



Volume 72 No. 6

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

May 18, 2022



Councilwoman Vanice Williams Announces City Cleanup Project

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Toledo Public Schools congratulates the Top 10 students from each of our high schools and extends best wishes to the entire **CLASS OF 2022** – your accomplishments stand as another shining example of why we are **TPS PROUD!**

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Empty the Churches into the Streets

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Almost like clockwork, we are getting grim daily or weekly news reports of deadly woundings or killings in the Black "community."

If you did not know better, you would think that Toledo has morphed into an urban shooting gallery, even making the national news as a "hot spot" for homicides.

The early images of Toledo being a calm and practically crime free city has been kicked to the curb.

You would think that the increase of assaults and killings was almost a diabolical scheme to throw Toledo under the bus and thus give pause and cause for businesses or people to relocate to this new "hot spot."

Everyone has a theory or an opinion as to how to cauterize these wounds and to stop the spillage of innocent blood on the streets (streets included acts of domestic violence).

As opposed to simply resigning ourselves to the fates that what is, will be...there are solutions, but they will cost time and money and if the City of Toledo is not willing or able to fully or partly pay the freight, things will continue as is, until the so-called movers and shakers of this city get serious and initiate a sustained plan (one to 10 years) to end the senseless violence.

Now, as you know, I have not shied away from calling those things that are, as they are; and that includes the embarrassing truth that too much (any killing is too much!) of this crime is being done by Black people against Black people!

There, I said it. Deal with it. We are our own worst enemies and I do not have the space or time to delve into the historical and psychological reasons that perpetuate this monstrous behavior.

But I will say, it can be stopped, but the stoppage will require a gargantuan effort by all entities and persons working in tandem to stop the carnage on the streets.

The components of such an effort will require an educational component, a psychological component, a monetary component and a spiritual/religious component.

My proffering at this point in time is the spiritual/religious component since I believe that people can be animated and influenced by positive religious values that recognizes the value and humanity of each person; and by their lives being snuffed out, the aggressor is making a statement.

That statement is that the victim is not made in the image of the same God that made me (the shooter) and that one day I will give an account of these deeds done while I was living, and that accountability includes my marring that image of God in the person I just wounded or killed.

An amazingly simple theological statement indicates that when God made humankind, it was made in His image and for a shooter to take a life (not talking about self-defense), that shooter is telling God that His image making in the likeness of the person I just killed, is of no importance to me.

Not a good thing to have on your record when you meet God after you die.

But, I digress...

My clarion call is initially for and to the myriad of Black churches that populate the "inner city."

This is my challenge to them and their pastors:

(1) Have a city-wide convocation with notice to each congregation, be it a house church with three people or a "mega" church with hundreds in attendance (or their names merely on the church roll...significant difference!).

(2) Take a map of the City of Toledo and divide up the known "hot spots" neighborhoods into districts.

(3) Each church is assigned a district. Some districts will have multiple churches assigned to it.

(4) In each district, each church will be assigned walking beats.

(5) In those walking beats, each church will have three to five members assigned.

(6) Those members will rotate with other assigned beat walkers to cover each street from the time of 8 PM to 5 AM EACH day.

(7) Those beat walkers will be clearly identified with orange or yellow vests and will carry cell phones, flashlights notebooks and whistles.

(8) They will walk those neighborhood streets, interface with the residents and will report any suspicious activity to the police.

(9) The beat walkers will receive training in community relations and how to be a calming influence when calm is needed.

(22) Each beat walker time will be no more than two hours, before the other shift of beat walkers take over in that particular district.

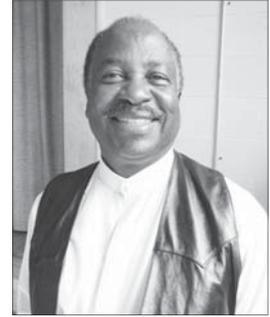
Community funds and/or city funds will be expended for costs to implement this program realizing that the savings in such preventative actions will be incalculable.

If needed, any scary pastors who dread the idea of walking the streets of their community and talking with the residents, some of which support their very church, will receive an exemption and they can continue to teach and preach a faith without works gospel.

Now, I realize that such a program is dramatic, but we are dealing with a situation that calls for the release of the power of the most identified and powerful institution in the Black community and that is the Black Church, hands down.

For the pastors who only wish to remain behind their stained-glass windows and receive anniversary blessings and preside over the funerals of the victims of this carnage, shame on you.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Lafe Tolliver

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What's Going On, Fifty-One Years Later

By Anthony Bouyer, PhD
Guest Column

Several years ago in 2019, I wrote an op-ed titled Tears of The Village addressing why so many Black males are killing each other. I discussed If you are the parent, grandparent or relative of a young Black male, you live with the constant fear of receiving that call "That your young black male has been killed or has killed another young Black male. At the time of the article Toledo posted 35 to 36 homicides that year with 95 percent of the murdered victims being young Black men.



Anthony Bouyer

As noted in that article, guns were the weapon of choice in most of the killings. Since that time conservative law makers have passed bills making it easier to obtain and carry firearms which is a discussion for another time. There was a sobering statistic published in Feb 18, 2022, indicating that Americans living in the Toledo Black community have a one in 25 "chance" of becoming a victim of either violent or property crimes. This is a troubling statistic not only for Toledo but across America for all communities of color.

Toledo had an astronomical increase in murders in 2021 that not only saw the continual killings of young Black men but started to see are babies becoming victims to gun violence leading to pernicious outcomes for victims' families and the perpetrators' families. The beginning of the new year has continued this troubling trend.

Who are these individuals that unleash such unspeakable horror on the black communities?

