

The Sojourner's Truth

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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

April 29, 2026



A Life in Rhythm

Robert L. Perry, PhD - The Shape of a Legacy

In This Issue..

Perryman
Page 2

Ben Jealous
Page 4

Cover Story
Robert Perry
Page 7

Girlfriends
Page 9

Classifieds
Page 14

Tolliver
Page 3

NAACP Seeks Change
Page 5

Ashford Spring Fundraiser
Page 8

Book Review
Page 13

Monroe Street Neighborhood Center
Page 16

Justice, Undone

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.
The Truth Contributor



A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary.
- Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct, Rule 1.2

Who wants a judge who collects political favors deciding their fate? Who wants a judge who campaigned for the prosecutor seeking a conviction to be the one weighing that request? Or, a judge who endorsed the sheriff and traded endorsements like currency to be the one determining whether law enforcement violated your rights?

Nobody. And yet that is precisely what the Ohio Supreme Court just made possible.

In a 5-1 ruling, five Republican justices eliminated a decades-old ban on judges making partisan political endorsements on April 2— making Ohio the only state in the nation to permit them.

Moreover, the ruling was based on a finding that neither party to a dispute challenged, on a question no one asked them to answer, without briefs, without public input, and over a dissenting colleague's explicit objection. Then they called it a First Amendment victory— while demolishing the firewall between politics and the bench.

Former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Michael Donnelly put it in terms that should stop every Ohioan cold: "In this case, the court acted as petitioner, decider, and potential beneficiary."

In any other context, we would have a simpler name for what the justices just did to every citizen who will ever need a fair court in this state — they "played in our face." Brazenly. Without apology.

The most underexamined consequence of this ruling is what it does to the pipeline of future judges — and ultimately to the person who will one day need a fair court and may not get one.

Attorneys drawn to judicial work typically value judicial independence, legal qualifications and reasoning skills. Not those who prioritize working a room or measure success by political alliances built and favors traded. So, I expect the ruling to make endorsement networks the new currency in judicial races, which could discourage good judicial candidates from running altogether.

"No disagreement there," a sitting Ohio judge acknowledged to me without hesitation. "It's certainly a bad ruling for the independence of the judiciary, and it will make judicial races more partisan."

The jurist added that a similar problem exists today with campaign contributions and attorneys contributing to judges' campaigns. "Judges have to do their best to set that aside in their rulings and keep them impartial,"

while emphasizing that recusal and the Ohio code of judicial conduct provide additional guardrails.

Yet the judge agreed that respected lawyers could be deterred by the prospect of having to fully immerse themselves in partisan endorsement politics just to be competitive in judiciary races and that the Ohio Supreme Court's decision could accelerate the transformation of judicial races into fully transactional political campaigns, where endorsement trading is expected.

Even worse, is that every step deeper into partisan machinery pulls the courtroom further from the place it is supposed to be, where facts matter more than friendships and the law answers to no one's political debts.

People have largely stopped believing Congress works for them. The U.S. Supreme Court's ethics scandals have destroyed whatever credibility it had left. State courts were the last institution where most people still gave the benefit of the doubt, assuming the person behind the bench was at least trying to be fair. Ohio just made it harder to hold that assumption.

Prior to the Ohio Supreme Court's decision, you could be confident that the judge across from you was there because they knew the law, not because they knew the right people. We mostly believed judicial decisions had something to do with justice, not with who endorsed whom in the last election. We were confident that the robe meant something beyond the politics of the person wearing it.

The April 2, 2026, ruling loosens all of that. "It is bad," my judicial source admitted. "It may not be incorrect. But it is probably bad for the confidence in the judiciary."

Clearly, the prosecutors, sheriffs, careless or unscrupulous business owners, and party officials know exactly what they are doing.

The person sitting across from them in court — who had no part in that arrangement — deserves a judge who got there on merit.

What they may get instead is a judge who already owes someone a favor.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

Community Calendar

May 2

Warren AME Spring Tea: Bloom Where You Are Planted; 11:30 - 2:30 pm.

Speaker, First Lady Sabrina Prince - The Cross Church.

Vendor Tables Welcomed. Rsvp to: darlenesawyer2751@gmail.com

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It's All About the Benjamins, Baby!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

If you were ever concerned about the limits of capitalism and the rotting effect it can have on human nature that chooses to be besotted with the sin of greed, look no further.

Enter stage right: Donald Trump, the greatest grifter and conman the White House has ever known, has no boundaries to the depths of marketing himself and his family in order to rake in sacks of dollars because, well...just because!

Unrequited greed will bend and warp your moral code to the point that it is unrecognizable after it has stained your character with the idea that money is your god and thus its abhorrent values then become your values.

Trump is still pandering his one million dollar gold card that is supposedly to allow you entry into the US of A. We do not know the fine print in this corrupt offering as to what protections it provides regarding not allowing deviants and criminals an easy flight path to then wander the streets of Disneyland or to take in the sights of New Orleans.

And, only recently we are now learning that Eric Trump Jr., (a chip off the old block) is contemplating funding AI enterprises that may already be in a position to land Pentagon contracts; and also engage in predictive gambling undertakings.

If there is a loose buck to be made and the Trump family is in smelling distance of that green paper, rest assured that it is being considered as potential presidential plunder.

If Trump is not shamelessly hawking Bibles (with his own inside inscription) or selling MAGA fashion ware, guitars, crypto coins, he is bloviating over his demand that an arch of triumph

be established in the D.C. metro area to honor him as the greatest president ever!

With a boundless and perverted ego of himself and his I.Q., Trump never ceases to gaslight us with his tales of his greatness, how many wars he stopped and why he deserves the Nobel Peace Prize. Never mind that he started a war with Iran...so much for peace.

To bait how Trump would respond to ideas of other money making hustles, I took it upon myself to propose the following enterprises for Trump's money madness to act upon:

(1) Create a cruise line called Trump Cruises and sail to only the Nordic countries; to save labor costs, staff it with undocumented immigrants, who



will work for free for five years and then be given the right to become U.S. citizens.

(2) Set up penal colonies for undocumented immigrants across the country and have the DHS pay Trump a per diem rate of \$175.00 per person to use those facilities.

(3) Create a national Trump Lotto with weekly drawings of five million dollars, tax free monies.

