



Volume 95 No. 2

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

May 6, 2026



Milt McIntyre  
Owner and President of Peak Electric, Inc.

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# Already in Line

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

The Truth Contributor

*The vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have.*

- John Lewis



I did my early voting after church on Sunday. The line at the Lucas County early vote center was brisk but not overly long — a mix of ages, mostly older folks — some in wheelchairs, others leaning on canes, moving steadily through, each one a quiet argument for showing up. Nothing dramatic. And yet, watching from my curbside voting perch, something caught within me.

Lucas County is known for not showing up. In fact, in 2024, we posted the second-lowest voter turnout of any of Ohio's 88 counties. Maybe it means nothing. Or, maybe it means everything.

I do know the data says that: Ohio in November is a dead heat; and in a dead heat, Lucas County is exactly the kind of place that will decide who governs.

Bowling Green State University's Democracy and Public Policy Network surveyed 1,000 registered Ohio voters in April — the most rigorous independent statewide polling Ohio has. Both the governor's race and the U.S. Senate race are statistically tied in a state Donald Trump won by 11 points in 2024.

Both critical races are essentially a coin flip right now. BGSU's own director called it plainly: the best opportunity for Democrats to win statewide offices in Ohio in 20 years.

Why? Because voters — including a significant slice of Trump's own Ohio supporters — are experiencing the consequences of the choices they made and reconsidering. The economy. The war in Iran. The tariffs are hitting Ohio's workers and farmers. The sense, shared by a majority of Ohioans in the poll, that checks and balances are no longer holding.

Those grievances are not limited to the Democrats. They are Ohio grievances. They belong to people of every party and no party.

However, what does belong specifically to our community is this: the enthusiasm gap.

Ohio Democrats, according to BGSU, say they are more motivated than usual to vote this November by nearly a two-to-one margin over Republicans. That kind of intensity is the structural edge that wins close elections — if it translates into ballots. Enthusiasm that stays home changes nothing.

And then, last week, the U.S. Supreme Court said plainly: they will no longer protect us.

In *Louisiana v. Callais*, the court's conservative majority gutted the core enforcement provision of the Voting Rights Act — the one that for 60 years gave Black voters a mechanism to challenge maps drawn to erase our power. Justice Elena Kagan's dissent called the court's decision the "now-completed demolition" of the law. Within hours, Florida had already passed a new gerrymandered map.

That means November in Ohio is about whether our community retains enough political presence in this state to matter. Black voters in Ohio's cities — Toledo, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Akron — have delivered this state's Democratic margins when they existed. So, turnout in our precincts is not merely a footnote to Ohio's statewide results. It is often the deciding chapter.

This is the part that requires something specific from our young people — who must not only receive the baton from previous generations but run the anchor leg.

The Harvard Kennedy School's Youth Poll — the most comprehensive survey of 18-to-29-year-old Americans — was released just last week. It found that young voters lean Democratic by nearly two-to-one. It found that they are also angry about the economy, skeptical of the war in Iran, and deeply dissatisfied with where the country is headed. In other words, they feel exactly what the BGSU poll says Ohio feels.

But here is the thing that should trouble us: fewer than one in three youth believe the 2026 elections will be conducted fairly. And those who doubt the system are significantly less likely to say they will vote. The Harvard researchers named what they are seeing among this generation — not apathy, but a loss of perceived agency. A growing belief that what they do no longer shapes what happens next.

I understand that feeling. However, I don't accept it.

Because the Sunday lines I witnessed — mostly older folks, people who came of age when the Voting Rights Act was not history but hard-won news — those people did not have the luxury of cynicism. They voted when the system was openly, legally designed to stop them. They voted when showing up meant risk, not inconvenience. AND, they are still showing up.

The elders know something our young people are still learning: the system does not have to feel fair for your vote to be real.

November will be decided by who turns out.

The BGSU data shows us the races are razor-thin. The Harvard data tells us young people have the motivation — and the doubt.

Our job, as a community, is to close that gap. In our congregations, our block clubs, our barbershops and beauty salons, our family group chats between now and the November election. Not as a civic abstraction. As a family obligation we do together, out loud, and for each other.

The elders are already in line. The question is whether our young people will join them.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

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## Community Calendar

May 31

Indiana Avenue MBC Third Pastoral Anniversary Services for the Rev. William C. Foster, Sr., and Lady Brittany Foster; Morning service at 10 am, and Rev. Dr. B Lamont Monford, Sr., Philippians MBC, Lima, will preach; Afternoon service at 4 pm and the Rev. Lonnie E. Anderson, Jr., Mt. Pisgah MBC will preach.

## The Sojourner's Truth

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# The Supreme Court: "Black Voters, Go Away!"

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Justice Roger Taney who wrote the prophetic and racist decision in the famous Dred Scott case decision in 1857 is smiling in his grave.

As you may remember, the Dred Scott decision basically said that there are no rights of the Negro that the white man must respect or protect.

The decision was in 1857 but its legal scar tissue still is evident today in the MAGA bent supermajority (it was a 6-3 decision) holding of the current United States Supreme Court members who for all practicable purposes have eviscerated the all-important Section Two of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

That powerful section, when first enacted, was a buffer zone to the white zealots who wanted to gerrymander their political districts based upon a continuation of white rule over Black populations being denied a chance to be represented in state legislatures and the United States House and Senate.

Now decision, led by the ever grinning Justice John Roberts, decides that states that are dominated by Republican majorities can get about the artful business of skinning and shaving political districts to favor white rule.

Gerrymandering is the artifice that is being used, rightly or wrongly, to craft safe and winnable districts of one political party over the other simply for the purpose of gaining power and, as we all know, with power comes the control of the purse...the money!

In the final analysis, in politics, it is all about who controls the treasury and who gets the plums and goodies from that control and how it is doled out. Nothing new here.

But. The granular problem of going from precinct to precinct pales in comparison when the macular problem is studied and we find that the gerrymandering schemes are in some cases a pretense for racial discrimination.

Where you find in present day America, are white politicians squabbling over who gets to vote and that discussion is inflated due to minority groups demanding a seat at the table so as to have a voice in who controls the purse strings and who gets to write the checks.

Black voters have always been a stubborn stain to erase with all of their complaints, marches, voting demands that they are entitled to be just like the white voter who takes it for granted that they own both the table and the chairs around the table because their white skin privileges so inform them.

Theirs has been a recorded history of voter suppression of the Black vote by any means necessary including exclusion, lynchings, laws, red lining, terrorism and simply corruption to make sure that they "rule the roost."

Now, the Supreme Court has taken upon themselves with arcane legal "logic" to articulate some legal gibberish that continues to allow certain state house representatives to employ rules and regulations that ensure that for the time being, minority voters will be properly heeled.

What makes this recent decision more egregious is that Clarence (Uncle Tom) Thomas was part of that history revisionist group of jurists who have pronounced that in some states controlled by the Trump led GOP, they will be set free from any legal restraints so as to wreak havoc in future elections using racially "disguised" gerrymandering devices.

I cannot think of any recent decisions in which Uncle Tom Thomas was on the side of minority voters whose rights were being challenged. He always seems to be snarkly, grinning at Black people when he has the chance to toss them a loaf of bread rather than a serpent's egg.

To me, it seems that Uncle Tom Thomas is still trying to earn his honorary white man card so he can finally relax and enjoy basking in the glow and aura of his fellow white jurors.

Clarence Thomas wants to be part of the in-crowd of fellow white jurists and to be the paternal object of the crowd of white persons who seemingly treat him as a special pet... like a cat who wants to be petted in one's lap and he will purr and purr when you stroke his head.

