



Volume 66 No. 9

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

May 19, 2021



Rob Pasker of Pasker Real Estate

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Women Don't Get a Break; Especially Black Women

By Cheryl Smith, Publisher, Texas Metro News
Guest Column

I hope you've paid attention to the chatter following the "bombshell" announcement by Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who has decided not to seek another term this Fall. Full disclosure. I have mad love for the mayor. On a number of fronts our lives parallel: roots in Crawfordville, GA; attended Florida A&M University; journalism majors; pledged the Beta Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and, we are both mothers, but not by birth.



Cheryl Smith

So, some may want to stop reading now because "Cheryl is going to be biased" and to those critics, I have two things to say: first if you think the majority of stuff you read and see does not have biases embedded within, well I say "chile please" and; secondly, the longer I live and the more I have to live with things like COVID, Trump and self-haters who tear their people down, I say, "don't come for me unless I send for you!"

In three words: I'm not apologizing. In another eight words, I'm sick of people tearing Black women down. We're too strong, weak, mean, angry, et al. I can't go on because I get sicker with every adjective. Black women catch hell from all sides and angles and then the ones who should be the most supportive are the biggest damned critics! OTHER WOMEN! No, let me call it like it is — OTHER BLACK WOMEN! Which brings me to my truth.

It was frustrating to hear and read comments as folks far and wide specu-



Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms

lated about why Mayor Lance Bottoms would not seek another term. There was talk about President Biden, a large drugstore chain job, pursuit of another office, etc. Atlanta's rising crime rate, jail issues, investigations of previous administrations, and more were fodder for those needing something to say. There was also talk of her being "tired, angry," and yes, "salty."

In her video, the mayor talked about challenges and triumphs. She definitely had to face some situations that no one could have prepared her for because there's no one else alive who has encountered a pandemic of the magnitude of COVID-19 and it is so disingenuous to hear people try to reason that COVID -19 is not having an impact on everything.

It's been challenging for leadership and I know folks have to have something to do, so they speculate. It makes them feel good inside. But haven't you learned anything from the death of actor, humanitarian Chadwick Boseman. Da 5 Bloods co-star Clarke Peters, following Mr. Boseman's death, said he recalled seeing his co-star being pampered on the set and thinking, "maybe the Black Panther thing went to his head."

Mr. Peters said he regretted those thoughts, because at the time he didn't know that Mr. Boseman had been battling colon cancer for the past four years. We don't know Mayor Lance Bottom's journey. What we do know is that she has some serious receipts and if you do the homework her legacy is intact because she has served in numerous capacities throughout her lifetime and prayerfully she has many more decades to go.

Heck, if she wants to put her law degree to work to serve, joining the likes of Atty. Ben Crump; or if she wants to put that J-School degree to work, doors are open even right here at Texas Metro News; or if she wants to stay home with the children; teach at FAMU's Law School or she can go back to the bench as a judge; assume a leadership post with Delta Sigma Theta; or, become a college, preferably HBCU, president; it's her life, her journey.

Get yourself some business, because when your time is all said and done, will it have been spent talking about what others have done or will you have done something worth celebrating or sharing in history books? Wow! Yes, I am here in Texas with enough issues of my own as I am sure I am going to be accosted by some unsuspecting person who comes for Fort Worth Mayoral Candidate Deborah Peoples as she faces a candidate in a runoff election where if elected she will become the Cowtown's first Black female mayor.

Heck. First Black mayor! Unfortunately Ms. Peoples, is dealing with some of the same hateration where folks just have something negative to say. I'm not saying don't criticize. What I am saying is "know what you are talking about." Bring receipts or shut up. If you want help living a life without regrets: you can begin by pledging to stop being so damned judgmental! Mayor Keisha is living her life. Live yours.



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By Bisho Mar ia in ins, xe uti e ire tor, omen or Chan e
Guest Column

Love them or hate them, most Americans pay their fair share of taxes into the government's coffers as a basic duty. In return, we get roads, education, public safety, healthcare and a variety of other services that serve our shared needs and interests.

As federal lawmakers start debate on the much-anticipated "build back better" economic stimulus and recovery package, they should consider not just how to tax the rich and corporations in order to invest in the jobs, healthcare and other services but also how tax reform addresses the long legacy of inequity that continues to leave people of color behind while disproportionately serving the interests of mainly wealthy white people and corporations.

For too long, the rules that apply to most of us have been shirked by the richest households and corporations that can afford to pay their fair share, but don't--thanks to tax breaks, loopholes and a rigged tax code that rewards wealth over work.

Black workers are overrepresented in low-wage entry-level jobs and underrepresented in senior leader and executive roles. On average, Black men are paid just \$0.71 for every dollar paid to white men and Black women, who face both gender and racial barriers, are paid just \$0.63 for every dollar paid to white men. They aren't fairly paid for their work, often face discrimination on the job and have little chance of accumulating wealth.

The pandemic just accentuated these disparities while wealthy people and corporations prospered, millions of working people struggled with job loss, shrinking incomes, loss of health insurance and other challenges. Yet Fortune 500 corporations managed to make big profits and to avoid taxes during a period of historically high unemployment and public health crisis.

Zoom Video Communications, for example, profited while giving nothing back in taxes even as COVID devastated communities, causing historic job loss and hundreds of thousands of casualties. Zoom's pre-tax profits increased by 4,000 percent last year, from \$16 million in 2019 to \$660 million in 2020, but paid no federal corporate income tax

on those profits for 2020

Similarly, from mid-March to mid-October last year, Ohio's six billionaires increased their wealth by over \$1 billion even as millions of their neighbors got sick, lost jobs, lost healthcare and struggled to afford the basics. Around the country and in Ohio, no one has struggled more than Black American, Latinos, and Native who during COVID were most likely to lose employment and still be without a job, most likely to lack healthcare and the most likely to get infected and die with COVID.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, President Trump's signature achievement, just made things worse. Not only did the law give away over \$1.9 trillion in tax breaks to the wealthy and corporations, it deepened economic inequality and the racial wealth gap. In 2020, the richest 20 percent of Americans (people making \$119,000 or more) received an estimated 70 percent of the tax breaks while the bottom 80 percent (people making under \$119,000 a year) received about 20 percent of the tax benefits. In Ohio, the top one percent of taxpayers, people making \$639,000 or more, received an annual tax break of \$37,650 while people making \$24,000 or less received about \$80 annually.

About 80 percent of the TJCA tax cuts in 2018 went to White households: White households received \$2,020 in cuts, while Latino households received \$970 and Black households received \$840. The law also privileges upper income families in the administration of the Child Tax Credit: 11 million children under 17 in the lowest-income working families received either no improvement in the credit or a tiny increase compared to much larger increases for families with incomes as high as \$400,000.

Not only are the TJCA tax cuts more beneficial for Whites, particularly wealthy Whites, but they disproportionately hurt Blacks, Latinos, Natives because of provisions in the law that weaken the Affordable Care Act, a law that particularly benefited these communities. Trump's tax law cut an



Bishop Marcia Dinkins

ACA provision to help offset the cost of tax breaks for the rich.

As a result, Republican state attorneys general initiated a lawsuit to repeal the law that is expected to be ruled on this summer by the Supreme Court. Repealing the ACA and Medicaid expansion result in more than 201,000 Ohioans losing marketplace coverage, over 526,000 people losing Medicaid, and 1,983,000 losing protections against discrimination based on pre-existing health conditions which now could include COVID. Wealthy households making more than \$200,000 and prescription drug corporations would get billions in tax breaks from repeal.

