



Volume 67, No. 6

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 30, 2021



Fangboner Farm's Elizabeth Richardson and her daughter Isabella

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Please Put Our Children First in the State of Ohio's Budget

By John Jones, HOPE Toledo President

Guest Column

Over the past two years, a broad group of organizations and individuals have been working collectively together to lift up and bring to life a "comprehensive, community-based approach" to early childcare and education here in Toledo, Ohio.

This group "the HOPE Toledo Pre-K Advisory Council" represents early childhood education providers, parents, the childcare resource and referral agency, health and human service agencies, business leaders, faith-based entities, government and public sector leadership, higher education professionals, local school districts, labor leadership, the philanthropic community and many more. This effort represents a real watershed moment in Toledo, as it has sustained with a laser like focus on one thing – putting our children first.

The goal and vision we established was to ensure every Toledo child is prepared for kindergarten and subsequent successful school performance. This goal is supported through various efforts, one in particular is the presence of Step Up To Quality. So much work has been done locally and across the state to ensure providers are effectively participating in the drive toward the provision of high quality for our children. Step Up To Quality has become the foundation from which early education builds.

It then should come as no surprise, our extreme disappointment over the Ohio Senate's proposal to dismantle Step Up To Quality and restrict the use of federal child care funds that can be used to improve and strengthen our quality child care system. Ohio legislators are woefully lacking in foresight by denying the state's youngest children the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We know the first five years of a child's life are the most critical for a child's development. The research indicates that investing in our children during these critical and formative years produces a return up to 10 times that investment (according to the "Economic Analysis of Expanding Eligibility for Early Care and Education Programs in Ohio" by the University of Cincinnati's Economics Center).

Further, this proposal by the Senate will directly impact businesses and employers, desperately striving to get employees back into the workforce. These employees are mothers, fathers and caregivers for our children, who without Step Up To Quality, won't be able to get back to work, and child care providers (many of whom are small business owners) will struggle to keep their doors open and continue serving their communities. The harm done to these small business owners could prove to be irreparable and further widen the disparate gap in wealth and knowledge for communities already ravaged by years of disinvestment.

What is most concerning is the impact this proposal would have on

Ohio's most vulnerable children. Without Step Up To Quality, the disparities we already see across the sector will be exacerbated and given the impetus to grow. These children do not have equitable access to high quality childcare like their higher income peers. Step Up To Quality helps level the playing field and gives children the quality early education they need to be ready for school and life. Every infant and toddler – regardless of their race, their family's income, or the ZIP code in which they live – deserves access to quality early childhood education.

On behalf of our most precious asset – our youngest children – we strongly urge Senator Gavarone, Senator Fedor and the entire State legislature to revert to the House version of House Bill 110 as it relates to childcare.

Our children's future – Toledo and Ohio's future – depends on what we do today. Now more than ever, we must put our children first by investing in and supporting their education and future. The failure to do this will result in unintended consequences which will cost us much more in the decades to come.

Ed. Note: Step Up to Quality is a quality rating system administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, which seeks to maintain program standards that lead to kindergarten readiness. They also incentivize child care facilities to keep up their standards in order to receive state support.

The standards include a minimum amount of time that lead teachers interact with children, the skills that teachers and employees have in the facilities and curriculum standards.

Participants in a virtual call hosted by early learning advocacy group Groundwork Ohio said removing these standards could lead to drastic reductions in child care quality and a lack of focus on the future workforce in the state.



John Jones

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Well, Is It Now Clear To You?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

If you are one of those persons who still sings along with Judy Garland's signature song, "Somewhere Over The Rainbow," out of the famed movie, The Wizard of Oz, and are holding out for a political rainbow, the feckless GOP senate just ruined your song.

In an expected vote that still is reverberating the political landscape, the cringe worthy GOP, still saluting Trump's BIG LIE, told black and brown people and poor and college-aged voting students that second class citizenship is what is in your future, not a hopey-dopey song of promise and hope.

The vote by Trump's walking dead party, has dealt a death blow to any hopes that they are remotely interested in having "you" people vote en masse as you recently did in the 2020 mid-term elections.

The party of old white men, conspiracy theory followers, white supremacists and white nationalists, just unloaded a ton of misery on voters who were misguided into thinking that voting should be a civic duty and not an obstacle course loaded with man-made land mines.

States that are controlled by the Republican Party and that are still mesmerized by Trump and that implicitly or explicitly support his BIG LIE are more than happy to throw minority voters under the bus when it comes to draconian voting laws.

The GOP knows the same thing that pollsters and demographers know: That white people, as the current majority population in the United States, are on the decline and by the year 2042, they will be a minority "ethnic grouping."

As opposed to accepting this population trend, the fearful GOP is using knee jerk legislation to inhibit or stop minority people from voting. The GOP is hoping that such voting blocs will tire of the voting hurdles, long waits in line and other punitive measures, so that enough will simply tire out and stay home.

The GOP knows that it is a numbers game and if they can get their base to come out in record numbers, they can beat the "black and brown" hordes that could offset their voting strength, at least for a while.

For the GOP it is worth a try until they are stopped in their tracks and that will only happen if minority voters and independents and others of goodwill see the GOP shenanigans for what they are, a brazen attempt based upon racial grounds to hold the line and stay in power.

