



Volume 68 No. 5

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

August 25, 2021



The Frederick Douglass Community Association's Executive Director Reggie Williams

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The Final Six

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

The Truth Contributor

*If you want your [campaign] to succeed, you have to be a visible, in -the-trenches leader...
Make yourself available where the action is, and note how people rally to your commitment.*

- Kindra Hall



The common perception is that political endorsements serve as a mental shortcut to help voters become clear on a candidate's identity and positions on issues.

Yet, when the Lucas County Democratic Party endorsed seven candidates for just six at-large Toledo City Council seats, its decision was quite telling. Pure and simple, the Party's screening committee lacked strong confidence in their own slate's ability to get elected.

While endorsements must be taken with a grain of salt, the Party recognizes that pure name recognition is the key in tightly-contested multi-candidate elections.

Voters walking into the booth for the September 14 primary election will select six candidates without knowing possibly 2/3 of the 19 candidates listed on the ballot. This could potentially make for intriguing outcomes in the general at-large city council race.

For those who are looking for a confident forecast of the final six at-large council seats, here are some sure predictions:

The Top Tier:

It's all about exposure, earned media, and how much money you can raise. The

following candidates should finish in spots one through four:

1. Nick Komives

Komives has spent a ton of money on the primary. His reputation for submitting relevant voter-friendly legislation has also provided much media exposure over the last couple of years. As a result, Komives is a shoo-in for reelection!

2. Katie Moline

The CPA that, in a short time, has gained notoriety as a tightfisted budget overseer on council. Moline is a conservative or moderate Democrat supported by the police and fire unions, which are somewhat overrated on turnout but have influence. Moline also possesses a great marketing machine that has provided her with considerable exposure to the public.

3. Michele Grim

Grim is playing it smart, knowing she has to finish well in the primary. No one comes from eighth or ninth place in the primary to finish in the money in the general. Focusing on opportunities for youth and gun violence prevention and enforcement, the hard-working first-time candidate appears everywhere in television ads. If no other candidate steps up to match her spending on TV commercials, Grim definitely makes the primary and finishes in the top tier in the general election.

4. George Sarantou

Legacy on the ballot matters, and Sarantou is at the head of the list based on name recognition. The top three finishers will spend a lot of money. Then you have to fight against Sarantou, the former three-time city councilman. He also has the backing of a large Greek community behind him. He wasn't the greatest as finance director, one political operative said. Still, he presents a serious challenge to the other at-large hopefuls.

The Second Tier:

Incumbents typically don't get knocked off of city council. Adam Martinez, Kurt Young and Karen McConnell-Hancock are notable exceptions. However, that is a possible scenario as only two candidates in this most competitive tier will be successful in the general election. It will be a tragedy if no African American females remain on city council.

It is then paramount for candidates in this tier to do well with their base but also break through to other voting blocs in Toledo. Otherwise, the final two spots will be a coin flip.

5. Harvey V. Savage, Jr.

The executive director of the Martin Luther King Kitchen for the Poor brings some name recognition, as the famed Savage Park is named after the candidate's philanthropic father. Savage can make it successfully in 2021 if he avoids the precipitous slide between the primary and general elections, which he experienced in his unsuccessful attempt at city council in 2017.

6. Tiffany Preston-Whitman

Appointed in 2020 to replace suspended at-large city council members, this is Whitman's first campaign. She is very knowledgeable on relevant issues and outspoken in her short time on council. Still, she does not have the earned media

... continued on page 4

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August 31

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September 11

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Hey Joe! Taliban Is on Line Two!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Because of the below sensitive information that I feel compelled to share with my readers, I am writing this column in hiding from a fortified safe house in Port Clinton.

As some of you know, I spent my early working years as a communications specialist IV in the Defense Department. My job specs dictated that I intercept sensitive calls with foreign leaders when they called the White House.

This was to ensure that no one on the call could change the narrative on what was said because I kept a written log of the call and that call log was transported by military courier to a vault located at the command center at Langley Field, in Virginia.

The skills that I learned in that job were invaluable in enabling me to use those skills with corporate America when I left the Defense Department. I worked for a number of Fortune 50 companies when they were trying to access sensitive corporate "secrets" from their overseas competitors.

It was an easy gig and no one, other than the president of the company and their security team, even knew of my existence. I operated behind a non-descript closed door in the basements of the buildings of my employers. I even wore casual clothing to appear as if I was just another low-level commercial contractor.

However, when I noticed the looming tragedy that was about to explode in Afghanistan and the surging Taliban presence, my military training skills kicked in and I wanted to make a record of what really was being said by the top echelons of our government and the leaders of the Taliban.

Since my military clearance was not revoked, I still had access to my portal numbers and, from any location, I could "eavesdrop" on practically any conversation that used a land line. The stark horror of the Taliban beginning to re-capture the country of Afghanistan compelled me to action. And I did.

To do what I did (besides having my military clearance), all I needed were a few simple computer tools and I was back in business. On the black market (no names asked, just pay), I obtained a state of the art, Vysonic D-346 Modular, a K4s-Swart Model 8, two Digital H4's (the 1998 model is still the gold standard!) and one Squelcher Donbey 4E.

Being ready, I gingerly placed the interceptor call with the Taliban chief and with President Joe Biden. I learned the call date was set for August 8 at 2:15 PM EST. What I am about to share with you is a window into the sobering fact that America's power and presence in world affairs are not what they used to be, and the Taliban knows it. (AZX-45-HBT-7777. DELTA ONE, COPY TWO, AFGHAN-WASHINGTON) (This is the entry port secured numbers that allowed me into that fateful conversation):

PRESIDENT BIDEN: Is this Mullah Baradar?

