



Volume 96 No. 1

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

July 1, 2026



John Edwards, seated, and African American Sports Legends Committee Members

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Off the Ground

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

The Truth Contributor

Every teenager isn't bad, every parent don't raise their kids to go out and do what they did — but I just hope situations like these open our eyes...

- Cierra Wells



He was limping toward her, dazed and bleeding. A 16-year-old boy, in the middle of what had been the Old West End community festival minutes before. Cierra Wells, a nurse for eight years who had been fundraising for her daughters' cheerleading squad, saw him and went to work.

"Ma'am, please, please, I don't want to die. Please keep me alive," he kept saying.

She asked his name and his age, holding his attention and his life together with her voice and her hands, while keeping her eyes on her own daughters somewhere in the chaos. That is what June 6, 2026, asked of Cierra Wells. She answered.

Getting Up

Wells was not alone. Whitney Beachum, a nurse practitioner who had been eating from a food truck with friends when the shooting started, hit the ground like everyone else. When it stopped, she got up.

She spotted two wounded individuals and approached a police officer. "Hey, I am a medical professional. Do you want my help?" He said yes. She got gloves and went to work — assessing wounds, applying pressure, moving from victim to victim alongside law enforcement. "In those moments," Beachum said, "you don't care who someone is or what they look like. You're just trying to help them and save their life."

That is not a press conference or an ordinance. That is Toledo — getting up off the ground before anyone in authority said what to do next.

The Man Who Ran In

Matt Killam, chief External Relations Officer for MetroParks Toledo, lives on Robinwood — a few blocks from the Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum. His fiancée's daughter was in that same crowd when the shooting started. Killam ran in, found her hiding in a garage just north of the arboretum, and got her out.

In the days that followed, Killam's team did what they had already spent a year doing — coordinating hour by hour with the chief of police, the chief of fire, the head of EMS, the mayor's office, and the county commissioners to make sure that when Toledo gathered again at Watershed Weekend, it gathered safely. Tens of thousands showed up without incident.

Killam also said something that deserves to be on record. Talking about the two 20-year-olds whose private grievance became Toledo's public nightmare, he said: "They are still children to me. We have all failed them." That is not the language of someone who manages the relationship between MetroParks and the Toledo it serves from a distance. It is the language of some-



Whitney Beachum assists a shooting victim

one who understands that the boy Cierra Wells held together on June 6, and the boys who fired the shots, came from the same city, and that city has not yet done enough for either of them.

What They Catalyzed

Wells and Beachum did not write the mayor's new safety ordinance. They did not double the police presence for the Fourth of July or create the special event safety zones. But what they did in the immediate aftermath of June 6 — getting off the ground and helping without being asked — showed Toledo what its response needed to look like.

This Saturday, an estimated 100,000 people will gather at Promenade Park for Toledo's fireworks show. The city is doubling its police presence. The same Riverwalk that Killam's team built — no fences, no gates, no walls — built for everyone — will hold all of those who chose to show up.

Last year, six people were killed over the Fourth of July weekend. Two of those homicides came just hours after the fireworks ended. This year, Toledo shows up anyway — because Wells got off the ground, because Beachum got off the ground, because Killam ran in. Their actions catalyzed an entire city.

As Killam himself put it, "good activation pushes out the bad."

All because we got off the ground.

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

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We Are Already Unified: Stop Debating, Start Doing

By Carla Thomas

The Truth Contributor

In light of the OWE Festival incident, I see a lot of people asking, "What do we do now? Where do we go from here?" And I've seen a lot of good but different suggestions. I want to encourage and caution us to not get caught up in trying to "unify" in the traditional sense of the word.

Too often, when we say "unity," what we really mean is everyone agreeing on one strategy, one leader, one organization or one solution. And history has shown us that's rarely how real progress happens. Real progress happens when people are committed to the same destination, even if they're taking different roads to get there.

Some believe the priority is addressing violence in our community and so-called Black-on-Black crime. Great, find the people who share that focus and do the work. Every life saved strengthens the foundation of our community. Every conflict prevented is one less family grieving and one more opportunity for our people to thrive.

Others believe that prayer is the answer. Perfect, unify with other prayer warriors and organize around that. If you believe spiritual warfare requires a spiritual response, then pray with intention, pray consistently and let those prayers be matched with action that reflects the change you're asking God to bring.

If you believe we need to start by patrolling our communities, then unite with others who are ready to take it to the streets. Be visible. Build relationships. Let our neighborhoods know somebody cares enough to show up, not just speak up after another tragedy.



A lot of people believe it starts with the parents. Then get with others who feel the same way and take action. Mentor young mothers and fathers. Create support systems. Teach, encourage and equip families, because strong homes build strong communities.

Some believe we need to prioritize reaching our youth. If that is your calling, then mentor, coach, volunteer, listen and show up. We cannot complain about who is influencing our young people if we are not willing to be a positive influence ourselves. They need people willing to invest in them, not just criticize them.

My point is, all of these issues intersect. There is no right or wrong, just different places to start. We are already unified in a common goal: a stronger, safer community.

So let's make sure we're not spending our precious time debating where to start. Too many conversations never turn into action because everyone is busy arguing over the "right" approach. And in the meantime, the problems continue to grow. If everyone just commits to the work that speaks to them, with like-minded people, we will actually get something done.

And we don't need to reinvent the wheel. There are already people and organizations in this community mentoring, feeding, coaching, counseling, praying, organizing and doing the work every single day. Instead of creating something new, let's strengthen what's already here by supporting them, funding them, volunteering and helping them reach even more people.

WE ARE UNIFIED.

We don't all have to march in the exact same direction at the exact same time to arrive at the same destination: a healthier, safer, stronger Black community.

Elected Officials Discuss Impact of "Big Ugly Bill"

The Truth Staff

On the anniversary of the passage of Trump's so-called "Big Beautiful Bill," local elected officials spoke out about the impact of that bill on access to health care for millions of Ohioans.

