



Volume 97 No. 7

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

October 14, 2026

The Padua Center's "Peaces" of Art



Aaliyah Rodriguez, artist, daughter of Victoria and Vincent Rodriguez. Kindergartner at Gesu.

In This Issue..

Perryman
Page 2

Carla Thomas
Page 4

IMA's First Monday
Page 8

Maternal Health
Page 10

Classifieds
Page 14

Realists
Get Out
the Vote
Page 16

Tolliver
Page 3

TMA's Rhonda Sewell
Page 5

Cover Story
"Peaces" of Art
Page 9

Book Review
Page 13

Ashford Fundraiser
Page 15

Competence Matters

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

The Truth Contributor

I choose to believe we're still in a time of a meritocracy, where merit means something.

- Barbara Jordan



Six years ago, before he won his seat on the appeals court, I sat down with Judge Myron Duhart. This time I asked what looks different.

"What is happening, live and in color, different than 2020 when I went in, is what's happening every single day," he said. By any objective standard, due process and the rule of law face more challenges "than any time in recent history." The last time he can point to a similar era is "the 1960s and the civil rights era."

A sitting judge doesn't reach for the civil rights era to make small talk and, from where I sit, you don't have to look far for what Duhart means. Major news organizations and journalists are in court right now over being barred from the White House and Air Force One.

Duhart didn't name names. He said only that in 2026 we are having conversations about "what I thought was otherwise settled law." Ask anybody who lived through the 60s what a settled right is worth.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 "settled" the ballot after Selma. Yet, 61 years later, the Supreme Court threw out a Louisiana map with two majority-Black districts, and voting rights groups say the Voting Rights Act now protects less than it did.

So, I asked what a judge does with a time like this. His answer? "I choose to believe we're still in a time of a meritocracy, where merit means something."



Hon. Myron Duhart

Notice the verb. People who are sure don't have to choose.

That verb lays a duty on the rest of us. Too many candidates now win office on loyalty to a personality instead of the ability to do the work, and those who pay for it are never the ones with money. This November, with two seats on the Sixth District Court of Appeals up, Toledo gets to say whether it chooses to believe too.

What Merit Looks Like

If we are going to believe in merit, we must check the evidence.

Duhart enlisted in the Army as a private and came out a JAG officer, a military lawyer in the Army's legal branch tasked to prosecute and defend courts-martial and advise commanders in the law. As a student he clerked for Toledo Municipal Judge Robert Penn, then earned his law degree at the University of Toledo and a master's in judicial studies at the prestigious Duke University. He has also studied at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Governor Strickland appointed Duhart to Common Pleas in 2011, and when a justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio stepped aside from a death penalty appeal, the court handed the case to him.

The people who watch him work have also weighed in. Toledo Bar Association polls its members on the qualifications of every judicial candidate on the Nov. 3 ballot, Duhart's opponent, CJ Kamm, included. Of those members who responded, 77 percent rated Duhart "highly recommended" to serve as a judge, the best showing of any candidate and 15 points ahead of the next highest. Duhart called that "very heartening," because those are "the very people that frankly know you the best."

Competence Matters

Voters have to recognize competence when it stands in front of them and prize it above a name or a party label.

Competence is not one thing. It is a list, and the judge who has it can show you every item: "experience, merit, qualifications." Then there is the item nobody campaigns on, "humility in a time where we don't see a whole lot of humility," along with "respect for the rule of law and due process, respect for others." Add up those qualities and you get the one thing a court cannot function without: trust.

The executive and legislative branches "have the power of the purse, they have the power of the sword. But in the third branch of government, all we have is trust, trust to the people," Duhart cautioned. "Sometimes, it's the perception of justice is just as important as actual justice."

Who needs that belief most? Wealthy persons can hire around a bad judge. A poor or working-class family can't, and for them the judge is the lawyer,

... continued on page 3

Scalp to Strand & Beyond with Dermatologist, Dr. Hope Mitchell

Join Dr. Hope Mitchell for a Hair and Skin Wellness discussion featuring Chelsea Amadi, Wellness Cosmetologist + Lectician, and Joycelyn Dumfeh, PA-C.

Topics will include Hair and Scalp Care, Hair Loss, Eczema, Psoriasis, Hyperpigmentation, Hidradenitis Suppurativa (H5), and more!

Thursday, October 22 | 12:00-1:00 PM | Perrysburg

BEFORE AFTER

BEFORE AFTER

BEFORE AFTER

BEFORE AFTER

*Mitchell Dermatology Actual Patients' Results

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

To reserve your seat, call 419.872.HOPE (4673)
or visit Mitchellderm.com

815 Commerce Drive, Perrysburg

Mitchellderm.com

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.

It's Gonna Get Ugly ... Real Soon

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

If the recent polls are an accurate barometer of the sentiments of the voting population about who is going to win the House and the Senate, let me put on my swami turban and prophesy as to what to expect after the pending and combative midterms.

The Swami sees the following occurring up to the 2028 presidential elections:

[1] Upon the Democrats taking a majority in the House and in spite of Trump calling the election, voter fraud, for the sake of the country and its national psychological health, there will be hearings galore on the rampant and upfront corruption that has infected the White House.

We will be inundated with stories of graphic descriptions of Trump, his family and his coterie of corrupt officials turning their heads or bypassing governmental safeguards in order to allow favored third parties engage in the pillage of the US Treasury for their personal gain.

House investigations will unravel schemes in which Trump's cronies were directly engaged in suspect conduct that was not called to account by any watchdog agency due, in part, to those agencies being partially defunded or their personnel staff being decimated so that they could not effectively perform valued and needed oversight.

There is even the outrageous story of the Greek ambassador Kimberly Guilfoyle, the former "fiancé" (?) of Don Trump Jr., pleading with a Trumpie friend to send her \$100,000 to pay off her American Express credit card! Let that sink in for a moment.

You want to stop the flow of foreign students coming to American universities and colleges?

Simple... propose a "fee" of \$75,000 per student and paid for by the attending university. What universities are going to pay a king's ransom for foreign students to attend their schools? This is just another con game/grift by Trump who daily exposes his woeful ignorance of foreign policy and the need for international collegiality when it comes to admitting foreign students.

