The Sojourner's Truth

www.thetruthtoledo.com

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Summit Street: A Dining and Entertainment Hub



Annika Awls, Terry Awls, Amy Hall Are Opening *Last Drop, Avestruz, Cielo* on Summit

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Spotlight on Lucas County



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

The Truth Contributor

Win or lose, we win by raising the issues.

– Charlotta Bass, 1952 vice-presidential campaign slogan

Many in Lucas County went to bed on election night uneasy and in the dark, still waiting to learn the outcome of important races, including local levies. Tina Butts' Movement, Kevin Dalton's teachers and Petee Talley's Ohio Unity coalition had already done the work, though. They worked the way Charlotta Bass said to in 1952: win or lose, raise the issues.



Dr. Amy Acton

Governor-elect Amy Acton now has a cabinet and judges' chairs to fill, and a few Toledo names are making the rounds. It is time to turn the spotlight on the people who delivered the votes, and some of them may be packing for Columbus.

The Winners

Marcy Kaptur. She won again despite many pundits' forecast of her political demise. Campaigns have changed since the days Kaptur worked events 18 hours at a stretch, and most of the fight now plays out on television and the internet.

Yet she continues to shake one hand at a time and shows up at every event, campaign season or not, often eager to scoop up a toddler in her arms. It is common to cross paths with Kaptur as she shops at Kroger or at the gas pump, so her superpower seems to be that folks view her as a politician that is accessible and not untouchable.

Amy Acton. Her win is a political miracle by any measure. She spent plenty of time in northwest Ohio, suggesting spoils to the victor may come Toledo's way.

Ohio House Democrats. They broke the Republican supermajority, so a governor's veto can now stand, and Columbus has to negotiate anything that passes in the legislature.

Wade Kapszukiewicz. The talk has come up often enough to have legs: Acton may have offered the mayor a cabinet job involving economic development, where state grant money gets funneled. Whether he takes it is another matter, but there is no doubt that he should. Toledo needs more people to grow the tax base, and he has already been doing that work well.

Under the mayor, Toledo has grown its culture: the art museum and the zoo, murals around town, the lakes and recreation, and now a money museum on its way from New York. That is how a city with fewer residents finds new taxpayers to help pay for its amenities and necessities.

Paula Hicks-Hudson. Close to Acton and an early endorser, she held a high-level role in the Strickland years, and her name comes up for Columbus, which would open her Senate seat.



State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Anita Lopez. An attorney and the one commissioner whose name keeps coming up. Lopez has wanted a judge's chair for years and talk runs from there to a possible state legal post.



Anita Madison

Democratic judicial hopefuls. Myron Duhart's win on the Sixth District Court of Appeals was a significant one. He beat CJ Kamm 63.9 percent to 36.1 percent even with a party label by his name, and he went all in to get there. Opportunity for others may come next. Republican Judge Michael Goulding, who won an appeals seat unopposed, leaves a Common Pleas seat Acton fills, the first for a Democrat since Ted Strickland left office in 2011.



LC Commissioner Anita Lopez and Tina Butts

Colin Flanagan. A Toledo native, he spent the past year managing John Kulewicz's campaign for attorney general, which he says he built from the ground up. That statewide victory is the first Democratic win for the office since 2008. This election put Flanagan on the map.

The Ground Game

Kevin Dalton. He started as a first-grade teacher at Birmingham Elementary and has led the Toledo Federation of Teachers since 2012. His members were among those out front. With Amy Acton headed to the governor's office, new ways to rejuvenate the public school education system will likely be on the agenda, and Dalton's union will want a seat.

Tina Butts. The ground game carried this election, and The Movement was at the center of it in Lucas County. Butts and her group were boots on the ground for Amy Acton, Sherrod Brown and the Democratic Party.

Petee Talley. She spent more than two decades in labor politics, rising to Ohio AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer, the first woman elected to one of the federation's top two offices, before building the Ohio Unity Coalition in Toledo. She wrote after 2024 that getting eligible voters to the ballot never ends. This year the coalition put that into practice with get-out-the-vote work.

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Despite Big Wins, Democrats Still Haven't Learned Their Lesson

By Kevin Harris



Democrats are right to celebrate historic midterm election victories. Alongside flipping both chambers of Congress, Democrats also broke barriers in electing women, African Americans and Latinos at the state and federal level.

Yet in doing so, the party also demonstrated it has not learned important lessons about investing in the South and supporting diverse candidates. For another cycle, Black voters and Black women in particular carried the party on Election Night.

However, Black candidates struggled to get the resources they needed to run effective campaigns. The same was true for Latino candidates.

Several white "electable" candidates including Georgia Senator Jon Ossoff, North Carolina Senator-elect Roy Cooper, South Carolina Senator-elect Dr. Annie Andrews and Texas Senator-elect James Talarico received all the resources they needed. Yet Black and Brown candidates were not given the same electability consideration, even when they were running competitively on the same ticket.

Consider Georgia, where former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms became the first Black woman elected governor in American history. She was heavily outspent by an opponent who invested more than $200 million of his personal fortune. Despite being competitive in polling and having dominated her primary rivals, Lance Bottoms was largely left to fend for herself.

In Texas, Gina Hinojosa struggled to gain statewide recognition and compete with incumbent Republican Governor Greg Abbott's enormous financial advantage. National Democrats only invested in her campaign after being publicly shamed by Latino leaders. Hinojosa was ultimately outspent by Abbot.

Yet she won anyway.

In Mississippi, Scott Colom mounted a remarkable challenge to Republican Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith. Yet Mississippi was initially excluded from a $40 million Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee investment covering ten battleground states. National spending arrived later in the campaign despite the party having plowed millions into contests backing white moderates. Colom was not given the same consideration or benefit of the doubt that he could pull off a victory. Yet he too won anyway.

Even the campaigns where Southern Democrats fell short produced results significant enough to wonder what could've been had Democrats made a meaningful investment.

In Florida, State Representative Angie Nixon challenged Republican Senator Ashley Moody and lost by fewer than three percentage points. This was a state where Republicans had dominated statewide elections just four years earlier.

Nixon raised millions from individual donors and attracted support from progressive organizations and outside groups. But the major national Democratic Senate campaign organizations did not make comparable investments in her race.

Yet Nixon's campaign drove the turnout that helped Democrats secure victories in gerrymandered Congressional districts and end the Republican supermajority in the legislature.

Then there is Louisiana.

