



Volume 95 No. 4 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." May 20, 2026



Sheila Cook: The MLK Academy bridge between families, teachers and everyone else

In This Issue..

Ben Jealous Page 3	Cover Story: Sheila Cook and the MLK Academy for Boys Page 5	Dr. Val - The Perseverance Expert Page 10	Book Review Page 13	Tiny Homes Page 15
June Boyd Page 4	Lupus Weekend Pages 7-19	Inez Nash Park Page 11	Classifieds Page 14	Lopez Fundraiser Page 16

CLASS OF 2026



Toledo Public Schools congratulates the Top 10 students from each of our high schools and extends best wishes to the entire **CLASS OF 2026** – your accomplishments stand as another shining example of why we are **TPS PROUD!**

AEROSPACE & NATURAL SCIENCE ACADEMY OF TOLEDO

AVIATION CENTER

Jed Bench
Quinn Hanifan
Anna Kirk
Kellen Barrett
Johnathan Meyer
Joshua Rummell
Cameron Langenderfer
Carlos Nesbitt
Aden Duncan
Oliver Simpkins

NATURAL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Infinity Simon
McKenzy Lounsbury
Sophia Sleight
Travis Tursich
Lillian Ramsey
Aubree Slawinski
Amelia Smith
Benjamin Dean
Rachael Campbell
Ava Bibler

BOWSER HIGH SCHOOL

Alyssa Edington
Marrisa Sullivan
Ra'Quan Davis
Trinity Spencer
Riyah Griffith
Brett Retzloff
Nicholas Ello
Kaiyah Pearce
Farhiya Hassan
Caiden Battle

JONES LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OF BUSINESS

Jiovanni Shelton
Anthony Martin Jr.
Victoria Best
Solomon Alexander
Simere Brenson-Evans
Marvin Davis
Amaya Lee
Ruth Ochoa
Kristen King-Warren
TyVaughn Barnes

ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL

Paris Stewart
Traden Booker
Michael Carr
Shanice Gardner
Ebenezer Perez-Brito
Dalliss Lothery-Hatch
Austin Tooman
Sakiyah Caulton
Makenzie Vaculik
Amiah Johnson

SCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

Martasia Sutton
Dhevon Hanks
Lilith Hampton
La'Tryna Smith
Taylor Hardyway
Sonya Norales
Katie March
Jameer Claybrooks-Reeves
Maysun Harris
Ke'Onna Jenkins

START HIGH SCHOOL

Hayden Walentowski
Johnathan Czynzewski
Aiyana Aris
Bailey Diebert
Ciara Turner
Kamari Foster
Maurice Redding
Ry'Nell Parker
Lyndon Leonard
Laron Taylor

TOLEDO EARLY COLLEGE

Elizabeth Treat
Haiya Badi
Grace Charles
Tatym Wolfram
Rylie Mundt
Grace Zaborowski
Kalli Staton
Aliyah Osei
Ella Eichenberg
Leonardo Palacios

THE TOLEDO PRE-MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCE ACADEMY

Shaiara Kynard
Pay'Yon Parker
Ava Pietra
Mia Reed
Alayna Bui
Kian Bagheri
Kinsey Pfeiffer
Anta'Naysia Applewhite
Jessica Watts
Rozanae Arrington

TOLEDO TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

Liam Close
Robert Campbell
Draeden Ellis
Adam Zuccarell
Raymond Friedel
Charles Hallett
Finnian Land
Piper Smith
Casey Minor
Ayden VanHoy

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Rickiela Martin
Amaria Nance
Francisco Hernandez
Summer Neely
Perla Padilla
Tyler Matthews
De'Lexzy Conley
Katelynn Vaughn
Desiree Sibbersen
Aiden Stephens

WAITE HIGH SCHOOL

Makayla Butler
Emily Steedley
Alisa Riojas
Jorge Porras Jr.
Myonna Lacy
Zachary Andrews
Christa Hamilton
Kaitlynn Sinclair
Noe Garza
Bryson Watt

WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL

Karla Barcenas
Asanti Jones
Mani'Ja Page
Carmello Thomas
Re'Mya Warren
Naraelle Byers
Jayden Russell
Na'Sean Handley
Hector Rodriguez III
Kar'Melo Sims

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Christine Varwig
President

Pastor Randall Parker
Vice President

Ms. Sheena Barnes
Member

Mrs. Polly Taylor-Gerken
Member

Mr. Bob Vasquez
Member

Dr. Romules Durant
CEO/Superintendent

1609 N. Summit Street
Toledo, OH 43604
419-671-0001

TPS.ORG

Where We Are Now

By June Boyd

Guest Column

To give a lesson in black history, on June 21, 1964, three young civil rights workers were abducted and murdered by the KKK, only for their attempt to register Black people to vote. I will say their names;

James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. The African American, James, was also castrated.

Of all the lynchings, murders and civil rights violations, along with Emmitt Till, the foregoing has been the most disturbing to me. Research has shown that even the county sheriff was involved in the murders. The murderers made an effort to send a message: "if you engage in registration and voting, you will die."

Their bodies were discovered August 4, 1964. There were eight to 10 men involved the murders; seven men were convicted of federal civil rights violations, but not murder.

In 2005, Klan leader Ray Killen was convicted of manslaughter of the three. The irony of this horror is that 41 years to the day of the murders, Killen was sentenced to prison for 60 years. He died in prison January 11, 2018, at the age of 93 which was 54 years after he murdered John, Andrew and Michael.

Following the tragedy, President Lyndon Johnson introduced the Voting Rights Act in 1965, giving our people an equal chance to exercise our God given right to vote. If you have kept up with the news, you are aware the U. S. Supreme Court Judges, (six of them), handily "guttled" the Voting Rights Act, which puts us back to square one.

Where We Are Now.