Hey, senior citizens, did you get your \$90 "payoff" from Trump to be applied towards your outrageous Medicare premiums? Don't worry, it is on its way to your bank.

A blatant form of political bribery just before the election, if there ever was one.

We won't even discuss his prior promises of fat-cat types of payouts to you if you follow his instructions to vote Republican or payments to you regarding the collected tariff monies.

And how much time can be spent on examining the nefarious acts of DOGE (headed up by Elon Musk) regarding their fabricated claims of saving you billions and billions of dollars in revealing government excess and fraud. No evidence of such, just their word that it happened and that should be sufficient for you to believe them.

I predict numerous House hearings regarding the illegal means by which it is targeting his political enemies or simply just those who have the temerity to criticize him or for calling him out over his juvenile behavior.

Of course, the GOP (or what is left of it) will feign outrage and call it a weaponization of congressional oversight and will go on television and with their most strident voices and condemn these attacks.

The Democrats will have their hands full trying to restore cuts made to vital governmental agencies and services and Trump will try to nix anything bill that seeks to restore or return funding to those vital agencies.

The Democrats will demand a full and complete release of the Epstein Files and if Todd Blanche, the current titular head of the DOJ, protests, as he will, the Democrats need to hold him in contempt of The House since the release of those files have been the law for many months.

As is clearly evident, Trump is in the throes of early dementia and no longer has a filter over his mind and what comes out of his mouth. No discretion, no empathy, no balance articulation of the issues facing America, just a blather of bitterness, smallness and gobs of embarrassing ignorance on how the government works.

I predict that more and more foreign governments will do "work-arounds" to avoid this demented American president until better times come, knowing that Trump's inane pronouncements do not reflect the overall the gist and fixed position of the American government.

I predict that once the incoming Democrats can show the American public that they can both govern and reverse the excesses of Trump and his scalawags, that more of the deluded cult members of MAGA will open their blinds and see that they have been played by a con artist who, in actuality,



holds them in contempt.

I predict historians, five, 10 and 20 years from now, will be stymied why so many voters were bamboozled by Trump and his clearly discernible lies. Lies born from a stunted man who missed so many graces of proper upbringing that he was a willing captive to the worse and darkest impulses of the undisciplined human heart and its sin-stained nature.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at lafe5x@gmail.com

Perryman... continued from page 2

the cavalry and the last hope, all in one robe. Trust is all they have to go on.

So how do you vote on trust?

Look for the judge with a long-standing record in the legal community as well as the greater community, and the integrity to match. Look for fairness, or at least the certainty that anyone who comes into that courtroom knows "they'll be heard." A case decided with fairness "goes to the heart of the perception of justice," and fairness without competence is only good intentions.

Duhart is willing to be measured by it. "I stand on my record," he says. "I often say if you took my resume and you took my opponent's resume, it would be a stark difference and a stark deficiency as to my opponent, in all the things that you would necessarily want in a judge."

Competence is on the ballot, November 3. Choose it.

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

Community Calendar

October 18

Toledo NAACP Youth Council Meeting: 3:00 pm @ Sanger Branch Library

October 20

Toledo NAACP report of the Nominating Committee and election of the Supervisory Committee; 5:00 pm; 3450 W. Central Ave, Suite 374

October 22

Scalp to Strand & Beyond: Hair and skin wellness discussion with Dr. Hope Mitchell; Noon to 1 pm; Perrysburg: 419-872-4673

October 25

HOPE Toledo Sunday: Declare Church (1520 S. Reynolds Rd); 5:00 pm; "Stories of HOPE" and the "State of HOPE Toledo." For more information, Sareena Cox at info@hope-toledo.org.

November 17

Toledo NAACP election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will be administered using our election voting platform. Voting from 3 pm to 7 pm.

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

DO YOU QUALIFY?

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

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



statebank

YourStateBank.com

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.

¹Actual amount applied at closing.

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

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

Beyond Swayne Field: The Institutionalization of Black Authority

By Carla Thomas

The Truth Contributor

On October 5, 2026, I attended the Toledo City Council Housing, Community Development and Public Health Committee meeting regarding the Swayne Field/Al Peake pop-up.

The meeting initially unfolded the way I believe a public meeting should. Council members asked questions, and Roslyn Clemens, City of Toledo chief of Housing Neighborhood Sustainability, and city staff answered them. Some answers were provided, while inconsistencies and unanswered questions remained.

Community members expressed different perspectives. Some appreciated having fresh produce available. Others questioned the use of public money, the exclusion of local Black farmers and the economic opportunities that were lost.

The explanations surrounding the Al Peake contract, the RFP process, the pilot program and the city's decision-making raised more questions than answers. Some questions received only partial answers, while others seemed to be sidestepped altogether.

At some point, we have to recognize that an explanation is not the same as clarity, explanations are not accountability, and simply providing an answer does not mean the public has been given the truth.

We can keep asking questions but, in reality, city officials aren't going to tell us everything or admit to more than they're willing to acknowledge. As the meeting continued, another issue became apparent, one that deserves just as much attention and speaks to a much bigger problem within our Black community.

When Representation Becomes Regulation

This was the first council meeting following the Al Peake pop-up controversy, and residents came prepared to share their experiences, raise concerns and ask questions.

During the discussion, one councilwoman strongly criticized the administration's handling of the situation, questioned its transparency, and said it "should never have happened." She spoke about accountability, declaring, "I represent them (pointing to the audience). I don't represent me, I represent them. They vote for me they're holding me accountable." These were the



Sonia Flunder McNair executive director of Urban Wholistics

concerns residents had come to see addressed, and it was important to hear an elected representative raise them.

Chief Clemens responded by acknowledging the mistake, asking for trust and pointing to her revitalization work and commitment to the community. She discussed the shopping-center renovation, efforts to recruit a grocery tenant and plans to bring urban farmers together to help shape future efforts.

The councilwoman then praised Clemens's work on projects such as the Grand, the Driggs and Southland and said she supported her wholeheartedly. And in the same breath, she turned toward the audience, admonishing community members to set aside egos, stop being negative, stop posting "the mess" on Facebook and "move forward." This happened before residents had even been given the opportunity to speak. To me, it felt more like we were being chastised than an opportunity for the community to be heard.