If Thurgood Marshall was alive, he would take Uncle Tom Thomas out to the woodshed for a well-deserved "lecture" and more. It is really galling to find out that Thomas, in his written remarks, wanted to totally null and void the entire voting rights act!

But, Thurgood Marshall is regrettably not alive and the Trump/MAGA movement is still in control until the next election cycle and we have to in the interim, continue peacefully with a seemingly MAGA oriented court that can count among its strident members a person who benefitted from Affirmative Action in higher education but now disavows it at every chance he gets.

Do I hear the distant marching of a reconstituted suit wearing Klan as they



savor the rise of the threats against D.E.I., critical race theory, voting rights being gutted and the government's firing of seasoned Black men and women in high positions, including the military?

Stay tuned...it only gets better.

**RECENT UPDATE:** Republican Rep. Josh Williams, who is a black lawyer running to represent a white congressional district, feathered his street cred with white voters by slamming the creation of Black voting districts! It always pains me when such gibberish is issued by Black politicians who blithely overlook hundreds of years of white gerrymandering/trickery that insured that they would win their districts at the expense of Black voters. The 1965 Voting Rights Bill fought against white political gerrymandering (among other tactics) and to make sure that the Black voter was not silenced. What say ye....Josh? The late John Lewis and Thurgood Marshall and the alive James Clyburn would like a response.

**Historical note:** In the book, Uncle Tom's Cabin, it was Uncle Tom who was the self-effacing hero who sacrificed for the other slaves. The real troublemaker was called Sambo. In any future references to Clarence Thomas, I will use the appropriate term, Sambo to describe his apparent disdain for people of color.

Contact Lafe Tolliver @ lafe5x@gmail.com

## Rep. Erika White: Supreme Court Decision Weakens Core Voting Protections; Shifts Responsibilities to States like Ohio

State Rep. Erika White (D-Springfield Township) last week issued the following statement on the Supreme Court's ruling on the case Louisiana v. Callias.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 came after the nation witnessed the brutal violence inflicted on peaceful marchers in Selma, Alabama, as they demanded the right to vote. What happened on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, known as Bloody Sunday, helped awaken the conscience of the country and moved Congress to act. As was made clear in that moment, the right to vote is not simply given, it is fought for, protected, and carried forward.

"When core voting protections are weakened at the federal level, the responsibility does not disappear, it shifts to states like Ohio," said Rep. White. "Protecting fair representation and access to the ballot is not optional. It is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring every Ohioan's voice is heard."

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# TPS Has Acted — But Key Questions Remain

By Steven Flagg

Guest Column

In a recent column, I wrote that Toledo Public Schools is in a “world of hurt” — driven by declining enrollment, reduced state support and a system built for a different era. That was not a prediction. It was the reality the Board of Education now confronts.

Now, the Board has acted.

In a unanimous vote, the Toledo Board of Education approved its Transformation Plan 2.0, a sweeping set of actions begun in December 2025 designed to close a nearly \$70 million deficit. The plan includes the closure or repurposing of eight buildings — Harvard Elementary, Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Boys, Navarre, Pickett, Spring, Walbridge, Westfield Achievement Academy and Heatherdowns — along with staffing reductions, program changes and negotiated concessions from administrative leadership.

At this time, leadership of the TFT and AFSCME bargaining units have not agreed to concessions. Consequently, planned staff reductions still loom for their membership. TFT leadership claims they need more information about the assumptions used to make these decisions, especially those used to project future enrollment. They are correct — the entire community should have that information. Still, there is no denying the population decline and its impact on TPS, Toledo and Lucas County.

These were not easy decisions. Board members said as much, acknowledging both the financial necessity and the deep community impact. “These decisions were not made lightly,” Board leadership stated.

And they are correct.

The district is facing a structural imbalance that cannot be ignored. Enrollment continues to decline, driven by a sharply reduced pipeline of future students, with births in Lucas County down more than 30 percent over the past two decades. At the same time, the district is losing a larger share of a smaller student population to charter schools and vouchers.

In that context, maintaining a system of buildings designed for a much larger enrollment is simply not sustainable. District data shows average building utilization at roughly 70 percent, with several of the schools identified for closure



among the lowest-utilized buildings in the system — a pattern consistent with a capacity-driven decision rather than a geographic one.

So, the Board did what it ultimately had to do: it reduced capacity.

But acting is not the same as explaining.

And that is where significant questions remain.

The public has been told what decisions were made. It has not been fully shown how those decisions were reached. The Board must explain why to parents, students and taxpayers.

For example, were building-level enrollment trends, capacity and cost-per-student data publicly presented in a way that clearly demonstrated why specific schools were selected over others? Were alternative scenarios modeled and shared with the community? How were factors such as geographic equity, neighborhood impact, potential leakage to charter schools and vouchers and program performance weighed against utilization and cost?

These are not academic questions. They go directly to trust.

The recent focus on South Toledo building closures illustrates this problem clearly. Without transparent data, decisions that are likely driven by utilization and capacity can appear to be driven by geography. The distinction matters — and it has not been clearly proven.

There are also forward-looking questions that remain unanswered.

If enrollment continues to decline — and all available data suggests it will — is this the final round of closures, or simply the first?

What is the long-term facilities plan? How does the Scott Park project factor into future plans if enrollment continues to decline? How will the district ensure that today's decisions do not lead to repeated disruption over the next several years? How will the proposed changes be implemented, and how will they impact students and families?

Equally important, what is the vision beyond contraction? And how will the Board activate the community's expertise and resources — beyond meetings and surveys — to help shape that vision?

Right-sizing the system is necessary. It is not sufficient.

How will TPS use this moment to strengthen its educational model beyond adjustments to existing career-tech and magnet programs? How will it compete more effectively for students in a landscape where families have more choices? What investments will be made to improve program quality and retain and attract students?

And perhaps most critically: how will the district rebuild trust with a community that, by many accounts, felt surprised by both the timing and scope of these decisions?

The Board has now acted. And that was necessary and unavoidable.

The next step is just as important: clearly demonstrating the rationale behind those decisions and laying out a transparent, long-term path forward.

The community can accept difficult choices. But not if they don't understand why decisions were made, how they will be implemented, and what comes next. At the same time, parents and community members must recognize that demographic shifts will affect the entire region and all of its institutions.

Criticism and frustration are understandable but not antidotes for action.

The Board has acted. Now it must fully show its work, rebuild trust and define what comes next — because the decisions ahead will be challenging.

*Rep Erika White...continued from page 3*

Yesterday's Supreme Court decision serves as a reminder that voting rights are never guaranteed, they must be protected, defended, and renewed by each generation."

The ruling comes amid growing national concern over the future of the Voting Rights Act and the ability of communities of color to challenge maps that dilute their political power.

"At a time when confidence in institutions is critical, ensuring fair representation is not just a legal obligation, it is a public responsibility. Policies that support transparent processes, equitable districting, and accessible voting are essential to maintaining that trust," added Rep. White.

Rep. White remains committed to strengthening trust in our electoral systems and protecting meaningful access to the ballot.

"As these federal changes take shape, my office will continue to monitor their impact and advocate for approaches that uphold the integrity of our elections and the voices of all Ohioans," concluded Rep. White. "The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. When that foundation is weakened, the responsibility to protect it becomes even more urgent. Ohio must meet this moment with clarity, accountability, and a commitment to ensuring that every voice is heard, every vote is counted, and every community is represented."

