



Volume 69 No. 2 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* **October 13, 2021**



NW Ohio Minority Business Assistance Center

Stayce Fowler; Brenda Jackson Cross; Shanda Gore, EdD; James Hall



Tonia Pace



UTMC Welcomes Minority Students



*Rev. Willie Perryman, Alan Bannister, Tony Totty, LC
Commissioner Pete Gerken*

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A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Determination. Perseverance. Commitment. These are just a few of the words that come to mind as we reflect on how our students, their families and our staff members have overcome the challenges of a global pandemic. Our district has worked tirelessly to ensure students continue to receive a quality education while meeting their social and emotional needs. The work can be daunting but we remain committed to supporting our students.

Today, the Ohio Department of Education releases its annual report cards for public schools and while we have good news to share, the impact of COVID-19 is apparent.

As you will see, ODE has once again changed its reporting structure and how school districts are evaluated. Toledo Public Schools welcomes transparency about its performance, but the Board of Education believes the State Report Card gives a woefully incomplete picture of public education in this and other school districts. The State Report Card remains overly broad and continues to highlight an incomplete picture of the progress our students continue to make. That is why we are compelled to share our own story of accomplishment; one that highlights the work of our students and the dedication of our staff.

Yours in Education - the Board of Education for Toledo Public Schools :

Mrs. Christine Varwig – *Board President*

Ms. Sheena Barnes

Mr. Bob Vasquez

Mrs. Polly Taylor-Gerken – *Vice President*

Mrs. Stephanie Eichenberg

Dr. Romules Durant – *CEO/Superintendent*



RESPONDING TO COVID-19

- When Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine mandated all schools close as part of his response to COVID-19, educators across the state had to pivot and connect with students in new ways. Toledo Public Schools offered remote learning and purchased 30,000 Chromebooks and 5,000 hotspots to support students who did not have access to the necessary technology.



- When students returned to school, TPS implemented a number of safety measures and equipped schools with an array of supplies:

12,000 Face Shields

1,000 Digital Thermometers

110 Electrostatic Sprayers

400 No-Touch Thermometers

160,000 Bottles of Hand Sanitizer

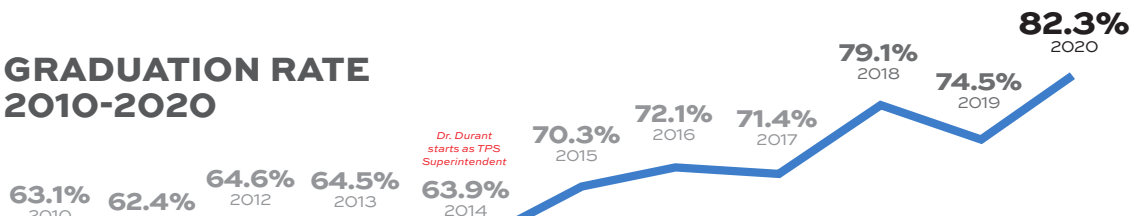
21,000 Desk Shields

700 Sanitizing Stations

Our community partners stepped up to help our families. Some distributed food, clothing and daily necessities, while others opened their doors to students so their parents could continue working. Several groups hosted outdoor activities that were intended to provide some family fun during a difficult time.

TPS offered a Virtual Academy last year as part of the district's response to COVID-19. Because of its success, the VA continues this school year with more than 800 students enrolled.

GRADUATION RATE 2010-2020



Yeah, It's Getting Bad ... Real Soon

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

If you are one for reading polls then the right-wing newspaper, The Washington Examiner, just published a poll exclaiming that if our current political polarization remains as it is now, future events could send you into political spasms.

To spoil the ending to this column, I would just say that about 74 million Republican voters are rooting and tooting for Herr Trump to make another triumphal descent on his golden escalator and march into the White House for another four-year term, health permitting or he not sporting a stylish prison garb number.

What is important to underscore in this snapshot photo of the volatile American voting public is that Trump, the avatar, continues to hold a nigh Mussolini grip on the anger, fear and racial animus of too many white American voters, who are allied with the currently constituted Republican Party.

Trump, with his vitriolic speech and race mongering, nonetheless has tapped into a rich vein of resentment in White American politics because of the 74 million plus voters that he tallied in the most recent election, are singing from the same page of the political hymnbook.

This is what that aggrieved population is ostensibly saying to the nation: "We want four more years of his abysmal and pathetic style of leadership. We do not care that he has openly racist tendencies and hates immigrants (except for his own and those of his wife's family). We are comfortable with his woeful lack of knowledge of American history and the rule of law. His corrupt administration did not deter us from flocking to him at his pep rallies. His hundreds of intentional lies do not trouble us in the least bit. His scorning of our allies and his debasement of all things non-white was not and is not an issue with us!" It may sound far-fetched and preposterous to state, but Herr Trump is also hell-bent on seeking petty revenge on anyone that was not in a genuflect mode during his tumultuous four years in office.

I stylized Trump as an avatar or a representative of his base voters who see in him their

last hope and dreams that he will reclaim America for white people and that with the help of a feckless GOP, he will continue to attempt to turn America back to the good ol' days of The Little Rascals, Gone With The Wind and Leave It To Beaver.

Trump is mad at America. He is mad because his America (Fifth Avenue fat cats) has not loved him the way he thought it should via his MAGA campaign.

He has long been dissed by the upper crust New York society that he so desperately wants to be idolized by and be a member of. As an avatar of those who distrust government, abhor any meaningful social safety net programs and want to go it alone in the world, Trump is their guy, and they make no bones about it.

As an astute marketer, Trump has smelled the political armpits of his base, rubbed his face in it and now his base (called "deplorables" by Hillary Clinton) smells their smell on him; and they see him as one of them even though Trump would disdain living anywhere near them.

Be under no illusions about the grim political state that confronts America due to a substantial portion of the Republican population seemingly long-

ing to have an authoritarian personality ride into their lives and give them direction and guidance because of their fears of a browning of an America that they do not want to recognize.

If the Democrats lose the House and the Senate and if the GOP can retake the White House and if Trump is not in someone's jail for his various and sundry criminal charges against him, a Trump wannabee will elbow their way to the GOP nomination and during the whole time, they will be extolling how Trumpian they are.

