



Volume 96 No. 5

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

July 29, 2026

In This Issue...

Perryman
Page 2

Ben Jealous
Page 3

Cover Story:
Judge Nicole Khoury
Page 5

Masons Helping Others
Page 7

Competition Corvettes
Helping Others
Page 8

Buffalo Soldiers Honored
for Helping Others
Page 8

Brenda Singletary's Art at
20 North
Page 9

LadderUp Upcoming Event
Page 10

Book Review
Page 13

What's Happening in Toledo
Page 14

Classifieds
Page 15

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Graduation Ceremony
Page 16

Judge Nicole Khoury's Driver's License Clinic



Judge Khoury Teams with Toledo Urban FCU to Restore Driving Privileges

Where the Race Is Won

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

The [person] who can drive himself further once the effort gets painful is the [person] who will win.

- Roger Bannister



The bell has rung on the 2026 midterms as just under 100 days remain. In distance racing, this is the moment — the final lap, when the finishing kick either comes or it doesn't.

I ran cross country in high school — competitively, well enough to stay in contention deep into a 5K or 10K — but I never developed the kick. In distance running, the kick is the final exhausting push over the final 400 to 800 meters when the body is trying to persuade you to quit—the runners who win drive past the pain threshold while others fade or coast. As a runner, back then I would get close enough to win, but the extra gear just wasn't there. Not because I was a slouch. Because I hadn't built what the moment required.

Under 100 days from now, Democrats will either find their kick, or they don't. The polling says their lead is real. The question is whether the people leading the race know how to finish.

What the Polls Are Actually Saying

A July 2026 Emerson College Polling survey of likely voters gives Democrats an 11-point advantage on the generic congressional ballot — 53 to 42. Other polling firms put the lead closer to 5 to 7 points. Emerson tracked Democrats up by 10 in April, up by 10 in June, and now up by 11, according to political strategist Ron Dworkin. Three months holding means the lead is real. It does not mean the lead is safe.

Women are driving the number. Democratic women break for their candidacy by 27 points — 56 to 39. Men are a coin flip at 49 to 44. In a midterm decided one suburban district at a time, the people showing up in those suburbs are women. That 27-point margin is parked exactly on top of the seats Democrats have to win. Whether the lead is 11 points or 5, neither number is a coast. Both demand a kick.

Who Is Already Kicking — and Who Is Waiting

In distance racing, the tactical question is never just whether you have a kick. It is when you throw it. Go too early, and you die before the finish line. Go too late, and the gap is already too great to close the distance. Get the timing right, and you take the race from someone who thought they had it won.

In the Ohio gubernatorial race, Vivek Ramaswamy is already in his kick.

He has been spending heavily on negative ads to brand Dr. Amy Acton as a democratic socialist — and with \$26.8 million cash on hand to her \$8.1 million, it appears he can sustain it. This is a runner who dashed to the front early and is daring the field to answer.

Is Ramaswamy making his move too soon, burning his legs with under 100 days out? Or does he know exactly when to go?

Dr. Acton, meanwhile, is running a more conservative race. Two Toledo political observers raise the same concern independently — she hasn't moved to the center yet, and the clock is running. One put it plainly: if she can't match him dollar for dollar, the play is to ignore the attack ads and hope voters aren't tuned in yet — then get out and scrap when the money comes in.

Acton has an opening others don't. Former President Barack Obama won from the left by getting to the center without a voting record to block him in. Acton, as a former appointed official rather than a legislator, has that same lane. Her lieutenant governor, David Pepper, holds the left flank. The question is whether she moves to the center before Ramaswamy's mud sticks.

Where the Race Is Won

Who controls the Ohio governor's mansion and who holds the power of the U.S. House and Senate in January determines whether Toledo's needs get a hearing or get passed over.

As a former runner, I was Acton — running a disciplined race, staying in contention, waiting for the kick that, by the time I needed it, wasn't enough. The deficit wasn't insurmountable. The gear just wasn't built.

The kick doesn't appear on demand. You train for it, you time it, and you throw it before you think you're ready. Under 100 days is exactly enough time — but only if Acton goes now.

Under 100 days is a bell lap, not a cool-down. You do not pace yourself to the finish — you sprint through the finish. Run like you're behind.

The lead does not matter if the people who built that lead ease up before the tape.

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

Consumer Cellular

**BIG WIRELESS
COVERAGE, WITHOUT
BIG WIRELESS COST.**

Plans start at just \$20/month.

Switch & Save Today.

855-414-0443

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations.

The Sojourner's Truth

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor

Dawn Scotland - Reporter

Asia Nail - Reporter

Alexandria Leatherberry - Reporter

Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz – Webmaster

Jessica Crans - Layout

A Certified MBE

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

Phone 419-243-0007

thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

You Are Already Paying for the AI Boom

Some states made data centers pay their own way. Others handed the bill to you. Virginia settled this question in 1882.

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

Pull up your electric bill. Somewhere in that number, you are paying for a building you will never enter.

Data centers are going up everywhere. They need enormous amounts of electricity. Somebody must pay to connect them and build the plants and lines they need.

In state after state, that somebody is you.

Not everywhere. Texas requires the largest new power users to pay more of their connection costs and cut demand when the grid is strained. The data centers came anyway.

Ohio now makes large new customers pay for much of the electricity they reserve, whether they use it or not. Projections for new demand then fell sharply. Much of the emergency was companies holding space they might never fill.

Virginia chose differently. It gives data centers a tax break on their equipment. Good Jobs First estimates that subsidy cost Virginia schools \$267 million in one year.

Illinois lawmakers let a similar bill die without a vote.

Neither list sorts cleanly by party. Before you file this as a new problem, meet my great-great-grandfather. Edward David Bland was born into slavery in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, in 1848. Thirty-one years later, he was helping write that state's laws.

He served three terms in the House of Delegates and sat on the Committee on Schools and Colleges. That was not a coincidence. That was the point.

Virginia was fighting over debt borrowed before the Civil War for canals and railroads. With interest, it had passed \$45 million.

One side said pay every penny, whatever it took. They were called the Funders.

Here is what it was taking.

Virginia was starving its public schools to pay bondholders. The bondholders lived in New York and London. The children lived in Petersburg and Danville.

The other side said the debt would be paid, but not out of the schoolhouse. They were the Readjusters. Black and white together. Farmers, freedmen and a former Confederate general named William Mahone.

A man born into slavery and a man who wore gray were counting the same



votes on one floor. They ran Virginia for four years. In 1882, they cut the state's share of the debt by roughly a third and refinanced the rest over 50 years.

Then they spent the difference. They put money back into public schools. They funded schools with Black teachers. They repealed the poll tax. They tore down the whipping post.

The Readjusters knew something we forgot. Whoever profits should not get to send the bill to whoever cannot say no.

I am not against data centers. This country cannot afford to fall behind in artificial intelligence, and the reasons are not all about money.

I am against making working families subsidize the world's richest companies.

It does not always take a governor. A small town in Illinois capped a data center's water use, with penalties if it went over.

A town council did that. Now let me tell you how the Readjusters lost. That is the part we forget.

They were not beaten on the debt. They won that argument. In October 1883, their opponents warned that Black residents of Danville had gained too much power. On November 3, market day, a street fight became a shooting. Five men died. Four were Black.

For three days, armed white men walked the streets and kept Black Virginians from the polls. The election came that week. Democrats took both houses.

They never took the schools back. The new legislature left the school money alone. It left the whipping post gone. It left the debt settled.

They did not undo the policy. They undid the voters.

In 1902, a new state constitution stripped most Black Virginians of the ballot for more than 60 years. They were not defeated by a better plan. They were defeated by a campaign that made white farmers fear Black farmers more than the men taking money from both.