Author, Randall Robinson (2004, Quitting America) describes them as the faces of adolescence but too old from unnatural experience, expressionless and quietly menacing. Their eyes empty of light, evidenced by the dissociation of battered souls that have been given up a long time ago. These are man-boys not going anywhere marked "dangerous if not treated." The people they kill mean no more to them than they manage to mean to themselves. Now they are a menace to society. They know this but not

how they became this.

What's Going On was released 51 years ago. Marvin Gaye released this iconic song in 1971 to much acclaim. Its reputation has survived the test of time: in 2020, Rolling Stone named it the best album of all time. But it's hard to deny the musical merit of *What's Going On* — or a message as worth listening to 51 years later.

What's Going On introduces its concept: an examination of contemporary life, particularly of Black Americans. All was hardly well for black America in 1971 which remains unfortunately relevant today and Gaye does not shy away from that.

It would be a mistake to interpret *What's Going On* as simply an angry cry from the Black community. It is that, yes, but also much more: a truly heartfelt cry for compassion, for sympathy, for common understanding and, above all, for love. Indeed, it's all over the album, starting on the title track, where Gaye practically begs, "We have got to find a way/to bring some loving here today.

And it is not merely "love" as a kind of abstract pabulum Gaye calls for. It is true understanding, one that renders its opposite powerless, as "only love can conquer hate." It is a love rooted in biblical exhortation. Fifty-one years later, America is in a hard place, not too dissimilar from where both the nation and Black Americans were just before the release of *What's Going On*. And much of our struggles seem to have arisen from the lack of the kind of compassion, sympathy, and understanding that Gaye calls for on *What's Going On*. We could use some of those things today to help us get there. With a little luck, and a little love, maybe it could help us get through to better things to come.

I know I'm preaching to the choir because those who should be reading this won't and don't care. It is critical that we take steps to ensure messages are heard. Having said something once does not necessarily mean that it was understood. Repeating the same thing over is far less effective than restating the message in a variety of ways. If anyone is offended, please think about the victims of senseless killings.

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Community Leaders Discuss Impacts of Pending Ohio Bills

By Jordyn Taylor

The Truth Reporter

Out of concern for the future of Ohio classrooms, a diverse panel of community leaders gathered at Jesup W. Scott High School on Wednesday evening, May 11, to discuss the grim outlooks of three recent bills introduced to the Ohio House of Representatives.

House Bills 327 and 616 combined would prohibit schools from teaching concepts that are considered "divisive" or "inherently racist" with the threat of withholding state funding or revoking licenses when found in compliance. House Bill 454, also known as the SAFE Act, restructures the guidelines on recognizing a student's gender or sexuality in the classroom.

The panel was moderated by Lynne Hamer, PhD, professor of Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education in the Judith Herb College of Education at the University of Toledo, and included Ruth Leonard, educator and community activist at the Community Solidarity Response Network (CSRN); Shawn Nelson, Attorney at Law (Marshall & Melhorn, LLC); Daniel Pearlman, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo; Max Venia, recent graduate of the University of Toledo's Judith Hope College of Education at the University of Toledo and Lucas Camuso-Stall, director of Government Relations for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the ambiguous language of the bills and how it creates a large gray area on what is or is not to be taught in the classrooms.

"We are deeply concerned about the lack of clarity on what constitutes a "divisive" topic... This lack of clarity can lead to unintended or potentially intended consequences. We're concerned that topics surrounding the Holocaust for example as potentially divisive and thus not worthy to teach," said Pearlman. "The same goes for other essential chapters of history. Whether it's the Civil Rights Movement or the legacy of slavery, these are topics which must be taught to our future leaders".

Leonard believes that this attack on Ohio classrooms is unnecessary.

"It [H.B. 616] is intentionally implementing legally-bound ignorance on the next generation of learners. It is removing the truth from the classroom and refuses to acknowledge the humanity of students who are anything other than straight, white males," Leonard said.

Shawn Nelson, an attorney who focuses on Education Law, agreed, stating that this is "a solution looking for a problem."

Toledo Opera to Hold Chorus Auditions for 2022-2023 Season

Toledo Opera is holding auditions for small roles and chorus positions for *Suor Angelica/Cavalleria Rusticana* (Sept./Oct. 2022 commitment), *The Merry Widow* (Jan./Feb. 2023 commitment), and a concert of opera choruses and arias, *Celebrazione del Coro* (Mar./Apr. 2023 commitment) on June 3 – 5, 2022. Auditions will be held at Toledo Opera Offices, 425

Jefferson Ave., Suite 601. To be considered for small roles, one must accept a position in the chorus for the full season.

To schedule an audition, please email James Norman at jnorman@toledopera.org. For media access, please contact Rachael Cammarn at rcammarn@toledopera.org.

Lucas County COVID-19 Cases Continue Upward Trend

As the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department continues to monitor an increase in the spread and impact of COVID-19 across the county, TLCHD recommends that the public know their COVID-19 Community Level and

take additional precautions against COVID-19.

...continued on page 10

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Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

Toledo Public Schools Celebrate Class of 2022

Toledo Public Schools celebrated the first graduation ceremony for the Class of 2022 on Tuesday - congratulations Toledo Early College! The full graduation schedule is below.

