

Volume 73 No. 3

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 29, 2022



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Vice President Harris Addresses Black Media

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

The National Newspaper Publishers Association, NNPA, is a trade association of the more than 200 African American-owned community newspapers from around the United States. As a member of the Black press, we are an incubator for history making news that impacts our country. Vice President Kamala Harris briefed us to give breadth to the Black perspective on the Biden-Harris administration.

Benjamin Chavis, DMin, was the moderator of the afternoon briefing of Madam VP Harris. Chavis acted as a premier moderator, since activism courses through his bloodline.

His grandfather, John Chavis was the first black graduate from Princeton University and went on to set up an underground school for African Americans who were forbidden to learn to read and write. In his youth Benjamin Chavis became active in civil rights at the young age of 13 after attempting to integrate the all-white library in his North Carolina hometown. In school, Chavis was the editor of his high school newspaper while also writing for the local black paper, The Carolinian, in his spare time.

Benjamin Franklin Chavis's moderation of the briefing was relaxed while his progressive questioning of Madam VP Harris intrigued the audience. Questions were submitted by members of the Black press and presented in conversational form. It was a delightful liberal element of innovative reasoning in action between Chavis and VP Harris.

"It was announced that the former mayor of Atlanta, Keisha Lance Bottoms, will be joining the White House, tell us more," Chavis asked.

"She will be leading all we are doing around public outreach," shared VP Harris excitedly.

"As a former mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, Keisha Lance Bottoms is truly someone who cares about family, communities and our country."

This June 2022, Bottoms officially joined the Biden administration as director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

After serving as the 60th mayor of Atlanta from 2018 to 2022, Bottoms did not run for a second term. Instead, President Joe Biden nominated Bottoms as vice chair of Civic Engagement and Voter Protection at the Democratic National Convention for the 2021-2025 term, a role focused on protecting voting rights and expanding voter participation.



Vice President Kamala Harris



Benjamin Chavis, DMin

A conversation about the role of Black women in the Biden-Harris administration between Chavis and Vice President Harris ensued in light of this historic announcement. "I am humbled and honored to be the first African American to hold my position," shared Harris. "Bottoms is a very important part of this history-making administration."

VP Harris has her own history of being the First.

With every job Harris has had, she made history: The first female DA in California, the first Black Attorney General in California and the first South Asian Senator in all of America.

Her representation speaks volumes. It says a lot of great things about Harris' character and a lot of not-so-great things about a society full of budding Black talent often buried under unfair systems.

After the killing of George Floyd, Harris returned to the Senate with a new purpose, explaining unapologetically that, "Black Americans want to stop being killed."

VP Harris gave a speech a few weeks ago in South Carolina that the President (when he was a candidate) had said that he was going to put a Black woman on the Supreme Court and she has now been confirmed. Soon we will all acknowledge her as Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

When we look at the appointments to the federal judicial courts and appointments to other branches of government, we must only look to our American Black history to know the significance of this.

The Biden-Harris administration has appointed more Black women to the federal court than any administration in the history of the country thus far. "These are the judges that will interpret the law and they will be able to bring personal experience to their perception of how equality is defined," shares VP Harris.

"The Black press has notoriously followed urban development or a lack thereof on the topic of biased home appraisals," says Chavis. Data shows when Black families get their homes appraised, those homes get appraised for less than if they were owned by a white family. In fact, there are examples of knowledgeable Black families staging their homes by inviting over their white neighbors in preparation for a home appraisal. After equipping the home visually with family photos of Caucasian descent the Black homeowners were given a higher appraisal.

"Under Marcia Fudge's leadership in the Biden-Harris administration we have now confronted the issue of biased appraisals," explained Harris proudly.

The Biden-Harris administration is also doing historically ground-breaking work by way of criminal justice reform. In May 2022 of this year, the Biden administration signed an executive order on police reform.


President Biden's historic Executive Order to advance effective, accountable policing and strengthen public safety, promotes accountability and creates a new national database for police misconduct. The EO orders the Attorney General to establish a National Law Enforcement Accountability Database, in which all Federal law enforcement agencies (Federal LEAs) must participate. The database will include records of officer misconduct (including convictions, terminations, de-certifications, civil judgments, resignations and retirements while under investigation for serious misconduct, and sustained complaints or records of disciplinary actions for serious misconduct). The order celebrates accomplishments as well with commendations and awards.

"Numbers show that what our administration did by extending the child tax credit substantially lifted the burdens of children living in poverty the first year we implemented it," shared Harris.

The Biden-Harris administration has also put \$5.8 billion into HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges & Universities). "President Biden and I are paying attention to the disparities."

...continued on page 6

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Mental Health & Recovery Services
Division of Lucas County

Breaking Barriers

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

The Truth Contributor

Overcoming any obstacle is much easier and certainly more pleasant when you have people by your side to provide support and encouragement. They are likely to see things from a fresh perspective and offer alternatives you may not have otherwise considered.

- Dana Massett

The University of Toledo's hiring of Bryan Blair as Vice President and Director of Athletics could be the most consequential move in the school's history.

While nearly half of Division I student-athletes are Black or African-American, only 12 (9.2 percent) Black men and three (2.3 percent) African-American women held one of the 130 athletic director positions at FBS schools in 2021.

No longer merely a job for retired coaches, the role of today's athletic director requires highly skilled professionals who serve as CEOs, managing the complex arena of college athletic administration and overseeing business operations exceeding tens of millions of dollars.

Blair's hiring should also positively impact Black student recruitment and retention, both issues of concern at most predominately white institutions.

I spoke with Blair about barriers to occupational mobility for Black athletic directors and strategies to improve Black student success.

Here is our conversation:

Perryman: Please provide our readers with a bit of your background and history.



Bryan Blair

Blair: I've been surrounded by many great people, starting with my parents. I grew up in the little town of Bennettsville, South Carolina. So, pine trees and dirt roads are the landscape. I grew up playing in the woods with my brother and just small, humble upbringings in the church and those kinds of things. I played four sports in high school and got a chance to play college football at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Nobody in my family had ever been a collegiate athlete. So, it was an amazing time to test and push me beyond what I thought was possible.

Perryman: How about your professional experience?

Blair: I went on to law school at the University of South Carolina with the idea of being a lawyer as a backup plan. I wanted to do something different with that law degree and try to combine it with sports, and I was able to do that. I started working in compliance at the NCAA national office at Rice University, then the University of South Carolina again, and then Washington State University, most recently as the Deputy Athletic Director working with our AD on a lot of the inner workings, especially the football program there. I got this opportunity to come to the University of Toledo, and here I am.