Biden's proposals to tax wealth like work, to increase corporate taxes, stop companies from avoiding taxes by offshoring profits and jobs and to raise taxes on households making over \$400,000 would put the United States on the right track toward a fairer tax system and a more equitable economy that can work for everyone, not just the wealthy few. But to ensure that equity is an outcome will require that the investments we fund address the racial wage gap, the racial wealth gap, education, healthcare and the other systems that create real mobility, fairness and opportunity for everyone in America--no matter what they look like, where they came from or what's in their wallet.

ioans Blast G nti rotest e islation

Last week, the Ohio Democratic Party hosted a virtual press conference as Ohioans speak out against anti-protest legislation being pushed through the legislature by Ohio Republicans. GOP politicians have introduced a number of bills that would chip away at one of Ohioans' most fundamental rights: the right to free speech.

"When I was on the campaign trail, I definitely did not think Ohio would try to make it a crime to protest -- something as American as apple pie -- but that is exactly what is happening right now at the Statehouse," said State Representative Juanita Brent (D-Cleveland).

"The right of assembly and free speech is guaranteed in our Constitution. In the history of America -- all social justice issues have found their beginnings in the streets and today we see protests playing a critical role in the fight for racial justice. But right now, statehouse Republicans are playing politics with Ohioans' right to protest," said State

Representative David Leland (D-Columbus).

"These regressive measures will only create more low-level felons. This is a solution looking for a problem. Citizens should always have the right to respectfully question and challenge actions that are excessive and abusive. Lawmakers must cease and desist attempts to strip away rights that are protected under the First Amendment of the Constitution," said Cincinnati NAACP President Joe Mallory.

Legislation proposed by Ohio Republicans would:

- Create new crimes and penalties for Ohioans who are protesting, using broad language to define what constitutes a crime.

- Make Ohio organizations financially responsible for 'providing support' to a protest in which any damage occurs, even if that damage is temporary or independent of the organized protest.

- Add unnecessary burdens onto Ohioans and

Ohio organizations who want to exercise their right to free speech.

Organizations across Ohio from all political backgrounds have spoken out against these efforts, especially in light of ongoing protests in the fight for racial justice.

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ConocoPhillips Leads Diversity and Inclusion Efforts in the Oil and Gas Industry

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

@StacyBrownMedia

Special to The Truth

With projections that half of its workforce will consist of minorities by 2030, the oil and gas industry has continued to recruit individuals of color, women, veterans, and groups that have been mainly underrepresented.

At ConocoPhillips, Shawn Green and Maalika Moore-Thomas each take an optimistic approach to recruiting some of the best minority talent and minds.

Green, the manager of global services and technology, and Moore-Thomas, the senior supplier diversity coordinator, also keep a steady eye on diversity and inclusion with ConocoPhillips' contractors and suppliers.

"My day-to-day is basically working with our diverse suppliers from various backgrounds—minorities, LGBT community, and veterans—to ensure that our supplier base is well-rounded and to make sure that we have those diverse suppliers that we contract within our oil and gas specific jobs, as well as our professional services jobs," Moore-Thomas asserted.

Green's role is "to set the supply chain approach and strategy for automation, data analytics, and merchant technology," he stated.

"I'm ultimately accountable for the development approach for those programs that are under my purview."

Moore-Thomas added that ConocoPhillips and the industry continue to work toward a more inclusive environment that reflects different backgrounds, interests, and perspectives.

Green concurred.

"One of our major initiatives is ensuring we have suppliers for the variety of categories and sourcing opportunities we have," Green remarked.

"It's really about making sure that we have a line of sight to those opportunities and a pipeline to diverse suppliers."

Added Moore-Thomas, "The importance of diversity is not just talking

points or conversation. We believe each person is accountable for creating and sustaining an inclusive work environment. It's important to have diversity in backgrounds, but it's important to have diversity in thought and perspective at each table where decision making takes place."

Raised in a single-family home in Tampa, Florida, Moore-Thomas later attended The Ohio State University and earned two degrees in psychology and criminology.

While working as a buyer for a small company, Moore-Thomas received a message from a ConocoPhillips manager that intrigued her enough to relocate to Houston eventually.

"I became very interested in oil and gas through learning about how much this industry truly influences the way we work and live," Moore-Thomas said.

"I applied for the position and never looked back."

Green grew up in Houston, where he lived with his grandparents.

He said his primary focus was acquiring an education.

Green attended a magnet high school where engineers from Exxon often mentored him and other students.

Green attended Tulane University, where he majored in chemical engineering, and he later received an MBA with finance and management concentrations.

Both Green and Moore-Thomas have pitched the industry to students at historically Black colleges and universities, and they continue to encourage all minorities about oil and gas.

"I have worked in this industry for 24 years, but my first exposure was in high school," Green recalled.

"Over the years, I think we've made steady strides in energizing folks to understand the industry more. I know we have more work to do in having that awareness and outreach (regarding diversity and inclusion)."

Moore-Thomas said "all hands are on deck" in creating a more diverse and inclusive industry.

"[We are] figuring out how we can better task force, or diversify, the space," she added.

Green concluded that the industry is keen on developing programs and strategies to increase diversity in the workforce.

"It's a great time to be in the industry," he exclaimed.

"It's a great time to be at the forefront of change. There will be a lot of opportunities."



Stacy Brown

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Rob Pasker: Building Business, Educating Clients, Spreading Joy

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

It's a good thing Rob Pasker was blessed with a big, bright smile, because the man people call "The Realist" is seldom without one.

Pasker spreads joy wherever he goes, with a cool calm attitude rooted in equality and liberation, his personal positive creed.

"The Realist" is president of the Greater Toledo REALTIST Association and owner of Pasker & Associates. As a HUD Certified Housing Counselor with NID Housing Counseling Agency, Pasker teaches people how to build a financial foundation and position themselves for homeownership....FOR FREE.

Pasker is involved with no less than five different national organizations. Among the many boards he sits on are the Millennial Committee of The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAR) as director and chairman The Greater Toledo REALTIST Association as president and with HUD as Certified Housing Counselor.

His commitment to the community, especially our underserved, is so much a part of his identity that Pasker's niches in real estate include building community wealth through homeownership, innovating the Transaction process, and Real Estate Development.

Pasker's clients are using their HomeBuyer Education Certificates to receive \$0 Down Loans and up to \$9500 down payment grants from the City of Toledo.

Born and reared in Toledo, Ohio, and raised near Richards and Hill Ave., Rob Pasker attended many different schools over the years. "My mom always wanted me to have the best education. We tried many schools: St. Jude, St. Martin de Porres, Body of Christ, Keyzer Elementary and Trinity Lutheran. I graduated from McTigue and decided on Central Catholic for high school. This truly gave me a diverse outlook and upbringing," shares Pasker.

Pasker and his colleagues are role models in the lives of many young people today but what started out as 32 black males in his freshmen class, ended in an unstoppable graduating nine.

"Central Catholic high school taught me to be confident as myself as a Black man in a white world," explains Pasker. When asked how the school made this impression he says, "We got in trouble for things other people didn't get in trouble for."

There were some disparities in the matriculation of black males through Central Catholic at that time and unfortunately many young black men didn't make it due to financial burdens in funding tuition in addition to the normal barriers within underserved communities.

"My senior year, they chose five out of the nine of us to receive the block of lockers positioned between the principal's office and the head priest's office. Word got out that teachers received gang training the summer before. It was strange to us," recalls Pasker. "To my friends and I it was weird to see the facility envisioning us as gang members."