Jamie Davis, a Black farmer from Tensas Parish who entered the Senate race without a major statewide political profile, came within two percentage points of defeating Republican Julia Letlow.

Louisiana had voted overwhelmingly for Donald Trump in 2024. Yet Davis built a competitive campaign and came remarkably close to winning.

According to Davis' campaign and Louisiana Democratic Party leadership, neither the Democratic National Committee nor the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee contributed to his campaign.

When candidates lose by narrow margins after receiving limited national institutional support, it is reasonable to examine whether earlier investment might have changed the outcome. It's also reasonable to question why Black and Brown candidates who beat the odds were not given comparable consideration as their white counterparts running in similarly tough headwinds.

And when that pattern appears across multiple Southern states where Democrats need Black and Brown voters to win the question becomes that much more important.

There is a difference between relying on communities of color to deliver electoral victories and investing in the political infrastructure that allows those communities to build lasting governing power and occasionally elect candidates who come from their own community.

Yet Southern political leaders have repeatedly raised concerns that their states receive too little sustained investment from national Democratic institutions alongside overall chronic underfunding for minority candidates.



Governor-elect Keisha Lance Bottoms

A serious post-election review should examine how early funding decisions were made, whether Southern organizing was adequately supported, and how candidates of color were evaluated for resource allocations.

A review should also recognize that electoral investment in the South cannot begin and end with a single campaign cycle.

Democrats should focus on building durable political infrastructure in the South through year-round engagement that extends beyond a wave election.

Lance Bottoms made history in Georgia. Hinojosa broke a three-decade Democratic drought in Texas. Colom flipped deep red Mississippi. Nixon drove turnout that began to crack Republican dominance in Florida. Davis brought Louisiana within reach of a Democratic upset.

All with relatively meager support from the Democratic establishment.

So the most important question coming out of 2026 is not how the Democrats won. It is why would Democrats underestimate and underinvest in the candidates that look like the actual voters the party relied on to win the majority. That is a question Democrats should answer quickly if they want to maintain and expand the current majority.

Kevin Harris is a Democratic strategist who has advised over 100 campaigns and ballot measures, including the past five presidential elections, served in the Obama Administration, as a cabinet member for two big city mayors and Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Community Calendar

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.

November 26
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Dolores Huerta Taught Me What It Means to Never Stop

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column



When I was a boy, Martin Luther King Jr. was in our history books. Dolores Huerta was in the fields of our county.

She and the United Farm Workers were organizing the people who picked our food. Our family stood with them. I cannot remember eating grapes or strawberries for much of my childhood. Boycotts were how we helped the farmworkers fight for fair wages and the dignity they deserved. Dolores was one of my heroes long before I met her.

Later, as I found my way into leadership in the civil rights movement, I came to know her personally. We marched, organized and campaigned together. I learned she was even more remarkable up close. A few years ago, I was walking past the U.S. Capitol when I almost missed her.

Dozens of teenagers and college students from Texas were sitting together on the cement steps. In the middle of them was Dolores, 92 years old, sitting just like everybody else. No special chair. No fuss. You would have thought she was another student.

I called out to her, smiling. We caught up.

There was one thing I knew better than to do. I did not ask how she managed to look so young. I had made that mistake before.

We were campaigning together. She was 91. For nearly two weeks she had been putting in 12-hour days, traveling, talking to voters, and rising the next morning to do it all again.

Over breakfast I asked her how she did it. She looked at me and said, "It's easy, Ben. You just live every day like you did the day before, and you never stop." That was it. No secret. No lecture. Just keep going.

A friend told me he had seen Dolores dancing with the rapper Common at two in the morning. I believed him. Of course I did. The last time I saw her, Dolores was 94. I was hosting Dr. Jane Goodall at an event celebrating Jane's 91st birthday.



Dolores Huerta

Jane asked the room if anybody there was older than she was. It was clearly supposed to be a rhetorical question.

Dolores answered that she was.

For a moment, Jane looked stunned. Then she gathered herself and took back command of the room. I had to laugh. Dolores had surprised one of the most extraordinary women alive just by being herself. Once, over another meal, Dolores told me how far back her family went in New Mexico.

More than a dozen generations, as I remember it. I asked for the stories.

Well, there were plenty. One ancestor, she said, may have ridden with Geronimo's band. Another was kidnapped by members of the band as a child, only to escape into a town crying, "Soy una cristiana!" Another had a wagon break down on the way west. Another was a circuit-riding pastor.

By the time she finished, I was pretty sure she had covered every character in every Western movie I had ever seen.

I remember thinking: No wonder she is so tough. No wonder she is so brave. Courage had been passed down in her family for generations, along with stories of surviving hard times.

That was also what Dolores spent her life doing for the rest of us. She helped build the farmworkers' movement and carried its lessons to each new generation. She fought for workers, for immigrants, for women, for the right to vote. "Sí, se puede" was not just something she said. It was how she lived.

When Dolores died at 96, I thought again about those young Texans on the Capitol steps. They were sitting beside someone who had helped change their grandparents' world. And she was sitting among them like she belonged there. She did.

Dolores understood something that every movement must learn. You do not hand the work to the next generation from a distance. You sit with them. You listen. You show up.

I will miss her laughter, her stories, and the wonderful surprise of finding her wherever people were organizing. But I will keep hearing her voice over breakfast. You live every day like you did the day before. And you never stop.

Now it is our turn.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president and CEO of the NAACP. He also served as the founding director of Amnesty International USA's domestic human rights program.

PHOTO/MODEL OF THE WEEK

Expressions | Virgilio Baker Photography | Video Production & Storytelling | Millennium | Infuse Network

Pamela Moreland — What Makes This Photo Work

Photograph and article by Virgilio Baker

Pamela Moreland came to build her portfolio and comp card — a model's calling card, and the key to paid assignments. A client decides from those images in seconds, so every photograph has a job to do. This one was made for commercial and fashion work.



What makes it work? The connection: she looks straight into the lens, and the smile reaches her eyes. The pose: head tilted, resting on her hand — relaxed confidence, nothing forced. The hair: volume and light, a feature all its own. The styling — gold hoops, red nails answering her lips — and soft studio light that keeps every bit of attention on her face.

Personality at a glance. That is what earns a photograph its place on a comp card.

Pamela is one of our local models, and she is not the last you will see in this space. In the coming weeks, Photo/Model of the Week will highlight more local models and the photographs that work for them — because this industry is built one strong image at a time, and it starts right here at home.

Photo: Pamela Moreland, photographed by Virgilio Baker during her portfolio and comp card session — Expressions International Model Management.

