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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

April 1, 2026

**A Life of Healing, Faith and Purpose**



*Dr. Tanya Baldwin, Chief of Staff, St Charles Hospital - Mercy Health*

***In This Issue..***

Perryman  
Page 2

Cover Story:  
Dr. Tanya Baldwin  
Page 5

Sacred Steel Anniversary  
Page 8

Healthy  
Eating  
Page 10

Mental Health  
Page 12

Classifieds  
Page 15

Tolliver  
Page 3

Blair Johnson Letter  
Page 6

HeForShe Mix  
& Mingle  
Page 9

Skin Care  
Page 11

Book  
Review  
Page 13

YWCA 2016  
Milestones  
Page 16

# The Belonging Gap

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

The Truth Contributor

*I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.*

- Maya Angelou



The Onion didn't lie. And we out here know it.

The satirical publication recently named the University of Toledo the nation's top school "to attend for a semester before dropping out to do hair." The university president made a self-deprecating video. The mayor joked about his thinning hairline. Toledo's leadership declared, as always, that we are a city that can take a punch.

You know what? A joke only lands when it exposes something true. The Onion called out a reality at UT—many students, especially Black and brown students, drift through or leave without finishing. That is not new or funny to us; it's something our community has faced alone for years.

UT's enrollment is dropping fast. Meanwhile, Bowling Green State University and Owens Community College are surging.

The explanation is urgent, but simple: It has a birth certificate. The 2007-08 Great Recession sharply and relentlessly suppressed birth rates nationwide. The babies not born during that period are today's missing college students. Now, a dwindling pool is divided among as many or more Midwestern institutions. Every university in the region is scrambling for fewer students.

But what Higher Ed administrators call the "demographic cliff" did not fall evenly. Black births have held steady. Latino birth rates, instead of plateauing, surged by a third in the last decade. By 2045, Latinos are projected to compose a quarter of the U.S. population. Which universities survive this contraction hinges entirely on Black and brown students. Every enrollment strategist already knows this.

So why isn't the University of Toledo acting like it?"

Community observers say the issue is not resources, location or program quality. UT has a College of Nursing, a College of Engineering, a College of Law, and its own medical center — UPMC. Moreover, UT recently earned R1 research designation — the highest Carnegie classification for research activity. On paper, UT should be drawing students from across the region.

The core issue is belonging. UT has programs and accolades, but students—especially from Black and brown communities—do not feel at home. That is what's missing.

When asked to explain the gap between UT and BGSU, both community members and higher education observers, unprompted, pointed to one word: belonging.

Here's the reality: belonging is not a program. You can manufacture task forces, rename offices or departments, rebrand websites—none of it creates true belonging. It's embedded in the culture, or it's absent, with no in-between.

The theologian Walter Wink wrote that every institution — every school, every corporation, every organization — has both an outer form and an inner spirit. That inner spirit, he argued, is not metaphor. It is as real as the buildings and budgets, and something you can feel as soon as you walk into a building or set foot on a campus. It animates the institution, legitimates it and either draws people in or pushes them away. What our community has been describing — that feeling you get when you walk onto the BGSU campus versus the UT campus — is not sentiment. It is Wink's inner spirit made visible in a golf cart, a move-in-day handshake and a sweatshirt sported on a weekday.

At Bowling Green, the university president gets in a golf cart to personally greet a promising recruit. On move-in day, leadership helps families unpack their cars. These are not photo ops or grand gestures. They are daily acts that communicate a single message: you matter here. BGSU has deliberately built that culture, and it shows — in enrollment numbers, in retention rates, in the Falcon gear you see on an ordinary Tuesday.

When was the last time you saw an African American in a UT sweatshirt or tee, period? Or driving around town with a UT license plate? I haven't. That's not an accident—it's a warning sign.

Pride and belonging aren't just feelings; they signal institutional health. By this measure, UT is falling short—especially for Black and brown students.

UT's silence is also damning. The last publicly-accessible campus climate survey was conducted in 2017. Nearly a decade has gone by. We have no published data on whether people at UT feel they belong. Has anyone even asked?

UT's board, I am told, is operating under genuine political pressure from Columbus. The systematic dismantling of diversity programs has produced what one observer called institution fear — leaving a university gone quiet on inclusion, quiet on community partnership, quiet on what it is doing to recruit and retain Black and Latino students — at precisely the moment when the community it sits in needs it to speak.

BGSU faces the same pressure but acts. The difference is stark: they have the will. UT must find it—fast.

This is not a one-sided conversation. The Black and brown community needs UT — its programs, its credentials, its pathways to professional futures. And UT needs this community just as urgently.

The demographic math is clear. The pool of traditional 18-year-old college students is shrinking and will not recover. The only pipelines able to sustain enrollment are communities with stable or growing birth rates—Black and Latino communities—and non-traditional adult learners, whom community colleges have long embraced but four-year universities have not. Black and brown students are key to the institution's survival.

We ain't hard to find. People in the North end, in East Toledo, in barber shops, and in Black churches — they already know why Black students choose Bowling Green over Toledo. Go ask them. Then listen instead of doing all the talking. Do the same in the Latino community. Treat the experience as a covenant, not a photo op or press release.

Then, put those answers into policy, into scholarship endowments, into hiring, into the physical culture of welcome that currently exists 20 minutes south down I-75 and somehow not here.

Yes, Toledo can take a punch as well as anyone. But we would like, for once, to stop getting punched and having to get back "up out of the mud."

Yes, The Onion came to Toledo in search of a laugh. What it found — a university associated with interrupted ambitions rather than realized ones — is something this community has not had the luxury of laughing off.

So, the core question is: Do Black and brown students truly "belong" at the University of Toledo? Or do they not?

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, Ph.D., at [drldperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org](mailto:drldperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org)

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# Don the Con Is in Deep Trouble

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq'

Guest Column

If you have been watching just a smidgen of the news these past few days, you will come to the easy conclusion that Donald Trump, the self-professed "stable genius" and who "knows more than all of the generals," is in a sand trap up to his neck.

However, this sand trap is different. As in Florida, sometimes a sand trap can be a rest stop for a weary alligator on his way to the waterways. But for Trump, this economic and political sand trap of his own making, is loaded with alligators, water buffaloes and pythons.

Trump, due to dysfunctional thinking and an ego that rivals that of the size of the planet Jupiter, is boxed in due to his constant lies about everything about the economy and the disastrous war with Iran.

Trump has played hopscotch with his statements about who is doing what to whom and how he is the greatest negotiator for all time and that Iran will and is capitulating to his 15 point peace plan.

In a word: hogwash! Trump is flaying like a drowning man in a rough ocean and he is seeking any face-saving exit so that he can exult that he is the one person who ended the war that he started. How brave of him! How noble!

Mind you, I am no proxy or friend of the Iranian brutal regime and do not want them to get long range missiles that would jeopardize any nation that any ayatollah could, on any given day, threaten with a nuclear holocaust.

The acts of Trump in gas lighting the American public about the war and its now serious ramifications are worthy of impeachment or at least the cabinet members (will never happen) using the 25th amendment to oust him.

It is an enigma to see the American public becoming complacent bystanders as Trump plows ahead with a cacophony of political gibberish as to the great economy and his successful war, "going well" (remember, Trump said the war was won on the first day).

