podcast series is a key component of this initiative. The program serves as a hub for discussion about the issues, individuals and institutions that are driving change in the area, and WGTE is proud to partner with *The Sojourner's Truth* in this endeavor.

Since January 2026, *The Local Thread* has featured *A Moment of Truth*

each Thursday, with hosts leading conversations on a wide range of important topics and sharing lessons learned from those in the Black community who have blazed trails in business, health, education and more.

Hosted by Asia Nail, Ricky Tyrus, Stayce Fowler, Alex Leatherberry and Fletcher Word, *A Moment of Truth* features thoughtful conversations with local leaders, advocates and businesspeople. By highlighting the ideas, challenges and achievements that continue to shape the region. These discussions build on the long tradition of community-centered journalism that has defined *The Sojourner's Truth* over the years.

A Moment of Truth reflects a shared commitment between WGTE and *The Sojourner's Truth* to present stories authentically, by people who bring their lived experiences to important issues. By providing an avenue for these discussions, *The Local Thread* can bring new perspectives to new audiences across the WGTE listening area and beyond, through podcast platforms.

"*The Sojourner's Truth* strives to bring the African American community in-depth, objective information about the issues that matter most, as well as thoughtful editorials and opinion," said Fletcher Word, publisher of *The Sojourner's Truth*. "Being part of *The Local Thread* allows us to continue that work in a new format while reaching listeners throughout Northwest



Ricky Tyrus of Tyus Tours and Travel



Alexandria Leatherberry, The Truth Reporter



Asia Nail, The Truth Reporter



Stayce Fowler, Publisher, Pursuit Magazine

Ohio who want to better understand the perspectives and experiences of our community."

"The mission of public media is to reflect and serve the entire community, and to present points of view that are often overlooked by other media outlets," said Shane Potgieter, Content and Creative Services Officer at WGTE. "*The Sojourner's Truth* has been a respected institution for over 20 years, and we are proud to partner with them as we grow our commitment to meaningful public affairs programming. We believe these are the kind of partnerships that keep public media relevant as times change."

A Moment of Truth can be heard on *The Local Thread* each Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. on WGTE-FM 91, with episodes also available at www.wgte.org/amomentoftruth and on the WGTE App.

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Ohio Black Media Week... continued from page 4

for all people," Rogers says.

Beloved Black Community

"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty." —Maya Angelou (*The New York Times* and *The Oakland Tribune*)

We stand on the shoulders of giants—those whose unwavering voices have echoed throughout history, shaping the course of a nation. The writers, journalists and press creators who paved the way fought not just for representation, but for the recognition of our power, our intellect, and our humanity.

"Ohio Black Media Week" will commemorate our stories, told on our terms, from the archives of slavery to the roaring winds of the civil rights movement. We were, and are, not just surviving—we are thriving in a legacy of strength and defiance, one that continues to inspire and empower us today.

Let us remember that the Black press and Black creatives have always been at the forefront of our struggle for justice, equality, and empowerment. Our resilience is written in the pages of history, in the ink of those who refused to be silenced, in the beats of hearts that refused to break. We've always understood that when we tell our own stories, we own our future. So, to every Black writer, every journalist, every artist, and every creator: your work matters. It is vital, it is necessary, and it is part of the fabric that weaves us into a magnificent legacy.

The Future of Black Media

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots." —Marcus Garvey, posthumously pardoned 2025 (*The Negro World*, UNIA's official newspaper)

Representative Rogers puts it best: "We want black media to thrive and be around for another 400 years."

His words serve as a reminder that Black media is not just an industry—it's a living legacy, one of resilience, empowerment, and transformation. And as long as there are stories to tell, injustices to expose, and truths to be preserved, the Black Press will continue to write history.

Because information is power—and that power belongs to us all.



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Wednesday, March 18, 2026,
by 12:00 p.m., at 3737 W. Sylvania Avenue,
 Ste. 121, Toledo, Ohio 43623.

Honoring the 6888th – “No Mail, Low Morale”

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

State Rep. Erika White (D-Springfield Township) has successfully passed her first piece of legislation ... and it's a doozy. On Monday, March 9, White hosted an event at the Lucas County Veterans Service Commission to celebrate the first 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day and to honor groups and individuals who have been so important to the military veterans of Lucas County.