Your turn in front of the camera?

Interested in modeling, or ready to book a photo session of your own? Expressions International Model Management is building its roster, and Virgilio Baker Photography is booking portfolio, comp card, portrait, and fashion sessions — at Studio 734 and on location.

Call 419-514-1284 or email expressionsmodels@gmail.com.

Coming Soon: Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union's New Resource Center

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Assistant Editor

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union will be expanding its services into a resource center this year. The Truth sat down with LaToya Morgan, Strategic Advisor, Community Development, and Lisa Hasley, Community Engagement Specialist, of TUFCU to talk about the new developments for the community institution.



Suzette Cowell

What is the TUFCU resource center ? Why is it needed?

LaToya Morgan: [CEO] Cowell's vison is finally coming to fruition. This is the 30th year of her having the credit union and being in the community. And so I think it just speaks to how she's anchored herself. TUFCU really prides itself on being the anchor in the community. This is a trusted entity. What we do goes beyond just the financial services that we offer. Hence, why the research center came to be an idea of hers over 10 years ago.

Many that come through the door need assistance beyond financial and that could be anything from social services to policing and things of that nature. And when she first started the African-American Festival it was grounded on health and education and wellness. She still stands on that and she wants to highlight that again. And so with the resource center, we're really ready to do that. The center will be connecting community partners under one roof to offer a more holistic location and really creating an ecosystem of services within the resource center.

What services will be offered?

Morgan: Our intention is to have workforce development, workforce training (certificates), JFS services, notary services, insurance agents, reinstatement license clinics, first time homeowner classes - including hands-on workshops to show people how to, for example, patch up drywall or stop a leaking sink and more . Really, this is just based off of what we've seen is the demand from our members that come in here and just other community advocates and what they've expressed they need.

What is the goal of the resource center?

Morgan: Our number one goal for the resource center is really to have a centralized location because our community is unique. We know our community. We've learned a lot about our community and Toledo Urban has established a brand for itself and a rapport in the community. Like I said before, it's a trusted anchor in the community. And so things that come from us, because we are trusted in the community, and by us offering these programs and at a place that they trust in their neighborhood - we see the results. So that's why we're doing it. We're doing it for the community.

Is there anything else that the community should know about TFUCU and its services?

Lisa Halsey: There is huge difference between credit unions and traditional banking, and with this one being within the community, we're truly listening to what the community needs. We're listening to what they're saying when they're stopping in they're coming in for more than just the financial. So it's like we see a lot of people coming in for X, Y, Z, and then we're going to do what we can to provide that. It's not like, oh, that's not our problem here. Let's give you a phone number to call. We're going to make it happen.



Lisa Halsey and LaToya Morgan



Morgan: And so one thing that I also want to express is membership. Let our dollars work for us. So the more members we have that are within our community, the more personal it gets because every dollar that I put into my savings or have here in my account increases the chance of someone else in my community to get a loan.

We have dollars now in our bank, from our community, and we can lend to other community members. So we really want to stress in the midst of a permanent location for the research center, parallel to that, increasing our membership and really letting everyone know what we do in the services that we offer.

We were a community, development, credit union, and Dr. Cowell is out here doing some real community, advocacy and service. So, membership, we want everyone to be a member. When you become a member, you own a stake in this. And so we are only as good as our members, if you will, in their contribution to the credit union.

To learn more about the TUFCU visit toledourban.net or social media pages.





Generational Differences in the Workplace Conference 2026

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

How do individuals in the baby boomer generation cope with the challenges presented them by youngsters in the generation z age group? How do millennials navigate their interactions with those in the older and younger cohorts? Does it matter? Can bottom-line performance be enhanced by developing a greater understanding among those of different generations?



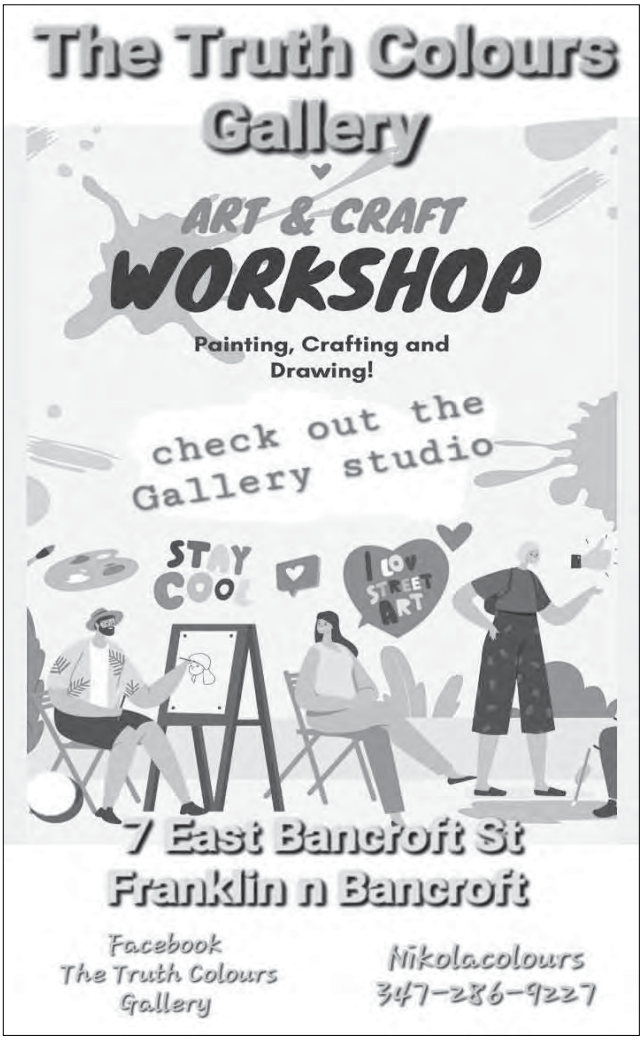
Willie McKether, PhD

That's the challenge that Willie McKether, PhD, of WLM Cultural Communications accepted during the Generational Differences in the Workplace Conference on Friday, October, 30, 2026, The event, held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg, brought together dozens of attendees to unpack the issues that face members of different generations when they interact in the workplace.

The conference was designed to bring together members of the various generations: traditionalists, baby boomers, generation x, millennials and generation z – to explore experiences, values and communication styles.

McKether said that he organized the conference because he "recogniz[ed] that people in difference industries were all facing similar challenges of trying to navigate the complexities of generational differences in the workplace." So the purpose of the conference was to "try to find solutions."

