



Volume 96 No. 2

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

July 8, 2026

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*A Civic Space Designed for Participation, Not Observation*

# A Poor City's Tax

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

The Truth Contributor

*Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor.*

- James Baldwin



Toledo spent more on public safety this summer than it could afford. In November, it will ask voters to make up the difference.

With the summer that Toledo has had — a mass shooting at a community festival, graduation brawls, officers caught on video cursing at children on a street corner — nobody blames residents for wanting somebody to do something. That something currently on the table is a proposed quarter-cent temporary income tax.

Toledo knows what it means to run out of budget before you run out of need. So does Vanice Williams.

"Everybody is struggling now," the council president told The Blade. "I am struggling right now financially to figure out what to pay and how to pay it." That is why, she said, the decision belongs to voters.

She is right. It deserves a serious conversation.

Why the Tax Makes Sense

Toledo's police department entered 2026 already bleeding — and the state of Ohio is partly to blame, according to Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. "Since 2008, Columbus has cut \$288 million in shared revenue from Toledo, roughly \$16 million every year — the financial equivalent of the Jeep plant closing every year for 20 years," he said.

The \$25 million the proposed tax is expected to generate annually is roughly

enough to restore what the budget took away: a recruit class cut from 25 officers to 20, ShotSpotter — the gunfire detection system that gave the city ears on its streets, and equipment purchases delayed across police and fire. A department losing more officers to retirement than it gains from each class cannot hold the line indefinitely.

I get it. Toledoans are living with something heavier than frustration — the low-grade fear that nowhere is safe, the anxiety that follows a summer like this one. And, after the Old West End Festival shooting, we are fed up on top of that. We have every right to be ALL of that.

But fear and being fed up, without resources to respond, are just dread and anger with nowhere to go.

Who Is Being Asked to Carry This

Toledo's median household income is \$49,724. A quarter-cent tax on that is \$124 a year — \$2.39 a week. For a household with some cushion, that is manageable, if not welcome. But Toledo's Black households earn a median of \$33,912. The same rate costs that household \$85 a year — \$1.63 a week.

On a budget already stretched thin, in a city where nearly one in four residents lives below the poverty line — almost double Ohio's statewide rate — the level of sacrifice is determined by how much is left after you pay the tax. For Black households, that margin is already thin.

Council President Williams is not alone in her struggle to pay her own bills. Thousands of Toledoans in the neighborhoods most affected by crime sit in the same spot — asked to fund the safety infrastructure and supports their streets need most, to replace resources the state cut.

What the Tax Cannot Do

A public safety tax buys a response. It does not buy prevention. Malcolm Cunningham's Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement — and the Save Our Community initiative it oversees, run by Raymond Campos with eight violence interrupters working in schools, neighborhoods and community centers — have produced a documented 50 percent decline in citywide violence since 2021, running on patchwork federal grants with no permanent line item in the city budget. This tax leaves that unchanged. The communities asking why they can't be safe need both: resources that respond when violence happens and investment in what prevents it. Half a solution dressed as a whole one won't hold.

The Question Worth Asking First

If this tax passes, demand to know publicly what happens to the prevention side of the ledger — whether Malcolm Cunningham's MONSE and Raymond Campos's Save Our Community get a permanent line item, and whether the churches, block clubs and community organizations holding these neighborhoods together get the same urgency that a tax ballot measure got.

Toledo wants to feel safer — a tax is a start. But it is not the finish line.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

## Community Calendar

### July 11

Padua Center's Summer Party: 11:00-4:00 at the Ujima Park and Garden and the Junction Park located across the street from The Padua Center; Chicken dinners, food trucks, games; entertainment provided by My5tery Music Drumline; Chess, cards, children's games, face painting, and a Bouncy House for the children.

### July 27-31

Warren AME Vacation Bible School: 5:45 to 7:15 pm; Dinner served from 5 to 5:30; 419-243-2237

### August 1

The Warren A.M.E. Church 2026 Matthew Project FREE Community Give-away 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.

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## 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](mailto:thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com)

[www.thetruthtoledo.com](http://www.thetruthtoledo.com)

# White, Black or Brown....Who Sits At The Table?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

The Supreme Court recently issued a 6-3 decision indicating that if you are born on American soil, you are to be considered an American citizen.

This decision, with a 91 page dissent issued by Clarence Thomas, only adheres to the historical precedent articulated in the US Constitution stating who, being born on American soil, is categorically defined as being an American.

Of course the Trump administration is adverse to that decision because it now validates all of the millions of births that have taken place in this country over the decades that Trump was attempting to "decertify" those persons as being non Americans.

Without giving away the ending of story, even Stevie Wonder could see that the Trump administration was following the parameters of Project 2025 which, along with the far right wing Heritage Foundation, wants an end to "those" people birthing out newly-minted babies who are from those "sh\*thole countries.

We all should know that the agenda behind Project 2025 and their puppet leader, Trump, was to greatly reduce non-whites who would or could call these united states, their home.

Without stating the obvious, this question of birthright citizenship would not even be a "pimple on a rhino's arse" if those babies were hailing from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, France, Scotland, Netherlands, Wales and England...all ethnically white countries.

Trump always had a sweet spot for white emigrants including his recent edict allowing swift entry of 10,000 South African whites into this country and providing for their encampment and other amenities to make their life comfortable.

Note to self: No non-white country received such largesse.



Trump no longer hides his racial proclivities and has made it very transparent that he favors Nordics over Ghanaians or Liberians.

Trump pines for an America resembling the now discredited law of 1790 which remarked that only whites could become American citizens.

That ruling lasted for hundreds of years because White America believed in a Manifest Destiny that America was chosen for white Europeans to conquer and develop... not Libyan, not Japanese, not Sudanese...just good 'ol white people believing that they were God's gifted ones to reign and rule in America.