American democracy is at a critical crossroads for if the GOP continues to gerrymander political seats at the local level and throw up the boogeyman that black and brown people majorities spell the end of white civilization in America, the GOP wins.

The GOP is not concerned about fair play or winning by means of solid policy proposals. They want to win by injecting images of a perceived cultural war in which evil is portrayed in black and brown shades.

The vote in the upcoming 2022 mid terms will be gigantic and momentous because if the GOP Senate were to regain control and the GOP House were to flip to the Republicans, the voting nightmare would become a way of life until contested in the courts or overruled by legislation if the Democrats return to power.

Oh, did I say that the BIG LIE and the GOP's voting suppression campaign is based upon black and brown people being chopped off at the knees when they try to both register to vote and try to vote?

The GOP no longer is engaged in any niceties about what they are up to. They are practically texting to all who will listen that the presence of the minority voter is a clear and present danger to the GOP continuing to rule the roost.

That is one reason why Trump and the slime coated GOP is hungrily seeking to encourage former Georgia football star, Hershel Walker to run against black senator, Ralph Warnock. To pit a hyper Trump supporter, Hershel Walker against Ralph Warnock, the racially motivated GOP is seeking to use the age-old tactic of divide and conquer and have Hershel Walker bowl over Warnock by Walker grinning and smiling for white Georgia voters and using his football status as his launching pad.

Trump and Walker have a relationship going back for decades and Walker simply can not get enough of being in the glow of Trump;

and Trump will use this "innocent" to prove that he still controls the GOP.

So, look for upcoming pictures of Trump and Hershel throwing kisses at each other and Walker walking and smiling hat in hand behind the Trump bandwagon. The only remedy to any GOP voter suppression tactics is for black and brown people to do the following at the earliest: (1) go to your state's voting website and check for crucial deadlines as to when things must be done (2) double check the precinct or ward where you are supposed to go to cast your ballot (3) make sure you have some form of current voter identification, be it a current driver's license, state ID card or any other form of ID being required by your state laws (4) if you have been purged from the voter rolls, make sure you are placed back on the list of registered voters (5) double check the requirements for an absentee ballot or a mail in ballot (6) do not assume, even for a nanosecond, that someone other than yourself is watching out for your best interest (7) plan on the day of voting that you are cleared of any work obligations; and that you have a portable chair, a good book to read and a bottle of water and a bag of snacks because the lines will be made intentionally long by having fewer open precincts and working voting machines.

The sooner you realize that your vote may be challenged by those of ill-will and you are prepared for their foolishness, you will not be a casualty of their voter suppression/racial voting tactics against you.

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Lucas County Citizen Levy Review Committee Unanimously Approves TARTA Sales Tax Levy Proposal

The Lucas County Citizen Levy Review Committee unanimously approved the sales tax levy proposal presented by the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) at the Committee's meeting on June 22, 2021.

TARTA's proposal is to replace a 2.5 mills property tax with a 0.5 percent transit and transportation infrastructure sales tax and expand service across Lucas County. The levy request is for placement on the Nov. 2, 2021 ballot.

"On behalf of the TARTA Board and our dedicated employees, we thank the Lucas County Citizen Levy Review Committee for their unanimous approval of TARTA's future plans," said TARTA Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Dunham. "Now more than ever, it is time to ensure that our residents are able to live and work in a region that puts a modern, effective transit system at the forefront of its plans for economic development, job growth and quality of life."

TARTA's current annual property tax revenue is \$13.5 million, which has declined from \$18 million per year since 2008. The proposed 0.5 percent sales tax rate would generate \$32 million per year. TARTA's current annual operating budget is \$29 million per year, although with declining local funding, the organization is facing a \$58.7 million deficit by 2027 if it is to continue providing the same level of service to the community.

With the new sales tax funding, TARTA would increase and improve service in a number of ways including restoring Sunday service, offer transit service across Lucas County to reach more residents and employers, purchase smaller and modern transit vehicles and technology,

and implement a bus system redesign that is currently underway.

Established in 2005, the Citizens Levy Review Committee is tasked with reviewing levy requests that will be presented to the Board of Lucas County Commissioners prior to the Board's vote to place the tax issues on the ballot.

TARTA also must secure approval of the levy proposal from four out of seven of its local government members to be placed on the upcoming fall ballot. TARTA will be making presentations to its membership in July.

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) provides a vital link in the Toledo metro area to jobs, education, health care and other destinations. Services are currently offered in Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Rossford, Sylvania, Sylvania Township, Toledo and Waterville. It enables everyone in our community to have access to transportation regardless of their age, race, physical ability or economic background.

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, TARTA is underway with exploring and introducing new initiatives and service options that will enhance convenience and customer experience while moving the Northwest Ohio Region into the future of public transit.

How and Where to Add Plants in Your Home

So you want to become a plant parent? How do you make sure your new green "baby" will thrive in your home or apartment?

When selecting the best spaces in your home for different types of plants, it's important to consider light, humidity and maintenance required, as well as what benefits that type of plant will bring to the space. Wild Interiors, the leading grower in all things green, offers tips for success. To learn more, visit wildinteriors.com.

From bathrooms to bedrooms to offices, you can make the rooms of your home healthier and more more inviting by becoming a plant parent.

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A Piece of the Healing Puzzle

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The pandemic presents us with many losses but has also given the working class a hidden gift.

