

Volume 73 No. 2 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." June 22, 2022



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15 JULY

Prayer Breakfast
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022
Time: 8:00 AM
Location: Glass City Metropark Pavilion
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16 JULY

African American Parade
Date: Saturday, July 16, 2022
Time: Kickoff at 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Starting at Dorr & Detroit

Followed by
Community
Celebration
from 12-4 at
Nelson Grace Park

6 AUG

Festival & Concert
Date: Saturday, August 6, 2022
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Promenade Park
224 Water Street, Toledo, OH 43604

A Juneteenth Cultural Celebration Weekend

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Hundreds of individuals and families gathered for the African American Legacy Project (AALP), cultural celebration weekend on June 18 and June 19.

Saturday's theme was "Heirs of Art, Black Arts Festival" while Sunday's theme was "Gospel Jazz Explosion." Saturday's festivities began at 4:00 p.m. and included live entertainment, games for adults and kids, face painting and chalk art, and also food vendors.

"Juneteenth represents a celebration of culture and we wanted to bring generations together. At the end of the day, it's incumbent upon us to ensure generations understand the journey, and people without direct correlation to this experience also understand our journey," shared Robert Smith, executive director of AALP.

Immediately following Saturday's opening, attractions were spotlighted every half-hour or hour. Starting with the opening of the Art Exhibition, craft tables and game tables, unveil of Freedom Wall Mural, the vocal stylings of Alanna, "The Extraordinary Fashion Show," and closed at dusk with jazz saxophonist Charles Cooper.

Sunday featured several notable gospel or jazz talents. Immediately following Sunday's opening, attractions were spotlighted every half-hour or hour. Trina Willis opened, followed by Nikki D & the Brown Singers, Debra Brock, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Positive Force Christian Dance team, Lisa Page Brooks, Urban Jazz Coalition and Joey Sommerville closed the festival.

"Two individuals are responsible for organizing this festival, a University of Toledo sophomore Lydia Myrick and seasoned artists Yusuf Lateef. The young lady came to us and we wanted to support that initiative, so Lateef is mentoring her which is bringing three generations together, Myrick, Lateef and myself," said Smith.

The weekend celebration was organized by African American Legacy Proj-



Vanessa Bell Armstrong



Debra Brock



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ect with support provided by: Heirs of Art, Huntington Bank, Lucas County, Lucas Metropolitan Housing, NAACP Toledo unit, Shabach Productions, Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, UMADAOP Lucas County and WJUC 107.3 FM radio

African American Legacy Project is a 501c3 that documents and preserves the history of northwest Ohio's African American community and its impact and influence. For additional information visit the website <http://africanamericanlegacy.org>

"We're landscaped to handle this endeavor and will continue to serve as caretaker of history," said Smith.

According to Pew Research Center, Juneteenth commemorates the end of the organized system of slavery in the United States when individuals who owned slaves were forced to end the practice of enslavement in Galveston, Texas. The notification occurred on June 19, 1866. Texas decades later became the first state to officially observe or recognize the occasion in 1980 by declaring it a federal holiday. Several states only observed or recognized the occasion while 24 states recognized Juneteenth as a federal holiday between 2020-2022. On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed a bill to establish Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Welcome to Summer!

The YWCA of Northwest Ohio's Racial Justice Department is bringing in the summer with exciting new programs. It is important to us that the community understands the connection of racial justice and equity work to the mission of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio. We deeply appreciate your participation and hope that you will sign up to attend our upcoming events.

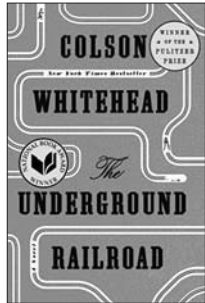
Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day when the last of the enslaved African Americans in Texas learned that they were finally free - two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth, also thought of as the African American Independence Day or Freedom Day, is a celebration of the official end of slavery. This day has

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25 Books for Kids and Adults to Celebrate Juneteenth and Reflect on History of Slavery

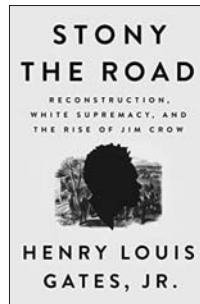
As America celebrates Juneteenth this year amid protests against racism and police brutality against Black people, the story of Saturday's holiday emerges as one to brush up on.

Whether you're a longtime celebrator or seeking to learn more, reading books about the history and legacy of Juneteenth can help commemorate the 156th anniversary of the day enslaved people in Texas were read the Emancipation Proclamation, over two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed emancipation into law.



This year the celebration stands especially prominent as the United States confronts its deep-rooted history of systemic racism amid protests calling out the deaths of Black Americans George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Riah Milton, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks and more.

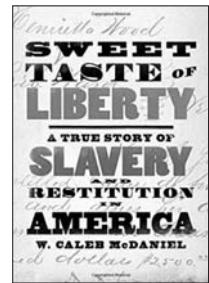
For those looking for ways to do just that, these are some of the books experts recommend



checking out.

Learning more about the ways systemic racism is rooted in the country's history is the way to help heal the future, experts say.

For a better understanding, start with these reads recommended by various experts and on best-seller lists about Juneteenth, slavery and Black history:



- "The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism" by Edward E. Baptist
- "Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America" by W. Caleb McDaniel
- "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America" by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
- "Stony the Road" by Henry Louis Gates Jr.
- "The Water Dancer" by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead
- "My Vanishing Country" by Bakari Sellers
- "We Were Eight Years in Power" by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- "Black Pain" by Terrie Williams
- "The Fire Next Time" by James Baldwin
- "Here I Stand" by Paul Robeson
- "The Warmth of Other Suns" by Isabel Wilkerson
- "The Strange Career of Jim Crow" by C. Vann Woodward
- "Mirror to America" by John Hope Franklin

Welcome to Summer... continued from page 2

long been observed by African American communities through celebrations, parades, festivals, and annual pilgrimages back to Texas.

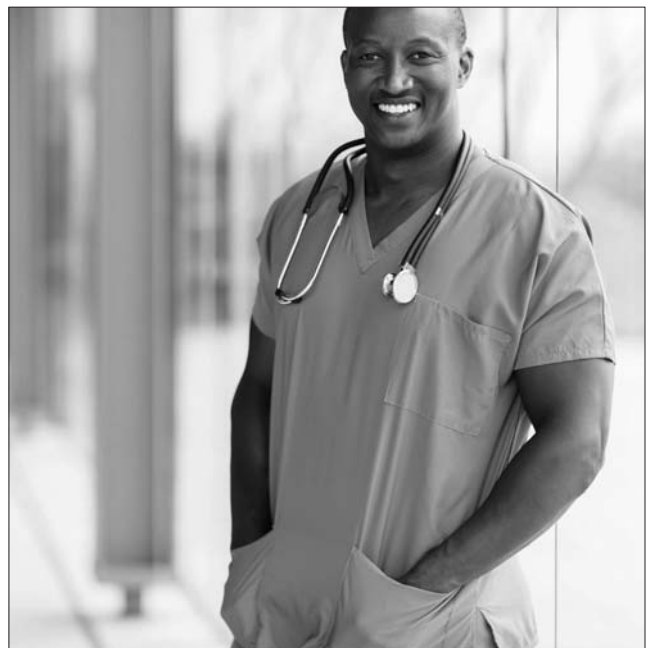
The YWCA of Northwest Ohio already recognized Juneteenth as an agency holiday by granting staff the day off for reflection and education long before the Government declared Juneteenth as a National Holiday last year. The Government's declaration of Juneteenth as a national holiday is a major accomplishment after years of advocacy from several organizers and legislators to recognize Juneteenth's significance.