One year ago, Trump and the Republicans "created a full-on health care crisis and [put] access to health care at risk" for numerous Americans, wrote the Remington Road Group, an Ohio-based public and government affairs firm that oversaw the gathering.

"Last summer, President Donald Trump and Republicans rubber-stamped over \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in favor of tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations. The results have already been catastrophic, and things will only get worse. Nearly 15 million people nationwide, including 180,000 Ohioans, are set to lose coverage while premiums and out-of-pocket costs have spiked for working families, forcing them to delay and forgo health care just to pay rent and put food on the table," RRG added in their statement.

On Tuesday, June 23, Alan Bannister of RRG brought together State Representatives Erika White and Michele Grim for a press conference on Madison Avenue, outside of the building that holds Sen. John Husted's Toledo offices, to address the impacts of the that legislation.

"Now, 31 hospitals, nursing homes, and care facilities across Ohio are reducing services, laying off workers, closing their doors, or are at risk of doing so, stranding entire communities without essential care," said State Rep. Erika White during her address.

"At the same time, Republicans ripped away health care tax credits that helped 22 million Americans, including 426,977 Ohioans, afford coverage. Without these tax credits, monthly premiums have skyrocketed from hundreds to thousands of dollars, forcing many to skip doctor's appointments, refrain from taking their medication, drop coverage altogether, or cut other necessities, such as groceries. Millions of hard-working Americans and families across Ohio are being crushed under the weight of the GOP's health care affordability crisis while Trump's billionaire buddies cash in with some of the biggest tax breaks in history," White added.

"One hundred and eighty thousand people are expected to lose health care in Ohio in the year ahead," said Grim. "It's an economic crisis with 51,000 jobs to lose... the impact will be felt in every corner of the state. When people lose coverage, they do not stop getting sick.

While the cuts have already been devastating for so many individuals and families in Ohio and in the nation in general, the deepest cuts were postponed by Republicans in Congress so that they would not take effect until 2027 and 2028, after this year's midterm elections noted the local Democratic officials.



Alan Bannister, State Rep. Erika White, State Rep. Michele Grim

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Hey, Cousin: What I Saw on Juneteenth at Andrew Jackson's Plantation

Neighbors of all colors gathered on sacred and stained ground, called each other cousin, and reminded a nation that freedom belongs to everyone.

By Ben Jealous
Guest Column

On Juneteenth, I traveled to the Hermitage, President Andrew Jackson's plantation outside Nashville, to celebrate Black music. Neither Juneteenth nor Black music had ever been celebrated there before.

Lela Harris flew in from Maryland. She descends from Alfred, born enslaved on that land. When freedom came, he chose the name Jackson for himself. He asked to be buried beside the president, and he was.

She stood on that same ground and spoke. Other descendants of the enslaved came too. Hundreds of Black folks. Hundreds of White folks. Likely the largest gathering of Black people there since slavery ended.

Lela grew up with a tradition. Her family believes they descend from Andrew Jackson himself. Others say that cannot be, that Jackson fathered no children. The family carries the story. The records carry a silence.

My cousins are the Hemingses of Monticello. For centuries they said they descend from Thomas Jefferson, through Sally Hemings, the enslaved half-sister of his wife. They were told it was impossible. Then the science proved them right.

I told the crowd to call each other, cousin, and I meant it plainly. If your



family has been in Tennessee or Virginia a long time, the odds are good that -- Black, White, or Native -- you are kin to people who do not look like you. All afternoon you could hear it across that lawn. "Hey, Cousin!"

Cris Corley is an eighth-generation Tennessee farmer. His family included soldiers who fought alongside Andrew Jackson, and he grew up proud of that. Cris has fought for racial justice in Tennessee. He teared up that day.

Cris remembers when his elementary school in Alexandria, Tennessee, was desegregated.

A White father stormed in, using a slur for the Black children and swearing his kids would never sit beside them. The principal knocked him down where he stood. He decided that was better than letting a man block the schoolhouse door. Young Cris agreed.

The good people won that day.

Cris has a friend, Charlie High, who fights beside him today. Charlie remembers his own father coming home from the courthouse one day, excited. He had watched Diane Nash and the students from Fisk stand their ground. His dad then marched his young White children around the living room, the way Nash had marched, and praised them.

I am proud of the Hermitage team for not flinching, for digging into the hard questions instead of hiding from them. It is why I tell people we must step into the gray. We have always been more connected, and more human, than the history books let us believe.

Juneteenth was the right day to remember all of it. In a single instant, the government stopped calling human beings property and started calling them the political equals of the men who had owned them. There may be no other holiday that marks a turn so complete and so sudden.

So we stood on sacred and stained ground, and we sang, and we called each other cousin. We cannot control what was done to us, or for us. We control only what we build now.

Ghosts cannot heal us. Only we can do that.

The oldest truth my grandmother, Mamie Bland Todd, ever taught me was this: our people were always free. Strange, from a woman with three grandparents born into slavery. But it is both a basic Christian principle and a law of nature.

Her third great-grandfather carried that same fire. His name was Richard Bland. In 1766, he published a pamphlet asserting that very point against the British crown: under English government, all men are born free, regardless of what the King said.

Richard owned people even as he wrote it. His blood runs on both sides of the line. Two of his grandsons were half-brothers. They shared a father. One was born free. The other, Frederick, was born enslaved, six years the elder. Two brothers. One father. One owned the other.

That is my family. That is the country.

Our cousin, President Thomas Jefferson, had a word for that freedom. He wrote that we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights. Among them: liberty.

Unalienable. It cannot be sold, surrendered, taken away, or even granted. And like the Blands, his family owned their own kin. His words outran him too.

From the Revolutionary War to the Civil War to the civil rights movement, the fight was never to "win" our freedom. It was to make a nation finally recognize what was already true: freedom is a right of all humanity. Period. Full stop.

As we mark 250 years as a nation, that is still the work. To finally defend the freedom of every last one of our cousins. Because that is what we all are.

Hey, Cousin!