It is at this time that we acknowledge that the planned genocide of the indigenous people who earlier populated the land known now as America happened because they were expendable at best... if not suited for slavery.

America does not plan in the very near future to have a "Kumbaya" moment with its former slaves and has and is still endeavoring to do legal and extra-legal tasks to keep people of color off balance as they still strive to make America work for them.

So, when people are excited about celebrating 250 years of independence from their British overlords, just remember that in 1776, African Americans were not free until the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by Abe Lincoln (he was assassinated ostensibly for his rebellion against white society).

Within these 250 years, we have experienced the rise of the oligarch class with their obscene riches and control of the political machinery in elections and a resultant huge class divide between the haves and the have-nots.

We are buffeted by a MAGA majority U.S. Supreme Court that seemingly is so dazzled by Trump (and their own class/wealth insecurities) that they have taken on the role of being the final arbiter of what is good for the country according to their whims.

Now, with Trump being energized by court rulings allowing him to remove temporary protection status from some 400,000 Haitians and Syrians, we will see the dreaded ICE agents fan out and ramp up the seizures of those persons and return them back to their respective countries that are still just as bad as when they first left those lands seeking a better life.

America's image overseas has been greatly diminished and stained due to nonsensical moves by Trump and his clown car of cabinet members and advisors who are more than willing to do the impulsive biddings of their Dear Leader.

And regrettably, the white evangelical church (or just plain churches) have lost their voices in manning the ramparts and speaking truth to power because they too have been morally compromised by their desire to have access to the political power residing in a feckless GOP Congress.

Without saying the obvious, if the collective churches in America were to have had any of the early church apostles ( e.g., Peter, James or John) visit their congregations and observe their allegiance to Trump; hear their wimpy sermons and see their pittance of good works, they would issue a scathing and rebuking jeremiad against them.

Whenever the churches find solace and comfort in the arms of Trump by either their acquiescence or by their failure to come to the aid of the poor and downtrodden and to say No...to the visible moral rot, they have left their first love and they need to repent.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at lafe5x@gmail.com

## Toledo Museum of Art to Host America 250 - Ohio: Homecoming and Picnic

*Celebrating Community, Creativity, and 125 Years of TMA — Saturday, July 11, 2026*

The Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) is proud to announce details for America 250-Ohio: Homecoming and Picnic, a statewide celebration bringing communities together across Ohio. The free, family-friendly event will take place on Saturday, July 11, 2026, from 11 AM to 3 PM on the Glass Pavilion Lawn and inside the Glass Pavilion. TMA is a statewide host site for the celebration.

The event also will celebrate TMA's 125th anniversary.

**America 250-Ohio: Homecoming & Picnic at TMA is designed for all ages and interests.**

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  - Hands-on art activities
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  - Games
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- July 11 — Schedule of Event 11:00a.m.–3:00p.m.

Welcome & Opening Remarks

11:00–11:45 a.m.

Main Stage

Art Activities, Community Partners, Living Historical Interpreters, Sen-

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# What to the Unprotected Is the United States' 250th Birthday\*?

Monita H. Mungo, PhD  
Guest Column

*Inspired by and written in conversation with Frederick Douglass's 1852 address, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?"*

The 250th birthday of the United States invites celebration, but it also demands reflection. In 1776, the nation declared itself free and announced a bold political vision: that legitimate government rests on the consent of the governed and that human beings possess rights that should not be surrendered to kings, courts, armies or markets.

These ideals remain powerful, but their power lies not only in their promise. It lies in whether the nation has the courage to extend them fully and honestly to all who live under its authority. These ideals are not modest claims. They are among the grandest promises a nation can make for itself. Yet promises, however noble, do not fulfill themselves. They must be tested against the conditions of real people's lives.

For what is a birthday celebration when the family is divided between those invited into the house and those left outside its locked doors? The contradiction is visible in families sleeping beneath bridges, immigrants treated as threats rather than neighbors, Black citizens still required to defend their belonging, women and girls watching their rights stripped away, and poor people punished for conditions they did not create.

What, then, to the unhoused is the United States' 250th birthday?

The answer can be found in the lives of people made vulnerable by policy, poverty and public neglect: the veteran sleeping in a car, the mother calling shelters until her phone dies, and the child completing homework in temporary housing. The scale of this failure is not abstract. In its 2025 An-



Monita H. Mungo, PhD

nual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that 745,652 people were homeless on a single night in January 2025, including 266,320 people living unsheltered. HUD also reported that more than 1.45 million people were either homeless or living in taxpayer-funded housing assistance for the homeless.

What, then, to the immigrant is the United States' 250th birthday?

This nation tells a story about immigrants with one hand and builds machinery of exclusion with the other. It praises Ellis Island while strengthening the border. It celebrates labor while exploiting workers. It relies on immigrants to cook its food, build its homes, harvest its crops, clean its hotels and staff its hospitals, then asks them to disappear.

Pew Research Center estimated that 14 million unauthorized immigrants lived in the United States in 2023, many woven into families, communities, workplaces, schools, churches and neighborhoods. Yet the public language of immigration too often turns humans into invasions, threats, burdens and numbers. Calls for "law and order" often ignore two truths. First, legality and justice have never been the same thing. Second, the law has never been innocent simply because it was written.

What, then, to Black people is the United States' 250th birthday?

We have been here for the building of the nation and for the breaking of its promises. We have been property and patriots, laborers and soldiers, citizens and suspects, taxpayers and targets. We have carried the flag even when the flag did not carry us.

Must we still argue for the value of Black life? Must we prove again that Black history is this nation's history? Must we continually demonstrate that police violence, environmental racism, segregated schools, medical neglect, wage gaps and mass incarceration are not outcomes of personal failure but patterns of public power?