If this issue does not make you angry enough to vote, I do not know what it will take. Personally, I have always felt the action that would have our people believe is if our rights are taken away, and believe it, we are at that point in our lives today, we must fight. We owe it to all the civil rights fighters before us, we will not go back, not be afraid and continue to get justice.

The late John Lewis must have known what we did not, the reason he fought so hard prior to his death for the passage of a stronger Voting Rights Act. In his memory, we must continue the struggle.



A major strategy must be implemented to combat what is taking place. I do not see any white hoods, however, I see the ghost of what they represented. African American communities across this nation must rise up, and we have some partners. Those who see the injustice, and are in power, must demand laws are changed that disrupt our freedom.

In memory of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, and so many others, VOTE. There has never been a more precise reason than to realize what those young men suffered, but their memory shall never die.

Kaptur Announces \$1.4 Million Award for Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport

Special to The Truth

This week, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) announced that the US Department of Transportation (USDOT), through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), has awarded \$1,425,000 in federal funding for Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport as part of their Airport Terminal Program. This funding will be used to replace aging HVAC equipment and ductwork within the FAA staffed Air Traffic Control Tower at Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport.

"Toledo and our entire Northwest Ohio region have always been proud to continue in Ohio's legacy as the birthplace of aviation including through the legacy of Apollo Flight Director Eugene Kranz for whom our Toledo Express Airport is named. Modernizing airport infrastructure will help our Air Traffic Controllers to continue to serve our citizens as we look to expand airport operations and to attract new carriers and passenger routes to connector hubs," said Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09). "This federal investment which follows investments last week in Defiance, Williams, and Sandusky Counties put us on track to reinvest in local assets to assure safe, reliable, ready to serve facilities for the jobs of the future. Modernizing our local facilities helps to build a strong foundation as we look to connect our people and businesses to destinations and opportunities across the country and around the globe."

"Receiving this grant funding is an important step forward in advancing the Airport Capital Improvement Program identified in our Airport Master Plan," said Thomas J. Winston, President and CEO of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority. "As part of this program, more than \$1 Million has been invested at Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport, with an additional \$3 Million in projects planned in 2026. This funding will support critical infrastructure upgrades to the HVAC equipment in the airport tower. By continuing to modernize airport infrastructure and enhance terminal facilities, these improvements will strengthen overall airport operations, support future growth, and enhance service for the many users and partners who rely on Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport."

This new federal investment builds on previous awards to airports across our Northwest Ohio region. Just last week on May 12, 2026, Congresswoman Kaptur announced over \$1 Million in federal investment for infrastructure improvements at Williams County Regional Airport, Defiance Memorial Airport, and Sandusky County Regional Airport.

In April 2026 Congresswoman Kaptur announced \$536,616 awarded to rehabilitate Defiance County Airport Infrastructure. In June 2025 Congresswoman Kaptur delivered over \$1.4 Million in FAA funding for four Northwest Ohio airports to modernize infrastructure and bolster safety.

In July 2025, she announced \$342,000 for Fulton County Airport to improve runway conditions. In August 2025, Congresswoman Kaptur announced \$300,000 in FAA Funds to Fulton and Williams County Airports. In 2024 she also brought home \$400,000 in FAA funds to strengthen aviation upgrades across multiple airports in the district.



Calling all filmmakers, actors, and creative minds!
INFUSE NETWORK, Your destination for fresh and captivating content is now streaming absolutely FREE on Roku device.

Dive into a world of unique movies, shows and stories waiting to be discovered.

But that's not all!
INFUSE NETWORK is seeking talented individuals to join our growing family.

.Content Creators:
 Do you have a story begging to be told? We're looking for passionate filmmakers with original content to submit for consideration.

.Models & Actors:
 Are you ready to shine on screen? We're seeking captivating models and actors to bring our commercials and television shows to life.

Fuel your imagination and share your vision!
 For more information and submission guidelines.

Email us at millenniummediagroup@gmail.com
 Call 419.514.1284

INFUSE NETWORK: Stream Free. Create Boldly

When the Doors Close, the Work Still Speaks: Sheila Cook's Goodbye to MLK Academy

By Asai Nail

The Truth Reporter

A school may be closing, but a legacy of love, discipline and "never giving up on young men" refuses to leave quietly.

There are goodbyes that feel like a door closing.

And then there are goodbyes that feel like a whole building exhaling at once.

For **Sheila Cook, Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Boys** was never just a job. It was a living, breathing assignment. A place where ties were straightened, futures were challenged, and boys were reminded daily that they were more than what the world sometimes labeled them.

Now, the building is closing. The halls that once carried laughter, frustration, progress, and second chances are preparing to fall quiet in a different way.

And Cook? She is still trying to process what quiet even means.

"We went international...and I said, is this real?"

When she talks about MLK Academy, her memory doesn't start small.

It starts global.

"One moment that really defines it," Cook says, "is when we went international. People were calling, sending messages from France, Germany, Africa... and I said, 'Is this real?'"

It was real.

What started as a local boys' program turned into something bigger than anyone planned. Families across the world were watching what these young men were becoming.

And Cook just kept building.

"If Mr. Ward said go for it, I went for it," she says, referring to principal Willie Ward. "That's how we did things. We made it happen."

Not just programs. A whole system of belief.

Cook's title reads long on paper: family liaison, outreach coordinator, professional services, but she explains it simply:

"I was the bridge," she says. "Between families, teachers and everything in between."

That "in between" is where most of the real work lived.

She connected parents to resources, calmed misunderstandings, translated school language into something families could actually use. She also created programs that didn't exist before she got there.

Young Men of Excellence. Mentoring pipelines. Dress-code pride. Etiquette training. After-school structure that felt more like guidance than punishment.

And then there were the events, the ones people still talk about.

Mother-son dances where she cooked half the food herself.

Father-son nights where men showed up in numbers so large she had to stand at the back just to take pictures.

"We weren't just doing events," she says. "We were building memories they could hold onto when life got hard."

The boy who changed everything

When asked about one student who represents her work, her voice slows.