And who can forget Trump figuratively pounding the table saying he will not engage America in any more foreign wars. Now, in light of the 82nd Airborne being sent to the region, that lie got kicked to the curb!



If you are happy with the Trump telling the facile GOP not to approve TSA funding in the hopes that the Democrats will crumble and Trump can get his Jim Crow lite voting bill passed, think again.

The political disaster that is looming over the GOP in the upcoming midterms will be a test case of the resolution of the American voter to halt this further insanity of TSA lines, gas lines, bombing innocent civilians and Trump blaming Biden (yes, Biden is still his go to whipping boy when Trump is boxed in a dead end corner) for the high gas prices and the war!

If a screen writer were to have submitted such a story line for a movie deal, he or she would have been laughed out of the production offices of a movie company saying that such a plotline was too bizarre or fanciful. Not now, because in Trump's Alice In Wonderland thinking, nothing is too farfetched not to be believed or see put in place.

Maybe, just maybe Trump is bluffing about dropping the airborne troopers on Iranian territory and he is using it as a poker game bluff, but if the Iranians call that bluff, you could very well see dead American soldiers coming home in body bags to Dover, Delaware (the airport site for the return of deceased military personnel).

What are the chances that by the time this article is printed and read, that Congress, in order to save their Easter break time, will have settled this fiasco of their own making because none of them had the moral grit to speak truth to power?

And just think of it! A Democrat won a seat in the Florida Statehouse that encompasses Mar-A-Lago!

You talk about a red seat being blown out of the water! Of course, Trump will default to his usual position and talk about voter fraud or the Deep State but, whatever, Trump will be represented in his district by a Democrat.

So, I will say it again, if you are a resident of Lucas County, it not too soon to check your voter status and make sure you are registered to vote and that you know your voting precinct.

Don't wait until the last minute and if there is a problem due to you being lazy and you are stopped from voting...oh well. Just mumble and grumble to yourself, go home and order a pizza with sausage and banana peppers for dinner. You don't deserve anything else.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [Lafe5x@gmail.com](mailto:Lafe5x@gmail.com)

## Community Calendar

### March 28

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

### April 4

Braden United Methodist Church Community Easter Eggstravaganza will be held 11am-2pm. It's a free event and all are welcome. The address is 4725 Dorr St.

### April 19

Toledo NAACP Youth Council meeting; @3:00 pm at Sanger Branch Library; Lynnishia Foster President

### May 2

Warren AME Spring Tea: Bloom Where You Are Planted; 11:30 - 2:30 pm. Speaker, First Lady Sabrina Prince - The Cross Church. Vendor Tables Welcomed. Rsvp to: [darlenesawyer2751@gmail.com](mailto:darlenesawyer2751@gmail.com) 419.243.2237

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<sup>3</sup>Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

## Hicks-Hudson Condemns SNAP Funding Changes in H.B. 730

Last week, state Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) issued the following statement after Republicans in the Ohio Senate passed House Bill 730, a capital reappropriations bill that also changes how the state distributes administrative funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to underfund the program in Ohio's largest and highest-need counties.



"This distribution of SNAP funds for Ohio's counties is not only inequitable, but also short-sighted," said Hicks-Hudson. "The counties serving the largest populations of SNAP recipients will now receive less funds. The counties that keep the state's SNAP error rates low will have less funds. The staff who process applications and address fraud, waste, and abuse will be reduced.

"Residents of all 88 Ohio counties will soon experience the consequences of this shortfall. There will be cuts to JFS staff, longer wait times on applications, and less GRF funds due to loss in federal backing for the SNAP program when error rates rise, which means that every Ohioan will soon suffer the consequences of this rash Majority decision."

Cuts to SNAP under the federal spending bill (H.R.1) created an estimated \$38.2 million immediate administrative shortfall for Ohio's SNAP program. To address this, Statehouse Republicans allocated \$12.5 million distributed equally across all 88 counties, rather than by caseload, leaving urban counties facing multimillion-dollar shortfalls while fully funding smaller counties.

The bill now heads to the governor for his signature.



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## Rep. White Opposes HB 347: Citing Threats to Healthcare Access, Maternal Health in Lucas County

State Rep. Erika White (D-Springfield Township) Wednesday issued the following statement on House Bill (HB) 347, legislation requiring a 24-hours waiting period for patients accessing reproductive care:



HB 347 threatens healthcare access by requiring doctors to provide information that is not supported by credible medical science, including unproven claims about reversing medication abortion. It also imposes unnecessary waiting periods and extra appointments, creating real financial and logistical burdens for families, including lost wages, childcare, transportation, and additional medical costs. These delays not only complicate care but can also increase health risks for patients.

"The primary sponsors of HB 347 do not have a medical background, yet their bill would require doctors to follow mandates that go against established medical science. In Lucas County, I represent families who deserve healthcare decisions guided by facts-not politics," said Rep. White.

During floor consideration, House Democrats introduced an amendment to expand access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) and other assisted reproductive treatments by requiring insurance coverage. The amendment was voted down 64-29.

Instead of addressing Ohio's affordability crisis, HB 347 diverts taxpayer resources to enforce medically inaccurate state mandates and creates additional obstacles for patients and providers. Each delay adds financial strain to families already working to make ends meet.

"House Democrats remain committed to protecting reproductive rights, ensuring patients receive accurate medical information, and advancing policies that make healthcare more accessible and affordable. Ohioans should not face unnecessary barriers to care or additional financial burdens-policy makers must focus on protecting health, respecting personal decisions, and making everyday life more affordable," concluded Rep. White.

House Democrats remain committed to protecting reproductive rights, ensuring patients receive accurate medical information, and advancing policies that make healthcare accessible and affordable. Ohioans should not face unnecessary barriers to care or additional financial burdens-policy makers must focus on protecting health, respecting choices, and making everyday life more affordable.

## Rep. Grim: HB 347 Undermines Healthcare, Ignores Ohio Voters, & Increases Costs for Families

State Rep. Michele Grim (D-Toledo) issued the following statement on House Bill (HB) 347, legislation requiring a 24-hours waiting period for patients accessing reproductive care:



"Ohio voters sent a clear message by passing Issue 1 in 2023: they are done with politicians interfering with their healthcare," said Rep. Grim. "Despite this, some in the statehouse continue to ignore the will of the people. I remain committed to upholding our Constitution and defending access to lifesaving healthcare every single day."

... continued on page 7

# Called to Care: Dr. Tanya Baldwin's Life of Healing, Faith, and Purpose

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Some women choose their careers. Others are called to them. That's what it feels like talking to **Dr. Tanya R. Baldwin, MD**. After almost 30 years in medicine, she doesn't make it complicated. "This is what I'm called to do," she says.

And it wasn't said in a big dramatic way. It was calm. Certain. Like she's had that conversation with herself before, and made peace with it.

Dr. Baldwin started her journey with **Mercy Health** as a Family Practice resident in 1998. She completed her residency and has been an attending physician ever since. She chose Mercy because its mission aligned with her personal values, and she chose Family Medicine because she loves treating the whole person and the whole family.

