



Volume 73 No. 9

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

August 10, 2022



Angelica Johnson, Coordinator of Lourdes University's Like Me Program

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There is still time to register for the 2022-23 school year.



ELEMENTARY

Toledo Public Schools strives to provide elementary school students with a strong educational foundation that will prepare them for high school and beyond.

- Students go to state-of-the-art schools that are in their neighborhood
- Our highly trained, caring teachers support their students and guide them toward academic success
- Students have access to the latest technology
- TPS offers a variety of classes including music, art and gym
- TPS provides free transportation to students who live more than one mile from their home school

Elementary Open House

Wednesday, August 17 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

First Day of School for Elementary Schools

Monday, August 22

First Day of School for Kindergarten Schools

Wednesday, August 31

First Day of School for Pre-K Schools

Wednesday, August 31

HIGH SCHOOL

Toledo Public Schools strives to ensure high school students are college and career ready when they graduate. Students have access to an array of college prep classes and career tech focused-programs to prepare them for the future.

- Our highly trained, caring teachers support their students and guide them toward academic success
- Students attend state-of-the-art schools and have access to the latest technology and online classes
- TPS offers free transportation to students who live more than one mile from their home school
- With more than 30 career technology programs, students can begin preparing for a career path
- TPS offers music, art and gym classes, along with numerous extra-curricular activities and sports

First Day of School for Freshmen

Monday, August 22

First Day of School for Sophomores

Tuesday, August 23

First Day of School for Juniors and Seniors

Wednesday, August 24



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The November General Election: An Early Preview

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

The Truth Contributor



Nonvoting is a fruitless temper tantrum.

— Bruce Wright, Judge

With results from the August 2, 2022, Primary Election in the bag, candidates can now focus solely on the November 8 General Election.

Here are a few decisive races to keep an eye on:

Ohio Senator District 11: Paula Hicks-Hudson vs. Tony Dia

Paula Hicks-Hudson, Toledo's first African-American female mayor, attempts to move to the Ohio Senate after serving in the Ohio House of Representatives since 2019. The 1973 graduate of Spellman College also has a graduate degree from Colorado State and a law degree from the University of Iowa. The longtime attorney has also served several terms on Toledo City Council.

While in the Ohio House of Representatives, Hicks-Hudson was assigned to several committees, most recently, the Joint Legislative Ethics, House Finance, House Rules and Reference, and the Agriculture and Conservation committees.

Hicks-Hudson, a Democrat, will face Republican businessman Tony Dia. He fell just one position shy of a Toledo City Council At-large seat in 2021.

Dia has a sympathetic story but also an unflattering history. In addition, this is the third time he has run for office after two unsuccessful attempts. The only way he has a shot is if the Republican caucus in Columbus decides to invest substantial resources in his campaign.

Outlook: Paula Hicks-Hudson wins easily.

Ohio House District 41: Nancy Larson (D) vs. Josh Williams (R)

The Republican Party has targeted this race as one they want to win badly.

Josh Williams has a compelling life story. His brand follows the conservative narrative of overcoming adversity by ascending the ladder of financial success through hard work without the need for "liberal social safety nets."

Williams, an African American, has already raised a ton of money, and conservatives are prepared to drop an unlimited amount of additional resources to accomplish their goal. It would not be out of the realm of possibility for the Republican Party to drop a million dollars into a state race that usually could win for \$18,000 to \$30,000. The Republicans definitely have bank, and their whole redistricting plan was to create toss-up districts to appease the court and win them with money and power.

However, local Republican and Independent women could trampoline off the Kansas abortion surprise, where more than 58 percent of that traditionally ruby red state's voters unexpectedly voted to protect abortion rights. That obviously benefits Larson and other local women candidates if that's the case.

On the other hand, women have often opposed many conservative policies and nevertheless turned around to support Republican candidates who viewed those issues differently.

Outlook: Toss-up with a slight edge to Williams because of his potential funding advantage.

Ohio House District 42: Erika White vs. Derek Merrin

Like the Larson vs. Williams race, this contest will depend on how much financial support the Republican candidate receives from Columbus. Many Republicans perceive Merrin as a "kind of Ted Cruz irritant." They would prefer he just goes to Columbus and vote how they tell him to vote. Merrin has also been described as a "loose cannon," so the Republicans clearly are not passionate about him.

Previously, Merrin represented a solidly Republican and, therefore, unlosable district. The old boundaries went over to Fulton County and included all of Western Lucas County and Waterville, where he was the mayor. With redistricting, he's been moved into a highly competitive district against a formidable candidate in Erika White.

The dynamic and charismatic White has a message similar to U.S. Senate

... continued on page 12

Christian Nationalism ...An Oxymoron?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

A topic that has gained and is gaining more momentum because of the recent visit of Hungarian right-wing leader, Victor Orban, to the CPAC conference recently held in Texas, is that of "Christian Nationalism."

As covered by the mass media, the Hungarian ruler is against "race-mixing" and believes that such mingling with "others" will be and can be the downfall of European culture.

The delight of Fox News, Tucker Carlson, is swooningly enthralled with the comments of Orban that he even visited Hungary to get a close up and personal interview with the new darling of the far political right.

It is no hidden secret that repeated comments made by Tucker Carlson tip toe on the verge of him saying outright, "America is a Christian nationalistic country, and I am all for it!"

The Hungarian leader received a standing ovation at the right-wing GOP conference, which was attended by Herr Donald Trump, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Reince Priebus, and a host of others who find comfort and solace in the racial diatribes of Orban.

There has been a slew of books about the attempts to define Christian nationalism and what it means, culturally and economically and politically for Americans and, using my best English, "it ain't good."

Christian nationalism is an oxymoron (two words jammed together that are opposites if defined alone) in the sense that if the phrase is severed into Christian and nationalism, the definition of Christian and nationalism are an anathema when used together.

Permit me to state that the word Christian is directly derived from the word Christ and the word Christ means, the anointed one and that anointing directly refers to Jesus, the Son of God.

When you examine biblically what Christ stood for and his teachings and lifestyle, you will quickly discern that Christ was not a nationalist in any sense of the word because he repeatedly told his anxious disciples that he did not come to restore or establish an earthly kingdom by which Israel would be preeminent in political or economic power.