Perryman: Earlier, you mentioned the influence of your parents.

Blair: My mom was an educator, and so were my dad and my grandma. My mom was my middle school principal, my dad worked at the district office, and then grandma was a lifelong teacher in elementary and high schools. Education and its value have been something that's been beaten in my head my entire life. It probably explains why I took that side of our occupation so seriously, in addition to my love for sports.

Perryman: You've reached a pinnacle as a Black AD in a predominantly white institution. What do you attribute your success, and how can people coming behind you overcome barriers to occupational mobility in college sports?

Blair: Everything that I've been able to accomplish and do is less about me and more about the people around me. Again, that starts with my parents, and I know everybody says that, but my mom and my dad held me to such a high standard I had to have A's and B's before I could play sports. I was never allowed to quit anything that I started. Anytime I wasn't playing a sport, my

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An Open Letter to Bishop Gregory Palmer

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

In the June 19 Sunday edition of the Toledo Blade, there is a story wherein it is reported that, due to the divisive issue of homosexuality in the United Methodist Church, a schism or a split is inevitable in the next two to four years.

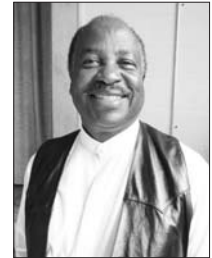
The article quotes the bishop of the West Ohio Conference, Gregory Palmer, as saying that the phrase, 'space for grace,' should control the dialogue of the ongoing discussions regarding the split of those who favor leaving the Methodist camp with the new name of The Global Methodist Church and those who stay and still bear the moniker of, The United Methodist Church.

Obviously, Bishop Gregory Palmer wants to maintain the unity of the church, if at all feasible and possible, but he is jumping out of a plane with no parachute, which means no safe landing.

What is painful for me to hear, is the fawning and genuflecting that has gone on and will go on from the bishop and others who want to try to placate the dissenters and avoid the division.

Salubrious as that concept may be, it will not happen because the division will be a proper and prudent division because it will separate the wheat from the chaff.

The 'wheat' is the written Word of God and its tenets and required moral conduct for those who adhere to its principles. The 'chaff' are those whom, with intellectual reasoning, try to foist upon the Word of God, interpretations that condone the sin of homosexuality.



Lafe Tolliver

... continued on page 12



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Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson Comments on Roe v. Wade Decision

Rep. Hicks-Hudson: Ohioans still deserve the freedom to make their own health care decisions after Supreme Court strikes down Roe v. Wade

Special to The Truth

State Rep. Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) last week issued a statement after the Supreme Court's conservative majority struck down Roe v. Wade, which established the right to access safe and legal abortion care in the United States.

"It is a sad day to find out that the Justices who stated that they believed in legal precedent during their nomination hearings lied. Now, some women will use dangerous medical practices, forego access to healthcare, or be subjected to pregnancies that endanger their well-being and lives," said Rep. Hicks-Hudson. "We must organize and use our voices and votes to push back."



State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Over 60 percent of Ohioans agree with the Roe v. Wade decision to allow access to abortion. Despite this, Ohio Republicans continue to prioritize legislation to ban abortion, including the six-week abortion ban signed into law by Gov. DeWine in 2019. House Bill 598 and Senate Bill 123 are current pieces of legislation that would completely ban abortion in Ohio without any exceptions for rape, incest or to protect the health of the mother.

Meanwhile, Democrats have introduced House Joint Resolution (HJR) 5, a constitutional amendment that would ensure all people have the freedom to make decisions about their bodies and healthcare. This includes the ability to obtain surgical and medical abortion services. Additionally, the amendment would codify the right to access and use contraceptive devices and medications.

HJR 5 still awaits assignment to a House committee and a first hearing.

Fedor Condemns U.S. Supreme Court's Ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

Last week, state Senator Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) issued the following statement after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization to remove the federal constitutional right to abortion and give the power to restrict or ban abortion to states. The ruling overturns

a half-century of Supreme Court precedent established by Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey.

"This decision marks the largest reversal of women's personal privacy rights in the history of the United States.

"The Supreme Court's ruling strips women of our bodily autonomy and dignity, and completely alters what it means to be a woman or girl in America today. Eliminating the right to abortion doesn't stop abortions – it only serves to stop safe abortions and is particularly oppressive to Black, impoverished, and working-class women. Forcing a woman to give birth is traumatizing and inhumane, especially for those who are pregnant as a result of abuse.

"Politicians have no place getting involved in such a personal decision that should be left to the individual and their health care provider. Unfortunately, Republicans' crusade to pass legislation that the majority of Ohioans oppose



Sen. Teresa Fedor

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~Brian Tracey

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Homeownership: A Dream Come True ... For Some

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

For many these days, homeownership seems to be a distant fantasy.

For first time homebuyers Larry and Cynthia Robinson, NeighborWorks made that dream a reality.

NeighborWorks has been serving the Toledo community for years in homeownership needs. In 2021 they expanded their program with a crucial partnership. Key Bank provided them with a \$3 million equity investment to create a community lending program.

Friday, June 10, the Robinsons, long-time Toledo residents, closed on their first home in Englewood.

"Our goal is to create 60 new homeowners in this fund over the next three years..." said James Hoffman, Northwest Market President of Key Bank – as he congratulated the Robinsons on their new home at the press conference on Monday, June 13.

The partnership with Key Bank, the Fair Housing Center and NeighborWorks is an effort "to expand access to homeownership for all...to borrowers in low-to-moderate income census tracts within the City of Toledo" by "reduc[ing] common barriers people face when attempting to obtain a traditional mortgage"

This lending program:

- Provide(s) flexible terms and more affordable financing
- Account(s) for nontraditional credit and flexible income s(source:www.nwtoledo.org)

The Robinsons started their journey about a year ago when they signed up for NeighborWork's financial coaching and homebuyer education courses. Through the program they were able to finance their dream home. This class is a monthly free eight-hour course among a wealth of free services NeighborWorks offers to members of the community interested in attaining this goal themselves.

That Monday, presentations were given by James Hoffman, Northwest Market President of Key Bank; Marie M. Flannery, Executive Director Toledo Fair Housing Association; Ebenezer Ozei-Kwame from City of Toledo Housing & Community Development Department, representatives from NeighborWorks and a proclamation was received by the couple from Governor Mike DeWine.