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# Building Peak Electric Inc.: A Story of Leadership, Grit, and Growth

By Asai Nail

The Truth Reporter

There are some people who don't chase attention. They build things instead. **Milton McIntyre** laughs early in the conversation, admitting he's "never been one to step into the spotlight," preferring to stay behind the scenes.

But listen closely, and you'll realize his story speaks volumes without him trying.

## The Foundation: Where It All Begins

Business didn't start with him.

It started at home.

Back in Steubenville, Ohio, he worked with his father and brother in the family's contracting business, understanding early what it meant to build something from nothing.

In 1989, he came to Toledo to deepen his skills in the trade.

He never left.

"I began in the field: hard hats, long days, real pressure," he recalls. As an electrical journeyman with IBEW Local Union 8, he learned more than the trade.

He learned, people.

"Working with all those different personalities," he says, "helped me learn how to understand people better and meet them where they are."

It sounds simple.

But it's like putting together a puzzle. Every piece looks different. Some don't seem to fit at first. But when you take your time and place them right, the picture comes together.

## The Framing: Building Something From Nothing

Early in his career, McIntyre worked for a company called Advantage Electric, then one of the largest minority electrical contracting firms in the country. When it closed, it left something behind: a gap.

"That's what motivated me to start my business," he says.

Not ego. Not ambition alone. Need.

Today, Milton McIntyre is the owner and president of Peak Electric Inc., a company he founded in 2000. What began as a small electrical contracting business has grown into a full-service partner providing high-voltage equipment, lighting, tools, maintenance supplies and project management support across multiple industries. With more than 40 years in the electrical field, McIntyre has built a reputation not just for getting the job done, but for getting it done right, on time, and with integrity.

Along the way, he saw a need in the industry that went beyond execution.

"Contractors needed more than labor," he shares. "They needed support, supply access, and someone who understood the full scope of the work."

That understanding helped shape the direction of Peak Electric into a partner, not just a provider.

## The Power Source: Keeping Everything Connected Under Pressure

Over the years, McIntyre managed more than 100 employees and subcon-

tractors, each with different attitudes, backgrounds, and ways of working.

That experience taught him something just as important as business itself: how to lead people in real time. On job sites, every day brought new pressures and problems that had to be solved quickly, often with little room for error.

"You learn pretty fast that it's not just about technical skills," McIntyre reflects. "It's about people, and working with them in ways that bring out their best."

For him, leadership was never about complicated systems or long speeches. It came down to understanding.

"My approach never changed. People are people," he says. "They're just like you and me."

And his standard was simple:

"If I ask something of them, I'll do it myself."

## The Blueprint for Inclusion

What makes Peak Electric different is its approach. Instead of reacting to opportunities, they anticipate them.

"We stay ahead of projects," Milton explains. "We position ourselves before the opportunity becomes visible to the market."

That's not luck. That's discipline.

And still, McIntyre's work doesn't stop at his company.

As a leader with the Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council and a board member of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, he helps create access for others.

Because he remembers what it felt like not to have it.

"For a long time, minority business was not included in all spaces," he recalls.

Now, things are different.

Now, we bring our own seat to the table.

And when asked why supplier diversity matters, he doesn't over-explain.

"We're 15 to 20 percent of the population," he says. "We should be 15 to 20 percent of the growth."

Simple.

Fair.

True.

## The Final Inspection: Defining Success and Legacy

The times are shifting. Programs face pressure, and opportunities continue to change. But McIntyre remains steady.



Milt McIntyre



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# Directions Credit Union Presents \$20,000 Donation to Children's Hunger Alliance

The Truth Staff

On Thursday, April 30, Directions Credit Union presented a \$20,000 donation to the Children's Hunger Alliance to support the purchase of balanced meals for children in northwest and central Ohio. The donation took place at Summit Academy on Collingwood Blvd.

It is estimated that the \$20,000 will help feed around 170,000 children across Ohio who suffer from food insecurity. Children's Hunger Alliance served over 10 million meals statewide to those kids last year.

"A child who is food insecure does not do as well in education," said James Harter, PhD, director of Development for the Children's Hunger Alliance as he accepted the donation from Directions. "Their basic needs are met so they can



Directions Credit Union Jenni Paramore and Sonja Delaney; Summit Academy Director Shevella Stokes, Children's Hunger Alliance James Harter

get the education they need."

Using the Summit Academy location as an example, Harter noted that the staff there would confirm that "children who are getting nutrition on a regular basis do much better."

Founded in 1970, Children's Hunger Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger. The agency collaborates with organizations throughout Ohio to provide nutritious meals to at-risk children who need them most. CHA partners with in-home childcare providers, childcare centers, afterschool and summer programs to provide balanced, healthy meals to children in their care.

CHA also works with schools to increase breakfast participation and to provide weekend meals to students. The home office is in Columbus, Ohio, with regional offices in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Toledo.

Summit Academy Schools are tuition-free, non-profit community schools that are specifically designed for students with ADHD, autism spectrum disorders and related disorders

## Even Under Attack, Black Southern Voters Can Deliver the Senate for Democrats

By Kevin Harris

Guest Column

Democrats have momentum as the midterms approach. A string of recent victories has fueled optimism that Democrats could retake the House of Representatives and even reclaim the Senate. At a moment of rising global tensions and persistent economic strain on working families, Democratic control of Congress would offer a critical check on the Trump administration.

But Senate majorities are not built on national waves alone. They are won or lost in a handful of fiercely competitive states. And this cycle, the path to a Democratic majority runs directly through the South. Texas, North Carolina, and Georgia could determine control of the Senate.

While each state has its own political identity, they share a common reality: Black voters are central to any winning Democratic coalition. If Democrats fail to fully invest in mobilizing Black voters, they risk repeating the mistakes that have cost them power in the past.

That challenge has become more urgent in light of recent Supreme Court decisions that gutted the Voting Rights Act. Now, states are largely free to gerrymander and suppress Black political power. Without the preclearance protections that once required states with histories of discrimination to get federal approval before changing voting laws, access to the ballot increasingly depends on post-facto litigation rather than prevention.

In practical terms, that means Black voter participation is shaped not just by enthusiasm, but by the rules governing registration, district lines and access to the polls. In key Southern states, these structural barriers disproportionately affect Black voters, making sustained investment in turnout efforts even more critical.

Start with Texas. Long seen as a Republican stronghold, the state has been inching toward competitiveness as its major metro areas of Houston, Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio grow more diverse. Black voters make up roughly 12 to 13 percent of the electorate, but their turnout has been inconsistent, especially in midterm elections.

In 2020, engagement surged in urban counties, helping narrow statewide margins. But that progress slipped in 2022, when turnout declined. For



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... continued on page 7

# A Community Dialogue

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

On Thursday, April 30, a Community Dialogue was held at Glenwood Lutheran Church as a number of local elected officials joined community activists in order to promote dialogue and meaningful connectivity between the parties.

Organized by Amelia Gibbon, executive director of Reinvest Toledo and owner of AG's Sandbox, LLC, which provides coaching, community engagement and project management services, the dialogue's goal was "about creating space for residents to better understand the roles that impact their daily lives and to begin building relationships rooted in trust and access."

About 75 people gathered for the dialogue including one state representative, three judges, three city councilmembers, one county commissioner and one school board member along with a representative – David Zavac from Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's office.