Juneteenth holds significance in many other ways, especially during the past few years when our country has seen nationwide incidences of brutal police violence, mass shootings, public acts of racism, voter disenfranchisement, and laws against teaching about the true history of racism. "Juneteenth represents how freedom and justice in the US have always been delayed for Black people." We can never eliminate racism if we don't acknowledge our country's history and how it affects the present and future of Black People.

On this Juneteenth, we celebrate freedom and African Americans' achievements, culture, and history. We also take this opportunity to reflect on the significant work that still needs to be done to eliminate racism, achieve equity for Black people, and ensure liberty and justice for all.

Please join us to learn and discuss an in-depth story of what Juneteenth really is, and why it is so important to African Americans. Juneteenth is now mainstream, with corporations rushing to capitalize on the now national holiday, but many still do not know the history and significance of Juneteenth. On Juneteenth is a poignant, easy-to-read (or listen to) book to learn about the holiday from a native Texan and historian. It is a short book that can be completed in 4 hours or less but will leave readers with a rich history that we never learned in school.

Weaving together American history, dramatic family chronicles, and searing episodes of memoir, Annette Gordon-Reed's *On Juneteenth* provides a historian's view of the country's long road to Juneteenth, recounting both its origins in Texas and the enormous hardships that African-Americans have endured in the century since, from Reconstruction through Jim Crow and beyond. All too aware of the stories of cowboys, ranchers, and oilmen that have long dominated the lore of the Lone Star State, Gordon-Reed, herself a Texas native and the descendant of enslaved people brought to Texas as early as the 1820s, forges a new and profoundly truthful narrative of her home state, with implications for us all.



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Rep. Hicks-Hudson Announces Over \$60 million to Continue Ohio's Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic

State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) announced last week that the State Controlling Board approved over \$60 million across several state departments to help Ohioans recover from the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approved funding includes over \$12.18 million to continue the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and over \$16.4 million for nursing homes and long-term care facilities to support the health and safety of residents, visitors, and facility healthcare personnel.

The National Breakfast Program will receive \$25 million so students can continue to have access to nutritious meals. Additionally, \$6.5 million will be used to ensure underserved communities have access to high quality mental health services.

"These funds, especially those dollars addressing hunger and lead remediation, will support our children who deserve so much more," said Rep. Hicks-Hudson.

Additionally, the Controlling Board appropriated over \$17.7 million to the Department of Public Safety to provide assistance through the State Disaster Relief Program to counties across Ohio that were impacted by severe storms and flooding in 2020 and severe ice storms in 2021 and 2022. Funding will help to establish future emergency protective measures, road repairs caused by the severe flooding, and permanent repairs to power systems across the state that were damaged by ice storms.



Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Other approved items include:

- \$3 million to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to continue COVID-19 testing at all institutions;
- \$1 million to provide lead hazard control services to low and moderate-income households throughout Ohio;
- \$360,000 to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction to aid in services to prevent problem gambling;
- Over \$200,000 to the Department of Health to support Ohio's Newborn Screening Program that aids in early detection of serious genetic and metabolic disease infants.

New \$1 Billion CDFI Tax Credit Bill to Boost Main Street Investment in Underserved Communities

Senator Mark Warner, Senate Colleagues and Community Development Bankers Association (CDBA) Steward Historic Bi-Partisan Legislation

Last week, U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) was joined by Sens. Roger Wicker (R-MS), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) in introducing bipartisan legislation to promote lasting economic prosperity in Black, brown and low-income communities.

This bill would help unlock more equity and long-term financial capital for community development financial institutions (CDFIs). CDFIs serve as a backbone for low-income or minority-owned businesses, which tend to have fewer banking relationships and less access to tra-

...continued on page 5

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Toledo Celebrates Juneteenth!

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Greater Toledo celebrated Juneteenth this past weekend with an array of community events organized and led by our own prominent Black community leaders. It was a beautiful sight to see!

Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and has been celebrated annually around the country since 1865.

Marked as a day of cultural celebrations with food, family and friends, this year's festivities welcomed locals to celebrate a federal holiday that just a year ago didn't get the national recognition it deserved.

Juneteenth is also a time for reflection and rejoicing, both within BI-POC (Black Indigenous People of Color) communities and those partnered with us in solidarity towards positive change.

According to the historian John W. Cell, black communities adopt "three main approaches" to the problem of racial oppression in America: "accommodation," or submitting to white dominance with the hopes of securing improvements inside a flawed system; "militant confrontation," or even overt opposition to all forms of racial discrimination; and "separatism," or seeking to create an all-black society. As African American people strive to document our own stories and classified themes of accommodation, confrontation, or separatism, we are elated to have a reason to celebrate — and a national holiday to commemorate to boot!

John W. Cell was a great American historian, he was also a professor of history at Duke University, and the author of several books, including one comparing segregation in South Africa and the United States. He was



Main Branch Juneteenth Workshop



A rooftop celebration at the Toledo Lucas County Main Library

awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1986.

The Toledo Lucas County Main Public Library and The Toledo Museum of Art continue to serve as a resource of African American culture here in the Glass City. The Main Public Library kicked off their Toledo Library Juneteenth Celebration festivities this past Saturday in an epic way. Residents attended workshops, a job fair, and demonstrations on the importance of African American contributions.

With Erin Baker at the helm of programming, free events were hosted for the community all day from 10am-10pm. Baker is the organizational learning coordinator for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TL-CPL), where she leads a system-wide model of servant leadership to cre-

...continued on page 9

CDFI Tax Credit Bill... continued from page 4

ditional forms of funding.

This bill will help direct support to lenders that focus on underserved communities. It creates a CDFI Investment Tax Credit that will attract private sector investors that make equity, equity-equivalent investments, or long-term patient capital available to CDFIs. The bill will benefit CDFIs of all types including banks, credit unions, venture capital funds, and loan funds, while providing institutions with the maximum flexibility and financial support they need to increase wealth in low- and moderate-income communities. Currently, there are 1,400 CDFIs nationwide.

"As the national trade association for community development banks, CDBA is proud to have led the advocacy efforts for the new CDFI Tax Credit Investment Act. In addition to another recent victory for the communities served by CDFI banks — the U.S. Treasury's \$9 Billion Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP) — this tax credit will strengthen CDFIs serving at the grassroots, supporting the most vulnerable and disinvested communities in the U.S. and creating new economic opportunities. This tool will be a game changer by attracting private capital to Main Street where it's needed most," said Jeannine Jakoces, Chief Executive Officer, Community Development Bankers Association.