"I know it's been a long road and you guys kept pushing and kept doing and here you are," said Flannery, as she congratulated the couple and expressed the importance of homeownership.

The couple earned down payment assistance from the City of Toledo – obtaining their home with zero closing cost. They also earned a home improvement grant of \$6,500 through LISC Toledo to make improvements to their home. Truly serving as a model for what others can do.

The Robinson's story is one of persistence in achieving their dream. That with dedication, effort, and the right support – you can meet your goal.

"Well worth the wait!!!" expressed Larry Robinson, at the end of the press conference Monday.



The Robinsons with NeighborWorks staff



Cynthia and Larry Robinson

NeighborWorks America® is the country's preeminent leader in affordable housing and community development, working to create opportunities for lower-income people to live in affordable homes in safe, sustainable neighborhoods that are healthy places for families to grow. NeighborWorks TOLEDO REGION restores and revitalizes NeighborWorks® neighborhoods, primarily for the benefit of current and future inhabitants, by providing services and programs that renew pride, stimulate reinvestment and restore confidence and trust. (Source: www.nwtoledo.org)

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³Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

Vice President Harris... continued from page 2

Black publication readers have noticed a glaring difference between the focus of the mainstream media vs the focus of the Black media.

"Why doesn't the Biden-Harris Administration get more credit for the progress you've made in the mainstream news," asks Chavis.

Vice President Harris brought to mind the realization that everyone in the world has in one way or another been in home confinement due to COVID. "We are getting on the road now to make sure the American people know the accomplishments we've made. We all have so much to be proud of," said Harris.

Truth be told, VP Harris is no stranger to big accomplishments.

She has been responsible for bringing Issues such as maternal mortality to the stage of the White House with other Democratic freedom-fighters such as Alma Adams and Lauren Underwood.

When Harris was in the Senate, she brought to light the issue of Black women being three times more likely to die in connection to child birth than any other group. "The Black press has been fair. We don't expect special treatment, just fair treatment to cover our administration's accomplishments, because they are significant," shared Harris.

Michael Regan (one of the Nation's Black leaders on environmental issues) and Harris have gone on a 'road-show' of sorts to speak to Americans about the national emergency of lead pipes.

Michael S. Regan is the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The impact this Infrastructure Law will have on the quality of life for not only Black communities but all communities, particularly those who have been disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards like lead pipes, is tremendous.

"Over half of America's children under the age of six are at risk of lead poisoning via pipes or paint," explained Harris. Administrator Regan and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia Fudge have been getting out and speaking with voters about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes a once-in-a-generation investment of \$350 billion in highway programs. This includes the largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the Interstate Highway System.

Whitehouse.gov says, "This Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will rebuild America's roads, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every American has access to high-speed internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, and invest in communities that have too often been left behind."

Vice President Harris concluded, "We are on the road to getting rid of all



NNPA Foundation Chair Amelia Ashley-Ward, then-Senator Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), NNPA Chairman Dorothy Leavell and Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., during a ceremony honoring Harris in 2018

lead within our country's pipeline through our administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law."

This work not only affects the work mayors do all around the United States, but particularly in places like Flint, MI where residents have had a horrific water crisis. Lead in pipes is not exclusive to the Black community, in contrast it causes a detrimental effect on all of our children's health and ability to learn in America.

"What our administration says is that the government should think of this as a public health matter that requires us to invest public dollars in removing dangerous lead pipes," said Harris.

Black media publishers in Texas, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, many states are facing state legislatures that are doing anything they can to keep people from voting.

"How do we overcome voter suppression?"

What we know historically is every election cycle black Americans say why should I vote? The VP suggested that underserved America can overcome voter suppression by understanding that when they turned out in record numbers in 2020, the impact can be seen today.

If we look at the states with restrictions on voting there seems to be an overlap of restrictive citizens' rights, including a woman's right to make decisions about her own body and reproductive health.

Thanks to President Joe Biden signing into law a federal holiday to commemorate and celebrate Juneteenth. Many people wanted to know how they should celebrate.

A cool way VP Harris framed her answer was describing Cali culture. For anyone who knows Oakland and Berkeley, California, there was a place called Rainbow Sign. Known locally as, "A Black Table at Which Everyone Is Welcome to Eat," Rainbow Sign was an intergenerational community center. Often described as somewhere between a Black progressive headquarters and a middle class social club, it attracted all walks of life.

Harris recalled, "My mother would take me and my sister to Rainbow Sign. Nina Simone, Maya Angelou, Ishmael Reed, politicians and artists would be there talking about everything from art to music to poetry to politics."

When it came to Harris' parents they had a fascinating love story. They met while pursuing their graduate degrees at UC Berkeley falling in love with their shared passion for the civil rights movement. VP Harris then shared memories of the aroma in the air of big pots of soul food cooking in the kitchen at Rainbow Sign, and how both the kids and adults would listen to various leaders talk about the issues of the day.

Regardless of our political preferences we can all agree the recognition of Juneteenth as a National holiday was long past due and is much appreciated by the American people who value historical advancements among black people.

"The Juneteenth principles I think Americans should celebrate are freedom and liberty," shared VP Harris passionately. Before the Civil War, the few times the media talked about freedom came primarily from the black press by way of journalism on freedom of expression.

"We've clarified what slavery is to America, now it's time to clarify what freedom is."

Black leadership has become increasingly fragmented and uncertain yet the Biden administration is still managing to 'Build Back Better' for the underserved. Many civil rights activists are even hanging up their marching shoes and running for public office.

Black politicians, in fact, are the new black leadership class.

As Democrats do their best to 'Deliver', make sure your vote is a part of the collective conversation. Together we can move from protest to politics. Together we can successfully translate the black vote into better schools, better jobs and better communities for us all.

The Truth

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Dallas Cowboys Fan Base Holds Annual Fish Fry for The Community

By Jordyn Taylor

The Truth Reporter

Bonding over their love of the Dallas Cowboys NFL team and their community, the Star Status Cowboys Connection of Ohio (SSCCO) successfully hosted their 6th Annual Feed The Need Community Wide Fish Fry on Saturday, June 25. While set up on Madison Avenue, the nonprofit organization cooked up fresh fried fish meals for over 150 people, with an assortment of sides, desserts, and snacks to take for later.

Cookie Palacios, a member of the organization, said that this event was close to her heart.