The contradiction is measurable in the institutions that decide who is watched, arrested, prosecuted, confined and marked by a criminal record. According to the Prison Policy Initiative's racial justice data, Black people are approximately 14 percent of U.S. residents but 36 percent of people in prisons and jails. This disproportionality is not evidence of group failure; it reflects the cumulative effects of unequal policing, unequal charging decisions, sentencing disparities, economic exclusion and public policies that have made punishment the primary response to social inequality.

What, then, to those whose civil rights are being narrowed, contested, or stripped away, is the United States' 250th birthday?

A right that can vanish with a court majority is not secure. A freedom that depends on geography is not equal. A protection that changes at the state line is not fully guaranteed.

Recent legal and political developments make this vulnerability plain. In 2022, the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned *Roe v. Wade* and ended federal constitutional protection for abortion. In 2023, the Court's decisions in the Harvard and University of North Carolina affirmative action cases severely limited the consideration of race in college admissions. Voting rights, too, remain contested.

The Brennan Center for Justice reported that state legislatures enacted at least 32 restrictive voting laws in 2025, tying the highest total since the center began tracking this legislation in 2011. Together, these developments show how quickly rights and protections can be narrowed when courts, legislatures, and political movements retreat from the work of equality.

The United States' 250th birthday exposes not only the nation's ideals but also its contradictions.

The United States has built skyscrapers and tent cities. It has produced billionaires and hungry children. It has expanded rights and withdrawn them. It has welcomed refugees and confined migrants. It has celebrated Black excellence while fearing Black freedom. It has praised workers while weakening unions. It has honored soldiers while abandoning veterans. It has revered the Constitution while refusing to guarantee its blessings to all.

A national birthday is not only a commemoration; it is an accounting. It should ask what promises have been kept, what harms have been denied, what debts remain unpaid, and what kind of future is still possible.

Birthdays invite reflection on how far we have come. But distance trav-

... continued on page 6

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# Walking the Obama Presidential Center: A Conversation Between Memory, Place and Possibility

*Based on an interview with world class traveler Ardenia Jones Terry*

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

## The First Thing You Notice Is the Way the Space Holds You, Ardenia Jones Terry Recalls

You notice your pace before you notice anything else.

The walk slows, not because you decide to slow down, but because the **Obama Presidential Center** seems to set the rhythm for how you move through it. Light spreads across the South Side Chicago landscape in long, steady intervals, touching stone, glass and open pathways as if the site is still calibrating how it wants to be experienced.

Nothing at the entrance competes for attention. Instead, the space distributes it.

Just beyond the campus, Chicago asserts itself in quiet context. The South Side carries layers of intellectual, cultural and civic history shaped by surrounding institutions, including the University of Chicago, where Barack Obama taught constitutional law and where Michelle Obama's early professional life intersected with South Side public service and community-based work. The Center does not separate itself from that ecosystem. It extends it.

The transition is subtle but deliberate: city to campus, academic influence to civic space, observation to participation.

And then the experience begins to shift from visual recognition to something more internal: attention recalibrated.

**Ardenia Jones Terry** describes her visit to the Obama Presidential Center as a civic experience shaped as much by engagement and reflection as by architecture and space.

For visitors planning or learning more about the site, the Obama Foundation Official Visitor Guide provides an official overview of the campus, visitor experience and design vision visit [www.obama.org](http://www.obama.org).

## A Civic Space Designed for Participation, Not Observation

Miss Ardenia describes the Obama Presidential Center as an active civic environment rather than a static monument. During her visit, she observed that the campus design moves visitors through ideas as much as it moves them through physical space.

She emphasizes that the experience requires engagement sharing. "The Center brings together architecture, storytelling and public design to invite visitors into the American story rather than simply presenting it."

That distinction defines the structure of the entire campus.

Nothing is positioned for passive viewing. Everything is arranged to prompt a response.

Questions appear in exhibit spaces not as decoration, but as instruction:

What do you think?

Where do you stand?

What does equality require in practice?

For readers exploring the museum experience more deeply, the official museum overview includes highlights such as exhibitions, civic storytelling spaces, the Sky Room and the conceptual Oval Office experience.

## Arrival at John Lewis Plaza

Miss Jones Terry remembers her first moments on campus.

As her rideshare pulled away and she stepped into John Lewis Plaza, she paused.

"I was in awe," she recalled. "It was almost like walking in the air. I was

*...continued on page 11*



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# HBCUs Gained Unprecedented Popularity in Higher Education Marketplace

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.D.

Guest Column

Education was always a staple in my neighborhood. Adults were encouraging us to do our best each day in school. They wanted us to achieve more than they did. Early on and consistently, they made sure they passed that message on to us.

My parents played the most significant role in my thinking about education. Going to school as a child was where seeds of confidence were planted.

College was always in my future. I never thought otherwise. A college president lived on my street, and a college basketball coach lived around the corner from me in my hometown of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Two of my early role models were student-athletes in college.

The kids in my neighborhood were surrounded by higher education. We just didn't know the impact that it would have. We knew a lot about Black



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D. is a long-time educator who hails from Winston Salem, N.C. Ewers is a life member of the NAACP and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. — Photo - Garland Journal

colleges at an early age. At that time, they weren't called Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Now, many years later, HBCUs are spread out mostly in the southern part of the country. The acronym is a part of the African American culture. If you want to start a conversation with another African American, just mention HBCUs and you will have a wonderful dialogue.

Those who have graduated from a Historically Black College and University are role models for those who aspire to matriculate at an HBCU. Passing the mantle of encouragement and hope is our responsibility and moral calling. To do less would dishonor those whose shoulders we stand on today.

Perseverance and dedicated involvement are characteristics we as alumni must have and practice. We must invigorate and inspire others to join us in this continuation of excellence.