There was a young man with anger issues. A boy she worked with for two

...continued on page 6



William White, Sheila Cook, Willie Ward, PhD



Sheila Cook, the Calla Lily Award Winner



Worship EXPERIENCE *Join Us!*
Every Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church
2102 Mulberry Street, Toledo, Ohio 43608
(419) 726-1180, FAX: (419) 726-6240
E-mail: EasternStarMBC@aol.com
Website: www.drjwilliams.org

A Grant up to \$1,500 towards your Mortgage Closing Costs!¹

DO YOU QUALIFY?

- Purchase of a primary residence located within State Bank's lending area²
- Must meet borrower or geography low- to moderate-income eligibility requirements³
- A signed purchase agreement must be presented to reserve funds

State Bank CARE Grant funds are limited, so **APPLY TODAY.**

sb | statebank
YourStateBank.com

1900 Monroe Street, Suite 108
Toledo, OH 43604
419.508.0806

930 W. Market Street
Lima, OH 45805
419.228.3361

Member **FDIC** EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
NMLS 403044

Program subject to change with or without notice. Other restrictions may apply. Please see lender for complete details. Subject to credit approval.
¹Actual amount applied at closing.
²Property must be located within one of the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, or Wood.
³Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

When the Doors Close... continued from page 5

years straight.

"He would clench his fists," she remembers. "And I would say, 'Bring it down. Breathe.'"

She didn't give up on him, even when it was exhausting, even when it got tense.

"I said, that is not who you are anymore," she recalls telling him. "What do you do? You breathe."

That moment became a pattern. A language. A tool.

"And when I say he transformed," she adds, "he really did."

For Cook, these stories are not rare. They are the job.

"I don't give up on them," she says simply. "These men are the world's future husbands and fathers."

A school that became a family system

Cook didn't separate school from life. She couldn't.

She raised her own children while helping raise hundreds of others. That connection made families trust her more than titles ever could.

"I've been where they've been," she says. "Sleeping in one room with my kids. Walking when I didn't have a car. So I understand."

That honesty built something rare in education: trust without distance.

Parents didn't just call her "Ms. Cook." They called her when things were falling apart. When decisions felt too heavy. When they needed someone who wouldn't judge their home life before helping their child.

And then came the news

The closing of Martin Luther King Jr. Academy did not arrive quietly for her. It arrived like a storm she couldn't outrun.

"What's going to happen to my boys?" she remembers thinking.

Then came the physical toll.

"I wasn't sleeping. I wasn't eating. My hair was breaking off," she says. "The stress has affected us all."

Because for her, this was never just a building.

It was a safety net.

A structure.

A place where boys learned to stand up straight, speak clearly, shake hands, and believe they mattered.

The uniforms became part of that transformation. The boys wore ties to school daily, and Cook says the change in how they saw themselves was immediate.

"When they walked into school with their ties on, they carried themselves differently," she says. "They felt important. They felt proud. Sometimes people don't realize how much a positive image can change the way a child sees himself."

Now that structure is shifting to Jones Leadership Academy of Business, and while Cook understands logistics, her heart stays with what is being left behind.

Along with the closure of the school, Cook's contract was canceled and her position was eliminated, bringing an unexpected end to the work she poured herself into for more than a decade.

"Not everybody understands these boys or cares for them the same way," she says honestly. "That's what worries me."

"We are losing a cornerstone."

Cook doesn't just grieve for the school. She grieves the idea of what it could have continued to be.

"This building should still be a hub for kids," she says. "Summer programs, after-school programs, meals, mentoring... all of it."

Her voice lifts when she imagines it:

A place where children walk in for help, not just instruction. A place where community partners fill the rooms again. A place where no child feels like they've been pushed aside.

"This isn't just a school," she says, "it's a safe safe."

Still, she refuses to end in defeat

Even in sadness, Cook keeps returning to one thing: belief.

"You are not what people say you are," she tells the students. "You have to know who you are."

She says she wants her boys to leave with that truth stitched into them.

Not just academics.

Not just discipline.

Identity.

"I wish them nothing but the best," she says. "And they know I'm still here for them."

A goodbye that doesn't feel final

Cook doesn't know what comes next for her professionally. That part is still forming.

But she knows who she is.

"I'm a giver," she says. "That's how I was raised."

And maybe that's what makes this goodbye feel unfinished.

Because people like Sheila Cook don't really leave work like this behind. They carry it forward into every room they enter next.

The building may close.

The program may shift.

But the boys who learned to breathe instead of break, to speak instead of shut down, to stand instead of fold, that work already moved beyond the walls.

And that, she hopes, is the point.

Not that it ended.

But that it spread.

Because real community work does not end when a building closes.

It lives on in the children who were loved inside it.

As Martin Luther King Jr. Academy for Boys closes its doors, the legacy of care, discipline, and community connection lives on in every student and family it touched. This is not just the end of a school chapter, but a reminder of what it means to show up for children with consistency, love, and purpose. To stay connected with future updates, memories, and community reflections, follow the conversation on Facebook.

COMING SOON!

PHARMACY • ICE CREAM • SUNDRIES • MEDICAL CARE

DOC MARTIN'S REMEDY SHOPPE & APOTHECARY



A Modern Apothecary Experience
Home to The Clinic on St. Clair

Doc Martin's Remedy
Shoppe & Apothecary

12 N. St. Clair St.
Toledo, OH 43604
419-720-7883

by
NHA
NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH ASSOCIATION
nhainc.org

YOUR CARD, *Always Yours*

toledo urban
Federal Credit Union
Building Better Futures

- Credit limits up to \$7,500
- Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for purchases: 9.99% - 18%
- Secured and Unsecured options

CREDIT CARD

Contact Us: 419-252-6246
info@toledofcu.com

Apply for your credit today!