"It makes me feel good when we can come out here to put a smile on people's faces and help them," Palacios exclaimed.

In addition to the hot meal, the organization gave away free clothing and items to those who needed them. Those who were not in need were asked to give donations to further help their cause.

Mark Lockett Sr., president and founder of SSCCO, says that they are a club with a conscience.

"Any of us could be needy at any time. We [SSCCO] let them know that they are still appreciated. We like to give back to the community, and the community helps us with this. They donate money, products, anything we need to put this on successfully year after year," Lockett said.



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Minority Business Assistance Center Hosts Gala

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Guests poured into the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion for the Northwest Ohio Minority Business Assistance Center's inaugural annual gala Saturday evening June 25. Four honorees were highlighted for their success celebrating the NWO-Toledo MBAC's first year of operation.

"I'm very happy to see all of you here tonight," acknowledged Stacey Fowler, Regional Director of Ohio Minority Business Assistance Centers, "We're here to celebrate a year of amazing triumphs that we've been able to achieve on behalf of our minority owned business. Tonight, we're celebrating our clients, we're celebrating our partners and our community at large.

"We're also here to celebrate the work our team has achieved this past year."

The NWO-Toledo MBAC opened its doors in 2021 and took off running. The center has exceeded its projected goals and the growth over the past three months has been exponential, noted Managing Principal Shanda Gore, EdD.

The evening was a celebration of successes across the board.

In August 2021 the center was assembled and was housed at One Government Center with grant supporters Lucas County Commissioners where they re-introduced themselves to the community. They now have their own office on 3737 W Sylvania Ave. with three Satellite Offices serving 17 counties. During the 2021 fiscal year, NWO-Toledo MBAC

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Monica Womack, Chief of Minority Business Div. of Ohio; Shanda Gore, Mng Principal of NWOMBAC; Stacey Fowler, Reg. Director NWOMBAC, with honorees Ella Silva and Dawn Waston



Michael Edwards, Lori Hall and Audrey Edwards



James Hall, Counselor and Development Advisor NWOMBAC, Sandy Spang and Ana Snyder



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Brothers and Sisters United Helps a Relationship Grow

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Jazmynn Abalos, 19, and Byron Buchanan, 20, first met at Bowsher High School when they were a freshman and a sophomore, respectively. They eventually developed a friendship and became boyfriend and girlfriend in 2021.

When Bryon met Jazmynn she already had her first child, her daughter Jada.

"I knew if I wanted to make a relationship with her, I had to make a relationship with Jada as well... a commitment to her..." said Byron, "It's been a great experience with them... I love them both."

In March 2022 the pair welcomed their own baby boy: D'angelo. Since there is no other biological co-parent for Jada, Byron is father to both.

Jazmynn and Byron joined Brothers and Sisters United together this year and Byron completed Brothers United as well.

"I didn't know much about being a parent," said Byron. "She's (Jazmynn's) been a great help." Jada is now five years old and D'angelo, three months. While the two have a wonderful support system of family and friends, and each other, Pathway has provided additional support and fills in the gaps.

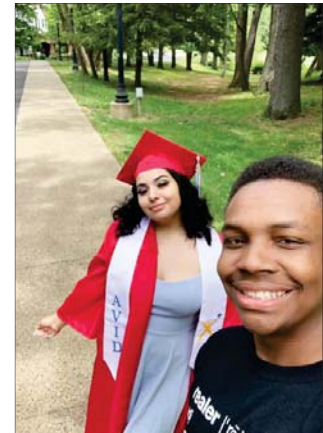
Though the two may seem young to some, their outlook on life and perspective in their relationship is very mature. "We have our ups and downs... we make the best out of it," said Byron.

Their relationship has presented its challenges. "Walking into a relationship already with one kid [was challenging]," Jazmynn said. Brothers United helped the most post-pregnancy. "[Brother's United] helped the most during maternity leave," said Jazmynn "Having that time, even just to hear from other moms, helped balance."

Brothers and Sisters United helped them improve communication in their relationship. "We were having problems in our relationship. Broth-



Byron Buchanan, Jazmynn Abalos, newborn son D'angelo and daughter Jada



Jazmin Abalo and Byron Buchanan

er's United help us to fix our communication and try to get more time in with each other," said Jazmynn. Byron agreed "it help us grow more between us and as parents as well."

The pair work on their relationship themselves and their relationship for their children. "[Bother's United] teaches you how to have a positive relationship ... because that's what is best for the kids," said Jazmynn. "It's more than just being a better parent, it's becoming a better person as well." The Brothers United program would put them in scenarios in class that would challenge them and provide them with proper tools to solve them.

Before Byron, Jazmynn was raising her child alone. She had to now learn how to co-parent with another person. Byron is learning every day how to be a father. The situation was new two to both and Pathway supplied them with a roadmap to navigate.


Both believe the program should be known to more to people and that many people would benefit. "It was beneficial to me - it can be beneficial to anybody else," said Byron. Jazmynn recommended her Bowsher classmate, Trey Murrell. (See The Truth, June 15 issue).

Today, Pathway stills check up on the pair with phone calls.

"The biggest thing I learned is you're not alone," said Jazmynn, "and there's help, you may have to go and look for it but there are people willing to help."

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PAID FOR BY CITIZENS FOR ROGERS

Fedor... continued from page 4

is a testament to the undemocratic and cruel ideology of their party. Thanks to the supermajority power they hoard through gerrymandering, Ohio is becoming a dangerous and intolerant state. We must do everything in our power to change the direction of our state."

The Supreme Court's ruling means Ohio will seek to reinstate its "heart-beat bill," passed by the General Assembly in 2019. The legislation outlaws abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected - which can be as early as six weeks after conception, often before most women are aware they are pregnant. Health care professionals have testified that the bill would restrict their autonomy to provide what can be lifesaving care in certain circumstances. Doctors who violate this law by performing an abortion after detecting a heartbeat would face a fifth-degree felony and up to a year in prison. The State Medical Board could also take disciplinary action against doctors and impose penalties of up to \$20,000.

A 2019 Quinnipiac University poll found that 52% of Ohioans opposed the legislation.

Governor Mike DeWine has also signaled he would support legislation currently being considered by the General Assembly to ban all abortions in Ohio with no exceptions for rape or incest. A Gallup poll conducted in May found that 85 percent of Americans believe abortion should be legal under all or certain circumstances.