Rest.

Raise your hand if you'd rather spend time laughing and enjoying a scenic walk with your friends and family, than sweating in a gym or starving yourself in an attempt to live your new healthy lifestyle - rest included.

Yes, my hand went soaring upward, too!

Maybe you usually go to the beach for fun and relaxation, or to a new city for adventure and exploration.

Well I have great news for those Ohioans into 'Staycation Vibes'. There's a hidden gem in Holland, Ohio and it's called Fangboner Farm.

I hear you saying, "What is a Fangboner?" (Giggle)

The story goes like this. A good ole' Southern boy named Roland Richardson and his Midwest-made daughter, Elizabeth, started a landscaping venture 10 years ago. During a family moment, Roland's granddaughter Isabella laughed when hearing the name of a famous Fremont Ohio Road. It's something about the name 'Fangboner' that invokes a child-like giggle from just about everyone.

Coincidentally while doing landscaping work a vision of a farm started brewing in Elizabeth. "The landscaping will help to finance the farm, I said to myself," she recalls.

Fast forward to today and Fangboner Farm is now at the place where it is almost independently running. A testament to what can happen when a dream is coupled with hard work.

The Fangboner name has a long history in Fremont Ohio. The Infamous Fangboner family was a simple family with a simple business. They sold seeds.

Over the years the community named a famous roadway, Fangboner Rd. "We got a visit from the last living Fangboner about five years ago. She wanted to make sure we weren't 'abusing' the family name," shares Roland fondly laughing. "She was very pleased with the Farm and it was our pleasure, too."

What's even cooler than a Black father/daughter duo farming team? A three-generation farming legacy of father, daughter and granddaughter.

Isabella has been learning organic farming since the age of 3 with more know how than many pros over 2xs her age.

Back when Roland was studying accounting at Wilburforce University, he found a love for houseplants. That love developed into a green thumb and he eventually said to himself, "Let's grow stuff we can eat!"

The rest is: "If you ate yesterday, thank a Farmer" history.

Fangboner Farm is the perfect place for anyone in the community to unwind and recharge, too. Even the dog.

You can also reduce your carbon footprint by supporting this black-owned farming business.

The incubation period has been long and the delivery process difficult for us all, but to overcome the slump is a glorious thing. Well Surprise, Surprise! The pandemic has actually resulted in leaving us a gift - of the garden variety



in Fangboner Farm.

Just relaxing or starting a new hobby as simple as gardening, self-care or spending quality time in itself can make all the difference in a person's life. Something as simple as a nature walk on a farm, on a primary level, can be a simple fix to the body (and mind) to get you to that next step of wellness.

If the pandemic taught us anything, many of us can agree that striving more and working harder without rest is a losing battle.

The Richardsons highly suggest we all add herbal teas to our repertoire. "Before we bring our teas to the market, every blend is formulated for taste first, then our Natural Doctor (ND) formulates biologically which minerals best benefit the body," explains Elizabeth.

Roland's other daughter (and naturopathic doctor) Kristal helped come up with many of Fangboner Farms' all-natural tea formulas. Some passionate

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Barbie and Herman Harrison, United As Always, Ordained Together

Sojourner's Truth Staff

It wasn't an easy journey, nor a particularly speedy one, but on Father's Day 2021, Barbie and Herman Harrison were finally ordained as ministers at United Missionary Baptist Church by Pastor Robert Bass. They were ordained together just as they have done nearly everything together since they met at Grambling State College (now Grambling State University) more than five decades ago, and just as they did through 52 years of marriage.

"The spirit led us to a place where both could be ordained," says Barbie Harrison of that journey that took them, years ago, to Third Baptist Church and then to the Weinbrenner Seminary to study.

Together Rev. Herman and Rev. Barbie Harrison were licensed several years ago at Third Baptist with the State of Ohio and have both been preaching the Gospel and ministering throughout the community for many years, helping the sick and shut-in, praying for and assisting families during bereavement and hard times.

Herman's health issues and disabilities slowed the couple's progress; Third Baptist's leadership vacuum stymied it even more and the pandemic almost brought that progress to a halt, especially when Herman contracted COVID-19 and passed away on Christmas Day, 2020.

But on Father's Day 2021, at United MBC, Barbie was ordained in the flesh and Herman was ordained in memoriam. The couple together – as always, with their children, son Marcus and wife and kids, and daughter Kristan, in attendance.

And friends from Cincinnati, Columbus and Findlay, Ohio, along with some from Auburn Hills, Michigan joined the celebration.

Herman rests in peace now but Barbie's ministry continues. The Rev. Barbie Harrison will continue her mission, her ministry to the community, to the sick and the shut-in, to the families during bereavement and hard times. She won't be alone. The Rev. Herman Harrison will be with her, assisting her with that ministry, keeping her spirits high.



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Healing Puzzle... continued from page 5

sippers describe them as "a little cup of self-care."

Fangboner currently has 13 different flavor herbal blends. Dr. Kristal's formulas are designed to help with anxiety, stress, digestion or removing free radicals from the body.

After all, many herbs have health benefits when consumed in tea form. "Many are unaware, but often, different herbs can bring you down from an over-caffeinated state and can ease anxiety. A Lot," shares Richardson.