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day is a result of White's sponsorship, along with co-sponsor Melanie Miller (R-Ashland), of House Bill 204, and the subsequent passage of Senate Bill 17, to honor the 855 women of the only Black women's Army Battalion to serve overseas during World War II.

The 6888th arrived in England under the command of Major Charity Adams, during the last year of the war to literally sort out the disastrous mail situation that had prevented servicemen from receiving mail from their loved ones stateside. The 6888th found themselves with the assignment of dealing with 17 million pieces of mail in the backlog – a backlog that their Army superiors had estimated would take six months to sort out and have delivered. The 6888th accomplished the task in less than three months.

Then they were dispatched to France after V-E Day, first Rouen and then Paris, to sort and distribute mail, some of it was a three-year backlog of letters. They completed that task also in a remarkably short amount of time.

The last members of the 6888th returned home by February 1946 to no fanfare and no recognition of their service. Their contributions to the war ef-



Rebecca West-Estell receives commemorative plaque from



Retired Staff Sergeant Renata Morgan



State Rep. Meredith Lawson-Rowe



State Rep. Erika White

fort remained largely unnoticed until 2009 when the battalion was honored at the Women in Military Service of America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 2021, the U.S. Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th.

Rep. White's legislation was particularly apt given that Major Charity Adams (later Charity Adams Early) spent most of her post war life in Ohio, attending Wilberforce University and earning a masters degree from the Ohio State University. She settled in Dayton in the early 1950s with her husband Stanley Early, a physician.

On Monday, March 9, Rep. White and guests celebrated the inaugural Central Postal Directory Battalion Day at the Lucas County Veterans Service Commission with a program that included remarks by State Representative Meredith Lawson (D-Reynoldsburg); remarks by retired Staff Sergeant and author Renata Morgan along with the presentation of commendations by Rep. White to three area groups or individuals that have been crucial to bringing assistance to veterans.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment," said Rep. Lawson of White's successful effort to pass the legislation. Lawson, ranking member of the Ohio House Veterans and Military Development Committee, spoke of the achieve-

...continued on page 13

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International Women's Day Luncheon Sparks Dialogue on Caregiving and the Workplace

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Women of Toledo brings leaders together to examine how policies, businesses and communities can better support working families

More than a celebration, this year's **International Women's Day luncheon** in Toledo became a working conversation about the realities families face every day.

Hosted by **Women of Toledo**, the annual luncheon drew community leaders, business professionals and advocates to the **Glass City Center** on March 10. This year's theme, "*Reimagining the Systems that Shape Care, Culture and Community*", invited attendees to take a closer look at something many workers quietly juggle every day: caregiving.

The conversation stretched across industries. Leaders from government, healthcare, law and entrepreneurship shared perspectives on how workplaces and communities can better support people balancing careers while caring for children, aging parents, and other loved ones. One thing stood out from the discussion: for most workers, the demands of home travel with them to the workplace.

A Panel Reflecting the Workforce

The conversation featured a diverse panel of leaders whose professional and personal experiences intersect with the issue.

Panelists included **Abby Arnold**, deputy mayor for the City of Toledo; **Greg Braylock**, vice president of strategic integration at ProMedica; **Scot Hinshaw** of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick and president of Toledo Rotary; and **Navdeep Karamchandani**, co-owner and catering director of Balance.

Kristian Brown of 13ABC served as emcee for the afternoon, keeping the program moving. "It's inspiring to see so many leaders here committed to making care and community part of business strategy," she said, setting the tone for the discussion.

Entrepreneur and life coach **Amy Hall** guided the panel discussion. "As we talk about reimagining systems, we have to remember that it's real people behind every policy and every workplace structure," Hall reminded the audience early on.

Together, the panelists tackled a range of issues at the center of modern work life: access to childcare, workplace flexibility, talent retention, and the economic realities many families face.

The Realities Behind Workforce Participation

Several speakers emphasized that caregiving responsibilities affect workforce participation across industries.

Arnold noted that while the city government does not control public schools, the health of the school system plays a major role in a city's ability to attract and retain families.