FINAL GRADUATION SCHEDULE

- **Tuesday, May 17**
 - o **TECH** at 2 p.m. at UT's Nitschke Auditorium
- **Wednesday, May 25**
 - o **ANSAT** at 1 p.m. at Rogers High School
 - o **Virtual Academy** at 4 p.m. at Rogers High School
- **Thursday, May 26**
 - o **Jones Leadership Academy of Business** at 2 p.m. at the Peri-

style at the Art Museum

- o **TTA** at 5 p.m. at the TTA Theater
- **Friday, May 27**
 - o **Rogers** at 7 p.m. at the Stranahan Theater
- **Tuesday, May 31**
 - o **Bowsher** at 10 a.m. at the University of Toledo
 - o **Scott** at 2 p.m. at the Scott High School Field House
 - o **Start** at 6 p.m. at the University of Toledo
- **Wednesday, June 1**
 - o **Woodward** at 10 a.m. at Woodward High School Gymnasium
 - o **Waite** at 6 p.m. at Waite High School Field House

Donation Account Opened at Toledo Urban FCU To Assist The Family of Zho'Nasia Ticey



SAME Café Toledo is looking for an Executive Director!

SAME Café will serve healthy, locally-sourced meals to everyone, regardless of ability to pay through an innovative model where guests volunteer time, donate money, or give produce in exchange for a meal in the Toledo main public library café. Visit www.soallmayeat.org/toledo for more information.

A donation account has been opened at Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (TUFCU) where donation can be made "In Memory of Zho'Nasia Ticey".

Money collected

will be given the family of Zho'Nasia Ticey to assist with burial expenses. Zho'Nasia was murdered May 6, 2022 when shots were fired into a crowd of people on the corner of North Erie and Cleveland streets in Toledo.

Zho'Nasia was only 14 years old, a student at Rosa Parks Elementary. Donations can be made through any TUFCU customer server teller at 1441 Door, Toledo Ohio 43607 or by calling the Credit Union at 419.255.8876

The Truth

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The Restoration Toledo Project

The Truth Staff

On Thursday, May 12, in front of two long-abandoned homes on Homer Street, the Correctional Treatment Facilities (CTF), a community service program, and Councilwoman Vanice Williams announced the re-launch of the "Restoration Toledo Project."

This project brought both incarcerated offenders and those recently released into communities as a way of working off their fines and financial penalties to clean up areas such as the 1858 and 1860 Homer Street houses that are such a blight to an otherwise neat and orderly Hyde Park Neighborhood.

"This multifaceted project helps Toledo," said Williams. "But COVID really hit us hard – every facet of our lives. We are working hard to get the project up and running."

The Restoration Toledo Project was created in 2018 by former city councilmen and Williams has decided to restart it after the pandemic put the project on hold.

Bud Hite, executive director of CTF, echoed Williams' sentiments about the value of the program.

"How do we contribute back to the community? There are a lot of good people incarcerated, a lot with good skill sets," said Hite.

Hite explained that his team works with other groups to assist returning citizens increase their chance of success and minimize the impact of being impoverished while helping to beautify the city.

"They work on weekends at \$10 an hour to reduce their debts and court-ordered fines. Through collaborating as a system, we are getting people to change."

Also on hand at the announcement were Judge Ian English, city administrative judge; Jim Hobbs, deputy warden of Administration at the Toledo Correctional Facility and Connie Gulley, a Hyde Park resident for nearly 30 years.

Judge English spoke of the necessity to help citizens return to "the fabric" of society after they have torn that fabric.

Hobbs noted that the "collaboration is a fantastic opportunity for us."

Gulley said the houses had been cleaned up four years ago but once the pandemic started, the houses and their yards have slipped back into a decrepit state.

"We want to help the individuals ... come back to the community, and give back to the community," said Williams. "Let's restore Toledo."

Trending Articles



Councilwoman Williams announces the cleanup project



1858 and 1860 Homer Street



Judge Ian English addresses the initiative to clean up blighted areas

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WEEK OF JUNE 20 Cooking Soccer Lego Robotics	WEEKS OF JUNE 7-JULY 28 Hockey (T, TH)

Contact Larry McDaniel, Director of Summer Camps, at lmcdaniel@sjjtians.org

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Second Annual Living With Lupus March Coming

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

Rachelle Roy was diagnosed with discoid lupus in 2005 and was quietly living with the discomfort and the drop in self esteem the condition caused for about 15 years before deciding that it was time to do something about the public’s indifference to the disease.

“I’ve been wanting to do a walk for many, many years,” says Roy. “I had been getting perturbed about the lack of attention lupus has been getting, so it made me reach out.”

So last year, she did something about it in a big way. She organized the first Living With Lupus Walk in Ottawa Park and managed to bring together dozens for that inaugural gathering.

This year the walk will be held the weekend of May 21-22 and will be, in all ways, bigger and more varied than the 2021 version.

This year, the whole weekend will be devoted to Roy’s effort to increase lupus awareness in the Toledo area.

On Saturday at noon, Roy is partnering with the Corvette Club and joining their parade – starting at Collingwood and moving along all the way to Club Evolution on Reynolds.

On Saturday evening, there will be a bowling fundraiser at the New Glass Bowl on Telegraph, starting at 8 pm.

The Walk will be held at Ottawa Park on Sunday morning at 10 a.m.

Especially bigger, Roy anticipates, will be the donation the weekend raises for the Lupus Foundation of America, Greater Ohio Chapter – bigger than the \$2,000 she was able to donate last year to the Foundation.

“People got interested in helping, which is what I wanted to do – they weren’t doing that prior to the walk. We got people motivated to doing that.”



Rachelle Roy

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Buffalo Shooter Targeted African American

By Associated Press

The white 18-year-old who fatally shot 10 people at a Buffalo supermarket researched the local demographics and arrived a day in advance to conduct reconnaissance with the intent of killing as many Black people as possible, officials said Sunday.

The racially motivated attack came a year after the gunman was taken to a hospital by State Police after making threats involving his high school, according to authorities.

He wasn't charged with a crime and was out of the hospital within a day and a half, police said, but the revelation raised questions about his access to weapons and whether he could have been under closer supervision by law enforcement.