A Lupus Weekend – Wigs, Karaoke and a Walk to Raise Awareness

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

This past weekend, May 15-17, was a spectacular recognition by Toledoans of the impact of lupus on the local community along with a concerted effort to raise financial support for organizations fighting to overcome the ravages of the disease.

Whether it is systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE); cutaneous lupus; discoid lupus, drug-induced lupus or neonatal lupus, the efforts of two Toledoans in particular, Rachelle Roy and Felicia Howard, who have been organizing lupus awareness events for five and four years, respectively, have led to increased participation each year.

Lupus is a chronic (long-term) disease that can cause inflammation and pain in any part of your body. It's an autoimmune disease, which means that your immune system — the body system that usually fights infections — attacks healthy tissue instead. (source: lupus.org)

Anyone can develop lupus. But certain people are at higher risk for lupus, including:

- Women ages 15 to 44
- Certain racial or ethnic groups — including people who are African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, or Pacific Islander
- People who have a family member with lupus or another autoimmune disease (source: lupus.org)

Lupus has various symptoms and can affect individuals in different ways. Those who suffer from lupus can have issues with fatigue, damage to organs including kidneys and may develop skin problems.

Lupus can also cause hair loss due to the autoimmune disease itself or due to the medications prescribed to help battle symptoms from the disease.

This year's participation was remarkable.

Rachelle Roy began the weekend with a wig giveaway at The Trunk on north Franklin inviting lupus warriors to stop by and receive free wigs, t-shirts and related products.

Then on Saturday night, Roy hosted a karaoke party at

the newly remodeled and expanded Bluegill. Roy raised \$1,400 during the karaoke night, funds that will go to the Lupus Foundation of America, Greater Ohio Chapter, and the research into cures for lupus and caring for those who have the disease.

And for the fifth year, the Toledo Lupus Walk was held on Sunday at Ottawa Park and representatives of the Lupus Foundation, Greater Ohio Chapter, drove over from Cleveland to participate. Suzanne Tierney, Chapter CEO, and Alex Acevedo, community engagement and events manager for the Chapter, helped Roy promote the event.

About 150 walkers turned out on Sunday –

... continued on page 8



Rachelle Roy and Montrice Terry(front), Kai M. Perry (back) Băyē K. Perry, II, Băyē K. Perry

Suzanne Tierney and Alex Acevedo



HOUSE OF DAY FUNERAL SERVICE 2550 NEBRASKA AVENUE TOLEDO, OHIO 43607

PREPLAN TODAY!

CALL TODAY: 419-534-2550

NEED PEACE OF MIND CONCERNING YOUR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS?

Call today to make an appointment to let us assist you with your PRE-PLANNING.

House of Day FUNERAL SERVICE & CREMATION SERVICES

***We accept all preneed agreements.**

Lupus Weekend...continued from page 7

lupus warriors and their families, friends and supporters – to not only walk but also listen to music provided by a DJ, to hear event moderator Montrice Terry move things merrily along, to encourage each other in the struggle against lupus.

The turnout for the walk was four to five times greater than the number of walkers in previous years, an astounding increase in participation.

Rachelle Roy is usually handing out the “thank yous” to contributors and sponsors but this year, the Lupus Foundation, Greater Ohio Chapter, returned the favor and honored Roy for the dedication she has shown for the cause over the past half decade. Recognizing that effort, Suzanne Tierney presented Roy with a commemorative plaque before the walk began.

And the walk began!!



The Fourth Annual Lupus Awareness Program

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

About 80 people came out for the fourth annual Lupus Awareness Luncheon on Saturday, May 16. The Scott Park Banquet Hall was filled to capacity with people who are living with lupus, family members of those diagnosed with lupus and community supporters of this cause. The Lupus Awareness Program was organized by two sisters, Felicia Howard and Victoria White, in honor of their sister Reeshemah Adams, who passed in 2018 of the disease.

Adams, who was born in 1978, was misdiagnosed at age 18, received the correct diagnosis at age 30 and passed at age 40.

Purple and white decorations welcomed guests as they wore purple ribbons, which is worn in promotion of lupus awareness. May is Lupus Awareness Month, according to the sisters and the Lupus Foundation of America. The awareness goal is to rally the community to raise funds for the cause, awareness about the symptoms and awareness for those who live or died from lupus.

Lupus is a chronic, also known as a long-term, disease that causes inflammation and pain in many parts of the body. Lupus is an autoimmune disease that causes the body to attack healthy tissue instead of fighting infections. As always, the reason for the luncheon was for those attendees to gain knowledge about the disease and the best ways of coping.

In order to raise awareness, the luncheon included panelists who spoke about mental and physical health, dietary needs and restrictions, and dermatology.

A panel of six experts fielded questions from the audience. The panelists were Bashar Kahaleh, MD, and Samantha Davis, MD, from the University of Toledo Medical Center, Rheumatology Department; Nicole Bergman, PA, from Mitchell Dermatology; Nailah Carpenter, MSW, LSW, Mental Health; Ryan Howard, Sr, certified fitness coach; Victoria White, author, The Three Day Parasite, Test and Eat to Elevate.

Lupus is a disease that disproportionately affects women (only 10 percent of those afflicted are men) and primarily those in the Black and Brown populations.

Why does lupus occur for some people? Do they have perhaps a genetic predisposition? That's not entirely clear, however Dr. Davis did suggest that certain families might have a genetic predisposition to autoimmune diseases in general.

“It's not automatically inevitable that you would get an autoimmune disease if it's in your family, it's just that you have an elevated risk of that,” said Dr. Davis.

Unfortunately, lupus is not always easily diagnosed and there is no cure, just various treatments to ease the pain at the moment. And, because of the traditional distrust within the Black community for the medical establishment, the way forward is complicated, said Dr. Kahaleh. He spoke of the lack of participation in clinical trials by the Black community because of that lack of trust and that lack of trust is unfortunate because Black lupus patients are generally his harder by the disease than Caucasians.

