The Sojourner's Truth

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Kaptur Gets a Little Help From Friends



House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries Visits Toledo to Boost Marcy Kaptur Candidacy

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LIUNA LOCAL 500 ENDORSEMENTS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Dist 9
✓ MARCY KAPTUR

6th DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS
✓ MYRON C. DUHART
✓ MICHAEL R. GOULDING

JUSTICE OF THE OHIO SUPREME COURT
✓ JENNIFER BRUNNER
✓ MARILYN ZAYAS

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL
✓ JOHN J. KULEWICZ

AUDITOR OF STATE
✓ FRANK LAROSE

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE
✓ ALLISON RUSSO

OHIO TREASURER OF STATE
✓ JAY EDWARDS

LUCAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER
✓ LISA A. SOBECKI

LUCAS COUNTY AUDITOR
✓ KATIE MOLINE

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
✓ IAN B. ENGLISH

JUDGE OF COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (Domestic Relations)
✓ LISA MCGOWAN

JUDGE OF COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (JUVENILE)
✓ AMY E. STONER

JUDGE OF COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (PROBATE)
✓ TOM PUFFENBERGER

OHIO SENATE DISTRICT 11
✓ PAULA HICKS-HUDSON

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
✓ ERIKA WHITE - DISTRICT 41
✓ ELGIN ROGERS - DISTRICT 42
✓ MICHELE GRIM - DISTRICT 43
✓ DAVID J. FOURNIER - DISTRICT 44
✓ HARAZ GHANBARI - DISTRICT 75 (WOOD COUNTY)

WOOD COUNTY

WOOD COUNTY JUDGE OF COMMON PLEAS
✓ JOEL KUHLMAN

WOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONER
✓ BRENNA REYNOLDS

WOOD COUNTY AUDITOR
✓ MARK WONGROWSKI

ISSUES

VOTE YES – SUPPORT "FOR"
✓ ISSUE 8 - TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY LIBRARY
✓ ISSUE 9 - TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOL LEVY
✓ ISSUE 16 - CITY OF TOLEDO

ISSUE 25 - (OREGON CHARTER AMENDMENT)
VOTE NO



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DAVID FLEETWOOD - BUSINESS MANAGER

Local Leaders Speak Out Against Vivek Ramaswamy

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

On Tuesday, October 19 three local leaders held a special press conference at Promenade Park speaking out against the policies of Ohio Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy. The leaders spotlighted his policies that they state are not in the interest of Ohioans and unanimously expressed their support of Dr. Amy Acton, MD, for governor of Ohio.

Ohio Senator Paula Hicks- Hudson, State Representative Erika White and UAW Local 14 President Tony Totty addressed Ramaswamy's policies, leadership and the current state and future of Ohio.

Tony Totty (UAW Local 14 President)

"Before we used to look at who can get us ahead. And now, sadly, our members are just looking to survive," said Totty.

"Vivek Ramaswamy, he recently said that affordability is a buzzword. That's not true to our members. Every time they go pump gas or go to the grocery store, that's a real issue. And they know that. Affordability isn't just a buzzword. Higher prices at the grocery store and the gas pump, and the doctor's office feel consistently having to rearrange their life, and that's not right. Not only do our members have to worry about their job, they have to worry about the future for their kids." Totty noted that Ramaswamy moved his company from Ohio to Texas which removes job opportunities.

"We know if he's elected, his failed policies will do damage to Ohio and our members. And that's why we firmly support Dr. Amy Acton," Totty added.

Representative Erika White

"Vivek Ramaswamy likes to pretend he understands what every day Ohioans are going through. But his tax proposals, raise serious questions about who ultimately pays the price in what's ahead," remarked White.

"Take his property tax scam. He called it tax relief. But relief for who? And at whose expense? …That's not tax relief. That's trading one affordable bill for another, and every day Ohio will be left paying the price….When the budget doesn't add up, who gets stuck paying the bill? The workers, retirees, families already struggling to make ends meet… that isn't tax relief, for people who end up paying for it somewhere else. That's tax shifting. Ohioans deserve more than promises. They deserve answers.

"I've listened to Ohioans tell me what they're struggling with, and I want a governor who listens to them too. And that's why I'm voting for Amy Acton. She'll make lowering cost a priority from day one and partner with us in the state house to fight for Ohio from every corner of the state, including right here in northwest Ohio."

Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson

"I want to talk about receipts…" said Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson, "I hold in my hand gas receipts, and these receipts show how back in March, I paid $30 for eight gallons of gas, and just two weeks ago, I paid $55 for that same amount of gas. So, we can talk about theoretically what affordability is. I'm able to pay that, but there are so many working families and other families in Lucas County, northwest Ohio, and throughout the state of Ohio that cannot afford to be swindled or lied to by Vivek Ramaswamy.

"If he's elected as our governor, you can imagine, and I believe, there'll be more of these types of things that are happening to us, because for too long, billionaires and special interests have been running our state. And we cannot afford to," she continued.

"Dr. Amy Acton has as a plan to include an earned income tax credit that will support up to 775,000 working families, Dr. Acton is committed to fighting for a child tax credit of $1,000 a year for children, aged 0 to 6, and $500 for children, aged 7 to 18, for families making up to $85,000 in annual income, which will help ease the burden for more than 14 million children and their families. A married couple with 2 children, earning $60,000 a year, could receive an additional. $1,778 back into their pockets.



"Toledo cannot afford to have Vivek Ramaswamy as our next governor. We need Dr. Acton who is a clear choice, who has a clear plan to lower our cost, and I can't wait to elect her governor in just 15 days," concluded Hicks-Hudson.

Community Calendar

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.



Hillary Was Right!...Trump Is Putin's Puppet!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column



Remember the debate in October 2016 in Las Vegas between Trump and Hillary Clinton during which Hillary called Trump, Putin's Puppet?