The Christ spoke of his kingdom not being of this world and he did not attempt to lead any resurrection to have Israel restored to any former glory.

The use of the word "nationalism" bespeaks of worldly structures and policies that favor certain people over "other" people and speaks of a militant style of ruling that purportedly acknowledges Christ as its titular head.

False! Christian nationalism, the flavor espoused in these United States, narrowly views their goals and agenda via a potent brew of racial sub-

... continued on page 12

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Ohio Dems Take Issue with Vance Statement on Slavery and Abortion

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

"He owes all Ohioans an apology."

This was the joint sentiment of State Representative Terrence Upchurch and State Representative Candidate Erika White during a virtual press conference Monday morning in which the Ohio Democratic Party addressed Republican Senate candidate JD Vance's comments comparing abortion to slavery.

Black Democratic leaders, including State Representative Juanita Brent (Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President) and State Representatives Catherine Ingram, Upchurch and White, addressed the comments the conservative U.S. Senate hopeful made last fall:

"There's something comparable between abortion and slavery, and that while the people who obviously suffer the most are those subjected to it, I think it has this morally distorting effect on the entire society," Vance, the GOP nominee for an open Ohio Senate seat, said in an interview with the Catholic Current last October. (source: Vice.com)

In the interview Vance also referred to an Abraham Lincoln quote on slavery in his stance against abortion.

"What JD Vance is doing [comparing abortion to slavery] is rooted in racism," said Brent. "It does not focus on the most important thing: that women will not be able to access healthcare. And that's what abortion is: Healthcare."



State Re. Juanita Brent



State Rep. Terrence Upchurch



Erika White

"It is infuriating that J.D. Vance compared abortion to slavery. Plain and simple, J.D. Vance doesn't know what he's talking about, said Upchurch. "Women having control over their own bodies is what this issue is about. And comparing abortion to slavery is dangerous and out-of-bounds."

One month after the overturning of Roe V. Wade in which the right to abortion has been removed and access to abortions have been limited, the Democratic Party elected officials view this as an assault on women and black women.

Rep. Ingram (first vice chair of OLBC and chair of Black Maternal Health Caucus) doesn't want Vance's apology. "The idea that he would talk about slavery and talk about the disproportionate impact on Black females. How dare he...I don't want his apology as a Black female in the state of Ohio... How dare you insult Black women and all women with the notion that we don't know how to make a decision [about maternal health.]"

Rep. Ingram says this is a continuation of repeated "draconian policies" of Republicans "that [for years] have been negatively impacting women period...and black women period."

"If you cared about [the betterment of black women] you'd make sure we had a salary that was a livable wage, if you cared you would make sure there was not disparities in healthcare, if you cared you would make sure our children had day care and a good education....shame on them."

"Comparing abortion to slavery isn't the only out-of-touch thing J.D. Vance has said on abortion," stated White. "He's even called rape 'inconvenient' and when asked if he supports abortion in the cases of incest said that 'two wrongs don't make a right.'"

The party stated that "extreme rhetoric" such as this from Vance has no place in the U.S. Senate.

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Angelica Johnson: Coordinator of Lourdes University's Like Me Program

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

"We don't want any students of color to feel they don't have the opportunity," says Angelica Johnson, recently appointed coordinator for the Lourdes University Like Me Program.

This fall the first cohort of students enrolled in Lourdes' Like Me Program will enter the university and begin an educational process designed to place them in teaching roles in Toledo-area school systems at the end of those four years.

To that end, says Johnson, the program recruits "marginalized students," that is, students of color who might otherwise not be able to afford the \$40,000 annual price tag of Lourdes University.

"We don't want any students of color to feel they don't have the opportunity," she explains.

Lourdes, over the years, has observed the problem in the classrooms of the United States where an increasing number of the students are students of color are enrolled and a small percentage of teachers look like those students. The university, says Johnson, reached "an understanding of the disparity and the fact that nothing was being done about it."

According to federal data, in the 2015-16 school year, over 80 percent of teachers were white and less than eight percent were Black. Meanwhile, the white student population has steadily declined since 2000—from 61 percent to 44 percent in 2017—while the Hispanic student population rose by 50 percent since 1997 and the Asian student population by 46 percent. Black students comprise about 15 percent of all K-12 students—although they increasingly attend schools with at least 75 percent non-white enrollment, as do Hispanic and Native American students: 58, 60, and 30 percent, respectively, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Part of the solution, it was determined at Lourdes, was to bring in students of color who are determined to go back into their communities as teachers.

According to research, as noted in a report by the Learning Policy Institute, for example, all students benefit from having teachers of color. When students of color are taught by teachers of color, they tend to have better academic performance, improved graduation rates and are more likely to attend college.

Specifically, with Black students, The Center for American Progress has provided research that demonstrates that Black teachers are more likely than non-black teachers to have a higher opinion of Black students' academic abilities and are also less likely than non-black teachers to perceive Black students' behavior as "disruptive."

All students, regardless of race, report feeling cared for and academically challenged by teachers of color, according to the Learning Policy Institute report.

Lourdes University developed its program while working with area school districts – Toledo Public Schools, Washington Local Schools, Springfield Public Schools and Sylvania Public Schools – to not only offer such stu-

dents an affordable education (\$1,500 for academic year for this first cohort) but also to provide them with jobs upon graduation.

"We want to be able to help them financially – without loan debt – and guarantee them a job," says Johnson.

The mission of the

Like Me Program as mentioned in the description is "to attract, prepare and mentor students of color to obtain employment ... in order to address the large disparity between students of color and teachers of color."

In order to ensure that students in the cohort are prepared for future employment, the four district partners are doing more than offering employment, they are also actively participating in the education process by providing teacher mentors.

"All in all, we recruit, mentor and advise," says Johnson, who will be overseeing a program designed "to make sure students will graduate."

Angelica Johnson holds a bachelor's of science in Life Science degree from Bowling Green State University and a master's of arts in Counselor Education from the University of Toledo. She is pursuing a doctorate degree in Foundation of Education at UT. She has presented scholarly work at the M.O.R.E. Institute and was nominated for the 20 Under 40 Awards in 2021.