After this, Pasker and his small group of friends were positively on fire to



Rob Pasker

spread cultural consciousness. "All the students had posters on their lockers for fun at Central, so we started raising a lot of awareness. It was like peaceful protests in the most fun and loving way. We always had fun," states Pasker.

He is still friends with other members of his graduating class who are still positively impacting the black community today. Ray and Richard Aubrey own a super successful media company called College Add and licensed professional barber and friend RaMon Armstrong of local Groomed barber-shop are close, to name just a few Toledoans. "The nine of us graduating seniors called ourselves 40 BLOCC. We had a positive gang and we created our narrative. We provided our own form of education to our peers and teachers," says Pasker.

During high school, Pasker earned a full ride scholarship to the University of Toledo as a Toledo Excel scholar in Group 13.

Immediately upon graduation Pasker decided he was ready to tackle college. "I went to UT and didn't even take the summer off. I graduated on May 25 and I started school on June 6."

The Toledo Excel Program was a very impactful experience for Rob. After taking a trip to Africa at 17 and doing field study for an entire month, he learned invaluable life lessons that would carry him far. "While in Africa we visited different colleges, high schools, and even met with the African National Congress Delegates of Nelson Mandela's party. Apartheid was only 10 years past and tensions were still high. Feeling the love and seeing the opportunities in the world opened my eyes," recalls Pasker.

In his first semester at the University of Toledo, Rob earned a 3.75 GPA.

...continued on page 6

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"Ironically, when the fall semester came in and everyone returned to campus, that next semester I pulled a .5 GPA. Yes I was partying, but mostly I fell out of love with the idea of institutionalized education."

At the time his professor challenged the class to write a four-to-five page paper every week for 16 weeks. When given a paper to write on race, students were required to cite that there were no biological or physiological differences between different races.

"I did as instructed and also included other evidence supporting another stance. The professor gave me a zero on that paper," recalls Pasker.

Some of the unfortunate experiences black students endure are a form of 'gaslighting,' when someone denies the experiences of a person of color. Nevertheless, everything Pasker did in his academic years, somehow, somehow, positively touched the lives of others.

For a student like Pasker who had been in honors English most of his academic life, this was the first zero he had ever been given. "To be honest, after that experience I just wasn't as excited about the academic side, but on the social side I was heavily involved with the Black Student Union," remembers Pasker. As a double Psychology and Africana Studies major with the goal of helping to liberate black people, he made innovative decisions to leverage his talents.

Pasker stayed at UT for two more years on the academic side and as an executive Board Member of the Black Student Union and played an instrumental role within the programming committee to raise cultural awareness on campus.

"There is just 'some' information that 'some' groups are not privy to. With this in mind, we taught our peers how popular culture of today correlates with the minstrel shows of the past so we could all see ourselves through a different, more objective lens," shares Pasker.

eventually the young student felt burnt out with both his double major and his extra-curricular activities. He went on academic probation and decided to pursue the benefits of community college.

"The truth is the whole time I was a full-time student at UT, I owned and operated my own company," shares Pasker with a laugh. "Me and my buddies started a company called Overtime Entertainment Productions LLC and used it to create culture on campus. We hosted parties and events but ultimately it was about bringing people together."

Back in 2007 Pasker met Eddie Drake II, owner of The YNOTT Foundation (Youth Needing Organ Tissue Transplant). He asked Pasker to help him raise awareness and funds in the Columbus area for his child-based non-profit.

The YNOTT Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing support to pediatric transplant patients, increasing awareness about the need for organ and tissue donation, and promoting disease prevention and wellness in the community.

"We didn't know anyone in Columbus but the arena district was a hot spot so we made a plan. We rented out a club one Sunday a month and hosted events," shares Pasker.

Although the parties weren't financially successful, they had fun and made life-time business connections to carry them all on their next endeavors.

Pasker moved to Columbus in 2008 receiving his Associates of Arts from Columbus State in 2009. He started the campus's Black Student Union while in attendance.

Many within underserved communities can see "the dirty little secret" of the Ivy League — that on many campuses, the make-up of Black students is not representative of black communities outside of the university. Rather, there are higher percentages of upper-class African-Americans and black immigrants. "We addressed many issues affecting the black student body. We had 35k students, even more than UT, yet we needed more campus life and culture," recalls Pasker.

Rob Pasker is a flourishing example of what one can do with a positive mindset, despite resistance, all-the-while intentionally teaching others along the way.

Pasker went on to finish his Bachelor of Business Administration at Franklin University in 2011. Overtime Entertainment Productions LLC evolved into earl and hip-hop with his business partner Brandon Dicks - a platform for Midwest talent.

With all these ventures Pasker started focusing on his health. "In order to stay at your personal best in business, many of us become health nuts. Due to that I was open to new things and tried Matcha green tea. I did some research, found it had many health benefits and commenced in asking the barista about his supply chain."

What he did next shows the preparedness necessary to succeed at all times. He handed the barista his business card with a single Nelson Mandela quote on the back and said,

"I build businesses. This is a multi-million dollar product just waiting to explode. I drink tea almost daily and have never heard of Matcha. Let's connect."

After working with the gentleman for a few months and building a solid business plan for

the Matcha product, the owner decided he wanted to sell. A trust and strong professional respect was built and he offered to sell Pasker his company under extremely generous terms. "'Go Matcha,Go' was my first acquisition," he shares fondly.

He rebranded 'Go Matcha,Go' and it excelled through seven different sales channels. From coffee shops to corner stores to online and independent distributors, Pasker engineered the gamut. "I would sell raw Matcha, Matcha blends, Matcha face masks, lattes, lemonades and shots," he recalls.

eventually, after being the sole person doing the branding, marketing, sales, packaging and logistics, Pasker decided to automate his supply chain. He did the research, but like many young black men he knew he would struggle to receive grants or loans.

"I told myself to figure out how to grassroots hustle and find the money. I have a friend who is third generation in his grandmother's Real Estate brokerage firm. As a black woman who received her license in 1963, she is still licensed to this day and enjoys the benefits of helping other professionals with a tenacity to learn the business," says Pasker smiling.

He realized if he can build a supply chain in tea he could build one in real estate and Pasker Real Estate Company was born.

Pasker brings in the business and he educates the client. Next the administrative staff makes sure clients are sourced where they need to go, and his diverse real estate agents help both buyers and sellers actually achieve their real estate goals regardless of color or creed.

As a member of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAR), Pasker's goal is to build democracy in housing. Building black wealth through real estate is important.

"Ultimately with Pasker Real Estate the goal is to create a real estate supply chain where the underserved community is also valued. And that's what we are doing through homeownership," he says.

Home ownership is one of the greatest sources of wealth in America. If black communities have higher homeownership, statistics show that not only will

continue on a e

The Truth

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Science Tackles Gun Violence Issue

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The second of three community forums on gun violence in the city of Toledo was held at Woodward High School on Saturday, May 16, before an audience of about 75, including a number of young students.

JoJuan Armour, commissioner of Mayor Wade's Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence, led the discussion and opened the event by explaining that the city's data on violence have led the initiative to focus on three critical areas central Toledo including the Junction neighborhood, the Lagrange Street area in north Toledo and the Garfield-Starr neighborhood in east Toledo.

"We will create themes from the information," said Armour. He noted, for example, that the information from south Toledo indicated that, given the paucity of adult males in homes, more mentorships are needed there. However, in north Toledo, residents have indicated that "we don't need mentorships because we have more men at home but without jobs," said Armour.