Fear and angst of what his base sees as a White America becoming increasingly a minority-majority population, is fueling their phobia that White America will be subsumed by those "others" and those "others" may not always be kind to those who have had no qualms about putting their economic knee on their collective neck for the past centuries.

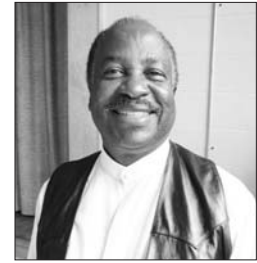
Sure, there are other possible political calculations that could manifest in the months and years leading up to 2022 and 2024 but if I were a betting man, I would say that the current social and political turmoil will be exacerbated by right wing media and their trolls exaggerating all things race to generate more fear in a white electorate that has no problems with Confederate statutes populating the public square and a complete abdication of Affirmative Action. America has not and is not remotely preparing itself for a growing wave of non-white voters flexing their political muscle at the local, state, and national level.

The concept of separate but equal, seems to still rule the day when minority Americans and Indigenous Peoples are relegated to the edges of society but when they begin to break out of the reservations and ghettos, White America looks for a savior who will stand in the gap for them and swat them away with a hubris that has no basis in logic or fact.

The January 6 riot was a dress rehearsal for the phobias of Trump's base. They are not comfortable with the state of the union and if that means, "Hang Mike Pence!" so be it. They need someone to be their Superman so they can maintain some semblance of power over their lives, lives that they believe are being trivialized by the media and those fat cat "liberals" whom they believe mock their values.

Enters Trump as their Superman and protector of the castle and a router of those colored hordes whom they have fashioned out of whole cloth as being their mortal enemies. Truth is now in the eye of the beholder and rancor and vilification of each other takes the place of civil discourse and comity.

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Lafe Tolliver

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"We The People:" The Solution To Our Problems

By John E. Warren, PhD, Publisher, The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint

Guest Column

While a great deal of time and attention is being given to the many sins and acts of evil by Republicans and the Ultra Right who believe that their privileges are greater than our democracy, it is important to remember that "We the People" hold the keys to our own deliverance. There are more of us than them as evidenced by the last election which placed President Joe Biden in the White House instead of a second term for Trump. The Bible says "we have not because we ask not, and when we ask, we ask for the wrong things".

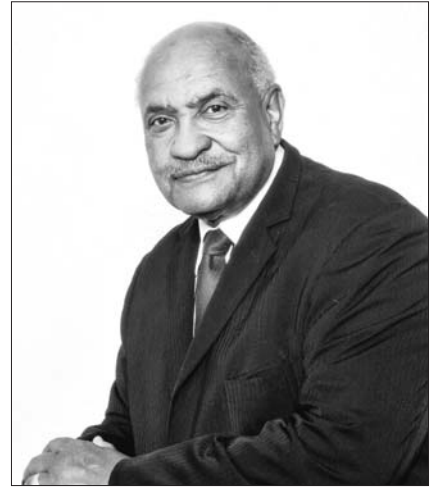
Lawrence O'Donnell, an MSNBC Commentator, recently pointed out that "we" are responsible for Donald Trump being able to appoint three judges to the U.S. Supreme Court. As he indicated, it started when we, the democrats, didn't bother to vote in past presidential elections that allowed the Reagans, the Bushes and the Trumps to be in position to stack the Court with conservative right wingers.

You will remember that when Trump was running against Clinton, the Christian Right and Ultra Conservative Right were not concerned with his sexual sins, only having him in position to appoint judges to the highest court in the land because it would influence policy for decades to come.

Now the ball is back in the court of "We the people" ... if we choose to take it. We the people outnumber the conservative Ultra White element that would end democracy. We the people, whether Democrat or Independent, have sufficient numbers to out vote any conservative wave and laws of voter suppression are now being put on the books. It was this kind of voter turnout that elected two Democratic U.S. Senators from the State of Georgia, in spite of the Trump effort to undermine the voter turnout of the state.

When we look at the characters that are holding the U.S. Senate hostage and refusing to live up to their oath to "Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States", then we have an obligation to organize and vote them out of office.

When we see the U.S. Supreme Court set on rolling back Civil Rights gains, Roe vs. Wade, gun control and a host of other issues that will be before this Court this term, we have the right to petition the Congress to pass legislation to overturn the Supreme Court decisions, which is the check and balances guaranteed by the Constitution. We have options that represent an alternative to the suppression and undermining of democracy by the Ultra



John E. Warren, PhD

Right. We must find candidates to run against those who are opposed to democracy and refuse to work with the very people they are elected to represent.

We the people can make the difference. We just have to focus and decide that the other side will not prevail on our watch.

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City of Toledo Mayor Debate

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Toledo's two mayor candidates spared off during a 70-minute debate organized by Toledo NAACP Unit on Tuesday, October 5. James Sparks, 13abc Action News reporter, moderated the debate which was held at the Toledo Lucas County Library. The format opened with comments from both candidates, a session answering pre-screened questions from Toledo NAACP members in three-minutes, then closing comments.

The candidates for the upcoming November 2021 election are incumbent Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and former Toledo Mayor Carleton "Carty" Finkbeiner. Unfortunately, so many registered voters were not in attendance, as an estimated 30-35 people were there. The candidates presented campaign promises and previous successes in the areas of gun violence, engagement, diversity and specific neighborhood concerns from citizens.

"I know you want to stop the violence, it's at a record high in the city now. I want healthy citizens and want to address the blight," explained Finkbeiner during opening comments. "The curfew ordinance is not being enforced. I remember when the ministers came to me and we created the ordinance. The violence is ridiculous. I have a 10-point plan."

"I'm surprised Carty didn't explain the 10-point plan. It's a collection of tasks that we're already doing. These points only made sense before the invention of the mobile phone. Love Carty, but we can't solve 21st century problems with 19th century plans. Anyone who says that they have a simple answer is mistaken. Ideas scribed on napkins are good for campaigns," answered Kapszukiewicz.

