



Volume 95 No. 9

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 24, 2026

A Grand Reopening



Superior Made RV Resort's June Season Opening

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Trump to Obama..."You're The Man!"

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

"To want to be someone else because that other person is everything that you are not...is a painful way to live." Efal Revillot, 19th Century Mexican mystic.

Now that we have been feed a bowl full of political driven by Trump and Lil' Marco Rubio regarding the recent fiasco of Trump declaring a memorandum Of Understanding that has been reached with Iran, let's all yell hooray!

Truth of the matter is, those who are seasoned in foreign affairs and how diplomacy really works, are relating that the M.O.U. that Trump is puffed up about is actually worth about a two-week-old plate of baked beans left out in the sun.

When you understand that a M.O.U. is simply a lazy way to say that two people met and have agreed to agree to say that water is wet and cows give milk. Nothing more...nothing less.

With the imbroglia of Trump's impulsive war nearing four months and counting, he is desperate, like a dying man needing a drink of water, to find any way out of this morass that he walked into with his blind guide Bibi Netanyahu leading him with a ring in his nose.

Make no doubt about it. It was Bibi who was crafty and astute enough to know how to appeal to Trump's Grand Canyon size ego so as to convince him that going after the regime in Iran would be a, "Venezuelan Cake Walk!"

And Trump, ever the mental midget that he is and with a megalomania attitude about his greatness, took the bait and ran off to make war on Iran under



the guise that he was saving the world and Israel from a nuclear disaster.

Now the proverbial chickens are coming home to roost in both the media and in public opinion that Trump's War was both a folly to begin with and can now be seen as a fool's errand.

Once you understand that Trump's has an inordinate and intense jealousy of everything Obama...even down to Obama's "swag" then you will understand why Trump tore up the prior in place JCPOA with Iran.

That prior agreement was working but since Obama did it and neither Bibi or Trump liked it, it was crudely shelved and Trump and his clown car of inexperienced operators started their impulsive war with Iran under the guise of stopping nuclear proliferation.

And as will become more evident than ever, Obama's prior negotiated deal...not a M.O.U. was and is the standard by which Trump's gibberish will be judged since some of the same language in the discarded JCPOA is being bandied about in Trump's two pager document.

Trump has always had a fetish about Obama, be it his charisma, style, manner of speaking, intellect and connecting with people. All of the qualities that Trump drooled about but knew that he could never measure up to that stature of being a statesman and admired leader in the world.

So, what does Trump do? He viciously attacks the JCPOA with lies and half truths while intimating that Obama was on the side of the Iranian regime. No proof, just hubris to cover his wounded image of himself as being a hollow man with no principles, no leadership skills who surrounds himself with likeminded flunkies who have no proven skills...just slavish loyalty to a man-child posing as a president.

And yet, this is what nearly half of America voted for a second term as president. A con man who spoke to their worst fears and lied about his ability to lead them to a promised, Make America Great Again land.

Did not happen and it won't happen because the occupier of the White House loves only himself and the mirrors into which he lovingly gazes.

Would America vote to put in the White House a convicted felon, an abuser of women, a racial cynic, a grifter of the first order, an insurrectionist who led a mob against his own government; a man who makes fun of the disabled and demeans veterans who are Black men or women?

You know the answer.

When this M.O.U. is fully understood and the financial outcome of its potential windfall to the Iranian government and whether or not it can come even close to the covenants of the discarded JCPOA, you again fully realize that Trump was and is not fit to be near any White House.

Of course, who can forget the enablers of this wannabe dictator – the political parties that long ago lost their way and sold their souls to remain in power even if it meant losing their consciences and closing their eyes and ears to his incoherent ramblings.

The GOP and right wing media pledged loyalty to this shrill of a person because they wanted to maintain their perches of money, power and influence at all costs and the American public is paying the price for such political treachery.

It would not surprise me if Trump nightly wakes up in a cold sweat at 3 AM yelling at the ceiling, "Obama...Obama, leave me alone!"

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Lafe5x@gmail.com

Kaptur Announces Over \$1 Million in Research Awards to UToledo for Alzheimer's, Diabetes, and Diabetic Kidney Diseases

Special to The Truth

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) announced that the University of Toledo will receive two separate grants from the Department of Health and Human Services to fund life-saving medical research.

The first is for \$339,900 through the National Institute on Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to support research into the GSK3Beta enzyme, which accelerates the progression of diabetes and kidney diseases.

The second award is for a total of \$736,899 through the National Institute on Aging to research kinome networks in Alzheimer's dementia. These diseases affect nearly one third of the US population, including thousands across our region of Northwest Ohio.

Congresswoman Kaptur has long advocated for advanced research and programs like these to address widespread health concerns.

"Those with Alzheimer's, diabetes, and diabetic kidney diseases, as well as their family, friends, and loved ones, face many challenges," said Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09). "If preventative measures exist, we must equip our medical field with the necessary resources to advance research and further medical understanding. These Federal funding awards demonstrate the University of Toledo's dedication and commitment to conducting research that advances medical understanding toward new treatments and cures. I am proud to help secure these resources for our R1 Research Institution at UToledo, which allows our Northwest Ohio region to shine as a beacon of innovation and hope."

"We are grateful for this support from the National Institutes of Health. Diabetic kidney disease remains one of the leading causes of kidney failure worldwide, affecting millions of patients and families," said Professor Gong Rujun, Ph.D., M.D., F.A.S.N. "We are proud to conduct this important research at The University of Toledo and contribute to improving health in our region and beyond."