Before she arrived at Lourdes, Johnson was the program director for UT's Multicultural Emerging Scholars Program and Giving Learning Community. Her primary duties at UT involved diversity training for staff.

"Now I can work with students," she says of her new position at Lourdes. In fact, Lourdes offers Johnson the opportunity not only to work with students in a program "for students of color," but also to work at a place that by its very nature, by its spirituality as a religious institution, "means a lot to me," she notes.

"Using that spirituality is a value and a virtue that was allowed to me," she says of the attraction the university, which is rooted in the Catholic and Franciscan traditions, holds for her.

According to a description provided by Lourdes, the institution is, because of those traditions, committed to supporting students "in fulfilling their potential."

Angelica Johnson is just as committed to the task of ensuring that Lourdes' students of color get into K-12 classrooms, at the head of those classrooms.



Angelica Johnson

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Head Back to School with Help from the Toledo Library

A new school year is here, and the Toledo Library has everything students and educators alike need to start the year off right!

TutorSmart – Students 1st through 8th grade can get free in-person, after-school tutoring in reading and math at all 20 locations. Over the summer, students who took part in TutorSmart saw months of growth in these subjects after just two weeks of tutoring. The program runs Monday through Thursday for one hour each day.

Book Kits and Bundles – Book kits allow educators to get multiple copies of the same book for their classroom to read. Educators can reserve up to 25 copies of a title for nine weeks. You can also get a personalized set of books based on age, reading level, or topic for at-home or the classroom with a book bundle. For example, if your classroom is learning about planets and stars, go out of this world with an assortment of space

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Class Visits – Shake up your lesson plan with a visit from us virtually or in-person. Our visits are personalized to your students' needs. Whether you have young readers or are getting ready for the third grade reading guarantee, we can help any reader grow their skills and become more confident when they pick up a book.

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Toledo Public Schools' 2022-33 Academic Year Opening Calendar

Summer vacation has been extended for all Toledo Public School students as the first day of classes for the 2022-23 school year has changed. The new schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, August 17 - Teacher Workday; no students

Wednesday, August 17 - Elementary School Open Houses - 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 18 and Friday, August 19 – Staff Professional Development; no students

Monday, August 22 – First Day of School for elementary students and freshmen

Tuesday, August 23 – First Day of School for sophomores

Wednesday, August 24 – First Day of School for juniors and seniors

Monday, August 29 – EHSO classes start

Kindergarten: Students will begin the week of August 29 with a staggered start

gated start

- Families will be notified if their student will start on Monday or Tuesday
- The first day for ALL Kindergarten students will be Wednesday, August 31
- Teachers will use the week of August 22 to complete screenings and/or orientations

PRE-K: Students will begin the week of August 29 with a staggered start

- Families will be notified if their student will start on Monday or Tuesday
- The first day for ALL preschool students will be Wednesday, August 31
- Teachers will complete preservice and home visits during the week of August 22

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HOPE Toledo's First HOPE Hype Workshop Series

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

HOPE Toledo hosted its first 'HOPE Hype', a three day back-to-school workshop series in partnership with Owens Community College, Aug 2- Aug 4. The students each received care packages with school supplies, toiletries and gift cards in a sendoff celebration culminating at Owen's Heritage Hall Thursday.

HOPE Toledo and Owens Community College hosted this first HOPE Hype to provide their scholars additional support before starting or returning to college.

"HOPE Hype is essentially a mini-boot camp for students to be prepared, and get excited about, going to postsecondary education and to wrap them with as much support as possible to ensure they are successful," said Erica Parish, dean of Accreditation and Academic Support at Owens Community College. Sessions covered a range of topics essential to collegiate success including the themes of "Start(ing) off Strong," "Explore" and "Real World Issues".

"The inaugural HOPE Toledo Promise Scholars class was in 2020 at Jesup W. Scott High School in Toledo, where students were among the most underestimated and disadvantaged in the TPS district. The program provides cost-free, postsecondary education for 4.5 years, including tuition, room, board, books and fees.

"HOPE Toledo Promise is the first two-generation, postsecondary scholarship program of its kind in which high school students, as well as a parent or guardian, can attend college or trade school for free. It is proving to increase success rates for students while providing the opportunity for overall economic mobility for whole families." (source: www.hope-toledo.org)

... continued on page 8



Rev. John C. Jones, Autumn Parker, Shawna Woody, Elisa Huss-Hage and Nancy Okuley of HOPE Toledo



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HOPE Toledo... continued from page 7

This is the third cohort of HOPE Promise Scholars. All participants are graduates of Scott High School and scholars in attendance Thursday were either entering their first year of college or returning for their second year. The students were sent on their way to Owens, Lourdes University, Bowling Green State University, Central State University, University of Toledo, Cleveland State University, Mercy College and various trade schools, among other institutions.

The event included raffles, refreshments, a speech from the programs first graduate and presentation from Pathways 4 Successful Leadership. The 50 students in attendance received gift cards and care packages with food, schools supplies and toiletries to kick them off for their first semester back to school.

Lakya Layson, Scott High School class of '21, said "I was blessed to get this opportunity... it's helped financially definitely but also connecting me to resources... It's not just about money but it's about the people in your corner: mentors, teachers, friends, and family that's not even blood."

Layson is an incoming sophomore at the University of Toledo majoring in psychology and is a pre-medical student.

"The biggest thing I've learned in these three days [in HOPE Hype] is college will be hard... it's inevitable. It's about how you deal [challenges] and who you have in your corner..." said Layson.

HOPE staff congratulated the students as they embarked on the start the new school year. Today there are more than 300 HOPE Toledo scholars pursuing higher education in 13 educational institutions around Ohio (primarily in the Toledo region). Additionally, approximately 25 percent of those scholars have a parent pursuing their dream as well. (source: hope-toledo.org) To learn more or donate visit hope-toledo.org.

HOPE Toledo is a 501(c) 3 organization and encompasses HOPE Toledo Pre-K and HOPE Toledo Promise. The mission of HOPE Toledo is to work with the Toledo community to support and ensure high-quality educational experiences for all youth, from preschool to post-secondary and trade school, with the goal of helping to create generational economic change for the betterment of families and this community. Currently, 36 percent of the people in

the TPS district are living below the poverty line and more than 80% of kids in Toledo enter kindergarten without the skills needed to learn.