While treatments are varied, for certain symptoms such as joint pain, physical therapy can be effective, said Howard, the certified fitness coach. Howard has worked with a number of lupus patients over the years and has been able to alleviate the pain the lupus can cause in the joints, he noted. Exercise, he said, is very important – “get your body moving.”

For skin issues, steroid cream may help in the short term but long-term use may do damage to the skin., said Bergman of Mitchell Dermatology. However, non-steroid creams have been developed that can be used long-term. She also spoke of the necessity of using sun screen and protective clothing since lupus patients can be adversely affected by ultraviolet rays even when it's cold or cloudy.

Mental health, healthy eating habits, the variety of lupus symptoms were all pints of discussion for the engaged audience and the knowledgeable panel.

In addition to the panel discussion, lunch was provided by Big Back Kitchen and a door prize raffle was held

... continued on page 9



May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

THE TRUTH CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE:

Skin damage and sunburn happens to darker skin. Wear sunscreen.

Skin cancer can happen to anyone.

Melanoma killed Bob Marley.

Everyone should have a skin screening with a dermatologist, regardless of skin color.

Dr. Hope Mitchell, MD
Board Certified Dermatologist with
Over 25 Years of Experience!

Schedule with me today! 419.872.HOPE (4673)



815 Commerce Drive, Perrysburg | michell@md.com

4th Annual Lupus Awareness Program...continued from page 8

For additional information about lupus, visit the Lupus Foundation of America Greater Ohio chapter website or the Lupus Foundation of America national website <https://lupusgreaterohio.org/> or <https://www.lupus.org/>



Nailah Carpenter, Nicole Bergman, Dr. Bashar Kahaleh



Dr. Bashar Kahaleh, Dr. Samantha Davis, Ryan Howard, Sr; Victoria White



Felicia Howard and her late sister Reeshemah Adams

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

TOLEDO URBAN
Music Festival
SAVE THE DATE
07 | 18 | 2026

Huntington Center, 500 Jefferson Ave, Toledo, OH 43604

MIDNIGHT STAR ERIC BENÉT KEKE WYATT ZAPP BAND EJ JONES

The Perseverance Expert Is Still Helping Women SOAR – Valerie S. Walston, ThD, named President of AAUW Toledo

Special to The Truth

Nearly 50 women gathered at the beautiful Delta Marriott Hotel on May 6, 2026, to witness a powerful moment of leadership, sisterhood and inspiration as Valerie S. Walston, ThD, — affectionately known throughout the community as “Dr. Val” — was officially named president of the American Association of University Women Toledo Chapter.

Known across the region as “The Perseverance Expert,” Walston accepted the role with humility, energy and her signature message of hope: helping women continue to SOAR—Surviving Obstacles, Attaining Rewards.

Her presidential platform, “Let’s ELEVATE Together!” focuses on recruitment, visibility, strategic partnerships, inclusion, leadership development and expanding opportunities for women from diverse backgrounds.

During her remarks, Walston emphasized her desire to recruit more women into the organization while helping members strengthen their leadership skills and community impact.

“Women deserve spaces where they are seen, heard, developed, and celebrated,” Walston shared. “AAUW Toledo has a rich history, and together we will ELEVATE the organization through collaboration, visibility, wellness, mentorship, and purpose.”

Walston has built a regional reputation for strategically creating platforms for others to shine. Whether through community partnerships, leadership development initiatives, wellness programming, or motivational speaking, she is known for giving women a voice, a stage and encouragement to pursue their next chapter with confidence.

Currently serving as coordinator of Community Engagement and Health & Wellness for ProMedica, Walston continues to blend leadership, wellness and community empowerment in every area of her work. A seasoned higher education executive who has worked at five universities—including public, private, HBCU and PWI institutions—she is also the founder and CEO of Next Chapter Enterprises LLC and creator of the SOAR movement.

Her influence continues to grow beyond leadership and speaking engagements. In Summer 2026, Walston will launch the “Slick & Fine” active wear line, a wellness-inspired apparel brand designed to encourage women to have fun while prioritizing movement, confidence, and healthy living.

“Leadership and wellness go hand in hand,” Walston said. “I want women to feel empowered spiritually, mentally, physically, and professionally. Everything I do is centered around helping people soar and giving God the glory for all of it.”

The evening also marked the appointment of two additional leaders to the AAUW Toledo executive board. Shamika Winfree and Ambershaun Byrd

were both named officers, adding new energy and vision to the organization’s leadership team.

Longtime AAUW member Michele Radkin, treasurer, provided attendees with an inspiring overview of the organization’s history and its longstanding commitment to advancing women and girls through education, advocacy, and leadership.

Nina Corder, past president of AAUW Toledo, guided attendees through the evening’s program and formally introduced Walston as the organization’s new president.

The atmosphere throughout the evening was filled with excitement, celebration, and anticipation for what many attendees described as “a new season of elevation” for AAUW Toledo.

As the program concluded, one thing became abundantly clear: Dr. Val’s mission remains unwavering—to help women overcome obstacles, discover their voice, prioritize wellness and soar boldly into their future.



Capucine Rena Dickerson, Clara Petty, Valerie Walston, Yvonne Gayle



Suzette Cowell, ThD, and Valerie Walston, ThD

Breaking The Glass
NETWORKING EVENT

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS. EXCHANGE IDEAS. CREATE OPPORTUNITIES.

THURSDAY
JUNE 4, 2026

6:00PM - 8:00PM

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

WIBAC • NETWORKING • COMMUNITY • OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsors: BMJ, PURSUIT NATION, Bx UNIQUE, SCOTT, Department of Environment, and others.



Public Dedication Event at Inez Nash Park

Special to The Truth

The Arts Commission held a public dedication event on Saturday, May 9, at the recently completed Inez Nash Park on Bancroft Street, adjacent to the Wayman D. Palmer YMCA.