"I care for people at every stage of life, from brand new babies to seniors who have seen almost a century," explains Dr. Baldwin.

And when she talks about her career, you can tell, this isn't just a job she clocks into.

She's seen a lot over the years. Different families, different situations, different kinds of pain. And she's still right there in it.

Because to her, being a doctor isn't just about fixing what's wrong at the moment.

It's about understanding people.

"Family medicine helps me understand my patients better," she explains. "I may be seeing a woman, but I also see her kids, her parents...I get to understand the whole family."

And that matters more than people think.

Because health? It's not just what happens in an exam room. It's your stress. Your habits. Your family. Your environment. What you've been through. What you're still carrying.

All of that shows up, whether we realize it or not.

And over time, she's learned to look at all of it, not just one piece.

Honestly, her patients have taught her a lot too.

"Kids remind me how amazing life really is. Just watching them grow, how fast they change, how their little personalities start to show. It never really gets old," Dr. Baldwin shares.

Teenagers are different, she explains. They're trying to figure themselves out, but they don't always say what they're going through. Sometimes, you have to read between the lines.

And young adults? They're out here trying to build a life from scratch, figuring out work, responsibility, and relationships, all while trying to stay healthy.

Then comes midlife, and she gets real about that.

"At some point, we all become patients," she says with assurance.

That part sits with you.

Because what she's really saying is, you can't keep putting yourself on the back burner forever.

"It will catch up," she adds.

And then there are her older patients, who she talks about with so much respect.

She told me about a 93-year-old woman who came in recently. Drove herself to the appointment. Still doing her own housework, but frustrated because she has to take breaks now.

Dr. Baldwin had to gently tell her...that's okay.

"You're allowed to sit down," she said with a smile.

Because the truth is, not everyone even gets to that stage.

That moment alone kind of puts everything in perspective.

One thing she's big on? Staying active.

She's seen firsthand, people who keep moving, keep doing, they tend to live longer, more fulfilling lives. But beyond all of that, one thing she knows for sure is that trust matters.

Especially in communities where people have reasons to be skeptical.

So she keeps it simple.

"I'm transparent," she says. "And I let my patients ask questions." Then she asks them something you don't hear often from a doctor: "Do you trust me?"

If the answer is no, she doesn't get offended.

"I'm not for everybody," she reminds her patients. "But if you stay with me, I'll explain everything."

That honesty? That's what builds real trust.

Outside of work, she's a wife, a mom of three daughters, and now, a grandmother. And when she talks about that role, her whole tone shifts.

"Seeing your grandchildren for the first time is real love at first sight," she says smiling.

Still Dr. Baldwin's life hasn't just been smooth.

In 2024, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, completely out of the blue.

No family history. No warning.

She found a lump...and then doctors found another tumor on the other side. Just like that, everything changed.

She chose to have a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery. Thankfully, it was caught early, and she didn't need chemo or radiation.

But the bigger shift wasn't just physical.

"I had to slow down," she recalls. "God was telling me to sit down."

That part...you could feel.

Because sometimes we don't stop until we're forced to.

"It changed my life," she says.



Dr. Tanya Baldwin, MD

... continued on page 10

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# To The Editor,

Arlington Avenue has already been shut down since 2024 and now we're being told it will remain closed through 2028.

Let that sink in.

That's four years of disruption in a residential neighborhood.

This is not just a construction project. This is what happens when infrastructure is ignored for too long and then finally fails all at once.

They're not just fixing a section of road. They're replacing sewer lines all the way to Detroit Avenue and then rebuilding the roadway. That tells you everything. This is a system issue, not a small repair.

As a South Toledo resident living on Woodsdale, just five houses from the Arlington intersection, I am experiencing these impacts firsthand alongside my neighbors.

Meanwhile, the people who actually live on and around Arlington are dealing with it every single day:

- Limited access and constant disruption
- No reliable access for public transportation or even private vehicles for those without options
- Noise, dust, and construction traffic
- Ongoing sewer smells that get worse in the heat
- A real impact on overall quality of life

Residents with mobility challenges are placed in an even more difficult position, with limited safe and practical ways to navigate the area.

Students traveling to and from Bowsher and Arlington are also affected, with no clear or consistently safe routes to walk.

To be clear, the workers on this project are hardworking professionals doing their job. This is not on them.

This is the result of long-term infrastructure neglect and poor planning at the administrative level.

And the truth is, situations like this don't just affect convenience. They affect property values, stability, and whether people decide to stay in the neighborhood at all.

The bigger concern is this:

If it happened here, where is it going to happen next?



Blair Johnson

A lot of our infrastructure is decades old. Some of it has been patched instead of properly replaced for years. Arlington is not the exception... it is the warning.

We need to start having real conversations about:

- Preventative infrastructure planning, not just emergency repairs
  - Transparency on what areas are at risk next
  - How we support residents living through multi-year projects like this
- Because right now, too many people are being told to just deal with it and wait it out. That's not a plan.

This is exactly why community stabilization matters.

Strong neighborhoods require more than reaction. They require foresight, investment, and leadership that is willing to address problems before they turn into four year shutdowns.

Blair Johnson

Former Toledo City Council Candidate

South Toledo Resident (Woodsdale)

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# Could 2028 Be the Year the People Finally Pick the President?

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

This year, America marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence.

That should make us proud. It should also make us honest.

When my son was 11, we walked the Lexington battlefield in Massachusetts. As we crossed that ground, I told him our family descends from the youngest person to carry a musket there that day. He was just a boy. He stood in a different unit from his father. Father and son, both there. Father and son, both fighting for freedom. Father and son, both fighting for the right of a people to govern themselves.

Then I looked at my son and said: He was only two years older than you are now.

That moment has stayed with me.

So has another truth. Our roots in the Revolution run through both Massachusetts and Virginia. We also descend from Richard Bland of Virginia, who argued for the rights of the colonies before independence was declared.

So this year, as we mark 250 years since the Declaration, we should ask a simple question: Have we finished what those brave men, women and children started?

Not yet.

We elect our mayors by popular vote. We elect our governors by popular vote. But we still do not count every vote equally when we choose our president.

Try explaining that to a child. It is awkward.

Because democracy rests on a simple idea: the person with the most votes should win. One person, one vote.

Today, that is not how presidential politics works in practice. A few swing states get most of the attention. The rest of the country is pushed aside. Millions of Americans in red states and blue states alike are told, in effect, that their votes matter less in the one race that belongs to all of us.

That is not fairness. That is neglect.

There is another way.

It is called the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. It does not end the Electoral College. It uses it the way the Constitution allows. The Constitution gives state legislatures the power to decide how their electoral votes are awarded. Under this plan, states agree to give their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the most votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. No constitutional amendment is needed.

Virginia is now close to joining. The bill has passed both houses of the General Assembly. If Gov. Abigail Spanberger signs it, Virginia would become the 19th jurisdiction in the compact, joining states such as Vermont, Delaware, Maine and Illinois. Virginia is not some side note in this story. It is one of the places where the American idea of self-government first took root. If Virginia joins now, it will not be breaking with the founding. It will be honoring it.

That is not a radical idea. It is an American one. And it should not belong to one party.

This is not about helping Republicans. It is not about helping Democrats. It is about trusting the people.