Over the years, we have been a part of the HBCU collective. We share similar experiences, no matter what our school colors are. All of us would sit on the block and tell stories until it was time for another class. Do you remember the dances in the union on Saturday night?

HBCUs have expanded their academic offerings as they have been shaped to align with today's market needs. Internships and study abroad programs have given students more employment opportunities. Graduate studies have also given students alternatives to furthering their education.

Whenever we graduated from our HBCU, we never lost that feeling of accomplishment and pride. Our success in the world has been inextricably tied to being at an HBCU. That is a fact, etched in our hearts and minds.

Many of us came in as shy and reserved 1st-year students. We weren't sure exactly what to expect. We left as graduates equipped to take on the next chapter in our lives. For me, each year I became more self-assured. I was surrounded by teachers and a coach who pushed me each day. I will be forever grateful and thankful for the counseling, teaching, and pep talks they gave me.

Graduates have powerful stories about their times on campus. They have been shared with family and friends. Laughter, smiles, and tears of joy come out. This storytelling is also an inspiration to those wanting to attend an HBCU.

If you went to an HBCU, you should visit your former high school and recruit prospective students. If you now live in another area, you should make the same visit. We are lifelong ambassadors for our schools.

There are 107 Historically Black Colleges and Universities according to confirmed reports. The oldest HBCU in the United States of America is Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. It was founded in 1837. Humble beginnings for HBCUs have given way to unimaginable successes. The chapters are still being written, and the testimonies are still being given. Congratulations to the graduates in the 2026 class. Your pathways have been illuminated with history, commitment and excellence.

James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.D., is a long-time educator who hails from Winston-Salem, N.C. Ewers is a life member of the NAACP and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

*Unprotected...continued from page 4*

eled does not excuse distance remaining. The enslaved were freed, but racism adapted. Jim Crow fell, but inequality learned new language. The vote was won, but suppression found new tools. Rights were expanded, but rights are now being narrowed. Doors opened, but gatekeepers remain. The United States' tragedy is that it often speaks justice fluently while practicing injustice efficiently.

At 250, the United States is old enough to know better, rich enough to repair what it has broken, and powerful enough to do better. And because people have struggled, organized, resisted, taught, marched, voted, loved, and refused to surrender, it may yet become better.

Until then, the United States' 250th birthday is not a jubilee for all. It is a tone-deaf celebration, a summons, a mirror, and a grim warning. Whether this anniversary becomes anything more than ceremony depends on whether the country is willing to confront its record and change course.

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# The Glass City JazzFest Returns

*The Truth Staff*

The Glass City JazzFest returns this summer for the fifth year and, as promised, it will be bigger and better than ever.

On Tuesday, June 30, Toledo City Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson, the driving force behind the JazzFest, along with the Great Lakes Jazz Society, held a press conference at the site of the Glass City Metroparks outdoor theater to reveal this year's lineup and expanded weekend timeframe.

"This festival is more than just a concert series," said McPherson in her opening remarks. "It is a celebration of Toledo's musical heritage." McPherson noted that the City of Toledo and the partners in JazzFest have made a commitment "to making the arts accessible to everyone."

The weekend opens with a new site for the event, the Toledo Zoo Amphitheater, on Friday, August 14, at 6 pm with a lineup of featured performers: Lindsey Webster, Bob Valdwin and Mike Williams. Tickets cost \$20 on the day of the advent but \$10 with advance purchase. Reserved seats are \$20.

Williams is a sax pleyer known for his smooth jazz sound; Baldwin is a pianist who has released more than 30 albums of contemporary jazz and R&B in his three-decade career; Webster is a vocalist who has emerged as one of contemporary jazz's most distinctive voices.

On Saturday, the event moves to the Glass City Metropark with featured performers: Chris Standing, Kandace Springs, MINAS, Johnny O'Neal,

Yuko Mabuchi and Michon Young. As usual admission is free at the Metropark.

Young, a Detroit-based vocalist is recognized for her smooth blend of jazz, R&B and soul; Mabuchi, a Japanese-born pianist uses her electrifying technique to construct innovative arrangements and dynamic fusion of jazz, classical and contemporary influences; O'Neal a master pianist, vocalist and composer is widely regarded as one of the premier interpreters of the jazz tradition; MINAS is a husband and wife duo who combine Brazilian rhythms with contemporary jazz and world music influences; Springs a Nashville-born singer, songwriter and pianist is renowned for her soulful blend of jazz, R&B and pop; Standing a British guitarist is known for his signature blend of jazz, funk and soul.

Later, on Saturday night, there will be a post-festival Jazz Jam at the Assembly American Brasserie in the Downtown Hilton Hotel.

Hugh Ross, president of the Great Lakes Jazz Society, who has put together the talent for the JazzFest, described the two-day lineup highlighting the talents of each musician or group.

"If you are over 35, please get your rest," said Ross of the weekend of activities people will enjoy. Ross also spoke of the benefit to the city's economy that will occur due to the expanded festival – hotels and restaurants will see a financial boon.

"We're attracting talent and visitors from all over," said Caleigh Heuring, director of Marketing and Destination Engagement at Destination Toledo, following up on Ross's point. That weekend, said Heuring, will be a "fully activated weekend in Toledo" with the festival, baseball games and Toledo night market action. Heuring expects a half-million dollar boon to the city's economy, primarily for hotels and restaurants.

TARTA is also a big part of the JazzFest weekend. On Saturday, visitors who are driving can park in the large lots on the Docks side of the river and TARTA will shuttle for free to the concert site – the parking is free also.



Bob Baldwin



Johnny O'Neal



Kandace Springs



Michon Young



Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson speaks as Caleigh Heuring and Hugh Ross await their turns

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# St. Paul MBC and Pastor James H. Willis, Sr., Host Annual Youth Day

The Truth Staff

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church held its annual Youth Day on Sunday June 28 as several young students were presented with college scholarships and the whole congregation celebrated their youthful members with the theme "Young and in Love with God." (1 Timothy 4:12).