The Buffalo attack prompted grief and anger in the predominantly Black neighborhood around Tops Friendly Market. A group of people gathered there Sunday afternoon to lead chants of "Black lives matter" and mourn victims that included an 86-year-old woman who had just visited her husband in a nursing home and a supermarket security guard, both of whom were Black.

"Somebody filled his heart so full of hate that he would destroy and devastate our community," the Rev. Denise Walden-Glenn said.

Speaking at the National Peace Officers' Memorial service at the U.S. Capitol, President Joe Biden said, "We must all work together to address the hate that remains a stain on the soul of America." The White House later announced that the president and first lady would travel to Buffalo on Tuesday to "grieve with the community."

The Buffalo attack was the deadliest of multiple shootings across the country in recent days. Officials in Milwaukee imposed a curfew after 21 people were injured in three separate shootings near an entertainment district where thousands gathered Friday for an NBA playoff game. Three other shootings over the weekend in the Midwest city left three people dead.

On Sunday, two shootings — one at a Houston flea market and another at a California church — left three people dead and others wounded.

As the country reeled from the Buffalo attack, new details emerged about the gunman's past and Saturday's rampage, which the shooter livestreamed on Twitch. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Buffalo native, demanded technology companies tell her whether they've done "everything humanly possible" to make sure they're monitoring violent content as soon as it appears.

"If not, then I'm going to hold you responsible," she said.

Twitch said in a statement that it ended the transmission "less than two minutes after the violence started."

New York State Police said troopers were called early last June to the high school then attended by the alleged gunman, Payton Gendron, for a report that a 17-year-old student had made threatening statements.

Gendron threatened to carry out a shooting at Susquehanna Valley High School, in Conklin, New York, around the time of graduation, a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity said. The official was not authorized to speak publicly on the investigation.

Buffalo Police Commissioner Joseph Gramaglia said Gendron had no further contact with law enforcement after his release from the hospital.

"Nobody called in," he said. "Nobody called any complaints," Gramaglia said.

Federal law bars people from owning a gun if a judge has determined they have a "mental defect" or they have been forced into a mental institution — but an evaluation alone would not trigger the prohibition.

Federal authorities were still working to confirm the authenticity of a racist 180-page document, purportedly written by Gendron, that detailed his plans for the attack and reasons for carrying it out.

A preliminary investigation found Gendron had repeatedly visited sites espousing white supremacist ideologies and race-based conspiracy theories and extensively researched the 2019 mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the man who killed dozens at a summer camp in Norway in 2011, the law enforcement official told AP.

Federal agents served multiple search warrants and interviewed Gendron's parents, who were cooperating with investigators, the law enforcement official said.

Portions of the Twitch video circulating online showed the gunman firing volley after volley of shots in less than a minute as he raced through the parking lot and then the store, pausing for just a moment to reload. At one point, he trains his weapon on a white person cowering behind a checkout counter, but says "Sorry!" and doesn't shoot.

Screenshots purporting to be from the broadcast appear to show a racial slur

targeting Black people scrawled on his rifle, as well as the number 14 — likely referencing a white supremacist slogan.

Authorities said he shot, in total, 11 Black people and two white people Saturday.

"This individual came here with the express purpose of taking as many Black lives as he possibly could," Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown said at a news conference Sunday.

The lengthy statement attributed to Gendron outlined a racist ideology rooted in a belief that the United States should belong only to white people. All others, the document said, were "replacers" who should be eliminated by force or terror. The attack was intended to intimidate all non-white, non-Christian people and get them to leave the country, it said.

The document said Gendron researched demographics to select his target, and picked a neighborhood in Buffalo because it had a high ratio of Black

...continued on page 10



CITY OF TOLEDO INAUGURAL DIVERSITY & INCLUSION CONFERENCE



May 26, 2022

8:30 AM - 2 PM

The Premiere Banquet Hall
4480 Heatherdowns Blvd
Toledo, OH 43614

Purchase tickets by
Tuesday, May 24.

**Surviving to Thriving: How To
Do Business in a Changing
Environment from a Diversity &
Inclusion Perspective**

The Toledo Region Workplace and Inclusion Committee is hosting the City of Toledo's Inaugural Workplace Diversity & Inclusion Conference, a collaboration between business, city, and academic leaders tackling one of the biggest questions in the business world: how do we address racial inequity? Join us to discuss the common challenges, key strategies, and best practices for supplier inclusion and move the needle on diversity, equity, and inclusion in your own workplace!

Questions?

Contact Lenora McIntyre at
lenora.mcintyre@utoledo.edu or
419-530-3774.

Ticket price is \$25.

FUELING TOMORROWS

Jupmode and Brothers United Promotes Fatherhood Through the Community Shirt Program

Special to The Truth

Brothers United, without a doubt, cares about fathers, families and the community that we serve. The work that we do has been evident throughout the city, and we have had the opportunity to form many partnerships along the way. We are glad to announce that because of our hard work and our diligent spirit in nurturing our community connections, Jupmode has chosen us for their Community Shirt Line Up for 2022!

If you are unfamiliar with who they are, Jupmode is a retail brand that designs, screen prints, and embroiders everything in-house. Since 2006, Jupmode has been dedicated to creating fun and fresh apparel and gifts for people who love Toledo, Ohio and the Midwest.

"Our goal is to honor Toledo and other Midwest places by remembering our past and celebrating our future. It's important to us at Jupmode to be involved in all the different communities in town. When we were thinking about our Community Shirt Line Up for 2022, Pathway came to mind as we have worked with Pathway on shirts for Brothers United for many years now. We believe BU is an important program and is a great cause that more people should know about," said Molly Joyce, Jupmode's Marketing Manager.