Each weekly drawing would have Trump read out the winning numbers from the Oval Office.

(4) Sell gold overleaf caskets via Amazon for a flat price of \$499.99 (free shipping and handling).

(5) Sell hemp based CBD gummies in a variety of flavors via his X platform for \$39.99 per bottle of sixty gummies. Money back guarantee!

(6) Auction his used McDonald's wrappers with starting bids at \$200.00 each.

These super duper ideas would generate untold millions for Trump and family and would place him in the lexicon of super marketers who truly know the drawing power of a well crafted grift.

On another newsworthy note, Elon Musk, the aggrieved South African billionaire, is now blubbering to anyone who will listen to him that "Whites" are an endangered minority who face tremendous discrimination due to their ethnic origins.

Now, ain't that rich! Here is a person from South Africa whose policy of apartheid he lived under and endorsed by his silence, is now croaking that he believes "Whites" (other than millionaires and billionaires of course), are facing discrimination.

Of course this racial charlatan does not give details or stats to prove his idiocy nor does he delineate what countries are engaged in this outrageous "reverse" of D.E.I. He simply mourns that if "Whites" do not wake up, they will be a permanent minority.

As you know, White folks do not like being a minority to anything or anyone because in their DNA, they resolutely believe in the inherent goodness, richness, kindness and superiority of one having white skin over those, "Others". (Note: LaKeishanna and De'Marcus, listen up!)

So, with Musk having a solipsistic temper tantrum that pits him against people of color around the world, you can now better gauge his personhood as one which is outdated, racially biased and thus bears watching.

Musk would be the persona type who would support people like George Wallace, Lester Maddox, Bull Connor, Woodrow Wilson, the Night Riders, The Confederacy, Jim Crow and a host of other personalities or programs or laws that would keep Black people in their place.

And yet, he was, at one time, the darling of Donald Trump until they had their falling out.

In closing, the watchword for being "hip" to these fraudsters? Keep both eyes open and do not fall for the slick OKey-Doke from anyone when they want to define who you are.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Lafe5x@gmail.com

News Analysis: Reducing Anger and Stopping Violence by Inspiring Self-Worth

By Stephanie E. Myers, Ph.D. (TriceEdneyWire.com)

Guest Column

People of Color in America are witnessing crisis in families, communities, and workplaces. Examples include violence from ICE attacks in communities, reactions to wars overseas, and domestic violence tragedies across the country.

While national statistics report that homicides and violence in the USA have reduced over the past few years, there are still far too many situations that display destructive, violent behaviors and this must be addressed with solutions—not just explanations.

Some of the institutional causes of violence impacting our communities may include systemic racism, sexism and classism that rob men, women and children of their valuable self-esteem and self-worth and often result in individuals feeling inferior, lonely and lacking self-worth.

Sadly, people who feel inferior and disrespected sometimes transfer their anger into violence where they cause great harm to family members and oth-

...continued on page 5

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A "Main Street" Bank Bill That Would Really Hurt Main Street

A bill that promises help for small business would mostly hand the gains to the biggest banks. The cost would fall on the people already shut out of loans.

By Ben Jealous

In Washington, the name on a bill is often the name that counts. The Main Street Depositor Protection Act is a name that sounds noble. The math is not.

Here is what the bill would change. The FDIC pays you back if your bank closes its doors. Today the limit is \$250,000 in each account. Most people never come close to that limit. Small businesses do not either.

The bill would let the FDIC raise that limit as high as \$1 million for checking accounts that pay no interest. That is twenty times bigger.

Supporters say the change will help small businesses. I wish that were true. It is not.

The current \$250,000 limit already covers 99 out of every 100 bank accounts in this country. A study by JPMorgan Chase found that the typical small business keeps about \$12,100 in its account on a normal day. The new limit would be more than 400 times higher than that.

So who really gains from a \$5 million guarantee? Not the corner bakery. Not the family barbershop. Not the small farm down the road. The gain goes to the biggest depositors at the biggest banks. The bill even covers banks with more than \$100 billion to their name. Fewer than one in 100 banks in America are that big. No honest person would call them "small."

In other words, the bill takes the name of Main Street and hands the prize to Wall Street.

Here is the part that should worry every American. Insurance is not free. When the FDIC raises its guarantee, banks must pay more to fund it. When banks pay more, they lend less. When they lend less, the door closes hardest on the people who are already locked out.



Black-owned businesses are already turned down for loans 39 percent of the time. That is more than double the 18 percent rate for white-owned businesses.

Hispanic-owned businesses face a 29 percent denial rate. These are the dreamers most likely to hear "no" when they walk into a bank. A new cost on lending will make that "no" come faster and louder.

The economy runs on loans. When loans dry up, the trouble spreads. The Great Recession of 2008 began exactly that way. The people who pay the highest price are never the wealthiest. They are the families with the least cushion to fall back on.

The bill does offer a small shield to community banks under \$10 billion. They would not pay the higher costs for ten years. That is a kind gesture. But the wider damage to the loan market will not wait ten years to arrive.

There is one more problem. Deposit insurance works in part because it has limits. Limits force big depositors to pay attention to where they put their money. That attention keeps banks honest. Take the limit away, and you take the watchdog away too. The taxpayer is left to clean up the mess.

The goal of helping Main Street is a good one. This bill is not the way to reach it.

If Congress wants to help small business, it should make loans easier and fairer to get. It should invest in the neighborhoods that banks have ignored for too long. It should knock down the doors that have stayed shut for Black and Hispanic business owners for generations.

And if big corporations want extra protection for their millions, they can pay for it themselves. The taxpayer should not be asked to insure the comfort of the rich while the dreams of working families go unfunded.

Read the name of a bill. Then read the math. The two should match. On the Main Street Depositor Protection Act, they do not.

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



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Do Black Men Owe a Debt? A Response

Rev. Perryman, I definitely agree that Black men owe a debt - particularly in this age of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Partly, as Civil Rights is passe. Rev. Jesse Jackson took the opportunity in 1965 to conceptualize "Operation Breadbasket"

in Chicago. He, was the first African American leader to not be assassinated before he had an economic philosophy.

Alas, about a decade later, I came up with my pet ideology (as I am a political economist) Economic Apartheid...the use of capitalism, colonialism, racism, and socialism to exploit and oppress poor people - be they white, black or brown; to preserve white supremacy.