That idea is not left-wing or right-wing. It is not urban or rural. It is not Black or white.

It is patriotic.

Of course, there are still obstacles. More states would need to join. Lawmakers would need to act. Courts may weigh in. None of this is certain.

But history does not move only when success is guaranteed. It moves when people decide that something is right.

And what better time than now?

What better way to honor America's 250th birthday than by taking one more step toward becoming the democracy we have always said we are?

The people who stood at Lexington did not risk their lives so future generations could accept minority rule. They did not fight so Americans would shrug when the person with the most votes loses.

They fought for freedom.

They fought for self-government.

They fought for the right of the people to decide their own future.

It is time to finish what they started.

Let the people decide.

Let the majority rule.



*Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president of the NAACP.*

*Rep Grim... continued from page 4*

HB 347 threatens healthcare access by requiring doctors to provide information that is not supported by credible medical science, including unproven claims about reversing medication abortion. It also imposes unnecessary waiting periods and extra appointments, creating real financial and logistical burdens for families, including lost wages, childcare, transportation, and additional medical costs. These delays not only complicate care but can also increase health risks for patients.

House Democrats attempted to introduce an amendment on the House floor to make IVF/assistive reproductive treatments affordable for Ohioans by making it covered by insurance. House Republicans voted it down 64-29.

Beyond healthcare, HB 347 directly conflicts with the will of Ohio voters. The Reproductive Freedom Amendment, passed in 2023, guarantees that the state cannot burden, penalize, or interfere with reproductive healthcare decisions. This legislation attempts to bypass those protections by imposing new barriers and requirements that are redundant, unnecessary, and unconstitutional.

Instead of addressing Ohio's affordability crisis, HB 347 diverts taxpayer resources to enforce medically inaccurate state mandates and creates unnecessary obstacles for patients and doctors. Each delay adds financial and logistical strain on families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

House Democrats remain committed to protecting reproductive rights, ensuring patients receive accurate medical information, and advancing policies that make healthcare accessible and affordable. Ohioans should not face unnecessary barriers to care or additional financial burdens-policy makers must focus on protecting health, respecting choices, and making everyday life more affordable.



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# Sacred Steel Museum Celebrates a Two-Year Anniversary and Years of Musical History

The Truth Staff

The Sacred Steel Music and History Museum, by Del and Kelli Grace, which opened in 2024, celebrated a two-year anniversary on March 28, 2026, as guests were treated to museum tours, refreshments and a concert by dozens of musicians steeped in the steel guitar tradition.

The Museum was established in 2024 by the Graces as a tribute to the rich history of steel guitar music in the African American tradition. Located at 2108 Collingwood Blvd inside of the Collingwood Presbyterian Church, visitors can learn about 80 years of sacred steel music tradition as well as its founder, Mary Lena Lewis Tate.

“Sacred Steel music, predominantly performed in African American Pentecostal churches, represents a distinct genre within American folk music. Whether used in worship services or other musical settings, it is one of the most vibrant and significant contributions to Pentecostal musical heritage,” according to the Sacred Steel website.

Musicians honored this tradition on Saturday by bringing to life that history through song as the packed house joined in the celebration and showed their appreciation.

The Sacred Steel Music and History Museum includes artifacts, biographies and interviews with those who have been a part of that history, including notable performers such as Felton Williams, Jr, The Campbell Brothers, Calvin Cooke, Aubrey Ghent, among many others. The museum also includes audio and video recordings – interviews, concerts and documentaries.

“Two years ago we had a ribbon-cutting ceremony,” recalled Del Grace on Saturday as he kicked off the musical part of the program. The purpose of the museum, he said, is to pay tribute to “two powerful African American music cultures whose stories intertwine to form the heartbeat of our mission.”

Those cultures, he said are the Sacred Steel tradition, “borne in the sanctified church,” and the Toledo Quartet Musical Association.

“This legacy ought to live on,” said Del Grace.

The museum is open to visitors on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – except the last Saturday of each month.

“This is the only museum of this kind in the US,” said emcee Angela Grace Russell, Del Grace’s sister, who was in town to join her family for the celebration.

Keep in mind that August is Sacred Steel Music and History Month in Toledo and a Sacred Steel Outdoor Festival will take place in August, featuring the living legends of the Sacred Steel tradition.



The Praise Dancers



Del and Kelli Grace



Del Grace's grandson




Lunch was served



# HeForShe Mix & Mingle Mixer Produces Toolboxes

*The Truth Staff*

The men of HeForShe held a Mix & Mingle on Saturday, March 28, at the Women of Toledo's buildHerstudio and helped a number of young women assemble toolboxes while continuing to provide them with the tools to create, build and lead with confidence.

HeForShe is a United Way Women's solidarity movement for gender equality which invites men and boys to build on the effort of the women's movement to create a vision of equality which will benefit all of humanity.

The movement was launched in 2014 by UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon and English actress Emma Watson (then UN Women Global Goodwill Ambassador).

This past Saturday's Mix & Mingle was also a fundraising effort. "We are building toolboxes that young women are going to decorate and we will sell," said Julia LaBay, an artist and the program coordinator for WOT.

HeForShe is a way to allow men to play a role in supporting women's economic empowerment. "This is our way to support that effort," said Jonathan Dorcelly, chair of the Toledo HeForShe organization.

Among the men joining Dorcelly on Saturday was Blair Johnson, a local contractor and one-time candidate for Toledo City Council. Johnson supplied the wood for the toolboxes and has been instrumental in the past with constructing much needed functional items for the buildHerstudio site.



*Blair Johnson demonstrates the assembly of a toolbox*



*Young women at work on a toolbox*



*Izzy Nelson, owner of Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, and Lisa Halsey, owner of Elite Karate, Fitness, and Wellness, prepare lunch*



*Jonathan Dorcelly completes a toolbox*



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# Back to Basics for Bountiful Options

By Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension, Lucas County

The Truth Contributor

Years ago, I remember a display created by a young colleague in Cleveland. She took basic, healthy, affordable foods and created a list of simple menu choices that could be made from each food. Not only could these food items like oatmeal, cabbage, or potatoes be made into a variety of options, but they also were a good way to stretch the grocery shopping budget. Although her recommendations were from decades ago, basic, affordable food options are timely in any era.

Cabbage and other large, leafy greens: Sauté large, sliced leaves in olive oil with seasoning like garlic, pepper, chili flakes and fresh herbs. Add a splash of vinegar or lemon juice for flavor. Add chopped leaves to a variety of soups, especially vegetable soup. Use fresh, raw cabbage and other vegetables like carrots, shredded finely, to create different types of slaws. The flavor of the slaw can be traditional or creative depending on the type of dressing you choose to add.

Chopped cabbage and other greens add flavor and additional vegetables to stir-fries. Chop it up, sauté, and serve over rice. Steam large leaves and then fill and "roll" with ingredients like rice, ground meat, spices and tomatoes. Cover the cabbage rolls with tomato sauce and cheese and bake. Another useful and healthy way is including fermented vegetables in your diet such as sauerkraut and kimchi.