TALIBAN: Yes, is this President Joey Biden?

PRESIDENT BIDEN: Hey, the name is Joe, not Joey!

TALIBAN: Ok, ok... What can I do for you, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT BIDEN: Listen, the agreement with you had with former President Trump is not working out and we need to revisit it because we need more time to get Americans and our allies out of your country.

TALIBAN: Ah yes, President Trump! He was a good stooge for us! Nice man but bad hairdo!

PRESIDENT BIDEN: I am not here to talk about him. We need more time than August 31 to move everyone out. We have a lot of people over there who want out and we need to get them home.

TALIBAN: So I see. You did not plan for our success?

PRESIDENT BIDEN: Who would have thought it! That fast in such a short time. How did you pull that off?

TALIBAN (laughing). Mr. Biden you supported a weak government and a weaker president and the army that you spent billions propping up was without a leader who cared about them.

PRESIDENT BIDEN: Now we know!

TALIBAN: What! Your intelligence services did not tell you about the actual conditions of the soldiers and the corrupt government? It was easy for us to move in and have them lay down their arms. What were they fighting for?

PRESIDENT BIDEN: Let's cut to the chase. If we don't get the time that we need to move out everyone, there will be devastating consequences. Do you understand?

TALIBAN (still more laughter). Mr. Biden, please! You had 20 years to do nation building and it failed because we Afghans are not asking for an Americanization of our culture.

The world sees the recent pictures on television and on their cell phones of the debacle that you caused; and you are asking for help to export the needed skills and talents of our citizens to America? Are you serious?

PRESIDENT BIDEN: (long pause). If we cannot get assurances from you that all Americans and those who worked with us, will get safe passage, we are prepared to come back to Afghanistan for however long it takes and get them out. Do you read me loud and clear!

TALIBAN: (loud chuckles). Mr. Biden, you know and I know that the war weary American people and your divided Congress will not authorize a re-invasion of our land. Don't be foolish! What we do here is our business and what you do in America is your business.

PRESIDENT BIDEN: So, do you want to chance that and face off with our military and your raggedy bunch of fighters?

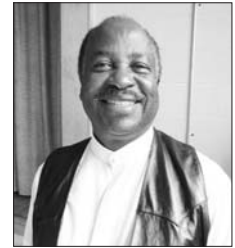
TALIBAN: (loud laughter). Mr. Biden, you can try but remember if you attempt that, you will lose your next elections and your sidekick, Kamala Harris, will not be the future nominee of your party.

If you get into hot water with the American people, your buddy James Clyburn cannot be your Superman again and save your bacon out of the fire, as you Americans say!

PRESIDENT BIDEN: (outrage). How dare you! You leave James Clyburn out of this! Oh, and another thing, what are the chances of us getting back the billions of dollars in weaponry that you guy were able to commandeer?

TALIBAN: (loud guffaw) Mr. Biden, good talking with you but I got to go. There is a rumor that this secured line is being tapped! CLICK.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Lafe Tolliver

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Carty Finkbeiner Issues Statement on Mayor & City Council's Battle over Good Friday and Juneteenth Holidays

On Sunday, August 22, 2021, Carty Finkbeiner, three-term Toledo Mayor, former member of Toledo City Council, as well as a candidate for this year's mayor's race, issued a statement calling council's actions at last Tuesday's meeting disgraceful after Ordinance 445-21 was pulled and assigned to council's budget committee.

Ordinance 445-21 would have changed the Toledo Municipal Code in part to recognize June 19 as the newly created federal Juneteenth National Independence Day Holiday while eliminating the long held Good Friday Holiday.

"I attended last Tuesday's Toledo City Council meeting where the Mayor and City Council man-

aged to insult not one, but two, community groups with great influence --- African Americans and the religious community," said Finkbeiner. "Never in all my years of service as a three-term mayor and a veteran member of Toledo City Council have I seen such insulting behavior. Numerous community leaders in attendance were shocked and appalled that our elected city leaders would make a federal holiday a question of duress as opposed to the righteousness of the people.

"The city has 15 paid holidays, so our elected leaders should already know how much this will cost the city. It makes no sense to refer this to the budget committee unless they plan on treating Good Friday and Juneteenth as political auction items going to the highest bidder. The fact is the city has \$70 million in the Rainy-Day Fund showing it can easily afford to add the Juneteenth National Independence Day without sacrificing Good Friday.

"The way this ordinance was handled shows Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and city council's blindness and a lack of respect when it comes to the significance of the President and Congress in authorizing the Juneteenth holiday. To hold Juneteenth and Good Friday hostage like this shows that our Toledo elected leaders pitted the celebration of Good Friday for the religious



Carty Finkbeiner

community against a civil rights initiative.

"This is an absolute disgrace to the religious and African-American communities. The mayor and council should apologize to both groups and move immediately to revise the Toledo Municipal Code to keep the Good Friday Holiday intact while adding the new federal Juneteenth National Independence Day."

Perryman... continued from page 2

presence as those in the top tier.

7. Mac Driscoll

Driscoll is a sleeper candidate running his first campaign on a platform that promotes investment into Toledo's neighborhoods. With considerable digital marketing experience, Driscoll will maintain a competitive advantage if his campaign raises enough funds to continue to make his name familiar to voters. So, I'll keep my eyes on his media buys.

8. Cerssandra McPherson

McPherson has gotten press for being outspoken concerning gun violence in the black community. However, McPherson did not help her campaign when she failed to support proposed legislation that would have added Juneteenth as a paid holiday for City of Toledo employees.