"We recognize that a strong school system is paramount to a growing population," Arnold said. "Our role is often to convene conversations and ensure our strategies are aligned to grow the population in the city of Toledo." She added that employers can also contribute by creating opportunities for young people to build careers locally. Programs that connect students with early

... continued on page 10



Stephanie Covington, Nicole Beltran, Sara Best, Nina Corder, Cristina Rodriguez, Diana Patton



Clara Petty and Capucine Dickerson



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Nina Corder and Kristian Brown

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The Black Contractors Association of Toledo

The Truth Staff

In 2024, Blair Johnson established the Black Contractors Association of Toledo – an organization “dedicated to supporting an empowering Black contractors and business owners in Toledo and the surrounding areas”

The BCAOT welcomes contractors from all fields, including construction, logistics, landscaping and multiple other services and provides a platform for networking, collaboration and knowledge sharing.

The group meets periodically and held their last meeting on Saturday, March 7 for a breakfast meeting at Sam & Charlies White Diner to connect



Blair Johnson and Kim Dixon



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If interested in learning more, you can contact the BCAOT on Facebook.

International Women's Day...continued from page 9

work experience can help young residents see a future in the region. “We hope the outcome is that kids in our community see a pathway to stay in our community,” she explained.

Greg Braylock highlighted the business implications of supporting families. “If we’re not offering support for childcare and family needs, we risk losing talented employees to other cities, and that’s a real threat to our businesses,” he said, reinforcing that family-friendly policies are no longer optional perks but essential for attracting and retaining skilled workers.

Navdeep Karamchandani added perspective from entrepreneurship: “Balancing work and caregiving isn’t just a challenge for employees, it’s a chance for businesses to rethink how they operate.”

Scot Hinshaw reminded attendees that systemic solutions require cooperation. “The future of our community depends on employers, nonprofits, and the government working together to support families, no one can do it alone,” he encouraged.

Childcare Remains a Central Challenge

Childcare quickly rose to the top of the conversation. Panelists acknowledged what many parents already know firsthand: when childcare becomes too expensive or simply unavailable, families face impossible choices. For many households, that means one parent steps away from the workforce, and more often than not, it’s the mother.

The impact doesn’t stop at home. Employers feel it too. When parents leave their jobs because care isn’t accessible, businesses lose experienced workers. Recruiting and retaining talent becomes harder, especially in a competitive labor market.

Audience questions even took the conversation beyond U.S. borders. Panelists discussed childcare systems in other countries, like France. While those models differ widely from the American approach, the panel agreed on one point: real progress here will require cooperation between employers, government, and nonprofit partners.

Communities Must Work Together

As economic and political pressures affect organizations nationwide, panelists acknowledged that maintaining progress can feel challenging.

“We’ve got to dig in even more,” Arnold said, referencing ongoing budget pressures and workforce challenges. “In Toledo, nobody else is coming to save us. As a community, we’ve got to hold strong.”

Data Reveals the Scope of the Challenge

After the panel concluded, Wendy Pestrue, president and CEO of the United Way of Greater Toledo, stepped forward with a call to action rooted in data.

Her remarks focused on ALICE households — families who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed. These households work, often full time, yet still struggle to cover basic needs. In Lucas County, Pestrue noted, roughly 42 percent of families live at or below the ALICE threshold. That means many households are one unexpected expense away from a financial crisis.

“A car repair, a hospitalization, even the cost of medication,” she explained. “Those moments can push families to the edge.”

Women, she added, often carry the heaviest share of that burden. A large percentage of households at the ALICE level are led by women, as most calls seeking childcare assistance come from women looking for help.

To address those needs, United Way has expanded its 211 service, a local hotline that connects residents with resources for housing, food assistance, childcare, and other support.

The organization is also helping convene partners around a childcare initiative known as the Tri-Share model. Under that approach, the cost of childcare is split among families, employers and public funding sources, easing the financial strain on parents. The idea is simple: when families can afford childcare, they are better able to stay employed and maintain financial stability.

Reimagining Systems for the Future

In closing remarks, Nina Corder, executive director of Women of Toledo, reminded attendees that changing systems requires more than conversation. It requires participation.

... continued on page 13

Legacy to Action: Gerald E. Rose's Growing Fight for Justice

By Austin R. Cooper, Jr.
Special to The Truth

Gerald E. Rose is turning a family legacy of civil rights advocacy into an expanding national movement through the New Order Human Rights Organization (NOHRO).