"Alzheimer's dementia is one of the most significant challenges facing our aging population, impacting patients, caregivers, families, and com-

...continued on page 11

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Black Women Can Still Lead Democratic Tickets Despite Losses

By Kevin Harris

Guest Column

Black women remain the Democratic Party's most loyal constituency. That reality has been repeated so often it risks sounding cliché. Yet despite Black women's contributions, many Democrats seem all too ready to accept Black women's labor but not their leadership.



Kevin Harris



Former Atlanta Mayor
Keisha Lance Bottoms

Questions about Black women and leadership continue to linger following the party's fumbled release of its 2024 autopsy. The autopsy cited the Biden Administration's inadequate support for Kamala Harris as a major contributor to the party's eventual loss to Donald Trump. Many wonder if Democrats could've stopped Trump had the nominee not been a Black woman.

But Georgia's latest Democratic primary results offered another reminder that voters still place enormous trust in Black women leaders. That trust comes even after Harris' 2024 loss to Trump and Stacey Abram's historic but unsuccessful bids for governor in the peach state.

Now that the General Election ticket has been set, Georgia is moving forward with an impressive roster of Black women. Former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms' crushing victory to secure the 2026 Democratic nomination for governor set the tone. Bottoms will campaign alongside Black women nominees for key statewide offices including Attorney General, Secretary of State and Labor Commissioner.

This November, 12 Black women are on the ballot for seven of Georgia's

nine statewide offices and five congressional seats, marking one of the strongest showings of Black women's political leadership in the state's history. A Bottoms victory would be historic. No Black woman has ever been elected governor of a state.

Georgia underscores a political truth that should not be ignored. Voters are still willing to trust Black women at the ballot box despite failed bids from Harris and Abrams.

Republicans and too many Democrats have attempted to cherry pick those losses as evidence that voters may be cooling on Black women candidates.

Georgia Democrats just suggested otherwise.

They asked a valid question too many Democrats are uncomfortable acknowledging. If white male moderates can run and lose time and again, why should we preemptively disqualify Black women?

Georgia Democrats did not retreat from Black women and instead reaffirmed their belief that Black women remain among the party's most effective communicators, coalition builders, and organizers.

The lesson from Georgia is not that Democrats are ignoring the electoral challenges facing the party. It is that Democrats still see Black women as central to solving those challenges.

That confidence is not rooted in nostalgia or identity politics alone. It is rooted in the receipts that Black women can show for their efforts to build the party. Black women have led voter registration drives, turnout operations and fundraising networks. They have governed major cities, served in Congress and led federal agencies.

And outside Georgia, there continues to be growing evidence of Democrats standing behind Black women. Despite disappointment following Jasmine Crockett's Texas primary loss this year, the party is poised to have an historic number of Black women serving in the United States Senate. Illinois Lieutenant Governor Julianna Stratton is heavily favored to win her senate bid in November. She'll join Maryland's Angela Alsobrooks and Delaware's Lisa Blunt Rochester in Congress, marking the first time in history three Black women served as senators at the same time.

A Black woman is likely to succeed Mayor Muriel Bowser in Washington DC following three successful terms leading the nation's capital. Washington will join the ranks of Baltimore and Atlanta where Black women have succeeded each other as Mayor of major cities. In Los Angeles, Mayor Karen Bass has overcome steep odds to potentially secure another term in November. If successful, Bass will remain the only Black woman leading a top five city ranked by population. And Harris continues to top many 2028 polls for president as she evaluates another potential bid.

The Democratic autopsy didn't really answer much. But one thing Democrats should stop obsessing over is the electoral viability of Black women. Democrats should not question if voters will stand behind Black women. They should not question if voters can assess Black women candidates based on the same qualities as white male candidates who rarely have their electability questioned in the same way.

Georgia Democrats still believe Black women are among the party's strongest political assets. And results around the country show Georgia Democrats are not alone.

So might we see another Black woman atop the Democratic ticket in 2028? Georgia's primary suggests that's not as far fetched as many would like us to believe. But should a Black woman come forward and compete, Democrats should recognize that race and gender are not the disqualifier many would like it to be.

Kevin Harris is a Democratic strategist who has advised over 100 campaigns and ballot measures, including the past five presidential elections, served in the Obama Administration, cabinet member for two big city mayors and Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus.

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Percy Rankins: The Man Who Opened Doors & Never Stopped Holding Them Open

At 97, the pioneering Toledo banker, deacon, mentor and community servant continues a lifetime of helping others rise

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

When **Percy Rankins** looks back on his life, he doesn't talk much about being a history maker.

Instead, he talks about helping people.

He talks about visiting elderly friends after work. He talks about giving young people their first jobs. He talks about buying groceries for church events, serving communion, and showing up when someone needs a hand.

"I've always tried to help somebody," Rankins says. "It's just part of me."

That simple philosophy helped shape a remarkable journey that stretched from a segregated farm in Alabama to the executive offices of Toledo's banking industry, making him one of the first Black bankers in the city and a trailblazer for generations who followed.

Today, Rankins remains active in ministry, community service and church leadership. The doors he helped open did not close behind him. They remained open for future generations, including leaders such as **Deborah Barnett** and **Larry Sykes**, who would go on to make their own contributions to Toledo's financial and civic landscape.

A Dream Born Inside a Bank

Rankins was born in Evergreen, Alabama, during the height of segregation.

He grew up on a farm and remembers hard work from an early age. By the time he reached the 11th grade, he was ready for something different.

After briefly leaving school for work, a teacher challenged him to return and finish his education.

That advice changed his life.

Soon afterward, his father took him to a local bank to borrow \$40 so he could travel north to Toledo for better opportunities.

