



Volume 95 No. 3 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." May 13, 2026



Building Bridges, Not Just Balance Sheets

Craig Teamer: Toledo Lucas County Port Authority Director of Finance & Special Projects

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Winners, Losers and a Warning for Toledo

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

The Truth Contributor

A child miseducated is a child lost.

- John F. Kennedy



Elections have consequences — and every election also has winners and losers.

Last week's primary in Lucas County delivered verdicts on public safety, public education and political power that will shape our community, long after the yard signs come down in November.

Here is my take on the May primary's winners and losers.

Winner: The People of Lucas County

The 9-1-1 emergency communications levy passed. Like, who votes against that? However, the 9-1-1 levy's passage matters more than it sounds. This was not merely about keeping the lights on at a government office. It was about investing in and replacing towers, repeaters and the hardware technology that saves lives when precious minutes and seconds matter.

People want to feel safe, and voters overrode the rising anti-levy mood hardening across Ohio. And it passed despite the Lucas County Sheriff's reluctance to champion it.

Winner: The Toledo Zoo

The zoo's levy passed, too — a lesson in smart strategy for every other levy campaign that comes next. It may have well failed had it not been offered at a reduced millage or lowered rate. That was smart — meet the taxpayer where they are, financially.

Loser: Ohio's Public School Children

The Sylvania and Springfield school levies both went down in flames. Let's just keep it real. Their defeat is more than the impact of the property tax revolt.

Ohio's constitution requires the state to provide a common system of public education. The state has been violating that requirement for years. Billions in public dollars have been rerouted to private and religious schools through voucher programs while local districts are left to beg at the levy ballot.

We have seen this movie before. It is the same systemic tool used to dismantle historic Dorr Street. Here is the pattern: Outside forces extract wealth or substantial resources from a thriving community until it ultimately destabilizes that ecosystem, essentially strangling or bleeding it to death while blaming the problem on the victim.

It is a strategy to shrink the state's obligation and then watch public education hollow out from the inside.

The families who lose in that scenario are not the ones who can write a

tuition check. They are our families. And the consequences are not abstract — they show up as cut bus routes, shuttered schools, staggered start times and eliminated programs. The things that make a school a school, gone one budget cycle at a time.

Yes, the two school levies going down were the first levies coming off the sticker shock last year, but that is a warning. And the officials who represent our community need to be fighting this battle in Columbus — not waiting for the next levy to fail. Otherwise, all public schools will have a difficult time passing new property tax levies for a while, and the whole education system might be upended.

Loser: Josh Williams

Josh Williams lost handily to Derek Merrin and will therefore be out of the Ohio House in January. Williams has many detractors, especially in Lucas County, a Democratic fortress. Some are already terming Williams as "forgettable" and "irrelevant." I am not going to pile on. But I will say this: No one person is entirely good or bad — in politics, least of all. Williams was known to collaborate with Democrats wherever common ground could be found.

His departure leaves our community without a voice in Republican Columbus. That is a loss worth naming plainly, whatever one's politics and a dilemma Black Republicans face in this current socio-political environment.

Winner (for now): Derek Merrin

As expected, Merrin won the primary going away. His victory sets up a rematch against Marcy Kaptur, which is ranked a toss-up. His Trump alignment fired up the Republican base to get here, while Madison Sheahen, the former ICE Director, didn't get much support.

Whether Merrin performs well in November among independents is a different question — and his problem to solve. Yet, Democrats should not get comfortable. A toss-up is a toss-up. U.S. House District 9 has been redrawn, and the political environment is volatile. For our community, the congressional stakes in November are too high for anything less than full engagement.

Watch: Democratic Enthusiasm

Analysts reported some Democratic enthusiasm, with higher-than-expected turnout in the governor's race. But I have been around long enough to know that primary enthusiasm and November votes are not the same thing.

Overall, the primary told us this community still votes to protect itself when safety is at stake. It told us that public education in Ohio is being slowly strangled and running out of time. It told us that Black political influence in Columbus is even thinner than it was. And it set up a November that will matter — for this county, and for this state.

What happens next is up to us.

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

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The Sojourner's Truth

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor

Tricia Hall – Reporter

Asia Nail – Reporter

Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz – Webmaster

Jessica Crans – Layout

A Certified MBE

The Sojourner's Truth, 7 E Bancroft, Toledo, OH 43620

Phone 419-243-0007

thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

It's Time to Pack the Court!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

In light of the recent Supreme Court ruling that the blatantly partisan gerrymandering in Tennessee, which for all intensive purposes neutered a heavily Black voting bloc and now results in a Republican Tennessee having absolute control of all nine Congressional delegates, it is time to pack the court!



The MAGA side of the Supreme Court, led by the ever grinning Chief Justice Roberts, has spoken in twisted legal gibberish that the Tennessee lawmakers were permitted to carve up the Black voting district in Memphis under the guise of permitted political gerrymandering.

The Supremes with no judicial embarrassment whatsoever, concluded that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and specifically its critical Section 2, was inapplicable to the issue at hand and they glibly stated that the defenders of Section 2 could not demonstrate that the motive of the gerrymandering, was intentionally done with racism as its rocket fuel.

From the outset, let's be clear, the recent ruling of the Supreme Court is not balanced or fair when it comes to matters involving race being a factor.

The Supreme Court justices have taken upon themselves the mantle and crown of being the final arbiter of all things racial when it comes to judicial pronouncements. They do not give deference to the effect of the passed laws in Congress but rather they pontificate on legal issues as if there are not two other branches of a co-equal government and especially so when it pertains to the powers of Congress to regulate the courts.

Under the US Constitution, it is Congress that oversees the power and reaches of the Supreme Court and the lower courts and not the Supreme Court regulating itself and more importantly, dictating what they believes shows or does not show, intent of the lawmakers.

Suffice to say, attempting to find a racist intent regarding the passage of a law that clearly tramples on the rights of minority voters to have access to their chosen candidate is nigh an impossibility.

That is why the impetus behind Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act did not engage in such tomfoolery but rather it relied upon the effect of the outcome of such biased gerrymandering by white politicians.

Anyone with two working brain cells can ascertain that if you have to rely upon showing what the framers meant when they arbitrarily and capriciously drew up boundary lines involving majority Black districts and which resulted in black voting strength being either diluted or totally nullified, you are asleep.