The City had proposed trading Juneteenth for Good Friday, a move vigorously protested by the African-American faith community. However, rather than just voting for an amendment that allowed both holidays, McPherson sent the new ordinance to committee, citing budget issues. This was a "rookie mistake," said some, citing McPherson's admitted political immaturity.

Does McPherson keep her appointed seat? Only if she learns not to anger, shake up, or abandon her base by taking questionable stands on issues not in their interests.

The Bottom Tier:

Campaigns Matter! Most lower-tier candidates, as a rule, are there because they don't have a campaign war chest that could buy them positive name recognition. However, this tier could change if someone drops \$30,000 on a TV commercial and runs it the last two weeks of the election. Otherwise, the following are on the outside, looking in.

9. Larry Sykes

Sykes, despite his legal issues, still has name recognition. But, typically, voters don't do a deep dive in primary elections. So, the former councilman will likely end up in the top 12 but falls short of the final six. I won't be surprised, however, if he finishes in the top eight.

10. Tony Dia

Dia's previous campaign for city council was wrecked by an unfavorable newspaper article about a problem he had as a juvenile. Depending on how much he puts into a media campaign, he might finish from 8 -10 due to name recognition.

11. Alfonso Narvaez

... continued on page 11

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-Brian Tracey

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Reggie Williams: Bringing The Doug Back to Life

By Asia Nail

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

There are three kinds of people in this world:

- those who make things happen
- those who watch things happen
- those who wonder what happened!

Reggie Williams knew from an early age that he wanted to be first on that list. Currently serving as executive director of The Frederick Douglass Community Center, Williams has turned around an indebted non-for-profit center and, for his efforts, has been awarded 2.5 million dollars for the historic property's restoration.

It takes a village.

For many in central Toledo, that village is The Frederick Douglass Community Association.

"What I enjoy most about 'The Doug' are the many ways we impact lives in our own community. We bring real change. I call it ministry at its finest," says Director Williams.

The Doug, the name the community affectionately gave the center, has been the flagship location at 1001 Indiana Ave. for the past 40 years. This historic building has been serving central-city residents since 1919.

During two Toledo City Council committee meetings at the beginning of August— the Education, Recreation & Employment Committee and the Neighborhoods, Community Development & Health Committee — members of council and leadership for the Frederick Douglass Community Center discussed a proposal to allocate \$1.5 million from the capital improvement fund for significant building improvements.

However, The Frederick Douglass Community Association needed more than the initial proposed \$1.5 million in capital improvement dollars for repairs and upgrades.

The urgent repairs include upgrading the gym, replacing the elevator, and upgrading the phone system, as well as replacing the roof, flooring and numerous other fixtures. With the help of Toledo Councilwoman Cecelia Adams, the proposed legislation was modified and funding approved for the 2.5 million necessary for a complete restoration.

"We are overjoyed about this renovation. Our building hasn't been upgraded since the 1970s," explains Executive Director Williams.

Over the past eight years Williams has been working as a diligent community leader of the center sharing, "I have found that everything seems to work out when our priorities are in order. God first. See your vision, live your dream, and expect provision."

When Williams says "to live" he's referring to an easy concept, one he's made into a hashtag. The hashtag is simple, but profound - in so many ways. "#LiveYourProtest," reads the caption to several of The Frederick Douglass Association's Facebook posts.

Like founding father abolitionist Douglass, The Doug shows the commu-



nity how to stand up for issues that really matter to the underserved in Toledo.

Frederick Douglass, who was an abolitionist, orator, statesman, publisher and supporter of women's suffrage, was born a slave in February of 1818 in Tuckahoe, Maryland.

During the nineteenth century Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) epitomized the opposite of what slave supporters propagated about African Americans. He was arguably the most influential orator during the 1800s, playing a vital role in the United States understanding that all men are created equal and deserve freedom to pursue happiness.

The first 20 years of Douglass' life was as a slave. With great tenacity he escaped through the Underground Railroad, and ascended into a powerhouse speaker, writer, publisher and political pragmatist.

His lifespan covered slavery, the abolitionist movement, The Fugitive

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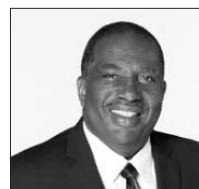
By Texas State Senator Royce West

Guest Column

Evolution by definition means that an idea, a person or entity has undergone change. I know I certainly have. A caterpillar evolves into a butterfly. And yes, my behavior and perspectives are much different from me, the 40 year-old attorney and certainly from me, the 18-year-old, college student-athlete. I hope you can say I've evolved. Such is not the case for the condition that currently besets America. I'll back my thesis.

Evidence being compiled to this day accuses the most recent, former commander-in-chief of taking numerous illegal steps to overturn the outcome of the November 2020 Presidential Election. And members of his own party at-

tempted to prevail upon him to stop watching and take action to call off angry mob violence that on January 6, 2021, desecrated the very Chambers of Congress (actions he "incited" hours earlier with Texas' attorney general present) with the intent to stop the legal transfer of power from the 45th to the now-sitting 46th President of the United States.



... continued on page 12

Senator Royce West

Reggie Williams... continued from page 5

Slave Act, the colonization movement, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the birth of the Republican Party, the infamous Dred Scott decision, his relationship with the troubled John Brown, the Civil War, his rollercoaster relationship with President Lincoln, the passing of the 13th-15th Amendments, Reconstruction and its collapse, the Supreme Court's ruling that ushered in Jim Crow, the South's lynching mobs and the Gilded Age's white supremacy movement.

Just as there was an underground village in Douglass's day, so is it today at The Doug Community Center. "We are advocates and partners ready to help the community at every turn," says Williams.