In the late 1940s, banking was not a field where Black faces were commonly seen. Jim Crow laws still ruled much of the South, and many employers simply did not hire African Americans for professional positions. For a teenager from a small Alabama farm, the men behind those teller windows represented more than a paycheck. They represented opportunity, stability and a future that seemed out of reach.

As he waited, Rankins watched the young white men working behind the teller windows.

"I said to God, 'Lord, why can't I have a job like that?'"

The thought stayed with him.

What Rankins did not know was that God had already begun writing the answer. It would take 15 years for that prayer to unfold.

From Railroad Worker to Banker

After moving to Toledo, Rankins worked several jobs before being drafted into the Army during the Korean War era. Instead of being sent to the front

lines, health issues led to a reassignment, and he spent two years serving in Germany.

When he returned home, he resumed work with the railroad. But in 1960, while making a payment at **Toledo Home Federal Savings and Loan**, an unexpected opportunity appeared.

A Black security officer approached him and asked whether he would be interested in working for the bank.

"The bank had been watching me," Rankins recalls.

During his interview, he made something very clear.

"I told them I had no intention of doing maintenance work the rest of my life. I believe with the right training and education, I can do any job that anyone else can do."

Those words would eventually become reality.

In 1963, Rankins became the **first Black bank teller** in Toledo.

Breaking Barriers One Customer at a Time

The promotion was historic, but it wasn't easy.

When Rankins first opened his teller window, many customers refused to come to him.

"They would tell me they weren't in a hurry and they could wait."

The rejection stung.

Then, while praying one day, he says he felt God shift his perspective.

"Just remember, every customer you don't wait on is another customer you don't have to worry about making a mistake on."

The encouragement helped him push forward.

Slowly, customers began approaching his window. Trust grew. Relationships formed.

Before long, Rankins moved from teller to head teller, branch leadership positions, assistant secretary, loan officer and eventually vice president.

His rise through the banking ranks was like watching a locked door slowly swing open, not just for him, but for everyone coming behind him.

Creating a Roadmap for Others

Rankins understands the significance of his journey.

"Eventually I realized that I was setting a roadmap for other Blacks professionals to follow," he says.



Percy Rankins

...continued on page 6

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What's Happening This Week in Toledo

Wednesday, June 24

Pool Party Tour with City Council President Williams
Roosevelt Pool, 910 Dorr St. | 1 p.m.

Council President Vanice Williams is bringing the city to the pool!

Join her for the Pool Party Tour—a fun, laid-back way to beat the heat and connect with your neighborhood. We'll be hopping around to different city pools so bring your suit and plenty of time to chat. Come splash with us!

Thursday, June 25

Pickleball Clinic: Inez Nash

Inez Nash Park, 100 E Bancroft St. | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Each two-week session is \$20 per person. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Must be 18 or older to register.

Register here (<https://secure.rec1.com/OH/toledo-oh/catalog?filter=c2VhcmlNoPTQzMDE3ODc=>) for all of the pickleball clinics.

Walbridge Park Concert Series

Featuring Distant Cousinz

Walbridge Park, 2761 Broadway St.

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

All concerts are free to the public.

Friday, June 26

Party in the Park

Promenade Park, 400 Water St. 6 - 10 p.m.

Featuring Nashville Crush performing with the Muddy Maumee River Band

Saturday, June 27

Let's Get Moving: 5th Year Anniversary Party

Walbridge Park | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Celebrate 5 years of the 2026 Let's Get Moving Program!

Join us for a day of fun and movement! In addition to a group walk, you'll

also find fitness activities, health screenings, and other resources.

Ottawa Park Concert Series (<https://toledo.oh.gov/events/ottawa-park-concert-series-12/2026-6-20>)

Ottawa Park Amphitheater

Featuring Hey Jude | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

More to Explore

Summer Programs (<https://toledo.oh.gov/summer>)

Many programs begin the first week of June! Register now.

Percy Rankins...continued from page 5

Throughout his career, he helped countless Black families purchase homes and encouraged young professionals entering the banking field.

Many received their first opportunities because Rankins was willing to take a chance on them.

Even today, people still stop him.

"They say, 'Mr. Percy Rankins, I know you may not remember who I am, but you gave me my first job.'"

His influence stretched beyond one bank.

Rankins worked for Toledo Home Federal, First Federal and later Mid Am Bank, which became part of Huntington.

In 1994, after decades of service, he retired as a vice president.

But his work was far from finished.

Faith as the Foundation

Long before he became a banking executive, Rankins was building a life centered on faith.

He joined Third Baptist Church in 1948.

After working overnight shifts at Union Station, he would go home, shower, and head straight to church before finally getting some sleep.

Over the years, he became an usher, then chief usher, and eventually an ordained deacon in 1980.

For more than seven decades, faith guided his decisions.

"Seek God. Seek Christ," Rankins urges. "If you have Christ ahead of your life, He'll direct you in which way to go."

Today, he worships at Cass Road Baptist Church, where he mentors deacons and serves the congregation he now calls home.

Even at 97, he remains active in ministry, regularly administering communion and helping organize church events.

Lessons for the Next Generation

Rankins believes success begins with preparation.

When asked what advice he would give young people who feel overlooked or underestimated, his answer comes quickly.

"Make sure you're prepared. Make sure you look your best. Make sure your career path is something you want to do."

He encourages young professionals to approach every opportunity with confidence and purpose.

For Rankins, education also played a major role.

Throughout his career, he attended banking schools, completed correspondence courses, studied at Davis Business College and spent summers at Ohio University sharpening his skills.