Kapszukiewicz and Finkbeiner continued the debate by listing and explaining the top three issues from citizens. Kapszukiewicz incorporated national best practices, research and statistics in his responses, while Finkbeiner incorporated community-led comments, instinct and percentages in his responses.

"I would say that public safety, high quality services and investments are citizen concerns. I'm sure that citizens want to know, how the \$10 million from the American Rescue Plan will be invested. We're submitting the ordinance to the city, that will include investment in the Wayman Palmer YMCA, Frederick Douglass Community Center, redline elimination, youth programming and youth jobs, and demolition," explained Kapszukiewicz.

"Citizens are concerned about violence, neighborhoods and health. See Wade and the police chief don't see violence as critical. We need to get rid of violence. We weren't known for violence when I was mayor. The neighborhoods need lights and garbage renewal. Look at Greenbelt Place apartments, there are men and women living in deplorable conditions," responded Finkbeiner.

Finkbeiner continued to present his neighborhood block by block ap-



Carty Finkbeiner

proach, while Kapszukiewicz shared his big picture for the city responses, even during questions about how they would address food deserts.

"Seaway is a clean store. We could use more stores like Seaway. However, Kroger doesn't take care of their locations. All the stores should be as clean as the suburban ones. Kroger should be more respectful and offer good food options," Finkbeiner responded.

"We plan to invest in our neighborhoods by offering incentives to businesses that locate to those neighborhoods. The market will follow the money," Kapszukiewicz responded.

Lucas County residents can vote early in-person before the November 2 general election by visiting 1301 Monroe Street. The location is open 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, weekend hours are available the last week in October. General election date is November 2, 2021.



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

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LISC Toledo Community Spotlight Event

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Toledo Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) held a hybrid event on Thursday, October 7, to highlight how community development can fuel small businesses.

Local Advisory Board Chairman Joe Napoli, the president and general manager of the Toledo Mud Hens and Toledo Walleye, opened the event with comments: "I want to say thank you to the sponsors and business development organizations for your support. Tonight, we recognize small businesses and entrepreneurs that are key to economic growth. Even in a pandemic, these partners rallied in the areas of growth and resilience."

In 2017 Toledo LISC focused on four target neighborhoods and, according to Local Advisory Board Vice Chairwoman Stephanie Cousino, a key component of the conversation are small businesses. "A big part of our conversations were small businesses and support them so they can support our neighborhoods," said Cousino. "This means grants and tax credits because small businesses support neighborhoods. Forty-four percent of Toledo's population is employed by a small business. Families can create intergenerational wealth by having a successful small business."

The event featured a video that included interviews from local businesses owners and entrepreneurs. The video opened by highlighting national news articles that highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. Megan Davis, local owner of The Kitchen Salon, was the first interviewee. Davis explained how Covid impacted her businesses because of health restrictions in the industry, health battles that the family faced and how she reopened for business in January 2021. Additional interviewees were: Clyde Kynard, Dina Vila, Calvin Powell, Same Salami and many others.

"There were days when our restaurant only saw one to five guests all day," Salami mentioned during the video.

"We were able to get funds together through local partnerships to assist Toledo-area businesses," explained Brittany Burns, Toledo LISC program assistant.

The video's theme was resilience, growth and collaboration. "Toledo LISC works alongside residents and partners," explained Toledo LISC Sarah Allan, program officer.

"So happy to be here and sponsor and partner to develop this space with Toledo LISC. Community development is hard work, LISC partners with several entities in Toledo and we're happy to be a partner with LISC," explained Kattie Bond-Hancock, Lucas Metropolitan Housing senior vice president of operations and community development.

The event continued with social networking for attendees that participated in-person, while LISC Executive Director Kim Cutcher delivered closing remarks.

"Even in a pandemic times and social unrest, when we come together and partner, we get so much work done. The work supporting businesses is because we have a dedicated team, both local and national. Thank you to the local advisory board. Tonight, you heard great stories of how we responded during Covid and look for more news and opportunities. You've heard about the work that's been done together, and where the gaps are. We're excited about what is to come and excited about the work thus far."

The Toledo LISC team: Kimberly Cutcher, Executive Director; Victor Abla, Regional Preservation Director; Sarah Allan, Program Officer; Brittany Burns, Program Assistant; Shaulonda Jones, Assistant Program Officer; Valerie Moffitt, Director of Financial Opportunities and Meyling Ruiz, Program Assistant,

Local Advisory Board: Joseph Napoli, Chairman; Stephanie Cousino, Vice Chairwoman; and members Meg Adams, Rick Avery, Megan Casiere, Gary Cates, Chris Fox, Ebonie Jackson, Ndeda Letson, Thomas Manahan Jr, Thomas Palmer, Rita Russell, Matt Sapara, Reginald Temple, Joaquin Cintron Vega and Keith Wilkowski.

The Truth

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Minority Medical Students Welcomed to the University of Toledo Medical College

By Dawn Scotland

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

First year medical students were invited to a welcoming reception hosted by the President's Committee on African American Recruitment and Scholarship Support (PCARS) held at the University of Toledo Medical College Health Education Building Friday evening October 1, 2021.

... continued on page 11



First year medical student enjoying soul food from Cobblers on the Move



Incoming and current medical students - Dr. Jenkins in back seat



Darren Gordon (4th year), Alaina Durden (2nd year), Brianna Smith (3rd year), Ore Afon (2nd year), Antonio Jackson (4th year)



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Help Your Business Succeed with Resources from the Toledo Library

The economic effects of COVID-19 have been especially challenging for the region's small business community. Whether you already have a business, or you see an unmet need and want to start a business, the Toledo Library has the expertise and tools to help.

Small business and nonprofit help sessions.

Each month, the Toledo Library will host Small Business and Nonprofit Help Sessions at various Library branches. Schedule an appointment to receive individualized assistance with business plans, industry research, nonprofit grants, donor research, and much more from a team of librarians that specialize in business and nonprofit development. Thirty-minute appointments are available from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday afternoons at different Library locations throughout Lucas County. Schedule an appointment today at toledolibrary.org/business.