The dedication included a celebration of the completion of a new public art installation by artist Andrea Bergart, consisting of a painted basketball court and five custom hoops and backboards

Basketball is one of artist Andrea Bergart's most recurring references--a subject rooted in everyday life and shared cultural experience. This project allowed Bergart the opportunity to reimagine a basketball court as a dynamic fusion of art, nature and inventive play.

Drawing inspiration from Toledo's rich glass heritage and local flora, this whimsical design encourages players of all ages to engage with the court in imaginative, non-traditional ways. This project wasn't just about creating a court—it was about creating a work of art that the community can activate and feel proud of.

More than a recreational space, it's a symbol of what makes Toledo unique and an invitation for the community to connect, imagine, and celebrate the joy of everyday play. The court will serve as the capstone installation in a series of renovations by the City of Toledo Department of Parks and Recreation at Inez Nash Park, including a quarter mile walkway, shelter, main event plaza, new playground equipment, and updated pathways and plazas as part of a completely new park layout.

These updates to Inez Nash Park follow the opening of the new Wayman D. Palmer YMCA in March 2025, together creating a new hub of activity for the community.

The dedication event featured remarks from City Council President Vanice Williams, Art in Public Places Director Nathan Mattimoe and project artist Andrea Bergart.

One hundred custom-designed basketballs by Andrea Bergart were distributed to the first 100 children and families in attendance, and the public was invited to utilize the court and park in celebration of its completion.

Andrea Bergart's website can be found here: <https://www.andreabergart.com/>

More information about Toledo's public art collection can be found here: theartscommission.org/public-art/collection All questions should be directed to: Nathan Mattimoe Director of Art in Public Places 419.254.2787 Ext. 1011 nmattimoe@theartscommission.org



Inez Nash Park artist-designer Andrea Bergart speaks as Nate Mattimoe and Council President Vanice Williams look on.



Toledo City Council President Vanice Williams speaks at the opening of Inez Nash Park



DIXIE Auto Leasing Toledo, OH

5880 N. Detroit
Month to Month Leasing
 419-476-8674

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) announces a proposed Significant Amendment to its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Administrative Plan regarding the transition of households assisted under the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program to the regular HCV program as EHV funding phases down in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The proposed amendment will be available for public review beginning **May 18, 2026**, at 424 Jackson St., Toledo, Ohio, and on LMH's website. Written comments will be accepted during the 45-day comment period and may be submitted to Amy Gerber at agerber@lucasmha.org or mailed to the address above.

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids to participate in the review process may contact LMH at (419) 259-9448 or hrypesn@lucasmha.org

How Business Owners Balance Business and Personal Finance

Special to *The Truth*

For successful business owners, managing wealth extends far beyond balance sheets — it requires carefully orchestrating growth, balancing business and personal financial priorities, and thoughtfully considering business succession planning and legacy.

PNC's "Business Owner Wealth Insights Report" is the product of a partnership with leading market research firm, Ipsos, on a nationwide survey of business owners. Its findings center on four themes: connectivity between business and private banking, balancing business and personal growth, family dynamics and governance, and philanthropy and legacy.

"As business owners juggle growth, personal financial priorities, succession planning and legacy, the need for a truly integrated approach has never been clearer," said Don Heberle, head of PNC Private Bank. "This report shines a light on how prepared business owners are for navigating the complex intersections of business and personal wealth and the keys for unlocking stronger outcomes for families, businesses and communities."

Connectivity Between Business and Private Banking

For most business owners surveyed (67 percent), business and personal finances are managed separately. Respondents believe there are potential risks associated with combining business and personal finances, with 83 percent saying that separating the two reduces the potential for conflicts of interest. Still, 89 percent say they are interested in receiving advice that considers both their business and personal needs, and 88 percent of respondents say they value having a dedicated advisor who understands both.

Business and personal goals are reviewed at similar intervals, with the majority saying they revisit their business goals (80 percent) and personal finance goals (75 percent) at least quarterly.

The Balance Between Business and Personal Growth

There is importance among business owners in finding the right balance between growing the business and achieving personal financial goals.

Most owners (91 percent) agree that achieving both personal and professional growth is equally important, but that success does not come without barriers, which include:

- Personal time and resources (53 percent)
- Financial constraints or market conditions (44 percent)
- Choosing between business reinvestment and personal use of the business' profits (35 percent)

Family Dynamics and Business Governance

Most survey respondents (92 percent) agreed that it is important to have a formal governance structure for their business. Separately, 84 percent said succession and exit planning is critical to the continuity of their business. Yet, only 63 percent said they have a formal exit or succession plan.

Among those without a formal plan, top barriers identified include lack of a clear successor (25 percent), family conflict in succession (15 percent), and lack of time (19 percent).

Philanthropy and Legacy

Philanthropy plays a meaningful role in legacy planning. Two-thirds of respondents view philanthropy as part of their legacy, and 81 percent structure investment strategies to support charitable goals. Nearly 80 percent donate financially, and many involve family members — either actively (43 percent) or in future plans (26 percent).

"Today's business owners are shaping legacy across generations," Heberle said. "When business and personal strategies are aligned, they are better positioned to create lasting impact."

Courtesy StatePoint

Four Games Added To Schedule For TARTA's Muddy Shuttle

As baseball fans and families follow Toledo's team this summer, the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority's (TARTA) Muddy Shuttle can put them in touch with Fifth Third Field without having to worry about paying for parking.

TARTA has expanded its list of Muddy Shuttle runs this season by adding four games on the Mud Hens' next homestand. Passengers will be able to hop on at five area park-and-ride locations and head straight to the game for \$3 round trip on May 22-23 against the Indianapolis Indians and May 29-30 against the Columbus Clippers.