Thus, I am reminded of a quote from the late Ghanaian Prime Minister: "You measure the political awareness of a

people by the women." I write these words with former Vice President Kamala Harris and Rep. Jasmine Crockett in mind.

Meanwhile, I pray that we as a people - be for real, be for real - as Pope Leo, a Chicago born native is an immigrant. Somewhat like, Jean Bapstie du Sable, the Haitian immigrant, who founded Chicago.

I regard these individuals as having African American roots. At this juncture, James Baldwin helps me convey an American reality - White people cannot, in the generality, be taken as models of how to live. Rather, the white man is himself in sore need of new standards, which will remove him from his confusion and place him again in fruitful communion with the depths of his own being." The Next Time

Sincerely,
Clarence Gafaney

NAACP Issues a Call to Action, TPD Procedural Changes

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

"This is deeply concerning," said Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, president of the NAACP Toledo Branch, during a press conference on Monday, April 27, as she announced that a formal complaint has been filed with her office regarding the police mistreatment of a 15-year-old girl during a recent encounter.

As a result, the local NAACP office is demanding a second meeting with city and police officials and calling for: "a full and transparent investigation; the identification of all officers involved; a review of use-of-force policies involving minors and appropriate disciplinary action when wrongdoing is confirmed," said Sweeney-Newbern.

The incident happened when Toledo police officers stopped a group of teenagers for walking in the street. The 15-year-old girl declined to give her name and said she was going to call her mother.

Released footage by the girl's mother showed the officer pushing the girl against the patrol vehicle, then rolling her onto the street, where the officer attempts to pin her. It also appears that the officer takes the girl to the street both before and after he handcuffs her. The officers also used profanity towards the onlookers according to audio recording.

"We want swift action," Sweeney-Newbern emphasized during this week's press conference, adding that such a meeting should be scheduled as soon as possible. "We have a timeline, within 30 days."

The NAACP will be calling for mandatory training on the use of force, mandatory training on racial profiling and banning the use of profanity. The



Darlene Sweeney-Newbern and concerned Toledoans rally for TPD changes

civil rights organization also wants city leaders to take a serious look at recruitment priorities for the city's safety forces.

"We need more police officers of color ... a police force that should look like our people," Sweeney-Newbern said. "We need due diligence in trying to recruit."

Standing with Sweeney-Newbern on Monday for the press conference at the African American Legacy Project were a host of community leaders, pastors and concerned citizens who expressed their agreement with her statements.

"Everything she said was exactly correct," said Earl Murry, PhD, professor emeritus at the University of Toledo and one of the attendees at the initial meeting with city and police officials after the April 10 incident.

After a second meeting with city and police officials the NAACP Toledo Branch will determine the next steps that should be taken, said Sweeney-Newbern.

"The fight for justice persists, a change will come," she exclaimed.

News Analysis... continued from page 3

ers. But how do we inspire people to believe "I Am Somebody" as Rev. Jesse Jackson implored us to do? How do we inspire individuals to believe they were born for a purpose, and they can choose to be positive and productive? How can we build on the concept of "self-worth" to help children and adults overcome pain, without being destructive?

For 15 years Black Women for Positive Change, in partnership with the Positive Change Foundation, have sought to promote non-violence during Annual Months of Non-Violence, Voters Rights, Self-Worth and Understanding AI.

the years, we have examined tools that we believe can strengthen self-worth and help to prevent violence and de-escalate conflicts. One tool we learned about and promote are called Peace Circles, and they were introduced to us by the DC Peace Team.

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The Arts Commission's Project at Swayne Field

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Arts Commission hosted a public information session at St. Martin de Porres Church Wednesday, April 22 announcing a new public art project at Swayne Field, developed in partnership with the City of Toledo Department of Housing and Community Development.

The organization is commissioning permanent art sculpture in the Swayne Field Shopping Center in the Englewood neighborhood.

The project invites artists from within a 150-mile radius of Toledo to apply to create the public work of art that will engage community input. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for artists opened April 23 and closes May 18.

The Arts Commission staff, including Nathan Mattimoe Art in Public Places Director, shared information about the project and answered questions related to the artist selection process with a group of community members, artists and leaders.

Rosalyn Clemens, chief of the City of Toledo Department of Housing and Neighborhood Sustainability also shared information about new developments in the Englewood neighborhood.

HCD, together with the site owner's investment, has raised \$3.6 million in federal grants and loans to fully rehabilitate the multi-acre site and 92,000 sq ft facility with a goal of attracting new tenants, including small and minority-owned businesses, and a new workforce training center as an anchor.

Art in Public Places is currently assembling a Design Review Board (DRB) consisting of community leaders and members of the APP Committee, who will select three artists and/or teams to propose complete designs for the project. Finalists will be paid a stipend of \$2,000 to participate in the concept proposal process, which will include touring Swayne Field and meeting the Design Review Board and community members prior to developing a proposal for the site. (Source: TheArtsCommission.org)

The organization wants the community to be involved in the process as a key component of the proposal. "We want the artist to engage with the youth

of community... to help actually inform the aesthetics of it," shared Nathan Mattimoe. "We're really looking for a proposal that is going to consider that engagement process to help inform what that final piece is going to look like."

TIMELINE*

April 22, 2026
Public Info Session
April 23, 2026
Launch Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
May 18, 2026
Qualifications Submission Due Date
June 14, 2026
Three Finalists Announced
June 23, 2026
Site Visits
June 25, 2026
Design Phase Begins
July 25, 2026
Proposal Presentations
August 11, 2026
Winning Proposal Announced

(*timeline may be subject to change)

To learn more or apply for the project visit the Toledo Arts Commission website: <https://theartscommission.org/projects/swayne-field>

The project is supported by the Greater Toledo Community Foundation's Arts and Culture Fund.

Englewood is one of Toledo's oldest and most notable neighborhoods. It existed as part of Toledo's Old West End until the construction of the I-75 Expressway, dividing Englewood from the rest of the Old West End neighborhoods. The area grew into a residential neighborhood towards the end of the 1800s, evolving into a community with unique architecture in the Queen Anne, Late Victorian, and Italianate styles.

Englewood became known for its landmarks, including Swayne Field, which opened in 1909. Swayne Field was an important destination as the home of the Toledo Mud Hens, as well as the location of Negro League games and community activities that took place for decades before its redevelopment in the 1950s.