Rose has transformed a family legacy of activism into a growing national movement advocating for justice. As the founder of NOHRO, Rose is leading an expanding grassroots effort to fight systemic barriers faced by Black Americans and underserved communities across the country.

What began as a local effort has gradually grown into a wider platform for advocacy, accountability, and community empowerment.

A Legacy That Inspired a Movement

Rose's dedication to social justice is deeply shaped by his father, the Rev. Floyd Rose, a respected civil rights advocate in Toledo, Ohio, known for his commitment to defending the dignity and rights of marginalized communities.

Growing up, he saw firsthand how advocacy can make a difference and why it's important to stand up for those whose voices are often ignored.

"My father believed advocacy meant standing in the gap for people who didn't always have someone fighting for them," Rose said. "That principle guides everything I do."

For Rose, founding the New Order Human Rights Organization was more than just establishing an organization — it was continuing a mission his father dedicated his life to.

From Local Effort to National Vision

Under Rose's leadership, NOHRO, established in 2000 and based in Atlanta, Georgia, has expanded to serve 17 cities across the country, building a network of activists, community leaders, and volunteers dedicated to addressing local family issues.

However, his vision goes far beyond the organization's current scope. He aims to expand the foundation's presence to 50 cities by the end of 2026, establishing a nationwide network capable of responding swiftly to civil rights issues and community needs.

"We want to be where the need is greatest," Rose said. "Real change happens when communities are organized and empowered to advocate for themselves."

Confronting Barriers to Opportunity

The organization tackles issues that often overlap in the lives of marginalized communities. Its priorities include fighting racial profiling, helping individuals overcome employment barriers, supporting students and families facing challenges in the school system, and advocating for meaningful education reform.

Through advocacy, community outreach, and collaboration with local leaders, the organization aims to highlight inequities and offer practical support to individuals facing these challenges.

Rose believes that tackling these issues together is essential for creating genuine and permanent change.

NOHRO has been involved in several cases that have garnered both national and international news coverage, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Leon Moss, Jr., a young man held at Fulton County Jail over contested charges. The New Order team works with legal experts and media to pursue justice.
- Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old murdered in a hate crime, with Rose among the first to rally outside the Glynn County Courthouse.
- Terrell Carter Jr., a 39-year-old man with a history of mental illness, was shot 24 times in East Toledo, Ohio.
- Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old woman, died while in police custody in Texas. Rose is also no stranger to controversy. He publicly supported Michael Vick



Floyd and Gerald Rose



Gerald Rose, leader of New Order National Human Rights Organization

during the dogfighting scandal, even writing him weekly letters while in prison. "Everybody said, 'Gerald, why are you supporting him?' But I also saw the bigger picture — a man, not just his mistakes."

Empowering Communities Via Advocacy

Beyond raising awareness, the NOHRO focuses on empowering communities with resources and support systems designed to help individuals overcome institutional barriers.

Community workshops, partnerships with local organizations, and grassroots organizing are essential parts of the foundation's strategy. By building strong local networks, Rose aims to strengthen communities' ability to advocate for themselves.

"Empowerment begins when people realize they are not alone," Rose said. "Our duty is to help communities organize, speak out, and demand the opportunities they deserve."

Creating a Legacy for Future Generations

For Rose, the work involves not just tackling today's challenges but also building the foundation for future generations.

By broadening the organization's reach and strengthening partnerships in communities nationwide, he aims to build a sustainable movement capable of influencing policies and expanding opportunities for those who have historically been marginalized.

"Our mission goes beyond today's problems," Rose said. "It's about creating pathways for the next generation to succeed and making sure that justice and opportunity are rights, not privileges."

For more information on NOHRO, please visit www.nohro.com or call (800)-346-5138.

Jennifer McCary... continued from page 5

Like a lantern suddenly glowing in the dark.

For **Dr. Jennifer McCary**, creating those moments isn't simply her profession. It's her calling.

And as the **Arts Honoree** at the **YWCA Milestones celebration**, her work reminds the community that art doesn't just hang on museum walls.

It lives in conversations.

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And it shines brightest when it connects people to each other, and to the world around them.

Learn more about the YWCA Milestones celebration and this year's honorees here

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How to Talk to Your Family About Money

Special to The Truth

Money management is not only a logistical challenge for many families, it can be an emotional one too, especially when it comes to transferring wealth from one generation to the next. Open, honest conversations about your financial values and intentions can cut through some of the stress, and help family members avoid resentment, confusion and even legal strife down the line.