Of course, Trump went ballistic at the mere thought that he was a captive of Putin and loudly protested that characterization of him.

Now, fast forward to the present time and what we have repeatedly witnessed is a fulfillment of Hillary's prescience that Trump is both an ardent fan of Putin and is totally under his 'Svengali' spell.

From any angle you want to examine the evidence, Trump is simply and totally enamored by all things, Putin. Now comes the latest example of Trump oozing unfettered loyalty to the former KGB agent.

A mere month or two ago, Congress, with overwhelming bi-partisan support passed a bill, named after the now-deceased Congressman Lindsey Graham that would have imposed tough economic sanctions on Putin, Russia and certain Russian officials for their war crimes in invading Ukraine.

Trump signed the bill into law.

However, true to his lying nature, Trump has in the past days knee capped those sanctions by agreeing to buy hundreds of thousands of tons of diesel oil from Russian.

Even when told that such a purchase would have a negligible effect on US prices at the gas pump, Trump did it because he is enamored with strongmen dictators and simply cannot get enough of his favorite puppet master, Putin.

As he is wont to do, Trump used the false flag of such a squelching of sanctions against Russia as being in the national interests of the US. How does a bald face lie get even balder?

Leave it to Trump because he is an accomplished master of deny, delay or deflect.

In essence, Trump has turned his back against Ukraine and by allowing Russia to escape those sanctions, Trump is helping Russia finance its war against a democratic sovereign nation.

And to add insult to the injury, Trump is telling the Ukrainians that they need to consider electing a new leader since it is obvious that Trump's efforts to end his war against Iran is not going well and now he needs to deflect to someone else to take the attention off of his juvenile foreign policy debacles.

And you wonder why America's standing of being the "arsenal of democracy" is being thoroughly pummeled to pulp because we have a President who is fixated on serving the needs of his puppet master and not the principles of democracy.

Some commentators have indicated that Trump's alarming reversal on sanctions against Russia is an economic ploy by which when Trump leaves office at the end of 2028, Russia will welcome Trump's desire to build hotels in Russia and other business endeavors.

The short stick of it is, Trump's is looking out for Trump and family and if that means that Ukrainians will have to suffer and die… 'oh well.'

Could this horrendous back stabbing be reversed? Only if a majority of Congress protest long and protest loudly and create enough of a political storm that Trump will back off and allow the law to go into effect.

And what are those chances? Negligible since the now castrated GOP under the undue influence of the MAGA faction, will not cross dear leader for fear of being targeted by Trump's munchkins in the DOJ led by Trump's number one toadie, Todd Blanche.

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Your Neighborhood Is on the Ballot. Well, Sort Of

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

From potholes and property taxes to schools and public safety, a conversation with ***Ohio Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson*** *explores how government decisions reach our front doors, and why understanding your ballot matters.*



Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Ever complained about a pothole so deep it feels like your car needs a passport? Or wondered why that abandoned property down the street keeps collecting trash? Maybe you've noticed your housing costs creeping up while your paycheck stays about the same. It's frustrating, and it raises a fair question: Who makes the decisions that affect our everyday lives?

Government can feel distant until a decision hits close to home. The condition of a neighborhood, the quality of local services and the way schools receive funding all connect to decisions made by elected officials. Knowing who handles what helps us understand where to turn when we have questions or concerns.

Ohio Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson has seen that connection from both sides of the table. **A Democrat representing Senate District 11**, she served as **Toledo's mayor from 2015 to 2018, becoming the city's first African American woman to hold the office.** Today, her experience in local government continues to inform her work at the Statehouse.

In a conversation with *The Sojourner's Truth*, Hicks-Hudson discusses neighborhood investment, education, helping residents navigate government services and the importance of representation. Her perspective opens the door to a question many people ask, even if they don't always say it out loud: What does all this government business actually have to do with me?

The Issues Outside Your Front Door

For Paula Hicks-Hudson, public service means more than passing laws or casting votes at the Statehouse. Sometimes, it means helping one person find their way through a difficult moment.

She recalls a constituent who received assistance from her office and later told her the support "brought him sunshine when he was in a very dark place."

That's a powerful reminder that government isn't always about big announcements or heated debates on television. Sometimes, it's about someone getting the help they need when they don't know where else to turn.

For many residents, the biggest concerns aren't playing out in Washington. They're happening right down the street. Hicks-Hudson says people bring concerns about overgrown lawns, illegal dumping, trash and old tires left behind. These problems may not make national news, but the people living with them see the impact every day.

But ask the people who live next to an abandoned property, and those problems don't feel small at all.

They affect how people feel about their streets, their homes and the community they call their own.

Housing and education also remain important parts of Hicks-Hudson's approach to state government. She believes Ohio has a responsibility under its constitution to fund public schools adequately. She also wants students to have a clear path from early childhood education to college or job training, with opportunities to prepare for what comes next.

One accomplishment Hicks-Hudson has championed is expanding opportunities for young people through urban agriculture. She sponsored legislation to establish the Urban Farmer Youth Initiative, a program designed to give young people hands-on experience with farming and agricultural education. The effort connects classroom learning with practical skills while supporting access to fresh food and green spaces in urban communities.

Voters will encounter different proposals and perspectives on these issues. Understanding which officials have a say in those decisions is a good place to start.

Wait, What Does a State Senator Do Again?

Let's be honest. Most of us hear a lot about the U.S. president. State government doesn't always get the same attention, even though its decisions can have a direct impact on our lives.

Think of government as a set of different toolboxes. City officials handle many municipal services. County officials oversee responsibilities and programs at the county level. State lawmakers create state laws, approve budgets and shape policies in areas such as education and transportation. Federal officials handle matters assigned to the national government.

Sometimes those responsibilities overlap. Still, one office can't simply do the job of another.