Schedule:

Mott: First Tuesday

Oregon: First Tuesday

King Road: Second Tuesday

Maumee: Second Tuesday

Heatherdowns: Third Tuesday

Sanger: Fourth Tuesday

Want to start a business?

Learn about the business you are interested in, define your overall goals, and create a business plan with help from the Toledo Library.

Library Resources for small business booklet.

Download the TLCPL booklet at toledolibrary.org/business and have instant access to resources that will help begin your new business venture.

Stay up to date.

Subscribe to the business newsletter and receive current resources and Library programs right to your email!

TLCPL has dozens of great business research tools and materials that you can access for free with your Library card. Need help getting started? Visit toledolibrary.org/business or call 419.259.5244.

Toledo Library Hosts Silent Witness Project Exhibit to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence affects individuals in every community regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion or nationality. Please join the Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) and Steinem Sisters Collection to honor those lost to domestic violence in the Toledo area

and raise awareness of the continued fight to end domestic violence.

TLCPL's Main Library will be exhibiting 10 witnesses of a variety of ages, races, and ethnicities all from the Toledo area in an effort to remember the stories and names of these women.

The Silent Witness Project Exhibit

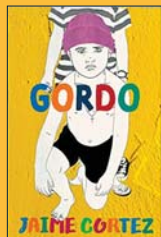
Viewable at Main Library (<http://www.toledolibrary.org/locations/mainlibrary>) from Oct. 11 - Nov. 6

"The Silent Witness Project tells you their name, tells you their hopes, their dreams, what they wanted to do beyond just being victims of domestic violence," said Rebecca Stanwick, assistant manager of Fact & Fiction and librarian for the Steinem Sisters Collection.

The Silent Witness Project uses the stories of girls and women murdered by their intimate partners to increase awareness about the deadly consequences of domestic violence. The Northwest Ohio chapter of the Silent Witness Project memorializes more than 50 such victims—all from our local community.

The Northwest Ohio Silent Witness Project is housed and maintained by Bethany House.

WHAT WE'RE READING NOW



Gordo
by Jaime Cortez



Sometimes I Trip on How Happy We Could Be
by Nichole Perkins



White Smoke
by Tiffany D. Jackson



How Moon Fuentes Fell in Love with the Universe
by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland

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419.259.5200



Toledo Library Hosts Youth Writing Contest

If you're happy and you know it...tell us why! Kindergartners through high school seniors are encouraged to participate in the Toledo Lucas County Public Library's annual writing contest. Share a story of what makes you happy. Recall a happy day or tell us how you make others happy. Did we mention there are prizes to be won? All submissions are due by Saturday, Nov. 21.

Three ways to submit an entry:

- * Complete this online form (<https://form.jotform.com/211933997506062>)
- * Pick up a contest form at any Library location, attach a written or typed story, return to any location
- * Download and print contest form (https://toledolibrary.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/pdfs/WritingContest_entry-form.pdf), attach a written or typed story, return to any location

Sponsored by the Ruth Blank Venner and Mary Jane Blank McCormick Memorial Project of the Friends of the Library through the Library Legacy Foundation.

Guidelines

To enter, story must:

- * Be an original work, which comes solely from the student's imagination

...continued on page 16

Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section

Ohio's Historically Black Colleges/Universities Partner for Students with Disabilities

Special to The Truth

Wilberforce and Central State Universities and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities are working together to ensure support for a niche student population.

On Tuesday, September 28, the presidents of both universities formally announced the expansion of opportunities for students at both colleges who have disabilities. As part of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's executive budget for fiscal years 2022-2023, Ohio College2Careers immerses a full-time, dedicated vocational rehabilitation counselor in the disability services offices at Wilberforce and Central State Universities.

The counselor will connect the students to career exploration and counseling, assistive technology, resume and interview preparation, and job placement. These resources will help students complete their degrees or credentials, earn higher wages and meet the demands of tomorrow's labor market.

One of those counselors has already established working relationships with students who have specialized academic needs at Central State and Wilberforce Universities.

"I will meet with students to assess their abilities," said Taleisa Jones. "I want to see their strengths – to see what they can do. My goal is for them to succeed."

The presidents of both universities envision the enriched services of the Ohio College2Careers program as a gateway to greater independence for their students.



Jack Thomas, PhD



Alfred A. Pinkard, PhD

Alfred A. Pinkard, PhD, president of Wilberforce University, said, "We are excited about this opportunity to partner with our sister institution, Central State University and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, to develop comprehensive academic and vocational programming for students who are differently-abled, thus giving them the skills, confidence, and ability to craft productive futures for themselves."

"This innovative partnership with Wilberforce University and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, provides Central State University the resources to expand the delivery of services to students with disabilities and help them gain the confidence and skills needed in their academic and professional careers," said Central State University President, Jack

Thomas, PhD. "We are excited to usher in this next-level era of access, independence, and pathways to success."

The Ohio College2Careers program is available at 17 Ohio colleges and universities, but OOD liaison counselors also work with students with disabilities at any college and university in Ohio. To get started, students can visit OOD-Works.com to explore vocational rehabilitation, take a self-assessment, and apply for services.

"Ohio College2Careers at Wilberforce and Central State University

Our Commitment: Reliable, Confidential, and Supportive

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Brenda Jackson Cross
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Shanda Gore
Managing Principal

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The new Northwest Ohio-Toledo Minority Business Assistance Center (NWO-Toledo MBAC) provides free one-on-one business consulting, assistance completing federal, state and local certification applications and referrals for financial assistance programs to minority and underutilized businesses in the 17 counties of Northwest Ohio. Hosted by The Institute for Social Justice (TISJ) at Union Institute & University (UI&U), the NWO-Toledo MBAC contributes to the growth and stability of area business with education and training workshops, networking opportunities and by facilitating full "Access to Excellence" through the TISJ at UI&U. Call NWO-Toledo MBAC today to schedule a **FREE** assessment with one of our qualified business counselors, at 419-213-3890 — *we're here for you!*

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LUCAS COUNTY

Ohio Minority Business Assistance Centers | NWO-Toledo | 1 Government Center, 8th Floor • Toledo, OH 43604
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Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section

Scott High School in Partnership with Planet Fitness Dedicates School Fitness Center

Special to The Truth

When Planet Fitness Michigan Group learned of the need for fitness equipment at Scott High School, they stepped in immediately to do their part to remove barriers to an active lifestyle for students. On Thursday, September 30, Scott High School staff, TPS District leadership and Planet Fitness representatives joined students as they formally open the new space.