To combat the hemorrhaging of jobs and economic opportunities during the pandemic, In July of 2020, Sen. Warner teamed up with a bi-

partisan group of Senators to introduce the Jobs and Neighborhood Investment Act — an effort that secured endorsements from a host of other advocacy organizations and civil rights groups. Together, Sen. Warner and U.S. House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters were later able to secure provisions from the bill in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, which was signed into law on December 27, 2020, providing an unprecedented \$12 billion in funding for CDFIs.

"As a former entrepreneur and venture capitalist, I know that talent and ambition is not confined by income bracket or zip code. Unfortunately, access to start-up capital often is. CDFIs and MDIs do the invaluable work of bridging the gap and reaching small businesses in our most vulnerable communities — a role that became even more critical during the pandemic," said Sen. Warner.

"Despite the historic investments we were able to deliver through the emergency COVID-19 relief package, CDFIs remain in need of additional equity and capital to continue serving their communities. This legislation will create a new tax credit, helping spur important private-sector investments and allowing these community lenders to grow."

In addition to the CDBA, this legislation has the support of a number of organizations, including National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders, Community Development Venture Capital Alliance, LISC, OFN, CDFI Coalition, Inclusiv, and the Enterprise Community Loan Fund, among others.

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A Federal Holiday Since 2021, Juneteenth Celebrates the Full Promulgation of the United States' Emancipation Proclamation

This historic federal decree, made by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, officially declared the four million enslaved Black Americans living in the United States at the time legally free. News of the proclamation spread slowly from east to west over the subsequent two years, with Texas, the nation's westernmost Confederate state at the time, being the last one to announce the freedom of every American, on June 19, 1865. Thus was the Juneteenth celebration born.

In the subsequent years and decades, the Black American community has celebrated the occasion to various extents – before Juneteenth officially became a universal American holiday through an act of Congress that President Joe Biden signed into law on June 17, 2021. In only its second year of federal recognition, Juneteenth has already brought forth an array of historically nuanced, remarkably creative and innovative cultural events. Read on to get inspired by major Juneteenth celebrations planned in cities throughout the USA.

Juneteenth celebrations in New York City

The city that never sleeps offered a weekend-long program of artistic and athletic events, ranging from an exhibition at the Park Avenue Armory featuring newly discovered work by artist Archer Aymes to a family-friendly Juneteenth march through Central Park, plus a festive Juneteenth 5K Run in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Tickets were open and available to all, with the 5K in particular being the perfect early-summer event for runners and walkers of all skills and age levels. New Yorkers and visitors alike are welcome and encouraged to participate in the run.

Lincoln Center provided an intriguing program called "I Dream and Dream That Dreams Back at Me": A Juneteenth Celebration. This unique evening included performances of commissioned and original songs, some with lyrics by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage, and with performers in costumes by designer Dianne Smith. Grammy-winning Black American guitarist Cedric Burnside is also on the program; the night will be topped off by a DJed silent-disco dance party. This is sure to be a highlight of the summer cultural season – and of the whole year.

Juneteenth celebrations in Chicago

This world-class city is home to a long line of history-shifting Black Americans, from Jean Baptiste Point du Sable and Ida B. Wells to contemporary artist Rashid Johnson and Barack Obama. Juneteenth is the perfect moment to visit this always-exciting town and enjoy both the beautiful early-summer weather and the festivities.

The USA's first independent museum dedicated exclusively to African American culture and history, the DuSable Museum of African American History in Hyde Park will be hosting numerous events. Visitors explored the museum's extensively researched exhibits before heading to the nearby Juneteenth BBQ. This festive event had fun for the whole family, including horseback riding, plenty of food vendors, live music performances and a special area just for kids' entertainment.

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Attendees react during a performance at a Juneteenth celebration in Times Square, New York, on Sunday. Alex Kent,AFP/Getty Images



Children play in a fountain at Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta during a Juneteenth celebration on Saturday. Elijah Nouvelage,Getty Images



Dancers perform in the Juneteenth Atlanta Black History parade on Saturday.Elijah Nouvelage, Getty Images

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Maritime Academy's First Juneteenth Celebration

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Toledoans beat the heat to enjoy Maritime Academy's first Juneteenth celebration, Thursday, June 16. Hundreds of attendants from around the community enjoyed a free fun-filled celebration with food, games and boat rides.

Local organizations including MIX 95.7, The Toledo Fire Department, Premier Bank, The Marines, Deputy Sheriff, Buckeye Health, A Step Beyond, Tackle, United Way and the Imagination Station shared in the community celebration.

Children enjoyed free food, games and bounce houses but the highlight of the celebration was the free boat rides aboard Maritime Academy's personal ship along the Maumee River.



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Free boat rides along the Maumee



Irelynn Huntley-Lee, Haleighah Huntley and Brooklyn Jenkins



U.S. Army servicemen speaks with prospective soldiers



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VISION

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MISSION

The Fair Housing Center is a non-profit civil rights agency that promotes housing choice, the creation of inclusive communities, and the protection and expansion of fair housing rights to support communities free of housing discrimination.

The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.

Five Black Service Members Shaping Contemporary Military History

Special to The Truth

Black Americans have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since the Revolutionary War, paving the way for Black service members today.

"It is also important we foster an inclusive environment across the USO (United Service Organizations). One consistent finding of our service member surveys is the diverse population we serve feels welcome, supported, and included when visiting the USO," said J.D. Crouch II, USO CEO and president. "We should feel very proud of this but always stay attuned to improving the experience for them."

This Juneteenth, the USO shared five stories of modern-day service members who are shaping contemporary military history.

Retired Lt. General Nadja West is no stranger to being a "first." In 2013, West became the first Black female major general of the Army's active component, as well as the Army Medicine's first Black female two-star general. In 2015, she became the first Black surgeon general of the Army. Finally, in 2016, she became the first Black female lieutenant general and highest-ranking woman to graduate from West Point.

With more than 20 years of experience, she's proved herself a decisive leader, helping lead the Department of Defense (DOD) through crafting the response to the Ebola crisis, and managing an \$11 billion budget and 130,000 healthcare workers when she was commanding general of Medical Command.

Retired Lt. Col. Shawna Rochelle Kimbrell made headlines when she became the first Black female fighter pilot for the Air Force. Throughout her school years, she set her sights on the sky. As a kindergartner, she wanted to be an astronaut, but soon shifted her focus from spaceships to jets. Determined, she joined the Civil Air Patrol, worked at air shows,



Lt. Col. Shawna Rochelle Kimbrell, Ret., 1st Black female fighter pilot for the Air Force - courtesy U.A. Air Force



Col. Merryl Tengesdal, Ret.