"The intention is to move beyond surface-level interaction and create space for real exchange where community members feel heard and officials have an opportunity to engage in a more grounded, human way," said Gibbon prior to the event

The public officials were Councilmembers Erin Kramer, Vanice Williams and Mac Driscoll; Judges Amy Stoner of Juvenile Court, Myron Duhart of the Ohio 6th District Court of Appeals, Ian English of Lucas County Common Pleas Court; state Rep. Erika White; Commissioner Lisa Sobecki and Toledo Board of Education member Sheena Barnes.

The community members were divided into 10 tables and the public officials rotated among the tables, joining each one for a 15-minute session in which they were asked three questions: 1. How does your job impact the day-to-day lives of our community; 2. How can community be stakeholders in your work? How can the voices of community be a stakeholder in your work; 3. Each table collectively arrived at one question that reflects their interest.



Captains at each table took notes on the conversations which will be analyzed later.

"We need to meet with those who are influencing policy," said Gibbon in her opening remarks.

The community members had the opportunity to hear Judge English

speak about the success of the Lucas County Adult Treatment Court and how it has reduced recidivism: Councilwoman Williams discuss the way that the Englewood neighborhood is becoming safer; or discuss with Judge Stoner the impact of Supreme Court decisions on reviv-ing racism.

The next step in this Community Dialogue process will be a follow-up meeting on May 12. "We don't want this to be a one-off conversation," said Gibbon. The tables' notes will be examined so that the group can determine how to "collectively continue to impact strategy," said Gibbon.

The May 12 conference will be at Poco Loco at 6 pm.



Judge Ian English describes an alternative treatment program



Councilwoman Erin Kramer explains a point

*Even Under Attack...continued from page 6*

Democrats, even modest gains in Black turnout alongside strong gains with Latino voters could transform Texas from a long shot into a true battleground. A breakthrough victory for Democrat James Talarico would flip a seat and reshape the national political map.

North Carolina presents a different kind of opportunity. The state has already been competitive for Democrats in recent years. With Black voters accounting for roughly 20 to 23 percent of the electorate, statewide races are often decided by razor-thin margins. A one- or two-point increase in Black turnout can determine the outcome.

Yet, like Texas, North Carolina saw a drop in participation from presidential-year highs to the 2022 midterms. Democrats have a strong candidate in former Governor Roy Cooper, who has consistently demonstrated the ability to win statewide. But his success has always depended on robust Black voter engagement—which requires sustained national investment, not just candidate strength.

Democrats have the right candidate in North Carolina, but the party must follow through with the right strategy. That strategy starts with robust resources for Black turnout across urban and rural communities.

Then there is Georgia, where the blueprint for success already exists. Black voters routinely make up nearly a third of the electorate in high-turnout elections and were instrumental in Democratic victories in the 2020 presidential election and the subsequent Senate runoffs.

The reelection of Senator Raphael Warnock confirmed that these gains were not a one-time surge but the result of years of organizing and investment. Georgia shows what is possible when Black voters are prioritized as the foundation of a winning strategy. That approach must be reinforced for Senator Jon Ossoff to secure reelection this year.

... continued on page 13

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# Alpha Phi Boule's Night of Jazz at Lucille's

By Paul Hubbard, MSW, Maritime Board Chair  
Guest Column

Toledo Alpha Phi Boule enjoyed a night of jazz at Lucille's in the TolHouse. The evening started with a dinner of salmon, chicken wings, hamburgers and fried potato chips, etc. Also, guests had the opportunity to sample well-made drinks of all kinds. The evening's entertainment was Alexander Zonjic and his group. Aleander Zonjic is a well-known flutist.

Grand Sire Archon (President) Rodney Eason said: "TolHouse and Lucille's Lounge represent more than just a social club. It's a place where music, conversation and community come together. With its unique atmosphere and Lucille's signature jazz sound, TolHouse has become a destination for people looking for an unforgettable experience. We were honored to support

and had an incredible evening."

Archon Judge C. Allen McConnell said: "The evening with Boule members at the TolHouse was filled with wonderful food and relaxation. The music provided by Alexander Zonjic was delightful and enjoyable. If he is in town again, he will be on my priority list."

Toledo has a rich jazz history emerging as a major hub between Detroit and Chicago. From the 1910s to 1960s Toledo produced legends like pianist Art Tatum, Jon Hendricks and today's Jean Holden and Ramona Collins. Before Lucille's as the present-day site for jazz there were The Waiters and Bellman Club, Rusty's, and Murphy's.

Archon Will Lucas, the owner of the TolHouse and Lucille's shared his thoughts. "We are in the final weeks of the 2025-2026 season of live music at Lucille's and it's been another incredible year of amazing performances from both local and national acts. Lucille's Jazz Lounge continues to be a place where talent wants to play, and Toledo is a place that they find welcoming audiences hungry for great live performances. Ahead we plan to go harder on our cocktails and food menus and even introduce an all-new wine program. Nights at Lucille's, whether date night or solo nights out, are always a good time. We want to ensure they are unforgettable."

Toledo is still a jazz hub and Lucille's is the place to go.



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# TOLEDO Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction Returns Victorious from Area V Conference.

*Special to The Truth*

The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. – Toledo Chapter is celebrating a remarkable achievement after returning home with multiple honors from the Area V Conference held March 26-29 in Cleveland Ohio.

Under the dynamic leadership of President Lady Wanda Galloway, the Toledo Chapter earned an impressive five awards, highlighting the chapter's commitment to excellence, service, and community impact.

Among the honors received:

- Jefferey P King Award- Lady Clara L. Petty
- President's Award- Lady Wanda Terrell Galloway
- Chapter Award- Toledo Chapter
- Caring and Sharing Award- Lord Darryl Reed
- Top Teens T-Shirt competition – 2nd place

These prestigious recognitions reflect the Toledo Chapter's unwavering dedication to uplifting the community through service initiatives, youth development, and impactful programming.

President Galloway expressed pride in the chapter's accomplishment, noting that the awards are a testament to the hard work, unity, and passion of its members. This win represents the heart of our organization, service, leadership, and commitment to making a difference, she shared.

The Area V Conference brought together chapters from across the region to celebrate achievements, exchange ideas, and strengthen the mission of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

As they return home, the ladies along with their Top Teens remain focused on continuing their legacy of excellence and service within the Toledo Community.



Wanda Terrell Galloway



Top Ladies



Clara Petty



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# Life's Essential 8 from American Heart Association

By Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension, Lucas County  
The Truth Contributor

The American Heart Association helps us understand not only heart health but also overall health for our bodies and life with the Life's Essential 8. AHA shares two major areas: four health behaviors and four health factors. While all of this fits hand-in-hand, it's helpful to break it down to understand our role and our risks.

The four health behaviors are what we do. The four health factors are sometimes the results of what we do, and they are also used as indicators of our health levels. This information is from the American Heart Association and the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute.

The **four health behaviors** are what we should all be doing, no matter our age. Can you do these four habits?

- **Eat well** by choosing a variety of whole foods with lots of fruits and vegetables, lean protein, nuts, seeds, and healthy oils like olive and canola.
- **Be more active.** Adults should get two-and-a-half hours of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week. Also reduce your sitting throughout the day. Break up your time sitting by doing 10 minutes three times a day. Kids should have 60 minutes every day, including play and structured activities. Any amount of physical activity is better than none and all activity counts.
- **Quit Tobacco.** Inhaled nicotine products which include traditional cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vaping, is the leading cause of preventable death in the US. Seek out resources, such as smoke free hotlines and text message programs, which offer free support and information.