Englewood also experienced the emergence of major industrial developments in the early 20th century, especially the Doehler-Jarvis plant, built in the early 1900s, which manufactured automotive parts—particularly cast metal components like engine blocks and chassis parts—and became a major employer in Toledo for decades. The factory closed in 2002.

Additionally, Englewood is home to several historic religious institutions, including St. Martin de Porres Church and the United Missionary Baptist Church, with both having origins dating to the 1800s.

The community's historical value was officially acknowledged when Englewood received a Historic District designation in 1998. Today, the neighborhood works hard to honor its past while preserving its identity.



Nathan Mattimoe Art in Public Places Director at The Arts Commission



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



Community members engage in information session at St. Martin de Porres Church

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Life in Rhythm, Part II: BGSU Ethnic Studies as a Living Conversation

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Transformation does not always announce itself. Sometimes it hums first, low, uncertain, like a bassline searching for its place. Then, when enough people have listened long enough, it rises. It gathers breath. It becomes undeniable.

For Robert L. Perry, PhD, that rising came in 1970, not as an invitation, but as a necessity.

America was restless. The Vietnam War stretched on like a wound that refused to close. Campuses pulsed with dissent. And after the Kent State shootings, the illusion that education existed apart from violence could no longer be maintained.

At Bowling Green State University, students gathered not simply to protest, but to insist that education must speak to their lives, or it is not education at all.

"I got a call," Perry remembers. "They were having protests... students wanted a curriculum related to their lived experiences."

What they wanted was recognition.

What they received, though few could have named it then, was transformation.

Student Fire: The Movement Before the Department

In April 1970, the Black Student Union (BSU), led by Robert Home and its executive council, delivered a list of demands that would reshape the university's moral and academic landscape. They called for Black faculty and administrators, a Black Studies curriculum, increased Black student enrollment to 10 percent, financial support for student organizations, cultural representation in campus life and spaces where Black students could gather, belong and breathe fully inside the institution.

These were not symbolic requests. They were structural demands for life inside a system that had historically treated Black presence as optional.

Among their priorities was the creation of scholarships for Black students, a Black student newspaper—The Obsidian, which would later become a sustained publication—and institutional accountability for recruitment and discrimination practices.

What emerged from this pressure was not simply a program, but a philosophy: that representation without transformation is decoration.

A Curriculum That Refused to Lie

It is one thing to be invited into a room.

It is another thing entirely to rearrange the furniture.

When Robert Perry arrived, Ethnic Studies was not yet a discipline. It was a gesture. A center. A temporary accommodation to unrest, designed, perhaps, to quiet the noise without altering the structure.



From left to right Ravi K. Perry, PhD, Milada V. Perry (front), Kai M. Perry (back) Bayé K. Perry, II, Bayé K. Perry



LaRouth Perry, PhD

But Perry had lived too long and seen too much, to confuse quiet with justice.

What many did not expect was how he anchored those commitments in

... continued on page 11

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Michael Ashford Hosts Annual Spring Fundraiser

The Truth Staff

Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford hosted his annual spring fundraiser at The Peacock Cafe on Tuesday, April 14, as dozens of friends, colleagues and supporters came by to contribute, share a buffet meal and hear Ashford speak on several issues while also thanking those who have done so much for the Toledo community.

Ashford began his remarks by reflecting on recent local and national incidents that have reminded him of so many troubles of the past decades.

"Some of us have got to be disturbed by that video we saw last week," he said of the scene in which a Toledo police officer threw a 15-year-old girl to the ground twice after stopping her for walking in the street.

"In my age group, a child of the 50s, 60s, 70s, when we got through the 70s, we said we would never see that again," he recalled.

He spoke of several recent issues that remind him of the sometimes-calamitous decade of the 70s such as war. "War is never good," he said recounting relatives who served in Korea and Vietnam who returned home with nothing good to say about the glories of war.

"We thought protesting was fair," he also recalled about those actions in the streets in the 60s and 70s against war which would ultimately lead to incidents such as the killing of four protesters at

... continued on page 10



Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford and Theresa M. Gabriel



Councilman Mac Driscoll, Attorney Tom Puffenberger, Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez, Councilwoman Brittany Jones, PhD



Gary Johnson and Larry Sykes

TOLEDO LUPUS WALK
 THIS IS NOT JUST A WOMAN'S DISEASE
 SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026
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Girlfriends Celebrate 65th Anniversary

By Paul Hubbard, MSW, BD Chair Maritime Academy
Special to The Truth

The Toledo Chapter of Girlfriends celebrated their 65th anniversary on April 18 at Brandywine County Club and Golf Club. The Girl Friends also hosted an Empowering Women in the workplace Brunch.

At the Brandywine dinner/dance over 200 people enjoyed salmon, chicken and a reasonable priced cash bar. Most of the women were dressed in Gold.

Caroline Lewis served as the chair of the Dinner Dance. The DJ kept the dance floor active with all the line dances. Greetings were given by Lisa Dubose, the Girlfriends president, and Marie Bush, PhD, a past Girlfriend president. State Rep. Elgin Rogers gave a resolution from the State of Ohio and Lucas County Recorder Mike Ashford gave greetings from Lucas County.

The National President of the Girlfriends, Elizabeth (Beth) Espy, flew



in from Atlanta to speak. Beth Espy has roots in Toledo; her grandfather was Dr. Duffy a dentist. Dr. Duffy was a member of Toledo Boule as I am a current member. Beth's grandmother, Helen Duffy, was a founding member of the Toledo Girl Friends. The Toledo Girl Friends were sponsored by Detroit and Cincinnati Girl Friends.

Girlfriends is one of the oldest social organizations of African American Women in the United States, founded in New York city in 1927 with the purpose of friendship, social activities local civic services. The Toledo Girlfriends were installed November 12, 1960.

The Toledo Girlfriends have an Endowed Scholarship at the University of Toledo, they have sponsored the Alvin Ailey Dance Troop here in Toledo. They have partnered with The Buffalo Soldiers, Kitchen for the Poor and Mom's House as well as many other Toledo civic projects.

They are also members of the NAACP, Toledo Art Museum and UNCF.