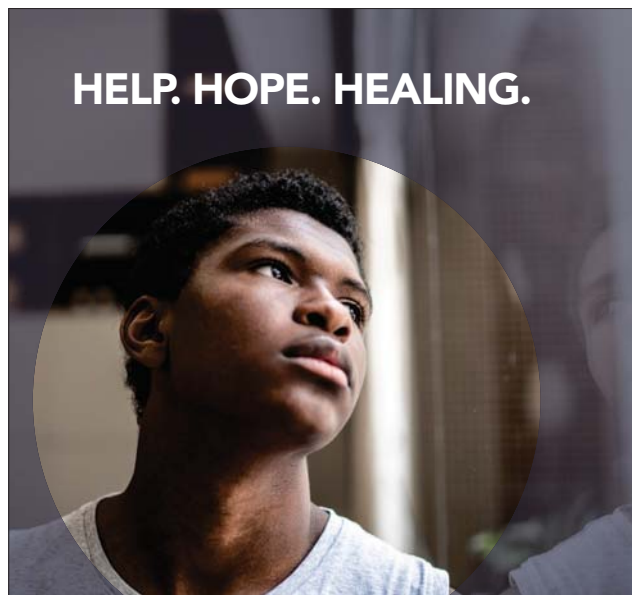
General Lloyd James Austin III, Ret.



Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, Ret.



Janie Mines



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earned a private pilot's license and earned a spot in the Air Force Academy.

Although naysayers told her to have a back-up plan because they believed her goals were unrealistic, to Kimbrell, that wasn't an option. In 1988, Kimbrell graduated from the Air Force Academy and earned her pilot wings the following year. She's now a decorated Air Force veteran, having earned an Air Medal, an Aerial Achievement Medal and an Army Commendation Medal, just to name a few. With a full, successful military career behind her, Kimbrell shows no signs of slowing down. Today, she dedicates her days to help future officers at the Air Force Academy, where she teaches physical education and is the academy's Director of Culture, Climate and Diversity.

The first-ever Black female plebe to attend and graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy, Janie L. Mines first stepped onto campus in 1976. "The academy wasn't ready for [women]," Mines said in an interview with the DOD. "It just happened quickly, and it needed to be done. The academy considered itself to be a combat school, and [women] were not allowed to serve in combat. So, we were seen as taking up spots for good combat officers that were needed, because we 'couldn't do the job.' Additionally, there was a general belief that as Black women ... I would not be able to lead in what was at that time a white-male Navy."

Despite being accepted to other prestigious universities, Mines was determined to attend the Academy and answer the call to serve. "When the Academy contacted me and said I was going to be the only Black woman who would be admitted, I felt like it was something I had to do." After graduation, Mines went on to become a lieutenant in the Navy Supply Corps and one of the first women to ever serve on a Navy ship. Today, she mentors young midshipmen, is the author of "No Coincidences: Reflections of the First Black Female Graduate of the United States Naval Academy" and is a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service.

On January 21, 2021, retired Gen. Lloyd Austin was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in a near-unanimous vote to become the first Black defense secretary of the United States. A retired Army four-star general, he previously attended West Point and was soon commissioned as a second lieutenant. Austin served more than 40 years in the Army. He was the 33rd vice chief of staff of the branch and was the last commanding general of the U.S. Forces – Iraq Operation New Dawn.

In 2013, President Barack Obama appointed him commander of United

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Juneteenth... continued from page 5

ate an impact in the community.

Community organizers and Leaders of Ohio know that every impact we make affects the lives of others around us. The Library's Juneteenth commemoration made us aware of our impact as black indigenous people of color.

The Toledo Lucas County Main Public Library thrilled residents with their Celebration of Juneteenth featuring the Katch Band, desserts, and a roof-top sunset reading of the Emancipation Proclamation. It was an amazing experience. The line up of educational festivities were as follows:

THE GOLDEN EMPIRE: KINGS AND QUEENS OF ANCIENT EGYPT & KUSH AND THE NUBIAN DYNASTIES by Alecia Robinson, Sister Art Productions. Ages: 12 – adult, Creativity Lab

MY MIND'S EYE, IT'S ALL ABOUT PERSPECTIVE by Audrey Johnson. Ages: 12 – adult, requires a cell phone to take digital pictures, The Fredrick McDonald Community Room

BLACK ART IS THE FUTURE: AN ARCHIVES WORKSHOP by Steven Fullwood. Ages: Adults, McMaster Auditorium

MY \$2 WORTH: HOW TO SELF- PUBLISH YOUR BOOK by Michael Faulkner. Ages: Adults, Program Room

COMMUNITY COLLAGE by Simone Spruce and Corinthia Parker. Ages: 12 – adult.

The Fredrick McDonald Community Room imagine and create a collage that promotes their various cultures and a sense of belonging centered on the theme of "What does freedom mean to you?"

MARBLEHEAD LIGHTHOUSE DEMONSTRATION AND DISCUSSION by Aaron S. Bivins. Ages: All ages, Creativity Lab.

(The Marblehead Lighthouse Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization formed to establish a museum for the preservation of the history of this unique village on the shores of Lake Erie and Sandusky Bay, with a special interest in its historic Marblehead Lighthouse.)

A quick roundup for your Juneteenth reading pleasure and future hopeful involvement:



Congresswoman Kaptur joins attendees at the Doug



Congresswoman Marcie Kaptur and Miss Toledo

From midday until sundown locals enjoyed both the 2022 Juneteenth Community Health & Wellness Fair and The Frederick Douglass Community Association Juneteenth Celebration.

The Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo presented a day of free health screenings, first aid and CPR training and a variety of family activities at Mott Branch and Smith Park.

The 2022 Juneteenth Community Health & Wellness Fair — The Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo presented a day of free health screenings, NARCAN overdose training, first aid, CPR training and a variety of family activities at Smith Park. Organizers Ruth Leonard and Julian Mack shared, " Our main goal of our Juneteenth event this year is to uplift each other and encourage Black excellence."

The Frederick Douglass Community Association also hosted their Juneteenth Celebration — This was the Association's second annual celebration where they featured a variety of activities for all ages, historical context, vendors, music and more.

...continued on page 15

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Grace For Such a Time as This: Growing Gardens in the Heat of the Day

By Carla Janell Pattin, PhD

The Truth Contributor

When I first met Elaine Page in the fall of 2021, I was officially graced with her presence, skill and wisdom. These are all elements needed to lead a community center committed to ending food apartheid by growing an urban farm as one avenue to meet the needs of the times.

While serving at Grace Community Center, hereafter known as GCC, I've learned to be more creative and a better problem solver. Yet, I needed more grace to learn how to shift with the weather patterns, changing seasons, and the right timing in caring for many plants.

Meeting Ms. Page and other servant leaders like Preston Ingram felt like divine timing, always keeping in mind that grace will hold the sun for us to have ample opportunities to do some good for ourselves, our families, our communities, and our Earth. Growing at grace is perfect timing.