The Center's original location at 201 Pinewood reigned from 1925 to 1979 when it was excavated. Now their flagship village is housed in the James B. Simmons, Jr. Neighborhood.

The Doug's village makes sure that every child is loaded with fun and intellectually engaging activities that keep their minds sharp. They also have commodities every first and third Friday of each month, as well as trash drop offs for large items community members may need to discard.

As in Frederick Douglass' time and with other African Americans today, being mentored was not always defined as meeting one's wise and trusted friend, rather it was the rarest of occurrences to be nurtured, tended to, and allowed to grow freely.

The same often holds true today for many disadvantaged students who feel alienated and academically at a loss. At the Frederick Douglass Community-Center, kids discover they are more than "underserved" or "black kids," they learn that they have minds worthy of respect.

Williams wants something positive to come out of the worldwide demonstrations in response to the murder of George Floyd and countless other unarmed black citizens.

Reggie shares his favorite quote: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr #LiveYourProtest certainly exemplifies this quote in action.

A trust account has been established at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, 1441 Dorr St., for those who wish to contribute. Walk the Word Church partnered with the association to create the foundation.

Williams says it's equally important for the association to secure funds that will allow it to broaden its scope beyond the essential renovations at the center. "We want the newly renovated community center to be the home base for us all in central Toledo," says Williams.

"This is a milestone. Myself and the board are so proud to bring The Doug back into relevancy."

After an unfortunate embezzlement of over \$60k by the former director, the faith and the trust factor had left the community and its partners. Now with Williams at the helm, a renewed vigor has come to The Community Center. "I pride myself on rebuilding the trust and transparency of our partners and community supporters," says Williams.

Being black or poor used to be considered a natural inferiority. After the death of George Floyd and countless others, the world is now nurturing an understanding that our underserved communities require nothing more than time and opportunity to attain their highest point of human greatness.

"Stay tuned on our social media to get signed up for our upcoming newsletter," shares Williams. The Doug's newsletter will be called "The North Star" the same name founding abolitionist Frederick Douglass gave his renowned anti-slavery newspaper in 1847.

Before renovations begin Williams encourages community members to walk in and feel the new energy at the center, become a volunteer, or submit an application to join the board. The Doug turned 100 years in 2019 and although the city has yet to celebrate this centennial, plans to commemorate the milestone will be shared in the near future.

Executive Director Williams and all FDCA Board Members extend a sincere thank you to the community for continuing to donate to The Doug at The Urban Federal Credit Union.

All community and sponsored donations continue to support programs provided by the Frederick Douglass Community Center, including a GED program through Owens Community College, prenatal care and infant mortality classes sponsored by the Lucas County Health Department, addiction support services, Youth Opportunity Programs, tutoring and summer paid employment, 24-hour day care, and Pride Kids United which has baseball, basketball, and football youth programs. The Doug's Summer camp was a robust five-week outdoor summer experience; this year serving approximately 35 youth.

The Doug's after school tutoring and enrichment program will be starting mid September 2021. Applications and schedules for parents will be available online at www.thedoug419.org

The Truth

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Labor Secretary Walsh Comes to Toledo to Tout Infrastructure Bill

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh paid a visit to Toledo and Laborers Local 500 on Tuesday, August 17, to talk up the Biden Administration's \$1 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. He was accompanied by U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who voiced her support for the Act, but also demanded more.

Local 500 Business Manager David Fleetwood served as master of ceremonies for the event that was held at the Local 500 training facilities on Nebraska Avenue. The morning breakfast, closed to the public, was attended by a number of laborers, city and county officials and local agency leaders.

Fleetwood introduced Walsh as a "lifelong champion of equity ... committed to creating an economy that works for everyone."

Walsh, a union leader from Boston, was first elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1997, then as mayor of Boston in 2013 and was appointed to his current Labor Secretary position when President Joe Biden assumed office. He was certainly at home in front of a labor audience at the Local 500 facility.

"We have a president that wants to fight to make sure we rebuild the middle class, and build back better," he said defending the administration's economic plan. "There have been 4.1 million jobs added to the economy by the Biden Harris administration."

However, Walsh was in Toledo to talk about the infrastructure act just passed by the U.S. Senate and now in the U.S. House of Representatives awaiting passage.

"We have talked about an infrastructure bill for the last four years, for the

... continued on page 12



Labor Secretary Marty Walsh



David Fleetwood



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

2021 TRIENNIAL UPDATE ON ALL PROPERTIES IN LUCAS COUNTY

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Men of Distinction Welcome MLK Students Back to School

After more than a year of uncertainty, shut down classrooms and virtual learning, the students of MLK Academy for Boys finally made it back into the classroom on Wednesday, August 18, when, just as before the pandemic, they were greeted and welcomed by some of Toledo's men of distinction.

Among the men, of course, were Principal Willie Ward and TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD.

Sheila Annette Cook, MLK Academy Community/Family Resource & Outreach Representative said:

"This was our seventh year for our Men of Distinction, First Day of School 'Meet and Greet.'"

"Although it started to rain, our men stayed the course and in position awaiting the arrival of our students. The men not only come for the first day of school, but they become mentors for our students as well."

"We were so excited to have Taylor Kia/Hyundai, the Rotary Club, various members from our district in attendance, and this year, Brad Fields of Nettys supplied all of students with lunch! This was a day of celebration not only for our students, but for our teachers and staff as well."



Terry Crosby and Sheila Cook



TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, and MLK Principal Willie Ward



St. Paul's MBC Welcomes Youth Back to Church

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On Saturday, August 21, St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church brought their youthful members back to the church grounds for an afternoon of food and games, but also for some valuable life lessons.