It is the cheapest trick in American politics, and it has never once been out of stock. The people paying for these deals live in Loudoun County and Memphis, in white towns in Iowa and Black neighborhoods in Atlanta, in union halls and farmhouses.

They are already paying the same bill. They just have not been asked to fight it together.

Somebody will work hard to make sure they never do.

My great-great-grandfather learned his letters at a night school for freedmen after the war. He was 17. Then he sat on the committee that funded schools so other children would not wait.

He knew exactly what a school was worth. Go find out what your state did. Then find out who let it happen.

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

Community Calendar

August 1

The Warren A.M.E. Church 2026 Matthew Project FREE Community Giveaway Event; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a variety of activities, including FREE clothes, commodities, food baskets, music, games, fun, and more.

United Vision Baptist Church 13th Annual Community Day: Wilson Park; 9 am to 3 pm; A Day of Hope, Healthy and Unity; Backpacks distributed, health screens, vendors, haircuts, food trucks, raffles

August 2

University of Cincinnati Freshman Class Meet and Greet; BJ Restaurant; 2 pm; An opportunity to see who's headed to UC with you

August 8

Toledo Tanga Sister Cities monthly meeting on the second Saturday at Jera's Heavenly Sweet Bakery 3059 Bancroft at 11 am. Come and help us plan the next International Drone Academy for students.

August 15

Toledo Black Men's Wellness Day: Scott High School; 7 am to noon; Organized by the African American Male Wellness Agency (AAMWA), this free community event is part of a national initiative to promote health equity, prevention, and wellness for Black men and their families

August 22

Sisters 4 Unity Fourth Annual Communities Against Gun Violence March & Unity Day; Smith Park; March begins at 10 am; Bringing together survivors, families, residents, elected officials, community organizations, resource agencies and other partners for a day of remembrance, healing, connection, resources and community unity

Need a Loan? Think Glass City!

- Mortgage Loans
- Home Equity Loans & Lines of Credit
- Home Improvement Loans
- Vehicle Loans
- Personal Loans
- Visa Credit Cards

**GLASS CITY
FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION**

Toledo • Maumee • Bowling Green
419-887-1000 • glasscityfcu.com

Loans & credit cards subject to credit approval & membership eligibility. NMLS ID #445858.



We're working for you!

Junction Coalition Presents Lead and Housing Symposium

The Truth Staff

On Thursday and Friday, July 23 and 24, the Junction Coalition presented "Unleaded: Our Homes, Our Children, Our Future," a two-day discussion on the impact on lead paint poisoning on the community – and what steps can be taken to eliminate the threat.

Lead paint was declared illegal in 1978, however, 80 percent of homes in Toledo were built before that year so the threat is quite ongoing after all these years.

On Thursday, after registration, welcome and introduction, the keynote presentation was offered by Paul Allwood, PhD. Allwood is branch chief of the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Surveillance Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health in Atlanta, GA.

Allwood directs nationwide efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning and overseas surveillance, partnerships and program services that inform prevention policy and practice.

Allwood discussed his time at the CDC, the federal landscape of lead poisoning prevention and surveillance and his team's work with Lead Free Communities.

Thursday's presenters also included: Gloria Smith of the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department who described the Health Department's lead process; Dr. Iris Castillo of Nationwide Children's Hospital who defined lead; Mounika Abbareddy of Women for a Healthy Environments who presented an overview of lead prevention poisoning prevention work in Allegheny County, PA; Drs. Matthew Tien and Olushola Fapo of Better Health Partnership who spoke about the possibilities of testing more kids and a collaborative approach to lead testing and Zachary Cofer and Kimberly Foreman of Environmental Health Watch who spoke about Cleveland's Lead Safe Resource Center, a one-stop shop for lead poisoning prevention.

Breakout sessions followed, then a Junction Coalition presentation about lead poisoning closed out the first day.

On Friday, attendees heard from Monica Smith of the City of Toledo; Candace Buckley of the Toledo Lead Resource Center and George Thomas, president and general counsel of the Fair Housing Center who all spoke about the Toledo Lead Ordinance. The central point of all three presentations was how government and community groups can work together to ensure that such ordinances are effective.

State Rep. Dontavious Jarrells of Cleveland was the keynote presenter for Day Two. As the state representative for District 1, Jarrells has pursued change-making work through the introduction of legislation related to lead poisoning prevention, namely Bill 307, which proposes the removal of all lead service lines across the state of Ohio.

A final panel Q & A followed consisting of Candace Buckley, Dr. Marilyn

Wood, George Thomas and Dr. Iris Castillo.

The following article is the opening address by Donald Wiggins, Jr on Day Two of the symposium!

The Day of the Unleaded Symposium

By Donald Wiggins, Jr, Junction Coalition Environmental Program Specialist
Guest Column

The author's remarks at the start of Day Two of the Unleaded Symposium organized by the Junction Coalition on July 23-24.



Donald Wiggins, Jr

Before there were statutes, there were songs. Before there were courtrooms, there were circles. Before there were maps, our ancestors followed rivers, stars with one sacred instruction we must not poison the path of the generations coming behind us.

Today, here in Toledo where the Maumee meets Lake Erie, water has shaped both our landscape and our destiny.

We gather to renew that ancient covenant.

Welcome to the Day of the Unleaded Symposium hosted by the Junction Coalition.

We are not gathered merely to hold another conference. We are gathered for a convening of conscience.

We are gathered because there are moments when information must become action, When concern must become courage, and when a community must rise together and declare that what is preventable is no longer acceptable.

Lead is a silent thief. Lead does not knock before entering a home. It does not announce itself in the dust on a windowsill, the soil beneath a child's feet, or the water flowing from a familiar faucet.

Lead steals quietly from growing bodies, developing minds, family peace, household security, and futures that have not yet had the chance to unfold.

But although lead may be silent, we will not be!

We must not accept a world in which a child's health is determined by the age of their house, the condition of their neighborhood, or the boundaries of their zip code.

We will not accept preventable poisoning as the price of poverty.

We will not accept aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance, institutional neglect, or inadequate investment as excuses for diminishing the possibilities of even one child.

A safe home is not a luxury. Clean water is not a privilege. Healthy soil is not an amenity.

And the opportunity for every child to develop their full mind, body, imagination, and promise is not charity.

It is a birthright.

That is why today matters.

When we say unleaded, we mean more than the absence of a toxic metal.

We mean children whose futures remain intact.

We mean parents who no longer have to fear the faucet, the windowsill, the backyard, or the dust carried across the floor.

We mean residents who are not merely studied by institutions but respected as experts in the conditions of their own lives and empowered as authors of the solutions.

We mean workers trained, equipped, and paid, yes paid; to restore the communities they call home.

We mean public officials willing to use public power—public power [emphasis public power]—for public protection.

We mean scientists sharing knowledge, advocates demanding accountability, funders moving resources, institutions abandoning excuses, and neighbors standing together across every line that once kept us apart.

That is the power of a coalition, and it is the power embodied by the Junction Coalition.

A junction is more than a neighborhood. A junction is a place of meeting. It is where roads converge, where currents join, and where people arriving from different directions decide to move forward together.

At this junction in our history, the past and the future have come face to face.

The past has brought us poisoned paint, contaminated soil, aging pipes, disinvestment, and generations of promises too often delayed.