Perryman... continued from page 3

dad had me working either around the house, around the yard, or even one of the businesses he started, so I never had a whole bunch of free time.

Then, I've had so many coaches take an interest, lean into me, and help me move along with my career, studies, or whatever it may be. I don't think I'm anything special, although I try to work hard and treat people the right way. But, more than anything, I've had a tremendous upbringing from my parents and had people around me who have poured their heart and soul into helping me get to this point.

Perryman: So, you're saying that success factors primarily include mentoring and networking?

Blair: I think that's true in anything. Specifically, for minorities in athletic administration, getting people around you that can mentor, help you learn and grow in your profession, and network with a purpose.

I tell people all the time don't network for jobs but to network for knowledge; network to be better at your current craft. So, when I reach out to people, 'Hey, I saw you guys do this at your school. How can I do that? How can I steal that idea, or how can I get that idea and apply it here?' So, networking for knowledge is something I learned early in my career and started to apply.

Perryman: What can Division I institutions do to ensure equity in hiring athletic directors and high-level administrators?

Blair: I hope they have more people on the committees and the search groups that represent a broader demographic. The search committee formed for this AD search was diverse in terms of gender, race, ethnicity and perspective. You had people that had been in Toledo for a long time and some that were relatively new to Toledo. All of the different perspectives equal better decisions. I think recruiting broadly, too. UT utilized a search firm that's nationally known and recruited nationally. So those are all keys to making sure your process doesn't lean one way or another and that you're inclusive in the search.

Perryman: An athletic director is like a major corporation's CEO, and you're usually not great at everything. What would you say your strengths are? Compliance, fundraising, marketing or negotiating contracts?

Blair: There are a lot of technical skills that we have to bring to the table that combine sports and academics. I think my strength is getting people excited about a common goal and moving in the same direction. If I had to say a secondary one, it would probably be strategy. I'm a strategic planning nerd. Having the vision and building out the logical steps that get you there is essential. So, analytical skills, decision making, all those things go into it. I started in compliance. I've worked in development and marketing, but my core strength is probably the people. I honestly think that's the most critical part of any organization.

Perryman: During the golden years of University of Toledo athletics in the late 60s and early 70s, one of the keys to success was the contributions of local athletes. Unfortunately, today, many administrators often overlook the athletes in their own backyards. What is your philosophy on recruitment?

Blair: I won't step in and tell our coaches you have to recruit here or recruit there. But, whether fundraising, ticket sales, or recruiting young people, our coaches want to take care of home first. They want to ensure they're not overlooking or letting talent escape. We've had some outstanding players who have had the opportunity to go to some other institutions that were born and raised in Toledo. We have to make sure what we offer here is comparable to anywhere else. Hence, those athletes feel like they don't have to leave to go find a home to go get 'whatever they're choosing to seek in their athletic experience.' That's really important to me.

But, one of the things so exciting about this job is our recruiting footprint. It's just a tremendous talent base around us from Detroit to Ohio to Pennsylvania that we can pull from. Still, taking care of Toledo first, the folks and those athletes in our city that want to wear the city across their chest is important.

Perryman: Are you or any of your staff sitting on any local boards or giving back to the local community in any way?

Blair: I don't know that yet; I've only been here for about a month. But that'll be something I'm very much interested in, in terms of getting into the

community and meeting people, gaining an understanding of where I can be of service and how I can help move some of those community initiatives forward, but also so that I can listen to the community and understand what some of the feedback is.

I went to the Old West End Festival a couple of weeks back because I had coffee with Keith Jordan at Onyx, and he said 'hey, this is going on this weekend; you should check it out.' So, I popped up with my family, and we went. My daughter had a ball, and she got some cotton candy. I got some excellent bbq, and it was a good opportunity to see the community on a great day in Toledo. So, I want to do much more of that informally and formally, looking at committees and opportunities here.

Perryman: This is the 50th anniversary of Title IX. Do you have a strategy to recruit more minorities to some of the under-recruited sports such as softball, soccer, tennis, track, and golf?

Blair: I'd love to see some of our sports that aren't football or basketball; see young African American kids have those opportunities. Some of that starts with the pipeline out of high school and there are some things we can do to encourage that participation. I certainly would love to see those young people thrive at the University of Toledo because I think we have a great product and environment to offer. And, frankly, having a Black athletic director encourages them to look at our university. I hope they do so, and I hope we recruit them and they have a great experience while they're here. I'll do my best to make sure that's possible.

Perryman: Your thoughts on name image and likeness?

Blair: I've been here 50 days and spent 49 talking about it. It is the hot topic in college athletics. I'm all for young people having an opportunity to profit from their name, image and likeness (NIL). I only wish we had consistent rules applicable across the country. If you give me the set of rules, we'll devise a strategy to ensure we're successful. Right now, it doesn't feel like we know the rules. However, I'm hoping we get some rule changes, and we have the opportunity to learn and let this thing settle over time.

Perryman: What kind of student-athlete support programs have you seen that are the most effective and can be implemented on the broader campus to support student retention?

Blair: Honestly, UT students are retained, graduating and achieving at an extremely high level, in some cases higher than their counterparts who are non-athletes. So, the model we have set up - whether it be the academic advisors, the personal attention, tutors, or keeping track of grades throughout the year. In addition, I think our staff does a tremendous job of checking in with our student-athletes: how are you doing, what do you need, and how can we help make you more successful?

I'd like to see us grow in the area of life skills. With more resources and extensive staff, we might have some career development opportunities, resumes, interviewing skills, micro internships, and job shadowing. All of which we can do to set them up for success whenever their playing career is over.

Perryman: I noticed that the University of Toledo has exceptional graduation rates. Yet, there's still a disparity in graduation rates between black and white students. How can you and your peers use your voices to encourage the prioritization of expanded recruitment and retention for students of color?

Blair: It's a priority, a full stop for me. Some of it is having a relationship with the young person and where they know that you see them as a person, not just an athlete. Sometimes in sports, the only focus from an academic standpoint is to get you to keep those grades to be eligible. I want to see that total person be successful. I hope every student-athlete I interact with believes that. I know my staff understands that's my priority and my expectation.

Perryman: How can your athletic department tangibly demonstrate your commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion?

Blair: To me, a lot of it goes back to the hiring process, ensuring your athletic department mirrors student-athletes and ensuring that culture is one of inclusivity. So, I think that being a priority from the top down to make sure we get diverse people on board, supporting them and making them feel sup-

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Minority Business Assistance Center... continued from page 8

has served 205 new clients, procured \$5.1 million in contracts and provided 1465 counseling hours through their offices.