The equipment, valued at approximately \$60,000, will support athletic programs and other classroom activities that promote healthy living at Scott High School. "The Fitness Center will allow Scott High School to take a holistic approach to keeping our students and staff mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally. This will allow us to expand our curriculum in physical education, provide a resource for our athletic teams to train; as well as, provide an opportunity for our Faculty and Staff to train in order to maintain perfect mental and physical health," Carnel Smith, EdD, Scott High School principal said.

The driving force behind the partnership was Scott alumnus Darnell Smith, a former football player at the school and a teammate of Carnel Smith at the time.

According to Carnel Smith, Darnell Smith began a conversation with Planet Fitness. "We were able to come together and make it happen," said Carnel Smith. "Our motto was not 'if' but 'when' it was going to happen."

Planet fitness is committed to serving communities and providing resources for those seeking to pursue a healthy lifestyle. Mary Scott, vice president of Marketing for PF Michigan Group said of the donation, "working with the team at Scott High School has been one of the highlights of our year. We hope that this donation helps their students develop physical fitness habits and routines that will last a lifetime."



Carnel Smith, EdD



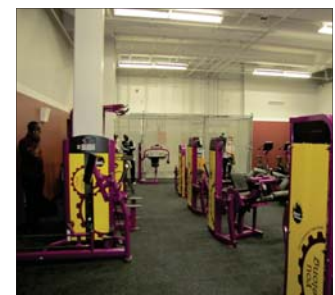
Darnell Smith



TPS, Scott and Planet Fitness representatives



Superintendent Durant tries a weight machine



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Terms and conditions apply. Limited funding and program availability through Dec. 31, 2021.



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Northwest Ohio Minority Business Assistance Center Is Ready to Help

By Dawn Scotland

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Whether you're a dreamer or a multimillionaire, the Northwest Ohio Minority Business Assistance Center is here to help.

For the past three months, NWOMBAC has been operating at One Government Center, Suite 800 and after renovations they will be moving to their permanent location of 3737 W. Sylvania Ave - Lucas County Shared Offices in mid to late November.

However, managing principal Shanda Gore, Ed.D says the location doesn't matter. "We meet our clients where their businesses are," says Gore. "We meet them out in public, we meet them at events that we either host, co-host or at events that are in the community. Anywhere that we can make sure we are out in front of [the individuals] that need them. Again, at no cost."

NWOMBAC is one of seven centers throughout the state of Ohio created to help grow, support and develop minority businesses.

"Each center is staffed with trained business advisors who can provide no-cost counseling to polish business practices and help businesses grow and create jobs," according to www.development.ohio.gov. "The centers support minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses by offering no-cost counseling, state certification support, and trainings focused on creating jobs and increasing sales."

Services are free, confidential and ongoing.

Gore is a familiar face in the Toledo community and no stranger to business. She is the president and founder of Mays and Associates, Ltd., a global strategic planning and consulting company and the vice president of Innovation and Growth Management at Union Institute & University, an online university that has been ranked the number one adult-focused and diverse nonprofit university in Ohio.

Gore is also the former Assistant Vice President of the University of Toledo and served as the university's first Chief Diversity Officer. There she created the University of Toledo Minority Business Development Incubator Center that had grossed \$17 million at the time that she left.

Now as the managing principal of this Minority Business Assistance Center, it is her fourth time managing the grant. The hosting institutions for this grant-funded center in the Northwest Ohio Region are Mays and Associates, Ltd. and The Institute for Social Justice at Union Institute & University.

Gore has more than 24 years of experience and is a teacher, trainer and coach for individuals, small and large public and private organizations and she wants to help you.

"You may have a dream... and not sure where to start," she said. "We walk [clients] through models... some hobbies turn into a work opportunity for you. What is great about our team is they are thoroughly trained to walk you through concepts, what that looks like, and to see where you are."

The NWOMBAC team includes a Managing PI, a regional director (Stayce Fowler), two business consultants, an administrative assistant and an advisory board. Collectively there is 100-plus years of experience in developing and implementing business strategies as business owners and executives from Fortune 100 corporations.

No matter what stage you are in your business the NWOMBAC will ensure that you get the help that you need and meet you where you are. The center provides solutions to individuals, startups, non-profits, small businesses and large-scale corporations. The services provided by MBAC are also ongoing.

"There are different phases of your business...", says Gore. "I think that there is a misperception that when you've had enough help, you don't need any more help... we'll move on to someone else. No. We want that business to not just survive, we want it to thrive. And that is the mentality of my staff. If you're a multimillionaire now fantastic - how can we get you to a billion?"

The NWOMBAC is on the fast track to reaching their two-year goals. Since July, they have counseled over 60 clients, engaged in 245 counseling hours and

participated in 28 outreach events. Their aim is to reach over 400 businesses in the Northwest Ohio area.

... continued on page 15

Minority Medical Students... continued from page 7

The event was held to support the underrepresented minority groups at the college including Black, Latino, Asian and Native American students. PCARS is a committee created to recruit and retain African American students at UTM. The initiative was first launched in 2016 as a fundraiser at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of pastor Rev. James Willis.

Dr. Monica Holiday-Goodman, MD, (interim dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Studies) and Dr. Kimberly Jenkins, MD, (interim chair of Anesthesiology and Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion in the College of Medicine and Life Science) provided the welcome for the event.

The evening included a soul food dinner, mixer and student panel. Community members, faculty, staff and local medical professionals were in attendance showing their support and providing resources to incoming students, many of which are new to the city.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Alaina Durden, second year medical student and president of the Toledo Chapter of the Student National Medical Association. She gave encouraging words to her new schoolmates "Now the real work has really begun... everything you need to succeed is already within you... you have all the help you need." Durden provided advice about life balance as well as an open discussion about mental health in medical school.