Hicks-Hudson says people don't always recognize how much state government influences their daily lives. That can leave residents wondering whom to call when something goes wrong or where to turn when they need help.

Start with a simple question: Is this a city problem, a county matter, a state issue or something handled by the federal government?

You might not know the answer right away. That's OK. Finding out is part of becoming an informed voter.

Plot Twist: Your Voting District Can Change

Here's something that can catch voters off guard: The boundaries of your voting district can change.

Many voters have raised concerns about Ohio's redistricting process, which determines the boundaries of legislative districts.

Senator Hicks-Hudson says approximately 33,000 Toledo residents moved out of her Senate district and into another district before moving back two years later. According to her, those changes affect which state Senate race those residents can vote in.

"When district lines change, it can change who represents you and who you have the opportunity to vote for. People need to understand how those decisions affect them," she explains.

Redistricting may sound like political insider business, but it has a very practical consequence. District boundaries help determine who represents your address. Change the boundaries, and you could have a different representative.

That's why it's worth checking your voter information rather than assuming your ballot will look the same as it did last time. This is especially important if you've moved or if district lines have changed.

Your address matters. It helps determine which candidates appear on your ballot and which elections you're eligible to vote in.

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[3]Borrower 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).

The Art of Service Celebrated at the 2026 Legends Luncheon

The Truth Staff

The African American Legacy Project hosted the 2026 Legends Luncheon on Saturday, October 17, at The Pinnacle in Maumee and honored five Toledo legends for the service they have given to their community and, in some instances, to the world itself.

The 22nd Legends Luncheon brought together about 300 attendees, including elected officials, community activists and organization leaders, among the many prominent area residents who present. Past honorees were also in attendance such as Eddie Cole, the 106-year-old former area attorney.

This year's legends, who were presented with the Kente cloth were: Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford; Hollywood standout Ayanna A. Floyd; educator John Norwood, PhD; federal government executive Scharita Barry Lacey and former labor leader Ray Wood.

Ashford, a Nebraska native and graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, arrived in Toledo decades ago with the Boys and Girls Club, an advocate for at risk children, families and seniors. He eventually joined the YMCA/JCC of Greater Toledo and then became involved in public service as an elected official.

Ashford served on Toledo City Council from 2002 to 2011 (as president in 2007); represented Toledo as a state representative from 2011 to 2018 (serving as the minority whip); was elected to his current position of Lucas County Recorder while also serving as chairman of the Lucas County Democratic Party.

Floyd, a Toledo native, is a Hollywood luminary – a television writer, producer an showrunner who has spent more then two decades creating television and film dramas and series such as Empire, Private Practice, Hannibal and Falling Skies.

She has developed television and film projects for entertainment companies such as CBS, NBC, FOX, TNT, Freeform and Sony.

The Chi, Freedom House, Power Book II are among her many projects as a producer. A graduate of Macomber High School and Eastern Michigan University, Floyd earned a masters of Fine Arts degree from Columbia College Chicago.

Norwood, an accomplished educator, is graduate of Libbey High School. He earned his masters of education from Bowling Green State University and his doctorate in education from the University of Michigan.

After stints with Toledo Public Schools and school districts in Cincinnati and Boston, MA, Norwood joined the school district of Saginaw, MI, and held several leadership positions, including assistant superintendent.

He completed his career as a senior associate with an educational consulting firm, Ray Taylor and Associates.

Lacey, an honors graduate of Scott High School, has had a career as a federal government employee, a non-profit founder and a community advocate.

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The honorees - John Norwood, Ray Wood, Scharita Barry Lacey, Ayanna Floyd, Michael Ashford



Robert Smith and his brother Russell Smith



Ray Wood and his wife LaDonna





Introducing Photo/Modele of the Week

People. Photography. Stories. Brands



There is a story behind every photograph.

Beginning with this issue, The Truth will introduce Photo / Model of the Week, a new feature celebrating photography, modeling, creativity, professionals, entrepreneurs, businesses and the people who make our community unique.

For more than three decades, photographer and creative professional Virgilio Baker has worked with models, professionals, entrepreneurs and businesses, creating images that capture more than what someone looks like. A photograph can communicate confidence, personality, professionalism, creativity and even the identity of a brand. That idea is at the heart of Photo / Model of the Week.

Eric King The Man Behind the Profession
For the introduction of Photo / Model of the Week, we turn our lens toward Eric King of KING LAW OFFICES.
These two photographs offer two different perspectives of the same professional. The first captures Eric in a relaxed, approachable moment, dressed in the professional style that reflects his role as an attorney. The second, presented in black and white, places him at the head of a conference table — a more formal image that communicates presence, confidence and leadership.
Together, the photographs demonstrate what professional photography can do beyond simply taking a picture. An image can tell us something about the person behind the profession.



Story and Photography : Virgilio Baker

Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries Visits Toledo to Boost Kaptur Candidacy

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, U.S. House of Representatives minority leader, arrived in Toledo on Sunday, October 18, to lend his support to the candidacy of his Democratic Party colleague, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

Kaptur, the longest serving congresswoman, is in the battle of her career, this election cycle, as she has been gerrymandered by the Republicans in the Ohio General Assembly into a district structured to guarantee defeat in her contest with Republican Derek Merrin. However, that contest is rated a virtual toss up according to polls taken a few weeks before Election Day.

But according to those polls, the Democrats are favored to take overall control of the House, which means that the Brooklyn-based Jeffries would undoubtedly be elected Speaker of the House by his colleagues.

"I have worked with many Speakers of the House," said Kaptur to the congregation at The Worship Center, recalling her 44 years in Congress. Her favorite, she said, was Tip O'Neil, congressman from Boston, MA.