• **Sleep well** with Seven to nine hours of sleep each night for adults. Children require more: 10-16 hours for ages five and younger, including naps; nine-12 hours for ages six-12; and eight-10 hours for ages 13-18. Adequate sleep promotes healing, improves brain function and reduces the risk for chronic diseases.

The **four health factors** can be measured and monitored. Although a single number doesn't tell the entire story, by keeping our numbers within in healthy range, we can reduce risk of health

• **Manage Weight** - Achieving and maintaining a healthy weight has many benefits. Body mass index, a numerical value of your weight in relation to

your height, is a useful gauge. Optimal BMI is less than 25, but less than 18.5 is considered underweight. You can calculate it online or consult a health care professional. If you're overweight, losing just three to five percent of your weight can improve blood pressure. If you weigh 200 pounds, that's a loss of six-10 pounds.

• **Control Cholesterol** - High levels of non-HDL, or "bad," cholesterol can lead to heart disease. Your health care professional can consider non-HDL cholesterol as the preferred number to monitor, rather than total cholesterol, because it can be measured without fasting beforehand and is reliably calculated among all people.

• **Manage Blood Sugar** - Most of the food we eat is turned into glucose (or blood sugar) that our bodies use as energy. Over time, high levels of blood sugar can damage your heart, kidneys, eyes and nerves. As part of testing, monitoring hemoglobin A1c can better reflect long-term control in people with diabetes or prediabetes.

• **Manage Blood Pressure** - Keeping your blood pressure within acceptable ranges can keep you healthier longer. Levels less than 120/80 mm Hg are optimal. Everyone ages 3 and older should get their blood pressure checked by a health care provider at least once a year. Expert advice: 30 minutes before your test, don't exercise, drink caffeine or smoke cigarettes. Right before, go to the bathroom. During the test, rest your arm on a table at the level of your heart and put your feet flat on the floor.

**Eating Healthy** is a common denominator in this Life's Essential 8. Follow a heart-healthy eating plan, such as NHLBI's Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH). In order to use less salt, one example is to use herbs for flavor instead of salt and add one fruit or vegetable to every meal. Other suggestions for healthy eating include:

- Increase the amount of fiber you eat and the water you drink.
- Add protein to your breakfast. Protein will help you feel full for longer.
- Avoid fast food when possible.
- Read nutritional labels for nutrition and calorie content. Pay attention to the number of serving sizes in each package.
- Learn about portion sizes and how much you need to eat to stay healthy.
- Stress can trick your body into feeling hungry or craving unhealthy foods. Exercise can reduce stress.

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# We've Been Told We Don't Need Sunscreen. That's Not the Full Story.

By Dr. Hope Mitchell, MD

The Truth Contributor

Let's talk about one of the biggest myths I still hear in my dermatology office: "Dr. Mitchell, I'm Black. I don't need sunscreen." I've heard it from teenagers, parents, athletes, and professionals who are otherwise very health-conscious. And I understand where it comes from. This belief has been passed down for generations. But the truth is, we've been told an incomplete story.



Yes, melanin provides some natural protection. Darker skin has a built-in SPF of about 10 to 15, compared to lighter skin, which has much less. But here's what that means in real life: melanin reduces UV damage. It does not eliminate it. UV rays still penetrate the skin, and over time, they cause cumulative damage that can lead to skin cancer, premature aging, and hyperpigmentation.

Many people assume sunscreen is only needed if you burn easily. But sun damage is not always visible right away. In darker skin tones, UV exposure often shows up differently. Instead of redness and peeling, we may experience dark spots, uneven tone, worsening melasma, and long-lasting discoloration after acne or irritation. I tell my patients regularly: if you struggle with dark marks, sunscreen is not optional. It's essential.

Now, let's address the elephant in the room: many of us didn't grow up seeing sunscreen marketed to us. Commercials featured beach-going white families, and most products left a thick gray or purple cast on darker skin tones. That experience alone turned people away. But today, we have far better options: tinted mineral sunscreens, lightweight chemical sunscreens and formulas specifically designed for melanin-rich skin.

There's also the misconception that sunscreen is only for summer. UV rays are present year-round, including cloudy days. UVA rays, the ones that cause aging and deeper skin damage, can penetrate windows. If you drive often, sit near windows, or work in bright indoor spaces, you may still be getting exposure.

So what sunscreen should you use? I recommend a broad-spectrum SPF 30 or higher. Broad-spectrum means it protects against both UVA and UVB rays. Apply it every morning to your face, neck, and ears, even if you're not going outside for long. If you'll be outdoors longer, reapply every two hours. Don't forget your hands. Many people have youthful faces and sun-damaged hands because they never thought to protect them.

Parents, pay attention to this part. Children who spend long hours in the sun at sports practices or summer camps accumulate UV damage early. Sun exposure in childhood can influence skin cancer risk later in life. Sunscreen should be a habit we teach alongside brushing teeth.

Sunscreen isn't about fear. It's about protection and prevention. It's about keeping your skin healthy and strong. It's about preserving the beauty of melanin, not assuming it's invincible.

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## A Mental Health Moment

# When Grief Divides Us: Healing Black Families After Loss

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC

Licensed Clinical Mental Health Therapist

The Truth Contributor

In many Black families, love runs deep, but so do unspoken wounds. When a loved one passes, grief doesn't always bring people closer. Instead, it can expose fractures—old conflicts, unresolved pain, guilt and misunderstandings—that cause families to turn against one another at the very moment they need unity the most.



This painful pattern isn't a reflection of a lack of love. It's often the result of how grief shows up in communities that have historically had to suppress, carry and survive emotional pain without adequate support.

Grief in Black families is often layered. It is not just sadness—it can carry guilt ("I should have been there more"), anger ("Why didn't they do more?"), and even shame ("We don't talk about family issues publicly"). These emotions, when unspoken, can quickly turn into blame.

One sibling accuses another of not helping enough. A cousin questions decisions made at the hospital. Old childhood rivalries resurface. Instead of mourning together, families begin to fracture.

This is compounded by a long-standing cultural norm: handle it, stay strong and keep it moving. While resilience is a strength, emotional suppression can turn grief into conflict.

Families turn on each other and several underlying reasons why this happens:

- **Unresolved family dynamics:** Loss doesn't create problems—it reveals them.
- **Different grieving styles:** Some cry openly, others withdraw, unhealthy coping such as drug and alcohol abuse begin or increase and some focus on logistics. These differences can be misinterpreted as not caring.
- **Lack of communication:** Without safe spaces to express emotions, assumptions fill the gaps.
- **Historical mistrust of vulnerability:** Many Black families were never taught how to process grief collectively in healthy ways.

By breaking the cycle and choosing healing over hurt healing is possible, but it requires intentional shifts in how families approach grief.

### 1. Normalize Emotional Expression

Grief should not be policed. Allow space for crying, silence, anger, and storytelling. There is no "right" way to grieve.

### 2. Lead with Compassion, Not Accusation

Before blaming a family member, consider what they may be carrying internally. Guilt often disguises itself as anger.

### 3. Create Collective Moments of Healing

Whether it's a family gathering, prayer circle, repast or storytelling night—intentional spaces to remember the loved one can reconnect families emotionally.

### 4. Bring in Support Beyond the Family

Church leaders, community elders or Black mental health professionals can provide guidance and mediation when tensions rise. Seeking help is

... continued on page 14

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# May Is Lupus Awareness Month

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

May is Lupus Awareness Month and for the fifth straight year, Rachelle Roy, herself a lupus patient, is doing all she can to heighten that awareness within the northwest Ohio area.



Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), or lupus, is a chronic autoimmune disease where the immune system mistakenly attacks the body's healthy tissues.

This year, her Lupus Awareness Weekend will be May 15-17, culminating in the Lupus Walk that Sunday afternoon. And this year she will have some help with that event.

For the first time, the Lupus Foundation of America, Greater Ohio Chapter, headquartered in Cleveland, has joined forces with Roy and has launched an effort to bring much needed attention to Roy's efforts

On March 11, representatives of the Lupus Foundation were in Toledo to start the push. They brought together a number of lupus patients and caretakers for a luncheon at the Old Bag of Nails on ProMedica Drive to form a focus group to discuss lupus issues.

The Ohio Chapter was going strong for years, said Suzanne Tierney, chapter CEO, until COVID arrived in 2020. Then financial issues caused a cave-in and the chapter lost a number of staffers and its connection with Toledo. Tierney plans to change that. The Greater Ohio Chapter will join Roy on May 17 for her annual walk.

The point of the focus group was to try to examine issues and find out "what do they need and how we can manage the journey back," said Tierney, herself a lupus patient.

About a dozen patients and caretakers joined Tierney and Alex Acevedo, community engagement & events manager with the Greater Ohio Chapter, for lunch.

Among the patients attending the luncheon was Louis Goings who was diagnosed with lupus 22 years ago. Men account for only 10 percent of all lupus patients and, not surprisingly, Goings was the only man present at the luncheon.

Goings suffers from sun lupus which has left him in constant pain and severe scars on his head. He has medication – lots of medication – to take, but he rarely does. Except for a cream for his head scars, the medication – oral medication – simply doesn't work, he says. "I got all kinds but why keep taking it?"

His frustration with the disease and the medical professionals he has encountered is palpable.

"They can't figure out what to do with lupus," says Goings. "It's a guessing game with them. I have been going in and out of the hospital for 20 years.."

Goings' frustration his disease is similar to that of most patients. The disease is not easily diagnosed, medication is a hit or miss solution and it can affect patients in so many different ways – the brain, lungs, kidneys, joints, eyes, heart, digestive system, skin and/or the cardiovascular system.

The Lupus Awareness Weekend kicks off on Friday May 15 with a Wig Give-away from 4 to 9 p.m. at The Trunk. On Saturday, there will be Karaoke Night from 7 to 11 p.m. at The Bluegill and, on Sunday, The Walk at Ottawa Park starts at 10 a.m., with an After Walk Celebration from 4 to 8 p.m. at This Is It.



Lupus activist Rachelle Roy

Suzanne Tierney - standing - from the Cleveland Lupus Foundation speaks with local lupus activists

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### Building Peak Electric...continued from page 5

"We've been here before," he says.

"Experience teaches us all that storms don't last forever. When the foundation is strong, the structure will hold."

And over time, success has become less about what he built and more about who it was built for.

"Making sure my family is taken care of," he says. "My wife, my kids... and the families that depend on me. That's what success looks like to me."

That's bigger than profit. It's purpose.

When asked how he wants to be remembered, he pauses.

Then answers simply:

"I was fair. I did the right thing. I worked hard to make sure others were successful."

### Still Building What Matters Most

Some people chase titles. Some chase attention. Some just build.

Milton McIntyre is still building.

And when his work slows down, he heads to the water, where he gets his fishing boat ready. Because even builders need stillness.

And the ones who are built to last know when to move, when to wait, and when to trust what they've already built.

For more information learn more about Peak Electric Inc. and its services here.

# A Terrible Intimacy: Interracial Life in the Slaveholding South by Melvin Patrick Ely

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Time served.

If you've ever faced a judge in a courtroom, that's what you hope to hear. A few hours in a concrete room, maybe an uncomfortable overnight, done. It's not fun, it might be embarrassing, but it's over and you move on, chastised. Unless, as in the new book *A Terrible Intimacy* by Melvin Patrick Ely, time served was a lifetime.

c. 2026  
Henry Holt  
\$31.99  
368 pages

When you think about slavery, the image of large fields and entire households full of enslaved people probably comes to mind.

That, says Ely, isn't the whole story. In the years prior to the Civil War, he says, roughly "one-quarter of America's enslaved people lived on large plantations with fifty or more forced laborers..." Another 25 percent dwelt on smaller plantations with slightly fewer enslaved people.

The rest - about half of this country's enslaved people - lived on small farmsteads; in fact, households that held five or fewer enslaved people "were very numerous."

This, Ely says, meant that slaveholders were very familiar with those they held in bondage, and they likely knew those held by their neighbors. They might have attended church with enslaved people, or sought medical help from an enslaved Black doctor.

"Trade across racial lines was frequent," he says, "shared recreation not rare."

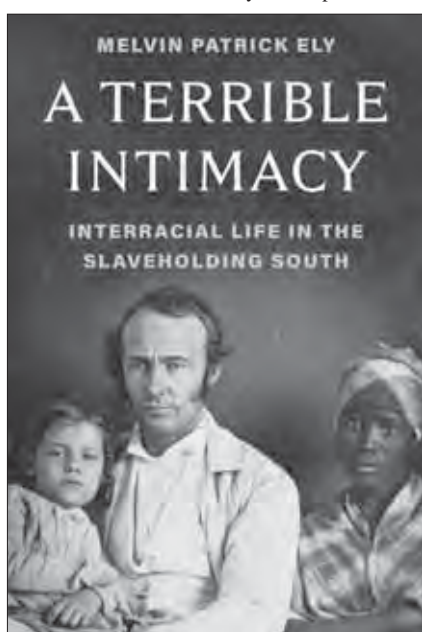
Such "intimacy" sometimes led to looser rules for enslaved people. It also led to a surprise: "An enslaved person charged with a crime in Virginia, and in the South generally, would have had legal representation" in the case of an alleged crime.

A Black man named Tom, for example, was accused of killing an overseer in a fight - but was the fight cloaked in a whole other matter? Nancy Morgan was viciously murdered by a "negro" named Solomon - or was she nothing more than "a wayward, shiftless pauper"? Mary Tatum accused George of rape. Was it a case of mistaken identity?

And when Hillery Richardson was mortally wounded by William, the jury had to decide: who was really the victim?

So you say you're a big fan of mysteries. Nothing like a good whodunit, right? Then check out *A Terrible Intimacy* and see if it doesn't fit just perfectly.

Because it will. Reading author Melvin Patrick Ely's work is like having Matlock on the sofa by you, and Easy Rawlins next to her. It's part courtroom procedural, with a historical angle that Ely is studiously careful to explain, and the kind of excitement you'd expect from life-or-death testimonies, a few shockers, and some heartbreak. Readers will clearly understand Ely's obvious excitement in teasing apart these tales - they are, after all, things that happened to real people in real court cases, presented with a shared knowledge of 19th-century vocabulary and slang, culture, and with filled-in-the-blanks for deeper understanding. If you feel like a real sleuth while you're reading, you're not far off.



This is a book well-told by a great storyteller, and if you're a fan of courtroom-thriller novels or historical events, you won't be sorry to find it. Start A

*Terrible Intimacy* and it will serve you well.

*Even Under Attack...continued from page 7*

What ties these states together is not just their competitiveness, but the fact that Black turnout is not guaranteed. Just because Black voters dislike Trump does not mean they are automatically ready to vote for Democrats. Democrats' fate with Black voters rises and falls based on investment, outreach and whether Black voters feel seen and heard.