This is the third and final installment of a series on the first Juneteenth celebrated at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage. Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former president and CEO of the NAACP.



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America at 250: A Republic to Keep

Proud of the promise? Responsible for the work?

By Steve Flagg

Guest Column

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of the American nation. A birthday worth celebrating, not only by Americans, but also by all who believe in the principles this nation announced to the world.



John Adams thought the great day would be July 2; the day Congress voted for independence. He wrote it should be remembered "with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations" from one end of the continent to the other. Adams got the date wrong, but the spirit was right. A good cookout, backyard grill, fireworks, family and neighbors seem like a fine way to start.

The 250th birthday should be more than a party. It should create a conversation. What are we proud of? What troubles us? What does it mean to be patriotic at a time when many Americans are proud of their country but ashamed of the government acting in its name?

Even the birth date is more complicated than our July 4 tradition suggests. The Declaration was adopted in 1776. The Constitution was signed in 1787, ratified in 1788, and the new government began under George Washington in 1789. The Bill of Rights followed in 1791. America was not born in a single moment. It was declared, debated, compromised into existence, launched and then improved.

That matters because America will never be finished. The Declaration announced that "all men are created equal," that governments derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed," and that human beings possess rights to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The Constitution began with "We the People" and set as one of its purposes the formation of "a more perfect Union."

A more perfect union. Those words admit something essential. The founders did not claim perfection. They gave us an aspiration, a place we wanted to reach and a structure through which future generations could work toward it.

That work has always required compromise. The Constitution was born through argument, negotiation and compromise among states with different interests, economies, fears and ambitions. Without compromise, there likely would have been no Constitution and no durable union.

But not every compromise was honorable. The compromises over slavery, including the Three-Fifths Compromise, made the Constitution possible while leaving the nation's deepest moral contradiction unresolved. The country declared equality while tolerating human bondage. That original sin scarred our history, empowered slavery politically, and eventually demanded a terrible reckoning in civil war.

The greatness of America is not that it was always right. It is that it created principles by which its failures could be judged. Abraham Lincoln returned the nation to the Declaration at Gettysburg, calling America a nation "conceived in Liberty" and dedicated to equality. He spoke of "the unfinished work" and called for "a new birth of freedom." Martin Luther King Jr. later described the Declaration and Constitution as a "promissory note" to which every American was heir.

That is the American story at its best: not perfection, but correction; not

denial, but renewal.

This is why polling about national pride must be read carefully. When Americans are asked whether they are proud of their country, the answer often depends on what "America" means. Are we talking about the American people, our founding ideals, our long record of achievement, our present government or the policies of the current administration?

A recent Quinnipiac poll captured that distinction: nearly three-fourths of Americans considered themselves proud Americans, even while a majority said the country is not living up to the Declaration's promise.

Those are not the same questions.

Recent polling shows many Americans remain proud of the country's ideals and achievements while deeply dissatisfied with how our government and democracy are functioning today. That is not a contradiction. A citizen can be proud of America and ashamed of what leaders do in America's name. A citizen can honor the flag and still criticize the president, Congress, the courts or public policy. In fact, most Americans understand that patriotism does not require unconditional approval. It can mean acknowledging problems and seeking solutions.

That point matters because the broad question of national pride is too often used as a political weapon. If Democrats, Republicans, independents or any citizens say they are less proud during a particular administration, some immediately accuse them of being unpatriotic. But pride in America is not the same as pride in the government of the moment. No president owns America. No party owns patriotism.

Patriotism is loyalty to the republic, not loyalty to the ruler.

The founders understood this. They built a system based on elections, checks and balances, separation of powers, free speech, free press and the right to protest. Those safeguards exist because power needs limits. Criticism of government is not an insult to America. It is one of the ways Americans keep the republic.

Benjamin Franklin is said to have answered, when asked what kind of government the convention had created, "A republic, if you can keep it." George Washington called the new nation an experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people. Both warnings still speak to us.

So let us celebrate America's 250th birthday. Let us have the cookouts, parades, bells, fireworks and illuminations Adams imagined. Let us remember the courage of those who declared independence and the wisdom of those who built a constitutional republic.

But let us also remember that America is an aspiration, not a possession. It is a promise we inherit and a responsibility we either fulfill or neglect. We should be proud of the promise, honest about the failures, and committed to the work.

Compromise helped bring this nation together. Principled compromise will be required to keep it together. But the lesson of slavery is that compromise must never become an excuse to postpone justice forever. At 250, the task before us is not to pretend America has achieved perfection. It is to renew our common purpose, recover civic humility and summon the courage to keep moving toward the more perfect union we have always promised, but never fully achieved.

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Betty Amison-Lewis – In Memoriam

Betty Amison-Lewis

Betty Ann Amison - Lewis passed away peacefully on June 11, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family at her bedside.

Born on August 18, 1942, to Willie and Alberta, Betty lived a life defined by compassion, service, and devotion to those she loved. She dedicated 42 years of her professional life as an Executive Director for the United Way, where her commitment to helping others left a lasting impact on countless individuals and families throughout her community.

Outside of her career, Betty found joy in life's simple pleasures. She loved reading, working crossword puzzles, tending to her beautiful gardens, and soaking up the sunshine. Traveling brought her great happiness, and she cherished every opportunity to explore new places and create lasting memories. Betty was deeply involved in community service and was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Betty met the love of her life, Morris Lewis, and together they built a beautiful family filled with love, laughter, and cherished traditions for 36 years. There was never a dull moment around the dinner table or at family gatherings, where Betty's warmth, wisdom, and sense of humor brought everyone together.

Above all, Betty treasured her family. Her love, guidance, and unwavering support will remain a legacy for all who knew her.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Morris Lewis; her children, Yvette Amison, Anika Lewis, Chantel Amison, Alvin Gipson III, Alysha Amison; step-children, Morris W. Lewis, Terrance D. Lewis (Debra), Myron Lewis (Jennifer), and Craig Meredith; sister-in-law, Mattie P. Lewis; her brother, Louis Bates; and many beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family members, and friends who will miss her dearly.