"We refinanced Social Security and made sure Medicare was secure," said Kaptur recalling the O'Neill years. "We built houses; we repaved roads. We need someone in leadership in our House who cares about this country and not just about their own power … I am so happy with this man [Jeffries]. This man wants to do something for the people of this country … we must give him that opportunity."

Jeffries also addressed the congregation, urging them to vote, and to get others out to vote. And to vote for Kaptur, most particularly. He praised Kaptur for "her intellect, her resilience, her commitment, her care."

Speaking of the necessity to bring change about at the ballot box, "we can either continue to turn back the clock or we can turn the page and move this country forward," said Jeffries, who is in line to become the first African American Speaker of the House.



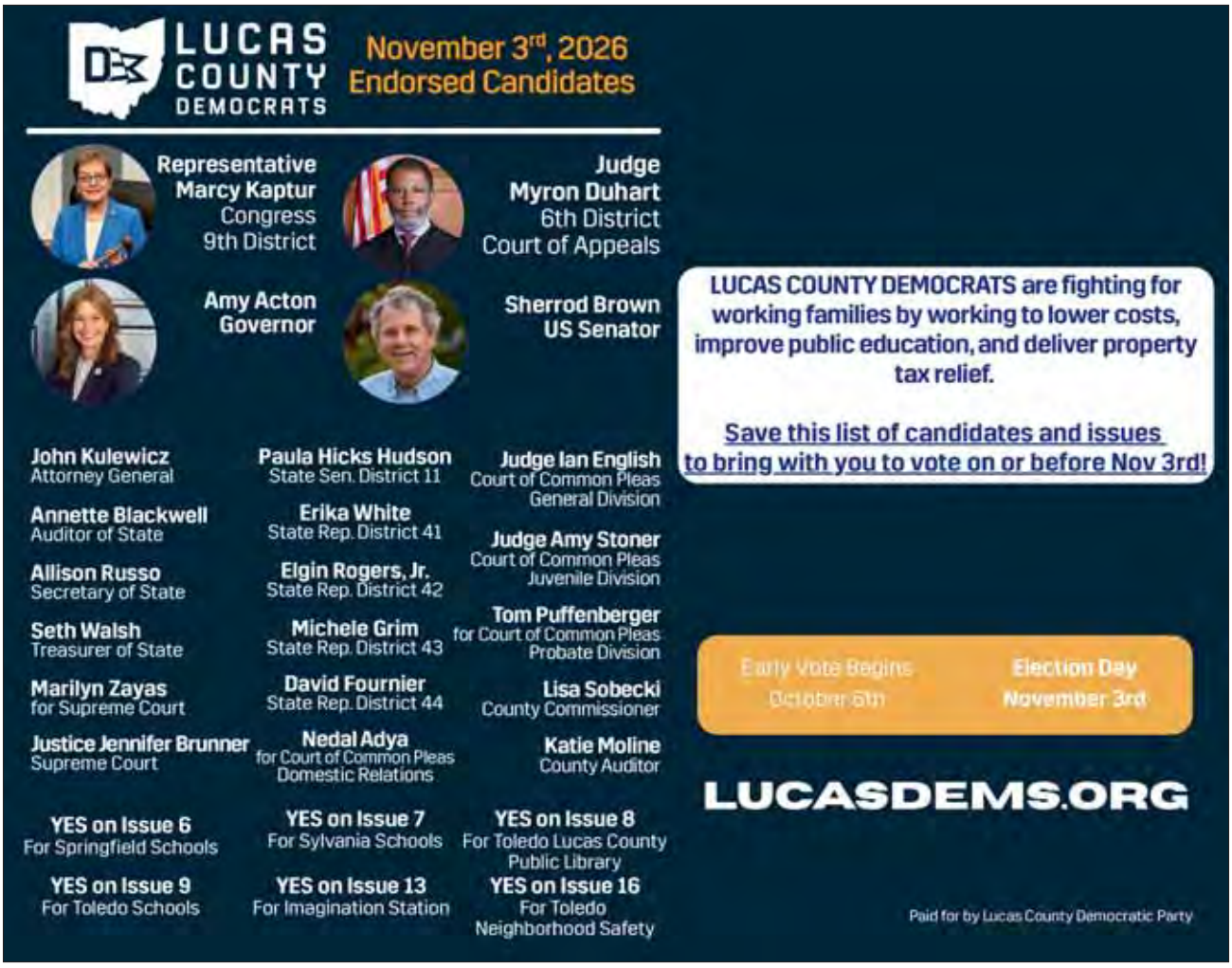
Congressman Hakeem Jeffries at Friendship Baptist



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur at Friendship Baptist

"Under the leadership of Marcy Kaptur, we're going to work hard and lower the cost of living; we are going to work hard and reverse these Medicaid cuts; we are going to work hard to bring back good paying jobs to this city and to this region. We are going to work hard to protect your Social Security and Medicare."

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SOAR: Rising with Purpose

A Conversation with Adrienne Bradley on Leadership, Wellness, Identity and the Power of Being Enough

By Valerie S. Walston, ThD

The Truth Contributor



Valerie Simmons-Walston

For the inaugural installment of the **SOAR Series: Celebrating Women of Color and the Allies Who Elevate Them**, it felt only fitting to begin with a woman whose leadership, authenticity, and commitment to community impact inspire those around her every day: **Adrienne Bradley,** associate vice president of Engagement, Community Health and Impact.

Bradley is known throughout the community as a strategic leader and passionate advocate, but behind the title is a woman deeply grounded in family, service and purpose. During our conversation, she offered a candid look into her personal journey, the challenges she has overcome, and the values that continue to guide her work and life.

A Career Built on Service

Contrary to what many might expect, Bradley did not originally envision a career in community health and engagement. As a young woman, she dreamed of becoming a journalist or working in broadcasting. It was through a college internship with United Way that she discovered a different calling.