His dedication eventually earned him a banking degree equivalent to a master's degree.

The lesson is simple: never stop learning.

A Legacy of Service

Perhaps the clearest picture of Percy Rankins is not found in a bank boardroom.

It is found in the quiet faithfulness of a man who kept showing up for people, decade after decade.

When asked what he hopes people will say about him 100 years from now, Rankins pauses.

Then he smiles gently.

"I hope it's good," he says. "Because it was never about me, it was always about what God allowed me to do for others."

For nearly a century, Percy Rankins has done more than break barriers.

He has walked through doors others once thought were closed, and then turned back to hold them open so others could enter.



Percy and Rose Rankins

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Mom's House and Bella Vista Network Host Father's Day Barbeque

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Despite beginning with rain, Mom's House and Bella Vista Network held a Father's Day Barbeque celebrating fathers across their community programs on June 16. The free event, hosted at Laurie's Place on 722 Westwood Ave., featured free food, games, giveaways and "Celebrity Dad" grillers.

Mom's House is an organization whose mission is dedicated to breaking the cycles of poverty and welfare for at-risk single parents. Through education and resources the organization fosters an environment where parents and their children can thrive.

Likewise, the Bella Vita Network has been supporting women since 1984 experiencing unexpected pregnancies. Their mission is to provide a safe, confidential, and nonjudgmental environment where women can explore their pregnancy options and make informed decisions that are right for them.



Celebrity Grillers' with Mom's House executive director Christina Rodriguez



'Celebrity Grillers' Councilman John Hobbs III, Micheal Alexander, John C. Jones, Rodney Eason and Terry Crosby



Bishop Robert Culp attends BBQ as honorary participant



Brothers United



On Tuesday, June 16, the organizations held a private BBQ to celebrate the fathers who participate in the Brother's United, Mom's House or Bella Vita Network programs. While Mom's House has hosted the barbeque for several years in the past this is the first year hosting the event with Bella Vista Network. According to the executive director of Mom's House there were over 150 attendees. The aim was to celebrate the men and their families along their journey and show support from the community.

"Dads are critical in the lives of their children. And here, at Laurie's Place, we celebrate dads all the time," stated Christina Rodriguez, executive director of Mom's House. "We lift them up, we honor them, because we believe that they are the backbone of our community. And so this week being Father's Day we decided we wanted to do something big for them."

She continued, "We're really just trying to pour into our dads and pour into the community. We believe that when families are stable, meaning a mother and a father are stable, that children thrive, which, in turn, communities thrive. So we want to lift our dads up this week, not just this week, every week," stated Rodriguez.

Community partners included Amazing Athletes, which will provided youth activities and an obstacle course; African Ameri-

can Male Wellness; the Toledo Fire Department; Brothers United; and Neighbor to Neighbor, which provided face painting. Participants also had the opportunity to enter a raffle for an Apple MacBook Neo and participate in a community water balloon fight.

Father Day's Barbeque 'Celebrity Dads' included:

- **John Hartenburg**, Dad's Room donor

- **Phil Ryburn**, Pastor, Declare Church

- **John Hobbs**, Toledo City Council District 1 and Friend of Mom's House

- **Brandon Fields**, Inside the Five Brewing Company and former NFL player

- **Dennis Hopson**, former Ohio State University and NBA player

- **John Jones**, HOPE Toledo and co-founder of Dads Matter

- **Rodney Eason**, community donor and co-founder of Dads Matter

- **Matt Killam**, Friend of Mom's House and Metroparks Toledo

- **Terry Crosby**, Taylor Automotive Family ambassador and former professional basketball player

- **Dr. Mark Krauthelm**, Mercy Health

- **Bishop Robert Culp**, senior minister of First Church of God (honorary participant)



Executive Director Christina Rodriguez



Over 150 attendees enjoyed food, games and giveaways

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Juneteenth Weekend Events Begin with a Parade

The Truth Staff

What a celebration Juneteenth has turned into over the past decade. This Juneteenth celebration was the biggest yet as a variety of organizations – Toledo Museum of Art, the Metroparks, City of Toledo, the NAACP, among others – held events, free events, for the community.

Those events began on Friday with the fourth annual Juneteenth Parade and Ceremony. The parade began at 1 p.m. at Uptown Green, proceeded down Adams Street toward the river and ended at Promenade Park where a Juneteenth Celebration continued with food trucks, resources for the community and activities for kids.

Meanwhile, the Toledo Chapter NAACP held its own celebration with vendors, food trucks and live entertainment at the Inez Nash Park site.



Singers at the NAACP celebration



Councilwomen Vanice Williams; Brittany Jones, PhD; Erin Kramer



Toledo's Kid Mayor Jamie Howard and Adult Mayor Wade Kapszukiweicz



The Q's lead the Juneteenth Parade



The musicians at the NAACP event at Wayman Palmer

Toledo Museum of Art Celebrates Juneteenth

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Friday June 19th the Toledo Museum of Art hosted a daylong Juneteenth celebration from 11am- 5pm. The free event, entitled "Inspiring Change, Creating Beauty" featured live performances and engaging art activities for all ages.

The event programming included:

- Outreach Art Activity - for all ages and skill levels
- Performances - by Ebone Waweru featuring Bradley Baker, and Nate Leonard featuring music composed and performed by African American artists

- Sensory Friendly Area

- Food Trucks

- Community Artist Showcase: Meet the Artists - James "dirtykics" Dickerson and Brenda Singletary

The community partners for the event were the Toledo African American Bureau of Commerce, the Ohio Minority Business Assistance Center, BESN Community and Relly's Purple Bag.