This cradle-to-career approach will better serve area children and, in the long run, help the city progress towards a stronger, more educated workforce. To that end, HOPE Toledo is working with the Toledo community, through public/private partnerships and in tandem with Toledo Public Schools and Washington Local Schools, to develop a plan to deliver high-quality educational experiences for all youth.



HOPE scholars receive bins for the fall



HOPE Scholars ready to start their first semester (Scott High School co '22)

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The Multicultural Twilight Market to Feature Minority-Owned Small Businesses

The Truth Staff

On Saturday, August 6, the Toledo Farmers' Market showcased more than 60 local minority-, woman- and immigrant-owned small businesses. The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Toledo organized the evening at the Market with various area partners.

From 6 to 10 p.m. the event – free and open to the public – took place at the usual Farmers' Market site at 525 Market Street.

"We are trying to create new opportunities for historically disadvantaged businesses to reach new customers," said Brittany Burns, assistant program officer for LISC.

In addition to creating new customers, the Multicultural Twilight Market assisted small businesses owners of color to access resources that are available to business owners in general – and allow them to meet, to interact and network.

LISC conducted a small business resource fair prior to the Market to connect small business owners with free resources and technical assistance.

LISC also celebrated the diversity of Toledo, said Burns, by raising money for the event – which was free to vendors and customers – to not only cover the costs but also provided two grants for the vendors afterwards. One grant was from a random drawing; the other was a People's Choice Award from a survey of attendees.

In addition to the vendors, music from around the world was played by DJ Amjad and there were dance performances by the University of Toledo's Persian Student Association & the Ballroom Company.

The vendor categories included art, beauty & wellness, books & stationery, clothing & accessories, entertainment, food, home products and jewelry, among others.

Additional sponsorship support was provided by the Lucas County Board of Commissioners, ECDI, the City of Toledo Department of Economic Development, the Human Relations Commission and Thermatru.

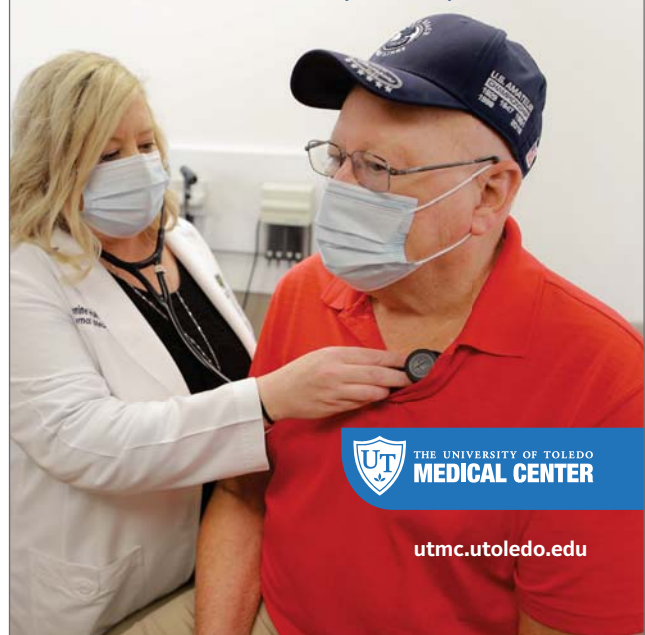
The winner of the random drawing was Deflame Candles and the people's choice grant winner was Choco Couvert.



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The JET Center Awards Mini Grants to Small Businesses

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Thursday evening, July 28, the JET Center, a Junction Coalition business initiative, awarded five recipients \$1000 mini grants upon the completion of their inaugural business cohort program sponsored by the Junction Coalition, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, ECDI (Economic Community Development Institute and Warren AME Church.

JET Center's mission is "to provide a viable voice to our neighbors and to cultivate healthy relationships throughout the community. Representing Junction Coalitions Economic Justice pillar,

the JET Center focuses on building wealth for community members." (source: www.Junctioncoalition419.org/jet-center)

The recipients completed an eight-week business class together as a cohort. This was the inaugural cohort series hosted by the JET Center. Among the requirements for the program were that participants have addresses or businesses within the Junction neighborhood. The series will occur again in the fall and is free.

The aim of the program is to "connect entrepreneurs to opportunities in the community," said Ocie Irons, JET Center Director. The program focuses on the entrepreneur rather than just the business itself by "building an entrepreneurial mindset," he added. "That connectivity is what we're trying to do at the JET Center that isn't happening at other places."

Alicia Smith, executive director of the Junction Coalition, provided remarks to the inaugural class. "Congratulations to everybody! I am looking forward to seeing all of your businesses flourish...you all are economic engines... you heal by making sure that generational wealth is present [and] generational poverty is gone. Without you we wouldn't be."



Inaugural cohort class receives mini grants from JET Center(center, holding checks): Serina Garmon, Oscar Shaheer, Angeli Austin-Taylor and Walter Crockrel (not pictured: Shawanda Johnson) along with Junction Coalition Leadership Alicia Smith (far left) and Ocie Irons (far right)

"[You give] hope also," added Irons, "when you all are doing things and people get to observe what you've accomplished and see where you're going...it gives everybody else hope."

The grant recipients of the inaugural cohort program are:

Oscar Shaheer, Your Community Market, Owner

Shaheer has operated his community market for 21 years. He stated, "I want to give the community something that is positive rather than something that is negative...I could easily have a carryout...I could sell liquor, cigarettes, I could sell those things... but I'd like to do something different. For that reason I offer produce...within the inner city."

His store is located on 1501 Nebraska Ave. He also sells his produce at different farmers markets throughout Toledo.

Shaheer soon plans to raise his own chickens and sell his own eggs in his store. He will use the grant he received to purchase an updated refrigerating unit to bring more fresh produce to the community.

Serina Garmon AE & B Rentals, CEO and Founder

"I've been a real estate investor for the last 20+ years. I go into inner city neighborhoods and purchase property and rehab them and make them affordable for inner city residents." Garmon stated that she has largely been financing the business on her own. "[The grant] will help me to be able to use the money for a major project: roofing," she said.