Betty's kindness, generous spirit, and unwavering love for her family and community will forever be remembered by all whose lives she touched. Her memory will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of those who were blessed to know and love her.



Betty Amison

Family and friends were welcome to attend the Memorial Service at Toledo Memorial Park, on Saturday, June 20, 2026. In accordance with the family's wishes, all attendees were asked to meet at the Main Office parking lot no later than 12:20 p.m., prior to the service. Online condolences can be made to www.reebfuneralhome.com

The Political Power of Black Music

By Hazel Trice Edney

Guest Column

Politicians give floor speeches. Civil rights leaders and activists march and protest for change. Lobbyists advocate on behalf of their clients. Those are just a few strategies by which new laws are influenced in America.

But rarely has it been documented that a song actually becomes a part of influencing the United States Congress to move. But that is what happened in the passage of two historic legislations because of the passion and ingenuity of Black musicians.

The first instance was the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Through shootings by police, arrests, water hoses, dog bites and beatings, peaceful protesters persistently sang the song, "We Shall Overcome." Known as the civil rights anthem, that song grew out of a hymn sang by enslaved Black people, "I'll Be All Right", according to historians.

Finally, following "Bloody Sunday", during which the beating of young civil rights leader and future congressman, John Lewis, and others on the Edmund Pettus Bridge took place, President Lyndon B. Johnson decided he'd seen and heard enough. The televised violent attack upon the peaceful protestors as they marched for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery was simply too much.

Johnson decided to speak to a joint session of Congress about voting rights. The pivotal moment in his March 15, 1965 televised speech came when he adopted the words of the civil rights anthem and used them to touch the hearts of Americans:

"...Long-suffering men and women peacefully protested the denial of their rights as Americans. Many were brutally assaulted. One good man, a man of God, was killed. There is no cause for pride in what has happened in Selma. There is no cause for self-satisfaction in the long denial of equal rights of millions of Americans," Johnson said. "But even if we pass this bill, the battle will not be over. What happened in Selma is part of a far larger movement which reaches into every section and State of America. It is the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life. Their cause must be our cause too. Because it is not just Negroes, but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we shall overcome."

The formal name of the speech was "The American Promise speech." But it quickly became known as Johnson's "We Shall Overcome" speech. After resistance over many years, the Voting Rights Act finally passed the House on August 3 and the Senate on August 4 that year. President Johnson signed it into law on August 6, 1965.

Of course, the song itself cannot be fully credited for the passage of the Voting Rights Act. But the non-violent persistence of civil rights marchers; coupled with the civil rights anthem and Johnson's use of it clearly influenced the passage only months later.

A second example of a song that influenced the passage of Congressional Legislation was Stevie Wonder's, "Happy Birthday" song, written as a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a 15-year movement that started shortly after King was assassinated in 1968. Stevie Wonder wrote the song, a hit single, and began singing it in a concert tour, including on the National Mall in front of an audience of at least 100,000 people on Jan. 15, 1981.

Stevie Wonder even held marches and testified before Congress, pushing for the holiday as the widowed Coretta Scott King helped to circulate a petition that ultimately garnered 6 million names.

Two years following that DC concert, the legislation creating the federal holiday was signed by President Ronald Reagan on November 2, 1983. The

... continued on page 12



Hazel Trice Edney

The Truth Colours Gallery

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Toledo Ques host Annual Vince Davis Community Health and Wellness Fair

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The members of the Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted their annual Vince Davis Community Health and Wellness Fair June 20th from 12-3:30pm at Martin Luther King Jr. Academy. The free event included free medical screenings and services, first aid and PSA testing, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, oral cancer screenings, free food and bike and gift card giveaways.

The event was named after Vince Davis, long time member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and local businessman.

"This started out with Cordelia Martin and Neighborhood Health Association who started this health fair," shared Vince Davis, "and it was to kind of help mitigate some of the tragedy that we suffer by not living long. There's greater morbidity and greater mortality in our community than any other community."

He continued, "We die earlier. We get sick earlier, and when we get sick, we stay sick longer. And some of it could be prevented if we would get

checked out early. Get checked out early and get checked out often. This is about bringing our community together, bringing in physicians--the pharmacists, the doctors, the nurses, together, and checking one another out in terms of how's your health, checking on your brothers, making sure that they are doing what they're supposed to do in terms of just living longer."

Chartered on April 6th, 1960, Xi Tau has had a commitment of service toward the city of Toledo and the Northwest Ohio area. Through this dedication towards service, friendship and through progressive leadership, Xi Tau Chapter continues to stand as a pillar in the community and the fraternity. (Source: toledoques.squarespace.com.)

To learn more about the organization and their upcoming events visit their website at toledoques.squarespace.com.



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Toledo Celebrates Annual Race Amity Day

By The Baha'is of Lucas County

Toledo celebrated its annual Race Amity Day Festival at Secor Metropark on Sunday, June 14. Thirty-seven souls experienced the true meaning of amity and the oneness of our human family!

Joining us to celebrate was Vanice Williams, Toledo City Council President - to present the Mayor of Toledo's Proclamation designating Sunday June 14, 2026 as Race Amity Day in Toledo.



This year we were especially delighted to welcome renowned Toledo artist, Alice Grace, who shared stories through her delightful creations - beautiful quilts and paintings.



For the third year in a row drummer, Michael Hayes amazed and educated us with his talents - and through his workshop, Heartbeats of Life, engaged all participants in a wonderful and lively drumming circle experience.

Our faithful collabo-



rators in building community, Unbounded Artists Development Community, again provided Unity Art for all attendees to engage in meaningful creativity.

The picnic food provided by attendees and the Baha'is of Lucas County, was delicious and plentiful and enjoyed by all ages in attendance - from three to ninety-one!



Even the weather cooperated in the end with the severe thunderstorm passing out of the area and the sun coming out again to dry the picnic and playground area up a bit - in just enough time for us to start the program at 4 pm.