“With American Boomers poised to transfer an estimated \$68-\$124 trillion dollars to their Gen X, Millennial and Gen Z heirs by 2048, the time to have the conversation with your family about money and inheritance is right now,” says Heather Hunt-Ruddy, divisional leader, Wealth & Investment Management at Wells Fargo. “It starts with letting go of the notion that money is a topic to avoid.”

Hunt-Ruddy offers these tips to facilitate productive communication in your family:

Don't wait to plan: Don't postpone key decisions about your health, caregiving and estate until there is a crisis. Pressure can cloud judgment and lead to snap decisions. Worse still, a sudden illness or accident may leave you unable to speak for yourself. Get your house in order now – drawing up or updating an estate plan and other legal documents, selecting a power of attorney, and developing an advantageous strategy for wealth transfer – so that your wishes can be carried out as intended.

Don't wait to share: Emergencies are also not the best time to share important decisions about your estate with your family. Begin the conversation intentionally and calmly.

Keep it up: Once the ice is broken, get into a rhythm of recurring financial conversations where you discuss goal-setting, review milestones and go over any updates or changes to your plans. It's helpful to know in advance what topics you'd like to cover and who you'd like to be present for each conversation.

Set the tone: It's important that financial conversations go beyond just numbers on the page. By maintaining a collaborative tone and leading with open-ended questions, you can foster a multi-sided dialogue that ensures everyone's voices are heard, concerns are aired, and values are shared.

Prepare the next generation: Many younger adults lack financial know-how. To empower the next generation to manage the inheritance you leave them, as well as navigate their own finances, consider introducing them to the team that helped create your estate planning strategy, such as your attorney, financial advisor and CPA. It's also helpful to recognize that their needs and preferences may differ from yours. For example, younger individuals may prefer holistic financial advice delivered digitally. Ultimately, you'll want to ensure your children or other beneficiaries have both basic financial experience and are set up with a team they trust.

More insights on generational wealth and other financial topics can be found by visiting wellsfargo.com/advisors.

“To honor the values, hard work and hopes for the future that your wealth represents, don't give the matter short shrift. Balance the art and science of preserving generational wealth not only with a smart financial strategy, but by inviting the next generation into the conversation early and often,” says Hunt-Ruddy.

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Courtesy StatePoint

Business Books on Diversity by Various Authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

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Your entire investment portfolio, in fact, is diversified. As an investor and a businessperson, you know how important that is for your bottom line; you also know what a benefit diversity is in your customer base and your workforce, and how homogeneity isn't necessarily a good thing in the long run. So now read more, and get ready to grow....

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Start out by understanding how the banking and finance industries have worked against African Americans and other minorities by reading *The Racial Wealth Gap: A Brief History* by Mehrsa Baradaran (WW Norton, \$24.00).

Did you know that, on average, a white household in America has around six times more wealth than a Black household has? This obviously affects African Americans, but it also affects businesses at large and the future of society in general. Baradaran shows how this inequality in everything financial has been in place for decades, how it has roots in Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Movement, and what can be done to fix these nefarious issues of poverty brought by financial disparity.

Along the same lines, reading *The Real Ones: How to Disrupt the Hidden Ways Racism Makes Us Less Authentic* by Maya Rupert (Dutton, \$30.00), can help you learn to recognize the need for people of color to be true to themselves. A lack of authenticity, or a perceived need to change to fit in, can

lead to problems, and Rupert explains why and how this is detrimental to work and in simple everyday getting-by.

Readers' eyes will be opened wide here, because she also shares personal stories of learning to be inauthentic, how it affects everyday life, she offers behind-the-scenes peeks at politics, and she gives plenty of advice for open-minded business people.

And finally, just when you think you know a lot about a tool you use every day, along comes a book like *The Inattention Economy: How Women of Color Built the Internet* by Lisa Nakamura (University of Minnesota Press, \$24.95).

Chances are, you've been online for at least a couple decades – so long, that you barely think about it when you successfully log in. Read this book, though, and you'll learn a few surprising stories about the women behind your computer's parts, the queer woman who launched an influential social media page, as well as women who worked in Silicon Valley, those who toiled behind-the-scenes in tech fields, and the women who otherwise contributed to the equipment you couldn't do your job without. The story is a little on the technical side, so beware, but it's also pretty astonishing.