What makes this outrageous decision even the more injurious is that Justice Clarence Thomas, whom I now call Sambo, was concurring in the majority opinion of this devastating ruling.

As long as the white MAGA skewed majority had Sambo sitting in their midst giving assent to this assault, they had the confidence to wreak havoc on this 60-year old decision.

Sambo had no shame in throwing Black voters under the bus because, in my humble opinion, it only demonstrates that he was and is willing to stick it to Black voters or Black people whenever the opportunity arises.

Clarence Thomas, for all practicable purposes, is simply another "white" jurist on the Supreme Court and he has absolutely no qualms about it. His woeful lack of the history of racism in this country when it pertains to the shameful history of Black people being denied access to the ballot box, does not phase Sambo one bit.

This is all the more remarkable when you understand that Sambo was a direct beneficiary of Affirmative Action in his educational career but he has made sure that once he got the benefit of accessing higher education, he slammed the door on others trying to gain entry in the same manner that he did.

With the racial polarization in this country increasing due to the openly hostility of Trump, Hegseth and now emboldened white Southern state legislators, matters of race, D.E.I. and the teaching of critical race theory (C.R.T.) are nigh taboo subjects and easy pickings for racist legislators.

America's hostility to people of color is not toning down but rather has been heated up due to the racial remarks of Trump and his clown car of similarly likeminded enablers. Once the right to vote and the process to vote is pummeled by legislation that attempts to frustrate and limit minority voters, Jim Crow wins!

Chief Justice Roberts, Trump and others of their ilk are preening and grinning because they currently have the judicial ammo to impede racial progress in America and especially so when it comes to the critical right of who

gets to vote and how that process is fairly, or unfairly, implemented.

One remedy to a right wing Supreme Court is if and when the Democrats win both houses of Congress, they can, "pack the court" which means they can place five appointees on the

Roberts court to both blunt and "revisit" certain decisions with the goal to deem then null and void.

Short of that activism and if the Republicans continue to control the Senate and the White House, the Roberts court, and its progeny, will continue to steer America back to a Jim Crow era regarding voting rights.

Packing the Court would be a highly combustible issue but with a clear explanation given as to why it is critically needed at this juncture in American history, it is worth the time and effort to undertake its implementation.

What is the alternative? Simple: Jim Crow flies again and you will have rule by the Supreme Court and not rule by the people, of the people and for the people.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at lafe5x@gmail.com

Community Calendar

May 19

NAACP toledo branch public meeting will be held at Motts Library; 5:00 pm.

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.

June 2

Annual meeting of the Warren A.M.E. Church Vision Empowerment Board will be held via Zoom; 1:30 PM. If you would like to attend, you may request a link from natejacksonj1@gmail.com

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Are Majority-Black Districts Really Complete Nonsense?

By Carla Thomas

The Truth Contributor

I don't know what's worse, the Supreme Court's decision to weaken protections against racial gerrymandering and make it harder to protect majority-Black voting districts, or the response from State Representative Joshua Williams. I would have to say the latter.

"I'm a Black Republican who currently represents a majority-white district in the Ohio State House and is running to represent a majority-white district in Congress. The idea that black Americans need special districts carved out just for them is complete nonsense. It's a violation of the law and blatantly unconstitutional. Glad the Supreme Court made the right decision."

In simple terms, the Court's decision makes it easier for states to draw voting maps that dilute Black voting power by spreading Black voters across overwhelmingly white districts instead of allowing Black communities enough voting strength to elect representatives of their choice.

"The idea that black Americans need special districts carved out just for them is complete nonsense."

On that part, I actually agree with him. It is complete nonsense that Black Americans had to march, protest and fight for voting rights in the first place. It is complete nonsense that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 even had to exist.

It is utter and complete nonsense that our ancestors had to survive literacy tests, poll taxes, intimidation, violence, racial terror and gerrymandering just to participate in democracy.

Complete nonsense is acting like Black Americans fought for generations for "special treatment" instead of "equal access" to political representation.

But the real nonsense is talking about majority-Black districts without talking about the history that made them necessary in the first place.

You can be conservative. You can be Republican. You can even be a Black, conservative Republican. You can disagree with policies all day long. But deeeeyum! How do you muster up the nerve to invalidate the struggle that got



you through the door in the first place?

Majority-Black districts didn't just appear out of nowhere because Black folk woke up one day and decided they needed special treatment. They were created because white political systems repeatedly diluted, erased or fragmented Black voting power. They exist because without them, Black communities were often locked out of representation entirely. That is historical fact, not opinion.

That is why I believe statements like this from Black Republican Joshua Williams are detrimental to our progress. They reduce a complicated history down to a simplistic talking point.

Black people couldn't even vote in this country at one point, let alone run for office. The fact that he was able to run as a Black man and be elected to represent his district, is connected to the struggles, sacrifices and fights that came before him.

Therefore, just because Representative Joshua Williams is a "Black Republican who currently represents a majority-white district in the Ohio State House" does not suddenly invalidate the historical reasons majority-Black districts became necessary in the first place.

It simply means he exercised his right as a Black man to run for office, and the people in his district had enough voting power to elect the candidate they wanted. In other words, their voices carried enough political weight to elect him.

"It's a violation of the law and blatantly unconstitutional."

If Black Republican Joshua Williams is so deeply concerned about constitutional fairness in voting and representation, then why does that concern seem so one-sided?

Where is that same outrage when voting maps are manipulated through gerrymandering, or when Black communities face polling place closures, long wait times, and targeted voting restrictions? Where is the outrage and concern when the political system repeatedly finds ways to weaken Black representation while pretending race has nothing to do with it?

If Black Republican Joshua Williams considers majority-Black districts "blatantly unconstitutional," what pray-tell would he call the generations of tactics used to suppress Black political influence?

The issue for me is not that Joshua Williams is Black and Republican. Black people are not a monolith, and I respect anyone's decision to live and vote by their own convictions.

What bothers me is watching a Black man with political power speak about majority-Black districts while either lacking a real understanding of the history behind them, or simply choosing to disregard it altogether.

Black Americans and their allies marched, protested, were beaten, humiliated, threatened, jailed and killed over the right to vote and to have equal political participation in this country. So to reduce majority-Black districts to "complete nonsense" strips away the deeper history and context behind why those protections existed to begin with.

And that is what feels so deeply disrespectful about his whole statement.