The cohort program helped her to improve her business skills "[the program] helped me to see outside the box and look at different ways of branding myself. I really appreciate this opportunity," added Garmon.

Angeli Austin-Taylor Destinee's Barber & Beauty Salon, Owner

"I have a beauty salon and I am working on adding a spa," said Austin-Taylor. She has been in the cosmetology industry for 27 years. "The Junction Coalition helped a lot with the classes that we took with helping me with my projection for taxes and branding as well. I'm honored to be apart of it and learn about the different things they have to offer." The grant received will be used toward the purchase of the building for her new spa.

Walter Crockrel, BW Resellers, Founder

"My fiancé and I have started a resale business. We purchase pallets and we're looking towards getting truckloads of goods that we can bring to the community and sell at a cheaper deal than what you would buy at a regular retail store," said Crockrel. "We're working right now on doing an online auction and an online store," he added.

"We're a start-up so [the program] has helped us learn about taxes and doing proper paperwork [etc.]"

The two plan to use the money towards inventory and out of pocket costs.

Shawanda Johnson F.A.M.E.D. Studios, Founder and Artistic Director

Famed Studios is a dance studio that offers a range of dance class from ages two and a half years to adult dance for the past 11 years. Johnson stated, "being a part of the JET initiative helped me to refresh the knowledge I had learned previously and to gain new knowledge as well as resources and partnerships with other local businesses and community partners such as the JET initiative, Toledo Urban, ECDI".

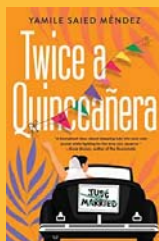
She plans to use the grant money for upkeep to her studio. "Our open

... continued on page 12

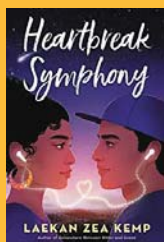
WHAT WE'RE READING NOW



Wash Day Diaries
by Jamila Rowser
and Robyn Smith



Twice a Quinceañera
by Yamile Saied Méndez



Heartbreak Symphony
by Laekan Zea Kemp



The Deep Blue Between
by Ayesha Harruna Attah

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Everything You Need to Know About Funding College With Student Loans

Special To The Truth

While the majority of parents today strongly value higher education, that doesn't always alleviate their sticker shock when it comes to college-related costs.

A new College Ave survey finds that 91% of parents believe a college degree is important for their child's future. At the same time, 74% of parents found the cost of college surprisingly high. From having their children kick in -- 46% of parents strongly believe their children should financially contribute to their education -- to borrowing -- 16% currently or plan to take out private student loans -- many families explore a range of avenues for funding college.

"If you'll be using private student loans to fund college, it's important to create a budget and do your research," says Angela Colatriano, chief marketing officer at College Ave Student Loans. "Having a plan can help you avoid surprises down the line and reduce the overall cost of your loan."

Here's what to know:

First Things First

Before even considering private student loans, Colatriano notes that it's essential to apply for scholarships and to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at FAFSA.gov to determine your child's eligibility for certain scholarships, grants, work-study, and federal student loans. You should also explore cost-saving housing options and ways to spend less on school supplies, such as buying used textbooks.

Shopping Around

If federal student loans don't cover your remaining costs, shop around to find the right private student loan, advises Colatriano. Here are four factors to consider when comparing loan options:

1. Competitive rates: Securing a lower interest rate can help you land lower monthly payments and pay less interest over the life of your loan. To get a sense

of the overall cost of the loan and your monthly loan payments, use the student loan calculator at CollegeAve.com.

2. Flexible loan terms: Find a student loan with a variety of repayment options. Some lenders, like College Ave, let you choose how long you want to repay your loan, and whether to start making payments right away or defer until after graduation. The important thing is to select a loan with terms that fit your budget.

3. Fees: Private student loans don't typically have origination fees, but you should still take time to check. You should also make sure your loans don't have any prepayment penalties.

4. Positive company reviews: Only work with a reputable, honest company. Check the Better Business Bureau for accreditation and read reviews to learn about customer experiences and see each company's customer ratings.

Taking out a Loan

Wondering how much to borrow? "A good rule of thumb is to figure out what your student's expected annual salary after graduation will be and then try to keep your total borrowing below that amount," says Colatriano. "For parents with strong credit who want to take on the debt alone, parent loans can be a good choice."

For competitive rates, flexible loan terms and great customer service, check out specialists in the industry with College Ave Student Loans. The lender offers private student loans and parent loans, and its simple three-minute application can quickly determine your eligibility, helping your family breathe easy from day one of the process.

To learn more and for additional resources, visit collegeave.com.

Bottom line? Being a strategic borrower and finding a simple loan experience can help your family get on with what matters most: preparing for a bright future.

Courtesy: StatePoint

Shop Smart and Spend Less This Back-to-School Season

Special To The Truth

As summer nights shorten and the school year approaches, you may be looking for ways to reduce the stress and costs of back-to-school preparations and ease into a new routine.

Thankfully, the experts at Dollar General are offering families suggestions for an easy and affordable return to classes.

School Supplies

Start by separating and categorizing students' supplies lists and compare to items that may be left over from the previous school year. To pick up needs in one easy stop, visit a local Dollar General to purchase school supplies that are colorful and cost-effective, with over 100 back-to-school items priced at \$1 or less. School and classroom essentials may include notebooks, coloring supplies, backpacks, a reusable water bottle and more. Additionally, a variety of hand sanitizers starting at \$1 can be easily placed into lunchboxes, desks, pencil cases or given to school staff to help stop the spread of germs.

For teachers who want to save big in 2022, sign up for a DG account and get verified for 30% off qualified items on up to four shopping trips through September 9, 2022. Additionally customers can save \$3 on qualifying \$15 or more supply purchases in the stationery, cleaning and paper, and houseware categories through September 9, 2022. All offers are available through DG Digital Coupons online and in the DG App, where customers can load coupons and rewards on an easy-to-use platform and redeem them at checkout.