The church presented three scholarships to their youth: Jazz 'inna De'Shay Patterson who will be attending the Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology; Shelby Willis, Jr. who will attend Illinois State University and Keshia Jenkins who will enter Bowling Green State University.

Worship Leader MaKayla Evans opened the Sunday service followed by the processional. After the prayer and responsive reading, the Youth Choir performed a song and Matthew Skipper welcomed the congregation.

... continued on page 10



L to R--Vernice Foreman - accepting scholarship on behalf of her daughter, Keshia Jenkins; Shelby Willis, Jr.; Sis. Yvonne Gayle; Pastor James Willis; Jazz'Inna De'Shay Patterson



Pastor Willis and Benjamin Donato

Pastor James Willis and the youthful Youth Day celebrants

**TOLEDO URBAN FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

<b>13 JUL</b>	<b>PRAYER IN THE PARKING LOT</b> TIME: 9:00am LOCATION: Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union 3053 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43606	
<b>16 JUL</b>	<b>WOMEN'S LOCATION REFORMATION</b> TIME: 10:00am LOCATION: Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union 3053 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43606	<b>WOMEN'S LEADERS REFORMATION CLING</b> TIME: 9:00am - 11:00am LOCATION: Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union 3053 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43606
<b>17 JUL</b>	<b>PRAYER BREAKFAST</b> TIME: 9:00am - 10:00am LOCATION: The Indiana Avenue Baptist Church 840 Indiana Ave., Toledo, OH 43606 Pastor/Minister: Robert's Fawcett/Rev. Hall	
<b>17 JUL</b>	<b>COMMUNITY DAY</b> TIME: 12:00pm - 4:00pm LOCATION: Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union 3053 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43606	
<b>18 JUL</b>	<b>PARADE</b> TIME: 10:00am LOCATION: Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union 1441 Over St., Toledo, OH 43607	
<b>18 JUL</b>	<b>MUSIC FESTIVAL</b> TIME: Doors Open at 2:00pm LOCATION: The Huntington Center 500 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, OH 43604	

CONTACT US: 419-255-8876 info@toledourban.net

**TOLEDO URBAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

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# United Vision Hosts Student Achievement Sunday

The Truth Staff

United Vision Missionary Baptist Church hosted its annual Student Achievement Sunday on June 28 and honored the congregation's outstanding student accomplishments with food, checks and gift cards

"Whatever level of academic success they have been having, we try to highlight and support that," said Pastor Percy Harris III, as he explained the significance of the special occasion.

"This year we've got everyone from those in kindergarten all the way up to a doctorate degree," he added.

Those honored on Student Achievement Sunday included 17 students in kindergarten through 11 grades; nine high school or college graduates and five in continuing programs.

The doctorate degree, obtained through the United Vision MBC's collaboration with the E. L. White Theological Seminary in Mobile, Alabama, was bestowed upon Annie Hamilton. Hamilton, a registered nurse for the past 42 years and Sunday School teacher for 15 years, spent the past 15 months obtaining her doctorate in Christian Education. "It will help me become a better educator," said Hamilton.

The E.L. White Theological Seminary programs are designed to provide the necessary coursework in order for students to effectively serve in their pastoral ministries and ministries throughout the church.

Sunday's service, led by Pastor Harris, focused on the subject of why it is appropriate to tithe and render unto God a portion of the household resources or possessions. "Check your table" was a challenging and visually informative sermon.

After service, the scholars were treated to food by vendors such as Henry's Food Truck and Marco's Pizza. Scholarship checks were given to graduates and to students continuing their post-secondary education; gift cards were given to the K-11 grade students. Over \$3,750 was given out in checks and gift cards in recognition of their achievements.



Educational achievements on all levels celebrated at United Vision



Pastor Harris addresses the young scholars



Annie Hamilton



Pastor Percy Harris III



The Sunday service begins



TIFFANIE ZAPP BAND KEKE WYATT ERIC BENET MIDNIGHT  
 CAMPBELL FRYER Big Woo EJ JONES STAR

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# Fire Up True American Flavor on the Grill to Celebrate America 250

## Special to The Truth

As the nation marks the 250th anniversary of American independence, backyards across the country are gearing up for a milestone summer — and the grill is once again at the heart of the celebration.

From the 4th of July to Labor Day weekend and everything in between, Bear Mountain BBQ is helping you turn up the flavor all season long. Bear Mountain BBQ's premium, all-natural, American-made hardwood products transform any grill — gas, charcoal, electric or pellet — into a flavor engine, helping everyone from first-time grillers to seasoned pitmasters make unforgettable meals.

Bear Mountain BBQ Gourmet Blend Pellets offer a rich smokiness and the perfect balance of flavors for all of your favorite dishes. Try this low-stress, high-reward viral recipe from the Grill Dads for one of the easiest ways to get overnight brisket right.

### Ingredients:

- 1 whole packet brisket (12–16 pounds)
- Kosher salt
- Coarse black pepper
- Garlic powder
- Beef tallow (collected during the cook)

### Steps:

1. Trim your brisket: Trim the fat cap down to about 1/4 inch. Remove any hard, waxy fat that won't render. Round out the brisket by trimming off any thin edges or sharp corners that could dry out during the cook. You're aiming for a smooth, even shape so it cooks consistently. If your setup allows, place a drip tray under the brisket to catch rendered fat — this is the beef tallow that you'll use later.
2. Season your brisket: Season generously on all sides with kosher salt and coarse black pepper. Add garlic powder. Make sure everything is evenly coated.
3. Smoke overnight: Preheat your grill to 200 degrees F using Bear Mountain Gourmet Blend pellets. Place the brisket fat-side down or facing the heat

source. The idea that fat cap up "self-bastes" the brisket is a myth. Fat-side down protects the meat and intramuscular fat from the more direct, intense heat coming from below in the pellet smoker (smokers have heat coming from the side).