Lucas County Voters Turned Out

Special to The Truth

Lucas County voters showed up for the May 2026 primary and they are ready for change in Ohio! Nearly 20 percent of eligible voters cast ballots, a meaningful increase from the May 2022 primary, which saw less than 15 percent turnout. We are a community that is engaged, energized and ready to be heard.

For decades, Ohio has been under Republican leadership, and the results have been deeply disappointing. Costs of healthcare, groceries and gas keep rising while too many out of touch leaders do nothing to help everyday families. Voters are responding to candidates who understand their challenges and are ready to act. From Dr. Amy Acton, Senator Sherrrod Brown and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur at the top of the ticket to strong local Democratic candidates who are rooted in their communities.

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Building Bridges, Not Just Balance Sheets: How Craig Teamer Helps Toledo Businesses Grow

By Asai Nail

The Truth Reporter

Some people look at numbers and only see profit and loss. **Craig L. Teamer** looks at numbers and sees people.

He sees the daycare owner trying to keep the lights on. The contractor waiting 60 days to get paid. The small business owner with a dream bigger than their bank account.

And at the **Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority**, helping those people has become part of his life's work.

"There's never a dull moment," Teamer says with a laugh.

That may be the understatement of the year.

As Director of Finance & Special Projects, Teamer oversees several programs designed to help businesses get access to capital, especially businesses that may not qualify for traditional bank loans. But his path to this work did not happen overnight. Like many careers, it unfolded one conversation at a time.

A Second Call That Changed Everything

Before joining the Port Authority in 2017, Teamer spent more than 20 years in banking and corporate finance. He worked for companies including The Andersons, Inc., where he helped finance the company's current headquarters building.

Ironically, one of the financing tools used on that project came from the Port Authority itself.

That is how he met Thomas Winston.

"At the time, Winston was the chief financial officer," Teamer says. "After we closed the transaction, he approached me and asked if I'd be interested in coming to the Port."

Teamer politely declined.

Then Winston came back a year later.

"My wife said, 'This is the second time he's reached out to you. Maybe you should sit down and have the conversation,'" Teamer recalls.

That conversation changed everything.

For Teamer, a Toledo native, the opportunity felt personal. Economic development was not just business. It was home.

"It was a great opportunity to do impactful economic development in Toledo," he says. "That's really been the draw for me, and it's what's kept me here."

Looking Beyond the Risk

The shift from traditional banking to economic development changed the way Teamer views finance.

"In banking, sometimes things are very black and white," he explains. "At the Port, you have to look at projects more holistically."

In other words, numbers still matter. But so do neighborhoods. Jobs. Families. Communities.

A banker may see risk. Teamer says the Port Authority also looks at possibilities. "It's not just, 'Does this project make sense on paper?'" he says. "It's also,

'What's the impact from a job's perspective? A neighborhood perspective? A social perspective?'"

His work often feels less like crunching numbers and more like building bridges between ideas and opportunity.

Helping Main Street Stay Alive

That broader vision became especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic, when businesses across the country were struggling just to survive.

Out of that crisis came one of Teamer's biggest projects yet: the Northwest Ohio Revolving Loan Fund.

The program was built from the ground up almost like assembling a car engine piece by piece while the vehicle was already moving down the highway.

"We had to create the whole framework from scratch," Teamer says. "The documents, the processes...all of it."

Today, the Revolving Loan Fund helps Main Street businesses with loans ranging from \$10,000 to \$300,000. The program has already funded nearly \$2 million in loans.

And those businesses are not giant corporations with skyscrapers and private jets.

Main Street businesses are small, local businesses that serve everyday community needs. Think of the kinds of places you'd find on a town's main road or in a neighborhood strip.

They're usually things like:

- Local restaurants and cafés
- Hair salons and barbershops
- Daycares and childcare centers
- Small retail shops and boutiques
- Auto repair shops
- Landscaping or cleaning companies
- Family-owned service businesses

What makes them "Main Street" isn't just location, it's size and role. They're typically small to mid-sized, locally owned, and focused on serving people in their own community rather than operating nationally or globally.

These are the kinds of businesses that quietly hold communities together like stitches in a favorite jacket.

"We've helped daycares, we've helped landscapers, we've helped owners open their own retail shops," Teamer says.

He believes access to capital can be the difference between a business stay-

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Craig Teamer

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Ona Judge Escaped once. Now They Want to Erase Her.

By Ben Jealous

Ona Judge escaped George Washington once.

Now the federal government is trying to make her disappear again.

I teach in Philadelphia, a short walk from the site of the President's House. George and Martha Washington lived there when the city was the nation's capital. Nine enslaved people lived there too.

My own family fought in the American Revolution. We descend from the youngest boy to carry a musket at Lexington. So I grew up believing the American story belongs to every American. Not the cleaned-up version.

Ona Judge was one of those nine. The promise of the Revolution lived in that house. So did the cruelty of slavery.

That is not a footnote. That is the American story.

For 15 years, visitors to Independence National Historical Park could learn that story at an exhibit called "Freedom and Slavery in the Making of a New Nation." It told the truth about the people Washington enslaved there. It told the truth about Ona Judge, who chose freedom in 1796 and refused to return. It told the truth about a country that promised liberty while permitting slavery.

Then the Trump administration took the panels down.

In January, the National Park Service removed the exhibit on White House orders. The administration calls this kind of history too "divisive." Empty bolt holes marked the brick where the panels used to hang. Only nine names re-



mained, engraved on the wall. Austin. Christopher Sheels. Giles. Hercules. Joe Richardson. Moll. Oney Judge. Paris. Richmond. Someone left flowers.

The city of Philadelphia sued. A federal judge ordered the exhibit put back. The administration appealed. The case is now before the Third Circuit.

This is a fight over whether America is strong enough to tell the truth about itself.

And in that fight, we need heroes.

One of them is Judge Timothy K. Lewis, a retired Black federal appeals judge. President George H.W. Bush appointed him first as a district judge, then to the very Third Circuit now hearing this case.

Judge Lewis came up through the Republican legal world of Western Pennsylvania. His mentor was Wendell Freeland, a Tuskegee Airman who became a leading civil rights lawyer and a lifelong Black Republican in Pittsburgh.

That lineage matters.

In 2006, Judge Lewis testified at Samuel Alito's Supreme Court confirmation hearing. The two did not agree on much. Lewis told the committee he was "openly and unapologetically pro-choice." But he stood up for Alito's character because integrity mattered more than politics.