Juneteenth 2026 • Juneteenth 2026 • Juneteenth 2026 • Juneteenth 2026 • Juneteenth 2026 • Juneteenth 2026 • Juneteenth 2026 • Juneteenth 2026

The 7th Annual Toledo Juneteenth Celebration at Glass City Metropark

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The 7th Annual Toledo Juneteenth Celebration was held at Glass City Metropark Friday, June 19th. The event, entitled "The Toledo Juneteenth Celebration: Past, Present, & Future" was hosted by Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration (419TJC) and featured live music and entertainment, food trucks and vendors.

The free event hosted from 3:30-9pm included visual arts installations, musical performances from soulful blues and traditional drumming to futuristic sounds, a tribal showcase featuring authentic storytelling and dance, and a food and vendor area to support local black owned businesses. There were activities for all ages to learn and celebrate the holiday together!

To learn more about the organization visit their Facebook page @Toledo's Juneteenth Celebration.



A promotional poster for the Toledo Urban Music Festival. It features a collage of images of performers, including a band in white suits and a man in a black t-shirt. The text on the poster includes: "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", and "MIDNIGHT STAR ERIC BENÉT KEKE WYATT ZAPP BAND EJ JONES".

Lost in History: Mound Bayou, Mississippi

By Ricky Tyus, Owner of Tyus Tours & Travel

The Truth Travel Contributor

In April of this year my wife (Pamela) and I along with 11 of her relatives travel to Mound Bayou Mississippi in search of their great grandmother's house and grave site. What we found was a treasure trove of Black History that showed the resilience of slaves during the 1800's and a little-known Black History fact that reached Toled



Pictured is Pamela's family and the server from the Restaurant



Somewhere between Emmett Till and Medgar Evers lies the history of Mound Bayou — a story too often overlooked, yet deeply rooted in resilience, independence, and Black excellence.

Mound Bayou, Mississippi, was not just another Delta town. It was a bold vision. Founded in 1887 by formerly enslaved people, it became one of the first all-Black self-

governing communities in the United States. At a time when freedom existed more on paper than in reality, Mound Bayou stood as proof that determination could build something powerful in the middle of adversity.

Walking through its quiet streets today, you might miss what once made it extraordinary. But this town was once thriving with Black-owned businesses, banks, schools, and hospitals. It was a place where Black leadership flourished, and economic independence was not just a dream — it was daily life.

A Thriving Black Community

This community became a model of Black self-sufficiency, attracting national attention. Even President Theodore Roosevelt praised it as an example of hope and progress.

Then came the storms of history.

Civil Rights Era Connections

Not far from Mound Bayou, the tragedy of Emmett Till shook the nation in 1955. His brutal murder exposed the violent reality of racism in the Mississippi Delta and became a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.

Just a few years later, Medgar Evers, a tireless advocate for equality, would give his life in the fight for justice. Between these two powerful moments lies a community that quietly carried the weight of hope and survival.

Mound Bayou became a refuge during the Civil Rights era. Activists, organizers, and everyday citizens found safety and support there. The town's hospital treated injured protesters. Its residents opened doors when others closed their doors. While headlines focused on tragedy, Mound Bayou represented endurance.

Yet somehow, its story faded from mainstream memory.

The Founding of Mound Bayou



Mound Bayou was founded in 1887 by two formerly enslaved men, Isaiah Montgomery and his cousin Benjamin Green. They created the town in the Mississippi Delta as a place where Black Americans could live, own land, build businesses, and govern themselves free from the violence and op-

pression that followed Reconstruction in the South.

The founders purchased land from the Louisville, New Orleans, and Texas Railway along a railroad line in Bolivar County, Mississippi. The town's name came from two large mounds and a bayou nearby. The railroad company owned large stretches of Delta land and sold parcels to settlers to encourage development along the rail line.

The early settlers had to:

- Clear dense forests
- Drain swampy areas
- Build roads and homes from scratch
- Create farmland suitable for cotton and other crops

The work was extremely hard, but the rich Delta soil eventually became productive for farmland. Over time, the residents transformed the area into a thriving agricultural and business community.

That transformation became part of Mound Bayou's historical importance — formerly enslaved people built a town out of difficult swamp and timber land and turned it into one of the most successful Black communities in the South.

By the early 1900s, the town became a national symbol of Black self-determination and economic independence. Leaders such as Booker T. Washington praised Mound Bayou as proof that Black communities could thrive despite segregation and racism.

What is Marvin Gaye's connection to Mound Bayou?

Marvin Gaye was not born in Mound Bayou, did not live there and was not from Mississippi. So,



... continued on page 12

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Life Insurance Basics: Whole Life Insurance

By Vince Davis, Vince Davis State Farm Insurance

Guest Column

Whole Life Insurance, of the many variations of insurance, is my favorite. What is whole life insurance? Whole life insurance helps your family prepare for the unexpected. The guaranteed death benefit can help replace a family's loss of income, help with mortgage costs or educational needs — or to leave a legacy for the next generation.

Over time, these policies build cash value that grows tax deferred. This "living benefit" can be accessed during your lifetime. State Farm Life Insurance Company or State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (residents of NY and WI only) can help. I never have to worry about whether a whole life policy is in effect and is going to pay. After the first two years of contestability, it will always pay.

Whole life policies are the most dependable life insurance policies on the planet. They pay, unless of course the beneficiary murders the insured. Then he or she will not get the money. They will go to jail. Incidentally and, unfortunately, we had a case like that.

If there is a material omission in the first two years and that material omission culminates in the death of the insured, then it will not pay. Material means that if the insured knew about the omission and if the insurance company knew about the omission, they would not have issued the policy.