Healthier Eating

Back-to-school also means after school activities such as clubs and athletics. While juggling practices, rehearsals and club meetings, consider packing healthier snacks to support a busy schedule. Meal prep can also be helpful on busy days, and Dollar General's DG Easy Meals provides access to simple recipes with affordable ingredients to make breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner easy and stress-free. Entrees like Pecan-Crusted Salmon or Buffalo Chicken Pizza can be made ahead and stored in the fridge or freezer until ready to eat. Dollar General also offers Better For You recipes that provide healthier meal options featuring ingredients available at DG stores.

Organization Necessities

As the school year begins and schedules fill up, some find it harder to stay organized. Use a customizable planner or calendar to remind you of pick-up times, parent-teacher conferences and other important appointments. These tools are also great for high school or college students managing a new class schedule. Write out chores on a dry erase board, which can be secured to the side of the fridge, to keep track of daily duties. Finally, if your surfaces tend to collect clutter, a large canvas storage container can be a great way to keep items together for a quick cleanup.

With these back-to-school tips and tricks, you can send students of all ages to their classes prepared with everything on the list, all while saving time and money in the process.

Courtesy: StatePoint

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Tolliver... continued from page 3

jugation, military might and a return to an era and lifestyle that the idiom, MAGA is built upon.

Christian nationalism does not submit its allegiance to the tenets of the gospel of Christ but simply gives obligatory lip service to the reign and rule of Jesus, who is The Christ.

Try as you might, you will not see the adherents of Christian nationalism portraying images of humility, grace, compassion, and economic parity with others not of their like or persuasion. Christian nationalism is militant as opposed to turning the other cheek. Christian nationalism is desirous to use the apparatus of the state to enforce its dictates on the rest of the population under the guise that such obedience is really homage to Christ.

False!

You will never find in the scriptures any plan of Jesus the Christ to form a religious monarchy in Jerusalem and with him as its leader.

However, the devotees of Christian nationalism do not embrace a societal view that all are equal in the eyes of God and that each person is precious and is entitled to rights and privileges that show that God the Father is the author and creator of all.

Christian nationalism is a doctrine of devils that promotes antagonisms between competing economic groups in America for the same resources as opposed to sharing those same resources.

Christian nationalism wants to (and so does) wrap its ideology in the American Flag to give the impression that is God ordained and blessed and as such, whatever it endorses is sound and ideologically in line with the scriptures.

False!

There is no need for any professing Christian to champion at all costs the acts of the US government in all that it does nor should any Christian Nationalist wrongly exegete the scriptures for their own personal gain; and to gain influence over those who are being duped as to what it really stands for.

Christian nationalism may initially pass the first whiff test of being patriotic and a banner under which all may parade in unison and believe that this is what Jesus the Christ would approve of, but that is a delusion.

Christian nationalism as presently constituted in these United States resembles more of that which Victor Orban has described about his plans for Hungary.

Christianity and nationalism should never be paired together as sound the-

ology or doctrine. Its promulgation has no place in any church in America that professes allegiance to the scriptures of the Bible.

The Bible clearly tells its adherents that we are simply sojourners passing through on our way to Beulah Land, but Christian nationalism tells us, "Stop and take control and rule while you are passing through."

False!

He who has ears, let him ear what the Spirit is saying about Christian nationalism.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

JET Center... continued from page 10

house is Sept. 10...we'll be using [the grant] for advertisement, purchasing of new uniforms for staff, funding signage for the building, and adding a new sound system to the second dance hall."

She added, "I recommend anyone who is a new business to take advantage of the next cohort... It is very beneficial. I appreciate the support that they are building with the different community partners in helping small black businesses grow."

Information on the JET Center:

"The JET Center is a program of the Junction Coalition: The JET initiative combines resources of the JET Center with those of strategic partners Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and Economic Community Development Institute (ECDI) to help community-based businesses grow and prosper.

Although many services can be rendered virtually, there is a physical space, located at 419 Junction Ave, where coaching and other consultations meetings can take place. The offices will be open three days a week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00AM to 3:00PM. Consultations with an advisor and evening meetings are by appointment."

For more information on the Junction Coalition and the JET Center visit www.junctioncoalition419.org.

Perryman... continued from page 3

candidate Tim Ryan, who might be writing the playbook on how to get the Trump voters back to the Democratic Party.

White is also a highly respected labor leader. Yet, the influential building trades may have been investing in Merrin because he caved in to them during the primary to protect living wage and right-to-work policies. Merrin, in the past, has not always stuck to the conservatives' talking points and is a little too independent for the political kingmakers' tastes. So, again, the question will be how much support he gets from the Republican caucus in Columbus.

Outlook: Ohio House district 42 is very winnable for Erika White as her opponent has a brutal voting record in significant parts of the newly constructed district, including majority Democratic Toledo.

Ohio House District 43: Michele Grim vs. Wendi Hendricks

The Republican redistricting plan attempted to cram as many Democrats into as few districts as possible. Then, if they were to create a district that the Democrats could win, they made it so overwhelmingly Democratic Party-leaning that the boundaries would waste excess votes. The Republicans also attempted to turn two formerly safe Democratic districts into 50/50 and try to win those.

The overturning of Roe v. Wade may or may not have added a new variable and changed that calculus to convince Republican and independent women voters to vote for Democratic Party women candidates. Nevertheless, Grim has the money, resources and name recognition to prevail.

Outlook: Democrats have a 70/30 advantage in the safe 43rd district. This is a Slam Dunk for the well-resourced Michele Grim.

Ohio House District 44: Elgin Rogers vs. Roy G. Palmer III

Elgin Rogers has excellent name recognition in Toledo's Community. He is co-founder and president of the African American Leadership Caucus. This Political Action Committee (PAC) has raised money to help support issues and candidates committed to improving the lives of African Americans in Lucas County. Rogers has also taught Political Science and the Civil Rights Movement courses at several colleges and universities throughout the Midwest.

While this is Rogers' first campaign as an actual candidate, he may not enjoy the same name recognition throughout rural areas of a revamped House District 44. Nevertheless, the Republicans designed the district to be safe for the Democrats.

Outlook: Rogers wins by a comfortable margin.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org



The African American Police League

In partnership with
— The Toledo Opera & Toledo Police Museum —

AUG 18 THURSDAY 2022	TOLEDO POLICE MUSEUM 2201 Kenwood Blvd. Toledo, Ohio 43606	
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RSVP VIA EVENTBRITE	CONTACT US 419-450-1301	



Kids Books on Tolerance and Inclusion

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

School will start soon, and you're going to meet a lot of new kids.