Elizabeth Espy



Lisa Dubose and Elizabeth Espy



Toledo Chapter Girlfriends



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News Analysis...continued from page 5

Circles bring people together in respectful, safe and supportive environments, with expert facilitators who create settings where individuals can express themselves, be heard and respected.

One day he told his teacher that his parents fought regularly and one weekend when they were screaming at each other, he asked them to form a Peace Circle with him.

Another example of an informal Peace Circle was when I witnessed my father using Sunday dinners around the kitchen table to encourage family members to express themselves, and their frustrations.

Jazz Brunch...continued from page 16

The Freedom School, which began in 2018, brings in 60 students each summer to be taught and mentored by college students and by Toledo Public School educators, said Johnson.

Saturday's event began with greetings from mistress of ceremonies, Valerie S. Walston, ThD, and a welcome from Lynn Bachelor, board president of the Center.

Johnson presented an overview of the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center programs and Lavada Griswold-Smith spoke of the history of the Freedom School and introduced the staff and scholars of the school.

After brunch, the honorees were presented: Terry Crosby, Rev. Larry Clark and Kimberly Fisher.

Crosby, a former outstanding two-sport athlete at DeVilbiss High School and longtime professional basketball player overseas, is a corporate ambassador with Taylor Automotive Family.

Rev. Clark, a United Methodist minister since 1979 has pastored urban churches in Toledo, Cincinnati and Columbus. He has also served as executive director of Toledo Area Ministries and taught courses at the Methodist theological School of Ohio, the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University.

mented suggestions and found their lives were improved, with happiness.

Given the levels of stress, conflict, anger and violence we see reflected across America it would be wise to view Peace Circles as demonstration programs in homes, schools, faith institutions, workplaces and communities.

Peace Circles should be evaluated to determine how effective they can be in anger management, de-escalation of conflicts, and prevention of fights.

Interested parties can contact us at: Positive Change Foundation, Positivechangefdn@gmail.com or visit www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org.

This commentary is part of a three-part series, powered by TriceEdneyWire.com, dealing with violence across America with a specific focus on domestic violence and mental health.

Fisher, the youngest daughter of Officer Earl and Lenora Barry, has more than 25 years in education. She is currently the Children's Librarian at the Lagrange Branch Library.

Michael Ashford...continued from page 8

Kent State University in 1970.

"I said that will never happen again but then when you look at Minneapolis and see the ICE shootings ..."

"And the cost of gas .., unbelievable," he noted about not only what is now happening with gas but also utility bills of all kinds.

And then, women's rights. Ashford spoke of the strides made in the 70s with women's rights established in part by Roe v. Wade, only to see that overturned in recent years.

However, he added that, "just as we got through [what happened 50 years ago], we are going to get through this too."

Returning his listeners' attention to the police incident of the previous week, Ashford noted that over the past few years, such incidents with Toledo police have become all too prevalent.

The police officer in question should never have been on the force, said Ashford, and was only a part of the force because of the legacy privileges he was apparently entitled to.

Things were different, he added, when other mayors were in office, such as Carty Finkbeiner - who attended the fundraiser - and when police chiefs, such as Mike Navarre, ran the department.

In wrapping up his remarks, Ashford commended the efforts of three people in the room, for their successful efforts in the past to ensure that people of color were hired in greater numbers.

5th Annual STOCK THE SHELVES FOOD DONATION EVENT. 11 AM - 1 PM on Friday, May 15, 2026. 2149 Collingwood Blvd, Toledo, OH 43620. Food Pantry Wish List: Canned Meats, Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Canned Soup, Juice, Ramen Noodles, Crackers, Cereal, Oatmeal or Grits, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Ketchup, Mayo, Mustard, Cake or Brownie Mixes or Frosting, Cereal or Energy Bars, Jelly. Scan QR Code to shop our Amazon list anytime! Scan QR Code to make a monetary donation to LSS!

TOLEDO URBAN'S 2026 FINANCIAL WELLNESS WORKSHOP SERIES. EVENT SCHEDULE: SEP 19 SATURDAY, OCT 3 SATURDAY. CONTACT US! 419.255.8876. LOCATION: TOLEDO URBAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 3053 MONROE ST., TOLEDO, OH. 43606.

Life in Rhythm...continued from page 7

academic life itself, tying them not only to practice, but to coursework, institutional frameworks, and the pursuit of degrees.

In that decision lies a kind of courage that rarely announces itself. Because institutions can tolerate conversations.

They struggle to tolerate change.

"I don't believe in symbolic gestures," Dr. Perry says, his voice carrying no trace of bitterness, only clarity. "Representation without transformation is decoration."

And so he did not decorate.

He built.

Between 1970 and 1978, what began as a temporary center became an Ethnic Studies program, and finally, a historic Ethnic Studies Department, rooted not in sentiment, but in structure. Not in permission, but in insistence.

Perry understood what many still resist understanding: knowledge that threatens power is not distributed, it is restricted.

Building the Architecture: Ethnic Studies as Action

Out of this knowledge grew one of the most distinctive Ethnic Studies programs in the country, built not only in classrooms, but in community spaces, homes, bars, churches, and cultural centers like the Frederick Douglass Community Association in Toledo.

Projects like Project Search, led by John Scott, PhD, a playwright of culture and an early architect of Ethnic Studies thought, alongside researchers Robert Horne and Clarence Daniels, surveyed campus life to measure support for Black students and faculty. It was both research and revelation, exposing the gap between institutional language and real life experience.

The early Ethnic Studies movement at BGSU was never confined to academia. It was movement work. Meetings happened wherever people could gather truthfully. Faculty and students collaborated across city and campus lines, producing a model of scholarship rooted in engagement rather than detachment.

Even entertainment was intentional. Cultural programming brought jazz musicians, theater artists, and national intellectuals into the same space. Jazz names like Les McCann and Ramsey Lewis moved through the imagination like memory made audible, while the intellectual and political fire of figures such as Stokely Carmichael, Cornel West and Toni Cade Bambara lingered in the same atmosphere of inquiry. The line between cultural performance and political education, blurred by design.

As Perry often emphasized, Ethnic Studies was never simply about inclusion. It was about restructuring what counts as knowledge.

When James Baldwin Took a Seat at the Table

Every now and then, a voice enters a space and rearranges its gravity.

In 1976, that voice belonged to James Baldwin.