Are you team iced or hot? If you're not sure you know where to go on your next stop. Try the tea blends for yourself (both ways) and find out!

Kristal is an amazing natural doctor. Naturopaths believe a healthy lifestyle leads to a healthy body as a core principle. Fangboner Farms exemplifies this main principle by giving visitors endless options on the proper way to nurture oneself.

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Toledo Community Foundation's Second Round of Equity & Access Grants

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

The Greater Toledo Community Foundation is preparing a second round of grants for distribution in 2021 to non-profit organizations located in north-west Ohio that are providing services for local residents. The Foundation is vetting applications with the guidance of its Equity & Access Advisory Committee. During the upcoming second round, the Foundation is making an extra effort to ensure that smaller, grassroots organizations have a realistic opportunity to seek and obtain funding.

The Foundation has committed \$300,000 for the program during this fiscal year for organizations whose focus is on advocacy, economic development, employment, building capacity with priority given to proposals that stress supporting collaboration among organizations.

Earlier in the year, during the first round of donations, the Foundation provided funds in the amount of \$50,000 to JumpStart and \$47,850 to the Arts Commission.

Now with the second round of \$200,000, the Foundation has increasing its efforts to reach other, smaller groups in the community.

"We have identified gaps from the first round, particularly with smaller capacity organizations who didn't know they were eligible," said Artisha Lawson, program officer of GTCF. "Now we are looking to provide funding for those from the grass roots to well established groups."

One of the key individuals in this effort to reach out to smaller groups, is Foundation board member Pariss Coleman, a local attorney.

"The issue is, when you look at the Foundation funding, your smaller nonprofits or less experienced weren't getting funded because they hadn't dotted the "i's" or crossed the "t's" to get themselves funded.

For example, he noted, a nonprofit needs to be a 501(c)(3), have a board of directors, have profit and loss statements with their complete paperwork and, quite possible, have a grant writer – all details that larger organizations typically have in place.

"As we talked about it, I got involved and we were able to identify committee folks who came from different walks of life and who talked to many diverse people – they represent different races and disciplines – it's a broad sweeping committee," said Coleman

"The focus is to reach nonprofits and people doing community work who

are not necessarily frequent flyers with the Greater Toledo Community Foundation."

Coleman stressed that the new funding round is more than just a matter of handing out money after telling applicants what is expected of them. The Foundation has also put in place tools to assist such nonprofits – a website with information, training, marketing assistance and grant writing assistance.

The application process calls for applicants to file a Letter of Intent (LOI) first. That first step opened on June 19 and continues through to August 21. The Equity & Access Advisory Committee will review the LOI and submit recommendations for full applications. The recommendations will be reviewed by the GTCF Grants & Distribution Committee, then the GTCF Board to issue application invitations. Full applications will be received starting October 2021 and closed December 2021. Funding recommendations are expected by mid-April 2022.

Interested applicants may contact GTCF at 419-241-5049. Interested parties are invited to a virtual Brown Bag Chat – a 45 minute open discussion – with Artisha Lawson, program director, to discuss GTCF's Equity & Access Initiative.

Healing Puzzle... continued from page 6

Many health-conscious dentists, for instance, are starting to marry their traditional medical practices with holistic guiding principles aiding in sustaining patients' oral health. Many dentists compliment their patients on the oral benefits of green tea consumption. Regular consumption of natural herbal Green Tea is generally said to benefit the bloodstream, lungs, heart and so much more, resulting in overall oral well-being.

Many holistic doctors also believe dental health is a main link to the few root sources causing our body systems to thrive or deteriorate. In underserved communities, unchecked symptoms can lead to systemic health issues affecting the entire body.

General warning signs that your body may be experiencing a systemic issue may be if you feel as if you have one ailment after the next consistently.

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Sojourner's Truth Staff

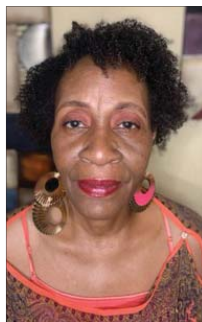
"I just want to bake," Laveda Wright told Olivia Holden, executive director of Assets Toledo upon their first meeting some years ago. As a fledgling entrepreneur and proprietor of a bakery business, Wright informed Holden that she really didn't want to get involved with "all that other stuff" that business owners had to trouble with – marketing, accounting and so forth.

"You need to know where you are going," replied Holden, "so you don't end up out of business and bankrupt."

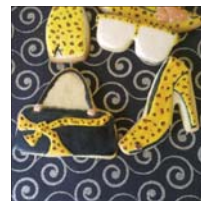
Convinced by those words of caution, Wright entered Assets Class 17 and opened a business doing what she has enjoyed doing for most of her life – baking.

"It started as a hobby to keep me from thinking about my son in Iraq," says Wright of the inspiration that turned a passion into a fledgling enterprise.

And that passion is reflected in a line of decorative goodies that are as



Laveda Wright



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appealing to the eye as they are to the palate.

"I try to make it unique," she says of her decorations and colorful designs. "I want to stand out, that's why I have incorporated specialty colors – things you have never seen or heard of – in my recipes for German Chocolate Cheesecake or Lemon Meringue Cheesecake, for example."

For Wright that uniqueness is not confined to the icing on the cake; her creativity with colors runs throughout the dessert – "different colors when you cut," she says.