But the future has brought something stronger into this room:

... continued on page 8

**STOP WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED.
START GETTING BOOKED.**

AGENCY OPEN CALL & INTAKE
DIRECT AGENCY SCOUTING | PORTFOLIO UPDATES | CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

**DIRECT
SCOUTING BY:**

**Xi
Models**
Expressions International
Model Management

**SEEKING
NEW FACES
FOR AGENCY
CONTRACTS.**



**UNPRECEDENTED
EXPOSURE**

1 TV SEGMENTS ON:

**ROKU
INFUSE**
NETWORK
Fashion Glamour
Network (FCN)

2 PRINT FEATURES IN:

**The Sojourner's
Truth**
Model of the Week

3 PRO PORTFOLIO BY:

Virgilio Baker.com
Photographic Services

BI-WEEKLY POP-UP SERIES | LAMBERTVILLE, MI & TOLEDO, OH

LOCATION: Studio 743 @ 8050 Summerfield Rd. Lambertville, MI

**NOW ACCEPTING:
All experience levels & Dancers!**
VirgilioBaker.com/Contact



One License, One Chance, One New Beginning: Judge Nicole Khoury Helps Toledo Residents Find Their Way Forward

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Sometimes hope doesn't arrive with a grand speech or sweeping legislation. Sometimes it fits inside a wallet.

For hundreds of Northwest Ohio residents, that hope comes in the form of a *valid driver's license*.

To many, it's just another card tucked away until it's needed. But for someone who's been without one for years, it's the difference between getting to work or losing a job, making it to a doctor's appointment or missing one, picking up a child from school or depending on someone else for a ride. It's dignity. It's independence. It's another chance.



Judge Nicole Khoury

That's why Toledo Municipal Court Judge Nicole Khoury has made driver's license restoration one of her signature missions. Through her courtroom and a growing partnership with Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (TUF-CU), she is helping people untangle legal obstacles that have kept them stuck for years, opening doors to employment, stability and a fresh start.

"It's a whole new key to freedom in a different kind of way that people don't even understand until they have it," Khoury says.

The numbers tell part of the story. The people tell the rest.

Since taking the bench, more than 1,000 people have walked out of Khoury's courtroom with valid drivers' licenses. Every year, approximately 150 to 220 people regain the legal ability to drive, along with the freedom to get to work, care for their families and begin writing a different chapter of their lives.

For Khoury, every restored license is more than a legal document. It's proof that sometimes changing a life begins by removing just one barrier.

That same philosophy now extends beyond the courthouse walls. The newer drivers' license clinics hosted with TUF-CU are already making an impact, with a dozen participants regaining their driving privileges during the program's first few months, while many others have begun clearing up court matters, reducing fines and taking the steps needed to get back on track.

From Public Defender to Judge

For Khoury, the mission did not begin when she became a judge.

Long before her election in 2017 and her first day serving Toledo Municipal Court in 2018, she spent years standing beside people during some of the hardest moments of their lives. She began her legal career in the Maumee Municipal Court Prosecutor's Office before serving as a public defender and criminal defense attorney. Along the way, she represented thousands of clients, gaining a firsthand understanding of the challenges many individuals and families face long before they ever step into a courtroom.

"I developed a love for criminal defense and the whole idea of protecting people's constitutional rights," she says. "It's nice to have somebody who's been a public defender on the bench. It gives a different perspective."

That perspective has shaped the way she approaches justice. Rather than seeing every case as a finish line, Khoury often sees it as a starting point. She recalls helping people restore their licenses as a young attorney and simply

carried that same passion with her when she became a judge.

"I just carried over what I used to always do," she explains. "I just do it under the bench now versus as an attorney."

Why a Driver's License Matters So Much

The challenge, she shares, is that losing a driver's license often creates problems that reach far beyond transportation.

"You want to keep people working, but you can't keep them working if they can't drive to work," she says.

She points to situations where suspended licenses can make it nearly impossible for people to maintain employment, pay child support or meet other legal obligations. Instead of solving one problem, people often find themselves buried beneath several more.

"Sometimes, people can end up stuck in a cycle that feels almost impossible to get out of," Khoury says.

Her approach is rooted in both compassion and accountability, helping people find a way forward while reminding them that they must take the steps needed to get there.

Meeting People Where They Are

The clinics held at Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union are intentionally designed to meet people where they are. Instead of asking residents to walk into a courthouse they may fear, Khoury brings the court into a familiar community setting alongside her public defender and the court's license intervention specialist.

"We want people to have a space where they feel safe to come in and walk in through doors," she says.

Participants leave with honest answers and a clearer understanding of what comes next. While the court can't make every legal issue disappear, Khoury and her team help where possible, work through court fines and payment plans, and map out the next steps toward getting a license back.

Khoury expects commitment in return.

"If I give you a court date, I expect you to show up," she says.

She believes meaningful change happens when opportunity meets personal responsibility.

"I always do my best to help," she says. "But personal responsibility is huge."

The Sticker Board That Tells a Bigger Story

Inside her courtroom hangs one of her favorite reminders of progress: a sticker board. Every time someone earns back a valid driver's license, they place a sticker on the board.

"It sounds juvenile," Khoury says with a laugh, "but it's actually pretty fun."

Those stickers represent far more than paperwork completed. They represent new jobs, family responsibilities fulfilled, appointments kept and confidence restored.

A Bipartisan Solution in a Divided Time

Khoury also recognizes that judges today serve during a challenging mo-

...continued on page 10

Worship EXPERIENCE

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

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

DO YOU QUALIFY?

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

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



1900 Monroe Street, Suite 108
 Toledo, OH 43604
 419.508.0806

930 W. Market Street
 Lima, OH 45805
 419.228.3361



Program subject to change with or without notice. Other restrictions may apply. Please see lender for complete details. Subject to credit approval.

*Actual amount applied at closing.

²Property must be located within one of the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, or Wood.

³Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

Maritime Academy Receives Donation for Culinary Arts Program

Special to The Truth

Maritime Academy of Toledo is proud to announce that Burkett Restaurant Equipment & Supplies, based in Perrysburg, Ohio, has generously donated a commercial combi oven to support its state-approved Culinary Arts Program. This professional-grade oven offers steam, combi-steam and hot-air cooking methods, providing students with hands-on experience using the same equipment found in commercial kitchens while learning a variety of culinary techniques on a single piece of equipment.

"We are incredibly grateful to Burkett Restaurant Equipment & Supplies for this generous investment in our students," said Misha Stredrick, EdD, superintendent of Maritime Academy of Toledo. "This opportunity allows our Culinary Arts students to gain valuable experience using professional-grade commercial equipment, helping them develop the skills and confidence needed for successful careers in the culinary industry while serving our school and community with some of the highest-quality tools available."

"This is exactly the kind of opportunity we look for when we talk about supporting our community," said Jameel Burkett, president and CEO of Burkett Restaurant Equipment & Supplies. "The Maritime Academy of Toledo is preparing students with real-world skills, and we're proud to play a small role in giving its culinary program another resource to help students learn, train, and grow."

Partnerships like this help transform classrooms into real-world learning environments where students build practical skills, confidence and a passion for their future careers. The Maritime staff and faculty extended their sincere appreciation to Burkett Restaurant Equipment & Supplies for



believing in their students and investing in the next generation of chefs and leaders.

Burkett Restaurant Equipment & Supplies has a longstanding commitment to giving back to the community through initiatives such as its annual Mike Burkett Memorial Golf Outing, which raises funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Their generosity continues to make a meaningful difference, both in the community and in the lives of Maritime's students.

Dr. Misha Stredrick

Superintendent, The Maritime Academy of Toledo

The Truth Colours Gallery

ART & CRAFT WORKSHOP

Painting, Crafting and Drawing!

check out the Gallery studio

STAY COOL

I LOVE STREET ART

7 East Bancroft St
Franklin n Bancroft

Facebook
The Truth Colours Gallery

Nikolacolours
347-286-9227

Toledo Police Chief Michael Troendle Announces Retirement; Assistant Chief Kevin Braun Named Next Chief of Police

Special to The Truth

After more than 32 years of dedicated service to the City of Toledo, Toledo Police Chief Michael Troendle has informed the City of his decision to retire. Chief Troendle's last day with the Toledo Police Department will be Nov. 1.