That so many of Toledo's diverse individuals joyfully came together for a day, is a testimony that we can see through our differences and recognize the sincere, fair-minded souls all around us who are working to build a more prosperous and just community. By drawing on the power of love, creativity and enterprise -the promise of America - we joined in this common endeavor with true amity and love.

Peace,
Baha'is of Lucas County



Ohio's Homecoming & Picnic at TMA

JULY 11, 2026 | 11 AM - 3 PM | GLASS PAVILION LAWN



Join us for a summer celebration at the Toledo Museum of Art. Ohio's Homecoming and Picnic at TMA, brought to you by the America 250-Ohio Commission and presented by Cenovus Energy, is celebrated alongside the Toledo Museum of Art's 125th Anniversary, with additional support from The Worthington Companies Foundation and The Marzetti Company. Support for the Toledo Museum of Art's 125th Anniversary is generously provided by the Rita B. Kern Foundation.

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Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County

Divine Nine Meet and Greet Hosted at TolHouse in Support of Judge Duhart's Re-Election

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The Committee to Re-elect Judge Duhart to the Court of Appeals hosted a meet and greet for the Divine Nine Greek organizations at TolHouse on Sat-



Judge Duhart with fellow members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



Judge Duhart with members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

urday, June 20. The evening served as a night of fellowship in support of Judge Duhart, current Sixth District Court of Appeals Judge, and first African American to hold the position, since his election in 2020. This year, Judge Duhart, as the incumbent, is seeking reelection against one Republican candidate.

Members of the Divine Nine, including Judge Duhart's fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., showed overwhelming support for the candidate who is also the endorsed nominee of the Democratic Party.

There are 12 Court of Appeals in the state of Ohio. The Sixth District Court of Appeals is comprised of eight counties including Erie, Fulton, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Williams and Wood counties with Lucas County as its primary seat. The court hears appeals from cases arising in the Courts of Common Pleas, County District Courts, and Municipal Courts within the district.

Duhart stressed the importance of the appellate courts in judicial decision making as he addressed his supporters.

"The Ohio Supreme Court only takes a limited number of cases," he stated, "the Ohio Supreme Court only takes one in 10 appeals. So guess where the vast majority of the appeals get resolved? Right here in the Sixth District Court of Appeals."

"So, in many respects, I am operating, myself and the other four judges on the court, as the Ohio Su-
...continued on page 14



Judge Duhart with members of the Divine Nine sororities



Judge Myron and wife Nicole Duhart

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

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Keep it Cool and Tasty

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

I want to share about the field trips we hosted to our little sensory garden last week at the Toledo Botanical Gardens. While many gardens are already sensory gardens, we intentionally planted this small space with different plants that would make sure to engage with all five of the external senses: sight, touch, smell, taste and hearing.

Obviously, any edible fruits, vegetables and herbs align with taste and smell. And most plants, especially those with different colored leaves or beautiful colored flowers, engage our sense of sight. For touch, a few of the favorite plants are the soft leaves of "Lambs Ear" or making the Snap Dragon flowers "move."

Most plants don't make a lot of noise, although there are some plants with seed pods that rattle. When you're standing in a garden, you might hear other sounds such as a water fountain running or wind in the trees or even different wildlife. If you'd like to visit, this sensory garden is four small, raised beds in the Artist Village. We also recommend bringing your own picnic and taking a tour of the rest of the gardens – especially the shade garden during hot summer days.

The reason I shared this is because when the youth sat down to their lunches at the picnic table, we asked them if they wanted to sample the violas and nasturtium flowers. We explained to them that in upscale restaurants or even at home, you can add a gourmet touch to the meal with a fresh flower or leaf to garnish it. One girl grinned at me and said, "I like to be bougie."

We encourage you to plan some cold meals this month. Almost all these quick summer meals can be made ahead of time, put in the refrigerator and taste great when it's time to eat. Think about ways you can plan a cold, tasty meal.

Some salads can be an entire meal with foods from all food groups. For example, a taco salad has plenty of lettuce and chopped vegetables, some cheese, beans like kidney or black beans, ground meat, dressing and tortilla chips. Another example is a chef salad with lettuce, meats, cheeses, hard boiled eggs, something crunchy like croutons or seeds or nuts on top. All you have to do is make sure the eggs are boiled and meat is cooked before it's time to assemble the salad dinner.

Some salads work well on a plate of lettuce or as filling for a wrap or sandwich, depending on your taste. Specific ideas for cold sandwiches include tuna salad, chicken salad, and layers of hummus and sliced vegetables.

Another suggestion is to cook once and then have a base for your cold meals. For example, boil up some pasta whether it's macaroni, spirals or spaghetti. Drain it and use it as the base for a pasta salad that you will keep in the refrigerator. It can be your favorite traditional recipe or a new one. You can make a recipe from scratch or boil the pasta, chop some vegetables and add some Italian dressing. Another base to cook up is quinoa, rice or other grain to become the first ingredient in the bottom of a bowl for your favorite bowl recipe.

Bowl Recipe Ideas from Texas A&M University:

Chickpea Salad Bowl- Mix canned chickpeas, cherry tomatoes, red onion, parsley, and lemon juice. Eat like that or add to a base like rice or quinoa.

Mexican Black Bean Bowl- Mix drained black beans, corn, salsa, avocado, and tortilla chips. Eat as is or add to a base like lettuce or rice.

Asian Peanut Noodle Salad – Add precooked noodles to the bottom of the bowl. Top with shredded carrots, cabbage, peanut sauce, and chopped peanuts.

Quinoa & Edamame Salad- Layer, pre-cooked quinoa, edamame or other bean, bell peppers, and sesame dressing.

A simple way to enjoy a bowl of fruit and added protein is to make your own fruit and cottage cheese bowl. Try topping cottage cheese with pineapple, berries, or peaches.

If you've already prepared these cold meals, use some of the ingredients for mini-meals or on-the-go snacks. A few more suggestions from Texas A&M:

Cheese & Crackers Plate - Add grapes, nuts, and cooked and cooled meat or deli meat.