The welcome was provided by James Hall (Counselor and Development Advisor for NWO-ToledoMBAC) with Tyrone Alexander, Human Resource Director of the City of Toledo, serving as Master of Ceremonies. An introduction was given by Monica Womack, Chief of Minority Business Division Office of Minority Business of Ohio.

Presentations were given by the Diversity and Inclusion Office of the City of Toledo as well as the Mayor's Office.

The theme was "Carnibal: A Weekend with the Stars" and guests enjoyed masquerade costume items and casino games. The Friday night before supporters participated in a Golf Scramble.

2022 NWO-Toledo MBAC Stars:

- Shooting Star Award – Ella Silva CEO/ President of Garza Construction, Inc. (Fremont, Ohio)

Silva became the president/CEO of Garza Construction, Inc. following the passing of her husband in 2017. With the help of NWO-ToledoMBAC Silva was able to restructure her company, create a maintenance plan for trucks, explore loan opportunities and hire more drivers. She is determined to make Garza Construction, Inc. the best trucking company in the tri-state area. She has grown her fleet of trucks from two to 13 trucks in nine months.

- Rising Star Award – Shalon Carr – Owner of Simplee Cleaning, LLC (Toledo, Ohio)

After years in the automotive industry, Carr started her own cleaning business. NWO-ToledoMBAC helped Carr to restructure her business to provide better wages for her employees, improve her accounting structure and enter a mentoring program to learn different techniques. Simplee Cleaning is continuing to expand its operations in the industry!

- Sunray Advocacy Award – Dawn Watson – Director of Custodians & School Facilities of Sylvania School District (Sylvania, Ohio) The

...continued on page 13

Tolliver... continued from page 3

There. I said it. That three-letter word that sends spasms through the dissenters who want the United Methodists to cover their eyes and close their ears to their dissent which wants their following agenda approved: (1) ordinations of gay people to the pulpit ministry (2) same sex marriages and (3) leadership positions held by gays in the United Methodist Church.

At the outset, let me clearly state that what the dissenters want is a flagrant violation of the teachings of Jesus the Christ, but they also want to give the impression that the Word of God "got it all wrong" in their estimation of what the scriptures say is or is not, permissible conduct or a permissible lifestyle regarding homosexuality.

Homosexuality lies outside of the guardrails of approved Biblical conduct, regardless of how many theologians, studies, reports or testimonies champion otherwise.


Homosexuality and its attendant practices of gay marriage and same sex unions are Biblically prohibited, as are other named sins.

I know...I know. No one wants someone else to tell them what they can or cannot do in their public or private lives, but...when one purportedly submits to the Lordship of Jesus the Christ, you are bought with a price and thus you are not your own.

Your allegiance and affections and behavior are no longer solely your own decisions and that you can continue any lifestyle as you so well please.

Bible-based Christianity is not a buffet table by which you can pick and choose what you will or will not abide by and what admonitions you may or may not follow. The concept of Jesus as Lord is not negotiable by which you can serve two masters...yourself and the God of the Bible.

Just as oil and water will not mix, nor will your decisions to approve of and condone homosexuality mix with the Bible declarations that practicing homosexuality is a sin; and if not confessed as and treated as a sin, you will need to examine your salvation to make sure you are walking in the light.



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In the Bible, there are places where potential disciples refused to no longer walk with the Lord because some of his sayings were hard to hear and they did not want to follow them, so they left and followed their own path.

In other passages of scriptures, the Lord said to his followers, "Why do you call me Lord and do not do what I tell you?"

Well, the same concept holds true for those who wish to leave the United Methodist Church and form their own Global Methodist Church. The dissenters who believe and think that their methods and the lifestyles they either practice or believe in are permissible, have gone a' whoring' after other gods.

A prior Bishop of the West Ohio Conference, Bishop Ough, sanctioned the then treasurer, Bill Brownson, who was purportedly engaged in a same sex lifestyle as being, "OK" because Bill Brownson and his partner were in a "committed relationship."

For those who do damage in properly exegeting the Word of God, a "committed relationship" does not qualify as a proper marriage between people of the same sex.

Now, the new cute catchphrase to rub oil on this gaping wound is to say that we need 'space of grace' for those do not want to repent of their sin but yet still want to find succor and affirmation in the United Methodist Church.

What Bishop Palmer needs to elucidate in no uncertain terms is that a 'space of grace' does not allow for permissive sin, nor does it allow for those who intentionally engage in acts of homosexuality to feel at ease or at home in a church environment that does not call them to repentance.

For the sin-affirming churches who want to remain in the United Methodist camp, they will attempt to act and preach as if nothing has happened so they do not lose members or the money that the members bring in each Sunday, but that will not be successful.

Their success will not be in the taking up of weekly generous offerings or placating and comforting church members who are engaged in a homosexual lifestyle but is found in not becoming false preachers and teachers who sold out to Baal for a few shiny trinkets of public applause and enjoying the adulation of men.

Bishop Palmer knows better and he needs to take the higher moral ground and draw a line in the sand and kindly say to those who want to leave so as to engage in and/or condone homosexuality, "Go! And let the door hit you on the way out and may God have mercy on your fateful decision!"

Contact Lafe Tolliver, Lay Speaker @ Braden United Methodist Church, tolliver@juno.com

Perryman... continued from page 11

ported, welcomed, and wanted, to be their authentic selves.

Perryman: Last question: It's been 1980 since we've been to the NCAA tournament. What are you going to do about that?

Blair: We've got two remarkable coaches that bring back teams this year that are as good or better than they were even last year. We also have two sports that both won conference championships in the regular season.

They built challenging schedules this year. They're going to push us in ways we weren't driven historically. Then we're going to try to take care of business the way we can during the regular season and tournament and move forward.

I also understand the importance of making it to the tournament, and our programs are well on their way to achieving that. When we achieve that, all these trials and tribulations of coming up just short will make that moment that much sweeter.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@enterofshopebaptist.org)

Miss Chloe: A Memoir of a Literary Friendship with Toni Morrison by A.J. Verdelle

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

One hundred sixty-three.

That's how many friends you have on social media and you know most of them, one way or another. There are colleagues on your list, and cousins, friends, and a guy you don't really remember meeting. You connected to them all somehow and you count them as friends or more. As in the new memoir, *Miss Chloe* by A.J. Verdelle, keeping in touch with them is always worth it.