If these books about diversity, racial gaps and inequality in the workplace aren't enough for you, then head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask for help. The staff there know how to figure out what you want, and they can put books directly in your hands. As for these three books, above, they're interesting for work or for fun, and they make great all-staff reads. So go ahead, stock up.



Honoring the 6888th...continued from page 8

ments of the 6888th during WWII and the way they solved the problem of the mail delivery for service members and their families.

"The task seemed simple enough but is there anything simple that Black women do?" asked Lawson. The millions of pieces of mail that the women of the 6888th had to sort and distribute fell to "overlooked and underestimated women," she added.

Morgan also lauded the efforts of the 6888th in undertaking and solving such an enormous problem. A former military police officer, Morgan has served in a war zone and was inspired by the story of the 6888th. She spoke of the "unwavering commitment and sacrifice" the women made. Morgan, a Toledoan, served as part of the 6888th cast in Tyler Perry's 2024 film "The Six Triple Eight."

"History remained unrecognized for too long," said Rep. White during her remarks about the significance of the 6888th and the women who served in the battalion. "Patriotism is not measured by who receives recognition at that moment ... service matters, sacrifice matters."

White then recognized several local individuals and presented them with proclamations. The honorees were: Rebecca West-Estell, a veteran and attorney; Lisa Canales-Smith, founder of Angels Outreach, and David Oravec, executive director of the Lucas County Veterans Service Commission.

International Women's Day...continued from page 10

"The system is not broken," she said. "It's just disconnected."

Closing that gap will take cooperation across sectors, employers, policymakers, nonprofits, and community advocates alike. And, she emphasized, it will also take allies.

"Women cannot do this work alone," Corder told the audience. "It's about allyship."

Moving the Conversation Forward

As the luncheon concluded, the message remained clear: supporting caregivers strengthens families, businesses, and communities alike.

From flexible workplace policies to innovative childcare partnerships, solutions will require coordination between employers, policymakers, and nonprofit organizations. But the first step, many speakers said, is acknowledging the realities families face and committing to build systems that reflect modern life.

International Women's Day created the space for the conversation. What happens next — in offices, city halls, and community organizations — will determine whether the ideas shared that afternoon grow into the lasting change our communities need.

Learn more about upcoming programs and initiatives from Women of Toledo here.

Chicken Wings and Drummets Meal

Come join us at Phillips Temple CME Church 565 Palmwood Ave OR call 419-242-7906 to place your orders on Sunday, March 22, 1:30 to 4 pm, for our Chicken Wings and Drummets Meal for \$15. A choice of 2 Sides: Green beans, Mac-n-cheese, Scalloped potatoes, Cucumber or Potato Salad, Bread and Dessert. Take Out or Dine In





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CLASSIFIEDS

March 18, 2026

Page 15

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Electronic Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Reconstruct T-Hangar Taxilane A & B, Reconstruct T-Hangar Apron C project at Toledo Executive Airport, 28331 Lemoyne Road, Millbury, OH 43447, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The project consists of reconstructing the taxilane and apron pavements surrounding the T-Hangars at Toledo Executive Airport (TDZ). The project scope generally includes the demolition and removal of the existing pavements, installation of stormwater conveyance and stormwater quality improvements, construction of detention basin, construction of new asphalt and concrete pavement, and application of new surface markings.

This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion. The engineer's opinion of probable cost for this project is approximately \$2,225,000.00. The total contract duration is 63 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed, divided into three (3) phases. All materials procured, construction methods used, and construction activities must be done in accordance with FAA material specifications and guidance on operational safety on airports during construction referenced in the project documents.

Bids will be received through Bid Express, an online electronic bidding system, until Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at which time all bids will be opened through the Bid Express website.

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

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

Please note there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 10:00 AM. This meeting will be held at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions through the Bid Express service by Friday, March 13, 2026, at 10:00 AM local time. Questions submitted after the deadline will not receive a response. Additional information can be found at <https://www.toledoport.org/public-notices>

Thomas J. Winston
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PUBLIC NOTICE

2026-2027 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on its **Draft July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 One-Year Action Plan** to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before May 18, 2026. The One-Year Action Plan is based on the HUD-approved Five-Year 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan submitted by the City of Toledo for housing, community, and economic development.