Chief Troendle has devoted his career to serving the residents of Toledo with professionalism, integrity and dedication. Throughout his career, he has held numerous leadership roles within the department and helped advance key initiatives, including the implementation of Intelligence-Led Policing and the development of the Toledo Police Department's Real-Time Crime Center.

"Serving as Chief of the Toledo Police Department has been one of the greatest honors of my career. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together and even more confident in where the department is headed. Kevin has the experience and leadership to guide this organization, and I know the department and



Chief Michael Troendle

... continued on page 7

Toledo Prince Hall Masonic Family Hosts 3rd Annual Back to School Drive

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Prince Hall Masonic Family held their third annual back to school drive Sunday, July 26th from 2-6pm at Octagon Hall (638 N. University Ave.) The event, which has grown to 400 bags since its inception, included free school supplies, food, ice cream and health screenings for the community.

Jerome Gordon, Junior Warden of Amazon Lodge No. 4, and co-chairman of the event stated, "We started out with 50 bookbags [in 2024], last year we had 150 and this year we're up to about 400 backpacks... the lines keep on getting bigger every year."

The event included donations from Local 500, Sheet Metal Union, Chick-fil-A and Five Below, with a grand total of about \$1500 in donations, he shared. ProMedica's Ronald McDonald Care Mobile and Explorers Academy were also onsite to provide additional resources.

Supplies included but were not limited to bookbags, notebooks, pencils, glue sticks, crayons, markers, highlighters, scissors and notebook paper all in an effort to ensure families have what they need to start the school year.

The event was hosted by Amazon Lodge No. 4 and the Toledo Prince Hall Masonic Family. The organizers of the event were co-chairmen Jerome Gordon, Junior Warden of Amazon Lodge No. 4 and Justin Powell, Senior Warden of Amazon Lodge No. 4.

More about Amazon Lodge No. 4

The Prince Hall Masons are the oldest and largest black fraternal organization in the nation dating back to 1784. In Toledo, the first Prince Hall lodge was created in 1864 later becoming the current Amazon Lodge No. 4 as it is today. The organization hosts many events throughout the year for the community, including awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships to local youth, a free bicycle give away, back to school drives and more.

Toledo Police Chief... continued from page 6

the community will be well served under his leadership," Chief Troendle said.

Following Chief Troendle's retirement, Assistant Chief Kevin Braun will become the next chief of the Toledo Police Department.

Braun has spent more than 25 years serving the Toledo Police Department. He has built a reputation for operational leadership, innovation and community engagement, with experience spanning nearly every major area of the department.

Braun joined the Toledo Police Department in December 2000 and has served in Field Operations, the Vice/Narcotics Section, the Public Information Unit, the Community Services Section and the Investigative Services Division. He has also served as a Critical Incident Negotiator and as a member of the department's Peer Support Team and Crisis Intervention Team, demonstrating his commitment to officer wellness, crisis response and community-centered policing.

Braun has advanced through every level of leadership, serving as sergeant, lieutenant, captain, deputy chief and assistant chief. A Toledo native and graduate of Libbey High School, he holds a Bachelor of Criminal Justice from Tiffin University, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Bowling Green State University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Braun has helped strengthen the department's digital communications strategy while expanding transparency and public engagement. His leadership experience includes patrol operations, criminal investigations, community policing, crisis communications, organizational development and strategic planning.

"I've spent my entire career with the Toledo Police Department, so this is both a tremendous honor and a responsibility I don't take lightly. Our officers and civilian employees are committed to serving this community, and I'm proud to lead them. My focus will be on supporting our people, working with our community and continuing to move this department forward," Assistant Chief Kevin Braun said.

"Chief Troendle has served Toledo with distinction for more than three decades, and we are grateful for his leadership, dedication and service to our community. He leaves behind a strong foundation and a department that is positioned for continued success," Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz said.

"Kevin Braun has dedicated his career to the Toledo Police Department and understands the department, the officers who serve it and the community we protect. His experience, leadership and commitment to public service make him the right choice to lead the department forward. I look forward to working with Chief Braun as we continue our commitment to public safety and building trust with residents across Toledo," the Mayor said.

Chief Troendle and Chief Braun will work together through a planned 90-day transition period to ensure continuity of leadership and a seamless transition for the department.



Co-chairman Jerome Gordon, Junior Warden of Amazon Lodge No. 4 (standing) and Co-chairman Justin Powell, Senior Warden of Amazon Lodge No. 4 with Nicole Robinson of Explorers Academy



Members of the Toledo Prince Hall Masonic Family



Family at book bag drive



Prince Hall Masons pass out school supplies



Members of the Toledo Prince Hall Masonic Family at the grill



Line forms outside of Octagon Hall

Glasses on the GO!

- or in the office

Personalized • Professional • Hassle-Free

- LICENSED PROFESSIONAL**
Years of Experience You Can Trust
- ONE-ON-ONE**
Eyewear Styling
- MOBILE & IN-OFFICE**
Appointments
- PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES**
& Sunglasses
- SEVERAL LENS STYLES, MATERIALS & TREATMENTS**
Available
- CALL OR TEXT**
419-754-0278

OptiGo™
Vision Care Advocate | Eyewear the Non-Traditional Way

NOW BOOKING APPOINTMENTS!

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

SCAN ME!

Buffalo Soldier Flag Raised at Government Center

The Truth Staff



The flag raising

July 28 is Buffalo Soldiers Day in Ohio, as per an order signed by Governor Mike DeWine in 2022. Toledo's Buffalo Soldiers celebrate the day every year but they do a lot more than simply celebrate special occasions. They have been, for quite a while now, a positive force in this community, working with youth, with seniors and focusing on issues such as gun violence prevention and working cooperatively with law enforcement officials.

The Lucas County Commissioners raised the Buffalo Soldiers' flag at Government Center once again this year on Wednesday, July 22, to honor their work in the community and the Buffalo Soldiers responded in kind by thanking the commissioners for their support of that work and presenting them with memorabilia such as Buffalo Soldiers' shirts and a plaque of recognition.

"The Buffalo Soldiers do some amazing work," said Lisa Sobecki, president of the Lucas County Board of Commissioners as she opened the ceremony. "They have an incredible impact on our community."

Sobecki recounted briefly the history of the Buffalo Soldiers noting that they began in 1866 as the first all-Black cavalry regiment and "served with honor, courage and discipline ... our Buffalo Soldiers in Toledo also serve with honor, courage and discipline each and every day."

She noted that the original soldiers "served a country that did not yet grant them full equality. [yet] they upheld our shared ideas of service and sacrifice."

Commissioner Pete Gerken added that the original soldiers were "commissioned to serve a country that didn't recognize their status right after the Civil War." Today, said Gerken, the Toledo soldiers "give youth an opportunity to engage with the community," as he spoke of the very recent activities the local group has undertaken – such as the Camp Wiakonda youth event the soldiers held two weeks ago.

"We do a lot of community service," said Earl Mack, post commander of the Toledo unit. "But we fly under the radar. But we cannot do this work without the support of our political leaders," he added as he and Fred LeFebvre, the unit's public information officer, presented the token of appreciation to the commissioner.

"We don't wait around to be asked, when we see a need, we try to fulfill that need," added LeFebvre summing up the approach of these modern local Buffalo Soldiers.



Commissioner Lisa Sobecki welcomes the Buffalo Soldiers



Earl Mack presents Buffalo Soldiers shirts to Commissioners Lisa Sobecki and Pete Gerken

Competition Corvette Club Visits Lott Industries

The Truth Staff

Nine members of the Competition Corvette Club Toledo visited Lott Industries on Thursday, July 23, to give the workers a chance to view the various Corvettes the members own and drive.

"We came up here to do community service, we do a lot for the community," said member Eugene Holmes.

The staff at Lott Industries requested the visit knowing what a thrill the view of the vintage automobiles would give the workforce during their lunch break.