When her first novel was in its final stages before release, A.J. Verdelle sent out a few precious copies to trusted sources, and one of them made its way to a place she didn't expect: author Toni Morrison got it and publicly said she liked the book.

For Verdelle, this was one of those pinnacle-of-life moments. She grew up reading Morrison's work – sometimes at an age that was “too early” – and to know that her idol read her book was more than Verdelle could dream of.

Even better was that this chance encounter with a book turned into a friendship.

The great author encouraged Verdelle in her writing career and they shared a deep love of language, often laughing over wordplay. Morrison had worked in a library when she was young; Verdelle had worked in a library, and she was a teacher at Princeton. Morrison helped Verdelle to understand how best to mentor her students at Princeton; this, too, and their love of books, allowed the two women to bond.

Over the years, they shared lunches, dinners, and “events in her honor.” They spoke “freely” about “Black people and Black women and Black history and the ways we plotted and planned and managed to press forward.”

And yet, their relationship wasn't without its problems. There were “two and a half spats,” says Verdelle, perhaps because Morrison could be cold, unkind, overly-opinionated, desirous and demanding.

c.2022
Amistad
\$27.99
360 pages

“You had to know Morrison's work as a whole to be her friend,” Verdelle said. “She would squint at you, and dismiss you, if you came lame. She was exacting. She had high standards. She did not suffer fools.”

Based on the affectionate name that author A.J. Verdelle called Toni Morrison due to Morrison's birth name, Miss Chloe is a fan's book, pure and simple. It's beautifully-written, a love letter to a friendship and to books and reading, and it's a wonderful peek into the lives of two writers – one, up-and-coming; one, sadly, gone.

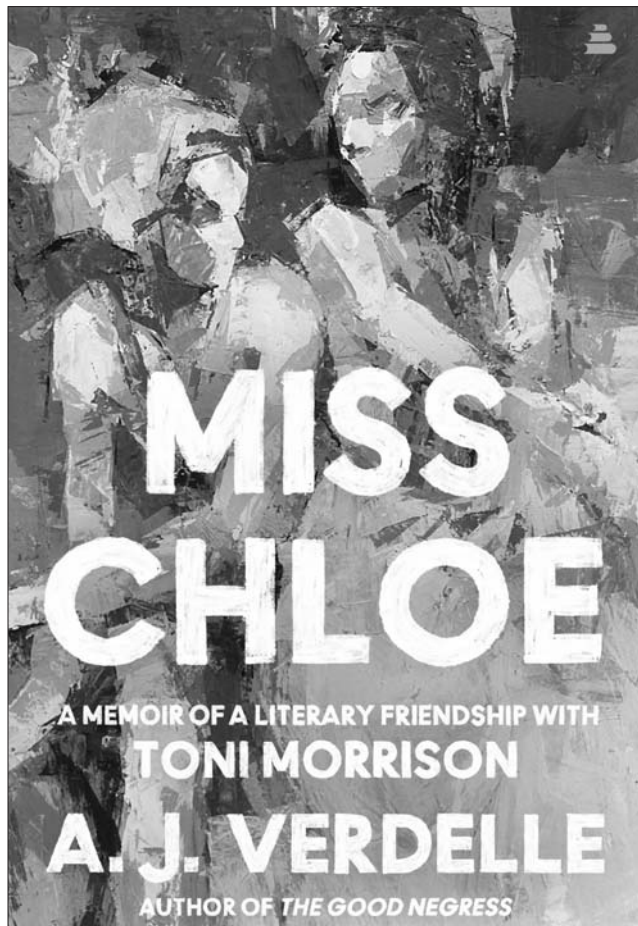
And yet, reading it is not without struggles.

The three facets that make this book good also make it hard to stay with. Verdelle's words are impactful and graceful, but her narrative tends to wander awhile before pivoting back to any individual point, which can be jarring. As for the friendship, Verdelle's a little too eager to laud hers with Morrison, even when Morrison was mean to her.

Overall, *Miss Chloe* is for Morrison fans, mostly, and it will likely appeal to some writers, particularly those who pen Black women's fiction. For anyone who's not much into these things, this is a book to de-friend.



Miss Chloe author CREDIT Asia Goffin



Minority Business Assistance Center... continued from page 12

Sylvania School District is the second largest school district in northwest Ohio. Watson oversees 15 buildings: including two high schools, three junior high schools and seven elementary schools and manages 65 employees. She has been recognized numerous for her outstanding work. Watson is a 27-year veteran in the custodial industry and serves as a mentor to clients at the NWO-ToledoMBAC.

• **Satellite Spotlight– Terra State Community College (Fremont, OH)**
Terra State has proudly served Northwest Ohio as a leading educational institution for over 50 years and is an accredited and stat supported institution. They pride themselves in providing the community with accessible and affordable education experiences. Terra State has partnered with NWO-ToledoMBAC to bring education, state awareness and financial literacy to the Fremont/ Sandusky area.

Guest enjoyed open bar cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvre and music by DJ Smooth Flava AKA Dwayne Douglass Sr. Closing Remarks were given by Shanda Gore, EDD.

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Reporting to the Senior Producer/Radio Operations Manager, the assistant will provide support by recording, editing, and contributing to the development of podcasts and broadcast content, which can be long and short form. Under the guidance of a Senior Producer, the assistant will help shape stories, book interviews, prep research, along with recording and editing content. There may also be some on-air broadcast duties when needed.

This team member will also learn-on-job the management and utilization of the radio ProTrack Traffic and Enco automation database system.

Candidate must have a high energy level, exceptional organizational skills, ability to prioritize work, and multimedia experience in creating, editing and managing audio content. A bachelor's degree in marketing, communications, journalism, media or related discipline is strongly preferred, or a minimum of an Associate's degree in a similar discipline or two years of related audio production.

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Bilingual Spanish a plus.

Minimum of 2 years in management/supervisory role

Minimum of 2 years working in culturally diverse and low-income environments

Excellent resource management, computer, record keeping, interpersonal, decision making, and verbal and written communication skills.

Neighborhood Health Association (NHA), a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), is the largest community health center system in Northwest Ohio with partnerships that include ProMedica, Mercy Health, and University of Toledo Medical Center. NHA has grown from a single location in 1969 to 12 medical and dental clinics throughout Lucas County. Today we operate multiple health centers including pediatrics, adult medicine, dental services, health care for the homeless, women's health center, senior centers, and a full-service pharmacy with lab services on site.