"We do have that piece of self-identity with neighborhoods," added Montrice Terry of the City Park League who is working with Armour on the community forums and the initiative.

"The goal is to create something sustainable to address gun violence effectively," noted Armour. He provided information on statistics that shows that gun violence deaths in 2020 doubled from the previous year and that the total of deaths for 2021 are on pace to exceed the 2020 total with 20 homicides so far this year.

Dawn Thomas, a prevention systems manager for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, introduced how the city is establishing a process to work on the steps for the initiative – the first step being the assessment of the situation. Then the city will attempt to build capacity as it attempts to plan, implement and continue to evaluate its progress.

She stressed that community involvement will be critical to the success of the initiative.

The students in attendance were an important part of the conversation, several discussing their personal remorse about deaths but also noting that youth in Toledo need more opportunities for social activities and more employment opportunities.

The third town hall meeting will be held at Waite High School on Saturday, May 22.



JoJuan Armour and Montrice Terry



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For those entering grades 3-6 (Co-Ed Camp)
Cost: \$85 per player

Elite Soccer Camp
T - F | June 22 - 25 • 11:00am - 1:00pm
Location: SFS Stadium
For those entering grades 7-9 (Co-Ed Camp)
Cost: \$100 per player

Futsal Skills Soccer Camp
in partnership with Futsal Factory Academy
T - F | July 12 - 15 • 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Location: SFS Main Gym & Aux Gym
For those entering grades 3-9 (Co-Ed Camp)
Cost: \$100 per player



GOLF CAMP

M - Th | June 14 - 17 • 9:00am - Noon
Location: Heatherdowns Country Club
For those entering grades 5-12 (Co-Ed Camp)
Cost: \$100



LACROSSE CAMP

M - Th | July 12 - 15 • 8:00am - 10:00am
Location: SFS Stadium
For those entering grades 5-9 (Boys)
Cost: \$50



BASKETBALL CAMPS

Elite Basketball Camp
M - W | June 7 - 9 • 9:00am - Noon
Location: SFS Main Gym & Aux Gym
For those entering grades 7-9 (Co-Ed Camp)
Cost: \$75

Youth Basketball Camp
M - W | June 14 - 16 • 9:00am - Noon
Location: SFS Main Gym & Aux Gym
For those entering grades 3-6 (Co-Ed Camp)
Cost: \$55



FOOTBALL CAMPS

Clinic of Champions Youth Camp
M - W | June 21 - 23 • 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Location: SFS Stadium
For those entering grades 3-9 (Boys)
Cost: \$25

BigMan Camp
Thursday | June 24 • 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Location: SFS Stadium
For those entering grades 3-9 (Boys)
Cost: \$10

Friday Knight Lights
Friday | June 25 • 7:20pm - 9:45pm
Location: SFS Stadium
For those entering grades 6-8 (Boys)
Cost: Free

Monday Knight QB Camp
Monday | June 28 • 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Location: SFS Stadium
For those entering grades 3-9 (Boys)
Cost: \$10



Local Support for Palestinians

By Virgilio Baker

Special to The Truth

On Sunday, May 16, northwest Ohioans staged an anti-Israel protest at the corner of Central and Secor to show support for the Palestinians and during the violence that has caused so much damage, death and destruction in Gaza. This was a peaceful show of support for Palestinians caught in the middle of the conflict. This was one of many protests demonstrating support for the Palestinians around the world.

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas began on May 10 and is in its second week. Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed and about a dozen Israelis thus far as the Hamas rockets are greatly overmatched by the Israeli Defense Force air strikes.

The source of the current conflict, the worst in years, was the Israeli decision to evict Arab residents in East Jerusalem in order to bring in Israeli settlers.



Photos Courtesy Virgilio Baker



America's Pandemic Recovery Relies on Energy

Energy Workers And Company Leaders Are Supporting the COVID-19 Relief Support Effort:

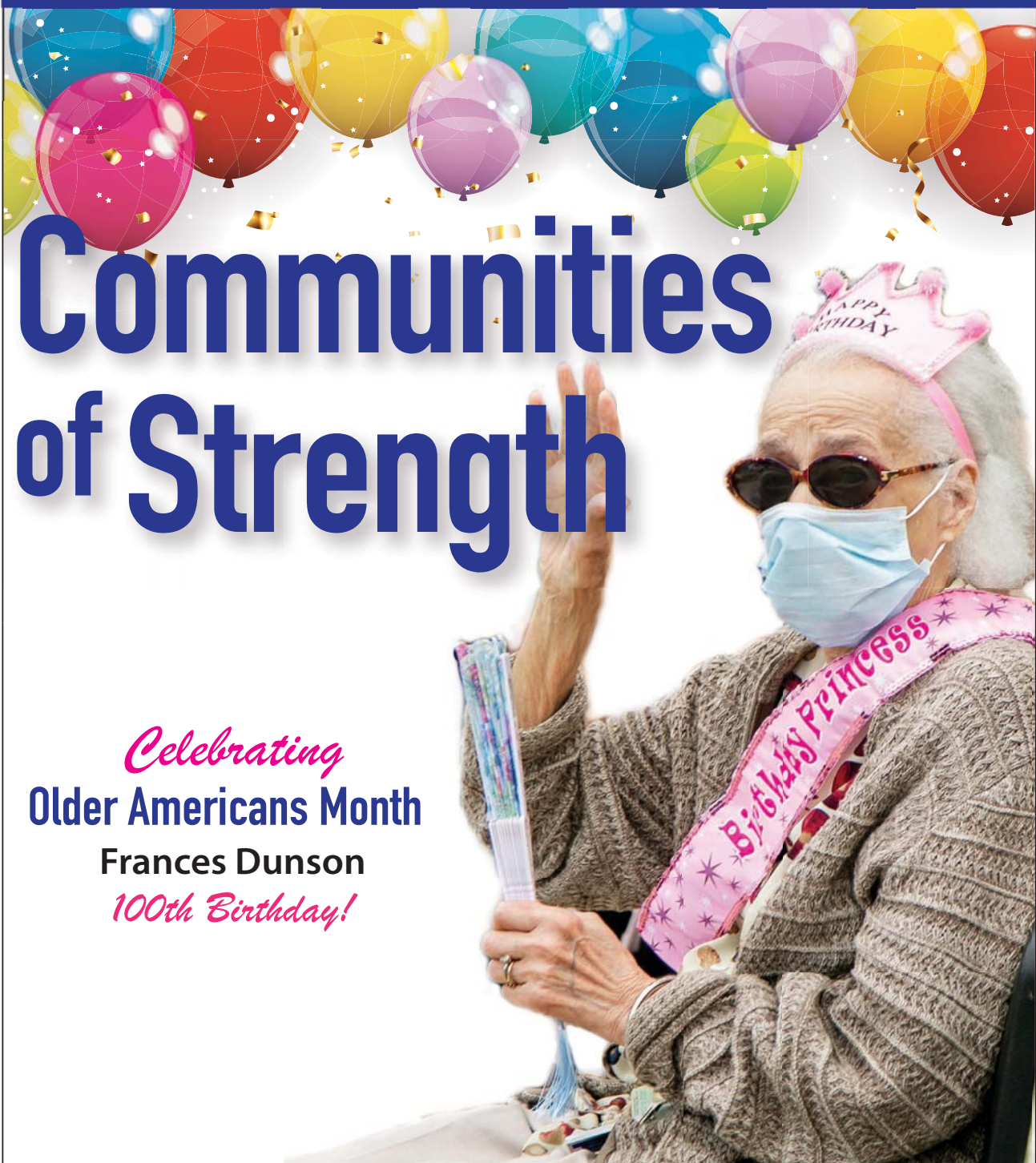
- Providing supplies such as personal protective equipment (PPE);
- Philanthropic community efforts to provide fuel gift cards, sanitizers, clothing, face coverings, and meals to hospitals, fire and police departments throughout the U.S.;
- Supplying jet fuel at no cost to critical companies and airlines to transport PPE deliveries and restore air service to remote communities;
- Providing fuel discounts to first responders and others who serve their communities;
- Donating ultra-low temperature freezers to health organization to help keep vaccines at their required storage temperature.