"I interned in college at United Way and really kind of fell in love with the passion for the work and for serving others," Bradley shared. "I realized, man, I can make a career out of giving back and serving others."

That realization changed everything. What began as an introduction to nonprofit work evolved into a purpose-driven career dedicated to advocacy, relationship-building, and improving outcomes for others.

"It doesn't just pay the bills," she said. "It's something that I'm really passionate about."



Valerie Simmons-Walston

Family: The Foundation of Everything

While Bradley's professional accomplishments are impressive, she is quick to point to her family as the center of her world.

"My family is everything to me," she said without hesitation.

She spoke lovingly about her partner, whom she describes as her best friend, her two sons, four bonus daughters, her twin sister and her mother, whom she talks with every day during her commute, and her dad who has been extremely instrumental in the success of her career.

"They keep me grounded," Bradley said. "They are my world. They are my rock."

It is clear that the strength she brings into boardrooms, community meetings, and leadership spaces is rooted in the relationships that sustain her behind the scenes.

Rewriting Assumptions

One of the most powerful moments of our discussion centered on identity.

As a biracial woman, Bradley described the challenges of growing up feeling as though she never fully fit into a single category.

"My whole life, growing up, I never felt like I fit anywhere," she said. "I was never Black enough. I was never enough of something else. I was just kind of in this space."

That experience shaped how she views the world today and fueled her commitment to challenging assumptions.

"I've had to rewrite people's assumptions about me," she explained. "Who I am, what I do, where I came from. I call them teachable moments."

One example came when she became a mother and encountered repeated assumptions that she would leave her career behind.

"I knew I wanted to come back to work," Bradley recalled. "People kept saying, 'We know you're not going to come back.' Assumption, assumption, assumption. Just don't assume."

Her message was simple but profound: ask questions, extend grace, and allow people to define themselves.

Wellness Is Not Optional

As a mother, executive leader, community advocate, daughter and friend, Bradley wears many hats. Yet she emphasized that none of those roles can be performed well without intentional self-care.

"I take my PTO. Take your PTO, people!" she said with a laugh.

For Bradley, wellness is not a luxury; it is a necessity. Exercise serves as both a physical and mental outlet, and she makes a conscious effort to carve out time for herself and her children.

"When you're off, be off," she said. "Set those boundaries. It's important."

She also emphasized the importance of asking for help and communicating needs clearly, lessons she learned over time as both a leader and a parent.

Leading Through Community Impact

Much of Bradley's work focuses on improving health outcomes in the community, particularly around maternal and infant health. She spoke candidly about the urgency of the challenges facing families and the need for greater collaboration among organizations.

"We all just need to be better partners," she said.

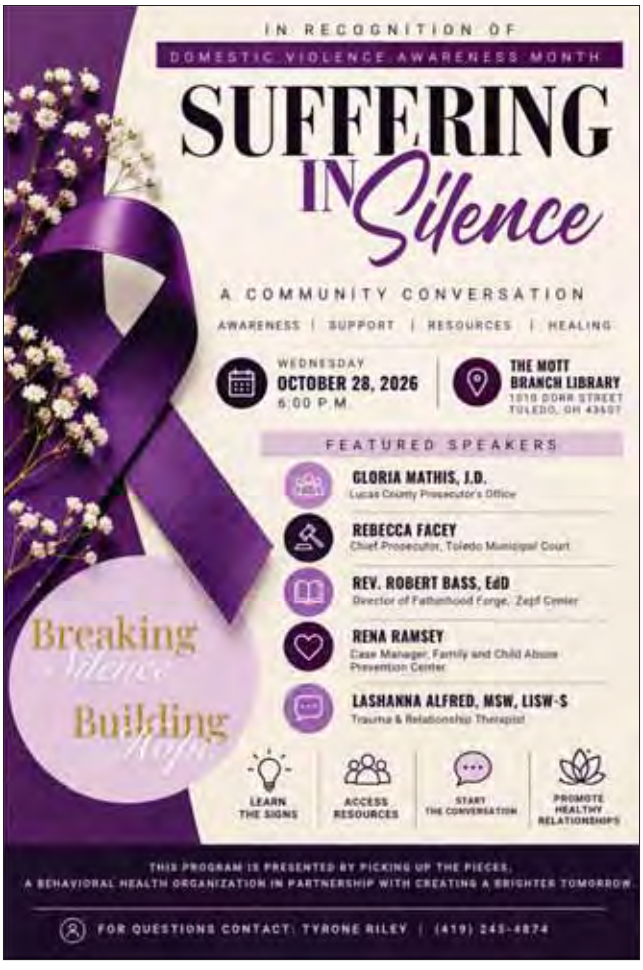
Bradley believes lasting solutions require listening directly to those most affected.

"I can build programs all day and assume that I know what's going to work best," she said. "But if I don't have real-time feedback from the people actually navigating these systems, how do I know they're working?"

Her approach is centered on partnership, humility and service.

"We need to put our patients, our clients and participants at the center of all of this."

... continued on page 15



Art of Service... continued from page 6



Judge Myron Duhart and Rev. Timothy Pettaway

In recognition of her two decades of public service, Lacey received the 2025 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joe Biden.

Lacey has spent 16 of her government service career with the Department of Defense as budget director, budget officer and comptroller overseeing multimillion-dollar portfolios and supporting global operations during assignments with the U.S. Air Force and Defense Logistics Agency. She is currently with the Government Accountability Office in the nation's capital.

Lacey is the founder of Ignite Hope, supporting families raising children on the autism spectrum, and also the founder of The Virtuous Women's Network, empowering women navigating crisis and transition, supporting military families and survivors of abuse.

Wood, a Toledo community leader, has developed a legacy of service and commitment to civil rights, educational opportunity and economic advancement. He has been a local leader in both the NAACP and the labor movement, as well as the faith community and with civic organizations.