Let the brisket go over night. No spritzing, no wrapping, no checking. This is where the ease comes in — low temperature, steady smoke and time doing the work for you.

4. Increase temperature and continue cooking: In the morning, increase the smoker temperature to 250 degrees F. Continue cooking the brisket unwrapped. Now you're focused on rendering. Press on the fat cap — when your finger goes in easily and doesn't bounce back, that's your cue to wrap.

5. Wrap with beef tallow: Place the brisket on top of butcher paper or foil, then pour roughly a cup of reserved beef tallow over it. Wrap it tightly, making sure everything is sealed well. Return the brisket to the smoker at 250 degrees F.

6. Cook until probe-tender: Continue cooking until probe-tender. You'll typically land somewhere between 198-205 degrees F internal, but the real test is feel. You want it to feel like it is sliding into room-temperature butter.

7. Rest the brisket: Remove the brisket from the smoker and let it rest, wrapped, on the counter for at least 1 hour, until the carryover cooking stops and the internal temperature begins to drop. Then transfer it to a 140 degrees F oven or a cooler.

You want the internal temperature to come down below 160 degrees F. The ideal slicing temperature is between 140–160 degrees F. You can hold it in this range for several hours as long as your holding temperature stays around 140.

8. Slice and serve: Separate the point and flat, if needed. Slice the flat against the grain into thin slices. Slice or cube the point depending on preference. You're looking for slices that hold together, are fully rendered, and pull apart easily.

Want to fire up even more flavor to celebrate 250? The American tradition of robust wood-smoked flavor comes through with limited-edition Bear Mountain Red, White & BBQ pellets. This precise blend of hickory and oak is the perfect accompaniment to this recipe for the Grill Dad's Backyard BBQ Chicken: [bearmountainbbq.com/blogs/recipes/grill-dads-backyard-bbq-chicken](http://bearmountainbbq.com/blogs/recipes/grill-dads-backyard-bbq-chicken). Smoked slightly hotter to get that crispy skin, then finished with a nostalgic BBQ sauce glaze for a classic backyard flavor, this recipe celebrates good ol' American BBQ.

Bear Mountain BBQ's pellets are sold in-store and online at retailers nationwide, including Amazon, Lowe's, Academy, Tractor Supply, HEB, Home Depot and more. To gear up for a summer-long celebration and for more recipes, visit [bearmountainbbq.com](http://bearmountainbbq.com).

"This summer, celebrate tradition and make every cookout a worthy celebration with the best wood and the best flavors," says Levi Strayer, director of cooking for Bear Mountain BBQ.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

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## St. Paul MCB...continued from page 8

Adryin Brown presented the scripture reading, 1 Timothy 4:12, reflecting the theme of the morning service. After the Altar Call and Altar Prayer, the Youth Choir offered another selection and the speaker for the day, Rev. Thomas J. Hutchen, Sr. was introduced.

Hutchen, a lifelong resident of Toledo is a graduate of Waite High School and earned an associate's degree in Applied Science with a concentration in Criminal Justice in 2013 and has served with the Lucas County justice system since 2014. He answered the call to ministry in 2012 and preached his first sermon at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. He became a member of United Vision MBC, before uniting with Jerusalem Baptist Church in 2014 and has served as associate pastor there since 2019.

After the sermon, the youth/young adults were recognized by Sis. Yvonne Gayle, Aufwiederschen Agee and Caysen Jewell and the three honorees received the funds.

In addition Benjamin Donato received a special recognition from the church — "Unsung Hero as Supporter of Youth."

The morning service was closed by remarks and the benediction by Pastor James H. Willis, Sr.

*Obama Presidential Center...continued from page 5*

filled with joy and bursting with pride.”

In that moment, the Center stopped feeling like a destination and became an experience. Before she entered a single gallery, the campus had already begun telling its story.

**Planning the Visit**

The Obama Presidential Center is designed as both a civic campus and a museum experience.

Visitors can move freely through outdoor spaces including plazas, gardens, walking paths, and gathering areas. The museum itself includes multiple levels of exhibitions focused on democracy, civic engagement, and American history.

Some portions of the museum experience require timed entry, while the campus itself remains an open civic space designed for public engagement. The design allows visitors to engage with architecture, art, and landscape even before entering the core museum experience.

**Where American History Becomes Immediate**

Inside the Center, American history is not presented as a completed narrative. It is staged as an ongoing exchange.

Ardenia Jones Terry’s reflections reinforce that framing. “The experience moves beyond information into interpretation, and exhibits require visitors to examine their own assumptions about freedom, equity, and civic responsibility,” she recalls fondly.

The design choices shift the role of the museum entirely. They don’t ask visitors to absorb history. Instead, it asks them to respond to it.

The experience is structured around engagement rather than consumption. Exhibits interrupt rather than conclude and fascinating information leads to reflection rather than closure.

For a more immersive layer of this experience, the Obama Foundation’s official **digital museum guide** (Bloomberg Connects) offers audio narration and storytelling from President Obama, Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Tom Hanks and others.

In practice, this creates a continuous loop: history presented, interpretation required, meaning deferred.

**Art, Scale and the Architecture of Memory**

Art within the Center functions as infrastructure for meaning rather than ornament.

Large-scale installations, civic imagery, and portraiture shape how visitors interpret space. One installation, described by Jones Terry, establishes the emotional tone immediately upon arrival.

The Obama Foundation’s official “Art on Campus & Stories” collection documents the artists, installations, and design intent. These pieces do not illustrate history. They organize it.

They guide attention, shape emotion, and structure memory across space.