To learn more about how energy helps your community, visit CommunityEnergyCenter.org



The Community Energy Center, a cooperative with the National Newspaper Publishers Association and National Association of Hispanic Publications Media, will provide information and perspectives on the integral role of the energy sector in daily life for American families in a wide range of communities.

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Supplemental Security Income Benefits for Children with Disabilities

By rin Thom son

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo,

Social Security's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides cash payments to children with disabilities whose families have limited income and resources. A child must meet the following medical requirements to be considered disabled under Social Security rules:

- The child must have a medical condition, or a combination of conditions, that results in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) must seriously limit the child's activities.
- The child's disabling condition(s) must last for at least 12 months, or the condition(s) must be expected to end in death.

We also help children through our Compassionate Allowances program. Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security's standard for disability benefits. The list can be found at www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm. Compassionate Allowances help us reduce waiting time to reach a disability determination for children with the most serious disabilities. Thousands of children receive benefits because they have a condition on this list, but children with conditions not on this list can still qualify for SSI.

A child must meet additional eligibility requirements for low income and limited resources to qualify for SSI. To qualify, a child:

- Who is blind must not be working or earning more than \$2,190 a month in 2021.
- Who is not blind, must not be working or earning more than \$1,310 a month in 2021.

Earnings amounts usually change every year. Some older teenagers may have part-time jobs or be involved in work programs, which Social Security will count for financial eligibility.

In addition, if an unmarried child under age 18 is living at home, Social Security may consider some of the parents' income as the child's income. We make allowances for the parents and their other children living in the home when we consider the parents' income. You can

read more about children's benefits in our publication, Benefits for Children with Disabilities at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf.

If you are a parent or know a parent, guardian, caregiver, or representative of a child you think may be eligible, visit our Disability Benefits-Apply for a Child (Under Age 18) at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html to learn more and begin an application.

Replacement or Corrected Social Security Cards During the D

Social Security offices are currently open only for in-person appointments for limited, critical situations, depending upon local office conditions. However, you can continue to apply for a replacement Social Security card online and by mail. Before requesting a replacement card, please remember that you might not need the physical card. Most of the time, simply knowing your Social Security number is enough.

If you have a critical situation that requires you to have a physical card and you cannot apply by mail or online, you should call your local Social Security office. Please visit our Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates page for more information at www.ssa.gov/coronavirus.

Applying Online

If you don't need any changes to your Social Security Number record (such as a name or date of birth change), applying for a replacement card online is your most convenient option. You don't need to mail proof or visit an office.

You can use our online application if you are an adult, have a State-issued drivers' license or non-driver identification card, and live in the District of Columbia or one of the 45 States that verifies State-issued documents for us. All you need to do is create a my Social Security account to access and complete the online application at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/replacement-card.html.

If you live in one of the five States that do not participate — Min-

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The Truth Contributor

The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is comprised of civic-minded citizen volunteers from all walks of life representing each state, D.C., Puerto Rico and an international member (citizens living, working or doing business abroad). TAP is a Federal Advisory Committee whose mission is to listen to taxpayers, identify taxpayers' issues and make suggestions for improving the IRS service and customer satisfaction.

Everyone has something to say about taxes and the IRS. Please take a moment to give us your suggestions for TAP to consider by contacting one of the following:

TAP Ohio member: tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com

Call Toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227

Website: www.improveirs.org

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TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION - nterim es lts o t e a ilin eason iss e on ay

The IRS assists millions of taxpayers via its website (IRS.gov), telephone, and social media platforms as well as face-to-face assistance at its TACs, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites, and Tax Counseling for the Elderly sites. Between March 20, 2020, and

April 6, 2020, the IRS closed its offices nationwide, resulting in most customer service assistance options for taxpayers being unavailable. These actions continue to negatively affect the IRS's ability to provide quality customer service.

Online e site assistance

The IRS provides easy-to-use self-assistance options that enable taxpayers to access the information they need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The most noteworthy self-assistance option is the IRS's public Internet site, IRS.gov. The IRS reported 555.7 million visits to IRS.gov this filing season as of March 5, 2021. In comparison, the IRS reported 321.4 million visits to IRS.gov for the 2020 Filing Season as of March 6, 2020. [NOTE: The issue remains that millions of people do not have broadband access or access to the internet. This service is not accessible to them.]

oll ree telep one le el o assistance

As of March 5, 2021, taxpayers made nearly 46.3 million total attempts and 30.8 million net attempts (during working hours) to contact the IRS by calling the various customer service toll-free telephone assistance lines. The IRS reports that nearly 7.6 million calls were answered with automation, and telephone assistants answered more than 4.4 million calls.

	2020	2021
Assistor (staff) Calls Answered	4,794,000	4,444,000
Level of Service	68.2%	27.3%
Average Speed of Answer (Minutes)	10	18
Level of Access (call attempts/answered)	59.1%	28.8%

a payer ssistance enters local o ices

Each year, millions of taxpayers seek assistance from one of the IRS's 358 walk-in offices, called TACs. In response to the Pandemic, the IRS closed all of its TAC offices nationwide. As of March 8, 2021, the IRS has yet to reopen 72 of its 358 TACs. When a TAC is closed, taxpayers may have to try to resolve their questions from the IRS website or contact a tax preparer for assistance. IRS management indicated that of the 72 TACs that remain closed, 17 are unstaffed. The IRS reports that 55 of the 72 TACs are closed because of staffing issues due to COVID-19.

Similar to prior filing seasons, the IRS continues to use its appointment service for all TACs. The IRS indicated that it initially began providing services at the TACs by appointment to alleviate long lines that sometimes occurred at many TACs and help ensure that taxpayers' issues are timely resolved. As a further service to taxpayers, the IRS will attempt to resolve the taxpayer's question or provide the taxpayer with information on alternative services when they call to schedule an appointment.

As of February 28, 2021, the IRS reports that IRS employees answered 484,465 calls

to schedule an appointment. Of these, 181,890 calls necessitated that the taxpayer schedule an appointment and visit a TAC; the remaining 302,575 taxpayers were assisted without visiting a TAC. The IRS noted that taxpayers who travel to a TAC without an appointment are assisted if there is availability. As of February 28, 2021, the IRS reported that it helped 909 taxpayers who visited a TAC without an appointment.



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nesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, and West Virginia — know that we are working hard to bring this service to you as soon as possible.

Applying by Mail

We require proof of your identity with your replacement card application (www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf), usually a State-issued drivers' license or non-driver identification card, or U.S. passport. We call these documents "primary" identity proofs. We understand mailing primary identity proofs with your replacement card application can be challenging. To help, we are temporarily expanding our policy to accept alternative identity documents—or what we call "secondary proofs" — when you cannot mail primary proof.

Acceptable secondary proofs include, but are not limited to:

- Employee identification card.
- School identification card.
- Health insurance card (not a Medicare card).
- U.S. military identification card.

These proofs must be current (not expired), show your name and identifying information (such as your date of birth or age), and be an original or a certified copy.