Lott Industries is currently celebrating 70 years of service this year, helping people with develop-



Club members

mental disabilities in the area. The non-profit provides educational and job opportunities for those workers through partnerships.

"It does our heart proud to come up here," said



Club members and Lott Industries workers

Holmes. "This is part of our mission."

The automobile club was started by Seldon Hill in 1977 and the name was changed to Competition Corvette Club Toledo in 2005.



Admiring the Corvettes



Seldon Hill and Eugene Holmes

Unleaded Symposium.. continued from page 4

Us. Our knowledge. Our memory. Our organizing. Our love for our children. Our refusal to surrender another generation to a danger we already know how to prevent.

The old poets taught that there is a season for everything: a time to mourn and a time to build, a time to speak and a time to act.

This is our time to act. Let us be clear we have not come to admire the problem. We have come to end it!

We have come to join policy with purpose, science with community wisdom, law with justice, investment with accountability, and righteous urgency with the practical work of implementation.

Because vision without action is only a dream, action without the community is only another program destined to disappear. Life without vision is tyranny!

But vision joined with organized people, public resources, shared knowledge, and determined leadership—that is how history changes.

That is how poisoned houses become healthy homes.

That is how contaminated ground becomes living soil.

That is how aging infrastructure becomes a foundation for renewed trust.

That is how a city once burdened by lead can become a city that leads.

Imagine the Toledo we are preparing to build.

A Toledo where every child can crawl across the floor, A Toledo where every child can drink from the faucet, play in the yard, and breathe fresh crisp air in their own home without being placed in danger.

A Toledo where environmental health creates careers as well as protection, where public systems respond before families are harmed, and where the measure of progress is not how eloquently we de-

scribe injustice but how completely we remove it.

That future is not impossible. It is waiting for our courage. It is waiting for our cooperation. It is waiting for the decisions we begin making today. So let this symposium be more than an event. Let it be a declaration. Let it be the day we move from awareness to action, from programs to power, from fragmented efforts to collective purpose, and from managing preventable harm to eliminating it.

When future generations ask what we did when the evidence was before us, When the children were depending upon us, When the power to change their future was placed within our hands, let the answer echo across Toledo, space, and time. We gathered. We listened. We organized. We acted. We got the lead out.

Welcome to Day Two of the Unleaded Symposium. Let us begin.

"Brenda Singletary: We Hold These Truths ..." at 20 North Gallery

Special to The Truth

A solo exhibition of local artist Brenda Singletary's mixed-media paintings and textured canvases opened at 20 North Gallery on Saturday, July 11. The dozen and a half works of art are a celebration of Singletary's family's history and their civic and military service. The exhibition will run through September 19.

The "Brenda Singletary: We Hold These Truths ..." exhibit features the artist's "Love Letter to a Complicated Nation" series in which she combines photography, paint, wire, found objects, textured canvas and other fiber media. Singletary is sharing this body of all-new work of her family's history just as the nation is celebrating its semiquincentennial anniversary.

Brenda Singletary received her BA from Morris Brown College, an HBCU in Atlanta (Georgia) and received her MFA-IA from Goddard College (Plainfield, Vermont). A native of Detroit (Michigan), Singletary began her career working in public affairs for broadcast news in Atlanta, before embarking on her profession in the fine arts. She served for two years as a panel judge for the President's Commission on White House Fellows in Washington, D.C. and, in the category of ArtMaker, her oral history of family memories is included in the Library of Congress' HistoryMakers project, the digital repository for the Black experience.

Among her many art awards and grants are recognition from the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, Atlanta Business League, American Express, as well as The Golden Sable from The College Fund, Daimler-Chrysler Motion through Expression Award, an artist residency at Camac Centre d'Art in Marnay-sur-Seine (France) and a 2021 Merit Award and 2022 & 2024 Accelerator Grants from The Arts Commission (Toledo, Ohio), as well as solo exhibitions—most recently at the Savage Community Gallery of Toledo Museum of Art (Ohio) in 2024. Her work is represented in numerous corporate collections including AT&T, Ford Foundation, Fox Television, Kaiser-Permanente, Marriott and McDonald's Inc., among others. Her artwork forms part of the White House Collection and hangs in the conference room of the Whitehouse Fellows Administration Office.

Additionally, Singletary is an inaugural member of Detroit's "The Breakfast Club," a weekly networking session connecting artists to collectors in Southeast Michigan. She also serves as an arts instructor at the Toledo Museum of Art, as well as in her Downtown Toledo studio. She is a proud descendant of generations of U.S. military veterans.

Among her works on display at 20 North are several depicting photographs of real people, including some of her family, within abstract paintings. One such painting includes the only known photo of a Black Civil War veteran and his family.

In addition to the featured exhibit, 20 North Gallery also displays glass, sculpture, paintings and jewelry by noted artists of the region. Gallery hours are Wednesdays through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.



Brenda Singletary



HOME TO THE CLINIC ON ST. CLAIR



PHARMACY • ICE CREAM • SUNDRIES • MEDICAL CARE

DOC MARTIN'S
REMEDY SHOPPE & APOTHECARY

Now Open!

PHARMACY SERVICES

QUESTIONS & PRESCRIPTIONS:
419-720-7883, EXT. 1088

MEDICAL CARE

(WALK-INS WELCOME)

QUESTIONS & APPOINTMENTS:
419-720-7883, EXT. 1050 OR 1089

**SUNDRIES AND LOTS
OF GREAT ICE CREAM**

419-720-7887, EXT. 1056

ADDRESS

12 N. ST. CLAIR STREET
TOLEDO, OH 43604
419-720-7883

**HOURS OF
OPERATION:**

MEDICAL

MON.-THURS. 8 AM TO 5:30 PM
SAT. 8 AM TO NOON • SUN. CLOSED

PHARMACY

MON.-FRI. 9 AM TO 6 PM
SAT. 9 AM TO 1 PM • SUN. CLOSED



FREE PARKING AT GLASS CITY GARAGE!

Directions Credit Union and Louisville Title Highlight Partnership with LadderUp Housing as Organization Marks Major Growth Milestones

New mortgage readiness tool, lending facility, neighborhood reinvestment, and 100th home purchase underscore momentum in Toledo

As LadderUp Housing celebrates several major milestones—including its 100th home purchase, a new lending facility, and the public launch of its mortgage readiness tool—community partners Directions Credit Union and Louisville Title are highlighting the collaboration helping more Toledo families achieve homeownership.

LadderUp Housing is a Toledo-based organization helping residents become mortgage-ready and move from renting to owning homes in the neighborhoods where they already live, work, and build their lives.

LadderUp Housing recently purchased its 100th home, marking a significant milestone in the organization's ongoing efforts to expand housing access in Toledo. In addition, LadderUp closed on a new lending facility on July 1, further strengthening its ability to support future home purchases.

The organization has also launched its mortgage readiness tool publicly after onboarding current clients and signing its first employer partner, who will offer the tool to employees as a new financial wellness benefit. The tool is designed to help more people understand what it takes to prepare for homeownership and take concrete steps toward buying a home.

In another sign of local reinvestment, renovations are set to begin soon on a home in Toledo's Englewood neighborhood using Directions Credit Union funds. The area has been identified by the City of Toledo as a neighborhood where additional investment is being encouraged, making the project part of a broader effort to support revitalization and homeownership in the city.

"We're fortunate to work with community partners who share our belief that homeownership can be a catalyst for stability, opportunity, and neighborhood reinvestment," said Tom Voutsos, founder and CEO of LadderUp Housing. "Directions Credit Union and Louisville Title have been important partners in helping us create real pathways for families to move from renting to owning and to stay rooted in the communities they love."