Yogurt Parfait – layer Greek yogurt with granola and fresh fruit.

Hard-Boiled Egg Snack Box - Eggs, baby carrots, cherry tomatoes, and a handful of almonds.

Keep cool friends and keep nourished.

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Picture of freshly picked and washed viola flowers to share petals with youth visitors

June 27: National PTSD Awareness Day— Understanding Trauma, Extending Grace, and Promoting Healing

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, Licensed Professional Clinical Therapist & Air Force Veteran
The Truth Contributor

National PTSD Awareness Day was created to promote awareness and understanding of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and to encourage those who suffer from this condition to get help. The month of June has also been designated PTSD Awareness Month to raise awareness that trauma does not discriminate—anyone can be a victim.



Before becoming a Licensed Therapist, I served during Desert Storm on active duty in the Air Force, and then, upon returning stateside five and a half years later, I served two years in the District of Columbia Air National Guard.

I have seen PTSD from all angles. Trauma, whether military or civilian, can be challenging; it can be challenging and lead to courage to seek help or to the corruption of one's mind, body, and spirit. Especially when people who know and love you do not understand the episodes and symptoms. It is courageous enough to survive trauma, but even more courageous to seek help.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a type of mental illness that can occur after an individual has experienced or witnessed a traumatic event, such as military combat, community violence, child abuse, spousal abuse/domestic violence, rape/sexual assault, car accidents, natural disasters or the death of a close relative/loved one. Although many people believe that PTSD is primarily associated with military veterans, civilian trauma occurs just as frequently. Evidence-based treatments are effective, and recovery is possible.

PTSD affects each person differently. For example, some people will experience intrusive memories or nightmares. Other people will avoid people, places or situations that cause them to remember their trauma. Still, other people are extremely sensitive and always "on guard," reacting intensely to loud noises or unusual movements. Other examples include depression, emotional numbness, anger/aggression, feelings of remorse/guilt, and a lack of trust in others.

Many individuals will experience Complex PTSD (C-PTSD), which is typically caused by chronic/repeated trauma and can lead to problems with emotional control, forming healthy relationships and feeling worthy of oneself.

Trauma triggers are highly subjective. This means that certain smells, songs, anniversaries, comments, etc., can bring back very painful memories and/or evoke a strong reaction. For example, many veterans and people who have suffered from trauma tend to be more anxious during Indepen-

dence Day celebrations. Fireworks, firecrackers, cannon blasts, flashing lights/smoke/explosions can trigger thoughts of combat, gun violence, fires, etc. The effects of being reminded of past traumas can result in extreme anxiety, panic/hypervigilance, flashbacks, or an overwhelming desire to flee, even though the individual is aware that they are in a safe location.

Take a Mental Health Moment to better cope with PTSD-related challenges in your own home or within your own social circle using the following:

- Know when neighborhood fireworks are scheduled to go off so you can plan accordingly.
- Take advantage of noise-reducing headphones or earplugs and listen to calming music or white noise.
- Engage in grounding techniques by focusing on five items you can see, four items you can touch, three items you can hear, two items you can smell, and one item you can taste.
- Focus on taking slow, deep breaths in order to calm down your body's physical response to stress.
- Spend time with family/friends who are trustworthy and understand your triggers.
- Avoid excessive exposure to media coverage/news stories related to your triggers and limit your exposure to areas/events that may exacerbate your symptoms.
- If symptoms significantly interfere with your ability to function normally in your daily activities, seek out and continue therapy sessions with a licensed mental health provider. You may also call 988 or go to your nearest Emergency Room.

Neighbors/Family Members can also provide significant support. Providing basic awareness can greatly enhance the quality of life of individuals struggling with PTSD. In addition to providing advance notice when setting off fireworks, try to be understanding if someone needs to leave an event suddenly and refrain from making judgments based upon reactions you do not fully understand. Empathy requires no cost and provides invaluable rewards.

Historically, there has been reluctance within the Black community to discuss mental illness due to both stigmatization and culturally based pressures, as well as inequitable access to treatment options. However, strength does not necessarily equate to hiding pain. True strength exists when acknowledging when we need assistance and giving permission to heal.

Although National PTSD Awareness Day was in June, the 4th of July is right around the corner. It serves as a reminder that healing begins with knowledge. Regardless of whether the trauma occurred as a result of military service, violence, abuse/discrimination/lack of opportunity loss, etc., there is no reason why we cannot work together to create

a supportive environment where those impacted by trauma do not have to endure it alone. There is hope, treatment works, and recovery is possible.

Do you recognize PTSD symptoms in yourself or someone you know? Don't wait. Seek the help of a qualified mental health professional. Healing does not require forgetting what happened; rather, healing allows us to learn how to live beyond what happened.

Through education, compassion, and support from our communities, we can transform the stigma surrounding PTSD into hope and silence into healing. Thank you to the Lucas County Veterans Service Commissioners who came to the Civility and Healing yearly forum on June 24th, a Non-Profit which allows individuals from our communities to learn about various resources for veterans, veteran's family, dependents and widows, and many other organizations, such as the Lucas County Childrens Services, Assistant to the Toledo Mayor's Office on crime issues in our communities and Legal information on upcoming workshops about getting your affairs in order; Wills, Estates, Power of Attorney before you may need it and not in the middle of a crisis. As well as myself sharing the importance of Mental Health on improving our communities by paying more attention and caring for our individual nervous systems, as well as the nervous systems of our communities.

You may contact the Lucas County Veterans
... continued on page 12

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African American Sports Legends...continued from page 16

playmaker and relentless competitor. As a senior, Davis earned First-Team All-Ohio honors.

She continued her basketball career at Mt. San Antonio College in California, as she helped her program to consecutive California State Championships and earned a scholarship to Arizona State University where she competed at the Division I level in the Pac-10 Conference.