**When the Space Begins to Ask Questions Back**

At key moments, the Center shifts from presentation to interaction.

Exhibits introduce prompts that interrupt the visitor’s passive engagement and require interpretation:

Some Americans question whether freedom is granted equally.

What do you think?

Jones Terry describes these moments as intentional disruptions in the flow of observation: “The visitor is no longer outside the narrative. They are placed inside its unresolved tensions.”

The Center does not resolve those tensions either, it exposes them.

And in doing so, it redefines what a museum experience can be.

**Hope as Structure, Not Symbol**

Throughout the campus, hope functions as a structural principle rather than a thematic message.

It is embedded in how visitors move through the space.

Ardenia emphasizes, “The Center asks visitors what they will do to contribute to making the country better.”

In this framing, hope is not emotional sentiment. It is an operational responsibility. It requires action even in the absence of certainty.

**Legacy as a Shared Construction**

For Ardenia, the experience also prompts reflection beyond the Center itself. She connects what she witnessed to broader questions of civic life, leader-



ship, and representation, particularly the ongoing need for dialogue around women’s leadership and institutional continuity.

“Black women are among the most highly educated demographic groups in the United States, yet are still not

always reflected in leadership pipelines once they leave office or institutional roles,” shares Jones Terry.

Her perspective reframes legacy not as ownership of memory, but as responsibility carried forward.

What is built here, she suggests, does not end at the gates.

It continues through the people who move through it.

**Travel as a Classroom**

Miss Jones Terry’s appreciation for the Obama Presidential Center did not begin with a single visit. It has been shaped by decades of travel, teaching and lifelong learning.

Having visited more than 160 countries and destinations, she believes travel does more than introduce people to new places, it challenges assumptions, deepens empathy, and brings history into sharper focus. “You definitely do not return home the same,” she reflects. “It changes your perspective. You begin to see what’s important and what isn’t.”

For those hoping to embark on extended travel, Jones Terry encourages planning well in advance. Long journeys often require passports, visas, vaccinations and careful preparation at home, but she believes the rewards far outweigh the effort. Her advice is simple: **don’t wait for retirement to see the world**. Many of history’s greatest lessons, she says, are best understood by standing where they happened and meeting the people who continue to shape them.

**Leaving Without Closure**

The experience of the Obama Presidential Center does not conclude in a traditional sense. It continues after departure, shaped by unresolved questions and layered impressions.

Ardenia’s reflections reinforce that outcome. She describes a space that does not deliver final answers but instead leaves visitors with sustained inquiry about history, participation, and responsibility.

What begins as a slow walk becomes something more enduring, an adjustment not only of pace, but of perspective.

The Center does not close meaning. It carries forward the philosophy Barack and Michelle Obama placed into its design: that democracy is not something displayed, but something practiced.

And even after the campus fades behind them, visitors are still moving within the presented ideas—still inside the questions it asked them to carry home.

*Explore official resources from the Obama Foundation for deeper context on the Center’s mission, exhibits, and visitor experience: **Obama Foundation***

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# AFL-CIO Details Harms to Working People for One Year of Big Ugly Bill

Special to The Truth

One year ago, President Trump signed the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill," commemorating the July 4th holiday by throwing millions off their health care and food assistance and cutting hundreds of thousands of health care jobs. The AFL-CIO marks the anniversary by detailing the damage the law has done to working families, while the wealthiest few continue to cash in.

In a statement, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said:

"It's been one year since President Trump signed the worst job-killing bill in American history. It was made possible by every senator and representative who voted to sell out working people and pick their pockets to hand another payday to corporations and billionaires.

"Since the passing of the Big Ugly Bill, the U.S. economy has had one of the worst years of job growth in decades. Black workers have been hit the hardest, with an unemployment rate now more than double the rate for White workers. Millions of Americans have lost their health care and access to the food programs they rely on, all while dealing with higher costs on everything from gas and groceries to electricity. With even bigger cuts going into effect after the midterm elections, states' budgets are getting blown up and local lawmakers are planning devastating cuts to even more essential programs to cover their residents' SNAP and Medicaid costs. Meanwhile, the people at the top are doing better than ever. This bill handed billionaires, one trillionaire and the country's wealthiest corporations massive tax giveaways paid for by the social programs working families depend on to survive.

"In 1776, Americans stood up against a powerful king who thought he could steal from us, trample on our rights and get away with it. We refused to be silenced. Two hundred and fifty years later, that same spirit is alive in American workers who organize their jobsites, fight for policies that actually help workers and show up at the ballot box to hold their elected representatives accountable.

"This Independence Day and every day, America's unions continue to fight the damage this bill has caused and build an economy that actually works for working people."

One year later, the "Big Ugly Bill":

- Contributed to one of the worst years for the job market in decades, with the U.S. economy experiencing almost zero job growth in 2025, and the gap between Black and White unemployment doubling .
- Stripped food assistance from more than four million Americans through SNAP cuts with participation dropping in every state and the steepest losses in Arizona, Florida, Louisiana and Oklahoma.
- Forced about 3 million people off their health insurance and drove up costs for people who get their coverage through the Affordable Care Act marketplace; premiums rose by 58 percent and deductibles reached a record high of nearly \$3,800 a year.
- Cut state Medicaid budgets by nearly \$679 billion, with new bureaucratic red tape projected to strip coverage from up to 10 million more people by 2028 and put hundreds of hospitals at risk of closing.
- Raised electricity bills by more than \$110 a year after repealing clean energy investment incentives that created good union energy jobs, all while Americans get slammed by inflation at a three-year high.
- Gifted \$1 trillion in tax breaks to the top one percent and raised taxes on Americans earning under \$15,000 a year, while adding \$3.4 trillion to the deficit.
- Is still on track to throw 600,000 health care workers out of a job, along with threatening 1.75 million construction jobs and 840,000 energy jobs in the years to come.