"LadderUp Housing is creating a practical, thoughtful pathway to homeownership for families who may have thought it was out of reach," said Barry Shaner, President and CEO of Directions Credit Union. "We're proud to support work that not only helps people buy homes, but also strengthens neighborhoods and creates long-term stability for families across Toledo."

"Homeownership is part of the American Dream, but for many families, the path isn't always straightforward," said Jen Burnor of Louisville Title. "That's why we're grateful to stand alongside LadderUp Housing as they help more families become mortgage-ready, purchase homes, and put down deeper roots in the neighborhoods they already call home."

For residents participating in the program, the impact is personal.

"Before LadderUp Housing, I was nervous about the idea of homeownership because I wasn't sure it was possible for me," said a LadderUp Housing resident. "Working with my coaches has helped me understand my credit, create a budget, and build a plan that's bringing me closer to owning the home I'm living in. For the first time, I can truly picture myself becoming a homeowner."

Together, Directions Credit Union, Louisville Title, and LadderUp Housing are demonstrating how community partnerships can expand access to homeownership while strengthening neighborhoods across Toledo.

For more information about Directions Credit Union, visit <https://directionscu.org/>.

For more information about Louisville Title, visit <https://louisvilletitle.com/>.

For more information about LadderUp Housing, visit <https://www.ladderuphousing.com/>.

LadderUp Housing is a Toledo-based nonprofit organization working to expand access to homeownership by helping individuals and families become mortgage-ready and achieve long-term housing stability. Through community partnerships, financial education, home rehabilitation, and innovative homeownership pathways, LadderUp Housing helps residents build wealth, strengthen neighborhoods, and create lasting roots in the communities they call home.

DeFlame

C A N D L E S

TOLEDO MADE

SOY CANDLES

INCENSE

BODY OILS

ROOM SPRAYS

REED DIFFUSERS & MORE

*Crafted with premium
fragrance and essential oil blends.*

**Now Located at
3 E. Bancroft Street**

DeFlame Candles

deflamecandle.com

419-973-3263

One License.. continued from page 5

ment when public frustration often spills into courtrooms.

"Judges aren't political, nor should we be," she says. "I'm just trying to get people their licenses and help people be better."

She believes practical solutions often create the strongest communities.

"I believe if we can help people become better versions of themselves and give them something to work toward, then we create stronger communities with less crime," Khoury says. "When people have hope for their own lives, they have more to protect and more to work for."

That belief influences how she sentences many cases. Rather than relying solely on punishment, she frequently creates opportunities for defendants to earn reduced sentences by completing treatment, restoring their licenses or following through on court-ordered goals.

The approach reflects a simple philosophy: people are more likely to succeed when someone believes they can.

The People's Court

As Toledo continues searching for ways to build safer neighborhoods and stronger families, Khoury believes the municipal court occupies a unique position.

"Municipal Court is what I would call the people's court," she says. "We have the ability to help people stop the cycle of crime in their lives and their families."

She hopes every person who leaves her courtroom walks away with something many never expected to find inside a courthouse.

"I want people to know that court doesn't have to be a scary place," she says. "It can be a place where we can get things done together and make people's lives better."

Her message is not built around politics or headlines. It is built around trust.

"What I tell people all the time is, 'If you trust me, I'll trust you. Don't give me a reason not to trust you,'" Khoury says.

For every new sticker added to the board, another door quietly opens. A person returning to work after years of obstacles. Someone rebuilding confidence after feeling stuck. Someone taking back a piece of independence they thought they had lost.

Because sometimes changing a community doesn't start with a sweeping solution. Sometimes it starts with one person, one opportunity, and a valid driver's license.

Stay connected with TUFCU's Facebook page for future driver's license clinic announcements and resources.



WGTE Announces Learn & Play Treasure Chests

New Initiative Focuses on Early Childhood Learning and Kindergarten Readiness Standards

WGTE Public Media believes every child should begin school ready to learn. WGTE's latest early learning initiative, Learn & Play Treasure Chests, is designed to provide teachers, parents and caregivers with tools and materials that set children up for success in school and beyond.

The initiative employs an innovative approach to early childhood learning. Each Learn & Play Treasure Chest includes books, hands-on activities and guided links to PBS KIDS content. Through professional development classes, teachers will receive practical instruction tips and resources to integrate materials into their classrooms, using a curriculum aligned to Ohio Department of Early Learning Stan-

Standards.

In addition, WGTE will host a series of Family Learning Nights that engage parents and children together, strengthening family bonds and improving children's kindergarten readiness.



"We know children love PBS KIDS programming," said Tina Bossenbroek, WGTE's Director of Educational Services, "so integrating characters with whom they share a connection makes learning even more engaging for them. This initiative also transforms the family learning experience, as parents are given both the tools and the confidence to help improve their children's literacy, math skills, physical development and social-emotional learning. We're very excited to see the many ways these Treasure Chests inspire young minds."

Learn & Play Treasure Chests address a vital need for effective educational programming at the pre-kindergarten level. In Lucas County, only 20 percent of children enter kindergarten ready to read, with readiness rates lowest among children facing economic hardship. Kindergarten readiness is a powerful predictor of long-term academic achievement, health and economic stability. Research consistently demonstrates that high-quality early childhood academic programming improves cognitive development, strengthens emotional regulation and promotes lifelong healthy behaviors.

The first Learn & Play Treasure Chests have been made available to preschools supported by HOPE Toledo. Additional Learn & Play Treasure Chests will be directed toward preschools that have a demonstrated need for support and access to high-quality educational materials.

The Learn & Play Treasure Chests initiative was made possible with funding from the PNC Foundation, Elyria Charities, Inc., and a 2026 Growth & Resilience Grant from the John Henry Eldred, Jr. Foundation.

WGTE Public Media, licensed and operated by the Public Broadcasting Foundation of Northwest Ohio, is a non-profit, non-commercial, educational TV and radio broadcaster and center of learning for northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. WGTE is proud to be a PBS and NPR member station. From our entertaining, informative and educational programs that air on WGTE TV and FM 91 to educational outreach and community engagement activities, WGTE makes northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan a better place to live. For more information, visit www.wgte.org.

On Black Women's Equal Pay Day, Black Women's Roundtable Releases Results of 10th Annual Power of the Sister Vote Bill

Poll Provides a Snapshot of How Black Women Have Been Faring Since the Rollback of DEI and In the Midst of an Uncertain Economic Climate

Special to The Truth

At a virtual morning press briefing streamed by media partner, The Root, which kicked off Black Women's Equal Pay Day, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) and Black Women's Roundtable (BWR) released the 10th Annual Power of the Sister Vote Poll findings.

At a time in which 600,000 Black women have been disconnected from the workforce and when affordability is at the center of concern of millions for Americans, this year's poll provides critical insight on how Black women are faring in this economy; how issues like unequal pay impact their lives; and the degree to which these issues and others are affecting their political decision-making.

States Melanie L. Campbell, President & CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and National Convener of the Black of the Black Women's Roundtable, "We found it most appropriate that we release this poll today, on 'Black Women's Equal Pay Day' because Black women have never been paid what their true value has been to America. And now, with the attacks on DEI and a faltering economy, we are truly suffering.

"On the top line, the poll shows that pay inequity has a face; that of a Black woman. The poll shows that the DEI cuts have carried a human cost. The economic strain is wide-ranging, touching food insecurity and healthcare. Also, we have found that Black women without degrees face more hardships with regard to day-to-day existence. And education really offers limited protection, with there being greater strains, more pay discrimination and more exposure to DEI cuts. However, we have also found that young Black women stay very hopeful. With this, we remain encouraged and resilient."

Speakers included Melanie Campbell, President & CEO, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and National Convener, Black Women's Roundtable; Katrina Gamble, Pollster, Sojourn Strategies; Avis Jones-DeWeever, Ph.D. - Principal, Nouveaux Strategies; Mikhela Sherrod, Ph.D. -

... continued on page 12

DIXIE Auto Leasing
Toledo, OH

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

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS

Welcome Home to Sylvan Lakes Apartments!