All four games start at 7:05, and pick-up times and locations for Shuttle include:

- Sylvania, Franciscan Center, 6832 Convent Blvd., departs 90 minutes before first pitch
- Waterville, Kroger, 8730 Waterville Swanton Road, departs 60 minutes before first pitch
- Miracle Mile Shopping Center, 1727 West Laskey Road, departs 60 minutes before first pitch
- Maumee, Lucas County Recreation Center, 2901 Key Street, departs 60 minutes before first pitch
- Oregon, Starr Elementary School, 3230 Starr Avenue, departs 60 minutes before first pitch

Passengers can pay on board with cash, by using the TARTA Card or by downloading the EZ-Fare app. Find out more about payment options and a full schedule at tarta.com/muddy. The Muddy Shuttle will be on the road for every Friday and Saturday Mud Hens home game from May 22 through the end of the season.



AVISO PÚBLICO

La Vivienda Metropolitana de Lucas -Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH)- anuncia una enmienda significativa propuesta a su Plan Administrativo del Programa de Vales de Elección de Vivienda (HCV), la cual hace referencia a la transición de los hogares asistidos bajo el programa de Vales de Vivienda de Emergencia (EHV) hacia el programa regular de HCV, a medida que la financiación del EHV se reduce gradualmente de conformidad con las directrices del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los EE. UU.

La enmienda propuesta estará disponible para su revisión pública a partir del **18 de mayo del 2026** en 424 Jackson St., Toledo, Ohio, así como en el sitio web de LMH. Se aceptarán comentarios por escrito durante el periodo de comentarios de 45 días; estos podrán enviarse a Amy Gerber a la dirección de correo electrónico agerber@lucasmha.org o por correo postal a la dirección mencionada anteriormente.

Aquellas personas que requieran adaptaciones razonables o ayudas auxiliares para participar en el proceso de revisión pueden comunicarse con LMH llamando al (419) 259-9448 o enviando un correo electrónico a hcvpcsr@lucasmha.org.



A Soldier's Wife: My Mother, the Marvelous Mrs. Marilyn A. Underwood by Blair Underwood with Ylonda Gault

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

I'm telling Mom!
When you were small, those words were often enough to send a chill down your spine. One quick tattle to the woman who bore you, and you were in trouble. That simple phrase always kept you in line, at least until you were grown. By then, as in the new book, *A Soldier's Wife* by Blair Underwood with Ylonda Gault, Mom had something to tell you.

c. 2026
Aristad
\$28.00
208 pages

Marilyn Underwood had kept every scrap of paper that ever passed through her fingers. That, says her son, author and actor Blair Underwood, is how it seemed. After her death from multiple sclerosis nearly six years ago, Mrs. Underwood's children found piles and piles of notes, notebooks, lists, random thoughts and memories she'd written down. Paper was everywhere.

She'd said many times that she was "putting together a memoir of sorts," and after looking over what she'd left, Underwood thought the collection would make a good children's book. He was later convinced that his mother's story was bigger than that.

Marilyn Ann Scales Underwood was an only child and was raised to be independent. Born and reared in Buffalo, New York, she attended an all-girls school with a big dream to work in the fashion industry. She indicated that her mother was brave to let her go, but Underwood knew that her career was really in New York City. She was right; she thrived there.

Laser-focused on her work, Underwood was in no hurry to do as most late-1950s women did and get married; though friends urged her to date, it was not a priority until she met the love of her life, Frank. She loved him instantly. They were engaged three weeks after meeting and married three months later.

"One thing about me," she

wrote. "When I set my mind on something, you can believe it's as good as done." There are really two ways to look at *A Soldier's Wife*. On one side, it feels almost random. Marilyn Underwood was a strong, independent woman, an inspiration to those who knew her – but most of us didn't. While the writings author Blair Underwood compiles here are wise and funny, they're not earth-shattering and there may be times when they won't hold your interest. But they're exactly what you need, exactly when you need them. Reading this book is like getting a letter from your grandma. The essays here are warm, with reminders to pray to a purposeful Higher Power, that life's a struggle but it's worth living, and that suffering happens. There's love in this book – lots of it! - gratitude, gentleness, and old-fashioned values. It's sweetly quaint, but firm. And yes, it's random, but consider it as a hug from somebody's mom when you're down, because that's rather what it is. Just remember that no book has to be read cover-to-cover. You can skip around, and you'll be fine with this one, whenever you need its comfort. *A Soldier's Wife* could be meaningful or meaningless to you at various times, only you can tell.



Soldier's Wife author, courtesy Collin Stark



Welcome Home to Sylvan Lakes Apartments!

Our elegant apartments feature spacious bedrooms with ample storage, high ceilings and breath-taking views! Stop in today to see our beautifully landscaped grounds, resort-like swimming pool and clubhouse with its fully-equipped fitness center. Located just west of King road off of Sylvania Ave.



4045 A Langston Place, Sylvania, Ohio 43560
P: 419-842-8480 E: investekmanagement.com



إعلان رسمي

تلعب هيئة الإسكان الحضرية في لوكاس (LMH) عن تعديل جوهرى مقترح على الخطة الإدارية لبرنامج قسائم اختيار السكن (HCV)، يتعلق بانتقال الأسر المستفيدة من برنامج قسائم الإسكان الطارئة (EHV) إلى برنامج HCV العادي، وذلك مع بدء انخفاض تمويل برنامج EHV تدريجيًا وفقًا لتوجيهات وزارة الإسكان والتنمية الحضرية الأمريكية.

سيكون التعديل المقترح متاحًا للمراجعة العامة ابتداءً من 18 أيار/مايو 2026، في العنوان: 424, Jackson St., Toledo, Ohio، وكذلك على موقع LMH الإلكتروني. وسيتم قبول التعليقات الخطية خلال فترة التعليق الممتدة لـ 45 يومًا، ويمكن إرسالها إلى Amy Gerber عبر البريد الإلكتروني agerber@lucasmha.org أو بالبريد إلى العنوان المذكور أعلاه.