That kind of judge does not lend his name to easy fights.

A friend-of-the-court brief from the African Methodist Episcopal Church and historian Dr. Erica Armstrong Dunbar makes the stakes plain. Take Ona Judge and Bishop Richard Allen out of this story and you erase something we cannot afford to lose. Enslaved people and free Black people helped shape the conscience of this nation.

Allen was born into slavery. He bought his freedom. He founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, the first independent Black church in the United States. He built a free Black community that pushed America closer to its own promise.

But what is divisive about telling children that enslaved people dreamed and planned and ran?

What is divisive about telling tourists that George Washington was both the father of his country and a man who held people as property?

The real division comes from the lie.

It comes from asking Black children to walk where their ancestors' suffering has been scrubbed away. It comes from asking white children to grow up on a fairy tale. It comes from saying that loving America requires forgetting.

Real patriotism does not fear Ona Judge.

Real patriotism can stand in the President's House and say: Here lived George Washington. Here also lived the people he enslaved. Here a young woman named Ona Judge saw her chance and took it. Here the promise of America was broken. Here it was also pushed forward by people who refused to be owned.

This year America turns 250. The fight over how we tell our story will only get bigger. Pressure to turn the founders into marble and the enslaved into ghosts. Pressure to call love of country a cleaned-up script we must recite.

But Ona Judge already showed us another way.

She told her own story with her feet.

She walked away from the President's House. She made herself free. Washington tried to get her back. He failed.

More than two centuries later, no government should be allowed to do what Washington could not.

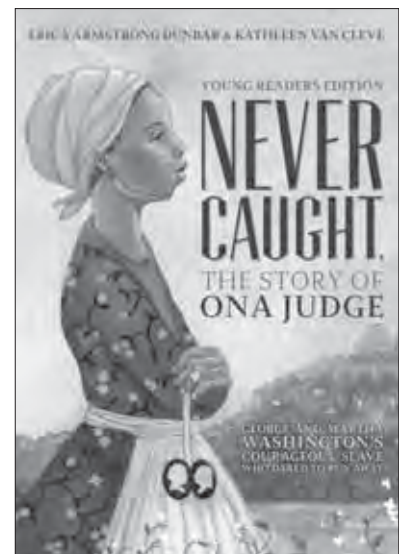
Ona Judge did not ask George Washington for freedom.

She took it.

The least we can do now is refuse to let anyone take her story away.

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

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A Guide to Black Women's Mental Health and Self-Care

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library hosted a conversation with Tara Pringle Jefferson, author of *Bloom How You Must: A Black Woman's Guide to Self-Care and Generational Healing* on Thursday, May 7 at Kent Branch Library. The free event, presented by the Library's Art Tatum Book Club, focused on Black women's mental health, self-care and generational healing.

Jefferson, a certified breathwork facilitator and founder of The Self Care Suite, a digital wellness community for Black women led an engaging conversation centered on black women's mental health. The discussion was facilitated by Keianna Wimberly, minority health coordinator for the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department.

Jefferson has presented wellness programming for organizations including WW, SiriusXM and Wayfair, and her work has been featured in The Cut, Black Enterprise and Essence.

Bloom How You Must draws on research, personal narratives and interviews with more than 100 Black women to examine approaches to self-care and community care. The book explores multiple dimensions of wellness, including physical, emotional, social and spiritual health, and offers practical tools and guided reflections.

Wimberly leads minority health initiatives for the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, focusing on health equity, community outreach and education. Her work includes developing partnerships and programs aimed at improving health outcomes in underserved communities.

Attendees were asked to reflect on their own mental health journey including the origins of their own self-care practices, the ability or inability to rest, and the importance of seeking professional help



Author Tara Pringle Jefferson shares excerpt from her book

when needed among other topics.

The event provided a space for black women and their supporters to speak openly about a topic that can go overlooked in our community. The book as well as the conversation aimed to combat that narrative and provide black women with tools to navigate the currents of life.

Jefferson's book *Bloom How You Must* is available on Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other major book suppliers.

Founded in 1838, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library serves as the go-to community connector for makers, doers and dreamers across Northwest Ohio. With multiple locations plus Mobile Services in Lucas County, Ohio, the Toledo Library empowers individuals and enhances the quality of life in its community by fostering a love of reading, lifelong learning and social connections. Through its collections, innovative programs, partnerships and a commitment to inclusivity, the Toledo Library remains a vibrant cultural hub for the Toledo region.

For more information, please visit toledolibrary.org.



Local Faith Groups Host June 13 Gun Buyback

Chop saws will dispose of guns on site

The Multifaith Coalition to Reduce Gun Violence, together with community partners, will host a drive-through unwanted firearms disposal event on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Monroe Street United Methodist Church, 3613 Monroe St., Toledo.

Held during Gun Violence Awareness Month, the event offers community members a secure and responsible way to remove unwanted firearms from their homes. On-site chop saws will chop guns into parts, which will be made into art objects.

"We know that people often inherit firearms and may not know how to store them safely or how to dispose of them," said Rev. Meribah Mansfield and Mike Linehan, co-founders of the Multifaith Coalition. "This event creates a safe, simple way to responsibly dispose of unwanted firearms while helping make our community safer."

- Participants can expect a simple, safe process:
- Ensure the firearm is unloaded and secured in the back of your vehicle
- Drive to the event location and remain in your vehicle while trained staff

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

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<p>FRIDAY MAY 15, 2026</p> <p>WIG FREE GIVEAWAY FOR WOMEN EXPERIENCING HAIR LOSS</p> <p>THE TRUNK IS HOSTING 4PM TO 9PM 3535 FRANKLIN AVE TOLEDO, OH</p>	<p>SATURDAY MAY 16, 2026</p> <p>KARAOKE WITH DJ CHERYL & THE MAILLADY</p> <p>AT THE BLUE GILL FISHING CLUB 642 N DETROIT AVE TOLEDO, OH 7PM TO 11PM</p>	<p>SUNDAY MAY 17, 2026</p> <p>THE TOLEDO LUPUS WALK HOSTED BY THE LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA GREATER OHIO CHAPTER</p> <p>AT OTTAWA PARK 10AM TO 1PM</p> <p>SOUL CARTS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T WALK</p>
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AFTER THE WALK... JOIN US FOR THE CELEBRATION!