Wright has been operating out of home, catering to special events such as birthday parties and graduations, promoting the business on Facebook and Instagram, utilizing the ongoing advice and counsel that Holden offers.

"Miss Holden is totally awesome," she says. "It's unbelievable what I have seen her do with small businesses. She is a great mentor and really believes in what she does. She is still helping."

And for Sweet and Elegant LLC, that help is paving the way for another successful small business. Laveda Wright and Sweet and Elegant can be reached at 419-509-0623.

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Father's Day Expo and Juneteenth Celebration

On Saturday June 19, 2021 the morning began to look gloomy since there was no bright sunshine but later, as midday arrived, the sun started to shine at the Father's Day EXPO and Juneteenth Celebration Day.

The EXPO was held at the Tremainsville Hall, the first time that "The Social Butterfly Brand" celebrated these two events of great significance for the community-at-large. Donnetta Carter, the event organizer, wanted to celebrate all the wonderful fathers just as we celebrate Mother's Day.

Traditionally Mother's Day is celebrated on a grander scale than Father's Day and this a fact but in trying to do something different, the organizer was pleased with the number of vendors and guests participating.

The vendors sold products from men's ties, hats, t-shirts, cologne,

gift baskets, candles, desserts, natural soaps, body scrub, jewelry, health and wellness products, men's shoes and much more and there was something for the entire family.

Vendors such as Shaiem Hampton, Bomaye Bracelets, Deb Cash, Yanbal, Jessica Toole, Perfectly Posh, Carol Egger, Young Living, Johnnetta Penrose, Emery Inc., Shaunte Wallace, Sensual Oils & Shea Butter, Terrie Landry-Cook, Simply D'Vine Boutique, Nikki Crawford, NLC Creations, Tara Foster, Paparazzi, Naive Mosaic Juices and many more.

With Juneteenth being a National Holiday, this brings more awareness what Juneteenth means and we all can celebrate as a nation not just one cultural group. Legislation established June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day, a United States Federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in United States.

Thanks to the Sponsors, Taylor Automotive Family, Molina Health Care, The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper, The Huntington National Bank and Claudia's Natural Food Market, The Morning Blues Show with DJ Rocky Love 95.7 FM WIMX, IHeart Radio WSPD 1370, Fred LeFebvre, Social Media Facebook Family and the awesome staff member Debbie Harris for her assistance.

Finally, the next Summer Outdoor Expo for small business owners will be held at the Stranahan Theater & Greater Hall on Saturday, July 10, 2021 from 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Free Admission and for more information contact via email: thesocialbutterflyevents@yahoo.com or (419) 367-9765.



Donnetta Carter, Event Organizer and Leah Renee, Co-Host of the 419 Rise and Grind Morning Show



DJ Steven Wolfe and Debbie Harris, Volunteer Assistant



Denise Newman of Grandma's Beauties



Toni Hampton & Shaiem Hampton, Bomaye Bracelets



Cathy Clayborne, Guest of 10 years.



Shaunte Wallace, Sensual Oils & Shea Butter



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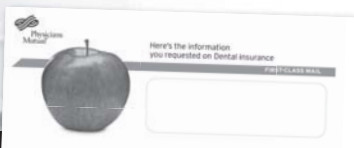
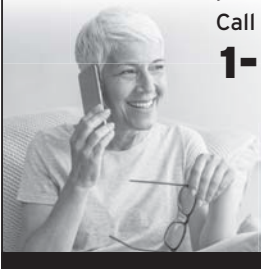
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The NAACP Toledo Job Fair

The Toledo NAACP sponsored a job fair on Wednesday, June 23, from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the grounds of the Mott Branch Library in order to present "life changing" employment opportunities to area residents.

Guests were greeted by updates and running commentary from DJ Montrice Terry to keep them informed of such opportunities.

Those with information booths included: the NAACP Toledo Chapter; Lucas County Sheriff's Office; Lucas County Children Services; Lucas County Jobs & Family Services; Lucas County Juvenile Courts; Lucas

County Health Department; The Juice 107.3 Radio; Toledo Fire Department; Penta Career Center; NeighborWorks Toledo Region; Harbor/Lighthouse Telehealth LLC/The Central Community Health Board; Paramount Healthcare/ProMedica; Health Partners of Western Ohio; Netty's Hot Dogs; Voters of America; GenaCross Lutheran Services; YWCA; Toledo Public Schools; Victim Assistance Services; Victim-Witness Assistance Program; Ohio Means Jobs; Toledo Building Services; Columbia Gas and TARTA.



Dale Riggs Funeral Home Kandice Saulsberry and Jerusalem MBC's Rev. Willie Perryman



Micheal Alexander, Tina Butts, Rev. Willie Perryman



Rich Hogan, Anita Madison, Terry Crosby



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16th Annual African American Festival Scheduled for July 24, 2021

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union announces the return of the African American Festival and Parade.

The 16th Annual African American Festival, "Celebrating our History, Health and Education," is back. The long running summer event was canceled last year, like so many other events, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

"After a year of community separation, social distancing, and sickness the outcry from the community for TUFCU to bring back the African American Festival and Parade has been overwhelming," said Suzette Cowell, CEO of Toledo Urban Federal Credit. She continued by saying, "We are ready to welcome back our community and invite them to join us in celebration of our collective resiliency and strength through the adversities we faced in 2020."