A graduate of Macomber High, Wood is an Air Force veteran who took a place in labor leadership after he joined General Motors Toledo Powertrain. Twenty years ago, he was elected president of UAW Local 14 and served in that capacity until his retirement from General Motors.

Wood was elected president of the Toledo Chapter NAACP in 2013, serving seven years in that capacity, championing education equity, voting rights, economic justice, workplace fairness and civic engagement.

Marcus Harrison, director of Marketing & Communications for WGTE Public Media served as the program host for this year's luncheon.



Eddie Cole



Honoree Ayanna Floyd and MC Marcus Harrison





Neighborhood...continued from page 5

A Little Homework Before Election Day

Ohio's general election takes place Tuesday, November 3, 2026, and early in-person voting is underway. Getting prepared doesn't have to mean spending hours buried in political news.

Start here.

First, check your registration. Visit the Ohio voter lookup tool to confirm your information and find your voting location. The registration deadline for the November election was October 5. If you missed it, you can still register or update your information for a future election.

Next, take a look at your ballot. Ohio's official voting information page provides voter resources to help you prepare. Look at the offices and issues on your ballot.

Before you vote, spend a few minutes looking into the offices and the people running for them. **What would each candidate like to change, and what have they done so far?** Campaign ads and social media can be a starting point, but there's more to the story. Take a look at their positions and public records, and see whether reliable sources back up the claims they make.

It also helps to know when and where you can vote. **Ohio has early in-person voting, voting by mail and Election Day voting.** The Secretary of State's website lists the schedule, including voting hours and deadlines. **On November 3, polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m**. If you plan to vote in person, make sure you have an acceptable, **valid photo ID that has not expired.**

Finally, make a plan. Ohio offers early in-person voting, absentee voting by mail and Election Day voting. Check the official voting schedule for dates, hours and deadlines.

And if you're unsure about something, your county board of elections is a reliable place to start.

Your Voice Starts With Knowing the Facts

Hicks-Hudson says her approach to leadership reflects lessons from her mentor, **Edna Brown**, a longtime Toledo public servant who served on City Council, in the Ohio House and in the Ohio Senate. Brown, who died in 2022, was known for working across party lines to find solutions for her community. She taught Hicks-Hudson the importance of listening, finding common ground and working across differences.



"You have to be willing to listen to people, even when they don't agree with you. That's how you find common ground and figure out how to move forward," says Senator Hicks-Hudson



Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Those lessons matter beyond the Statehouse. Neighbors don't always agree on what their community needs, and voters won't always reach the same conclusions about the people or policies on their ballots. **That's part of democracy. We bring different experiences, concerns and hopes for the future to the table.**

You don't have to follow every political debate to become an informed voter. Start with what matters to you. Find out who makes those decisions. Ask questions. Read beyond the headline.

Your neighborhood may not literally appear on the ballot. But the people you elect help shape the policies that reach your street, your home and your family.

So the next time a government decision leaves you scratching your head, don't stop at the frustration. Get curious. Find out who's responsible and what your options are.

You might discover that the path from your front porch to the Statehouse is shorter than you thought.

Ohio Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson (District 11), is seeking re-election in the November 3, 2026, general election. Learn more about her background and career in public service in the Ohio Statehouse's Gallery here.

Minority Leader... continued from page 7

Jeffries also promised that the next Congress will pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act "to end an era of voter suppression."

The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act was introduced in the House of Representatives in March 2025, by Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL) and in the Senate by Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Raphael Warnock (D-GA) in July 2025. The bill would strengthen voting rights and expand the government's ability to respond to voter discrimination.

The Democrats need to gain at least four seats in these midterm elections to reach a total of 218 and gain the majority. Retaining Kaptur's seat will be essential to that effort.



Brunch ready to serve at The Worship Center



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur amd Congressman Hakeem Jeffries with Bishop Pat McKinstry and Toeldo Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman-English at The Worship Center

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Hanging & Burning: A King Oliver Novel by Walter Mosley

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

c. 2026
Little, Brown
$30.00
320 pages

It's been awhile.

Awhile since you saw that smile, since you looked into your beloved's eyes and knew that the next few minutes or days or weeks would be among the best of your life. It's been too long, in fact, since you were together, and you miss that. But in the new novel ***Hanging & Burning*** **by Walter Mosley**, beware: the next reunion could be deadly.

Joe "King" Oliver wouldn't have given Arman Babylon the time of day, were it not for Joe's Grandma Brenda.

It was she who'd vouched for the ailing man, a neighbor in a nearby room at the pricey private Los Angeles hospital where she was getting cancer treatment. Arman had confided in Brenda that he'd been looking for his granddaughter, Twyla, and Grandma B said that Joe, a former New York City cop, would find the girl.

Problem was, Twyla Mann didn't want to be found. She had a couple of aliases and she moved here and there around New York City pretty often. This intrigued Joe, as did the fact that Arman gave him only the briefest of clues, claiming that Twyla's mother was not really her mother but Arman was still Twyla's kin. Obviously, the old man was holding something back, but he did hint that he was involved with organized crime on both coasts.

An internet search led Joe to even more information, none of it good.

Arman wasn't exactly who he said he was – and neither was Twyla or her supposed mother or, for that matter, the woman who ran a nightclub that had distant ties to Arman's past. The man who owned the club apparently had some beef with Joe from way back, and a woman who tied them all together was presumed dead.