The conference opened with registration, breakfast and a welcome by the mistress of ceremonies, Valerie Simmons-Walston, ThD.



Vince DiPosi, CEO of SSOE Group, presented the first address – "Different Perspective, Better by design, The Generational Blueprint. DiPofi spoke of the impact that leadership, good leadership can have on bridging the chasm between generations

"Good leadership isn't simply evaluating what someone can do today, it's about creating opportunities for them to become more capable tomorrow," he said of the basic tenet of bringing people along. DiPofi is retiring as the CEO of SSOE shortly and his successor has been named.

He emphasized that the key to building strong organizations is not only what happens during a leader's tenure but also what happens afterwards. "The goal is to leave behind an organization capable of changing well."

And every generation, he noted brings a different perspective.

"Our job isn't to make the next generation follow our blueprint, it's to give them enough knowledge to understand it and the freedom to challenge it and the trust to make it better."

DiPofi's address was followed by breakout sessions. Sheila Eason was the leader for "Stop Managing Generations, Start Leading Humans." McKether led "Generations by Design, Why We Think Differently." Stephanie Covington, PhD, and Brad Rowe, SSOE Group, led "From Challenge to Strategy, SSOE and the City of Toledo on Leading Across Generations. Erica Parish led "Bridging Communition Across Generations and Cultures."



Brad Rowe and Stephanie Covington, PhD



Crystal Darnell Harris and Sheila Eason



Erica Parish





Valerie Simmons-Walston, ThD_ Tim Elmore, PhD Sheila Eason

Then came the keynote address by Tim Elmore, PhD, founder, Growing Leaders. The Atlanta-based Elmore is a best-selling author of numerous books including The Future Begins with Z.

"I'm going to talk about building a bridge not a wall based on the no-

... continued on page 14

Keva Sturdevant Hosts The Wealth Table

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

Are you financially well off now? Are you hoping to be financially well off in the future? When you retire? Or before? Perhaps, you need a little help, a little advice, to point you in the direction of a financially secure future.

Help is here.

Keva Sturdevant, a financial adviser, founder of KS Summit Consulting, and a Toledo native, has spent the last three decades in Washington, DC, working for a number of prestigious financial firms and helping clients prepare for their futures. She returned home about two years ago and has already established a practice helping clients in the Glass City do the same.



A snack for the attendees

On Saturday, October 24, Sturdevant, along with her partner Spencer Heath, the co-managing partner of KS Summit Consulting, gathered together some of their local clients, and those who might be clients in the future, for a discussion at The Last Drop on Summit Street. The discussion – The Wealth Table – was an opportunity to exchange ideas and focus on the concepts of financial management.

"An open dialogue around all things money," said Sturdevant as she opened the discussion.

The discussion centered on three basic topics at the heart of such planning: how to manage risk in the stock market; the $10,000 generational wealth challenge; retirement readiness.

For some people, financial management may be a matter of making money, for others the necessity might be in the management of money they have already acquired.

Several of those present are already clients of Sturdevant and one recalled a first session with her during which she cautioned him: "You have already made the money, now you have to protect the money."

Hence, managing risk in the stock market.

But for many in the community, building generational wealth is also critical for long-term family financial well-being. Hence the $10,000 generational wealth challenge – investing money and leaving it untouched over the decades.

And planning for the future includes preparing for retirement. "We don't give enough attention to retirement," said Sturdevant kicking off that part of the discussion.

"Keva Sturdevant delivered an outstanding financial planning intimate event for individuals preparing for retirement," said one of the participants.



Keva Sturdevant

"What stood out to me the most was her trustworthy approach and open, engaging manner. She created an atmosphere where financial topics felt approachable and meaningful, making it easier to understand the importance of thoughtful investment decisions and planning for the future. Her genuine communication style and willingness to engage with her audience made the experience both informative and reassuring. I would highly recommend Keva to anyone approaching retirement who wants guidance and greater confidence in planning for their financial future."

It's a discussion that is open to all those who are interested in building wealth.

"The wealth table was created to change the way people talk about money," Sturdevant told The Truth. "It's an educational roundtable designed to provide a trusted, judgment-free space where individuals and families can have open and honest conversations about financial matters they may have overlooked, ask questions they never thought to ask and explore opportunities they didn't know existed. Whether we are discussing retirement readiness, protecting investments from unnecessary risk or building generational wealth, my mission is to replace financial uncertainty with knowledge, confidence and a clear path forward. Because meaningful financial change begins with an honest conversation."

Ed. Note: Stay tuned. Sturdevant will be writing about financial planning and building wealth in The Truth in future issues – once a month in the third week.

Keva Sturdevant, founder, KS Summit Consulting.

Spotlight on Lucas County... continued from page 2

Anita Madison. The face of voter empowerment in Toledo. This tireless coordinator for the Ohio Unity Coalition is a constant presence and has been at this for years. Her simple and practical mantra pays dividends, though: Check your registration, make sure your ID matches your voter file, and confirm your polling place.



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

Who Gets the Spotlight?

The chairs are about to move. If the mayor leaves for Columbus, Toledo City Council President Vanice Williams moves up under the charter. A commissioner who leaves is replaced by the county Democratic central committee within 45 days.



Petee Talley

Whoever moves up should remember who got them there. The work it takes to reach the top is the work it takes to stay there, and the people who did that work this year deserve the spotlight.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org



2026 S.O.A.R. Women's Symposium

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Assistant Editor

One hundred women gathered at Firepit Grill in Holland on Sunday afternoon, October 18, to attend the S.O.A.R. 2026 Women's Symposium. The sold-out event, presented by Valerie S. Walston, ThD, created a space for women to connect, be inspired, and SOAR higher.



Walston receives proclamation from City Council members Cerssandra McPherson; Vanice Williams; Brittany Jones, PhD

S.O.A.R. — Surviving Obstacles and Attaining Rewards — is about moving through life's challenges with purpose, resilience, faith and the tools needed to reach what's next. This is the second year for the annual symposium. The theme highlighted the title of Walston's final book in her S.O.A.R. series: S.O.A.R.ology: The Seven Properties of Perseverance.

This year's women's symposium brought women together for an uplifting afternoon centered on leadership, wellness, personal growth, connection and empowerment. Building on the S.O.A.R. focus of helping women overcome obstacles in leadership and wellness while grounded in a spiritual foundation, the experience was designed to encourage women to invest in themselves and one another.