Grace for the Times

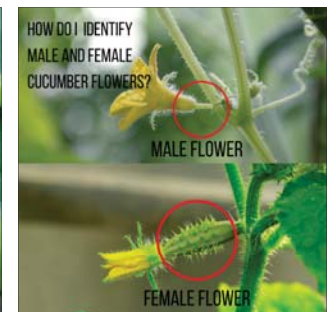
If you have not started your garden, I want to let you know it is not too late. Do not allow the billion-dollar gardening industry to make you feel like you've missed the deadline to grow your own food. It is easy to lose faith because your local gardening supply stores are clearing their inventory. Still, many stores have placed vegetable plants and gardening supplies on sale. So, you are graced for the times!

June is the Grace Period

June is the perfect time to begin gardens. Peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelon, and squash can all go in the ground now because the



Carla Janell Pattin, PhD



temperature is ideal for these plants. Nothing is more satisfying than seeing your food flower and form, but may I suggest something to you? These plants need a grace period to form a good root system.

Once the flower buds form, cut them off for about two weeks so the plant's energy can go toward a solid root system. Once the roots are good and deep in the soil, the plant will use the energy to form the actual pepper, tomato, cucumber, watermelon, and squash. Think of your garden as yourself. Growth requires cutting off things that seem visibly good at the time. Establishing your roots, or the good things you cannot see, are often more critical than the visible. Plants require the same grace and process to bear good fruit, just like us!

Grace Will Hold the Sun for You

June is the perfect time to plant fall crops. They can thrive until November and even in December here in northwest Ohio with great care. You can plant kale, collard greens, cauliflower, bunching onions, cabbage, radishes, and many others right now. It is good because the weather is nice and they will thrive well. Given the state of climate change, I have harvested collards and kale in early December!

When the frost hits, it activates the plant's sugar enzymes, making these crops taste very good. Other crops like spinach, sugar snap peas, and lettuce can be planted by seed sometime in August. These plants cannot tolerate scorching heat for too long. Still, they can thrive during the cooler months like September, October, and even early November. If you plant single crops like beets and carrots, you can often plant seeds throughout the summer to maintain a consistent food supply. I hope to persuade you to grow a garden at the end of June. Are you excited?

First Fruits of the Harvest

Suppose you are blessed with good timing; harvesting, watering, pollination, pruning, trellising, and pest control may describe your current tasks in the garden. First, harvest your plants on time. Harvest time is necessary because leaving the fruit on the vine will change the taste from sweet to bitter. Leaving the fruit on the vine for too long can increase plant diseases. Even worse, the plant may get a signal to stop growing because the energy keeps the fruit on the vine.

Crops like kale and collards need space to breathe. I know having a pleather of green goodness is beautiful for pictures. Still, a lack of airflow between plants increases diseases. After harvesting, your plants need to cool off, especially during the extreme heat. While you can dunk your

...continued on page 12

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Juneteenth... continued from page 7

Those looking for an upscale evening out on the town for Juneteenth, ascended to the sky-high 99th floor of Chicago's iconic Willis Tower for the city's first-ever Emancipation Ball. The cocktail creations and drinks served were made with spirits made by Black-owned, Chicago-based brands, with art on display by Black artists. Served appetizers and an open bar only enhanced the views of the sparkling city skyline – which looked especially dazzling on this evening.

In the historically Black neighborhood of Bronzeville, Gallery Guichard there were displays some of the finest works and exhibitions in the city pertaining to the African diaspora, including sculpture, paintings, decorative arts and furniture. A pre-Juneteenth treat was a tour of the Bronzeville Art District Trolley, which dropped visitors off on the doorstep of the gallery.

Juneteenth celebrations in Houston

In the state where the very first Juneteenth celebration occurred, the festivities in Houston, Texas, have been seriously fun – and deeply meaningful – for over a century. Emancipation Park in the city's 3rd Ward is the perfect example. One of the city's best green spaces, it's not only the oldest park in the entire Houston metro area – it was also the only public park accessible to Black Americans for the long periods of the segregation and Jim Crow eras.

With many days of exciting happenings, the famous Emancipation Park Conservancy Juneteenth Festival included a headlining performance by the Grammy-winning Isley Brothers, writers of global hits such as "Twist and Shout" (later covered by The Beatles) and "It's Your Thing."

A free and friendly local event, the 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration Vendor Market was also back for another year, with stall upon stall of handmade and homemade merchandise from over 50 Black-owned vendors. For an interactive experience that both gives back to the Houston community and promotes sustainability, visitors stopped by the Urban Community Garden Day on June 19 and volunteered to paint benches, weed, plant and other worthy tasks.

Juneteenth celebrations in Atlanta

This city of Atlanta is known nationally and internationally as a hub of Black American history – and its annual Juneteenth celebrations are back in swing and better than ever. Like Houston, Atlanta has been celebrating the holiday for decades and is well-versed in putting on a fine array of concerts, festivals, museum tours, athletic events and parties to suit every taste and budget.

The 5K Freedom Run is a crowd favorite, while the historic, three-day-long Juneteenth 10th Annual Atlanta Parade and Music Festival in Centennial Olympic Park is an annual must-attend. The festival offered everything from aerial flyovers to double-dutch competitions to a market with a 300-strong lineup of Black-owned vendors. Since Juneteenth this year coincided with Father's Day, the festival also included dad-oriented celebrations, gatherings and speeches for those wanting a family-friendly experience.

Keep an eye out for visitors and partner groups from throughout the South as well as from countries in the Caribbean, South America, Africa and beyond. Juneteenth is an international affair here.

On June 17, the High Museum of Art in Midtown also opened a show of work by famed Black American artist Bob Thompson. "Bob Thompson: This House Is Mine" was the largest survey of Thompson's work in two decades – and a more contemplative way to mark the holiday in between the parties.

Juneteenth celebrations in Portsmouth, New Hampshire

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire celebrates the legacy of African American communities in New England year-round. For Juneteenth, this organization put together two weeks of educational projects and polished arts programming at sites in Portsmouth and around New Hampshire.

In its own words, the Black Heritage Trail NH Juneteenth Celebration 2022 endeavored to "offer a provocative intersection of history, media, performance and ideas that deepen our understanding of our nation's history and centers the Black experience."

First up was a family-friendly screening of Disney Pixar's *Soul* on June 10. A street-art workshop called "The Art of Erasure: Gone but Never Forgotten"



Audience members stand as *Let Freedom Ring* plays the during the Juneteenth celebration at the Hollywood Bowl, in Los Angeles, on June 19.



Cameron Price and his sister Emory Price play with a hula-hoops at the Juneteenth Youth Jamboree in Louisville, Kentucky on Saturday. Joseph Cooke, The Courier-Journal, USA Today Network



An onlooker reacts to a performance during a Juneteenth celebration in Times Square, in the Manhattan borough of New York, on June 19, 2022. ALEX KENT - Getty Images



People march in a Juneteenth reparations rally in Newark, New Jersey on Friday, Michael M. Santiago Getty Images People march in a Juneteenth reparations rally in Newark, New Jersey on Friday, Michael M. Santiago Getty Images

took place all day on Thursday, June 16, and Friday, June 17, in the run-up to the main event(s).