He came, at first, as many great men do, briefly, cautiously, called by invitation and curiosity alike. A lecture. A single appearance. A moment.

But something in Bowling Green spoke back.

"Dr. Ernest Champion, a professor and founding member within the Department of Ethnic Studies, first invited Baldwin to deliver a lecture," Perry recalls. "Then he came back... again and again."

From 1976 to 1981, Baldwin returned as an educator. He taught in the evenings, when the day's noise had quieted and truth could be heard more clearly. The university adjusted itself to his rhythm, a small but telling reversal. Because Baldwin, like jazz, refused confinement.

He stayed not in isolation, but in community. In homes. In rooms where conversation moved without script. In those spaces, his presence carried the weight of what he had already written in *The Fire Next Time*: "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." At Bowling Green, that facing was not abstract, it was immediate, spoken across tables and classrooms where students were no longer observers of history, but participants in its questioning.

And still, he widened the demand beyond intellect into something more human, more dangerous, more necessary, what it means to remain open in a world trained to close you. "Love takes off the masks we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within," he wrote, and in that spirit his classroom at Bowling Green became less a lecture hall than a mirror held up

to a country still learning how to see itself without flinching.

History, in those moments, was no longer something students studied. It was something they encountered.

And perhaps that is the most radical thing of all.

Knowledge Must Do Something

There are philosophies that decorate walls. And there are philosophies that move people. Robert Perry belonged to the latter.

"Education for the beauty of it is not enough," he says. "It has to do something."

He repeats it, with the knowing that repetition might make it harder to ignore:

Knowledge must do something to make things better.

And so he taught not only theory, but application. Not only history, but responsibility.

He brought the community into the classroom and the classroom into the community.

He invited students into hiring decisions, not because they were experts, but because they were stakeholders.

"Students need to feel they have input," he insisted.

This was not a 'how-to' as performance. This was education as participation.

And in that participation, something rare took place: Students did not simply receive knowledge.

They recognized themselves within it.

A House Full of Voices

There are institutions, and then there are living rooms.

Dr. Perry understood the difference.

Over the years, voices passed through the Ethnic Studies program like a procession of witnesses:

Maya Angelou, whose words could lift grief into song.

Cornel West, whose questions refused to settle.

Kwame Ture, whose voice carried the urgency of a people unwilling to wait.

Nikki Giovanni, whose poetry held both fire and tenderness in the same breath.

Danny Glover, whose presence blurred the line between art and action.

Johnnetta Cole, whose scholarship carried the weight of lived truth.

Even Yolanda King and Attallah Shabazz—daughters of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X—appeared together at BGSU in 1984 through their theater project Nucleus, embodying the possibility of dialogue across historical fracture.

These were not events. They were encounters with history still speaking.

LaRouth, Baldwin, and the Architecture of Belonging

At the center of everything that would later become university, lectures, national conferences, and the language of departments and disciplines, there is Perry's wife, LaRouth.

LaRouth Perry, PhD, is the quiet architecture beneath the visible structure of a life that would later be named, studied, and archived. A scholar in her own right, earning her PhD in American Culture Studies from Bowling Green State University, she carried the work of language and education into classrooms across Toledo. She taught high school English in Toledo Public Schools and Africana Studies at the University of Toledo. She also worked in programs like Upward Bound and Toledo Excel, where she helped shape the minds of students who were often told, subtly or directly, that their futures



Robert Perry and son Baye



John Scott, Robert Perry, Bill Harris

... continued on page 12

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Life in Rhythm...continued from page 11

were conditional.

But she taught otherwise.

She taught that futures are built, not granted.

Alongside Dr. Robert Perry, she raised a household where intellect was not abstract, but daily practice.

Their home in Westmoreland, near the University of Toledo, became more than a residence. It became a gathering space where ideas arrived with their coats still on, where artists, community leaders, and scholars moved through rooms that refused to separate the academic from the human. Beyond the campus itself, James Baldwin found another kind of refuge. The Perry home became his second home, one where conversation stretched late into the night, and music, philosophy, and laughter braided together without pretense.

There, Toledo revealed itself differently to him. It was a living Black cultural ecosystem that was intimate, intelligent, and unforced. Community was practiced in real time. In that house, the boundaries between lecture and life, writer and neighbor, thinker and friend quietly dissolved. Baldwin could simply be among people who understood that the work of understanding is also the work of belonging.

The measure of Robert Perry's work was never proximity to fame.

It was proximity to possibility.

"My children always joke," Perry says, smiling at the memory, "they'd go downstairs and it's like... hey, Auntie Angelou or Uncle Baldwin."

What a salutation.

What a world.

To grow up where greatness is not distant, but domestic. Where brilliance sits at the table and asks if you've eaten.

The Institutional Breakthrough: Curriculum as Transformation

In 1993, under Dr. Robert L. Perry's leadership, Bowling Green State University made a historic curricular shift: every student was required to complete a course in Ethnic Studies.

This was not symbolic policy. It was structural change embedded into the academic core of the university.

That requirement reframed what it meant to graduate. Students could

no longer move through the institution without encountering questions of race, power, history, and identity. Education, in Perry's framing, was not preparation for earning a living, it was preparation for understanding life itself.

This philosophy echoed W.E.B. Du Bois, who wrote that the purpose of education is not merely "earning a living," but learning how to live, because "the man who spends his life earning a living has never lived."

At BGSU, Ethnic Studies became the space where that idea was made an institutional reality.

Conferences, Coalitions, and National Influence

Robert Perry's influence extended far beyond Bowling Green through his leadership in the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES), later known as the Association for Ethnic Studies (AES).

He served on the NAES Executive Council, chaired sessions, and regularly presented scholarships alongside BGSU colleagues Ernest Champion, PhD; Alice A. Tait, PhD, and Melvin T. Peters. Together, they helped shape national conversations on curriculum, race, and institutional transformation.

NAES conferences during this era focused on themes such as:

- race, class, and gender
- institutionalizing Ethnic Studies
- multicultural curriculum development
- global and comparative ethnic frameworks

In 1994, at the NAES conference in Kansas City, Robert L. Perry received the Charles C. Irby Distinguished Service Award, honoring his leadership in building Ethnic Studies as both discipline and movement.

These conferences were not academic formalities. They were intellectual assemblies where scholars, activists, and students debated what education should be in a society still defining democracy for itself.