You'll meet kids from other towns and maybe from other countries; some will have lighter hair and some will have darker skin. Maybe they will look like you, and maybe they won't, so why not find out what's different and interesting about those new kids by reading one (or all!) of these great books....

Do you know where your new classmates will live? ***In My Town Mi Pueblo*** by Nicholas Solis, illustrated by Luisi Uribe (Nancy Paulsen Books, \$17.99) two cousins live very near one another, and very apart. She lives in the U.S., he lives in Mexico, and they're separated by a big river. In this book, they tell you about their towns – her, in English; him, in Spanish – they explain why they like visiting one another in the town across the river, and what they do for fun. This is a great book for kids who are bilingual, and for those who may have playmates that are. Look for it on August 16.

For the child who straddles two cultures or for the kid whose playmates do, ***American Desi*** by Jyoti Rajan Gopal, illustrated by Supriya Kelkar (Little, Brown Young Readers \$18.99) is the book to share. Here, a young girl has “one foot” in America and the other in India. So is she Indian or American... or both? Can she enjoy her Bindis and bangles and still like hip-hop music? How she reconciles her two lives and even brings them together is a story of pure joy, illustrated in colorful pages that your child will want to look at again and again.

For future Black men and their current playmates, ***Black Boy, Black Boy*** by Ali Kamanda and Jorge Redmond, pictures by Ken Daley (Sourcebooks, \$17.99) is a book that inspires and informs. Here, a father proudly walks his Black son on a path through history to show the boy that inventors, activists, writers, musicians, politicians, and others have gone before him and paved the way. This pride-instilling book comes out August 9.

c.2021
various publishers
\$17.99 - \$18.99
various page counts

And finally, for every kid everywhere, no matter who he or she is, ***Our World Is a Family*** by Miry Whitehill and Jennifer Jackson, pictures by Nomar Perez (Sourcebooks, \$17.99) is fun and helpful. The words inside this book show kids and their families from all over the world, including children that are disabled, kids who speak different languages, kids who eat unusual foods, and kids who need friends. It explains immigration in words that small children can understand, and it tells kids how to be welcoming to those who are different.

These books are great for kids ages four-to-seven, but if you're looking for inclusive books for older children or for toddlers, reach out to your favorite librarian or bookseller. They'll help you find exactly what you need for your child, no matter what their reading (or listening) level. Your librarian or bookseller will introduce you to all kinds of new books to meet.



Emory University Announces the First African American Studies Ph.D. Program in the U.S. Southeast

By Stacy M. Brown

Emory University in Atlanta has announced the first African American Studies Ph.D. Program in the southeast United States.

“We are accepting applications beginning in September 2022,” Carol Anderson, the Charles Howard Candler Professor of African American Studies at Emory, announced on Twitter.

In an overview posted on Emory's website, the university noted that “as an interdisciplinary graduate program, the African American Studies Ph.D. Program is a highly selective course of study combining the expertise of an esteemed group of more than 50 core and affiliated graduate faculty with research specializations in disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields.

The fields include African and African American Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, Art History, Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, Educational Studies, English, History, Music, Political Science, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.”

The university said the program provides rigorous training and preparation for Ph.D. students interested in careers within and outside of academe.

“Our program is organized around the four pillars upon which AAS as a field rest: interdisciplinarity, intersectionality, community engagement, and transnationalism,” officials wrote.

“Additionally, each student enrolled in the program will be equipped with specialized training in AAS through one of three cognate fields: Gender & Sexuality, Social Justice & Social Movements, and Expressive Arts & Cultures.”

Beginning with the first AAS Ph.D. cohort in Fall 2023, officials said they expect to enroll four new Ph.D. students each year.

The school also anticipates that each student will complete the degree within five to six years.

According to the fact sheet, all Ph.D. students are fully funded for five years with an annual stipend of at least \$31,000, a tuition remission, and health insur-

ance. Though each student is guaranteed funding and support for five years, funding for a sixth year—if needed—will be possible.

Stacy M. Brown is an NNPA Newswire Senior National correspondent.

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2022 HOUSING CONDITIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT ATTORNEY

The Fair Housing Center (TFHC) seeks a Housing Conditions and Neighborhood Reinvestment (HCNR) attorney who will represent tenants and homeowners. The HCNR attorney will represent tenants in rent escrow cases, and housing conditions cases to enforce tenant rights to decent habitable living conditions. The HCNR attorney will also provide educational resources and presentations to the community regarding legal rights and responsibilities especially as they relate to housing conditions issues, particularly in historically redlined and disinvested neighborhoods.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Law Degree and current license to practice law in Ohio.
- At least two years of housing related legal representation working with diverse groups. Alternatively, five or more years of experience in civil litigation, especially if maintaining a large caseload.
- Possess the ability to investigate rental, sales, lending, insurance, zoning, harassment, and appraisal complaints in a timely manner.
- Experience in a non-profit environment is preferred.
- Possess strong financial management, budgeting skills, organization, presentation, and writing proficiencies.
- Possess strong knowledge of fair housing principles and local, state, and federal laws governing housing discrimination and the landlord-tenant relationship.

This is a full-time position that includes a competitive salary and benefits package. Monday-Friday, 9a-5p, with evening and weekend hours as needed. Reliable transportation is required. TFHC offers a competitive wage and benefits package. Interested applicants should email their cover letter, resume, and references in PDF form to hr@toledofhc.org. No phone calls, please.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER:

TFHC will not discriminate against any applicant or employee regarding any term or condition of employment because of race, color, sex (including gender identity and expression), sexual orientation, national origin, citizenship, ancestry, religion, age, disability, marital status, familial status or veteran status.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS RFP22-R001 J

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive proposals for **Project Based Vouchers for the HCV program**. Interested parties should be owner/developers, management agent, and/or project sponsors for projects concentrating on Supportive Services. LMH has reserved up to 250 PBV for this rolling RFP. Received in accordance with law until **August 31, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET**. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB22-B005 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE CLEANING SERVICES AT 424 JACKSON

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive sealed bids from General Contractors for the for Administrative Office Cleaning Services at 424 Jackson Ave. in the City of Toledo, OH. Received in accordance with law until August 16, 2022 at 3:00 pm. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 435 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



DIAL- A - PRAYER

Need intercessory prayer? Call and get prayer with a seasoned prayer warrior. Monday thru Saturday; 9:00 am - 9:00 pm at 419-346-1582. Sponsored by Braden United Methodist Church Prayer Ministry!