The Juneteenth weekend then kicked off on Friday, June 17, in Manchester with a moderated panel discussion on public art, "Bearing Witness: Black Art in Public Spaces." Back in Portsmouth on Saturday, June 18, visitors took in "Let it Shine," a late-afternoon program by the Howard Gospel Choir at The Music Hall.

On the day of Juneteenth itself, the organization offered a live (and livestreamed) event at the African Burying Ground Memorial called "Uproar: A Celebration of African American Creativity." This was a high-energy dance performance to "introduce audiences to the unique lineages... of African American dance."

2022 SEASON

- STREET FAIR**
Friday, June 17 | 5:00PM-8:00PM
Huron Street (Downtown Market)
- SUMMER SPECTACULAR**
Sunday, July 24 | 12:00PM-4:00PM
Upper Meridian Park & Adams Street (17th-21st)
- DANCING IN THE STREETS**
Thursday, September 21 | 5:00PM-8:00PM
N St. Clair Street (Huron-Washington)
- HAUNTED HARVEST**
Thursday, October 13 | 5:00PM-8:00PM
Upper Meridian Park & Adams Street (17th-21st)

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Growing Gardens... continued from page 10

collards and kale in water, you should never wash tomatoes, peppers, okra, cucumbers, squash and beans until ready to be eaten. GCC and their urban farming class taught us that dunking these crops in the water begins the decomposition process.

Pass Through the Waters

Second, water is essential, and your garden needs it, but water is tricky, and you may need some grace in this area. Do not allow water to get on the plants or let it form a puddle on the leaves. While I agree that rainwater is perfect for plant growth, it can create an environment for diseases if the water puddles for too long.

GCC has a moisture meter where we can tell if our crops have received enough water. The goal is to water about six inches deep; most vegetables need about 1-2 inches of water per week. Watering by hand is time-consuming; you'll get an uneven water distribution. Furthermore, it is a wasteful practice, given that many BIPOC environmental movements are fighting for equitable access to water.

If you can only hand water, aim the spray gun directly in the soil and pull back on the pressure to prevent from dislodging the plant. If the water runs off, the plant has gotten enough to drink. Suppose you want to know more about how to water more effectively. In that case, you can get hands-on urban farming and education training by contacting GCC.

Fruitful and Multiply

Third, the flowers on the cucumbers should be forming by now, and they can benefit from hand pollination. I hand-pollinate my cucumbers with a tiny paint brush. I insert the paintbrush into the male flower and carefully roll it inside the flower to capture the pollen grains. Then, I transfer the pollen grains on the paint brush to the female flower for a bountiful harvest. As your cucumber plant grows, tendrils (vines) will appear, and they will be ready to attach themselves to a trellis for climbing.

Carefully identify a healthy tendril, gently wrap the tendril around the trellis and then release the tendril. The tendril will grab ahold and wrap around the trellis tightly. Cucumbers and Kentucky Wonder beans climb

like this, one of the most exciting parts of growing climbers. But, like us, they need grace, space, and a support system to grow and thrive!

Prune and Divide

Fourth, prune the plant and cut the suckers for adequate growth. At times, you may not need gardening shears. Instead, you can gently clip off the suckers with your fingers. It may feel painful to prune, but these practices reduce diseases. If this process is too painful, you can cut the tomato sucker, put it in the water in a sunny location, and watch the roots form. Be sure that your garden tools are clean and sanitized. Plants are like us; growth in the right direction is important in due season!

Pest Management

Fifth, I know you've seen the white butterflies hovering over your garden by now. I am talking about Cabbage moths! The cabbage butterfly hatch eggs found in the soil or on your kale, collards, cabbage, and even your flowers. The worms chew through your food, which can destroy your garden. You'll need BTs (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) products to treat your garden. I know, I know. I'm not too fond of pesticides too. I know there are other unconventional techniques for pest management.

I can testify to the effectiveness of applying blood meal to the soil before planting kale and collards. I noticed increased nitrogen in the soil strengthens the leaves, making them strong enough to sustain the damage. But, I cannot advocate using blood meal mixed in the soil as the only solution. I can do more research on pest management, and I am happy to provide you with some answers.

I wish everyone grace, blessings, and good timing over you and your gardens! I will share more tips, tricks, and pitfalls I've learned throughout the planting, growing, and harvest seasons. If you are interested in learning more about gardening, please follow me on Instagram @The-harvestdoctor or contact me via email Carla.pattin@utoledo.edu. For hands-on training in urban farming and education on how to bring your garden to scale, contact Grace Community Center's farming manager, Preston Ingram, at 419-248-2467 or Elaine Page, director, to enroll in the Central State University's Fast Track Farming Program.

Ed. Note: Carla Janell Pattin, PhD, is assistant professor of Humanities at the University of Toledo. She can be reached at her office at 419-530-2629 for questions on gardening.

Black Service Members... continued from page 8

States Central Command, making Austin the first Black person to ever hold the position. In 2016, he retired from the military as a decorated and distinguished Army veteran with many honors, including a Silver Star and Humanitarian Service Medal. In the private sector, he served on several boards until President Joe Biden nominated him to be secretary of defense in 2021 -- where he serves today.

Retired Col. Merryl Tengesdal is the first, and currently the only, Black woman to fly a U-2 spy plane, which is utilized for the Air Force's high-altitude missions. After graduating from the University of New Haven, Tengesdal first served in the Navy flying helicopters. She went on to become an instructor pilot, training Navy and Air Force students at Joint Student Undergraduate Pilot Training. She transferred to the Air Force when her Naval obligation was complete.

Though she describes being the first Black woman to fly a U-2 plane as "surreal," she also says it's a "blind spot." "I try not to get caught up in being the only Black female. I just want to keep being inspirational and motivational for other people," Tengesdal said. During training, Tengesdal's instructors told her there would always be people who would say she was there because of her race and gender, and others who would say she shouldn't be there because of those things. One instructor reminded her that she was incredibly talented and would keep proving to others that she belongs at the top -- and soon enough, the critics wouldn't have those excuses anymore. Today, she reflects on that conversation in instances of self-doubt. Tengesdal retired in 2017 and has had many adventures since, including being a contestant on "Tough as Nails," a CBS reality show.

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***Black Panther* by Don McGregor, Rich Buckler, Billy Graham, Stan Lee, and Jack Kirby** c.2022, Penguin Classics Marvel Collection

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

After school and Saturday mornings were devoted to fighting crime.

There you were, seven, eight, nine years old, hard-bodied, brave, and fireproof – at least, in your mind. Along with your ancestors and others with superpowers, you were invincible. And in ***Black Panther* by Don McGregor, Rich Buckler, Billy Graham, Stan Lee, and Jack Kirby**, you'll see that it all started with a "dark line."

In the years between the middle of the Depression and the middle of World War II, over "seven hundred super-powered do-gooders debuted" in comic books, nation-wide. After the war was over, comic books continued to be popular but the super-hero genre faded to just a small group their publisher called the Justice League of America.