Potatoes are another affordable and diverse option for creating different menus. A simple baked potato can turn into a simple but tasty meal by offering a "make your own" potato topping bar. Some topping ideas include, chives, chili, shredded chicken, chopped broccoli, salsa, black beans, shredded cheese, cottage cheese, or plain yogurt. Classic ways to prepare potatoes also include

mashed, roasted, or added as a soup ingredient. There are many different types of potato salads. Like the slaws listed above, depending on the type of dressing, seasons and ingredients, it can be a vinegar type salad or creamy.

A bowl of hot oatmeal is the basic way to prepare it for breakfast. Consider adding toppings to your hot bowl or cold overnight oats to

add more taste and nutrition. For example, add a drop of vanilla and seasoning like cinnamon. Add some chopped nuts and your favorite fresh or canned fruit. The advantage of overnight oats is that you can prepare a day or two ahead, mix the oats with some milk and yogurt, favorite toppings and then grab-and-go.

If you're making pancakes for breakfast or breakfast-for-dinner, Mix oats into pancake batter, it is an easy way to add texture and fiber to help you feel full longer. Energy bites are simple, no-bake snacks. University of Maryland Extension recommends mix 3 cups oats, ½ cup peanut or other nut or seed butter, ¼ cup honey or syrup, and ½ cup raisins or dried cranberries. Roll into balls and chill in the refrigerator until firm. Oats are a whole grain and can be used in place of breadcrumbs for meals like meat loaf, no matter what type of ground meat you choose. They can stretch the meal farther and as a whole grain, they add fiber to the meatloaf.

April Showers bring May Flowers! If you are looking to stretch your budget for gardening, be sure to attend the 2026 Toledo Plant Exchange on Saturday, May 2. The Toledo Plant Exchange takes place at the Lucas County Fairgrounds, 1406 Key Street, Maumee, OH. Plant drop off begins at 8:30 am, come say "hello" to us at the OSU Extension table before the plant distribution from 10 am until 11 am (or sooner if all plants have found new homes). At our table we have a limited selection of free seeds, and we are encouraging youth to participate in the 2026 Tomato Marigold Garden.

New to gardening? That's ok, everyone is welcome. The rules of the exchange are simple: all attendees get five free plants just for stopping by (while supplies last), no money needed. Attendees are encouraged to bring plants from their own gardens and/or any gently used garden items to exchange for additional plants. Toledo Plant Exchange has a public group page on Facebook.

Information shared from Colorado State University Extension and University of Maryland Extension.



### Called to Care...continued from page 5

"It brought me closer to God. Made me more present. More intentional. After the experience, today I'm a better physician, a better wife, a better mother...a better everything."

Now she shares her story openly, especially with women.

Her message is clear: don't ignore your body. Pay attention. Follow up. Don't brush things off.

She also spoke honestly about something a lot of people question, vaccines.

"There's a lot of misinformation," she shares. "And it puts us at risk."

No drama. Just the truth.

And when she's not working?

She lights up talking about music, neo soul, 90s R&B, Jill Scott, Erykah Badu, SWV, all of it.

Dr. Baldwin also loves food.

She loves cooking, especially putting a healthier twist on the foods we grew up on. Stuffed salmon. Air fried chicken. Sweet potatoes.

And one day, she wants to grow her own collard greens, just like her father used to. Because food isn't just food, it's memory.

It's love. It's family.

As we wrapped up, she shared something that really stayed with me.

She knows she didn't get here alone.

"There were people who paved the way for me," she says.

Now, she's doing the same.

In 2026, she became the first woman and the first African American to be named Chief of Staff at St. Charles Hospital.

That matters. That's history.

Not just for her, but for everyone coming behind her.

"Brick by brick," she says.

Honestly, that's what her whole journey feels like.

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Because at the end of the day, her story isn't just about medicine.

It's about showing up, for people, for family, for yourself.

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To learn more or book an appointment with Dr. Tanya R. Baldwin, click here



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# Hair Thinning in Men: What's Causing It and What You Can Do

By Dr. Hope Mitchell, MD

The Truth Contributor

When we talk about hair loss, the conversation often centers on women. But in my dermatology practice, I regularly see men who are concerned about hair thinning. If you've noticed your hairline changing, thinning at the crown, or even patchy areas in your beard, you're certainly not alone—and it's something I discuss with many of my patients.



Many men are surprised when I tell them that hair thinning doesn't only affect the scalp. I often see patients who come in because their beard is becoming patchy or less dense. Because facial hair is such a defining feature for many men, these changes can feel frustrating or even impact confidence.

One of the most common causes of hair thinning that I diagnose is Androgenetic Alopecia (AGA), which interestingly is the most common cause of hair loss in men and women. This is a genetic condition that affects millions of men. You may notice it first as a receding hairline or thinning at the crown of your head. Over time, the hair follicles become smaller and begin producing finer and shorter hairs.

However, not all hair loss follows this pattern. Sometimes men come into my office with small, round patches of hair missing from their beard or scalp. In many of these cases, the cause may be Alopecia Areata. This condition occurs when the immune system mistakenly attacks hair follicles, which can lead to sudden patchy hair loss. I see this quite often in the beard area.

An important discussion that I have with my patients is about lifestyle factors that can contribute to hair thinning and loss. Stress can significantly affect the hair growth cycle, sometimes causing increased shedding or thinning. Nutrition also plays a role. If your body is lacking key nutrients such as iron, vitamin

D, zinc, or adequate protein, your hair follicles may not function at their best.

I also remind my patients that the health of the skin beneath the hair matters. Inflammation, irritation from shaving, or conditions like folliculitis can impact beard growth and contribute to thinning or patchiness. Taking care of your skin is just as important as caring for your hair.

The encouraging news is that hair thinning is something we can often manage. Today, dermatology offers a variety of options designed to slow hair loss and stimulate hair follicles. Depending on the cause, treatments may include topical medications, oral therapies, or in-office procedures such as platelet-rich plasma (PRP) or low-level laser treatments that help promote healthier hair growth.

If you've started noticing thinning hair on your scalp or patchy areas in your beard, my advice is simple: don't ignore it. The earlier we evaluate what's happening, the more options we have to help.

Hair loss isn't just a women's issue. It's something many men experience, and with the right diagnosis and a personalized treatment plan, there are effective ways to support healthy hair growth and maintain your confidence. If you're noticing thinning on your scalp or patchy areas in your beard, don't wait. A consultation with a board-certified dermatologist is the first step toward understanding what's happening and finding a treatment plan that works for you.

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# Health Department Announces Minority Health Month

The Health Department's Local Office on Minority Health is proud to present the lineup of events for the 39th Annual Minority Health Month, taking place throughout April.

**Walk and Talk April 11, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Glass City Metro Park (Market Hall) 1505 Front Street, Toledo, Ohio**  
Join us for a wellness walk all about health, connection, and community. Walk alongside physicians, community members, and local organizations while having real conversations about health and wellness. Hosted by the Health Department and the Black Physicians Group in partnership with Toledo Metroparks, this is a great chance to ask questions, learn more about your health, and connect with helpful local resources—all while enjoying a walk together.

**Mental Health Matters April 18, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Kent Branch Library 3101 Collingwood Blvd, Toledo, OH**

Take part in a meaningful conversation on mental health and the importance of caring for your well-being. Hear from experts and community voices as they share insights, resources, and practical ways to support your mental

health. Be part of the discussion and take a step toward a healthier you.