It would apply, for instance, if you had cancer. You knew you had cancer and concealed this fact from the insurance company. You would have had to fraudulently gotten the policy. Then you turned around and died of cancer. Then the insurance company would not pay.

But if you took out a policy and you were cancer free, then you subsequently got cancer then the policy would pay. In over four decades since I have been in this business all policy death benefits have gotten paid with one exception. That exception is when the so-called father murdered his own child.

I have been in the insurance business for a while. I have not had a policy in which a person died and the company didn't pay. My office often pays several death claims weekly. I'd estimate that I've sold over 7000 life insurance policies in my career. There are many different types of insurance. But it all boils down to Term or Permanent.

An Affordable Option: Term Life Insurance

Term life insurance provides death protection for a stated time period, or term. Since it can be purchased in large amounts for a relatively small initial premium, it is well suited for short-range goals such as coverage to pay off a loan or providing extra protection during the child-raising years. Vinedavisinsurance.com can help.

Term insurance is the simplest type of life insurance. You pay your premiums as scheduled and in return your insurer agrees to pay a death benefit should you die within that term.

- **Low initial cost.** Term insurance can be purchased in large amounts for relatively small premiums.

You can match term insurance to needs, **just like whole life**. Many people are concerned about paying off their mortgage, providing money for higher education or replacing a portion of their income if they pass away. These are typically temporary needs, which may last just a few years, or much longer. Matching these needs, with the proper amount of insurance, can allow your loved ones the time and money needed to make important financial decisions.

- **Convertible.** Most term policies can be converted (age limitations typically apply) to a whole life policy if your temporary needs evolve into lifetime needs.

- **The term policy is temporary.** Term insurance is designed to last for a specific amount of time (term). After the term period is over, many policies are guaranteed to renew on an annual basis at a higher premium and may become unaffordable. Conversion to whole life is sometimes an option. Don't



wait until its too late to convert or that you are too old to afford permanent insurance.

- **Whole Life Insurance is permanent. Whole life Insurance locks your price in for as long as you keep the policy and pay the premiums**

The Best Type of Life Insurance to have is the policy that is in place when you pass away. Some people make the mistake of believing that their insurance needs end when they retire or when the kids finish college. Often your insurance needs are still present way after the temporary need for insurance has been satisfied. Medical Bills and Long-Term Care can eat up a lifetime of saving.

Vince Davis Insurance Inc. State Farm Insurance Agent, vinedavisinsurance.com

419-509-0326 cell, 419-244-2904 office

Kaptur...continued from page 3

munities," said Robert Smith, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.N.P., professor and chair of the Department of Neurosciences and Psychiatry in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. "Continued investment in biomedical research is essential to advancing scientific discovery and bringing hope to those affected by this devastating disease."

Professor Gong Rujun, Ph.D., M.D., F.A.S.N., a research expert and academic focused on the progression of kidney diseases and discovering novel therapies, leads research at the University of Toledo's Health Science Campus on diabetic kidney disease and glomerulonephritis. As a result of his scientific achievements, he has received federal funds for a variety of research opportunities from the National Institute for Health over the past five years and has published many influential, peer-reviewed articles and holds several patents.

Robert Smith, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.N.P., currently serves as the Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosciences and Psychiatry in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences at the University of Toledo. The award will help continue his team's research on how active kinome networks contribute to the cognitive decline associated with Alzheimer's dementia as they seek to develop new therapies and treatments for this devastating disease.

As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman Kaptur has been instrumental in delivering federal support to University of Toledo research efforts. UToledo was recently recognized with as an R1, top-tier university for Doctoral Universities: Very High Research Activity in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

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African American Sports Legends to Honor Northwest Ohio's Best at 2026 Hall of Fame Weekend

Special to The Truth

The African American Sports Legends of Northwest Ohio will celebrate the legacy of athletic excellence on Friday, June 26, 2026, as it honors seven outstanding athletes whose achievements demonstrate this year's theme: "Putting in the Work."

The 2026 Hall of Fame Class represents generations of excellence in basketball, football and track and field. Each inductee distinguished themselves through hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence both on and off the field of play. This year's inductees include:

- Jazlyn Davis, Bowsher High School standout and First-Team All-Ohio basketball selection. • Kevin Koger, Whitmer High School and University of Michigan standout who currently serves as Wide Receivers Coach for the Atlanta Falcons.
- Shereese Ullis-McBrayer, a three-time Toledo City League Player of the Year and two-time District Player of the Year.
- Eric Newsome, Rogers High School shooting guard who earned First-Team All-City honors three times and All-District recognition on three occasions.
- Anthony "Scoop" Williams, a cornerstone of Scott High School's 1990 State Championship basketball team.
- Lance Price, Sr., Scott High School graduate, Ohio State Champion in the 110-meter high hurdles, three time All-City track selection, and dual-sport letterman in football and track at The Ohio State University.



Dr. Emanuel Newsome

• Abe Steward, a standout 6-foot-6 forward from Libbey High School who helped lead the Cowboys to back-to-back City League basketball championships during the 1968-69 and 1969-70 seasons.

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductees, special recognition will be bestowed upon three individuals whose contributions helped shape athletics and community life throughout Northwest Ohio.

Lost in History...continued from page 10

what is his connection to Mound Bayou?