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United Vision Baptist Church Community Day

Sojourner's Truth Staff

United Vision Baptist Church held a Community Day on August 14 at Wilson Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event offered children and families an opportunity to get free hair cuts, enjoy free food, play 3-on-3 basketball, jump in a bouncy house or enjoy a number of activities provided by vendors and community services – yard sales, health screenings, horse rides, raffles and school supplies.

DJ Keith Success supplied the music, Montrice Terry brought his band of young street and park cleaners and Nichole Johnson Cole brought the popcorn – lots of popcorn in dozens of different flavors.



Black history is an essential part of the history of our nation, our communities and our company. Black associates have been key members of the Rudolph Libbe Group team since our earliest years. In a series of articles this year, we are celebrating the contributions of current associates and retirees, and expressing our gratitude to them for being a part of the Rudolph Libbe Group.

—Bill Rudolph, Chairman, Rudolph Libbe Group

Adrian Brown doesn't back away from change—and that willingness to try new things led him to a career that he loves.

In his 20s, he knew that his job as an accounting clerk wasn't right for him. "I didn't like sitting in an office. It drove me nuts to be in one place all the time. My uncle was an electrician. I followed suit and did the same thing he did."

In 2002, he became a journeyman electrician, a job he still enjoys almost 20 years later. "I love it. We don't do the same things all the time. We have a wide array of tasks. I like to be able to stay abreast of technology, and our job is constantly changing due to technology."

After being laid off by another contractor, he came to work for the Rudolph Libbe Group's northeast Ohio office in December 2020. On his most recent jobsite, he is an electrician night supervisor.

"I like working for GEM a lot. The guys are extremely nice. They don't treat you as if you are a number. They trust me with different responsibilities," he said.

"There are times in my career when I faced racial discrimination. I don't like to play the race card every time something happens, but there are times when it's been blatant."

When he first started working in the trades, a foreman approached him and said, "Yesterday, you couldn't be an electrician and today you are."

"I don't have any of those experiences at GEM, not at all. I feel like I am a part of the group, I am a valued part of the team."

He added, "White people don't see Blacks very often. They see them on TV and they act accordingly. In our local, out of 225 members there are only 15 Blacks and some Latino. For me to be on a jobsite and see someone of African-American descent is very rare."

He recommends the trades as a career path. "It's a good way of life. It's an honest way of living. There are times when work may be slow, and you can pick up a side job. I'd recommend the trades as opposed to attending a college because you're not stuck with student loans. The pay is good and the respect you get from others—that's a big plus. Not everyone can do what we do. Being an electrician, you have to be physically strong and problem-solve well. I'm glad I made that choice."



Women Fore Solheim Push for Equitable Opportunities

By Dawn Scotland

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

A press conference for Women Fore Solheim was held at Imagination Station's Key Bank Discovery Theater, 1 Discovery Way on Monday, August 23. The event, which was open to the public, featured "Bagels and Mimosas" and a screening debut of the group's promotional video and call to action.

The event hosted by Imagination Station had an audience that included Women Advocates for Solheim wearing red, white and blue along with community supporters and local officials in an hour-long kickoff event.

The Women Fore Solheim, founded in 2021, is a "collaboration of diverse women in the Greater Toledo community, who are committed to creating and implementing inclusive and equitable opportunities and experiences during the Solheim Cup. [Their] purpose emphasizes a culture of belonging and passion for everyone's contributions to country, while experiencing the wonder and magic of this unique golf experience."

In their mission statement, the Women Fore Solheim says, "[we are] dedicated to making certain that all marketing and visuals, spectators, volunteers and the Women's Summit attendees reflect this mission."

The event started with an opening from Lori Hauser, director of the Imagination Station, followed by remarks from Meg Ressler, co-chair of the Solheim Cup.

Diana Patton, advocate for Women Fore Solheim, served as mistress of ceremonies for the press conference. She shared the vision of Ressler to make this event "the most unique experience Solheim had ever had." Patton stated that the goal had been delivered through a "vistula mini golf experience, A-list selfie museum, Urban Soul Cultural Experience, and women vendors" that Toledoans can expect along with Solheim's existing initiatives.

Angela Lucas, co-owner of Creadio, presented the debut of the promotion-



Meg Ressler, Rhonda Sewell, Mary Brucker, Diana Patton

al video for Women Fore Solheim developed by Creadio. The video, which is sponsored by ConneCToledo, Destination Toledo and the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, features a spoken word piece by Rhonda Sewell and aims to capture the feeling of Toledo and the diversity and accessibility of The Solheim Cup 2021.

The group received proclamations and remarks from city officials Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Councilwoman Tiffany Preston Whitman, EdD, and Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

Kapszukiewicz presented a proclamation to the group declaring next week as "Solheim Cup Toledo Week." The mayor lauded the Solheim Cup initiative and its impact to the city's economy. "[This event] is the largest international event [in Toledo] since 1993", the mayor stated, "[with a] 32-35 million dollar positive impact... a big deal for Toledo".

Following the Mayor's proclamation Cindy Kerr (ConneCToledo), Lance Woodworth (Destination Toledo), and Wendy Gramza (Reginal Chamber of Commerce which the funded promotional video) offered remarks and support for Women Fore Solheim.

The impact of the Solheim Cup 2021 on Toledo's black community is undetermined. Diana Patton says that the economic impact for the black community "has not been quantified yet" but ensures "equity will definitely be made here in Toledo."

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Thank You for Your Support Building a Culture of Diversity and Inclusion at UToledo

By Willie McKether, PhD

Guest Column

It has been the honor of my career to create the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at The University of Toledo.