**Happy Healthy Kids Day April 25, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Wayman Palmer YMCA 200 E Bancroft St, Toledo, OH**

Bring the whole family out for a fun-filled day of health, excitement, and community! Enjoy free asthma screenings, mobile health clinics, a bouncy house, food, raffles, games, and plenty of activities for all ages.

**From Soil to Soul: Community Health Fair & Empowerment Through Urban Agriculture—Cultivating Health Equity April 26, 2026 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Sonia Organics/Urban Wholistic 619 Woodland Avenue, Toledo, Ohio**

You're invited to the 7th Annual Community Health Fair, hosted by the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and Urban Wholistic. Discover how healthy soil, nutritious food, and strong communities come together to support overall well-being. Connect with local organizations, explore valuable resources, and learn simple ways to support a healthier lifestyle for you and your family. Come be part of a day of connection, learning, and growth—we look forward to seeing you there!

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## A Mental Health Moment

# Understanding the Difference Between the Brain and the Mind

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC, Licensed Clinical Mental Health Therapist

The Truth Contributor

"Have you lost your mind?" "I done lost my mind." I believe we can all agree we have made these statements before or heard others say them. I can remember so clearly in my undergraduate school days at University of Maryland at College Park sitting in a classroom of 500 students in Psychology 101 taught by a very well-known professor in the world of Psychology, Dr. Charles Gelso. One day I asked the question "is there a difference between our brain and our mind and, if so, what is the difference?" Deep question. One not often discussed but one that very much needs to be understood.

Understanding how they differ—and how they work together—can help reduce stigma around mental health, improve how we care for our loved ones, and empower us to make more informed choices about healing and wellness.

What is the brain? The brain is a physical organ made of cells—neurons, glial cells, blood vessels—housed in the skull. It is measurable and observable with medical tools like MRI and EEG. The brain is responsible for bodily functions (heartbeat, breathing), sensory processing (sight, sound, touch), movement, memory formation and the biochemical systems that influence mood and stress (neurotransmitters like serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine.) (Kandel, Schwartz, & Jessell, 2013).

What is the mind? The mind refers to our subjective experiences: thoughts, feelings, memories, imagination, beliefs and consciousness. The mind is how we interpret and make meaning of our experiences and the world—our values, identity and the narrative we tell ourselves. The mind is not a single physical thing you can hold; rather, it describes emergent experiences that arise from brain activity and from our relationships, culture and environment (Sperry, 1984; Northoff, 2016)

So how do they relate? The brain is the hardware; the mind is the software and user experience. Brain activity enables mental experiences, but those ex-

periences are shaped by context—culture, family, trauma, spirituality and social systems. Changes in the brain can alter mental states (e.g., injury, illness, medication); likewise, changes in the mind (therapy, learning, social support) can change the brain's structure and functioning (neuroplasticity) (Kandel, 2001; Doidge, 2007). Neither is "more real." The brain's biology matters for diagnosis and treatment; the mind's meanings, stories and social realities matter for healing and resilience.

### Why this matters for the Black community?

Stigma and mistrust: Historical and ongoing racism in medicine has made many Black individuals wary of psychiatric labels and biological explanations alone. Framing mental health as involving both brain and mind helps validate biological treatment when needed while honoring cultural, spiritual and community-based healing practices.

Trauma and resilience: Experiences of racism, poverty and community violence change stress systems in the brain, but they also shape identity and coping strategies. Healing must address both—biological symptoms and the psychosocial context that created them (Williams & Mohammed, 2013).

In terms of treatment choices: Some people benefit from medication that targets brain chemistry; others benefit most from talk therapies that change thought patterns and behavior; often, integrated approaches (therapy + medication + community support) are best (National Institute of Mental Health, 2020).

Some examples include depression & trauma: A person may have biochemical changes (lowered activity in certain brain regions) and negative beliefs about self (mind). Effective care can include antidepressants to help brain chemistry and therapy interventions to change thought patterns and social supports to address isolation (Kessler et al., 2003). Another example is trauma which can sensitize brain stress systems, causing hypervigilance. Trauma-focused therapy helps process memories and change how the mind understands the trauma while the brain gradually regains regulation (van der Kolk, 2014).

All human beings regardless of race, color, culture or gender have both a brain and a mind. Black mental health needs to be addressed differently due to historical, cultural, generational and overall lived experiences. A culturally grounded approach will produce better outcomes in mental health treatment such as spiritual and religious community collaboration with medical providers. Validating lived experiences and recognizing how racism and economic stress are real contributors to distress and not "just" an individual problem. Being offered choices by explaining the roles of both therapy and medication inviting questions with shared decision-making that will increase trust and adherence.

Take a mental health moment for not only yourself but for our black community, honoring cultural strengths while using evidence-based care studied and researched by Black mental health professionals and others who realized cultural differences are key in reducing stigma and improving mental health care outcomes.

At the end of the semester of Psychology 101, which covered many topics such as the mind and brain, I was highly disappointed that although cultural difference was "touched" upon yet why no Black firsts or early Psychologists or Psychiatrists were mentioned or referenced in their work and research? They did exist as early as the 1920's. So mental health diagnoses, interventions, treatment and assessments and psychological tests were based on the work of white men. That was a personal Black mental health moment for me as a student. A question I found far more important to have answered and understood than what was presented on day one.

For our Black men and women early Psychologists and Psychiatrist in mental health I highly honor them and thank them for their efforts, unnoticed for many decades.

### First Black Americans in Psychology

#### Francis Cecil Sumner

- Degree: Ph.D. in Psychology (1920)
- Institution: Clark University
- Known as the "Father of Black Psychology"
- Trained and mentored future Black psychologists at Howard University

#### Significance:

Sumner broke racial barriers in academia and created one of the first pipelines for Black psychologists.

#### Inez Beverly Prosser

- Degree: Ph.D. in Educational Psychology (1933)
- Institution: University of Cincinnati

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... continued on page 13

# The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram: The Man Who Stared Down World War II in the Name of Love by Ethelene Whitmire

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You couldn't escape it.

When you fell in love, that was it: you were there for good. Leaving your amour's side was unthinkable, turning away was impossible. You'd do anything for that person you loved – even, as in the new biography, *The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram* by Ethelene Whitmire, you'd escape toward danger.

On August 28, 1938, Reed Peggram boarded a ship from Hoboken, New Jersey, hoping to “become a proper gentleman” and fulfill his dreams. A prolific writer and Harvard scholar of comparative literature, he'd recently been awarded the Rosenwald Fellowship, which put him in the company of literary stars like Du Bois, Hurston and Hughes.

Both Peggram's mother and grandmother were then domestic workers, and they had big expectations for him. Reed himself was eager to study abroad, for professional and personal reasons; he was “determined to become a French professor and an accomplished linguist” and “He also hoped to find love.”

What better place to do it than in Paris?

Outgoing and confident, Peggram made friends easily and had no trouble moving “through the world of his white male peers.” Where he faltered was in his lack of funds. He relied on the kindness of his many friends – one of whom introduced Peggram to a “man who would become so pivotal in his life,” a Danish man named Arne.