Nobody is questioning Chief Clemens's entire body of work. The concern is the Al Peake pop-up. She may have done wonderful things for this city, and one mistake shouldn't erase those accomplishments. But neither should those accomplishments erase what happened at Swayne Field or be used as a reason to move forward without accountability.

We don't expect city officials to be perfect. But when mistakes are made, we deserve answers and accountability, not just apologies and promises to do better. And no matter how much good someone has done, that doesn't relieve our elected representatives of their responsibility to hold them accountable.

And who gets to decide that all the good one person has done outweighs the harm someone else has experienced?

Moving On at Whose Expense?

Urban farmer Sonia Flunder-McNair's comments were a powerful reminder that no one gets to decide when someone else's pain, frustration or concerns are no longer worth discussing, or when it's time for them to move forward.

Flunder-McNair described nearly 10 years of work in local food initiatives, collaborating with city personnel and working to expand food access. She spoke about the time, resources and preparation she has invested, including her ability to accept certain farmers-market benefits and her efforts to obtain SNAP approval.

She described being treated as though she wasn't qualified to participate in the Swayne Field market opportunity before anyone had even asked about her qualifications. She questioned why the city could commit approximately \$15,000 a week to an outside operator instead of investing in the people already doing that work in our community.

Years of work, meetings, relationships and investments in your own community. Then an opportunity comes along involving the very work you've been doing, and you're left out while someone from outside the community is brought in. She called it a slap in the face.

And we're supposed to call that a communication mistake and move on?

How can there be reconciliation when the people who were harmed don't feel they've even been heard? When people feel dismissed, they often keep raising the issue, not because they want conflict, but because the issue hasn't been resolved for them. Then their persistence gets labeled negativity, when what they're actually seeking is acknowledgment and accountability.

Moving forward requires answers, transparency and accountability. Without those things, we're at a standstill. Communication breaks down, concerns remain unresolved and no real progress is made.

The Institutional Mindset We Need to Examine

The handling of Swayne Field exposed something bigger, a dynamic that unfolds in our community time and time again, but nobody wants to call a thing a thing.

I'll call it The Institutionalization of Black Authority. The Institutionalization of Black Authority is when Black people who have attained institutional authority now feel the need to manage, correct or discipline other Black people on behalf of the institution rather than using their position to challenge the institution about the community's concerns.

We attend meetings seeking answers about city government, law enforcement and decisions affecting our community. Yet somehow, our actions be-

... continued on page 12

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 (FGN)

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

Who Gets to Keep the Family Album? The Power of Remembering Who We Are

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Rhonda Sewell's lifetime recognition from the *Association for Ethnic Studies* honors a career spent amplifying culture, challenging omissions and making room for the people whose history too often lives outside the frame.

The Door That Stayed Open

Every family has an album. Inside, somebody stands proudly in their Sunday best. A child grins with a missing tooth. An elder carries stories no photograph could ever hold.

But what happens when someone tears out the pages? When a child opens the album and cannot find the people who helped make the family whole?

That question lives at the heart of **Ethnic Studies**. It also runs through the career of **Rhonda Sewell, a journalist, educator and cultural advocate** whose work has helped communities see themselves in the stories institutions tell.

This October, the **Association for Ethnic Studies (AES)** will honor Sewell with a **lifetime recognition award** during its **53rd annual conference in Los Angeles, Oct. 15-17**. The recognition celebrates her commitment to Ethnic Studies and her career-long work advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

For Sewell, the honor feels deeply personal. It arrives in a season when she is reflecting on the life she has built and the impact she has made.

"You know, when you reach a certain stage in life, you start to reflect on what you've done," she says, considering the impact she has made on her family, herself and the world around her. She sees moments of recognition as an "indication that God is smiling upon you."

When Ravi K. Perry, PhD, called to tell her about the award, she never expected the conversation to be about her.

"I was in shock," she recalls.

Then came the tears, the gratitude and the feeling that the moment carried a message from our Creator. After years of doing the work without seeking applause, she received a reminder that her efforts had opened doors and left a mark.

Who Gets to Tell the Story?

A photograph can show who stood in the room. It cannot explain who was allowed inside.

Who decides which histories children learn? Whose art hangs on museum walls? Who gets remembered as a builder of this country, and who survives only in family stories?

In the mid-1990s, while reporting for *The Blade*, Sewell accepted an invitation from Robert L. Perry, PhD, and John S. Scott, PhD, to teach at Bowling Green State University. She designed a course called "Mass Media and Ethnic Groups: From the 1800s to the Present Day."

She had never taught a class before. Her mentors saw something in her that she had not yet discovered in herself.

"They were like, 'Rhonda, you have the chops to do this,'" she remembers.

Sewell brought journalism research and curiosity into the classroom, mixing films, presentations and discussion. She wanted students to participate, not sit



Rhonda Sewell

silently while someone delivered information from the front of the room.

"Young people want to feel something in these courses and they want to be heard," she says.

That belief extended beyond teaching. The media can describe a community every day and still fail to understand it. Its struggles may make headlines while its brilliance goes unmentioned.

Sewell wanted to help tell a complete story.

The Curriculum Is a Time Machine

Education can carry us backward, but it should never leave us stranded there.

Sewell entered a tradition built by people who challenged the limits of conventional education. Robert Perry is a distinguished member and prominent leader of AES. Perry and Scott, alongside student activists, established Ohio's first Ethnic Studies program at BGSU in 1970.

Their work insisted that students deserved more than a narrow account of history.

Sewell still marvels at what those educators accomplished, including bringing James Baldwin to BGSU's campus. She describes Perry and Scott as visionaries who trusted younger professionals to carry their work forward.

"They were passing the torch on to me and others like me," she says.

That history makes her recognition especially meaningful. Ravi Perry, Robert Perry's son, selected Sewell for the honor decades after his father and Scott opened the classroom door for her.

For Sewell, the connection is more than coincidence. It is a full-circle moment, one that links the people who gave her an opportunity with the person she became because they did.