Many dedicated individuals have created over the years programs and initiatives to increase diversity, support underrepresented minority students, faculty and staff, and promote equity on our campuses. As I have said many times, this type of work is everyone's responsibility. In 2016 then-president Dr. Sharon Gaber created the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion position to have a person on the senior leadership team responsible for efforts to ensure every member of the UToledo community feels included, respected and free from discrimination.

While we have not accomplished everything I sought to do during the past five years, I am proud of the progress we have made to support students, employees and the greater Toledo community. There has always been great support for the value of our efforts and I am thankful to everyone who contributed to our successes.

Our inaugural strategic diversity plan guided our efforts for the first three years, from 2016 through 2019. It took eight months to build with extensive input from students, faculty, staff and members of the community.

There were important advances supported by that plan. Top among them, for me, is improved success of our underrepresented minority students. As we looked at the data to put together our updated second diversity strategic plan to guide our efforts from 2020 to 2023, we tracked positive progress in our 6-year graduation rates and first-to-second year retention rates.

In the five-year period from 2015 to 2019 the graduation rates and retention rates improved for all students. For Black or African American students it improved eight percentage points and increased four percentage points for Hispanic or Latino students. During that same time period the retention rate improved 21.2 percent for Black or African American Students and 7.3 percent for Hispanic or Latino students.

Key positions have been added in Enrollment Management and the Provost's Office focused on the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students to continue to advance these efforts, which remains a top goal in our second diversity strategic plan. Our current plan also set goals to increase the recruitment and retention of underrepresented faculty and staff, cultivate community partnerships and increase supplier diversity.

During the implementation of the first diversity strategic plan we also were successful in increasing the diversity of our faculty, including a 37 percent increase in Black or African American

faculty from 2015 to 2019 and a 20 percent increase in faculty members who identify as Asian. During that same period we experienced increases in staff diversity of individuals who identify as Asian (16%), Hispanic or Latino (9.8%) and Black or African American (1.4%). The number of staff members who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native doubled and we experienced a 48 percent increase in individuals who identify as two or more races.

In addition to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion expanding to include an office on the Health Science Campus and adding personnel, I'm proud to report that there are diversity plans, committees and leaders established in all of our degree-granting academic colleges.

We've also created a number of scholarships to support underrepresented minority students named for past University leaders, such as Lance Thompson and Tony Quinn, from which future generations of Rockets will benefit.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and the national movement to address systemic racism fueled by racial injustice and police brutality following the killing of George Floyd, we held 15 Dialogue on Diversity virtual town hall events discussing topics from microaggressions to vaccines to anti-Asian hate. Each of those events was well attended despite so many of us getting video conference fatigue. This was an event that our campus community wanted to sit in front of their screens for and I appreciated the honest and collaborative discussions on a wide variety of important topics. It was a great expansion of a program that was held less frequently in the years before.

Most recently one of the key initiatives identified by President Gregory Postel early in his tenure at the University was identifying and addressing systemic racism on our campuses. To be clear, it is not an effort to address a known issue at UToledo but an understanding that over time and in every industry across our country there is the potential for racial bias to have impacted policies and procedures. I was proud to lead that team and look forward to following what it accomplishes moving forward.

My professional background and training is in cultural anthropology and I have always had a personal interest in multicultural retention efforts. Years before I moved into this administrative role I helped to establish the Brothers on the Rise mentoring program for African American and Latino male students and the Multicultural Emerging Scholars Program, which is a six-week summer bridge program for incoming students of color can get a head start before the start of the academic year. This past year, I am proud to have led the

creation of the Inclusive Wall of Honor as well as the Center for Racial Equity and Black Student Excellence, which includes the Dr. Donald Baker Student Resource Room.

I could not be more proud to have applied my expertise and passions to create UToledo's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The team will have strong leadership in Dr. Charlene Gilbert during the transition and I know UToledo is committed to finding the best permanent leader to take what we started and move it forward. Thank you for the honor of leading this important work.

Dr. Willie McKether, vice president of diversity and inclusion and vice provost, is completing his tenure at The University of Toledo. He has been appointed chancellor for Thomas Jefferson University's East Falls Campus in Philadelphia.



Willie McKether, PhD

St. Paul's... continued from page 8

"They haven't been here in a year," said Rev. James Willis, Sr. pastor of St. Paul's, of his youthful flock of about 50. "This is to celebrate going back to school and coming to church again."

In addition to the food and games, JoJuan Armour of the Mayor's Gun Violence Task Force, stopped by to impart a lesson of non-violence and the Toledo Police Department Resource officer came to speak to the youth about safety.

Perryman... continued from page 4


No one has more zeal and community spirit than Narvaez, who has fallen short several times in his quest for city council. Yet, somehow and in some way, Narvaez gets out of his community activist foundation into the political arena. Unfortunately, it just won't be in the 2021 city council at-large election.

The Off the Grid Tier:

Steve Fought worked for U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur for years. However, I have not seen him appear in the media. Ron Murphy has run before but also seems not to put a lot of money into media buys.

Likewise, many others are also apparently missing in a contest where name recognition and being visible is the name of the game.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdpperryman@centrofofhopebaptist.org



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Devolution... continued from page 6

After the unprecedented attack on the nation's Capitol, when the world witnessed members of Congress in mortal danger, fleeing House and Senate Chambers for safety, still 138 House Republicans and eight Republican Senators voted, to object at least once, to certify that Joe Biden won the race for President. Months later, many still will not say outright that the former reality show host did not win and Biden did.