If you need to change your name, when you mail your replacement card application, you will need to submit proof of identity plus proof of the name change. The proof of identity can be primary or secondary proof. Proof of the name change could be a marriage certificate, divorce decree, Certificate of Naturalization showing the new name, or a court order approving the name change.

You may be able to submit one document to serve as proof of your name change and identity. For example, you may submit a marriage certificate as proof of name change and identity if the certificate shows the marriage occurred within the prior two years and:

- Includes your prior name.
- Includes your age, birth date or parents' names.
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Ohio Restores Unemployment Benefits Weekly Work-Search Requirement

Beginning the week of May 23, Ohioans will be required to resume weekly work-search activities as part of future applications for unemployment payments, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Interim Director Matt Damschroder announced today.

"Now that Ohioans have had the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and can safely return to work, it only makes sense that we restore work-search requirements for everyone," said Governor Mike DeWine.

"Ohio business owners are creating jobs faster than people are returning to the workforce," said Lt. Governor Jon Husted. "Now that all Ohio adults have access to the vaccine, it's time to return to the traditional work requirements."

At the height of the pandemic from mid-March through Dec. 1, 2020, the federal government authorized states to waive work-search requirements. On Dec. 6, ODJFS resumed the work-search requirement for new unemployment

claims, while exempting existing claims.

Allowable work-search activities include applying for a job, attending a resume-writing course, or creating and maintaining a reemployment plan on OhioMeansJobs.com <https://ohiomeansjobs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/omj>. Under Ohio law, some individuals will be exempt from conducting work-search activities, including employees on a temporary layoff of 5 days or less, and individuals in approved training. Additionally, individuals will meet their weekly work-search requirement if they are members in good standing with a union hiring hall that refers its members to jobs. For those in approved school or training, their work-search requirement may be considered met if they are attending all classes and making satisfactory progress.

ODJFS will notify unemployed Ohioans impacted by this change directly, to allow plenty of time to understand the requirements and begin their process of weekly work-search activities.

Fedor Condemns Unemployment Work Search Requirements and End of Enhanced Benefits

Last week, state Senator Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) released the following statement after Governor DeWine announced that Ohioans receiving unemployment will no longer be eligible for the additional weekly federal bonus payments of \$300 beginning June 26. Earlier this week, DeWine also announced that jobless Ohioans will be required to actively search for work to qualify for unemployment benefits.

"While we have made great strides toward getting back to normal through vaccination efforts, we are still a long way from leaving the Covid-19 pandemic behind. Not enough of our population is vaccinated, many industries still have not fully reopened, and thousands are still out of work.

"The decision to end enhanced federal unemployment benefits and reinstitute work search requirements will disproportionately harm workers in industries that have not recovered and women, especially those who have had to leave the workforce to care for young children. It will not speed up

our state's recovery and will instead only force families who are already struggling further into poverty.

"I strongly urge Governor DeWine to continue Ohio's participation in the enhanced federal benefits program because there are still thousands in our state who desperately need it. I also urge DeWine to waive work search requirements for workers in industries within the service sector and parents without access to childcare, and truly invest in publicly funded childcare assistance by raising eligibility to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, or \$21.72 an hour for a single parent with two children. Supporting all workers and families is the only way to truly build back our economy."

While unemployment claims have dropped in recent months, many industries, including those within the leisure and hospitality sector, have been more severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in this sector is down 16.8 percent since February 2020.

In Ohio, eligibility for publicly funded childcare is 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, meaning a single parent of two children who earns more than \$28,236 a year – just a little more than \$13.57 an hour – earns too much to qualify for childcare assistance. As a result, parents have no choice but to drop out of the workforce altogether because the cost of childcare leaves no expendable income for other needs.

DENTAL Insurance

Medicare does not cover dental care¹. That means if you need dental work done, it can cost you hundreds or even thousands of dollars out of your own pocket.

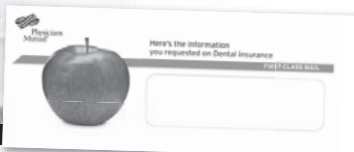
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¹ "Medicare and You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020

Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250D); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B), 6255

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The Ground Breaking in American City and Its Search for Justice by Scott Ellsworth

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Your legs felt as though they were made of rubber.

It was like walking on a bed of marbles, like wearing rollerskates on a waterbed. Your arms flailed for something steady but whether this was an inner event or something outside, you wonder if you'll ever feel stable again. As in the new book *The Ground Breaking in American City and Its Search for Justice* you're rattled.

In their last season without responsibility, 12-year-old Scott Ellsworth and his buddies spent the summer of 1966 exploring their hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and visiting the library. There, Ellsworth discovered hints that the whispers he'd overheard his entire life were true: there really was a "race riot" in Tulsa decades before his birth.

He tucked the information away in his head. Later, while researching the riot for a possible college thesis, he was confounded by missing or destroyed documents and reluctant witnesses.

It had started with a scream.

On May 30, 1921, Dick Rowland, a shoe-shiner at a white-owned business, was heading to a designated "colored" restroom at the Drexel Building minutes after he left, Sarah Page, the 17-year-old white elevator operator there, screamed. The reason was never determined, Dick was blamed, Sarah declined to press charges, and the matter seemed to be settled.

But it wasn't.

The incident festered in the white community until, two mornings later, after Dick's attempted lynching and just before dawn, some of Tulsa's white citizens marched into Greenwood, a suburb, and began shooting. Thirty-six hours later, more than a thousand homes and businesses were destroyed and a still-unconfirmed number of people, mostly Black, lay dead.

And then, the story all but disappeared. White Tulsans wanted to forget. Black Greenwoodians couldn't, but they didn't discuss it until Ellsworth found a man who'd been waiting decades to talk...

Reading *The Ground Breaking* is going to leave you wrung out.

But first, what may be a surprise to readers is what this book is not: it's not a hugely-detailed account of the Tulsa race massacre. It's part of the story here, of course, but it's not the focus. You'll learn bits and snips of those 36 hours from a century ago, but only in support of the rest of the tale.

Instead, what'll keep your nose in this book is multi-pronged. It's partly a memoir, in which author Scott Ellsworth shares the difficulty of sleuthing out

c.2021
Dutton
\$28.00 / \$37.00 Canada
336 pages

the truth, why he was so tenacious, why many people helped him, and why others tried hard to stop him. Together, this all reads like a true-life mystery-thriller, a feeling that's bolstered by Ellsworth's totally-exhaustive pursuit of information and documentation (which is still unnervingly unavailable) and his relentlessly-dogged search for the bodies of the dead. On this latter, readers may still feel a sense of the unfinished, and closure is elusive here.

This is the kind of book that, once you start it, makes the hours disappear. It's an emotional one

that'll make you skip dinner and lock the door so you can just read. For sure, *The Ground Breaking* will shake you up.

How to make a year in the Workforce successful

Special to The Truth

With metrics for COVID-19 improving, many companies are starting to consider returning to work in person. But most employees and employers agree it won't look like it did before.

Indeed, research shows a large chunk of companies today are sizing their physical offices down, as more people work from home all the time or part of the week. And hybrid offices, arrangements where team members are in two or three days a week and work remotely the rest of the time, seem to be the wave of the future.

However, experts say that business owners and managers should not approach hybrid offices the same way they do completely remote set-ups.

"While there are very specific benefits to hybrid offices, they come with their own set of challenges," says Michele Havner, director of marketing at Motiv, the maker of Motiv, a recently-introduced app that small- and mid-sized business owners are using to improve productivity.