The 16th Annual African American Festival will kick off with the annual community wide The Prayer Breakfast on Friday, July 23, 2021 at the new Glass City Metropark's Pavilion; the Parade will follow on Saturday, July 24 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon starting at the corner of Dorr Street & Detroit Avenue

and ending at Nelson Grace Park.

At 2 p.m. the festival venue will open for attendees Downtown at Promenade Park on the ProMedica Campus. The day will be filled with entertainment, food and fellowship.

The main stage will feature performances by artists from all genres; Toledo's own Shirley Murdock; The Blues Man, Bobby G.; Jazz Artist Tim Cunningham; R & B Artists - The Zapp Band & Lakeside along with other local and national talent.

Tickets for the festival are \$20 for General Admission and \$50 for V.I.P. (special seating), on sale now and available at Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and all TicketMaster.com.

For More information about this year's festival or for Sponsorship, Vendor, Advertisement and Parade Participation please contact Dana Cumberland-Hueston at 419-255-8876 ext. 205 or email AAFestival@ToledoUrban.net

Healing Puzzle... continued from page 7

At this point it is always advised to seek guidance from a professional medical doctor.

Something that truly sets Fangboner Farm apart from others are their organic farming techniques.

Organic agriculture produces products using methods that preserve the environment while avoiding the most synthetic materials, such as pesticides and antibiotics.

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Book a tour and they'll show you!

2020 Common Complaint: "I am worrying too much about the future."

2021 Simple Solution: Take a trip to Fangboner and live in the present for a bit.

2020 Common Complaint: "I feel trapped within the past years' chaotic state of affairs."

2021 Simple Solution: Take a trip to Fangboner and make new intentional memories.

Fangboner Farms is involved with The Toledo Night Market and open to new opportunities within the community as well. Follow their social media for live updates. Oh, expect to see lots of flowers and sunshine...and some rain, too, to make it all grow!

Basically, if you want to maintain health or change your lifestyle now to avoid health challenges later ...

Fangboner Farms.

Special moments with your honey? Fangboner Farms.

Need to let the kids burn some energy? Fangboner Farms.

Epic selfies with a dash of picturesque magic?

Yup...Fangboner Farms!

The Richardson's three generations thank you for buying local, and they welcome customers to feel free to stop by the farm to see what's new in their gardens and store. Their crew always has something unexpected - and special - in store for you.

You can book a time to visit Fangboner Farm during their business hours by navigating to the link on their website entitled "book a visit".

Delivery, shipping, and curbside pickup is available. You may also host an event, workshop, tea party or rent the Fangboner Farm's Cottage Home style Inn Airbnb 24/7 online.

Come out to explore the wonders of this family-owned herb and perennial farm.

The Farm's onsite general store is a treasure trove filled with goodies. All branded Fangboner Farm products are made from farm raised organic garden herbs. Shop their organic by nature products including natural fresh herbs, dried spices, one-of-a-kind gift baskets, smudge sticks, perennials, 100 percent soy wax candles.

A/k/a, a whole lot of fun at the price range of something-for-everyone.

This information is not intended as a substitute for the advice provided by your physician or other healthcare professional or any information contained on or in any product. Do not use this information for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease, or prescribing medication or other treatment.



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My Remarkable Journey: A Memoir by Katherine Johnson with Joylette Hylick and Katherine Moore

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

One, two, buckle my shoe.

We Three Kings, cheaper by the dozen, it's a Catch 22 and double jeopardy, then we're back to Square One. In every corner of our lives, we use numbers, we count, we cypher. And in the new book *My Remarkable Journey* by Katherine Johnson (with Joylette Hylick and Katherine Moore), we know a career takes true calculations.

c.2021
Amistad
\$25.99 / \$31.99 Canada
235 pages

When Katherine Coleman was born in 1918, Model T cars were selling for \$350, fresh off the assembly line. Women couldn't vote, TV hadn't been invented, and Black Americans lived under strict Jim Crow laws. Knowing that schooling was the best way to survive the latter, Coleman's parents, who owned a farm near the town of White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, insisted that their children all get educations.

Precocious Coleman was the youngest, but by the time she graduated high school at age 15, she was old enough to see that success would require more classwork and that teaching at a Black school was the likeliest goal. College spoke to Coleman's innate curiosity and she loved it; she planned to major in French until "the math professors had their say."

One of them challenged her to become a "research mathematician."

Unsure what, exactly, that was, Coleman stepped off the career track to marry and raise three daughters before heading back to work as a teacher, then landing a position at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (the "predecessor to NASA") at Langley Field (now Langley Air Force Base) in Virginia. Her job, at first, was as a "computer" – literally, one who computes so that the program's engineers didn't have to do it. Coleman