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The Scott High School Alumni Legends Spring Basketball League

The Truth Staff

The eight-week Scott High School Alumni Legends Junior High School Spring Basketball League concluded on Saturday, May 2, with both a championship game and an All-Star game. Players from around the city received trophies, medals, t-shirts and framed certificates for their achievements during the spring season.

Organized by Leroy Bates, a Scott graduate and former legendary Libbey High School basketball coach, the eight-week league consisted of pre-high school boys who formed eight teams. On May 2, the Vikings and Glenwood Elite played for the championship title.

Prior to the championship game, two teams of all star players, chosen by the league coaches, competed.

“The coaches selected their all-stars,” said Bates. “They selected the kids that have potential or those who they just wanted to reward with an extra game.”

A host of Scott alumni athletes attended the event, including Carnel Smith, EdD, former outstanding athlete for the Bulldogs and currently the Scott principal.

During the awards ceremony, Smith thanked those who had come out to support the players at the game and those who have supported the league financially.

The new Scott boys basketball coach was also on hand to lend his support. James Johnson, himself an alumnus, will be taking the reins to the hoop program shortly.

Terry Roberts, whose youth program TLR Athletic Ministries, was a participant as a coach. The mission of TLR is to develop student athletes by giving them the tools they need to become successful in life.

And indeed the youngsters were not just athletes but student/athletes as Coach Bates emphasized.



Coach Leroy Bates and incoming Scott Coach James Johnson



Terry Roberts



The Glenwood Elite



“We wanted to stress they are student athletes,” said Bates of the purpose of the Scott Alumni Legends Junior High School Spring Basketball League.

And the champions were ... Glenwood Elite, who proved to indeed be elite. They finished the regular season undefeated at 7 – 0 and handily defeated the Vikings in the championship game.

But all the boys were winners. They spent eight weeks under the tutelage of some experienced dedicated coaches and mentors at an age when such guidance is invaluable.

Next up for the Scott High School Alumni Legends is a Group Basketball Camp in June. June 8-9 is for fourth through sixth graders and June 10-11 is for sixth through eighth graders.

Toledo Museum of Art

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Admission: Free. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays). Toledo Museum of Art, 1405 Alexander Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. For more information, visit www.toledomuseumofart.org or call 419.253.3000. © 2025 Toledo Museum of Art. All rights reserved.

Fair Housing Center's Annual Homes and Dreams Fundraiser

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Fair Housing Center hosted its annual Homes and Dreams Fundraiser at The Toledo Club Thursday, April 30. The event included live entertainment, strolling buffet, cash bar, 50/50 raffle and silent auction. Four distinguished community members received awards honoring their service in the fight against discrimination in housing.

The elegant evening began with a networking hour followed by a welcome by George Thomas, CEO and General Counsel of the Toledo Fair Housing Center and a proclamation given by Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez.

The introduction of the silent auction, which included prizes from The Imagination Station, Arts Commission, Barnes and Noble and more, was presented by Audrey Johnson, Development and Communications Coordinator.

The strolling dinner was accompanied by live music from by Mike Williams on Sax and Chris Bishop.

The awards for the night were presented by George Thomas and Tom Luettk, Chair of the Board of Directors of The Fair Housing Center followed by closing remarks from Audrey Johnson.

Homes and Dreams 2026 Fundraiser Awardees:

- Rosalyn Clemens, Chief of the City of Toledo Department of Housing and Neighborhood Sustainability



Toledo Fair Housing Center Staff and Board of Directors



2026 Homes and Dreams Fundraiser Awardees - Sean Nestor, Kimberly Dixon, Rosalyn Clemens, Reginald Temple

- Kimberly Dixon, Realtor
- Sean Nestor, Writer and Activist
- Reginald Temple, Vice President and Regional Community Development Officer at WesBanco Bank

Mission Statement

The Fair Housing Center is a nonprofit civil rights agency that promotes housing choice, the creation of inclusive communities of opportunity, and the protection and expansion of fair housing rights to support strong communities free of housing discrimination.

Vision Statement

The Fair Housing Center will be a leading visible force in preventing, correcting, and eliminating discriminatory housing practices. To achieve our vision, the Center works as a trusted community resource, engaging in education and outreach, advocacy for anti-discriminatory housing policies, mediation, research and investigation, and enforcement actions.

To learn more about the organization visit their website at toledofhc.org or social media pages @ToledoFairHousingCenter.



Mike Williams on Sax

Get tickets at 3053 Monroe St. Toledo, OH 43606 or TicketMaster.com Call 419.255.8876 for more info

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MIDNIGHT STAR ERIC BENÉT KEKE WYATT ZAPP BAND EJ JONES

Grass Goals: A Guide to Prepping, Mowing and Growing Your Ideal Lawn

Special to The Truth

With spring here, homeowners are tending their lawns to boost curb appeal and create an ideal space for kids, pets and gatherings.

Whether you've been managing your landscaping for years or are just getting started, expert advice can help you tackle the toughest turf problems. Josh McGinnis, a Tractor Supply store manager in Fairview, Tennessee, shares his strategy for achieving a top-tier lawn.

Spring Clean Your Yard

McGinnis says the first step to becoming a "turf champion" is a thorough yard clearing. Winter often leaves behind fallen branches, pinecones and matted leaves. Raking debris improves appearance and protects grass health by preventing "smothering," where wet leaf clumps kill grass and promote fungal disease. It also removes hazards that could clog your mower.

It's Mow Time

If you're purchasing a mower for the first time or are upgrading, consider your yard size and personal preference. Push mowers work well for smaller lots and limited storage, while riding mowers are more efficient for larger properties.

Zero-turn mowers, such as the Bad Boy Magnum 54-inch or Cub Cadet Ultima Series Z2 54, feature lap bars for precise steering and tight turns—ideal for navigating around landscaping. For large, open spaces, traditional riding mowers like the Cub Cadet Enduro Series 46-inch offer a more cost-effective option.

Conduct Mower Maintenance

For those with a mower already on standby, perform a full checkup before putting it to work:

1. Check the blades: McGinnis notes that dull blades tear grass instead of

cutting it, increasing vulnerability to disease and browning. If the blades look worn, sharpen or replace them.