Many of these same questions were raised in the open panel discussion where fourth year student Darren Gordon, second year student Alaina Durden, third year student Brianna Smith, second year student Ore Afon and fourth year student Antonio Jackson served as panelists and answered questions about studying habits, life balance, relationships and testing anxiety. The veteran students offered candid accounts about their experiences including their struggles and triumphs and gave new students practical advice for their journey.

The evening concluded with Dr Goodman and Dr. Jenkins providing gift bags to the new students as they continued their night. Dr. Goodman closed, "You are supported. You belong here. And we are going to do everything to make sure you graduate."



Left to right: Christopher Cooper, MD, Dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences; Yvette Perry, PhD, Associate Dean for Admissions in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences; Monica Holiday-Goodman, PhD, Interim Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Studies; James Willis, Pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church; Carolina Wishner, MD, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences (COMLC); Kimberly Jenkins, MD, Interim Chair of Anesthesiology and Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion in the College of Medicine and Life Science

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Kaptur Statement on Meeting with Greenbelt Place Owner, Residents

Last week, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) released the following statement after convening a meeting at her Maritime Building office with the owner of the Greenbelt Place Apartments, residents of the complex, and local officials.

On September 28, Rep. Kaptur sent a letter to Rene Campos, managing partner of Eureka Holdings, requesting he visit Toledo to discuss the conditions in which residents are living.

On October 8, Mr. Campos met with Rep. Kaptur, Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken, Toledo City Council Member Vanice Williams, Toledo Department of Neighborhoods Director Rosalyn Clemens, Toledo Police Chief George Krall, a representative of Senator Sherrod Brown's office, and residents of the Greenbelt Place Apartments.

"The immediate inspection we requested from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has been completed – resulting in a failing grade

of 36 out of 100 for Greenbelt Place," said Rep. Kaptur. "Eureka Holdings now has a responsibility to bring the complex up to a passing grade of 80 or higher – within a period of time prescribed by HUD – or face serious consequences from the federal government. From the beginning, our top priority has been to protect the wellbeing of every resident of Greenbelt Place. After significant work from our partners at HUD, the City of Toledo, and Lucas County, we are beginning to see a path forward for the residents and neighbors in North Toledo. After listening today to those whose lives have been disrupted, Mr. Campos committed to rectifying the serious documented issues that plague the property, and to partner with us to bring about tangible, systemic improvements to the operation and maintenance of the complex. While there is much work to be done, and a community-wide response will be necessary, we will not stop until every resident is able to live in the comfort and safety they deserve."

Protecting Yourself Against the Flu Helps Fight COVID-19 Too

Special to The Truth

With students across the country returning to the classroom and adults returning to the workplace and gathering in person, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts that the second flu season of the COVID-19 pandemic will be significantly more active than last year.

But, the good news is that there are three simple steps everyone can take to help protect themselves, their loved ones and communities:

1. Get the Flu Shot: Make sure to get the flu shot, and get it as early as possible. Most health care providers advise getting your flu vaccine in early fall.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), early results show that only about half (50% – 55%) of U.S. adults received the flu vaccine last year. And, the rate of vaccination among children dropped from 62% in 2019-2020 to 58% in 2020-2021, which could be attributed to remote learning and greater isolation than in previous years.

Everyone in the household should get the flu vaccine—especially working adults, seniors and children in school or daycare. With COVID-19 vari-

ants making people sicker than previously seen, getting the vaccine and protecting yourself from the flu can keep your immune system healthy. Some studies have even found that individuals who contracted COVID-19 but received the flu shot were less likely to require treatment from an emergency department or intensive care unit.

Also, if you fall within the CDC's recommendations for COVID-19 boosters, you should consider getting both at the same time as a convenient way to protect yourself and others from flu and COVID this season.

The benefits of increased immunization provided by both the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations can also help ease the burden on an already overloaded health care system. Around the country, there have been heartbreaking reports of full intensive care units having to turn away sick patients. Protecting yourself against the flu is one way you can help to relieve health care providers and frontline workers.

2. Practice Healthy Hygiene: Continue to practice healthy hygiene habits

... continued on page 13



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Believing: Our Thirty-Year Journey to End Gender Violence by Anita Hill

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

The grab was savage.

You yelped because you weren't expecting it. Because it shouldn't have happened. It was rough enough to leave marks on your skin, little round marks like fingertips; for sure, it left marks on your self-confidence but complain, and it'll all be denied. You know the truth, though, and when you read *Believing by Anita Hill*, you'll know someone else does, too.

Twenty-five percent of American women today "experience intimate partner violence..." Thirty-three percent say they've endured harassment at work. The rate's higher for women of color, highest in the LGBTQ community.

Similar statistics were available in 1991 when Anita Hill testified before Congress about the harassment she said she'd experienced from then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, testimony that later contributed to Hill's becoming one of the country's leaders in the fight against sexual harassment and gender violence.

Before the Thomas hearing, Hill says, courts routinely dismissed most complaints about lewd comments, unwelcome advances, and unwanted touch from harassers. Some judges couldn't "understand" why a woman might be frightened by intimidation from a man; others believed the complaints to be overwrought. Such things were said to be "not that bad," says Hill, words she likens to a knife.

Millennial and Gen-Zers are believed to be intolerant of harassment and inequality, but Hill says they may still be affected by entrenched attitudes that haven't been completely erased. She had hoped that #MeToo might've changed things, but while the movement helped to open a major conversation about the issues, the frequency of sexual harassment and gender violence has not lessened. She points to misogyny from the last administration and the Kavanaugh confirmation hearing as proof, as well as gun violence (often caused by bully-

ing) and ongoing problems with harassment, homophobia and gender inequality in many schools, from elementary school all the way through college.

We can do better but, as Hill indicates, America has a long way to go.

It's hard to nail down one single fix for issues of gender violence from the pages of *Believing*. Dive in, dig around, surface for air and dive in again — truth is, the whole entire book is one long roadmap, with dozens of possible patches.

And yet, you may ask yourself if what author Anita Hill quietly suggests is enough. Takeaways from the stories she shares are that gender violence and sexual harassment can be like a long game of Whack-a-Mole: once an incident is dealt with, another will pop up somewhere else, relentlessly, endlessly.