How they are connected

Marvin Gaye's iconic 1971 anthem "What's Going On" carries an unexpected connection to Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

- **Mound Bayou** was a historic all-Black town and a major center of civil rights organizing in Mississippi.
- The issues happening in the Mississippi Delta — poverty, racial injustice, and activism — were the **same themes Marvin Gaye addressed** in his music.
- His 1971 album **What's Going On** spoke about:

- social injustice
- inequality
- war and poverty
- the Black experience in America

One of the song's cowriters, Al Cleveland, was born in Mound Bayou before rising to prominence as a Motown songwriter. Alongside Renaldo "Obie" Benson and Marvin Gaye, Cleveland helped craft a song that became a defining voice of social consciousness in American music. His roots in Mound Bayou link the historic Black community to one of the most influential protest songs ever recorded.

From Mound Bayou to Toledo, Ohio: The Story of Aunt Minnie's Seabee Restaurant and Aunt Minnie Foods Inc



Pictured Claudia Seebree-Pressley and (Aunt) Minnie Seebree

Born in **Mound Bayou, Mississippi**, Aunt Minnie grew up in a community built on pride, perseverance, and self-reliance. Her kitchen was the heart of her home — a place where neighbors gathered; stories were shared, and Southern flavors told the history of people determined to thrive.

Years later, Aunt Minnie carried those same recipes north to **Toledo, Ohio**, where she and her daughter **Claudia Seebree-Pressley** opened a small restaurant serving the flavors of home. The restaurant quickly became a local treasure, known for its fried chicken, sweet yams, and soulful service that reminded patrons of the Delta's spirit. What began as a family kitchen evolved into **Aunt Minnie's Food Inc.**, a company dedicated to bringing authentic Southern cuisine to tables across America.

Though headquartered in Ohio, Aunt Minnie's roots remain firmly planted in **Mound Bayou**—a town built by visionaries who believed in self-reliance and community strength. Her story mirrors that legacy: transforming humble beginnings into a thriving enterprise while preserving the taste and pride of her birthplace. Every dish tells a story of migration, perseverance, and the enduring flavor of Mound Bayou's heritage.

After closing in the early 2000s, the family's recipes lived through Aunt Minnie's Food Inc., preserving the Delta inspired flavors that defined their kitchen. AuntMinnie's Food Inc ceased operations in 2019.

Mound Bayou Today

Today, Mound Bayou is not just a place — it is a reminder. A reminder that Black self-determination once built thriving institutions from the ground up. A reminder that communities stood strong even when the world around them tried to break them.

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THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS:

The Sojourner's Truth **TAYLOR AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY** **The SOCIAL Butterfly**

The Price of Exclusion: The Pursuit of Healthcare in a Segregated Nation by Nicole Carr

A Terrible Strength: The Hidden Crisis of the Black Womb & Your Survival Guide to Healing by Kemi Doll, MD, MSCR

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Seven thousand steps.

That's what researchers say you need each day for optimum health. That's a little over three miles of walking, stair-climbing and running, and it's a lot, but you do what you can to stay healthy, right? So maybe it's time to check out these great books about health and well-being for African American readers...

At some point in the near future, in a month or twelve, you'll probably need to make your annual appointment with your physician. But what does he or she look like? In *The Price of Exclusion: The Pursuit of Healthcare in a Segregated Nation* by Nicole Carr (Dey Street, \$30.00), you'll see why that matters, why America needs more Black doctors, and how the lack could affect your health.

During the pandemic, says Carr, African American Covid-19 patients died at a much higher rate than did white sufferers. That may come as no surprise, but other information that Carr uncovers might shock you. Systemic racism has been an unfortunate fact throughout the last 170 years in medical facilities and medical schools. Efforts of Black researchers have been ignored, denied or seized and subsumed by others. Patients have gotten sub-par care. Black doctors have tried to fight back, both for themselves and for their patients; HBCUs and Black institutions offered medical education, but things were still slow to change.

c. 2026
Dey Street
\$30.00
304 pages

c. 2026
Harmony Books
\$28.99
320 pages

Told alongside the story of her great-grandfather, a physician who worked as a doctor in the early years of the last century, this is a lively, very interesting book, and it's must-read for anyone who thinks about their health and longevity.

For Black women looking for healthcare, the struggle is different. And more urgent. In *A Terrible Strength: The Hidden Crisis of the Black Womb & Your Survival Guide to Healing* by Kemi Doll, MD, MSCR (Harmony Books, \$28.99), you'll see why.



When Dr. Doll was in medical school, preparing to become a gynecologist... continued on page 14

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Taylor Automotive Family Announces Transition to 100 Percent Employee Ownership

Special to The Truth

The Taylor Automotive Family is proud to announce its transition to 100% employee ownership through the establishment of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP).

This landmark transaction rewards the company's hundreds of employees with ownership in Taylor Automotive's network of dealerships and operations, including Taylor Cadillac, three Kia dealerships, three Hyundai dealerships, and a collision center. The transition also preserves the company's legacy while positioning the organization for continued growth across Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

Founded in 1979 by Stephen D. Taylor with a single Buick dealership in downtown Toledo, Taylor Automotive has grown into one of the region's largest automotive dealership groups, selling nearly 1,000 vehicles each month while serving communities throughout Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

"This ownership transition honors the people who have helped build Taylor Automotive into what it is today," said Stephen D. Taylor, founder of Taylor Automotive. "Becoming 100 percent employee-owned is more than a business decision — it reflects our family-first philosophy and strengthens our commitment to the employees, customers, and communities that have supported us for more than four decades."

The ESOP structure not only rewards Taylor Automotive's dedicated employees and their families, but also reinforces the company's long-term



Steve Taylor, II, Terry Crosby; Steve Taylor, Sr.; Tom Cole

commitment to growth, community involvement, and attracting and retaining exceptional talent.