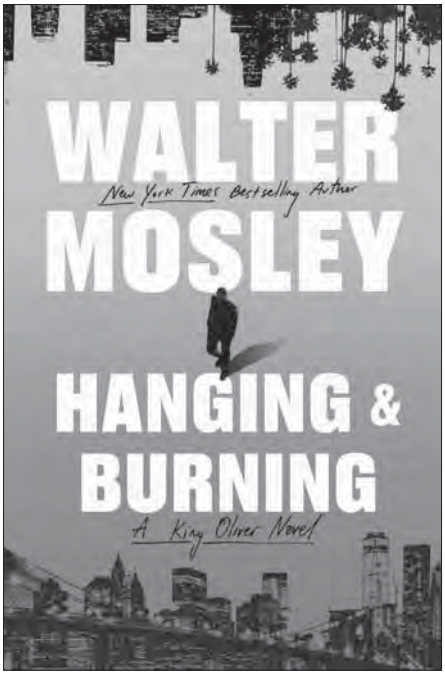
Finding Twyla Mann before her grandfather died should've been an easy case. Joe knew that it shouldn't have taken long to solve, and it shouldn't have involved two last-century murders. It definitely should not have plunged Joe Oliver's life into danger…



Hanging and Burning author, courtesy Marcia Wilson

So, you're flipping through the TV, looking for something to watch, and you come across an old 1940's mobster movie. You know how easy it is to get caught up in it, right? Well, reading *Hanging & Burning* is a lot like that.

Though this novel is set in modern times with modern tools and weapons, you can absolutely picture the criminals here as the mobsters author Walter Mosley portrays them. This old-new mix adds gravel to the tale, with two cities full of witnesses and hideouts, a ruthless pair of mercenaries, and an appealing sense of dark alleys and cement shoes. You'll love Joe Oliver for his smarts, and he'll make you chuckle sometimes. But don't get to complacent; soon enough, this novel grabs you, throws you in the trunk of a fancy car, and races, screaming, to a stunning conclusion.



If you love a good mystery-thriller, *Hanging & Burning* – so-titled after a Yiddish saying – will make you very happy. Look for it; you'll be glad to take awhile.



Tolliver...continued from page 4

Time will not allow me to discuss the weaponization of Homeland Security as they have raided the private home of Ilhan Omar, Trump's ever-present critic whose homeland, Somalia, has been pilloried by Trump as being one of those "sh*thole" countries. Truth be said, even if this "raid" turns up nothing against Ms. Omar, what agency or person will be held accountable for this contrived debacle? No one.

So, remember folks in this election season, "Vote early and vote often!"

Contact Lafe Tolliver at lafe5x@gmail.com

BUSINESS AND ADVANCEMENT ASSISTANT

WGTE Public Media seeks an organized, detail-oriented Business and Advancement Assistant to support our Institutional Advancement and Business Development departments. This position helps advance WGTE's mission through administrative support for fundraising, donor engagement, underwriting, sponsorships, and partnerships.

Responsibilities include preparing correspondence, proposals, and reports; coordinating schedules and meetings; maintaining donor and business records; tracking agreements and follow-up activities; and assisting with donor communications and events.

Candidates should have an associate degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience, prior administrative or customer service experience, and proficiency in Microsoft Office. Strong communication, organizational, and proofreading skills, along with discretion when handling confidential information, are essential. A bachelor's degree and experience in nonprofit, fundraising, marketing, or business development settings are preferred. Occasional evening or event support may be required.

Salary: $45,000-$50,000 annually

How to Apply: Send your letter and résumé to employment@wgte.org<mailto:employment@wgte.org> or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614. For full consideration, apply by October 26, 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?prcBuId=300000007278812&_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3_1&_af rLoop=7126760101772357&_afrWindowMode=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

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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.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING

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.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING

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.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING



Three convenient ways to vote

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2. Absentee by Mail
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Absentee Ballots Must Be Received at Your County Board of Elections by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

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Women of Toledo Names Tracci K. Johnson Executive Director

Special to The Truth



Tracci Johnson

The Board of Directors of Inclusive for Women, Inc. (dba Women of Toledo) is pleased to announce that Tracci K. Johnson will join the organization as its executive director, effective October 12, 2026.

Johnson brings more than three decades of leadership in education and community service, and she knows Toledo well. A University of Toledo alumna with a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance, she spent more than 17 years at UT, leading student activities and leadership programs, directing student conduct and serving as associate dean of Students.

She taught leadership and diversity courses and was recognized with the Outstanding University Woman award and the Lancelot Thompson Service to Students Award. She went on to earn an MBA from Temple University and to serve as a dean of students at institutions in Virginia, California and Michigan, where she oversaw large teams and wide-ranging student support programs.

Most recently, Johnson has served as executive director of the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center in Toledo, where she has led fundraising and management for programs including a weekly food pantry, a tiny homes project, a summer literacy program for children and senior wellness services. She also serves on the Zepf Center Board of Trustees.

Johnson has spoken at state and national conferences on women in leadership, mentorship, and diversity and inclusion, themes that echo the heart of Women of Toledo's mission. "We are genuinely excited to welcome Tracci to Women of Toledo and to see the growth and direction of the organization under her leadership," said Annora Harbick, Women of Toledo's Operations Manager.

Johnson steps into the role as Women of Toledo enters an important chapter of growth and transition after more than 10 years serving northwest Ohio. Johnson believes that women possess countless talents and strengths. "What we bring to the world is uniquely ours and makes Toledo a better place," she said.

The Board of Directors selected Johnson for the experience, leadership and unique perspective she brings, and is confident she will help strengthen the organization's foundation, support its staff and programs and advance its mission to educate, engage and empower women and youth.

"We believe Tracci's leadership will build a lasting foundation for our continued community impact and collaboration," said Nichole Beltran, board president of Women of Toledo. Women of Toledo invites members, supporters, funders, sponsors and community partners to join the Board and staff in welcoming Johnson.

To learn more about the organization or to get involved, visit the website, email admin@womenoftoledo.org, or call (567) 970-7172. Inclusive for Women, Inc., doing business as Women of Toledo, is a Toledo-based organization dedicated to educating, engaging, and empowering women and youth. The office is located at 425 Jefferson St, 3rd Floor, Toledo, OH 43604.