Ethnic Studies examines how culture, identity, race and power shape human experience. It challenges students to look beyond the familiar version of history and recognize the people whose contributions have gone unacknowledged.

A fuller history does not diminish anyone. It gives us a more honest picture of the world we share.

The Museum Is a Mirror

A museum invites people to look at art. But what happens when visitors struggle to find themselves reflected in what they see?

Sewell has carried that question into her work at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library and the Toledo Museum of Art. At the library, she advocated for public funding and literacy. At the museum, she served as its inaugural Director of Belonging and Community Engagement before becoming Director of Advocacy and External Affairs.

She often approaches institutional decisions with a deceptively simple question: Have we asked the community?

That question can change a conversation. Leaders may create elaborate plans without consulting the people those plans are meant to serve. They can talk about belonging while overlooking the voices that could help them understand what belonging requires.

Sewell describes her calling plainly: "I call myself a culture amplifier."

...continued on page 11

Join Us!
Every Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
Let's FELLOWSHIP together - Acts 2:42

Worship EXPERIENCE

Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

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

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!

Central State University Awarded \$1.7 Million Grant

Special to The Truth

Central State University (CSU) has been awarded a \$1.7 million Supplemental Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The federal program provides resources to HBCUs to strengthen their institutions and expand educational opportunities for their students.

CSU President Morakinyo A.O. Kuti, Ph.D. said the funding will help advance key initiatives that elevate both the university and the student experience.

"We are grateful the administration recognizes the vital impact HBCUs have on students and communities, and we are ready to put these resources to work to support our students, empower our faculty, and advance our mission," said Kuti. "CSU is on a strong upward trajectory, and these dollars will further strengthen this institution that for more than a century has opened doors for countless Ohio students."

The award is part of a significant investment of more than \$174 million for HBCUs nationwide recently announced by the USDOE.

"Central State University is helping prepare Ohio students for success and strengthening the communities it serves. Investments like this will help CSU continue providing students with the education and opportunities they need to build successful careers and contribute to Ohio's future," said Senator Jon Husted.

The new supplemental award builds on CSU's ongoing efforts to position the university for sustainable growth while expanding opportunities for students to learn, lead, conduct research, and prepare for careers that contribute to Ohio's workforce and communities.

"As Ohio's only public HBCU, Central State opens doors for students and strengthens communities across our state. I've worked with Central State to expand its access to federal resources as an 1890 land-grant institution, and

I'm pleased to see this new \$1.7 million investment in its students," said Congressman Mike Turner. "I look forward to our continued partnership as we prepare the future's innovators at Central State."

This commitment allows CSU to continue serving students from across Ohio, the nation, and the world while advancing education, research, workforce development and community engagement.

Central State University is a public HBCU and 1890 Land-Grant Institution with an over 139-year tradition of preparing students from diverse backgrounds and experiences for leadership, research, and service. The University fosters academic excellence within a nurturing environment and provides a solid liberal arts foundation and STEM-Ag curriculum leading to professional careers and advanced studies globally.

For inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies or accessibility, please contact the Department of Human Resources at 937-376-6540.



Commencement Day at CSU



*Morakinyo A. O. Kuti, Ph.D.,
President of*



✓ VOTE FOR PAULA HICKS-HUDSON

Ohio Senate District 11

**Starting October 6, 2026 at Early Vote until
Election Day November 3, 2026**

PROVEN LEADERSHIP!

Paid For by Friends of Paula Hicks-Hudson



Accessible for Voters. Secure for Ohio.

Ohio consistently achieves
a 99.9% accuracy rate
in post-election audits
following each election.

Make a plan to vote at

VoteOhio.gov



IMA First Monday Enlightens Visitors on Community Events

The Truth Staff

The pastors of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance held their First Monday meeting on October 5 at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church and, as usual the scheduled and unscheduled guests brought such a great amount of knowledge to the attendees.

However, the October meeting, held the day before this election season's early voting began, brought a little added touch to the occasion – some attention to issues and candidates.

The pastors of the IMA endorsed the levy issues on the ballot that touch on the Toledo area – Issue # 9 for Toledo Public Schools; Issue # 8 for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library and Issue # 13 for Imagination Station.

Romules Durant, EdD, TPS superintendent, and Jason Kucsma, executive director TLCPL, were on hand to thank the pastors for their support.

"We are the educational arm of each other," said Durant noting the relationship of the public school system, the library and Imagination Station. "There is a connection of learning," he added.

"For every dollar invested in the library, another seven come back into the community," said Kucsma about the value of supporting the library system.

Rev. Cedric Brock, president of the IMA, added of Imagination Station that it is "an extra opportunity to learn more."

In addition to the issues, First Monday attendees also had the opportunity to hear from several candidates: Judge Myron Duhart, running for re-election



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur



Pastors and Guest Speakers in support of the levy issues

Rev. Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock Celebrate 33 Years at Mt. Nebo

The Truth Staff

On Sunday, September 27, Rev. Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock commemorated 33 years of leadership of Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church with the theme "Light It Up" and a luncheon celebration shared with various community partners.

The luncheon celebration was the part of a week-long series of activities to acknowledge the special occasion, including a Sunday, September 20, service, and a Wednesday, September 23, prayer meeting.

The Brocks were joined by Pastor Michael Prince of The Cross Church; Bishop Robert S. Davis of

First Church of God; Pastor John W. Williams of Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church and Pastor Darin Lawrence of East Grand Blvd COGIC of Detroit, MI.



Pastor Cedric and First Lady Debra Brock



to the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals, and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, also running for re-election.

"In my lifetime, I have never seen a more serious time in our nation," said Duhart.

Kaptur iterated the point that the pastors had made earlier in the meeting about November 1 being "souls to the polls" day and the fact that the campaign would be providing transportation to the early voting center. Tina Butts of The Movement would later re-emphasize that message.

After the political messages, representatives of various community organizations spoke about their services and/or upcoming events. The Area Office on Aging, Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Lutheran Social Services, HOPE Toledo were among the organizations whose representatives brought information to the session.

One of the always interesting aspects of the First Monday meetings is that a large portion of the sessions are open to unscheduled speakers – one can drop by and ask for a couple minutes of floor time to present his or her information

Or one can ask in advance at ima419toledo@gmail.com.