Women in attendance listened to seven powerful stories of perseverance from seven women who spoke seven minutes each. The speakers included:

- Regina Kynard
- Marriah Kornowa
- Ashley Benson, PhD
- La'Shardae Scott, DSW
- Christina Rodriguez
- Richelle Ford-Watkins
- Angella Ruley, DNP, CRNA, NP-C

The symposium included delicious food, vendors, music and giveaways (including a S.O.A.R.ology empowerment box) and honored nine local women for their contributions to the community. Walston also received a proclamation from city council for her work.

To learn more about S.O.A.R. and upcoming events visit Valerie Walton's social media pages @Valerie Walston.



Valerie Walston, ThD





Constance Okoye-Nantwi and Capucine Dickerson enjoy the event





Zeta Xi Zeta Chapter Welcomes Six New Members, Continuing a Legacy of Scholarship and Service in Toledo

Special to The Truth

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Zeta Xi Zeta Chapter welcomed six new members this evening at Heather Downs Country Club. More than 60 guests, including the new members' families and friends, gathered to celebrate their entry into a sisterhood that has served Toledo for more than 65 years.



Zeta Xi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.



Jamilah Jones Martin, EdD, Zeta Xi Zeta Chapter President

The chapter proudly welcomes Toiya Coffee, Annie Hamilton, Haley Livingston, Komako Goolsby, Esosa Oshodin and Kimberly Gillespie.



Zeta Xi Zeta Chapter MIP Committee



Kimberly Dada, Membership Intake Coordinator

"Membership in Zeta Phi Beta is by selection," said Kimberly Dada, first vice president overseeing membership and recruitment. "These women expressed a sincere interest in our sisterhood, and we recognized the outstanding work they were already pursuing in their respective fields. Their accomplishments and commitment to serving others reflect the ideals we uphold as Zetas."



Toiya Coffee, Annie Hamilton, Haley Livingston, Komako Goolsby, Esosa Oshodin and Kimberly Gillespie



The newest members of Zeta Xi Zeta Chapter

Together, the new members bring experience in nursing, fire service, public defense and other helping professions, along with educational pursuits in law. Each completed the sorority's membership intake process, led by Dada and grounded in the founding principles of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood.

Scholarship remains central to Zeta Xi Zeta's community impact. Through annual scholarships for young women, the chapter helps students pursue their educational and professional aspirations. Its galas, Cars & Culture car show and other fundraising efforts sustain that investment in education and community service.

The chapter also supports Toledo through service projects, charitable donations and initiatives under the sorority's Z-HOPE banner. Guided by an assessment of local needs, these efforts direct resources and volunteer service toward priorities within the Toledo community.

"I am exceptionally proud of Kimberly Dada, our membership intake coordinator and first vice president, for her continued persistence in growing and strengthening our sisterhood," said Jamilah Jones Martin, EdD, chapter president. "Her commitment extends beyond welcoming new members to embracing Sorors who are transferring into our chapter or returning after a period of inactivity. Many hands make light work and Soror Dada and the membership committee's efforts ensures our continued service and sisterhood."

...continued on page 10





IMA First Monday

The Truth Staff

November's First Monday, hosted by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance at Mt Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, took place the day before Election Day and, a number of presenters addressed the issues, and candidates, on the ballot.

Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, spoke about the need for passage of Issue # 9, the 6.9 mill proposal (that would pass on the next day by 10 points).

Shaun Strong, Black Engagement District Director for Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's campaign, took a few minutes off from his chores getting people to the polls to explain the urgency of the next day's event. (Kaptur won re-election by 5.4 points over Republican Derek Merrin in a district that had been gerrymandered three times in the past 10 years).

Anita Madison of Ohio Unity also spoke of the necessity of getting out the votes in this last minute effort.



Romules Durant, EdD

In fact, the get-out-the-vote effort in Lucas County was very effective. This year's general election saw 53.1 percent of registered voters making a vote compared to recent turnouts in midterm election years – 45.75 percent in 2022 and 49.7 percent in 2018.

This turnout in Lucas County was reflective of the pattern in the nation as a whole. Turnout was unexpectedly high everywhere and Democratic candidates everywhere benefited. In swing states and red states around the nation, Democrats won enough contests to gain majority control of the U.S. House and Senate, a majority of governors' mansions and a number of state legislatures.

In addition to the election information, attendees also heard upcoming events from speakers such as: Crystal Darnell Harris, director of Engagement for Lucas County, who has organized a Small Business Networking event on Thursday, November 12, at the Glass City Enrichment Center; Clarence Smith, director of the Clarence Smith Community Chorus, spoke of the upcoming celebration of 50 years of performances during this December's Christmas concert and Tracci Johnson, newly appointed executive director of Women of Toledo.



Bishop Robert Culp



Women of Toledo's Tracci Johnson, executive director, and Eljay Knowles, program coordinator



The IMA's Rev. Cedric Brock (left) and Rev Le Roy Williams (right) present plaque of recognition to Metropark's Matthew Killam



Anita Madison



Clarence Smith

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Zeta Xi Zeta... continued from page 9

With the addition of these six women, Zeta Xi Zeta continues a legacy of sisterhood rooted in educational opportunity, purposeful service and a lasting commitment to Toledo.

Zeta Xi Zeta is the Toledo graduate chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. For more than 65 years, the chapter has advanced Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood and Finer Womanhood through scholarships, community partnerships, charitable giving and service.

Victor Glover Pilots Artemis II to the Moon

By Paul L. Hubbard, BD Chair, Maritime Academy

Guest Column

For Black Americans, the pursuit of excellent has always required looking beyond horizons others believe were fixed. Every Black generation has confronted limits, imposed by circumstance, exclusion or expectation.

In April 2026, Victor Glover piloted Artemis II beyond earth's orbit around the moon. Fourteen days before launch, Victor Glover's world narrowed. No public appearances. No in-person meetings. Groceries arrived contactless. Each Member suspended outside work and school routines. The house became both sanctuary and spacecraft analogue.



Victor J. Glover, Jr

It's called the Health Stabilization Program by NASA. Glover called it quarantine. Inside the Glover home, the rhythm was steady: daughter finishing course work, music in the evenings, card games around the table a Navy Captain coming home to enjoy precious time with family. The moon sits 240,0000 miles away from home.

Glover is a US Navy aviator, a former engineering student at Polytechnic University. He holds three master's degrees including flight testing and he was a combat Navy pilot including on aircraft carriers. He was selected by NASA in 2013 as an astronaut candidate. Glover said he was not excited about the mission because excitement implies expectation; expectation can distort judgment.