Using the Thomas hearings as scaffolding here, she seems to show that while politics absolutely plays a part in the presence of harassment and gender violence in America, the prevalence can be found everywhere and costs us more than just psychologically.

Discouraging? Yes, and even Hill admits that such information can be triggering if you've been a victim, so read *Believing* with caution and deep-breathing room. It's powerful, deep, and raw but it's also highly informative. If you want to know where we're heading on this subject, it's the book to grab.



Protecting Yourself... continued from page 12

like washing your hands regularly and wearing a mask when appropriate. This means wearing a mask while shopping indoors, or attending an indoor event with a crowd of people.

3. Stay Home When Sick: Stay home and avoid contact with others if you aren't feeling well. Many of the symptoms of COVID-19 and flu look alike—including fever, cough, muscle aches and sore throat—and knowing the difference can only be done through testing. Get tested if you develop any of these symptoms to rule out COVID-19, since its symptoms can often become more serious.

"The best thing you can do to help yourself, your family, and your community is to get both the flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine, as well as a COVID-19 booster if you are eligible and to practice healthy hygiene habits," says Dr. Steve Miller, chief clinical officer, Cigna Corp. "The only way out of the pandemic is by working together and taking steps to protect ourselves and each other."

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FILL IN RECEPTIONIST

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio is seeking a fill in receptionist to cover vacation, sick and personal time for regular staff in a 24-hour facility. Must be able to work all three shifts, weekends and holidays and be available during the summer to cover vacation. Must have an Associate's degree minimum, background in switchboard, public contact, receipting money, bulk mailing and copying. Must be reliable, dependable, and able to follow directions and work with little supervision. Experience in a social service environment is helpful. \$15.00 per hour. Please email resumes to admin@ywcanwo.org or mail to YWCA 1018 Jefferson Ave. Toledo, OH 43604

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Full time (40) hours per week. Responsible for cleanliness of building, room set-ups and breakdowns. Must have knowledge of and/or ability to learn proper cleaning methods. Ability to assist Operations Director with various maintenance needs. Heavy lifting, shoveling snow and operating gas-powered snow blower required. Able to strip and wax floors required. Able to work productively with minimal supervision. Hours: Monday - Friday 2 pm - 10:30 pm & every other Saturday 8:30 am - 10:30 am. Salary: \$15 per/hr. Benefits available. Submit resume to admin@ywcanwo.org or mail to YWCA 1018 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, OH 43604

SNOW PLOW OPERATORS WITH VEHICLES

The City of Toledo Division of Streets, Bridges & Harbor is interested in contracting with owners/operators of snow plow vehicles for plowing on residential streets during heavy snow conditions. All bids must be received by **1:30 PM October 19th, 2021**. For a copy of the bid proposals and specifications visit <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/22576/portal-home> or contact:

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PHONE: 419-245-1588

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN II LUCAS COUNTY

Lucas County Emergency Medical Services Annex is accepting applications to fill the positions of Equipment Technician II until filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Equipment Technician II" from the list to read more or apply.

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

Project #5004-22-1881
UMC Cooling Tower Replacement
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, November 2, 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

General Contract
Alternate #1

Estimated Cost

\$245,000.00
\$35,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: October 19, 2021, 11:00am, Facilities Support Building - Room 1300, The University of Toledo, 1135 East Medical Loop, Toledo OH 43614

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled for October 19, 2021 immediately following Pre-bid.

Walk-through Location: Facilities Support Building

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

More Info: Project contact: Andrew Huelsman, Garman Miller, Phone: 419-628-4240, E-mail: ahuelsman@garmanmiller.com

MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union has an immediate opening for a Full time Mortgage Loan Originator (MLO).

Mortgage Loan Originator (MLO) is responsible for servicing the customer and processing of residential loan requests. The MLO handles origination of all types of real estate mortgage loans. Solicits and meets with prospective members, both onsite and offsite to develop consumer lending mortgage business. Takes loan applications and obtains information necessary for the loan underwriting department. Calls on real estate agents, builders and brokers; presents the bank's financial package and builds a working relationship for referrals. Attends mortgage closings onsite and offsite as well as loan officer meetings. Cross-sells other Credit Union products and services. Identifies and participates in appropriate community and/or business groups to develop and maintain prospective business relationships.

Required Skills: Community lender.

Required Experience: Must have at least 2 years MLO experience.

The MLO must possess stellar oral and written communication skills. A minimum associate's degree (AA) or equivalent from two-year college or technical school; or five years related experience; or the equivalent combination of education and experience is preferred. Continuing education is required to remain current with area of responsibility.

Interested candidates should email resumes to Zcollins@toledourban.net or mail to

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
Attn: Z. Collins
1441 Dorr Street
Toledo, Ohio 43607
419-255-8876

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

Project #5005-22-1883
Dowling Hall Chiller Replacement
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, November 2, 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

General Contract
Alternate #1

Estimated Cost

\$444,000.00
\$40,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: October 19, 2021, 10:00am, Facilities Support Building - Room 1300, The University of Toledo, 1135 East Medical Loop, Toledo OH 43614

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled for October 19, 2021 immediately following Pre-bid.

Walk-through Location: Facilities Support Building

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

More Info: Project contact: Andrew Huelsman, Garman Miller, Phone: 419-628-4240, E-mail: ahuelsman@garmanmiller.com

United Way Gives \$100K to Help Homelessness Situation

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On Friday, October 8, the United Way of Greater Toledo announced a \$100,000 grant to four area agencies and the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board to deal with the ongoing housing crisis that the Toledo area is currently facing.

The agencies that provide shelters for the homeless and the grants are: Beach House at \$7,500, La Posada at \$7,500; Family House at \$25,000 and St. Paul's "Winter Crisis" at \$50,000.

The Homelessness Board will receive \$15,000 for housing coordination and support for individuals and families exiting shelters.

Wendy Pestruie, president of the United Way of Greater Toledo opened Friday's announcement by acknowledging that the agency knew the current home-

Minority Business Assistance... continued from page 11

Along with her robust team they have established and/or re-established four satellite outreach locations including Lima-Allen County, Fremont-Sandusky County, Findlay-Hancock County and Toledo-Lucas County.