2. Freshen the fuel: Replace leftover gasoline. Completely drain the tank and refill it with fresh fuel.

3. Clean out the oil: McGinnis often hears from customers who stored their mower in a shed during winter and now struggle to bring it back to life. "If oil is left to sit in a mower, it can form a sludge that's harmful to the engine," he explains. "Lawn equipment needs to be winterized, but if it wasn't, it's not a lost cause. Just clean out any residue and start fresh."

Focus on Timing and Technique

Homeowners may be itching to get outside, but patience is key. For the initial cut, McGinnis recommends waiting until the grass reaches 3–4 inches to ensure strong root establishment.

When it's ready, avoid "scalping," or cutting grass too short. McGinnis calls this the fastest way to ruin a yard.

"It exposes soil to the sun, drying out the roots and giving weed seeds the perfect environment to sprout," McGinnis says.

Instead, he follows the "one-third rule": never remove more than one-third of the grass blade at a time.

And whether it's your first cut or fifth, always mow in dry conditions. Wet grass leads to clumping, clogged mower decks and uneven cuts.

Feed the Green

Mowing keeps your lawn neat, but it takes nourishment and know-how to keep it healthy. Start with a soil test to determine what your lawn needs to thrive, whether that's lime to balance the pH or a specific nutrient boost.

For bare spots, spring is the best time to overseed. Just make sure you select a seed suited to your yard. Kentucky-31 Tall Fescue Grass Seed, for example, is very versatile and drought-tolerant, but needs full sun to grow. Pre-emergent weed control will stop your new grass seed from growing, so if you do apply weed control, wait six weeks before planting sod or grass seed.

... continued on page 11

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Superior Made Campground Is Open for the Season

The Truth Staff

If you like sitting outside on a beautiful summer evening, maybe watching the glow of a campfire, hearing the night sounds of birds and other area animals, listening to some live music in the not too far off, enjoying a chat with your fellow outdoor neighbors or watching children at play around the pond, then perhaps you ought to join the folks at Superior Made RV Resort campground for a summer under the stars.

Nate and Alicia Lawson welcomed new and veteran campers to their campground on Saturday, May 2, with information, helpful hints and encouragement on how to make this camping season as pleasurable as possible for themselves and their neighbors.

Nate and Alicia are starting their second season as the owners and managers of Superior Made Campground but they are veterans in running such facilities. The formers owners of



Dr. Tanya Baldwin, MD



Alicia Lawson addresses the campers



a RV campground at a Talledega, Alabama site, nearby the NASCAR superspeedway, they returned home to Toledo several years ago and felt they couldn't pass up the opportunity to enjoy the same experience in their hometown.

Saturday's event began with a welcome from the campground's store owners, Ed and Regina Phillips (owner of Phillips and Phillips).

The guest speakers for the evening included Dr. Tanya Baldwin, chief of staff at St. Charles Hospital, who informed her audience of the health benefits of camping and fresh air.

Also speaking was BRICEN, a seasonal camper and grass cutter.

Lunch was provided by Greens of Oak Opening.

Next up on the May schedule was a Saturday May 9, "Let's Get to Know Our Neighbors Week, then events on both Saturday 15 and 23. May 23 will feature a Memorial Day Weekend Bash - DJ, food trucks along with many other food options - activities such tournament games. Hosts Carnel and Celeste Smith will preside.

The seasonal grand opening will be in early June. Stand by!

Local Faith Groups...continued from page 7

handle the firearm disposal

- Receive a gift card for these amounts:
- \$50 for long guns
- \$100 for handguns
- \$200 for assault-style rifles
- (\$300 maximum per donor)

The Multifaith Coalition to Reduce Gun Violence is a grassroots network of more than 30 faith communities across Northwest Ohio working together to promote education, awareness and action around gun violence prevention.

The event will be held on the grounds of Monroe Street United Methodist Church. Additional partners include Sisters 4 Unity, a local support group for mothers who have lost children to gun violence, as well as the Toledo chapters of Moms Demand Action and Parents of Murdered Children.

Technical assistance will be provided by Disarmory Ministries, a Michigan-based nonprofit that provides safe firearm disposal solutions. Support for the event was provided by Cities United, a fund of Tides Center.

Grass Goals...continued from page 10

For established lawns, McGinnis recommends a high-quality fertilizer to provide nitrogen for a deep green color. He suggests "slow-release" formulas to ensure the grass is fed consistently for an entire month.

Find lawn and garden tips, tools and products at tractorsupply.com/spring. If you're unsure which products are right for your region, or need help troubleshooting unique challenges, McGinnis suggests taking photos of the yard and visiting your local Tractor Supply store for expert guidance.

"Lawn care isn't a sprint; it's a season-long commitment," McGinnis concludes. "Treating grass right now will pay dividends all summer."

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City of Toledo Announces Park Improvement Plans

Special to The Truth

The City of Toledo announced more than \$4 million in park improvements planned for 2026 and highlighted major stream restoration projects during an event at the newly renovated amphitheater at Danny Thomas Park.

The announcement reflects a broader, ongoing investment in the city's park system. Over the past four years, Toledo has invested approximately \$25 million in parks and recreation facilities by leveraging \$13.5 million in American Rescue Plan funding along with additional grants and donations. While ARPA funding has ended, officials said investment will continue through a combination of local funding, grants, and partnerships.

More than \$4 million in capital improvements are planned for 2026 across neighborhood parks, continuing a citywide effort to improve access to safe, modern, and welcoming public spaces.

Planned 2026 park improvements include:

- Mayfair Park playground replacement and sidewalk extension – \$250,000
- Dale Stone Park playground replacement – \$225,000
- Greenwood Park playground replacement – \$250,000
- Collins Park playground replacement – \$250,000
- Jamie Farr Park playground replacement – \$250,000
- Pontiac Preserve opening to the public – \$750,000
- Westwood football field renovations – \$40,000
- Fort Meigs Sertoma Park new pickleball courts – \$175,000
- Friendship Park basketball court renovation – \$80,000
- Ottawa Park Bancroft side restroom access improvements – \$90,000
- Savage Park revitalization – \$2,150,000

The event also focused on stream restoration projects designed to improve water quality, reduce flooding, and restore habitat across Toledo's waterways.

LaShawna Weeks, Senior Environmental Specialist, presented on the City's efforts, explaining that many local streams were historically straightened, deepened, or placed into culverts to move stormwater quickly through urban areas. While effective for drainage, those changes increased

erosion, degraded habitat, and allowed polluted runoff to flow directly into larger waterways, including the Maumee River and Lake Erie.