Kevin Koger, a football standout at Whitmer High School, established himself as a two-way gridiron athlete. As a tight end, he set the school record with 1,190 career receiving yards on 75 receptions and scored 16 offensive touchdowns. Defensively, he recorded 151 tackles, 26 for a loss, 16 sacks, three fumble recoveries, two interceptions – one for a touchdown. He earned First-Team All-Ohio honors as a defensive end.

Kroger entered the University of Michigan and earned All-Big Ten honorable mention honors in 2011. He went into coaching and joined the University of Tennessee's football program in 2015 and has advanced through the coaching ranks since then.

Lance Price, Sr., a track and football star at Scott High School, made All City in track for three years, became a state champion in the 110 high hurdles his junior year and recorded the third fastest time in state history. He was a two-year co-captain in football and earned All City honors as a running back and defensive back.

Price earned an athletic scholarship to The Ohio State University where he played both football and track. He was named an Academic All-American in 1991.

Shareese Ulis-McBrayer, a Waite High School student and basketball player, was named City League Player of the Year three times and was named the Ohio High School Association Division I Player of the Year in her senior year.

A McDonald's All-American nominee, Ulis-McBrayer went on to play at Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, guiding the Lady Cardinals to the NJCAA National Tournament as both a freshman and sophomore. She transferred to the University of Cincinnati to earn her undergraduate degree and then earned a master's degree at Detroit-Mercy. She is currently the assistant coach of the Eastern Michigan Lady Eagles basketball program.

Emanuel Newsome, PhD, (March 21, 1942 – May 24, 2025), a posthumous inductee, was a Gary, Indiana native and an outstanding basketball player and scholar. At Gary Roosevelt High School, he excelled in both basketball and track, eventually inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. At Western Michigan, he became one of the most prolific scorers in college basketball history – leading the entire nation in scoring in his senior season.

Newsome earned his doctorate degree in Counseling & Psychological

Services in Higher Education from Indiana State University and eventually served as the Dean of Students at the University of Toledo. He is the father of inductee Eric Newsome.

John L. Edwards, Sr. a high school football player at Scott High School, has earned emeritus status with the African American Sports Legends Hall of Fame because of his vision, leadership and contributions to sports and community advancement.

Edwards is a former Assistant Law Director for the City of Toledo, then an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

Ralph Lewis is the primary author of the African American Sports Legends By-Laws. Also a Scott graduate where he was an outstanding athlete in football, basketball and baseball, he was First Team All-City and All-State in basketball.

Lewis was an Assistant Law Director for the City of Toledo and an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

After the Hospitality Reception on Friday, the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Jerusalem Baptist Church. As always, and appropriately, Tom Cole, former athlete, longtime sports broadcaster and community ambassador for Taylor Automotive hosted the ceremony.

Cole's background and broadcasting experience adds quite a lot to the ceremony since he has covered the exploits of a number of inductees. This year in addition, he had played against at least one of the inductees and his niece had played on the same team with another.

Opening the ceremony, Cole cited some lines from a favorite poem of his – Robert Frost's "Mending Wall."

"In our society, breaking down fences is a good thing," said Cole. "Moving forward and lifting our community is what Bobby [Robert Smith] and the African American Sports Legends committee do – breaking down fences and lifting people up; you are a community that is breaking down fences and allowing people in."

Singer Vickie Simpson added to the attendees' enjoyment of the ceremony with a number of songs suitable to the occasion including "The Black National Anthem" and "You're Number One," by Gladys Knight.

Robert Smith, founder and director the African American Legacy Project, has been the driving force behind the AALP and the AA Sports Legends.

June 27...continued from page 11

Service Commission offices for assistance, questions, or to see if you or your veteran family members qualify for the many resources offered, regardless of time in service, how long you have been out of service, or discharge status.

Veterans Service Commission

2555 Arlington Avenue

Toledo, OH 43614

Call Us

(419) 213-6090

Email: LCVSC@co.lucas.oh.us

For appointment information or consult with Bernadette Joy Graham, you may call the Maumee office at 419 866 8232 or the Toledo office at 419 578 2525

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American Psychological Association. (2017). Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Adults.

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Political Power of Black Music...continued from page 6

first national observance was Jan. 20, 1986, as the public law designated the third Monday in January as the annual federal holiday.

According to Time.com, "Wonder, described the purpose of the song in a 1984 UPI interview: 'I wanted to rekindle his principles in a song that would be good enough to publish, and strong enough to inspire people to remember the dream. I hope the song did what it was meant to do, but I think the feeling and desire were there for a long time before the song came out.'"

During Black Music Month, performers are often celebrated for their talent. But these iconic songs, We Shall Overcome and Happy Birthday, proved that Black music is much more than just entertainment. Black music is power.

This article is the fourth in a four-part series powered by AARP in commemoration of Black Music Month 2026.



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Divine Nine...continued from page 9

preme Court," he shared.

Duhart highlighted the many issues that are facing America currently in which the courts are crucial, from EdChoice, to civil rights, police policies and immigration.

"Judges, historically, have served as a check and balance on power. And what you are seeing right now at the federal level, as well as at the state level, is unchecked power. And so it matters who the judges are. And in particular, it matters who the judges are, who might be standing in the gap...as well as everyone in this room in your own individual capacity, it is important that you do everything you can."

"Certainly, we have been doing everything we can, and we're going to continue because that's just the way I'm built, and it's the way we all were built. We've never been given anything easy. There's nothing that ever has been a given. And so that's just what we're going to do."

He concluded, "The one thing you do know and should know is I will never, ever take for granted who I am, where I came from, and what my experiences are. That is the point of all of this."

Speakers for the evening included Pastor Brehon Hall, senior pastor of Greater New Psalmist Church; Calvin Burney, PhD, president of the Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Nicole Duhart.

Judge is a native of Toledo, Ohio. He is the proud father of three and has been married to wife Nicole for 29 years. His father served this country in the Vietnam War and his mother was a teacher for Toledo Public Schools for many years.

Duhart grew up in the central city. He graduated from St. Francis De Sales High School and after graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was later commissioned as a lieutenant in the Army Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG). His career service in the Army included Operation Desert Shield and duty assignments in Missouri, Virginia and the Republic of Panama.