HOUSE OF DAY FUNERAL SERVICE
PREPLAN TODAY!
CALL TODAY: 419-534-2550

2550 NEBRASKA AVENUE
TOLEDO, OHIO 43607

NEED PEACE OF MIND CONCERNING YOUR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS?
Call today to make an appointment to let us assist you with your PRE-PLANNING.

We accept all preneed agreements.

"Peaces" of Art Fundraiser Celebrates the Padua Center for the 20th Year

Sojourner's Truth Staff



Sister Virginia Welch



Terry Crosby



Valerie Simmons Walston, ThD, Suzette Cowell, ThD, Alethea Easterly



The Padua Center held its annual fundraiser – "Peaces" of Art – on Sunday, October 13, at the Sullivan Center at Gesu Parish with a banquet, a silent and live auction and a celebration honoring some key contributors to the Padua Center mission and also 20 years of empowering children and adults to make a better world.

The evening began with a welcome from Terry Crosby and Sara Winfield, who served as the master and mistress of ceremonies then a silent auction of dozens of pieces of art, household items and events. The Padua Center children contributed a number of pieces of art for the live auction that followed.

After the successful bidders were announced, guests heard testimonies by Padua stars: Shelby Gallo-way, Sara Taite-Trail Winfield, Anastie and Riley Davis and former directors Terry Crosby and Anique Davis.

The Padua Center began its work in 2006 when Father Michael Billian (later Monsignor Billian) invited Sister Virginia Welch to start the program in St. Anthony Church which had been closed and abandoned. He has continued to ensure that the Center is supported and funded by the Diocese of Toledo over the years.

Sister Virginia Welch still serves as executive director; Kim McMann as administrative assistant; Alicia Murphy as NIA educational director; Kasey Rupp-Scott as gardener; Annette Hannibl, Florence McClendon



A young artist



The live auction of Children's Art Works begins

and Jackie Blueitt as Kwanzaa Park Neighbors facilitators and Kathy Kirby as art teacher. Dennis Jarrett is the board chair of "Peaces" of Art for St. Martin de Porres Parish.

The Padua Center is part of the St. Martin de Porres Parish.

MARY ELIZABETH WILLIAMS
Aida

BRENDAN BOYLE
Radamès

LAUREN DECKER
Amneris

NMON FORD
Amonasro

TOLEDO OPERA
presents

GIUSEPPE VERDI'S

AIDA

OCTOBER 16 & 18, 2026

SCAN FOR TICKETS
OR CALL
419-255-7464

Maternal, Mortality and Morbidity Awareness

The Truth Staff

The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc, Maumee Bay Club, hosted a workshop on women's maternal health on Saturday, September 26, at the Wayman Palmer YMCA.

Guests were able to hear from a variety of health care experts on issues affecting the state of maternal health in forum titled "What Women Need to Know." Medical doctors such as Dr. Rochelle W. Hall-Rollins, MD, and Dr. Tanya Baldwin, MD, shared their wisdom. Representatives from local care groups such as Avis Files of the Lucas County Fatherhood Network, Kristy Roby of March of Dimes, several doulas such as Sommer Clayborne, among others.

The discussion was focused on learning about maternal health disparities in order to empower women and prevent crises.

"Every single speak-

er came with blunt truth and wisdom," said one attendee.

Some of the facts that were addressed are that 43 percent of Ohio counties don't have a hospital with labor and delivery services or a birth center, meaning that nearly 395,000 women and 22,000 babies are living in places where giving birth safely means driving hours away. For many Black women, the nearest Black OB/GYN can be at least an hour away.

Other panelists were Kristy Roby of the March of Dimes, Jewel Rollins, Danielle Nicole Reddick, Mahogany Womack, Katie Braylock and Tierra Parker.



Dr. Brenda Kynard-Holsey, Dr. Rochelle W. Hall-Rollins, Dr. Tanya Baldwin, Kristy Roby



NANBPWC, Inc, Maumee Bay Club members



The doulas

★★★★★
**STAND UP WITH ME,
OHIO!**

WHEN WE COME TOGETHER, OUR VOICES CARRY WEIGHT.
NO ONE SHOULD GET TO DECIDE OUR FUTURE WITHOUT US.

PAULA WILL KEEP FIGHTING FOR:

-  PUBLIC EDUCATION & CHILDHOOD WELLNESS
-  SAFE, THRIVING NEIGHBORHOODS
-  GOOD-PAYING JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
-  PROTECTING LAKE ERIE & OUR ENVIRONMENT
-  COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT



1
2

**FIND YOUR
POLLING PLACE**
SCAN THE QR CODE TO PLAN YOUR VOTE.

**SCAN
PLAN
YOUR
VOTE**



VOTE.

EARLY VOTING:
OCT. 6 - NOV. 1, 2026
ELECTION DAY:
NOVEMBER 3, 2026
POLLS OPEN 6:30 AM - 7:30 PM

VOTE PAULA HICKS-HUDSON

OHIO STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 11

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF HICKS-HUDSON

Rhonda Sewell...continued from page 5

The phrase fits her work. She wants stories to travel farther and reach people who might otherwise never encounter them.

The Toledo Museum of Art is preparing a reimagined installation expected to open in 2027. The presentation will arrange art chronologically while drawing connections among artists and countries, including Pablo Picasso and Kehinde Wiley.

Art does not exist in a sealed room. Instead, artists respond to the world around them, building on influences that cross borders and generations. A museum can help visitors see those relationships, but it must remain willing to tell a wider story.

The People Who Build the Bridge

A bridge matters because someone else can cross it.

Sewell knows this from experience. Her own career changed because two educators trusted her with an opportunity she had never imagined pursuing.

This year, Toledo will bring its own voices and legacy to the AES conference. Jon-Jama Scott, son of John S. Scott, will present "Black Spirit," carrying forward a connection to the Ethnic Studies movement that helped shape his father's work. His presence adds a personal dimension to a conference rooted in the people who fought to make Ethnic Studies a recognized and valued field of study. Jennifer Lewis will make her conference debut with "Navigating Cultural Tensions in Legacy Brands," bringing another Toledo perspective to conversations about culture, identity and representation.