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

Sylvan Lakes
Apartment Homes

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

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union

Local Lending
Lasting Relationships

Whatever your next step, we have a loan to help you get there.

From vehicles and homes to education and personal expenses, our affordable lending options and local service make financing simple.

Contact Us
(419) 255-8876
info@toledourban.net

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
Building Better Futures

From The Mall To The Music With TARTA's Glass City JazzFest Express

Glass City JazzFest is celebrating five years of bringing nationally known and world renowned music acts to Toledo, and The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) is thrilled to help connect fans with Toledo's past, present and future in jazz music.

JazzFest takes place over two days, with music Friday, August 14 from 6-10:30 p.m. at the Toledo Zoo Amphitheater and Saturday, August 15 from 1 p.m. to sunset at Glass City Metropark.

TARTA's Glass City JazzFest Express offers transportation from two park-and-ride stops to Saturday's event. Beginning at 12:30 p.m. on August 15, buses at both Franklin Park Mall and The Docks (20 Main Street) will be running directly to this event, which is expected to draw 8,000 people to the park. This service is free courtesy of sponsors and event organizers.

Trips from TARTA's Royer Road stop at Franklin Park Mall to Glass City Metropark will operate every 30 minutes until 8:30 p.m. The last return shuttles to Franklin Park and The Docks will depart the event at 10:20 p.m.

TARTA's shuttle from the parking lot at The Docks to the event will also include a stop at the Glass City Enrichment Center (815 Front Street), where those with wheelchairs or mobility challenges are encouraged to park and board.

Saturday's concert is free of charge, with food and drink for purchase, and attendees are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs. Tickets to Friday's event at the Zoo are \$10 general admission, \$20 reserve seating when paying in advance, or \$20 general admission at the gate.

TARTA Move paratransit service to the event can be scheduled by calling 419-382 9901, and fixed route service on TARTA routes 2, 10 & 12 stop near the Glass City Metropark. Those wishing to take TARTA to the event at the Amphitheater on Friday can reach the Toledo Zoo's Broadway Street entrance by taking Route 31.

The 5th Annual Glass City JazzFest Performance Schedule Friday, August 14 – Toledo Zoo Amphitheater

- Mike Williams, 6 p.m.
- Bob Baldwin, 7:30 p.m.

- Lindsey Webster, 9 p.m.

Saturday, August 15 – Glass City Metropark

- Michon Young, 1 p.m.
- Yuko Mabuchi, 2:35 p.m.
- Johnny O'Neal, 4:15 p.m.
- Minas, 5:50 p.m.

- Kandace Springs, 7:40 p.m.
- Chris Standring, 9:20 p.m.

Post-Festival Jazz Jam – Assembly American Brasserie (101 N. Summit Street) Saturday, 10 p.m.

- Featuring Ramona Collins

Lucas County Children Services Presents Annual Resource Fair

*A free opportunity to connect with helpful service providers
Special to The Truth*

From finding mental health services to getting a library card,

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is bringing together dozens of the area's most helpful

service providers for its fifth annual Resource Fair. The event takes place August 12, from 10 am to 1 pm, at the LCCS offices, 301 Adams Street in downtown Toledo.

"We hear from a lot of our clients that they want to connect with services for their families, but don't know where to begin looking for them," says LaShawnda Holmes, LCCS coordinator of client services. "By bringing everyone together at one time and place, participants can gather written information and speak face-to-face with partner representatives to learn more about their offerings in health care, wellness, mental health, parenting, mentoring, daycare, and many other important fields." The goal is to empower families to become stronger, safer, and more stable. More than 50 community partners will be represented, including select LCCS programs.

Metered parking is available on streets surrounding the LCCS offices, and additional paid parking is available in the Superior Street garage. Admission to the Resource Fair is free.

The mission of Lucas County Children Services is to lead the community in the protection of children at risk of abuse and neglect. This is accomplished by working with families, service

and community members to assess risk and coordinate community-based services resulting in safe, stable, and permanent families for children.

Further information is available at 419-213-3464.

Black Women's Equal Pay Day..continued from page 11

Director, U.S. Domestic Programs, Oxfam America; and Holli Holliday, Esq., President & CEO, Sisters Lead, Sisters Vote.

The media briefing was moderated by Irene Marion, Head of Special Projects, The Root. The full poll, which is powered by Oxfam America and SEIU, can be accessed by going to <https://www.ncbcp.org/reports/BWR-WomensEqualityDaySurveyResults-072126.pdf>.

For 50 years, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation has been a leading advocate for the rights and empowerment of Black and underserved communities. Through its programs and initiatives, NCBP works to expand civic engagement, strengthen economic opportunity, protect voting rights and ensure equitable representation at every level of government. For more information on the NCBP visit www.ncbcp.org

The Black Women's Roundtable (BWR) is the leadership development, mentoring, intergenerational empowerment and power-building arm of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBPP). BWR advances just and equitable public policies that center racial, economic, and gender justice, with a focus on health and wellness, economic security and prosperity, education, and global empowerment as essential pillars of success for Black women and girls.

Trice Edney Communications

The Social Butterfly 12th ANNUAL MOTOWN Dinner & Dance CRUISE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026

FUNDRAISER FOR THE COMPETITION CORVETTE OF OHIO

THE DETROIT PRINCESS RIVERBOAT CRUISE

131 Atwater Detroit, MI

Boarding Begins @ 6pm Cruise 7pm - 9:30pm

Includes Full Buffet & Live Entertainment Prodiges

TICKET COST: 85.00 PER PERSON

TICKET LOCATION: JACK'S MEN'S WEAR 3414 Dorr St. Toledo, OH

FOR CHARTER BUS INFORMATION & TICKETS CONTACT: Donnetta Carter at (419) 367-9765

THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS:

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



Leafguard
a Great Day Improvements brand

**20% off
Total Purchase***

+

\$0 Money Down

+

**18 months
no interest****

**WARRANTY
LIFETIME
WARRANTY**

**Clog-free, maintenance
free gutters!**

**We can only offer
these special
savings until
6/30/2026,
so call today
844.893.6757**

* This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Leafguard or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company-in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Previous/affiliated purchases are not eligible for a discount or sale price adjustment. Sales tax does not qualify for discount. This offer cannot be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon and/or offer. This promotion has no cash value. Leafguard reserves the right to end any promotion at any time without notice. Offer ends 6/30/26.

** Plan 2331. Subject to credit approval. Interest rates range from 17.99% - 24.99%. Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. 18 month promotional period ("Promo Period") during which interest is billed but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before Promo Period expires. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Any unpaid balance and amounts owed after Promo Period will be paid over 84 monthly payments. Offer expires 6/30/26. Michigan 272600011 Ohio 1K020384 and NYC 21-00055.

What's Happening This Week in Toledo

Monday, July 27

Let's Get Moving: Walk with NAMI

Trilby Park, 3125 Shawnee Rd. | 6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Tuesday, July 28

Save Our Community Summer Outreach BBQs

Roosevelt Pool, 910 Dorr St. | 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Community outreach event focused on violence prevention, youth engagement, and summer activities for families and residents.

Wednesday, July 29

Let's Get Moving: Morning Walks

Woodlawn, Willys, and Liberty Park (Meet at 1502 Central Ave) | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Pool Party Tour with Council President Williams

Navarre Pool, 1001 White St. | 1 p.m. - 3 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.

Thursday, July 30

Let's Get Moving: Pickleball

Trilby Park, 3125 Shawnee Rd. | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Walbridge Park Concert Series

Walbridge Park, 2761 Broadway St. | 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Featuring: LETTER RIP

Free to the Public.