Too often, Democrats assume that demographic change alone will deliver victory. It will not. Elections are decided by the voters who actually show up on Election Day. Black turnout, especially in midterm cycles, must be earned. This is where Democrats have stumbled before. Underinvestment in organizing, particularly in Black communities, has led to missed opportunities in states that were within reach.

The lesson from recent elections is unmistakable: when Black turnout is high, Democrats win. When it dips, even slightly, the path narrows or disappears entirely. The stakes could not be higher. Control of the Senate determines which laws pass, which judges are confirmed and whether a governing agenda can move forward at all.

In an era of razor-thin margins, a single seat can decide the direction of the country. If Democrats are serious about reclaiming the Senate in 2026, they must be equally serious about where they invest their time, resources, and attention. That means looking south and committing, early and aggressively, to turning out Black voters in Texas, North Carolina, and Georgia—especially in a legal landscape where Black access to the ballot is under attack.

The path is there. The data is clear. The only question is whether Democrats will act on it.

... continued on page 14

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# UToledo to Host 2026 Summer Camps

*Special to The Truth*

Families looking for 2026 summer camp opportunities will find plenty of options at The University of Toledo. For high school students, a range of experiences will give campers a taste of college life and career exploration. Younger kids can sign up for a pair of traditional summer camps and athletics camps for boys and girls of all ages hosted by Rocket Athletics.

The College of Engineering will host the UToledo Engineering Summer Camp, a weeklong program for high school students that includes an immersive experience where students delve into various engineering disciplines through hands-on activities, guided by UToledo faculty and student mentors. Each day focuses on a different field, offering interactive experiments and real-world challenges. The camp will be held Monday, July 20, through Friday, July 24.

The Neff College of Business and Innovation will host RISE Into Business, which gives students a taste of what studying business in college is like without the lectures. RISE is a three-day summer enrichment program designed for college-bound high school students with an interest in business and entrepreneurship. The camp will be held Monday, June 22, through Wednesday, June 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Judith Herb College of Arts, Social Sciences and Education will host two camps.

\* In the five-day Make a Book: Reading, Writing, and Illustration Camp, students entering grades 3-5 will be guided step-by-step through creating their very own book. Each day includes three 45-minute classes — one focused on reading, one on writing and one on illustration — plus a snack break to recharge.

\* An Inclusive Performing Arts Camp, open to middle school and high school students with disabilities and their instructors. Students will learn the fundamentals of performing arts, such as stage direction, blocking and choreography, while writing and starring in their own show. Instructors will learn adaptive and inclusive strategies for incorporating the performing arts into their classrooms. Both camps will be held Monday, July 13, through Friday, July 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The College of Health and Human Services will also host a pair of camps.

\* A daylong Nursing and Respiratory Care Camp takes place on Tuesday, June 16.

## *A Mental Health Moment.. continued from page 11*

not weakness—it's wisdom.

### **5. Address the Unspoken**

Grief can open the door to long-avoided conversations. While difficult, these moments can become opportunities for generational healing if approached with care.

Strength in Black communities has often meant endurance. But true strength also includes vulnerability, accountability and healing together.

We must begin to redefine what it means to “hold it together.” Sometimes, holding it together means crying together. Apologizing. Forgiving. Listening.

Because at the end of the day, the greatest way to honor the person we've lost is not through division—but through unity.

Take a mental health moment and a call to our community. Black families deserve spaces where grief doesn't tear them apart but brings them closer. By breaking cycles of silence, embracing emotional honesty and leaning into collective healing, we can transform loss into a bridge instead of a barrier. Grief is inevitable. Division is not; And healing—together—is still possible.

*(This article is in remembrance of James E. Wright, Jr., may you rest in peace, you will be missed and honored as a Navy Veteran, a loving father and a man of true faith in God.)*

*Bernadette Joy Graham is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Therapist, Email: graham.bernadette@gmail.com. For appointments: Maumee location – 419-866-8232 – Toledo location – 419-578-2525. If you feel you may be in a mental health crisis, please call 988 or go to the nearest emergency room*

## *Even Under Attack...continued from page 13*

*Kevin Harris is a Democratic strategist who has advised over 100 campaigns and ballot measures, including the past five presidential elections. Trice Edney Communications | 6817 Georgia Avenue | Washington, DC 20012 US*

\* A two-day Health Professions Career Summer Camp on Tuesday, July 14, and Wednesday, July 15, allows prospective students to participate in hands-on activities like cadaver anatomy, therapeutic activities and simulated patient experiences. Additionally, students will have a chance to network with current UToledo students, faculty and alumni in these career fields.

Both camps are on a first-come, first-served basis and have registration limits of 40 students.

The College of Medicine and Life Sciences will host three camps.

\* Future Doctors Camp, held Monday, June 8, through Friday, June 12, is a multiday in-person camp that gives students an immersive, interactive look into a career in medicine. Registration for this camp closes Friday, May 22.

\* Rocket Neurosciences Laboratory Summer Camp, held Monday, July 13, through Friday, July 24, is another multiday in-person camp that gives students an immersive, interactive look into a career in medicine.

\* Additionally, the college will host the Virtual Summer Biomedical Science Program in Bioinformatics from Monday, June 15, through Saturday, July 11.

The College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will host a pair of camps.

\* An in-person, three-day Pharmacy & Science Career Camp runs from Monday, June 15, through Wednesday, June 17, and includes an overnight stay in one of UToledo's residence halls. The in-person camp has a registration limit of 60 students

\* A virtual three-day Cosmetic Science and Formulation Design Summer Camp from Wednesday, July 8, through Friday, July 10, teaches participants about the science of makeup formulation and highlights UToledo's unique undergraduate Cosmetic Science and Formulation Design Program. This online camp has a limit of 150 students.

### **Camps for Younger Children**

UToledo Kid's Camp offers a dynamic and engaging program designed for kids ages 5 through 12 with activities that include nature hikes, arts and crafts, swimming, sports and interactive games that inspire creativity, teamwork and a love for the outdoors. The camp runs Monday, June 1, through Friday, July 31. Drop-off is 8 to 9 a.m., with camp day activities beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. Camper pick-up is from 4 to 6 p.m.

Camp Rockets: The Early Learning Center will host its summer Camp Rockets program from Monday, June 1, through Friday, Aug. 21. Designed for children ages 6 to 10, as well as 5-year-olds who have completed kindergarten, the camp features weekly themes — including nature exploration, arts and crafts, team-building and science experiments — along with field trips that bring each theme to life. Priority enrollment is available for UToledo faculty, staff and students and current Early Learning Center families. Space is limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is now open, and families can complete an interest form to be considered.

### **\*\* Rocket Athletics camps**

\* Basketball Kids Camps: The men's basketball team will host a series of four-day UToledo Basketball Kids Camps, Session 1, Session 2 and Session 3, for kids going into third grade through eighth grade. The dates for these camps are Monday, June 8, through Thursday, June 11; Monday, June 22, through Thursday, June 25; and Monday, July 27, through Thursday, July 30. The women's team will also hold two camps, Kids Day Camps from Monday, June 15, through Thursday, June 18, and a Little Dribblers Camp from Monday, July 20, through Thursday, July 23.

\* UToledo Women's Rocket Soccer Summer Day Camp: Session 1, from Monday, June 1, through Friday, June 5, and Session 2, from Monday, June 8, through Friday, June 12, are for kids in third through eighth grade and provide youth soccer players the opportunity to learn from and interact with Division I student-athletes and coaches, all in a collective effort to develop their soccer skills while having fun.