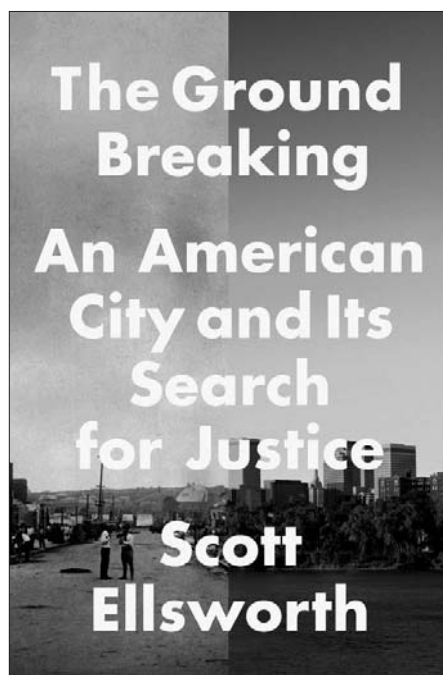
Motiv is a mobile dashboard that delivers important productivity metrics to CEOs, managers and leaders. The tool's reporting focuses on providing conference call activity and email summaries and integrates with Google Workspace and Microsoft 365, with many additional integrations and features slated for future release. Havner says that such tools function as a virtual corner office vantage point, helping to smooth out communication, collaboration and workflow issues created by hybrid arrangements and decentralized workspaces.

Equally important to communication is simply being mindful that hybrid offices can cause challenging dynamics among team members. Taking steps to address those issues preemptively can save headaches down the line. This includes making everyone accountable for meeting goals and deadlines. It might also mean offering the same perks to in-office and work-from-home staffers, while giving those who come into a centralized workspace the same level of flexibility remote work affords.

Easily adopted by small- and medium-sized businesses, which have been underserved by existing productivity solutions, Motiv is available through the iOS App Store and Google Play Store. To learn more, visit motivapp.com.

While hybrid offices can ultimately reduce costs and help keep employees healthy and safe, business owners will need to stay flexible and keep their workforce focused. Leveraging tools that facilitate hybrid work situations will be a key to success for companies as they move forward.

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NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEYOR

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to strengthen our community's neighborhoods. In 2015, the Land Bank finished a property-by-property survey of 122,000 sites in the City of Toledo. Now is the time to update this survey, and we need your help! You can get paid to walk our neighborhoods, evaluate property conditions, and update this data set for a new decade of investment.

The Neighborhood Surveyor will complete a standard survey of properties in the City of Toledo from the sidewalk. The Surveyor works outdoors and is expected to complete between 10,000 and 15,000 individual property surveys during the course of the employment.

This is a temporary full-time position paying \$18/hour with an opportunity for a cash bonus, paid holidays, and paid time off. Multiple positions will be hired starting in early June for work to last up through October.

To learn more and to apply, visit <https://lucascountylandbank.org/job-opportunities>

The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal opportunity employer.



CONTRACTORS WANTED

The Lucas County Land Bank is looking for contractors for all kinds of property work, including property preservation, residential construction, environmental remediation, maintenance, fencing, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, roofing, masonry, foundation work, and more!

Interested contractors are invited to a Virtual Open House on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. through Zoom teleconference. At this Open House, you will have a chance to hear from our purchasing and construction teams and learn how to qualify and receive work.

Contractors can learn more at:

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization that works to strengthen neighborhoods. We invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in real estate projects each year. We take affirmative steps in the hiring of local, MBE/WBE, and union contractors. Most importantly, we pay quickly and fairly for good work.

Questions? Call us at (419) 213-4293 during normal business hours.

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THE ARTS COMMISSION IS NOW HIRING for a full-time Creative Placemaking Event Coordinator. Deadline to apply is May 28, 2021, 4:30 pm. The Arts Commission is committed to diversity and inclusion in the selection process and is an equal opportunity employer. For position details and how to apply, please visit TheArtsCommission.org/Employment.

IC NOTICE

The Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board is pleased to invite members of the general public to our Community Advisory Council meeting on (May 27th, 10am-12pm). TLCHB serves as the Lead Agency for the local Continuum of Care of Homelessness Services and gathers quarterly with community partners and stakeholders to seek input, expertise, and recommendations for future planning and service delivery across the Continuum of Care. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. For reasonable accommodations, additional information, or log in access, please contact TLCHB at assistant@tlchb.org.

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REGISTRATION NOTICE

Bids will be received by Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) until for the selection of Vendor(s) to provide Non-Emergency Medicaid and Title XX Transportation Services for eligible LCDJFS clients. Submitted bid packets must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Qualifications. The contract period will be from approximately October through September.

No bids will be accepted after 2:00 p.m., June 4, 2021; bids that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFQ will not be accepted.

The Request for Qualifications will be available on May 10, 2021 and can be downloaded from the Lucas County Website site: <https://co.lucas.oh.us/3322/Bid-Opportunities>

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://eiebf.a.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuld=300000_007278812&_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3_1&_afLoop=7126760101772357&_afWindowMde=0&_afWindowId=avudlxmca&_afFS=16&_afMT=screen&_afrMFW=1920&_afrMFH=932&_afrMFDW=1920&_afrMFDH=1080&_afrMFC=8&_afrMFCI=0&_afrMFM=0&_afrMFR=96&_afrMFG=0&_afrMFS=0&_afrMFO=0

An electronic Question & Answer period (Q&A) will be from May 10, 2021 to May 21, 2021. PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED. Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing to LUCAS_CONTRACTS@jfs.ohio.gov. The posting of the Q&A will be on May 25, 2021. If any changes are made to the RFQ as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RFQ will be added to <https://co.lucas.oh.us/3322/Bid-Opportunities> address noted above.

This notice is posted, as of May 10, 2021, at <https://co.lucas.oh.us/3322/Bid-Opportunities>

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Tina Skeldon Wozniak - President
Pete Gerken - Commissioner
Gary Byers - Commissioner Bid. 48-21-RFQ-01

Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding) State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

Project # 5050-21-1870
Laboratory Incubator Center Renovation
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm EST June 08, 2021; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal: 15.0% of contract
Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract Multiple Prime Contract – Laboratory Incubator Center Renovation Estimated Cost \$665,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: May 25, 2021, 10:00am – 11:00am via Webex. The Webex address is: <https://utoledo.webex.com/meet/tracey.brown>

Walkthrough: A walkthrough of the project site is scheduled for May 25, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

Walkthrough Location: LUC Building, 975 Research Dr., Toledo Ohio, 43606

Bid Documents: Available electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

More Info: A/E contact: Ryan Oaks, Phone: 419-893-3141, E-mail: roaks@mdaengr.com

ProMedica Community Events in June

ProMedica will offer the following free community events in June:

ISS Car Seat Distribution and Inspection

The Kids in Safe Seats (ISS) Program at ProMedica Russell J. Reid Children's Hospital offers car seats and education for Toledo and surrounding area families. Car seats are at little to no cost depending on need. At the appointment, technicians will demonstrate how to properly adjust, harness, and install a car seat. Each appointment requires 30 minutes. Technicians will ensure that the parent/caregiver will be confident in installing and using a car seat before leaving the appointment. To schedule, call the ISS Car Seat Program at 19-291-79 55. While grant funding is available.