While serving his country he earned a B.A. in Political Science from Wright State University and went on to receive his J.D. from the University of Toledo College of Law. Judge Duhart received a L.L.M. in judicial studies from Duke University School of Law and he attended the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Prior to judicial service, Judge Duhart clerked for the Honorable Robert W. Penn and was in private practice for many years in the areas of business litigation, crimi-

nal law and personal injury. Throughout his legal career, he litigated a number of high-profile criminal cases all over northwest Ohio and was one of a select cadre of attorneys certified by the State of Ohio to handle death penalty cases.

In January 2011, Judge Duhart was appointed by former Governor Ted Strickland to replace Judge Charles Doneghy as one of 10 judges who serve on the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas bench. In addition to hearing serious felony criminal cases and large civil cases, Judge Duhart has served as a commercial docket judge hearing cases dealing with business-related disputes. In 2020, Judge Duhart was elected to the Court of Appeals where he serves as presiding judge.

Judge Duhart is the past president of the Toledo Bar Association, University of Toledo College of Law Board of Governors, Thurgood Marshall Law Association, and is a member of the Lucas County Bar Association, and the Ohio State Bar Association where he serves on the Ohio Bar Council of Delegates for District 4 (Lucas, Ottawa and Sandusky counties).

For many years Judge Duhart has been actively involved in the community in various capacities. He is a past board member of the Northwest Ohio Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, the Salvation Army, and Mercy Health System Board of Directors. He presently serves on the UT Paralegal Studies Advisory Board, Old News Boys Ray T. Kest Scholarship Committee and the University of Toledo Foundation Board of Directors.

Among numerous community awards, Judge Duhart was recognized by the United Auto Workers (UAW) Civil and Human Rights Action Committee. In 2022, Judge Duhart was recognized as a "Distinguished Alum" for the University of Toledo College of Law. In 2023, he was recognized by both ABLE and LAWO for his distinguished service in the fight for equal justice. Recently, Bishop Daniel Thomas and the Catholic Diocese of Toledo awarded him the Martin Luther King - Drum Major Award given to those who exemplify the life and works of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

As an Army veteran, Judge Duhart served this country with distinction. As an attorney he worked tirelessly to protect the rights afforded to citizens both rich and poor. As a volunteer, he has unselfishly devoted his time and talent to a wide variety of causes. As a judge on the 6th District Court of Appeals he will continue to act with fairness and integrity.

To learn more about Judge Duhart or to support his campaign visit judgeduhart.com

The Sojourner's Truth A MOMENT OF TRUTH

THE
LOCAL
THREAD

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Public Media

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



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 (MHRSB) 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.oh.gov no later than July 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET. For complete RFP specifications and submission criteria, visit www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/.



第二次公告 住房选择券 (HCV) 管理计划

卢卡斯大会区住房管理局 (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, 投递邮箱: 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@toledo.urban.net

The African American Sports Legends 2026 Hall of Fame Induction

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

This past weekend the African American Sports Legends Hall of Fame welcomed 10 inductees and offered Toledoans several opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of local sports heroes.

On Friday evening, June 26, the 2026 HOF honorees were feted at the annual Sports Legends Smoker and Hospitality Reception at The Pinnacle in Maumee. Visitors were able to view memorabilia from the inductees' athletic careers ahead of the reception and later hear them speak of their lives and accomplishments.

This year's theme was "Putting in the Work," an appropriate reminder of that each inductee had achieved his or her status and accomplishments in basketball, football, track and field and in the classroom through hard work, dedication and perseverance – on and off the field.

This year's inductees are: Abraham "Abe" Steward; Anthony "Scoop" Williams; Eric Newsome; Jazlyn Davis; Kevin Jamaal Koger; Lance Price; Shareese Ulis-McBrayer.



Shareese Ulis-McBrayer tries on her induction blazer

In addition to the Hall of Fame honorees, special recognition was given to three individuals whose contributions were important in shaping athletics and community in the northwest Ohio area.



Committee members



Robert Smith



Robert Smith and Tom Cole listen to Anthony Williams after his induction



Vickie Simpson



Eric Newsome's HOF jacket fits perfectly



Emanuel "Manny" Newsome, PhD, was inducted posthumously and founding African American Sports Legends members Ralph Lewis and John Edwards received emeritus status.

Abraham "Abe" Steward developed his hoops skills at Libbey High School and, after high school, entered Casper College in Casper, Wyoming, competing against top junior college talent. He then entered Jacksonville University during a time when that college was competing at the highest Division I level.

Steward continued playing professionally overseas after college, including a six-year stint in the Brazilian International professional league. A Brazilian reporter once called him the best American professional basketball player he had ever seen.

Anthony "Scoop" Williams was a standout basketball player at Scott High School, emerging as one of the city's most dominant players under Coach Ben Williams. He earned All-City, All-State and High School All-American honors in 1990 and was a cornerstone of that year's Scott Bulldogs State Championship team.

He continued playing basketball at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M before transferring to the University of Toledo, excelling on the court and in the classroom. He launched a successful 14-year international career competing in multiple countries.

Eric Newsome, a 1983 graduate of Rogers High School, earned First Team All-City honors in basketball as a sophomore. He repeated that accomplishment in the next two years sharing Co-Player of the Year honors with Dennis Hopson in 1982. He finished his high school career as the City League's all-time leading scorer.

Newsome was also First Team All-City in cross country, and a standout scholar, graduating fourth in a class of 587 with a 3.9 GPA. At Miami University, he earned All-MAC honors, finishing as the program's second all-time leading scorer.

Jazlyn Davis, a standout basketball player at Bowsher High School, built a reputation as an elite scorer, dynamic

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Community violence shakes us all and can leave deep ripple effects.

Whether you have a direct connection or are feeling the weight from afar, your feelings are valid.

You don't have to carry it alone.



Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHRSB) is dedicated to ensuring all residents have a pathway to the care they need.



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