Position Available

Staff Attorney- Medical-Legal Partnership for Children



Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit regional law firm that provides high-quality legal assistance to low-income individuals and groups in western Ohio, seeks a resourceful, culturally competent attorney to serve as an advocate for children in poverty with the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in our Toledo office.

Please visit <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able/> for more details and to submit your application. Position will remain open until filled.

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. We strive to create an environment welcoming to all individuals and we encourage applications from individuals traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the recruitment coordinator at ablejobs@freelawyers.org.

Position Available

Managing Attorney-

Agricultural Worker and Immigrant Rights Practice Group



Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm with a long history of representing low-income clients in Ohio in achieving equal justice and opportunity, seeks an Attorney to lead its Agricultural Worker and Immigrant Rights Practice Group. The position can be based in Toledo or Dayton, Ohio.

Please visit <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able/> for more details and to submit your application. Position will remain open until filled.

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. We strive to create an environment welcoming to all individuals and we encourage applications from individuals traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the recruitment coordinator at ablejobs@freelawyers.org.

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

Project #0051-23-292
North Engineering/Classroom Phase III
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, August 23 2022; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal: 15.0% of contract
Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated Costs
General Trades Contract	\$5,282,000
Alternate G 1 – Skylights	\$210,000
Alternate G 2 – Upper Lab Cabinets	\$150,000
Alternate G 3 – Polished Concrete	\$155,000
Alternate G 4 – Multi-panel Sliding Glass Door	\$30,000
Alternate G 5 – Finish Enhancements	\$70,000
Alternate G 6 – Northwest Classrooms	\$125,000
Fire Protection Contract	\$348,000
Plumbing Contract	\$845,500
Mechanical Contract	\$3,195,000
Electrical Contract	\$2,632,000

Pre-bid Meeting: August 9, 2022, 10:00am, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606

Walk-through: A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled for August 9, 2022 immediately following Pre-bid.

Walk-Through Location: Plant Operations Building

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

More Info: Project contact: Rick Butera, 419-464-7697, rick.butera@thinkchamplin.com

African American Festival... continued from page 16

ledo City Council member.

In addition to the festival, festivities included a prayer breakfast on July 15. The breakfast was held at the Glass City Metroparks Pavilion and honored five individuals: David Ross, creative placemaking coordinator of The Arts Commission; Adam Levine, CEO of Toledo Museum of Art; Rev. Perryman Jr, DMin, pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church and president of Toledo Chapter of NAACP; Sonia Flunder-McNair, CEO of Urban Wholistics and Suzanne Rorick, executive director of Toledo Opera.

The Annual Parade, sponsored by Health Partners of Western Ohio on Saturday, July 15, started at Dorr and Detroit and ended at Nelson Grace Park.

Featured entertainment: The Whispers, The Zapp Band, Sunshine Anderson, Troop, Lyfe Jennings, Comedian Keith Bender; Local Entertainment: Aayan Naim, The Good The Bad and The Blues, Intuition, Jay Rush Jennings, Chris Byrd and True Victory, Amandalynn and Arthur Bishop; DJ Money Knox; and Emcees: Toi Creel and Big Trice.

This year's Festival sponsors were: Urban Wholistics, The University of Toledo, Worship Center, Huntington bank, The Toledo Journal, The Blade, Taylor Automotive Family, Key Bank, Quality Time, Toledo Opera, Mercy College of Ohio, The Mix 95.7fm, Lucas County Commissioners, First Church of God, Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, Lourdes University, City of Toledo, PNC Bank, Walk the Word Church, TARTA, The Sojourner's Truth newspaper, Toledo Museum of Art, House of Day Funeral Service, Waterford Bank, 13 ABC, City of Toledo Human Relations Commissions, Health Partners of Western Ohio, Jeep Country Federal Credit Union, Friendship Baptist Church, ECDI, Grogan's Towne and The Juice 107.3 fm.



Sandy Spang, Rev. Willie Perryman, Suzette Cowell, Countilwoman Vanice Williams, Aletha Easterly, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz





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The 17th Annual African American Festival Brings Thousands to Promenade Park

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The 17th African American Festival which was organized by the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union was held on Saturday, August 6. Thousands of individuals and families gathered at Promenade Park in downtown Toledo to enjoy an afternoon of music, family and fresh air. The gates opened at 1:00 p.m. with a series of live musical performers beginning at 2:00 p.m.

"This festival is such a wonderful event. The turnout was great. The music was great and I'm so enjoying myself," shared Alethea Easterly, festival volunteer.

During an intermission, Suzette Cowell, CEO of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, and various elected officials shared an announcement about the credit union's next expansion. "We started the credit union 17 years ago at the corner of Detroit and Junction and we had 800 visitors," said Cowell. "Today we're excited to announce that we are going to provide an opportunity to revitalize the community. Dorr Street used to have over 70 minority-owned businesses and we're breaking ground on a new development to relaunch opportunities with a resource center."

The TUFUCU expansion will be directly across Dorr Street from the existing facility and will include expanded offices and services for credit union members along with business resources for the neighborhoods in the area.

Immediately following the announcement, Cowell and Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz's signatures were taken on a contract to confirm the groundbreaking expansion.

"I'm so proud of Suzette and the credit union's board. This is all due to her leadership," explained Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

"If you're from Junction and Englewood, you know what this means? We will own something. This is for Black folks," explained Vanice Williams, To-

... continued on page 15



Sandy Spang, (center) explains to Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Suzette Cowell where to sign



U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, TUFUCU CEO Suzette Cowell, Councilwoman Vanice Williams, City Commissioner of Business Services Sandy Spang



Ayan Naim



MCs Big Trice and Toi Creel



Festival Audience