يمكن للأفراد الذين يحتاجون إلى ترتيبات تبسييرية معقولة أو وسائل مساعدة للمشاركة في عملية المراجعة التواصل مع LMH على الرقم 419)259-9448 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني hcvpcsr@lucasmha.org



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 Kopravski, CEO

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 résumé to employment@wgte.org or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614.



公告

卢卡斯大都会区住房管理局 (LMH) 宣布拟对其住房选择券 (HCV) 管理计划作出重大修订。依据美国住房和城市发展部的指导要求, 紧急住房券 (EHV) 项目资金将逐步递减, 本修订旨在明确该项目受助家庭转入常规 HCV 项目的相关事宜。

修订草案自 **2026年5月18日** 起, 可在俄亥俄州托莱多市杰克逊街 424 号办公地点及 LMH 官网向公众开放查阅。意见征集为期 **45 天**, 期间受理书面意见, 可发送至 Amy Gerber 邮箱 agerber@lucasmha.org, 亦可邮寄至上述地址。

若需合理便利安排或辅助协助以参与本次公示审查流程, 可致电 (419) 259-9448 或发邮件至 hcvcsr@lucasmha.org 联系 LMH。

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 Bluff Street Village – Tiny Homes

Special to The Truth

Monroe Street Neighborhood Community Center sponsored an Open House at Bluff Street Village Tiny Homes on Saturday, May 16. The Open House was on Bluff Street at Rosedale Street.

Visitors were able to view the inside of one of the houses among the seven that have been built over the last five years by the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center.

Bluff Street, located in Toledo's Monroe-Auburn Neighborhood, sat nearly abandoned for many years. Now, the Bluff Street Village project is helping to transform the deserted road into a flourishing, beautiful neighborhood.

Bluff Street Village provides high-quality housing for persons with annual incomes of less than \$22,000. The project gives the residents opportunities to build equity while transforming Bluff Street into a thriving, beautiful neighborhood.

While there are currently seven homes on the street, another eight are envisioned by the Center within the next few years. Six of the homes are occupied, mostly by individuals with disabilities. The residents rent their homes for seven years and then can assume ownership of the fully-paid residences. During their seven years they participate in monthly association meetings, attend workshops that deal with home maintenance and budgeting and they donate 10 hours of community service per month.

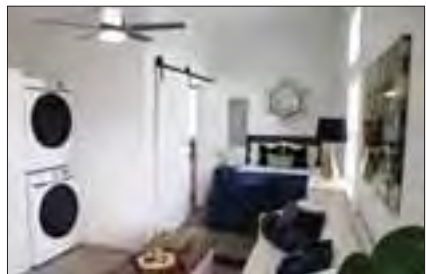
The homes are not pre-fabricated units. They have been built from the ground up by the Center's team, said Rev. Larry Clark, who has served on the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center board of directors for six years.



The project depends on donors and sponsors to make this tiny-home community come to life. Bluff Street Village is a stabilizing force—an encouraging sign of new investment and bright horizons that will spark new development in the surrounding area.

The Monroe Street Neighborhood Community Center and Executive Director Tracci Johnson provide necessary food, clothing, Senior Exercise program and summer reading enrichment program called Freedom School. The center provides services geared toward strengthening families.

Individuals, groups and corporations may sponsor Bluff Street Village – Tiny Houses Project by contacting Johnson at 419-473-1167, ext. 206. Donations can be made at the website: www.monroesnc.com/donate/



Alphas Donate to Wayman Palmer YMCA

The Truth Staff

The late esteemed Wayman D. Palmer was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, so it was only appropriate for the current members of the Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter to recognize the impact his namesake YMCA Branch has and will have on the community. Donating funds will help the branch enhance that impact.

The fraternity donated \$1,500 to the Wayman D. Palmer YMCA on Thursday, May 14 – funds that will be earmarked to increase youth membership and programs, said Suzette Rushing, Wayman Palmer Y executive director.

Noting the association of Wayman Palmer himself with the Chapter, Craig Teamer said that “this is a good way for us to commemorate his impact” on the community.

“We want to build that communication and that connection,” added Keith Nelson who organized the gift event, the first of its kind for the chapter. “This is an ongoing relationship for us.”





Glasses

on the

GO!

- or in the office 



NOW BOOKING

APPOINTMENTS!

-  Mobile Services Available
-  Flexible Scheduling
-  Personalized Eyewear Recommendations
-  Quality Frames

 **LICENSED PROFESSIONAL**
Years of Experience You Can Trust

 **ONE-ON-ONE**
Eyewear Styling

 **MOBILE & IN-OFFICE**
Appointments

 **PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES**
& Sunglasses

 **SEVERAL LENS STYLES,**
MATERIALS & TREATMENTS Available

 **CALL OR TEXT**
419-754-0278



SCAN ME!

OptiGo™
Vision Care Advancing Eyewear the Smart Traditional Way

Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez Hosts Fundraiser

The Truth Staff

Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez held a fundraiser on Thursday, May 14 at La Fiesta on West Sylvania and friends and supporters came out to donate and to join her at the popular restaurant.

Lopez is not up for re-election until 2028 but, like many elected officials, she believes that hosting periodic fundraisers throughout her term make sense for a number of reasons. It's easier on everyone's pocketbook, for starters.

"I think that it's important to raise a little bit of money every year," she

said. "It's hard to go to an individual and ask [once every four years] for a lot of money."

As an elected official, periodic gatherings such as last week's also give her an opportunity to connect and "see what their needs are because I always want to be accessible."

Food was provided for guests throughout the evening and the food was, in La Fiesta style, outstanding.

Mental Wellness Mini-Grant Funding
Open Now for Lucas County Grassroots Organizations

Funding up to **\$5,000** per project is available.



We have **several mini-grants** available to **support your work!**



APPLY NOW!

For more information, criteria, and the easy online application, visit:
www.lcmhrsboh.gov/minigrant/



Brent Rombach, Anita Lopez, Ryan Reiter



LC Commissioner Anita Lopez and Tina Butts



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