SOAR... continued from page 8

She also made it clear that community voices matter.

"If you've had a bad experience navigating a system, tell somebody. Tell me. Email me. Call me. I do want to hear about it. I may not know you, but I promise you I care."

The Power of Being Enough

When asked what she would say to a woman struggling with feelings of inadequacy, Bradley's response captured the heart of who she is.

"I feel that way often, and I think most women do," she admitted.

Then she offered the kind of wisdom that lingers long after a conversation ends.

"You are enough."

She reflected on the immense expectations society places on women: to excel professionally, care for families, support others and seemingly do it all without struggle.

"We can't be everything to everyone," Bradley said.

She spoke about the reality of partnership and balance, sharing that there are days when one person carries more of the load so that together the family continues moving forward.

Perhaps the most memorable quote of the entire interview came when she said:

"Your enough in the moment is your enough. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise."

In a world that constantly asks women to do more, be more, and achieve more, her words serve as a powerful reminder that worth is not measured by perfection.

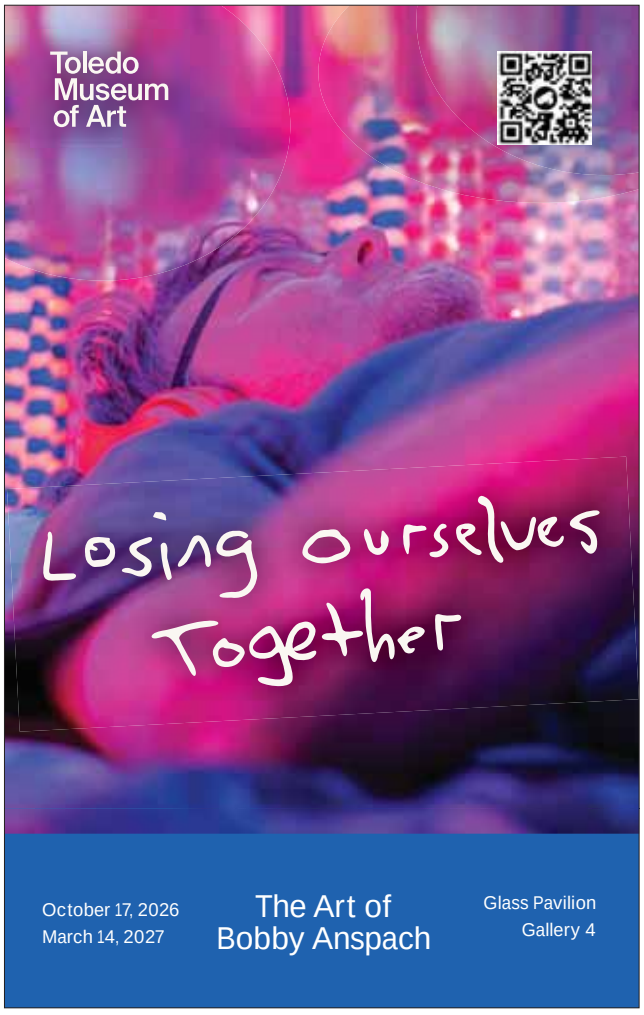
A Woman Who SOARs

Though Bradley describes herself as a private person, her impact speaks volumes. Her commitment to service, her dedication to family, her advocacy for equitable healthcare, and her belief in lifting others up embody the very spirit of SOAR.

As the first featured leader in this series, she leaves us with a lesson worth carrying forward: success is not about being everything to everyone. It is about showing up authentically, serving with purpose, and recognizing that even on our hardest days, we are enough.

And that may be the most powerful way to soar of all.

Valerie S. Walston, Th.D.
Community Health and Engagement Coordinator
Valarie.Walston@ProMedica.org
1806 Madison Ave.
Toledo, OH 43604



The Last Drop and Mariam Battistelli

The Truth Staff

What a remarkable weekend! Toledoans turned out in droves on Friday morning, October 9, to visit the city's newest coffee shop, The Last Drop, and to meet a visitor from the world of opera - the African Italian soprano, Mariam Battistelli.

The Last Drop had only been open for a week, so many of Friday's visitors were viewing the spectacular addition to Summit Street for the first time. They were in for a treat. Owner Amy Hall has fashioned a spectacular spot for a cup of coffee and wonderful food but which is also a convenient setting for meetings, for catching up on some work or for simple relaxation.

Battistelli was in town, courtesy Stayce Fowler and Pursuit Magazine, for a weekend of entertainment and interactions with Toledoans.

The lyric soprano's first Toledo event was on Thursday evening, October 8, at Share Wine. On Saturday, October 10, she participated in the University of Toledo Homecoming Game, singing the National Anthem.

Battistelli and Friends performed in an evening of song at The Lourdes Franciscan Center Saturday, October 10. Opera Di Notte featured Bastitelli, tenor Chris Scholl and The Clarence Smith Community Chorus.

The event featured a wide range of outstanding selections and was presented by mistress of ceremonies Valerie Walston.



Mariam Battistelli sings with Clarence Smith Community Chorus



State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson presents a token of appreciation from the General Assembly

On Sunday, Battistelli appeared with the Toledo Opera at TolHouse and performed selections from Giuseppe Verdi's Aida, which opened the following weekend at the Valentine Theatre.



Mariam Battistelli and her new friends - Stayce Fowler, Stephanie Boutte-Phillips, Amy Smith Hall, Kathryn Tucker, Shanda Gore

GOOD LEADERS SPEAK...
GREAT LEADERS LISTEN.



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He is delivering real results for US.

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ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3

Paid for by Citizens for Rogers



Lucas County Board of Commissioners President Lisa Sobecki honrs the visitor with a commemorative plaque



Battistelli and Shanda Gore during podcast from the Last Drop



Amy Smith Hall and Mariam Battistelli