For more than 50 years, NHA has placed a strong focus on prevention and empowering individual responsibility in managing their health care and overall well-being. Our services are acutely responsive to the needs of everyone throughout the communities we serve, providing excellent care and the best health practices.

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ASSISTANT ENGINEER

WGTE Public Media, Toledo, Ohio, a community licensed public TV and radio broadcaster, seeks a full-time Assistant Engineer.

Reporting to the Director of Engineering, the assistant will provide support for IT systems, TV and radio broadcast equipment, video/audio production equipment, and other systems. The assistant also will assist with equipment installations, troubleshooting, maintenance, system designs/upgrades, and equipment repair in order to maintain superior service in all coverage areas while complying with FCC technical requirements. Additionally, the candidate will assist with long-term planning for equipment upgrades and replacements.

Certification or degree in information technologies, broadcast engineering, or a related field is preferred. Additionally, three years of experience in a technical operations field is preferred as well as a willingness to gain additional knowledge/training in the field of broadcast engineering, informational technology, and cyber security.

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

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

WGTE Public Media, Toledo, Ohio, a community licensed public TV and radio broadcaster, seeks a full-time Membership Coordinator. The coordinator works closely with the Director of Membership Services to plan and execute on-air pledge drives and direct mail programs. This position is responsible for updating and maintaining the fundraising database, answering donor phone calls, and cultivating donors at standard membership levels to maintain relationships and donor status. Keeps accurate and detailed records of donors in fundraising database, ensuring records are up to date and all donors receive pledge drive premiums in a timely manner. Assists in conducting focused and coordinated campaigns to grow WGTE Public Media's membership.

Qualified candidates will have strong customer relations and communication skills, a demonstrated proficiency using Microsoft Office Suite, and have strong organizational, time management, and problem-solving skills as well as strong attention to detail. An Associate's degree in business, computer science, or a related field, and two years of data entry experience in a CRM environment is preferred, though an equivalent of experience in related fields and education will be considered.

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Sports Legacy... continued from page 16

and selected All-City in baseball. Green attended Bowling Green State University and earned recognition while playing football. Green was recruited by the New York Giants and later played for the Miami Dolphins and Houston Texans. "As I look back, I understand that I got the most out of that time in my life. I took the time to prepare myself, through blood, sweat and tears," shared Green.

Inductee Johnny Hutton graduated from Scott High School and was motivated to coach while playing football during his junior year. Hutton earned a bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University and a master's degree from University of Toledo. During his time coaching, he coached the Red Division All-Star Football Game, Toledo City League Shoe Bowl Football champions and even coach of the year twice.

Inductee Robert Lawson II graduated from Libbey High School. Lawson excelled at football and track, he earned several honors including all-city honors before his graduation. Lawson attended the University of Iowa and continued his football career afterwards with several overseas teams in France, Germany, Australia and even the U.S. Dallas Cowboys. Lawson was voted into the Libbey High School Hall of Fame and Toledo Hall of Fame.

Inductee Pastor Louis Self graduated from Scott High School. Self began boxing at age 11 at the Toledo's Boys Club and excelled at Soul City Recreation Center. He won five Toledo Golden Gloves championships, went undefeated in his weight class and qualified for the Olympics. Fol-

lowing the Olympics, he turned pro by winning seven of the nine fights over an eight-year period before his retirement in 1980.

Inductee Rickie Upchurch was a three-sport athlete and graduated from Springfield High School. Upchurch excelled at football and was named the Toledo Blade's All Metro team and All District team. His athletics continued while attending Indian Hills Community College and the University of Minnesota. Upchurch was a fourth-round Denver Broncos draft pick and during his nine NFL seasons, he set an NFL record and led the NFL in two distinct categories. In 2014, he was elected to the Denver Broncos Ring of Fame. "I give all the glory to Jesus Christ because without him nothing is possible. I give praise to my coaches, my team, my family and my school for the ability to take advantage of those blessings," shared Upchurch.

Inductee Ben Williams graduated from Toledo's Woodward High School, played basketball and graduated from at Bowling Green State University before beginning his coaching career at Woodward. He eventually transferred to Scott High School in 1969, became head coach of the boys varsity basketball team after four years. He served in that role for 24 years and over the years the teams earned 11 city league championships, nine district championships, five regional titles and one state championship.

The African American Sports Legends of Northwest Ohio is a component of the African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio founded by Robert Smith. Its mission is consistent with the vision, purpose and goals of the AALP which includes but is not limited to, the discovery, documentation and preservation of the histories and achievements of African American athletes, coaches and distinguished citizens who have made significant contributions to athletics through their genre, regardless of gender.

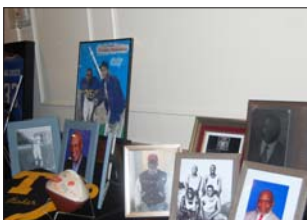
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Honoree Rev. Louis Self with family



Hall of Fame Inductees Honorees
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African American Sports Legacy of Northwest Ohio Welcomes New Inductees

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Nearly 400 fans, family and friends gathered to congratulate the 2022 inductees of the African American Sports Legends. The two-day celebration began on Friday, June 24, 2022 at Holland Gardens with a meet-and-greet hospitality event then concluded on Saturday, June 25 with a formal induction at Jerusalem Baptist Church.

The 2022 induction class honorees each received a City of Toledo resolution, were greeted and introduced by their own walking music, conducted an in-person interview and also signed a piece of memorabilia that will be on display at the African American Legacy Project building. The 2022 induction welcomed eight individuals.

Inductee Frank Baker graduated from Scott High School, where he played varsity football, ran track and earned distinguished all city honors. While attending University of Toledo, he was named All Mid-American Conference, played in the Gem City All-Star game and named MVP. Baker was a fifth-round draft pick by the Cleveland Browns and was also drafted later by the Denver Broncos.

Inductee Milton Carswell played basketball and golf before graduating from Waite High School. While attending high school he earned First Team All-City for golf. He attended Central State University and the University of Toledo. Carswell was runner-up in the United Golf Association Junior National, named United Golf Association Golfer of the year, a member of Stroh's Golf Team and has been pro golf at Collins Park.

Inductee Joseph Green graduated from Scott High School. Green earned All-State honors in football, was a two-time State Wrestling Champion



2022 AALP Sport Hall of Fame Inductees



2022 Sports Hall of Fame Committee

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