This month, Governor Mike DeWine's and Lt. Governor Jon Husted's offices announced two new loan programs that will specifically run through the NWOMBAC:

"Women's Business Enterprise Loan Program: These loans will be offered at or below market rate and currently are up to 3%. The minimum loan amount is \$45,000 up to a maximum of \$500,000. Loans will be repaid within 10 years for equipment and machinery and 15 years for owner-occupied real estate. Businesses must be 51% ownership and control by women or be certified as a Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE).

"Ohio Micro-Enterprise Loan Program: These loans will have a 0% interest rate. The minimum loan is \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$45,000. Loans will be repaid within five years for permanent working capital and seven years for equipment. Businesses must be certified as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) or a Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE).

"The loan programs will be administered by the Ohio Department of Development (Development) through the Minority Business Development Division. It joins four other capital programs offered by Development: the Ohio Minority Business Bonding Program, the Ohio Minority Business Direct Loan Program, the Collateral Enhancement Program, and the Ohio Capital Access Program."

The center wants to make sure you get certified so you don't miss out on opportunities available for minority businesses. Along with free one-on-one counseling, they provide assistance in completing documentation to obtain MBE, EDGE, WBE and DBE certifications, and referrals to financial assistance programs.

The extent of what the NWOMBAC provides may be overwhelming but don't let that keep you from taking the first step to better your business. "Come in and just start a conversation with us. You don't have to pick a service... Just come in and we'll talk with you and figure out [what service you need]," says Gore.

The NWOMBAC takes both walk-ins and appointments. Services are available to all minority groups including but not limited to veterans, women, and the disabled. Contact the center at 419-213-3890. The office ensures a 24-business hour response. For more information on the NWOMBAC visit www.nwombac.com.



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Tonia Pace



Wendy Pestruie

lessness spike was coming and that she and her colleagues have been evaluating data for some time. What they have seen is a 400 percent increase on shelter waiting lists since the COVID-19 pandemic started; that rent payment assistance has been a leading request on their 2-1-1 hotline and that individuals and families on the 2-1-1 line have informed responders that they have in many cases been sleeping in places "now meant for habitation."

"This is indeed the relief that will help many in our 'Winter Crisis' program," said Joe Habib, executive director of the St. Paul Community Shelter. "Every single square inch of space is utilized in winter – between 30 and 55 guests a night."

Tonia Pace, executive director of Family House echoed those thoughts as she thanked United Way for its grant. Noting that Family House has witnessed an increase in the number of homeless families needing a place to sleep and stay over the last two years, Pace said: "It is going to be a cold winter and these dollars will go a long way."

"We can work together to make a change," said Pestruie in her closing remarks. This is a call to action – more is needed. Please go to the United Way website and give."



At the Thomas M. Wernert Center, we help people on their journey toward mental health recovery and wellness through peer-to-peer programs and services. Who knows better what you're feeling than those of us who have lived experience with mental illness and recovery.



At TMWC, we promote individual empowerment and wellbeing as you journey toward health and wellness. Our Peer Supporters are here to provide you with hope, encouragement, and support. Stop in and meet us. We're in this together!



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THOMAS M. WERNERT CENTER
FOR MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY & SUPPORT

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EP Legacy Cup Annual Golf Scramble

Forty-four golfers took part in a foursome golf scramble at Valleywood Golf Course on Saturday, October 2 as part of the annual EP Legacy Cup to raise funds to support community charities that focus on children and education.

This was the fourth year for the event and this was the second year under the EP name – EP for Empowering People. “We changed the name because we wanted to branch out to a broader audience,” said Rev. Jerry Boose, pastor of Second Baptist Church and the event’s chief organizer.

After the scramble, the golfers relaxed in the club’s dining room for a buffet lunch and to receive the news of prizes. The foursome which finished with the lowest score shared gifts and winnings of \$500.

The three main charities benefiting from the funds this year were: Connecting Kids to Meals, a local nonprofit that provides over 500,000 healthy meals to at-risk kids annually; Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo and the J.L. Boose Scholarship Fund which provides financial awards to students who are pursuing post-high school education.

This year’s primary sponsors were: Lucas Metropolitan Housing, Designetics, Metroparks of Toledo, Area Office on Aging, Paramount and SG.



Rev. Jerry Boose



Rev. Willie Perryman, Alan Bannister, Tony Totty, LC Commissioner Pete Gerken



Wendi Huntley, Connecting Kids to Meals CEO, tees one up

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*Subject to credit approval. Improvements must be rehabilitative in nature or add square footage. Maximum term for improvements, 6 months. Additional requirements/exclusions may apply. Borrowers must occupy the property. Borrowers must contribute \$500 of their own funds. Household income must be at or below 80% HUD Area Median Income or subject property located in a low/moderate income tract as shown in FFIEC Geocoding. Escrow for property taxes and insurance required. Home seller can contribute up to 6% of the sales price to be applied towards closing costs. Loans over \$150,000 and up to \$510,400 please call for additional required funds needed for down payment. Member FDIC



Toledo Library... continued from page 8

- * Include three parts: a beginning, middle, and end
- * Be 500 words maximum
- * Be hand-written or typed (12+ point font) and stapled with entry form
- * Winners must have parent/guardian permission to receive prizes
- * All submissions due by (Sa) Nov. 20, 2021.

GRADE CATEGORIES/PRIZES LIST

Prizes awarded in each Grade Category: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

All winners will receive a T-shirt and Journal along with these prizes:

- * 1st Place: Grades K-8--Nintendo Switch Lite, Grades 9-12 Pro Power Beats earphones
- * 2nd and 3rd Place: Soundcore Life Q20 Headphones
- * Honorable Mention (2 per category): T-shirt and Journal

Additional Details

Notification: Winners will be notified by telephone after Dec. 7.

Publishing: Winning entries will be published on the Library's OverDrive website after Dec. 31 (with a guardian's permission).

Reception: Special recognition honoring the winners will be held on (Sa) Dec. 11 at Main Library, 325 Michigan St. Call 419.259.5200 for more information.

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