Taylor Automotive's leadership team, including Stephen D. Taylor II and Peter A. Demczuk, will continue guiding day-to-day operations while empowering employee-owners to help shape the company's future.

"Our mantra has always been 'Locally Owned. Locally Committed,'" said Stephen D. Taylor II. "Today, that evolves into 'Employee Owned. Locally Committed.'"

With this transition, Taylor Automotive joins a select group of automotive dealerships nationwide embracing employee ownership as a way to reward loyalty, strengthen company culture, and drive long-term performance.

About Taylor Automotive

Taylor Automotive has proudly served Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan since 1979, offering a wide selection of new and pre-owned vehicles, expert automotive service, and a strong commitment to the communities it serves. With nearly 50 years of local ownership — and now 100% employee ownership — Taylor Automotive remains one of the most trusted names in the region's automotive industry.

Book Reviews...continued from page 13

logic cancer surgeon, she saw something unfathomable: even today, in supposedly modern times, racism runs rampant in health care for Black women, from charting to pain control to cancer treatments. It's especially insidious in gynecology, pregnancy and other reproductive health issues.

Doll uses stories to illustrate her points, but this book also includes advice, charts to explore, cautions and things to watch out for, and lots of ways for a Black woman to be her own best advocate. Read this book, take it with you to your next doctor's visit.

It's probably true that these books won't be enough, once you get started on reading the new information available to patients and their loved ones. There are lots of books on shelves that will give you more direction, more advice, and more ways to find the right doctor for you. All you need to do is to head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask for direction. The staff can help you find what you need — and more — so you can stay well.

As for these two great books, take steps to read them soon.

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.

The Sojourner's Truth
A MOMENT OF TRUTH
THE LOCAL THREAD
wgte Public Media



2026 Program of Projects

Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority

5307 FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026

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

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

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

Alternatively, you can email your comments with the subject line "Program of Projects" to info@tarta.com.

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

Laura Koprowski, CEO

CONSULTANTS OR ORGANIZATIONS NEEDED

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board (MHR SB) of Lucas County is seeking proposals from qualified consultants or organizations to facilitate the development of its **Access in Action Plan**. This framework will identify and address community barriers to behavioral health care, including awareness, navigation, geography, language, stigma, and system complexity. **Key Dates:** Virtual Bidders Conference is June 26, 2026. Electronic proposals must be submitted to netmail@lcmhrsb.org no later than July 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET. For complete RFP specifications and submission criteria, visit www.lcmhrsb.org/publicnotice/.



第二次公告 住房选择券 (HCV) 管理计划

卢卡斯大都会区住房管理局 (LMH) 依据美国住房和城市发展部 (HUD) 相关指导文件, 发布住房选择券 (HCV) 管理计划重大修订草案, 内容涉及紧急住房券 (EHV) 住户转入 HCV 项目相关事宜。

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。意见征集期为 45 天。期间受理书面意见, 投稿邮箱:

agerber@lucasmha.org

公开听证会将于 2026 年 7 月 1 日星期三上午 11:30 举行。

需合理便利安排的人员可致电 (419) 259-9448 或发邮件至 hcvpcsr@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@toledourban.net

The Grand Reopening of Superior Made RV Resort

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

Retired Toledo Police Officer Floella Wormely has had a recreational vehicle for more than 10 years and during that time has searched for ideal sites to park her RV and enjoy the scenery, the like-minded community, the amenities that the outstanding campgrounds can offer.

Several years ago, she took a look at The Big Sandy Campground in Swanton. She drove in and immediately made a u-turn, she recalls – the campground was so unappealing.

But that was before Nate and Alicia Lawson took over two years ago and turned the eyesore into the Superior Made RV Resort.

The site that Wormely saw some years ago has undergone a significant upgrade – the campground is clean and orderly, the amenities for campers have increased, entertainment, swimming and boating area is more accessible, the efficiency of services has improved. And Wormely is now a camper there herself, so impressed has she been with what the Lawsons have accomplished in such a short time.

The Lawsons completed their purchase of the Big Sandy in December 2024 but they are not new to campground ownership and management. The longtime Toledo residents – Macomber and Woodward graduates, respectively – first became involved in the campground business back in 2019 when they purchased a campground in Tal-



Alicia and Nate Lawson

ladega, Alabama and turned it around over the next few years – using their sales and marketing expertise to increase membership opportunities; clean and upgrade the 20-acre site and transform an eyesore into a neighborhood gem.

Having repeated that experience in Swanton, the Lawsons were ready to celebrate and welcome in a new season.

Superior Made RV Resort held this season's grand opening ceremony on Friday, June 12, with a ribbon cutting in front of the new entertainment facility which sits on the shore of the campground lake, Harmony Beach. The Friday celebration was but a small part of this June's grand opening month activities.

The first part of June's activities was the first seasonal monthly social gathering on June 6 – an opportunity for campers to meet the food sponsor – Schlotzsky's – and to hear guest speakers.

On June 12, after the grand opening, a band entertained into the evening and food trucks and vendors also graced the scene. The next day was a day of giving – a blood drive, yoga with Self Love Movement and more entertainment at night with a DJ.

On June 20, campers were able to attend a business seminar, designed for entrepreneurs.

The official opening month activities will conclude on June 27 with a day of relaxation and a chance to enjoy the natural setting. The campground's connection with Metroparks Oak Openings will enable campers to have access to over 5,000 acres of nature and outdoor recreation.



Deputy Sheriff Sgt. Melissa Carney cuts the ribbon



Final preparations for the ribbon cutting



Celeste and Cernal Smith and Tina Butts





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