Wednesdays, June, 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

Please call to set up an appointment time

ProMedica Toledo Hospital

21 2 N. Cove Blvd., Toledo, OH 43606

Stroke Support Group

ProMedica Stroke Network hosts monthly support groups that discuss timely topics of importance to those affected by a stroke. June is Aphasia Awareness Month and this month's support group will be a virtual meeting via WebEx that will offer guidance on how to navigate at-home speech, cognitive and constant therapy. For more information or to sign up for the event, please contact Melinda Endricks-Jones, Melinda.Endricks-Jones@ProMedica.org or Mary Britton, Mary.Britton@ProMedica.org

Mary.Britton@ProMedica.org mailto:Mary.Britton@ProMedica.org

Tuesday, June 22

p.m.

WebEx - Please contact for virtual meeting link

The health and well-being of our community are of the utmost importance to ProMedica. ProMedica will continue to monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 within the community and will follow the guidance of state and local health officials to determine the necessary safety protocols that need to be in place at in-person events.

ProMedica is a mission-based, not-for-profit health and well-being organization headquartered in Toledo, Ohio. It serves communities in 28 states. The organization offers acute and ambulatory care, an insurance company with a dental plan, and post-acute and academic business lines. The organization has more than 9,000 employees, 12 hospitals, 2,500 physicians and advanced practice providers with privileges, 1,000 healthcare providers employed by ProMedica Physicians, a health plan, and 330 assisted living facilities, skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers, memory care communities, and hospice and home health care agencies. Driven by its Mission to improve your health and well-being, ProMedica has been nationally recognized for its advocacy programs and efforts to address social determinants of health. For more information about ProMedica, please visit www.promedica.org/aboutus <https://www.promedica.org/Pages/about-us/default.aspx>.

Robert Pasker continues from page 1

communities have more wealth, they will also increase black educational opportunities and health wellness.

"When Pasker Real Estate works with buyers we work to get them a property that is fair market value at the fastest time, with the least amount of money. When working with sellers, we get our clients top dollar in the fastest time with the least hassle," says Pasker.

Rob Pasker is one of the youngest black male Realtors in NW Ohio, if not the youngest, at 33. His competitive advantage in this industry when competing with the big guys is impressive. "We choose innovative technology to get properties sold and to service our clients quickly," says Pasker.

Pasker Real Estate provides virtual tours, drone photography and video. "Our marketing and the markets we serve well, separate us from our competitors."

Pasker graciously hosts a Monthly HUD-certified homebuyer education program. After clients complete the program, they receive their certificates of completion making them then eligible for down payment assistance.

When Pasker is not conducting business, he loves to pour into Toledo's youth. A former Columbus City and Toledo Public School teacher, he takes every opportunity to speak to students about financial literacy and entrepreneurship. His favorite hobby is cryptocurrency. He is also a mayoral ap-

pointed member of the City Of Toledo's Board Of Zoning Appeals.

At home, he is a father to three daughters (Savannah, Aubrey and Joy).

Follow Pasker's social media channels for links to sign up for your Free Housing Counseling.

Pasker Associates Ltd. is a conglomerate holding company which includes Go Matcha, Go, Heartland Hip-Hop and Pasker Real Estate Company.



GEM Inc.
JOB POSTING

Based in Toledo, Ohio since 1982, GEM Inc. is a singular contracting resource providing mechanical, electrical, structural steel and boiler work for process manufacturing and industrial customers. GEM is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group with offices in Cleveland, Columbus and Lima, Ohio; and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit RLGBuilds.com.

GEM Inc. is seeking an Electrical Buyer at its Walbridge, OH location. This individual will be responsible to provide purchasing support for the Electrical Department. Candidates must be able to handle multiple tasks in a fast-paced environment.

Two or more years of experience working in a fast-paced office environment. Preference will be given to candidates with professional experience in a buyer role.

GEM Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Interested candidates may apply at www.rlgbuilds.com/careers.

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Shawna Woody to serve as Vice President Operations

John C. Jones, president of OP Toledo, has announced that Shawna Woody has been named the organization's vice president of operations. Woody will be responsible for the development and implementation of policies and procedures, program efficiencies, fiscal management and tracking and evaluation for the organization.

"OP Toledo is thrilled to grow our team with the addition of Shawna Woody," said John C. Jones. "She is a proven leader with the requisite skills to not only provide strong operational leadership, but also build solid organic relationships," he said. "I can think of no better person to help us ensure that every child has a strong start and a stronger future than one of Toledo's brightest homegrown stars."

OP Toledo Board Chairperson Wendi untley, sq. said, "Shawna Woody is an excellent addition to our leadership. Her background and proven record of working with kids, youth and young adults will only serve to add to our abilities to impact and enhance lives. We are thrilled to have her join our team."

A native of Toledo, Woody initially thought her career path would be in broadcast journalism, not realizing that something a little different was in her DNA. Her mother is a retired social worker for Lucas County Children Services. Her father is a former Scott High School principal and retired School Improvement Leader for Toledo Public Schools. "Not only did my parents instill their love of community within me, but they also led by example and always modeled servant leadership with a special concern for children," said Woody.

Woody graduated from Rogers High School, and as a Toledo EXCEL scholar

ship recipient, attended the University of Toledo and received her bachelor's degree in Communication. While at UT, she was a part of the Leadership UT (now Levis Leadership) program. She earned a master's degree in Communication Studies at Bowling Green State University.

In 2008, Woody began her 17-year-long career at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo as an 21st Century Afterschool Program Instructor at Spring Elementary. She became Director of Operations for the organization in 2008.

During her tenure, in addition to her administration of the flagship location on Detroit Avenue, she oversaw the opening and daily operations of the three Toledo Public School based Clubs. She supervised the meal program sponsored by Connecting Kids to Meals as it grew from serving 3,000 meals per year to over 86,000 meals.

She cultivated collaborative partnerships and new and innovative programming with the YMCA Storer Camps, Metroparks Toledo, Imagination Station, Toledo Ballet, Toledo Museum of Art, and many others, and served as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Youth of the Year coordinator at the local level as well as for the state of Ohio.

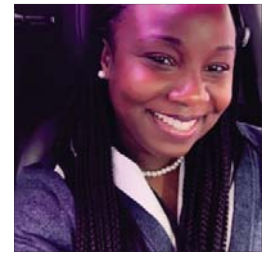
In addition, she serves on the board of directors for First Tee Lake Erie, is a Center for Nonprofit Resources Minority Executive Leadership program graduate and mentor, and a member of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated.

"From cradle to career, at each and every step in my journey, there have been countless community members and leaders who have held me up, held my hand, and even pushed me along when necessary. It is an honor to continue my life's work and commitment to our youth right here in the city where I was born and raised," stated Woody. "I am thrilled to be a part of the OP Toledo team."

For more information contact John C. Jones at: john@hope-toledo.org or 19-509-057.

HOPE Toledo is a 501(c) 3 organization and encompasses HOPE Toledo Pre-K and HOPE Toledo Promise. The mission of HOPE Toledo is to work with the Toledo community to support and ensure high-quality educational experiences for all of our youth, from preschool to post-secondary and trade school, with the goal of helping to create generational economic change for the betterment of our families and our community. Currently, 36 percent of the people in the TPS district are living below the poverty line and more than 80 percent of kids in Toledo enter kindergarten without the skills needed to learn.

This cradle to career to community approach will better serve our children and, in the long run, help our city progress towards a stronger, more educated workforce. To that end, HOPE Toledo is working with the Toledo community, through public private partnerships and in tandem with Toledo Public Schools and Washington Local Schools, to develop a plan to deliver high-quality educational experiences for all of our youth. For more information or to donate, visit hope-toledo.org.



Shawna Woody

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