When it was time to talk about flying to the moon and coming back, he wrote to friends that there is humor on the inside but there is also clarity. He doesn't speak of legacy but teamwork. When the moon grew nearer Glover did what he was trained to do: observe, verify, communicate, execute. Emotion waited. Then back to earth for Pacific splashdown.

The crew had named the spacecraft Integrity. The original Latin word, integer, means whole, undivided and sound. Glover said the name reflects the unity of the crew and mission control, hardware and human preparation and execution.

During a radio interview on WVVON AM Chicago with fellow Alpha Phi Boule member Rufus Williams, Glover said: "It's a diversity crew and life is diversity … space is something to look up to, but people are concerned health care, water, food … our kids are capable of higher standards in science, technology and math."

Victor Glover is a member of Sigma Pi Phi the Boule. A lot of the information in this article comes from the summer 2026 Boule Journal.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio to Host Community Blood Drive

Special to The Truth

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio (BBBSNWO) is excited to announce their upcoming Community Blood Drive, in partnership with the American Red Cross. The drive will take place Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Wayman D. Palmer YMCA, Studio D, 200 E Bancroft St.

BBBSNWO leads donor recruitment and community outreach for the drive. BBBSNWO is honored to work with the American Red Cross and the Wayman D. Palmer YMCA. The work of these three organizations dramatically improves the health of the Northwest Ohio community through this drive.

BBBSNWO invites eligible donors and volunteers to schedule an appointment to help support patients who vitally depend on donated blood. Donations also support the BBBSNWO's mission of making a positive, long-lasting impact on children in the community through mentoring relationships.

"Our commitment to young people includes showing them what it means to care for their community," said Marvin Whitfield, CEO of BBBSNWO. "This blood drive brings families, volunteers, and neighbors together around an opportunity to help save lives. We encourage everyone who can donate to make an appointment and invite someone to join them."

BBBSNWO has provided one-on-one mentoring relationships for children in the area serving local youth since 1937. The organization matches adult volunteers, or "Bigs," with children, or "Littles," who need a positive role model. The relationships formed through the program have been found to significantly impact the children involved, including improved academic performance, increased self-confidence, and reduced risky and delinquent behavior.

Those interested in donating can create an appointment by calling 1-800-REDCROSS, or by visiting RedCrossBlood.org (http://redcrossblood.org/), enter sponsor code BBBSNWO when prompted at the homepage. Participating successful donations will receive a $10 Amazon gift card and 200 bonus points in Blood Donor Awards through the American Red Cross. In addition to these rewards, free A1C testing will be offered to donors.

Regardless of donor status, invested parties can support the drive by sharing the provided scheduling information directly with friends and family, as well as through social media channels.

After the American Red Cross's declaration of a national blood supply crisis July, 2026, donations are more important than ever, especially for individuals of the O blood type.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio serves more than 1,500 youth annually throughout Lucas and Wood Counties through one-to-one mentoring, group mentoring, and youth development programs. Its mission is to create and support mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

The agency's programs include Community-Based One-to-One and Group Mentoring; Empowering Future Leaders (EFL) In-School,

... continued on page 12







A Message of Gratitude, Hope and Unwavering Commitment

By State Representative Elgin Rogers



State Rep. Elgin Rogers

To every person who took the time to exercise their right to vote, thank you. I heard you and OHIO heard YOU. **Your voice matters, your vote matters, who you choose to vote for matters and, most importantly, YOU matter.** This victory is about YOU. This election is about making OHIO work for you. My heart is filled with gratitude, humility and an even deeper sense of responsibility to the people and communities (Jerusalem Township, Oregon and Toledo) that I am blessed to serve. I **have never forgotten where I come from, the people who helped shape my life or the simple belief that people matter.**

To those who placed their confidence in me, encouraged me, stood beside me, offered a kind word or whispered a prayer on my behalf, please know that I am sincerely grateful. Your kindness, trust, generosity and support mean more to me than words can adequately express.

I recognize the uphill road ahead in making **OHIO work for YOU**. Our challenges are real, but so is our capacity to overcome them. **I will continue working to build bridges where others see barriers, seeking common ground where others see division and extending my hand even when we disagree.**

Rest assured, I will not grow weary, retreat from difficult challenges or abandon the mission. I will continue to listen, show up, return your calls, fight for meaningful solutions and work tirelessly to be a difference maker for House District 42 and all of Ohio.

The work continues. The mission remains. And my commitment to making OHIO work for YOU will never waver.

Again, thank you to all those who supported me. To those who did not, my door remains open, my hand remains extended and my commitment to serving you remains unwavering.

With gratitude, humility and unwavering resolve,

Dear Editor:

The true measure of good work isn't how we do when everything is going right. It's how we respond when the going gets tough. When Lucas County election workers faced one challenge after another, they showed us just what they're made of.



A bomb threat forced a temporary shutdown of a polling location, and hundreds of absentee ballots arrived at the last minute. These events had a domino effect on staffing, adding to everyone's workload and delaying the county's initial announcement of results. These weren't small hurdles. They were significant challenges that required patience, diligence, and a commitment to getting everything done correctly and methodically.

But these election workers didn't back down. They persevered and put in the necessary long hours to get it right. They were careful, followed new laws and procedures, and are still hard at work to make sure every eligible vote is counted and the integrity of our election was upheld.

We know everyone wants election results as quickly as possible but elections aren't a race to the finish line. Taking the time to verify results isn't a failure of the process, it shows that the process is working. We'd rather have accurate results than rushed results, and these election workers understood the assignment.

The League of Women Voters Toledo Lucas County especially want to recognize the bipartisan Lucas County election team. These women and men deserve more than just a thank-you. They deserve our respect and gratitude. When our democracy faced a difficult day, they showed up, rolled up their sleeves, and did the hard work to ensure every vote counted. We are fortunate to have them, and we are truly grateful for a job very well done.

Holly Monsos
President, League of Women Voters Toledo Lucas County

Big Brothers Big Sisters... continued from page 11

Summer, After-School, and Weekend programs; STEM Club; and Youth Ambassador Club. These programs connect young people with caring adults and peers while providing opportunities for leadership, hands-on learning, community service, and personal growth. EFL programming focuses on four core pillars: Leadership Development, Life Skills, Cultural Competence, and Career Development.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio is supported in part by funding from the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, the Ohio Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and the OneOhio Recovery Foundation, along with individual donors, corporate supporters, and community partners. To learn more, volunteer, or support its work, visit www.bbbsnwo.org.