Jupmode is in its fourth year of the Community Shirt program. The brand releases six shirts per year as part of a retail line that it calls "Community Shirts."

Community Shirts are sold for \$24, and \$5 of every shirt sale is donated to a local charity or organization making an impact in the city.

Brothers United is honored to have been chosen, and we hope that through building our community connections, we have more opportunities to spread the work of Fatherhood that we are deeply committed to.

"We love working with BU! Keyara Edwards and Avis Files have been

wonderful to work with. From communication to brainstorming promotional ideas, it has been a lot of fun to see the passion and ideas that come from the people who make this program successful," said Jupmode.

If you'd like to support Brothers United, be sure to buy a shirt! Every amount of help is welcomed and helps us to continue doing the work that we do.

Brothers United and all of its efforts continues to be supported by the community that we serve. Our hope is to continue serving families and shaping the narrative that Fathers matter and play an important role in the family dynamic.

If you would like further information on any of the programs, please visit our website, www.pathwaytoledo.org, or contact Avis Files, the Director of Family and Supportive Services, at 419-279-0798 or afiles@pathwaytoledo.org.



Covid Cases... continued from page 5

Lucas County's average cases per day is 38.14, up from the previous two weeks daily average of 22.36. Furthermore, as of May 12, Lucas County's cases per 100,000 individuals is 264.3, an increase of 197 percent from the previous 2 weeks.

TLCHD continues to track the impact of COVID-19 using CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels, which are based on the number of new cases and hospital capacity. The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and CDC recommend the following COVID-19 prevention steps as we approach medium-level:

- If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions

- Stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms

People may choose to mask at any time. However, those experiencing

symptoms, who have tested positive, or have a loved one with a compromised immune system, or have an infant or child too young for vaccination, should wear a mask in accordance with existing guidance. More information on prevention strategies and the new guidance on community levels can be found: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-bycounty.html>

Residents are encouraged to continue to use all available tools to protect themselves from COVID-19. Vaccines, boosters, and tests are widely available. Vaccines and boosters reduce the risk of COVID-19, including the risk of severe illness and death among people who are fully vaccinated.

TLCHD continues to offer free walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to 3:30 p.m. For additional Lucas County COVID-19 data and resources please visit: <https://lucascounty-health.com/coronavirusupdates/>

Buffalo Shooter... continued from page 9

residents.

Gendron traveled about 200 miles (320 kilometers) from his home in Conklin, New York, to Buffalo to commit the attack, police said.

He conducted reconnaissance on the store and the area on Friday, a day before the shooting, Gramaglia said.

Gendron surrendered to police who confronted him in the supermarket's vestibule and convinced him to drop the rifle he had put to his neck. He was arraigned later Saturday on a murder charge, appearing before a judge in a paper gown.

The Buffalo attack was just the latest act of mass violence in a country unsettled by racial tensions, gun violence and a recent spate of hate crimes. It came a month after a shooting on a Brooklyn subway wounded 10, and just over a year after 10 were killed in a shooting at a Colorado supermarket.

"It's just too much. I'm trying to bear witness but it's just too much. You can't even go to the damn store in peace," Buffalo resident Yvonne Woodard told the AP. "It's just crazy."

1st Annual TEAM: You Are Not Alone Dementia Talk with Pamela

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***Raffle**
***Refreshments**
***LIVE Broadcast**

alzheimer's association
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Social Security Column

By Erin Thompson

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

Guest Column

If you have a personal my Social Security account, you can view your *Social Security Statement* online to learn about your future benefits and recent earnings history. Included with the *Statement* are fact sheets that provide useful information based on your age group and earnings situation. Last month, we released a new fact sheet specifically for people with limited earnings.

The new fact sheet covers how you and your family members may qualify for benefits, including:

- Supplemental Security Income.
- Social Security retirement benefits.
- Children's benefits.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- Help with health care costs – including Medicare, Medicare Savings Programs, Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs, and Medicaid.

We're committed to helping you learn about all your benefit options. Our Benefits Eligibility Screening Tool at ssabest.benefits.gov is a convenient way to find potential benefits that best fit your situation.

To learn more, visit our Social Security Statement webpage at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html. Please share this article with your friends and family – and post it on social media.

Can you believe it's been 10 years since we launched my Social Security? Since then, 67 million people have signed up and benefited firsthand from the many secure and convenient self-service options. And we've added and upgraded features that make your life easier when doing business with us online. We take great pride in providing this and all of our services. It's part of how we help you secure today and tomorrow.

If you still don't have a personal my Social Security account, you're missing out. A secure account provides personalized tools for everyone, whether you receive benefits or not. If you don't currently receive benefits, you can:

- Estimate your future benefits and compare different dates or ages to begin receiving benefits.
- Get instant status of your Social Security application.
- Review your work history.
- Request a replacement Social Security card (in most states).

If you receive benefits, you can use your personal my Social Security account to:

- Get your *instant* benefit verification or proof of income letter for Social Security, Medicare, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Check your information and benefit amount.
- Start or change your direct deposit.
- Change your address and telephone number.

- Request a replacement Medicare card.
- Get an *instant* Social Security 1099 form (SSA-1099) or SSA-1042S.
- Report your wages if you work and receive disability benefits and SSI.

Visit www.ssa.gov/myaccount today and join the millions to take advantage of your own personal my Social Security account. Please also encourage your friends and family to sign up for their personal my Social Security account today.

Social Security benefits are a crucial part of millions of Americans' retirement income. If you don't have enough Social Security credits to qualify for benefits on your own record, you may be able to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

- To qualify for spouse's benefits, you must be one of the following:
- 62 years of age or older.