Their participation carries the work into the next generation.

Sewell and her mentors did not always stand on equal ground. They occupied different places in their lives and careers. But Perry and Scott recognized her potential and gave her room to grow.

She has never forgotten that gift.

"They changed the trajectory of my life," she says of the elders who opened doors for her.

Their example taught her that leadership means more than collecting opportunities. It means creating them for someone else.

A Gathering of Voices, A Legacy of Truth

The Association for Ethnic Studies' 53rd annual conference will bring together scholars, educators and cultural leaders whose work challenges us to look more closely at the stories history preserves and the voices it leaves at the margins. Featured scholars include Christine Sleeter, PhD, internationally recognized for her work in multicultural education and critical pedagogy, alongside Verónica X. Valadez and Gabriel A. Orosco, whose work connects Indigenous philosophies with community-based teaching.

Conference leadership and programming will draw on the expertise of faculty and scholars including Ezekiel Joubert III, PhD; LaShonda Carter, PhD; Deborah Brown, PhD; Robert De'Von Jiles, PhD, and Professor Francisco Najera. Across the program, presenters will explore the intersections of Black identity, feminism, artistic recognition, cultural memory and healing.

Jon-Jama Scott's "Black Spirit," will be presented alongside scholars examining Black women columnists, the recognition of Black American artistic contributions and the reclamation of plantation sites, reflecting the conference's broader commitment to

asking whose histories are honored and how communities can reclaim the power to tell their own stories.

Under the theme "For the People: A Loving Defense for Ethnic Studies," the gathering is more than an exchange of academic ideas. It is a defense of the right to remember, to question and to see our communities reflected in the histories we pass forward.

The Vocabulary of Belonging

Belonging means more than being allowed into a room. It means knowing your presence matters once you arrive.

There is power in being seen, and just as much power in being remembered. In journalism, that means seeing a community represented beyond its worst day. In a library, it can mean finding the resources that help a child imagine their future. In a museum, it may mean standing before a work of art and recognizing something of yourself.

Sewell brings a social justice lens to her work, but she does not pretend change happens automatically. As she continues building relationships inside some of Toledo's most influential institutions, she's learned how to advocate from within.

"I have a social justice spirit," she explains. "That's just who I am."

Her approach is persistent. When she sees something that is not right, she wants to know what can be done to change it.

That work begins with listening. It requires institutions to recognize that communities hold knowledge beyond their own offices and that people deserve a voice in the stories told about them.

Sixty Years, One Unfinished Conversation

At 60, Sewell is looking backward with gratitude and forward with curiosity. She has spent decades reporting, teaching and advocating. Now she is thinking about what comes next.

Her generation, she believes, has reached a moment of responsibility.

"We have to now pass the baton and the torch," she says.

As new doors open for Sewell, she often holds them open for someone else, recommending the next chapter of leaders for board seats instead of taking every opportunity for herself.

"Have you considered this person?" she asks.

That question is another way of lighting the way.

She understands that the work cannot depend on one generation forever. The people who once made room for her showed her how to do the same for others.

Still, the future can feel uncertain. Sewell has described being in transition, weighing difficult choices and trusting God to order her steps. Somewhere in the pages ahead, she hopes to write and publish a book of her own.

She may not have every answer yet, but she carries faith, experience and the freedom to decide what comes next.

Sometimes that is enough to begin.

The History We Carry Into the Future

Imagine a child opening the family album years from now.

The pages hold evidence of struggle, creativity and love. They show people who made a way when the road narrowed, elders who protected their stories and ordinary people whose choices shaped lives beyond their own.

That child deserves the whole album.

Sewell's lifetime recognition celebrates a career spent keeping those pages from disappearing. Her work reminds us that history is not simply what happened. It is also what we choose to preserve and what we allow the next generation to believe about itself.

The AES conference theme, "For the People: A Loving Defense for Ethnic Studies," makes a powerful distinction. Love does not require us to ignore what is broken. Sometimes love is precisely why we refuse to look away.

For decades, Sewell has helped bring overlooked voices into view. Now the field she helped serve has turned toward her and acknowledged the difference she has made.

The album is not complete. There are still names to speak, photographs to take and blank pages waiting for someone brave enough to fill them.

Rhonda Sewell knows what it means when someone believes in you before you fully believe in yourself. She has lived the difference one open door can make.

Now she is helping others find their way through.

Somewhere, a young person is waiting to see their reflection in a story, to discover that their voice belongs in the room, that their history belongs on the record, that their dreams deserve a place in the world.

Perhaps that is how we change the picture. One story preserved. One voice amplified. One door opened wide enough for someone else to walk through.

And one day, they will turn around and do the same.

Explore the Association for Ethnic Studies 53rd annual conference, "For the People: A Loving Defense for Ethnic Studies," bringing together scholars, educators and cultural advocates to preserve cultural memory, challenge historical omissions and amplify the voices that shape our collective story.



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@toledouban.net

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
Building Better Futures

[illegible]

Holding Lightning: The Life, Loves, and Art of Whitney Houston by Emily Lordi

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Round and round they go in your head.

Snippets of tunes, entire songs you loved decades ago, dance moves you copied and videos you never missed. Those things were essential to your youth, they were a soundtrack of your life, so read *Holding Lightning* by Emily Lordi and learn about the woman whose music you can still remember at full volume.

In the nearly 15 years since she died, Whitney Houston, says Lordi, has been “widely considered to be one of the greatest singers of all time.” Her mother, Cissy Houston, and record executive Clive Davis are generally credited for her rise.” Her ex-husband is “frequently blamed for her fall.” Says Lordi, “This... frame has made it impossible to see how hard Whitney worked to become herself...”

Houston was born in August 1963, the child of musical royalty. Her mother was a renowned back-up singer; her cousin was Dionne Warwick. The family was immersed in music from church to concert, and Houston happily took her place among them.

“Whitney... loved the sound of her voice,” says Lordi, which is apparently rare for a singer. As Houston’s talents grew, she became a “diva” and that was important: “she understood what it meant to claim this superlative status as a Black woman.” She was likewise focused and “worked hard to develop the aptitude she’d inherited.”