This spurred rival publisher Marvin Goodman to "sit up and take notice." He decided that his comic book company needed its own superhero team and he partnered with several talents to create the Marvel Universe. In the early 1960s, Marvel Comics' Fantastic Four were joined by several other superheroes "in the same story-world," each with a unique talent; in 1966, the Black Panther became one of them.

The character appeared at exactly the right time. Say the authors, the origins of the Black Panther reflected what was going on in the U.S. socially, politically, and in Civil Rights. The introduction of the Black Panther arrived between Jim Crow and the founding of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense. America, say the authors, "was confronting the deep historical consequences" of what it had done to its Black citizens and T'Challa was his own man. He didn't need White superheroes to save the day for him.

There were a few ragged edges to the character – at first, there were "hints"

c.2022
Penguin Classics Marvel
Collection
\$28.00
377 pages

that the Black Panther might spin into a comic book villain – but readers of the early story ultimately rested easier. The Fantastic Four and the Black Panther were always in good hands, both in Wakanda and elsewhere...

Imagine, says Nnedi Okorafor in her foreword, being a small child of immigrants from Nigeria, trying to visit a comic book store back when older white males were its usual customers. She fled the store then, empty-handed, and returned to comic books when she was an adult and found a character that looked like her. The earliest incarnation of that character and his comic book story are found inside *Black Panther*.

Fans can rejoice: the latter takes up the bulk of this book, chronologically and in full-color, just like the original comic books offered. But patience: before you get there, read the overview of comics in general, Marvel Comics, specifically; Okorafor's foreword; and a volume introduction to this character. Turn to the back for an essay on the Black Panther, and plot synopses with creator's notes. It's the whole deal.

The bonus, for fans of both movie and comic book, is that you can read this paperback release of the hardcover book without worry. Show hard love to this version of *Black Panther* and share it, knowing you're someone else's hero.

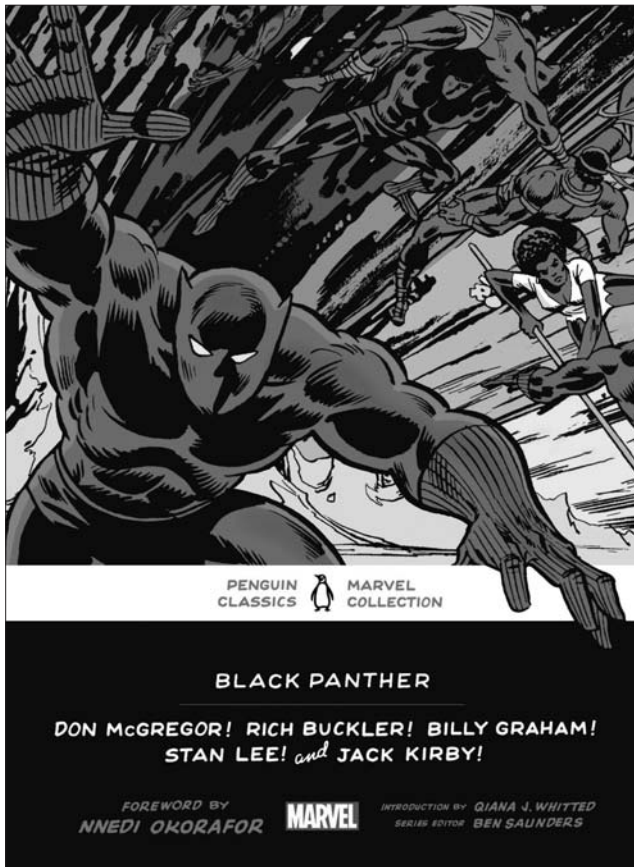
Maritime Academy... continued from page 7

"Juneteenth is a very important holiday in our community that isn't talked about or celebrated enough," said Events Coordinator and Teacher Stephanie Dixon. "Our students and staff are proud to further educate the community on what Juneteenth is and why it should unite the community we live in while providing a unique event to bring everybody together. We are better together," said Dixon.

This is the first of the Maritime Academy's Juneteenth celebration with plans to do much more in the future.

The Maritime Academy is located in downtown Toledo on Water St. adjacent to the Maumee River and is one of only 18 Maritime-Themed Public Schools across the United States.

"The Maritime Academy of Toledo is Northwest Ohio's premier educational destination for students grades 6-12 who are interested in maritime occupations. Located on the Maumee River with direct access to Lake Erie, the Maritime Academy provides an unmatched career-tech learning environment with its state-of-the-art educational tools, including an aquatic simulator, fully operable boats, and full-size pool. Students have the opportunity to graduate with a variety of Federal and National Certifications, as well as experience applicable to employment on commercial vessels." To learn more about Maritime Academy and how to enroll visit www.maritimeacademy.us.



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GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo is hiring for seasonal maintenance staff. Must be 18 or older with high school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license. \$12.00/hr. Up to 40 hours a week. Duties include cleaning and facility and grounds maintenance. Employment varies through December based on need. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers to view the job description and apply online. EOE

NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS

Metroparks Toledo and Kokosing Construction cordially invites all vendors, suppliers and contractors interested in subcontracting for services, providing products or supplying materials for the upcoming **Glass City Riverwalk Project** to attend a special Subcontractor and Inclusive Outreach event. The event will be held on **Monday, June 27, 2022 and Wednesday, June 29, 2022 both from 4:00 to 6:00 PM**. The location will be at **Middlegrounds Metropark, 111 Ottawa St., Toledo, OH 43602**.

The project scope of work consists of constructing multi-use paths, fully accessible park elements, modern greenspaces and community attractions. Construction work items include: roadway, erosion control, drainage, waterworks, lighting, landscaping, bridge work, retaining walls, boardwalks, docks and park amenities. For additional information, please contact Kaleb Tobien with Kokosing Construction at KTT@Kokosing.biz.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
WARREN COMMONS**

Rudolph Libbe will receive proposals for Warren Commons, a 46 unit, 3 story, wood framed supportive housing apartment building. Located at 2011 Franklin Ave, Toledo, OH.

Bids are due June 30th at 2:00 pm.

Documents and additional information is available on buildersexchange.com.

This project has MBE/WBE requirements and is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.

For more information on this project, please contact John MacGregor at 419-725-3233.

**POSITION AVAILABLE
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Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm that provides free, high quality legal assistance to people with low incomes in Western Ohio, seeks an Executive Assistant to provide support to the Executive Director and Advocacy Director. The position will report to the Executive Director and is located in Toledo.

Please visit ABLE's website at <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able/> to review full details for the position and apply.

ABLE is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in our workplace, including diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator at ablejobs@freelawyers.org.

**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 Chiller Replacement 2022 at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, to the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The project "Chiller Replacement 2022 at One Maritime Plaza consists of: Removal of existing watercooled chiller along with associated piping, power feeder & conduits. Power feeder to be removed from chiller control panel. Temporary removal of ductwork and louvers to facilitate demo and installation. Removal of abandoned air-cooled condensing unit along with associated ductwork, piping, power feeder, and controls. Power feeder to be removed from the motor control center. Installation of new chiller, piping, power feeder, disconnect, conduit, and fuses as indicated on the drawings. Reinstall ductwork and louver. Provide testing and start-up as needed. New control work shall be by the Owner. This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion. The engineer's estimate for the base bid is approximately \$321,860.00. Sealed bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices, 1st floor reception area at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604 until Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 10:00 AM, 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.