Congress' toxic climate dates back at least to the impeachment of former President Bill Clinton, through Bush #2's presidency, intensified with the constant obstacles placed in the path of 44th President Barack Obama and metastasizes now. Unfortunately, it has shown few signs of getting better. It's worse! It's devolution. The polar opposite of evolution. And there are more examples than this account can encapsulate.

Why you ask, do some elected officials conduct themselves in ways that do not, in the opinions of a divided electorate, reflect what is best for the public? One word: POLITICS! It's dangerous. And now, it's even costing lives. Days ago, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul made a video telling America that "No one should follow the CDC's anti-science mask mandate." This comes months after Paul became the first U.S. Senator to contract the coronavirus.

He labeled officials who have attempted to put safety measures in place "petty tyrants and bureaucrats" and characterized House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as being "drunk with power," which segues to my next example of America's political devolution. Last month, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued another executive order that now makes it illegal for any state, county or local governmental entity to impose mask or vaccination requirements.

The order came days before the opening of schools across Texas. It impacts county -run hospitals. Not to be far-right outdone, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has threatened to defund school districts and officials who defy his similar order that blocks mask mandates. Both orders came just days after the White House reported that Florida and Texas were responsible for 1/3 of all new COVID-19 cases across the country.

Over the last eight days, more than one million new cases have been reported nationwide. Over the past week, Texas has averaged 10,000 new cases a day, trailing only Florida with more than 18,000. Nationally, there have been 100,000 new cases reported daily over the same period. The reasons again point to politics in both states. Abbott faced extreme criticism from the political right in 2020 for shutting down the state.

Since then, Dallas-based, former State Senator Don Huffines and former Florida one-term Congressman and recent Republican Texas party chair Allen (no relation) West have launched primary challenges. DeSantis has sought to walk into footsteps laid by the former president who lost the 2020 election. What depths of societal devolution have been reached when candidates and elected officials choose political power and influence over protecting the lives of citizens, including those who did or did not, or will or will not vote for them? People's lives and livelihoods should unquestionably come first. It's time for the Governor to show some "personal responsibility."

Royce West was first elected to the Texas Senate in November 1992. He represents the 23rd Senatorial District on behalf of the citizens of Dallas County

Labor Secretary... continued from page 7

last eight years," said Walsh. "This is the first time in my memory that a major piece of legislation has gone through both parties."

The administration's infrastructure bill was passed by the Senate with all 50 Democratic votes and 19 Republican votes.

Now, the House has the bill on its agenda and the split among moderates, progressives and mainstream Democrats are fully on display. Nine House moderates have sent a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, demanding that the Senate version pass as is. Pelosi has said she wants the House to take on both the current infrastructure bill and a much larger \$3.5 trillion budget bill simultaneously.

Kaptur, in her speech to the labor union explained her support for the infrastructure package and her desire that more be added, particularly to aid the upper Midwest states.

"This is the first time, in my career, we have a chance to make a difference," she said of the infrastructure bill. "There will be a lot of negotiation," she added of the ongoing process.

Kaptur then explained, addressing the secretary more than her labor audience, that she was dismayed that money for rail for the upper Midwest was not a part of the legislation. "We are not in the infrastructure bill here," she noted.

Describing the Chicago, to Cleveland, to New York route as "the fifth most congested corridor in the country," she took issue that dollars for that corridor are sorely lacking unlike the case of the congested East and West coast routes.

"We need someone to care about the industrial heartland of the country; we need a voice, Mr. Secretary. We gotta have modernized rail here."

Addressing power and energy, Kaptur turned to the current scandal involving First Energy. The company has agreed to pay \$230 million fine for its role in a bribery scheme. The purpose of the scheme was to get legislation passed for a \$1 billion bailout for two of its power plants in Ohio.

"You are gonna give billions to those crooks?" she asked Walsh. "Kaptur is going to be tough in the House," she promised the secretary and her labor audience.

Shifting to the subject of the push to electrify automobiles, Kaptur expressed concern about the possibility that the Midwest industrial area will suffer if a manufacturing plan is not implemented before such a massive change occurs. She noted that electric cars will need far fewer moving parts than the current combustion engines use. She called for an office to be established in the White House "that plans for readjustment - we need a plan for this to be done systematically."

"Our part of America has been heavily harmed by past administrations that didn't care," she added.

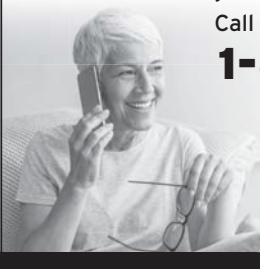
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Essays by Black Authors by various writers

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Whaddaya think?

Surely, you've got opinions; everyone does these days. You have ideas about this and that, you've given things a lot of consideration, and you know how you feel. It's nice to have your mind made up. Now you can move on and maybe, with these great books, you can see what others think, too...

If it seems that pop culture dominates our lives these days, well, you're right. Author **Nichole Perkins** agrees, and in her book *Sometimes I Trip on How Happy We Could Be* (Grand Central Publishing, \$17.99), she writes about how the internet, wealth, TV, racism, misogyny, health issues, and beauty standards for Black women have affected her in the new millennium. That might sound like a serious rant, but it's not... not entirely; Perkins shares her thoughts on a few somber topics but even on those pages, she's sharp, relatable, and witty, giving readers plenty to discuss and plenty of reasons to nod their heads in agreement.

No doubt, you've got lots to say about racial issues in 2021, so how about another point of view? Read *Don't Let It Get You Down: Essays on Race, Gender, and the Body* by **Savala Nolan** (Simon & Schuster, \$26.00).