She also played hard: early in her career, she and her best-friend-turned-

c. 2026
Mariner
\$32.00
336 pages

lover, Robyn, did drugs sometimes but it didn’t affect Houston’s work then. Houston was energetic, on top of her career, topping the charts, and she made it all look easy. It seemed as though she was everywhere, dancing in heels and using that amazing voice – and yet, her success brought criticism from those who questioned her musical choices and her Blackness.

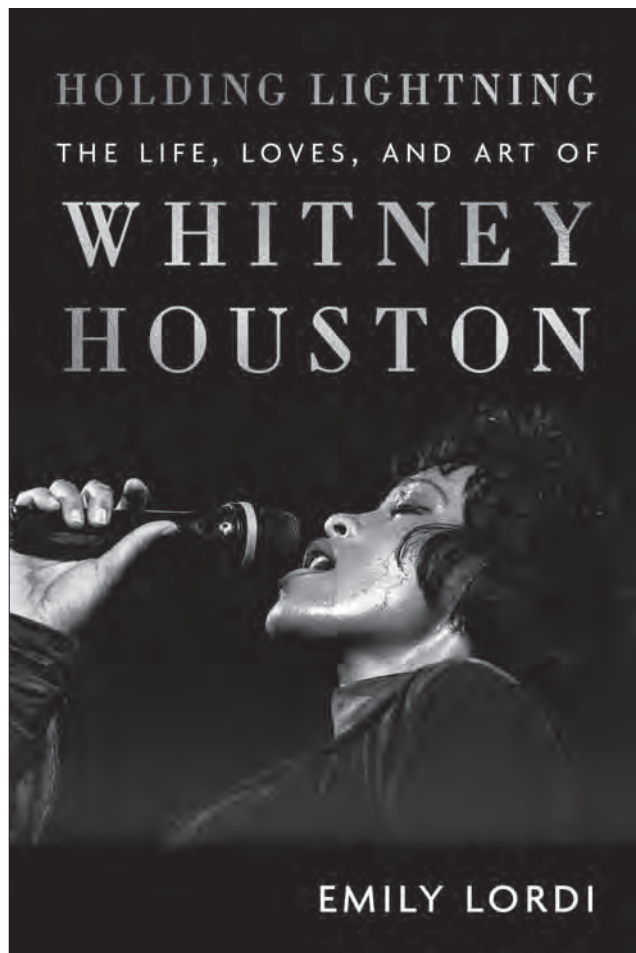
By the early part of this century, Houston was struggling. Substance abuse plagued her. She was “stressed out all the time,” seemingly refusing to fail but also ready to stop...

It’s called an earworm, when you just can’t get a song out of your head, when it rolls around and around for days. That’s what’s going to happen when you read *Holding Lightning*.

If you’re a fan, you won’t mind. Whitney Houston’s music is a good accompaniment to this book – and a needed one, since, aside from the occasional insight and surprising tidbit, author Emily Lordi doesn’t offer much new about Houston’s life here.

Still, Houston’s story is a classic tale of a rising and falling star, the kind that movies are made of. That doesn’t make it any easier to read, nor is it easy to look away because Houston was (and still is) everywhere. Even though what’s in this book may feel like it’s all been covered before, even though there may be repetition, even though the narrative can lag some, you’ll be left with earworms and sadness.

That should make fans old and new eager to get ahold of *Holding Lightning*. So find it and turn up the volume; here’s a book to wrap your hands around.



Clean Eco-friendly

DeFlame

CANDLES

Explore our collection of handcrafted soy candles, scented wax melts, incense, all-natural carpet deodorizers, body oils, room spray, and car diffusers

Store Hours

Sun-Tue appointments only

Wed - Closed

Thursday 1p - 6p

Friday 1p - 6p

Saturday 1-6p

In-store Pick up & Delivery

****Free Local Delivery within 10 Miles w/\$20 Order**

www.deflamecandle.com

Kenga Jackson

419-973-3263

3 E. Bancroft St. Suite #3

Wellness Products

CLASSIFIEDS

Page 14

October 14, 2026

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio, by the Purchasing Department, One Government Center, Suite 480, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2247 until 2:00 P.M. (local time), September 15, 2026 and opened immediately thereafter for **#2184-Request for Proposals for Centralized Record Storage** for the Lucas County Clerk of Courts Records Center, according to specifications available for examination, or download the proposal by going to the site, <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.asp>. Suppliers interested in doing business with Lucas County must register in the Supplier Portal. To access the Lucas County Oracle Supplier Portal, please visit: https://eieb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuld=300000007278812&_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3_1&_af_rLoop=7126760101772357&_afrWindow-Mode=0&_afrWindowid=avudlxmca&_afrFS=16&_afrMT=screen&_afrMFW=1920&_afrMFH=932&_afrMFDW=1920&_afrMFDH=1080&_afrMFC=8&_afrMFCI=0&_afrMFM=0&_afrMFR=96&_afrMFG=0&_afrMFS=0&_afrMFO=0

Prior to 2:00 P.M. (local time), September 15, 2026 each proposal shall contain the full name of each person submitting the proposal and the name of every person or company interested in same. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.
Lisa A. Sobecki – President
Pete Gerken – Commissioner
Anita Lopez – Commissioner

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING DIRECTOR

The Padua Center is seeking an After School Tutoring Director, the Nia Program. The successful applicant will have experience in an educational field as either a teacher or classroom aide. The main responsibilities of the Director are to provide tutoring and educational enrichment to about 15 elementary school children from 2:30-5:30 Monday through Thursday, beginning September 8, 2026 and will continue until the end of the school year. Volunteer helpers are available. Transportation and meals are managed by other employees. Pay range is \$17-\$20 an hour. Approximately 12 hours a week.

Please submit resume to thepaduacenter@gmail.com

For more information call: The Padua Center, 419 241 6465

CSU DAY IN TOLEDO

Central State University will host **CSU Day in Toledo** on **September 26-27, 2026, at Third Baptist Church, 402 Pinewood Ave., Toledo**. Students and families from Northwest Ohio are invited to meet with university representatives, learn about admissions, scholarships, financial aid, academic programs, and student life.