Peggram and Arne had a lot in common, and they began to enmesh their lives and dreams of living in the United States. But there were complications: homosexuality was largely forbidden, World War II was in its early stages and it quickly became apparent that it was dangerous to stay in Europe.

And yet, Peggram loved Arne. He refused to leave without him and so, while most visiting Black Americans fled the war in Europe, “Reed was trying to stay.”

There's so much more to the story inside *The Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram*, so much to know about Reed himself. Problem is, it's a long haul to get to the good stuff.

In her introduction, author Ethelene Whitmire explains how she came to this tale and yes, it needs telling but probably not with the staggering number of inconsequential details here. Peggram moved homes a lot, and many people were involved in keeping him in Europe. That alone can be overwhelming; add the fact that costs and other monetary issues are mentioned in what seems like

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nearly every page, and you may wonder if you'll ever find the reason for the book's subtitle.

It's there, nearly halfway through the book, which is when the tale takes a tender, urgent turn – albeit one with determination, rashness, and a dash of faux nonchalance. Also, if you're expecting an unhappily-ever-after because, after all, it's a World War II tale, don't assume anything...

Reading this book will take a certain amount of patience, so skip it if you don't have that fortitude. If you're okay with minuscule details and

want a heart-pounder, though, *Remarkable Life of Reed Peggram* might be a good escape.

## A Mental Health Moment... continued from page 12

### Significance:

- First Black woman to earn a doctorate in psychology
- Her work focused on the psychological effects of segregated education on Black children

### Charles Henry Thompson

- Degree: Ph.D. in Educational Psychology (1925)
- Institution: University of Chicago

### Significance:

- Early contributor to research on education and curriculum in Black communities
- **Black Contributions to Early Mental Health Systems & DSM Foundations**
- The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-I, 1952) emerged from earlier psychiatric practices—and Black clinicians were already contributing to those frameworks.

### Key Contributors:

#### Vernon Sparks

- Education: M.Ed. in Psychology, New York University
- Role: Chief psychologist at Crownsville State Hospital

#### David L. Terrell

- Education: Tennessee State University

### Contributions:

- Provided early clinical diagnoses and treatment models
- Used diagnostic language (e.g., “schizophrenic reaction,” “adjustment disorders”) that later influenced DSM-I terminology
- Expanded access to psychological testing and therapy for Black patients
- Created training pipelines for Black clinicians
- These pioneers did more than earn degrees—they:
  - Redefined mental health through a cultural lens
  - Created access where none existed
  - Challenged racism within psychology and psychiatry
  - Laid the groundwork for modern culturally competent therapy
- Their work directly influences:
  - Today's Black therapists
  - Trauma-informed care in Black communities
  - Ongoing efforts to decolonize mental health practices

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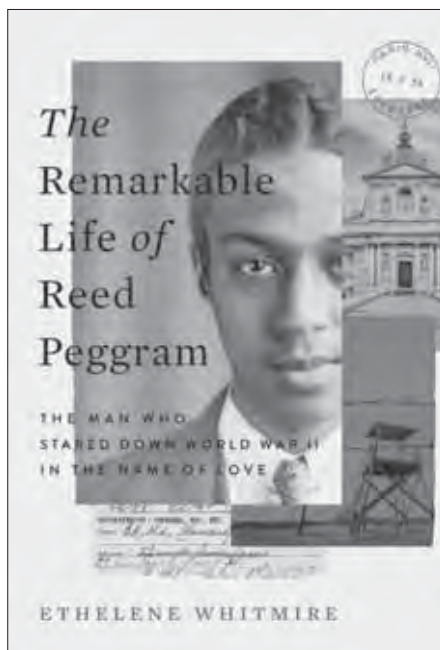
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# On Affordable Care Act Anniversary, Ohio Democratic Party Chair Slams Republicans for Unleashing Health Care Crisis on Ohio Families

While more than half a million Ohioans relied on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to afford their health care last year, Donald Trump and Ohio Republicans have repeatedly refused to extend the lifesaving ACA enhanced premium tax credits, and now thousands of families across the country have dropped their health insurance after seeing their premiums skyrocket by an average of 114.

On the 16th anniversary of the ACA, Ohio Democratic Party Chair Kathleen Clyde issued the following statement slamming Donald Trump and Ohio Republicans for creating a health care crisis in the Buckeye State.

“Despite the more than half a million Ohioans who rely on the Affordable Care Act to access their critical health care, Ohio Republicans have made clear that they just don’t care. While Donald Trump and Ohio Republicans made the choice to rip health care from Ohio families to pay for tax breaks for corporate special interests and billionaires, Ohio Democrats are committed to fighting for Ohioans’ health care and lower-

ing the high costs that keep Ohioans in every corner of our state up at night. Make no mistake, because of Ohio Republicans’ actions that rip health care away from hundreds of thousands of Ohioans, more people will get sick, rural hospitals could close, and more Ohioans could even die – and Ohioans will hold Republicans accountable for it at the ballot box in November.”


While Republicans refuse to extend these credits, Democrats are fighting to extend them and ensure Ohioans are not priced out of their health care — which the majority of Americans support. According to new polling, two-thirds of Americans say Congress did the wrong thing by not extending enhanced ACA subsidies, including one-third of Trump’s coalition.

Additionally, nearly one in three say they are “very worried” about affording their health care bills. Trump and Republicans also slashed \$1 trillion from Medicaid, putting 11 rural Ohio hospitals at risk of closure and ripping health care away from hundreds of thousands of Ohioans.

**The Sojourner's Truth**


**A MOMENT OF TRUTH**

**THE LOCAL THREAD**




A Moment of Truth will explore some of the issues that are so critical in the lives of the residents of Toledo's African American community. The Sojourner's Truth has spent a quarter of a century speaking with and listening to those in our community who make a such a difference in our lives.


Join us now on WGTE 91 FM on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. as our hosts – Asia Nail, Stacy Fowler, Ricky Tyus and Alexandria Leatherberry – hold conversations with community members and examine how all of us can learn and benefit from those who are blazing paths for us in a number of critical areas such as community activism, business, health and travel.




**Asia Nail,**  
The Truth Reporter



**Ricky Tyus**  
of Tyus Tours and Travel



**Stayce Fowler,**  
Publisher, Pursuit Magazine



**Alexandria Leatherberry,**  
The Truth Reporter

# CLASSIFIEDS

April 1, 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](http://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-notice>

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

## DIRECTOR OF SUMMER CAMPS

The Padua Center is seeking a Director of Summer Camps. The Director is primarily responsible for the overall development of and implementation of the Padua Summer Programs. The general outline of the six weeks of camp is awaiting a creative director to complete the plans. The director will supervise the various volunteers, work with the Padua Staff in arranging particulars of the camps and executing a successful Summer Recreation and Learning experience for 25 to 30 elementary school age youth. This is a seven-week summer employment at 35 hours a week. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor degree and some educational experience. The Padua Center is an EOE. For more information contact The Padua Center. Please submit resume by April 15, 2026 to The Padua Center at [thepaduacenter@gmail.com](mailto:thepaduacenter@gmail.com). 419 241 6465

## BROADCAST ENGINEER

WGTE Public Media is seeking a full-time Broadcast Engineer. This role is responsible for maintaining and supporting the technical infrastructure for the organization's television and radio broadcast operations, ensuring reliable performance and compliance with FCC and industry standards. Responsibilities include maintaining broadcast, studio, and production equipment; troubleshooting signal impairments and system issues; assisting with system upgrades and integration; and collaborating with engineering, IT, and other departments to support daily operations and long-term technical projects. The ideal candidate is a strong problem-solver who can work both independently and collaboratively in a fast-paced technical environment while communicating complex technical information clearly.