As the child of a Black and Mexican father and a white mother, Nolan knows what it's like to live a life that's not: not Black and not White, not wealthy and not exactly poor. She knows what it's like to grapple with body image issues, financial insecurity, and with racial myths. She's well aware of what society – both Black and white – expects from Black women in their feelings and their appearances. She writes of motherhood and how racism affects it from the moment a child is born. And she writes about her own history, and her white ancestors who enslaved the Black ancestors in her family. Savor these essays. Discuss.

And finally, you can learn a lot about what someone's thinking from the stories they tell. Remember that as you're reading *Give My Love to the Savages: Stories* by **Chris Stuck** (Amistad, \$24.99).

Life as a Black man in America is really something: you might be called

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by a racial slur one minute, and find yourself on the creepy end of too much attention from a white woman in another. You try to live your life, not bothering anybody, but somebody's inevitably bothered. You stay in your own lane until someone (or something) hits you head-on. You wonder why white people do the things they do – but one day, you might find yourself doing them, too.

Family, masculinity, love, and getting by in American society, those are just some of the plots in these tales. They'll give you something to think about, and to chuckle about.

If these essays don't quite fit what your head and heart want, be sure to reach out to your favorite librarian or bookseller. They have plenty of other books available, and they'll help you find the essays and stories you need to know.

So, whaddaya think?

Pandemic Disrupts Critical Early Childhood Education

Special to The Truth

While young children have been less vulnerable to COVID-19 health dangers, a new study finds that they've been tremendously impacted by the disruption to preschool activities triggered by the pandemic.

The National Institute for Early Education Research study finds that pre-K participation has tumbled during the pandemic. What's more it finds that children are spending less time outdoors and on certain key learning activities at home with parents and caregivers, and more time in front of screens.

Education experts say early learning opportunities are critical for young children's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development, as well as their mental health. New resources can help fill the preschool void and make this an enriching time for young children. To learn more, visit www.pnccgroupgreat.com.

While the pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for families with young children, building a love of learning early on can help pave the way for a great future.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP21-R014 Move Management Consulting Services

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Move Management Consulting Services. Received in accordance with law until September 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 opportunity is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.



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

Project #0018-22-266
Carter Hall Demolition
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, September 14, 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
Demolition Contract	\$1,100,000.00
Remediation Contract	\$1,350,000.00
Combined Bid	\$2,450,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: August 31, 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 sites is scheduled for August 31, 2021 immediately following Pre-bid.

Walk-through Location: Plant Operations Building

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

More Info: Project contact: Thomas Stuckey, Poggemeyer Design Group, Phone: 419-352-7537, E-mail: TStuckey@kleinfelder.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP21-R021 Snow Removal Services AMP 111 Scattered Sites
RFP21-R022 Snow Removal Services AMP 112 Scattered Sites
RFP21-R023 Snow Removal Services AMP 121 & 122 Scattered Sites
RFP21-R024 Snow Removal Services AMP 131 Scattered Sites
RFP21-R025 Snow Removal Services AMP 133 Scattered Sites

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Snow Removal Services. Received in accordance with law until September 3, 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 opportunity is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.



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We are seeking a Communications Manager for Rudolph Libbe Group in Walbridge, OH. The Communications Manager will be responsible for leading the content creation, sourcing, design, production, and distribution of internal communications including introduction of new technology/employee engagement tools, leading public relations efforts (press releases, media inquiries, and crisis communications), and contributing to strategic communications plan and campaigns that will help further organizational goals.

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JOB POSTING

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Eight or more years' experience in a Preconstruction position successfully completing Design Build or Construction Management at Risk projects, preferred four (4) year degree in a construction related curriculum, preferred achievement of LEED AP, and OSHA 30 hour certification preferred.

For more information and to apply, visit: www.rlgbuilds.com/careers.

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

Project #1130-21-240
Underground Utility Infrastructure Upgrades
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, September 14 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	\$700,000.00
Alternate #1	\$80,000.00
#2	\$225,000.00
Alternate #4	
\$175,000.00	
\$125,000.00	

Pre-bid Meeting: August 31, 2021, 11:00am, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled for August 31, 2021 immediately following Pre-bid.

Walk-through Location: Plant Operations Building

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

More Info: Project contact: David Mercer, RMF Engineering, Phone: 614-441-9411, E-mail: David.mercer@rmf.com

The African American Male Wellness Walk

On Saturday, August 21, the ninth annual African American Male Wellness 5K Walk/Run started at the Warren AME Church at 9:30 a.m. but, as always, the walk was not the only important feature of this year's event.

The annual event, organized by Brian Byrd, chief of the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department, is a morning filled with health screenings, vendors and music.

Attendees had the opportunity to receive the COVID vaccines – Pfizer or Johnson and Johnson, HIV screenings, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, mammograms and dental checkups, among the many health services offered.

This year's sponsors were Warren AME, Mercy Hospital, ProMedia, the City of Toledo, Monnettes and Firefighters Local 92.



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The Eleventh Annual Scott Reunion Weekend

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The eleventh annual Scott Reunion Weekend was held August 13-15 and, after a year without the now customary event, the enthusiasm was heightened as Scott alumni turned out in great numbers to greet old friends.

The weekend began with the Friday meet and greet in various sites around the city. The classes of the 50s and 60s met at the Blue Gill. The 70s classes met at Club Evolution; the 80s and 90s at The Spotlight and the folks of the 2000s classes at Blue Agave.

On Saturday, a brunch at Roberts Bar, was followed in the evening with the White Affair at St. Clements Hall, featuring DJ Keith Success.

Sunday's Famous Bulldog Picnic was held this year at Detwiler Park – everyone turned out for the event.

“Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog.”



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