OFFICE SPACES FOR RENT

Several to choose from in the heart of the Warren Sherman area – corner of Franklin and Bancroft and close to the Wayman Palmer YMCA. Contact 419-509-0492 for more information

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FULL UNIT TURN, TURNKEY MAKE-READY, AND COMPREHENSIVE UNIT READINESS SERVICES RFP26-R004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Full Unit Turn, Turnkey Make-Ready, and Comprehensive Unit Readiness Services in accordance with RFP26-R004**. Received in accordance with law until **October 19, 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 PROPOSALS RESIDENTIAL UNIT TRADE, MAKE-READY, AND BUNDLED CORRECTIVE SERVICES RFP26-R005

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Residential Unit Trade, Make-Ready, and Bundled Corrective Services in accordance with RFP26-R005**. Received in accordance with law until **October 19, 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 PROPOSALS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES – ALL AMPS COMMUNITIES AND SCATTERED SITES RFP26-R007

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Snow Removal Services – All AMPS Communities and Scattered Sites in accordance with RFP26-R007**. Received in accordance with law until **October 16, 2026, at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9452 (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.



Michael Ashford Hosts Fundraiser

The Truth Staff

Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford held a fundraiser on Tuesday, October 6, at the Peacock Café, as friends, supporters and community leaders joined him on the first day of early voting in a push for the state's Democratic Party slate and a few local issues.

Ashford, who is not on the ballot during this election cycle, spent a few minutes addressing the guests about matters of concern, such as the false advertising that is so pervasive on the television these days.

"I'm so sick and tired ... and tired and sick ... of these commercials – they are as rock bottom as you can get," he said to the accompanying groans of agreement from his listeners.

He expressed his particular frustration with an ad accusing Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of wanting men to play girls' sports and have access to girls' locker rooms. He also noted the ad featuring a woman who had undergone a sex change operation and blamed Sherrod Brown for allowing such things to happen when she was underaged. That particular woman is from Texas, Ashford observed, as many in attendance agreed.

Issue # 9, the Toledo Public Schools' levy request, also grabbed Ashford's attention. "If nothing else, support Issue 9," he said, expressing his dismay that state legislators have voted over the years to move so much of taxpayers' funds into charter schools.

"Have you been in a charter school recently," he asked his listeners. "There are few amenities, the teachers don't have the same accreditation" as those in public schools, he said.

"The teachers work hard, the children work hard," he said praising the efforts of those in public school classrooms.

During his time on the podium, Ashford thanked the numerous guests in general and several in particular such as Lucas County Commissioner for her support and Theresa M. Gabriel, and her son Robert, for opening up their place of business, The Peacock Café, for the event.



Ruth Ashford, Mike Ashford, Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez



Guest who are celebrating their birthdays in August, September or October



Lucas County Recorder Mike Ashford

Generational Differences IN THE WORKPLACE CONFERENCE 2026

CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND EFFECTIVE
STRATEGIES FOR WORKING CROSS-CULTURALLY
TO IMPROVE BOTTOM-LINE PERFORMANCE

October 30, 2026

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn, Perrysburg, OH

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Tim Elmore

Founder
Growing Leaders

Who
should
attend:

HR
Leaders

Corporate
Managers /
Team Leads

Nonprofit &
Government
Administrators

Labor Leaders

Belonging &
Engagement Officers

Multi-Generational
Workplace Teams

Employee Engagement
Professionals

Senior-Level & Emerging
Professionals

Business Owners &
Community Partners

Panel & Discussion Topics:

Why Generational Values and Their Differences Matter More Than Ever

What Leaders Can do TODAY to Create Harmony

Understanding Generational Communication Styles

Real Strategies for Improved Bottom-Line Performance

Networking Opportunities

and more!

Presented By:

Dr. Willie McKether
President
WLM Cultural
Communications



More info: generationaldifferencesconference.com
[qdwc.square.site](https://www.qdwc.square.site)

Pay by CC or ACH:



Toledo Realists Hold Voter Registration Event

Special to The Truth

The Greater Toledo Realist Association (GTRA) held a voter registration event on October 3, at the Waymen Palmer YMCA, in order to give visitors an opportunity to meet candidates, receive voter and ballot information, check their voter registration information and participate in candidate trick-or-treat tables.

A number of vendors were present to assist voters or potential voters walk through the information they needed. And since it is October, costumes were not only welcome but encouraged!

Children were also able to cast their votes in a kids' mock election!

Admission was free and the food was also!!



Blair Johnson and Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson



DeLise Simmons at the Realist booth



Judge Myron Duhart with a few young voters



GOOD LEADERS SPEAK...
GREAT LEADERS LISTEN.



VOTE TO RE-ELECT
ELGIN
ROGERS, JR.

OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

He listens.

He works for US.

He is delivering real results for US.

THE RECEIPTS PROVE IT!



INVESTING IN PEOPLE



DELIVERING FOR DISTRICT 42



RETURNS YOUR CALL

RE-ELECT ELGIN ROGERS, JR.

Ohio House of Representatives - District 42

HE IS MAKING OHIO WORK FOR YOU!

MAKE OHIO AFFORDABLE AGAIN
VOTE EARLY: OCTOBER 6 - NOVEMBER 1
ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3

Paid for by Citizens for Rogers

Rep. Rogers Says Ohioans Deserve Lasting Affordability “Don’t Fall for the Pump Fake”

Special to The Truth

State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr. (D-Toledo) released the following statement explaining his vote against the 90-day gas-tax holiday contained in Sub. House Bill 519:

“Let me be clear: I support lowering gas prices and putting more money back into the pockets of Ohio families. My concern is not with providing relief-it is with how we provide it, how long it lasts, and who ultimately pays for it.

Ohio families are struggling with mortgages, rent, groceries, utilities, health care, insurance, child care and transportation. They need meaningful relief from the overall cost of living-not simply 90 days of relief at the pump.

Supporters of House Bill 519 say the legislation will provide approximately \$725 million in relief while ensuring funding remains available for Ohio’s roads and construction projects. But that raises an important question: If the state is replacing that revenue with other public dollars, how much of the \$725 million actually stays in your pocket-and where does the replacement money ultimately come from?

That is the conversation taxpayers deserve.