- Any age and have in your care a child younger than age 16, or who has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

Your full spouse's benefit could be up to one-half the amount your spouse is entitled to receive at their full retirement age. If you choose to receive your spouse's benefits before you reach full retirement age, you will get a permanently reduced benefit.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age to receive benefits, you'll receive your full spouse's benefit amount, which is up to one-half the amount your spouse can receive. You'll also get your full spouse's benefit if you are under full retirement age, but care for a child and one of the following applies:

- The child is younger than age 16.
- The child has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

If you're eligible to receive retirement benefits on your own record, we will pay that amount first. If your benefits as a spouse are higher than your own retirement benefits, you will get a combination of benefits that equal the higher spouse benefit.

For example, Sandy qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$1,000 and a spouse's benefit of \$1,250. At her full retirement age, she will receive her own \$1,000 retirement benefit. We will add \$250 from her spouse's benefit, for a total of \$1,250.

Want to apply for either your or your spouse's benefits? Are you at least 61 years and nine months old? If you answered yes to both, visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement to get started today.

Are you divorced from a marriage that lasted at least 10 years? You may be able to get benefits on your former spouse's record. You can find out more by visiting www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html for more information.

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Congressional Black Caucus Issues Statement on Mass Shooting at Buffalo Supermarket

On Monday, Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty and members of the Congressional Black Caucus issued the following statement on the tragic mass shooting in Buffalo, New York:

"I am horrified to see another devastating act of hateful gun violence in America. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the thirteen innocent people who lost their lives due to this tragic hate crime. This story is not new; we've seen this play out repeatedly. But we are very clear, thoughts and prayers are not enough. Firstly, gun violence is a public health crisis that must be addressed, and we must legislate as such. Secondly, vigilantes acting with racial animus and espousing white supremacist ideology that results in the loss of innocent lives must be classified as a hate crime, full stop," said Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty.

"Last year, more than twenty thousand Americans lost their lives to gun violence. In the aftermath of this horrific episode, Congress has a moral obligation to make our nation fairer and safer for all Americans. There must be accountability for hate, there must be criminal justice reform, and there must be common-sense gun reform. That is why Democrats in the House passed sweeping legislation to address these glaring issues. The Senate must abolish the Jim Crow era filibuster and pass the legislation that will save the lives of innocent Americans. We owe it to the victims, their families, and all Americans to take action."

Tips for Small Businesses to Not Only Survive, But Thrive

Special to The Truth

Small businesses are the heartbeat of communities. They pump life into neighborhoods, making them vibrant places to live, work and raise families, and are key to millions of local jobs. In fact, approximately 50 percent of all Americans are employed by a small business and 99 percent of American businesses are small businesses, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"Small business is big business," said Wells Fargo's head of Small Business Derek Ellington. "As a bank that proudly serves over 3 million small business customers, we are still supporting small businesses in their post-pandemic recovery, but we're also seeing many growing businesses bringing new ideas to life, and going from surviving to thriving. Now more than ever, it's an important time for small businesses because they are such a vital part of the economy."

To further power economic growth, strengthen your business, and deliver on the products and services the nation depends on every day, Wells Fargo offers the following four tips to move from surviving to thriving:

1. Be flexible. If there was one glaring lesson business owners learned from COVID-19, it was to be flexible. Businesses had to revamp their online offerings and create a digital, ecommerce presence. Most had to change relationships with supply chains and vendors or reduce hiring. When it comes to business planning for the next six, 12 or even 18 months, one thing is certain: flexibility will be key. Between staffing demands, supply chain delays and rising interest rates and inflation, write your plans in pencil. Most importantly, be nimble enough to pivot, using your experiences over the past two years as a guide.

2. Stay in the know. Stay informed of the latest developments that could impact your business. For example, what do rising rates and growing costs of supplies and services mean for you? A small business banker can help you understand your options based on your particular business and needs, and make any necessary adjustments. Keep in touch with your tax advisor, accountant, and local chambers of commerce to stay in the know.

3. Prepare for new competition. Now that life has regained a sense of normalcy, new business trends are emerging fast. To prepare for new competition, stay ahead of your competitors and drive new growth:

- Know your customers, and find and solve their pain points
- Ensure you have competitive pricing
- Change your business model and services to stay ahead
- Provide exceptional customer service to existing and new customers
- Target new markets

4. Invest in growth strategically. To continue to grow, innovate and attract the best employees, demonstrate that you're willing to invest in the future. However, it's never cheap, and you might not be able to afford needed investments with your current revenue. Before borrowing money or taking out a loan, consider opportunities like changing your payments or receivable collection process, or reducing expenses. Then look into the right lending opportunities when you are ready to accomplish big milestones like expanding, relocating, or adding new technologies with more capabilities. Strategic growth is all about investing in the right areas of your business at the right time to create an infrastructure in which you can flourish.

For more small business tips and resources, visit wellsfargo.com/biz.

Whether you're a seasoned business owner or new entrepreneur, consider using these tips to succeed and thrive in an ever-changing environment.



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His Name is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

The pavement was hard.

At that time of day, it still held the last of the sun's warmth but that didn't make it comfortable. Pebbles embedded in blacktop can bloody skin in a minute; bits of broken glass can scratch a cheek lying on the concrete. Street-side is never a good place to be, and in the new book, *His Name is George Floyd* by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa, it gets worse.

All who knew George Floyd knew that he loved them. He said so, in texts and in person, every time he saw them. That's the kind of man he was.

Born in North Carolina in 1973, Floyd was a joyous child surrounded by female relatives who doted on him, and missed him badly when his mother took her children and followed a man to Houston. There, the family lived in a neighborhood that was mostly Black and all poor, and Floyd gained two younger half-brothers.