Movie Night in the Park

Pine Glen Park, 3145 Wynnewood Dr. | 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Featuring Zootopia 2, rated PG.

Come early and play eSports gaming, provided by Party on a Truck. Movie begins at dusk.

Friday, July 31

Party in the Park

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

Featuring: LATIN NIGHT RIVER AND RHYTHM - RIO Y RITMO FEST

Saturday, August 1

Ottawa Park Concert Series

Ottawa Park Amphitheater, 2205 Kenwood Blvd. | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Featuring: What the Hey

More to Explore

More Pass

This mobile exclusive passport is a collection of curated parks, special events and more for you to explore this year in Toledo.

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

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

Pickleball Clinics (<https://toledo.oh.gov/summer/pickleball-clinics>)

Limited spots will fill up fast! Each two-week session is \$20. Must be 18 or older to register.

Kayak at Cullen Park (<https://toledo.oh.gov/residents/parks/kayaking>)

Self-serve rental lockers are stocked with equipment for your kayak adventure!

Golf Muni Courses (<https://www.toledocitygolf.com/>)

Schedule your tee time at one of our three public courses.

The Sojourner's Truth

A MOMENT OF TRUTH

THE
LOCAL
THREAD

wgte
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



Stacy Fowler,
Publisher, Pursuit Magazine



Alexandria Leatherberry,
The Truth Reporter

GREATER TOLEDO REALTIST ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
NEWSPAPER LEGAL NOTICE — RFP ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

General Contractor — Historic Single-Family Rehabilitation

The Greater Toledo Realist Association Foundation is seeking proposals from qualified, licensed, and insured general contractors to rehabilitate a historic single-family home at 1003 Prospect Ave, Toledo, Ohio 43606, a contributing property in the Englewood Historic District. The project is funded in part with federal HOME funds administered by the City of Toledo. Estimated construction cost is \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Work must comply with all applicable federal requirements, including HOME program rules, lead-safe practices, Section 3, equal opportunity, a City of Toledo Project Labor Agreement, and historic preservation review by the City and the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office. Contractors experienced in historic rehabilitation are strongly encouraged to apply. Minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals.

RFP issued: July 10, 2026. Questions due: July 18, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. Proposals due: July 24, 2026 by 4:00 p.m.

To request the full Request for Proposals and specifications, or for information on the pre-bid walkthrough, contact the Greater Toledo Realist Association Foundation at gtfoundation@gmail.com or (567) 868-5896. The Foundation reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive informalities.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
HEALTH INSURANCE BROKER SERVICES
RFP26-R006**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Health Insurance Broker Services in accordance with RFP26-R008**. Received in accordance with law until **August 07, 2026, at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
THURGOOD MARSHALL SENIOR HOUSING LLC
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK (CMAR)**

Thurgood Marshall Senior Housing LLC & Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for a **Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) – Thurgood Marshall Senior Apartments**. Received in accordance with law until **August 05, 2026, at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 covered contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
AFFORDABLE ASSISTED LIVING GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SERVICES
RFP26-R006**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Affordable Assisted Living Government Relations Services in accordance with RFP26-R006**. Received in accordance with law until **July 06, 2026, at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



**Mental Health & Recovery Services Board
of Lucas County (1473)**
is accepting applications for the
following position:

System Fiscal Risk Manager

SUMMARY

The System Fiscal Risk Manager is responsible for evaluating the financial and programmatic stability of current and prospective service providers to support funding decisions and ensure compliance with board policies and regulatory requirements. This position conducts risk assessments, monitors sub-recipient performance, reviews audits, and analyzes financial and operational data to identify potential risks and strengthen oversight activities.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration or a related field. Experience in compliance, auditing, financial analysis, grants management, or provider oversight. Experience working with subrecipient monitoring, risk assessment, or government-funded programs.

Starting salary: \$51,200 – \$57,600 salary consideration based on education and experience.

For detailed position description and to apply please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/MHFRM>

Equal Opportunity Employer

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.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/.

"JAZZ ON THE LAWN", at The Refreshing Place, 2500 Nebraska Ave, on Saturday, July 25th, from 5-9pm, admission is \$15.00/person. Featuring local musicians. Bring your lawn chairs.

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio Celebrate Largest Graduating Class of Summer Youth Program

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter



Area leaders show support at ceremony



Master of Ceremonies, EFL participant Jerome Davis



Ella Cheng, youth participant

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio celebrated the largest graduating class of its Empowering Future Leaders Summer Program on Thursday, July 23, at the Wayman Palmer YMCA. Forty youth from the Toledo area graduated from the seven-week youth leadership program signifying a milestone in the summer program's five-year history.

The program was funded to serve 40 youth but received 59 participants with an additional 26 youth on the waiting list, demonstrating the growing demand for youth leadership development opportunities in the area.

The ceremony included remarks from community leaders, speeches from youth participants, a presentation of donations collected during the program's community food drive to the Wayman D. Palmer YMCA Food Pantry, recognition of outstanding leaders and the presentation of graduation certificates to the youth.

Remarks were given from Marvin Whitfield, PhD, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio, Big Brother's Big Sister leadership, Ohio State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr. and Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

"Today is more than just a ceremony," stated Whitfield, "it is a celebration of growth, perseverance, leadership, and incredible potential that exists within every young person you see before you today. So to our parents, our guardians, our grandparents, thank you. Because without your support, they wouldn't be here today."

He continued "Like I say, it's not a camp... it's something you earn and have to work for...I'm proud of them and you should be too."

The program ran from June 8 – July 23, 2026, for youth ages eight-17. The Empowering Future Leaders (EFL) program focuses on four youth development areas (aka Pillars): Life Skills, Leadership Development, Cultural Competence and Career Development.

These pillars provide participants with the necessary tools to make better life decisions, enhance their educational experience and career readiness, and interact positively in diverse environments. This data-driven program is offered in-school, after school, and seven weeks during the summer.

Throughout the program, participants receive evidence-based training through educational activities and meet community members, business leaders, and local government officials who provide speeches or conduct activities centered around one of the program's four pillars. It creates opportunities for both program participants and the special guests to connect. (source: bbbsnwo.org)

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio is to provide one-to-one mentoring relationships between qualified adults and children in order to help children develop into competent, confident, and caring individuals. The agency provides services to more than 1500 children annually in several different mentoring and leadership programs. It is the agency's vision that every child who needs a mentor gets one. Through advanced programming, including the Empowering Future Leaders (EFL) program, the organization focuses on four youth development areas (aka Pillars): Life Skills, Leadership Development, Cultural Competence, and Career Development.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio is partially funded by The Lucas County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board. For more information, please visit <http://www.bbbsnwo.org/>.



Empowering Future Leaders Summer Program Class of 2026



Marvin Whitfield, PhD



Marvin Whitfield, PhD Youth present speeches during graduation

DRIVER LICENSE REINSTATEMENT CLINIC

Hosted by Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union with Toledo Municipal Court Personnel

Need Help Getting Your License Back?
We're Here for You!
Scan QR Code to Register:
Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/wC3VtNcwV8BfUu07>

WHAT WE OFFER:

- ✓ License Status Review
- ✓ Reinstatement Guidance
- ✓ Address Court Fines/Fees
- ✓ On-site Court Support

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Suspended or Revoked Licenses
- Unsure of License Status
- Court-Related Driving Issues

GET BACK ON TRACK
Restoring your license can lead to:

- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Stability
- ✓ Peace of Mind

EVENT DETAILS:

August 27th, 2026 2 PM - 6 PM

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, 1441 Dorr St. Toledo, OH 43607

WHAT TO BRING:

- Valid ID (if available)
- Court Papers/Documents

Appointments **PREFERRED** • Walk-ins Welcome
Confidential Assistance Provided

Contact: (419) 255-8876 ext. 103 Email: info@toledourban.net