\* UToledo Women's Rocket Soccer Summer Day Camp: Mini Kickers Session 1, from Monday, June 1, through Friday, June 5, and Session 2, from Monday, June 8, through Friday, June 12, are for kids in kindergarten through second grade.

\* Volleyball Camps: The volleyball team is also hosting three camps: a Skills Clinic on Wednesday, July 8, and Thursday, July 9; a Junior Rocket Camp from Monday, July 13, through Wednesday, July 15; and a Youth Camp from Monday, July 13, through Wednesday, July 15. Registration for all athletics camps closes at midnight the day before the start date.

More information about these programs, including fees and registration deadlines, is available on the UToledo summer camp calendar website (<https://www.utoledo.edu/events/camps/>).



## 2026 Program of Projects

### Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority

5307 FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026

Federal Fiscal Year	Activity	Fed Share	Total Budget
5307 FY26	Vehicle Replacement	\$1,057,182	\$1,321,478
5307 FY26	Operating Assistance	\$1,400,000	\$2,800,000
5307 FY26	Preventive Maintenance	\$5,600,000	\$7,000,000
	<b>Total Section 5307 funded Items</b>	<b>\$8,057,182</b>	<b>\$11,121,478</b>
5339A FY26	Rehabilitation and Renovation	\$711,647	\$889,559

Written public comments on the proposed Program of Projects will be accepted by the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority until the close of business on **May 29, 2026**. TARTA will consider all comments received and may provide additional opportunities for public input, including a public meeting or hearing, if warranted.

Comments can be submitted via mail to: Chief Executive Officer, TARTA, 1127 W Central Ave., Toledo, OH 43610.

Alternatively, you can email your comments with the subject line "Program of Projects" to [info@tarta.com](mailto:info@tarta.com).

This program will become final and will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration on completion of the public participation process unless amended by the action of the Board of Trustees of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority.

*Laura Koprowski, CEO*

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT - BASED VOUCHERS RFP26-R003 APRIL

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Project - Based Vouchers for the HCV Program. Interested parties should be owner/developers, management agent, and/or project sponsors for projects concentrating on Supportive Services. LMH has reserved up to 260 PBV for this rolling RFP. Received in accordance with law until May 28, 2026, at 3:00 PM ET. See documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 424 Jackson Street, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT



**Pathway, Inc.**  
505 Hamilton Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
[www.pathwaytoledo.org](http://www.pathwaytoledo.org)

Chief Financial Officer  
On-site | Full-Time | Strategic

Pathway, Inc., the Community Action Agency serving Lucas County, is seeking a dynamic Chief Financial Officer (CFO) who will lead the financial operations and support long-term organizational support.

The CFO serves as a key member of the executive leadership team and a trusted partner to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), providing financial leadership across a diverse portfolio of federal, state, and local funding sources. This role is responsible for ensuring strong financial stewardship, regulatory compliance, and alignment between financial strategy and program delivery.

The ideal candidate brings both technical expertise and leadership capacity, with the ability to operate at a strategic level while remaining engaged in day-to-day financial management within a lean team environment.

Apply @ <https://pathwaytoledo.org/employment> no later than Friday, May 8, 2026

## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio, by the Purchasing Department, One Government Center, Suite 480, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2247 until 3:00 P.M. (local time), May 22, 2026, and opened immediately thereafter for **#2180 TANF Program Services to Youth and Families** for the Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, according to specifications available for examination, or download the proposal by going to the site, <https://co.lucas.oh.us/3322/Bid-Opportunities> Suppliers interested in doing business with Lucas County must register in the Supplier Portal.

To access the Lucas County Oracle Supplier Portal, please visit: [https://eieb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuId=300000007278812&\\_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3\\_1&\\_afLoop=7126760101772357&\\_afWindowMode=0&\\_afWindowId=avudlxmca&\\_afFS=16&\\_afMT=screen&\\_afMFW=1920&\\_afMFH=932&\\_afMFDW=1920&\\_afMFDH=1080&\\_afMFC=8&\\_afMFCl=0&\\_afMFM=0&\\_afMFR=96&\\_afMFG=0&\\_afMFS=0&\\_afMFO=0](https://eieb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuId=300000007278812&_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3_1&_afLoop=7126760101772357&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=avudlxmca&_afFS=16&_afMT=screen&_afMFW=1920&_afMFH=932&_afMFDW=1920&_afMFDH=1080&_afMFC=8&_afMFCl=0&_afMFM=0&_afMFR=96&_afMFG=0&_afMFS=0&_afMFO=0)

Prior to 3:00 P.M. (local time), May 22, 2026, each proposal shall contain the full name of each person submitting the proposal and the name of every person or company interested in same. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Lisa A. Sobecki – President  
Pete Gerken – Commissioner  
Anita Lopez- Commissioner

Bid # 2180 - TANF Program Services to Youth and Families

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

# The Cotillion Talent Show

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The NANPWB Toledo Club hosted the Debutante Talent Show at Bowsher High School Monday, April 20. The free event displayed the young ladies' unique talents including original poetry, dance and musical performances in anticipation of the 58th Debutante Cotillion Ball.

The Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Deborah Carlisle, NANPWB Toledo Talent Co-Chairman. A welcome was provided by Tyra Smith Williamson, NANPWB Toledo Club President and a greeting from the North Central District was given by Denise Black-Poon, NANPWB North Central District Governor.

Following the invocation by Tommie McGhee, NANPWB Toledo Club Chaplain and Introduction of the Judges and Tallier by Beverly Tucker, NANPWB Toledo Talent Co-Chairman the debutantes took to the stage!

### 2026 Debutante Performances:

- **Dana Bethany** (Central Catholic High School) – Spoken Word
- **ShawnZeya Brown** (Central Catholic High School) – Step Performance
- **Kimiko Floyd** (St. Ursula Academy) – Original Spoken Word
- **Sabriah Greer** (Central Catholic High School) – Praise Dance
- **Brooklynn Harrison** (Central Catholic High School) – Spoken Word TEDx
- **Ja'Niya Jackson** (Springfield High School)– Praise Dance
- **Diamond Kendrick** (St. Ursula Academy) – Spoken Word
- **Dalliss Lothery Hatch** (Robert S. Rogers High School)– Original Spoken Poem
- **Brooklyn Marrow** (St. Ursula Academy) – Original Spoken Word
- **Kennedy Powell** (Central Catholic High School) – Piano Solo
- **Riayn Roberts** (Toledo Early College) – Viola Solo
- **Marleya Smith** (Central Catholic High School) – Original Spoken Word
- **Alyson Williams** (Central Catholic High School) – Tap Dance Performance

Closing remarks were given by Tyra Smith Williamson, NANPWB Toledo

Club President.

The 58th Debutante Cotillion will be presented by the NANBPW Toledo Club and held May 23 at Parkway Plaza. The evening of elegance, tradition, and celebration will honor the debutantes and recognize the young ladies' growth, achievements, and commitment to excellence. The memorable occasion promises a night of sophistication, community, and timeless charm.

To learn more visit The Toledo Club NANBPWC, Inc. Facebook Page or the organization's national website at nanbpwc.org .



The 2026 Escorts



NANBPWC Toledo Club Officers - Beverly Tucker, Denise Black Poon, Tyra Smith Williamson



Debutantes, NANBPWC members, family, and supporters

**GOT MULCH?**  
Pick-Up or Delivery



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Light or Dark Mulch

**\$10** per cu. yd!  
Wood Chips



**TOL** City of Toledo [mulch.toledo.gov](http://mulch.toledo.gov)



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