An associate degree, technical certification, or equivalent experience in electronics, broadcast engineering, information technology, or a related field is required, along with at least three years of experience in broadcast engineering or technical operations. Working knowledge of RF transmission, audio and video systems, electronics, and IP networks is required. Experience with broadcast automation systems, video servers, encoders, or STL/TSL systems and familiarity with CAD software or technical schematics are preferred. Occasional field work at transmitter sites or remote productions may be required, along with the ability to lift equipment and work in elevated or confined spaces.

### How to Apply

Send your letter and résumé to [employment@wgte.org](mailto:employment@wgte.org) or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.

## 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 52<sup>nd</sup> Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 40<sup>th</sup> Year Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), 35<sup>th</sup> 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, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets  
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/departments/housing-community-development>

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

Clerk of Council  
One Government Center, 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.toledofhc.org)

Lucas Metropolitan Housing  
424 Jackson Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.lucasmlha.org](http://www.lucasmlha.org)

Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board  
1806 Madison Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.endinghomelessness.toledo.org](http://www.endinghomelessness.toledo.org)

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library  
325 Michigan Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.toledolibrary.org](http://www.toledolibrary.org)

Lucas Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities  
1154 Larc Lane  
Toledo, Ohio 43614  
website: [www.lucasdd.info](http://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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
One Government Center, Toledo, OH 43604

**Thursday, April 2, 2026, 5:30 p.m.**  
City Council Chambers, 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://toledo.oh.gov/ada).

# The YWCA 2026 Milestones: A Tribute to Women

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Publisher

"If service is beneath you, then leadership is beyond you," said Candice Harrison as she closed her acceptance speech at the 2026 Milestones Awards. Harrison, this year's honoree for Volunteerism, was one of eight women who were celebrated by the Northwest Ohio YWCA on Thursday, March 26, at the Glass City Center, for their outstanding contributions to the community in a number of different ways.

Leadership was a theme that was common for the women who were honored. Lisa McDuffie, CEO of the Northwest YWCA, said during her opening statement: "The women we are honoring today lead with courage, they lift others as they rise."

In addition to Harrison, the other awardees were:

Jennifer McCary, DODC, for the Arts. McCary, an exhibiting artist, three-time TEDx speaker, is the Chief Culture and Brand Experience Officer at the Toledo Museum of Art where she leads the execution of the museum's strategic plan and fosters a culture rooted in communication, collaboration, connection and accountability.

Meg Ressler for Business. Ressler, a 30-year employee, former VP of Human Resources, with Owens Corning, and member of its Global HR Executive Team, is the principal of Meg Ressler & Associates, a consulting practice focused on optimizing organizational performance and guiding companies through complex transitions

Sherry Tripepi, MSW, for Education. Tripepi, as executive director of Equality Toledo, expanded anti-bullying initiatives, advanced LGBT health and rights education and helped strengthen Toledo Pride's community outreach. Her work has consistently uplifted women and marginalized communities.

Jessica Ford for Government. Ford, the Lucas County Administrator oversees county operations with a leadership style centered on accountability, compassion and community impact. She has driven major improvements across the county including the consolidation of Job and Family Services, Child Support Enforcement and OhioMeansJobs into a centralized Shared Services Building.

Shawna Shafer, DO, for Sciences. Dr. Shafer is an attending physician in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at ProMedica Ebeid Children's Hospital and a clinical associate professor at the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences. A respected clinician, researcher and educator, she has led innovative studies in neonatal health, developed a nationally recognized lumbar puncture curriculum and championed quality-of-care initiatives for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Ann Ebert for Social Sciences. Ebert, CEO of Cherry Street Mission,

brings expertise in 24/7 care operations, business administration and leadership developments to one of the region's most complex service organizations. Ebert leads a team that provides shelter, healthcare and educational services o thousands each year.

Candice Harrison for Volunteerism. Harrison's board and volunteer service spans Rotary Club of Toledo – where she is president-elect, Central Catholic High School, the Art Tatum Zone and may other civic organization, reflecting a deep commitment to empowering others, including the Press Club of Toledo where she is past president.

Kathryn Tucker, the Woman on the Rise Honoree. Tucker, former senior VP, chief experience officer and CEO, has managed more than \$1.3 billion in business development while leading major strategic growth initiatives – her career has spanned senior leadership roles, legal advocacy and entrepreneurship.

Each woman was introduced by way of a recorded interview and then had the opportunity to make a short speech in accepting her award.

"Creativity is not extra, it's essential," said McCary during her acceptance. "Art bridges differences ... reminding us who we are and who we can become individually and collectively."

Leadership and service were repeated frequently during the acceptance speeches. Ford, inspired by her parents, Jack and Claudia Ford, who were both committed to public service, spoke of her thoughts about what that service entails.

"Public service is about the people, not the hoopla or the fanfare ... it's about what you do for the people that you serve," said Ford.

Harrison's introduction to the audience was supplied not only by the recorded interview but also by a special guest, Vince DiPofi, CEO of SSOE, the Champion Sponsor of this year's Milestones' awards event. He heaped praise on Harrison, SSOE Group director of Inclusion and Community Impact, for the influence she has had within the company and the community.

"Through the inclusive environment Candice has created and the career pathways that go along with that," she has helped the company "triple the number of women in senior leadership positions," said DiPofi.

He added that "the impact within our company has been measurable, but Candice's .impact on the community through her volunteerism has been immeasurable – she leads with integrity, she leads with purpose and, most importantly, she leads with heart."

Harrison spoke of the importance of such leadership and how it relates to volunteerism. "Leadership through service is a responsibility," she said.

The YWCA 31st Annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women Awards was hosted by Kristian Brown, 13abc news anchor. This year's key sponsors were SSOE, Champion Sponsor; The Andersons, Visionary Sponsor and Advocate Sponsors – The Rotary Club of Toledo, Key-Bank, Bowling Green State University, Area Office on Aging and West Side Montessori.



Past Milestones Honorees



2026 Milestones Honorees

TOLEDO AREA BLACK BUSINESS OWNERS & PROFESSIONALS

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THIS APRIL AND POUR  
INTO OUR COMMUNITY!**

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**FEATURED RESTAURANT:**

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2224 Nebraska Ave. Toledo, Ohio 43607

**2ND SUNDAY CROX**  
1776 Arlington Ave. Toledo, Ohio 43609

**3RD SUNDAY THE LINK RESTAURANT & LOUNGE**  
2637 W. Bancroft St. Toledo, Ohio 43607

**4TH SUNDAY 406 BAR CRAFT COCKTAIL LOUNGE**  
406 Westwood Ave. Toledo, Ohio 43607

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