Katherine Johnson, photo courtesy Annie Leibovitz

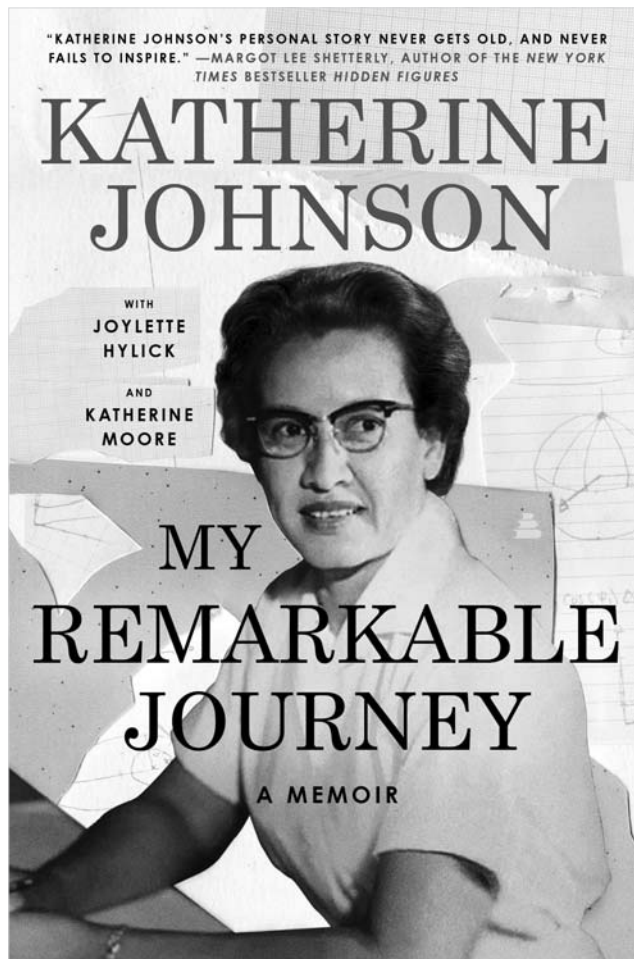
(then Goble, later Johnson) quickly worked her way into the research division involved in the Space Race, and when the Soviets launched Sputnik, she felt "that competitive American spirit" deep inside herself.

"We've got to do something," she remembered thinking. "Little did I know then that 'we' soon would include me."

So you saw the movie, *Hidden Figures*, and you loved it. So did author Katherine Johnson, on whom the movie is modeled, and here, she explains what parts were right and what Hollywood got wrong. Moreover, she takes you back to the beginning in *My Remarkable Journey*.

Lively and with great detail, Johnson tells her story in a way that frames her accomplishments in humble neon, never letting readers forget who she was or what she did, but not bragging on it without giving ample credit to others. The warmth and grace of that is impressive; so is the fact that she admits to having endured racism, patriarchy, and Jim Crow laws but she waves them away like a fly on a June afternoon, as if they weren't even a part of her equation.

My Remarkable Journey puts the movie about Johnson into keener perspective, bringing the full story, as Dr. Yvonne Cagle says in her introduction, to a new generation of young women. Find it, share it with your daughter. Or catch it on an audiobook. That counts, too.



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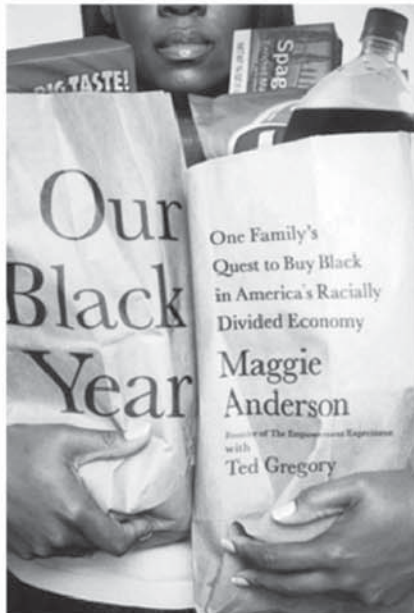


Our Black Year

One Family's Quest to Buy Black in America's Racially Divided Economy

Maggie Anderson

Journalist of The Engagement Experiences with Ted Gregory



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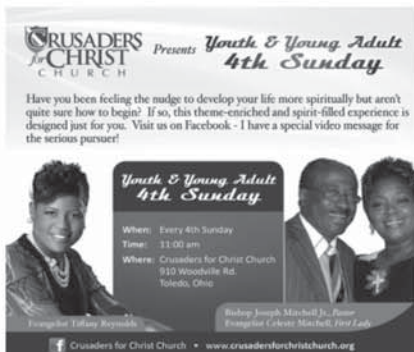
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INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB21-B007 GLENDALE TERRACE SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive sealed bids for Glendale Terrace Site Improvements. Received in accordance with law until July 21, 2021, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: www.lucasmha.org; 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



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

Project # 1130-21-232
Building Envelope/Waterproofing Project
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, July 20, 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	Estimated Cost
General Contract – Roof Replacement	\$1,000,000.00
Alt G-1 Sculptural Studies	\$3,600.00
Alt G-2 Health Education Building	\$456,000.00
General Contract – Window Replacement and Facade Cleaning	\$600,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: July 6, 2021, 10:00am, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project site is scheduled for July 6, 2021 immediately following Pre-bid.

Walk-through Location: Plant Operations Building.

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

More Info: A/E contact: Christopher Dewey, Phone: 216-241-2220, E-mail: cdewey@vaakins.com

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

Project #1130-21-235
Building Automation System Upgrades
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm EST July 20, 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	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$332,490.00
Alternate 1 - Health Education (HE)	\$7,500.00
Alternate 2 - Health and Human Services (HH)	\$75,000.00
Alternate 3 - Lake Erie Research Center (LE)	\$80,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: July 6, 2021, 1:00pm, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled for July 6, 2021 immediately following Pre-bid.