What Endures When Everything Else Is Threatened

Time has a way of testing what we build.

In recent years, ethnic and multicultural programs have found themselves under scrutiny, underfunded, or erased altogether. Across Ohio and beyond, the language of diversity has been both politicized and pared down.

And yet, at Bowling Green, Ethnic Studies remains.

Not untouched.

But standing.

Why?

Because Perry did not build a moment.

He built a structure.

Departments endure where programs disappear. Tenure protects where trends shift. Requirements ensure relevance where interest may wane.

The Shape of a Legacy

If you wish to understand the reach of a life, you must look not only at what was built, but at what continues to build.

His children—Baye, Kai and Ravi—are not shadows of his work.

They are its evolution.

Baye, the eldest son and a graduate of Bowling Green State University, moves through the world with the instinct of a builder and the ear of a musician. An award-winning hospitality executive, he has conceived and managed multiple establishments in Toledo, Ohio, and Tampa, Florida, shaping spaces where people gather, eat, listen, and remember themselves. He turns ideas into rooms alive with light and sound. Now, he is imagining, somewhere in Florida, a speakeasy that will no doubt carry a quiet whisper of the old Dorr Street rhythm in its walls.

Kai, their only daughter, turned inward, toward the delicate architecture of identity, dedicating her life to understanding how Black children come to know themselves in a world that too often refuses to see them clearly. Conducting educational research at Yale, she has served as a Research Assistant, Program Manager and now Transition Counselor while pursuing a doctorate in educational psychology. An adjunct professor of multicultural education and president of The Amistad Committee, Inc., she is also developing an op-ed series exploring Black identity through her lived experience as a swimmer and sailor.

And Ravi, the youngest son and scholar-activist, writes and studies power itself—how it moves, how it disguises itself, and how it might be bent toward justice. Situated within Black politics, minority representation, urban politics, American public policy, and LGBTQ communities of color, his work carries him from classrooms in Mississippi to Washington, D.C., where he serves as Chair and professor of Political Science at Howard University, car-





Robert Perry in the 1970s

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The War Within a War: The Black Struggle in Vietnam and at Home by Wil Haygood

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Uncle Sam needs you. He has work for you, a steady job that may be the most difficult thing you'll ever do but you'll gain pride in your accomplishments and decent pay for the work, plus three hots and a cot. Hey, it's a great opportunity to gain on-the-job experience – even if, as in the new book *The War Within a War* by Wil Haygood, you once might've experienced racism, too.

c. 2026
Knopf
\$35.00
352 pages

Dan Bullock was a boy who'd always dreamed of becoming a Marine. And so he did, and after graduating from basic training, he was sent to Vietnam to fight. Sadly, Dan was asleep one night in May of 1969, when a Vietcong soldier threw a grenade into the tent where he lay. Dan Bullock was killed instantly.

Wallace Terry knew about Bullock, and he couldn't stop thinking about him. Terry was one of a handful of Black journalists in Vietnam, and he'd heard bitter talk and hot anger from Black troops - talk of discrimination, of terrible assignments, of seeing greater danger than white soldiers saw. Black young men enlisted in the military because opportunities for them were scarce at home. Once in Vietnam, they'd become politically savvy and smart about current events, hoping things might get better in America but knowing, down-deep, that nothing would.

Though the American military had been officially integrated for years, what Terry heard was that Black soldiers felt like Vietnam was a "war within a war." Many said that race didn't seem to matter in combat. At base camp and from their superiors, there was the problem. In the meantime, President Lyndon Johnson signed bills to help the poor but his policies didn't stop racism or the war itself.

By wars' end, more than 58,000 American soldiers died in Vietnam. One of them was Dan Bullock, who wasn't 16, as he'd told the Marine recruiter. As Terry learned, Dan was 14 when he enlisted, 15 when he died, the youngest American soldier to perish in Vietnam.

It's not on there, but *The War Within a War* should have a Trigger Warning sticker on the cover. If you're a veteran of combat, you should know that

before proceeding. Using the stories of dozens of people who went to Vietnam in various ways and for myriad reasons, author Wil Haygood offers tiny stories and a window to American warfare that often goes unknown. Here, you'll meet the Common Man and those who were quite uncommon, brave women who played parts in history, and entertainers who raised consciousness through music. You can smell the jungle here. You'll feel the heat and hear the sudden, terrifying silence as you read this must-read, highly relevant, heartbreak of a book.

Just beware: it's sometimes very graphic and certain readers might want to skip it, even though it's one of the better books you'll find on the subject. Absolutely, if you're unfamiliar with or want to know more about this part of American history, *The War Within a War* is a book you need.

Life in Rhythm...continued from page 12

rying forward the intellectual and moral labor of naming what America is, and what it has not yet dared to become.

They are not repeating their father's story. They are continuing it, in their own language.

A Final Note That Still Resonates

At Bowling Green State University, the Dr. Robert L. Perry Veranda, located at Shatzel Hall, now bears his name, a quiet but enduring tribute to a life that insisted education be both honest and humane. It is more than a marker. It is a threshold. A place meant for gathering, reflection, and conversation, much like the spaces he created throughout his career.

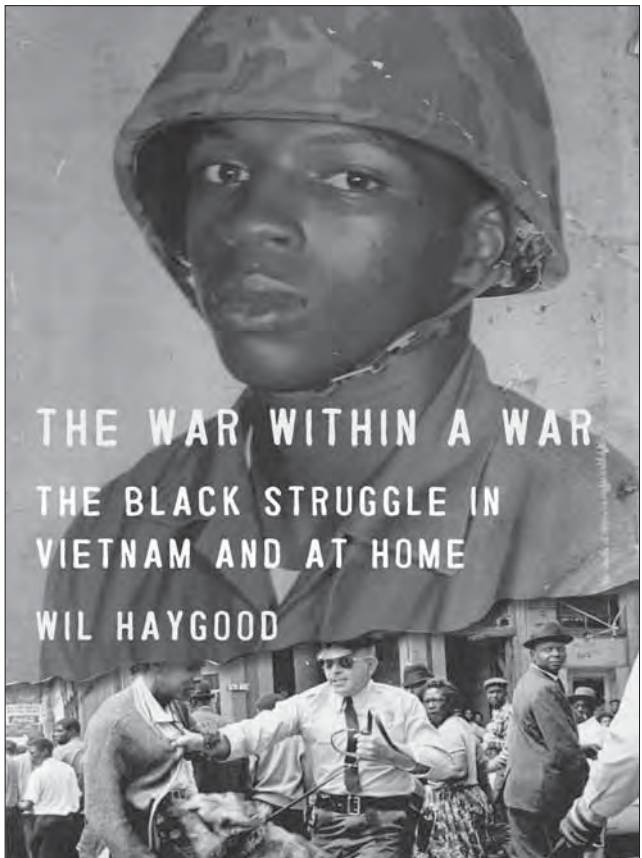
At 92, Robert Perry does not speak of legacy as something abstract. He speaks of people. Of former students, now grown, returning with stories of lives shaped, paths redirected, possibilities realized. "That what you did mattered," they tell him. And he listens, not as a man surprised, but as a man who understood, all along, what the work required.