## Toledo Museum of Art...continued from page 3

sory Space & Food Trucks

11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Glass Pavilion Lawn

Live Music

12:00–3:00 p.m.

Main Stage

Headliner: Chavar Dontae and Ensemble

12:00 p.m.

Main Stage

Glassblowing Demonstration

2:00–2:45 p.m.

Hot Shop 1

Local and National Disability History Discussion with Tim Harrington and Dan Wilkins

2:00–3:00p.m.

Toledo Lucas County Public Library Tent, History and Genealogy Department

Celebratory Cake Cutting & Complimentary Sweet Treats provided by

... continued on page 13

## McKinstry Midwest College...continued from page 16

me finish."

A surprise speaker at the commencement ceremony was Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, who was on hand to support Rev. William Lucas, a doctorate recipient who is also the chaplain for the Toledo Police Department.

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow," the mayor said quoting Mahatma Gandhi. "Learn as if you were to live forever."

Then the doctoral graduates all had a chance to address their fellow graduates and the audience in general for a few minutes.

"The ministry is not just about the inside of the church," said Fonda Royster, one of the graduates. "Ministry happens when you feed the hungry; ministry happens when you clothe the unhoused; ministry happens when you advocate for people who feel forgotten and choose compassion over judgment."

Ten graduates received associate degrees along with 11 bachelors, five masters and 12 doctorates. Mark Williams, EdD, and Suzette Cowell, ThD, presented the degrees and Chris Byrd closed the ceremony with the MMCT theme song.

**The SOCIAL Butterfly 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PRESENTS**

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# What's Happening This Week in Toledo

Monday, July 6

Let's Get Moving: Morning Walks

Woodsdale Park, 1226 Woodsdale Ave. | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

A morning walk at a more leisurely pace.

Wednesday, July 8

Pool Party Tour with Council President Williams

Jamie Farr Splash Pad, 2140 N Summit 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. Come splash with us!

Thursday, July 9

Let's Get Moving: Pickleball

Jermain Park Tennis Complex and Pickleball Courts, Off Upton Avenue | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Movie Night in the Park

Danny Thomas Park, 2101 Broadway St. | 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Featuring Elio, rated PG. Movie begins at dusk

Come early and play eSports gaming, provided by Party on a Truck.

Walbridge Park Concert Series

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

Featuring Amelia Airharts

Free to the Public.

Friday, July 10

Save Our Community Summer Outreach BBQs

Willys Pool, 1375 Hillcrest Ave. | 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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

Party in the Park

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

Featuring: Legend2Legend: A Tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel with Excaliber

Saturday, July 11

Ottawa Park Concert Series

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

Featuring Madison Ave.

More to Explore

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.




"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.

**The Sojourner's Truth**


**A MOMENT OF TRUTH**

**THE LOCAL THREAD**




A Moment of Truth will explore some of the issues that are so critical in the lives of the residents of Toledo's African American community. The Sojourner's Truth has spent a quarter of a century speaking with and listening to those in our community who make a such a difference in our lives.


Join us now on WGTE 91 FM on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. as our hosts – Asia Nail, Stacy Fowler, Ricky Tyus and Alexandria Leatherberry – hold conversations with community members and examine how all of us can learn and benefit from those who are blazing paths for us in a number of critical areas such as community activism, business, health and travel.




**Asia Nail,**  
The Truth Reporter



**Ricky Tyus**  
of Tyus Tours and Travel



**Stayce Fowler,**  
Publisher, Pursuit Magazine



**Alexandria Leatherberry,**  
The Truth Reporter



## 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
	<b>Total Section 5307 funded items</b>	<b>\$8,057,182</b>	<b>\$11,121,478</b>
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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sjester@toledo.urban.net)

# The McKinstry Midwest College of Theology Spring Commencement

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

This year's McKinstry Midwest College of Theology's Spring Commencement ceremony was much bigger than usual – so big in fact that it was moved to another location. The commencement was held not in Bishop Pat McK-



Bishop Rodney Thomas



Compassion at Calvary Pastor Bishop Chaz Boez receives his diploma from Don Jones, ThD, and Bishop Pat McKinstry, ThD



instry's Worship Center, as usual, but in Compassion at Calvary which has a larger sanctuary.

However, even the spacious Compassion at Calvary was not quite large enough as the overflow crowd of friends and family and congregants were barely able to squeeze into the space.

One reason for the impressive turnout is the fact that there were more graduates than ever this year – 38 in all – receiving associates, bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees. The other reason for the overflow crowd is that one of the doctorate recipients was none other than the pastor of Compassion at Calvary himself, Bishop Chaz Boez.

The MMCT, notes Bishop McKinstry, pastor of the Worship Center, is accredited through the Midwest



Former graduates Valerie Walston, ThD, and Suzette Cowell, ThD



Pastor William Lucas accepts his diploma



Teria Quinn completes her Message in Dance to a standing ovation



Toledo Police Department Chief Mike Troendle and Bishop Pat McKinstry



Brenda Kynard-Holsey displays her bachelor's degree

College of Theology. The MCT, headquartered in Missouri, has affiliates in 28 states and 16 foreign lands, according to founder and president Don Jones, DMin, who was present at Compassion for the commencement and also to honor Bishop McKinstry who now serves on the executive board of MCT.

The commencement opened with a Message in Dance by Teria Quinn, followed by scripture readings by Nia Johnson and Clarence Nedd.

After the welcome by Terracina Johnson, one of the bachelor degree candidates, Bishop Rodney Thomas, wheelchair bound because of the health issues he has suffered during the last several years even as he was completing the College of Theology course, expressed his gratitude to God for enabling him to succeed in his academic quest. "I thank all of you for praying," he said to his audience and recalled his own prayers to God, "to help ... continued on page 12

**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.