Current restoration work is designed to reverse those impacts by restoring more natural stream function. Projects focus on slowing water, stabilizing streambanks, reconnecting floodplains, and reintroducing native vegetation that helps filter runoff.

At Detwiler Golf Course, crews are in the construction phase of a stream restoration project along a one-mile stretch of Detwiler Ditch. The work includes restoring wetland habitat, stabilizing more than 2,000 feet of streambank erosion, and establishing over 6,000 feet of riparian buffer. Crews are also reshaping the landscape with berms and natural drainage features that capture stormwater and allow it to soak into the ground before entering the stream.

Phase II of the Delaware Creek project will continue efforts to reduce erosion and stabilize the hillside and streambank, which have been impacted by high volumes and velocity of stormwater runoff, particularly from an outfall draining the Anthony Wayne Trail. The project will strengthen and stabilize the streambank, improve water quality, and restore habitat in the main channel to support healthier benthic, or aquatic insect, communities and fish populations downstream. Work will also include installing habitat structures and seeding native vegetation to support long-term ecological health. The project is funded by a \$500,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant, with construction scheduled for 2026.

Additional work is taking place as part of the Collins Park Stream Restoration Project Duck's Creek, where past channelization and underground culverts significantly altered the stream and reduced habitat for fish and aquatic life. Restoration efforts are improving in-stream habitat, reducing sedimentation, and reintroducing natural features that support native species.

These projects are part of a broader effort to improve conditions in the Maumee Area of Concern by addressing long-standing environmental challenges related to water quality and aquatic habitat.

"These projects are about more than upgrades. They are long term investments in the health of our parks, our waterways, and our neighborhoods," Weeks said.

"We are proud to continue investing in our parks and bringing meaningful improvements into neighborhoods across the city," Joe Fausnaugh, Director of Public Services, said. "These projects create spaces where people can gather, stay active, and enjoy their surroundings safely."

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Books for Around the Campfire by Various Authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

The weather's warm, truly perfect for a long moonlit walk or an evening on the deck, watching the world go by. You love summer – but just because it's not chilly enough to make you shiver and nighttime is shorter, that doesn't make it any less scary.

c. 2026
various publishers
\$19.99 - \$29.95
various page counts



art fit in and why we're really drawn to haunted buildings.

Older teens who enjoy history and the paranormal will like this book; like-minded adults will devour it.

No, creatures still howl and scratch-scratch-scratch at the window. Darkness still cloaks things that can keep you awake all night. Listen for them some evening, pay attention, and read these terrifying books...

First, let's go gentle into the dusk with *1,001 Nights in Time & Space: Folktales Rescued from Around the Whoniverse* by Steve Cole and Paul Magrs (10 Speed Press, \$19.99). It's a collection of made-for-the-campfire, need-it-on-vacation, addictive stories and monster-centric mythology that leans heavily on the world of Dr. Who. The tales here lie mostly in the SF-fantasy category. They're of various lengths, perfectly browse-able for whatever time you have, and you can happily give them to the teen or adult Dr. Who fan you know.

It might be early – Halloween is months away – but is it ever really a bad time to think about exploring a place where ghosts (might) exist? You know the answer, and you need *How to Build a Haunted House* by Caitlin Blackwell Baines (Pegasus Books, \$29.95).

Just know that the title is a bit misleading, but in a good way: despite that it indicates Halloween DIY, in fact, this really isn't that kind of book. Instead, Baines looks at what could arguably be the world's creepiest haunted houses, castles, and mansions, and why they'll make you terrified. She then looks at what, architecturally, makes a haunted house, haunted; how literature and

And finally, here's a dream job: being the first scholar named as Stephen E. King Chair in Literature, and having access to all King's original works, notes, and stories that were never published. That's what happened to **Caroline Bicks**, and in *Monsters in the Archives: My Year of Fear with Stephen King* (Penguin Hogarth, \$29.00), she

lasers in on five of King's best-known novels, as she tells readers what it was like to go through his papers and to spend time with the great author, one-on-one.

Why do we want to be horrified, and why do we reach for more Stephen King when we do? The clues are here, in a book that's a satisfying mixture of memoir, literary examination, and psychology, all wrapped up in one irresistible, unmissable package. If you have a shelf full of King's work, especially, this book needs to be there, too.

Want more? Right, who can ever have enough scares? So get your shivering, campfire-loving, monster-hunting self to your nearest library or bookstore and ask the staff to point you in the direction of sheer terror, heart-pounding horror, ghosts, banshees and monsters. They'll have books for you to enjoy, because there's lots of scream-worthy summer left...

Building Bridges...continued from page 5

ing stuck or finally moving forward.

"Not everybody can walk into a traditional bank and get financing," he says. "Especially startups or businesses that are only a few years into their journey."

That is where programs like the Port Authority's come in.

Giving Contractors a Fair Shot

Another major initiative is the Diversified Contractors Accelerator Program, also known as DCAP. The program helps minority- and women-owned contractors compete for larger public and private construction projects.

Sometimes the biggest obstacle is not talent. It is timing.

A contractor may land a major project but still need money upfront for supplies, materials, and labor while waiting weeks to get paid.

"It puts them at a disadvantage," Teamer explains.

DCAP helps bridge that gap.

Since 2010, the program has helped support nearly \$8.8 million in approved projects.

"It gives contractors access to capital so they can compete," he says.

For many business owners, that support can feel like finally getting oxygen after holding their breath for too long.

Success Is Bigger Than Spreadsheets

Still, for all his financial expertise, Teamer says success is not just about mastering spreadsheets.

"The technical things, you can learn those," he says. "But being able to communicate, present yourself, think strategically, and talk with people — those things matter, too."

He encourages young professionals to read widely, stay informed, and never stop asking questions.

"Don't be afraid to ask questions," he says. "Read as much as you can. Not just about your trade, but about the world around you."

That mindset was shaped partly by mentors who poured into him long before he reached leadership positions.

"I had mentors who saw things in me that I probably didn't see in myself," he says.

Now, he tries to do the same for others through community service and leadership organizations, including United Way of Greater Toledo and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc..



"To whom much is given, much is required," he says.

The Legacy He Hopes to Leave

For Craig Teamer, service is also about setting an example for his children.