Notes on a Blacklash: When a Black Woman Goes Viral by April Ryan

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

c. 2026
Amistad
$28.00
272 pages

The job description was clear.

You understood the tasks and what would be expected of you, where to show up and when, and you knew what you'd get in exchange for performance. Obviously, you could handle the job when you took it and now, you're just trying to actually do it. But as in the new memoir ***Notes on a Blacklash*** **by April Ryan**, it's not going to be so simple.

April Ryan is just trying to do her dang job.



She's a journalist, the "longest-serving Black White House correspondent in American History," a job she wanted since she was influenced by a small handful of Black women anchors and reporters on television as a 10-year-old.

She had a lot of mentors to get where she is today, including performer Stevie Wonder. His activism, and her desire to help a cause dear to his heart (and hers) led to an injustice in the Biden White House briefing room that still stings. It was, she says, a blatant example of bias that the press corps still won't admit.

That was only one slight she's endured. Sometimes, she gets apologies; more often, she doesn't. Mostly, she keeps doing her job, despite the racism she sees and that which she experiences as a Black journalist. It's "not new," she says.

Here, she mourns the casualness displayed for Black artifacts, writing about the loss of precious historical items. Ryan examines a long line of Black women leaders and their perseverance, tells what it was like to know Joe Biden, and she mourns what happened in the 2024 election and what could have been. She writes about her life as a Black journalist in the Trump White House, his social media presence, and the dismissiveness of many of the President's staff.

"The truth is that some people fear your presence when it's rooted in purpose, " she says. "They recognize the power in your voice and try desperately to silence it, but I will never stop using mine."

It's safe to say that nobody likes gaslighting, half-truths, or glossed-over facts. Which makes it easy to like *Notes from a Blacklash*, because author April Ryan isn't willing at all to give anybody any nonsense here.

No, this book is blunt and true, righteously angry but also celebratory. If you missed any of her work in the White House lately, she lets you know what she's seen and how people have acted there, good, bad, and biased. In the telling, Ryan doesn't just present the stories; she seems to be waiting for resolution but she also seems to admit that things don't change – especially in the life of an outspoken woman, and especially in current politics.

Curiously, that's where Ryan's book is most interesting: in tales of her work life. Readers will enjoy all of what's here, but her work life is what shines.

Notes on a Blacklash is for political watchers, yes, but it's also a good pick for feminists and historians. If that's you, you'll like it, that's clear.





Generational Differences... continued from page 6

tion that our brains tend not to want to do the work to connect with someone when they are different from us, where its race or age or gender," Elmore told The Truth just before he took the stage.

"So I'm going to talk about the benefits, the advantages, of connecting with a gen z'er when you are a boomer or a gen x'er … that they have something to impart to you and vice versa [not like] that the old school way of thinking that the mentor is old and the mentee is younger. And how do we do more than tolerate each other?"

During his speech Elmore did just that, first clearly delineating the generations and ensuring that his audience understood the perceived differences in the generations – how they communicated and how they perceived their status in the world

Elmore's definition of the five generations are: the builders, or the silent generation (those born 1926-1945); baby boomers, or pig in python generation (1946-1964); the baby busters, or generation X (1965-1982); the millennials, or generation y (1983-1999); the homelanders, or generation z (2000-2015).

"We need to get curious not furious with each other," said Elmore as he delved into the stereotypes of each generation while noting that such stereotypes were so harmful to establishing an effective dialogue and interaction. "Isn't it easy to stereotype?" he asked his audience.

He summarized his speech by suggesting that each generation give the others A LEG up in discourse with them. Ask, Listen, Empathize, Guide.

The conference continued after lunch with several panel discussions. The first panel: *Every Generation Teaches, Every Generation Learns, a multi-generation panel on leadership, trust and the future of work* was led by moderator Heather Mallette with panel members Riley Rummels, Jay Martinex, Amira Welch and Samual Chang.

The second panel: Bringing It All Together, a discussant response was led by Princeton Bryson and included Elizabeth Briody and Barbara Singer. This panel synthesized insights from the day's presentations and offered recommendations for applying the ideas generated therein.

According to McKether this will not be the last such effort to bridge the gaps.

"I'm looking forward to carrying this forward, looking forward to start a conversation that will extend throughout the year. Next year we will do this again."

Summit Street... continued from page 16

The hours for the restaurant 4-10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 4-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 12-6 p.m. Sunday. The restaurant will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

Cielo (Open Air Lounge) – Opening in Spring 2027

Amy Hall will also open a new space that broke ground this month next to Last Drop. The co-managers of the space will also be Legacy Partners of NWO.

"So we're bringing a little bit of Antigua, Guatemala, which is one of my favorite places to go," said owner Hall. "So, I figured most people might not have the opportunity to go to Antigua, Guatemala. So why not bring it here? Why not share what you love? That's what we're here to do."

The space will be an open-air lounge that overlooks the city with a full bar and pizza oven. The late-night lounge will be right next to Last Drop mirroring its hours where patrons can flow between the two spaces. It will also be available for rent for parties and special events.

"There is nothing like it here," stated Hall. "It will be unlike anything in Toledo."

In fact, Summit Street is already unlike anything else in Toledo with its expanding restaurant and entertainment scene. About five years ago, businesses started to open along a strip that had long been dormant. TolHouse, Toledo Spirits, Toledo Pickle, Bertha Mae's, Molly's Irish Pub, Riverside BBQ have opened bringing an assortment of food and entertainment to a once desolate and forgotten area of town.

A lot of everything can be found along this north Summit Street strip will add more highlights in coming years.



LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS
TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Electronic Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Remedial Action for Lower Maumee River Sway Bridge within the Maumee Area of Concern, in Toledo, Ohio 43604, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The project "Remedial Action for Lower Maumee River Sway Bridge within the Maumee Area of Concern" project is funded through a US Environmental Protection Agency grant. The work includes mobilization and site support services; implementation of erosion, turbidity, and sediment resuspension controls; and installation and monitoring of specialized instrumentation to protect existing structures during construction. The Contractor will perform mechanical dredging, transportation, and disposal of approximately 124,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment and embedded debris. Dredged materials will be disposed of at the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (TLCPA) Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) and an approved commercial landfill, as applicable. The Work also includes hydraulic offloading, water management, and debris separation and disposal operations at the TLCPA CDF; removal and disposal of shipwrecks and other submerged debris; and installation of temporary steel sheet piling to support shoreline stability during dredging, followed by in situ abandonment of designated sheet piling. Bathymetric surveys and post dredging verification sampling will be performed to document remedial performance. The Contractor will conduct residual dredging and place amended residual covers, as required, and will place engineered subaqueous backfill materials where necessary to restore slope stability. The Work concludes with demobilization and site restoration.