The authors say that Floyd wasn't the best student at Jack Yates Senior High School in Houston, but he wasn't the worst. Teachers and students liked him; coaches liked him because he could really play basketball and football. He was gentle; they had to notch up his fierceness in both games but since he was more than six feet tall and a couple hundred

c.2022
Viking
\$30.00
432 Pages

pounds, there was promise. Which was just enough.

Much to his heartbreak, Floyd couldn't pass the TAAS test given to assess the proficiency of all high school seniors in Texas. No pass, no diploma, but though he wasn't able to attend his graduation ceremony, he did land a basketball scholarship to South Florida Community College. Alas, bad grades followed him there and he soon returned to Houston, frustrated and broke, and he began selling drugs.



His Name is George Floyd author Robert Samuels - courtesy Katherine Frey, Washington Post

That didn't go well, either: Floyd was arrested, convicted and sent to prison.

More than four years later, with a felony on his record, Floyd decided to move to Minneapolis. It was a chance for a fresh start...

While it may seem that *His Name is George Floyd* might be too painful to read, even now, two years after his death, that's not so. Not entirely.

There are huge pockets of sunny joy in this book, at a childhood enjoyed, dreams reached for, and people beloved. Those sides of Floyd, parts that were missed by many news outlets, are shared but authors Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa don't let him become larger than life; Floyd had flaws, and we're allowed to see them.

Then again, there are times when George Floyd becomes almost a side-note here.

That's when Samuels and Olorunnipa turn away to focus on what else happened that boiling-hot summer of 2020, including the BLM protests, politics and other incidences of police overreach; we also get a good overview of Derek Chauvin, his background and his trial.

Readers who want to somehow memorialize Floyd will appreciate this book for its candor, good research, and its storytelling. You'll also want *His Name is George Floyd* for its concrete answers.

"Essential for our times." —Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Antiracist*

HIS NAME IS

GEORGE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Component 2: Reconstruction of Dock Face Phase 3 Rebid project located at Facility One, 3518 St. Lawrence Dr., Toledo, Ohio 43605, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, to the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The "Component 2: Reconstruction of Dock Face Phase 3 - Rebid" project consists of:

WATERFRONT: Removal of old fendering system, supply and install new fendering, repair sheet pile wall, and create new drainage openings in the sheet pile wall. Remove and replace the sheet pile concrete cap.

DOCK SURFACE: Remove existing crane rails, remove pavement to 50 feet from sheet pile wall, removal electrical manholes and conduit, furnish and install new drainage, backfill and new pavement. Pavement will also be required between tracks in the areas of the track where there are turnouts or switches. In addition, tie backs, as directed on the drawings, should be completely dug up so that they may be inspected.

A portion of the existing storm system will need to be reworked including a lift station. This will require excavation, new pipe, manholes, backfill and discharge through the sheet pile wall. The electrical power for the lift station is to be coordinated with the electrical contractor.

RAILROAD TRACK: Track is to be removed and replaced, including ballast. Precast concrete crossing panels will also be installed along the tangent portions of the track.

The base bid for the dock surface and rail would be too non-perform replacement between 0+00 and 2+50 and also 37+00 to 41+60. The alternate for this area would be to remove and replace as indicated.

PHASING: The Port of Toledo operations will continue through construction. As such, the dock face reconstruction will be completed in sections along the dock. All work must be completed in a section of the dock (including rail and pavement) prior to moving to the next section. The drawings currently show 5 phases to complete the dock restructuring. The order and location of these phases are indicated on the drawings, however, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority and Midwest Terminals of Toledo Inc., may reorder the phases during construction to fit the shipping schedule.

GENERAL: This is a lump sum bid. All quantities shown on the bid sheet are to be verified with the plan documents by the bidder. The sum of the line items may not add up to your total lump sum fee. These unit prices are to be used in the event of an owner directed change to the contract documents.

This project is funded through a U.S. Dept. of Trans. Maritime Administration (MARAD) PIDP grant and an Ohio Maritime Assistance Program grant (MAP). The engineer's estimate for Component 2: Reconstruction of Dock Face Phase 3 - Rebid combined total is approximately \$13,200,000.00. The Base bid is approximately \$11,800,000.00, and Alternates 1 through 6 are approximately \$1,400,000.00. Bids that are in excess of 10% above the engineer's estimate would be considered non-responsive. This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion.

Sealed bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices, 1st floor reception area at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604, until Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 1:00 PM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud via conference call. Conference call-in information will be shared in addendum no. 1.

Only qualified contractors are eligible to submit bids for this project. Contractor qualification status must be in force at the time of bidding, at the time of award, and through the life of the construction contract.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, OH 43615, phone 419.385.5303, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Becker Impressions, via their website www.beckerplanroom.com at the cost of reproduction.

Please note there will be an on-site pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 10:00 AM, with a site visit immediately following. Prospective bidders interested in attending should contact Tina Perkins (TPerkins@Toledoport.org) at Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority prior to Friday, May 13, 2022, at 10:00 AM. A maximum of two (2) individuals per bidder with valid identification and proper personal protective equipment (PPE) will be permitted to attend. Attendees should meet at the stone parking lot next to the main gate at George Hardy and St. Lawrence Dr. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Tina Perkins at TPerkins@Toledoport.org by Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 10:00 AM local time. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org

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



LUCAS COUNTY
Land Bank

REAL ESTATE MANAGER

The Lucas County Land Bank is looking for a capable and talented Real Estate Manager to join our team! The Real Estate Manager oversees all maintenance associated with properties the Land Bank owns – including vacant lots, residential homes, and commercial buildings. This mostly office-based work involves coordinating inspections, contractors, and services in light of the Land Bank's goals for the property and the goals of the neighborhood.