"Everything can't be about work," he says. "I want my kids to see that serving others matters too."

When asked what legacy he hopes to leave behind someday, Teamer pauses.

Then his answer comes quietly and simply.

"I always tried to do the right thing," he says.

The strongest foundations are often built with the simplest bricks.

Learn more about the programs, financing tools, and economic development initiatives at the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority by clicking here

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Toledo Public Schools to Host Community Meetings Regarding Transformation Plan and School Transitions

As Toledo Public Schools (TPS) moves forward with implementing its new Transformation Plan, district leaders have announced a series of essential parent meetings scheduled for the week of May 18. These meetings are designed specifically for families currently attending schools slated for closure at the end of this year, as well as any parents seeking information regarding educational options for their children. Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about the specific schools their students are assigned to attend this fall
- Meet with administrators and staff from those receiving schools
- Finalize all necessary registration and enrollment documentation for the 2026-2027 school year

All meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the locations listed below:

Learning Community	Date	Location	Participating Schools
Bowsher	Monday, May 18	Bowsher High School	Bowsher HS, Harvard, Beverly, Byrnedale, Walbridge, Arlington, Marshall (7th/8th), Burroughs
Scott	Tuesday, May 19	Scott High School	Westfield Academy, MLK Academy, Pickett, Robinson
Waite	Wed., May 20	Waite High School	Navarre, Garfield, Raymer, East Broadway, Birmingham
Woodward	Thurs., May 21	Woodward High School	Spring, Sherman, Leverette, Riverside
Start	Thurs., May 21	Start High School	Start (7th/8th) Career Ops, Old Orchard (7th/8th), Elmhurst

Additional boundary information, along with more details about Transformation Plan 2.0, can be found at tps.org.

Lucas County Voters...continued from page 4

Recent criticism from local Republican leadership about a lack of “progress and opportunity” in Toledo ignores the people working to move Toledo forward and the role voters play in shaping their future. Across Lucas County, residents have been attending Lucas County Democratic Party listening sessions, showing up at community events, and making their voices heard. Tens of thousands have participated in gatherings calling for change, and that energy is reflected in this year’s increased turnout.

People are channeling their frustration into motivation. They are tired of

rising costs and footing the bill for policies that are disconnected from their needs. And they’re using that energy to make change at the ballot box.


This Primary Election shows that voters are ready for leadership that “gets it”. We need leadership focused on practical solutions, economic stability, and investing in people. The Democratic Party has a slate of candidates who are listening and taking action. There is a growing belief that change in Ohio is possible, and voters are using their power to make it happen.

Schuyler Beckwith Chair,
 Lucas County Democratic Party
lucascountymodemocraticparty@gmail.com

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



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
	Total Section 5307 funded Items	\$8,057,182	\$11,121,478
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.

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; 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



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www.pathwaytoledo.org

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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

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

CUSTODIAN / MAINTENANCE

WGTE Public Media is seeking a full-time Custodian/Maintenance team member to support day-to-day operations by maintaining a clean and safe facility. This role is responsible for routine custodial services, mail processing, general building maintenance, and minor repairs.

The ideal candidate has prior custodial and maintenance experience. A valid driver's license is required.

Send your letter and resumé to employment@wgte.org or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.

2026 Breakfast for M'Lady – Scholarships, Recognition and Fellowship

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

Over the past 48 years, the Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has awarded over \$200,000 for its scholarship program for deserving students in the community. That tradition continued on Saturday, May 9, 2026 as the Chapter once again held its Breakfast for M'Lady Scholarship Breakfast at The Pinnacle featuring a morning of not only scholarships but also fellowship and recognition.

Four young ladies were awarded scholarships, a Mother of the Year was honored, the Deltas selected one of their own as the soror of the year and a panel discussed the "Legacy of Love" and the women who shape our world.

The Pinnacle was awash in a sea of red – both décor and apparel, as the Deltas and many of their guests followed the color tradition.

Upon entering guests were treated to live music by Brandon Monfort (Sax B) and an opportunity to view the small business vendors that were set up in the lobby.

Chapter Chaplain Sheree Madison-Emery introduced the mistress of ceremony, Tamara "Taj" Johnson-George, after which Chapter President Ambershaun Byrd offered her opening remarks.

"Every act of support becomes part of their future," said Byrd of the impact of the scholarship fundraising has on the multiple students who have been recipients over the years.

"A mother's love shapes more than households," said Byrd of value of the mothers of the world. "Mothers shape communities by caring, teaching, sacrificing, correcting and encouraging in ways that solidify the foundation for everything we get to become."

After an invocation by Madison-Emery, breakfast was served. Then the panel discussion began, led by moderator Fayth Atkins of Fox 36. Saturday's panelists were Toledo City Councilwoman Brittany Jones, PhD, and Ebony Carter, director of the Minority Business Assistance Center. Their discussion centered around the "legacy of love" especially concerning the effect women have on that legacy.

Presentations were next. The Delta of the Year is Dawn Humphrey.

This year's Mother of the Year is Camille Harris, the founder of All 4 Kids and All 4 Kids 2. Harris was described as a devoted wife, mother and teacher "whose life reflects a deep commitment to family, discipline and service ... the proud mother of Vaughn Harris and William White."

She is an active partner with HOPE Toledo, working to ensure that children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. Through this collaboration, she supports early childhood initiatives that strengthen educational outcomes and long-term opportunities for local youth.

This year's four scholarship recipients, introduced by Candiice Harrison, are: Nina Clark, a senior at Ottawa Hills High School, who will be attending Columbia University in the fall to major in political science; Lauryn Hancock of Notre Dame Academy who will be attending Cleveland State University to major in political science; Pay'Yon Parker of the Toledo Pre-Med and Health Science Academy who will enter The Ohio State University for a pharmacy major and Kennedy Powell of Central Catholic who will enter the University of Cincinnati to major in education.

This year's Breakfast concluded with acknowledgements by event Co-Chairs Aleshia Furr and Nina Wright, and closing remarks by Byrd.



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Ambershaun Byrd, Chapter President, and Aleshia Furr, Event Co-Chair



Ebony Carter, City Councilwoman Brittany Jones, PhD, and Fayth Atkins



Kennedy Powell, Nina Clark, Pay'yon Parker, Lauryn Hancock



Mother of the Year Camille Harris