"I feel like I was doing what I was raised to do, to be of service to others," he says. "To get up every day and do my best."

There is a pause there. Not empty, but full. And then, simply: "I'm satisfied."

It is not a boast. It is not an ending. It is something closer to a final note held just long enough to remind you that the music was real, that it happened, that it changed the world.

And if you are listening carefully, you realize, it's still playing. Learn about the leaders of BGSU's Ethnic Studies Department who transformed education, culture, and community.



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Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Endorses Allison Russo for Ohio Secretary of State Candidate

"Allison Russo will not just manage our elections - she will protect them"

Special to The Truth

Allison Russo, a Democratic candidate for Ohio Secretary of State, has been endorsed by the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus. The OLBC, whose mission is to promote, foster, and advance civic and political activities that enrich and improve African American communities across Ohio, is the oldest legislative black caucus in the nation.

"The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus is proud to endorse Allison Russo for Ohio Secretary of State because she has consistently proven herself to be a fierce defender of every Ohioan's right to be heard at the ballot box. At a time when our democracy faces unprecedented challenges, Allison has the vision and the backbone to ensure our elections remain secure, transparent, and accessible to all," said Terrence Upchurch, President of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus.

"Throughout her time in the General Assembly, she has been a steadfast partner to the OLBC, working to dismantle barriers to voting that disproportionately impact marginalized communities. We know that as Secretary of State, Allison will not just manage our elections - she will protect them. She understands that a democracy requires active participation, and we are confident she will lead with the integrity and fairness that this office demands," Upchurch said.

"This is a tremendous honor to be endorsed by the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus. The diligent members of the OLBC work nonstop to ensure equitable access to the ballot box for all citizens and defend our democracy. Recent Secretaries of State have tried to marginalize Black and minority voters, but I will do everything in my power to ensure all voters have convenient access to the ballot box so their voices are heard and respected in our democracy," Russo said.

State Rep. Russo has served four terms in the Ohio House of Representatives protecting one person one vote, advocating for reproductive rights, and

fighting for labor protections. During her time in the House of Representatives, Russo served as House Minority Leader for the Ohio House Democratic Caucus, and before that as Ranking Member on the House Health Committee.



A Thank You Note from June Boyd

My heart is full of love and humility. Thank you so much for the support. My journey has been long and hopeful. To Twila Page, Michael Sandlin of WTOL 11 and staff, relatives, church members, associates, even the anonymous.




It has been a journey of travels to Cleveland Clinic for my daughter, Charlotte, even my car was ruined. I shall be forever grateful to all of you. I shall with every fiber in my body continue to serve my community, pass it forward, and ask you to vote in November, 2026, to end the madness. By the Grace of God, I think Charlotte is going to be okay.

Thank you again, so much..

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



Stacy Fowler,
Publisher, Pursuit Magazine



Alexandria Leatherberry,
The Truth Reporter



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	\$6,057,182	\$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

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&_afMFCI=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

MORTGAGE LOAN ASSISTANT

Position Summary:

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union is seeking a Mortgage Loan Assistant. The Mortgage Lending Assistant supports the loan officer in processing mortgage applications, ensuring smooth transactions, and providing excellent customer service throughout the loan process

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Support Mortgage Loan Officer by gathering and verifying necessary financial documentation, including proof of income, credit reports, and property and title evaluations
- Act as a liaison between members, real estate agents, and escrow companies, updating all parties on the status of loan applications and ensuring a smooth transaction
- Handle administrative tasks such as answering phone calls, scheduling appointments and maintaining organized loan files and documentation
- Help complete loan applications and submit them to underwriting for approval, ensuring all applications are thorough and accurate
- Stay updated on industry regulations and best practices to ensure compliance throughout the loan process

Minimum Qualifications:

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- At least one (1) year of Mortgage Loan Processing, Underwriting, Origination experience with desired, but not required
- Strong attention to detail and excellent organizational abilities to manage multiple loan applications efficiently
- Ability to communicate complex financial information clearly and effectively to members
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office products to include Word, Excel, and Outlook

Skills, Abilities & Expectations:

- Ability to work in a fast-paced team environment, manage multiple tasks, and prioritize work
- Ability to apply general accounting knowledge processes (debits, credits, balancing)
- Assuring customer service is top priority whether internally or externally, treating members and employees professionally, with courtesy and respect
- Detail oriented and organized with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Stay abreast of regulatory requirements and complete annual compliance training applicable to the position

Contact Susan Jester at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union: 419-255- 8876 – sjester@toledo.urban.net

The Monroe Street Neighborhood Center Annual Jazz Brunch

The Truth Staff

On Saturday, April 18, the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center held its annual Jazz Brunch at the American Legion in order to raise funds for the Center's Freedom School Program.

Several hundred supporters gathered to listen to the jazzy renderings of the Skip Turner Band, to enjoy a brunch buffet and to honor three area residents for their contributions to the Center.

The Center's Freedom School is a six-week literacy-based summer camp for students K through 8. "We have hot lunch and breakfast for them," said Tracci K. Johnson, executive director of the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center. "And it's just \$150 for the entire program. Part of this fundraiser is to keep the cost down for our children."

... continued on page 10



Mistress of Ceremony Valerie S. Walston, ThD, and Monroe Street Neighborhood Center Executive Director Tracci K. Johnson



Lavada Griswold-Smith



Terry Crosby, Tracci K. Johnson, Kimberly Fisher, Rev. Larry Clark



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