Walk-through Location: Plant Operations Building.

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

More Info: Project contact: Brian Kane, Osborn Engineering, Phone: 216-861-2020, E-mail: bkane@osborn-eng.com

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State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents
Project # 1130-21-232 Building Envelope/Waterproofing Project The University of Toledo Lucas County Bids Due: 2:00pm, July 20, 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 Estimated Cost General Contract – Roof Replacement Alt G-1 Sculptural Studies Alt G-2 Health Education Building \$1,000,000.00 \$3,600.00 \$456,000.00 General Contract – Window Replacement and Facade Cleaning \$600,000.00 \$XXX,000.00 Pre-bid Meeting: July 6, 2021, 10:00am, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606 Walk-through: A walk-through of the project site is scheduled for July 6, 2021 immediately following Pre-bid. Walk-through Location: Plant Operations Building. Bid Documents: Available electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com> More Info: A/E contact: Christopher Dewey, Phone: 216-241-2220, E-mail: cdewey@vaakins.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING STRATEGY & 10-YEAR PLAN

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on its **Draft Comprehensive Housing Strategy and 10-Year Plan** to be submitted to Toledo City Council on August 10, 2021. The Comprehensive Housing Strategy and 10-Year Plan has been developed in partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. An Advisory Committee, which included City departments, existing affordable and market rate housing development entities, neighborhood organizations, City residents, major employers and other housing stakeholders, helped to craft the plan.

Key goals of the CHS include:

- Develop City Housing Profile;
- Develop recommendations and action items;
- Assess local Housing Initiatives (Housing repair/lead remediation; Homebuyer unit production; Rental units preservation and production; Homeownership assistance; Public housing; Homelessness prevention; Year 16 LIHTC scattered sites Initiative; and Vacant and abandoned residential property utilization);
- Assess housing development barriers; and
- Develop a 10-Year Action Plan sequencing recommendations and actions as short term (1-3 years), medium-term (3-6 years), and long term (6-10 years).

The Department of Neighborhoods will be holding a Public Meeting to review the Draft Comprehensive Housing Strategy on June 30th, 2021 @ 6:00pm on Zoom: (<https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/83341389320>). The meeting will be recorded and posted to the City's website the following day.

The **Draft Comprehensive Housing Strategy and 10-Year Plan** will be available for review beginning **Wednesday, June 30th, 2021**, on the City's website:

Department of Neighborhoods
One Government Center, 18th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/departments/neighborhoods>

The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing beginning Wednesday, June 30, 2021 through Friday, July 30, 2021, at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
Comprehensive Housing Strategy and 10-Year Plan
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604
Or by email at neighborhoods@toledo.oh.gov

The Department of Neighborhoods will present the Comprehensive Housing Strategy and 10-Year Plan to Toledo City Council on August 10, 2021 @ 2pm.

For reasonable accommodations or additional information, please contact Jackie Olds, Administrative Assistant, at 419-245-1405 or via email at jaquelyn.olds@toledo.oh.gov

Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce Hosts an In-person Gathering

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce hosted a meet and greet on Friday, June 25 for Chamber members and guests at the newly constructed Glass City Metropark.

The attendees had an opportunity to network, nibble on snacks and listen to presentations from Chamber President Roy Hodge, Workforce Development Committee Chairman Tim Clark, Women of Toledo President Nina Corder and Metroparks Matt, along with several up-and-coming entrepreneurs.

"Some years ago, the feedback about the Chamber was "I didn't know there was a Black Chamber," said Hodge opening his remarks.

"More recently, we heard 'I didn't know but now I do know but I'm not sure what they do,'" he added.

However, considering the effort the TAACC has made in the last two years to market its operation and to construct committees that focus on education, development and training, according to Hodge, the membership has increased, funding has increased by over 150 percent and the narrative now is "I know what they do and I want to be a part of it."

Hodge spoke of the work the various Chamber committees – Education and Workforce Development; Government Affairs; Legal and Financial Services; Membership and Events – are engaged in, as did Clark who heads the Workforce Development Committee.

Hodge also spoke of the partnerships that TAACP has developed, with groups such as Women of Toledo, LISC, Toledo Lucas County Port Author-

ity, Assets Toledo, The Toledo Lucas County Library, Metroparks, and so forth.

"We want to make sure you are not out there alone," said Clark to the Chamber members in attendance.

The Chamber's emphasis for those members with or without experience in running their businesses is to connect entrepreneurs to partners – inside and outside of the organization, to mentors and mentees, to each other.

According to an African proverb that Hodge quoted: "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."



Izzy Nelson and Nina Corder



Tim Clark, Roy Hodge, Ty Boyd



Donnetta Carter and Felicia Clark

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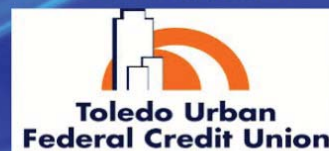
<https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/08005AD5E4BD4927>

Or Purchase At:

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
1441 Dorr Street, Toledo, Ohio 43607

VIP 50.00 tickets
General Admission 20.00

JULY 24, 2021
Promenade Park



Sponsored By Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
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