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 that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 9:30 am, at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Tina Perkins, at TPerkins@Toledoport.org by Monday, June 20, 2022, at 4:00 pm local time. Additional information can be found at www.toledoport.org

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

CAMP INCLUSION (CAMP PEARSON)

Metroparks Toledo is hiring for a Camp Inclusion Programmer. Some college coursework in education, biology, recreational therapy, outdoor recreation, or related program and valid driver's license required. \$12.00/hr. Up to 40 hours a week. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers to view the job description and apply online. EOE

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES
RFP#22-R006**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Marketing & Public Relations Services in accordance with RFP#22-R006. Received in accordance with law until July 11, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



Community Health and Wellness Fair Promotes Black Mental Health and Local Services

By Jordyn Taylor

The Truth Reporter

The sounds of Black joy have returned to the streets of Toledo. On June 18, The Community Solidarity Response Network (CSRN) partnered with the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Xi Tau Chapter and Pathway Toledo to host the Community Health and Wellness Fair at Mott Branch Library, celebrating Juneteenth, Father's Day, and the importance of acknowledging mental health within the black community.

The turnout for the event exceeded expectations as attendees indulged in the free food, bounce houses, and giveaways. Throughout the event, the team of organizations raffled off several Air Fryers and dozens of bikes to local families. The only requirement? To explore the mental health and community resources stationed around the park.

The ring of tables and tents hosted representatives from the Street Outreach Program, Lucas County Early Headstart, Read for Literacy, Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, Toledo Fire & Rescue Department, Brothers United, and many others who made appearances throughout the afternoon.

Organizers of the event urged attendees to take advantage of the free health services that were also available like CPR training, oral cancer screenings, prostate exams, and quick blood pressure and glucose checks provided by Promedica.

Khary McClellan III, a junior pre-med student at Eastern Michigan University, exclaimed how refreshing it was to see so many resources geared towards black men specifically.

"You don't really see that often in Toledo. I think that this event made it clear that Black men were to be celebrated, valued, and cared about with respect to their health. Between it being Juneteenth and Father's Day weekend. The love was in the air", McClellan said.



Amber Merritt



Ikpemesi O

Juneteenth... continued from page 9

As a part of the city-wide festivities. The sultry sounds of Ramona Collins and Arthur Bishop and The Funk Band could be heard by passersby. It was a celebration for the books! Several musical scores by the Toledo Orchestra keep festival participants smiling and dancing. The additional musical arrangements of The African Drum Circle, Blues Man Bobby G, and The Cross Youth Choir could be heard sprinkled with the laughter of children enjoying bouncy house jumping and yummy food truck sustenance.

The Doug thanked all the businesses and partners that participated: Tina Butts (T-Bonds Bail Bonds), Toledo Kwanzaa House, Toledo Edison, Ohio Voter Registration, Toledo Head Start, The Black Genealogy Org., Paparazzi L ZETTAF, Deborah Mnun, Michael Ashford (Ohio House of Representatives from the 44th district 2011-18), The Negro League Basketball Memorabilia PIB LLC., UMADAOP Lucas County, and both University of Toledo & Owens' Community College Black Student Unions, respectively. A special thank you was offered to Earl Mack of Buffalo Soldiers, The Newsome Gospel Singers, Antwan Oxner, Norris Finley, Jazz Around the World Ent. as well as the various poets with artistic voices that participated.

"Much appreciation for keeping the entertainment at the Doug wholesome and family friendly," shared the Frederick Douglass Community Association. "We appreciate our sponsors too! Thank you for partnering to make our commemoration a success."

Last but certainly not least, the first Black-niq Picnic Festival — Celebrate African American Culture — was pure excitement! This Free 'Glamping' style event was both eclectic and dare we say, alluring.

The Toledo Black Artist Coalition (TBAC) has partnered with the Toledo Museum of Art for an online exhibit entitled "Out of the Dark: A Historic Journey." Curated by eight members of TBAC, the exhibit acts as a spotlight of

BIPOC art in the museum's collection by influential creators. Find "Out of the Dark" on toledomuseum.org.

Not only does the African American community honor freedom on Juneteenth in its own right, but we also celebrate the act of emancipation, Abraham Lincoln so kindly provided to our nation those many years ago.

For others in the community who choose to immerse themselves in BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) culture, they stand to benefit a great deal by learning black history from personal experience over traditional narratives needing to be repurposed — first by those who live the black experience daily and then by others who support collective black progress, too.

Often other cultures later realize that not only can they participate in Juneteenth celebrations, but that they should. It's time to stop creating theatrical narratives of blackness and just be real.



Ramona Collins



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Toledo Museum of Art Honors Ten Local Individuals at Juneteenth Celebration

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Ten local individuals were acknowledged as Changemakers during the Toledo Museum of Art's Juneteenth/Father's Day Concert on Sunday, June 19. Audiences enjoyed singer and songwriter Raheem DeVaughn, who was born in New Jersey and nominated for several awards including the BET Awards and Grammy Awards.

The concert also featured Loose Ends with lead vocals sung by the original songstress Jane Engine. Loose Ends is a British R&B band with several record hits dating back to the 1980s.

During the intermission, The Changemakers were celebrated as community leaders from the Junction and Englewood neighborhoods. Each honoree received public recognition, a token of appreciation and a standing ovation in appreciation of their work for the community.

The Changemaker Award honorees were: Suzette Cowell, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, CEO and treasurer; Sonia Ramelle, Sonia Organics and Urban Wholistics founder; David Ross, The Arts Commission creative placemaking strategist; Alicia Smith, Junction Coalition director; Carnel Smith, EdD, Scott High School principal; Robert Smith, African American Legacy Project founder and executive director; Christine and Calvin Sweeney, PhD, Art Tatum Zone executive director and president; Celeste Taylor, Toledo Lucas County Public Library regional manager and Mott Branch manager and Reggie Williams, Frederick Douglass Community Association president.

According to Changemakers Calvin and Christine Sweeney the honorees were selected through an informal peer nomination process.

"Excited to be here with my wife to receive this recognition. This peer recognition means something. We don't work for the recognition but it does feel good," said Calvin Sweeney.

"This is definitely refilled my tank. I'm blessed to stand here with others that I admire and respect," shared Christine Sweeney.

The concert was sponsored in part by Taylor Automotive. The Toledo Museum of art is a nonprofit arts institute funded through individual donations, foundation grants, corporate sponsorships and investments. Admission to the museum is always free, visit the museum website for additional details www.toledomuseum.org



Carnel Smith and Reggie Williams



L to R (Reggie Smith, Calvin Sweeney, Alicia Smith, Christine Sweeney, Suzette Cowell, Celeste Taylor, Carnel Smith, EdD and Sonia Ramelle.



Calvin and Christine Sweeney with daughter Heaven



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