Annual salary of \$55,000 - \$65,000, depending on experience. Opportunities for bonuses. Very generous benefits, including complete health care coverage, significant paid time off, and 401(k) style retirement plan with competitive employer match. Position open until filled.

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to build and strengthen our community's neighborhoods. Since our founding 11 years ago, the Land Bank and its energetic staff have renovated 800 abandoned properties, demolished thousands of blighted buildings, and increased the value of tens of thousands of properties in our community.

To learn more and to apply, visit <https://LucasCountyLandBank.org/about/jobs>

The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal opportunity employer.

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB22-B003 LEAD HAZARD ELIMINATION –
BIRMINGHAM TERRACE & PULLEY HOMES**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive sealed bids from General Contractors for the for the removal of Lead Base Paint and Improvements at selected locations in Lucas County. Received in accordance with law until June 6, 2022 at 3:00 pm. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



RUDOLPH LIBBE GROUP JOB POSTING

The Rudolph Libbe Group is a one-stop provider of construction and consulting services that range from site selection and financing to ongoing facility management. RLG, comprised of Rudolph Libbe Inc., GEM Inc., GEM Energy, Lehman Daman and Rudolph Libbe Properties, operates as one team. For additional information, visit RLGbuilds.com.

We are in search of an individual with an understanding of mobile devices to fill our **Mobile Device Technician** position. This individual will understand the differences between Android and iOS operating system and how to support both as well as subsequent versions. An understanding of the configuration of cell phones, tablets, and connectivity devices such as MIFI's and cradle points is required.

One year of experience with product service support or troubleshooting electronics, face-to-face customer service experience, experience troubleshooting and repairing mobile devices and a minimum of a high school degree is required.

Interested parties should apply on our website at www.rlgbuilds.com/careers.

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An Art Exhibit to Help Non Profits

White House Artist and Toledo's Art Commission Merit Award recipient, Brenda Singletary exhibits her art to help non-profits.

Sponsored by Promedia, The Ohio Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Brenda Singletary's exhibit is Saturday May 21, 3-7 pm., located at her downtown Toledo studio, The Art Factory, 425 Jefferson, Suite 304,

Brenda attended Morris Brown College BA, and Goddard College with an MFA. Her original artwork reflects forty years of cultural stories with images. She creates art for community non- profits as fundraisers. Her work is represented by galleries and corporate collections such as AT&T,



Victory Revival Honors The Movement

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) held its Victory Revival on May 12 and 13 featuring Worship Leaders, Debra Brock and Ronnie Lindsay and guest speakers Clifford Mayes of Macedonia Church and Maurice Jackson of Columbus, OH.

The assembly also took the occasion to honor Tina Butts and The Movement for their inspired battle fighting COVID-19, along with their many accomplishments, said Rev. Cedric Brock, president of the IMA.

Marriott, and Kaiser-Permanente and others. She has received numerous public service and art awards from The Congressional Black Caucus, Atlanta Business League, American Express, United College Fund, and the Daimler-Chrysler Motion through Expression and others.

Brenda served two years as a panel judge and educational guest speaker for the President's Commission on White House Fellows. Her artwork is a part of the White House Art Collection.

You can reach Brenda Singletary at b1singletary@gmail.com, 419-540-2905 bsingletary.com,

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Seminar Connects Faith to Finances

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Greater St Mary Missionary Baptist Church hosted a financial seminar and brunch on Saturday, May 14. The free program featured guest speaker Angelique Strong Marks.

The program opened with official greetings delivered by Renee Heard, and an opening prayer with a meal blessing before the brunch was served. The interactive financial seminar was conducted during the brunch by Angelique Strong Marks, and concluded with remarks delivered by event coordinator LaTanya Jackson Wilson and church pastor Bishop Robert Lyons Sr.

"She has been a blessing to me and I've known her for over 30 years. When I listen to her, my finances are blessed. She will share some great knowledge with us today," shared Wilson.

"I want to give honor to God. We're honored to have all of you here with us this morning. Thank you for coming. We all know that we will receive a blessing this morning," shared Heard.

Marks is currently the Chief Legal Officer at Cars.com, the leading online automotive marketplace. She has previously worked for REE Automotive, MAHLE Industries and Behr America. She earned a Juris Doctorate from Ohio State University, MBA from Miami University and Bachelor's degree from University of Akron.

Marks provided each attendee with a workbook and covered various topics, including: how to use your money the right way, debt management and budgeting God's way.

"My dad instilled a lot in me about how I view finances. He only had a fourth-grade education but, for example, believed that credit was the devil. I first heard this during a time when children were seen and not heard. He would say, that people get too far into debt and make poor decisions. From that comment, I learned how important it is to manage my credit. In our

community finances are not always shaped by our faith. People will hopefully leave today with a better understanding to build a relationship with their finances and understand that relationships take time. Even if you're in debt today, you can always get out of debt one day," shared Marks.

The church's Women's Book Club sponsored the seminar. Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church is located at 416 Belmont Ave in Toledo and under the leadership of Bishop R.W. Lyons Sr.



Renee Heard, Women's Book Club teacher; LaTanya Jackson Wilson, event coordinator and Angelique Strong Marks, guest speaker



Guest speaker Marks with Greater St Mary's Women's Book Club



Greater Toledo Community Foundation created a specific fund to support the removal of barriers to equity and access for all in our community. If you are a nonprofit organization in the Greater Toledo Region that has a program that supports this mission, you are encouraged to apply for funding by July 2nd.



For more information, contact Artisha Lawson at 419.241.5049 or visit toledocf.org/equity-access-initiative

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