Optional Work only as directed by TLCPA may include may include placement of an organoclay layer to isolate non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) materials; structural inspection diving services; NAPL sheen mitigation within the CDF cell; CDF cell drawdown activities; and additional quantities of sediment and debris removal, transportation, and disposal beyond the base contract quantities.

This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion. The total engineer's estimate for the base bid and approved optional work is approximately $22,612,100.00. Bids will be received through Bid Express, an online electronic bidding system, until Tuesday, December 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM, (local time), at which time all bids will be opened through the Bid Express website.

The plans and bid proposal documents are available through Bid Express at: https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/66075/home. Bidders new to the electronic bidding system must first register on the Bid Express website (www.bidexpress.com). Registration is Free. It can take up to five (5) business days to process a Digital ID and it is highly recommended that a Digital ID be enabled 48 hours in advance of submitting an electronic bid. Bidders must plan accordingly. For additional guidance regarding electronic bidding, bidders must contact Bid Express directly. Each bidder shall be responsible for submitting its electronic bid before the bid deadline.

Electronic Proposals must be submitted on the form(s) included in Bid Express and shall be accompanied by a certified check or an acceptable Proposal Bond with satisfactory surety specifying the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority as the obligee, in the sum of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 10:00 AM, local time. This meeting will be held in-person at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH or on-line viz Zoom Video Conference. Prospective Bidders interested in joining in the online-pre-bid meeting should contact Tina Perkins (TPerkins@Toledoport.org) at Toledo Lucas County Port Authority prior to Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 4:00 PM, local time, to be included in the meeting invitation. This meeting invitation will include a link to the video conference as well as separate call-in numbers to join either by video or by phone. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. A site visit has been scheduled immediately following for those who are interested.

Please submit all questions through the Bid Express service by Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 10:00 AM local time. Questions submitted after the deadline will not receive a response. Additional information can be found at https://www.toledoport.org/public-notices

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
HVAC SERVICES
RFP26-R014

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **HVAC Services in accordance with RFP26-R014.** Received in accordance with law until **November 23, 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

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FIRE SYSTEMS TESTING, INSPECTIONS, AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES
RFP26-R011

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Fire Systems Testing, Inspections, and Maintenance Services in accordance with RFP26-R011.** Received in accordance with law until **November 23, 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

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
BASIC PLUMBING SERVICES
RFP26-R012

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Basic Plumbing Services in accordance with RFP26-R012.** Received in accordance with law until **November 23, 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
GLASS REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT SERVICES
RFP26-R013

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Glass Repair and Replacement Services in accordance with RFP26-R013.** Received in accordance with law until **November 23, 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

Summit Street: A Dining and Entertainment Hub in the Heart of Toledo

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Assistant Editor

There are new businesses flourishing on Summit Street in downtown Toledo. From pickleball to trendy bars and event spaces, new developments are growing in the district including Ostrich Towne. In the heart of this redevelopment are local entrepreneurs Amy Hall along with Terry and Annika Awls (of Legacy Partners of NWO.)







Last Drop Coffee Shop (927 N. Summit St.)

Last Drop Coffee Shop offers a unique and modern space for the community to work, meet and dine. Owner Amy Hall and co- managers Terry Awls and wife Annika Awls of Legacy Partners of NWO have created a spot that they ensure is for everybody.

"Last Drop is a late-night coffee shop." said owner Hall. "Really the idea was to bring community to Toledo. To have a place where you could get a great cup of coffee, some really good food, but have a sense of belonging here, and to be able to create that here. So that's what Last Drop is."

"You walk in here at any given time, and you just see what I believe represents Toledo.

You have such a cross section of people. You have folks in the back working, you have people, with families, like up front…It really is reflective of the community in which we live in. You can see a little bit of anyone at any given time, and when you walk in. So, it's wonderful.

It's doing exactly what it was intended to do."







Terry Awls is a trained chef who manages the back of the house while his wife Annika manages the front of the house. With their company, Legacy Partners of Northwest Ohio, whose clients have included Tolhouse (also on Summit Street), the Toledo Museum of Art, Maumee Country Day School and more, they bring their expertise along with Hall's to the business.

"The main thing is just making sure that when people walk in, they don't see a black coffee shop. They see a coffee shop. With great service. And that's what we want people to see. That's it," said Terry Awls.

Last Drop opened last month and offers a select menu with offerings for breakfast, lunch, dinner and desserts in addition to their drink offerings. The café signature items are their cinnamon rolls, everything croissant and potato bacon soup. "And so we keep it simple, but what we do, we do really well. And so it's kind of like a unique spin," said Awls.

They also offer daily specials.

The venue is aiming to be the Last Drop, or last spot, at the end of your night out to enjoy coffee or cocktails in the area. The space is currently open until 6 p.m. but will soon be open late night with alcohol. The new hours will close at 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday and midnight Friday and Saturday. No membership is required.

Last Drop is available for rent. There is a conference room, flexible office space, and area for large groups to rent as well as the whole space. There is also a stage where there have been podcast recordings. "It's almost like a world class coffee shop just dropped into Toledo," said Annika Awls.

To learn more about Last Drop visit Facebook or Instagram.

Avestruz (Tapas and Tequila) (915 N. Summit St.) – Opening Soon

There will soon be a re-opening of the Mexican inspired tapas bar Avestruz (Spanish: Ostrich) that closed last year. The partners of this venture are Restore 419, Legacy of NWO and Empowerment Group.

The restaurant is set to open within the next month. The restored restaurant will still serve Mexican tapas but will offer a new twist under new management.

"So the thing that's going to set us apart from the previous phase [is that] our bar menu is going to be probably second to none. Phenomenal," commented Terry Awls. "And kitchen wise, we're going to have some really neat dishes that you can't get anywhere else," he added.

"Our service again, is going to be a thing that sets us apart…. good food, good servers, great drinks. The atmosphere is really neat and that's just a tip of the iceberg," added Awls.

"You're going to get a feel that you're in a high-end Mexican tapas restaurant that people are going to come for the drinks and they're going to stay for the food. The goal is to walk away with a 'wow'" he shared.

The space will also be available for rent.

...continued on page 14