The One-Year Action Plan includes a description of the federal funds anticipated to be received, as well as other resources expected to be available within the City of Toledo during the 2026-2027 program year. The Action Plan provides a description of the activities to be undertaken when using these resources and the expected results of those activities. Also, the Action Plan depicts a geographic distribution of assistance including Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs), special needs activities, general and public housing actions, and activities specific to the 2026 52nd Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 40th Year Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), 35th Year HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP) (if applicable), and the 2025 Lead Hazard Reduction Grant and Healthy Homes Supplement. In addition, the Plan will contain HUD-required certifications, as well as a summary of the community input received at the public hearings regarding the Action Plan.

The **Draft One-Year Action Plan** will be available for review beginning **Wednesday, March 25, 2026**, 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
1806 Madison Avenue
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
1806 Madison Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.endinghomelessness.toledo.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

Public Hearings on the **Draft One-Year Action Plan** are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, March 26, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 1st Floor
One Government Center, Toledo, OH 43604

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 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, March 25, 2026** through **Friday, April 24, 2026**, at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2026-2027 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
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.

INVITATION FOR BIDS RENOVATIONS AT BIRMINGHAM LEAD HAZARD ELIMINATION – PHASE V IFB26-B004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Birmingham Lead Hazard Elimination – Phase V in accordance with IFB26-B004**. Received in accordance with law until **April 06, 2026, at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

St. Paul MBC Holds Men's Day Weekend

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church held its annual Men's Day Celebration on March 7-8, 2026. "Men of God Walking in God's Will" (Ecclesiastes 5: 15-17) was the theme of this year's celebration.

"Those words speak directly to the heart of godly manhood," wrote Senior Pastor James H. Willis, Sr. "God has entrusted each of you with the power of choice – choices that shape families, strengthen the church and influence generations."

The weekend celebration began on Saturday morning with a Drive -By and Eat-In Breakfast. Congregants and friends joined Pastor Willis and guest pastors Otis Gordon and Damon Horton for a breakfast buffet prepared by church staff.

Also on hand was State Rep. Elgin Rogers who shared some thoughts with those gathered. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," (Matthew 6:21), he said in opening his remarks. "It's not about Elgin, it's about the people you can help," he added.

Rogers' message on Men's Day Weekend was to inform attendees that he has introduced a bill that will focus on men's health. "Take Your Dad to the Doctor and Dentist Day," is the title of the proposed legislation which was inspired by the recent passing of his own father.

Rogers also spoke of some funds he has managed to bring home to Toledo to assist the YWCA in their capital campaign and for the MLK Kitchen for the Poor for the operating expenses.

"The only way we stay together is if we stand together," he added in closing.

On Sunday, service began at 10:45 with a musical selection from the Men's Day Choir, then a Call to Worship by Bro. Jason Fisher.

Deacon Chrles Mathews followed with the invocation and Brother Demitrius Haynes welcomed the congregation and guests. After the recognition of those guests, the Men's Day Choir presented another musical selection.



Pastor James Willis, Sr; Councilman John Hobbs, III; Deacon Bobby McDole; Min. Stanley Clark

A scripture reading by Deacon Thomas Kirby and an Offertory Prayer by Deacon Michael Evans led to the introduction of the speaker by Pastor James Willis.

The Sunday speaker was Toledo Councilman John Hobbs, III.

Hobbs was appointed to City Council in 2020 and subsequently won election to retain his District 1 seat in November 2023. He serves as vice chair of the Regional Growth, Developmental & Small Business Enterprise Committee and chair of the Public Safety & Criminal Justice Reform Committee, among other assignments.

Hobbs, a graduate of St. Francis de Sales High School and The Ohio State Barber College, earned a bachelors degree in Public Relations from the University of Toledo.

He is the founding Pastor at Dominion Fellowship Church, where he has served for over two decades.

Hobbs address to the congregation followed the event's theme – "Men of God Walking in God's Will."

This year's Men's Day Celebration was organized by Deacon Bobby McDole, chair, and Deacon Joseph Diggins, co-chair.



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St. Paul Men's Day celebrants



Pastor James Willis, Sr



Breakfast is served



State Rep. Elgin Rogers



Rev. Damon Horton and Otis Gordon

